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

Tribal Donates Vans To Churches

Tribal Chief Phylliss 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 Phylliss J. Anderson, Billy Smith, Laettner Johnson, Carol Isaac, Annette Johnson, & Tribal Procurement Director Eddie Gibson.

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.
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.

Nanin Waiya Mound Celebration

Thank you to the many Tribal members and guests who joined us at the annual Nanin 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 Nanin 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 Jeffer son for Fichik Malata Ohoyo.

Celebrating the win in the Women’s 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, Nanin 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 as Choctaws - a legacy still celebrated today.

Many thanks to our Tribal Maintenance and...continued next page
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 American Softball Association (NASSA) 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 turn-out 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 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...
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.

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.

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.

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!

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

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

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.

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

Many Blessings,

Phyliss J. Anderson
Tribal Chief

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, 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.

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.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW
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.

From the CHC Business Office

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

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.

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.
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 implementing 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
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 Marching 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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. see JOHNSON, pg. 10
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 MVP’s were Denielle Phillips of Fichik Cito Ohoyo and Derald Isom of Fichik Cito.

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 Indians 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.
2017 ALL-STAR STICKBALL
WOMEN’S CHAMPION - FICHIK CITO
OHOYO

2017 ALL-STAR STICKBALL
WOMEN’S RUNNER-UP - FICHIK MALAṬA
team members included Ahinah Alex, Kyree Alex, Teri Anderson, Brooklynn Bell, LaTonya Bell, Miliyah Bell, Amber Ben, Kandice Ben, Mandy Billy, Ara Chickaway, Delia Clemons, Renee Clemons, Lahoma Conrad, Marissa Crosby, Cheyonah Dixon, Dori Dixon, Lacrisha 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, Dayssiana Lewis, Lagatha Lewis, Shauna Lewis, Skyley Lewis, LaShayla McMillan, Katalina Morris, Nandolyn Nickley, Chastity Orellana, Kelly Overland, Erica Phillips, Amanda Reed, Asha Robinson, Robin Routh, EllaGane Sam, Kelley Sockey, Kristen Steve, Justina Thomas, Nihiena Thomas, Willa Thom as, 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

2017 ALL-STAR STICKBALL
MEN’S RUNNER-UP - FICHIK MALAṬA
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, Dearrow Isom, Germaine Isom, Rockky Isom, Kris Jackson, Djon John, Jerry John, Nathaniel King, Truman Lewis, Jr., Trey Lilly, Michael Lyons, Jeremy Mingo, Shaunray Polk, Ramsey Polk, Melton Robinson, Lonzo Shoemake, Shaw Shoemake, Jerome Steve, Garrick Stoliby, Jimmy Tangle, Keantaray 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.
Jimmie Graduates from (MS)2

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

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.
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 Phyllis 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 provides 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.

........see DCI NEWS, pg. 12
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, 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
**CASSIDY SHOEMAKE**

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 Ben; & a brother, Hu Thomas & Gladys Comm, 67, 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, George & Marcia Thompson; & a host of relatives & friends.

**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, George & Marcia Thompson; & 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 Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Enerson passed away on July 8 in Chicota.

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; brothers, Brainard Lewis; adopted brother, Michael

**IN MEMORIAM**

Cassidy Shoemake

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 Ben; & a brother, Hu Thomas & Gladys Comm, 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. 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, George & Marcia Thompson; & a host of relatives & friends.

**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, George & Marcia Thompson; & 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 Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Enerson passed away on July 8 in Chicota.

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; brothers, Brainard Lewis; adopted brother, Michael

see OBITUARIES, .........................pg. 14
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 Patrick officiated.

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

Survivors include his daughter, Jennifer Willis; son, 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 Funeral 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 rodeo awards.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sherry McMillian 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 & Vannessa 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.

Survivors include his wife, Kimberly Nickey; step-daughters, Mikolete Dan & Emily Dan; step-son, Cylas Mingo; mother, Nevalena Billie; 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.

Survivors include his parents, Randall Isaac, Sr. & Janie Hernandez; sisters, Martisha Barrack, Amanda Isaac & Vannessa 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.

...continued next page
Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. 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 Clemens; 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 Funeral 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 Ashspanek & Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

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

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 previously 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 Consultant.

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 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.