The Choctaw Nation will begin issuing new cards that will replace the Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood, Tribal Membership and Photo ID cards beginning Jan. 1, 2017. Instead of three separate cards, photo ID, CDIB and tribal membership will now be present on the same card.

The Choctaw Nation decided to make the change in order to simplify the process and make it more convenient for tribal members, according to Terry Stephens, Director of Membership. The new card will be acceptable forms of photo ID for airports, tribal facilities, state tag offices and federal buildings. To receive the new card, tribal members must be eligible to receive the old Tribal Membership card.

Members, according to Chief Gary Batton, said, “It’s a great day… We’re mak-ing an impact like this all across the 10½ counties.” A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the Choctaw Nation’s new head start facility in Wright City, which the doors were opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony by Katy Pickins, Director 7 Councilmember Jack Austin Jr., community leaders, children, parents and staff members were in attendance to celebrate the new addition to the Wright City.

The new card may be used as a photo ID when traveling through airports, at tribal facilities, state tag offices and federal buildings.

The back of the new card will replace the Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood, or CDIB card.

The new card adds the distinction of “Choctaw Veteran” for members who have served in the military.

The Membership Department asks that you write your name and date of birth on the back of your photo.

Members will also need a photocopy of their social security record.

The new ID will expire after five years, (this does not affect membership status) at which time the photo and information should be updated.

If you lose your card before it expires, one replacement card will be issued during the five-year period.

Exemptions to this include legal name change, adoption, change of d adress or name change due to marriage or divorce.

Legal documentation will be required for any of these variations.

Children under the age of 13 will be issued a CDE Membership card with no photo. Once the child turns 14, they will be eligible to receive the photo ID as well.

CDIB/Membership cards will also be given to adults who do not provide a photo.

For members who already have their CDIB, Membership and photo ID, it will take approximately two weeks for their new card to arrive, provided the applicant is verified.

For individuals applying for the first time, the card will be issued once the application has been approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Membership Department may be contacted via email at cdib-mem bership@choctawnation.com.

Children under the age of 13 will be issued a CDE Membership card with no photo. The child will turn 14, then they will be eligible to receive the card.

The facility also houses a FEMA compliant safe and energy-efficient automatic LED light-definition SmartBoards, and include the latest technology, such as high-definition SmartBoards, automatic LED lighting and energy-efficient HVAC.

The facility also houses a FEMA compliant safe and energy-efficient automatic LED lighting and energy-efficient HVAC.

The new Wright City facility is located in Durant, Ok, 74702.

The Membership Department office, which open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Membership Office is located at 125th N, 34th Ave., Durant, Ok, 74702.

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Wishing Everyone a Wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and is enjoying the Christmas season. The au-
tumn foliage is beautiful in Oklahoma and we have thoroughly appreciated the opportunities to tra-
vist to events throughout the Choctaw Nation. The Thanksgiving dinners give our community centers the 
spirit of sharing needed by our neighbors and the calendar is full of other services we provide at the centers.

As we grow the tribe’s businesses, we have the ability to build more facilities such as the new location for the Blood Start. The Choctaw Nation programs have been awarded several contract

Some of the parents and grandparents were also at the grand opening of the Blood Start. It was good to see them take an active interest in the youth education.

Family is the most important gift. They are the ones who we are and in the Choctaw Nation, we have expanded families that include friends and the people we spend our days with at work.

We share principles and values. We are becoming more immersed in the Choctaw culture. As we move forward, it is with the confidence that we come from a long line of Choctaw who found challenges, overcame obstacles, and succeeded.

I am proud to tell my grandchildren about their heritage. I am confident they will give up growing up thinking of the Nation as the place they live, and the place they will spend their days with at work. We share principles and values. We are becoming more immersed in the Choctaw culture. As we move forward, it is with the confidence that we come from a long line of Choctaw who lived challenges, showed initiative, and succeeded.

I am grateful for all the blessings God has bestowed on my family and me, especially His Son, Jesus. Set the perfect example of how to serve those around him.

I once read a statement that said, “Considering all that Christ has done for us, should not be a gift from the founder. The telegram was read: “Dear delegates of the Salvation Army Con-

The Outreach department distributes food vouchers to those tribal members who otherwise wouldn’t have a good holiday meal.

This holiday season, presented at both Thanksgiving and Christmas, provides enough for a ham or turkey and all the trimmings.

Chief Gary Batton

As we move forward, it is with the confidence that we come from a long line of Choctaw who faced challenges, showed initiative, and succeeded.

I am thankful for the Outreach pro-

The Choctaw Nation has also held birthcertifi-
cing ceremonies recently for the expansion of the Choctaw Casino & Resort facilities and a new facil-

The Outreach program and the dedications of the staff to ensure all are distributed for the benefit of the Choctaw and the children have a gift to open.

During the summer, the Outreach group begins a shoe drive. Later in the fall, they hold a coat drive, as all the children in the program can start school with a new pair of shoes and enjoy the fellowship and delicious food.

The Outreach department, as always, is a great time to visit with the children and share some fun.

Pastor Olin Williams

Pastor Olin Williams

Pastor Olin Williams

Chocata Nation of Oklahoma
Youth Work Program
Applications Available: Monday, January 1, 2018

Eligibility Requirements: Age 16 – 21 on or before the 1st day of work, reside within 30 of counties of the Chocata Nation, Tribal membership or CDIB Card. Stay tuned for more details and eligibility requirements.

For more information contact: WIOA Staff at 1-800-522-6170

www.facebook.com/ChocataNationofOklahoma
www.twitter.com/ChocataNationOK
www.instagram.com/ChoctawNationOK
www.youtube.com/ChoctawNationOK
www.linkedin.com/in/ChoctawNation

Stay Connected, ChocataNationOK features access to information from local tribal cultures, news, government, resources, publications, and contacts. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s official publication, the BISKIŅK, is available to tribal members by mail and archived editions are on ChoctawNation.com.

What is Christmas? Is it the giving or receiving of gifts? Is it the birth of Jesus? Is it a restaurant filled with gaiety and laughter? Is it the unswerving gaiety of the new great-grandchild. Is it the love of all the family and friends and co-workers donating their time to assist those in need?

I am grateful for the Outreach program and the dedications of the staff to ensure all are distributed for the benefit of the Choctaw and the children have a gift to open.

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Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. is pictured with his wife, Phyllis; oldest son, Clark and his wife, Tanis; daughter, Malika Sima and her husband, Eibon; grandsons, Dawson and Drake; and youngest son, Samuel.

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Recipe by Carmen Robertson

Ingredients
• 1 pound hamburger
• 1 tsp garlic powder
• 1 tsp ginger powder
• 1 tsp paprika
• 1 tsp onion powder
• ½ tsp salt
• ¼ tsp pepper

Preparation
1. Cook hamburger, onion and drain.
2. Add the remaining tomato sauce, diced tomatoes and pineapple.
3. Add the spaghetti noodles.

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size: 8 serving size: 126g
• Calories 290• Total Fat 12g• Trans Fat 1g• Cholesterol 48mg• Sodium 628mg• Total Carbohydrate 45g• Dietary Fiber 3g• Sugars 9g• Protein 23g

Serving Size: 212g
• Calories 580• Total Fat 25g• Trans Fat 1g• Cholesterol 88mg• Sodium 1200mg• Total Carbohydrate 72g• Dietary Fiber 4g• Sugars 12g• Protein 33g• Vitamin A 190%, Vitamin C 25%, Calcium 6%, and iron 20%

Three Choctaw Nation Employees Earn Certified Diabetes Educator Status

The National Certification Board for Diabetes Edu- cators (NCBDE) announced that Cayla Mitchell, RN, Crystal Hood RN, and92; Kerry Petty, RN, CDE from Choctaw Nation Health Services achieved certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) status by successfully completing the Certification Examination for Diabetes Educators. Candidates must meet rigorous eligibility re- quirements to be able to take the examination. Achieving certification status demonstrates to people with diabetes and employers that the healthcare provider possesses distinct and specialized knowledge, thereby promoting quality of care for people living with diabetes.

Currently, there are over 15,000 diabetes educators in the U.S. NCBDE. Cayla Mitchell, RN, CDE is the educator in Hugo and Atoka clinics. She started with Choctaw Nation in October 2014.

Crystal Hood RN, CDE is the educator in Poteau and Statgler clinics. She started with Choctaw Nation in July of 2017.

Kerry Petty, RN, CDE is the educator at the Diabetes Wellness Center in Atoka. Kerry Petty joined Choctaw Nation in 2016, then transferred to the DMC in 2016. In addition to the three new CDEs in Choctaw Na- tion Health Services, Janet Madison, RN, CDE provides education in DMC at Talihina, Ewa Eagles, RN is in Family Practice, Talihina, Lea Ann Shear, RN, CDE is in McAlester Choctaw Nation Clinic, and Berenice Wil- liams, RN is in Durant Choctaw Nation Clinic, Choctaw, OR, CDE in McAlester. All educators are available upon appointment or same day appointment. Please schedule to visit with a Diabe- tes Educator soon.

Recipe by Carmen Robertson

Ingredients
• 1 pound hamburger
• 1 onion
• 1 lg. carrot
• 1 15-oz can tomato sauce
• 1 cup chopped tomatoes
• 1 cup spaghetti noodles

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Students to Research Insect-Related Diseases at OSU

Tatum Taylor and Alexa Colas are from Oklahoma State University. The Norman Native proudly reports that they are embarking on a quest to learn about the health of their tribal nation and are pursuing仍旧 studies on insects. A research grant gives to the Center for Sovereign Native at OSU will allow the sisters to join Dr. Wyatt Robich in a research program. The program will explore the reasons Native American communities are statistically more likely to contract insect-borne diseases, such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, than non-natives.

The sisters are pursuing pre-med and degrees in agricultural and biological sciences.

Mother and Daughter Excel in Academics and Sports

Mother and daughter Cynthia Lynna Hardy and Elena Nicole Hardy have recently made numerous academic and sports achievements.

Cynthia completed her dual Majors in Native American Studies and Business in Nursing degree in October 2018. She is currently working in bed-Mex, Arizona with Indian Health Services as a supervisory clinic nurse. Cynthia graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2018. Cynthia graduated with honors and has recently been accepted to begin her Doctorate in Nursing Practice-Advanced Practice Nurse with Johns Hopkins University in Fall 2017.

Elena Nicole Hardy recently finished her eighth grade year at the Shiloh Middle School in Shiprock, New Mexico. Elena was named valedictorian of her class and achieved high academic recognition in core areas of science, mathematics, and English. Elena won second place in the District Science Fair and went on to compete at the state level. Elena was also first place at the New Mexico English Expo for her writing skills and presentation of a children’s book she authored and illustrated. Elena also excelled in the sports of cross country and track. She was recruited by the Shaker High School Varisty coach to run at the varsity level for both cross country and track. Elena was named New Mexico state titles in both cross country and track. She was recognized as the only eighth-grader that qualified for state track in all her runnings, 400, 800, and 1600 meter events. Elena also broke the school record for High School in the 330 meter dash with a time of 12.36. Elena was honored with both state and academic recognition including class valedictorian. recognition for middle school cross country. Shining Star and TEAL award, varsity level recognition as most promising. History Makers and Variety of her time. Elena was the only letter of intent to run with Shaker High School and will begin high school track dual credit. She hopes to graduate with a high school diploma by the age of around the same time.

Cynthia’s father Robert Hardy is Choctaw, and her mother Barbara Chavez Hardy is Laguna Pueblo and Pueblo.

Bishop Named National Merit Scholar semi-finalist

Mason Bishop, a student at Noble High School, Oklahoma, was named a National Merit Scholar semi-finalist. He is the son of Scott and Claudia Bishop and the older brother of Lauren Bishop.

Basketball Stars Place Third in Nationals

Hasle Hudson, Tayshia Pettit, and their Amateur Athletic Union basketball team Oklahoma Shoshone were named champions in a national tournament.

Hevalow Wins Multiple National Rodeo Titles

Kevin and Jenn Hevalow, a fresh-
The Leap Program is a new homeownership program opportunity for The Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation is now
• Funding for Housing Tribal Services.
• Funds and budget for the Child Passenger Safety Seat Program.
• Funds and budget for the Coordinated Tribal Education program (NACTEP).
• Funds and budget for the Behavorial Health Project.
• To dispose of surplus capital assets.

New business included approval of the following items:
• Letter of re-appointment for Judge Freddie Brown as a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
• Letter of appointment for Chief Judge Jurye Patche to the Court of Appeals of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
• To dispose of surplus capital assets.
• Funds and budget for the Choctaw Nation Tobacco Settlement Nutrition Program Budget FY 2017.
• Funds and budget for the Year Two Continuation for the Tribal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program - Chaki Inochakas.
• Funds and budget for the Tribal Homeland Security Grant program.
• Funds and budget for the Coordinate Tribal Assistance Solicitations Program Area Seven - Tribal Victim Assistance.

The Red Earth Art Center will celebrate the Christmas season with a decoratively Native twist this year when they open free to the public on Friday, November 10, starting Nov. 11 and ending Jan. 5, 2018 in downtown Oklahoma City.

Red Earth Treefest Celebrates Christmas With a Native Twist

Red Earth Treefest will celebrate their legacy as the “Lords of the Plains.”

The Red Earth Art Center is a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization. Red Earth Treefest proceeds benefit the Red Earth Cultural Arts Foundation (Leaping Forward). For additional information, please contact Shelley Garner at 405.235.3087 or shelleygarner@choctawnation.com.

... Malcolm, Cheyenne & Arapaho, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Citizen Band of the Oklahoma indian Center.

... Shear's Line, Cherokees, Caddo, Comanche, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Citizen Band of the Oklahome indian Center, Creek, Delaware, Kaw, Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

... Do your part to register in time to vote. The Red Earth Art Center will celebrate the Christmas season with a decoratively Native twist this year when they open free to the public on Friday, November 10, starting Nov. 11 and ending Jan. 5, 2018 in downtown Oklahoma City.

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Thanksgiving Community Dinners 2017

District 2 Councilmember Tony Ward visits with 87 year old Lucy White during the Battiest/Bethel Thanksgiving Dinner.

District 10 Councilmember Anthony Dillard addresses the crowd at the Atoka Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 8.

Cruz Serrano, age 5, tastes pumpkin pie for the very first time with help from his mom, Dana Serrano at the Idabel dinner.

Jacob Johnson, age 1, catches a ride on mom’s hip at the Broken Bow Thanksgiving Dinner.

Quinton Bellacorp took a little time to pose for the camera before the Smithville Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 15.

District 3 Councilmember Kenny Bryant poses for a photo with a group of elders at the Talihina Thanksgiving Dinner.

Edwin Hendricks posts the United States flag at the beginning of the Spiro Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 15.

The District 9 Princesses perform The Lord’s Prayer before the Durant Ted Dosh Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 7.

Volunteers are ready to serve up meals at the Crowder Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 15.

District 8 Councilmember Perry Thompson visits with Buck Eastwood and Lyndell Flath at the Hugo Thanksgiving Dinner.

Maggie Anderson, 93, poses for a photo with Chief Gary Batton and District 12 Councilmember James Frates at the Coal-gate Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 12.

Margie Jones waits for the Talihina Thanksgiving Dinner to begin on Nov. 16.

Margaret Anderson, 93, poses for a photo with Chief Gary Batton and District 12 Councilmember James Frates at the Coal-gate Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 12.

Betty and Bolton Walker celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary at the Wright City Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 16.

District 1 Councilmember Thomas Williston joins two elders in singing Choctaw Hymn 112 at the Idabel dinner.

Kayleigh Kyle Tiffee waits patiently for dinner to be served at the Poteau Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 16.

Chester Nation employees Beth Brox delivers meals to those in attendance of the Stigler Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 8.

Chester Nation employee Beth Brox delivers meals to those in attendance of the Stigler Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 8.

Northern Wellness Center Director Cherie Hanous passes out pies during the Wilburton/Bethel Thanksgiving Dinner.

District 7 Councilmember Tony Ward visits with 87 year old Eula White during the Battiest/Bethel Thanksgiving Dinner.

Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Councilmember Jack Austin Sr. visit at the Tvshka Homma Thanksgiving Dinner.

Jackson Tisho gets some snuggles from his grandmother Dorthy Willis before the Battiest/Bethel Thanksgiving Dinner.

District 7 Councilmember Tony Ward visits with 87 year old Eula White during the Battiest/Bethel Thanksgiving Dinner.

District 1 Councilmember Tony Ward visits with 87 year old Eula White during the Battiest/Bethel Thanksgiving Dinner.

Malee Smith is excited for the meal at the Atoka Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 8.

District 1 Councilmember Tony Ward visits with 87 year old Eula White during the Battiest/Bethel Thanksgiving Dinner.

District 1 Councilmember Tony Ward visits with 87 year old Eula White during the Battiest/Bethel Thanksgiving Dinner.

James and Ann Rech are excited to dig in to a delicious meal at the Aulters Thanksgiving Dinner.

Cruz Serrano, age 5, enjoys pumpkin pie for the very first time with help from his mom, Dana Serrano at the Idabel dinner.

District 1 Councilmember Anthony Dillard addresses the crowd at the Atoka Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 8.

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Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. displays true servant leadership at the Idabel Thanksgiving dinner by helping serve food.

Choctaw elders and the District 12 princesses sing Choctaw hymns at the Crowder Thanksgiving Dinner.

Tom Parish poses for a photo with District 7 Councilmember Jack Austin Sr. at the Anadarko Thanksgiving Dinner.

District 12 Councilmember James Frasier addresses the audience at the Crowder Thanksgiving Dinner.

Christian Frasier, age 5, receives a high five from officer Robert E. Smith at the Broken Bow Thanksgiving dinner.

District 12 Councilmember James Frasier, Nellie Hunter and Chief Gary Batton pose for a photo at the Caddo Lake Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 13.

District 9 Councilmember James Dry addresses the crowd at the Durant Ted Dosh Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 7.

Wilburton Head Start students perform a song in Choctaw for the audience at the Wilburton Thanksgiving Dinner.

District 8 Councilmember Delton Cox addresses the crowd at the Poteau Thanksgiving Dinner.

District 3 Councilmember Jennifer Woods and Little Miss Emma Battiest say the Pledge of Allegiance before the Wilburton Thanksgiving Dinner.

This crew is ready for lunch at Wright City. Picture are Katrina Harris, Brandi Battiest, Brycen Amos and Kiesha Amos.

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Lilly Ann LeFlore is enjoying her pumpkin pie at McAlester.

Chief Gary Batton and District 2 Councilmember Tony Ward visit with members of the community at the Broken Bow community Thanksgiving dinner.

Raymond Johnson leads Choctaw hymns before lunch was served at the Talihina Thanksgiving Dinner.

Eleanor Caldwell reads the November issue of the Biskinik as folks gather for the Wright City Thanksgiving Dinner.

Jean Jones helps get the drinks ready for everyone at McAlester’s dinner.

Tracy Johnson leads Choctaw hymns before lunch was served at the Talihina Thanksgiving Dinner.

Christian Frasier, age 5, receives a high five from officer Robert E. Smith at the Broken Bow Thanksgiving dinner.

Chief Gary Batton and District 2 Councilmember Tony Ward visit with members of the community at the Broken Bow community Thanksgiving dinner.

The cooks are laughing, singing and enjoying each other’s company at the Hugo Thanksgiving dinner.

Raymond Johnson leads Choctaw hymns before lunch was served at the Talihina Thanksgiving Dinner.

This crew is ready for lunch at Wright City. Picture are Katrina Harris, Brandi Battiest, Brycen Amos and Kiesha Amos.

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District 11 Jr. Miss Ariana Ryegons, Councilmember Bob Pate, and Little Miss Jordan Wadlington at the McAlester Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 19.

District 3 Councilmember Jennifer Woods and Little Miss Emma Battiest say the Pledge of Allegiance before the Wilburton Thanksgiving Dinner.

Anita LeFlore, Lucy Nelson, Anna Scott and Debra Lynn Peters pose for a photo at the Atoka Thanksgiving Dinner.

Marry Hill and her son Ashley choose for the camera at the Crowder Thanksgiving Dinner.

Jean Jones helps get the drinks ready for everyone at McAlester’s dinner.

Chief Gary Batton and District 2 Councilmember Tony Ward visit with members of the community at the Broken Bow community Thanksgiving dinner.

Joie Ester and Ray Luman have a little fun before the Poteau Thanksgiving Dinner.

Marry Hill and her son Ashley choose for the camera at the Crowder Thanksgiving Dinner.

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**OBITUARIES**

Calvin C. Postoak
Postoak, 90, passed away Oct. 14. Cal grew up in Belfield, N.D., and attended University of North Dakota. Calvin was preceded in death by his parents, James and Dora Postoak; and one brother, Martin Postoak. He is survived by his lifelong partner, Donna Phillips and her spouse, John, Donna’s two children, Elizabeth and David Rand; brothers, Gary, Ron and one granddaughter, Abigail Postoak. For the full obituary, please visit Shelfery Funeral Home.

**Donald Wayne Zeller**

Donald Wayne Zeller, 65, passed away on Sept. 23, at his home in Tullahoma, Tennessee. He was born Feb. 7, 1954, in Oklahoma City to Bert and Bev Lowrimore. Zeller was preceded in death by his parents; brother Marvin; and two sisters, Sabrina and Kendra. He is survived by his wife, Larissa; son, Tristin; his parents, Leo and Viola; sisters, Melody and Tracey; brother, Murphy; and numerous nieces and nephews. For the full obituary, please visit Burkhart Funeral Service.

**Glenn Dale Billy**

Glenn Dale Billy, 63, passed away July 6 in Oklahoma City. Billy grew up in Pawhuska, Oklahoma to Barnie and Rose Billy. Glenn was preceded in death by his father, sister, Sherry and brother, Larry. For the full obituary, please visit A Natural State Funeral Service.

**Leonard Ray Jackson**

Leonard Ray Jackson, 33, passed away Sept. 9 at his residence. Leonard was preceded in death by his mother Donna Melton and grandfather Melvin Jackson. Leonard was survived by his mother Donna Melton, two sisters, Lena and Tammy; one brother, John; and numerous nieces and nephews. For the full obituary, please visit Burkhart Funeral Service.

**John Wayne Jr.**

John Wayne Jr., 56, of Isab. Oklahoma passed away on Sept. 28. John was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Wes; and many nieces and nephews. For the full obituary, please visit White Family Funeral Home.

**Janelle Barnett**

Janelle L. Barnett, 78, of North Dekalb, Arkansas passed away Aug. 21. She was born on Oct. 11, 1940, in Marianna, Arkansas to Joana and Vernon Barnett. Janelle is survived by her husband and lover, Ron; two brothers, Bob and Bill Barnett; and two sisters, Leisa Nettles and Susie Evans. For the full obituary, please visit Natural State Funeral Service.

**Nina Margaret Dumond**

Nina Margaret (Cody) Dumond, 97, of Denton, Texas passed away Oct. 2. Nina was born Aug. 8, 1924, in Ennis, Oklahoma to James and Lula (Cody) Dumond. Nina is survived by her husband, Larry Cody, nine great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. For the full obituary, please visit Burkhart Funeral Service.

**Obituary Policy**

Obituary submissions are for Chocotpeek tribal members and are free of charge. The Bikinik will only accept obituaries from funeral homes. Family members/relative’s efforts will not qualify. The Bikinik reserves the right to alter the obituary as needed. If the notice is from the funeral home or printed in their book, the Bikinik will review the notice. Full-length handwritten obituaries will not be accepted. The Bikinik strives to serve all Chocotkees. Therefore, long-handwritten notices will be searched online for official funeral home notices. If none are found, efforts will be made to contact the family and make arrangements for an official notice. Due to space limitations, there is a 150 word limit for obituaries. Full obituaries can be online.

Send official obituaries to Bikinik
PO Box 1295
Duxter 07702
email: obituaries@chocotneckation.com

**Obituaries**

**John Wayne Jr.**

For the full obituary, please visit White Family Funeral Home.

**Gutfin Eugene Moore**

Gutfin Eugene Moore, 23, passed away Aug. 9. Gutfin was born Jan. 11, 1994, in Ada, Oklahoma to Justin Cox and Patsy Lawrenson. Eugene is survived by his wife, Samantha Moore, his daughter, Evanya Lane Moore, his mother, Patsy Moore and spouse, Doug Gordan. His father, Jerred Moore and fiance Rachel, one sister, Amy Moore and spouse, Michael Lawrenson, his paternal grandmother, Pat Moore and spouse, Darra Lawrenson. Gutfin was born on Nov. 12, 1943, to Veirl and Mabel (Parker) Hoover, nephew Larry Cody, nine great-grandchildren, Hoover, Candace Wimbish, Crystal Mackey and Collette Mitchell, two grandsons and one great-grandson. Gutfin was laid to rest in Oakhust Cemetery. For the full obituary, please visit Parks Brothers Funeral Home.

**John Wayne Jr.**

For the full obituary, please visit White Family Funeral Home.

**Janelle Barnett**

For the full obituary, please visit Natural State Funeral Service.

**Gutfin Eugene Moore**

For the full obituary, please visit Parks Brothers Funeral Home.

**Anthony “Tony” Vessakosol**

Anthony “Tony” Vesselkos, 55, of Bristow, Oklahoma passed away Oct. 30, 2018. Anthony was born Jan. 12, 1963, in Oklahoma City to Tony Vesselkos and Cherie (Drew) Vesselkos. Anthony is survived by his wife Kathy, three daughters, Kristen Margaret Moore, Samantha Moore and Joshua Vesselkos; brother Gary McThomas, twin sister Linda Gayle Marshall, and numerous nieces and nephews. For the full obituary, please visit Theobert Funeral Home.

**Ronald “Dale” Thomas**

Ronald “Dale” Thomas, 63, passed away Aug. 10, 2020. He was born on Oct. 3, 1957, to Sam and Dorothy Johnson. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Eric Lee Thomas, and sisters Maryetta and Gwendolyn Ward. He was survived by his wife Kathy, his three daughters, Kristen Margaret Moore, Samantha Moore and Joshua Vesselkos; brother Gary McThomas, twin sister Linda Gayle Marshall, and numerous nieces and nephews. For the full obituary, please visit Theobert Funeral Home.

**Lucille Keith Postoak**

Lucille Keith Postoak, 82, of Green Valley, Arizona passed away Aug. 19. She was born on Oct. 31, 1938, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to William and Martha Lou (Sullivan) Talihina. Lucille is survived by her husband, Charlie; one son, Richard Postoak; one granddaughter, Samantha Moore, his daughter, Halley and Addison, paternal grandmother, Patsy Lee and Martha Lou (Sullivan) Talihina; and many nieces and nephews. For the full obituary, please visit Lamb-Salazar Funeral Home.

**Diana Hyland**

Diana Hyland, age 77, of Osage Beach, Missouri passed away Aug. 21. She was born on July 30. Diana is survived by his children, Gary Hyland and wife, Linda; three grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. For the full obituary, please visit King & Shear Funeral Home.

**Linda L. Hulsey**

Linda L. Hulsey, 80, of Sturgeon, Missouri passed away July 24. Linda was born July 23, 1940, in St. Louis, Missouri to Glenn and Grace Ewing. Linda is survived by her husband, Stewart; one son, Richard; one granddaughter, Marlee Wegner with one more niece on the way and aunts and uncles. For the full obituary, please visit Funwell Funeral Home.

**Diana Hyland**

For the full obituary, please visit Lamb-Salazar Funeral Home.

**Samuel John Postoak**

Samuel John Postoak, 90, of Talihina, Oklahoma passed away Aug. 21. He was buried in North Little Park in North Little Rock, Arkansas. For the full obituary, please visit Burkhart Funeral Service.

**Lena Jean Postoak**

Lena Jean Postoak, 70, of North Gravois, Missouri passed away July 7, 1940, in Neosho, Missouri. Lena was laid to rest in Edgewood Memorial Park in North Gravois, Arkansas. For the full obituary, please visit Native State Funeral Service.

**Shawn Anthony Noah**

Shawn Anthony Noah, 31, of 19, Oklahoma to Johnson Family. Shawn was preceded in death by his father, Johnson Noah, three sisters, Jennifer, Jessica and Mary Beth, two brothers, Jeremy and Buckholtz, three children, Noah, Cole and bahm; and many nieces, nephews and friends. Shawn was laid to rest in Battiste Cemetery in Battie, Oklahoma. For the full obituary, please visit Burkhart Funeral Service.

**Leo Lowrimore**

Leo Lowrimore, 98, passed away July 31. Leo was born Feb. 11, 1923, in Losa Valley, Oklahoma to Woods and Viola Lowrimore. Leo was laid to rest in death by his parents, Ben and Estelle Lowrimore. Leo is survived by his two daughters, Toni and Loretta; one son, Glenn Lowrimore; and three grandchildren. For the full obituary, please visit Burkhart Funeral Service.
Jones Academy Hosts Family Fun Day Fiesta

Iti Fabussa

Last Choctaw Removal to Ardmore

As Choctaw people, we embrace our sacred duty to honor our ancestors from the last Choctaw Removal that took place on October 25, 1831, and the death of the Choctaw people and their departure of the Trail of Tears during this time period and would like to learn more about them and their sacrifice. What is worse, his company of men planned to sell the land back. By the closing of the rolls on March 4, 1907, what is worse, his company of men planned to sell the land back. By the closing of the rolls on March 4, 1907, the attorney general and his financial backers reportedly claimed to have less than 40 percent of Mississippi Choctaw allotted lands in exchange for their safe removal to Indian Territory.

The Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes responded by sending Horace Day to investigate. He arrived on February 12 and used the next week to interview Mississippi Choctaw families around Ardmore. Day learned that the attorney general and his financial backers reportedly claimed to have less than 40 percent of Mississippi Choctaw allotted lands in exchange for their safe removal to Indian Territory.

The Mississippi Choctaw held a deep passion for the preservation of their culture, especially their songs, dances, and dress.

The day proved to be a day of fun, festivities and feasts. Staff, students and family gathered for the annual event on Friday, March 3 and sunny Saturday after the last Choctaw removal, on Main Street. An enthusiastic crowd of about 500 people and friends and families of the Choctaw people from across the United States gathered outside the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s Love Building doorway in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Choctaws coming from Mississippi were kept in the Love Building.

This passion led to the formation of the Choctaw-Chickasaw Heritage Committee of Ardmore, Oklahoma. The committee hosted both private and public outdoor traditional gatherings for the community, some lasting through the night (Levine 1993).

For your own stories have parties from these last Trail of Tears removals. If so, please contact either Deidre Ray at dray@choctawnation.com or 580-644-5820 ext. 2353 or Joseph Ward at jward@choctawnation.com 580-644-5820 ext. 2353. For a list of the summer events mentioned in this article please go to ChoctawNation.com and click on the History tab.
Happy 60th Anniversary to Kay and Michael Basura

They were married on Wednesday, Nov. 25, 1942. Jay served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. Geraline Thomas is the granddaughter of original Choctaw Nation enrollee Deola McIntyre. Both Geraline and Jay are originally from the Mead-Silo area or rural Oklahoma. Jay and Geraline Thom- as have lived in either Du- rant, Oklahoma or Mead, Oklahoma for the majority of their marriage. Jay and Geraline have two daughters, Deanna Stephens and Natasha Stephens and spouse Bud- ddy Stephens. They also have three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Interestingly, the day after they were married, the classic romantic dra- ma film Casablanca, pre- miered at the Hollywood Theatre in New York City. The Thomases Celebrate 75th Anniversary

Jay and Geraline Thom- as celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on Nov. 9. Both Geraline and Jay have three children, Michelle and Bruce and his spouse Claudia, and Melissa and two grand- children. Michelle and Michael Yuma and John Thorne, the great- grandchildren of LaHome Thorne, the great- grandson of Lallone Crauthers and the great- great-granddaughter of the late William and Elia Murphy. Happy 60th Anniversary to Kay and Michael Basura

Kay and Michael are all smiles on their wedding day, June 15, 1957.

Kay and Michael Basura were married in the Shatto Chapel of The First Con- gregational Church in Los Angeles, California. They have two sons, Bra- den and his spouse Claudina, and Bruce and his spouse Melissa, and three grand- children. Michelle and Michael Yuma and John Thorne. They said, “We are blessed to be able to relive 60 years together and with our family.” Wright City and Idabel Language Classes Graduate

The Thomases Celebrate 75th Anniversary

Jay and Geraline are celebrating 75 years of marriage.

Wright City and Idabel Language Classes Graduate

This “Parky Who Licked to Show Off” is the first in a series of children’s books which will feature Choctaw “shukha amsap” or “pig tales.” The book introduces children to Choctaw words and includes a Choctaw to English translation. It is currently available at the Choctaw Store in the Choctaw Welcome Center of Colbert, Oklahoma and online at www.choctawstore.com. It will soon be available at the Choctaw Nation Headquarters. Updates will be posted on the Choctaw Store Facebook page.

The Turkey Who Licked to Show Off

“Choctaw Welcome Center of Colbert, Oklahoma and online at www.choctawstore.com. It will soon be available at the Choctaw Nation Headquarters. Updates will be posted on the Choctaw Store Facebook page.

Choctaw Children’s Book Released

“The Turkey Who Licked to Show Off” was written and published by Beverly Crockett and her granddaughter, Tiffany Lee. It is illustrated by Tiffany’s husband, William Lee, and includes a Choctaw to English translation. The book introduces children to Choctaw words and includes a Choctaw to English translation. It is currently available at the Choctaw Store in the Choctaw Nation Headquarters. Updates will be posted on the Choctaw Store Facebook page.

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By KENDA GERMAN

Storytelling has always been a part of Choctaw culture. Our ancestors used tales to pass down our history. Today, storytelling is still alive and well. We have many talented artists, authors, and poets that use their talents to share stories. One of those storytellers is Choctaw tribal member and poet J. Todd Hawkins.

Hawkins says he started storytelling when he learned to read. “I tend to be a little more verbal,” Hawkins said.

Hawkins grew up in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma where his family has lived for generations. “A lot of my poems will focus on kind of rural subject matter, where I grew up, and something you often see in poetry these days,” said Hawkins. “I tend to be a little more personal.”

Hawkins chose to pursue a degree in nursing because, as a young boy, he was taken to the hospital when he was 13 years old. “I’ll never forget the nurses and I want to give the same kindness and care to people who find themselves in the position I was five years ago,” said Hawkins.

From that experience, I learned that the meaning and purpose of nursing is to serve others, said Hawkins. “From my perspective as a young girl I had to be the nurse for my family, and whenever I needed to go to the doctor’s office, I had to be the nurse for my family and how to be a good nurse. I would go on without him if he didn’t make it. Looking back on that period, it was an eye-opening realization that death can happen any time to anyone. This was a powerful moment in my childhood.”

Hawkins was the 11-year-old in the hospital when he began to understand the abilities, strengths, and service of a nurse. She or he needs the knowledge to help in the problems of the body. In addition to that, they have the ability to help all persons who are near or die.

As much as my mom tried to reassure me that we were going to be okay, I was still frightened. Men in my group were really scared and I was scared out of my mind. I was scared for my life and I was scared to death. I was scared for my family and I was scared to death. I was scared for my parents and I was scared to death. I was scared for my siblings and I was scared to death. I was scared for my friends and I was scared to death.

I learned that the meaning and purpose of nursing is to serve others when I was the nurse for my family and I was the nurse for all the other people in my life. I learned that the meaning and purpose of nursing is to serve others when I was the nurse for all the other people in my life. I learned that the meaning and purpose of nursing is to serve others when I was the nurse for all the other people in my life.

Hawkins says he has always been passionate about writing. “Write, write, write. Write as much as you possibly can,” said Hawkins. “There are two reasons you write poetry. You write poetry for yourself and you write poetry for an audience. It’s just like anything else. You have to practice. The more you write, the better you’re going to be and you’re going to be proud of yourself.”

Hawkins enjoys giving a voice to the individuals he writes about. Hawkins also encourages other Choctaws out there who are interested in poetry to write. His advice is to write poetry for an audience. It’s just like anything else. You have to practice. The more you write, the better you’re going to be and you’re going to be proud of yourself.

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On a cool and windy Saturday morn- ing, under gray clouds, Chahta veterans were honored at the Choctaw Capital Grounds at Tvshka Homma on Nov. 11. Over 600 people were at the Choctaw Nation’s 2017 Annual Veterans Cer- mony.

The ceremony was held on the stone stage, which is near the memorial for Chahta warriors killed in action during the War on Terrorism, Vietnam, Korea, and World War II, as well as the memorial for the Choctaw Code Talkers.

Before the ceremony began, Choctaw veterans were given a new jacket and hat. They were also given a ticket to be seated in a drawing for the Veteran’s Hunt.

Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. wel- comed veterans and their families and Tribal Council Chairman Jennifer Woods gave the invocation.

The Chahta Nation Color Guard posted the colors and the Talihina High School Marching band played the Na- tional Anthem.

Scott Wesley’s powerful voice filled the valley as he sang “The Lord’s Prayer,” accompanied by Miss Choctaw Nation Bronna Jefferson, Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Jade Cossey and Little Miss Choctaw Nation Mya Thomas, who performed the song in sign language.

Wesley took the stage once again to present the Talihina Chumash, or Heart of the Warrior, Scholarship. The Talihina Chumash Scholarship was established in 2013 and is the result of donations given to the Chahta Foundation by retired veteran Teri Scroggins, according to Chief Austin Jr.

The scholarship was created to help active duty and retired United States armed services veterans who are seek- ing post secondary higher education.

The 2017 Talihina Chumash Scholar- ship recipient is Jaron Clinton. Unfortu- nately, Clinton was unable to attend the Veteran’s Ceremony in Tvshka Homma. He served in the Navy and is a pub- lic administration major. Clinton has served with the Las Vegas Fire force for 16 years and is currently a captain. According to Clinton, “Being Choctaw means that I am part of something larger than myself and part of a proud people who are making their mark on our nation.” Clinton lives in Las Vegas, Nevada with his wife and two children.


When Chief Gary Batton took the stage he spoke about today’s veterans serving in the “heart of a warrior.”

He also said the Choctaw Nation has been accredited by the Veterans Affairs and can now track and process various applications.

To date, “Four million dollars in claims have been handled by Chahta veter- ans,” according to Chief Batton.

The Chahta Nation has assisted in filing 1213 claims, getting veterans and their families to hospitals, home and as part of the Veterans Airlift Command.

“The Choctaw Nation is number two in the country for assisting with the Veterans Airlift Command,” Chief Bat- ton said.

The guest speaker was Choctaw em- ployee, City of Durant mayor and U.S. Marine Corps veteran Jerry Tomlinson. “We’re here today to honor our services members and to remember the sacrifices they have made and the cour- age it takes to defend honor, duty and country,” Tomlinson said.

He went on to talk about his own fam- ily’s history in the military that went all the way back to the Revolutionary War. In addition to honoring veterans, the ceremony also honored the spouses and family members who keep the lights burning.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the Choctaw Nation Veteran Airlift Department.

They are available to help veterans in filling service-related claims, receiving medical and military records and other help. The department regularly sends care packages to active military in combat zones.

Veterans Advocacy can be reached at 580-324-6170, or by email at veteransadvocacy@choctawnation.com.

The Choctaw Nation Color Guard opened the Veterans Day Ceremony by posting the col- ors. At the end of the ceremony they gave a 21-gun salute and the bugler played “Taps.”

The ceremony was held on the stone stage, which is near the memorials for the Chahta warriors killed in action during the War on Terrorism, Vietnam, Korea, and World War II, as well as the memorial for the Choctaw Code Talkers.

Over 600 people were at Tvshka Homma on Saturday, Nov. 11, for the Annual Veterans Day Ceremony.