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.

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.

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.

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

Tribe Hosts Wreath Laying Ceremony

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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 Reservation-Wide 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
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.

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

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.

...see LETTER, pg. 4
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 Randy C. 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
It’s time to fish at the Tribal community ponds as 300 pounds of catfish were recently restocked.

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!

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.

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!

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.

Many Blessings,
Phyliss J. Anderson, Tribal Chief
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.

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. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Eaves, 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; 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 Gaming Commission Budget, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The resolution approves the 2018 Choctaw Gaming Commission Budget. 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.choc-taw.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 & salutatorian, 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; Shaudiareka 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 & Salutatorian Kyannah 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 & sec-

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

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-5:00pm | Facility building
Bogue Chitto-Hunting | Tuesday, July 24, 2018 | 8:00am-5:00pm | Meteor Office Building

Any qualified registered voter who is age 18 or older who physically unable to appear at the poll on election day or, who resides 50 miles or more from the community in which he or she resides is to be entitled to vote by absentee ballot. Requests for mailed absentee ballots (ballots) shall be submitted in writing to the Tribal Election Committee at the Tribal Election Office not later than 30 days prior to the election.

**INFORMATION**

For further information, please contact the Tribal Election Committee at one of the following numbers: (601) 650-7475, (601) 650-7476, (601) 650-1507 or FAX (601) 395-2252. You may also contact the Committee by writing to:

Office of Tribal Election
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 8013 or 813 Annex Circle
Choctaw, MS 39630

The MBO Tribal Election Committee includes the following members: 1) Berdie Johnson, Chairperson; 2) Amy Paul, Member; 3) Wanda Davidson, Member; 4) Davita Darlene Willis, Alternate; 5) Shirley Wilkens, 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 the election. The Chairperson of the Local Election Committee, who is officially appointed to conduct elections in the Bogue Chitto Community, may be also be contacted. The Choctaw Tribal Election Code is available at the MBO website at www.choctaw.org.

DATE POSTED: June 01, 2018

“came here will get employed,” said Tribal Chief Phyllis 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 her time to host an event. We can always work together.”

CAREER EXPO ............................................... continued from page one
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, Glenidia Dixon, Mercedes 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.

........see CVLC, pg. 13

MEETING

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 Shaudareka 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, Shaudareka Thomas, Bo & Tara Steve; bottom row, Victoria Billie, Ricky & 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, Shaudareka 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, Dantita McMillan & Scottie Wallace.
Congratulations Graduates!

CHOCTAW CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 2018

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 MBC1 Facebook page and email.
Malia Burnside  
Chocow Central High School

Mariah McBeath  
Standing Pine Head Start

Marisa Bell  
Chocow Central High School

Micaiah Tubby  
Chocow Central High School

Neshoba Clifton  
Glade Elementary 2nd Grade Promotion

Nicklaus Shumake  
University of Southern Mississippi

Nylin Frazier  
Tucker Elementary Kindergarten

Onahini Denso  
University of Tennessee

Paycen Comby  
Tucker Elementary Pre-Kindergarten

Quenton Anderson  
Chocow Central High School

Rakisha Anderson  
Meridian Community College

Reyes Willis  
Chocow Central High School

Rozlind Smith  
CHS

Sage York  
Jones County Junior College

Serenity Wallace  
Beau Four Kindergarten

Shane Shumake  
Bethaven University

Sharlize Marquez  
Kosciusko Lower Elementary Pre-Kindergarten

Sheyann Bell  
Chocow Central High School

Shuntay Willis  
Chocow Central High School

Tamaran Thomas  
Oklahoma

Teagan Clemmons  
Chocow Central High School

Tehya Jimmie  
Pearl River Elementary Pre-Kindergarten

Terrell Bell  
Chocow Central High School

Tiger Briscoe  
Chocow Central High School

Tikeshia McMillan  
Riverside Indian School

Tyler Bell  
Chocow Central High School

Victoria Bell  
Chocow Central High School

Whitney Willis  
Chocow Central High School

William Bell  
Chocow Central High School

Chumani Sulgado  
Chocow Central High School

William McMillan  
Bacon 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  
Chocow Central High School

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

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

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.
- 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.
- Algebra I Highest Average Award (8th grade) - Peja York.
- Algebra I Warrior Award (8th grade) - Memorie Willis.
- Mathematics Warrior Award (8th grade) - Leilaya McMillan.

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@choctawtribal-schools.com

CVLC .......... continued from page eight

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 Nicky, 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. Sinddle Williams was named Slow-Pitch Softball Player of the Year.

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

Lady Warriors Sign Letters of Intent

Several Choctaw Central Lady Warrior seniors recently 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.

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 (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) - Kattieyn 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.

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CCMS Football
Best Offensive Player (8th grade) - Damien Vaughn.
CCMS Football Most Outstanding Player (8th grade) - Eli Joe.
CCMS Football Best Defensive Player - Gannon Vaughn.

CCMS Football Best Offensive Player (7th grade) - Gannon Vaughn.
CCMS Football Most Outstanding Player (7th grade) - Jeriah Jimmie.
CCMS Football Best Offensive Player (7th grade) - Brydon Wesley.

CCMS Warriors Coach’s Award (8th grade) - Conner Clem- 
ons.
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.

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.

ATTENTION
All Intertribal Dancers & Drum Groups

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
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!

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
Health/P.E. Warrior Award (8th grade) - Jalaayna 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, Kaston 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.

**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.
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 Denison John; Dewey & Lula Lane Jefferson Thomas; step-grandmother, Georgie Shoemaker Thomas; sister, Kandice Thomas; brother, Davion Thomas; an aunt & a grand-son.

Survivors include his wife, Monica Thomas; daughters, Datola Thomas-Ealy, Cathy Marlow & Sallie Thomas; a son, Edison Jefferson; a brother, Lee Farmer; 8 grandchildren; 3 great-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.

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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 congratulated 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.

...continued next page
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, Tane-sha 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 daughters, Kimberly Lewis; sisters, Gwen Willis & Geraldine Isaac; 10 grandchildren; & a host of 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, Kimberline 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, Willeen Ming, 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.
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!

Wallace New GHHS Inductee

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.