CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

www.choctaw.org

CCHS Holds Graduation Ceremony

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) hosted the Class of 2018 commencement ceremony on Tuesday, May 22 at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw.

One hundred and ten seniors, the largest graduating class in CCHS history, successfully completed their high school education requirements as they will embark on a path towards collegiate studies, military service or joining the work force.

CCHS Principal Dr. Fred Hickmon, Ph.D, offered the welcome and introductions as members of the Choctaw Veterans Color Guard presented the flags of the U.S. and the MBCI. Senior class president Cobi John gave the invocation.

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson offered remarks to the seniors as she congratulated them on their accomplishments.

Top scholars offering their addresses were Salutatorians Kyannah and Kyarrah Grant and Valedictorian Asa Jimmie.

Dr. Hickmon presented the Class of 2018 as CCHS support staff members Priscilla Clemmons and Tricia Hickman announced the roll call of seniors.

Chief Anderson awarded each senior with their diploma.

Senior class vice president Teegan Clemmons offered the benediction to conclude the ceremony.

RIGHT, *Pictured from left are Salutatorians Kyarrah Grant, Kyannah Grant & Valedictorian Asa Jimmie.*

BELOW, *Members of the CCHS Class of 2018 toss their caps into the air. Congratulations!*

Tribe Hosts Career Fair

Tribal members seeking employment opportunities gathered at the Silver Star Convention Center on Wednesday, May 9, to participate in a Career Expo hosted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI).

The expo, funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration, featured over 60 vendors representing local, state-wide & regional industries, educational institutions & military branches.

"There is a lot that goes into making events like these a success. I welcome the vendors & companies that are here to participate in this event. We have a very good training program here & hope some of the participants that

see CAREER EXPO, pg. 7

Tribal members learned more about training opportunities available to them as they received information from representatives such as the Dothan, Alabama campus of the Heavy Equipment Colleges of America.

Tribe Hosts Wreath Laying Ceremony

A wreath laying ceremony commemorating Memorial Day was held at the Choctaw Veterans Memorial Wall on Friday, May 25. Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox served as emcee & the Choctaw Veterans Color Guard posted the flags. Zuri Flint sang the National Anthem & Pastor Gerald Willis, Sr., delivered the invocation. Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson gave remarks & Kenneth A. Hamilton, MPA, (pictured right) of the Jackson VA Medical Center's Medical Administration Services, served as guest speaker. After the ceremonial wreath was placed at the memorial, a 21-gun salute was performed by the Tribal Protective Services as Officer Judy Nickey performed a rendition of Taps on the hill overlooking the memorial. Sammie Wilson, Choctaw Veterans Affairs Director, gave closing remarks.

FROM THE OFFICE OF CHIEF PHYLISS J. ANDERSON

Phyliss J. Anderson

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Chief Anderson meets with MBCI Career Expo participants at the Silver Star Convention Center on May 9. Over 60 vendors were in attendance offering opporunities in employment, education & military service.

Halito!

Greetings from Choctaw Tribal Offices. As I write this letter, we have reached the end of another school year and the beginning of summer. With the change of the season also comes an opportunity for our tribal members to enjoy some fun in the sun and a great variety of activities on our Choctaw Indian Reservation.

Planning is underway for our annual Choctaw Indian Fair, as well as the opening of a new softball sports plex at the lake later in the summer.

As Choctaws, we have a unique story to share of our heritage, traditions and identity. Whether it's through our traditional Choctaw social dancing, food, artistry or recreation, it is our unique lifeways that are displayed and celebrated during this time of year.

Many of our artisans are beading, basket weaving and stitching now in preparation for fair. Our stickball teams and dance groups are practicing getting ready for their big day.

We have many fun events in the works for our tribal members for a full, pleasant and safe summer and it is my hope you enjoy with family, friends, and loved ones.

RESERVATION-WIDE COMMUNITY FIELD DAY

On Saturday, May 5th, I was pleased to host the Reservation-Wide Community Field Day. We had hoped to have the event outdoors, but due to the threat of rainy weather, we moved the event to the Neshoba County Coliseum.

The event featured many activities for adults and children that have become well-known favorites in years past. During the program, I shared information about the progress our Tribe is making and about upcoming projects.

It was great to see Tribal members from every community gather together and have a fun time and partake in some delicious food. I enjoyed spending time with folks and catching up on old times with many of you!

If you were not able to attend the field day, you can still get a copy of the Community Field Day brochure at the Tribal Headquarters in the Pearl River Community or by calling my office at (601) 650-1501.

...continued next page

CHIEF ANDERSON KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT GAMING LUNCHEON

Chief Phyliss J. Anderson was the featured keynote speaker at the Women's Global Gaming Luncheon on Thursday, May 3rd, 2018. The luncheon was part of the 2018 Southern Gaming Summit held in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Each spring gaming executives and industry leaders flock to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to attend the annual event which is the premier casino industry conference and convention in the South.

Chief Anderson presented to a capacity crowd during the luncheon and shared an overview of the Tribe's history, progressive self-determination story, evolution into gaming and the key roles of women in leadership positions.

RIGHT, *Pictured from left are Tribal Council members in attendance, Sharon Johnson (Red Water), Richard Isaac (Red Water), Chief Anderson, Vice Chief Hilda Nickey (Conehatta), & Loriann Ahshapanek (Standing Pine).*

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:

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Brian C. Willis ..... *Communications Manager*
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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.

MBCI CAREER EXPO

The Tribe, in partnership with the Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF), hosted a Career Expo on Wednesday, May 9, 2018. There are many career opportunities available, and this expo offered Tribal members a chance to connect with employers who are looking for hard working, dedicated employees.

We had a very good turnout of vendors – over 60 different organizations offering opportunities for employment, education and military service.

I thank each vendor for their participation, and I especially thank everyone who was involved in making this a very successful event.

CELEBRATING OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

The month of May also marked a special time of commemoration as we celebrate our elders. I was honored to sign an official proclamation on behalf of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to declare this month as "Older Americans Month" in accordance with the National Administration of Community Living.

I also greatly enjoyed spending time with our Tribal elders at the Choctaw Elderly Center as we held a special fish fry fellowship and bingo on May 17, 2018. We shared many laughs and enjoyed each other's company.

Our Tribal elders are truly a cherished treasure and I express my sincere appreciation to them for their hard work over the years and their important contributions to our Tribe.

I encourage all our young people to take time to sit and talk with an elder. Thank them for their strength, dignity, eagerness, and pride to be the carriers of our people's heritage and spirit.

Pictured above are scenes of fun and fellowship from the Reservation-Wide Community Field Day at the Neshoba County Coliseum on May 5.

GRADUATION ACTIVITIES

Throughout the month of May several graduations from Kindergarten to College ceremonies were held in our area. Each of these events mark important and memorable milestones in the lives of our children and grandchildren. It is a time to celebrate accomplishments and look forward to new beginnings.

On Monday, May 21, 2018, I hosted a Senior Luncheon at the Silver Star Convention Center, for the Choctaw Central High School graduating Senior Class of 2018. Students enjoyed a time of fellowship, food,

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Chief Anderson signed a proclamation in recognition of May as Older Americans Month at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center on Thursday, May 10. This year's theme was "Engage at Every Age." At the conclusion of the ceremony, Tribal elders in attendance enjoyed cake and refreshments.

Several students from Choctaw Central High School participated in fellowship with Tribal elders at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center on May 17 in celebration of Older Americans Month. Everybody enjoyed a fish fry luncheon and games of Bingo.

LETTER ..... continued from page three

Chief Anderson with members of the Choctaw Central High School Class of 2018.

games and much fun before their big night.

On Tuesday, May 22, 2018, the commencement ceremony for the Choctaw Central High School Graduating Class of 2018 was held at the Silver Star Convention Center. This year marks the largest graduating class with 110 graduates!

As I looked across the audience from the stage, I was amazed at how much our Tribe has grown. It gives me so much hope for our future knowing our Tribe is strong and vibrant!

The ceremony was truly inspiring and I especially enjoyed hearing from our Salutatorians, Kyannah and Kyarrah Grant and Valedictorian Asa Jimmie. All the graduates, from Choctaw Tribal Schools, as well as our neighboring schools, have been provided with many wonderful opportunities. Each will look back on these years with fond memories, lasting friendships and important knowledge.

We are very proud of our graduates and wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

CHOCTAW TEACHERS INITIATIVE GRADUATES

On May 23, 2018, I was so pleased to recognize and congratulate Ms. Danielle Wesley and Ms. Ashton Isaac, our first two graduates of my Administration's Choctaw Teachers Initiative.

Congratulations to Danielle Wesley (left) & Ashton Isaac as they were the first graduates of the Choctaw Teachers Initiative.

Danielle graduated from Belhaven University, and Ashton from Mississippi State University. Both have achieved a major milestone in their professional careers and are excellent examples of what Choctaw Self-Determination can accomplish in life.

We are very proud of these two new Choctaw teachers, and I know that they are going to make outstanding contributions to the schools where they are employed.

VETERANS AFFAIRS UNDER SECRETARY VISIT

Our Tribe was greatly honored with a visit from the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Mr. Randy C. Reeves, who serves in the National Cemetery Administration.

Mr. Reeves was here May 24th, 2018, to speak about Veterans Affairs topics relevant for Tribal members who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including memorial programs to honor the service of Choctaw veterans.

Pictured, front row from left to right, are Veterans Committee Member Natasha John, Chief Anderson, Tribal Government Relations Specialist Mary Culley, Veterans Committee Member Linda Williams; back row, Veterans Committee Member John Ferguson, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Randy C. Reeves & Choctaw Veterans Affairs Director Sammie Wilson.

We also discussed the possibility of pursuing future proposed projects as special funding becomes available.

On behalf of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and our many dedicated Tribal veterans, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Under Secretary Reeves for his visit to our community and for the important work he is doing on behalf of veterans nationwide.

MEMORIAL DAY LAYING OF THE WREATH

On May 25th, we gathered at our Choctaw Veteran's Memorial Wall to place a wreath and remember those veterans of the U.S. Armed Services who have given their lives in the defense of our cherished American freedoms.

Our annual Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony reminds all of us of the precious treasures that individuals and their families have sacrificed on our behalf.

I hope that every time you see a veteran or

...continued next page

member of the military you reach out to thank them for their incredible and selfless service.

Let us be prayerful for our soldiers and their families and may we always be grateful for their sacrifices.

STOCKING OF COMMUNITY PONDS

As we begin summer, I am happy to report that we have once again issued the release of 2,100 pounds of catfish in our community ponds.

The ponds are: Conehatta Community Pond, Standing Pine Community Pond, Attala County Pond behind the cabin (for Red Water), Bogue Chitto Community Pond, Tucker Community Pond, Lake Pushmataha Lake Pond, and Goat Ranch Road Pond (for Pearl River Community).

Each pond had 300 pounds of fish added. I know many families have already been out fishing and I enjoy seeing your pictures on Facebook. It gives me great pleasure to know our tribal members are getting out with their kids to spend quality time together.

Those are memories to cherish for a lifetime. I thank our staff at Choctaw Wildlife and Parks for supporting this project and our ponds year after year.

It's time to fish at the Tribal community ponds as 300 pounds of catfish were recently restocked.

CLOSING

I want to invite everyone to come out and enjoy the Choctaw Indian Fair on July 11th–14th and all the activities leading up to it.

Lastly, I want to close this column by thanking the many, many hard-working volunteers and staff members that work year-round to provide wonderful events, activities and services for our Tribal members. Your efforts are noticed and greatly appreciated. Yakoki!

Have a great summer; stay cool, hydrated and most importantly enjoy!

Many Blessings,

Phyliss J. Anderson

Phyliss J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief

CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH DEDICATION

On May 5th, 2018, we marked the dedication of the new Corinth Baptist Church in the Tucker Community. This building is a celebration of the commitment and teamwork of a congregation. It is also a testament of the faith of the people to build a house of worship for the glory of our Lord and Savior. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the members of the church. My hopes and prayers are that many souls are changed and find the great peace that can only be found in Jesus Christ. May God richly bless this church and congregation!

Congratulations and best wishes to all of the 2018 graduates of Red Water Pre-K and Kindergarten. I was delighted to attend and speak at the recent ceremony honoring the achievements of these beautiful children. They have all done great work at school, and I am very proud of each and every one of them. I appreciate the hard work and dedication that teachers, administrators, and all school personnel and parents put into providing excellent early education in our Tribal Schools and Early Childhood Education programs Reservation-wide. Our tribe is truly blessed. Keep up the good work, Graduates, and enjoy a fun summer vacation. Thank you, and God bless you.

Resolution for Special Recall Election Approved

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) - In accordance with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Constitution and Bylaws, the Choctaw Tribal Council has enacted a resolution setting the date for a recall election to be held for Tribal Council Member Roderick Bell in the Bogue Chitto Community.

All tribal council members present voted to approve this resolution at a Special Call Meeting held May 31.

According to the MBCI Constitution, the Tribal Council had to approve a resolution for a special recall election within 60 days after the Tribal Council convened following the certification of the petition by the Tribal Election Committee (TEC).

On May 17, 2018, the TEC certified the petition to recall council Roderick Bell determining that the Bogue Chitto Community met the minimum requirement of 40 percent of eligible voters' signatures as required by the MBCI Constitution to initiate a recall election.

The special recall election will be held Tuesday, July 24, 2018. In order for the special election to be a valid election, 60 percent of eligible voters in the Bogue Chitto Community must participate.

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 MAY 31, 2018

Resolution CHO 18-076, approving Legal Counsel & Contingency Fee Agreement with Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP, Fields PLLC, & Gilbert LLP & to amend the list of attorneys authorized to perform legal services on behalf of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), was ADOPTED - 9 YES *(L. Ahshapanek, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, & K. Wallace)*; 7 NO *(R. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Eaves, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, & D. Wilson)*; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT *(B. McMillan)*.

SUMMARY: *The resolution approves the law firm listed to perform legal services for the MBCI. The law firm will provide specialized legal counsel to assist in the pursuit of recoveries for harm caused to the Tribe by the manufacturer, distributor & retail pharmacy chain misconduct in connection with prescription opioid drugs. The law firm will represent the Tribe in opioid litigation & settlement claims as detailed in the Opioid Litigation Contingent Fee Agreement. For more information, please contact the Office of the Attorney General.*

Resolution CHO 18-077, approving revisions to Choctaw Gaming Commission Regulations, was ADOPTED - 16 YES *(L. Ahshapanek, R. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson)*; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT *(B. McMillan)*.

SUMMARY: *The resolution approves revisions to the Choctaw Gaming Commission Regulations. Several amendments were made to the following chapters: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, & 14. For more information, please contact the Choctaw Gaming Commission.*

Resolution CHO 18-078, approving revisions to Choctaw Gaming Commission Regulations, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The resolution approves revisions to the Choctaw Gaming Commission Regulations. The revisions made were to Chapter 4 including regulations governing sports pools, race books & pari-mutuel wagering. For more information, please contact the Choctaw Gaming Commission.*

Resolution CHO 18-079, approving the 2018 Choctaw Community Fund Budget, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The resolution approves the 2018 Choctaw Community Fund (CCF). Pledges & contributions are made in the fall of each year requiring the Tribal Council to approve the budget for each year's funds. The Tribal Council approved the CCF budget in the amount of $71,350. For more information, please contact the Finance Office.*

Resolution CHO 18-080, applying for the USDA Food & Nutrition Service Funding in support of Choctaw Food Distribution Program, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The resolution approves the application for grant funding from the USDA in the amount of $69,000. If funding is provided, it will be used to purchase approximately 600 crock-pots for qualified participants in the Choctaw Food Distribution program. For more information, please contact the Food Distribution Program.*

Resolution CHO 18-081, authorizing a Special Recall Election for Tribal Council Member Roderick Bell in the Bogue Chitto Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The resolution sets a date for the special recall election for Tribal Council member Roderick Bell in the Bogue Chitto Community. On May 17, 2018, the Tribal Election Committee (TEC) issued a certification affirming that the number of eligible voters' signatures on the petitions from the Bogue Chitto Community required to meet the 40 percent minimum requirement of Section 7 of Article VI of the Revised Constitution & Bylaws of the MBCI was satisfied to initiate a recall election. The recall election will be held on July 24, 2018, & will be conducted by the TEC in accordance with the Tribal Election Code. For more information, please contact the TEC.*

Signed resolutions are available at 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.

PFE Board Honors Parents

The Title I Parent & Family Engagement (PFE) Board met on Tuesday, May 15, at the Ayipa Café for an appreciation luncheon for the 2018 Parents of the Year recipients, Choctaw Central High School's (CCHS) valedictorian & salutatorians, May Outstanding Choctaw Educator, & honored guests.

PFE Chair Ray Willis recognized the Choctaw Tribal Schools' Parents of the Year: Bobby & April Henry, Bogue Chitto Elementary; Shaundareka Thomas, Choctaw Central High School; Bo & Tara Steve, Choctaw Central Middle School; Staci Bell, Conehatta Elementary; Victoria Billie, Pearl River Elementary; Rickey & Ashley Edwards, Red Water Elementary; Jonnie Hardy, Standing Pine Elementary; & Melissa Farmer, Tucker Elementary.

CCHS Valedictorian Asa Jimmie & Salutatorians Kyannah & Kyarrah Grant, along with their parents, were honored during the luncheon.

Sandra Williams was recognized as the Outstanding Choctaw Educator for May. She has been employed by the Tribe for almost 34 years & has worked with the following programs: Tucker & Pearl River Head Start; Pearl River Elementary as a teacher assistant & secretary; & Division of Schools where she was an executive secretary. She presently works at CCHS as a purchasing secretary.

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LEFT, *Sandra Williams was named Outstanding Choctaw Educator for May.* **BELOW**, *Pictured from left are CCHS Salutatorian Kyannah Grant, Valedictorian Asa Jimmie & Salutatorian Kyarrah Grant.*

CAREER EXPO ..... continued from page one

came here will get employed," said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

"The one thing I'm very proud of this Tribe is that we all come & work together. That's the key to success."

The last career fair in Choctaw was held in 2014.

In October 2015, the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration awarded more than $35 million in grants to support & study federally funded employment & training programs & enable sharing of best practices.

The Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana was awarded a $6 million grant to implement a Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) Program involving a tribal consortium with the MBCI, the American Indian Center of Arkansas, Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas, & the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas.

"I know a lot of the participants from the Workforce Development Program & I know Day Labor has over 800 participants so I'm hoping at least that many comes," said Deona Allen, MBCI Workforce Development Program Specialist.

Melissa Verdin, of the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, said the grant assists Native Americans that qualify for employment & training in the tribal consortium with a variety of expenses.

"What we do is get people ready for careers & even help them relocate within the sub-grantee states. If someone in my area is interested in relocating here (in Choctaw), all I have to do is contact Deona & we can relocate that person & we'll pay up to 3 months rent. We can only relocate people within our consortium within those states."

"We'll pay to have their utilities connected & all moving expenses. In their job searches, we'll help pay for gas. If they have to look for a job here for a few days, we help them pay for hotel expenses," added Verdin.

Each Tribal organization hosts career fairs of their own as they offer services not only to Tribal members living on reservations, but those residing in areas with high populations.

"With Alabama-Coushatta, our reservation is in Livingston, Texas, which is maybe an hour & a half away from Houston. We still offer services to those in that area. We have health fairs & classes where we help with interviewing skills or resume writing. We also help with job searches," said Landon Segura, Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council Field Case Manager, Employment & Training.

"This gave us an opportunity to come see & help Deona with what she has going on, as well as to get ideas for whenever it's my time or whenever it's her time to host an event. We can always work together."

TRIBAL ELECTION COMMITTEE
PHONE (601) 650-7475 • FAX (601) 389-2252
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
P. O. BOX 6052
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

NOTICE OF TRIBAL RECALL ELECTION

Pursuant to Section 33-3-3(2)(L) of the Choctaw Tribal Election Code, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Council has called for a Tribal Recall Election to be held on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 on the recall of Tribal Council Member Roderick Bell from the Bogue Chitto Community. This recall election is the result of a duly certified recall petition regarding Council Member Bell.

Tribal members who are registered to vote in the Bogue Chitto Community can cast their ballots at the polling place operated by the Local Community Election Committee. Voters may be asked to show a form of identification. Voting times and polling places are listed below:

COMMUNITY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Bogue Chitto	Tuesday, July 24, 2018	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Gym
Bogue Chitto-Henning, TN	Tuesday, July 24, 2018	8:00am-8:00pm	MBCI Henning Multi-Purpose Bldg 1230 Hwy. 87 W Henning, TN

REGISTRATION

Tribal members 18 years of age or older who have not yet registered to vote in the Bogue Chitto Community may register at the Tribal Election Office. See Mavis H. Hickman. If you do not register to vote on or before 5:00 pm, June 22, 2018, you cannot vote in the July 24, 2018 Recall Election. If you have already registered to vote in the Bogue Chitto Community, you do not need to register again. Any registered voter in the Bogue Chitto Community may challenge the residency of a person on the initial voters list by filing a voter challenge form to the Tribal Election Committee within ten (10) business days of the posting of the initial voters list on June 01, 2018.

ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified registered voter who is age 57 or above, or who is physically unable to appear at the poll on election date, or who resides 50 miles or more distance from the community in which he or she is registered to vote shall be entitled to vote by absentee ballot. Requests for mailed absentee ballots must be submitted in writing to the Tribal Election Committee at the Tribal Election Office not later than 12:00 noon on July 04, 2018. Requests for mailed absentee ballots received after this date and time will not be honored. Walk-in absentee ballot requests shall be submitted in writing to the Tribal Election Committee starting on July 05, 2018 through 12:00 noon on the day before the election. Submission documents proving eligibility for a walk-in absentee ballot request is mandatory. Mailed and walk-in requests for absentee ballots can be only for the person making the request; the request cannot be made on behalf of others.

INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the Tribal Election Committee at one of the following numbers: (601) 650-7475, (601) 650-7468, (601)650-1507 or FAX (601) 389-2252. You may also contact the Committee by writing to:

Office of Tribal Election
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 6052 or 131 Annex Circle
Choctaw, MS 39350

The MBCI Tribal Election Committee includes the following members: 1) Berdie John, Chairperson; 2) Amy Pauls, Member; 3) Wanda Davidson, Member, 4) Danita Darlene Willis, Alternate, 5) Shirley Wilson, Alternate, and 6) Gary Williamson, Alternate. The Tribal Election Committee will appoint a Local Community Election Committee (LCEC) for the Bogue Chitto Community to conduct this Recall Election. The Chairperson of the Local Election Committee, who is officially appointed to conduct elections in the Bogue Chitto Community, may also be contacted. The Choctaw Tribal Election Code is available at the MBCI website at www.choctaw.org.

Berdie John, Chairperson | Amy Pauls, Member | Wanda Davidson, Member

DATE POSTED: June 01, 2018

CVLC Graduation

The high school graduation rate nationwide is declining, but not here at the Choctaw Tribal Schools.

Choctaw Central High School's Class of 2018 was the largest ever, with 110 graduating on May 22. Included in that big number were eight students from the Choctaw Virtual Learning Center (CVLC).

Scottie Amos, Marisa Bell, William Bell, Glendria Dixon, Merecedes Jefferson, Brandon Lewis, Alexandra Mingo, & Kyle Spears received diplomas alongside the traditional seniors.

Graduates were all smiles as they received their diplomas in front of a packed house filled by family, faculty, Tribal officials, & friends at the Silver Star Convention Center.

Several students wore beaded mortarboards displaying the skills of the artists who made them. Many students also wore colored stoles, cords & medallions indicating high academic achievement. This was truly a class of winners.

It doesn't stop there. On June 21 at 6:30 p.m., in the Golden Moon VIP Room, a new group of students will graduate from the CVLC.

Justina Deann Amos, Kabrina Leann Anderson, Sherman Jemar Bell, Isaiah Trenton Chickaway, Jena Faye Clemmons, Aldreca Lejames Hickman, Tyrin Collins Stewart, Dartalina Lee Willis, & Maria Jade York have completed their coursework toward a high school diploma. We are hoping there will be more students finishing their coursework before June 21.

If you do not have your high school diploma & are thinking about checking out the CVLC, "go for it" is the advice given by one of the graduates.

The CVLC is not a traditional school environment. Students work on courses at their own pace using laptop computers & can finish graduation requirements at any time after passing all their coursework. All courses are online, with faculty available on site to answer questions or help with any problems a CVLC student might have.

Another student stated it was great to be given another chance.

The faculty & staff at the CVLC will do what needs to be done to make students succeed & are available to meet with students individually or in small groups.

Pictured from left are CVLC Instructor Ella Smith & 2018 CCHS Graduate Kyle Spears.

The CVLC has set up a "store" where students can earn credits to buy life's necessities, like soap & baby diapers.

.....see CVLC, pg. 13

MEETING ..... **continued from page seven**

Sandra attended Pearl River Elementary School & graduated from CCHS. She furthered her education at Mississippi State University's Meridian branch.

"Being a Tribal member, I feel working in any area under the MBCI is quite a privilege... not an obligation," stated Sandra.

The youngest of seven siblings, Sandra has two sons & a daughter. A number of family members were present when Sandra received this special recognition.

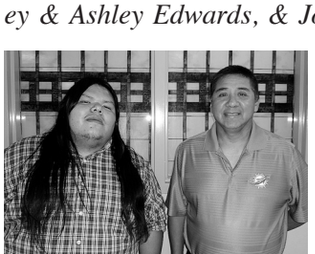
Ty Isaac, Choctaw Tribal Elders Oral History Project Consultant, presented a very informative program about the Tribe's efforts to provide cultural educational multimedia services for Tribal programs, schools & Tribal members.

Retiring board members Shaundareka Thomas, Cheryl Willis & Ray & Darlene Willis were recognized for their years of service on the board.

Elected to fill positions on the board for the 2018–2019 school year were: Bobby Henry & Renata Morris, Bogue Chitto Community; Lanisha Bell, Pearl River Community; & Lucretia Williams, Board Member-at-Large.

The board will meet again in August. For more information, contact Heather Adams at 601-663-7640 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.

ABOVE, *Parents of the Year for 2018 are, top row from left, April & Bobby Henry, Shaundareka Thomas, Bo & Tara Steve; bottom row, Victoria Billie, Rickey & Ashley Edwards, & Jonnie Hardy. Not pictured are Staci Bell & Melissa Farmer.* **LEFT**, *Choctaw Tribal Elders Oral History Project Consultant Ty Isaac & PFE board president Raymond Willis*



PFE Board Members include, front row from left, Pandora Sockey, Ray Willis, Cheryl Willis, Shaundareka Thomas, Darlene Willis, Roseanna Thompson; back row, Willa Thomas, Felicia Sharp, Chantay Frazier, Jenny Deon, Denise John, Ann York, Joy Alex, Deanna McMillan, Andrea Willis, & Dianne Johnston. Not pictured are Diana Alex, Danita McMillan & Scottie Wallace.

Congratulations Graduates!

CHOCTAW CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2018

Cobi John (President)

Teegan Clemmons (Vice President)

Jordan Bell (Secretary)

Mahali Henry (Treasurer)

Asa Jimmie (Valedictorian)

Kyannah Grant (Salutatorian)

Kyarrah Grant (Salutatorian)

Alanta Anderson

Hannah Anderson

Keanu Anderson

Quenton Anderson

Brias Bell

Casey Bell

Kacy Bell

Sheyann Bell

Terrell Bell

Tyler Bell

Victoria Bell

Jayna Ben

Lauren Ben

Abby Billy

Alana Billy

Isaiah Billy

Jacob Billy

Julius Billy, Jr.

Lynika Billy

Vashae Billy

Jennavia Bollin

Tiger Briscoe

Malia Burnside

Kaleb Chickaway

Skylar Comans

Narron Cotton

Tiara Cotton

Kasey Denson

Keyana Denson

Brison Dixon

Erica Dixon

Jaylen Dixon

Jaeden Doka

Emillo Frazier

Thunder Frazier

Steven Gibson

Eva Hickman

William Isaac

Brayton Jim

Elisah Jimmie

Martrikus Jimmie

Dregen Joe

Maleighia Joe

Delano John

Yasmine John

Daniel Jordan

Ethan King

Brian LaBatte, Jr.

Lakota Lacy

Deanna LaSarge

Autumn Lewis

Benlynncia Lewis

DeAndra Martin

Maleika Martin

Keylan McMillan

Damien Mesteth

Brittney Mingo

Isaiah Mingo

Keenan Mingo

Jayasri Mitch

Caitlyn Nickey

Antonio Perez

Braden Peters

Brekaitya Ray

Chumani Salgado

Dachele Sam

India Samuel

Ashlyn Shoemake

Katelyn Shoemake

Lorenzo Shoemake

Damian Sockey

Kyle Spears

Jayshun Thomas

Jocoby-Wayne Thompson

Darien Tubby

Garrett Tubby

Micaiah Tubby

Sawyer Tubby

Molliekai Vaughn

Tyus Whitecrow

Brandon Williams

Kainen Williams

LaChrisha Williams

Caleb Williamson

Aysia Willis

NOT PICTURED

Scottie Amos · Marisa Bell
William Bell · Dorian Ben
Eric Dixon, Jr. · Glendria Dixon
Merecedes Jefferson · Daisy Joe
Brandon Lewis

Gaylan Willis, Jr.

Karanina Willis

Lynora Willis

Reyes Willis

Tushka Willis

Whitney Willis

Destiny Wilson

Keona Wilson

NOT PICTURED

Alexandra Mingo · Kindle Sam
Ichukash Solomon · Fernando Tubby
Josiah Tubby · Christian Whitecrow
Kayla Willis · Shuntay Willis

Many Blessings & Much Success on Future Endeavors!

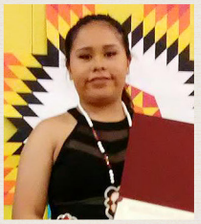
Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson &
The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
CONGRATULATE THE CLASS OF 2018!

Congratulations 2018 Graduates!

HEAD START • PRE-KINDERGARTEN • KINDERGARTEN • MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTIONS • HIGH SCHOOL • COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY • MILITARY

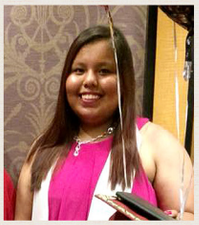
**The following graduate photos were submitted via MBCI Facebook page and email.*

Abby Billy
Choctaw Central High School

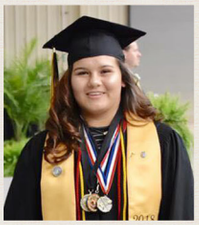


Ajaiana Martinez
Red Water Elementary 8th Grade Promotion

Alan Jimmie
Belhaven University



Alexandra Mingo
Choctaw Central High School



Alexis Smith
Northeast Jones High School

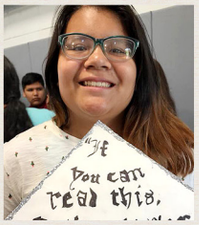
Allyson Peters
East Central Community College

Ambre Hobbs
Seneca High School

Amelia Williams
East Jones Elementary Kindergarten

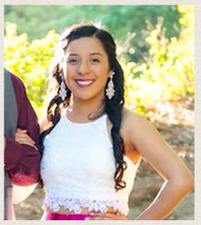
Anne Henry
Neshoba Central High School

Antonio Perez
Choctaw Central High School



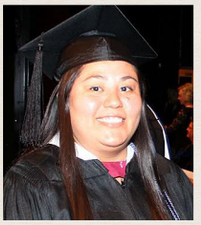
Anya Anderson
Standing Pine Elementary 6th Grade Promotion

Asa Jimmie
Choctaw Central High School



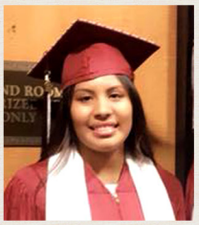
Alice Keats
Choctaw Central High School

Ashanti Bell
Bogue Chitto Elementary 8th Grade Promotion



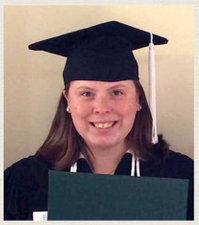
Ashton Isaac
Mississippi State University

Avia Thompson
Standing Pine Head Start



Aysia Willis
Choctaw Central High School

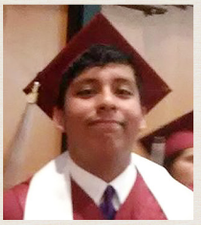
Benlynncia Lewis
Choctaw Central High School



Beth Johnson
Meridian Community College

Louie Charlie
Meridian Community College

Billy Johnson, Jr
U.S. Marine Corps



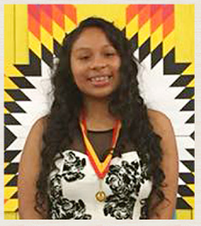
Braden Peters
Choctaw Central High School

Brandis Johnson
U.S. Marine Corps

Brandon Williams
Choctaw Central High School

Brannon Shoemake
Newton County Elementary Kindergarten

Brayleigh Wallace
Pearl River Elementary Kindergarten



Breely Wilson
Red Water Elementary 8th Grade Promotion

Brias Bell
Choctaw Central High School

Brittany Mingo
Choctaw Central High School

Caleb Guerra
Northeast Jones High School

Carter Willis
Pearl River Elementary Kindergarten

Caylonni Willis
Tucker Elementary Pre-Kindergarten

Cayson Willis
Red Water Elementary Pre-Kindergarten

Christon Flores
East Central Community College

Cobi John
Choctaw Central High School

Corey Denson
Pearl River Elementary Kindergarten

Dariaus Wayne
Riverside Indian School

DeAndra Martin
Choctaw Central High School

Deanna LaSarge
Choctaw Central High School

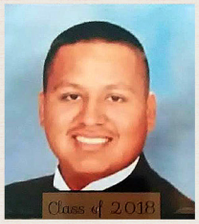
Delanie McMillan
Northeast Jones High School

Destiny Jones
LCHS

Dontae Bacon
Riverside Indian School

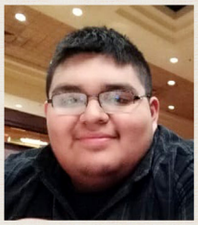
Emillo Frazier
Choctaw Central High School

Erica Dixon
Choctaw Central High School

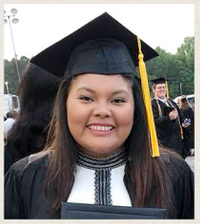


Ethan King
Choctaw Central High School

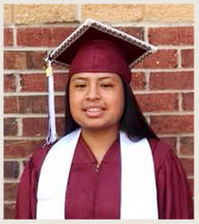
Fernando Tubby
Choctaw Central High School



Garrett Tubby
Choctaw Central High School



Hannah Bell
East Central Community College



India Samuel
Choctaw Central High School

Jaciryn Vaughn
Pearl River Elementary Pre-Kindergarten

Jacquez Lee
Sebastopol Attendance Center

Jade Willis
Neshoba Central High School

Jaeden Doka
Choctaw Central High School

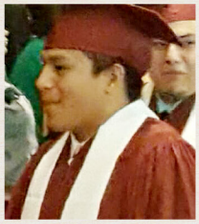
Jaric Anderson
Belhaven University

Jarvis Bell
Bogue Chitto Elementary 8th Grade Promotion

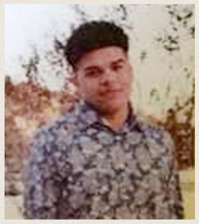
Jennavia Bollin
Choctaw Central High School

Jillian Thomas
East Jones Elementary 6th Grade Promotion

Jordan Bell
Choctaw Central High School

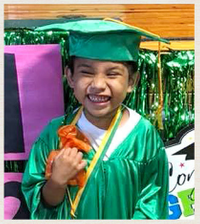


Josiah Tubby
Choctaw Central High School



Justus Day
Cherokee High School

Kady Hickman
Pearl River Elementary Pre-Kindergarten



Karsyn Thomas
Tucker Elementary Pre-Kindergarten

Keylene Willis
Pearl River Elementary Kindergarten

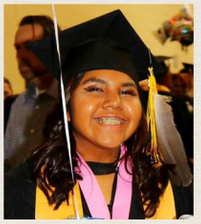
KayLynn Willis
Red Water Elementary Kindergarten

Kenda Williams
Pearl River Elementary Pre-Kindergarten

Keona Wilson
Choctaw Central High School

Keylan McMillan
Choctaw Central High School

Kirsten Solomon
Dyersburg State Community College



Kristeena Thomas
Northeast Jones High School

LaChrisha Williams
Choctaw Central High School

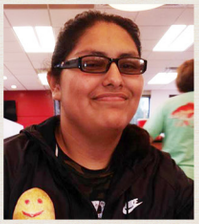
Lakota Lacy
Choctaw Central High School

Lanena John
University of Southern Mississippi

Lindraya King
Pearl River Elementary Kindergarten

Lorenzo Shoemake
Choctaw Central High School

Maggie Jim
Pearl River Elementary Kindergarten



Mahali Henry
Choctaw Central High School

Maizelynn Chickaway
Red Water Elementary Pre-Kindergarten

Maleighia Joe
Choctaw Central High School

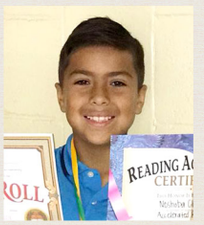
Maleika Martin
Choctaw Central High School

Malia Burnside
Choctaw Central High School

Mariah McBeath
Standing Pine Head Start

Marisa Bell
Choctaw Central High School

Micaiah Tubby
Choctaw Central High School



Neshoba Clifton
Glade Elementary 2nd Grade Promotion

Nicklaus Shumake
University of Southern Mississippi

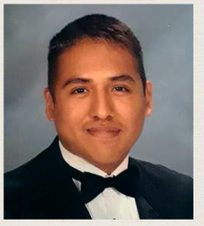
Nylin Frazier
Tucker Elementary Kindergarten

Onnahinli Denson
University of Tennessee

Paycen Comby
Tucker Elementary Pre-Kindergarten

Quenton Anderson
Choctaw Central High School

Rakisha Anderson
Meridian Community College



Reyes Willis
Choctaw Central High School

Rozlind Smith
CHS

Sage York
Jones County Junior College

Serenity Wallace
Beat Four Kindergarten

Shane Shumake
Belhaven University

Sharlize Marquez
Kosciusko Lower Elementary Pre-Kindergarten

Sheyann Bell
Choctaw Central High School

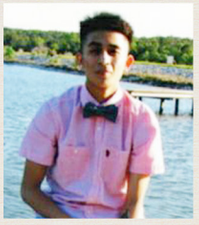
Shuntay Willis
Choctaw Central High School

Tamaran Thomas
Oklahoma

Teegan Clemmons
Choctaw Central High School

Tehya Jimmie
Pearl River Elementary Pre-Kindergarten

Terrell Bell
Choctaw Central High School

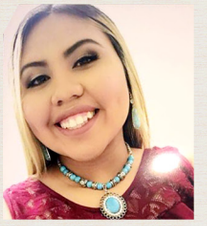


Tiger Briscoe
Choctaw Central High School

Tikeshia McMillan
Riverside Indian School

Tyler Bell
Choctaw Central High School

Victoria Bell
Choctaw Central High School



Whitney Willis
Choctaw Central High School

William Bell
Choctaw Central High School

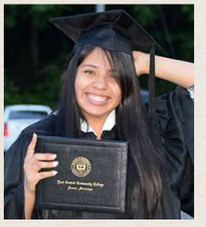
Chumani Salgado
Choctaw Central High School

William McMillan
Bacone College

Yahnish Clifton
Glade Elementary 6th Grade Promotion

Zylar Jimmie
Riverside Indian School 8th Grade Promotion

Natalie Dreifuss
Neshoba Central High School



Nikkole Isaac
East Central Community College

Nylah Wilson
Red Water Elementary Kindergarten

Tristan Dixon
Riverside Indian School

Vashae Billy
Choctaw Central High School

Congratulations Proud Graduates!
Pearl River Elementary Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten

Preston Stoliby, Alex John, Romeo Farve, & Justin Johnson
Hartshorne High School

CCMS Students Honored at Awards Ceremony

Choctaw Central Middle School (CCMS) hosted an awards ceremony on May 14 at the CCMS gymnasium.

Seventh and eighth graders were honored for their scholastic and athletic achievements for the 2017-2018 school year as parents, teachers, school and Tribal officials were in attendance to offer their congratulations.

ABOVE, *Parents, teachers & officials were in attendance to honor CCMS students as they received medallions & plaques for their achievements in the 2017-2018 school year.* **BELOW**, *Chief Phyliss J. Anderson served as guest speaker for the ceremony & presented awards to the students. Receiving honors included, from left, Leilaya McMillan (Citizenship, 8th grade), Trenton Reed (Citizenship, 8th grade) & Memorie Willis (Overall Outstanding Student, 8th grade).*

The following subject awards and recipients are listed below.

Language Arts Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Memorie Willis.

Language Arts Warrior Award (8th grade) - Armando Ben.

English Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Dylan Williams.

English Warrior Award (8th grade) - Alexis Frazier.

English Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Phoenix Wilson.

English Warrior Award (7th grade) - Mathias Johnson.

Reading Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Dylan Williams.

Reading Warrior Award (8th grade) - Eric Willis.

Reading Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Phoenix Wilson.

Reading Warrior Award (7th grade) - Caleb Clemons.

Language Arts Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Javonte Willis.

Language Arts Warrior Award (8th grade) - Taliyah Hickman.

Language Arts Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Sierra Willis.

Language Arts Warrior Award (7th grade) - Waniya Tubby.

Language Arts Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Kaisen Dixon.

Language Arts Warrior Award (7th grade) - Anares Hernandez.

Algebra I Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Peja York.

Algebra I Warrior Award (8th grade) - Memorie Willis.

Mathematics Warrior Award (8th grade) - Leilaya McMillan.

.....see CCMS, pg. 15

CVLC ..... continued from page eight

CVLC students have taken tours of the local community which will help them choose whether to continue their education after graduating & receiving their high school diploma.

One student said the CVLC is "an amazing experience. The staff is cool. Getting a high school diploma is important, you can't get a job without it."

He is applying for jobs & thinking about college. He would like to get a degree in music. He has been to Alabama, Louisiana & Oklahoma drumming, chanting & singing. He said it gave him a chance to experience new things & live life.

He said the people at the CVLC were amazing. "They pushed me to finish & helped me with algebra when I had trouble. I will miss that. Going to the CVLC was the best decision I ever made."

For more information, contact the CVLC at (601)663-7925, (ext. 7928), check out their Facebook page or email CVLC Administrator Gene Cliburn at gene.cliburn@choctawtribalschools.com

CCHS ACT 20+ Club for 2017-2018

Choctaw Central High School recently honored members of the ACT 20+ Club for the 2017-2018 school year. Pictured above (in no order) include: SENIORS Kacy Bell, Victoria "Mahli" Bell, Julius Billy, Teegan Clemmons, Skylar Comans, Narron Cotton, Kyannah Grant, Kyarrah Grant, Mahali Henry, Brayton Jim, Asa Jimmie, Cobi John, Ethan King, Damien Mesteth, Jayasri Mitch, Antonio Perez, India Samuels, Jayshun Thomas, Tyus Whitecrow, & Reyes Willis; JUNIORS Myric Anderson, Kaedre Denson, Dillon Farmer, Jamion "Kiezer" Johnson, Hayden Nickey, Xavier Sam, Arrow Scott, Hunter Smith, Tyrese Solomon, & Kravon Willis.

Athletes, Coach Honored

Several Tribal student athletes & a coach were recipients of year-end honors in their respective sports.

The Meridian Star held their second annual Premier Preps of East Mississippi banquet & awards ceremony on May 21 at the Kahlmus Auditorium on the MSU-Meridian campus.

Choctaw Central honorees included: Kyannah Grant & Kyarrah Grant, Players of the Year, Girls Basketball; McCoy Johnson, Player of the Year, Boys Cross Country; Sierra Wallace, Player of the Year, Girls Cross Country; Darien Tubby, basketball; & Tia'Rain Saunders, softball. Bill Smith was named Girls Basketball Coach of the Year.

Neshoba Central honorees included: Aspen Wesley, Player of the Year, Softball; Taylor Ben, basketball; & Tenly Grisham, softball.

The Clarion Ledger hosted the 2018 Sports Awards on Tuesday, May 22 at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson as they honored the best in Mississippi high school athletics.

Neshoba's Aspen Wesley was the recipient of the Softball Player of the Year & Female Athlete of the Year. Sindle Williams was named Slow-Pitch Softball Player of the Year.

Choctaw Central basketball head coach Bill Smith was named Coach of the Year.

Pictured from left are Aspen Wesley, Taylor Ben, Darien Tubby, McCoy Johnson, Tia'Rain Saunders, Kyannah Grant, Kyarrah Grant, Sierra Wallace, & Bill Smith. Not pictured are Tenly Grisham & Sindle Williams

CCHS Runner Wins Championship

The Choctaw Central track and field team participated in the 2018 MHSAA Class 1A-3A-5A Track and Field Championships held on May 5 at the Woody Barnett Track & Field Complex on the campus of Pearl High School.

Freshman Lyleonia Johnson won the state championship in the girls 1600 meter run with her winning time of 5:53.84.

In the boys 3200 meter run, junior McCoy Johnson placed sixth with his time of 11:17.87.

Lady Warriors Sign Letters of Intent

Several Choctaw Central Lady Warrior seniors recenty signed letters of intent to play collegiate basketball & soccer next season at their respective schools. Jordan Bell, LaChrisha Williams & Maleighia Joe signed basketball intents & Jayna Ben signed a soccer intent during signing ceremonies held in the Choctaw Central library in May as family members, teammates, coaching staff, school officials, & friends were in attendance.

ABOVE LEFT, *On Tuesday, May 8, Jordan Bell signed with the Meridian Community College Eagles basketball program of the Mississippi Association of Community & Junior Colleges (MACJC).*

ABOVE RIGHT, *On Wednesday, May 9, Jayna Ben signed with the Ohio Christian University Trailblazers soccer program of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.*

BELOW LEFT, *On Thursday, May 10, LaChrisha Williams signed with the Meridian Community College Eagles basketball program of the MACJC.*

BELOW RIGHT, *On Friday, May 11, Maleighia Joe signed with the Sisseton Wahpeton College Mustangs basketball program of the Northern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.*

CCHS Softball Season Concludes at South State

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors' 2018 fast-pitch softball season came to an end in the finals of the Class 3A South State playoffs as they were swept by Raleigh in game two of their series 5-2 on May 7. They had lost the opener 13-5 on May 4.

The Lady Warriors concluded the regular season as the number 2 team in the region. They swept West Marion (18-4 & 11-1) in the play-in round of the playoffs. In the first round, they won 2-1 in their series over Wesson (5-0, 2-3, 6-5). In the second round they also won 2-1 in their series over Columbia (10-3, 5-7, 16-4) to earn a berth in the Class 3A South State finals.

They concluded the season with a 20-13 overall record.

CCMS ..... continued from page thirteen

Mathematics Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Kashton Grisham.

Mathematics Warrior Award (7th grade) - Phoenix Wilson.

Mathematics Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Caleb Clemons.

Mathematics Warrior Award (8th grade) - Ivan Thomas.

Mathematics Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Dylan Williams.

Mathematics Warrior Award (7th grade) - Braylen Bell.

Mathematics Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Peyton Willis.

Science Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Memorie Willis.

Science Warrior Award (8th grade) - Shaytrece Mingo.

Science Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Phoenix Wilson.

Science Warrior Award (7th grade) - Gannon Vaughn.

American History Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Memorie Willis.

American History Warrior Award (8th grade) - Kaymerin Smith.

Social Studies Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Phoenix Wilson.

Social Studies Warrior Award (7th grade) - Waniya Tubby.

Keyboarding/Computer Applications Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Memorie Willis.

Keyboarding/Computer Applications Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Ivan Thomas.

Good Citizen Award (8th grade) - Mia Alex.

Most Athletic (8th grade) - Jerrick McMillan.

Good Citizen Award (8th grade) - Gage H. Lewis.

Good Citizen Award (7th grade) - Jordan Hickman.

Warrior Spirit (7th grade) - Baxter Hall.

Learning Strategies Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Mia Alex.

Learning Strategies Warrior Award (8th grade) - Jerrick McMillan.

Learning Strategies Highest Average Award (7th grade) - D'Nayia Cutler.

Learning Strategies Warrior Award (7th grade) - Hunter Farve.

Learning Strategies Warrior Award (8th grade) - Sierra Ben.

Learning Strategies Warrior Award (8th grade) - Cameron Farmer.

Personal/Social Skills Warrior Award (7th grade) - Amzie Anderson.

Learning Strategies Warrior Award (7th grade) - Elygin Solomon.

Choctaw History Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Tedra Denson.

Choctaw History Warrior Award (8th grade) - Noah Phillips.

Choctaw History Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Kookie Thompson-Steve.

Choctaw History Warrior Award (7th grade) - Quincy Farmer.

Choctaw Literacy Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Leilaya McMillan.

Choctaw Literacy Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Tyra Billy.

CCMS Band Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Kattielyn Johnson.

CCMS Band Warrior Award (7th grade) - Waniya Tubby.

CCMS Band Warrior Award (8th grade) - Annie Isaac.

TAG Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Memorie Willis.

TAG Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Kaisen Dixon.

Library 8th Grade Boy Award - Manuelito Anderson

Library 8th Grade Girl Award - Alexis Fraxier.

Library 7th Grade Boy Award - Quinten B Sockey.

Library 7th Grade Girl Award - Hunter Farve.

Outstanding Scientist Award (8th grade) - Memorie Willis.

Outstanding Scientist Award (8th grade) - Annie Isaac.

Outstanding Scientist Award (7th grade) - Demidrea Stokes.

BETA Recognition for Science (8th grade) - Memorie Willis.

BETA Recognition for Visual Arts (7th grade) - Breanna Isaac.

CCMS Football Best Defensive Player (8th grade) - Notah Tubby.

...continued next page

CCMS ..... continued from page fifteen

CCMS Football Best Offensive Player (8th grade) - Damien Vaughn.

CCMS Football Most Outstanding Player (8th grade) - Eli Joe.

CCMS Football Best Defensive Player (7th grade) - Gannon Vaughn.

CCMS Football Best Offensive Player (7th grade) - Jeriah Jimmie.

CCMS Football Most Outstanding Player (7th grade) - Brydon Wesley.

CCMS Warrior Coach's Award (8th grade) - Conner Clemons.

CCMS Warriors Best Defensive Player (8th grade) - Jace Dixon.

CCMS Warriors Best Offensive Player (8th grade) - Eli Joe.

CCMS Warriors Most Outstanding Player (8th grade) - Damien Vaughn.

CCMS Warrior Coach's Award (7th grade) - Braxton Roach.

CCMS Warriors Best Offensive Player (7th grade) - Jeriah Jimmie.

CCMS Warriors Best Defensive Player (7th grade) - DeKameron Bell.

CCMS Warriors Most Outstanding Player (7th grade) - Braylon Bell.

CCMS Lady Warriors Best Defensive Player (7th grade) - Ahnaya Williams.

CCMS Lady Warriors Best Offensive Player (7th grade) - Malaka Morris.

CCMS Lady Warriors Coach's Award (7th grade) - Mahle Jim.

CCMS Lady Warriors Most Outstanding Player (7th grade) - Trya Billy.

CCMS Lady Warriors Best Rebounder (7th grade) - Ceanna Willis.

CCMS Lady Warriors Best Rebounder (8th grade) - Bo Thomas.

CCMS Lady Warriors Best Offensive Player (8th grade) - Leilaya McMillan.

CCMS Lady Warriors Coach's Award (8th grade) - Kayla Farmer.

CCMS Lady Warriors Defensive Player (8th grade) - Leia Phillips.

CCMS Lady Warriors Most Outstanding Player (8th grade) - Kylie Williamson.

CCMS Softball Golden Glove (7th grade) - Breanna Isaac.

CCMS Baseball Best Hitter - Gannon Vaughn.

CCMS Baseball Golden Glove - Colen Dixon.

CCMS Baseball Most Outstanding Player - Gage Lewis.

CCMS Baseball Best Hitter - Jawarrick Hickman.

CCMS Baseball Golden Glove - Cameron Farmer.

CCMS Baseball Most Outstanding Player - Ethan Hernandez.

All Around Best CCMS Cheerleader (8th grade) - Skye Bell.

Warrior Award CCMS Cheerleader (8th grade) - Peja York.

All Around Best CCMS Cheerleader (7th grade) - Emaliyah King.

Warrior Award CCMS Cheerleader (7th grade) - Natayah Anderson.

Health/P.E. Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Sierra Ben.

...continued next page

69TH ANNUAL CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR July 11 - 14, 2018

ATTENTION

All Intertribal Dancers & Drum Groups

Those who would like to participate with the Intertribal Dance group for this year's 2018 Choctaw Indian Fair, please contact Rose John at (601) 650-7320, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Email @ rjohn@choctaw.org

For after hours registration, call or text at (601) 728-3573 or contact Rose via facebook messenger.

Deadline to register, Tuesday, June 26, 2018, BY 4:00 p.m.

NO REGISTRATION WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER DEADLINE.

To: All Veterans and Families

The 69th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair is around the corner. We are looking for display items to be placed in the Veteran's Booth. If you have anything to share with the public, you are welcomed to do so at the booth.

Any military items, such as pictures of veterans, any member of your family who served in the military, caps uniforms, any military gear, etc. are the types of items we are looking for.

If you are planning to share your items, call me at (601) 650-1737, or bring it to the Choctaw Veterans Affairs Office at the Elderly Activity Center, or you can bring the items to the booth on the day of the fair. Have your name and contact number somewhere on the items, so we can return them back to you.

Thank you,

Sammie Wilson, Director
Choctaw Veterans Affairs

REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY

WeTiP inc.

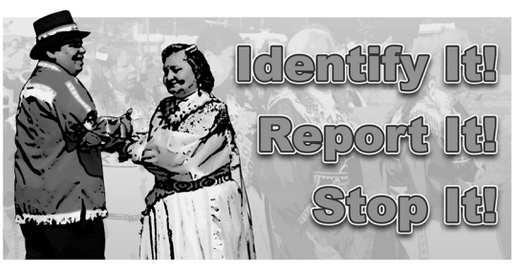
Call 1-855-4-THE REZ
(1-855-484-3739)
or visit www.wetip.com

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!

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

Department of Family & Community Services 1998

Health/P.E. Warrior Award (8th grade) - Jalayna Dixon.

Health/P.E. Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Elliana Ben.

Health/P.E. Warrior Award (7th grade) - Tushka Bell.

Health/P.E. Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Felicia Hickman.

Health/P.E. Warrior Award (8th grade) - Manuelito Anderson.

Health/P.E. Highest Average Award (7th grade) - Colen Dixon.

Health/P.E. Warrior Award (7th grade) - Quintin D Sockey.

Warrior Award (8th grade) - Mia Alex.

Leadership Award (7th grade) - Juan Perez.

Best Effort Award (8th grade) - Quentin Comby.

CCMS Chief List (8th grade) - Memorie Willis.

CCMS Honor Roll (7th grade) - Thomas Ben, Kaisen Dixon, Baxter Hall, Bonifacio Hernandez, Jordan Hickman, Breanna Isaac, Jordan Jim, Juan Perez, Bishop Reed, Quintin D. Sockey, Demidrea Stokers, Phoenix Wilson, & Ashaylin York; (8th grade) Mia Alex, Kashton Grisham, Kylie Williamson, Tradon Wilson, & Peja York.

CCMS Citizenship Award (8th grade) - Trenton Reed.

CCMS Citizenship Award (8th grade) - Leilaya McMillan.

CCMS Overall Outstanding Student (8th grade) - Memorie Willis.

Teachers Mike Moorehead and Bobby Smith were presented with plaques in appreciation for their 11 and 29 years of service and dedication, respectively, to the students and staff of Choctaw Central Middle School and the Choctaw Tribal School System.

ILS Program News

(Reprinted from the Choctaw Community News, 2004)

The Office for Independent Living Services (ILS) Program, housed in the Manpower Training Center, has been busy taking referrals & providing services to individuals this past year.

The ILS Program's services are provided to individuals with disabilities to help them remain as independent & active in their community as possible. We spotlight one of the many individuals who have benefited from the program.

Gabriel Roth & his parents, Mark & Carol Roth, requested services from the ILS Program to help purchase a hand-powered bike.

Gabriel, for a long time, wanted to be able to ride bikes with his older brother. Thanks to a grant from the Choctaw Community Fund, Gabriel's wish came true in 2004. Pictured above, Gabriel rode his new bike for the first time on March 4, 2004.

Along with Gabriel & his parents, the staff of the ILS Program thank all the people who contributed to the Choctaw Community Fund. Your contribution really does make a difference in people's lives.

Submitted by Kasey Reynolds, Rehabilitation Counselor

VR Services Program News: Fast Forward, 14 Years Later

Submitted by Mary Lundy Meruvia, Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program Director

The Tribe's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Program is always striving to provide the highest quality VR services to Tribal members who experience disability in order to support them in reaching their life goals, in terms of employment.

The program is lucky to have most staff that have a very long employment tenure with the program. Long-tenured staff find great joy in seeing program participants obtain life goals and achieve great things. One such participant is Gabriel Roth.

Program staff got to know young Gabriel with a special project for Independent Living funded by the Choctaw Community Fund in 2004. *(Read reprinted article above).*

Through a grant funded by the Choctaw Community Fund, the staff secured a hand-powered bike that enabled young Gabriel to play alongside his brother & friends.

He had several VR cheerleaders as he went through school and

.....see ROTH, pg. 18

Pictured above is Gabriel Roth in his own specially modified conversion van.

IN MEMORIAM

Rose Marie Farmer

Funeral service for Rose Marie Farmer, 62, was held on Saturday, May 12, 2018, from the Bogue Homa Community Gymnasium. Rev. Doug Blackledge officiated.

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

Mrs. Farmer passed away on May 9 at her residence.

She was a homemaker & enjoyed cooking for the elders. She cherished being with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wilton Farmer & Edith Lewis; sons, Leon Jefferson & Roy Jefferson; & sisters, Mary Nell Upshaw & Vena Jean Solomon.

Survivors include her daughters, Latina Upshaw & Loucia Clifton; a son, Edison Jefferson; a brother, Lee Farmer; 8 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Gregory Dale Thomas

Funeral service for Gregory Dale Thomas, 41, was held on Saturday, May 19, 2018, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr., officiated.

Burial was in the Old Canaan Baptist Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Thomas passed away on May 10 at Tonganoxie Nursing Center in Tonganoxie, Kansas.

He was a mechanic & laborer. He was formerly employed by Pearl River Resort as a dealer. He loved spending time with family & friends, watching his favorite TV shows, listening to his favorite band, working on cars, & playing pool.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Davis & Lucille John Thomas; grandparents, Oliver & Loretta Denson John, Dewey & Lula Lane Jefferson Thomas; step-grandmother, Georgie Shoemake Thomas; sister, Kandice Thomas; brother, Davion Thomas; an aunt & a grandson.

Survivors include his wife, Monica Thomas; daughters, Datola Thomas-Ealy, Cathy Thomas-Stoliby, Nittak-Hollo Fichik Thomas, & Alicia Thomas; sons, Patrick Steve & Joshua Steve; a sister, Kimberly Thomas; a great-aunt; 6 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Danny Gene Wesley

Funeral service for Danny Gene Wesley, 66, was held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, from the Pearl River Community Gymnasium. Rev. Glenn Myers & Pastor Thomas Ben officiated.

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

Mr. Wesley passed away on May 18 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

...continued next page

ROTH ..... continued from page seventeen

graduated from high school in 2014. The VR Services Program staff were happy to support him as he maneuvered through the support networks to obtain his college degree and seek employment after high school.

He was supported by the Tribal Scholarship Program, the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, both the Vocational Rehabilitation Departments, as well as the Office of Special Disability Services.

Gabriel was a role model for practicing the Tribal motto of "Self-Determination." He made choices about his adult future, self-advocated for needs he had along the way, worked hard, and achieved his goals.

He obtained his AAS degree in Computer Servicing Technology from Hinds Community College in August 2017. He was soon hired as a computer technician in September as the next best employee of Wireless Planet in Ridgeland.

One thing was missing... his own wheels. The hand-powered bike from 2004 no longer fit the bill! In December, Gabriel was able to secure his own van modified for his use.

All of the Choctaw VR Services Staff congratulate Gabriel on his life successes thus far. We look forward to many more great things upcoming in his future!

Many thanks to Gabriel for allowing us to be present during his journey, as well as providing consent to share his journey so that other individuals might find inspiration through his personal, educational and employment successes.

We understand that the successes were brought about by his own self-determination, but not without struggles along the way. He approached each struggle with determination. (We were all especially discouraged when the van targeted for purchase was stolen off the lot by thieves.)

We thank the partnership of cooperating agencies as each agency fulfilling their role of specific expertise in support services. Most of all, his parents, Mark & Carol Roth, established the building blocks of his success.

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

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

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

Welcome To
NANIH WAIYA
INDIAN
Mennonite Church
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

He was a recreational aide for the MBCI & his passion in his work was to build, encourage & influence others, especially Tribal youth.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lauren K. Wesley; parents, John Henry & Cecilia Wesley; sisters, Kita Wesley & Ruth Hickman; & brothers, Edward J. Wesley, John Lewis & Johnny Wesley.

Survivors include daughters, Alicia Wesley, Natassija Lyons & Summer Wesley; sons, Jay Wesley, Daniel Thompson & Clinton Wesley; sisters, Joann Ben & Janice Lewis; brother, Jerry Wesley; 16 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; & a host of family & friends.

Dinah Mae Shoemake

Funeral service for Dinah Mae Shoemake, 51, was held on Friday, May 25, 2018, from the Conehatta Community Gymnasium. Deacon Randy Jim & Bro. Eddie Johnson officiated.

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

Ms. Shoemake passed away on May 22 at her residence.

She was a homemaker & enjoyed doing puzzles, reading, cooking, & spending time with her loved ones.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elton & Elizabeth Shoemake; daughter, Cassidy Shoemake; & brothers, Elton Shoemake II & Joel Shoemake.

Survivors include her daughter, Tanesha Wesley; sons, Jason Shoemake, Shawn Shoemake, Kendrick Solomon, Nehemiah Solomon, & Stonewall King; sister, Loretta Shoemake; brother, Joe Shoemake; 14 grandchildren; special friend, Ferry King; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Verdie Mae Robinson

Funeral service for Verdie Mae Robinson, 70, was held on Friday, May 25, 2018, from the Multi-Purpose Building in Henning, TN. Lauren Jennings & Rev. Brent Pearce officiated.

Burial was in the Williams Cemetery in Ripley, TN.

Ms. Robinson passed away on May 22 at her residence.

She worked as a CNA & at Tupperware in Halls, TN then became a homemaker. She loved to cook, fish, sew, & help people.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Thompson Willis & Nettie Mingo; sisters, Maudine Dixon & Vina Thompson; brothers, Melvin Willis & Tommy Willis; an infant; & a half-sister, Catherine Clemons Jim.

Survivors include daughers, Kimberly Champion & Priscilla Waits; a son, Mark Robinson; a brother, Bobby Joe Willis; 3 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Marilyn Kay Frazier Lewis

Funeral service for Marilyn Kay Frazier Lewis, 63, was held on Sunday, May 27, 2018, from the Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Pearl River. Pastor Mark Patrick & Rev. Willie Solomon, Jr., officiated.

Burial was in the Frazier Family Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Lewis passed away on May 24 at her residence.

She was a dental assistant at the Choctaw Health Center before becoming a homemaker. She was a beaded jewelry maker & enjoyed being with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Gaston & Bessie McMillan Frazier; son, Jerritt Lewis, Sr.; sister, Linda Frazier Farve; brothers, Raymond Frazier, Jerry D. Frazier, Don Frazier, & Larry Frazier.

Survivors include her daughter, Kimberlane Lewis; sisters, Gwen Willis & Geraldine Isaac; 10 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

Valerie Diane Anderson

Funeral service for Valerie Diane Anderson, 53, was held on Tuesday, May 29, 2018, from the Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. Pastor Mark Patrick officiated.

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

Mrs. Anderson passed away on May 25 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

She loved spending time with her family & enjoyed doing her puzzles, playing spades & watching her favorite TV shows.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Irvin & Elizabeth Chickaway Jefferson; sons, Irvin Anderson & Rex Anderson; sisters, Martha Davis, Shirley Sam, Emma Steve, & Susie Sockey; brothers, Eddie Jefferson, Leroy Jefferson & Mark Jefferson; & 2 grandsons.

Survivors include husband, Mack Anderson; daughters, Ladorna Tubby, Willean Mingo, Veltina Shumake, Marlena Anderson, & Tracey Trolle; sons, Marc Anderson, Max Anderson, Mike Anderson, Deanrick Isom, & Ramey Dan; sisters, Judy Isom, Melissa Solomon & Sandra Wesley; brothers, Hubert Jefferson & Fieldon Jefferson; a great-aunt; 32 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

D's NATIVE EDGE Barber Shop
202 Choctaw Town Center
Choctaw, Mississippi
Business Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Closed Wednesday & Sunday

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Need Auto Insurance?
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CHOCTAW TOWN CENTER
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COME JOIN US!!
A GREAT PLACE FOR A SALE!!
Yard sales, fundraisers, food sales, or bake sales for individuals, organizations or ball teams.
Applications & guidelines can be picked up at the Office of Economic Development, or if you have any questions call DeeSandra Ben at 601-650-1612.

In Memory of Roby Gibson - Happy Birthday on May 14, 1940
We miss you & love you. We know you are still with us, deep in rustic beauty. On mountain tops around, a distant call is heard by all, filled with eternal sounds as we are thinking of you. Your love & good life you gave me & your daughter, her kids wish the same. You were our sunshine & everytime the wind blows, you whisper by. You left too soon from us, but you had to rest. Our heart broke in pieces, especially your daughter, but she knows you've gone to a better place now. We still love you & you are forever missed by your loving daughter & her family, loving wife Carolyn Gibson, & your two sons & their families.

- The Gibson Family

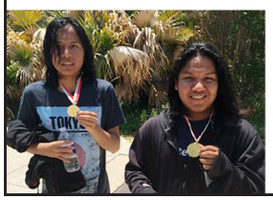
Unified Team at Special Olympics Summer Games

The Unified Team, comprised of Choctaw Central High School special & general education students, participated in the Special Olympics Mississippi Summer Games at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi on May 11-13.

The following team members, coaches & volunteers winning medals in their respective events include: Track & Field (gold) - Keyshana Beamon, 400 m run & softball throw; Bowling (individual gold) - Quentin Comby; Bocce (individual gold) - Brett Isaac; Bocce (team silver) - Tonya Billie, Raven McMillan, Demarco Thomas, & Brett Isaac; & Volleyball (team gold) - Austin Phillips, Richard John, Demarco Thomas, Terrance Thomas, Antonio Bell, Jerrick McMillan, Jeremy Bell, Shania Farmer, & Hayden Farmer.

The Unified Team represented the Mid-Mississippi region (Area 18) comprised of Leake, Neshoba, Noxubee, Attala, Choctaw, & Winston Counties.

Congratulations to all the participants & medal winners!



CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

MAY 2018

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Wallace New GHHS Inductee

Christina (Willis) Wallace

Christina (Willis) Wallace, a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was recently selected to be inducted into the University of Mississippi Medical Center's (UMMC) chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) this July.

The GHHS, a program of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, was established to recognize medical students, residents & faculty who are exemplars of humanistic patient care & who can serve as role models, mentors & leaders in medicine.

Since the society's inception, GHHS has grown in stature & influence to become a vital part of medical school & residency training program cultures throughout the U.S. The society currently has more than 25,000 members in training & practice.

Each year at the UMMC, about 25 students are selected for induction into the GHHS for demonstrating excellence in patient care, compassion & dedication to service.

The Jeanette Pullen Chapter is very active on campus & hosts two important events each year:

- White Coat Ceremony for entering first-year medical students;
- Student Clinician Ceremony for rising M3 students before the start of their clinical rotations.

GHHS also has the privilege of promoting humanism through activities & events for the School of Medicine & the entire Medical Center campus.

A native of the Tucker Community, Christina and her husband, Wesley, have two children, Ansley and Jake. She is the daughter of Barbara Willis and the granddaughter of the late Russell and Corine Henry Willis.