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NEW TRIBAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

The Choctaw Tribal Election Committee has announced that two of the eight Choctaw Tribal communities will hold elections on Tuesday, August 25, 2009, for two seats on the Mississippi Choctaw Tribal Council. Crystal Ridge and Tucker voters will vote for one Tribal Council representative each. Once elected and seated, the two representatives will serve four-year terms that expire in 2013. Among the candidates are incumbents Ann Wesley of the Crystal Ridge community and Tony Martin of the Tucker community.

Elections for seven other seats on the Tribal Council were held on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, and official results were released on Thursday, June 11, 2009. Two former Council members and three new Council members were elected, while two incumbent Council members were re-elected. All seven individuals were sworn in and seated during the regularly-scheduled Tribal Council meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2009.

During the July 14th meeting, the Tribal Council nominated and voted for candidates for the positions of Vice-Miꞑko, Secretary-Treasurer, and Tribal Council Committee System Coordinator. Standing Pine Councilman Harrison Ben was elected as Vice-Miꞑko, Pearl River Councilwoman Lola Parkerson was elected as Secretary-Treasurer, and Pearl River Councilman Edward J. Wesley was elected as Tribal Council Committee System Coordinator.

Voter registration drives for Crystal Ridge and Tucker will take place on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The location for the registration drives will be in the Crystal Ridge and Tucker facility buildings. Tribal members who live in Crystal Ridge or Tucker and who are 18 years of age and older and who have not registered to vote in a Tribal election may register to vote at this time. If a Tribal member is already registered to vote, he or she does not have to register again unless he or she has moved to another community. If a Tribal member wants to register to vote in future Tribal elections and resides in a community other than Crystal Ridge or Tucker, he or she may register to vote at the Tribal Elections Office in the Pearl River community.

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The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the esteemed leadership of Miko Beasley Denson has an enrolled membership of almost 10,000 and is the only federally recognized tribe in the State of Mississippi. Headquartered in the Pearl River community, near Philadelphia, Mississippi, the Tribe has emerged as a leader in economic development. The Tribe provides a range of governmental services for its members including schools, a hospital, medical clinics, police and fire protection, courts, an elderly center, among many others.