

# CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XLVII, NO. 8

CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

AUGUST 2017



www.choctaw.org

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

## Tribe Commemorates Nanih Waiya Day

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians hosted activities on Tuesday, August 22, to commemorate the restoration of the Nanih Waiya Mound and Cave sites back to the Tribe.

Tribal members and guests gathered at the Nanih Waiya Ceremonial Mound in Winston County for a wreath laying ceremony at 9:30 a.m. That evening, the 5th Annual Nanih Waiya Day All-Star Stickball Games were played at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School in Choctaw.

The games and ceremony, originally slated

for Aug. 8 and 10 respectively, was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox and Fred Willis of the Office of Public Information served as co-emcees as they offered a narrative of the legacy of Nanih Waiya, which means “leaning hill” in Choctaw.

“Whether you have heard of the migration story or the immersion story, there is no question the Choctaw people and their ancestors have preserved Nanih Waiya

see NANIH WAIYA, .....pg. 7



**ABOVE,** Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox affixes ribbons to the memorial wreath (pictured right) before it was placed at the base of the Nanih Waiya Ceremonial Mound. In the background is Choctaw Tribal Council representatives Deborah Martin of Pearl River (left) and Richard Sockey of Standing Pine.



**LEFT,** Members of the Chahta Immi Social Dancers perform the Stealing Partners dance. Tribal Council Bogue Chitto representative Kendall Wallace, left, is caught in the middle between dancers as Ronnie Henry, Sr., right, looks on.



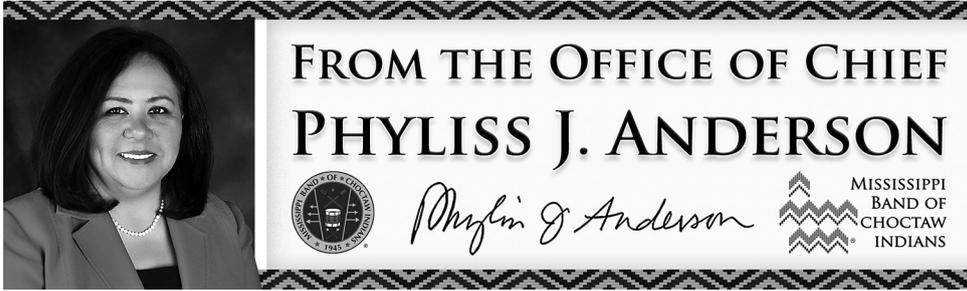
### Battle of the Nations XXI

The Cherokee (N.C.) Braves earned their second consecutive win over the Choctaw Central Warriors to capture the 21st Battle of the Nations rivalry game 49-31 on Aug. 25 at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School in Choctaw. Pictured left, Choctaw Central quarterback Alex Ben (#12) evades the Cherokee defense. Right, a Warrior & Brave battle on the line. The Braves hold a 12-9 advantage in the series.



### Tribe Donates Vans To Churches

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson presented keys to representatives from Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta and Hope Baptist Church in Pearl River on Thursday, August 31. The Tribe donated two 15-passenger vans to the churches for use in ministry and outreach. Pictured from left to right are Samuel Dixon, Darnell Willis, Richardson Isaac, Joseph Wesley, George Denson, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Billy Smith, Laettner Johnson, Carol Isaac, Annette Johnson, & Tribal Procurement Director Eddie Gibson.



Halito!  
 Another great time of year is upon us and what a blessing the cooler weather brings after a hot summer. It's time for Warrior football and other exciting fall sporting events at Choctaw Central High School and also, around our active Tribal communities.

As we make our way nearing the end of the calendar year, we as a Tribe have much to be proud of and look forward to.

So much of the spring and summer months have been full of activities we annually look forward to celebrating, and in this issue's column, I am happy to share some of the good news and happenings that at this time of year, keeps our Tribal government and communities very busy and ever-moving forward.

**Red Water Casino Referendum**

On August 30th, I issued a Certification of the results for the Referendum election on the Red Water Casino Resolution. This was based on the August 16 2017, ruling by the Choctaw Tribal Court finding that a legally sufficient number of valid petitions were submitted as required by the MBCI Constitution and Tribal Election Code to call the referendum election.

The TEC and I had the option of appealing the Tribal Court's ruling. However, I felt that it was in the best interests of the Tribe to stop further legal proceedings and move forward with a vote on whether or not the Red Water Casino project should proceed.

I stand firm in my commitment to this project and the many

successes I believe the Red Water Casino can achieve. I also stand firm in supporting the initial Tribal Council affirmative decision to build a new casino in Red Water Community.

Progress is forward movement we greatly need here on the Reservation, and I have faith in our Choctaw people to evaluate the project on its merits and make an informed decision. I strongly believe we must work together to create more opportunities now and a brighter future for our children.

The Red Water Casino Referendum Election will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2017. This is a very important decision about the future of our Tribe.

Over the course of the next few weeks leading up to voting day, I will be in each community sharing information about the great benefits of this project for our Tribe. I hope you will join me, fellowship with us and learn why we must move forward with this wonderful opportunity.

**Nanah Waiya Mound Celebration**

Thank you to the many Tribal members and guests who joined us at the annual Nanah



*Chief Phyliss J. Anderson welcomed former BIA Director Ada Deer & her colleagues to Choctaw recently as they visited the Choctaw Tribal Schools & various tribal programs to potentially host the Encampment for Citizenship youth leadership program in Choctaw in 2018. Pictured from left are Encampment Executive Director Margot Gibney, Ada Deer, Chief Anderson, & Program Director Michael Carter.*

Waiya Mound celebration on Tuesday, August 22, 2017. We enjoyed a beautiful day at our Mother Mound as we prayed and paid respect to the origins of our great Choctaw people.

At the mound site we celebrated with traditional Choctaw dances, prayer, powwow drumming offered by Southern Pine Drum Group, and I, along with several Tribal Council members, placed a ceremonial wreath symbolizing the many Choctaw communities and its community members.

Later that evening, we enjoyed the 5th annual Nanah Waiya Stickball games at Warrior Stadium. This is an annual event featuring the best men's and women's players selected from the World Series Stickball Tournament in July.

Coaching the teams this year were Elijah Jimmie for *Fichik Cito*, Greg Shoemake for *Fichik Malata*; Carl Hickman for *Fichik Cito*

*Ohoyo* and Bruce Jefferson for *Fichik Malata Ohoyo*.

Celebrating the win in the Womens' Division was *Fichik Cito Ohoyo*, and receiving the 2017 Women's MVP award was Denielle Phillips. In the Men's Division, *Fichik Cito* came out on top, with Derald Isom receiving the 2017 Men's MVP trophy.

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

In the end, Nanah Waiya Day celebrations offered us an opportunity to remember and reflect on the blessings of our Choctaw journey story, which includes the sacred Mother Mound, and the opportunity we share to reflect on our ancestors who gave us so much to be proud of as Choctaws - a legacy still celebrated today.

Many thanks to our Tribal Maintenance and

**...continued next page**

**CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS**

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

**COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM  
 P.O. BOX 6010  
 CHOCTAW, MS 39350**

**TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565**

*Brian C. Willis .....Communications Manager  
 Darron Tubby .....Communications Writer*

Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

Natural Resources department for their help in preparing the grounds and providing tents for attendees and to the Special Projects office, Choctaw Day Training Program, Office of Public Information and Tribal Administrative staff and volunteers for their services.

### **CCHS Fall Sports Season**

Fall is certainly a time to cheer on our Mighty Choctaw Central Warriors football team. The gridiron at Warrior Stadium is seeing much action already, including the recent annual Battle of the Nations contest against Cherokee.

Don't miss out on the CCHS Homecoming game and Chief's Annual Tailgate Party on Friday, October 6 at 5 p.m.

The Slow-Pitch Softball team is having a great season so far. They are well on their way to making another appearance at the State Championship.

Our Cross Country Team has also come out strong. I encourage everyone to support all of our CCHS sports teams, cheerleaders and coaches. We're behind all our Warrior athletes and are very proud of their hard work.

GO Warriors and Lady Warriors!

### **NASA Softball Tournament**

Many thanks to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians for hosting the annual Native Ameri-

can Softball Association (NASA) Tournament on the Poarch Creek Indian Reservation, August 10-12, 2017. It was great to see many members of our tribe participating in teams at the tournament and the impressive turnout of fans too.

Congratulations to all teams for making a great effort in the tournament and to those who brought home well-earned trophies.

### **Visit from Former BIA Director Ada Deer**

On Monday, August 28th, members from my administrative team and the Division of Education met with longtime leading advocate for Indian Country, former Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and first Native American woman to head the Bureau of Indian Affairs Ms. Ada Deer, along with two representatives from The Encampment Program, to discuss the opportunity of hosting a multi-cultural summer program here on the Choctaw Indian Reservation next summer.

Our distinguished visitors toured areas of the Choctaw Indian Reservation, including the Choctaw Central high school campus.

### **Annual Resort and Tribal Budget Meetings**

I am happy to share that the Tribal Council and I recently held budget and board meetings resulting in the passage of the FY2018 Tribal

Budget.

Over the course of several meetings we have heard well organized and thoughtful presentations from resort and Tribal directors and managers with budgets that include goals to better serve our growing Tribal member population.

I believe our meetings were successful, and I look forward to the new fiscal year that begins October 1, 2017.

As we close out FY17, I believe we have seen a very productive year with several great projects being completed and more on the horizon. I am very appreciative to the Tribal Council and to all our employees for the work that is taking place within our government to improve services across our Tribal communities.

### **Choctaw Nation Labor Day Weekend**

In recent years, a growing number of our Tribal members, including the Choctaw Indian Princess, take time to attend and participate in the annual Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Annual Labor Day Festival in Tushka Homma, Oklahoma.

It is no surprise that several of our stickball teams participate in the annual stickball tournament. Great job to all our stickball players and fans in attendance and to Princess Kassie Lann Cox for representing our Mississippi Choctaw traditions and spirit while in Oklahoma.

### **PRES Safe Room Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

On Friday, September 8, I participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of a new Community Safe Room located at Pearl River Elementary School.

This project is funded 95% through a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and 5% by Tribal Revenue dollars.

The Safe Room is a 5,600 square foot heavily fortified tornado shelter and has a capacity to accommodate 900 people, withstand winds up to 250 mph and meets the FEMA P-361 Safe Room Standards.

I am thankful that with the assistance of FEMA/ MEMA and our planning, design and construction teams, we were able to build this facility.

We must ensure that our Tribal students, faculty and staff in safe and nurturing learning environments, and this safe room is a big step in the right direction.

### **Choctaw Adult Basic Education Program Graduates**

Congratulations to the recent graduates of the ABE Program!

I had the great honor of being invited to attend and speak at the graduation ceremony on August 24th and witness the accomplishments of achieving this wonderful milestone.

Together, let us all wish many congratulations to our ABE graduates!

### **Service Awards at Pearl River Resort**

On September 5, 6, and 8, 2017, the Pearl River Resort hosted Service Awards for associates that have served the Resort for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years.

In all there were 63 associates recognized for five years of service, 67 associates celebrated from 10 years of service, 181 associates honored for 15 years of service and a total of 53 associates congratulated for 20 years of loyal service!

These honored associates enjoyed a nice meal prepared and presented by the Pearl River Resort Food and Beverage Department. They also received a certificate and pin for their years of service, including for the 20-year service award recipients, a dinner gift certificate at Pearl River Resort's signature restaurant Phillip M's.

I am so proud of these individuals and acknowledge that these awards are not only very deserving, but a testament to our Resort's success in bringing aboard and maintaining hard-working and dedicated associates who loyally come to work and serve our valued guests.

Thank you again to associates, and congratulations on your very much appreciated achievement!

### **New 2017-2018 School Year**

School bells are again

....see **LETTER, pg. 4**



# CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed below is a brief summary & action taken. Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/

or its attachment must have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM completed & submitted to the Policy & Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

*L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson*); 5 NO (*R. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, B. McMillan, & W. McMillan*); 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

### SPECIAL CALL MEETING, AUGUST 9

**Resolution CHO 17-081**, authorizing the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise to execute Amendment Request Forms with Trustmark National Bank securing loans from the Central Electric Power Association and to grant a limited waiver of sovereign immunity with regard to enforcement of said loans, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 17-080**, approving Fiscal Year 2018 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Choctaw Ordinance 56 Tribal Enterprises, was ADOPTED 12 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, D. McClelland, H. Nickey,*



### Stogies and Bogeys Opens at Pearl River Resort

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for Stogies and Bogeys at Pearl River Resort in Choctaw on Thursday, August 17. Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson and 2017-2018 Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Lann Cox, along with officials from the Pearl River Resort, helped celebrate this exciting event. Stogies and Bogeys, a retail store specializing in cigars, vapes, and Zippo products, as well as golf equipment and apparel for men and women, is located near the east entrance of Golden Moon Hotel and Casino.

### LETTER ..... continued from page three

ringing across our Choctaw Tribal Schools and students have started yet another school year! Our Choctaw Tribal Schools encompasses six elementary schools, a middle school and high school, so there are lots of classroom happenings, learning, and memorable times ahead.

throughout the entire school year!

In closing, I hope your fall is full of family gatherings, good health, well wishes, and warmth during the welcomed cool Choctaw nights.

The start of school is a fun time with learning new faces, names, new classrooms, making new friends, and most importantly new studies and homework!

We are in the season of harvest, a time of celebrating our Native American Heritage during American Indian Day, and a time to encourage those Tribal members starting school, college or other program to advance a skill.

Choctaw Tribal Schools is very fortunate to have a great school administrative team, dedicated teachers and staff.

Let us all keep working hard toward life-earned goals and dreams and enjoy the manna from our Lord's harvest upon our Tribe.

### CPD Officers Enjoy Treats

Twenty-five Choctaw Police Department Officers recently participated in a 3-day Street Crimes training session sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. As a tasty mid-afternoon treat, Pearl River Resort donated fresh fruit trays and delicious freshly baked cookies from the Resort's own bakery.



I wish all our students, teachers, staff, administrators, parents, and guardians much success and excellence in academic achievement

Many Blessings,

*Phyliss J. Anderson*  
Phyliss J. Anderson,  
Tribal Chief

**CHC PRIMARY CARE**

Phone: 601-389-4300  
 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES DIAL 911  
**SATURDAY CLINIC OPENS ON THE  
 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH**  
 Hours: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
*(Last sign-in at 11:30 a.m.)*

**From the  
 CHC Business  
 Office**



**Did you know that if you are eligible for Purchased/Referred Care (PRC Referrals), you are required to notify the PRC program for emergency room visits at other hospitals/clinics?**

The PRC program must be notified of emergent care to other hospitals/clinics within 72 hours (3 days) of the emergency room visit or admission. The patient or someone on behalf of the patient must contact the PRC. The notification is extended to 30 days for the elderly (age 65+) and the disabled.

**Business Office Hours/Phone Number:**  
**Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**  
**601-389-4060**

**When the Business Office is closed (after 5:00 p.m., weekends & holidays), please leave a message on the Business Office voicemail. We ask that you leave a clear message that include:**

- Patient's full name
- Date of birth
- Name of emergency room facility
- Date of service or admission
- Reason for emergency
- Working phone number

The Business Office will call you the next business day following your notification. It is extremely important to leave a working phone number to contact you to get additional information.

Please note the 72-hour notification does not guarantee approval of payment. Case Management and/or the PRC Committee will review on a case-by-case basis and determine approval of payment, based on factors such as a life-threatening emergency room visit or if services were not available at Choctaw Health Center. Any services that could have been provided at Choctaw Health Center, such as a common cold or flu, will not be approved for payment.

If you have more questions regarding the PRC 72-Hour notification requirement, do not hesitate to contact the Business Office.

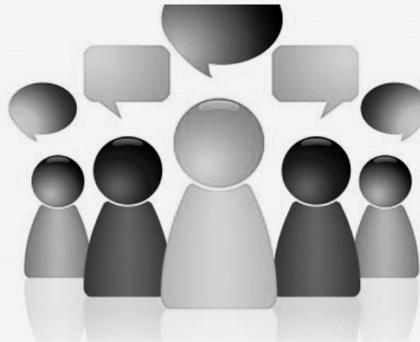


**Take An Active  
 Role To Improve  
 The Health Of  
 Our Community!**

The Choctaw Health Center has been serving our community since 1976.

From the beginning, services have been based on the needs of the people. We have continued to grow and expand available services to serve the changing needs of our communities and culture.

**Community participation leads to collective thinking and results in long term solutions to difficult problems.**



**Asking the Community**

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Public Health Services is beginning a process known as a Community Health Assessment (CHA). The department has already begun this process and is making strides in getting the community involved to help improve the health of our people.

**How it Began**

The MBCI Public Health Services are receiving training and working to help the MBCI Choctaw Health Center get Public Health Accreditation. These trainings helped prepare them for the work that is required to conduct a CHA and to help lay the groundwork.

**Get Involved**

A community health assessment is an ongoing process that brings health professionals, community members, Tribal government, and other private and public groups together to identify the community's most important health issues.

We need the community to participate in the following:

- Interviews
- Round Table Discussions
- Complete Surveys
- Volunteer (help others with completing the surveys)
- Spread the word - we need everyone to participate



**Why We Do This**

The purpose of this project is:

- to develop a plan to improve the health of our tribe.
- to help identify our current health needs and priorities.
- to improve communication within the MBCI community, as well as with outside businesses, partners, and organizations.
- to provide us with ideas and tools to monitor progress over time.
- to create change.
- to develop a plan to improve the health of our nation.

**Call or Email for:**

1. information
2. to participate
3. questions
4. concerns
5. to volunteer



**Denise John, RN**  
 601-389-4113  
 DJohnRN@choctaw.org

**Durnene Farmer**  
 601-389-4114  
 durnene.farmer@choctaw.org

## Bell Among '40 Under 40' Award Recipients

Lanisha Bell, a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was recently honored as one of the recipients of the 2017 National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's (NCAIED) "Native American 40 Under 40" award.

This prestigious award is bestowed upon 40 individuals under the age of 40, nominated by members of their communities, who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, & dedication & made significant contributions in business & their community.

Award recipients were honored during the inaugural Northwest Enterprise Development Conference at the Tulalip Resort Casino in Tulalip, WA on Sept. 6. The conference is the first regionally-focused event hosted by the National Center.

Since 2012, Bell has served as the Bureau of Indian Affairs Victim Assistance National Coordinator/Program Manager in Fairfax, VA.

She had the opportunity to serve in various capacities, including developing and imple-

menting national policy and legislation, as well as international policy to advocate for Indian Country public safety programs and provisions for the safety of Indian women and children.

"I am extremely honored to be recognized for contributions made to Indian Country, specifically for Justice Services and the safety of Native women and children," said Bell.

"I do hope this award will encourage others to take time

.....continued next page



*Lanisha Bell, right, accepts the Native American 40 Under 40 award from NCAIED Director Margo Gray.*

This year's award winners also included:

- Rayn Aaberg, Dena'ina Athabascan & Yup'ik Eskimo; President/CEO of Pedro Bay Corporation, Anchorage, AK;
- Sarah Adams-Cornell, Choctaw Nation; Marketing/Office Manager at Red Land Sheet Metal, Oklahoma City, OK;
- Reanna Aguino, Ohkay Owingeh; President of Tsay Professional Services, Ohkay Owingeh, NM;
- Megan Alvanna-Stimpfle, Inupiaq, King Island Native Community, & Bering Straits Native Corporation; Principal at Arctic Geopolitical Consulting, Nome, AK;
- Colin Ben, Diné (Navajo Nation); Doctoral Research Fellow at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ;
- Roy Boney, Cherokee Nation; Program Manager at the Cherokee Nation Language Program, Tahlequah, OK;
- Justin Boyd, Colville Confederated Tribes, Property Acquisition Manager at Colville Confederated Tribes (Bureau of Indian Affairs), Coulee Dam, WA;
- Ruth Anna Buffalo, Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold Reservation; Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation; Self-Employed Consultant, Fargo, ND;
- Keith Charlie, Native Village of Minto; Tribal Administrator on the Minto Village Council, Minto, AK;

- Jonathan Clark, San Carlos Apache Tribe; IT Support Manager at Casino Arizona & Talking Stick Resort, Scottsdale, AZ;
- Kelly Concho-Hayes, Diné (Navajo Nation); Director of Organizational Development at the Boys & Girls Club of America Native Services, White Sands, NM;
- Rebecca Crooks-Stratton, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community; Program Director at the Native Governance Center, Prior Lake, MN;
- Darren Delaune, Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Journalist/columnist at Muscogee Nation News & co-host at Muscogee Radio, Okmulgee, OK;
- Murri England, Chickasaw Nation; Senior Accounting Technician, Chloeta Fire, LLC, Midwest City, OK;
- Hope Huskey, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Associate Director, The Sequoyah Fund, Inc., Cherokee, NC;
- Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation; Vice President of the Quinault Indian Nation, Taholah, WA;
- Adam Leggett, Native Village of Eklutna; Alaska Native Program Manager at Stantec, Anchorage, AK;
- Alyssa London, Tlingit; Founder/CEO of Alyssa London LLC & Culture Story LLC, Anchorage, AK;
- LeAnn Montes, Chippewa Cree Tribe; Attorney General for the Chippewa Cree Tribe, Havre, MT;
- Alray Nelson, Diné (Navajo Nation); Director of Community

Partnerships at Teach for America, Gallup, NM;

- Brian OnTheHill, Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Proprietor/Art Director at Penderhill CO., Beggs, OK;
- Deleana Other Bull, Crow Tribe & Northern Cheyenne Tribe; Executive Director for Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, Albuquerque, NM;
- Amber Penn-Roco, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation; Associate Attorney at Galanda Broadman, PLLC, Seattle, WA;
- Lauren Randall, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, TANF Youth Program Coordinator for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mounds, OK;
- Jacob Reed, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Economic Analyst for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Division of Commerce, Whittier, NC;
- Matthew Roberson, Wichita & Affiliated Tribes; Executive Director at the Department of Athletic Regulation for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Pine City, MN;
- Laura Sawney, Cherokee Nation; Compliance & Performance Officer at Osage Nation Health & Wellness, Broken Arrow, OK;
- Tralynna Scott, Cherokee Nation; Attorney for Cherokee Nation Businesses, Broken Arrow, OK;
- Shaun Shepherd, Cherokee Nation; Board Member, CNB Board of Directors for Cherokee Nation Businesses, Catoosa, OK;
- William Shunkamoloh, Osage Nation; Acting Clinical Director of Behavior Health at Indian Health

Services, Gallup, NM;

- Rudy Soto, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Norma Torres (D-CA) & Sergeant at the Army National Guard, Washington, D.C.;
- Glenna Stumblingbear Riddle, Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma; Licensed Health Service Psychologist Director of Behavioral Health/Outreach Program Coordinator at Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Norman, OK;
- Raina Thiele, Dena'ina Athabascan & Yup'ik Eskimo; Founder/President of Thiele Strategies, LLC, Washington, DC;
- Erica Tremblay, Seneca-Cayuga Nation; Director of Video at Bustle Magazine, New York, NY;
- Jessica Tyner Mehta, Cherokee Nation; self employed business owner, writer & teacher, Hillsboro, OR;
- Christian Weaver, Shinnecock Indian Nation; Director of Organizational Development at the Boys & Girls Club of America, Denver, CO;
- Wendi Wells, Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation; Self-Employed Community Developer, Mandan, ND;
- Wenona Wolf, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Communication & Development Manager at Kids Forward, Madison WI;
- Janene Yazzie, Diné (Navajo Nation), Senior Planner at Little Colorado River Watershed Chapters Association, Lupton, AZ.

to reflect and celebrate their own accomplishments; but also will inspire others to engage and continue to do great work for our tribal community.”

Bell added, “We continue to face on-going challenges in our tribal communities, included the challenge of protecting the sovereignty and vitality of our tribal societies; however it is critical that we work together in unity and ensure a future for our next generations.”

The 2017 40 Under 40 award recipients are comprised of a diverse group of young men &

women cultivated from across American Indian & Alaska Native communities, each of whom have devoted their skills & resources to enhancing their communities.

“Whether it’s in business, tribal government, journalism, academia, or non-profits, 40 under 40 winners are shining examples for all of us to follow. It is an honor to recognize these exceptional individuals & leaders who will continue to define success for the future of Native American Business,” said Chris James, President & CEO of the NCAIED.

## Johnson Selected to University of Alabama Color Guard

Lattoriah “Tori” Johnson, a 2016 graduate of Choctaw Central High School, was selected as a member of the 2017 University of Alabama Million Dollar March-

ing Band Color Guard. With 22 color guard veterans returning to stand among the other talented band musicians and dancers, Johnson was among 64 talented individuals auditioning for 16 spots as they participated in a series of rigorous dance, flag choreography, and physical fitness sessions on April 24-25, 2017.

Competition gets a little more keen every year. This year, 650 individuals auditioned for the band as 400 were selected, according to Dr. Kenneth Ozzello, Director of Bands.

At Choctaw Central, Johnson was a six-year

**see JOHNSON, pg. 10**



Lattoriah “Tori” Johnson, University of Alabama Million Dollar Marching Band Color Guard Member

## NANIH WAIYA ..... continued from page one

for centuries as their mother mound. It is the heart of the Choctaw people,” said Cox.

“In the late 18th century, the darkest chapter of Choctaw history begin as the people lost their ancestral homeland due to the demands for more lands by non-native populations. Between 1786 and 1830, nine treaties were signed between the Choctaw and the United States,” said Willis.

In the final treaty, the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek signed on Sept. 27, 1830, the Choctaw were forced to give up the remainder of their lands, 11 million acres of Mississippi territory, including Nanih Waiya.

A majority of Choctaws were removed to Oklahoma as a small minority that remained in Mississippi lived in isolation. The Mississippi Choctaw began their slow rise back from near extinction in the 19th century. In 1945, Choctaws voted to adopt a constitution and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians was established.

Over the next few decades, in keeping with the doctrine of Choctaw Self-Determination, the Tribe became a leader in economic development in east central Mississippi. The Tribe is currently one of the largest private employers in the state.

“For many centuries, Nanih Waiya Mound has been a cherished symbol of our Tribe. Generations of Choctaw people

have visited, honored and paid respect to our ancestors for our legacy as the original inhabitant of this land,” said Anderson.

Nanih Waiya was designated a state park and was one of several parks that required substantial subsidies for maintenance from the state general fund. In 2004, Nanih Waiya was placed on a list to dispose through closure, lease, sale, or transfer by the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks.

The process of returning Nanih Waiya 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.

Nanih Waiya Day was established as an official Tribal holiday and is observed annually on the second Friday in August. Tribal officials rescinded Columbus Day as a holiday to offer Choctaws an appropriate time to celebrate the return of lands considered sacred.

“Being Chahta means that we possess great pride in who we are as the first Americans. So

it’s vitally important that we pass on that pride to our children and grandchildren. We must make every effort to preserve our culture and heritage through education, not only in our classrooms, but also in our homes,” said Anderson.

“This unique Choctaw story is a circle that has been passed on to us and should never be broken,” added Anderson. “It’s very important that we continue to teach our children and grandchildren all the stories that we know about this place. Let’s pass it on to the next generation. It’s our duty as tribal members.”

Anderson, along with Choctaw Tribal Council members in attendance Kendall Wallace, Lorian Ahshapanek, Deborah Martin, Sharon Johnson, and Richard Sockey, affixed colorful ribbons representing the eight tribal communities to the memorial wreath which was placed at the base of the mound.

Members of the Chahta Immi Social Dancers performed several Choctaw social dances. Tribal Council Bogue Chitto representative Kendall Wallace offered the invocation.

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

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NANIH WAIYA ..... continued from page seven

eroded into the present form.

It also has major historical significance since it is probably the best documented mound site in the southern U.S., if not the entire country, with published descriptions going back to at least 1775, according to tribal officials.

The evening event showcased the best Choctaw stickball players competing against each other in the 5th Annual Nanih Waiya Day All-Star Stickball Games.

In the women's contest, *Fichik Cito Ohoyo* (Big Star) defeated *Fichik Malata Ohoyo* (Shining Star) 7-5. In the men's contest, *Fichik Cito* defeated *Fichik Malata* 10-9.

Selected as this year's



*Chahta Immi Social Dancers, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox, & tribal drummers pose with the memorial wreath at the base of the Nanih Waiya Ceremonial Mound.*

MVP's were Denielle Phillips of *Fichik Cito Ohoyo* and Derald Isom of *Fichik Cito*.

Coaches were Carl Hickman (*Fichik Cito Ohoyo*), Bruce Jefferson (*Fichik Malata Ohoyo*), Elijah Jimmie (*Fichik Cito*), & Greg Shoemaker (*Fichik Malata*).

The games were World Series Stickball (WSS) sanctioned and administered using the 2017 Choctaw Indian Fair (CIF) WSS rules and regulations.

All-Star participants must be enrolled members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw In-

dians and selected by a nominating committee of qualified WSS officials. Qualifications included a player's sportsmanship, skill & demonstration of spirit of the traditional game of Choctaw stickball.

Selected players and coaches must be in

good standing with the CIF WSS Committee in accordance to rules and regulations with no history of penalties and must have been a registered player or coach on a qualified stickball team during the 2017 CIF WSS tournament.



*It was a showcase of the top 2017 WSS players facing each other in the 5th Annual Nanih Waiya All-Star Stickball Games at Warrior Stadium in Choctaw.*



*Fichik Cito Ohoyo Honors - Coach Carl Hickman, pictured left, accepts the Women's All-Star Stickball championship award as Denielle Phillips, pictured right, received the MVP honor. Presenting the awards were Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox & WSS Commissioner Thomas Ben.*



*Fichik Cito Honors - Coach Elijah Jimmie, pictured left, accepts the Men's All-Star Stickball championship award as Derald Isom, pictured right, received the MVP honor. Presenting the awards were Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox & WSS Commissioner Thomas Ben.*

**2017 ALL-STAR STICKBALL WOMEN'S CHAMPION - FICHIK CITO OHOYO**

team members included Attalia Amos, Joni Bell, Shayla Bell, Talisha Bell, Kendall Ben, Shonika Billy, Jana Chickaway, Johnita Conrad, Oretta Conrad, Erica Dixon, Brandi Farve, Odessa Farve, Sylendria Fireplace, Beth Frazier, Latonya Frazier, Vanessa Frazier, Maylene Hewlin, Joanne Hickman, Deonna Isaac, Tanya Isaac, Wendy Isaac, Trinesa Isom, Taliciahn Jackson, Emily Jenkins, Cristen Jim, Precious Jim, Arylynn John, Kristen John, Latricia Johnson, Lattoriah Johnson, Evangeline King, Brittney Mingo, Vera Monk, Malaney Nickey, Denielle Phillips, Renaysia Polk, Relissa Ray, Mitzi Reed, Tiffani Riggen, Emily



L. Shoemake, Melia Solomon, Tamela Solomon, Heather Tangle, Fernellia Thomas, Tiffany Thomas, Darisa Tubby, Leslie Tubby, Reese Tubby, Breanna Vaughn, Vaneda Wallace, Shannon Wesley, Whitney Wesley, DeAundre Williams, Casey Willis, Larissa Willis, Samihah Willis, Sheila Willis, & Marie Wilson. Carl Hickman served as coach.

**2017 ALL-STAR STICKBALL WOMEN'S RUNNER-UP - FICHIK MALATA OHOYO**

team members included Ahinah Alex, Kyree Alex, Teri Anderson, Brooklyn Bell, LaTonya Bell, Miliyah Bell, Amber Ben, Kandice Ben, Mandy Billy, Ara Chickaway, Delia Clemons, Renee Clemons, Lahoma Conrad, Marissa Crosby, Cheyannah Dixon, Dori Dixon, Lacrishia Dixon, Ashley Edwards, Elyse Etheridge, Angela Farmer, Durnene Farmer, Nina Frazier, Chantay Frazier, Nastassia Isaac, Natisha Isaac, Robin Isaac, Dayanna Jackson, Chrisanda Jefferson, Mildred Jimmie, Modina Johnson, Lequita King, Raina King, Daysianara Lewis, Lagatha Lewis, Shauna Lewis, Skyler Lewis, LaShayla McMillan, Katalina Morris,



Nandolyn Nickey, Chasity Orellana, Kelly Overland, Erica Phillips, Amanda Reed, Asha Robinson, Robin Routh, EllaGane Sam, Kelley Sockey, Kristen Steve, Justina Thomas, Nihiena Thomas, Willa Thomas, Ashley Wesley, Dianna Wesley, Jessalyn Williams, Randi Williams, Triscilla Williams, Jessidy Willis, & Gabrielle Wilson. Bruce Jefferson served as coach.

**2017 ALL-STAR STICKBALL MEN'S CHAMPION - FICHIK CITO**

team members included Liasha Alex, Teddy Allen, Braxton Amos, Cody Anderson, Kelby Anderson, Dayton Bell, Terrell Bell, Tobiah Ben, Forrest Billy, Mario Chickaway, Brent Clemons, Elliott Dan, David Denson, Chad Dixon, Hester Dixon, Kenyon Dixon, Redmond Dixon, Warren Dixon, Garrison Edwards, Frankie Garcia, Desmond Hernandez, Cedric Hickman, Sr., Teddy Hickman, Boris Isaac, Derald Isom, Dakota Jefferson, Kanyon Jimmie, Shaun Jimmie, Alaric Keams, Geno Mack, DeCarlo McMillan, Dwight McMillan, Jeric McMillan, Jerrod McMillan, Kendrick McWilliams, Tayshaun Mingo,



Hunter Morris, Michael Morris, Neshoba Reed, Ronnie Reed, Jr., Jeremiah Robinson, Michael Robinson, Elton Shoemake, Jamion Shoemake, Joey Stephens, Jonathan Steve, Skyler Thomas, Jackson Thompson, Jr., Drew Tubby, Jaylyn Tubby, Jerius Tubby, Byo Williamson, Satchell Willis, & Wauseka York. Elijah Jimmie served as coach.

**2017 ALL-STAR STICKBALL MEN'S RUNNER-UP - FICHIK MALATA**

team members included Don Ahshapanek, III, Cyril Amos, Justin Bell, Lionel Bell, Lorenzo Bell, Bryce Billy, Eric Billy, Jr., Ryan Carson, Devin Charlie, Dalton Clegg, Terrence Comby, James Denson, Cecil Ray Dixon, Rickey Edwards, Jr., Timothy Frazier, Rafael Gibson, Kevin Grisham, Anselm Henry, Deric Hickman, Draven Hickman, Ricky Isaac, Deanrick Isom, Germaine Isom, Rocky Isom, Kris Jackson, Djon John, Jerry John, Nathaniel King, Truman Lewis, Jr., Trey Lilly, Michael Lyons, Jeremy Mingo, Shaunray Polk, Ramsey Reed, Melton Robinson, Lonzo Shoemake, Shawn Shoemake, Jerome Steve, Garrick Stoliby, Jimmy



Tangle, Keantray Thomas, Coby Tubby, Justin Tubby, Stephen Wallace, Marco Wickson, Tyler Williamson, Justin Willis, Simeon Willis, Torondo Willis, Jamison Wilson, Miles Yazzie, & Aaron York. Greg Shoemake served as coach.

# Tutoring Program News

The Choctaw Central High School Tutoring Program is off to a great start beginning with compiling scores from i-Ready diagnostic testing and the TruTest for ACT.

toring program is to increase student achievement, problem-solving and cognitive skills, and increase attendance and graduation rate.

Students will work on individual skills in the i-Ready Program and

the ACT Mastery

Program.

Tutors are also available to help any student who is struggling with an assignment.

Jan Thompson and Richard Rivers are



Linda Tingle, pictured left, & Richard Rivers, right, assists students with on-line assignments during the first week of school.

i-Ready tutors for the ninth grade and Amy Deen, Linda Tingle and

Brenda Nowell are ACT tutors for the tenth and eleventh grades.

## 2017 Choctaw Central High School Cross Country Schedule

September 2	MS College High School Season Opener	Clinton, MS
September 9	Madison XC Classic	Madison, MS
September 16	Salttillo Cross Country Invitational	Salttillo, MS
September 23	Clinton Arrow Cross Country Invitational	Clinton, MS
September 30	NE Lauderdale High School Invitational	Meridian, MS
October 7	MC Watson Ford Invitational	Clinton, MS
October 14	Pontotoc Invitational	Pontotoc, MS
October 26	MHSAA 3A District 6 Region Cross Country	Clinton, MS
November 6	MHSAA 3A State Cross Country Championship	Clinton, MS

Head Coaches: Gwynn Grant & Brent Farmer

## Jimmie Graduates from (MS)2

Asa Jimmie of Choctaw, Miss., graduated from Phillips Academy's three-summer Mathematics & Science for Minority Students

program—better known as (MS)2—on July 30, 2017, at the Frances Young Tang Theatre in Andover, Mass.

Jimmie, selected from more than 400 applicants to participate in the rigorous academic program, was one of 37 students in the Class of 2017. During the ceremony, he was named a recipient of High Honors in Science.

The (MS)2 program was founded in 1977 by Phillips Academy to address the compelling need to cultivate the mathematical & scientific abilities of bright, motivated African American, Hispanic/Latino, & Native American public high school students with demonstrated financial need.

Accepted students, who hail from targeted cities & communities across the U.S., commit to study for five weeks for three consecutive summers. The program gained national recognition through the success of its 1,200 alumni & celebrated its 40th anniversary this past sum-

mer. Phillips Academy is a coeducational independent high school of 1,100 students, known for its extensive & rigorous academic program. Founded in 1778, the Academy is composed of a diverse community of teachers & students from 45 states/territories and 45 countries.

For more information, visit [www.andover.edu/ms2](http://www.andover.edu/ms2).

### JOHNSON ..... continued from page seven

color guard and winter guard member under the band direction of Elter Wilson, Dorian Trahan, and Elijah Ben. She attended numerous competitions with the Maroon Band color guard and received six superior ratings at State Evaluations and two first place color guard finishes at the MBA/MHSAA state marching band championships.

During her tenure with the winter guard program, Johnson participated in numerous Winter Guard Inter-

national Competitions in St. Louis, MO; Atlanta, GA; Pensacola, FL; Nashville, TN; and Dayton, OH & received several finalist placements.

Her accolades competing at the Mississippi Indoor Association state championships from 2010-2016 include a bronze medal, 3 silver medals, and 2 gold medals.

Johnson is Choctaw Central's second graduate to participate in an extra-curricular program on the Division I level and in a Southeastern Conference school. The first was Andrew Henry as he participated in Mississippi State University's Famous Maroon Band in 2004-2005.

To make the spotlight a bit brighter, Johnson is participating in an extra-curricular program that supports the nation's #1 ranked college football team, the Alabama Crimson Tide. Roll Tide Roll!



Pictured above with Tori are her parents, Modina Johnson (left) & Lamo Johnson.

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# Adult Education Hosts Graduation Ceremony

The Choctaw Adult Education Program hosted the 2016-2017 GED Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, Aug. 24 at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw.

Laura John, Choctaw Adult Education Director, served as emcee and Abbie Chapman, Child Care Specialist, provided the welcome.

Remarks were provided by Terry Ben, Choctaw Workforce Development Director; Deborah Martin, Tribal Council Pearl River representative and Education Committee Chairperson; & Willa Brantley, Division of Education Director. Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson

served as guest speaker. The graduates were then presented their diplomas from the Choctaw Adult Education Program.

Pastor Gerald Willis, Sr., of Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church provided the invocation & benediction.

Graduates include: (Pearl River) Christian T. Bell, Elliot Dan, Carleigh J. Martin, Fichik Thomas, Kameron Trae Thomas; (Bogue Chitto) Miliyah J. Bell; & (Red Water) Martika Renee Lewis.

The Choctaw Adult Education program provide adults who, for whatever reason, were unable to complete their high school education with an opportunity to achieve educational advancement.

If you would like to

attain your GED, contact Choctaw Adult Education at the Manpower Training Center by

calling 601-650-1756 to find out class schedules in your community.



Members of the Choctaw Adult Education Class of 2016-2017 include (in no order) Christian T. Bell, Elliot Dan, Carleigh J. Martin, Fichik Thomas, Kameron Trae Thomas, Miliyah J. Bell, & Martika Renee Lewis.

## CPD K-9 Mylo Passes Away



Choctaw Police Department (CPD) K-9 Officer Mylo (pictured right) passed away on July 29 at Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

The CPD received Mylo, a Belgian Malinois, in 2014 as a gift from Pearl River Resort & was trained to sniff out illegal narcotics. She was successful in making several drug arrests.

Mylo was paired with CPD Officer Dwight McMillan this past January. The two, having never worked together, went to a 10-week training session then beat out other dog/handler competitors that had been together much longer to place first in the 2017 Law Dog Obstacle Course Competition in Southaven, Miss.

The CPD & the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians are saddened by the loss of Officer Mylo.

## DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

### DCI Helps Celebrate Birthday

Several staff members of the Department of Chahta Immi (DCI), per request from the Department of Children & Family Services, attended the 18th birthday celebration for Deontay Isaac.

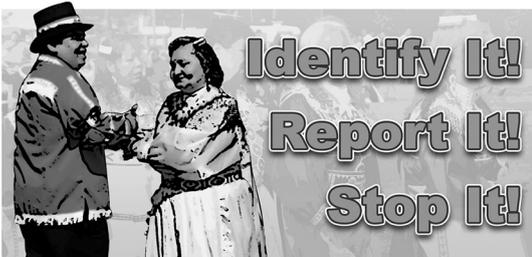
The celebration, held to give Isaac an insight of her Choctaw culture & history, took place at the Senior Citizens Place at Northside Park in Philadelphia on Wednesday, June 21.

DCI Coordinator Rosemary John & Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond presented skits as the staff of the Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) honored Isaac by presenting her a quilt they had pieced together.



Pictured above is the quilt presented to Deontay Isaac during her 18th birthday celebration.

## Prevent Elder Abuse



### Warning Signs

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkempt appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

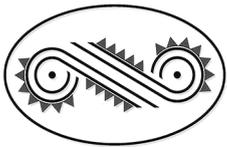
Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.

For more information on elder abuse, contact Family Violence and Victim's Services at 601-650-1774



.....see DCI NEWS, pg. 12

DCI NEWS ..... continued from page eleven



**CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER**

featuring

CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS  
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through "Choctaw Expressions" - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER  
Choctaw Shopping Center  
Highway 16 West  
Choctaw, MS 39350  
601-650-1687  
www.choctaw.org

HOURS OF OPERATION  
TUESDAY - SATURDAY  
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

ADMISSION  
GENERAL ADMISSION \$5  
EDUCATION DISCOUNT \$5  
MILITARY DISCOUNT \$5  
TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH TRIBAL ID \$2  
SENIORS (57 AND ABOVE) FREE  
CHILDREN (UNDER 5) FREE

**YOP Summer Workers at CAP**

Anastasia Ben & Trushaun Berry came on board during the summer from the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP). One of their assignments was to assist the CAP prepare for Princess & Warrior Survival Week in June. These two fine youths

did a tremendous job at the CAP.

Alicia Vaughn from the Adult Learning Department also came on board for the summer & did very well at the CAP office.

**Beaded Medallion Workshop**

On Tuesday & Wednesday, June 27-28,



From left, Trushaun Berry, Alisha Vaughn & Anastasia Ben work diligently to prepare for future workshops.



Teen Center members Hallie Billie (left) & Mylena Isaac show off their progress during the beaded medallion making workshop.



Pictured from left, Taelyn Nickey, Malice Williams, Remini Nickey, Hailey Johnson, & Arlanda Dixon shape the dough for the fry bread.

the CAP conducted a medallion making workshop at the Pearl River Boys & Girls Club Teen Center.

Casey Bigpond, Trudy Jimmie, May McGeisey, & Lorena Alex provided instructions. Trushaun Berry & Anastasia Ben of YOP assisted.

McGeisey gave a brief presentation on tribal symbols & their significances depicted on Choctaw beadwork, attire, & arts & crafts.

The students were eager to learn & very interested in the class.

**Activities at Conehatta Boys & Girls Club**

On Monday, July 3, the CAP staff presented several cultural activities for the Conehatta Unit Boys & Girls Club.

Club members had Indian tacos on the lunch menu that day & the CAP staff demonstrated how to prepare dough for the fry bread.

Trudy Jimmie, May McGeisey & Lorena Alex demonstrated how to prepare the dough while Casey Bigpond instructed on the traditional way of starting the fire for outside cooking

& protocols to frying the dough in the iron pot.

**Dance Groups At The Fair**

The CAP staff was honored to work with the 30 social dance groups & coordinators during the 68th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair on July 12-15.

It was a pleasure to see all the social dancers dressed in their beautiful & gorgeous Choctaw traditional regalia.

The CAP staff expresses their gratitude to Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson who strongly supports the cultural program, Tribal Maintenance Director Billy Jack Lewis, YOP Director Mallory Anderson, & all the dance coordinators & social dance groups for their cooperation in making the dance program so successful.

**CAP Workshops**

In August, the CAP staff resumed the cultural activity workshops in the Bogue Chitto community.

A Choctaw dress & shirt making workshop ...continued next page



Members of the Okla Chahta Hilha Hapiya social dance group meet with CAP staff members after their performance at the Choctaw Indian Fair.

was held on Aug. 1 & 29. A bugle & seed bead collar necklace making workshop was held on Aug. 15 & a headband & stickball apron making workshop was held on Aug. 22. A sash & medallion making session was held on Aug.

The CAP will host its last series of cultural workshop for this fiscal year in the Red Water community. The schedule is listed below:  
 Sept. 7 - Sash & Medallion Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.;

Sept. 13 - Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.;

Sept. 19 - Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.;

Sept. 26 - Head Band & Stickball Apron Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.;

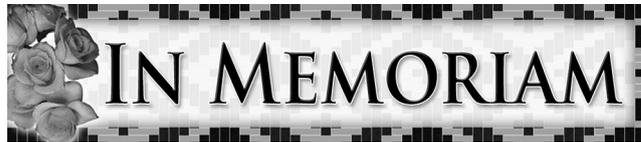
Sept. 28 - Bugle &

Seed Bead Collar Necklace Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

To all Tribal members, we extend an invitation to these training activities! Help the CAP promote the Choctaw culture & learn to make your very own attire &

beadwork for special occasions. Mark your calendar & please make plans to attend!

For more information, call (601) 663-7506. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



**CASSIDY SHOEMAKE**

Stonewall King; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Funeral service for Cassidy Shoemake, 28, was held on Saturday, July 8, 2017, from the Conehatta Facility Building. Pastor Eddie Johnson officiated.

Burial was in the St. Catherine Catholic Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Shoemake passed away on July 1 at her residence.

She was employed at Pearl River Resort & enjoyed being with family & friends, sewing, & playing stickball with Koni Hata Ohoyo.

She was preceded in death by her son, Stuart Nickey, Jr.; great-aunts; great-uncles; & 2 nephews.

Survivors include her mother, Dinah Shoemake; daughter, Bayleigh Nickey; sons, Adrellius Tubby, Kah'Xylon Gomez & Wyatt Nickey; sister, Tanesha Wesley; brothers, Jason Shoemake, Kendrick Solomon, Nehemiah Solomon, &

**HELEN MARIE YOUNG**

Funeral service for Helen Marie Young, 84, was held on Thursday, July 6, 2017, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

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

Ms. Young passed away on July 3 at Rush Hospital in Meridian.

She was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church & enjoyed being with family, watching her grandchildren play sports, crocheting blankets, bead work, & playing dominos.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas & Gladys Comby Ben; & a brother, Hubert Ben.

Survivors include her son, Terry Ben; sister, Fannie Pierite; brothers, Henry Ben & Thomas Ben; 6 grandchildren; 12

great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; & a host of relatives & friends.

**SUSIE MAE THOMPSON HUNDLEY**

Funeral service for Susie Mae Thompson Hundley, 67, was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Bro. Dennis Robinson officiated.

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

Ms. Hundley passed away on July 8 at her residence.

She was employed at Bogue Chitto Head Start, Chahta Enterprise then Pearl River Resort. She enjoyed being with family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jimmy & Annie Noah Thompson; a sister, Nancy Rachel Farmer; brothers, Easton Thompson & Wayne Thompson; & a grandson.

Survivors include her daughters, Angela Hundley, Victoria Diamond Hundley & Shandra Hundley; sisters, Emma King, Lacie

Bell, Juanita Gardinski, & Marcia Thompson; a brother, Billy Thompson; 8 grandchildren; a great-grandson; & a host of relatives & friends.

**SCOTT LAWRENCE ENERSON**

Funeral service for Scott Lawrence Enerson, 54, was held on Friday, July 14, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Fu-

neral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Enerson passed away on July 8 in Choctaw.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, watching Chicago sports & Bok Cito stickball, & meeting people.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ruby Bell Lewis & Lee Mack Stephens; adopted parents, George & Bernice Enerson; brother, Brainard Lewis; adopted brother, Michael

see **OBITUARIES**, .....pg. 14

Welcome To



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Spirit of Life Christian Center

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

278 Black Jack Road Choctaw, MS 39350 601-389-5446 Pastor Thomas Ben

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church  
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 Conehatta, MS 39057

Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
 5:00 p.m. - Evening Service  
 1st Sunday Service 4:00 p.m.  
 Pastor: Rev. Samuel Dixon

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting  
 6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/  
 Family Ministry Class

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."  
 - John 8:31-32

**OBITUARIES ..... continued from page thirteen**

Enerson; grandparents, Tom "Shorty" Bell & Katherine Jackson Bell; 4 aunts; 2 uncles; & 4 great-aunts.

Survivors include his daughter, Katherine Enerson; a sister, Loretta Frazier; brother, Clifton Willis, Sr.; adopted brother, James Enerson; 2 aunts; 1 uncle; 3 great-aunts; 1 great-uncle; & a host of relatives & friends.

**Laura Ann Gibson Hernandez**

Funeral service for Laura Ann Gibson Hernandez, 82, was held on Monday, July 17, 2017, from Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta. Rev. Ronald Hernandez officiated.

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

Ms. Hernandez passed away on July 12 at Charlton Methodist Hospital in Dallas, TX.

She enjoyed sports, listening to gospel music & singing.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John & Allie Farmer Gibson; husband, Willie Hernandez, Sr.; daughters, Victoria Hernandez & Janie Hernandez; & a son, Jeffrey Hernandez.

Survivors include her sons, Willie Hernandez, Jr., Joe John Hernandez, Michael Hernandez, & Ronald Hernandez; sisters, Annie Henry & Abbie Phillips; 15 grandchildren;

23 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

**Michael Ryan Bell**

Funeral service for Michael Ryan Bell, 39, was held on Friday, July 21, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Bell passed away on July 14 at his residence.

He enjoyed being with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Bob & Luceline Bell, Hermon & Millie Frazier; & a brother, Robert Charles Bell, II.

Survivors include his wife, Leona Bell; daughters, Mikayla Bell, Trissa Thomas & Madison Bell; sons, Ryan Bell & Jarvis Bell; stepson, Tanyon Willis; parents, Robert Bell, Jr. & Clara Frazier Cotton; sister, Amanda Cotton; brother, Ronald Cotton; 1 grandchild; 4 aunts; 3 uncles; 2 great-aunts; 2 great-uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**Clara Johnson Frazier**

Funeral service for Clara Johnson Frazier, 68, was held on Sunday, July 23, 2017, from the Pearl River Community Center. Bro. Robert Pat-

rick officiated.

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

Ms. Frazier passed away on July 19 at the Choctaw Health Center.

She loved to read the Bible, singing & listening to gospel & Choctaw hymns, being with family & friends, playing cards & dominoes, reading, watching her favorite TV shows, watching her grandchildren play sports, & Koni Hata stickball.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Irene Dan & Otis Mingo; grandmother, Lela Jimmie; sisters, Nellie Mingo & Rita Wishork; & brother, Dale Phillips, Sr.

Survivors include her daughter, Jannifer Willis; sons, Kennington Johnson, Pennington Johnson & Lamo Johnson; sisters, Loula Jim & Arlene Fuller; brothers, Carl Phillips & David Mingo, Sr.; 16 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**Randall Isaac, Sr.**

Funeral service for Randall Isaac, Sr., 54, was held on Monday, July 31, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Randy Jim & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Fu-

neral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Isaac passed away on July 27 at his residence.

He enjoyed being with family & friends. He was a bus driver for the Choctaw Elderly Center then Choctaw Transit & won several roadeo awards.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sherry McMillan Isaac; father, Philmon Isaac; step-father, Hugh Stoliby; brother, Delmon Isaac; step-sister, Maureen Stoliby; grandparents, Hugh & Cecelia Isaac, Ellis & Lena Thompson; a great-grandmother; 4 aunts; & 3 uncles.

Survivors include his daughters, Yvonne Isaac & Megan Rocha; sons, Brian Isaac & Randall Isaac, Jr.; mother, Suzanne Stoliby; sisters, Martisha Barrack, Amanda Isaac & Vanessa Isaac; step-sister, Amanda Frazier; brothers, Thurman Isaac, Darren Isaac & Darris Isaac; step-brothers, Gerald Stoliby & Harold Stoliby; 3 aunts; 4 uncles; 8 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**Kenneth Daron Nickey**

Funeral service for Kenneth Daron Nickey, 50, was held on Friday, August 18, 2017, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River. Wayne Gibson & Bro. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Nickey passed away on August 14 in Choctaw.

He loved being with family & friends, fishing, listening to music, watching TV, & telling stories. He was a CNA at Choctaw Residential Center, porter at Pearl River Resort & a janitor in Dallas, TX.

He was preceded in death by his father, Londell Nickey; grandparents, Huey & Trudy Nickey, Ezell & Ludie Denson; sister, Maybiline Solomon; brothers, Ronnie Nickey & Raphael Billy, Jr.; an aunt & an uncle.

Survivors include his wife, Kimberly Nickey; step-daughters, Mikkolette Dan & Emily Dan; step-son, Cylas Mingo; mother, Nevalena Billy; step-father, Raphael Billy; sisters, Clarissa Wilson & Daphne Anderson; brothers, Jimmy Nickey, Alvin Nickey, Greg Nickey, & Donald Billy; 6 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**Cecil Wayne Joe**

Funeral service for Cecil Wayne Joe, 55, was held on Saturday, August 19, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Randy Jim & Bro. Robert Patrick officiated.

...continued next page

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

Mr. Joe passed away on August 16 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, hunting, fishing, riding his ATV, gardening, being with his pets, & cooking outdoors.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elbert & Eunice Joe; grandparents, Houston & Emma Joe, Walter Morris; great-grandparents, Jasper & Sally Joe, Beauty & Julius Morris; 2 aunts; & 5 uncles.

Survivors include his companion, Dorsey Clemons; 3 step-daughters, Carlena Edwards, Lacie Fields & Leshawn Amos; 4 aunts; 2 uncles; a great-aunt; 6 grand-

children; & a host of relatives & friends.

**GARTH DEWAYNE CHARLIE, SR.**

Funeral service for Garth Dewayne Charlie, Sr., 53, was held on Wednesday, August 23, 2017, from Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. Laettner Johnson & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

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

Mr. Charlie passed away on August 19 at his residence.

He enjoyed cooking, reading, fishing, watching football & Koni Hata stickball play. He loved being with his family. He was baptized at Macedonia Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Charlie & Necie King; a sister, Belinda Cotton; brothers, Harold Charlie & Dalvin Charlie; 6 aunts; 2 uncles; & a grandson.

Survivors include daughters, Cassandra Charlie, Dylanna Charlie, Gayle Charlie, Tica Charlie, & Katherine Wilson; sons, Garth Charlie, Jr. & Gordon Charlie; a sister, Melinda Bell; brothers, Faron Charlie & Alvin Jefferson; 2 aunts; an uncle; 19 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**CHRISTOPHER JARAD WILLIS**

Funeral service for Christopher Jarad Willis, 28, was held on Saturday, August 26, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Community Center. Deacon Felton John & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Frazier Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Fu-

neral Services was in charge of arrangements. Mr. Willis passed away on August 21 in Leake County.

He was employed at Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed spending time with family & friends, fishing, playing washers, watching wrestling, & playing baseball.

He was preceded in death by his father, Vandell Willis; grandparents, Hayward & Hazel Willis, Patrick Twiss & Nuga Gibson Swimmers.

Survivors include his mother, Cassandra M. Twiss; daughter, Nalayna Willis; son, Irie Willis; sister, Hayley Willis; an uncle; & a host of relatives & friends.

**JANIE MITCH RODRIGUEZ**

Funeral service for Janie Mitch Rodriguez, 74, was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017, from the Standing Pine Facility Building. Don Ahshapanek & Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the

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

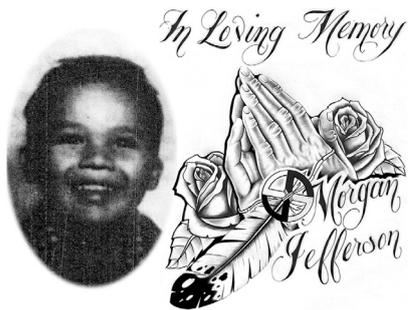
Ms. Rodriguez passed away on Sept. 1 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She enjoyed being with family, cooking, traveling, dancing, listening to music, & playing at the Silver Star.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wilson & Irene Tubby Mitch; sisters Margie Mitch Huntley & Joyce Mitch Wilson; brothers, Ardis Mitch, Brooks Mitch, Cecil Mitch, Curtis Mitch, Kenneth Mith, & Lloyd Mitch; & a niece.

Survivors include a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

*I would like to memorialize a very good friend. Although it was a short time I had gotten to know him, he left a lifetime of memories for me. I sometimes wonder what he would be like if he was still with us. His name was Morgan Jefferson & was the oldest brother to Peggy Jefferson Williams, Michelle Jefferson, Karene Jefferson, & Auburn Jefferson. I do miss you my little friend. From your forever friend, Larry Morris.*



**NATIVE AMERICAN PRAYER**

*Oh Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives to all the world, hear me. I am a human being before you, one of your many children. I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made, my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may know the things you have taught my people. The lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength not to be superior to my brothers or to my sisters, but to fight my greatest enemy - myself. Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so that life fades as a fading sunset. My spirit may come to you without shame.*

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Yard sales, fundraisers, food sales, or bake sales for individuals, organizations or ball teams.

Applications & guidelines can be picked up at the Office of Economic Development, or if you have any questions call DeeSandra Ben at 601-650-1612.

Happy Birthday to "Drak" Heidi Billy on Aug. 17, from your cuz, M.J. & Karene J.



Have a Happiest Birthday to my niece Shonika Lurand on Aug. 19. We love you! From Aunt Heidi, Brecailyn, Tre'lin, James Jr., KeMayn, Klairnell & Family, Brooklynn & Jasmine.

Happy Birthday to our only brother, Auburn "Lucifer" Jefferson (aka Creatures) on Aug. 22, from your family in B.C., Karene, Moss & family, Peg & family, your daughter Santana & family, & step-daughter Dusty Jimmie & family. Have a good one!

Happy 40th Birthday to my wife, Rachael D. Jackson, on Sept. 20, from your husband, Eric D. Jackson.

## Officials Gather For ICWA Conference in Choctaw

Officials from law enforcement, judiciary, family & community services, & healthcare from the Tribe & other jurisdictions gathered at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw on Thursday, Aug. 10 for the 7th Annual Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Conference.

The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 gives tribal governments a strong voice concerning child custody proceedings that involve Indian children, by allocating tribes exclusive jurisdiction over the case when the child resides on, or is domiciled on, the reservation, or when the child is a ward of the tribe; & concurrent, but presumptive, jurisdiction over non-reservation Native Americans' foster care placement proceedings.



**LEFT**, Hoop dancer Lyndon Alec (Alabama-Coushatta) performed during the opening ceremony of the conference. **TOP RIGHT**, Dr. David Chandler, Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services, welcomed participants to the conference. **BOTTOM RIGHT**, Sheldon Spotted Elk, JD (Northern Cheyenne), served as keynote speaker.

Keynote speaker was Sheldon Spotted Elk, JD, Director of Indian Child Welfare Unit, Casey Family Programs based out of Denver, CO.

Spotted Elk works collaboratively with tribes to improve capacity in child welfare systems & regularly trains state judges & attorneys on the ICWA. He previ-

ously worked as the Guardian ad Litem for the Ute Indian Tribal Court in Utah.

ICWA Basics & Ethics was presented by Tom Lidot (Chilkat Tlingit), Program Manager for Tribal STAR (Successful Transitions for Adult Readiness), & Rose-Margaret Orrantia (Yaqui), Tribal STAR Con-

**CHOCTAW  
COMMUNITY  
NEWS**

**AUGUST 2017**

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sultant. Lidot is actively involved with local, regional, & national tribal issues related to health, child welfare, & self-determination.

Orrantia served as Executive Director of Indian Child & Family Services, a state licensed foster family & adoption agency serving the American Indian population in San Diego & Riverside (CA) Counties.

ICWA Landmark Cases & Ethical Guidelines was presented by Angel Smith, Supreme Court Justice for Pawnee Nation & appellate justice for other tribes.

As a child, Smith spent approximately 10 years in the center of two ICWA cases. She was the

child at the heart of a five-year legal case regarding application of the federal ICWA. Her case went to the Supreme Court of Oklahoma.

As a teen, she

was in an ICWA kinship foster care placement with her grandparents. As an adult, she dedicates her professional & personal work to advocate on behalf of Indian children.

**2017 STEVE & LILLY (WILLIS) ISAAC  
FAMILY REUNION**

Saturday, October 7, 2017  
Greenhill Church Gymnasium  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

FOR GOOD EATING, BRING YOUR FAVORITE COVERED DISH!  
COME MEET YOUR RELATIVES THAT YOU'VE SEEN BUT DIDN'T  
KNOW. ACTIVITIES WILL BE PLANNED BY COMMITTEES.

**CONTACT PERSONS:**

Maggie Truss - 601-728-1990 • Rosie Mitchell - 601-562-8908  
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<p><u>Lilly Willis &amp; Steve Isaac</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sally Isaac 1874</li> <li>2. Onie Isaac 1885</li> <li>3. Frances Isaac 1894</li> <li>4. Isaac Isaac 1901</li> <li>5. Albert Isaac</li> <li>6. Ellen Isaac</li> <li>7. Jim Isaac</li> </ol> <p><u>Hugh Willis &amp; Fronia Robinson</u> Mollie Farmer (1896)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adam H. Willis</li> <li>2. Lougene (Cutie) Willis</li> <li>3. Thompson Willis</li> <li>4. Clemon Willis</li> <li>5. J. C. Willis</li> <li>6. Collins Willis</li> <li>7. Lilly Willis</li> <li>8. Walter Willis</li> <li>9. Lola Willis</li> <li>10. Beamon Willis</li> </ol>	<p><u>Johnson Willis &amp; Sophia Isaac</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spinks Willis</li> <li>2. Cohen Willis</li> <li>3. Finis Willis</li> <li>4. Pauline Willis</li> </ol> <p><u>Gus Willis &amp; Sallie John</u> Martha Lewis Rainey Isaac Lizzie Cotton</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gamblin Willis 1900</li> <li>2. Elie Willis 1901</li> <li>3. Edmond (E.D.) Willis 1909</li> <li>4. Mary Willis 1911</li> <li>5. Dinah Willis 1912</li> <li>6. John V. Willis</li> <li>7. Jack Willis</li> <li>8. Hester Willis 1927</li> <li>9. Lester Willis 1931</li> <li>10. Marie I. Willis 1944</li> </ol>
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