Tribe Observes Nanih Waiya Day

Members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and guests gathered on the grounds of the Nanih Waiya mound in Winston County on Friday, August 19 to commemorate the restoration of the mound and cave sites back to the Tribe.

The ceremony, originally slated for Friday, Aug. 12, was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson welcomed all those in attendance to honor Choctaw heritage and celebrate the legacy of the mother mound, Nanih Waiya, which means “leaning hill” in Choctaw.

“For many centuries, the Nanih Waiya mound has been a cherished symbol of our tribe. Generations of our Choctaw people have visited to honor and pay respect to our ancestors for our legacy as the original inhabitants of this land,” said Anderson.

......see MOUND, pg. 5

Sockey Sworn-In As Councilman

Richard Sockey was officially sworn-in as Standing Pine representative to the Choctaw Tribal Council during a regular call meeting on Tuesday, July 12 at the Golden Moon VIP Room in Choctaw. Sockey won a special election on June 7 to fulfill the unexpired term of the late councilman Harrison Ben who passed away on April 9, 2016. Sockey, pictured left, was administered the oath of office by Secretary-Treasurer Stella York Willis. The term expires in 2019.

New Princess, Stickball Champions Crowned

LEFT. Breanna Isaac, the 18-year-old daughter of Rebecca Steve of the Pearl River Community & the late Bert Isaac, was crowned the 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess during opening night of the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair on Wednesday, July 13. She was sponsored by the Jackson & Mattie Isaac Family. Breanna was crowned by 2015-2016 Princess Emily Shoemake, pictured left. CENTER. Oka Homma Ohoyo (yellow jerseys) won their first World Series Stickball (WSS) women’s championship with a 4-2 win over Bok Cito Ohoyo on Friday, July 15. Ashley Tangle was named MVP. RIGHT. Pearl River (navy blue jerseys) claimed their first men’s championship since 1977 and fourth overall with an exciting 2-1 victory over Koni Hata on Saturday, July 16. Jak Logan was named MVP.
Halito!

As we approach the end of another busy summer, I am very happy to look back on these last few months at some of the great memories that were made.

We celebrated many occasions this summer, including the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair, the Nanih Waiya All-Star stickball game and Nanih Waiya Day Ceremony at the Mound. And as I write this letter, we have recently started a new school year at Choctaw Tribal Schools.

As we prepare for the fall, it’s important to remember that we are still experiencing some very hot temperatures. While we enjoy the waning months of summer, please be mindful to keep hydrated and cool. Take precautions and be especially watchful of our elders and children who are most vulnerable to the heat.

**67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair**

On July 13-16, 2016, we celebrated our 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. There were a variety of activities scheduled throughout the day and into the night. As usual, our fair included carnival rides, tribal arts and crafts, professional entertainment, traditional food, stickball, and social dancing.

Fairgoers also enjoyed some of our newer fair additions, such as the Iron Warrior competitions, Shawi’s Discovery Zone, the Scales, Tails and Teeth Gator show and the Rez Run.

New to this year’s fair was a special appearance from Kenny Dobbs, International Slam Dunk Champion and member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

I also had the great honor of welcoming many of our special guests and dignitaries to the stage during opening and closing ceremonies.

Many of our winners of various fair competitions were recognized at the stage including our stickball winners Koni Hata in the 35 & Over Division, Oka Homma in the Women’s Division, Koni Hata Himitah in the Tulli Okchi Division, and Pearl River in the Pushmataha Division. Later in the night we presented the trophy to our Men’s Stickball Division winner, Pearl River.

At the stage, we also recognized our 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Layne Isaac; Community Booth Winner Standing Pine; Rez Run Winners Joseph Chebet, Meghan Franks, Dustin Mettler, and Ashley Moyer; Got Gospel Singing Challenge Winner Caleb Willis, Scavenger Hunt Winner Callie Amos, and Iron Warrior Winners Dalton Clegg (Men’s Division) and Miranda Stamper (Women’s Division). Congratulations again to this great group of winners!

**Nanih Waiya Stickball and Celebration at the Mound**

On Tuesday, August 9th, 2016, we enjoyed the 4th Annual Nanih Waiya Stickball game at Warrior Stadium. Some of our best men’s and women’s players were selected for the teams and battled for the bragging rights of All-Star Champion.

Coaching the teams this year were: Greg Shoemake for Fichik Cito, Randy Jimmie for Fichik Malata, Bracey Bell for Fichik Cito Ohoyo and Carl Hickman for Fichik Malata Ohoyo.

Celebrating the win in the Women’s Division was Fichik Malata Ohoyo and receiving the Women’s MVP award was Nashima Thompson. In the Men’s Division, Fichik Cito came out on top with Keantrey Thomas receiving the Men’s MVP trophy.

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to our organizers for their continued support and work on this successful event.

On August 19th, we also celebrated the ceremony at the Nanih Waiya Mound. We had a great gathering of tribal members and friends at our Mother Mound for the ceremony to pay...continued next page
We continue to see our classes becoming more adaptive to the current workforce as we prepare our tribal youth for higher education and careers. We are very fortunate to have a great school administrative team and dedicated teachers and staff.

I wish all our students, teachers, staff, administrators, parents and guardians well as new curriculum is being taught and learned in our schools and homes.

Closing

In closing, I want to encourage each of you to continue praying for each other, our tribal leaders, program and department managers, students, teachers, administrators and our Tribe. As we enter a new fiscal year and a new school year we will get very busy in day-to-day tasks. It’s important that we support each other and provide help when there are times of need. I also hope you will take time to enjoy the fruits of your labor with family and friends. It is by the Lord’s grace that we are blessed with our families, jobs, and homes. I am so grateful to enjoy the freedoms of our great tribe and country and that we can openly worship and praise our God to give thanks for all He has provided.

Many Blessings,

Phyliss J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief

LawsuitFiled By
Chief Anderson

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – On June 27, 2016, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Chief Phyliss J. Anderson filed a lawsuit in Choctaw Tribal Court on behalf of the Office of the Chief and on behalf of the Chief of Staff and three Division Directors of MBCI against the MBCI Tribal Council regarding amendments to the Tribe’s Administrative Personnel Policies & Procedures (the “Policies”) adopted by a majority (9 members) of the council at a regular meeting on April 12, 2016.

The lawsuit alleges that certain amendments to the Policies are in violation of the MBCI Constitution and that an injunction should be issued by the court against enforcement of the challenged amendments to the Policies.

“I was elected by the Choctaw People to lead this Tribe as the Tribal Chief, and I take those responsibilities seriously,” said Chief Anderson. “I believe it is my duty to protect the powers and duties of the Office of the Chief under our Constitution and to protect the interests of all Tribal employees who work to provide necessary programs and services for our Tribal members.”

Although there were many amendments to the Policies adopted by the Council at the April meeting, the amendments that are being challenged in Court involve a requirement that certain “political appointee” employees who are directly hired and supervised by the Chief to be confirmed by the Tribal Council and, then, for those same employees to be re-confirmed by the Council in four years.

Also being challenged are certain provisions requiring the Chief to provide specific personnel action information to the Council Committee on Human Resources, Training and Development on a quarterly basis.

The lawsuit alleges that these amendments to the Policies violate the MBCI Constitution by unlawfully infringing on the executive authority of the Chief and by bestowing the Council with authority not provided in the Constitution.

“While I respect the constitutional authority of the Tribal Council to establish procedures of the conduct of our Tribe, the exercise of the Council’s authority must not unlawfully interfere with the authority of the Tribal Chief to manage, direct, and administer the operations of the Tribal programs and services. That is what this lawsuit is about,” said Chief Anderson.
The following ordinances and resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed below is a brief summary and action taken. Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/or its attachment must have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM completed and submitted to the Policy and Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

**NOTICE HALITO TRIBAL MEMBERS:**

In compliance with the Choctaw Tribal Code §22-3-6, the Tribal Enrollment Office is reviewing enrolled member’s files to assure that all required documents are in their files.

Many of our enrollment files were first approved by the Choctaw Agency before our Tribe contracted with the BIA for the responsibility to oversee Tribal enrollment, and the documentation in some of those files was lacking. We have encountered problems with documentation in these older files when we are reviewing new applications that are relying on these prior BIA files.

Tribal membership is a privilege, and our office is committed to making sure that all tribal members’ files are fully completed so that tribal members receive the highest possible blood degree.

If a required document is absent from your file, you will receive a letter from the Enrollment Officer, Angela Stevens, requesting the particular missing document or documents to be submitted to the Enrollment Office; our office staff will be happy to assist you in contacting other agencies and departments to obtain documents if you request that we do so.

The Enrollment Officer will be sending out the letters in the near future. In the event you receive a letter from the Enrollment Officer, we ask for your cooperation in getting your file updated.

We are looking forward to working with and assisting each of you to update your files to ensure that you and your family members receive all rights and privileges afforded to members of our Tribe.

Thank you,

Angela Stevens,
Tribal Enrollment Officer

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**REGULAR CALL MEETING JULY 12, 2016**

**Resolution CHO 16-070,** approving the modification of the term sheet, engagement letter, and fee letter, with Trustmark National Bank, as administrative agent of a proposed replacement facility to $175,000,000 from $200,000,000 to be used to refinance the 2014 secured facility and to pay off the 7.25% senior secured notes of the enterprise; and approve the final negotiation and execution, delivery and performance by the Tribe and enterprise of the amended and restated credit agreement and the other documents and certificates necessary to consummate the modified replacement facility, including the notes, security agreement, depository agreements, and springing depository agreements, by and among the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Mississippi State University and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and Trustmark National Bank as administrative agent and the lenders referred to therein; along with other agreements, forms, and certificates related to the amended and restated credit agreement, the limited waivers of sovereign immunity contained therein; and other matters related thereto, was ADOPTED 16 YES (R. Anderson, R. Bell, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (C. Ben).

**Resolution CHO 16-071,** designating Key Bank as a depository of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 16-072,** designating Whitney Bank as a depository of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 16-073,** approving revisions to Choctaw Gaming Commission regulations, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 16-074,** approving an extension request from Dr. Catherine Burnett of Tulane University on “Bolstering Healthy Families Research Project,” was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 16-075,** approving Dr. Jacqueline Campbell and Dr. Bushra Sabri of Johns Hopkins University in collaboration with Dr. Catherine Burnett of Tulane University to conduct the Indigenous Women’s Health and Safety - The Danger Assessment (DA) - Circle Project, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 16-076,** revising the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Vehicle Maintenance Policy and to retitle it as the MBCI Vehicle Safety Policy, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 16-077,** approving an affiliation agreement for clinical experience between Mississippi State University and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 16-078,** authorizing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ Department of Family and Community Services, Elderly Center, to participate in a Nation-Wide Needs Assessment of the Needs of Native Elders conducted by the Administration on Aging, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

...continued next page
In the late 18th century, the Choctaw lost their ancestral homeland due to demands for more lands by the non-Native populations encroaching onto Choctaw territory.

Nine treaties were signed between the Choctaw and the U.S. Government between 1786 and 1830. In the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830, the Choctaw were forced to give up 11 million acres of Mississippi territory, including Nanih Waiya.

The process of returning Nanih Waiya, which was designated a state park, back to the Tribe began in April 2007 as Mississippi Senate Bill 2732 authorized the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks to transfer the mound to the Tribe.

In August 2008, Nanih Waiya was finally in the Tribe’s possession. A proclamation was signed that year celebrating the mound’s return and declaring that Nanih Waiya would never be sold, traded or negotiated with ever again.

“The mound has always been the heart of our Choctaw homeland. I encourage all of you to carry forth the stories, the knowledge and the respect of our mother mound. Pass it to the next generation so they too will gather here in the years to come just as we are today in celebration of our unique Choctaw identity,” said Anderson.

Believed to have been built between 100 B.C. and 400 A.D., Nanih Waiya is 25 feet high, 218 feet long and 140 feet wide, suggesting it was originally a platform mound which eroded into the present form.

Anderson, along with Choctaw Tribal Council members in attendance Troy Chickaway, Sharon Johnson, Joseph Wesley, & Ronnie Henry, Sr., affixed colorful ribbons representing the eight tribal communities to the memorial wreath which was placed at the base of the mound.

An Indian taco lunch was served afterwards.

News from the Tribal Distribution Office

TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION REMINDERS!

Please help us make the process of receiving your check easier by having the following information current. (All of the following needs to be done and turned in to the Tribal Distribution Office.)

- Over 18 years old (Photo I.D.)
- Custody change (Court Order)
- Name changes (Marriage/Divorce with new name on your Social Security card)
- Address changes - (If you do a forwarding address with your local post office, please fill out an application with our office also since the forwarding time does have an expiration.)
  - Anytime you do an address change for yourself, always include all of your dependants.
  - We DO NOT accept address changes over the phone.
  - Tax (W-4V)

DIRECT DEPOSIT is still available!

Keep in mind if your check was captured for anything from the previous distribution, you will have to submit a new application to do Direct Deposit again.

UNCLAIMED CHECKS

Tribal Distribution Office will only hold your check for 6 months. If you have not received your check, please contact Barbara Ben at 601-650-1522. The check will be returned to the General Revenue Fund after 6 months if not claimed.

The Tribal Distribution Office is located on the upper level of the Tribal Office building in the Finance Department. The forms are available in the lobby or in the Finance Office and you can also visit www.choctaw.org.

For more information, please contact Barbara Ben, Distribution Manager, at 601-650-1522.
The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ Division of Education hosted a delegation from the Navajo Nation on July 19-20. MBCI Division of Education Director Willa Brantley directed discussion of what MBCI pioneered in order to successfully contract the Choctaw Tribal Schools.

The Navajo Nation is interested in establishing similar funding for their 32 Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) operated schools located on their reservation.

The Department of Dine Education is specifically researching various options for a new school system that will provide more avenues to access necessary funds to operate the schools and be solely operated by the Tribe to better serve the educational needs for their children and future generations.

The Navajo education delegation included Dr. Tommy Lewis, Superintendent of Schools; Matthew Tso, Department of Dine Education Legislative Analyst; Dr. Florinda Jackson, Navajo Nation Dine Education Program Manager; Derrick Franklin, Navajo Nation Department of Dine Education Senior Education Specialist; and Norman M. Begaye, Navajo Nation Councilman.

Doug Weaver, MBCI Office of Finance and Accounting Acting CFO, contributed important historical information such as what steps MBCI took in order to overcome barriers. Also present at the meeting were Sherry Tubby, Choctaw Tribal Schools Exceptional Education Coordinator; David Germany, Director of Choctaw Tribal Schools; Fred Hickmon, Choctaw Central High School Principal; Dr. William Brescia, TED Education Planner; and Lucretia Williams, TED Project Coordinator.

This meeting was a positive encounter between MBCI Division of Education and the Navajo Nation Education Committee members resulting in future plans for a secondary visit to follow-up with the MBCI Division of Education staff.

The MBCI Department of Education welcomes Project Coordinator Lucretia Williams & Education Planner Dr. William Brescia to their staff as part of the BIE-funded Tribal Education Department (TED) Grant. Funds from TED focus on enhancing the division’s capacity to better coordinate all Choctaw educational programs.

Williams, a Tribal member from the Pueblo of Santa Clara, is of Navajo, Hopi & Hopi-Tewa ancestry. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Indiana University Northwest & has over eight years of experience in various entities of Tribal government, such as housing, human resources, education, hospitality & tourism, economic development, community development, & professional development.

Williams resides in Carthage with her husband, Chris, & their three children - Christopher, Olon & Lavani.

Dr. Brescia returns to the Tribe after several years of work at universities culminating at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center as the Instructional Designer for the College of Medicine, where he served for 9 years. He received his PhD from Indiana University in Instructional Systems Technologies with a minor in Higher Education (Philanthropy).

He has extensive experience as a proposal writer, having received support from federal, state & local governments, as well as foundation & corporate funders & as an administrator. He also served as director for projects at MBCI & American Indian-controlled nonprofit organizations.

Dr. Brescia resides in Neshoba County with his wife, Jimmie.

CYCC Members Complete Program

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – Fourteen members of the Choctaw Youth Conservation Corps (CYCC) completed a four-week program of conservation work at the Nanih Waiya cave mound on Friday, July 1.

One project participants worked on was a walking trail originally created by the first conservation corps in the 1970s. More work on the trail was done through an Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) grant in the early 2000s.

The CYCC members, all high school students, participated in hands-on activities in the mornings and natural resources profession oriented classes in the afternoons. Participants also learned about Choctaw culture with the help of the Department of Chahta Immi’s Cultural Affairs program.

“The CYCC is an exciting, comprehensive youth work program designed to mold these young students into becoming devoted tribal stewards of our natural resources, while also developing responsible and ethical work habits,” said Mitzi Reed, this meeting was a positive encounter between MBCI Division of Education and the Navajo Nation Education Committee members resulting in future plans for a secondary visit to follow-up with the MBCI Division of Education staff.

...continued next page
YLC Held at BCES

The Choctaw Community Planning Coalition (CCPC), in conjunction with the Methamphetamine & Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI), hosted the 11th Annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) June 22-23 at Bogue Chitto Elementary School. This year’s theme was “Saving Lives & Building Hope.”

A total of 285 kids, ranging in age from 11-18, participated as students traveled from as far as Memphis & Hennis, TN, Newton, & Meridian, as well as the Choctaw communities.

This year’s conference topics covered:
• Question, Persuade, & Refer for Suicide Prevention;
• Being Tobacco Free, Bullying (e.g. cyber-bullying & sexting);
• Drugs & the Teen Brain;
• A Motivated & Focused Teen;
• Peers Influencing Decisions;
• Teen Dating Violence, Texting & Driving;
• Resolving Conflict Without Violence.

Topics were chosen by CCPC youth members who also volunteered as YLC peer educators. As peer educators, the youth provided educational presentations to their peers & attendees. They were supported by adult mentors to ensure the conference functioned as a peer-to-peer led conference.

On day two, students participated in the “Walk for Life” half-mile walk/run to promote suicide prevention & awareness.

Vendors participating in this year’s conference included the 4-H Clubs, Choctaw Attorney General’s Office (We Tip Hotline), Mississippi State University, Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI, Choctaw Police Department, & MSPI.

Special thanks the SYSP, Youth Opportunity Program & the Choctaw Youth Conservation Corps for allowing their participants to attend the conference; Generation Free Team, under the sponsorship of Beverly Knox of Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition. (Noxubee, Neshoba, Kemper Counties); STEP under support of Randy Tangle; emcee Jasmine Hickman, music DJs Daryl Willis & Matthew Bell, Bogue Chitto Elementary School (Ms. Wright & cafeteria, janitorial staff), Choctaw Tribal Schools (Tony Steve & Fred Hickman), Choctaw Behavioral Health

-----------see YLC, pg. 8
Huge Turnout At Round Comb Workshop
The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) hosted a round comb workshop on June 6 at the Pearl River Community Dance Ground. The CAP staff was excited at the record number of participants (75) & thank those who made the workshop a success.

Choctaw Culture Showcased at Festival
Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) staff members, along with several Tribal members, traveled to Childersburg, AL for the DeSoto Caverns Family Fun Park’s Native American Festival June 11-12. The dance troupe performed before an estimated 5,000 spectators over the two-day event. Louise Wallace, Phyllis McMillan, Priscilla Williams, & Emerson Billy also presented Choctaw cultural craft making demonstrations.

Summer Brings Cultural Presentations
The CAP staff participated in several activities in June, such as: traditional cooking for various organizations; Boys & Girls Club workshops; cultural training for Red Water Development Club; Nanih Waiya workshops; workshop for Social Services; & sash making in the Bogue Chitto Community.

DCI Coordinator Rosemary John, Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond & Chahta Alla Youth Council members traveled to Decatur, Union, Dekalb, & Scooba on June 13-14 to provide cultural services for Summer Reading Programs.

Bogue Homa Round Comb Workshop
A Choctaw round comb workshop was held in the Bogue Homa Community on Aug. 1. The activity was hosted by the CAP staff, coordinated by May McGeisey.

Trudy Jimmie, Casey Bigpond, Sherrill Nickey, & Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) intern DeAundre Williams helped participants complete decorations on their combs.

The CAP staff recognizes Facility Building Coordinator Betty Sutton, Tribal Member Services Director Jeremiah Harrison, Community Youth Service Aide Pearlie Thomas, & Recreation Coordinator Aline Thomas for assisting with the venue & making the workshop a success.

The final round comb workshop for the fiscal year was held at the Conehatta Facility Building on Sept. 12. Those who attended received a new, reproduced round comb for free.

Cultural Resources For Fair Goers
At the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair (July 13-16), DCI’s Trudy Jimmie, Lorena Alex, May McGeisey, & Priscilla Williams distributed hundreds of materials containing information on Choctaw music & dance, arts & crafts & posters written in the Choctaw language promoting Choctaw heritage. Videos on Choctaw traditions were also displayed at the Cultural Education Booth.

DCI SP/MP in Full Swing with Oral History Project
In the fall of 2015, the Special Projects/Media Program (SP/MP) began an oral history documentation effort called the Choctaw Tribal Elders Oral History Project (CTEOHP).

The program was awarded a $10,000 Cultural Resource Fund (CRF) grant to recruit community elders to participate in interviews, identify Choctaw cultural and historical material in local libraries and archives, and develop multi-media plans to produce cultural educational material for Choctaw children.

The project team recently shared information about the project at each community development club meetings this past March-May. The presentations proved to be beneficial as few of the clubs entered into partnerships with CTEOHP to help with project activities.

On May 23, SP/MP received news from the Multi Cultural...continued next page

YLC ................. continued from page seven
(CBH) Department & staff, Bogue Chitto Tribal Council representative Davita McClelland, Choctaw Police Department, chanter Bruce Jim, drummers Christopher “Speedy” Lewis, Speedy Lewis, II & Seth Lewis for leading the walk/run with the drum beats, & all who supervised & chaperoned to ensure this year’s conference was a success.

Special thanks also for the donations from the Choctaw Health Center Employee Association, Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug Prevention Program (Marquita Wilson-CBH), Geyser Falls Water Park, MBCI Office of Special Projects, Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI, Nittak Himmona Domestic Violence Shelter, Dominos (Philadelphia), Canal Place Cinema, & all individuals who donated.
Intermediary Collaborative Action Group that they were awarded an additional $40,000 from the CRF grant funding agency for a Phase 2 grant for the CTEOHHP.

On June 1, the project staff initiated its oral history documentation plans and resource gathering activities.

For their first activity, the CTEOHHP group recorded an interview & presentation with Donna Williams of the Bogue Chitto Community. The group, comprised of SP/MP-CTEOHP staff and YOP interns, teamed with May McGeisey of the CAP and Laura Horlings of the Choctaw Bible Translation Committee to record Ms. Williams as she demonstrated the traditional way of hominy corn preparation.

The CTEOHHP staff will continue recording Tribal elders in the communities to capture their experiences & perspectives on Choctaw culture.

**Tribal Language Program**

The Choctaw Tribal Language Program (CTLP) partnered with Employment & Training’s Supplemental Youth Services Program to offer a Summer Choctaw Language Class (Toffa Chahta Annopa Ayikhana) to teens in June. Thirty young people participated and 27 completed the month-long class. Students practiced speaking and writing in Choctaw while completing a Choctaw mini-phrase book.

Peggy Williams, Patty Billie, DeLaura Saunders, and two YOP aides facilitated the classes. Participants also learned more about the Choctaw culture, including making their own necklaces and bracelets.

The YOP requested CTLP to provide four one-hour workshops to new employees during May-July. A total of 158 teens and young adults listened to the importance of valuing the Choctaw language, what they can do to increase their learning, and getting access to an online Choctaw language activity the program is currently working on.

Participants have been vocal about the online activity, the need for it and its ease of accessibility. All who have access are encouraged to call the language program with any feedback or suggestions. The program hopes to give communities access to the online activity in the near future as more people have shown interest in it.

Tribal members and visitors joined the CTLP staff at the Shawi Discovery Zone during the 2016 Choctaw Indian Fair to make fun craft projects representing Choctaw arts. Participants learned 4-8 Choctaw words and two phrases at the “Náthah Ik Imikshoh” Language Activity station. Abrianna Tubby immersed participants in Choctaw as she taught four animal and four Choctaw artifact names. Participants took home four cards with the animal and artifact names so they can remember those words and teach their family members.

**Tribal members participate in a round comb workshop at the Bogue Homa Community Center on Aug. 1.**

**Trudy Jimmie & Lorena Alex provide resource handouts to visitors.**

**A headband making class was held at the Conehatta Boys & Girls Club Unit on June 28. The CAP staff taught the basics of sewing to the participants (left). Ryleigh Anderson (right) tries on her headband for fitting before sewing on the diamonds.**

**Priscilla Williams & YOP intern Santana Agurrie conducted a presentation at the Crystal Ridge Community Development Club meeting.**

**LEFT, Donna Williams demonstrates her skills in preparing hominy corn. RIGHT, Priscilla Williams, Ozzie Willis, Jenisa Tubby, & Shane York document the hominy preparation process.**

**Himittowa alhiha pakósh Toffa Chahta Annopa Ayikhana ittanówah tok.**
De Saunders provided different medallion coloring pages at the Qmilayachi Station to help visitors practice designing medallions. Participants chose what design they wanted to color and even returned to continue coloring different medallions.

The Hilha Unit Achaka 2016 curriculum was distributed to the Choctaw Tribal Schools’ summer school language teachers for their summer language teaching resource. The language program also provided support to the CTS during the 2016-2017 school year. Students will continue receiving 30 minutes of Choctaw language instruction to increase usage of the language. Parents and community members are encouraged to contribute to their child’s learning by asking questions about what they are learning, encourage language teachers, visit family members who speak Choctaw, and most importantly, speak Choctaw more frequently.

The Choctaw Tribal Schools is making great strides in ensuring the continued presence of the Choctaw language for generations to come and we encourage all to help make these classes a success. Yakókih.

These are some of the common Choctaw terms that were introduced & practiced throughout the summer language activities:

- ábachih - to practice;
- abóha - inside the home, living room;
- áhopóni - kitchen;
- akmochih - to glue;
- alla - child;
- anólih - to tell;
- anopólih - to talk, speak;
- awattah - hunt;
- Áyópisa Chito - Choctaw Indian Fair; binilih - to sit;
- Chahta Annapa - Choctaw Language;
- chihah - to sit (du.);
- chokfi - rabbit;
- chokka - home;
- habínah - to receive as a gift;
- halíto - hello;
- himittowa - young people, teenagers (pl.);
- holbattoba - picture;
- holisso - paper;
- holisso áyikhana - school or class;
- holisso ittimanopolih - to read;
- kachlíh - to cut;
- nakni - boy;
- níttak - day;
- okla áyásha - community;
- qmiláya - color;
- qmilayachih - to color;
- osi - small;
- ponóshi - thread;
- ponóshi sokko - yarn;
- shikalla inngchi lobo - medallion;
- sita - ribbon;
- tahah - to be done, all gone;
- tahlih - to be finished;
- tanah - to weave;
- taposhshik - basket;
- tik - girl, female;
- tholpollichih - to go thru;
- yakókih - thank you.

At the Chokfi Awattah station, participants used authentic Choctaw-made rabbit sticks (iti ishnipa) to target cloth rabbits. Kids threw the iti ishnipa at paper mache rabbits filled with surprises. Jason Lewis moved the rabbit to create a more authentic experience as participants threw the sticks.

At the Sita Tanah station, Peggy Williams & Patty Billie showed how to weave ribbons to imitate the weaving of cane in creating Choctaw baskets & using yarn to create a faux medallion. They practiced speaking Choctaw & taught words such as taposhshik (basket), shikalla inngchi lobo (medallion) & colors.
A rain delay couldn’t hamper the spirit of competition as the 4th Annual All-Star Stickball Games, officially sanctioned by World Series Stickball (WSS), were held on Tuesday, August 9 at Warrior Stadium in Choctaw.

Fichik Malata Ohoyo (Shining Star) defeated Fichik Cito Ohoyo (Big Star) 6-3 in the women’s game. In the men’s contest, Fichik Cito defeated Fichik Malata 6-2.

Selected as this year’s MVP’s were Nashima Thompson of Fichik Malata Ohoyo (her second consecutive All-Star MVP honor) and Keantray Thomas of Fichik Cito.

Coaches were Carl Hickman (Fichik Malata Ohoyo), Bracey Bell (Fichik Cito Ohoyo), Greg Shoemake (Fichik Cito), & Randy Jimmie (Fichik Malata).

All-Star participants must be enrolled members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and selected by a nominating committee of qualified WSS officials. Qualifications included player’s sportsmanship, skill & demonstrated spirit of the traditional game of Choctaw stickball.

Selected players & coaches must be in good standing with the Choctaw Indian Fair WSS Committee in accordance to rules & regulations with no history of penalties & must have been a registered player or coach on a qualified Choctaw stickball team during the 2016 WSS tournament.

Members of the Fichik Malata Ohoyo team included Asha Chickaway, Ashley McMillan, Ashley Edwards, Ashley Wesley, Bethany Johnson, Breanna Vaughn, Brooklyn Bell, Chantay Frazier, Charla Isaac, Chenice Ben, Danita Willis, DeAundre’ Williams, Deaundrea Johnson, Daysianara Lewis, DoriAnne Dixon, Elyse Willis, Elizabeth Robinson, Ella’Gane’ Sam, Erica Phillips, Gabrielle Wilson, Heather Tangle, Hope Solomon, Hope York, Jacobi Berg, Jada Sockey, Jalique Williams, Jamaica Montoya, Jessica Clemons, Juanita Gibson, Jessica Hickman, Kelley Sockey, Kristen Steve, Kyree Alex, Lacey Willis, LaHomia Conrad, Leslie Tubby, Mariah Hickman, Lana Tubby, Mariah Johnson, Marie Wilson, Melissa Thomas, Meritza Henry, Millie Chickaway, Missy Bell, Nashima Thompson, Odessa Martin, ...see ALL-STAR STICKBALL, pg. 12
**WSS Champions Crowned**

From the first toss up on July 7 to the finale on July 16, the 2016 World Series Stickball (WSS) brought forth 45 total games of tremendous, exciting stickball action as part of activities of the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair.

The following teams were crowned champion of their respective division on July 15 & 16 at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw at Warrior Stadium on Tuesday evening, July 15, rather than Saturday and the women’s and men’s 35-over title games were played on Friday evening, switching from Tuesday evening.

The men’s championship game was held on Saturday evening, July 16, to conclude activities for the Choctaw Indian Fair.

**Pushmataha Division (10-13) Championship**

**Pearl River 2, Koni Hata Osi 1 (OT)**

Pearl River had a chance for redemption after last year’s loss in the finals to Bok Cito. This year, Koni Hata Osi was the opponent as they went into sudden death overtime to determine a champion.

After three scoreless quarters, Koni Hata Osi got on the board with a goal by Chris Lewis, Jr. at the 2:41 mark, but Pearl River answered back 30 seconds later with a goal by Bryce Jimmie.

Nearly four minutes into overtime, William McKinney scored the winning goal for Pearl River for a 2-1 victory. Gage Wesley was named MVP.

**Tulli Okchi Ishko Division (14-17) Championship**

see CHAMPS, pg. 17

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**ALL-STAR STICKBALL .................................................... continued from page eleven**

Randi Williams, Renate Ben, Robin Isaac, Shanesha Willis, Shanine McMillan, Shanita Morris, Shelia Anderson, Shunna Chapman, Thomasina Lindsey, Tiffany Thomas, Trinessa Isom, & Vanora Sockey.


Breanna Isaac was crowned the 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess during the opening night of the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair on Wednesday, July 13 at the Pearl River Amphitheater in Choctaw.

Isaac, the 18-year-old daughter of Rebecca Steve & the late Bert Isaac, is the 62nd princess to represent the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. She was sponsored by the Jackson & Mattie Isaac Family. She was also selected Most Photogenic.

Isaac, of the Pearl River Community, is a 2016 graduate of Choctaw Central High School. This fall, she will be a freshman at Mississippi State University (MSU) in Starkville.

Searra Wilson, the 17-year-old daughter of Lucretia King & Vincent Wilson, was selected First Alternate.

Autumn McMillan, the 17-year-old daughter of Deanna McMillan & Fabien Tubby, was selected Second Alternate. She will be a freshman this fall at MSU in Starkville. McMillan, of the Tucker Community, was sponsored by the Youth Opportunity Program.

Kambree Chickaway, the 19-year-old daughter of LaShannon Ferris & Karady Chickaway, was selected Miss Congeniality. She will be a sophomore this fall at East Central Community College in Decatur. Chickaway, of the Conehatta Community, was sponsored by the Non-Gaming Properties of Pearl River Resort.

Ga’Yu’Eze Morris, the 17-year-old daughter of Jackie & Renata Morris, was the winner of the essay competition. She will be a senior this fall at CCHS. Morris, of the Bogue Chitto Community, was sponsored by the Bok Cito Stickball Team.

The Choctaw Indian Fair began in 1949, but the princess pageant did not become part of the fair until 1955. The first princess, Patsy Sam Buffington of the Tucker Community, was selected at the tender age of 12 & thus beginning a distinguished legacy which continues today.

Each year, a special young lady is inducted into an elite & exclusive circle with the honor & responsibility of representing her Tribe. At the moment the princess is crowned, she becomes not only the ambassador for the Tribe, but also the person little Choctaw girls want to be when they grow up.

Contestants, between the ages of 16-19, are sponsored by various organizations, such as community development clubs, Tribal businesses & in some instances, families.

A panel next princess by awarding points based on communication skills, poise, evening wear, traditional dress, personality, & cultural understanding.

The Choctaw Indian Princess, in turn, celebrates the Tribe’s accomplishments in the forthcoming year as a central figure at the tribal, local, state, & national levels. As ambassador, she represents the Tribe at ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings, conferences, & other events.

With this year’s princess, the journey continues, preserving our culture, celebrating our heritage & honoring the princess as a living tradition.
2016 World Series Stickball Champions / MVPs

Men’s Champion - Pearl River

Men’s Division MVP
Jak Logan

Women’s Champion – Oka Homma Ohoyo

Women’s Division MVP
Ashley Tangle

Men’s 35-Over Champion - Koni Hata

Men’s 35-Over Division MVP
Jimmy Tangle

Pushmataha Champion - Pearl River

Pushmataha Division MVP
Gage Wesley

Tulli Okchi Ishko Champion - Koni Hata Himitah

Tulli Okchi Ishko Division MVP
Yumish Billy
Koni Hata Himitah 5, Bok Cito 2

Much like Pearl River in the previous game, Koni Hata Himitah had a chance to redeem themselves after last year’s loss in the final to the Warriors. Standing in their way would be rival Bok Cito.

Bok Cito got on the board first with Brias Bell’s goal 4:58 in the first quarter. Koni Hata would comeback with goals by Caleb Williamson and Kashau Bell for a 2-1 win.

After a scoreless second quarter, Koni Hata made it a 3-1 lead in the third with Jalen Willis’ goal at the 2:04 mark.

Bok Cito cut the lead to one with Kendrick Wesley’s goal 7:31 in the fourth. Koni Hata added to their lead with a 3-0 shutout over reigning champion Bok Cito.

For a 2-1 win and fourth WSS overall championship.

Jaky Logan was named recipient of the Barry Ben Sportsmanship Award in the men’s division during the post-game trophy presentation.

REZ RUN Results

The fifth REZ RUN was held on Saturday morning, July 16 in Choctaw as part of the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair activities.

Over 200 avid runners and walkers participated in a 5K, 10K or one mile fun run/walk through the Choctaw Indian Fairgrounds and Choctaw Reservation.

Overall winners in the 5K run were: (female) Ashley Moyer with a time of 23:03; (male) Dustin Mettler with a time of 16:22.

Overall winners in the 10K run were: (female) Meggan Franks with a time of 41:26; (male) Joseph Chebet with a time of 34:27.
Iron Warrior Winners


There were eight events for the men while the women competed in seven. Events included tire deadlifts, atlas stones, farmer’s carry, sandbag medley, keg carry, yoke carry, tire flip, and a truck pull (female participants pulled a RTV utility vehicle).

Giovanni Dale placed second in the men’s division with a time of 3:12:33 and Lefus Tubby, Jr. was third with a time of 3:28:16.

Maleah Isaac was second in the women’s division with a time of 2:39:89 and Christin Meely third with a time of 2:06:13.

Standing Pine Wins Booth Competition


The competition is part of the cultural booth exhibition as development clubs in each of the Choctaw tribal communities participate. Clubs design their exhibit to highlight community progress & accomplishments of their community members. This year’s theme was “The Choctaw Spirit Lives On.”
Andrew Dellapenna, 30:34; 4th, Murray Col-
lum, 31:56; 5th, Steven Fleming, 32:59; 6th, Michael Redhouse, 33:39; 7th, A. Momit Abi Bell, 34:11; 8th, Drew Taylor, 35:46; 9th, Jonathan Denson, 43:39; 10th, Todd Stephens, 45:18; 11th, Curtis Will-
is, Jr., 47:05; 12th, Kyle Massey, 49:45.

**Male (Ages 40-49)**
1st, Ronald Barham, 21:50; 2nd, Cal Hor-
lings, 26:43; 3rd, Lee Patterson, 38:08; 4th, Ed Hill, 38:56; 5th, Bri-
ian Willis, 40:11; 6th, Charles Mosher, 43:19; 7th, Raymond Reyn-
olds, 1:07:21.

**Female (Ages 0-14)**
1st, Jamie Smith, 26:57; 2nd, Franklin Taylor, 27:24; 3rd, Kj Pou, 30:26; 4th, Steve Smith, 30:51; 5th, Anthony DeLee, 32:05; 6th, Adolph Viviens, 34:06; 7th, Leonard H. Jimmie, 34:57; 8th, Phil Pickle,

**Baked Goods, and Sewing Items, Wood-
beadwork, Paintings,** to name a few.

**Wood**

There were a total of 31 participants in the adult division, 93 in the youth division and 50 in the 4-H Youth Develop-
ment Division.

**Congratulations to the following participants who placed and received cash awards for their entries at the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair.**

### ADULT DIVISION

**Gina Bell**, $119; **Jared Jim**, $103; **Peggy Da-
Kaylan Gibson, $71; **Deloris Bell**, $57; Mage-
line Truss, $56; **Helena Sanchez**, $37; **Miriam Edward-
Ds, $34; **Junie Cabara**, $30; **Reba Jim**, $25.75; **Fann-
Peoples, $24.75; **Josephine Morris**, $24; **Dora Nick-
$23.25; **Rosie York**, $22; **Kathleen Thomas**, $20;

**Michelle Jim**, $14; **Darry Hickman**, $10; **Da-
vita McClelland**, $10; **Emerson Billy**, $10; **Laura Lewis**, $9; **Nora Chapman**, $8; **Grandle Tuby**, $8; **Sherri Isaac**, $8; **Brenda Bell**, $7.25; **Krystal Robinson**, $5; **Una Denson**, $4; **Jacob Taylor**, $3.50; & **Nannie Mitch**, $3.

### YOUTH DIVISION

**Leilani Wesley**, $159; **Isley Mingo**, $104.25; **Gabriella Farmer**, $98; **Amiya Billy**, $79.25; **Bryceon McMillan**, $70.50; **Nickolas Farmer**, $66.50; **Alyssa Farmer**, $66; **Astin Eades**, $64.50; **Sequioa Will-
$47.25; **Iley Eades**, $46.50; **Zachary Farmer**, $45; **Jabastian Ben**, $39; **Brylee Willis**, $38.50; **Natyasia Willis**, $36.50; **Kollier Thomas**, $35.75; **Tracell King**, $31; **Toriah Shoemake**, $30; **Teanna Thomas**, $28; **Suwanie Willis**, $27; **Easton Turner**, $26.50; **Eliza Willis**, $24; **Kayed McMillan**, $23.50; **Martina Willis**, $19;

**Tazanna Thomas**, $18; **Leslie Morris**, $16; **Lac-
ie Morris**, $14.25; **Tameo Morris**, $12; **Beverly

### Choctaw Indian Fair Exhibitors Premiums Awarded

Each year at the Choctaw Indian Fair, the exhibit hall consists of booths containing projects in the Adult, Youth and 4-H Youth Development Divisions. Exhibitors submitted items to be displayed, including beadwork, paintings, sewing items, woodwork, baked goods, and produce, to name a few.

There were a total of 31 participants in the adult division, 93 in the youth division and 50 in the 4-H Youth Development Division.

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**Tazanna Thomas**, $18; **Leslie Morris**, $16; **Lac-
ie Morris**, $14.25; **Tameo Morris**, $12; **Beverly

see EXHIBITS, pg. 20
Duck Box Donated to Wetlands Discovery

Jocelyn Wesley, daughter of Jay & Danielle Wesley of the Standing Pine Community, donated a duck box she built as part of a 4-H wildlife project. The duck box will be installed at the Wetlands Discovery Outdoor Learning site in Conehatta.

Jocelyn entered the duck box in the 2016 Choctaw Indian Fair’s 4-H Youth Development exhibit and placed first. She is a member of the Standing Pine 4-H Club.

Many 4-H Club members are willing to assist others and learn more about the earth and wildlife.

“Community pride is important. By making this donation, the duck box will give a home to some wildlife and will assist students and teachers with a learning tool when they come and visit the Outdoor Learning Center,” said Jocelyn Wesley, $185; Jaeden Wesley, $141.25; Tiak Willis, $134.75; Skyster Comans, $131.50; Tayjah Wilson, $116.25; Melanie Willis, $105.50; Jalen Willis, $105.50; Deshaylee Tubby, $96.75; Gaylon Willis, Jr, $96.50; Chloe Wesley, $90.25; Xhairden Dixon, $64; Zavian Tubby, $59.50; Katelyn Taylor, $58.75; Ariela Jefferson, $57.40; Kaisen Dixon, $57.25; Alessandra Jefferson, $50; Miles Taylor, $40.50; Ciji Vaughn, $26; Kaegen Henry, $24; Nalani Thompson, $19.25; Nikitta P. Wallace, $17.25; Summer Allen, $16.50; Nyshea Hoskins, $15.50; Jamie McCarty, $14.50; Camryn Vivians, $14; Natasha Cotton, $14; Amria Tubby, $12; Jalia Cotton, $11.50; Tomechi Bell, $11.50; Pernilla Arivzu, $10.50; Julius Billy, Jr, $10.50; Gannon Vaughn, $10; Evain Frazier, $8; Selena Phillips, $7.50; Quintin R. Willis, $7.50; Tyvick Cotton, $7.50; Jeremy Davis, $7; Tushka Willis, $6.50; Jaykwon Miller, $6.50; Jariel Cotton, $6.50; Sissie Gibson, $6; Chaisen Jimmie, $6; Lacie Wil lis, $6; Tayeasha Cotton, $5.50; Devree Farve, $5.50; Daebrean Wallace, $4; Rikkiaya Miller, $4; LeDarrius Frazier, $2.50; Laylee Wishork, $2.50; & Jalicia McMillan, $2.50.
**NAYO softball, baseball tourney winners**

Congratulations to the following teams who won or placed runner-up in their respective division in the 2016 Native American Youth Organization Baseball/Softball tournaments on July 21-23. The tournaments were held at Northside Park in Philadelphia & on the campus of Choctaw Central High School in Choctaw. *(More team pics next page).*

Jocelyn Wesley proudly holds the duck box she built for her 4-H wildlife project. This past year was Jocelyn’s first year in the 4-H Club.

Timothy Oakes of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

“Environmental education is needed to assist us towards protecting and serving as good stewards of tribal natural resources.”
Avoid Impulse Buying

Submitted by
Susan Cosgrove, Area Extension Agent, Family Resource Management

“It seemed like a good idea at the time.” Have you heard those words before, or perhaps spoken them yourself? A family went into a warehouse shopping club to get groceries & came out with electronics costing $5,000. And they did not even get half of what they went to buy in the first place.

This happens at so many places we shop on a regular basis. Impulse buying is a budget breaker. Even at regular grocery stores, over half of all purchases are unplanned, impulse purchases, according to a joint study by faculty at the University of California & the University of Wisconsin.

In a recent survey by CreditCards.com, 77 percent of respondents confessed to making an impulse purchase within the past three months. Twenty percent admitted to making an impulse purchase in excess of $1,000.

Why do we do this? The same survey says that excitement, boredom, sadness, anger, & intoxication are factors of impulse buying. But that does not speak to what is happening inside our brain when we make unplanned purchases.

Psychologists say that this impulsive buying behavior makes us feel good, it is like an act of empowerment. The exact feeling varies from person to person. The problem comes later when reality sets in & the satisfaction is short-lived.

Making occasional impulse purchases are not the end of the world. We all buy things we know we shouldn’t from time to time. When these things happen on a regular basis or they impact our ability to meet our financial obligations, then we need to take action.

How do we take control of our impulse shopping behavior?

Step 1: Identify when you are most likely to make impulse purchases. When are you most vulnerable to making rash spending decisions? Does this happen on pay day? Do you shop when you are sad? Are you a sucker for good sales? Take a long, hard look at WHEN & WHY you spend outside your budget. Patterns will often emerge.

Step 2: Identify the feeling you get when you make impulse purchase. Once you get a firm handle on your state of mind when you make impulse purchases, ask yourself what the act of spending feels like to you at that moment. Do you feel rewarded? Distracted? Hopeful? When you buy something on impulse, it makes you feel a certain way. That feeling is ultimately WHY you are buying it.

Step 3: Find alternative ways to achieve that feeling. Once you understand the feeling you get from impulse...continued next page
Ever feel like running away? It is not against the law for adults to run away from home. Some of us may feel like doing that from time to time, but we usually find another way to deal with our frustrations.

It is not against the law for anyone over 18 to possess tobacco products. Most of us have heeded the warnings & either refrain from using tobacco or to never start.

It is not against the law for those 21 or older to possess alcoholic beverages. There are legal, physical, & relational consequences when consumed in excess. These laws that have age stipulations are called “status offenses” for the youth in our communities.

Many communities across the U.S. have curfews for their youth with consequences for violations reaching their parents. This is also a status offense.

It is important to note that Federal laws prohibit youth (or specifically - minors under the age of 18 here on the reservation) from being locked up in detention for these offenses. Detention can be used for those youth “committing an offense that would be considered a crime by an adult.” However, detention for youth should be considered a “last resort” action.

Research has been shown that when a youth is placed in detention, they are much more likely to return repeatedly. This rate multiplies exponentially the earlier the age of the youth upon first admission.

The current belief is that a strong reentry program can reduce this effect. Still, when a youth commits a serious offense where loss of life is possible (acts committed using weapons, acts concerning narcotics & dangerous drugs, other Class A offenses as determined by the Choctaw Tribal Code) OR when acts that would be a crime if committed by an adult are “chronic” (occurring repeatedly over a short period of time), it may be necessary to intervene with detention to protect the public AND the offender.

Running away from home is a special problem. It is usually very complicated. The Choctaw Tribal Youth Court, the Attorney General’s Office, Department of Public Safety, Court Services, Behavioral Health, Children & Family Services, & the Choctaw Children’s Advocacy Center are ALL interested in discovering the WHY behind a child or youth’s decision to run away from home.

Is it that the youth is going through a rebellious stage, or showing independence to be friends without regard for limitations? Is it because the family is having difficulties handling the loss of a loved one or the loss of their home? Is it possibly because of some other trauma happening like abuse or neglect? Is it from the pressure of unrealistic expectations for the youth?

Running away is a very dangerous response for our youth in this day & time. One only needs to pick up the paper, listen to the radio or watch the news on television to understand – & these dangers are here even in East Central Mississippi. Running away can lead to further offenses, but can also turn offenders into victims.

Additionally, it is the practice of Court Services to work with the Office of Attorney General in prosecuting any adult that harbors a minor running away (unless it is proven that the minor ran away because of abuse or neglect).

You should call Choctaw Police at 601-656-5711 if a minor comes out of their residence or are otherwise alleging abuse or neglect.

If your child is running away, talk to someone. In fact, talk to people you feel you can trust. There is nothing wrong with getting wisdom, developing a plan. Every child is an individual. There is no one response that will resolve this issue for every child or youth. It is usually frustrating to address, but this is important work.

Each child or youth is important. Court Services & all other tribal agencies & programs are always searching for answers & ways to be of assistance. The most important response is to never give up.
Elderly Victims of Abuse: What You Can Do To Help

Three to five million elders experience some form of abuse each year, according to statistics from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

The White House Conference on Aging, which takes place every decade, issued in 2015 their final report declaring the Department of Justice (DOJ) would create tools to help advocates who work with the elderly – particularly those who experienced physical or sexual abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or other forms of domestic violence.

As a friend, caregiver or family member, you may be concerned about an elderly victim, but you might also feel frustrated or unprepared to help that elder through the crisis.

You may not have the tools or resources at your disposal that was mentioned by DOJ; however, there are things you can do to help our elders who have been abused:

First of all, LISTEN. Sometimes the most important thing we can do is listen. This means taking the time to sit down with the victim. Take time to listen to what the elder is saying. One of the most important things we can do is to really hear what the elder is telling us. By just listening, this lets the elder know that someone cares & that his/her thoughts are heard & validated.

Secondly, AVOID ASKING “WHY?” The elder victim is not at fault - the offender is to blame. We should always avoid asking questions such as, “Why didn’t you say anything?” or “Why didn’t you call the police?” The elder may already feel powerless or helpless & by asking questions such as these, the elder may feel even more helpless. The elder may even feel he/she has done something wrong. This is not the elder’s fault.

Third, HOLD THE OFFENDER ACCOUNTABLE. The victim is not to blame - the offender is the one who deserves to be punished. You can try to lift the shame & discouragement of the elderly victim by saying something like, “I am very sorry this happened to you,” or “You do not deserve to be treated like this.” This very well could be the starting point for that elderly abuse victim to begin to heal.

Finally, EMPOWER THE VICTIM. The elder victim may feel as if his/her choices have all been taken away by the perpetrator. Therefore, it is important the elder always be given choices every step of the way in the process.

By allowing the elderly victim to make their own choices, this helps to empower the victim. The elder then can begin to take back control of his/her own life.

Minimizing the trauma, but not denying the trauma, is something each of us can help to do in order to help our elder abuse victims when they have experienced abuse such as sexual abuse or domestic violence, or other forms of abuse.

These four concepts are something any of us can use in helping our elderly victims of violence. You may not be a trained professional, but there are ways you can help. For further information or questions, please contact Family Violence & Victim Services at 601-650-1774.

Yakoki!
Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church & was a Choctaw Bible teacher & enjoyed Choctaw hymns. She served as Standing Pine representative to the Choctaw Tribal Council.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Comeal & Emma McMillan Polk; husband, Randy Rudy York; sons, Reginald York & adopted son Irvin Jefferson; sisters, Grace Wallace, Louise Chapman & an aunt, Margaret Henry; & an adopted brother, Gary Chickaway; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**Pauline Mingo**

Funeral service for Pauline Mingo, 64, was held on Sunday, July 10, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Mingo passed away on July 7 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was employed at Bogue Chitto School, Chahta Enterprise & Choctaw Greenhouse. She enjoyed fishing, playing bingo & socializing.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Arch & Emma Mingo; brothers, Charlie Hickman & Marzine Mingo; & a sister, Lorene Cumberland.

Survivors include daughters, Diana Mingo Smith & Jennifer Stevens; sisters, Maline Bell & Laline Rush; a brother, John Mingo; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; four god daughters; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**Lourean Hickman Denson**

Funeral service for Lourean Hickman Denson, 56, was held on Sunday, July 17, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Denson passed away on July 11 at her residence in Irvin, TX.

She was a Baptist & attended Dallas Indian Revival Church. She retired from Target & loved to garden, cook, listening to music, collecting family pictures, & spending time with loved ones.

She is preceded in death by her parents, John Mullet & Christine Hickman; & brothers, Dale Hickman & Terry Lee Hickman.

 Survivors include her husband, Ricky Denson; daughter, Cherish Dawn Vazquez; son, Clint Morgan Jones; step-son, Brandon Denson; sisters, Fannie Lou Jones & Annie Pearl Hickman; foster sister, Jessica Lynn Hickman; brothers, William Hickman, Sr., Randy Hickman, & Willie Jay Hickman; foster brothers, William Hickman, Jr. & Johnathon Lance Hickman; four grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**Clinton Jefferson**

Funeral service for Clinton Jefferson, 79, was held on Friday, July 22, 2016, from the Bogue Homa Baptist Church. Deacon Billy Smith & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Homa Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jefferson passed away on July 18 at his residence.

He enjoyed playing washers, fishing, baseball, watching stickball, & spending time with family & friends.


Survivors include daughters, Gloria Nickley Bell, Sherry Charlie Jim & Susie Charlie Thomas; a son, Randall Nickley; a brother, Morris Jefferson; 19 grandchildren; 47 great-grandchildren; five nieces; two nephews; & a host of relatives & friends.

**Sylius Drew Thomas**

Funeral service for Sylius Drew Thomas, 17, was held on Wednesday, August 3, 2016, from the Macedonia Baptist Church in Canehatta. Deacon William Son Isaac & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Canehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Thomas passed away on July 29 in Canehatta.

He completed his junior year at Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Okla., where he was on the basketball, cross country & track teams. He was a member of the Koni Hata Himitah team that won the 2016 Tulli Okchi Ishko Stickball championship. He was also a member of the Mystic Wind social dance group & loved his family.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Annistine Billy. Survivors include his mother, Christine Billy; father, Stewart Thomas; sisters, Janice Wilson & Tiffany Shoemake; brothers, Tyrell Anderson, Christiansen Thomas, Greer Billy, Kodi Thomas, Kollier Thomas, & Kansyn Thomas;
a special companion, Mareanna Marquiz; & a host of relatives & friends.

**SARENE CHARLIE COMBY**

Funeral service for Sarene Charlie Comby, 78, was held on Thursday, August 4, 2016, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelley Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Comby passed away on July 30 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She picked cotton & later worked as a housekeeper at Madden Hospital, babysitter, Green Acres, & Choctaw Electronics. She taught arts & crafts in 4-H Clubs & was involved with the Standing Pine Social Dance group.

She enjoyed fishing, basket weaving, beadwork, gardening, listening to gospel music, & spending time with family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Coyt & Sinnie Davis Charlie; husband, William Comby, Jr; sisters, Irene Charlie, Nancy Charlie & Mattie Charlie; & brothers, Louie Charlie & Coburn Charlie, Sr.

Survivors include her daughters, Marcia Comby & Sally Webb; sons, Gordon Sam, William Comby, III, Samuel Comby, & Kerness Comby; sisters, Fannie Peoples & Annie Sue Lewis; 11 grandchildren; 1 great-granddaughter; & a host of relatives & friends.

**JOHN BENN, SR.**

Funeral service for John Benn, Sr., 78, was held on Monday, August 8, 2016, from Chihowa I Chuka Assembly of God Church in Philadelphia. Rev. Bob Wilkerson officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Benn passed away on August 5 at Hospice Ministries in Ridgeland.

He enjoyed doing yard work & helping others.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Monroe & Lorene McMillan Benn; sisters, Lula Mae Benn Farmer & Minnie Lou Benn; & brothers, Willie Dee Benn & Cicero Billie.

Survivors include his wife, Cathy Turby Benn; daughter, Valerie Benn Herrera; sons, Mario Benn & John Benn, Jr; sisters, Eileen Billie & Inez Willis; three grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**NATHANIEL LEE TUBBY**

Funeral service for Nathaniel Lee Tubby, 49, was held on Thursday, August 11, 2016, from the Greenhill United Methodist Church in Choctaw. Bro. Ferron Oaks, Bro. Larry Muse, Bro. Herb Boyles & President David Jarnagin officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Denson passed away on Aug. 12 at his residence.

He was a Marine Corps veteran & attained the rank of Lance Corporal. He was honorably discharged in 1984 & joined the U.S. Forestry Department as a forest fire fighter. He enjoyed interacting with people, was skilled in automatic repair & was employed with Pearl River Resort’s maintenance department. He was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Easlin Denson & Lucille Chickaway; & grandparents, Willie & Beauty Anderson Denson, Houston & Edna Sam Lewis.

Survivors include his daughter, Dusti Jimmie; sons, Terry B. Denson & Jeremy Williams; sisters, Charlene Denson Sam, Glenda Denson, Lorian Denson Ahshapaneck, & Irene Tubby; brothers, Ricky Lee Denson, Sr. & Ryan Kurly Chickaway; special friend, Georgia John; seven grandchildren; & host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JERRY LEE DENSON**

Funeral service for Jerry Lee Denson, 57, was held on Monday, August 15, 2016, from the Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples & Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Denson passed away on Aug. 12 at the University Medical Center in Jackson.

He was employed at Pearl River Resort as a porter then in maintenance. He enjoyed fishing & being with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Amos & Jeanette Morris; sons, Keith Amos & Dominick Amos; a sister, Mary Louise Hickman; & grandparents, Waggoner & Rosie Amos.

Survivors include a son, Luther Amos; nine grandchildren; six aunts; an uncle; two nieces; a godson; & a host of great-nieces, great-nephews, relatives, & friends.

**IVAN JEFFERY WILSON**

Funeral service for Ivan Jeffery Wilson, 54, was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T. officiated.

Burial was in Mt. Zion Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Wilson passed away on Aug. 12 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

...continued next page
He enjoyed fishing, watching wrestling, listening to country music, gardening, & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon Jim & Sinee Wilson; sisters, Trina Jim & Mattie Lou Wilson; & a stepdaughter, Deneetria Schrock.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda K. Wilson; a stepdaughter, Cornelius Dan; a stepson, Ashley McMillan; three aunts; an uncle; a niece; a son; & a stepdaughter, Corinne McMillan, Willis & Willard Williams; & grandparents, Rufus & Nellie Williams, Buck Shumake & Annie Billie Shoemake; a grandson; six aunts; & six uncles.

Survivors include daughters, Vernaline Williams, Berna Williams & Matilda Williams; sons, Shawn Williams & Damion Williams; brothers, Gaylon Williams & Marty Williams; two aunts; an uncle; 16 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

Leonard Dale Amos

Graveside service for Leonard Dale Amos, 50, was held on Tuesday, August 23, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church Cemetery in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T. officiated.

John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Amos passed away on Aug. 10 at his residence.

He enjoyed playing the guitar & was a member of several bands. He enjoyed watching movies & being with family & friends. He was a fan of the Pearl River stickball team & was employed at Pearl River Resort/Dancing Rabbit Golf Club.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sally Dixon Amos; parents, Finis & Marie “Theresa” McMillan Amos; sisters, Audria Simpson & Nita Amos; & grandparents, Anthony & Venie Comby McMillan, Willis & Minnie Bell Amos.

Survivors include his brothers, Edward Simpson & Anthony Simpson; an aunt; & a host of relatives & friends.

George Winston Steve

Funeral service for George Winston Steve, 51, was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2016, from the Chihowa I Chuka Assembly of God in Philadelphia. Rev. Thomas Ben officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Steve passed away on Aug. 18 at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

He enjoyed fishing, playing cards, listening to Alan Jackson, watching the Dallas Cowboys, & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John & Maxine Steve; sisters, Barbara Steve Farve & Mary Jane Steve York; & brothers, Gerald Lee Steve, Charlie Steve & Harry Wayne Steve.

Survivors include his daughter, Arlana Gail Mingo; sister, Donna Mary Garcia; brother, Nathaniel John Steve; & a host of relatives & friends.

Cokie Lamonte McCombs

Funeral service for Cokie Lamonte McCombs, 45, was held on Thursday, September 1, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Rev. Doby Henry & Pastor Mark Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Old Mt. Zion Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. McCombs passed away on Aug. 28 at South Regional Medical Center in Laurel.

He was employed at Pearl River Resort & enjoyed spending time with family & friends, playing guitar & singing.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, W.C. & Josephine Nickey; a son, Dain Wilson; & a sister, Latisha Lewis.

Survivors include his daughter, Halle Wilson; parents, George McCombs, III & Emma Lewis; sister, Tenisha McCombs Bonney; brothers, Kimo McCombs & Matthew Lewis; & a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, relatives, & friends.

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Happy 7th Birthday to Miss Haylen C. Thomas on July 30th, 2016. With all the love in the world, giant hugs & big kisses from your Mom, Dad, & the Justice League (Renedra, Jeter, Dain, Q, Mya, & Lil Miss Emma Grace).

Happy Birthday to our brother Auburn L. Jefferson (a.k.a. Arbs) on Aug. 22. He is a retired PR stickball player. Have fun & don’t overdo it. From your sisters, Baby Sis Karene J., Moss & family, Peggy W. & family, the Wilson family, & cousins & friends in B.C.

Happy Birthday to Lavenia Shatoni Bell, from your family in B.C.

Henning, TN Grads Honored

The parents and families of the Bogue Chitto-Henning, Tennessee Community would like to recognize the following members of the Class of 2016.

Alisha Langford, daughter of Darrell and Gwen Langford, granddaughter of Cubert Bell, Sr. and Lacie Bell of the Bogue Chitto-Henning, TN Community, graduated May 19 from Ripley High School. She will be attending Dyersburg State Community College this fall to study criminal justice.

Sydney Moore, daughter of Shawn and Margaret Moore, granddaughter of Helen Thompson of the Pearl River Community and the late Wayne Thompson, graduated with honors May 22 in Memphis, TN. Sydney will be attending the University of Memphis in the Honors Program in the fall to study physical therapy.

Jalil Jackson, son of Cornelius and Myra Jackson, grandson of Jaunita Thompson Gardinski and nephew of Jeremiah and Jarrett Thompson, graduated May 13 from Dyer County High School in Newbern, TN. He scored a 30 on the ACT & was ranked #1 in his class. Jalil plans to attend the University of Tennessee-Knoxville this fall where he was accepted into the engineering program.

Congratulations to all graduates and good luck in your future endeavors.