

# CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

JUNE 2018



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

## MBCI Casinos to Offer Sports Betting

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – Pearl River Resort & Bok Homa Casino, which are owned & operated by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), will soon offer sports betting!

On Thursday, May 31, 2018, during a Special Call Tribal Council Meeting, the council unanimously approved amendments to the Choctaw Gaming Commission Regulations. Specifically, two new sections were added to Chapter 4 on regulations governing sports pools, race books & pari-mutuel wagering.

With regulations in place, Pearl River Resort, which is a major gaming destination for residents of Mississippi & Alabama, is on the

fast track to accept wagers on sports & racing contests & will be among the first casinos to provide this gaming option.

These amendments were brought to the Tribal Council after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down PASPA (Professional & Amateur Sports Profession Act) on May 14, 2018.

Mississippi & Alabama have a very dedicated collegiate sports fan base. Soon MBCI & Pearl River Resort will be able to offer professional & collegiate sports betting in a legal & safe environment through the safety & security of the Resort to honor their bets.

Amendments to other chapters of the regula-

tions also address skill based gaming, fantasy contests, eSports, & a new slot product coming out of Nevada that creates a community based betting structure.

“The Resort is very excited about the op-

portunity to offer these new products for our guests in a vibrant & advanced gambling environment,” said CRDE Board Chairman & Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

“These newly approved regulations will allow the Resort to re-

main on the forefront of the gambling market as well as provide additional revenue streams to the Tribe. The Resort will be able to service all our patrons at Bok Homa Casino, Silver Star Hotel & Casino, & Golden Moon Hotel & Casino.”

## Twelve vie for Choctaw Indian Princess Title

The 69th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair is set to open with the Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant on Wednesday, July 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Main Stage.

Twelve beautiful young Chahta Ohoyos (Choctaw women) vie for the honor of becoming the 64th Choctaw

Indian Princess and the next ambassador of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. The pageant is scheduled to begin after the Opening Ceremonies hosted by Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson at 6:00 p.m.

The contestants have been attending Pageant practices throughout

June. The annual banquet sponsored by the Community Development Partnership is set for Monday, July 9. In addition to crowning our new princess during pageant night, other awards will be handed out including Miss Congeniality, Miss Photogenic, Media Competition Award, as well as First and Second Alternate.

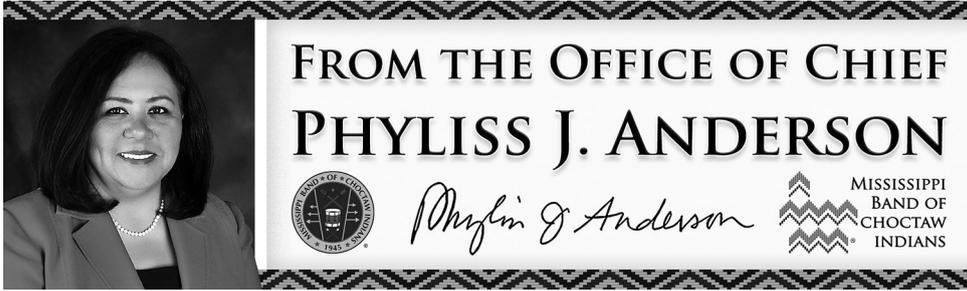
see PAGEANT, pg. 10

**CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR**  
CHOCTAWINDIANFAIR.COM

**CHOCTAW MISSISSIPPI** JULY 11-14 **2018**



**WSS Teams Participate in Unity Walk** *Players representing Choctaw stickball teams in this year's World Series Stickball (WSS) converged in Choctaw on Saturday, June 23 as part of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians & Diabetes Prevention Program's 12th Annual Unity Walk to promote diabetes awareness & education. Stickball players ran from their respective practice fields to the parking lot of the Choctaw Central High School baseball field. Once gathered, the players - along with tribal leaders, drummers & the Choctaw Veterans Color Guard - walked united to the Pearl River Amphitheater as attendees were urged to become educated on diabetes prevention & management to overcome the devastating effects of diabetes.*



Halito!  
As I write this column, the 69th edition of the Choctaw Indian Fair is only weeks away. After many months of planning, meetings and anticipation, we are delighted to open our fairgrounds for Tribal members, friends, neighbors and first-time fairgoers.

We have an exciting four-day event in store for everyone with top name country entertainers, World Series Stickball, the 64th 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.

To our visitors and first-time fairgoers, welcome to beautiful Choctaw, Mississippi and the 69th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair!

**Bracket Day**

Bracket Day for the World Series Stickball tournament was held on Monday, June 4th, at the Pearl River Amphitheater.

This is always an exciting and well-attended event, as coaches and team members from each stickball team gather together to determine who they will face in the battle to become World Series Stickball Champion.

We have some great

matchups on the brackets, and you definitely don't want to miss these games.

**Elder Abuse Awareness Month**

June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month. I am pleased to announce that the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is proclaiming June 15th, 2018, Tribal Elder Abuse Awareness Day in all of our Reservation communities.

The United Nations marks each June as World Elder Abuse Awareness Month and June 15th as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It is my sincerest hope that we do all we can to ensure the very best care and protection for our Tribal Elders. Without a doubt, they deserve the utmost respect.

Their wisdom and

guidance, nurtured by many years of experience dealing with the complexities and hardships of life, serves as a beacon of light for all of us who follow in their footsteps.

But we also know that elder abuse occurs worldwide, including in the U.S. and right here in our own communities. It is up to us to make every effort to see that any elder who is abused in any way is given the support they need.

If an elder needs help, please contact local law enforcement, the Office of the Attorney General at (601) 656-4507 or Family Violence and Victims Services at (601) 650-1774. Referrals to FVVS are kept anonymous.

I encourage all of you to participate in our Tribal Elder Abuse Awareness Day by helping to ensure that all Choctaw senior citizens receive necessary and ongoing care, nutrition, safety, financial assistance, time and attention from their family, loved ones and friends. Time spent with an elder is

time well spent.

**State Games Stickball Tournament**

Once again, our Tribe had the honor of hosting the State Games of Mississippi stickball tournament on the Reservation at Warrior Stadium on June 13-16.

These games give our youth players an opportunity to showcase their skills and gear up for the World Series Stickball tournament. 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 Pearl River on winning the gold medal, as well as to silver medalist Tiak Hikiya Osi and bronze medalist Beaver Dam.

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

**Annual Unity Walk**

On Saturday, June 23rd, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians

...continued next page

**CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS**

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

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P.O. BOX 6010  
CHOCTAW, MS 39350**

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Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.



Chief Anderson, along with Tribal elders and officials with Family & Community Services, proclaimed June 15, 2018, as Tribal Elder Abuse Awareness Day on the Choctaw Reservation.



*Chief Anderson, along with Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox & WSS Commissioner Thomas Ben, are being led to the Pearl River Amphitheater by the Choctaw Veterans Color Guard.*

(SDPI) and the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) hosted the 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 and to focus on prevention of this disease 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 respective practice fields and meet on the Choctaw Indian fairgrounds at the CCHS Baseball Stadium parking area in a show of unity.

As in years past, the teams made the final portion of the walk together. The number of participants has grown from a handful of teams to virtually every team that competes in the World Series Stickball

tournament.

I thank everyone who braved the hot temperatures and came out to stand United in the Fight Against Diabetes. I especially thank the SPDI and DPP program staff who work tirelessly every day to create awareness of this important health issue.

#### **64th Annual Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant**

This year marks the 64th edition of the Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant, with 12 lovely young Choctaw ladies competing for the title. Over the summer these girls have participated in numerous meetings, workshops and practices.

On Wednesday, July 11, the opening night of the fair, at 7:00 PM at the Amphitheater Main Stage, the contestants will showcase their evening and traditional wear, as well as their

poise and presentation skills.

The stunning array our contestants will showcase with their selection of dress, beadwork and other accessories is truly a lovely sight to behold.

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

#### **2017-2018 Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Lann Cox**

I want to thank Miss Kassie Lann Cox for serving our Tribe wonderfully as the 2017-2018 Choctaw Indian Princess. As goodwill ambassador, she has well represented our Choctaw people and the traditions and heritage we celebrate as a Tribe.

Kassie 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.

Kassie has been fantastic as princess, and I have received many compliments on her sweet and friendly personality.

Kassie, on behalf of the Tribe, I wish you the very best in your future as you continue to pursue higher education and career opportunities. Yakoki Kassie!

#### **World Series Stickball Tournament**

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 hold the actual opening ceremony with our first game on Monday, July 2nd at Warrior Stadium. The games conclude on the closing night of the Choctaw Indian Fair on Saturday, July 14th 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!

#### **Regulations Passed for Sports Betting at Casinos**

On Thursday, May 31, 2018, during a Special Call Tribal Council Meeting, the council unanimously approved amendments to the Choctaw Gaming Commission Regulations. Specifically, two new



*Chief Anderson with Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox during a wreath laying ceremony at the Nanih Waiya Mound.*

sections were added to Chapter 4 on regulations governing sports pools, race books and pari-mutuel wagering.

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honor their bets.

Amendments to other chapters of the regulations also address skill based gaming, fantasy contests, eSports, and a new slot product coming out of Nevada that creates a community based betting structure.

We are very excited about the opportunity to offer these new products for our guests in a vibrant and advanced gambling environment. The Resort will be able to service all our patrons at Bok Homa Casino, Silver Star Hotel and Casino, and Golden Moon Hotel and Casino. I look forward to seeing more success and increased revenue at our Resort properties.

**MBCI Day Training Orientation for Fairworkers**

On Wednesday, June 13th, at the dance ground pavilion in Pearl River, I attended the MBCI Day

Training Orientation and was very pleased to meet with and speak to the program's participants. These particular trainees have signed up to perform various fair duties.

The contributions of all the participants' time, energy and talents are sure to help the Tribe produce a great Fair this July. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is truly blessed in so many wonderful ways, and I am grateful for everyone's support and dedication to the Tribe. Thank you!

**Adult and CVLC Graduation Ceremony**

The Adult Education Program, in conjunction with the Choctaw Virtual Learning Center, held a graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 21st.

I am so pleased to know that many of our Tribal members have taken the opportunities



Chief Anderson & members of the Choctaw Fire Department with one of the new \$500,000 fire trucks they had recently received.

provided by the Tribe and are earning their high school diploma or GED certificate.

These individuals are an inspiration to other Tribal members who may be thinking of furthering their education. Congratulations to all of the graduates on a job well done!

**Choctaw Day at Geysers Falls**

I was pleased to once again offer complimentary tickets to Tribal members for some

fun in the sun at Geysers Falls Water Theme Park. Tribal members who received tickets had the opportunity to visit the water park on one of the three days we designated as Choctaw Day.

I am happy to report that many Tribal members picked up their tickets and were having some great family fun! Many people seem to enjoy this complimentary offer, and I hope we can do this again next season.

**New Fire Trucks**

I am pleased to report that the Choctaw Fire Department has received two new 2018-model large fire trucks. The Tribe invested almost \$500,000 each for these new trucks, having traded in the older fire trucks.

Both of the new trucks are well equipped with new LED lighting, new safety technology, much larger 1,500-gallon-per-minute capability, phone capability, and capacity to suppress fires more quickly.

One of the trucks

is principally used for paramedic rescue, jaws-of-life, and rescue equipment, while the other truck is used mainly for firefighting. Both of these new fire trucks are equipped to meet National Fire Protection Association standards.

We are very fortunate to be able to better protect lives, property, and MBCI Tribal assets Reservation-wide with this new firefighting equipment.

**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 11 at 6 PM for Opening Ceremonies of the fair and again on Saturday, July 14 at 6 PM for Closing Ceremonies. Have a great fair everyone!

Many Blessings,

*Phyllis J. Anderson*

Phyllis J. Anderson, Tribal Chief



Chief Anderson was the guest speaker for the Adult Education Graduation Ceremony on June 21 at the Golden Moon VIP Room. The Class of 2017-2018 included (Choctaw Adult Education) Chunsa Gipson, Jason Shoemake, Tommy Willis; (MI Best) Juanita Gibson; (Choctaw Virtual Learning) Justina Amos, Kabrina Anderson, Sherman Bell, Isaiah Chickaway, Jena Clemmons, Aldreca Hickman, Drew Hickman, Tyrin Stewart, Dartalian Willis, & Maria York. Congratulations!

## MBCI Prepares to “Hack the Future”

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, in collaboration with California-based innovation firm 7th Future, will present Hack the Future: Between Earth & Sky, the first-ever Hackathon on the Choctaw Indian Reservation and in the region on July 13-15, 2018.

Hack the Future will bring together a hundred participants ages 16-26 for a long weekend of immersive learning and friendly competition, offering talks from entrepreneurs from around the world, access to cutting-edge technologies, hands-on coding, pitching, and creative workshops, and no shortage of caffeine-fueled hacking.

What makes the Hackathon format unique is that it provides learning not just through listening, but through doing.

“Hack the Future is an important vehicle for developing entrepreneurial skills, building greater confidence, and encouraging long-term thinking in our younger generations. This initiative fundamentally supports our capacity to innovate, which leads to greater tribal self-determination and economic resilience,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

“But here in the home of our ancestors, our innovation ecosystem won’t be just like Silicon Valley, because we are embodying an Indigenous Futurism mindset that honors our traditions while embracing innovation and technology.”

Participants will form teams of no more than 5 and engage in a product development cycle compressed into a weekend: generating ideas, developing prototypes, “iterating” on their prototypes using the agile methodology, and then pitching their solutions to a panel of expert judges as they compete

for \$10,000 worth of prizes. No better training exists for developing real-world entrepreneurial skills.

The challenges that the teams will respond to with their prototype solutions are in answer to specific challenges set by industry partners Aurora Flight Sciences, a Boeing Company, and Sandia National Labs, framed around the themes of UAV manufacturing and applications.

The teams will have access to cutting-edge Augmented Reality and IoT technologies for use in their prototyping efforts.

With the Hack the Future project, the Tribe is leading the effort to create a vibrant new innovation ecosystem in central Mississippi that brings local businesses, academia, and government infrastructure together to leverage the power of cutting-edge technologies.

MBCI Development Director James Robinson said, “We understand that technological change doesn’t diminish the total number of jobs – it actually increases them – but it changes the nature of work. In order to participate and thrive in an increasingly innovation-driven jobs environment, a new set of skills is required.”

“Hackathons provide an invaluable tool for developing the most important skills for the next-generation economy. The Hack the Future series will not only be a platform for our youth, it will also make us a stronger partner to local industry by developing regional innovation capacity and networks.”

Headline speakers include Amy Fredeen, Executive Vice President at Cook Inlet Tribal Council, best-selling author and international Iroquois arts teacher Beckah Krahula,

game industry veteran and Co-Founder and President of E-Line Media and Former Studio Head at Activision and Chairman, Games for Change Alan Gershenfeld, Aurora Flight Sciences leadership, Sandia National Labs cybersecurity expert and Washoe tribal member Curtis Keliiaa, and international health and wellness expert and Founder/CEO of Future Health, Thurston Pym.

The Hackathon aims to inspire and includes an interactive VR Gallery featuring indigenous and innovation-focused virtual reality experiences, and NASA’s Stennis Space Center will present shows in a mobile planetarium.

A range of local education

institutions, tech heavy hitters, and ecosystem partners are supporting the Hackathon including East Mississippi Community College, Mississippi State University, Choctaw Central High School, Pearl River Resort, NASA, Unity, Baker Tilly, Qualex, A&E Interactive Touch, Everi, and the Central Electric Power Association.

The Hackathon coincides with the Choctaw Indian Fair, the most important cultural event of the year on the Reservation, as well as the Stickball World Championships, which MBCI have hosted for the last 69 years.

Participants can apply to attend at the Hack the Future website: <http://choctawbusiness.com/hackathon-2018>.

## Resort Racks up Awards from Southern Gaming

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – Pearl River Resort is pleased to announce that it has won awards in several categories from Southern Gaming Magazine. The Resort received honors during the 2018 Readers’ Choice Awards in the following categories: Best Poker Room, Best Buffet, Best Entertainment, Best Golf Course, Best Entertainment Venue, Best Spa, and Best Overall Property.

“We are pleased to be recognized by the readers of this great gaming publication,” stated Sonny Johnson, Interim President and CEO for Pearl River Resort. “We work hard to ensure our guests have a wonderful time when they visit our properties, and we look forward to continue providing a great experience for each of them.”

The Southeast’s premier resort destination features Silver Star Hotel & Casino, Golden Moon Hotel & Casino, Geyser Falls Water Theme Park, and Dancing Rabbit Golf Club as well as sister property Bok Homa Casino in Sandersville, Miss.

Pearl River Resort also features 24/7 gaming, comfortable hotel rooms, dining, retail, live entertainment, and a full-service spa. For more information on Pearl River Resort, call 1.866.447.3275 or visit [www.pearlriverresort.com](http://www.pearlriverresort.com).

To stay updated on all Pearl River Resort news and events, join us on your favorite social media sites: [www.facebook.com/PearlRiverResort](http://www.facebook.com/PearlRiverResort), [www.twitter.com/PRRofficial](http://www.twitter.com/PRRofficial), or <http://www.youtube.com/user/PearlRiverResort>.

# Geyser Falls Donates to Hamasa Shriners

Pearl River Resort's Geyser Falls Water Theme Park donated more than \$10,000 to the Hamasa Shriners of Meridian.

The collaboration between Geyser Falls & the Shriners began in May when a portion of

ticket sales, online & at the gate, were designated to help the Shriners.

"We are happy to assist the Hamasa Shriners. They are a non-profit organization that solely caters to children, including Tribal members," said Rahka Bres-

cia, Director of Geyser Falls Water Theme Park

The Shriners operate burn & orthopedic hospitals across the U.S., Canada, & Mexico. They provide meals, housing, & transportation for children & their families. The transportation of children from their home, to the hospital & back home, is the Shriners' greatest expense.

Kem Banks, Potentate of Hamasa Shriners 2018, stated, "The biggest thing we do is help children, that's all we do... It's a wonderful thing to see what the Tribe has done for its people & for the community. We really appreciate this wonderful gift."

Pearl River Resort & its properties are owned & operated by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. To learn more, visit us at [pearlriverresort.com](http://pearlriverresort.com).



Geyser Falls officials presenting the check to representatives of the Hamasa Shriners included, from left, Trent Butler, Rahka Brescia, Sheila Martin, Ashley Lewis, Sharon Banks, Kem Banks, & Rhiannon Lilly.

If you would like to help the Hamasa Shriners of Meridian, call (601) 693-1361.

## From the CHC Business Office



**Did you know that if you are eligible for Purchased/ Referred Care (PRC Referrals), you are required to notify the PRC program for emergency room visits at other hospitals/clinics?**

The PRC program must be notified of emergent care to other hospitals/clinics within 72 hours (3 days) of the emergency room visit or admission. The patient, provider, hospital, or someone on behalf of the patient must contact the PRC. The notification is extended to 30 days for the elderly (age 65+) and the disabled.

**Business Office Hours/Phone Number:**  
**Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**  
**601-389-4060**

When the Business Office is closed (after 5:00 p.m., weekends & holidays), please leave a message on the Business Office voicemail. We ask that you leave a clear message that include:

- Patient's full name
- Date of birth
- Name of emergency room facility
- Date of service or admission
- Reason for emergency
- Working phone number

The Business Office will call you the next business day following your notification. It is extremely important to leave a working phone number to contact you to get additional information.

Please note the 72-hour notification does not guarantee approval of payment. Case Management and/or the PRC Committee will review on a case-by-case basis and determine approval of payment, based on factors such as a life-threatening emergency room visit or if services were not available at Choctaw Health Center. Any services that could have been provided at Choctaw Health Center, such as a common cold or flu, will not be approved for payment.

If you have more questions regarding the PRC 72-Hour notification requirement, do not hesitate to contact the Business Office.

## Dental Dates for Early Child Care Program Announced

The Choctaw Dental Office would like to announce the following dates for Early Child Care Program dental ex-

- aminations.
- CONEHATTA**  
 Monday, July 16 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, July 17 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- BOGUE CHITTO**  
 Wednesday, July 18 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- Thursday, July 19 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- TUCKER**  
 Monday, August 6 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 7 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- PEARL RIVER**  
 Monday, August 6 from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 7 from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 8 from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m.
- The Dental Staff would like to say how much we appreciate our patients & wish each one a fun & safe Choctaw Indian Fair.

News from the Choctaw Health Center Business Office...

### For People with MEDICARE

You're Getting a New Medicare Card!



Medicare will mail new Medicare cards between April 2018 – April 2019. Your card will have a new Medicare Number instead of a Social Security Number.

Make sure your mailing address is up to date so you get your new card. Visit [ssa.gov/myaccount](http://ssa.gov/myaccount) or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778) to correct your mailing address.

Visit [Medicare.gov](http://Medicare.gov) for the latest updates.



CMS Product No. 12006 August 2017

### NEW MEDICARE CARD COMING

- ⇒ The new Medicare card has a new "Medicare Number."
- ⇒ Medicare is removing Social Security Numbers from Medicare Cards.
- ⇒ Medicare will mail you a new card with a number that's unique to you.
- ⇒ The new card will help protect your identity.
- ⇒ Once you receive your new card, destroy your old card and use the new card right away.

# CCPC Hosts 13th Youth Leadership Conference

The Choctaw Community Planning Coalition (CCPC) of Choctaw Behavioral Health hosted its 13th Annual Youth Leadership Conference at Standing Pine Elementary School on June 20-21. This year's theme was "Connecting the Dots between Wellness and Suicide Prevention."

The conference was designed to provide up-to-date information as sessions were led mainly by peer educators and adults served as technical experts when needed. Topics focused on social issues concerning youth ages 11-18.

The conference opened with a general session, Question, Persuade, and Refer, (QPR). The fundamen-

tals of QPR are to help save a life if someone is contemplating suicide. Much like CPR, QPR can be learned and the skills can be applied by anyone to recognize warning signs when a person might be thinking about suicide.

Breakout sessions were held during the conference with a variety of topics, which included: Bullying and Its Effects; Social Media; Parent/Child Communications; Personal Finance; Highway Safety in Teen Years; Drug Trends; Meth and Your Future; Alcohol and the Teen; Mind, Body & Spiritual Wellness; and Higher Education and Careers.

This year, the conference attracted over 600



**ABOVE,** Tribal Council member Barry Mc-Millan speaks to the conference participants in the SPES Gymnasium. **RIGHT,** Conference attendees included, from left, Elisah Jimmie of the Pearl River community & Savannah Bell of Henning, TN. Jimmie said she wanted to gain more information about suicide, its warning signs & effects on others. Bell said she looks forward to the conference every year because she reunites with family & friends while learning valuable information they offer.



individuals over the two day period, as well as tribal leaders, vendors, chaperones and parents.

Participants from the surrounding tribal communities and programs included the Boys and Girls Club, Pearl

.....see **YOUTH, pg. 8**



Members of the Wild River Dancers performed for the conference participants.

## DOECE News & Info

We sponsored our annual fishing rodeo on May 24, 2018. We had a large turnout & were happy to see all the fathers showing their children how to fish. We also had face painting &

photo ops for the children.

A big thank you to Mitzi Reed of the Choctaw Wildlife Department for weighing the fish that were caught to determine the prize winners!



Also, a big thank you to Brendon Williams, Pearl River Early Head Start/Infant & Toddler Center Director for grilling the

burgers for our lunch.

Nothing is better than watching families spending time together, laughing & having fun trying to catch the one that got away!

We are currently accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year for head start & early head start. If you are interested in applying, please feel free to stop by your local early childhood center & fill out an application.

Head Start is for children ages 3 & older. Early Head Start is for children 8 weeks to 2 years, depending on the

center.

It's important that you turn in your application as soon as possible. For more information on

*Pictured left is the winner of the biggest catch category. Pictured below from left are winners Eric Carson, Merle Henry & winner of the smallest fish category.*

enrollment, call 601-650-1716.



# Beadwork Shows Beauty of Culture

By Diana Solomon,  
Staff Writer

The atmosphere is filled with an abundance of Choctaw culture during the 69th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. Family, friends and visitors come from near and far to explore the world of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Whether you're here to enjoy fry bread and hominy or watch the Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant, it comes as no surprise that you will

be in awe at the unique culture of what defines the Choctaws. One of those defining aspects is the beadwork.

Beadwork, or *Shikalla Atoba*, are handmade pieces of beaded jewelry or accessories that accompanies Choctaw traditional wear. A full contemporary Choctaw beadset consists of a beaded belt, medallion, handkerchief lapel pin, two collar necklaces (seed bead and bugle), ribbon lapel pins, earrings, and a round comb.

Men mirror the women's beadset, minus the earrings, and substitute the round comb for a hat, which is usually sported with a raccoon tail on the back.

The oldest, traditionally known beadwork still worn by both men and women today is the sash. Intricately designed and stitched with a nylon thread, each artist utilizes various

styles and techniques that were taught to them by their mothers, fathers, grandparents, friends, and fellow beaders.

Some have developed their own techniques and are so skilled it takes them only a week to complete a full beadset.

Tarina Anderson, Tribal Council member from the Conehatta community, said she remembered when she was eight-years old seeing a coffee can filled with mixed beads as she watched her mother, Sarina, beading a spiral necklace.

Her mother taught her how to make keychains in the beginning and her father, Roger Anderson, would often bring home other beadwork so young Tarina can study it and improve on her style & technique because he truly believed in her talent.

"God gave us a gift. If you don't pass it down and keep it to yourself, then what's the gift worth," said Tarina.

Choctaw *shikalla* has evolved throughout the years. Thanks to commercial glass beads, we now see an array of colors in the beadwork with elaborate stones.

The elder generation of beadworkers prefer to stay traditional without the use of "shine" in their work while contemporary beadworkers make use of the vibrant colors and embellishments.

Despite their differences, young and old



Pictured are beadwork examples by Samihah Willis (above) & sashes by Tarina Anderson (below).



Pictured left is an intricate work of a miniature basket by Shemah Crosby. Below is a set of medallion pieces and a collar necklace by Wendy Ben.



## YOUTH ..... continued from page seven

River Teen Center, Supplemental Youth Services Program (SYSP), as well as participants from Choctaw youth from Henning, TN and students of INFUSION from Newton County.

would like to give a special THANK YOU to the Standing Pine Elementary School and the many supporters that helped us make this a successful event.

The CCPC members

beaders often come together to share their work and ideas amongst each other. This was helpful to Samihah Willis of the Pearl River community.

When she was a young mother, Samihah wanted to learn how to craft her daughter's bead set for a princess pageant. With assistance and guidance by Thallis Lewis and Tarina Anderson, she made her first beadset and is now one of several sought after artisans during the Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant.

A passion is developed for Choctaw beadwork no matter the age or gender.

Hester Allen, of the Pearl River community, recalls being fascinated by the beadwork during the Choctaw Indian Fair when he was

just a young boy. He began beading when he was about 9 years old as Mariam Williams Isaac taught him how to make a collar necklace.

Wendy Ben, of the Tucker community, was also 9 years old when she first began beading. Her inspiration came from her grandmother, Mary Ben, while spending summers with her. She is now teaching her daughter and two young sons how to bead.

Here in Choctaw, beading is alive and the tradition will carry on. We honor the love, the work and the spirit as we pass down our culture to the next generation.

So if you're looking for a beautiful handmade work, then you're at the right place here at the Choctaw Indian Fair.

# Chanting is a Part of Tribal Identity

By Melford Farve,  
Staff Writer



Pictured above are chanters Roger Ben, Effie Bell & Lola Jackson performing at the Choctaw Indian Fair.

Social dances are an important element in the traditional life of Choctaw Indians. It is the centerpiece of spring festivals, special tribal functions, and one of the cultural attractions of the Choctaw Indian Fair. But without the songs sung by the chanter or chanters, the dances would be without meaning.

The songs of the chanter correlate with the dancer's steps to manifest the meaning of the dances.

The lead chanter is usually a male. He is often accompanied by another male or one or more female chanters.

Most of the song lyrics are for melodic effect, and often will alternate in high or low tones to change the direction or pace of the dance.

The songs are employed for three types of dances - animal, social and war. It is estimated the Choctaw's repertory of songs were over 50, but many have been lost over the decades. The remaining songs have been carried forward by numerous Tribal members throughout the years.

One of the earliest recordings of Choctaw songs is dated from

January 1933. Francis Densmore, a noted anthropologist known for her studies on Native American music and culture, recorded Tribal members from the Pearl River and Bogue Chitto communities. Tribal members involved were Lasander Tubby, Olman Comby, Sidney Wesley, and Robert Henry.

Many learned the art of chanting by spending time with an actual chanter and listening closely to their words or listening to recordings.

In an effort to sustain this special area of Choctaw culture, the Department of Chahta Immi's (DCI) Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) began trial classes on chanting.

Wanting to learn more about the older chants, CAP Coordinator Phyllis McMillan submitted a request to utilize DCI staff member and chanter Priscilla Williams if she would conduct chanting sessions to the CAP staff.

"We had a few classes during our staff development days, using song handouts transcribed by DCI Director Jay Wesley. Our goal was for the staff to learn and be knowledgeable enough

to teach school age children," said McMillan.

Casey Bigpond, Cultural Affairs Revitalization Specialist, began a small introduction class at several of the Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI units and feedback has been varied.

"Some students are very responsive to learning the songs and chants and some not so much. Students these days don't do anything unless it's cool to do. As cultural teachers, we need to have a balance to get the student's attention."

The DCI and CAP have been at the forefront of revitalizing the teaching of Choctaw culture. Classes in beadwork, dress and shirt making, pottery, and other well-known traditions of the Choctaws have been brought to the outlying communities to learn and embrace once again.

The importance of learning the songs and chants is best summed up by Bigpond.

"Without songs, there is no dances. Without dances, there are no gatherings. Without gatherings, there is no community. Without community, there is no culture."

## CURRENT CHANTERS

(Male) Albert Lewis, Woodlin Lewis, Roger Ben, Edger Cauthen, Bruce Jim, Laettner Johnson, Adam Lewis, Christopher Lewis, Micheal Morris, Hugh King, Donti Alex, Garrison Joe, Jay Wesley, Curtis Willis, Alvin Nickey, Donovan Bell, Glen Billie, Ralph Isaac, Daniel Isaac, Eric Billy, Sr., Zander Sockey, & Emerson Billy.

(Female) Priscilla Williams, Trudy Jimmie, Peggy Williams, Fannie Williams, Darlene Vaughn, Sarah Johnson, Jane Lewis, Mattie Ben, Crystal Roach, Glenda Willis, Magglenda Willis, Ashton Thompson, Eleanor Chickaway, Phyllis McMillan, Thallis Lewis, Darien Tubby, Melissa Isaac, Melanie Ben, Aundria Isaac, Janie M. Tubby, Catalina Morris, Shayla Chickaway, Edna Cotton, Ginger McMillan, Peggy Thompson, Elsie Hickman, Norma Willis, Effie Bell, Angelina McMillan, Darnell Willis, Sam Johnson, Lola Jackson, & Dorothy Wilson.

## PAST CHANTERS

(Male) Prentice Jackson, Larry T. Bell, Tommy Denson, Billy Amos, Tony Williams, Tony Bell, Tubby Jackson, Henry Joe, Waggon Amos, John Levi Bell, Arch Mingo, Jim Mingo, Olen Mingo, Columbus Willis, Marshall Scott, Oscar Cotton, Wood Bell, Camon Wesley, Edmund Shoe-

make, Oscar Mingo, Bilbo John, Arron Willis, Beaman Charlie, Frank Johnson, Baxton Buffalo Jefferson, Jeff Clemmons, Tom Davis, Baxter Jefferson, Edger Johnson, Odie Denson Stephens, Marvin Williams, Charlie Denson, Colt Charlie, Hendrix Denson, Rufus Williams, Layman Shoemake, Philman Williams, Phillip Anderson, Newt Jefferson, Bike Williamson, Ike Jimmie, Smith Tubby, Wade Billie, Truman Sam, Cone Willis, Finis Willis, RB Tubby, Homer Jimmie, Willie Earl Willis, Highest Dixon, Joe King, Carson Jackson, Gus Comby, Jempson Williams, & Spink Willis.

(Female) Amy Jackson, Charlotte Farmer, Mable Jackson, Tasha Jackson, Bessie Jim, Ida Mae Frazier, Geneva Bell, Ethel Clemmons Thomas, Nancy Frazier Joe, Oneva Thompson, Julia Bell, Nell Bell Willis, Lucille Jackson Hickman, Morris Irene Willis, Janie Denson Shoemake, Nancy Charlie, Eunice Isaac John, Lena Anderson Jim, Nancy Denson King, Susie Johnson Charlie, Eunice Chickaway, Verdie Mae Chickaway, Mary Alice Denson Williams, Effie Williamson, Eva Billy McMillan, Liza Shoemake, Edna Denson King, Lilly Wallace, Lennie Cotton, Janice Williamson, Frances Jefferson, & Claudine Jefferson.

Chanter list compiled  
by Casey Bigpond



PAGEANT ..... continued from page one

The twelve lovely contestants are:

- Hannah Shea Bell is the 19-year-old daughter of Crystal and Scott Watkins and is a member of the Tucker Community. She will be a junior at Mississippi State University this fall. She is sponsored by the Tucker Development Club.

- Tenecia Shamae Bell is the 20-year-old daughter of LeAndrea Johnson and John Bell, Jr. She is from the Conehatta Community. She will be a junior at Mississippi University for Women this fall. She is sponsored by the Conehatta Development Club.

- Lauren Raen Ben is the 18-year-old daughter of Robert and Olivia Ben and is from the Pearl River Community. This fall, she will be a freshman at Meridian Community College. She is sponsored by Non-Gaming Properties of Pearl River Resort.

- Brooke Rena Dixon is the 20-year-old daughter of Charisity Tubby and Gregory Dixon. She is a member of the Red Water Community. She currently attends Meridian Community College. She is sponsored by Memorial of Billie Jean John Tubby.

- Maranda Kay Frazier is the 18-year-old daughter of Timothy and Misty Frazier. She is a member of the Henning/Bogue Chitto Community. This fall, she will be a freshman at Dyersburg State Community College. She is sponsored by the Tennessee Choctaw Community.

- Elisah Monique Jimmie is the 18-year-old daughter of Karla Keats and Elijah Jimmie and a member of the Pearl River Community. She will be attending East Central Community College, where she will be a freshman this fall. She is sponsored by the Gaming Prop-



*Hannah Bell*



*Tenecia Bell*



*Lauren Ben*



*Brooke Dixon*



*Maranda Frazier*



*Elisah Jimmie*



*Jayasri Mitch*



*Kaylee Routh*



*Katelyn Shoemake*



*Sydni Tangle*



*Kaliyah Tubby*



*Tara Willis*

erties of Pearl River Resort.

- Jayasri Jordan Mitch is the 18-year-old daughter of Ray and Alvina Mitch. She is a member of the Standing Pine Community. This fall, she will be a freshman at Millsaps College. She is sponsored by the Choctaw Health Center Employees Association.

- Kaylee Jordan Routh is the 19-year-old daughter of Edward and Tina Routh and is a member of the Pearl River Community. She will be a sophomore at the University of Southern Mississippi this fall. She is sponsored by the IKBI Construction Company.

- Katelyn RayAnn Shoemake is the 18-year-old daughter of Gregory and Tracy Shoemake. She is a member of the Conehatta Community. She will

be a freshman at East Central Community College. She is sponsored by the Department of Schools.

- Sydni Jade Tangle is the 17-year-old daughter of Diana and Liasha Alex and Jimmy Tangle. She is a member of the Standing Pine Community. She will be a senior at Leake Academy this fall. She is sponsored by the Standing Pine Development Club.

- Kaliyah Symone Tubby is the 17-year-old daughter of Samihah Willis, Linda and Bradley Alex and is a member of the Pearl River Community. She will be a senior at Choctaw Central High School. She is sponsored by the Pearl River Development Club.

- Tara Dawn Willis is the 17-year-old daughter of Van-

nessa Cotton and Lester Willis and is a member of the Bogue Chitto Community. This fall, she will be a senior at Choctaw Central High School. She is sponsored by the Bogue Chitto Development Club.

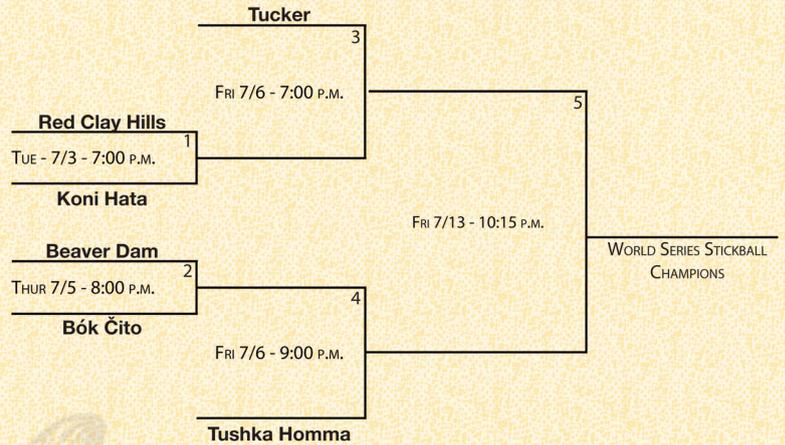
One of these twelve beautiful ladies will be crowned by the 2017-2018 Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Lann Cox. Throughout her year-long reign, the newly crowned Choctaw Indian Princess will serve as a goodwill ambassador of the Tribe.

To learn more about the 69th Choctaw Indian Fair, visit [www.choctawindianfair.com](http://www.choctawindianfair.com), like us on Facebook at Choctaw Indian Fair, follow us on Twitter @ChoctawIndianFair or call the fair hotline at 601-650-7450.

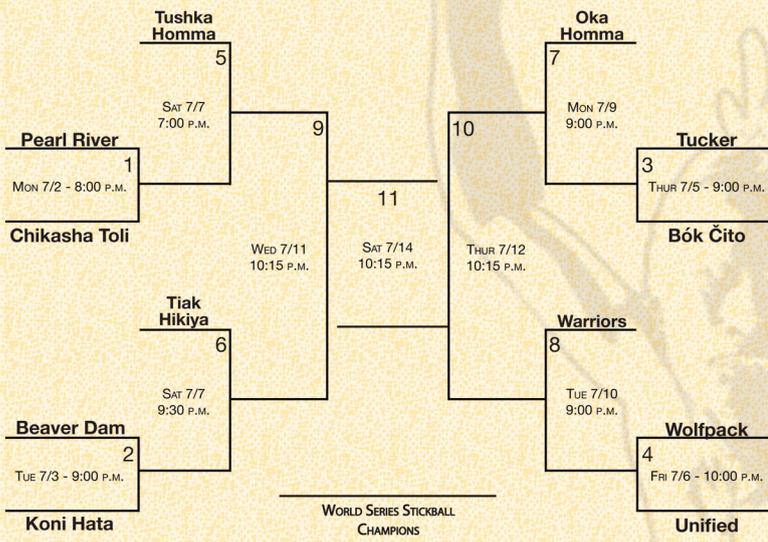


# DIVISION BRACKETS

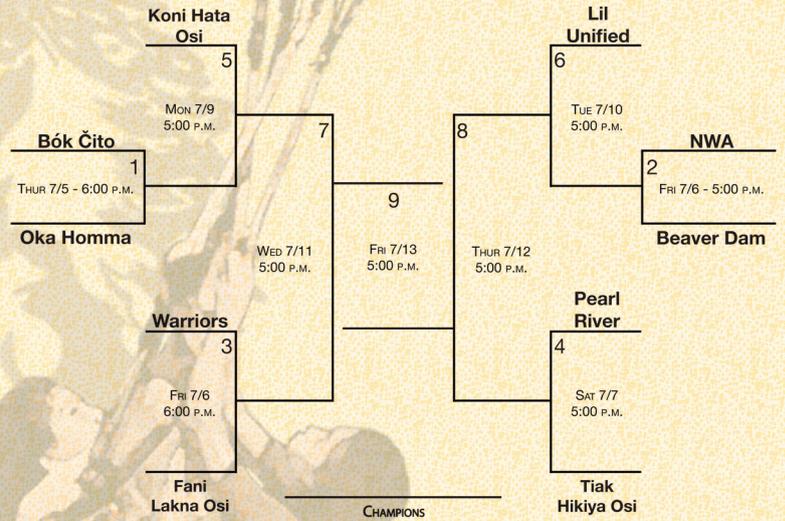
## MEN'S 35+ DIVISION



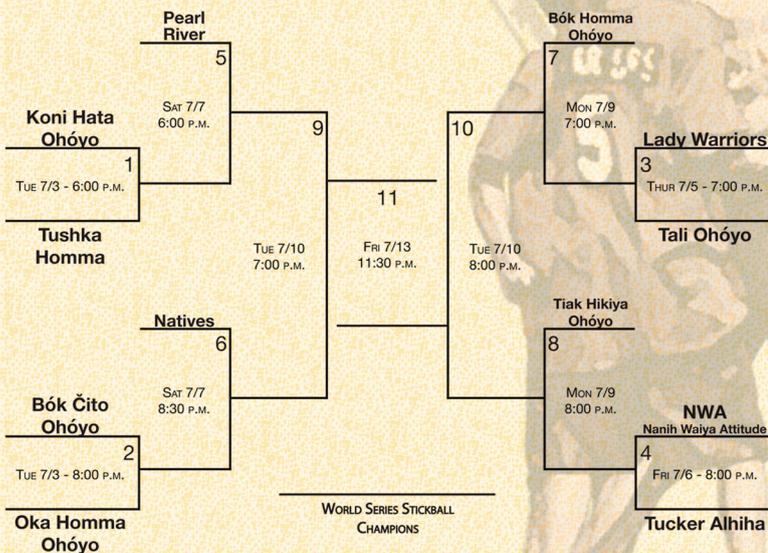
## MEN'S DIVISION



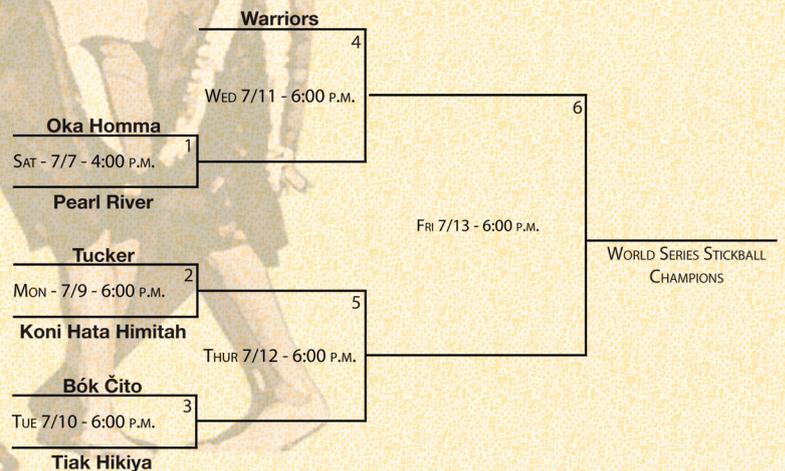
## PUSHMATAHA DIVISION (AGES 10-13)



## WOMEN'S DIVISION



## TULLI OKCHI ISHKO DIVISION (AGES 14-17)



Women's 35+ (North vs. South) Exhibition will take place Monday, July 2 at 7:00 p.m.

# Consumer Confidence Reports Released for Water Systems

Submitted by  
Choctaw Utilities

## IS MY WATER SAFE?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, & how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to con-

taminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, & infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium & other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

Your water comes from an underground source. The underground water source that we pump from is called the Wilcox Aquifer.

(Bogue Chitto) - We pump water from two (2) wells that are over 300 feet deep. Once the water is pumped to the surface, chlorine, fluoride, & soda ash are added before it is sent out to the community water lines for use.

(Conehatta) - We pump water from two (2) wells that are over 600 feet deep. Once the water is pumped to the surface, chlorine & fluoride are added before it is sent out to the community water lines for use.

(Pearl River) - We pump water from four (4) wells that are over 1,000

feet deep. Once the water is pumped to the surface, it is processed at our treatment plant before being sent out to the community water lines for use.

(Tucker) - We pump water from two (2) wells that are over 1,000 feet deep. Once the water is pumped to the surface, it is processed at our treatment plant before being sent out to the community water lines for use.

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT & ITS AVAILABILITY

If you are interested in more information about where your water comes from, we can arrange for you to review or to get a copy of our Source Water Assessment Report. Call Choctaw Utilities at (601) 650-1760 to discuss your information needs.

## WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

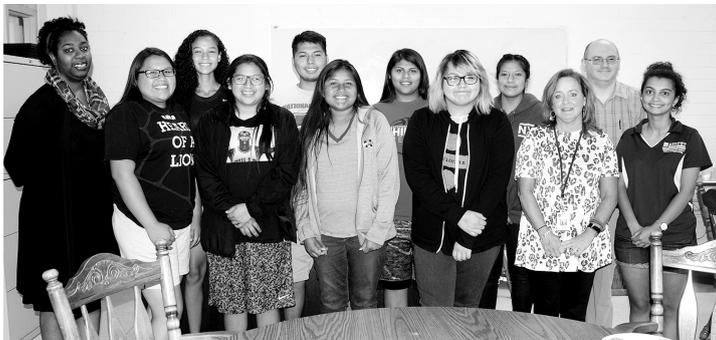
More information about contaminants & potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water & bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, & wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals &, in some cases, radioactive material, & can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals

...continued next page

# Students Participate in Bulldog Bytes

Choctaw Central High School partnered with Mississippi State University (MSU) in June to offer a Bulldog Bytes computing camp for high school students.



An outreach program of the Bagley College of Engineering, Bulldog Bytes provides a platform for bringing cybersecurity & computer awareness & skills to students & K-12 teachers.

The project based curriculum introduces students to a diverse set of

computing professionals & enables them to learn:

- Cyber-security through hands-on independent & team modules;
- Digital forensics with hands-on case study projects;
- Computer programming using robots; and
- Team-based problem

solving, design, & implementation.

MSU instructional staff included Rian Walker, a recent graduate with a bachelors degree in software engineering, & Litany Lineberry, a PhD student with a research focus in engineering & computer science education.

## Tribal Students Place at Beta Convention

Shallasen Jimmie (left) of Conehatta Elementary School & Kaymeree Gibson (right) of Standing Pine Elementary School represented the Choctaw Tribal Schools as they competed in the annual National Beta Convention in Savannah, GA.

Shallasen placed first in the Homemade Jewelry Division I category & Kaymeree placed 9th in the Painting Division I category.



or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses & bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, & wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts & metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil & gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides & herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, & residential uses;

organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic & volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes & petroleum production, & can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, & septic systems; & ra-

dioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil & gas production & mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants

in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**  
Choctaw Utilities is honored that you allow us to operate YOUR water system. We view our customers as partners in **see REPORT, pg. 14**

BOGUE CHITTO PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM							
Contaminants	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
			Low	High			
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium (ppm)	2.0	0.0335	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	1.13	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Mercury (ppm)	0.002	0.0002	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
<b>Radiocluides</b>							
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	0.96 +/- 0.61	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits

CONEHATTA PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM							
Contaminants	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
			Low	High			
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
Halocetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	80	7.0	NA	NA	2017	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium (ppm)	2.0	0.0019	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppm)	0.1	0.0006	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Radiocluides</b>							
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	1.33 +/- 0.54	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead</b>							
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0.002	ND	0.0105	2017	No. No samples exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

**WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE**

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water & have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms & abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below.

**UNIT DESCRIPTIONS**

**Term-Definition**

- ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L).
- ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L).
- NA - Not applicable.
- ND - Not detected.
- NR - Monitoring not required, but recommended.

**IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS**

**Term-Definition**

- MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

TT - Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

AL - Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Variances and Exemptions - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

MRDLG - Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

MRDL - Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MNR - Monitored Not Regulated.

MPL - State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level.

PEARL RIVER PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM							
Contaminants	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
			Low	High			
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
THHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	80	4.8	NA	NA	2017	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium (ppm)	2.0	0.053	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppm)	0.1	0.0005	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	0.403	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth;
<b>Microbiological</b>							
Total Coliform	1 positive sample / month	1 positive sample	NA	NA	12/2017	No	Naturally present in the environment
<b>Radiocluides</b>							
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	1.55 +/- 0.55	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	1.4 +/- 1.1	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead</b>							
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0.9	ND	1.0	2017	No. No samples exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

TUCKER PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM							
Contaminants	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
			Low	High			
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>							
THHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	80	4.7	1.44	4.7	2017	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Halocetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	80	2.0	ND	2.0	2017	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Barium (ppm)	2.0	0.0548	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppm)	0.1	0.0006	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	1.03	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Mercury (ppm)	0.002	0.0001	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland
<b>Radiocluides</b>							
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5	2.15 +/- 0.56	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	15	0.94 +/- 1.08	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Lead</b>							
Lead (ppb)	AL=15	0.5	ND	3.7	2017	No. No samples exceeded AL	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

**REPORT** ..... continued from page thirteen

our efforts to provide safe drinking water.

Help us protect our water system from contamination by remembering these tips: never submerge a free running hose in water & never leave a hose submerged in standing water; never use a hose connected to your faucet to spray toxic chemicals (such as pesticides or lawn treatments); &, always report leaking septic tanks, manholes, pump stations, or sewer lines to Choctaw Utilities.

These are all potential contamination sources that could affect our water supply. Also, help us control your water costs by promptly reporting line breaks or damaged equipment such as fire hydrants, storage tanks, etc. to us at (601) 650-1760.

**WATER CONSERVATION TIPS**

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost & no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today & soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.

- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair & shaving & save up to 500 gallons a month.

- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're in-

expensive, easy to install, & can save you up to 750 gallons a month.

- Run your clothes washer & dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

- Water plants only when necessary.

- Fix leaky toilets & faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive & take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank & wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it & during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.

- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

- Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) for more information.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LEAD**

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women & young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials & components associated with service lines & home plumbing.

The Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Pearl River, & Tucker Water Systems are

responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, & steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR FLUORIDE**

To comply with the 'Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies', the following water systems

are required to report certain results pertaining to the fluoridation of our water system.

(Bogue Chitto, MS0500010) - The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6 - 1.3 ppm was 11. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.3 ppm was 92%.

(Conehatta, MS0510003) - The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6 - 1.3 ppm was 11. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.3 ppm was 100%.

(Pearl River, MS0500012) - The num-

ber of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6 - 1.3 ppm was 11. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.3 ppm was 92%.

(Tucker, MS0500016) - The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6 - 1.3 ppm was 12. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.3 ppm was 100%.

For more information, please contact:  
Ricky Cook  
P.O. Box 6366,  
Choctaw, MS 39350  
Phone: 601-650-1760

**REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY**



Call 1-855-4-THE REZ (1-855-484-3739) or visit [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com)

**CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:**

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

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

**Prevent Elder Abuse**



**Identify It! Report It! Stop It!**

**Warning Signs**

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkempt appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

**Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.**

For more information on elder abuse, contact  
Family Violence and Victim's Services  
at 601-650-1774



# DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

## CAP Hosts Cooking Event

On Saturday, April 21, the Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) hosted a traditional Choctaw outdoor cooking event at the area adjacent to the Pearl River Dance Ground. The menu consisted of hominy, fry bread, green beans, & chicken.

Carol Jim, Phyllis McMillan, Garrison Joe, Casey Bigpond, & Ken Frazier were instructors for the hands-on cooking training. Bigpond also built the fire during the early morning hours.

The CAP hosted another cooking event at the same location on Saturday, May 12. CAP Administrative Assis-

tant Wendy Thompson did a super job leading trainees in preparing a fine meal of chicken, biscuits, green beans, & delicious blueberry dumplings.

Garrison Joe, Ken Frazier, Gwendolyn Frazier, & Breanna Nicole Martin were consultants. Emily Rogers, PhD candidate & research associate with the Mathers Museum of World Cultures from Indiana University, also assisted participants with the preparation.

Choctaw traditional cooking plays a huge part in Choctaw culture. Elements taught at the workshops included building a fire, cooking biscuits in an iron skillet over embers from the

cooking fire, learning the right temperature to cook the food, & cutting up the fryers. Turnout was good!

The next CAP cooking workshop (Indian Tacos) will be held on Saturday, August 18, at the CAP Cooking Area in Pearl River from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Workshops

Princess & Warrior Survival Week was held for Boys & Girls Club members in June. Due to the preparation of the upcoming 69th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair, no other cultural classes are scheduled for the rest of June & July.

Classes will resume in August & continue until the last week in September. Classes are offered to all Tribal members & their descendants.

Workshops in August will be basket weaving. Below is the schedule:

Thursday, August 2, Bogue Chitto Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, August 7, Tucker Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Thursday, August 9, Crystal Ridge Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, August 14, Pearl River Community Center from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.;

Thursday, August 16, Conehatta

Facility Building from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, August 21, Standing Pine Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Thursday, August 23, Red Water Facili-

ty Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, August 28, Bogue Homa Facility Building from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

see DCI NEWS, pg. 16

**RIGHT,** *Choctaw Traditional Dress Making Classes were held in April by the CAP. Amber Ben (pictured right) completed a beautiful cotton dress printed with pink flowers & trimmed with matching rick rack for her little girl.*



*The instructors were exceedingly proud of her as she finished in four sessions. Pictured left is instructor Rowena Willis. BELOW, The CAP conducted their final workshops before the Fair. The Stickball Apron & Choctaw Dress Apron Making Workshops were held in each community, excluding Henning, TN, in May. Not only did participants learn how to cut & sew their Choctaw attire, but they were also taught how to operate a sewing machine. Alex Vaughn (seated far right) listens to instructions giving by Rowena Willis on how to operate a sewing machine.*



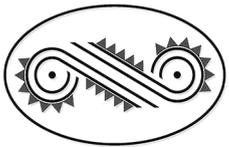
*Participants closely keep watch on the food being cooked outdoors near the Pearl River Dance Ground on April 21.*

8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**INDIAN CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE**  
PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN

**REVISED DATE!**  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2018  
8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.  
SILVER STAR CONVENTION CENTER  
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

For more information about the conference or to register, visit  
<http://mjc.olemiss.edu/special-projects>  
E-Registration Begins July 2018  
For vendor info, contact Youth Court Judge Holly Peters at 601-650-1658

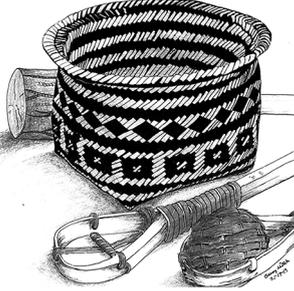
DCI NEWS ..... continued from page fifteen



**CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER**

featuring

**CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS**  
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through "Choctaw Expressions" - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER  
Choctaw Shopping Center  
Highway 16 West  
Choctaw, MS 39350  
601-650-1687  
www.choctaw.org

HOURS OF OPERATION  
TUESDAY - SATURDAY  
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

ADMISSION  
GENERAL ADMISSION \$5  
EDUCATION DISCOUNT \$3  
MILITARY DISCOUNT \$3  
TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH TRIBAL ID \$2  
SENIORS (57 AND ABOVE) FREE  
CHILDREN (UNDER 5) FREE

Choctaw Shirt Making Classes will be offered in September. Below is the schedule:

Wednesday, September 5, Bogue Chitto Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Friday, September 7, Tucker Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, September 11, Crystal Ridge Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Friday, September 14, Pearl River Community Center from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, September 18, Conehatta Facility Building from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Thursday, September 20, Standing Pine Fac-

ility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Tuesday, September 25, Red Water Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Friday, September 28, Bogue Homa Facility Building from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**CAP Celebrates With Elders**

"Engage at Every Age" was the theme for Older American Month for the month of May as Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson hosted a luncheon for Tribal elders at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center.

The CAP assisted elderly center cooks by cooking side dishes of



**ABOVE,** On Monday, May 7, a drawing was held at the Pearl River Dance Ground to determine which day & time slot Choctaw social dance groups will be performing at the 69th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. More dance groups are forming every year as it is difficult to find sufficient slots for all groups to perform. This year, 31 groups registered for the drawing.

**RIGHT,** The CAP exhibited Choctaw social dances for residents of Willow Creek Retirement Center in Byram, Miss., as they celebrated National Nurses Week on May 18. Trudy Jimmie & Everett Sam presented cultural overviews of beading & Lorena Alex held a Choctaw clothing presentation with attire she had sewn herself. Pictured, from left, are dancers Sherman Bell, Ken Frazier, Garrison Joe, Everett Sam, Trudy Jimmie, Lorena Alex, Breann Nicole Martin, & Phyllis McMillan. Not pictured is May McGeisey.



CAP Coordinator Phyllis McMillan (far right) & her aides peeled red potatoes for the elders' luncheon at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center.

potatoes, green beans & biscuits. Casey Bigpond started the cooking fire at 5:00 a.m., to meet the lunch schedule at 11:00 a.m. The Pearl River Resort Food & Beverage Department catered the main entrée of fish & chicken.

There were bingo games, hymn singing & great fellowship among the elders. The CAP staff wish to express our deepest gratitude to Chief Anderson for hosting a memorable event for the elders. We were so privileged to be a part of it.

**Moccasins Boogie Woogie**

CAP Coordi-

nator Phyllis McMillan organized Choctaw social dance classes called "Moccasins Boogie Woogie" held every Tuesdays & Thursdays during April & May at the Pearl River Dance Ground from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

The classes were open to all Tribal members who needed a refresher on their dance steps, or first time dancers who weren't familiar with the dances to come & learn or just have fun & workout. The classes concluded on Thursday, May 31.

After the Fair, make plans to attend the CAP workshops! For more information on Choctaw culture, please call (601) 663-7506.





# IN MEMORIAM

## HUNTER KEANU MORRIS

Funeral service for Hunter Keanu Morris, 22, was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, from the Bogue Chitto Community Gymnasium. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Morris passed away on June 1 at Merit Health Central in Jackson.

He was a Prep-Cook at Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed spending time with family & friends & grilling. He was a member of the Bok Cito stickball team.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Hayden Morris; grandfather, Darryle Tubby; grandmother, Clara Charlie McMillan; great-grandfather, Prentice Morris; great-grandmothers, Alice T. Morris & Nan Charlie; great-great-grandmother, Esterline Tubby; 2 great-aunts; & a great-great aunt.

Survivors include his mother & step-father, Heather & Henry Clemmons; father, Nicky Charlie; daughters, Alarie Morris & Arianna Dixon; son, Aiden Dixon; special companion, Tia Dixon; sisters, Mia King & Ashton Isaac; broth-

ers, Nicolas Charlie, Isaiah Mingo, Jr. & Mateo Morris; grandmother, Jane Morris; grandfathers, Bobby Thompson & Larry McMillan; 6 aunts; 2 uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

## JERRY MINGO

Funeral service for Jerry Mingo, 56, was held on Thursday, June 7, 2018. Bro. Ron Scott officiated.

Burial was in the Hutcherson Chapel Church of God Cemetery in Halls, TN.

Mr. Mingo passed away on June 2.

He was a member of First Indian Baptist Church in Ripley, TN. He was employed with Hutcherson Metals & enjoyed being with family & friends, playing ball, social dancing, & playing washers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Coleman Mingo & Dorothy May; & a brother, Billy Mingo.

Survivors include his wife, Eleanor Mingo; sisters, Bobbi Jean Frazier, Mary Ann Wishork & Linda Gibson; brothers, Charles Mingo & Freeman Kin-solving; step-children, Karen Thomas, Darien Ray & Rodney Ray; 15 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

## OLEN THOMAS

Funeral service for Olen Thomas, 76, was held on Saturday, June 9, 2018, at the residence of Imogene Thompson in the Bogue Homa community. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

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

Mr. Thomas passed away on June 7 at the Adams County Nursing Home.

He was a member of the Bogue Homa Baptist Church & enjoyed listening to country music.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Riley & Zona Thomas; & a brother, Dorsey Thomas.

Survivors include a son, Johnny Riley Thomas; sisters, Bernice Thomas Frazier, Vernita Thomas, Berdie Thomas Steve, Imogene Thompson, & Marilyn Nick-ey; brothers, Andrew Thomas & Billy Wayne Thomas; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

## WILLARD KEITH BACON, SR.

Funeral service for Willard Keith Bacon, Sr., 60, was held on Tuesday, June 12, 2018, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Deacon John Smith & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

Burial was in the Isaac Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge

of arrangements.

Mr. Bacon passed away on June 8 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, grilling, cheering for his favorite college football & stickball teams, telling stories, & listening to music. He was a detention officer for the Choctaw Police Department.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lee & Connie Bacon; a brother, Melvin Nickey; & an infant granddaughter.

Survivors include his wife, Paula Bacon; daughters, Cortney Bacon, Clymene Bacon & Isley Mingo; step-daughter, Alicia Willis; sons, Brandon Nelson, Jeremy Bacon, Stevie Bacon, Tory Bacon, Merrick Bacon, Willard Bacon, Jr., & Montae Bacon; step-sons, Daven Willis & Justin Peace Willis; sister, Tressie Bacon Hembree; 17 grandchildren; 2 nieces; & a host of relatives & friends.

## ROBERT CHARLES BELL, JR.

Funeral service for Robert Charles Bell, Jr., 61, was held on Thursday, June 14, 2018, from the Bogue Chitto Community Gymnasium. Richard Farve, Sr. & Rev. George Dixon officiated.

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

Mr. Bell passed away on June 11 at his residence.

He enjoyed being with his family, Choctaw social dancing, watching western movies, & listening to classic country music. He also enjoyed singing, dancing & drumming pow wow songs.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bob & Luceline Bell; sons, Robert Charles Bell, III, & Michael Ryan Bell; & sisters, Linda Bell Christenson, Gina Dean Nene & Evelyn Jefferson.

Survivors include his sisters, Iva Steve, Anita Cotton & Verna Bell; 4 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; an aunt; an uncle; special companion, Leslie Wallace; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

## LARA TANYA JOE

Funeral service for Lara Tanya Joe, 41, was held on Sunday, June 17, 2018, from the Bogue Homa Community Gymnasium. Rev. Lee Farmer & Bro. Doug Blackedge officiated.

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

Ms. Joe passed away on June 14 at her residence.

She enjoyed being with her family & was a skilled basket weaver.

She was preceded in death by her father,

.....see OBITS, pg. 18

OBITS ..... continued from page seventeen

David Joe; & brothers, Kimvey Joe, David Joe & Emanuel Standing-Elk.

Survivors include her daughters, Shonesty Williams, Juleeanna Matias & Lourdes Joe; sons, Robert Jefferson, Dexter Briscoe & Ravin Jefferson; mother, Rosie Nickey Joe; sister, Georgianna Joe; 2 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**DOREEN DIXON**

Funeral service for Doreen Dixon, 49, was held on Thursday, June 21, 2018, from the Bogue Chitto Community Gymnasium. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Pastor Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E.

Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Dixon passed away on June 18 at Merit Health Central in Jackson.

She was a member of Morning Star Baptist Church & was a housekeeper at Pearl River Resort. She enjoyed fishing & cooking.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Deborah Frazier; grandparents, Waggoner & Rosie Amos; & 2 uncles.

Survivors include her husband, George Dixon; parents, John Frazier & Maureen Mingo; foster parents, Richard & Corine Farve; sisters, Jo Willis, Chandra Wesley, Marisa Mingo, Karry Amos, Cynthia Frazier, & Beth Ann Frazier; brothers, Lee Earl Amos & John Frazier, Jr.; 3 aunts; & a host of nieces,

nephews, relatives, & friends.

**HENRIETTA KAYE THOMAS**

Funeral service for Henrietta Kaye Thomas, 63, was held on Monday, June 25, 2018, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

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

Ms. Thomas passed away on June 21 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Jackson.

She was a Catholic by faith & was employed with Pearl River Resort in the Marketing Department. She loved spending time with family & cheering on her favorite players in sporting events.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ellis & Mary Lou Billie Sam; a brother, Thurman Sam; & her first husband, Henry C. Bell.

Survivors include her sons, Joel Thomas, Joey Thomas & Justin Thomas; sisters, Linda Carey & Velma Henry; brothers, Norman Sam & Dorman Sam; 6 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JOYCE ANN BELL**

Funeral service for Joyce Ann Bell, 82, was held on Monday, June 25, 2018, from the

Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

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

Ms. Bell passed away on June 22 in Choctaw.

She was a member of First Indian Baptist Church in Ripley, TN & the NAIA in Nashville. She was a share cropper in her younger years, retired from Master Casualware then became a nanny. She loved being with her family, doing beadwork, cooking, fishing, & visiting the casinos.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arnold Bell; infant son, Thomas Bell; parents, Jimmy & Ronnie Robinson; & a sister, Bonnie Willis.

Survivors include daughters, Theresa Howard & Connie Bell; son, Terry Bell; sisters, Sally Wells, Claudine Carlson, Kathy Hassen, Edna Fay, Sammie Jean Devlin, & Patsy Roach; brother, Freeman Robinson; 6 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; 1 aunt; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**ALAN BRYANT BEN**

Funeral service for Alan Bryant Ben, 47, was held on Wednesday, June 27, 2018, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River.

Burial was in the Isaac

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

Mr. Ben passed away on June 24 at Hospice Ministries in Ridgeland.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Chester Ben & Marguerite Billy; foster parents, Sarah & Willie Earl Willis.

Survivors include his wife, Susan Bolden Ben; sisters, Sharon Williams, Katherine Shoemake, Juana Ben, Sandra Wishork, Lorna Shoemake, Olivia Wesley Ben, Clarissa Ballew, Tonya Stell, Janette Farve; brothers, Carlos Ben, Sr. & Whitman Ben; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**MADIE BELL BILLY GARCIA**

Funeral service for Madie Bell Garcia, 66, was held on Thursday, June 28, 2018, from the St. Therese Catholic Church in Pearl River. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

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

Mrs. Garcia passed away on June 24 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a retired cafeteria cook & manager with the Choctaw Tribal Schools. She loved being with her family & watching them dance &

...continued next page

*Come and Worship with us*



**Macedonia Baptist Church**  
130 Campus Drive  
Conehatta, MS 39057

*Sunday*

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service  
1st Sunday Service 4:00 p.m.  
Pastor: Rev. Samuel Dixon

*Wednesday*

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

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

**Welcome To**



**NANIH WAIYA  
INDIAN  
Mennonite Church**

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

*Come Join Us...*



**Spirit of Life Christian Center**

Sunday 10:00 a.m.      Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

**278 Black Jack Road**  
**Choctaw, MS 39350**  
**601-389-5446**  
**Pastor Thomas Ben**

participate in sports.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Lillie & Joseph Billy, Sr.; son, Donovan Garcia; sisters, Mary Francis Billy, Oree Bell & Nancy Farve; brothers, Terry Billy & Joseph Billy, Jr.; & a grandson.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Garcia, Sr.; daughter, Elaina Fielder; sons, Robert Garcia, Jr., Antonio Garcia, Erik Garcia, Christopher Garcia, & Frankie Garcia; sisters, Sally Steve, Mattie McMillan & Dessie Bownas; brother, Julius Billy; 17 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**OMA LEE DIXON**

Funeral service for Oma Lee Dixon, 75, was held on Saturday, June 30, 2018, from the Red Water Community Gymnasium. Rev. Robert Patrick & Rev. Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the Old Mt. Zion Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Dixon passed away on June 27 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

When she was young she was a migrant worker with her family. She was then employed with Silver Star Hotel & Casino & Tyson Poultry before becoming a homemaker. She enjoyed being with her family, doing crossword puzzles & cooking.

She is preceded in death by her parents,

Wade Dixon, Sr. & Zonie Stoliby Dixon; daughter, Leona Boggs; son, Westley Boggs, Jr.; sisters, Melba Dixon, Helen McBride & Jeanette Dixon; brothers, Charles Dixon, Clifton Dixon, Wade Dixon, Jr., & Sylvester Ray Dixon.

Survivors include her daughter, Lucille Boggs; sister, Zonie Dixon Isaac; brothers, Roy Dixon, Henry Dixon, Randy Dixon, Samuel Dixon, Randy Dixon, Daniel Dixon, Adam Dixon; 10 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**GARY DARWIN ALLEN**

Funeral service for Gary Darwin Allen, 63, was held on Saturday, June 30, 2018, from the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Red Water. Deacon Gary Chickaway & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

Burial was in the Old Mt. Zion Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Allen passed away on June 26 at his residence.

He enjoyed being with his family, fishing & listening to music.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William & Phelia Tubby Allen; sisters, Birdie Allen & Virginia Allen; brothers, Roland Allen, Chadwick Allen & Jim Allen; & a niece.

Survivors include his daughter, Phelicia Allen Mitch; son, Garry

Michael Allen; brother Melvin Allen; 4 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**MIKE JOHN, JR.**

Funeral service for Mike John, Jr., 69, was held on Sunday, July 1, 2018, from the Red Water Community Gymnasium. Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

Burial was in the Old Mt. Zion Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. John passed away on June 28 at his residence.

He was a retired poultry worker & enjoyed fishing, listening to music, playing the guitar, & watching his favorite TV shows, including wrestling.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mike John, Sr. & Ruth Ann Frazier; wife, Geraldine Wilson John; sister, Beverly John; & brothers, Marvin Anderson & Ricky John.

Survivors include his daughter, Sara John; son, Kenneth John; sister, Lena John Denson; a host of grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives &

friends.

**JEREMY RYDELL NICKEY**

Funeral service for Jeremy Rydell Nickey, 52, was held on Monday, July 2, 2018, from the Bogue Homa Community Gymnasium. Bro. Chris Hodge officiated.

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

Mr. Nickey passed away on June 25 in Madison, S.D.

He was employed with T & R Electric in Colman, S.D. He loved being with his family & pets, riding his bike, fishing, playing softball, & singing karaoke.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jerry Lee Tubby; grandparents, Rev. W.C. & Josephine Nickey, Finis Tubby & Vivian Tubby; 3 aunts, an uncle, & a niece.

Survivors include his

mother, Ruby Thompson; sister, Kris Jenkins, Naomi Thompson & Brandy Tubby; brothers, James Jenkins, Jr. & Easton Thompson; 5 aunts; 2 uncles; 2 nieces; 3 great-nieces; a special companion, Deborah Keaton; & a host of relatives & friends.



**Heating & Air Conditioning Service**



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**P.O. Box 6003**  
**Choctaw, MS 39350**  
 (Office) 601-656-4818  
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**202 Choctaw Town Center**  
**Choctaw, Mississippi**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Business Hours \*\*\*\*\*  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
 Saturday 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
 Closed Wednesday & Sunday



**OUTDOOR MARKET**

**COME JOIN US!!**  
**A GREAT PLACE**  
**FOR A SALE!!**

*Yard sales, fundraisers,*  
*food sales, or bake sales*  
*for individuals, organizations*  
*or ball teams.*

Applications & guidelines can be picked up at the Office of Economic Development, or if you have any questions call DeeSandra Ben at 601-650-1612.

# Tribe Takes Part in State Games



Amateur athletes from across the state took part in the 2018 State Games of Mississippi Opening Ceremonies on Friday, June 15 in Meridian. Festivities included the lighting of the State Games cauldron, food, music, & a fireworks show.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians/Pearl River Resort is one of several Gold Sponsors for the event. Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox served as a dignitary for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

BELOW, The Pearl River youth stickball team (ages 9-12) claimed gold medals in the State Games of Mississippi Kabotcha Toli stickball tournament over Tiak Hikiya Osi 8-3 at Warrior Stadium in Choctaw on June 16. Tiak Hikiya Osi received silver medals & Beaver Dam claimed bronze medals with a 8-0 win over Nanih Waiya Attitude in the consolation game.



## CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

### JUNE 2018

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2018 State Games Kabotcha Toli Stickball Gold Medalists - Pearl River



2018 State Games Kabotcha Toli Stickball Silver Medalists - Tiak Hikiya Osi



LEFT, Pictured from left are MVP Jeriah Jimmie, MBCI Recreation Director Jerod Thompson & game ball recipient NaTaysia Willis. RIGHT, 2018 State Games Kabotcha Toli Stickball Bronze Medalists - Beaver Dam.

