

# CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

AUGUST 2018



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



LEFT, 2018-2019 Choctaw Indian Princess Sydni Tangle affixes ribbons representing Tribal communities to the memorial wreath prior to being placed at the base of the Nanih Waiya Ceremonial Mound.

## Pearl River Resort Opens Sportsbook

Get ready to place your bets! Owned & operated by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Pearl River Resort celebrated the opening of Sportsbook at Timeout Lounge with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, August 30th.

“We’re very excited to be one of the very first tribal gaming facilities to offer traditional sports wagering,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

“Our guests can now bet on all

.....see **SPORTSBOOK**, pg. 5



Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson & Choctaw Indian Princess Sydni Tangle, along with Tribal and Resort officials, officially cut the ribbon on August 30th opening the Sportsbook at the Timeout Lounge in the Golden Moon Hotel & Casino.

## Tribe Celebrates Legacy of Nanih Waiya

Tribal officials, members & guests gathered at the Nanih Waiya Ceremonial Mound in Winston County on Thursday, August 9 to commemorate the restoration of the revered Nanih Waiya Mound and Cave sites back into the possession of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

“For many centuries, the Nanih Waiya Mound has been a cherished symbol for our tribe. Generations of our people have visited throughout the years to honor and respect the legacy of this mound,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

“Today is about, for me, the importance of teaching and passing along the stories of Nanih Waiya to the next generation. As Native Americans, its important and essential that we preserve our cultural

heritage through education. Not only do our young learn in the classroom, they also learn our ....see **LEGACY**, pg. 6

## Tribe Breaks Ground on PRES Upper Elementary Building

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Pearl River Elementary School (PRES) Upper Elementary Building on Tuesday, August 28 in Choctaw.

The \$8.5 Million project, with completion expected to be during the summer of 2019, is expected to be ready for use for the 2019-2020 school year.

The building will be single floor with 25 classrooms, staff

and student restrooms, two tutoring spaces, assistant principal office/meeting room, a teacher lounge and mechanical/electrical and IT spaces.

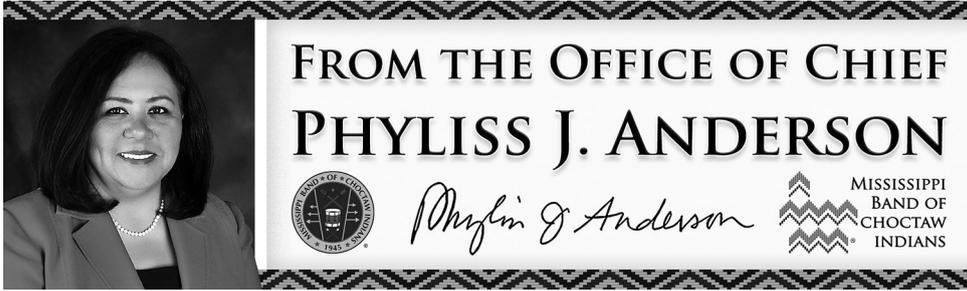
“This is a great day for our students at Pearl River Elementary and for our Choctaw community in general,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. “With the

.....see **BUILDING**, pg. 8



The Tribe held a groundbreaking ceremony for the PRES Upper Elementary Building on Aug. 28. Pictured above are Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, 2018-2019 Choctaw Indian Princess Sydni Tangle,

PRES Principal Suzanne Hyatt & staff & students, along with Tribal Council members, Choctaw Tribal Schools officials, & individuals involved in the planning, design & construction process.



Halito!  
 Summer activities are coming to an end, and students are heading into a new school year. Football and softball seasons have gotten underway and are exciting times for families to watch their favorite player out on the field.

Here in the Office of the Chief, I am enthusiastic because we are working on many projects that will greatly benefit the needs of our Choctaw people. In the coming months, you will hear about ribbon cuttings and ground breakings taking place throughout the Reservation.

If you truly take a moment to think about it, it is amazing how much we have been able to accomplish, but that is due to the incredible progress we have made these

last few years. I cannot thank you enough for your support and encouragement, and I look forward to continuing our efforts to improve the quality of life for our Tribal members.

**NEW COACHES AT CCHS**

I am very proud to welcome to the coaching staff at Choctaw Central High School Coaches James "Pepper" Posey, Mercedes Cotton, and Elyse Willis-Etheridge.

Coach Posey serves as the head football coach for the Warriors, Coach Cotton takes the reins as the head coach for Lady Warriors softball, and Coach Willis-Etheridge will take charge as the Lady Warriors golf coach. All three coaches have past ties to our wonderful athletic pro-

gram.  
 Coach Posey previously served as an assistant football coach, Coach Cotton played softball for the Lady Warriors and served as a student coach last year, and Coach Willis-Etheridge has served as assistant basketball coach for the Lady Warriors.

I am confident they will continue to do well in their new positions and will build upon the winning tradition in Choctaw Central athletics. I encourage everyone to give these coaches your support and best wishes.

**NANIH WAIYA DAY CELEBRATION**

It was an honor and joy to once again host the Nanih Waiya Day Celebration at the Nanih

Waiya Ceremonial Mound on Thursday, August 9th. Despite the extremely hot weather, I enjoyed seeing our

Waiya will never be sold, traded or negotiated with ever again.  
 We also hosted the 6th Annual Nanih Waiya Day All-Star Stickball Games at Warrior Stadium on Tuesday, August 7th. We began these games in 2013 to expand the celebrations for Nanih Waiya Day, but also to honor the best of the best players from the World Series Stickball tournament during the annual Choctaw Indian Fair.  
 In the Women's Division, *Fichik Cito Ohoyo* defeated *Fichik Malata Ohoyo* 7-3, while in the Men's Division, *Fichik Cito* triumphed over *Fichik Malata* 7-5. Candace Jefferson and Anselm Henry were the MVPs for their respective divisions.  
 Congratulations to the winners, and a big Yoko-ki to everyone who participated in these activities to celebrate Nanih Waiya Day!

Our incredible journey throughout the centuries has been filled with stories of fierce determination and perseverance against overwhelming odds. I am always very moved when I think about our ancestors who refused to leave our ancestral homelands and our Mother Mound, Nanih Waiya, even though it had been taken from us by treaty.  
 I am very proud that in April 2007, Chief Philip Martin petitioned for the return of the Mother Mound to the Tribe, and that on August 8, 2008, that goal became a reality.

Every year, on the second Friday in August, we celebrate Nanih Waiya Day, designated as a Tribal holiday and

to remind us that Nanih Waiya will never be sold, traded or negotiated with ever again.

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**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
- Melford Farve.....Communications Writer
- Diana Solomon.....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.



*In attendance for the Nanih Waiya ceremonial wreath laying ceremony included, from left, Tribal Council members Richard Sockeye of Standing Pine, Deborah Martin of Pearl River, Sharon Johnson of Red Water, Loriann Ahshapanek of Standing Pine, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Choctaw Indian Princess Sydni Tangle, Vice Chief Hilda Nickey of Conehatta, Barry McMillan of Pearl River, Wilma Simpson-McMillan of Tucker, Roderick Bell of Bogue Chitto, Chris Eaves of Crystal Ridge, & Kendall Wallace of Bogue Chitto.*



*Tribal elders had fun playing Bingo on Tuesday, August 21 at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center.*

**ELDERLY BINGO**

A bingo event for our Tribal Elders was held at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center on Tuesday, August 21st in recognition of National Senior Citizens Day. I am always happy to host these bingo events to show my appreciation to these men and women who paved the way for us to get us where we are today.

I appreciate my administration and elderly center staff for supporting these activities and I greatly look forward to my next chance to visit with our cherished Tribal Elders!

**GROUND BREAKING AT PEARL RIVER ELEMENTARY**

I was excited to break ground on Tuesday, August 28th for the new Upper Elementary building at Pearl River Elementary School. Our Tribal population continues to grow at a steady rate every year, and while that is a great thing, it does present some unique challenges.

Pearl River Elementary School has needed an expansion for many

years, and I am proud that we are now able to fulfill that goal. It was great to see everyone who came out to celebrate this wonderful new chapter in the history of the school and the Tribe, especially the students.

This project is expected to be completed during the summer of 2019 and ready for use for the 2019-2020 school year. We want to give our Tribal students the best resources and environment for learning, and the new Upper Elementary building is most definitely a step in the right direction.

**SPORTSBOOK RIBBON CUTTING**

A ribbon cutting was held for Sportsbook at Timeout Lounge at Golden Moon Casino on Thursday, August 30th. With the opening of this new location, and with the kickoff of football season, Pearl River Resort (via Sportsbook) now offers traditional sports wagering in which guests can bet on all professional league sports and major collegiate sporting events.

I was proud to be

members and Pearl River Resort officials.

I am confident this new venture will ensure that we are effectively maximizing the resources we have available to us at Pearl River Resort to offer our guests the premier gaming experience in the Southeast.

**DOI CONSULTATION AT GOLDEN MOON**

Recently, I was honored to host distinguished USET Tribal leaders in Choctaw as we prepared for a Tribal Consultation with Department of the Interior (DOI) officials. The DOI consultation, held at our Golden Moon Hotel and Casino, was in response to President Trump's Executive Order 13781 signed on March 13, 2017.

The order directed Federal agencies, including the Department of the Interior, to examine ways to reorganize to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

It is very important that tribes have a strong voice in the reorganiza-

tion conversation and plan implementation. There is historic government-to-government relationships between the tribes and the federal government to respect sovereignty and fulfill federal trust responsibility to tribes.

The Secretary of the Interior has proposed to establish 13 unified regional office boundaries across all the Department's bureaus. As the Department studies how the BIA regions and functions may best be reorganized, the Secretary is conducting tribal consultation listening sessions regionally to gain tribes' direct input into the decision-making process.

**VISIT TO ASHTON ISAAC'S CLASSROOM**

In August I also visited the Kindergarten classroom of Mrs. Ashton Isaac at Pearl River Elementary School. Mrs. Isaac is a first-year teacher and one of the very first graduates of my Teacher's Initiative Program for Choctaw Tribal Members.

The program was designed to encourage Choctaw Tribal Members interested in earning a degree in education an opportunity to go to school tuition free, while still working a full-time job in a school.

It is my sincere hope that we give more Tribal Members the opportunity to earn a professional degree and fill our classrooms with Choctaw teachers who speak our

language and share the same customs as our students.

I firmly believe we can all work together to build a stronger school system for our youth by providing professional and educational program opportunities such as this.

Mrs. Isaac is doing a wonderful job as I observed her teaching and interacting with her students. Our students have bright and eager minds ready to learn and take hold of their future. Yakoki Mrs. Isaac for welcoming me into your classroom!

**CLOSING**

I hope many of you were able to take some time off during the summer for rest and rejuvenation. With school and extracurricular activities, it will be a busy time for families. I hope to see you at many of the events I annually host in the fall and winter months.

I look forward to sharing more information with you on the various other projects that we are working on. It continues to be my great joy to use this opportunity as your Tribal Chief to ensure that our Choctaw people are being cared for and that we are creating a better future for our children. God bless the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Many Blessings,

*Phyllis J. Anderson*

Phyllis J. Anderson,  
Tribal Chief

# Notice From the Tribal Distribution Office

**DISTRIBUTION DATE IS DECEMBER 4, 2018**

Important deadlines to remember:

Tribal Court (Child Support) - Oct. 19, 2018, at 4:30 p.m.

Direct Deposit - Nov. 5, 2018, at 4:30 p.m.

Other Changes Listed Below - Nov. 5, 2018, at 4:30 p.m.

## **TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION REMINDERS!**

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

\* Over 18 years old - (Photo I.D. with birthdate);

\* Custody change - (Court Order) Parents need to fill out Changes to Tribal Distribution form & the W-4V tax forms if you wish to stop the taxes from being taken out once your child/children is released back to you;

\* Name change - (Marriage License/Divorce paper with new name on your Social Security card. List your dependants as well);

\* Address changes - It is very important that you do an address change with our office anytime you move. If you did a forwarding address with your local post office, you still need to submit an address change with our office. Forwarding time have expiration. Anytime you do an address change for yourself, always include all of your dependants;

\* Tax (W-4V) - It needs to be filled out by the individuals

for themselves and/or their dependants if they wish to have taxes taken out or stopped.

### **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

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

\* Only the individual/individuals listed as account holder should do Direct Deposit.

\* If your child/children is not listed as account holder on your account, please do not list them.

\* Do not use someone else's account to setup Direct Deposit.

\* It is very important that you let our office know whenever you close your account.

### **NEW ENROLLEES**

Contact the Enrollment Office at 601-656-5251, ext. 1542.

### **UNCLAIMED CHECKS**

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

The Tribal Distribution Office is located on the upper level of the Tribal Office building in the Finance Department. Forms are available in the lobby or in the Finance office & you can also visit [www.choctaw.org](http://www.choctaw.org).

For more information, contact Barbara Ben, Distribution Manager, at 601-650-1522.



## CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed is a brief summary & action taken.

### **SPECIAL CALL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018**

**Resolution CHO 18-104**, approving Fiscal Year 2019 Budgets for Tribal Administration, Programs, Agencies & Operations, was ADOPTED - 14 YES (L. Ahshapanek, T. Anderson, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson); 0 NO; 1 ABSTAIN (R. Bell); 2 ABSENT (R. Anderson & D. McClelland).

**SUMMARY:** The Resolution approves the budgets for Tribal Administration, Programs, Agencies & Operations for fiscal year 2019. For more information, please contact the Finance Office.

**Resolution CHO 18-105**, amending the Tribal Enterprise & Government Fringe Benefit Package for Eligible Employees to provide for \$100,000 of term life insurance at no cost to the employee, was ADOPTED - 14 YES (L. Ahshapanek, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT (R. Anderson, T. Anderson & D. McClelland).

**SUMMARY:** The Resolution approves the amendment to Tribal Government Services & Ordinance 56 Enterprise

*employee fringe benefit packages for full time employees to provide for a single policy of \$100,000 of term life insurance without regard to annual salary levels at no cost to the employee. For more information, please contact the Tribal Risk Management Office.*

**Resolution CHO 18-106**, authorizing a Distribution of Tribal Funds, was ADOPTED - 15 YES (L. Ahshapanek, T. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (R. Anderson & Davita McClelland).

**SUMMARY:** The Resolution approves Tribal Distribution in the amount of \$600.00 per Tribal member scheduled for December 4, 2018. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Distribution.

**Resolution CHO 18-107**, approving the FY 2019 Head Start Continuation Application Request, was ADOPTED - 14 YES (L. Ahshapanek, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT (R. Anderson, T. Anderson & D. McClelland).

**SUMMARY:** The Resolution approves the Department of Early Childhood Education to submit a grant application to the Administration for Children & Families, Department of Health & Human Services to continue financial assistance

.....continued next page

**SPORTSBOOK** ..... continued from page one

professional league sports & major collegiate sporting events on

our property while enjoying the other wonderful amenities our Resort offers such as gaming, fine dining & golf.”

As Choctaw Gaming Commission regulations for sports betting were recently approved, Pearl River Resort remains at the forefront of the gambling market with the new Sportsbook being the first tribal owned & operated independent sports betting facility outside the state of Nevada.

“Being a part of such a historical moment is a significant achievement for Pearl River Resort & the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. We are also excited to be the first tribal owned & operated sportsbook outside the state of Nevada,” stated Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO for Pearl River Resort.

“The Sportsbook is another great gaming addition for our guests to enjoy on our gaming floor. What sets our Sportsbook apart is that we have a dedicated room for our guests

to place their bets on a wide variety of sporting events.”

Located near the escalators at Golden Moon Hotel & Casino, the Sportsbook at Timeout Lounge offers guests the opportunity to bet on all professional league sports & major collegiate sporting events in a legal & safe environment.

The newly renovated, non-smoking lounge features 20 TVs with feeds to all major sports networks; three wager stations to place in-person bets; a full bar with charging stations for tablets & phones; 12 state-of-the-art wager/odds boards displaying all the games & scores; & sports bar food & drinks.

“As we work together to build our resort & create great new amenities for our guests, I want to say thank you to our CRDE Board, PRR Executive Team, sports betting & media partners & most importantly, the many Resort Associates who worked tirelessly to prepare our

new venue for Opening Day,” stated Anderson.

The Sportsbook at Timeout Lounge is open 24/7 for guests to watch their favorite games. Counter hours of operation are as follows: Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday from 10:00 a.m.-Midnight; Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-Midnight; and Sunday from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

Bettors can visit Player Services at Golden Moon or Silver Star to redeem winning tickets after hours. In the near future, kiosk & mobile wagering, where guests can place bets anywhere on casino grounds, will be available.

For more information on the Sportsbook, call 1.866.447.3275 or visit [www.pearlriverresort.com](http://www.pearlriverresort.com).

To stay updated on all Pearl River Resort news & events, join us on your favorite social media sites: [www.facebook.com/PearlRiverResort](http://www.facebook.com/PearlRiverResort), [www.twitter.com/PRRofficial](http://www.twitter.com/PRRofficial), or [PearlRiverResort.](http://www.youtube.com/user/</a></p>
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**BOK HOMA CASINO OPENS FIRST SATELLITE SPORTSBOOK IN PINE BELT AREA**

Sports wagering is now available at Bok Homa Casino! Conveniently located on the casino floor, the Sportsbook at Bok Homa offers guests the opportunity to bet on all professional league sports & major collegiate sporting events in a legal & safe environment. To celebrate this great new offering, Bok Homa Casino held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, September 1st.

“We are pleased to now offer sports wagering as another great gaming option for our players at Bok Homa Casino,” stated Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO for Pearl River Resort. “We are happy to be a part of this historical experience. We look forward to seeing our players,

...continued next page



**Resort Receives ACF Honor**

*Pearl River Resort received the Achievement of Excellence Award for Phillip M's Fine Dining from the American Culinary Federation (ACF). The award was presented to the Resort's CJ Hencyk, Director of Food & Beverage, and Executive Chef Louis Chatham, at the ACF National Convention in New Orleans, LA.*

programs to provide child & family development services for low income children & their families. For more information, please contact the Department of Early Childhood Education.

**Resolution CHO 18-108**, approving the Choctaw Virtual Learning Center's Handbook for the 2018-2019 School Year, was ADOPTED - 14 YES (L. Ahshapanek, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, B. McMillan, W. McMillan,

H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT (R. Anderson, T. Anderson & D. McClelland).

**SUMMARY:** The Resolution approves the handbook for the Choctaw Virtual Learning Center for the 2018-2019 School Year. For more information, please contact the Choctaw Virtual Learning Center.

**Resolution CHO 18-109**, acquiring 1.412 acres of land,

was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** The Resolution approves the purchase of 1.412 acres of land for future development in the Pearl River Community. The 1.412 acres of land is located on the north side of Highway 16 & east side of Industrial Road adjacent to Tribal land held in trust. For more information, please contact the Tribal Realty Office.

Signed resolutions are available at [www.choctaw.org](http://www.choctaw.org). To request a copy of the attachment, please fill out a request for a Resolution/Ordinance Attachment Form & submit it to the Policy & Legislative Office at [krystina.thompson@choctaw.org](mailto:krystina.thompson@choctaw.org). Requests for attachments to Enrollment Resolutions will not be honored due to confidentiality rules.

**LEGACY ..... continued from page one**

ways of life at home. It is our duties as parents, guardians and elders to teach our children.”

Anderson added that it’s our responsibility to promote that knowledge and continue to share our stories and heritage with the next generation. It is truly a circle that cannot and must never be broken.

“May our children always realize and honor the strength and courage of our ancestors and may they pass these stories on to the next generation so that they will gather here, just as we have gathered here today, to celebrate our unique identity,” said Anderson.

Captain Harold “Doc” Comby of MBCI Department of Public Safety and respected Tribal leader recollected the migration and emersion stories associated with the Nanih Waiya legend to the audience, which included leaders from various Tribes and national organizations.

“It is told that we are

the traditional people that failed to move because the Great Spirit told us that if we ever left the mound we would fail to exist as a people. So, in the year 2018, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians are still here,” said Comby.

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 eroded into the present form.

Anderson, along with Vice Chief Hilda Nickey and Tribal Council members in attendance Roderick Bell, Kendall Wallace, Chris Eaves, Deborah Martin, Barry McMillan, Sharon Johnson, Loriann Ahshapanek, Richard Sockey, and Wilma Simpson-McMillan, affixed colorful ribbons representing the eight tribal communities to the memorial wreath which was then placed



*Entertaining the audience at the mound was the Choctaw Unity Social Dancers.*

at the base of the mound.

Led by chanter Ralph Isaac, members of the Choctaw Unity Social Dancers performed several social dances to entertain the audience.

Choctaw Indian Princess Sydni Tangle 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.

The Choctaw people and their ancestors have revered Nanih Waiya for centuries as their Mother Mound and consider it the heart of the Choctaw people.

The darkest chapter of

Choctaw history began in the late 18th century as the Choctaw gradually lost their ancestral homeland. Between 1786-1830, nine treaties were signed between the Choctaw and the United States.

In the final treaty, the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, signed on September 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 20th 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.

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 observed annually on the second Friday in August. Tribal officials

.....continued pg. 8

**SPORTSBOOK ..... continued from page five**

as well as new bettors, come out & wager on a wide variety of sporting events.”

The Sportsbook at Bok Homa features 13 TVs displaying a combination of odds/wagers & game content; access to feeds of most major sports networks; & one wager station to place in-person bets.

Hours of operation are as follows: Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday from 10:00 a.m.-Midnight; Saturday from

9:00 a.m.-Midnight; and Sunday from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

Bettors can visit Player Services to redeem winning tickets after hours. In the near future, Bok Homa Casino will offer kiosk & mobile wagering, where guests can place bets anywhere on casino grounds.

Guests must be 21 years of age or older to place bets. For more information on the Sportsbook at Bok Homa, call 1.866.447.3275 or visit [www.bokhomacasino.com](http://www.bokhomacasino.com).

**2018 ALL-STAR STICKBALL WOMEN'S CHAMPION - FICHIK CITO OHOYO**

team members included Abigail Hickman, Ahinah Alex, Alana Hickman, Alexandria York, Ashley Stephens, Ashley Wesley, Bonnie Ben, Breanna Vaughn, Brittney Lewis, Brooklynn Bell, Cambree York, Candace Jefferson, Chelsey Bell, Christina Wilson, Christy Bounds, Crystal Roach, Darien Tubby, Darisa Tubby, Daysianara Lewis, Decemma Hickman, DeShayna Hickman, Dianna Wesley, Dyranda Jimmie, Elizabeth Robinson, Ella'Ga'Ne Sam, Elyse Etheridge, Evangeline King, Gabrielle Dixon, Gabrielle Wilson, Hannah Bell, Heather Tangle, Jasmine Hickman, Joni Bell, Johnita Conrad, Justina Dixon, Karla Joe,



Katalina Morris, Kayla Willis, Kelley Sockey, LaCynthia Dixon, Lana Tubby, LaTonya Bell, Lattoriah Johnson, Lauren Ben, Lynora Willis, Maleighia Joe, Mariah Lewis, Mercedes Cotton, MeShay Jimmie, Molliekai Vaughn, Precious Jim, Raina King, Randi Williams, Relissia Ray, Shamira Dixon, Sheila Willis, Sonya Willis, Symone Williams, Tamela Solomon, Tiffani Rigen, Tiffany Thomas, & Zeasha Vaughn.

**2018 ALL-STAR STICKBALL WOMEN'S RUNNER-UP - FICHIK MALATA OHOYO**

team members included Ann Jim, Ashland Willis, Audrey Jimmie, Brandi Farve, Breanna Billie, Cassandra Billy, Casey Willis, Cassandra Farve, Cenitria Smith, Chantay Frazier, Chiral Stephens, Cinidra Smith, Danice King, Deaundrea Johnson, Delaine McMillan, Denielle Phillips, Dori Dixon, Durnene Farmer, Emily Shoemake, Erica Phillips, Jazzlynn Ben, Julianne Jefferson, Kandice Ben, Kimberly Billy, Kristen McBeath, Kristen Steve, Laka Anderson, Laraya McMillan, LaShayla McMillan, Lillie Shoemake, Malaney Nickey, Mandy Billy, Maria Davis,



Melia Solomon, Melody Jimmie, Mildred Jimmie, Natisha Isaac, Odesa Farve, Reese Tubby, Renaysia Polk, Renita Perry, Shavon Willis, Shayla Lewis, Shelvie Dixon, Sherina Solomon, Shonika Billy, Sylendria Fireplace, Tanisha Imhof, Thomasina Lindsey, Tiara Morris, Vanessa Frazier, Willa Thomas, & Zenetta Williams.

**2018 ALL-STAR STICKBALL MEN'S CHAMPION - FICHIK CITO**

team members included Alex McMillan, Andrew Sockey, Anselm Henry, Arnado Sam, Bobby Henry, Boris Isaac, Chanz Parkerson, Dalton Clegg, Dana Clemmons, Jr., Daniel Ben, Danny Anderson, Jr., Dayton Bell, Derald Isom, Derek Willis, Doug Samuel, Drew Tubby, Dy'Ni Morris, Frankie Farmer, Frankie Garcia, Gabriel Tubby, Galen John, Garrick Stoliby, Hester Dixon, Jacob Bell, James Denson, Jamison Gibson, Jeremiah Robinson, Jerius Tubby, Josh Tubby, Justin Bell, Justin Peace Willis, Kanyon Jimmie, Kendall Wallace, Kendrick Bell, Kendrick Wesley, Lance Thomas, Liasha Alex, Lionel Bell, Mar-



co Thomas, Jr., Melton Robinson, Nathaniel Amos, Neal Vaughn, Nikko King, Rickey Thompson, Jr., Robert Isaac, Jr., Roger Mayfield, Sagel Jimmie, Satchell Willis, Shaun Jimmie, Shawn Shoemake, Teddy Hickman, Tobiah Ben, Trey Lilly, Tushka Willis, Tyler Mitch, Warren Dixon, Wauseka York, Winter Solomon, & Zane Thompson.

**2018 ALL-STAR STICKBALL MEN'S RUNNER-UP - FICHIK MALATA**

team members included Alexander Bell, Alexander Farve, Beeman Farmer, Blake Edwards, Bryan Williamson, Christopher Willis, Curtis Tyler Williamson, Dakota Jefferson, Dale Phillips, Deanrick Isom, Delano John, Demarquis Wilson, Deric Hickman, Djon John, Draven Hickman, Drexler Tangle, Dudley Williams, Eric Dixon, Eric Dixon, Sr., Eric Hickman, Jr., Fabien Anderson, Forrest Billy, Geno Mack, Germaine Isom, Harvey McMillan, Isaiah Billy, Jamie Wesley, Jamieson Wilson, Jeremy Wesley, Jerod McMillan, John Evans, Jonathan Steve, Jordan Bell, Joshua Thomas, Kelby Anderson, Kevin Grisham, Lonzo Shoemake, Lorenzo Shoemake, Marco Wickson, Mario



Chickaway, Marshall Bell, Merrick Hickman, Michael Robinson, Michael S. Bell, Miguel Pedraza, Miles Yazzie, Neshoba Reed, Redmond Dixon, Regis Wilson, Rockky Isom, Rodgrick Anderson, Ronnie Reed, Jr., Ryan Carson, Shane Isaac, Shaunray Polk, Sidney Butler, Steve Thomas, Torondo Willis, Yunish Billy, & Zach Farmer.

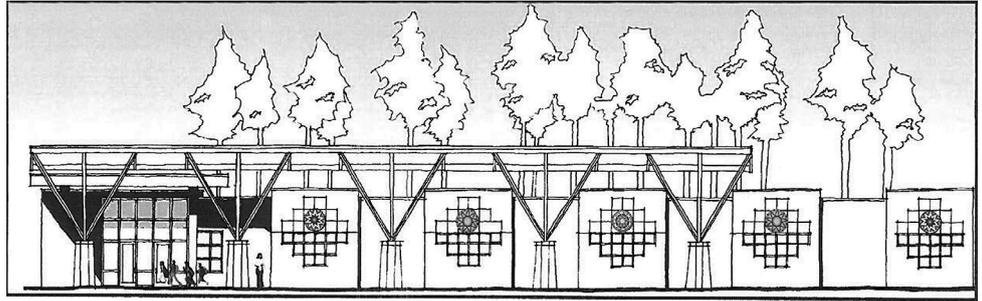
**BUILDING ..... continued from page one**

breaking of ground for the new Pearl River Upper Elementary building, we are taking great steps forward in providing the best possible learning environment for our Choctaw students.”

The project also includes an outdoor classroom, two new playgrounds and a sheltered outdoor recreation/learning space. The Upper Elementary Building

will service grades third through sixth.

“I am so happy for this day to finally be here,” said PRES Principal Suzanne Hyatt. “After many years of hoping and months of planning, we are excited to start the process of getting our students out of trailers and in their very own building. I cannot thank Tribal Chief Anderson and the Choctaw Tribal



*Rendition of the PRES Upper Elementary Building.*



Council enough for their support on making this project a reality.”

Opened in 1990, PRES currently houses 600 students. As of to-

day, eight trailers with 16 classrooms, are being used for third through sixth grades which includes 200 students.

This building will

eliminate all the trailers used at PRES. Choctaw cultural aspects have been incorporated into the Upper Elementary Building design.

**LEGACY ..... continued from page six**

rescinded Columbus Day as a holiday to offer Choctaws an appropriate time to celebrate the return of lands considered sacred.

Another Nanih Waiya cel-

ebration activity included the 6th Annual Nanih Waiya Day All-Star Stickball Games that took place on Tuesday, August 7 at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central

High School in Choctaw.

The games showcased the best men and women Choctaw stickball players recognized during the 69th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair’s World Series Stickball (WSS) championships.

In the women’s contest, *Fichik Cito Ohoyo* (Big Star) defeated *Fichik Malata Ohoyo* (Shining Star) 7-3. In the men’s contest, *Fichik Cito* defeated *Fichik Malata* 7-5.

Selected as this year’s MVP’s were Candace Jefferson of *Fichik Cito Ohoyo* and Anselm Henry of *Fichik Cito*.

The All-Star Games were WSS sanctioned and administered using the Choctaw Indian Fair’s WSS rules and regula-

tions.

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 with rules and regulations with no history of penalties and must have been a registered player or coach on a qualified stickball team during the 2018 WSS tournament.



*The top 2018 WSS players faced each other in the 6th Annual Nanih Waiya All-Star Stickball Games at Warrior Stadium in Choctaw.*



***Fichik Cito Ohoyo Honors*** - Coach Jimmy Vaughn, Jr., pictured left, accepts the Women’s All-Star Stickball championship award as Candace Jefferson, pictured right, received the MVP honor. Presenting the awards were Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Choctaw Indian Princess Sydni Tangle & WSS Commissioner Thomas Ben.



***Fichik Cito Honors*** - Coach Randy Jimmie, pictured left, accepts the Men’s All-Star Stickball championship award as Anselm Henry, pictured right, received the MVP honor. Presenting the awards were Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Choctaw Indian Princess Sydni Tangle & WSS Commissioner Thomas Ben.



# PFE Board Holds First Meeting of School Year

The Title I Parent & Family Engagement (PFE) Board met on August 28 at the Ayipa Café in the Career & Technical Education Center (formerly Occupational Training Center).

PFE Chair Diana Alex recognized Lavera Gibson as the Outstanding Choctaw Educator for the month of August. Lavera has worked for the Tribe for 29 years. For the past 20 years she has been teaching third grade at Pearl River Elementary School (PRES).

She has worked as a filing clerk & phlebotomist at Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula prior to working with the Tribe. She was with the Choctaw Adult Education Program, Special Education Program and Choctaw Tribal Schools' Food Service Department before teaching at PRES.

Lavera attended Conehatta Elementary School



Lavera Gibson, third grade teacher at PRES, was named the Outstanding Choctaw Educator for the month of August.

and graduated from Choctaw Central High School. She holds a B. S. Degree from Mississippi State University. Lavera is the daughter of Frank and Meriva Williamson from the Conehatta Community. She is married to Eddie Lloyd Gibson and they have five children and 12 amazing grandchildren!

Lavera's very special friend and former co-worker, Mary Gamblin Harrison, her principal, Suzanne Hyatt, and her sister, Verna, were in attendance to honor Lavera on this well-deserved recognition.

Alex also recognized three new Tribal School principals: Jammy Davis of Bogue Chitto Elementary School, Bruce Burns of Choctaw Central Middle School and Bobby Eiland of Red Water Elementary School. The principals spoke briefly about their educational experience and about their new schools.

Peggy Crowe, Curriculum Coordinator, and Nell Atkins, RTI Coordinator, presented important information about the upcoming Advanced Education Review. Team members will be at Choctaw from February 3-6, 2019.

Board members nominated Matthew Bell and Terry Kinsolving to fill the vacancies created by retiring board members from the Pearl

River Community, Scottie Wallace and Felicia Sharp.

For further information, please contact Heather Adams at 601-

663-7640 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.



Pictured from left are Standing Pine Councilman Richard Sockey of the Education Committee, 2018-2019 PFE Co-Chair Denise John, 2018-2019 PFE Chair Diana Alex, new PFE Board members Renata Morris, Melinda Ben, & Bobby Henry.

## CCHS Tutors Assisting Students

Choctaw Central High School tutors are off to a great school year so far. Richard Rivers & Jan



Thompson are working with students on an iReady plan to improve math & reading scores in the ninth grade. Amy Deen, Linda Tingle, & Brenda Nowell are working with sophomores, juniors, & seniors to improve their ACT scores utilizing Grade Results, March2Success &

Star Testing. The TruTest has been given & the scores will determine what students will need specific help on the ACT. Tutors are located in the CCHS Library & are there to assist students with needs that go beyond the classroom schedule.



## WNBA's Vivians Visits SPES

Victoria Vivians, former Mississippi State University (MSU) Bulldog & current guard for the Indiana Fever of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), made a surprise visit to Standing Pine Elementary School on Thursday, August 30. Vivians, who graduated from nearby Scott Central High School in Forest, visited the students as she reflected on her basketball career & offered advice on overcoming obstacles & being successful in life. While at MSU, Vivians helped lead the Bulldogs to four appearances in the NCAA Tournament, including three Sweet Sixteens, & two appearances in the championship game in 2017 & 2018. She was chosen eighth overall by the Indiana Fever in the 2018 WNBA Draft on April 12.



# New CCHS Coaches Announced

Choctaw Central High School announced the additions of three new head coaches to the athletic department during a press conference on Monday, August 6 at the CCHS library.

Elyse Etheridge will head the girl's golf team, Mercedes Cotton takes the helm of the slow- and fast-pitch softball teams and Pepper Posey returns to lead the football squad.

In her 10th year with



From left, new Choctaw Central High School athletic coaches include Elyse Etheridge for Lady Warriors golf, Mercedes Cotton for Lady Warriors softball & Pepper Posey for Warriors football.

CCHS athletics, Etheridge led the Lady Warriors to their first cross country state championship in 2013 which garnered her Coach of the Year honors. She also coached slow- and

fast-pitch softball & is currently an assistant basketball coach with the CCHS Lady Warriors and head basketball coach of the CCMS girls.

"I'm not experienced in golf, but I am willing to learn. We started winning ways here at Choctaw Central, and I like to continue that in golf. Maybe we'll have a girl to win state, maybe our team will win state, but that's one of our goals here," said Etheridge.

"I'm willing to strive for excellence for our kids. Hopefully with my experiences working with other sports teams around here, I can build

a program with a winning tradition in golf as well."

A 2009 graduate of CCHS, Cotton had a standout softball career. After attending the University of Tennessee and East Mississippi Community College, she graduated from Mississippi State University this past year while serving as a student coach for the Lady Warriors softball program.

"I enjoy playing softball, and I always wanted to be a coach here. After I graduated from college, the door opened, and now I'm here. I hope to lead this team to a state championship," said Cotton.

"A majority of the girls play travel ball so it's not really hard for me to get them to learn the game of fast-pitch. I just help them with their mechanics."

Six starters are returning as the Lady Warriors make it to the third round of the 2017 slow-pitch playoffs and a berth in the 2018 South State finals in fast-pitch.

"The girls have really good talent, and I know they are capable of winning. With my assistant coaches (Renate Ben and Randi Williams), they are very supportive, and I'm pretty sure we can do it."

"I feel very proud that I'm here teaching these kids the game of softball, something that I love. It's a passion and I want to give that to them and let them have a love for the game," added Cotton.

Posey makes his return to the Warriors sidelines in hopes of reviving a winning tradition back to the football program after winless seasons in 2016 and 2017.

"We're looking to bring some of that winning attitude back. With hard work, you can accomplish anything and with hard work you have luck. You just don't have a lot of luck when you are doing things average. You got to work very hard and make yourself your own

...continued next page



## Battle of the Nations XXII

The Cherokee (N.C.) Braves won their third consecutive win over the Choctaw Central Warriors to capture the 22nd Battle of the Nations rivalry game 27-6 on Aug. 24 at Ray Kinsland Stadium on the campus of Cherokee High School in Cherokee, NC. The Braves hold a 13-9 advantage in the series. **TOP PHOTO**, The Warrior defense wraps up a Braves running back. **BOTTOM PHOTO**, Choctaw Central's Gerald Isom (left) & Andrew Sockey (right) elude the Cherokee defense.



## Lady Warrior Signs Letter of Intent With EMCC

Former Choctaw Central Lady Warrior Candace Jefferson recently signed a letter of intent to play collegiate softball this season at East Mississippi Community College in Scooba. A signing ceremony was held in the Choctaw Central library as family members, teammates, coaching staff, school officials, & friends were in attendance. Jefferson is a 2017 graduate of CCHS.

luck.”  
 A 1988 graduate of Neshoba Central High School then the University of Southern Mississippi, Posey started his coaching career as an assistant at Sturgis Attendance Center from 1994-95.  
 From 1995-2002, Posey served as an assistant under then-head coach Tommy McCool

as the Warriors enjoyed successful winning seasons, making playoff appearances and winning a division title.  
 Posey returned to Neshoba in 2002 as an assistant. He then became head coach at Newton from 2003-2005 before returning to Neshoba as an assistant from 2005-2015. Medical issues forced him to take a hi-

atus, but now he’s anxious to return to coaching.  
 Posey said he’s ready for the challenge to restore a winning attitude for not only the school, but the Tribe.  
 “We’re dedicated and we’re going to work hard. We’re going to try our best and it’s not going to be because of lack of work I can tell you

that. We’re going to hit that field and try to win some games.”  
 “We cannot accept being complacent anymore. That’s when you do not want to get better and in my book, you cannot accept complacency when you are a coach because your team will. It bothers me to lose and that’s where that attitude has to change,” said

Posey.  
 After a few days of practice, Posey said he saw a well-disciplined team with a certain quality he looks for in a team.  
 “There is a little bit of hunger in them. I think they want to win. We’re going to find out if they want to as the season progresses.

## Mississippi Museum of Art Presents Gibson’s Like A Hammer Exhibit

The Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson is currently presenting Jeffrey Gibson: Like A Hammer, an exhibition of work by contemporary artist Jeffrey Gibson, from September 8, 2018 through January 27, 2019, in The Gertrude C. Ford Galleries for the Permanent Collection.

Organized by and currently on view at the Denver Art Museum (DAM), Like A Hammer showcases Gibson’s acclaimed multi-disciplinary work from 2011 to the present. The exhibition will be presented with generous support from the Selby and Richard McRae Foundation.

Like A Hammer features approximately 65 objects, including large and mid-sized figurative works, text-based wall hangings, a significant selection of his illustrious Everlast beaded punching bags, painted works on rawhide and canvas, as well as videos.

Chronicling a pivotal moment in the artist’s career, when his contemporary artistic practice converged with his Native American heritage—Gibson is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and is part Chero-

kee—the exhibition displays Gibson’s “unique ability to incorporate Indigenous aesthetics with non-Native influences to create something new, without losing touch with the past,” writes John P. Lukavic, DAM’s associate curator of Native Arts in the DAM-produced companion exhibition catalog.

“Like a Hammer features works from one of the most important periods of my career so far,” says Gibson. “The exhibition begins with artworks that I made just after nearly giving up making art altogether due to feeling misunderstood as an artist and struggling to establish a personal language that describes my experience without compromising it.”

“The objects, sculptures and paintings I’ve made since 2011 document this journey of establishing my own forward-looking voice influenced by all that has come before me.”

The exhibition explores universal themes of race, power, control, stereotypes, and colonialism, as well as love, community, strength, vulnerability, and survival through

works created from an assortment of materials—from rawhide, tipi poles, sterling silver, wool blankets, metal cones, beads, fringe, and sinew to Everlast punching bags, ironing boards, and looking glasses—and the incorporation of language drawn from popular song lyrics, poems, and the artist’s own writings.

“The Museum aims to present exhibitions that resonate on many levels for many different viewers, and Jeffrey Gibson: Like A Hammer does just that,” says Betsy Bradley, Director of the Mississippi Museum of Art.

“Gibson’s inventive multimedia practice engages a past rooted in Mississippi experience, just as it proposes exciting visions for evolving contemporary American identities. The Museum is honored to be a part of the artist’s Mississippi homecoming and excited for the conversations his work will inspire.”

Gibson grew up in major urban centers in the U.S., Germany, Korea, England, and elsewhere. This unique combination of global cultural influences converge in his multi-disciplinary practice of more than a decade, since the completion of his Master of

Arts degree in painting at The Royal College of Art, London, in 1998, and his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, in 1995.

Gibson’s artworks are in the permanent collections of many major art museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Smithsonian; the National Gallery of Canada; the Nasher; the Nerman; Crystal Bridges; and the Denver Art Museum.

Recent solo exhibitions include SCAD Museum of Art (Savannah and Atlanta); the National Academy Museum in New York; The Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston; and the Cornell Museum of Fine Art.

The Denver Art Museum mounted a traveling mid-career survey in the Spring of 2018, followed by a smaller solo exhibition at the Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art in the Fall of 2018. He has participated in Greater New York, Prospect New Orleans, the Everson Biennale, and Site Santa Fe.

Gibson is a member of the faculty at Bard College and a past TED Foundation Fellow and Joan Mitchell Grant recipient.

.....see EXHIBIT, pg. 16

## DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

### Princess & Warrior Survival Week

The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) sponsored the Princess & Warrior Survival Week cultural training for members of the Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI from June 6-15, 2018.

Sessions were held at units in Bogue Chitto, Standing Pine, Crystal Ridge, Conehatta, Pearl River, Red Water, Tucker, & the Pearl River Teen Center.

Girls activities included beading diamond-shaped necklaces & bracelets, sewing quilt blocks & making key chains with pony beads. Classes were conducted by CAP staff members Lorena Alex, May McGeisey, Trudy Jimmie, & consultant Rowena Willis. Teegan Clemmons from the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) assisted the staff with the activities.

Boys activities included making small replicas of Choctaw drums & learning how to beat drums in Choctaw chants, dances, & songs under instructions by consultants Garrison Joe & Ken Frazier, CAP staff member Casey Bigpond & Elias Jimmie from the YOP.

Funding for the sessions was provided by the 2018 Choctaw Community Fund.

The CAP staff appreciates Thomas Ben, Day Training Program Director, for assigning trainees to assist them with preparation for the events. It was very successful & all the boys & girls took their projects seriously & completed them all.

### CAP Staff Performs in Kosciusko

On Tuesday, June 12, CAP staff members & consultants traveled to

Kosciusko to perform Choctaw social dances for participants of Attala County Library's Summer Program. The presentation was held in the Attala County Coliseum.

The dances performed included the Walk, Corn, Raccoon, Snake, & Fast War. With participation from the spectators, Stealing Partners was enjoyed by all as this dance has become a favorite of all dances.

### CAP Makes Crown, Sash

For the third consecutive year, the CAP honored a special request from the Social Services Program as they completed a sash & crown & presented it to Deontay Isaac for her 19th birthday.

CAP staff members Casey Bigpond, Wendy Thompson, Lorena Alex, & Trudy Jimmie worked on the sash as Teegan Clemmons of YOP worked on the crown. A presentation was made to Deontay on Thursday, June 21 at the Pearl River Baptist



*Choctaw Social Dancers who performed at the Attala County Coliseum included (seated from left) May McGeisey, Phyllis McMillan, Teegan Clemmons, Lorena Alex, Wendy Thompson; (standing from left) Sherman Bell, Garrison Joe, Ken Frazier, Elias Jimmie, Isaiah Chickaway, & Casey Bigpond.*

Church.

### Drumming Class Held in Crystal Ridge

The boys of the Crystal Ridge Community received drumming lessons by CAP staff member Casey Bigpond & consultants Garrison Joe & Ken Frazier. Elias Jimmie of YOP assisted with the training on June 22.

Participants in the drumming class created miniature replicas of the drum & were taught how to beat the Choctaw drum.

While the boys were learning how to drum, the Crystal Ridge Com-

munity girls learned how to bead diamond-shaped necklaces, sew quilt blocks & make key chains. Instructors for the girls' activities were Trudy Jimmie, May McGeisey, Lorena Alex, & Teegan Clemmons.

### Final Workshops Held in September

The month of September featured Choctaw Shirt Making Workshops throughout the Tribal communities. These workshops were the final activities for Fiscal Year 2017-2018:

Sept. 5 at the Bogue

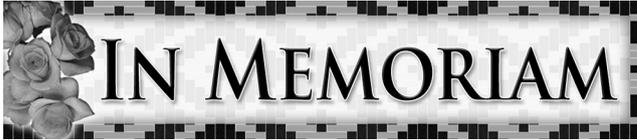
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**(LEFT)** Bogue Chitto Boys & Girls Unit members pose for a photo after participating in a drum making class. **(RIGHT)** Teegan Clemmons from YOP wears a beautiful beaded crown of butterflies, mermaid & dolphins & a matching sash. Deontay's name is beaded on the sash & crown with the edge beaded in an array of vibrant colors.



*Drumming class participants at the Crystal Ridge Facility Building beat authentic Choctaw drums made by renowned Choctaw artisan Bill Farmer of the Tucker community.*



**UNA MAE DENSON**

Funeral service for Una Mae Denson, 84, was held on Saturday, August 4, 2018, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Pastor Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E.

Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Denson passed away on August 1 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church. She was a cook at Standing Pine Elementary School & Standing Pine Child-

hood Center. She enjoyed cooking, beading, sewing, reading the Bible, listening to gospel music, & singing hymns.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Willie Denson & Beaudie Anderson; sisters, Margaret Denson & Imogene Norma Long; & brother, Easlin Denson.

Survivors include her sisters, Mary Billy & Regina Taylor; brothers, Hector Denson, Sr. & Edward Denson, Sr.; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**LALINE WILLIAMS FARVE**

Funeral service for Laline Williams Farve, 84, was held on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples & Pastor Thomas Ben officiated.

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

Ms. Farve passed away on August 3 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

She enjoyed attending the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center & was a housekeeper at Thaggard Hospital & a cook at Standing Pine Head Start, Childcare Center.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lewis & Mamie Williams; husband, Joseph Farve; daughter, Betty Ann Mingo; sis-

ters, Mary Ann Denson & Sarah Williams; brother, Carter Williams; step-daughters, Annie Mae Williams & Encie Dixon; & stepson, Huey Farve.

Survivors include daughters, Esther Comby, Delilah Gibson, Jodie Farve, & Precious Farve; step-daughter, Essie Steve; sons, John Farve, Ben Farve & Alexander Farve; stepsons, Billy Farve & Richard Farve; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**TRISCILLA GAIL JEFFERSON**

Funeral service for Triscilla Gail Jefferson, 40, was held on Tuesday, August 14, 2018, from the Conehatta Community Gymnasium. Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community

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

Ms. Jefferson passed away on August 8 at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, GA.

She enjoyed sports & traveling.

She was preceded in death by her father, Charles Jefferson, Sr.; brother, Sidney Chapman; 5 aunts; & 6 uncles.

Survivors include her daughters, Kaylee Yescas & Emery Vardary; sons, Troy Yescas, Julian Yescas, Connery Yescas, Chasyn Yescas, & Josiah Croker; mother, Julie Jefferson; sisters, Natalie Jefferson & Cassie Jefferson; brother, Charles Jefferson, Jr.; 2 uncles; a great-aunt; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

.....see OBITS, pg. 14

- Chitto Facility Building; Sept. 7 at the Tucker Facility Building;
- Sept. 11 at the Crystal Ridge Facility Building;
- Sept. 14 at the Pearl River Community Center;
- Sept. 18 at the Conehatta Facility Building;

- Sept. 20 at the Standing Pine Facility Building;
- Sept. 25 at the Red Water Facility Building;
- Sept. 27 at the Bogue Homa Gymnasium.
- For cultural information, call 601-663-7506.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
Office of Engineering Services

*Notice is hereby given that the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) has developed a Tribal Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP). The TTIP identifies proposed tribal transportation projects consistent with the Tribe's adopted Long Range Transportation Plan & provides estimates of funding needs for those projects for a period of five years. Project prioritization & cost projections are based upon FY 2018 funding levels for the Tribal Transportation Program as allocated by Congress. These funding levels may change from year to year based upon a variety of factors. The public is entitled & encouraged to review MBCI's draft TTIP. Copies of the draft TTIP are available to review upon request. To receive a copy of the draft TTIP or to submit questions, please contact Reggie Shumaker, Office of Engineering Services, at (601) 663-7546 or email address rshumaker@choctaw.org.*

*Come and Worship with us*



**Macedonia Baptist Church**  
130 Campus Drive  
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

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*Wednesday*

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

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*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*

**Welcome To**



**Sunday - 10:00 a.m.**  
**10341 Road 789**  
**Philadelphia, MS 39350**  
Pastor Patrick Evans

*Come Join Us...*



**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

OBITS ..... continued from page thirteen

**ANITA MARIE BELL COTTON**

Funeral service for Anita Marie Bell Cotton, 58, was held on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, from the Bogue Chitto Community Gymnasium. Rev. George Dixon officiated.

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

Ms. Cotton passed away on August 11 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She enjoyed being with family & was a receptionist at Bogue Chitto Elementary School.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bob & Luceline Bell; daughter, Virginia Solis Ray; sisters, Linda

Christensen, Gina Nene & Evelyn Jefferson; brother, Robert Bell; & common-law husband, Stephen Spears.

Survivors include her sons, Shelby Cotton, Merrill Cotton, Nolan Bell, & Kyle Spears; sisters, Iva Lou Steve & Verna May Bell; 6 grandchildren; an aunt & uncle; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**ALMA JOHN BELL**

Funeral service for Alma John Bell, 75, was held on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & 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.

Ms. Bell passed away on August 11 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She enjoyed being with family, doing puzzles & reading.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mary John & Gus Comby; husband, Royce Bell, Sr.; daughters, Mary Bell & Evalene Clemmons; son, Curtis Bell; sisters, Seleena John, Ramona Chickaway & Barbara Comby; brothers, Silmon John & Dennis Mingo; a grandchild; & 3 great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her companion, Johnie Dixon; daughters, Debra Bell & Evelyn Bell; son, Royce Bell, Jr.; sisters, Louisa Mingo & Roberta Tubby; brothers, Nelson John, David Mingo, Oscar Min-

go, Jr., Larry J. Comby, & Randall Comby; 17 grandchildren; 41 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

**JOE ELWOOD SHOEMAKE**

Funeral service for Joe Elwood Shoemake, 60, was held on Thursday, August 16, 2018, from the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Conehatta. Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Shoemake passed away on August 13 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He was employed with Choctaw Workforce Development & enjoyed being with fam-

ily & friends, fishing, playing washers, making stickballs, & reading the Bible.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elton Shoemake, Sr. & Elazabeth Solomon; sister, Dinah Shoemake; & brothers, Elton Shoemake, II & Joel Shoemake, Sr.

Survivors include a daughter, Karedi Shoemake; sons, Jeris Shoemake, Jay Shoemake, Sr. & Jerandon Frazier; sister, Loretta Shoemake; 17 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**CURTIS MACK WILLIS**

Funeral service for Curtis Mack Willis, 59, was held on Sunday, August 19, 2018, from Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River. Deacon Williamson

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We invite you to help us learn more about health and safety in Native American women's relationships. The information you provide will help address the safety needs of Native women in the US.

If you are eligible:

You will be asked to complete four web-based sessions, each approximately 60-90 minutes. For each completed session, you will receive a gift card:

Initial Session	\$ 20
3 Month	\$ 25
6 Month	\$ 30
12 Month	\$ 40
Total	\$ 115

At the end of each session you will receive safety resources.

Find out if you are eligible:

<https://ourcircle.nursing.jhu.edu>

For more information, email us at: [ourcircle@jhu.edu](mailto:ourcircle@jhu.edu)

This project has received IRB approval from Johns Hopkins University (IRB00062191) and Arizona State University (STUDY00003313). ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03265847  
This research project is supported by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number R01HD081179. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

**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



**REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY**



Call 1-855-4-THE REZ (1-855-484-3739)

or visit [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com)

**CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:**

- **Theft**
- **Child Abuse**
- **Vandalism**
- **Illegal Drugs**
- **Bullying**
- **Assault**
- **Or any other illegal activity**

You can call 24 hours a day & report your concern to us. No one will ask your name, you will remain anonymous. Your tip may lead to a **REWARD, up to \$1,000!**

Isaac & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Willis passed away on August 15 at his residence.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, playing stickball & softball & participating in the Day Training Program.

He was preceded in death by his father, Theodore York; sister, Monica Sue Willis Hall; brother, Harold Brant Willis, Sr.; a niece & 2 nephews.

Survivors include his son, Lawrence Dewey; mother, Susie Willis; brothers, Kevin Willis, Sr., Tyler Willis & Ronnie Willis; 2 uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**LYNDA FAYE KINSOLVING**

Memorial service for Lynda Faye Kinsolving, 51, was held on Friday, August 24, 2018, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery.

Ms. Kinsolving passed away on August 3.

She enjoyed sports & was employed with Monroe Plan in Rochester, NY & the Salvation Army's Dress for Success Program.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hubert Bell & Ann Bell Clemons, Sam & Wanda Lee Kinsolving; grandmother, Beulah Kinsolv-

ing; 9 aunts; & 3 uncles.

Survivors include her son, Jerry III Clark; son's father, Jerry Clark; sister, Claudine Bell; brother, Jerry Kinsolving; 4 aunts; 3 uncles; & a host of relatives & friends.

**DAVIAN CHASE HICKMAN, SR.**

Funeral service for Davian Chase Hickman, Sr., 38, was held on Saturday, August 25, 2018, from Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Henderson Williams officiated.

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

Mr. Hickman passed away on August 21 at his residence.

He was a dealer at Silver Star Hotel & Casino & enjoyed being with family & friends, playing sports & listening to music.

Survivors include his wife, Regina Hickman; daughter, Emily Hickman; sons, Davian Hickman, Jr. & Christian Hickman; mother & step-father, Judith & Joseph Wesley; father, Harrison Hickman; brothers, Donovan Hickman, Dustin Hick-

man & Delanie Hickman; step-sisters, Shannon Wesley & Tashina Whitehead; 6 aunts; an uncle; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JAMES CRAIG HICKMAN**

Funeral service for James Craig Hickman, 59, was held on Sunday, August 26, 2018, 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. Hickman passed away on August 21 at Missouri Delta Medical Center in Sikeston, MO.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, playing cards & listening to music. He was employed at a cotton gin mill in Missouri, nursing home & Siwell Star Casino.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Hickman & Margaret Lewis Hickman; sisters, Joann Hickman, Joyce Collins & Joy Hickman; brothers, Bill Hickman, Sr., Freeman Hickman, David Hickman, Franklin Hickman, & Johnny Hickman;

a granddaughter & a nephew.

Survivors include his sons, Adam Neal & Douglas Hickman; 6 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**SUSIE MAE BELL**

Funeral service for Susie Mae Bell, 76, was held on Monday, September 3, 2018, from 170 Rolling Hills Circle in Choctaw. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Pearl River Mennonite Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Bell passed away

on August 30 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a homemaker & enjoyed cooking & being with family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Gibson Bell & Lucy Wallace; daughters, Mary Jane Bell & Nellie Bell; sister, Nellie Zoe Willis; brothers, Sterling Bell & Lynch Bell; & a great-granddaughter.

Survivors include her brother, Ralph Bell; 3 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.



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**OUTDOOR MARKET**  
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY



(LEFT) Happy 8th Birthday to Riley Meely on Sept. 1. With lots of hugs & kisses from Mommie, Daddy, Pay-Pay, Cadence, & the rest of the family.



(RIGHT) Look who turned 18 on Oct. 18, 2018. Our baby to a young man he

became. We love you very much, son. Love from your family.



To my mom - I miss you & love you. To my brother Darris, my sister Martisha, my step-father Jun-Bug, Janice, my nieces & nephews, & the rest of my relatives - I miss yall folks & keep me in yall's prayers. Don't worry momma, I'll be home soon. Love, your daughter, Amanda Tassie Isaac (Sista).

Happy Birthday to Horace Lewis, Jr., who will turn 62 years old, from your wife.



Happy 100th Birthday to Eleanor Spears Dove, Pretty Flower, on August 1. She is one of the oldest living members of the Narragansett Tribe. Eleanor started her career as a caterer serving the state's dignitaries in Watch Hill & Charlestown, Rhode Island. Along with her husband, Ferris Dove, Chief Roaring Bull, they opened the award winning & world renowned DoveCrest Indian Restaurant in Arcadia Village, Exeter, RI. Eleanor opened a Native American gift shop in the 1960s in Arcadia Village, around this time she also supported the Tomaquag Museum (National Medal for Museum & Libraries Awardee) by providing a much needed home to house priceless indigenous artifacts held in collections. Eleanor served on Tomaquag's Board of Directors & sits on the Honorary Board of Directors to this day. She is known throughout New England along the Powwow Trail where she traveled for decades selling traditional handcrafted Native American art & jewelry. This centenarian has lived a rich & vibrant life, leaving a lasting legacy not only within her tribal community, her hometown of Richmond, the greater state of Rhode Island & throughout much of New England. As she approaches her 100th birthday she continues to be active & is always eager to visit her loved ones. Eleanor is honored & revered as a traditional elder & matriarch of the Narragansett Tribal Nation, her generous spirit, & love for her people will carry forward in the stories & the hearts of all she has touched. Happy Birthday from grandson Ferris Babcock Dove Tubby of the Tucker Community & great-grandchildren Coby Shane Dove Tubby, Elijah Antonio Tubby, Sherente' Cain Dove Tubby, Ferris Babcock Tubby, Canyon Ferris Tubby, Elliana Vivian Tubby, & Noah Dove Tubby.

CHOCTAW  
COMMUNITY  
NEWS

AUGUST 2018

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EXHIBIT ..... continued from page eleven

The Mississippi Museum of Art is the largest art museum in the state and features permanent collections of paintings, photography, multimedia works, and sculpture by Mississippi, American, and international artists.

the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

The Museum and its programs are sponsored in part by the City of Jackson and Visit Jackson. Support is also provided in part by funding from

The Museum is located at 380 South Lamar Street in Jackson. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Monday.



(ABOVE) Jeffrey Gibson (Mississippi Band Choctaw/ Cherokee), THINKING OF YOU, 2015. Graphite & acrylic paint on rawhide over wood panel; 18 x 32 x 2.5 in. Private collection, courtesy of Marc Straus Gallery, New York. Image courtesy of Jeffrey Gibson Studio & Roberts Projects, Los Angeles, CA. Photograph by Peter Mauney.



(RIGHT) Jeffrey Gibson (Mississippi Band Choctaw/ Cherokee), ONE BECOMES THE OTHER, 2015. Repurposed wool army blanket, repurposed punching bag, glass beads, plastic beads, steel studs, artificial sinew, quartz crystals, copper cones, nylon fringe, steel, & acrylic paint; 73 x 16½ x 16½ in. Private collection, courtesy of Marc Straus Gallery, New York. Image courtesy of Jeffrey Gibson Studio & Roberts Projects, Los Angeles, CA. Photograph by Peter Mauney.