



## Choctaw Indian Fair Entertainers Announced

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will once again showcase their beautiful culture during the 68th annual Choctaw Indian Fair July 12-15, 2017.

The main stage will feature platinum-selling duo Dan + Shay, five-time GRAMMY nominee and multi-instrumentalist Hunter Hayes and GRAMMY-Award winning sibling trio The Band Perry.

Starting Wednesday, July 12, Chief Phylliss J. Anderson officially kicks off the fair with

Opening Ceremonies at 6:00 p.m., followed by the 63rd Annual Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant. Choctaw culture will be on full display, as beautiful young Choctaw ladies showcase traditional Choctaw clothing and unique works of art and compete to become the next Choctaw Indian Princess.

Country music duo Dan + Shay will take the stage Thursday night, July 13 at 8:30 p.m., to perform hits from their album Obsessed such as current Top 15 hit “How Not To,” “From the

Ground Up,” and their debut single “19 You + Me.”

Friday night, July 14, five-time GRAMMY nominee, singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Hunter Hayes brings his energetic sound and show to the stage at 8:30 p.m., with a high-octane set that includes his three No. 1 hits – the multi-platinum smash “Wanted,” double-platinum “I Want Crazy,” and “Somebody’s Heartbreak,” – as well as new music from his forthcoming studio album, including his most recent release, “Yesterday’s Song.”

.....see FAIR, pg. 7



**2017 MAIN STAGE ENTERTAINMENT**



**DAN+SHAY**  
Thursday, July 13 • 8:30 p.m.



**HUNTER HAYES**  
Friday, July 14 • 8:30 p.m.



**THE BAND PERRY** Saturday, July 15 • 8:30 p.m.

## Child Abuse Prevention Activities Held in Choctaw

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ Department of Family & Communi-



Children from the Department of Early Childhood Education centers participated in the Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness activities.

ty Services hosted a child abuse prevention event on Wednesday, April 12 at the Pearl River Recreational Field in Choctaw.

Dozens of children & their teachers from the Department of Early Childhood Education programs participated in a parade from the Pearl River Amphitheater to the recreation field as activities were held in observance of April being National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

...see ABUSE, pg. 14

## June 13 Tribal Election Candidates Certified

A total of 62 candidates were certified as qualified candidates in the upcoming Tribal Election on Tuesday, June 13, 2017.

The candidates, vying for nine positions on the Choctaw Tribal Council with terms expiring in 2021, were certified by the Tribal Election Committee on April 14.

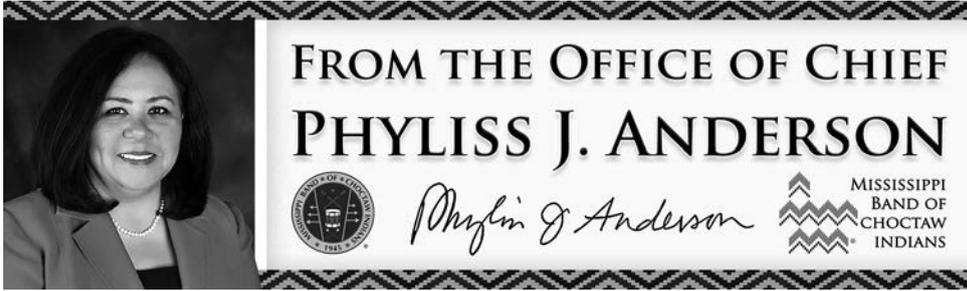
Candidates for Tribal Council in the following communities include:

Bogue Chitto (9 candidates, 2 positions) - Annie M. Bell, Gabriel N. Bell, John Levi Bell, Jr., incumbent Roderick Bell, incumbent Ronnie

Henry, Sr., Enid LittleVoice, Gerald Stoliby, Gabriel Keith Thompson, and Kendall Wallace.

Conehatta (12 candidates, 2 positions) - Max Anderson, Tarina K. Anderson, incumbent Troy Chickaway, Rocky Isom, Elray King, incumbent Hilda Nickey, Gregory Shoemaker, John P. Smith, Jesse Thomas, Timothy Thomas, Sr., Jonathan Williams, and Loretta Nickey Williams.

Crystal Ridge (3 candidates, 1 position) - see ELECTION, pg. 6



Halito!  
As I write this letter, temperatures are continuing to warm and many people are out and about enjoying the beautiful weather on our Choctaw Indian Reservation. We only have one more month left before schools let out for summer break.

It's amazing how time passes when you are busy. That's why it's important that we all stop and take a moment to stand in the present, look around to enjoy and give thanks for our blessings. We have many to count!

**Tribal Students Compete at State BETA Conventions**

I am proud of our BETA students who recently participated in the state BETA conventions. The 71st Annual Senior BETA Convention was

held in February, and the 25th Annual Junior BETA Convention was held in March, both in Biloxi, MS.

Our Tribal students have the opportunity to meet and make friends with other students who live in Mississippi and share common and diverse experiences with each other.

These meetings of the minds serves as a great opportunity to help our students become more comfortable with self-expression. It also builds up their self-esteem and shows them that they can be active participants in society and not merely stay on the sidelines.

A listing of category winners from the conventions are included in this issue. Congratulations to the winners, and best wishes in the future to all of our BETA Club

students!

**NAYO and Rez Brawl Tournaments**

The 2017 NAYO basketball tournament was held April 14th and 15th in Irving, NY, hosted by the Seneca Nation. Our Tribe was well-represented, with several teams making the long trip up north.

Here at home, our recreation department hosted the Rez Brawl youth basketball tournament April 13-15.

It is always wonderful to see our youth participating in these sporting events. Not only are they being active and showcasing their fine athletic skills, but they have the opportunity to make friendships and create lasting memories.

Congratulations to the NAYO and Rez Brawl winners, and we look forward to the next tournament.

**Breakfast of Champions**

What an honor it was for me to host a Breakfast of Champions for our CCHS Lady Warriors and the Unified basketball team who each won the state title in their respective tournaments in March.

The Lady Warriors worked hard to bring the

*Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson officially proclaimed the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month on the Choctaw Reservation. Pictured, from left, are Children & Family Services (CFS) Child Welfare Supervisor Albert Smith, Social Services Division Manager Sally Allen, Department of Family & Community Services (DFCS) Director Maurice Calistro, Chief Anderson, DFCS Deputy Director Mae Bell, & CFS Caseworker Randy Tangle.*

gold ball home to Choctaw, and I am proud of them.

Despite having only formed as a team last year, the Unified team has already proven itself to be a force to be reckoned with. We have such outstanding talent among our youth.

I am always pleased to show my appreciation and celebrate their victories with them. Congratulations to the players, coaches, parents, families and fans of our state champs!

**Red Water Casino Petition**

Over the last few months I have provided a number of updates on the Red Water Casino project through a series of public meetings, *Choctaw Community News* articles, and during my visits to the communities during our Annual Community Field Days.

There is a petition currently being passed around to stop the Red

Water casino project and the significant progress it means for our Tribe. It's important that you know the facts. So I am listing them here again for your information.

- *The new Red Water Casino will provide approximately 250 new jobs.*
- *The new Red Water Casino will make the Tribe more money – at least \$40-50 Million or more a year.*
- *The new Red Water Casino will bring in more money to help us pay down debt on our existing loans.*
- *Studies on traffic count, income distribution and potential earnings have been presented to council and tribal members during several presentations.*
- *The study shows now is the time to build. The casino will be located at the intersection of Highways 35 and 25 in Red Water and is a high traffic*

**...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:

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

**TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565**

*Brian C. Willis.....Communications Manager  
Taryn Carey.....Communications Writer  
Darron Tubby.....Communications Writer*

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

area. The metro-Jackson market, which travels this road, has the highest income earners and largest population base in the state of Mississippi.

- The casino will cost approximately \$25 Million but we will have that paid off in 2 years! We will use existing cash, new revenues and an open line of credit we already have.

- The building, similar to the Bok Homa casino, will be 35,800 square feet with 500 slots, 10 tables games, grab and go and seated dining.

These are the facts. This casino will be profitable and beneficial for our Tribe.

There are people at work to slow down the progress of my administration. I ask that you consider the facts of this project and NOT sign a petition that seeks to stop the Red Water Casino.

The Red Water Casino is a great opportunity for our Tribe. I plan to move forward with this project because of the great benefits it will provide for our tribal members, and for future generations of Choctaws.

**Choctaw Indian Fair**

We are less than three months away from the 68th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair, and I am excited about the things we are planning for this year's celebration. The official Fair Committee and subcommittees are in full Fair mode.



A rendering of the 35,800 square-foot Red Water Casino.

I am excited to announce this year's main entertainment line-up. Country music duo Dan+Shay will take the stage on Thursday night, July 13th, to perform hits such as "How Not To," "From the Ground Up," and their debut single "19 You + Me."

Five-time Grammy nominee, singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Hunter Hayes will perform on Friday, July 14th, singing hits such the multi-Platinum smash "Wanted," double-Platinum "I Want Crazy," and "Somebody's Heartbreak," as well as new music from his forthcoming studio album, including his most recent release, "Yesterday's Song."

Closing out the Fair on Saturday, July 15th will be Grammy Award-winning The Band Perry, who will offer a sneak peek into My Bad Imagination, the band's forthcoming third studio album due out later this year.

All main stage entertainment are scheduled to perform nightly at 8:30 p.m. at the amphitheater main stage.

I am honored to host opening and closing ceremonies on Wednesday, July 12th and Saturday,

July 15th, respectively, at the amphitheater main stage.

On Wednesday, after opening ceremonies, the 63rd Annual Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant will take place. Several young Choctaw ladies will vie for the opportunity to serve a year-long reign as the Tribe's goodwill ambassador.

We will have the carnival on the midway, with rides that are sure to bring out the fun in the young and young at heart. And we are bringing back traditional favorites such as the Iron Warrior and RezRun competitions, for those of you who like to show off your great athletic ability.

Of course, the Choctaw Indian Fair is our biggest cultural celebration of the year. Throughout the day, we will have our beautiful Choctaw culture on full display, with arts, crafts, dancing, food and stickball.

The World Series Stickball games will be played at Warrior Stadium with the championship game capping off the last night of the Fair Saturday, July 15th at 10:15 p.m.

To get the latest information on the Fair, visit

our Fair website at [www.choctawindianfair.com](http://www.choctawindianfair.com), like our Choctaw Indian Fair page on Facebook or call (601) 650-7450.

**Child Abuse Awareness Month**

At the beginning of the month, I signed an official proclamation to recognize April as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month on the Reservation.

Child abuse is an issue that affects many communities throughout the world, and it is our duty as citizens to make sure we do everything

we can to help victims and to keep our children safe.

On Wednesday, April 12th, the Children and Family Services and Children's Advocacy Center of the Department of Family and Community Services hosted a Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month Parade and Activities in the Pearl River community.

Children from our Tribal Early Childhood programs and other parade participants, including our

.....see LETTER, pg. 4



**CCHS Scoreboard**

I am very proud to announce that our new scoreboard for CCHS Warrior Stadium has been installed. This is a state-of-the-art scoreboard with video capabilities. We look forward to seeing the new scoreboard in action during the upcoming State Games of Mississippi in June and the Choctaw Indian Fair.

# 2017 REZ BRAWL Champions, Runners-Up



*Girls 12-14 Champion, Team Hustle*



*Girls 12-14 Runner-Up, Choctaw Elite*



*Boys 12-14 Runner-Up, Contenders*



*Girls 15-17 Runner-Up, Lady Cyclones*

Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan, marched from the Pearl River amphitheater to the community softball field. Floats from various programs were also part of the parade.

After the parade, a prayer, speeches and a poem were presented to the audience. The children then had the opportunity to play on bounce houses and visit with vendors.

The Southern Pine

Drum Group and the Elderly Social Dancers also participated in the program.

I am grateful to the staff of the Department of Family and Community Services for all of their efforts to assist our Tribal members who are victims of abuse and who work hard every single day to bring awareness of these issues and who make abuse prevention their top priority.



*Boys 12-14 Champion, All-Stars*



*Girls 15-17 Champion, We Got Game*



*Boys 15-17 Champion Ballerz*

*Not Pictured, Boys 15-17 Runner-Up, Rez Boyz*

## Restocking of Community Ponds for Memorial Day Weekend

Several community ponds will be restocked with 300 pounds of fish each, just in time for the long Memorial Day holiday! Last year we had a great response and saw many people with their "catch" on social media.

I am so happy that our Tribal families enjoy this special benefit in our communities! Ponds to be restocked are in Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Pearl River, Standing Pine and Tucker.

## Closing

I encourage you to spend time with family and friends during these spring sports games and community gatherings. These events are great opportunities for you to make fun memories, and it is important to slow things down in this fast-moving world.

I appreciate your hard work and commitment to a better future for our Tribe. Regardless of the challenges we face, I remain dedicated to creating a high quality of life here on the Reservation. As always, I appreciate all of the support, words of encouragement and prayers.

Many Blessings,

*Phyllis J. Anderson*

Phyllis J. Anderson,  
Tribal Chief



## CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed below is a brief summary & action taken. Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/or its attachment must have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM completed & submitted to the Policy & Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

### REGULAR CALL MEETING

APRIL 11, 2017

**Resolution CHO 17-043**, establishing a Grants Management & Compliance Office in the Office of Finance & Accounting, was ADOPTED 17 YES (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-044**, applying for a grant from the Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Interpersonal Violence, to continue the Victims of Crime (VOCA) Grant Program, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO**

**17-045**, authorizing Tarina Galloway of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to conduct research on Choctaw students knowledge of & engagement with the Choctaw Traditional Story of Corn Woman (Unknown Woman), was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-046**, approving the 2017-2018 School Calendar, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-047**, submitting a grant to the National Institute of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute Youth Enjoy Science Research Education Program (R25), was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-048**, participating in Oral Health Education from Mississippi State Department of Health, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-049**, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) & Mississippi State University, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-050(B)**, authorization of timber sale in the Tuck-

er Community Unit 5 for a residential subdivision, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-051(B)**, approving the disenrollment of membership of a Tribal member, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-052(B)**, approving the relinquishment of membership of a Tribal member, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-053(B)**, approving increase in blood degree and/or name change for previously enrolled Tribal members, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-054(B)**, approving Tribal Enrollments, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-055**, approving a lease with Family Dollar Stores of Mississippi, Inc., was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-056**, approving Commercial Land Assignment between the MBCI d/b/a Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise & a tenant, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

.....see REPORT, pg. 6

## News From the Tribal Distribution Office

### IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES TO REMEMBER!

Tribal Court (Child Support) - May 12, 2017 @ 4:30 p.m.

Direct Deposit - June 5, 2017 @ 4:30 p.m.

Other changes listed below - June 5, 2017 @ 4:30 p.m.

• **If you did not pick up your checks it will be mailed the next day.**

• **Our office will not hold any checks for pickup the day after Distribution.**

• **If your name is not on the check, you are not allowed to pick up another Tribal member's check.**

### TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION REMINDERS

Please help us make the process of receiving your check easier by having the following information current. Please list your children anytime you make any changes whether to change your last name or address.

(All of the following needs to be done and turned into the Tribal Distribution Office.)

• Over 18 years old - (Photo ID)

• Custody change - (Court Order) - Parents need to fill out the Changes to Tribal Distribution form and the W-4V tax forms if you wish to stop the taxes from being taken out once your child/children is/are released back to you.

• Name changes - (Marriage/Divorce with new name on your Social Security card.) - It is very important to list your dependents as well in the form.

• Address changes - If you do a forwarding address with your local post office, please fill out an application with our office also since the forwarding time does have an expiration. Anytime you do an address change for yourself, **always** include all of your dependents. We DO NOT accept address changes over the phone.

• Tax (W-4V).

### DIRECT DEPOSIT IS STILL AVAILABLE!

Keep in mind if your check was captured for anything from the previous Distribution, you will have to submit a new application to do Direct Deposit again.

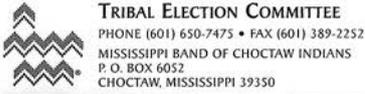
Only the individual/individuals listed as the account holder can do Direct Deposit. Please do not attempt to use someone else's account as they will be rejected.

**It is very important that you let our office know whenever you close your account and do not wait until after the deadline.**

### UNCLAIMED CHECKS

Tribal Distribution Office will only hold your check for 6 months. If you have not received your check, please contact Barbara Ben at 601-650-1522. The check will be returned to the General Revenue Fund after 6 months if not claimed. The Tribal Distribution Office is located on the upper level of the Tribal Office building in the Finance Department. The forms are available in the lobby or in the Finance Office and you can also visit [www.choctaw.org](http://www.choctaw.org).

For more information, please contact Barbara Ben, Distribution Manager, at 601-650-1522.



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

**NOTICE OF TRIBAL ELECTION**

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will hold a Tribal Election on Tuesday, June 13, 2017, for nine (9) seats on the Tribal Council, all for four-year terms. To be elected to the Tribal Council are:

1. Two seats in Bogue Chitto, with term expiring in 2021;
2. Two seats in Conehatta, with term expiring in 2021;
3. One seat in Crystal Ridge, with term expiring in 2021
4. Two seats in Pearl River, with term expiring in 2021;
5. One seat in Standing Pine, with term expiring in 2021;
6. One seat in Tucker, with term expiring in 2021.

The MBCI Tribal Election Committee includes the following members: 1) Berdie John, Chairperson; 2) Amy Pauls, Member; 3) Wanda Davidson, Member, Danita Darlene Willis, Alternate, Shirley Wilson, Alternate and Gary Williamson, Alternate. The Tribal Election Committee will appoint a Local Community Election Committee (LCEC) for each community to conduct this election. Tribal members who are registered to vote will cast their ballots at the polling place operated by the Local Community Election Committee. Voters may be asked to show a form of identification.

Times and places are listed below:

COMMUNITY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
1. Bogue Chitto	Tuesday, June 13, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Gym
Bogue Chitto-Henning	Tuesday, June 13, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	MBCI Henning MultiPurpose Bldg. 1230 hwy. 87 W Henning, TN
2. Conehatta	Tuesday, June 13, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Gym
3. Crystal Ridge	Tuesday, June 13, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Gym
4. Pearl River	Tuesday, June 13, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Downstairs
5. Standing Pine	Tuesday, June 13, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Meeting Rm
6. Tucker	Tuesday, June 13, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Gym

**REGISTRATION**

Tribal members 18 years of age or older who have not yet registered to vote may register at the Tribal Election Office. See Mavis H. Hickman. If you do not register to vote on or before 5:00 pm, May 12, 2017, you cannot vote in the June 13, 2017, election. If you have already registered to vote, you do not need to register again unless you have moved to another community since the day of your registration. Any registered voter in a community may challenge the residency of a person on the initial voters list by filing a voter challenge form to the Tribal Election Committee within ten (10) business days of the posting of the initial voters list.

**ABSENTEE BALLOT**

Any qualified registered voter who is age 57 or above, or who is physically unable to appear at the poll on election date, or who resides 50 miles or more distance from the community in which he or she is registered to vote shall be entitled to vote by absentee ballot. Request for mailed absentee ballots must be submitted in writing to the Tribal Election Committee at the Tribal Election Office not later than 12:00 noon on May 24, 2017. Requests for mailed absentee ballots received after this date and time will not be honored. Walk-in absentee ballot requests shall be submitted in writing to the Tribal Election Committee starting on May 25, 2017 through 12:00 noon on the day before the election. Document of proof supporting the walk-in absentee ballot request is mandatory. Mailed and walk-in requests for absentee ballots can be only for the person making the request; the request cannot be made on behalf of others.

**INFORMATION**

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

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

Chairpersons of the eight (8) Local Election Committees, who are officially appointed to conduct elections in your respective community, may also be contacted. The Choctaw Tribal Election Code is available at the MBCI website at [www.choctaw.org](http://www.choctaw.org).

*Berdie John*  
 Berdie John, Chairperson

*Amy Pauls*  
 Amy Pauls, Member

*Wanda Davidson*  
 Wanda Davidson, Member

**SCHEDULE FOR REGISTRATION DRIVE**

COMMUNITY	DATES	TIMES	PLACE
Bogue Chitto	Monday, May 8	1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Facility Building
Bogue Chitto -Henning	Friday, May 5	1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	MBCI Henning, TN MultiPurpose Bldg. 1230 Hwy. 87 W.
Conehatta	Thursday, May 4	9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Facility Building
Crystal Ridge	Monday, May 8	9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Facility Building
Pearl River	Friday, May 12	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Tribal Election Office
Standing Pine	Monday, May 1	1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Facility Building
Tucker	Thursday, May 4	1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Facility Building

Tribal members who are 18 years of age or older, who have not yet registered to vote in Tribal election, must register in the community where they live. Those who have already registered to vote do not need to register again unless they have moved to another community since they last registered. Please come & update your information.

*Voter registration is open year round Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Tribal Election Office, located behind Manpower Training Building. To register to vote, please have available: photo ID & Tribal enrollment number.*

**REPORT ..... continued from page five**

**Resolution CHO 17-057**, authorizing a TDLF Loan to MBCI d/b/a Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise (“CSCE”), was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-058**, authorizing an application for grant funding from the Nashville Indian Health Service for equipment for the new Red Water Clinic, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-059**, approving amendments to the Administrative Personnel Policy & Procedures, was TABLED 14 YES (C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, & S. Willis); 2 NO (R. Anderson & R. Bell); 1 ABSTAIN (D. Wilson).

**Resolution CHO 17-060**, au-

thorizing Blackmon & Blackmon, PLLC to represent the Tribal Council & its individual members, was DEFEATED 8 YES (R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 9 NO (T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, & B. Steve); 0 ABSTAIN.

**Resolution CHO 17-061**, revoking the permit of Jesus Alberto Hernandez to reside in Choctaw Indian Country, was ADOPTED 14 YES (R. Anderson, R. Bell, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 2 NO (R. Henry Sr. & W. McMillan); 1 ABSTAIN (C. Ben).

**ELECTION ..... continued from page one**

Christopher Eaves, incumbent Joseph Wesley and Tim G. Willis.

Pearl River (29 candidates, 2 positions) - Norma Bacon, Thomas E. Ben, Jr., Casey Bigpond, Taryn M. Carey, Robert Cotton, Kevin Farve, Robert Garcia, Jr., William Daniel Isaac, Dwight Jenkins, Chris Jim, Kyle John, Joyce Jimmie King, Deborah Martin, Barry McMillan, Nolan Mitch, Helen Billie Moore, Vickie Rangel, Benjamin Stephens, Mavis Steve, Austin Tubby, Robert Paul Tubby, Sr., Barbara Wesley, Henderson Williams, Clifton R. Willis, Crawford Willis, Raymond Willis, Jr., Karidy Billy Willis, Curtis Willis, Sr., and incumbent Stella York Willis.

Standing Pine (3 candidates, 1 position) - Loriann Ahshapane, incumbent Kevin J. Edwards and Angela Denson

Vaughn.

Tucker (6 candidates, 1 position) - Lisa M. Charlie, Lee R. Chickaway, Anthony Martin, Jr., Linda R. McMillan, Brenda Stephens, and incumbent Dorothy Wilson.

Registered Tribal voters will cast their ballots on Tuesday, June 13 from 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Polling sites include community facility building gymnasiums in Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Crystal Ridge, Standing Pine, and Tucker.

The Pearl River polling site is the community center. The Standing Pine polling site is the facility building meeting room. The Henning, TN polling site is the Henning Multi-Purpose Building.

For more information, call the Tribal Election Committee at 601-650-7475 or 601-650-7468.

# Willis Announces Candidacy For Pearl River Council Seat

Raymond Willis, Jr., has announced his candidacy for the position of Pearl River representative to the Choctaw Tribal Council. Tribal Elections are scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2017.



Raymond Willis, Jr.

Below is from his announcement.

“Halito! My name is Raymond Willis, Jr. & I am announcing my candidacy for the position of Tribal Council to represent the Pearl River community.

I am 52 years old & have lived in the Pearl River community for 40 years. My parents are the late Raymond Willis, Sr. & Dessie York Willis. I am married to Darlene Ben Willis & we have 3 sons, Caleb, Ozzie, & Reyes.

I am a graduate of

the Choctaw Central High School & East Central Community College. I have been employed at the Choctaw Health Center as a Network Administrator for 18 years. I have 24 years of experience in the field of Information Technology.

I am a Marine Corps veteran & was honorably discharged in 1993. For the past 16 years, I have served as a World Series Stickball official, the past 3 years as head official of the men’s division. I have coached Choctaw youth baseball & basketball teams for the past 18 years.

I have served on the Choctaw Tribal Schools Title I Parent Advisory Board for 10 years. The past two years I have served as President of

the Advisory Board. Serving on the Parent Advisory Board has opened my eyes to many concerns about our Choctaw Tribal Schools. All tribal schools suffer the same issues, some more than others. However, with some attention to these matters, improvement is inevitable.

Here are some reasons why I’m running for Tribal Council:

- I see a great future in the brilliant minds of our children. We have to invest in these minds early for the tribe to reap the benefits. My focus will be that our children in the Tribal Schools, as well as the public schools, are receiving the best education possible & are given an opportunity to reach their life goals. We have some of the best educators in the Choctaw Tribal School system. We have to keep the morale up &

recruit more of the same kind of educators. We need to assure that funds are spent wisely in education.

• Now is the time to exploit the business industry. Since the President of the United States has rescinded the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) & is looking at the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), this will bring businesses back to the U.S. This means more business could be developed here on our reservation lands. New business ventures & returning some of the same types of businesses that we thrived off of may help our tribe become debt free & have a surplus of money for additional resources & infrastructure to be built. We could also build military equipment since the president is a big supporter of the military & is building the military back up. We need new

leaders who will work for the Tribe in bringing new businesses.

• It is a Tribal leader’s responsibility to get to know the services the tribe has available to the people & help enhance the services. Providing information to the Pearl

.....see WILLIS, pg. 8

**What Does Red Water Casino Mean?**

- **250 Jobs!**
- **\$40-50 Million or More a Year for the Tribe!**
- **Reduce Debt!**

## FAIR ..... continued from page one

On Saturday night, July 15, after the 6:00 p.m. Closing Ceremonies, GRAMMY-Award winning The Band Perry will bring a sneak peek into *My Bad Imagination*, the band’s forthcoming third studio album due out later this year.

Choctaw Social Dancing & cultural displays will also be showcased at the stage nightly before the musical performances.

Immediately following the show, World Series Stickball games will be played at Warrior Stadium with the championship game capping off the last night of the fair Saturday, July 15 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 & dance, cultural activities, Indian arts & crafts, chart-topping music, & a whole lot more!

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

For more information, visit [www.choctawindianfair.com](http://www.choctawindianfair.com), like us on Facebook at Choctaw Indian Fair or call the fair hotline at 601-650-7450.

**IRON WARRIOR**

**PRE-REGISTRATION GOING ON NOW!!!**

**\$25.00 Pre-Registration Fee**

Registration forms available at [www.choctawindianfair.com](http://www.choctawindianfair.com)

Register before June 29 for  
Guaranteed Iron Warrior T-Shirt and 1 free retry!

Men’s and Women’s Divisions: 18 years of age and older

8 Competition Events for Men and 7 Events for Women!

Farmer’s Carry	Keg Carry
Tire Deadlifts	Sandbag Medley
Atlas Stones	Yoke Carry
Tire Flip	Truck Pull

**Competition Schedule**

Thursday, July 13 and Friday, July 14 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, July 15 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**\*\* CASH PRIZES \*\***

1st Place - \$500	2nd Place - \$200
3rd Place - \$100	4th Place - \$75
5th Place - \$50	

For more information, contact Sam Farve at the Choctaw Fire Department at 601-656-0620, or email: [farves@choctaw.org](mailto:farves@choctaw.org).

# Mouth Guards - Protecting Smiles

*Courtesy of the  
Choctaw Dental Office  
Wisdom Tooth*

Have you ever thought about how it would feel if you lost one or two of

your front teeth? You'd probably avoid smiling or be uncomfortable talking with someone face to face. It wouldn't be easy pronouncing certain words & eating foods like hamburgers, chicken, or ribs? Until your teeth are gone, you might not miss them.

Each year, thousands of teens get hurt on the playing field, the basketball court, or while playing stickball. Blows to the face in nearly every sport can injure your teeth, lips, cheeks & tongue.

A properly fitted mouth guard, or mouth protector, is an important piece of athletic gear that can protect your teeth & smile. You have seen them worn by college & pro athletes for football, basketball & other sports. There are three types of mouth guards:



- The ready-made, or stock, mouth guard;
- The mouth-forms "boil & bite" mouth guard;
- The custom-made mouth guard made by a dentist.

All three provide protection but vary in com-

fort, fit & cost.

The most effective should be resilient, tear-resistant & comfortable. It should be durable, easy to clean & not restrict your speech or breathing. Generally, it covers the upper teeth.

Here are some suggestions for taking good care of your mouth guard:

• Before & after each use, rinse it with cold water or with an antiseptic mouth rinse. You can clean it with toothpaste & a toothbrush, too.

• When not in use, place your mouth guard in a perforated bag. This permits air circulation & helps prevent damage.

• Avoid high temperatures, such as hot water, hot surfaces or direct sunlight, which

**...continued next page**

## From the Choctaw Health Center 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 or someone on behalf of the patient must contact the PRC. The notification is extended to 30 days for the elderly (age 65+) & the disabled.

### Business Office Hours:

**Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

### Business Office Phone Number:

**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 & 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.



## CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER

Main Telephone Number: 601-389-4500  
For Emergencies Call 911

Primary Care Clinic Hours	Rural Health Clinic Hours	Pharmacy Hours
Monday – Thursday 7:30am - 6pm (Last sign in at 5:45pm) <small>(Beginning Monday, May 1, 2017)</small>  Friday 7:30am - 4:30pm (Last sign in at 3:30pm)	Monday – Thursday 8am – 6pm (All clinics open)  Rotating Clinic Hours on Saturdays 8am – 12pm 1st Sat of the month: Conehatta 2nd Sat of the month: Bogue Chitto 3rd Sat of the month: Red Water 4th Sat of the month: Choctaw Health Center	Monday – Thursday 8am - 6pm  Friday 8am - 5:30pm  Saturday, Sunday & Holidays 9am-11am

## WILLIS ..... continued from page seven

River residents will be a priority for me. I know of some of the programs & it's effectiveness, but I want to get familiar with all programs & focus on improvements for the betterment of the people.

• A "code of conduct" for tribal leadership was proposed in the past. I, too, believe there should be a "Code of Conduct." However, one should be written with fairness to all involved.

These are only a few reasons I am running for the Pearl River Tribal Council position. Pearl River deserves new people with new ideas &

energy. We, the Pearl River people, have to work together to build a better future for all of us. We need to be a part of building an improved tribe.

I have visited most of your homes & the letter I left with you has more details. If you have not received a letter, let me know & I will get one to you. If I have not come to your house yet, I will be coming around pretty soon. I will do my best to represent you effectively & I would appreciate your vote on June 13, 2017.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please send an email to raywillisforprtc@hotmail.com."

can distort the mouth guard.

- Check it for tears, holes or poor fit. A mouth guard that's torn or in bad shape can irritate your mouth & lessen the amount of protection it provides.

- Have your dental office check out your mouth guard for tears & proper fit.

- Wear your mouth guard for practice & games. The more you practice with your mouth guard, the better you breathe & talk with it during games.

- Keep your mouth guard with all your sports equipment so it arrives with you for games & practice.

- Remember, it's your mouth guard. NO SHARING!

**DON'T TAKE YOUR TEETH FOR GRANTED.**

**PROTECT WITH A MOUTH GUARD!**

Mouth guards will be made at the following community dental offices below:

Pearl River (Choctaw Health Center) - Friday, May 26, beginning at 7:30 a.m.;

Bogue Chitto Clinic - Thursday, May 25, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.;

Conehatta Clinic - Thursday, May 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.;

Red Water Clinic - Monday, June 5, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

For more information, call the following dental offices:

Pearl River, 601-389-4030;

Bogue Chitto, 601-656-5442;

Conehatta, 601-775-3139;

Red Water, 601-267-8366.

# Programs Participate in National Nutrition Month Events

March was National Nutrition Month as Tribal programs hosted events to promote healthy eating habits & physical activity.

On Thursday, March 2, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson signed a proclamation declaring March as National Nutrition Month as all Tribal members were encouraged to participate in healthful eating habits & daily physical exercise to promote fitness & good health. Anderson also proclaimed March 8, 2017, as National Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day.

On Friday, March 10,



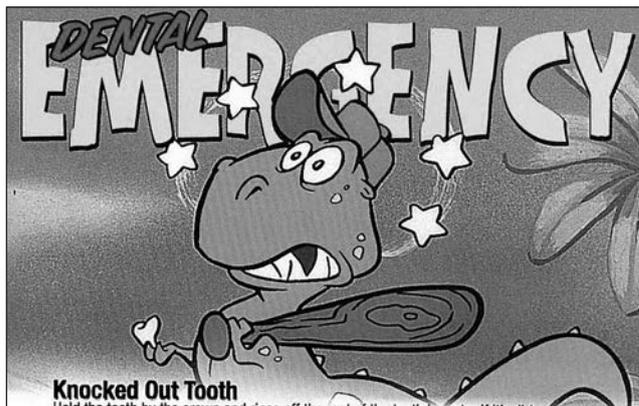
Tribal employees were provided information to improve their health during a health fair in the lobby of the Choctaw Health Center on March 10.

the Choctaw Health Center (CHC) hosted a health fair to promote healthy nutrition. The CHC Nutrition Department, WIC Program, CHC Public Health Department, CHC Diabetes Program, Choctaw Food Distribution, Department of Early Childhood Education (DOECE), & Choctaw Fresh Produce

collaborated to provide information to help Tribal members & employees improve their health through a healthy diet.

On Wednesday, March 29, the DOECE, Choctaw Food Distribution Program & WIC Program collaborated to

**...see HEALTH, pg. 10**



**Knocked Out Tooth**

Hold the tooth by the crown and rinse off the root of the tooth in water if it's dirty. Do not scrub it or remove any attached tissue fragments. If possible, gently insert and hold the tooth in its socket. If that isn't possible, put the tooth in a cup of milk and get to the dentist as quickly as possible. Remember to take the tooth with you!

**Broken Tooth**

Rinse your mouth with warm water to clean the area. Use cold compresses on the area to keep any swelling down. Call your dentist immediately.

**Possible Broken Jaw**

Apply cold compresses to control swelling. Go to your dentist or a hospital emergency room immediately.

**Objects Caught Between Teeth**

Gently try to remove the object with dental floss. If you're not successful, go to the dentist. Do not try to remove the object with a sharp or pointed instrument.

**Toothache**

Rinse the mouth with warm water to clean it out. Use dental floss to remove any food that may be trapped between the teeth. Do not put aspirin on the aching tooth or gum tissues. See your dentist as soon as possible.

**Bitten Tongue or Lip**

Clean the area gently with a cloth, and put cold compresses to keep swelling down. If bleeding is excessive or doesn't stop in a short period of time, go to the dentist or a hospital emergency room.

ADA American Dental Association®

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**National Nutrition Month Proclamation Signed**

Chief Phyliss J. Anderson signed a proclamation declaring March as National Nutrition Month, as well as March 8, 2017, to be National Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day. In attendance for the signing were, front row from left, Maurice Calistro, Family & Community Services; Iva Denson, Laura Huff, WIC Program; Chief Anderson (seated); Natalie Byrum, Penny Dickerson, Choctaw Health Center (CHC) Nutrition Department; Darlene Willis, CHC Diabetes Program; back row, Jesse Thomas, CHC Public Health Services; Sharon Thompson, CHC Diabetes Program; Mary Harrison, CHC Administration; Dr. Connie Black, Choctaw Food Distribution Program; Jim McAdory, Mississippi State University Extension Service; Tina Scott, CHC Administration; & Gordon Sam, Choctaw Food Distribution Program.

# Dr. Black Named Outstanding Dietitian

Dr. Connie Ray Black, USDA Dietitian with the Choctaw Food Distribution Program, was recently selected Outstanding Dietitian of the Year by the Mississippi Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (MSAND).

The award was presented during the academy's annual conference at the Biloxi Civic Center March 27-28.

Dr. Black has a wealth of experience as a registered dietitian, enabling her to promote health & wellness in a variety of settings. She, along with Choctaw Food Distribution employees, take their message of good nutrition & food avail-

ability on the road to all communities each month through a process they call "tailgating."

She can also be found providing nutrition education to Boys & Girls Clubs, elementary schools & Head Start programs, all the while serving as a voice for her profession & promoting the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

Dr. Black is also the Public Policy Coordinator for MSAND, serving as a liaison between dietitians in the state of Mississippi with local, state, & national officials. In this role, she travels to state & national capitols promoting those bills & measures which directly affect the nutritional care & quality of life for people, not only in Mississippi, but nationwide.

Dr. Black also serves as a preceptor for the Mississippi State University Dietetic Internship Program. Graduate students

who rotate through her facility are introduced to community nutrition education through various projects on the reservation, which are funded by grants from USDA-FDPIR.

She is active in local, state, & national professional organizations, having served as the past president of the Northeast MSAND. She currently serves as a member of the State Nutrition Action Coalition (SNAC).

Dr. Black, of Ackerman, is a fifth-generation Mississippian, born & raised on a small in-town farm in the red clay hills of Choctaw County. The understanding of the connection between humanity & the earth was instilled in her by parents & grandparents who guided her growth during those early



Dr. Connie Black with her MSAND Outstanding Dietitian of the Year Award.

years.

Their lives were (& still are today) a testimony to the fortitude & courage of those who understand the healing that comes from the life-giving nutrients of the soil. It was inevitable that she would aspire to a career where those fundamental lessons of early childhood could be utilized.

## HEALTH ..... continued from page nine

host a nutrition activity event for Pearl River Early Childhood students and their parents at the Choctaw Central High School football field in Choctaw.

DOECE provided games to promote physical activity that included a tricy-

cle race, obstacle course, & bounce houses. Food Distribution & the WIC Program provided a meal bag that included fresh fruits. The event also included prizes for children & door prizes for parents.



**Tutoring at Bogue Chitto Elementary**  
*Over 50 students are enrolled in the Title VII Day-time Tutorial Program at Bogue Chitto Elementary School for the 2016-2017 school year. This year, several changes were implemented in the program. Tutors now work with first through eighth grades. Mrs. Janette French reads with the first & second graders & loves reading with the students. Mrs. Sandra Holdiness is also assisting a few eighth graders with the new Algebra I program that is channeled through the Math & Science School at the Mississippi University for Women. Both tutors still provide one-on-one & small group instruction students need to meet their objectives & to be successful. Tutors further work in preparing students for the MAP state assessment.*

# Students Place at Beta Conventions

The Beta Club hosts annual state conventions in 18 states, both for Senior and Junior Beta divisions, and winners of these state events go on to compete on a national level.

Activities range from academic contests to quiz bowls to talent competitions. Conventions give members the opportunity to interact, share project ideas and showcase their academic and leadership abilities.

The Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center in Biloxi hosted both Mississippi Senior

and Junior Beta Club Conventions. The senior convention was held Feb. 19-21 & the junior convention was held March 19-21.

The Choctaw Tribal Schools congratulates the following students who placed in their respective national eligible competitions.

### SENIOR DIVISION

Hand-Made Jewelry - 1st place, Xavier Sam (Choctaw Central High School).

### JUNIOR DIVISION

Black & White Photography Division II -

1st place, Taiton Stokes (Standing Pine Elementary School).

Color Photography Division II - 1st place, Sierra Wallace (Choctaw Central Middle School); 2nd place, DeShaylee Tubby (Standing Pine Elementary School).

Digital Art Division I - 3rd place, Melanie Perez (Bogue Chitto Elementary School).

Fiber Arts Division I - 1st place, Lanayah Henry (Bogue Chitto Elementary School).

Hand-Made Jewelry Division I - 1st place, Talon Bell (Bogue Chitto Elementary School);

2nd place, Chloe Wesley (Standing Pine Elementary School); 3rd place, Raiyleigh Perry (Tucker Elementary School).

Hand-Made Jewelry Division II - 2nd place, Jaeden Wesley (Red Water Elementary School); 3rd place, Crystal Routh (Choctaw Central Middle School).

Painting Division I - 2nd place, Brylee Willis (Standing Pine Elementary School).

Pastels or Charcoals Division I - 2nd place, Jabari Denson (Standing Pine Elementary School).

Recyclable Art Division I - 1st place, Aiden Alex (Standing Pine El-

ementary School). Sculpture Division I - 2nd place, Lela Morris (Bogue Chitto Elementary School).

Wreath Division I - 1st place, Anya Anderson (Standing Pine Elementary School).

Wreath Division II - 3rd place, Jocelyn Wesley (Red Water Elementary School).

The 2017 National Beta Conventions will be held in Orlando, FL at the Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort. Junior convention is June 25-28 and senior convention is June 29-July 2.

# CCHS Hosts Author's Night

Members of Choctaw Central High School's senior class showcased their year-long writing project as part of Author's Night on Monday, April 10.

Family members, instructors, school officials, and guests were in attendance at the CCHS library as students entertained the audience by reading their selections of stories and poems as they also displayed their personal illustrations.

The inaugural Author's Night began with 32 students. This year's event featured 78 members of the senior class.

"Some of the seniors that spoke tonight, I taught them in the seventh grade in my CAAP and TAG classes. In my 20th year here, I'm just so proud of this group," said CCHS lead teacher Julia Faulk. "We are a school that focuses on writing and reading and these students exemplified that tonight with their performance."

The entire CCHS student body participates in the project beginning in August of the new school year. Various topics are assigned and illustrations are encouraged throughout the year.

Several of the topics suggested included writing of people that inspired them, their greatest triumph in life, advice they would give to the next senior class, their biography, and formulating their own Choctaw fairy tale.

"They love it and you should see their smiles when they see their finished product. The teachers all worked together and the students worked hard. I'm so proud of them," said Faulk.

Senior class officers started the event as they read their stories and poems to the audience in the library. Afterwards, the authors were divided into several classrooms to give ample



Participants in Author's Night include, bottom row from left, Allison Meely, Montae Bacon, Dylan Nickey, Miguel Pedraza; top row from left, senior class president Jennard Bollin, vice president Hannah Lewis, secretary Aahliya Jones, & treasurer Sri Grant.

opportunity for all the authors to showcase their work.

Senior class president Jennard Bollin read a poem in memory of his grandfather and excerpts from his story regarding his plans for the future.

"My title, 'I'm Not Finished Yet,' is solely about the road

not stopping here for me. I'm going to keep going. I have a future. I'm going to hit roadblocks, I know that, but I'm going to get past that and get through it cause I'm not finished yet."

.....see AUTHORS, pg. 12



**CCHS Floriculture Team Places 4th**

*Choctaw Central High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter Floriculture team recently placed fourth in FFA competition held on the campus of Mississippi State University in Starkville. Floriculture requires students to identify plants, judge flower arrangements & solve problems. Participants also demonstrate skills in flower arranging, propagation & the preparation of floral & foliage products for sale. Team members practiced with a local florist on how to design a flower wall piece & techniques that aided them during competition. The FFA strives to make a positive impact on the lives of students through premier leadership, personal growth & career success through agricultural education. Team members include Allen Sockey, Terrell Bell, Cy McMillan, Xena Willis, & Jan Stewart.*



**Nickey Signs With Bacone College**

*On Monday, April 3, Choctaw Central High School senior Dylan Nickey signed a letter of intent/cross country scholarship agreement with the Warriors of Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla. A signing ceremony was held in the Choctaw Central library. The CCHS Warriors cross country team placed third overall in the boys standing of the 2016 MHSAA State Cross Country Championships in Clinton on Nov. 5. Nickey was also a member of the CCHS Warriors basketball team. Pictured, seated from left, is father Eric Nickey, Dylan Nickey & mother Georgianna McMillan; back row, Tucker Tribal Council representative Wilma McMillan, CCHS cross country coach Gwen Grant & CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson.*

**AUTHORS ..... continued from page eleven**

Bollin said an event like Author's Night gives participants an experience they will never forget.

"This prepares us for certain aspects of our lives. We may feel we'll never get in front of a crowd again, but if we go back to that one time in high school 'where I got to read in front of a group' then we can go forward and build off from that experience."

"This is experience where we feel like authors, this is my book and I'm explaining it to you. This is an excerpt of my life story because our books are our life story," Bollin added.

Other students participating in the event included Hannah Lew-

is, Sri Grant, Aahliya Jones, Sarah Allen, Montae Bacon, Jaydre Bell, Dylan Ben, Breanna Billie, Dana Briscoe, Brooke Dixon, Erica Dixon, Jaydn Dixon, Madison Dixon, Alejandra Eaves, Hayden Farmer, TeyJah Farmer.

Daiton Henry, Merrick Hickman, Trent Hundley, Jordan Isaac, Candace Jefferson, DeShaya Jefferson, Blair Jimmie, Xavier Jimmie, Damian John, Ashton Johnson.

Brandis Johnson, Derrick Jordan, Josh Jordan, Dakota Kennedy, Raina King, Cy McMillan, Allison Meely, Betty Mingo, Camry Mingo, Keyla Mingo, Pilar Morales.

Guy Morris, Quentin Naneato, Chamaley

Nickey, Dylan Nickey, Miguel Pedraza, Hope Pesata, Sam Pennington, Selena Phillips, Jeremiah Robinson, Alexis Sam, Kameron Samuel, Merchaylee Sockey.

Mya Solomon, Cody Stoliby, Elyse Thomas, Leighanna Thomas, Anthony Tubby, Reese Tubby, Stacey Tubby, Aliyah Wahwasuck, Gatorson Wesley.

Symone Williams, Deanna Willis, Demanuel Willis, Ohoyo Willis, Milton Willis, Rebekah Willis, Xena Willis, Searra Wilson, Diajah York, Tanner York.

Ben Baccus, Beeman Farmer, Zach Farmer, William Henry, Dawn-drea Jordan, Ben Lewis, Jacob Taylor, & Winter Tubby.



**Mingo, Jones Honored During Senior Night**

*Choctaw Central High School seniors Betty Mingo & Aahliya Jones were honored during Senior Night for the fast-pitch softball season on April 5. The Lady Warriors were set to make an appearance in the opening round of the Class 3A fast-pitch playoffs on April 21. Both signed letters of intent/softball scholarship agreements as Mingo signed with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College & Jones signed with Meridian Community College. Pictured above, Betty Mingo with her family; below, Aahliya Jones with her family.*





**NEWS  
&  
NOTES**

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF MISSISSIPPI  
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS**

**CONEHATTA UNIT**

The Conehatta Unit of the Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI participated in several events & field trips during March & April.

On March 13, members ages 6-8 went on a field trip to the Jackson Zoo. Members ages 10-14 participated in Youth Day activities in Tucker.

On March 15, members ages 9-13 went to Malco Grandview Theater in Madison to watch "The Shack."

On March 17, members ages 7-12 went to Tinseltown Theater in Pearl to watch "Beauty & The Beast."

On April 14, the club was closed due to Good Friday holiday.

On April 17, the club was open all day (7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) for Easter break, no school. Members also took a field trip to the Bounce Palace in Pearl.

On April 22, members

took a field trip to "Discover the Dinosaurs" in Jackson.

From April 26-28, the club was closed due to staff conference.

**Upcoming Events**

May 19 will be the last day of the 2016-2017 school session.

From May 22-26, the club will be closed for club clean-up.

On May 29, the club will be closed due to Memorial Day holiday.

From May 30-31, the club will be closed due to staff training.

On June 1, the club will open for the first day of summer session. Summer session daily hours are 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

**Youths of the Months**

**Kayliona Kessinger  
January 2017**

Kayliona is the 9 year-old daughter of Kisha King of Conehatta. She has been a Conehatta

Boys & Girls Club member since January 2016 & attends Conehatta Elementary where she is in the third grade.

Kayliona has two sister who also attend the club. She is very disciplined in her school work & is well behaved. Kayliona was selected for her excellent behavior, attitude, participation, & attendance.

**Hailey Johnson  
February 2017**

Hailey is the 11 year-old daughter of Jamison Johnson & Elana Denson of Conehatta. She is in the fifth grade at Conehatta Elementary. Hailey recently moved up to the Teen Center program at the club. She has transitioned very well.

Hailey has been attending the club since June of 2011 & is now a member of the TORCH club. She was selected for her efforts to volunteer, participate, attitude, behavior, participation, & attendance at the club.

**Kenyon Johnson  
March 2017**

Kenyon Johnson is the 9 year-old son of Jamison Johnson & Elena Denson & attends Cone-

hatta Elementary where he is in the fourth grade. He has been a member of the club since January 2012. He enjoys the Sports/Fitness/Recreation program & the Social Recreation program at the club.

Kenyon is very creative. He likes to make things out of legos or paper & staples. Kenyon was selected for his improvements in his participation, attitude, & behavior.

**2nd Nine Weeks  
Honor Roll**

Club members named to the 2nd Nine Weeks Honor Roll included Claudia Allen, Montraz

**3rd Nine Weeks  
Honor Roll**

Club members named .....see ROLL, pg. 14



Club members ages 7-13 traveled to Tinseltown in Pearl to watch "Beauty & the Beast" in 3D.



Club members ages 6-7 went to the Jackson Zoo.



Club members ages 10-14 participated in Youth Day activities in the Tucker community with Tucker club members & volunteers from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.



**ABUSE** ..... continued from page one

Since 2002, Family & Community Services has sponsored activities for children & their families to create awareness for the need to prevent child abuse & neglect on the Choctaw Reservation.

“The event today is to bring importance to National Child Abuse Awareness Month,” said Albert Smith, Child Welfare Supervisor. “It’s really significant to bring attention to child abuse in all forms, neglect, emotional, sexual, & physical.”

Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families &

communities working together to prevent child abuse & neglect, & to promote the social & emotional well-being of children & families.

Communities are encouraged to share child abuse & neglect prevention awareness strategies & promote prevention across the country.

Harold “Doc” Comby of the Department of Public Safety served as guest speaker as he told the audience families need to be more involved in their children’s lives to make a positive impact.

“You have to pay attention to kids. Some of our elders tell me ‘these

kids can’t grow up on their own. You got to teach them, not only for their behavior, but their goals toward the future.’ All these beautiful kids we have on the field, they’re not going to remain small forever.”

Comby said families should teach children positive reinforcements in life, including their cultural identity.

“Being proud of who you are can lead to a lot of good. We need to instill education in our kids because that is the most important thing that’s going to carry them through life. When parents say they want the best for their

children, child abuse & neglect should not be a part of that,” added Comby.

Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan encouraged everyone to exhibit love & peace to not only the children, but to each other.

“Abuse is a situation that happens around the world today & I hope everyone encourages their children with their love & help one another. That’s what I want for my Tribe.”

The children enjoyed fun time in the bounce houses, interacting with the animal characters from the Department of Chahta Immi, seeing

snakes up close courtesy of the Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Department, & visiting the various programs where they received goodies & treats.

Representatives from other programs in attendance included the Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI, Neshoba County Child Protection Services, Diabetes Prevention Program, Substance Abuse Prevention Program, Choctaw Fire Department, Choctaw Health Center Public Health Services, We Tip Program, U.S. Army, & the Children’s Advocacy Center.

First through third place finishers in three categories of the child abuse awareness poster contest were announced. First place winners received a \$25 gift card, second place \$15 & third place \$10.

...continued next page



The Department of Chahta Immi’s Ofi hands out necklace beads to all the children in attendance.



Elders from the Elderly Activity Center and several of the children share a social dance and lots of smiles.

**ROLL** ..... continued from page thirteen

to the 3rd Nine Weeks Honor Roll included Montraz Billy, James Hickman, Kenyon Johnson, Braylon McMillan, Braylon Smith, Dantzler Stephens, Sabien Williams, Nalayah Chickaway, Kadriann Farmer, Hailey Johnson, Kadence Johnson, Kayliona Kessinger, Tajah Kessinger, Ti-arri Kessinger, Ches-

ley McMillan, Cassius Williamson, Tali King, Chasen Williamson, Dathian Williamson, Taylor Farmer, Kadison Nickey, Tailyn Wesley, Zylar Thomas, Ayslie Wesley, & De’Ryan Williamson.

These members will receive movie passes for their accomplishments.

**Appreciations**

We received a new employee & although he is only with us for 90 days, he was beneficial to our club.

Bruce Thompson joined us through the 90 day program & oversaw snacks & the cleanliness of the building. He also interacted with the members in the game room & recreation pro-

gram. During Spring Break, he cooked the members’ lunches daily.

We, the staff & members, say “thank you” for all you have done for us.

We also recognized Verna Williamson for “Administrative Professional” Day on April 26. Thank you Verna for all that you do for the organization!

**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!**

**When You STOP PROGRESS, What Do You REALLY STOP?**

- Job Creation
- Revenue Stream

In the 1st-3rd grade category, Mahayla Tubby (Pearl River Elementary School) placed 1st, Osi Raine Chapman (Bogue Chitto Elementary School) placed 2nd, & Miyah Nickey (Tucker Elementary School) placed 3rd.

In the 4th-6th grade category, Ariel Henry (Bogue Chitto Elementary School) placed 1st, Ulyla King (Bogue Chitto Elementary School) placed 2nd, & Delycia Cunningham (Bogue Chitto Elementary

tary School) placed 3rd.

In the 7th-8th grade category, Miley Billie & Fichik Willis (Red Water Elementary School) placed 1st, Rella Elise Lopez (Red Water Elementary School) placed 2nd, & Alyssa Farmer (Tucker Elementary School) placed 3rd.

Social dancing was provided by elders from the Elderly Activity Center & the Southern Pine Drum Group provided musical entertainment. Leroy Denson led the event in prayer.



**Petal Southern Miss Pow Wow**

*The University of Southern Mississippi and Golden Eagles Intertribal Society hosted their 15th annual Benefit Pow Wow April 8-9 at Willie Hinton Park in Petal. Dancers from the region came together to share their culture, traditions, food, and fellowship with the public. ABOVE LEFT, Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan took part in the Grand Entry. ABOVE RIGHT, Choctaw Color Guard carries the flags during Grand Entry. RIGHT, Don Ahshapanek served as Head Man Dancer & Katelyn Shoemake was Head Lady Dancer. Harold "Doc" Comby served as emcee & Shoti Ikbi was the host drum. BELOW, Pearlie Thomas of the Bogue Homa community was honored for her contributions to the preservation & sharing of the Choctaw culture.*



**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

**Keepers of our Traditions Award**

Pearlie Thomas, an elder in the Bok Homa community, spent spring break this year teaching the Bok Homa youth to cook outdoors in black pots. They cooked neckbones, combread, hominy, biscuits, black-eyed peas, and lots more. Pearlie has held classes for Southern Miss students on basket weaving, comb making, shirt and dress making, and beading. She is truly exceptional in her knowledge of Choctaw traditions and she is generous in her willingness to share the traditions with Choctaw youth. We honored Pearlie this year with a "Keeper of Our Traditions" award. Thank you Pearlie for all that you do to preserve and share your culture.

**Honoring the Keepers of Our Traditions**

Southern Miss Center for American Indian Research and Studies proudly recognizes **Pearlie Thomas** for her contributions in preserving and sharing the following Choctaw traditions: Beadwork, Cooking, Dress Making, Combs, Social Dance, Language and Basket Weaving. Given on this day the 8th of April, 2017

Tina Greer, PhD Director, CARS  
Janice Glasgow, PhD Co-Director, CARS

AAV.OE/ADAI

## LAKE PUSHMATAHA: A Fisherman's Lake



Lake Pushmataha, located in the Pearl River community in Choctaw, MS, has become a fisherman's lake.

Named in honor of Choctaw Chief Pushmataha (1764-1824), the lake is a 285-acre tribally owned and operated fishing lake located west of Philadelphia.

Considered one of the hidden treasures of the Choctaw Tribe, Lake Pushmataha has impressed all who visit.

Construction of the lake began adjacent to the Geyser Falls Water Theme Park in 2000 and opened to the public in the summer of 2005.

"In my opinion, Lake Pushmataha is a fisherman's paradise," states Mitzi Reed, Director of the Choctaw Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Department. "You are

guaranteed to have a pleasant time and we have seen some picture worthy fish caught over the years."

Some of the fish species inhabiting the lake include Largemouth Bass, Bream, and Catfish.

"I may be a little biased, but Lake Pushmataha is one of my favorite lakes to fish. I love the beautiful atmosphere, the tranquility, and the fight of the fish," added Reed.

To get to the lake, travel down Highway 16 West in Choctaw, then turn onto Blackjack Road. Drive two miles past the Geyser Falls Water Theme Park entrance. Entrance to the lake will be on the left.

Lake Pushmataha is open from sunrise to midnight. Lake regula-

tions include:

- Canoes are allowed at boater's own risk.
- No skiing and swimming is allowed, however, the lake is located adjacent to the Geyser Falls Water Theme Park and Clearwater Key.
- Fishing by pole only.
- Boats must be 26 feet or smaller.
- Lake permits are required.
- Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) are required for each person on the boat.
- Ages 12 & under are required to wear PFDs at all times while on boat.
- Proper boating and safety equipment is required when operating a boat.
- No littering.
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed.
- All other regulations set under authority of

Choctaw Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

• All US Coast Guard boating regulations will be enforced.

Handicapped fishing piers are available and fishing from the bank is a popular pastime. Picnic areas with grills are readily accessible for family oriented fun and recreation. Events to be held at Lake Pushmataha must be requested in writing:

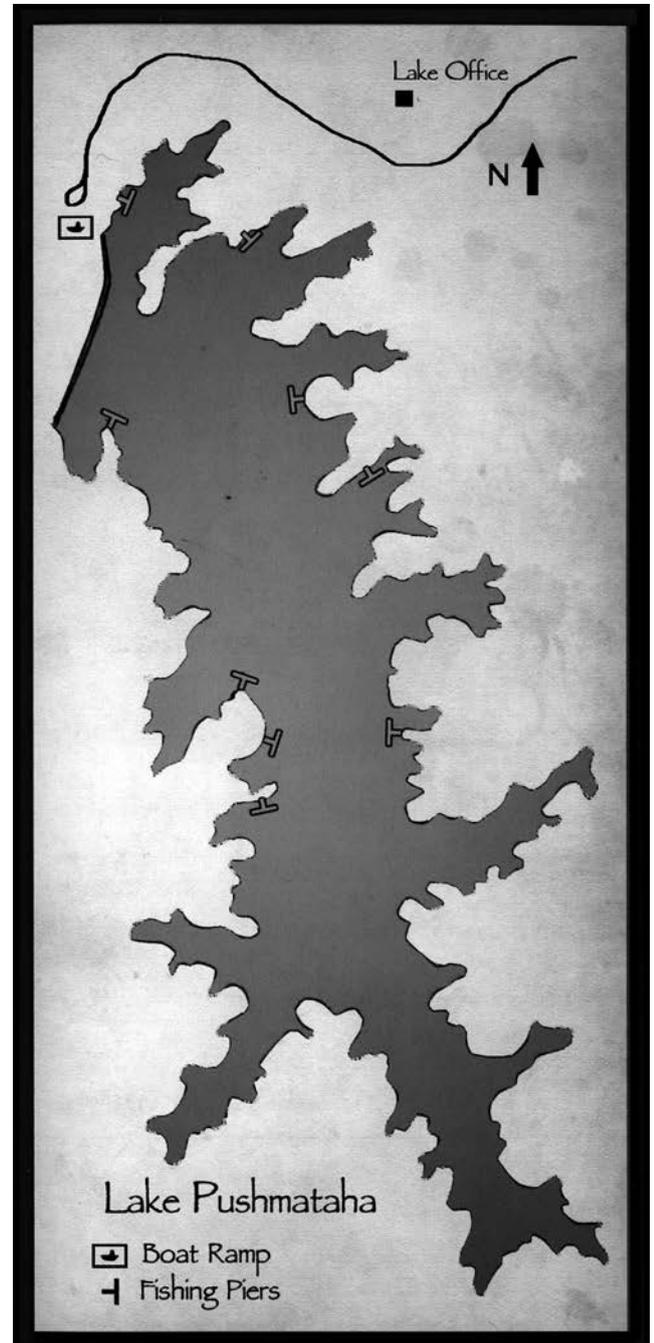
Choctaw Wildlife,  
Fisheries, and Parks  
Department  
125 River Ridge

Circle  
Choctaw, MS 39350  
Phone: (601)663-7827  
Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday/  
Referred to as the "greatest of all Choctaw chiefs," Pushmataha is noted in Mississippi history as "a man with deep roots in a traditional past who also realized that major changes were required by Choctaws for them to compete on an equal footing with Americans."

His name means "He who has won all the honors of his race."



**LEFT**, Jacob Long, from the Choctaw Vision Center, caught this 13.13 lb., bass on Feb. 23 at Lake Pushmataha. **CENTER**, Donny Page, a regular visitor from Philadelphia, comes out often to the lake & has caught 6- & 7-pounders over the years. He is pictured with one he caught within the last year. **RIGHT**, Wildlife & Parks Director Mitzi Reed had the pleasure of landing a 7.7 lb., bass herself in the past.



# DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

## Tribal Members in St. Paddy's Day Parade

The Mississippi Band  
of Choctaw Indians

were invited to participate in the 2017 Hal's St. Paddy's Day Parade and Festival in downtown Jackson on Saturday, March 18.



**LEFT**, Miya Steve & Katie Henry with Event Coordinator Malcolm White (left).

**BELOW**, The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians were selected as this year's Grand Marshall of the Hal's St. Paddy's Day Parade.



The Cultural Affairs Program, along with several Tribal members, served as Grand Marshals for the parade.

The annual event, deemed as the Mississippi Green Mardi Gras, benefits the Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson.

Tribal members wore their traditional attire trimmed with a flare of St. Paddy's Day green to celebrate the occasion.

Participants included the 2016-17 Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan, Deanna McMillan, Everette Sam, Ken Frazier, Garrison Joe, Trudy Jimmie, May McGeisey, Casey Bigpond, Wendy Thompson, Gilbert Thompson, Krystal Robinson, Katie Henry, Miya Steve, Adym Bigpond, & Xavier Sam.



## DCI, Scouts Team Up for Social Dance Performance

Jay Wesley, Director of the Department of Chahta Immi, chanted for Cub Scout Pack #61 as they performed Choctaw social dances at the Boy Scouts of America's Mississippi Bi-Centennial Celebration in Gulfport on March 18.

## CAP Workshop Schedule

The Cultural Affairs Program resumes their cultural workshops in the Conehatta Community Facility Building. Below is the schedule.

May 2 - Sash & Medallion Making from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

May 9 - Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

May 16 - Headband & Stickball Apron from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

May 24 - Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

May 30 - Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making

see DCI NEWS, pg. 18

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**INDIAN CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE**

**PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN**

**Thursday, August 10, 2017 • 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Silver Star Convention Center • Choctaw, MS**

For more information about the conference or to register, visit  
<http://mjc.olemiss.edu/special-projects>  
**E-REGISTRATION BEGINS JULY 2017.**

For vendor info, contact Youth Court Judge Holly Peters at 601-650-1658.

Department of Chahta Immi  
Chahta Immi Cultural Center

*"Preserving the History and Culture of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians"*

**The Choctaw Tribal Archives is dedicated to preserving and maintaining historical and cultural collections of Choctaw artifacts, images, documents, and media material.**

**Tribal members and the general public are welcome to visit the Archives for research and educational purposes.**

**Available Resources**

- Choctaw Vintage Photo Collections
- Genealogy Records
- Community News collection
- Choctaw Central High School Year Books
- Cultural Media Collections
- Cultural Artifacts Collections

**We are located in the Chahta Immi Cultural Center at the Choctaw Town Center in Choctaw, MS. Our hours of operation are 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.**

**For more information, please call (601)650-7399 or e-mail Tribal Archivist Amanda Bell at [amanda.bell@choctaw.org](mailto:amanda.bell@choctaw.org)**

# IN MEMORIAM

## NORMAN DELANE STEPHENS

Funeral service for Norman Delane Stephens, 55, was held on Thursday, March 30, 2017, from Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River. Deacon John Smith & Bro. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Stephens passed away on March 27 at Anderson Regency Hospital in Meridian.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, fishing, going to stickball

games, visiting the elderly center, & watching pro wrestling.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Stephens & Dorothy Chapman; brothers, Ferlin Stephens & Dolan Stephens; & 2 grandchildren.

Survivors include his daughters, Latisha Stephens, Ashley Dixon & Kayla Stephens; sons, Todd Stephens & Adriel Stephens; sisters, Hilda Nickey, Merida Stephens & Chrissy Chapman; brother, Travis Stephens; an aunt; & a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

## LILLY RUTH BELL

Funeral service for Lilly Ruth Bell, 73, was held on Friday, March 31, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Randy Jim & Rev. 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 March 27 at Hilltop Manor in Union.

She enjoyed being with family & friends, fishing, sewing, cooking, & gardening. She was employed at Wells Lamont then Pearl River Resort as a porter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lish Bell & Martha Thompson Bell; sisters,

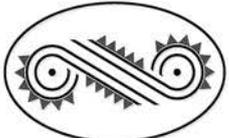
Minnie Amos, Susan Willis, Sybil Willis, & Christine Amos; brothers, Willie Bell, Houston Bell, Gene Bell, G.W. Bell, Shane Bell, & O.D. Bell; & 2 great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her daughter, Melinda Amos; 5 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

## TAWSHA KIM NICKEY ROUBIDEAUX

Funeral service for Tawsha Kim Nickey Roubideaux, 45, was held on Friday, March 31, 2017, from the Pushmataha Family Life Center in Pearl River. Rev. Micah Nickey officiated.

John E. Stephens ...continued next page



**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.

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

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

---

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

## DCI NEWS ..... continued from page seventeen

from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### Choctaw Storytelling at CCHS

There will be no community cultural classes for the months of June and July due to preparation of the 68th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair July 12-15.

Students of Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) were treated to a series of Choctaw storytelling presentations between December 2016 and March

2017. Tribal elders from various tribal communities delivered the presentations as part of the Choctaw Tribal Elders Oral History Project.

Presenters shared their cultural knowledge and life experiences with the aim of educating the

Tribal youth about their heritage and history.

These activities were made possible through a collaborative effort of the Department of Chahta Immi's Special Projects/Media Program and the CCHS Student Advocacy Group.



Harold "Doc" Comby describes the values & experiences he gained from his upbringing on the reservation.



LEFT, Peggy Thompson spoke to the students on culture & education. RIGHT, Tucker Tribal Council representative Dorothy Wilson shares her life experiences & her knowledge of Choctaw traditions.



Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Roubideaux passed away on March 27 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.

She enjoyed being with family, drawing, reading, being outdoors, & watching tv. She loved music & was a drummer & singer. She was a nurse at Riverview Manor in Flandreau.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Lawanna Nickey; grandparents, Rev. W.C. & Josaphine Nickey, Aloysious Thin Elk & Vivian Brave; & a granddaughter.

Survivors include her parents, Nathaniel & Helen Thin Elk Nickey; daughter, Lattia Roubideaux; sons, Rashane Roubideaux & Keenan Roubideaux; three grandchildren; sisters, Lashawn Nickey & Tiana Nickey; brother, Micah Nickey; husband, Marvin Roubideaux; & a host of relatives & friends.

**BATMAN VARDAMAN JOHN**

Funeral service for Batman Vardaman John, 92, was held on Thursday, April 6, 2017, from the John Memorial Methodist Church in Red Water. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Tim Tubby officiated.

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

Mr. John passed away on April 2 at his resi-

dence.

He was a U.S. Army veteran. He was in construction in Dallas, TX & retired from Racko, Inc. before moving back home. He enjoyed being with his family, watching NFL games, fixing things, & driving people on errands.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Empsy John & Bilsie Willis John Campbell; a daughter, Darnell John; sisters, Mable York, Rena John, Margaret Clah, Elizabeth Stephens, Samlee Tubby, & Lisette John; & brothers, Bilbo John & Smith John.

Survivors include his wife, Merlene Lewis John; a daughter, Erin John; sons, Carlton Perry Allen & Errol John; 9 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; foster children, Kimberly Lewis & Vandy Lewis; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**SELMA JEAN JOHN**

Memorial service for Selma Jean John, 57, was held on Saturday, April 8, 2017, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

Ms. John passed away on March 30 at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Lawrence, KS.

She was a residential aide at Haskell Indian Nations University & was previously employed at Chahta Enterprise & Choctaw Electronics. She was a sports fan & loved to laugh.

She enjoyed being with family & friends, playing pool & cards.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Oliver & Loretta Denison John; a son, Brandon John; sisters, Elsenia Tubby & Lucille Thomas; a niece & three nephews.

Survivors include a sister, Gloria Graves; brother, Jimmy John, Sr.; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**ALEJANDRO RAY YORK**

Funeral service for Alejandro Ray York, 44, was held on Monday, April 10, 2017, from the Standing Pine Facility Building. Rev. Shelly Peoples officiated.

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

Mr. York passed away on April 6 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He attended Spirit of Life Christian Center & enjoyed being with family & friends, fishing, listening to music, & watching wrestling. He was employed as a forestry aide, housekeeper & custodian at several Tribal departments.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Hester York, Sr., Riley & Arlesttev Phillips; 3 aunts & 3 uncles.

Survivors include his parents, Jerry L. York, Sr. & Arlie D. Phillips; daughter, Allandra York Pinto; son, Alec York; sisters, Sonya York &

Samantha York; brothers, Jerry L. York, Jr. & Eric York; grandmother, Grace Lewis; 7 aunts; 4 uncles; 1 granddaughter; & a host of relatives & friends.

**GARLAND BELL, SR.**

Funeral service for Garland Bell, Sr., 75, was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, from the Tucker Facility Building. Deacon Ricky Thompson, Sr. & Bro. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Bell passed away on April 8 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

He was a member of Corinth Baptist Church. He enjoyed singing "Amazing Grace," play-

ing the piano, fishing, playing dominoes & washers, watching old movies, attending family gatherings, & drumming for the Tucker Stickball team.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Houston & Julia Bell; wife, Wilma Jefferson Bell; sisters, Betty Bell & Sarene Bell; brothers, Charlie Bell, Eugene Bell, Harrison Bell, Grady Bell, & Rigman Bell; 1 granddaughter; & 3 great-granddaughters.

Survivors include his daughters, Valentina Jim, Carol Bell & Amanda Hickman; sons, Harlan Bell, Fredrick Bell, Stanley Bell, Norman Bell, Sr., Nathan Bell, Michael Bell, & Garland Bell, Jr.; a sister, Joyce Lewis; a brother, James Bell; 45 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Welcome To



**NANIH WAIYA INDIAN Mennonite Church**

Preaching Every Sunday - 10:00 am

10341 Road 789 Philadelphia, MS 39350

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

Come and Worship with us



**Macedonia Baptist Church**  
130 Campus Drive  
Couchatta, 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

Happy Belated Birthday to Flora Billie on March 10 & to Harmonie Nayeli Junior on her



1st Birthday on March 29, from everyone who loves you!

Happy Birthdays to the following: Joshua Richard on April 7 & Caleb Dixon turning 4; Akiza King who turns 5 on April 10; Jermica Tubby on April 14; Ja'nayah Clayton on April 20 & to Alistar King who turns 4; & Duane M. Kelley on April 26 - from all who love

Happy Birthdays to: Danny Bell on May 5; Brandi Bell on May 6; Hester Allen on May 9; Sarene Anderson on May 11; Naomi King who turns 8 on May 16; Kismet A. Tubby on May 22; Jade Labatte on May 24; Ty Keams on May 30; & Lonzo Thomas on May 31 - from everyone who loves yall.



# Registration Open For 2017 State Games

Over 5,000 of Mississippi's finest amateur athletes will compete in 40 individual and team sports at venues across the state as part of the 2017 State Games of Mississippi this May and June.

Registration may be done online or by mailing in a registration form downloaded from the official state games website at [www.stategamesofms.org](http://www.stategamesofms.org).

The State Games of Mississippi is an annual multi-sport event modeled after the Olympic Games. It is a privately-sponsored, non-profit organization that promotes amateur athletics and healthy lifestyles for Mississippians of all ages and abilities.

Since the inaugural State Games of Mississippi in 1991, more than 70,000 athletes from more than 350 Mississippi communities have participated. Anyone who has been a resident of Mississippi for at least 30 days is qualified to participate. In addition,

students registered in Mississippi colleges and universities and military personnel assigned to facilities in Mississippi are eligible.

Individual sports include: 3-Gun Competition; 5K Road Race & 5K Walk; 22 Rifle Competition; Archery (AIMS-MS Individual Youth Championship, 3D Archery & Field Archery); Barrel Racing; Bowling; Canoe/Kayak/Standup Paddleboard; Cycling/Time Trial; Disc Golf; Fencing (Fencing & Wheelchair Fencing); Junior Golf; Martial Arts; Mountain Bike; Pistol Competition; Powerlifting; RX Fitness Challenge; Sporting Clays; Swimming (Masters & Youth); Table Tennis; Tennis (Junior); Track & Field; & Trail Run (4.6 M).

Team sports include: Baseball (All Star, High School Team, Jr. High Team & Youth); Basketball; Flag Football; Soccer (High School Team, 7v7

& Youth); Kickball; Softball (Fast pitch (Youth & High School) & Slow pitch (three)); Stickball; & Volleyball (2-Person & 4-Person).

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals are awarded to the top three athletes or teams in each division of all sports.

The 2017 Coca-Cola Opening Ceremonies, complete with a parade of athletes, the lighting of the State Games cauldron and fireworks, will be held June 16 in downtown Meridian.

Founding Gold Sponsors include the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Pearl River Resort.

For more information, call 800-482-0205 or visit [www.stategamesofms.org](http://www.stategamesofms.org).

## CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

APRIL 2017

© 2017 MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

**REMINDER!**  
**2017 World Series Stickball Roster Deadline is MONDAY, MAY 15 @ 4:00 P.M.**

For more information, contact  
**WSS Commissioner Thomas Ben**  
 at 601-504-3249.

WORLD SERIES STICKBALL  
 MISSISSIPPI CHOCTAW

**D's NATIVE EDGE Barber Shop**

202 Choctaw Town Center  
 Choctaw, Mississippi

\*\*\*\*\* Business Hours \*\*\*\*\*  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
 Saturday 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
 Closed Wednesday & Sunday

**CHOCTAW TOWN CENTER**

**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.

**Pearl River Insurance Agency**

**Need Auto Insurance?**

Multi-Vehicle Discounts SR 22  
 Safe Driver Discounts

Come in for a free quote or call 601-663-0971  
 300 Choctaw Town Center Suite 106

**HOURS:**  
 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, Appointment Only

**A&B mechanical, inc.**

**Heating & Air Conditioning Service**

**A&B Mechanical, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 6003  
 Choctaw, MS 39350

(Office) 601-656-4818  
 (Fax) 601-656-4418

Allen Peoples, President/Owner,  
 Chahta Owned & Operated