Beaver Dam Wins Stickball Gold

The Beaver Dam youth stickball team (ages 9-12) claimed gold medals in the State Games of Mississippi Kabotcha Toli stickball tournament over Pearl River 4-3 at Choctaw Central High School’s Warrior Stadium in Choctaw on June 24. Pearl River received silver medals & Bok Cito claimed bronze medals with a 4-3 win over Koni Hata Osi in the consolation game. RIGHT, Beaver Dam’s Dakiren Wilson was named MVP of the game.
Halito!

It is with great delight that I write this column to welcome everyone to the 68th edition of the Choctaw Indian Fair. After many months of planning, meetings and anticipation, we open our fairgrounds for tribal members, friends, neighbors and first-time fairgoers.

We have a great four-day event in store for everyone with top stage entertainment, World Series Stickball, the 63rd Annual Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant, social dancing, arts & crafts, carnival rides, competitions, hands-on activities for kids and traditional and specialty food items.

I commend the hard-working members of our Choctaw Indian Fair Committee. They continue to make our fair bigger and better each year and I thank them for their tireless work.

Again, to our visitors and first-time fairgoers, welcome to beautiful Choctaw, Mississippi and the 68th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair!

Eleven Years of Unity Walk

On Saturday, June 24th, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) hosted the 11th Annual Unity Walk and program. This event continues to grow each year as the activities gain more attention on the reservation and beyond.

The goal of the event is to create awareness about diabetes prevention through exercise and a healthy lifestyle. The Unity Walk also marks the unofficial start to stickball season as teams and fans from across the Reservation walk from their practice fields and meet on the Choctaw Indian fairgrounds at the CHHS Baseball Stadium parking area in a show of unity.

As in years past, the teams made the final portion of the walk together. Due to the amphitheater grounds being wet from recent rains, the teams made the final walk to the CHHS gymnasium.

The number of participants has grown from a handful of teams to virtually every team that competes in the World Series Stickball tournament.

And this year, while I was not able to join in the activities for the first time, I was so pleased that our Vice-Chief Ronnie Henry walked in my place to celebrate this wonderful event.

Again, thank you to the SPDI and DPP program staff and all those who participated to create awareness of this important health issue.

Princess Pageant

This year we celebrate the 63rd Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant. We have 12 lovely young ladies competing for the title this year. Over the summer, these young ladies have participated in numerous meetings, workshops and practices. Some competitions have already been completed, including the newest element to the program, a media relations competition.

On opening night of the fair, Wednesday, July 12 at 7:00 PM, at the main stage, the contestants will showcase their evening and traditional wear as well as their poise and presentation skills.

I look forward to seeing the beautiful artistry our contestants will showcase with their selection of dress, beadwork and other accessories.

I wish each of the contestants best of luck. I commend your courage and commitment to serve our Tribe as our official goodwill ambassador.

Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan was present at the Pearl River Community Gymnasium on Monday, June 5 to announce the seeding of teams for the World Series Stickball (WSS) brackets during the 68th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. There are a total of 46 teams competing for championships in three adult divisions & two youth divisions. Games began on July 3 & will conclude on July 15 with the men’s division championship game. All games are played at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School. Pictured above, Nanih Waiya coach Cecil Dixon, left, draws the seeding number to determine which team they will face in the WSS.

2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn Diane McMillan

Ms. Autumn Diane McMillan has graciously served our Tribe as the 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess. As she completes the end of her reign, I want to thank her for representing our Choctaw people and the traditions and heritage we celebrate as a Tribe. Autumn has participated in many community events and happenings across the state and in Indian Country. She has also made special presentations on behalf of the Tribe and the Choctaw Indian Fair. I hope this experience has been memorable for her. She has been fantastic as a princess, and I have enjoyed seeing her grow in this role.

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Autumn, on behalf of the Tribe, I wish you the very best in the years to come as you pursue higher education and career opportunities. Ya-koki Autumn!

World Series Stickball

This year’s World Series Stickball tournament is going to be great! I have noticed many stickball teams practicing and fans gearing up with the excitement this time of year always brings to the Reservation.

While Unity Walk and the State Games always unofficially marks the start of stickball season, we held the actual opening ceremony with our first game on Monday, July 3rd at Warrior Stadium.

The games conclude on the closing night of the Choctaw Indian Fair on Saturday, July 15th with the men’s championship game.

Our players are ready to show us what they have, and I have no doubt that this season will be another great display of what our Choctaw people call the “Little Brother of War” - Choctaw Stickball!

Good luck to all our players, coaches, staff and fans. I look forward to seeing you at the games!

State Games Stickball

Once again, our Tribe had the honor of hosting the State Games of Mississippi stickball tournament on the Reservation at Warrior Stadium on June 22-24.

These games give our youth players an opportunity to showcase their skills and gear up for the World Series Stickball Tournament during the Choctaw Indian Fair.

The popularity of the State Games continues to grow as we saw huge crowds coming out to enjoy the action of the competition.

Congratulations to Beaver Dam on winning the gold medal, as well as to silver medalist Pearl River and bronze medalist Bok Cito. Congratulations also to Dakiren Wilson who was named MVP.

MBCI is a proud sponsor of the State Games, and I congratulate them on another great year.

Tribal Council Elections


These representatives will be constitutionally sworn-in during the regular council meeting on July 11, 2017.

Closing

In closing, I hope everyone makes plans to attend this year’s fair to celebrate our culture and heritage.

I hope you will join me at the Main Stage on Wednesday, July 12 at 6:00 p.m., for Opening Ceremonies of the fair and again on Saturday, July 15 at 6:00 p.m., for Closing Ceremonies. Have a great fair everyone!

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief
Red Water Referendum Update

The petition efforts by Tribal members seeking a referendum election to reject a Tribal Resolution regarding construction of the Red Water Casino is under judicial review.

On May 26, Chief Phyllis J. Anderson and the Tribal Election Committee (TEC) released the official Petition Canvassing Results and Determination showing that the total number of accepted petitions by registered Tribal voters was 1,607.

The number of valid petitions needed to cause a referendum election to be held was 1,612. As a result, Chief Anderson and the TEC determined that the referendum measure would not be certified for an election.

The total number of petitions submitted to the TEC by the deadline of May 21, was originally 1,729. After the petitions were turned in, Chief Anderson and the TEC were required to canvass and examine each petition.

Chief Anderson said, “In accordance with our Tribal Election Code, I spent five business days with the Tribal Election Committee canvassing and examining each petition to determine whether the person who signed a petition was a registered voter and to determine if the petition otherwise conformed with the Revised Constitution and Bylaws and the Tribal Election Code rules and procedures.”

Based on those efforts, Chief Anderson and the TEC refused a total of 116 petitions. There were also six Tribal members who withdrew their petitions. After the refused and the withdrawn petitions, there remained a total of 1,607 valid petitions.

An amended Petition Canvassing Results and Determination was released by Chief Anderson and the TEC on June 15, 2017, that showed a total number of accepted petitions as 1,592.

On June 16, Chief...continued next page

Geyser Falls Donates To Wounded Warrior Project

Geyser Falls Water Theme Park in Choctaw, Miss., celebrated its 15th anniversary with a special discount that benefitted disabled veterans across the country.

On Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4, Geyser Falls park admission was only $17, with a portion of the proceeds donated to the Wounded Warrior Project. This non-profit and veteran services organization helps over 100,000 wounded veterans and their families through various programs such as housing and support services.

“We are thrilled to celebrate 15 years of offering family fun and excitement at Geyser Falls Water Theme Park,” stated Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO for Pearl River Resort. “In celebrating this milestone, we wanted to give back to our guests and also to the Wounded Warriors who have fought hard for each of us to enjoy the freedom that we have today.”

Geyser Falls first opened its door on July 4, 2002.

The Southeast’s number one destination for water park fun spans 15 acres and features 13 waterslides including a six-story freefall speed slide, gigantic wave pool, exotic lazy river and a four-lane racing slide.

Geyser Falls also features Clearwater Key, eight acres of glistening water and white sand beaches in a lush resort-like atmosphere designed to appeal to all ages.

Geyser Falls invites guests to bring their families and enjoy all the park has to offer. For more information, call 1.866.447.3275 or visit www.geyserfalls.com.
Anderson released the following statement. “On May 26, 2017, the Tribal Election Committee (TEC) and I released an official petition canvassing form showing the number of “refused” and “accepted” petitions in the Red Water Casino referendum. However, we recently discovered that the May 26, 2017, petition canvassing form incorrectly had fifteen (15) “refused” petitions included with the total number of “accepted” petitions. Eleven (11) of these petitions were duplicates, and four (4) of them were refused because of registration problems. Even though this oversight would have been brought out in court, the TEC and I decided to produce an amended canvassing form now and to notify the Sponsors at once. As a result, the total number of accepted petitions in now 1592, not 1607 as initially reported. An amended petition canvassing form with further details has been mailed out to the Sponsors in accordance with the Tribal Election Code. Also, the deadline to file a court action will be adjusted based on when the Sponsors receive the amended petition canvassing form.” On June 23, 2017, the referendum sponsors filed a complaint and Emergency Writ of Mandamus in tribal court seeking judicial review of the determination made by Chief Anderson and the TEC. The court case remains pending as of press time.

Wreath laying ceremony held at Veterans Memorial

A wreath laying ceremony commemorating Memorial Day was observed at the Choctaw Veterans Memorial on Friday, May 22. Veterans, families of veterans and officials with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians paid tribute to all who served our nation and remembered those who served at the Choctaw Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day.

The floor is designed with a sunburst pattern with the Tribal seal of the Mississippi Choctaw in the center. Surrounding the seal are logos of the branches of the U.S. Armed Services.

A 21-gun salute was performed by the Tribal Protective Services as Officer James D. Willis performed a rendition of Taps on the hill overlooking the memorial.

The memorial, located on Black Jack Road south of Geyser Falls Water Theme Park off of Highway 16, was dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 2010. The circular half-wall memorial is made of red granite and the signage on the wall proclaiming “CHAH TA TUSH KA SIAH OKIH - I am a Choctaw Warrior!” is made of cast bronze.

The memorial, located on Black Jack Road south of Geyser Falls Water Theme Park off of Highway 16, was dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 2010. The circular half-wall memorial is made of red granite and the signage on the wall proclaiming “CHAH TA TUSH KA SIAH OKIH - I am a Choctaw Warrior!” is made of cast bronze.

Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan, Choctaw Veterans Affairs Director Sammie Wilson & color guard members Larry McMillan & Kent Wesley observe a moment of silence after they laid the ceremonial wreath at the memorial.

From left are guest speaker retired Col. William Ray Crocker & Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan.
PAB Hosts Appreciation Luncheon

The Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) met on May 16 at the Ayipia Cafe at the Occupational Training Center in Choctaw.

Board members honored the 2017 Choctaw Tribal Schools’ Parents of the Year, Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) valedictorian & salutatorian, & special guests during their appreciation luncheon.

Joshua Peoples & Mitchell Crawford entertained board members & guests with a medley of beautiful Christian songs.

CCHS Counselor Carla Bobo, Bogue Chitto’s Counselor, Indian Health Vocational Program, the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn., the home of the organization’s headquarters.

Nashville is also home to the Indian Health Service Nashville Area Office (IHS-NAO) & the Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Region Office (BIA-ERO).

Pictured from left, May Outstanding Choctaw Educator Award recipient Susie Henry, CCHS Valedictorian Searra Wilson, Salutatorian Diajah York, & new PAB member Felicia Sharp of the Pearl River Community.

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Parents of the Year honorees include, seated from left, Annette Arvizu, Ivora Johnson, Melinda Lewis, Carla Bobo; standing from left, Millicent & Scottie Wallace, Jamie & Royce Billy, Mike & Sally Allen, & Ashland & Christopher Willis.

Parents of the Year

Participates At Health Fair

The Choctaw Community Planning Coalition (CCPC), along with Choctaw Behavioral Health, hosted the 12th Annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) on the campus of Tucker Elementary School on June 21-22. This year’s conference theme was “Preventing Suicide is EVERYONE’S Responsibility.” The conference was designed to provide up-to-date information on social issues concerning youth ages 11-18.

“Each year we have a strategic planning meeting where we get kids together and the kids are the ones that pick out the topics they may be interested in,” said Jeremy Chickaway, CCPC Coordinator.

The CCPC is an organized group of caring individuals who strive to provide alternative activities for youth as well as education and mentoring to parents and leaders. Their priority is to reduce substance abuse through collaborative efforts.

The coalition works toward a common goal of building safe, healthy...
Reservation as stickball players ran from their respective practice fields in their home communities to the parking lot of the Choctaw Central High School baseball field in Choctaw.

Once all teams gathered, participants, tribal leaders and drummers walked together to the CCHS gymnasium.

Tribal officials urged all those in attendance to become educated on diabetes prevention and management to overcome the devastating effects of diabetes.

Vice-Chief Ronnie Henry, Sr., provided a prayer of unity to those affected by diabetes and offered words of encouragement to all stickball teams.

Rae Nell Vaughn, MBCI Chief of Staff, said she was proud to see stickball players and drummers come together for diabetes awareness.

“IT’s one foot in front of the other, one step at a time. Together, we made our way from our respective home community to here in Pearl River to walk united as one by the beat of the drum, our Choctaw heartbeat,” said Vaughn.

“We are all blessed to be here together united against one cause and that’s the awareness of diabetes. Each and every one of us has either a family member or ourselves that’s been affected by diabetes. I’m proud that we have the type of program and staff available to us here on the Choctaw Indian Reservation at our Choctaw Health Center.”

The CHC Diabetes Care Clinic provides comprehensive diabetes standards of management care to patients who have diabetes. The SDPI component of the diabetes center, established in 2004 to serve adult Tribal members who are at-risk of developing diabetes, provides community-based prevention education and promotes prevention of diabetes through presentations and community activities.

Patients who do not have diabetes may come to the diabetes care clinic to test for a condition called Pre-Diabetes. If a patient is diagnosed as having pre-diabetes, he/she is given an opportunity to participate in intensive activities provided by the SDPI & DPP.

The ultimate goal of the diabetes care clinic is to reduce the incidence of diabetes and/or reduce the development of...

and drug-free Choctaw communities while each individual and group retains its own identity.

This year’s conference topics included:

• Question, Persuade, & Refer - A Suicide Prevention Model (pre-test & post-test);
• Teen Dating Violence;
• Cyber-Bullying;
• Sexting & the Long Run;
• Parent & Teen Communication;
• Human Trafficking;
• Marijuana;
• STD’s and Your Future;
• Synthetic Drugs can Harm;
• Meth Epidemic;
• Dangers of Second Hand Smoking;
• Impaired Driving (Texting, Drinking, Eating, Speeding, Headphone/buds, and Social Media);
• MDOT Experiential Exercise for Tomorrow’s Drivers.

CCPC youth members volunteer as YLC peer educators as they provide educational presentations to their peers and attendees. They are supported by adult mentors to ensure the conference functions as a peer-to-peer led conference.

“We use the youth as presenters because when a youth is presenting, other kids tend to relate to them more than adults would. We get them prepared and give them at least an hour of presentation,” said Annette Lewis, Choctaw Behavioral Health Integrated Primary Care Specialist and Prevention Manager.

Parents were urged to participate in the conference as well. In this busy and fast-paced world, it is getting more difficult to spend quality time with their children as risky behaviors such as alcohol and drug use has a negative impact in the lives of children. Education seems to be taking the biggest hit because of it. With fewer parents involved with their children’s education, they are excelling less in the classroom.

Every adult that has a child needs to understand the importance of parent involvement. The effects of parental involvement extends far beyond the walls of...

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diabetes complications through nutritional, physical and behavioral (lifestyle) modifications as well as individualized medical management.

Patients may be referred from outpatient, inpatient, Women’s Wellness Center, field clinics, or by self-referral. For more information, call 601-389-4370.

during the classroom. The most powerful and effective forms of parent involvement are things that engage parents with their child on learning activities.

“Each year we’ve increased hosting students and adults. I think this year is the most we had and we’re going to keep on trying,” Lewis added.

The attendance on June 21 was 272 youths and 87 adults. June 22 attendance was 207 youths and 74 adults.

Vendors in attendance representing the following programs included the Choctaw Employment Assistance Program, 4-H Youth Development Program, Weems Community Mental Health Center, Tribal Scholarship Program, Mississippi State University Extension Services Positive Parenting Practices, Mississippi Army National Guard, Family Fitness, Diabetes Prevention Program, Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI, Choctaw Fire Department, Mississippi Department of Transportation, QPR (Question, Persuade, & Refer), and Choctaw Behavioral Health.

Support is received from local agencies, service providers, businesses, educators, parents, individuals, organizations, and community leaders.

This support is also from the faith-based community, school personnel, law enforcement, and other service organizations.

The strength of the coalition will enhance the ability of the community to more effectively provide prevention services for substance abuse and related issues.

are at 12:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.

Living Traditions Dance Troupe, featuring seven-time Hoop Dance World Champion Derrick Davis and Ryon Polequaptewa, will once again return to the main stage for their exciting Native-themed show. Daily performances are scheduled for Thursday at 6:45 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. & Friday at 5:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. On Saturday, July 15 at 7:00 p.m., a special performance entitled Brother Drum will include Japanese and Native cultures in a show that should not be missed.

Roaming the fairgrounds and making stops at Shawi’s Discovery Zone will be David Talley Balloon Artist, Buttons the Clown in his hard-to-miss bright orange mini car and Rock-It the Robot. Shawi’s Discovery Zone, open daily until 4:00 p.m., is a free family fun activities area that includes a rock wall, gyroscope, bounce houses, a park and the Chahta Immi Na Michi (hands-on Choctaw language & cultural activities) fun area.

Choctaw Social Dancing will be showcased daily at both the dance grounds and main stage. Immediately following the nightly entertainment, World Series Stickball games will be played at Warrior Stadium with the World Series Stickball Championship Game capping off the last night of the fair Saturday, July 15th at 10:15 p.m.

Culturally known to the Mississippi Choctaws as the “Green Corn Festival”, the Choctaw Indian Fair promises to be filled with Choctaw history, pageantry, World Series Stickball, Choctaw food, Choctaw song and dance, cultural activities, Indian arts and crafts, chart-topping music, and a whole lot more!

Don’t forget pre-fair activities start Tuesday, July 11th, with Gospel Night at the Amphitheater Stage, reduced carnival ride rates and stickball games.

To learn more about the 68th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair, visit www.choctawindianfair.com, like us on Facebook at Choctaw Indian Fair or call the fair hotline at 601-650-7450.
A Princess Says Farewell

In what has become a time-honored tradition, the 68th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair will open with the Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant on Wednesday, July 12, at 7:00 p.m., at the Pearl River Amphitheater. It will also mark the end of a memorable reign for the 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn Diane McMillan.

“It is a bitter sweet feeling. I’m sad that my reign is ending but very happy that another young lady will be able to take the role as ambassador,” said McMillan. “I was nervous at first because I didn’t know if I was able to fill the shoes of past princesses and was hoping to make the Tribe proud. It took me a while to process the idea of me being the princess, but my family and friends were there to help me and support me.”

Autumn, of the Tucker Community, is the 18-year-old daughter of Deanna McMillan and Fabien Tubby. She has a sister, Teresa, and two brothers, Coby Tré & Dominic. Her maternal grandparent is Anita McMillan, and paternal grandparents are Helen Billie Moore and the late Gene Moore and Austin Tubby and the late Julia Tubby.

As a freshman student majoring in nursing at East Central Community College (ECCC) in Decatur, Miss., McMillan often had to juggle school and her employment with the obligations and commitments of being princess and the Tribe’s goodwill ambassador.

“At times it was difficult because I did have school and work, but luckily my school and job were able to accommodate my princess schedule. I’m very grateful for that. Most of the time it was very fun, very exciting to be able to go to places and do different things that I haven’t done before.”

As princess, McMillan attended local ribbon cuttings, made appearances on behalf of the Tribe, and served as emcee at various Tribal program sponsored events and spring festivals.

She also had the privilege of meeting other royalty, such as Miss Mississippi Laura Lee Lewis, former Miss Indian World Danielle Ta’Sheena Finn and the new Miss Indian World Raven Swamp at the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in Albuquerque, NM. She also met princesses representing the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma at the Red Earth Festival in Oklahoma City, OK.

As Tribal ambassador, McMillan was honored to inform others who were curious of the unique Choctaw traditions and culture.

“I knew it was going to be a task representing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. You want to represent to the best of your ability and be a role model for not just the children, but adults who also look up to you. I knew that was going to be hard, but support from family and friends made it easier.”

To this year’s 12 beautiful young Chahta Ohóyó (Choctaw women) vying for the honor of becoming the 63rd Choctaw Indian Princess, McMillan offered this advice - have confidence and believe in yourself.

“To each contestant, just continue to represent who you are, your community and your family. When you are on that stage you are showcasing your personality through your smile, your walk, how you present yourself, and being in your traditional attire.”

McMillan plans to graduate from ECCC then enroll into the College of Nursing at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.
2017 Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant Contestants

Alanta Shilate Anderson is the 17-year-old daughter of Craig and Daphne Anderson of the Conehatta community. This fall, she will be a senior at Choctaw Central High School. The Conehatta Development Club serves as her sponsor.

Camille Pakali Dixon is the 16-year-old daughter of Jessica Wilson and Delanovka Dixon. She is a member of the Pearl River community. She will be a junior at Choctaw Central High School this fall. The Youth Opportunity Program serves as her sponsor.

Jayna LeighAnn Ben is the 17-year-old daughter of Sharon Williams and Jimmy Ben of the Pearl River community. She will be a senior this fall at Choctaw Central High School. The Pearl River Development Club is her sponsor.

Maranda Kay Frazier is the 17-year-old daughter of Misty and Timothy Frazier of Henning, TN. She is a member of the Bogue Chitto community. This fall, she will be a senior at Halls High School. Sponsoring Maranda is the Bogue Chitto Development Club.

Lauren Raen Ben is the 17-year-old daughter of Robert and Olivia Ben of the Pearl River community. She will be a senior at Choctaw Central High School this fall. She is sponsored by the Non-Gaming Properties of Pearl River Resort.

Anne Ashley Henry is the 17-year-old daughter of Ronnie Sr. and Diane K. Henry of the Bogue Chitto community. She will be a senior this fall at Neshoba Central High School. The Bok Čito Stickball Team is her sponsor.

Jasmine Nicole Chickaway is the 17-year-old daughter of Jeremy Chickaway, Sr. and Jennifer and Monty Willis, Sr. She is a member of the Pearl River community. This fall marks her senior year at Neshoba Central High School. Her sponsor is the Smith John Justice Complex.

Katelyn RayAnn Shoemake is the 17-year-old daughter of Gregory and Tracy Shoemake of the Conehatta community. She will be a senior at Choctaw Central High School in the fall. Her sponsor is the Choctaw Health Center Employees Association.

Kambree Chanee Chickaway is the 20-year-old daughter of LaShannon Ferris and Karady Chickaway. She is a member of the Conehatta community. She will be a junior at the University of Southern Mississippi this fall. She is sponsored by the Gaming Properties of Pearl River Resort.

Jennaya Kateri Steve is the 17-year-old daughter of Kathy McMillan of the Tucker community. She will be a junior at Choctaw Central High School this fall. Sponsoring Jennaya is the Family of Sim Chickaway & Maggie Davis.

Kassie Lann Cox is the 19-year-old daughter of Warren and Cassidy Wilson and Daniel Cox. She is a member of the Red Water community. She will be a sophomore this fall at Mississippi College. Her sponsor is the Red Water Development Club.

Sindle Patryse Williams is the 17-year-old daughter of Prisinda Isaac and Lathom Williams, Sr. of the Pearl River community. She will be a senior this fall at Neshoba Central High School. The Family of Patsy & Preston Isaac serves as her sponsor.
Tribal Archives Releases

MVP List

The Department of Chahta Immi’s Tribal Archives recently submitted a listing of past recipients of the Most Valuable Player award of the World Series Stickball (adult and youth divisions).

Some years are incomplete and information is needed to complete the list. To submit information, contact Amanda Bell, Tribal Archivist, at (601) 650-7399 or e-mail her at Amanda.bell@choctaw.org.

Men’s Division
- 1976 - Cecil Dixon of Pearl River.
- 1977 - Ervin Willis of Pearl River.
- 1979 - Leonard Jimmie, Jr. of Independents.
- 1980 - (Information Unavailable).
- 1981 - Barry Ben of Independents.
- 1982 - Everett Albert Frazier of Beaver Dam.
- 1983 - Ervin Willis of Beaver Dam.
- 1984 - (No MVP) Beaver Dam.
- 1985 - Ricky Willis of Bogue Chitto.
- 1987 - Jamie Jim of Beaver Dam.
- 1988 - Bradley Alex of Tucker.
- 1989 - Eddie Isaac of Beaver Dam.
- 1990 - Ramsey King of Conehatta.
- 1993 - Sebastian Lewis of Warriors.
- 1994 - Mark Patrick of Warriors.
- 1995 - Joey Morris of Bogue Chitto.
- 1996 - Jason Grisham of Warriors.
- 1997 - Teddy Hickman of Bogue Chitto.
- 1998 - Timothy Thomas of Conehatta.
- 1999 - Lucas Thomas of Beaver Dam.
- 2000 - Marco Thomas of Warriors.
- 2001 - Liasha Alex of Warriors.
- 2002 - Yunnell Willis of Conehatta.
- 2003 - Clifton Willis, Jr. of Conehatta.
- 2004 - Adrian Farmer of Beaver Dam.
- 2005 - Cain Chickaway of Bogue Chitto.
- 2006 - Brian Frazier of Bogue Chitto.
- 2007 - Tyler Williamson of Conehatta.
- 2008 - James Denison of Beaver Dam.
- 2009 - Satchell Willis of Beaver Dam.
- 2010 - Gabriel Bell of Beaver Dam.
- 2011 - Joshua Thomas of Koni Hata.
- 2012 - Joshua Thomas of Koni Hata.
- 2013 - Mark Willis, Jr. of Beaver Dam.
- 2014 - Garland Bell, Jr. of Bok Cito.
- 2015 - James Denison of Beaver Dam.
- 2016 - Jak Logan of Pearl River.

Women’s Division
- 1999 - Randi Williams of Ohoyo Homma.
- 2000 - Attalia Amos of Tushka Ohoyo.
- 2004 - Elyse Willis of Natives.
- 2005 - Kristi Willis of Lady Warriors.
- 2006 - Ashley Wesley of Lady Warriors.
- 2008 - Chantay Frazier of Bihhi Ayasha.
- 2009 - Lan Ebony of Natives.
- 2010 - Denisa Isaac of Bihhi Ayasha.
- 2011 - Tiffany Thomas of Natives.
- 2012 - Willa Thomas of Koni Hata Ohoyo.
- 2014 - Zenetta Williams of Koni Hata Ohoyo.
- 2015 - Kelley Sock of Natives.
- 2016 - Alyson Tangle of Lady Warriors.

Men’s 35 & Over Division
- 2001 - Jerome Jefferson of South All-Stars.
- 2002 - Stanley Tubby of South All-Stars.
- 2003 - Cedric Williams of South Team.
- 2004 - James K. Willis of Beaver Dam.
- 2005 - Vincent Wilson of Beaver Dam.
- 2006 - Gabriel Bell of 16 Pow Wow.
- 2007 - Tilson Williams of Tapasha.
- 2008 - Joey Morris of Tapasha.
- 2009 - Carl Hickman of Bok Cito.
- 2010 - Eric Dixon of Oka Homma.
- 2011 - Ricky John of Oka Homma.
- 2013 - Elijah Jimmie of Bok Cito.
- 2015 - Cyril Amos of Bok Cito.
- 2016 - Jimmy Tangle of Koni Hata.

Men’s 40 & Over Division
- 2008 - Frankie Clemmons of North.
- 2009 - Ricky Willis of North All Stars.
- 2010 - Ricky Anderson of South Team.

Pushmataha Division (ages 10-13)
- 2000 - (MVP, team info unavailable).
- 2001 - Kyle John of Beaver Dam.
- 2002 - (MVP info unavailable) of Bogue Chitto.
- 2003 - Jerrod Edwards of Beaver Dam.
- 2004 - (Information Unavailable).
- 2005 - Nathaniel King of Conehatta.
- 2006 - Laettner Johnson of Conehatta.
- 2007 - DeShaun Jim of Bok Cito.
- 2008 - Kanyon Jimmie of Pearl River.
- 2009 - Tyler Lewis of Pearl River.
- 2010 - Eric Billy, Jr. of Conehatta.
- 2011 - Clayton York of Warriors.
- 2012 - Brias Bell of Bok Cito.
- 2013 - Merrick Hickman of Beaver Dam.
- 2014 - Treundes Willis of Bok Cito.
- 2015 - Treundes Willis of Bok Cito.
- 2016 - Gage Wesley of Pearl River.

Tulli Okchi Ishko Division (ages 14-17)
- 2000 - (Information Unavailable).
- 2001 - Michael Ray Morris of Bogue Chitto.
- 2002 - (Information Unavailable).
- 2004 - Michael Ray Morris of Bok Cito.
- 2005 - Skyler Thomas of Conehatta.
- 2006 - Leland Gibson of Bok Cito.
- 2008 - Nathaniel King of Conehatta.
- 2010 - Dalton Clegg of Pearl River.
- 2011 - Braxton Amos of Bok Cito.
- 2012 - Hester Dixon of Beaver Dam.
- 2013 - Sherman Bell of Beaver Dam.
- 2014 - Dayton Bell of Warriors.
- 2015 - Taysheen Mingo of Warriors.
- 2016 - Yunish Billy of Koni Hata Himitah.
Tribal Athletes Honored

Several Tribal member student athletes were honored during The Mississippi Star’s inaugural Premier Preps of East Mississippi banquet and awards ceremony May 22 at the Kahlmus Auditorium on the Mississippi State University-Meridian campus.

Choctaw Central honorees included: Darien Tubby, Athlete of the Year for Basketball; Ichukash Solomon, Athlete of the Year for Cross Country; Kaedre Denson, Kyannah Grant, Kyarrah Grant (Basketball); and Leia Phillips (Softball).

Neshoba Central honorees included: Aspen Wesley, Athlete of the Year for Softball; T.J. Ben, Chayton York, Relissia Ray, Taylor Ben (Basketball); and Tenly Grisham (Softball).

News & Notes

CONEHATTA UNIT

On June 19, Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension Service provider Susan Cosgrove hosted a budgeting session for teen members ages 11-18.

On June 21 & 22, the annual Choctaw Youth Leadership Conference was held at Tucker Elementary School for all teens (11-18). The Club was closed to teen members.

Hickmon Earns Doctoral Degree

On May 12, 2017, Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) Principal Fred Hickmon received his doctoral degree during commencement ceremonies at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

Dr. Hickmon, Ph.D, began his career at Choctaw Central in 1998 as a physical education & history teacher. After earning his administrative degree, Hickmon was hired as principal. In addition, he is the current department head of the special education program.

In 2014, Hickmon was accepted into the University of Mississippi Doctoral Program. He was required to complete two years of coursework then a year to complete & prove his dissertation, which he based on the creation of CCHS.

In 2016, he defended both the proposal for his dissertation & the dissertation itself.

Hickmon plans on educating the state of Mississippi on the history of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. “In the Mississippi Studies course book, there is less than one paragraph about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. As a core requirement for graduation, our students have to take a class that has inadequate information about themselves. That’s not good.”

Efforts between Hickmon & the Mississippi Board of Education are ongoing to better educate the curriculum department on providing more information regarding the Mississippi Choctaw.

Lady Warriors Named Team of the Year

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors basketball team was named #MSPreps Team of the Year during the Clarion-Ledger’s sports awards banquet May 25 in Jackson. The 2016-2017 Lady Warriors (31-3) captured the Class 3A state basketball championship with a 75-42 win over Amanda Elzy on March 11. It was their sixth state basketball title in school history.
members until after the conference.

On June 23, teen members went to The Park in Meridian.

On June 26, MSU Extension Service provider Joy Rodriguez hosted a Relationships II presentation for teen members.

On June 27, teen members participated in a basketball game against Pearl River Teen Center members at the Conehatta gymnasium.

On June 28, teen members participated in Career Launch: All Health Care Day presentation by local health care professionals as they gave information about their careers.

On June 30, members went to The Park in Meridian.

On July 3, the club hosted a fire building & cast iron fry bread cooking demonstration as they made Indian tacos.

On July 4, the club was closed due to Independence Day holiday.

On July 7, the club hosted a summer session pizza party for all members.

On July 10, all club members participated in a Wet & Wild Day.

The last day of summer session was on July 11.

Youth of the Months
May’s Youth of the Month was Kayliona Kessinger. She is the 9 year-old daughter of Ki-sha King of Conehatta. She just completed the third grade at Conehatta Elementary School & was an honor student.

Kayliona has been a member of the club since January 2016. She was selected for her participation, attendance, & behavior at the club. Congratulations, Kayliona! Good job!

June’s Youth of the Month was Kelin Kel-ly. He is the 13 year-old grandson of Terry & Sherry Jim & the son of Charity Waller of Conehatta. Kelin completed the eighth grade at Newton County Middle School.

Kelin has displayed skills in leadership, problem solving, & teamwork during the summer session. He was selected for his behavior, skills, participation, & attendance at the club. Way to go, Kelin!

Special Thanks/ Recognition
The club members & staff thank Creighton McMillan & Satchell Willis for helping out at the club this summer.

To Annette Lewis & Jazzlyn Ben of Choctaw Behavioral Health, thanks for the teamwork presentation & activities facilitated to the teen members at the club. We appreciate the visit and information.

Thank you to MSU Extension Service’s Joy Rodriguez for her presentation on healthy/unhealthy relationships.

To the lunch ladies (Ms. Ivora, Ms. Daphne, Ms. Delores)

 Teens learn about “Wants & Needs & Savings” from MSU Extension Service provider Susan Cosgrove.

Joy Rodriguez of MSU Extension Services held a relationship presentation to the teen club members.

 Teens showed trustworthiness & teamwork to form a circle during a “Lean on Me” activity.

......see CLUB NEWS, pg. 16

LEFT, Smart Girls program members give each other a make over. RIGHT, Members of the Project Learn program look up three facts about three states.
Annette Lewis & Jazzlyn Ben of Choctaw Behavioral Health facilitated team building activities for the teens, such as making a human knot (left) & a pipeline team building exercise (right).

In one of the team building activities, club members worked together to complete a puzzle before the other group finished theirs first.

Annette Lewis & Jazzlyn Ben of Choctaw Behavioral Health facilitated team building activities for the teens, such as making a human knot (left) & a pipeline team building exercise (right).

& Ms. Rochelle), bus driver (Ms. Becky), & Conehatta School Principal Brian Parkman, thanks for the lunches & picking us up!

To Susan Cosgrove with the MSU Extension Service for the presentation, Savings: Wants & Needs, we appreciate all the information. Thanks.

Members were taken to watch “Captain Underpants” at Canal Place Theaters in Philadelphia.

DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

CAP Workshops

The Cultural Affairs Program hosted cultural training workshops in the Conehatta community during May. Workshops consisted of making beadwork, Choctaw dresses & shirts, sashes, medallions, & collar necklaces.

Workshops will not be held until after the Choctaw Indian Fair. The workshop schedule for this fiscal year is nearly completed as Bogue Chitto & Red Water are the last two communities on the schedule.

Coming up after the fair include holidays such as Nanih Waiya & Ms. Rochelle, bus driver (Ms. Becky), & Conehatta School Principal Brian Parkman, thanks for the lunches & picking us up!

To Susan Cosgrove with the MSU Extension Service for the presentation, Savings: Wants & Needs, we appreciate all the information. Thanks.

...continued next page
Funeral service for Monica Sue Willis, 44, was held on Friday, June 2, 2017, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River. Deacon Billy Smith, Bro. Mark Patrick & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

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

Ms. Willis passed away on May 31 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian. She enjoyed being with her family, participating in church events & making people laugh. She was preceded in death by her father, Edmond H. Willis; a brother, Brant H. Willis; grandfather, Bonnie Willis; an aunt; & three uncles.

Survivors include a daughter, Lila S. Willis Osceola; sons, Micheal R. Willis, Baxter Hall, III & Andre Jayce T. Hall; two grandchildren; mother, Susie Willis; brothers, Kevin Willis, Curtis Willis, Ronnie Willis, & Tyler Willis; a sister, Licretia Willis; two aunts; two uncles; two great-uncles; & a host of relatives & friends.

Funeral service for Darrell Franklin Jim, 57, was held on Friday, June 2, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Jim passed away on May 29 at Regency Hospital in Meridian. He worked with maintenance at Chahta Enterprise. He enjoyed watching TV, fixing cars, taking his grandsons fishing, & watching Miami Hurricanes football games.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Phillip Jim & Ethel Willis; sister, Adliane Jim; & brothers, Goodman Jim, Tony Jim & William Lofton.

Survivors include his wife, Annie Mae Cotton Jim; daughter, Vannesa Cotton; sons, Dudley Cotton, Sr. & Devon Jim; sisters, Diane Comby & Barbara Willis; brothers, Jerry Jim, Clay Jim & Wallace Lofton, III; an aunt; 16 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

Dancers Perform For Residents

On April 18, Governor Phil Bryant proclaimed May 14-20 as Nursing Home Week in Mississippi. The theme, “Spirit of America” was designated as “our call to everyone to visit or contact their loved ones, friends or neighbors in a skilled nursing or post-acute care center as a way to acknowledge their contributions to society & to lift their spirits of caregivers who value the community’s involvement.”

To celebrate Nursing Home Week, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Traditional Dancers traveled to Willow Creek Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Byram on May 19 to perform several Choctaw dances to the residents.

Dancers included Trudy Jimmie, May McGeisey, Lorena Alex, Phyllis McMillan, Garrison Joe, Ken Frazier, Emerson Billy, & Ryan Charles Bell. Casey Bigpond chanted & drummed & Phyllis McMillan was the dance narrator.

Day, American Indian Day, Native American Heritage Day, etc. Please, come & learn to make your own Choctaw attire for these events. For more information, call (601) 663-7506.

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Dancers included Trudy Jimmie, May McGeisey, Lorena Alex, Phyllis McMillan, Garrison Joe, Ken Frazier, Emerson Billy, & Ryan Charles Bell. Casey Bigpond chanted & drummed & Phyllis McMillan was the dance narrator.

Emerson Billy, far left, leads the Walk Dance during a performance at Willow Creek Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Byram on May 19. Billy is a student at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado & is home for the summer.

In Memoriam

Monica Sue Willis

Funeral service for Monica Sue Willis, 44, was held on Friday, June 2, 2017, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River. Deacon Billy Smith, Bro. Mark Patrick & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

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

Ms. Willis passed away on May 31 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian. She enjoyed being with her family, participating in church events & making people laugh. She was preceded in death by her father, Edmond H. Willis; a brother, Brant H. Willis; grandfather, Bonnie Willis; an aunt; & three uncles.

Survivors include a daughter, Lila S. Willis Osceola; sons, Micheal R. Willis, Baxter Hall, III & Andre Jayce T. Hall; two grandchildren; mother, Susie Willis; brothers, Kevin Willis, Curtis Willis, Ronnie Willis, & Tyler Willis; a sister, Licretia Willis; two aunts; two uncles; two great-uncles; & a host of relatives & friends.

Darrell Franklin Jim

Funeral service for Darrell Franklin Jim, 57, was held on Friday, June 2, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Jim passed away on May 29 at Regency Hospital in Meridian. He worked with maintenance at Chahta Enterprise. He enjoyed watching TV, fixing cars, taking his grandsons fishing, & watching Miami Hurricanes football games.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Phillip Jim & Ethel Willis; sister, Adliane Jim; & brothers, Goodman Jim, Tony Jim & William Lofton.

Survivors include his wife, Annie Mae Cotton Jim; daughter, Vannesa Cotton; sons, Dudley Cotton, Sr. & Devon Jim; sisters, Diane Comby & Barbara Willis; brothers, Jerry Jim, Clay Jim & Wallace Lofton, III; an aunt; 16 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

......see OBITS, pg. 18
ALSHON Paxton McMillan

Funeral service for Alshon Paxton McMillan, 1 month old infant, was held on Friday, June 2, 2017, from the Conehatta Facility Building, Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. & Bro. Eddie Johnson officiated.

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

Infant McMillan passed away on May 27 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Roger Anderson, Margaret Ben, & William McMillan; & a cousin.


CYNTHIA LYNN BELL

Funeral service for Cynthia Lynn Bell, 45, was held on Friday, June 9, 2017, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Deacon Ricky Thompson, Sr. & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements. Ms. Bell passed away on June 5 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She enjoyed being with her family, watching cooking shows on TV, going to yard sales, & being a fan of the Mississippi State Bulldogs.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mary Ann Mingo & Robert Mingo, Sr.; & foster parents, Edmond & Martha J. Bell.

Survivors include her companion, Bruce Jackson; daughters, Brittany Jackson, TeSheena Bell, Brianna Jackson, & Jaiden Jackson; a stepson, Nathan Bell; sisters, Tammy Eaves, Crystal Marlam Bell & Robin Tiffany Bell; a brother, Robert Mingo, Jr.; adopted brother, Robert Lee Hickman; seven grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ANNA LOUIS JOHNSON McMillan

Funeral service for Anna Louis Johnson McMillan, 73, was held on Thursday, June 15, 2017, from the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta. Pastor Curtis Willis, Sr. & Rev. Thomas Ben, Jr. officiated.

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

Ms. McMillan passed away on June 10 at University Medical Center in Jackson.

She was a Baptist by faith & attended Macedonia Indian Baptist Church. She was a song leader & active in the Women’s Missionary Union. She later attended Spirit of Life Christian Center.

She enjoyed gardening, cooking outdoors, playing softball when she was younger, beadwork, playing set-back or rummy, attending family gatherings, & doing crossword puzzles. She was employed at American Greetings, Apparel Factory, & Conehatta Day Care.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Otha & Pauline Steve Johnson; husband, Anthony McMillan; sister, Ida Mae Steve; brother, Robert Mingo, Jr.; & two great-nieces.

Survivors include seven nieces; one nephew; 21 great-nieces & nephews; & a host of relatives & friends.

WILLIE JIM AMOS

Funeral service for Willie Jim Amos, 64, was held on Friday, June 16, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Gibson passed away on June 14 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He attended Macedonia Indian Baptist Church. He was a porter at Pearl River Resort. He held previous positions as a sharecropper, farm hand & custodian.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, fishing, gardening, & Choctaw social dancing.

He was preceded in death by his mother, ...continued next page
Sophie Smith Gibson;
father, Homer Gibson;
stepmother, Lillie Gibson;
wife, Lois Stephens Gibson; sons, Carl Gibson & Kenneth Gibson; & brothers, Calvin Gibson & Leonard Wayne Gibson.

Survivors include his daughters, Mary Mullen, Peggy Gibson, Karen Gibson, & Christinean Gibson; a son, Glenn Gibson; a sister, Lamona Billy; brothers, Willie Gibson, Jimmy Lee Gibson, Melvin Gibson, Lloyd E. Gibson, Ronnie Gibson, Ronald Gibson, & James Gibson; 7 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

CLINTON JAMES FARVE

Funeral service for Clinton James Farve, 38, was held on Monday, June 19, 2017, from the Tucker Facility Building. Pastor Eddie Johnson officiated.

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

Mr. Farve passed away on June 15 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a houseman at the Golden Moon Hotel & Casino. He enjoyed watching UFC, WWE & the New York Yankees. He was a member of the Beaver Dam Stickball team.

He was preceded in death by his father, Sherrill Don Frazier; grandparents, Gaston & Bessie Frazier, & Albert & Bernadine Farve; an aunt; & four uncles.

Survivors include his mother, Gloria Frazier; a daughter, Arishanda Jefferson; sons, Romeo Farve & Jawaski Johnson; a sister, Angelina Farve; companion, Mary Willis; & a host of uncles, aunts, relatives, & friends.

CHARLES WISHORK

Funeral service for Charles Wishork, 56, was held on Tuesday, June 27, 2017, from the family residence in the Pearl River community. Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

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

Mr. Wishork passed away on June 23 at Merit Health Center in Jackson.

He received paralegal recognition & was fond of music & was a member of the Red Sand Band. He enjoyed exploring & meeting new people.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Major Wishork & Dorothy Starr Wishork; sister, Janie L. Wishork; brother, West M. Wishork; grandparents, Summer & Magie Billie Starr, Bennett Sockey & Zella Wishork; 4 aunts; 7 uncles; 2 great-aunts; & a great-uncle.

Survivors include a sister, Vickie Wishork Rangel; 2 aunts; 2 uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

DOROTHY MAE ALLEN

Funeral service for Dorothy Mae Allen, 66, was held on Saturday, July 1, 2017, from the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr., officiated.

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

Ms. Allen passed away on April 15 in Los Angeles, CA.

She was a clerical worker most of her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Houston Allen & Pauline Tubby Wesley; sons, Dorian Bell & Christopher Bell; a sister, Sally Allen Jim; & a brother, Luke S. Allen, Sr.

Survivors include her sister, Iris Wesley Navarro; brothers, Hester Allen & Daniel Wesley; & a host of relatives & friends.

Selby Jim

Funeral service for Selby Jim, 76, was held on Saturday, July 1, 2017, from the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta. Rev. Samuel Dixon & Bro. Mark Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Jim passed away on June 27 at Rush Hospital in Meridian.

He was a Baptist by faith & was a farmer. He enjoyed being with family & friends, playing baseball when he was younger, & fishing.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Nora Dixon Jim; parents, Victor Jim & Lena Anderson; sisters, Arletta Jim & Etherine Jim; brothers, Louie Jim, Foie Jim, Perry Jim, Cissaro Jim, & Leslie Jim.

Survivors include his daughters, Regina Hudson & Teresa Dixon; 3 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.
Happy Belated Birthday to Camery Jaden Bell on June 17, Love from daddy Orlando Bell. A love for Father’s Day come true!

Happy 9th Birthday to Anthony King on July 17... Happy 12th Birthday to Tamaya Hampton on July 25... Happy Birthday to Niko Dixon on July 26... Happy 7th Birthday to Dalyndah King on July 28, from all who love yall.

Happy Birthday to Sharisha Evans on Aug. 3... Happy Birthday to Marilyn Tubby, Jody Jr., Joanie Chickaway on Aug. 6... Happy Birthday to Sandra Morris on Aug. 7... Happy Birthday to Angel Vazquez who turned 1 on Aug. 9... Happy Birthday to Jean Jones on Aug. 12... Happy Birthday to Gary Tubby II on Aug. 20... Happy Birthday to Karen Richard on Aug. 23... Happy Birthday to Dewayne Sanders on Aug. 25... Happy Birthday to Christopher Evans, Jr. on Aug. 28.

State Games Kabotcha Toli

The Beaver Dam youth stickball team (ages 9-12) claimed gold medals in the State Games of Mississippi Kabotcha Toli stickball tournament over Pearl River 4-3 at Warrior Stadium in Choctaw on June 24. Pearl River received silver medals & Bok Cito claimed bronze medals with a 4-3 win over Koni Hata Osi in the consolation game. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Pearl River Resort are Gold Sponsors for the State Games of Mississippi, which is in its 26th year.