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## Weather almanac a case of extremes

Remembering the seasons: **December 2007:** Dear Daughter: Well, we're still here, not counting the landscaping.

An ice storm of unimaginable proportions has hit. It's like something out of "Dr. Zhivago," but without the music, without "Lara's Theme," because there's hardly any electricity left anywhere.

The big tree in the backyard fell all the way from the fence to the porch.

The entire hedge row on the north side of the house uprooted under the weight of the ice and collapsed across the driveway.

Ripping sounds can be heard all around as trees split and fall.

A run on generators, chain saws and whiskey is expected. Travel is discouraged.

More if and when it thaws.

**Spring 2008:** Dear Daughter: Well, we're still here.

Not counting the frogs. The frogs have floated downstream.

Record rains and subsequent flooding continue.

Lots of drains in the neighborhood are backed up, no surprise there, given the amount of wood and leaves that must have run through the system during and after the ice storm.

Thank heavens for the sump pump in the basement.

Given widespread new residential and business construction, without upgraded drainage, the water tables in some parts of town have risen dramatically.

Even routine rains can cause basements to fill slowly with water, like a rain gauge on a fence post.

The sump pump rests in a hole that is about a foot deep, cut through the concrete basement floor.

Who would have thought it: The sump pump motor makes such beautiful music.

Rivers and streams are out of their banks.

More rain is predicted. Travel is discouraged.

More if and when the white-caps subside.

**Summer 2008:**

Dear Daughter: Well, we're still here, lawn furniture aside. An outdoor table and chair melted.

Searing heat continues.

It was 105 degrees yesterday in the shade of a circling vulture.

More heat is predicted.

Nothing of value should be left in direct sun or in vehicles.

We haven't received a drop of moisture in almost a month, causing that which didn't freeze in the ice storm or wash away in the floods to wrinkle.

But at least we get to go outside early and late to water.

More when it's cloudy.

## TCC program seeks staying power

▪ Half of Tulsa Achieves scholars will return as sophomores, but TCC wants that to be higher.

BY APRIL MARCISZEWSKI  
World Staff Writer

Tulsa Community College expects half of the students who started college in the Tulsa Achieves scholarship program last fall to return for their sophomore year this month, reflecting the national norm for re-enrollment at community colleges.

But officials hope that some new programs will improve that number.

As of last week, about a third of the initial 1,357 Tulsa Achieves students had re-enrolled for this fall, program director Tim Fernandez said. An additional 228 were eligible to enroll, and Fernandez said he expected all of them to sign up.

TCC started the scholarship last

fall, paying as much as 100 percent of tuition and fees for students just out of high school who live in Tulsa County. College leaders considered the program a thank-you to local residents for their longtime support through taxes. TCC is paying for the scholarship out of its budget, which is made up largely of tax revenue.

About 60 percent of the initial group stayed at TCC through the end of the spring 2008 semester, Fernandez said.

For Tulsa Achieves students to

return for their second year in the program, they must have 2.0 grade-point averages or higher, complete at least three credit hours each fall and spring, complete more than 70 percent of attempted credit hours, fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and perform 40 hours of community service, he said.

Students have most commonly left the scholarship program to transfer to another college, said

SEE **TCC** A11

## TAHLEQUAH TO TUSKAHOMA



Sherry Waters cooks fry bread at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Park Hill.

ARAM BOGHOSIAN/Tulsa World

## Traditional food lovers preparing

▪ Upcoming Cherokee and Choctaw holidays are getting tribal tastebuds tingling.

BY CLIFTON ADCOCK  
World Staff Writer

Sure, it's easy to praise traditional American Indian food — it's just hard to say anything with a mouthful of fried pork.

Just the mention of poke salad greens, grape dumplings, kanuchi or tashlabona is likely to bring a fond memory or two back to many Oklahoma tribal members.

Traditional American Indian food is thriving at small tribal gatherings and hog fries throughout Oklahoma. And even more people will be able to try it at the Choctaw and Cherokee national holidays.

Both holidays happen over Labor Day weekend and will feature traditional food demonstrations or cookoffs.

"A lot of people drop by there, buy a plate and sample the traditional food," said Lou Sagle, director of the Cherokee National Holiday, which is hosting the traditional foods cookoff.

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**ONLINE**  
See more recipes:  
[tulsaworld.com/americanindianrecipes](http://tulsaworld.com/americanindianrecipes)

SEE **FOOD** A11

### Where you can try the food

The 56th Annual Cherokee National Holiday is scheduled for Aug. 29-31 in Tahlequah. The Choctaw Labor Day Festival and Pow Wow will run Aug. 29-Sept. 1 in Tuskahoma.

## Brother: GI will be vindicated in detainee killing

BY MANNY GAMALLO  
World Staff Writer

BRAGGS — Family members of one of two Oklahoma soldiers who are accused of killing an Iraqi detainee have rallied to his support and believe that he will be vindicated.

The military announced Saturday that Staff Sgt. Hal M. Warner, 34, of Braggs and 1st Lt. Michael C. Behenna, 25, of Edmond have been charged with premeditated murder in the fatal shooting of Ali Monsour Mohammed.

In addition to the murder charges, both are accused of assault, making a false official statement and ob-

struction of justice. Warner also is charged with being an accessory after the fact.

Warner was charged July 13; Behenna was charged Thursday.

The two are accused of killing Mohammed at or near their operating base at Beiji, about 155 miles north of Baghdad.

Saturday's announcement of the charges did not come as a surprise to Warner's relatives, who have lived in the Braggs community for more than 25 years.

"We've been receiving e-mails from my brother, so we knew it was coming," Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Warner, 32, a member of the 82nd Airborne

Division, said by telephone.

Ryan Warner would not discuss the case against his brother but said he believes that he eventually will be cleared.

He said the family has hired attorney James Phillips of Clarksville, Tenn., to represent his brother.

Phillips could not be reached for comment.

Ryan Warner said he and his brother are "military brats" and were inspired to join the Army by some family members, in particular their father, retired Army Master Sgt. Hal Lee Warner.

Ryan Warner, who has served one tour of duty in Iraq, said his brother

is serving his third tour there.

He said Hal Warner is a member of the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

Ryan Warner said his brother joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard right out of high school and then enlisted with the active-duty Army.

The family had moved to this Muskogee County community south of Camp Gruber in the early 1980s after traveling around the country with their father.

Ryan Warner said the family opted for Braggs because their moth-

SEE **SOLDIER** A11



DANIEL  
CLASS OF 2009  
NURSE

### THAT WAS MY MATCH AT FASTFORWARDTCC.COM/CAREERFINDER

Lots of things on **Career Finder** at FASTFORWARDTCC.COM sounded like me: "Spend time in science museums" and "active during the day." I was pretty shocked to see I had "nurse" in me, and even more surprised to find out I could handle the classes — even the tough ones. As a nurse, I'll always have my pick of the primo jobs.

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WHO WOULD BELIEVE I HAD "NURSE" IN ME.

## TRANSITIONS

### FROM A10

Sandra Rafael Gonzalez and Alonzo Gonzalez, girl.  
Teresa McNeal, boy.  
Maggie Nolen and Joey Perez, boy.  
Brooke Silsby and Michael Porter, boy.  
Maribel Martinez and Jeremias Resendiz, girl.  
Leticia Vergara and Daniel Valdez, boy.  
Lesley and Kenny Vines, Jenks, boy.  
April Barrett and Travis Watkins, girl.

### St. Francis Hospital

Kateri and Thomas Adams, girl.  
Deborah and Dale Watts, boy.

### St. Francis Hospital South

Diana Flores and Miguel Gaytan, girl.  
Felicia and Terrance Howlett, Bixby, girl.  
Jennifer and Doug Lowry, Broken Arrow, girl.  
Sarah Meirose, Broken Arrow, boy.  
Elisha and Joe Sturdivan, Henryetta, girl.

### SouthCrest Hospital

Jacqueline and Kilder Aguilar Avila, Pryor, girl.  
Kristina and Terry Bentz, boy.  
Autumn Hall and Cecil Creamer, girl.  
Ashley Cornwell and Terence Davis, Okmulgee, girl.  
Erin and Dennis Eddleman Jr., Sapulpa, boy.  
Jennifer Hendrick and J.B. Hernon II, boy.  
Brandy Harvey and Wesley Little, girl.  
Tressie Poston and Harold Maxwell, Bristow, boy.  
April Myers, Henryetta, boy.  
Sunni Hobia and Markus Rice, girl.  
Jaime and Octavius Roberson, boy.  
Samara Shepherd, boy.  
Chelsey Boren and Adrian Smith, girl.  
April and Jeremy Watkins, Wagoner, girl.  
Linda and Michael White, Sand Springs, boy.

### OSU Medical Center

Stephanie Engles, girl.  
Casey and Brandon Freeman, girl.  
Brandy Snyder, Beggs, girl.  
Nichole Woods, girl.

## MARRIAGES

### (Tulsans unless indicated)

LaShonna Belcher, 38; Solomon Wallace Jr., 37.  
Sara Brito, 25; Matthew Nikkel, 25, both of Lakewood, Colo.  
Jennifer Byrd, 32; Christopher Campbell, 36.  
Alma Camacho, 34; Jorge Gutierrez, 37, both of Broken Arrow.  
Ashley Cosper, 20; Billy Russell III, 26.  
Rylan Ferrill, 22; Jonathan Martin, 22, both of Owasso.  
Laura Hulsey, 22; William Dou-thit, 21, both of Owasso.  
Brenda Kame, 46; Richard Marks, 48.  
Debra Knighten, 45, of Andover, Kan.; Bill Burcham, 48, of Sand Springs.  
Austin McIntyre, 23; Jeramiah Rathfon, 29.  
Laura McKinney, 25; Curtis Norris, 20.  
Edith Moore, 42; Johnny Tunley, 45.  
Tara Noyes, 19; Baine Hadick, 21.  
Christina Patuto, 38; Shannon Nichols, 38.  
Megan Plummer, 22; Michael Clark, 27.  
Amber Reddell, 24, of Owasso; Douglas Hudson, 26, of Skiatook.  
Irene Rodriguez, 38; Robert Mecionis, 51.  
Cora Rorstrom, 26; Philip Jackson Jr., 28, both of Catoosa.  
Emmalea Rumsey, 21, of Sapulpa; Tyler Rhodes, 23.  
Diana Simmons, 38, of Wills Point, Texas; Troy Graham, 48, of Terrell, Texas.  
Angie Sixkiller, 30; Leonard Rider, 30.  
Traci Stupp, 36; Timothy Payne, 42.  
Kim Summers, 48; James McCoy, 61.  
Cynthia Travline, 53, of Broken Arrow; Michael Ballard, 54.  
Tonya White, 44, of Broken Arrow; Neal Solomon, 53.  
Stephanie Whitlock, 21; Skyler Ishmael, 21, both of Broken Arrow.

## DIVORCES

### ASKED

Boaz, Alecia v. Daniel.  
Dempster, Christopher v. Samantha.  
Green, Terri v. Jeffery.  
Milroy, Donna v. John.  
Thornton, Charles v. Denise.  
Wallace, Sarah v. Brian.

### GRANTED

Eubank, Randall from Mariah Holley.  
Flinchum, David from Jennifer.  
Graham, Charles from Angela.  
Long, Mollie from Brandon.  
Lyman, Elizabeth from Llewellyn.  
McCoy, David from Karalee.  
Page, Jason from Tawnya.  
Roz, D. from H. Ghossein.  
Westbrooks, Mandy from Darren.  
White, Rebecca from Joshua.  
Whitley, Janna from Michael.  
Yarbrough, Patti from Terry.

## FOOD:

The traditional food tash-labona is a mixture of cracked corn and pork.

### FROM A9

Traditional Choctaw and Cherokee foods use meats ranging from pork and venison to crawdads, and vegetables such as wild onions and corn.

A Cherokee favorite is kanuchi, a hickory nut soup served with rice or hominy.

The dish is prepared by grinding hickory nuts, forming them into a ball, placing the ball into boiling water and straining it to remove the shells. The mixture is then poured over rice or hominy, said Lula Elk, a Cherokee traditional cook from Keys.

"It has a unique nutty flavor," Elk said. "It's real good."

On Thursday, several tribal members gathered at the Cherokee Nation Cultural Center near Tahlequah for a hog fry with pinto beans, fried potatoes, fried pork and, of course, fry bread.

"It's a labor of love on a lot of this," said LeAnne Dreadfulwater, who was at Thursday's cookout. "If you want to cook it, you cook a lot of it. Cherokees don't



Justin Rice, 8 (right), and his mother, Cryss Rice, enjoy traditional American Indian dishes at a hog fry at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Park Hill. ARAM BOGHOSIAN/Tulsa World

need a lot of reasons to have a cookout."

Almost all of the food was prepared in a large cauldron over an open fire, tended by Slagle, Elk and other cooks who began the process early in the morning to finish by noon. It's hard work, but it's better than working inside in a hot kitchen.

"I just enjoy cooking

outside; it's a lot cooler for me to cook outside," Elk said. "Plus, the food tastes better when cooked on a wood cookstove."

Most recipes have been passed down from generation to generation.

Charlie Shell of Greasy learned to prepare fried crawdads from his mother.

"The hardest part is catch-

ing them," Shell said.

"You don't want to lose them (the recipes), and they're good."

Lorraine Blaine, a traditional Choctaw cook from Durant, said her favorite dish is tash-labona, a mixture of cracked corn and pork.

"It's hard to find the corn," Blaine said. "You can usually find it in small town, old-

time grocery stores. Tash-labona is what people look for at an Indian gathering. It's a favorite of all Choctaws."

Making traditional foods is worth the time, Blaine said.

"If I'm going to have it for Sunday, I usually start the night before," Blaine said. "It keeps you awake because you keep smelling the corn and it makes you want to get up and get a bowl of it."

Although recipes and tastes vary between tribes, the importance of preserving those dishes and passing on the knowledge to future generations cuts across tribal lines.

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chad Smith, who attended Thursday's hog fry, said, "The expressions of culture are not only games, tools and weapons but how you eat and socialize."

Blaine agreed. "To keep them alive, you have to teach your siblings and children and have to prepare so that when the elders leave, they pick it up," she said.

"It's a traditional thing that needs to be picked up like language. It's a cultural thing; we don't want it to die. It's something that needs to be on top.

"Of course," she added, "it's good eating, too."

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## Recipes

### Grape dumplings

1 cup of flour  
1 ½ teaspoon of baking powder  
2 teaspoons of sugar  
¼ teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon shortening  
½ cup grape juice  
1. Mix flour, baking powder, sugar, salt and shortening. Add juice and mix into stiff dough.  
2. Roll dough very thin on floured board and cut into strips ½-inch wide (or roll dough in hands and break off pea-size bits). Drop into boiling grape juice and cook for 10 to 12 minutes.

— Cherokee Nation

### Fry bread

Makes 6 servings  
2 cups of flour  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ cup water  
½ teaspoon baking powder  
½ cup instant dry milk  
2 cups of shortening  
1. Mix flour, baking powder, salt, powdered milk, and water.  
2. Heat shortening until flakes of flour start to bubble when dropped into oil. While shortening is heating, pull off a palm-size mound of dough and roll



it into a smooth ball then flatten into a disk shape. Size is a matter of preference.

3. Put dough into pan, cook until brown, turn over and cook other side until brown. Place a few sheets of paper towels on the bottom of a brown paper bag and drop finished fry bread into the bag to let the grease drain.

— Cherokee Nation

### Wild onions and eggs

Wild onions, cut up (whatever amount needed)  
1 cup water  
1 cup of shortening, melted  
6 eggs  
1. Cut up enough wild onions to fill a 6- to 10-inch skillet. Place water, shortening and onions in skillet. Salt to taste and fry until almost all the water is gone (15 to 20 minutes).  
2. Break eggs on top of the onions and stir well. Fry until the eggs are scrambled. Serve hot.

— Choctaw Nation

### Crawdads

Serves 4  
3 dozen medium crawdads  
Salt to taste  
Flour or cornmeal for dredging  
Cooking oil  
1. Clean by removing the outer shell of the upper part of the body and claws, and devein. Wash in warm water and rinse. Coat with flour and salt.  
2. Heat oil in deep skillet, pour crawdads into hot oil and cook until crisp. Drain on paper towels and serve.

— Cherokee Nation

### Banaha (Indian bread)

2 cups cornmeal  
1 ½ cups boiling water  
1 teaspoon soda  
1 teaspoon salt  
Corn shucks (boil about 10 minutes before using)  
1. Mix dry ingredients. Add water. Mixture should be stiff enough to handle easily. Form into oblong balls.  
2. Wrap in corn shucks. Tie in the middle with corn shuck string. Drop into a deep pot of boiling water. Cover and cook for 40 minutes. Serve hot.

— Choctaw Nation

### Choctaw Hunter's Stew

2 pounds deer meat  
2 tablespoons beef suet  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon pepper  
6-8 carrots  
3 ribs celery  
2 large onions  
2 large potatoes  
1 large can tomatoes  
1 large can whole kernel corn  
1. Cut the meat into bite-size pieces and brown in suet then add the salt and pepper, cover with water and cook until done.  
2. In the meantime, prepare the vegetables and cut into bite-size pieces.  
Add these to the tender meat and simmer until done.  
3. This is very good served with corn bread or fry bread.

— Choctaw Nation

## SOLDIER:

Hal Warner faces a hearing on the charges on Aug. 15 in Iraq.

### FROM A9

er, Gail Warner, has family there.

Warner said he was on his way back to Fort Bragg, N.C.,

where the 82nd Airborne is based, when the news broke about his brother, so he decided to return home to be with his family.

According to Warner, his brother was acquainted with Behenna, although he doesn't think they were close friends. He said Behenna is also part of the 101st Airborne Division.

Behenna's family in Edmond could not be reached for comment.

Warner faces an Aug. 15 "Article 32" hearing at a U.S.

base near Tikrit, Iraq, on the charges. An Article 32 hearing, comparable to a preliminary hearing in civilian courts, is held to determine whether a full trial is warranted.

Only one other Oklahoman has been accused of killing civilians while on duty in Iraq.

Marine Lance Cpl. Stephen Tatum, also of Edmond, is one of eight Marines who were accused of killing 24 civilians in Haditha, Iraq, on Nov. 19, 2005.

However, the government dropped its charges and gave full immunity to Tatum in March.

Tatum, 26, was set for court-martial on two counts of involuntary manslaughter and one count each of reckless endangerment and aggravated assault.

He had been scheduled to go to trial at Camp Pendleton, Calif., when the government, on the day of his trial, decided to drop the charges.

Originally, Tatum had been

charged with two unpremeditated murders, four negligent homicides and one assault on two Iraqis.

Last August, however, after a case review, an investigating officer recommended that those charges against Tatum be dropped.

Instead, the government opted for lesser charges against him.

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## TCC:

Scholars must meet with an academic adviser and perform community service.

### FROM A9

Marshall Bolton, a Tulsa Achieves program assistant. Other students have taken a break from college or made bad grades, Bolton and Fernandez said.

Several students graduated, and some left for military service, Fernandez said.

Administrators always hope that the retention rate will be higher, but some components of the Tulsa Achieves program specifically aimed at fighting attrition were not yet in place, he said. "Realistically, that's about what we expected," he said. A three credit-hour orientation class and enrollment clinics, both mandatory, are being included for this year's scholars.

Fernandez said he expects the programs to help boost

retention. A difference should be visible by the end of the coming school year, he said.

"This year, we're really working on the academic support component," he said.

If students made low grades last fall, they had this spring to bring up their GPAs, Fernandez said. If they failed, they can't receive the scholarship again this fall.

Last fall, Tulsa Achieves students had an average GPA of 2.64, which officials considered very good, given that the program included more than 1,000 students.

Tulsa Achieves requirements are designed to keep students in school, Fernandez said. Unlike other TCC students, the scholars must meet with an academic ad-

viser to ensure that they're enrolled in the proper classes.

TCC President Tom McKeeon has said that requiring students to take at least one class every fall and spring helps maintain their educational momentum.

The required community service component also is designed to aid retention and help students determine their career interests.

"If they get involved in anything related to college, they're more likely to stay in school," Fernandez said.

Starting this fall, the new crop of 1,485 Tulsa Achieves freshmen will take orientation classes based on their academic abilities. In the College Survival and Strate-

gies for Academic Success classes, students will learn about TCC's expectations for them, resources available, study skills, time management, note-taking and research tactics, Fernandez said.

"We have a responsibility not to just attract students, but once they get here, ... (to) ensure their success so we're good stewards of the taxpayers' money," he said. "We want all students to be successful."

In time, TCC will determine how effective these and other strategies have been and implement the best ones collegewide so that all students benefit, he said.

TCC will consider Tulsa Achieves students success-

ful when they graduate with associate degrees or transfer to four-year colleges to work on bachelor's degrees, Fernandez said.

TCC is encouraging students to finish their associate degrees before transferring, because that often ensures that four-year colleges will count all of the students' TCC classes toward bachelor's degrees.

"All in all," Fernandez said, "I think we're right on track, and I think TCC is building momentum and not just attracting students into higher education but providing the structure to make sure they're successful."

World staff writer Shannon Muchmore contributed to this story.

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