



CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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

S&P Raises CRDE's Bond Rating

Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise (CRDE), a business enterprise of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, announced on June 10 that Standard and Poor's Ratings Services has upgraded their respective ratings of CRDE's issuer credit rating, senior secured issue rating and senior notes rating as follows:

- CRDE's Issuer Rating upgraded one notch from B+ to BB-
- CRDE's Senior Secured Issue Rating upgraded one notch from B+ to BB-
- CRDE's Senior Notes Rating upgraded two notches from B- to B+

In its report, Standard and Poor's described CRDE's "recently completed property renovations" and "stable outlook" as reasons for the upgrade.

"We are gratified that S&P continues to recognize CRDE's sound financial structure and conservative fiscal management," said Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO for Pearl River Resort.

"The fact that S&P has raised our respective issuer and credit issue ratings did not happen by accident. We worked together as an executive team to control spending, reduce operating costs and improve reserves, while making necessary infrastructure improvements and continuing our commitment to our employees and the Tribe."

Supreme Court Deadlocked, Ruling Stands in Favor of Tribe

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) - On June 23, the United States Supreme Court issued a decision in the case of *Dolgen Corp. v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians* (13-1496) announcing that the Court was equally divided and unable to reach a majority ruling in the case. The result is that the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in favor of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is affirmed.

At issue in the case was whether the Mississippi Choctaw Tribal Court may hear and decide a civil lawsuit brought by Choctaw Tribal members against Dolgen Corp, Inc. ("Dollar General"), a corporation which owns and operates the Dollar General retail store located on Choctaw Indian Reservation lands.

In 2005, the Choctaw plaintiffs brought a lawsuit in Choctaw Tribal Court alleging that,

in 2003, the Dollar General store manager at that time sexually molested a minor tribal member who was working at the store through the Tribe's Youth Opportunity Training program.

Dollar General attempted to avoid civil liability by claiming that the Choctaw Tribal Courts do not have civil jurisdiction to hear and decide the claims against Dollar General since it is a non-Indian entity.

The Choctaw Tribal Courts, a Federal district court, and the Fifth Circuit Federal appeals court all ruled against Dollar General on this issue. Since the U.S. Supreme Court was unable to reach a majority ruling in the case, the judgment of the Fifth Circuit is affirmed.

"I am pleased to announce that today the U.S. Supreme Court issued its long-awaited decision, and the result does not deprive the sovereign authority of our Tribal courts to

hear and issue a final ruling in a lawsuit brought by Tribal members seeking to have their day in court," said Mississippi Choctaw Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson.

"Even though the Supreme Court was unable to reach a majority decision in our favor, I am grateful the result of

the case nevertheless affirms the sovereign right of Indian tribes to assert civil jurisdiction against a non-Indian entity in certain circumstances. This is a positive outcome, not only for our Tribe, but for all of Indian country."

.....see RULING, pg. 4



Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Chief Phylliss J. Anderson speaks at the Quilt Walk for Justice rally on the grounds of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 7, 2015.

New Press Box Opens at CCHS

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday morning, June 15, for a newly-constructed press box and concession stand, pavilion and bathroom facility at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) in Choctaw.

Tribal and school officials, along with dozens of students, got a sneak peek of the facilities after the ceremony as they toured the new press box and received refreshments from the concession area courtesy of the CCHS Athletic Department.

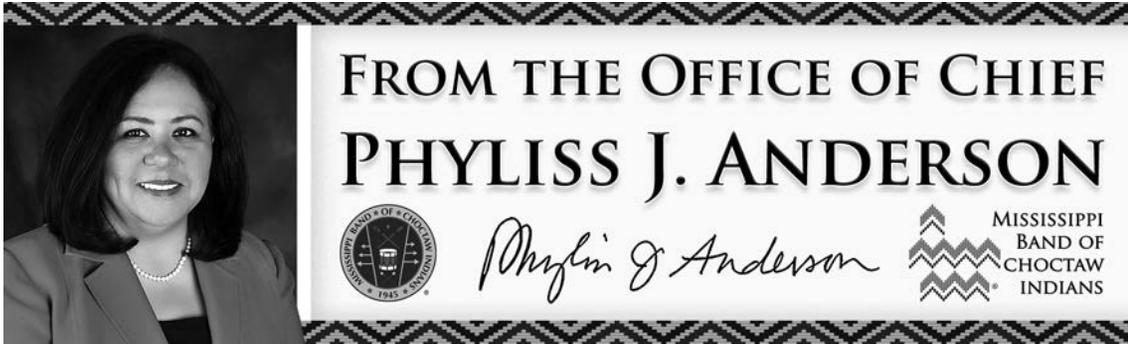
.....see PRESS BOX, pg. 5



From left is the new three-tier press box and concession area, pavilion and restroom facility at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School.



Tribal & school officials, along with students, celebrate the opening of the new press box on June 9.



Chief Anderson at NCAI Conference

Chief Anderson recently addressed the National Congress of American Indians during the 2016 Mid-Year Conference held in Spokane, WA June 27-30. Chief Anderson met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell & made comments to the general assembly on the recent U.S. Supreme Court Decision in the Dollar General vs. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians case.

Halito!
After many months of planning and anticipation, the Choctaw Indian Fair is now only days away! I am so excited to see all of our friends, neighbors and new and returning visitors come join us for the Tribe's biggest cultural celebration of the year.

It takes a lot of teamwork and effort to make the Fair a great success. I thank our dedicated fair committee for everything they have done to make this the best Choctaw Indian Fair to date.

To my fellow tribal members, I hope to see many of you out at the fairgrounds, and to our visitors, welcome to our beautiful Mississippi Choctaw Indian Reservation and to the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair!

Unity Walk 10-Year Anniversary

On Saturday, June 25th, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Unity Walk/Run, hosted by the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP).

This unique annual event blends together the goal of exercise and healthy lifestyles with the Little Brother of War,

stickball. Stickball teams from across the Reservation begin the walk from their respective practice fields and meet up at the parking lot of the CCHS Baseball Field. From there, all teams make the final portion of the walk together to the Pearl River community amphitheater.

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

I congratulate the SDPI and DPP staff for their dedication in diabetes awareness and prevention and encouraging our Tribal members to pursue healthy lifestyles. Keep up this important work!

Princess Pageant

One of the Fair's most cherished events is the Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant. Held on the opening night of the Fair on Wednesday night, it is a chance for everyone to see Choctaw culture on full display.

Twelve lovely young Choctaw ladies, dressed in beautiful attire, beadwork and other accessories, will vie to be the next Choctaw Indian Princess. I wish each of the contestants best of luck and am proud of



Reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake & Chief Anderson pose during the opening of the new press box at Choctaw Central High School on June 9.

them for their courage and enthusiasm to serve our people as the Tribe's goodwill ambassador.

I would also like to thank the 2015-2016 Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake. She has done a marvelous job throughout this past year, and we wish her the best in her future endeavors. I hope you will all make plans to join us at this year's Princess Pageant.

Stickball

I am excited and ready to see another round of World Series Stickball. The games will begin on Tuesday, July 5th at Warrior Stadium and conclude with the men's championship game on Saturday, July 16th.

Our teams are ready for competition, and each team will no doubt put on their very



Pictured above are championship medals in the men's & women's division for the 2016 Iron Warrior competition at the Choctaw Indian Fair.

best efforts to clinch the trophy. I look forward to seeing all of you in the stands during the games.

Fair Competitions

Our Iron Warrior and REZ-RUN competitions are two of the fair's biggest draws. These two events offer fairgoers the opportunity to display their

athletic abilities in front of the crowds that come to watch.

The participants brave the summer heat and intense trials to become the top champion. It's tough, but the competitors love the challenge. I invite you to come out and cheer on our Iron Warriors and our runners.

.....continued next page



New Choctaw Indian Fair Signs

The Philadelphia-Neshoba County Tourism Council recently purchased eight new Choctaw Indian Fair signs to be used each year to promote the fair. Pictured, from left, are Caleb May, Kristen Page, Annette Watkins, and James Robinson. Not pictured is JoAnn Rounsaville.

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
 Kathie Henry.....Communications Writer
 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.

State Games

The State Games of Mississippi stickball tournament was held at Warrior Stadium June 15-18, 2016. We had a great turnout from the teams and the fans.

Congratulations to Pearl River on winning the gold medal, as well as to silver medalist Oka Homma and bronze medalist Koni Hata Osi.

The Tribe is a proud sponsor of the State Games, and I congratulate them on their 25th anniversary and wish for many more years of continued success.

Dollar General vs. MBCI Supreme Court Decision

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Supreme Court has released their decision on the Dollar General v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians case.

The Supreme Court decision was equally divided; and while we would have liked a complete victory with a majority vote, the 4-4 decision is still a great win for the Tribe. This victory affirms the judgment of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in our favor and allows our tribal members to seek justice and have their day in tribal court.

The result protects our sovereignty and the authority of our Tribal courts to hear and issue a final ruling in a lawsuit brought by Tribal members seeking to have their day in court.

I am grateful the result of the case affirms the sovereign right of Indian tribes to assert civil jurisdiction against a non-Indian entity in certain circumstances. This is very historic for our Choctaw people and all of Indian Country. I am very thankful for the support and encouragement many of you gave me throughout this process.

Standing Pine Tribal Council Election

In June, a special election was held in the Standing Pine community to fill the unexpired term of the late Tribal Councilman Harrison Ben.

I want to congratulate Mr. Richard Sockey on his election, and I look forward to working with him to continue bringing progress to our Reservation. Councilman-Elect Sockey will be sworn in at the July regular meeting of the Tribal Council.

Pearl River Resort Update

We have many exciting events happening at our Pearl River Resort. Of course, Geyser Falls Water Theme Park has opened full-time for the season, and the Summerland Tour 2016 and the Hot Lava Luau will be sure to please our new and returning guests.

The Summerland Tour was held on Saturday, July 9th and featured great acts such as Sugar Ray, Everclear, Lit, and Sponge. You cannot have a beach bash without a Hawaiian-style luau, so don't miss your chance to have fun at the Hot Lava Luau on Saturday, July 30th.

Our CenterStage concert series is bigger and better than

ever with top-name entertainment and music legends taking the stage at the Silver Star Convention Center. Previous performers from this year's series include The Four Tops, Keith Sweat, Gladys Knight, Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias, and The Commodores.

We are excited to welcome in the coming months Skid Row, Ratt, Scotty McCreery, Big & Rich, Sinbad, Clint Black, and the legendary Willie Nelson.

Bok Homa Casino hosted the King of Twist, Chubby Checker, at its live outdoor concert on Saturday, July 2nd. It was a lovely evening filled with delicious food, wonderful fellowship and great music.

As usual, we celebrated the Fourth of July with a huge fireworks show at the Resort. This is an event that attracts not just Tribal members, but our neighbors from the surrounding cities, towns and communities.

We invite you to come join us at Pearl River Resort and enjoy the fun!

Pearl River Resort Credit Upgrade

I am very pleased to announce on behalf of the Choctaw Resort Enterprise Board of Directors, that Standard and Poor recently upgraded the Pearl River Resort credit rating from B+ to BB-. In the report, Standard and Poor describes the Resort's recently completed property renovation and stable outlook as reasons for the upgrade.

I want to thank the many employees of Pearl River Resort and the management team for their work in controlling spending, reducing expenses, improving customer service and maintaining our beautiful renovated properties.

Our resort is looking better than ever financially and visually. I look forward to a very active summer this year with lots of gamers, guests and families enjoying our many amenities. Great job everyone!

Closing

We may experience very high temperatures in the coming weeks. Please make sure you are taking the proper precautions to ensure your safety during these extremely hot days. Limit any strenuous outdoor activities, and if you must be outside, be sure to drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. Take several breaks and go indoors to cool off, or find a shaded area if you are unable to go indoors.

Please keep an eye out for our elders, young children, persons with disabilities, household pets and anyone you know who may not have air-conditioning units in their homes.

I hope you will take time to enjoy the many fun summertime activities that are taking place on the Reservation, and I hope to see all of you at the Choctaw Indian Fair!

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson

Phyllis J. Anderson, Tribal Chief

10th Annual Unity Walk/Run

Players representing Choctaw stickball teams participating in this year's World Series Stickball converged in Choctaw on Saturday, June 25 as part of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and Diabetes Prevention Program's (DPP) 10th Annual Unity Walk/Run.

The event recognizes and promotes diabetes awareness across the Choctaw Reservation as stickball players ran from their respective practice fields to the parking lot of the Choctaw Central High School baseball field.

Once all teams gathered, participants, along with tribal leaders and drummers, walked together in unity to the Pearl River Amphitheater. Attendees were urged to become educated on diabetes prevention and management to overcome the devastating effects of diabetes.

ABOVE, The Choctaw Veterans Color Guard leads the procession of stickball teams from the CCHS baseball field to the Pearl River Amphitheater. **CENTER,** Tribal drummers bring the teams into the amphitheater. **RIGHT,** Members of the SDPI & DPP were honored for their sponsorship of the event.





CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

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

**SPECIAL CALL
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 14, 2016**

Resolution CHO 16-058, approving Bianca

York-Crockett of the University of Southern Mississippi to conduct research on “Barriers and Facilitators to Completing Higher Education Programs for Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian Students,” was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 0 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-059, confirming the appointment of Tina Scott as Director of the Department of Health, was ADOPTED 11 YES (*R. Bell, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, B. Steve, & J. Wesley*); 2 NO (*R. Anderson & L. Parkerson*); 2 ABSTAIN (*C.*

Ben & S. Willis); 1 ABSENT (*D. Wilson*).

Resolution CHO 16-060, delegating authority to the Tribal Chief to approve a certain settlement agreement, was ADOPTED 15 YES (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley, & S. Willis*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (*D. Wilson*).

Resolution CHO 16-061, approving the 2016-2017 Policy Handbooks for the Choctaw Tribal Schools, was ADOPTED 14 YES (*R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis*); 0 NO; 1 ABSTAIN (*R. Anderson*); 1 ABSENT (*D. Wilson*).

Resolution CHO 16-062, approving the 2016-2017 School Budget, was ADOPTED 15 YES (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W.*

McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley, & S. Willis); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (*D. Wilson*).

Resolution CHO 16-063, affirming the commitment of tribal funds for operation and maintenance of infrastructure constructed in Standing Pine with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through a Community Development Block Grant for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, was ADOPTED 15 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (*D. Wilson*).

Resolution CHO 16-064, affirming citizen participation and authorizing the Choctaw Housing Authority to apply for funding through a Community Development Block Grant for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages as administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, was ADOPTED 14 YES (*R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nick-ey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley, & S. Willis*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (*R. Anderson & D. Wilson*).

Resolution CHO 16-065, applying for a U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Discretionary Grant Funding for the Youth Conservation Corps Program at Nanih Waiya Mound area

for the Division of Education, Choctaw Tribal Schools, was ADOPTED 13 YES (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley, & S. Willis*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT (*K. Edwards, R. Henry & D. Wilson*).

Resolution CHO 16-066, applying for U.S. Department of Education Grant funding for the Choctaw Language Annopa Tikbishtiya Program for the Division of Education, Choctaw Tribal Schools, was ADOPTED 13 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-067, applying for one-time supplemental funding from the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, was ADOPTED 13 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-068, accepting a supplemental grant increase from the Office of Head Start, was ADOPTED 13 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-069, entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with The Institute for Indian Development, Inc., to apply for and receive a sub grant for the Community Service Employment for Older Americans Program, was ADOPTED 13 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.




Serving Choctaw Communities in Mississippi & Tennessee

Choctaw Housing Authority (CHA) is proud to announce the Raise the Roof Project for current CHA Homebuyers. The CHA Board of Commissioners has approved to service eligible CHA Homebuyers that are in need of roof replacement. At this time, services for roof replacements are only extended to Housing Project 2800 (NAHASDA). Paid out CHA Units will not qualify.

Raise the Roof Project Eligibility

- Emergency housing tenants will move to the top of the list.
- Selection for the roofing project will be on a first come/first serve bases according to date applied.
- All recipients' payments must be current on their account (rent and/or work order).
- Recertification must be current and/or updated.
- Must be 80% or below median income. (2016 U.S. Median Family Income Limits listed below).
- Deadline for Application is July 29, 2016.

	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
80 %	\$ 36,792	\$ 42,048	\$ 47,304	\$ 52,560	\$ 56,765	\$ 60,970	\$ 65,174	\$ 69,379

REQUIREMENTS:

- No funds will go directly to tenant.
- Paid out CHA Units will not qualify.
- Tenants with less than three (3) months or less to pay off house will not qualify.
- Tenants over income will not qualify.
- Recertification must be conducted with current income to meet qualification.
- Inspection of dwelling must meet the approval of the Executive Director and Development Manager before assistance can be provided.
- Cost will be added to the original price of home or
- Payment Agreement Plan (approved by Collection Manager and Executive Director).
- 2800 (NASASDA) Housing Projects only for 2016 Year.
- Tenant or 18 years old or older must be home during replacement of roof.

Applications can be obtained & submitted to
Brenda Stephens, Project Coordinator, Choctaw Housing Authority,
at 601-656-6617 or email brendas@choctawha.com

RULING continued from page one

MBCI Assistant Attorney General and tribal member Cheryl Hamby said, “Now that the Supreme Court has ruled in this matter, we expect the case to be returned to the Choctaw Tribal Court where the case will proceed to the merits in accordance with the Choctaw Civil Rules of Procedure.”

**Statement from USET SPF President
Brian Patterson**

“The USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (SPF) is pleased that today’s (June 23) decision upholds the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ inherent sovereign right to jurisdiction in this case. We congratulate the Tribe and look forward to seeing the civil case against Dolgencorp Inc. proceed according to the rules of Choctaw Civil Procedure. It is

our hope that the upheld Fifth Circuit decision will be influential on other circuits that may address similar issues.

USET SPF remains focused on protecting the sovereignty of all Tribal Nations, so they may exercise their right to regulate and adjudicate all civil matters that occur in Indian Country. Ultimately, Tribal Nations must have the ability to serve and protect their citizens. The answer is simple: if you are on Tribal land, you are subject to a Tribal Nation’s civil jurisdiction and can be sued in Tribal court.”

USET SPF was founded in 2014 as an affiliate organization to USET and engages in national advocacy and diplomacy in an effort to uphold, protect, and advance Tribal sovereignty on behalf of member Tribal Nations, their citizens, and all of Indian Country.

Halito Dollar Store Opens at Choctaw Town Center

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians celebrated the opening of the newest Tribal member-owned business on the Choctaw Reservation.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new Halito Dollar Store on Thursday, June 23 at the Choctaw Town Center in Choctaw. The store is owned and managed by Mark John of Philadelphia.

“It’s a good turn out and hopefully we’ll have more people coming in,” said John. “To me, this means progress. We need more Choctaw-owned businesses coming to this area and hopefully they become a big success.”

John introduced his dollar store team members - Melody Steve, Jessica Hickman, Angela John, TaSheena John, Crystal John, and Kayla John - and thanked tribal officials for all their assistance in making his business opportunity a reality.

Several officials were present as they urged those in attendance to support local businesses.

“I want to thank Mr. John for opening the Halito Dollar Store and encourage all Tribal members and those in surrounding neighborhoods to come and shop here,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. “This is a wonderful thing and we’re very excited about it. We wish Mr. John much success.”

This is not the 50-year-old Tribal entrepreneur’s first business. He opened 16 West

Mini Storage Rental in Choctaw in 2003 and expanded in 2010. Currently, the mini storage building occupancy is at 95 percent and John hopes to have the same great success with Halito Dollar and open store locations in other Tribal communities.

“We have a great relationship with Mr. John for over a decade. He came to our Small Business Development Center back in early 2000’s and wanted to get into the mini-storage business,” said MBCI Office of Economic Development Director John Hendrix.

“In 2003, he borrowed money from the Choctaw Entrepreneurial Loan Fund and built Phase I of the Highway 16 mini-storage. It was a great success as he expanded his operation into Phase II. That business is still going strong.”

John proved he is a capable businessman as he utilized the assistance of the Small Business Development Center by forming a business plan and franchise agreements and securing funding through the Tribe’s Small Business Loan Program.

“It’s a great addition to the town center. It’s a great example of community development and putting people to work. All these transactions you make and buy from him, that money stays with the Choctaw Tax Commission and benefits the Tribe as a whole. We congratulate Mark on this accomplishment and we encourage everybody to support



Pictured, front row from left, are Jessica Hickman, Angela John, Shareese Billy, TaSheena John, Vice-Chief Ronnie Henry, Sr., Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake, Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Aniston Billy, Bogue Chitto Councilwoman Davita McClelland, Tucker Councilwoman Wilma Simpson-McMillan, Melody Steve; back row, Mark John (owner), Crystal John, Tim Moore, DeeSandra Ben, & John Hendrix.

the store and by that you are also supporting the Tribe and the community,” said Hendrix.

John said he started brainstorming for another business

venture about a year ago when he came across a website for Dollar Stores Retail Services, based out of Las Vegas, NV, as they provide support in as-

sisting individuals in owning and operating their own dollar store venture.

.....see HALITO, pg. 6

PRESS BOX continued from page one

“We say thanks, especially to the Tribal Council and Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. We are elated. We got more room and we will greatly benefit from this,” said CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson.

The new facilities were in operation that evening for the opening round of the State Games of Mississippi stickball tournament, which ran from June 15-18.

The previous press box, which was in service for more than 40 years, housed restrooms with a small concession area. The new three-tier facility, at a total of 1,439 square-feet, houses a spacious concession area and storage space on the bottom level.

The middle level contains five work areas for coaching staffs, public address and media broadcasters and game clock officials.

The top tier features a covered “crow’s nest” with internal wiring for television broadcasts so cables no longer run along the ground.

Constructed apart from the press box is a 740 square-foot restroom facility with re-directed and im-

proved flowing sewer lines.

Connecting the facilities is a 1,330 square-foot covered pavilion that provides shelter for handicapped and elder spectators during sporting events at Warrior Stadium.

Outdated ground mounted transformers and buried high voltage lines for the field lights are now replaced with new low voltage feeders. Low energy consuming LED lighting is used in all areas.

IKBI served as general contractor for the project.

“This is a wonderful example of positive things we can do, not only for our school, but for our community by working together and making it happen,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

As a result of increased revenues by the Pearl River Resort and Tribal government, the Tribal Council passed FY16 operating budgets last September which included allocated funding for building renovations, community improvements and new projects to improve services and quality of life for Tribal members.

Anderson announced one of the upcoming projects includes updates and improvements to the CCHS softball

field.

“I think that is something that will be exciting as well, but this is something that is great. We are very excited about it.”

To date, the Tribe has also renovated the Pearl River Community Center (formerly the downstairs facility building), purchased 20 new buses for the Choctaw Tribal Schools and constructed a new bathroom facility adjacent to the Pearl River Amphitheater.

Ongoing projects include a \$1 million Tribal elder roofing project, construction of a multipurpose building in Henning, Tenn., replacement of the Tribal Council meeting hall, construction of a restroom facility at Lake Pushmataha, increased funding for law enforcement, economic development, planning, and other community improvements.

“There are so many things we have to do, and we will get to all of them, but we need to do it with financial management that makes it work for the Tribe,” said Anderson.



Pictured from left are Shareese Billy, owner/operator Mark John & Melody Steve.

Title I PAB Hosts Appreciation Luncheon

The Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) met May 10 at the Ayipa Café. The appreciation luncheon was enjoyed by the 2016 Choctaw Tribal Schools Parents of the Year, Choctaw Central High School valedictorian and salutatorian, board members, and guests.

Valedictorian Nicholas McMillian and Salutatorian Emilee Thames were honored during the meeting. Nicholas plans to attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire & study Mechanical Engineering. Emilee will attend the University of Alabama-Birmingham this fall where she will pursue a degree in Chemistry. Her dream is to become a pediatrician.

PAB Chair Ray Willis recognized this year's Choctaw Tribal Schools Parents of the

Year recipients: Diamond Hundley (Bogue Chitto Elementary); Charles & Nancy Tubby (Choctaw Central High School); Robert Martin (Choctaw Central Middle School); Milena Ferris (Conehatta Elementary); Todd & Twyla York (Pearl River Elementary); Vincente & Rhonda Lopez (Red Water Elementary); Ashley Primer (Standing Pine Elementary); & Arita McMillan (Tucker Elementary).

Linda Alex was recognized as the Outstanding Choctaw Educator for May. She has been employed with the Tribe for 37 years, with 27 of those years being spent in education. Linda has served as an administrative assistant for the following programs: CCHS Dormitory, Chapter I & the Division of Schools where she

currently serves as Education Personnel Assistant.

She attended Pearl River Elementary School and graduated

from CCHS. She furthered her education at East Central Community College & Meridian Community College. Linda has been married to her husband, Bradley, for 38 years & they are the parents of two

sons, two daughters & eight grandchildren.

The board will meet again in August. For more information, contact William F. Bell at 601-663-7660 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.



Parents of the Year recipients included, from left, Todd & Twyla York, Diamond Hundley, Robert Martin, Ashley Primer, Milena Ferris, Arita McMillan, and Rhonda & Vincente Lopez. Not pictured are Charles & Nancy Tubby.



Pictured from left are honorees at the PAB meeting, Linda Alex, Outstanding Choctaw Educator, being presented her plaque by PAB Chair Ray Willis, 2015-2016 CCHS Valedictorian Nicholas McMillan, & Salutatorian Emilee Thames.



2015-16 PAB members include, front row from left, Shaundreka Thomas, Crystal Roach, Ray Willis, Darlene Willis, Pandora Sockey; back row, Dianne Johnston, Danita McMillan, Cheryl Willis, Jenny Deon, Denise John, Roseanna Thompson, Chantay Frazier, Sharron Thompson, & Willa Thomas. Not pictured are Andrea Smith, Scottie Wallace, Diana Alex, & Brian Farmer.

HALITO continued from page five

A majority of shoppers are seeking the best possible value for their budgets as they have migrated from the large grocery chains for everything other than perishable items. Dollar stores sit in prime position to provide great every day items, such as national brand cleaning products, personal grooming items like soap, hair products and many other personal items.

"I think it will be beneficial for people around here because its a dollar store and they don't have to travel far into town for bargains. People are telling me, 'I'm glad you put a dollar store here.' They like the idea of having our own store in Choctaw," said John.

As a special incentive, John said he will pay the sales tax for Tribal elders 55 and over with a valid Tribal ID.

Snack and food items, balloons, toys, holiday decorations, reading glasses, and other popular ancillary items are also a large factor in the popularity of dollar stores.

"I have another venture in mind, but I'm not saying what it is as of now. This one is a good one and I think it will work well for the Tribe and it will also create jobs. I know a plan, but that's a big plan," said John.

"When I think about it, I say it will work. You just have to generate more money to build something like that and that is something I want to do."

A graduate of Choctaw Central High School, John was also a member of the Mississippi National Guard. After his discharge, he graduated from East Central Community College and attended the University of Southern

Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

With a family to support, he found employment within various Tribal programs and driving a truck across the country for 14 years. John credits discussions with the late Doyle Tubby that initiated his entrepreneurial spirit.

"I was working with Doyle and we always talked about business ideas on the Reservation and how it would be good for Choctaws to own businesses," said John.

While on the road, John saw mini storage facilities in every part of the country. With his business idea in hand, he went to the economic development office for assistance in making his idea into a reality. Unfortunately, funding was not available at the time.

A few years later, the Choctaw Entrepreneurial Loan Program was es-

tablished as John was ready to go forward with his business idea, although it wasn't for mini storages, but for a buffet pizza place. The more he researched it, he scrapped the idea and stuck with the storage facility.

Today, he offers a simple advice to those who are seriously considering starting their own business.

"Keep working a full-time job and have good credit. If you have good credit, your not going to have a problem getting a loan. Follow every step and it wont be hard. You'll get stuff coming at you which will be overwhelming, but just take it one step at a time."

Halito Dollar Store hours are from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. everyday and 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on holidays.

First Chess Brawl Held at CCHS

There was much excitement, great participation & observation at Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) as the first ever Chess Brawl chess tournament was held May 9-11 in the library.

There were 33 participants representing grades 9-12 in the three-day event. Although

Coby Smith & Ricky Anderson seemed to be the heavy favorites going into the tournament, they did not finish as the victors.

Sophomore Kyannah Grant won the Queen Award over all the female participants while freshman Arrow Scott won the King Award.

In the final match, Grant defeated Scott for the 2016 Overall Chess Master title & bragging rights for the year!

This year's chess competition was a big success, inspiring many students to learn the

game & leaving them eager to be more involved next year.

The CCHS Chess Club, sponsored by the Gifted & Talented Program, encourages parents, coaches & teachers to play this challenging brain game with students.

LEFT, *Sophomore Kyannah Grant (left) was the Queen Award recipient & overall 2016 CCHS Chess Master as she defeated King Award recipient freshman Arrow Scott (right) in the final match. She was presented her award by Bobby Smith, CCHS Gifted & Talented Program teacher. The Gifted & Talented Program sponsored the inaugural Chess Brawl.*



CCHS Unified Team Enjoys Day at the Lake

Members of Choctaw Central High School's Unified Basketball Team took time out to enjoy activities and a cookout in their honor at Lake Pushmataha on May 12 in Choctaw.

The team captured gold medals in the 5-on-5 basketball tournament as they represented Region 18 in the 2016 Spring State Games for Special Olympics Mississippi in



Jackson on April 2.

"We're celebrating with our Unified participants as they won state gold for our Choctaw Tribal Schools System. We're here to have fun. We're proud of them," said Coach Amanda Reed.

The team was part of the Special Olympics Project UNIFY,® an education-based project that uses sports and education programs to activate young people to develop school communities where all youth are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities.

"This was our first year participating in the Special Olympics Unified Sports. Its basically general education and special education students playing together. They became a team and won the gold. That is our goal with the Unified team, to build this kind of relationship between all of our students and build more awareness," said Reed.

For next year's state games, Choctaw Central's Unified teams may expand to compete

in the flag football, volleyball, softball, and basketball tournaments.

Team members included Dorian Ben, Keyshana Beamon, Danta Cotton, Marina Davis, Darrel Mingo, Terrance Thomas, Gunnar Tubby, Allen Sockey, Nick Williams, Keyshawn Willis, Kaitlyn Wilson, & Trevor York. Serving as coach was Amanda Reed. Case Manager Gloria Echols was instrumental in connecting with Mississippi Special Olympics to ensure the project occurred at Choctaw Central.



One of the favorite activities at the lake included a washer toss.



Participates at Health Fair

The Early Intervention Team from the Choctaw Tribal Schools' Exceptional Education Program had a booth at the Choctaw Health Center's Health Fair in the lobby on May 11 in observance of National Hospital Week May 8-13. They handed out brochures & talked with participants about the various programs offered by the Exceptional Education Program. Pictured, from left, are Angie Gordon, Early Intervention Coordinator, & Rhonda Fulton, Early Intervention Teacher.

CC Dancers Perform at Community Law Day

The Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corporation and Choctaw Legal Defense presented Choctaw Community Law Day, "Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges Through Legal Education" on May 19 at the Golden Moon VIP Room in Choctaw. Dozens of participants received valuable legal information in workshop sessions pertaining to foreclosure prevention, expungements, used car/warranties, guardianship, power of attorney (wills, health care directives, etc.), child support contempt/distribution, & divorce/custody. Information was also provided by the Children & Family Services and the We Tip/Tribal Victim Recovery Fund. Pictured above, members of the Choctaw Central Social Dancers held a special performance for the attendees during lunch.



2016 CHOCTAW INDIAN PRINCESS PAGEANT CONTESTANTS



Alanta Anderson
is the 16-year-old daughter of Craig & Daphne Anderson & a member of the Conehatta Community. She will be a junior this fall at Choctaw Central High School. She is sponsored by the Conehatta Development Club.



Kambree Chickaway
is the 19-year-old daughter of LaShannon Ferris & Karady Chickaway & a member of the Conehatta Community. She will be a sophomore at East Central Community College. She is sponsored by the Non-Gaming Properties of Pearl River Resort.



Kassie Cox
is the 18-year-old daughter of Warren & Chassidy Wilson and Daniel & Renee Cox & a member of the Red Water Community. She will be a freshman this fall at Mississippi College. She is sponsored by Choctaw Tribal Schools.



Jasmine Hickman
is the 18-year-old daughter of Joanne Hickman & the late Charlie Hickman & a member of the Bogue Chitto Community. She will attend Mississippi State University this fall. She is sponsored by the Bogue Chitto Development Club.



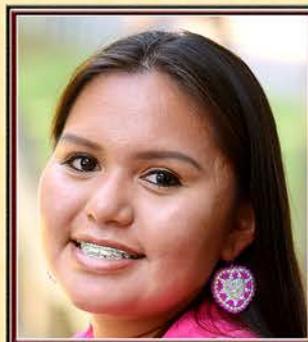
Breanna Isaac
is the 18-year-old daughter of Rebecca Steve & the late Bert Isaac & a member of the Pearl River Community. She will be a freshman this fall at Mississippi State University. She is sponsored by the Jackson & Mattie Isaac Family.



Tiara Joe
is the 18-year-old daughter of Adam & Patricia Joe & a member of the Pearl River Community. She will be a freshman this fall at East Central Community College. She is sponsored by the Pearl River Development Club.



Autumn McMillan
is the 17-year-old daughter of Deanna McMillan & Fabien Tubby & a member of the Tucker Community. She will be a freshman this fall at Mississippi State University. She is sponsored by the Youth Opportunity Program.



Jayasri Mitch
is the 16-year-old daughter of Ray & Alvina Mitch & a member of the Standing Pine Community. She will be junior this fall at Choctaw Central High School. She is sponsored by the Standing Pine Development Club.



Ga'Yu'Eze Morris
is the 17-year-old daughter of Jackie & Renata Morris & a member of the Bogue Chitto Community. She will be a senior this fall at Choctaw Central High School. She is sponsored by the Bogue Chitto Stickball Team.



Emily Scobee
is the 17-year-old daughter of Wanda Wilson & Gregory Scobee & a member of the Red Water Community. She will be a senior this fall at Madison Central High School. She is sponsored by the Choctaw Health Center Employees Association.



Bethany Willis
is the 18-year-old daughter of Martha Henry & John Willis, Jr. & a member of the Pearl River Community. She will be attending East Central Community College this fall. She is sponsored by the Smith John Justice Complex.



Searra Wilson
is the 17-year-old daughter of Lucretia King & Vincent Wilson & a member of the Pearl River Community. She will be a senior this fall at Choctaw Central High School. She is sponsored by the Gaming Properties of Pearl River Resort.

LISTING OF CHOCTAW INDIAN PRINCESSES

- 1955-1956 Patsy (Sam) Buffington *
- 1956-1957 Abbie (Gibson) Phillips
- 1957-1958 Shirley (Chapman) Briscoe
- 1958-1959 Shirley (York) Kyle
- 1959-1960 Donna (Farmer) Denson *
- 1960-1961 Earline Hickman
- 1961-1962 Annie Ryan (Bell) Billie *
- 1962-1963 Loretta (Steve) Wilson
- 1963-1964 Sally Ann (Bell) Bread
- 1964-1965 Mary Ann (Henry) Mason
- 1965-1966 Ruth Ann (Farmer) Ferris
- 1966-1967 Doris Ann Thompson
- 1967-1968 Lois (Willis) Keats
- 1968-1969 Susie Mae Henry
- 1969-1970 Joanne (McMillan) Cleveland *
- 1970-1971 Rena Jane Morris
- 1971-1972 Lari York
- 1972-1973 Ellen Gail (Farmer) Wilson
- 1973-1974 Linda (Willis) Alex
- 1974-1975 Patricia (Martin) Gibson
- 1975-1976 Alma (Willis) Brennen *
- 1976-1977 Velma (Sam) Henry
- 1977-1978 Phyliss (John) Anderson
- 1978-1979 Brenda (Billie) Bernard
- 1979-1980 Karen Lilly
- 1980-1981 Dee Ann (Gibson) McCoy
- 1981-1982 Bernadine (Hickman) Dixon
- 1982-1983 Anita Jim
- 1983-1984 Loriann (Denson) Ahshapanek
- 1984-1985 Marion (Ben) Sockey
- 1985-1986 Amanda Bell
- 1986-1987 Iris (Wesley) Navarro
- 1987-1988 Angela Sue Hundley
- 1988-1989 Melanie Dianne Benn
- 1989-1990 Shannon Jeanette Keats
- 1990-1991 Natasha Louann Willis
- 1991-1992 Chassidy Georgina (Bell) Wilson
- 1992-1993 Ashley Allison (Hickman) Billy
- 1993-1994 Misty Dawn Brescia Dreifuss
- 1994-1995 Chantell Blanche (Shumake) Bacon
- 1995-1996 Karla Monique Keats
- 1996-1997 Summer Raven (Saunders) Cole
- 1997-1998 Lynn Dena (Allen) Parkerson
- 1998-1999 Lindsey Timple Gibson
- 1999-2000 Erica Lenore (Dan) Farve
- 2000-2001 Latisha Denell Stephens
- 2001-2002 Shawntye Nicole Vaughn
- 2002-2003 Cheriena Brooke Ben
- 2003-2004 Lena Latoya Tucker
- 2004-2005 Delana Nastassia Willis
- 2005-2006 Jessica Nichole (Greer) Black
- 2006-2007 Ahinah Bree Alex
- 2007-2008 Kristen Dawn Tubby
- 2008-2009 Tia Faye (Anderson) Grisham
- 2009-2010 Famie Cheyenne (Willis) Gaseb
- 2010-2011 Mahlih Rene Vaughn
- 2011-2012 Kursten Nicole Watkins
- 2012-2013 Shaye MacKinzie Scott
- 2013-2014 Lanena Grace John
- 2014-2015 MeShay LeAnn Jimmie
- 2015-2016 Emily LeAnn Shoemake

(* - Deceased)

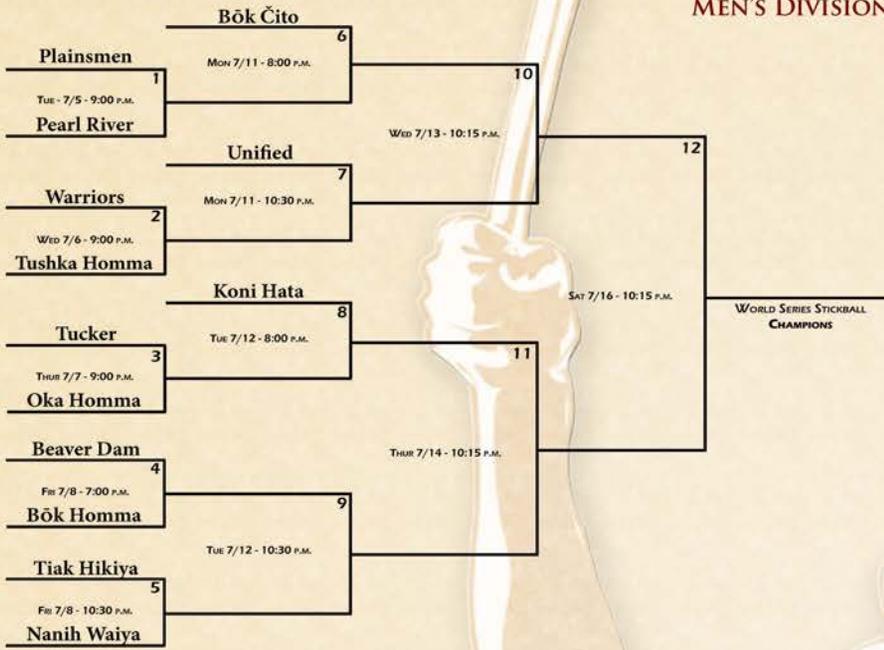
CHOCTAW INDIAN PRINCESS PAGEANT
WEDNESDAY, JULY 13 AT 7:00 P.M. ♦ PEARL RIVER AMPHITHEATER



WSS DIVISION BRACKETS



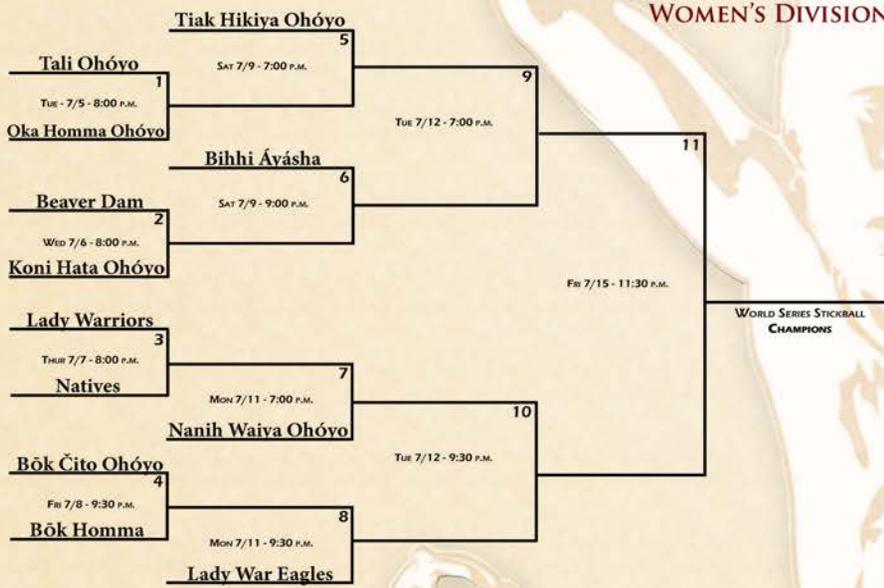
MEN'S DIVISION



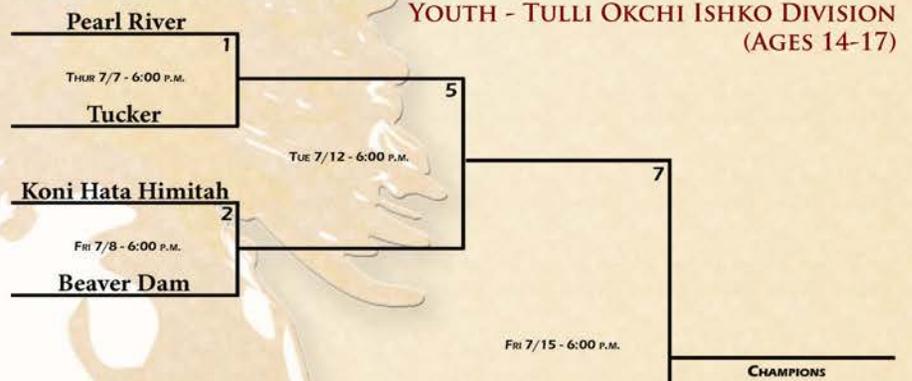
YOUTH - PUSHMATAHA DIVISION (AGES 10-13)



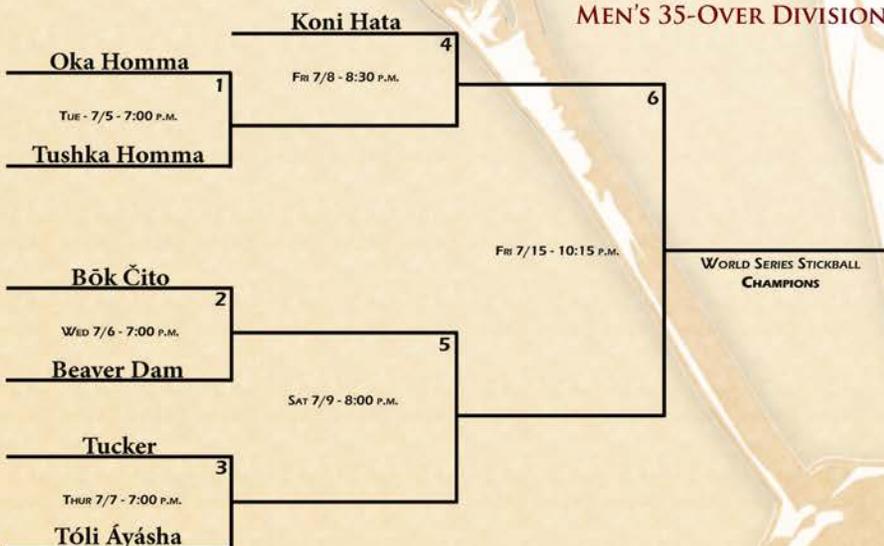
WOMEN'S DIVISION



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



MEN'S 35-OVER DIVISION



Tribal Athletes Honored For Their Play

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians congratulate Tribal members Aspen Wesley, Mahalia Gibson and Hailey Lunderman as they have garnered prestigious post-season softball honors for their play at their respective schools.

Aspen Wesley

Neshoba Central High School freshman pitcher Aspen Wesley was named the 2015-16 Gatorade Mississippi Softball Player of the Year. She is the second Tribal member to receive this honor from Neshoba Central.

The Gatorade State Softball Players of the Year were selected based on athletic production and impact in the 2015-16 season. Each winner also demonstrated high academic achievement and exemplary personal character, including volunteerism, sportsmanship and community leadership.

She led the Rockets to a 27-1 record and a fourth consecutive Class 5A state championship this past season. Wesley did not allow an earned run in eight Class 5A state tournament games, including a pair of shutouts in a two-game finals' sweep of West Harrison.

A three-time Clarion-Ledger First Team All-State selection, Wesley finished with a 24-1 record, posting a 0.23 ERA and amassing 294 strikeouts in 155 innings pitched. She also batted .338 with five extra-base hits and 17 RBI.

She has maintained a B average and is a member of her school's Spanish and Bible clubs. She has also volunteered on behalf of her church and as a youth softball instructor.

"Aspen is a very dedicated and hardworking student-athlete," said Neshoba Central head coach Trae Embry. "She believes in hard work and especially works hard at her pitching. She is a very special talent that loves to compete and loves her teammates."

Wesley was also named The Meridian Star's All-Metro Player of the Year to add to her impressive list of honors.

Mahalia Gibson

East Central Community College softball standout Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg was recognized as a 2016 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar, in the April 21st edition of *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*.

A product of Oak Grove High School and a 2016 ECCC graduate, Gibson was earlier named an NJCAA All Region 23 selection. She batted .402 and had 72 hits, including 18 homeruns and 68 RBI. She was named co-recipient of the team's Most Valuable Offensive Player Award.

The Lady Warriors completed the season with a 44-11 record and advanced to the MACJC State and Region 23 tournaments under head coach Kristin Chaney and assistant Courtney Nunn.

Following her freshman season, she was selected an NJCAA Division II Softball First Team All-American. She also was named to the NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship All-Tournament Team, NJCAA Region 23 All-Region Team, and Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges First Team All-State.

Each sports scholar must be a non-freshman who competes in an intercollegiate sport, maintains a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.20, and is active in his or her campus or in the community.

Approximately 1,000 male and female students from across the country were nomi-

inated.

Diverse: Issues In Higher Education established the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars Awards "to honor undergraduate students of color who best exemplify academic and athletic achievement. Inspired by tennis legend Arthur Ashe, Jr.'s commitment to education as well as his love for the game of tennis, U.S. colleges and universities are invited to participate in this annual awards program by nominating their outstanding sports scholars.

In addition to their athletic ability and academic performance, Arthur Ashe, Jr. Sports Scholars demonstrate a commitment to community service and student leadership."

Gibson will continue her softball career at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA.

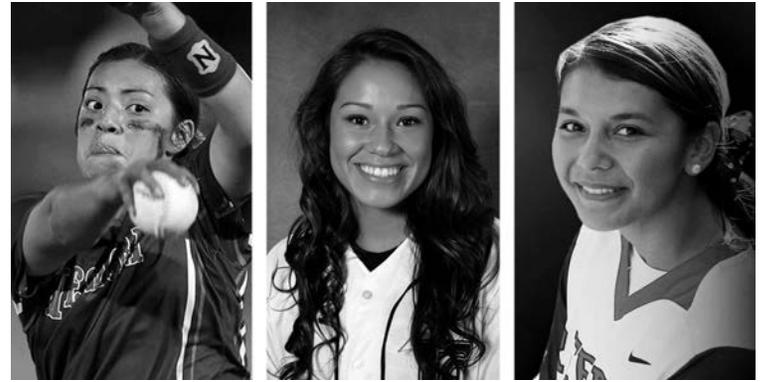
Hailey Lunderman

Ole Miss softball freshman shortstop Hailey Lunderman was one of three Ole Miss players named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region Team.

Lunderman was named to the Second Team.

The awards honor softball student-athletes from the Association's 10 regions with first, second team and selections. NFCA member coaches from each respective region voted on the teams, and all the honorees now become eligible for selection to the 2016 NFCA Division I All-American squads.

Lunderman led Ole Miss



Pictured from left are Aspen Wesley, Mahalia Gibson & Hailey Lunderman.

all season with a .372 average, breaking the Rebels' single-season record with 73 hits and 40 runs scored. She also swiped 19 bases contributing to the Rebels' record-breaking total, and was a Top-10 Finalist for the Schutt Sports/NFCA Division I National Freshman of the Year award.

She was the leading freshman hitter in the SEC and has 24 multi-hit games as the only player to start every con-

test this season. She was an All-Freshman SEC selection.

Ole Miss softball's 2016 campaign came to an end in the NCAA Norman Regional as they ended the season with a 41-22 record. They set a new standard for the program with a school record 41 wins, record-tying 11 SEC wins, first NCAA Tournament appearance, first SEC Tournament win, and first win in an NCAA Regional.



Participants of The Longest Walk 5 took a break from their 3,600 mile journey & rested in Choctaw May 16-20.

Longest Walk 5 Makes A Stop in Choctaw

Participants of The Longest Walk 5 made a stop in Choctaw May 16-20 as they took a break from their 3,600 mile journey. The trek, which began on Feb. 13 in La Jolla, CA, will conclude at Washington, D.C. on July 15. The theme, "Calling an End to Drug Abuse and Domestic Violence," calls for guidance on drug related issues causing devastation on Indian Reservations and communities in the U.S.

Along the journey, participants worked with communities to collect information on ways to heal our people and the Earth.

On May 18 & 20, American Indian Movement (AIM) co-founder Dennis Banks and Walk participants facilitated open 12-step meetings at the Choctaw Health Center's Behavioral Health. The meetings serve as a self-help approach to recovery from alcohol, drugs, & other addictions that are challenging lives.

"Because of the extremely high rate of suicides and other drug-related deaths, I am issuing a state of war declaration between AIM and drugs across America. The deaths are at a pandemic stage," stated Banks.

Former FACE Student Receives Diploma

Erin Cantrell enrolled in the FACE (Family and Child Education) Program & received her GED in 2007. She graduated from East Central Community College in May

2016 with an Associates of Science Degree. The FACE staff, friends & family are very proud of her hard work, dedication & accomplishments. Pictured above is former FACE Adult Educator Angie Gordon, left, & Cantrell.



NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI

Workshop in Tucker

On May 2, the Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) hosted a round comb workshop at the Tucker Facility Building. Participants and staff instructors enjoyed the workshop very much. The CAP offers significant resources in an attempt to connect people with the Choctaw culture and to strengthen their knowledge of it.

National Day of Prayer

By proclamation of Gov. Phil Bryant, the 65th Annual Observance of Mississippi Na-

tional Day of Prayer was held on the south steps of the State Capitol in Jackson on May 5.

"Wake Up America" was the theme and the passage selected for the event was from Isaiah 58:1A (NIV), "Shout it aloud, do not hold back, raise your voice like a trumpet."

Pastor Thomas Ben, of the Spirit of Life Christian Center in Choctaw, was one of several religious figures in attendance to offer a prayer. Afterwards, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Traditional Dancers & Drummers

presented a very moving and wonderful performance of the Walk Dance.

Prayers were offered for the government, military, families, churches, media, entertainment, business, and education across the nation. Messianic Rabbi Yosef Lynn Boleware offered a prayer for Israel.

Members of the MBCI delegation included Phyllis McMillan, Trudy Jimmie, Casey Bigpond, Sherrill Nickey, "Speedy" Lewis, Garrison Joe, Ken Frazier, Dan Isaac, Leda Isaac, Demetrius Wil-

liams, Kirk McMillan, Priscilla Williams, and Edna Cotton.

CPR Training

On May 12, the Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) staff attended a refresher course in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and first-aid training at the Choctaw Fire Department (CFD) in Choctaw.

CFD Instructor Mitch Shoemake demonstrated techniques and had the staff practice so they will know what to do in real-life medical emergency situations, (e.g. breathing problems, heart attack, fainting, diabetes, strokes, seizures, and signs of shock).

Shoemake explained when and how to apply tourniquets and how to administer first-aid for tooth injuries, blood loss, eye injuries, burns, etc.

He also gave a brief refresher course on how to operate the Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

The DCI staff must keep their skills fresh at all times, mainly because of numerous activities they conduct with the general public throughout the year. In the past, minor injuries have sometimes occurred at workshops.

The DCI say "yakoki" to the firefighters, unsung heroes of the CFD, for the dynamic training they provided and, most of all, for their exemplary service.

Medallion Beading Workshop

Several tribal members attended a medallion beading

.....see DCI NEWS, pg. 12



The MBCI Traditional Dancers & Drummers pose in front of the Capitol with Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant and First Lady Deborah Bryant before their performance.



ABOVE, Participants & CAP staff members enjoyed the round comb decorating workshop at the Tucker Facility Building on May 2.

RIGHT, Mitch Shoemake of the Choctaw Fire Department shows DCI staff members (background from left) Casey Bigpond & Lorena Alex how to operate an Automated External Defibrillator. The training was held at the Choctaw Fire Department.



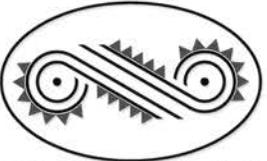
Participants & CAP staff members took part in a medallion beading workshop at the Tucker Facility Building on May 17.

Expect. Employ. Empower!

Please enjoy the floral decorations throughout the Choctaw Indian Fairgrounds and know that these beautiful decorations were produced by Tribal member workers who experience a disability & participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Horticulture Work Adjustment Training Program. This program trains Tribal member job seekers who experience a disability in good & transferable work habits.



If your business is looking for a proven employee, contact the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program at 601-650-7333 or e-mail mmeruvia@choctaw.org.



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

DCI NEWS continued from page eleven

workshop at the Tucker Facility Building on May 17. The CAP staff enjoyed sharing their information on how to make a beaded medallion. Mary Winstead, of Fashions and Fabrics in Philadelphia, brought required items for purchase.

Consultants Nancy Vaughn, Shawntye Vaughn, Priscilla Williams, and Sherrill Nickey provided instructions to the participants.

Sash Making Workshop

CAP staff members Trudy Jimmie and Lorena Alex hosted a sash making workshop on May 27 at the Bogue Chitto Facility Building.

Priscilla Williams, Shawntye Vaughn, Nancy Vaughn, and Everett Sam served as workshop consultants as they are experienced and extremely creative and have produced great qualities of beautiful sashes.

The cultural training classes will resume in August. Please keep a close watch on the bulletin for the schedule.

Give us some feedback from our training workshops so we can have an assessment of ways to better serve the communities. Write us at: Cultural Affairs Program, 101 Industrial Road, Choctaw, MS 39350; or call us at 601-663-7506.

Tribal Language Program News

The Tribal Language Program staff has been very busy with planning and conducting material & resource development meetings with the Division of Schools/Choctaw Tribal Schools, Division of Early Childhood Education, Choctaw Language Instructor Certification project and Choctaw Language Curriculum members.

We are developing an online Choctaw language learning game and a visual dictionary. The app, Language Learning Resource

Casey Bigpond, Cultural Revitalization Specialist, conducted the fundamentals of making stickball sticks at the Crystal Ridge Facility Building on May 24. Greg Phillips (left) is cutting the hickory wood for the stickball sticks as Tribal Council Crystal Ridge representative Joseph Wesley (right) closely observes.



Pictured above are some of the sashes from the fabulous collection of Everett Sam.

for Choctaw Learners, is on a trial run for the Youth Opportunity Program and we need feedback before it is published. For more information, call the Tribal Language Program office at 601-663-7603.

We completed a community language class at Tucker Community (Fani Lakna) for spring 2016. Four families (I_choka achaffa álhiha), pictured below, consistently attended the family oriented language class (Chahta Annopa Ábachi).



Updated Measures to Strengthen ICWA

(WASHINGTON) – Acting Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Lawrence S. Roberts announced final, updated measures to protect the rights of Indian children, their parents and their tribes in state child welfare proceedings.

The measures, comprised in a final rule announced on June 8, will support the stability and security of Indian families and tribes by providing a more consistent interpretation of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA), regardless of the child welfare worker, judge or state involved.

“The final rule builds upon the work of tribes and states by clarifying the Indian Child Welfare Act’s requirements, promoting consistency in Indian child-placement proceedings, and ensuring that regardless of the state court forum, children and their parents receive the active efforts envisioned by Congress to maintain family and community,” said Acting Assistant Secretary Roberts.

“Child welfare workers, state court judges and state agencies deserve clear rules as they work with Native families and tribes to implement the protections of the law. This rule promotes family and community by ensuring that if a Native child has been removed from their home previously, they will have a pathway for reunification with their family.”

Congress enacted IWCA to address the separation of Indian children from their families at a disproportionately high rate, as a result of state agency policies and practices that placed the children in non-Indian foster and adoptive homes.

Although ICWA has helped to prevent the wholesale separation of tribal children from their families in many regions

.....continued next page

of the U.S., Native American children are still disproportionately more likely to be removed from their homes and communities than other children. And Indian families continue to be broken up by the removal of their children by nontribal public and private agencies.

Based on 2013 data, Native children nationwide are represented in state foster care at a rate 2.5 times greater than their presence in the general population. In some states, Native American children are represented in state foster-care systems at rates as high as 14.8 times their presence in the general population of that state.

Since the enactment of ICWA, state courts and state agencies have sometimes differed in their interpretations of the law and inconsistently implemented the statute. The final rule clarifies the Act's requirements, often drawing upon approaches already used by states.

Many states have enacted state law versions of ICWA that provide additional protections for tribes and Indian families, and this rule does not add more protective standards, but rather establishes minimum federal standards under ICWA and incorporates best practices in child welfare. The rule also promotes judicial collaboration between tribal courts and state courts in the implementation of ICWA.

"ICWA was designed to safeguard Native children from undue separation from their families and cultural identity. This rule will achieve consistent implementation of a law that remains critical to protecting the best interest of Native children and promoting successful Native communities," said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, who serves as chair of the President's White House Council on Native American Affairs.

"It is in a child's best interest to keep their family intact when it can be done safely, and provide pathways to connect with the child's larger family and community. This rule reflects the highest standards in child welfare."

Under the rule announced, state courts in foster-care, termination-of-parental-rights, and adoption proceedings will be required to ask whether the child is an "Indian child" under ICWA, and therefore subject to the law's procedures.

Determining this early in the proceeding maximizes the chances of placing the child with extended family and other preferred placements, thus promoting stability for the child and healthy connections with his or her family and tribe. The rule also provides clarity on the requirement that "active efforts" be provided to maintain or reunite the child with his or her family.

The Attorney General's Advisory Committee on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence recommended in its November 2014 Report that the Department of the Interior issue regulations to better implement ICWA and promote compliance. The Advisory Committee based its recommendation on hours of testimony regarding the inconsistent application of ICWA's requirements and lack of compliance.

In developing this final rule, the Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs worked closely with the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families, in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Justice to produce a final rule that reflects the expertise of all three agencies.

Further, the Interior Department held listening sessions in which commenters urged strengthening ICWA implementation through codification in a new rule. The final rule follows the March 2015 publication of a proposed rule on which the Bureau of Indian Affairs received more than 2,100 written comments.

As part of its process of collecting input on the proposed rule, Interior held five public hearings and five tribal consultation sessions across the country in April and May 2015, as well as one public hearing and one tribal consultation by teleconference.

"The number of comments

we received on this rule is unprecedented for Indian Affairs," Acting Assistant Secretary Roberts said. "The final rule reflects the input of tribes, states, organizations and individuals that serve children and families and have substantial expertise in child-welfare practices."

The final rule will become effective 180 days after its publication in the Federal Register. Within that time, the Bureau will publish revised guidelines to replace the February 24, 2015 Guidelines for State Courts and Agencies in Indian Child Custody Proceedings.

The final regulations can be found at <http://www.indianaffairs.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/HumanServices/IndianChildWelfareAct/index.htm>.

◆ **SAVE THE DATE!** ◆

6TH ANNUAL

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016
8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
SILVER STAR CONFERENCE ROOM
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE OR TO REGISTER, VISIT [HTTP://MJC.OLEMISS.EDU/SPECIAL-PROJECTS](http://MJC.OLEMISS.EDU/SPECIAL-PROJECTS).
E-REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 1, 2016.
 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A VENDOR, CONTACT CHIEF JUSTICE KEVIN BRISCOE OR YOUTH COURT JUDGE HOLLY PETERS AT 601-650-1658.

Police Explorers Attend Academy

Congratulations to Police Explorers participants Derrick Mingo, Billy Johnson and Cobi John for completing the week-long Southeastern Law Enforcement Explorer Academy in Biloxi.

The academy, held in June, was attended by 75 cadets from across Mississippi, Florida, Texas, and London, England as they received classroom instruction and physical training. Each day began at 4:00 a.m.

"We work out for an hour then go back to the room and clean up. We came here to learn everything about the police academy," said Derrick Mingo in a television interview. "I'm getting a whole lot out of it. I have learned so much between friendship, brotherhood and not



Pictured above, from left, are Choctaw Police Captain Danny Chickaway, Derrick Mingo, Billy Johnson & Cobi John.

to give up, no matter how hard things get." At the conclusion of the academy, a graduation ceremony was held as Mingo and John were recipients of the Fitness Award.

Police Explorers is a career oriented program that gives young people personal awareness of the criminal justice system through training, practical experiences, competition, and other activities. The program also promotes personal growth through character development, respect for the rule of law, physical fitness, and good citizenship.

The program serves as guidance to law enforcement through experience. The goal is to give the participant experience to either continue pursuing a career in law enforcement or decide that law enforcement is not for them.

The Police Explorer Program is under the leadership of Choctaw Police Department Captain Carl Chickaway. Explorers learn basic police techniques and procedures and learn more about the criminal justice system, youth court system, detention services, and history of the Choctaw Police Department.

Weaving Healthy Families Project

Yakoki! We have learned so much from speaking to over 200 people (about healthy families, overcoming trauma & violence, lowering family conflict & improving the well-being of community members!)

Now, its time to participate in a follow-up survey! Any adult MBCI member can participate! For completing the survey, you can enter into a drawing for one of many \$50 gift cards

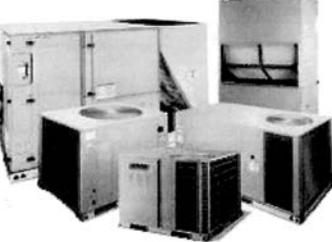
- **What you will do:** Tribal community members (ages 18 & above) can complete an online survey, which will take 30 minutes to an hour by following this link: http://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3K7P6fPy5dtEe45
- OR, if you prefer, you can **contact Catherine at: cburnet3@tulane.edu or 504-862-3495**, and she or someone she works with can help you complete the survey (by reading it to you and entering the info for you)



Catherine Burnette is an Assistant Professor at Tulane University and has been honored to work with the Tribal communities for over 5 years.



Heating & Air Conditioning Service



A&B Mechanical, Inc.
P.O. Box 6003
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 (Office) 601-656-4818
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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?

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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
(Behind Wendy's on Hwy. 16 West)

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

IN MEMORIAM

CHEE JOE SPENCER

Funeral service for Chee Joe Spencer, 72, was held on Monday, June 6, 2016, from the Red Water Facility Building. Deacon Ricky Edwards & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

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

Mr. Spencer passed away on June 2 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a respected member of Chicago's American Indian Community. He was an artist & retail arts business owner for almost 30 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe Ben & Maggie Chee; and brothers, Ben Chee, Joe Chee & Mike Chee.

Survivors include his wife, Lucille Chitto Spencer; daughters, Jo Lynn O'Connell & Sharlyn Bokus; sons, Dave Spencer & Kevin Chee Spencer; sisters, Dorothy Martinez, Rose Shirley, Minnie Chee, & Sadie Randolph; brothers, Frank Chee, Kee Y. Chee & Nelson Chee; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

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

HALITO DOLLAR STORE

Choctaw Town Center Choctaw, MS

STORE HOURS
 Open Daily- 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
 Holidays - 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

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



INFANT MACKENZIE MARIE ISAAC

Funeral service for Mackenzie Marie Isaac, one day old infant, was held on Monday, June 6, 2016, from Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

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

Infant Isaac passed away on June 2 at the University Medical Center in Jackson.

She is survived by her parents, Ty Isaac & Dominique Murray; grandparents, Ralph & Penny Starr Isaac, George Brown, Mary Brown & Fredrick Murray; two aunts; two uncles; & a host of family members.

SAMUEL RAY TUBBY

Funeral service for Samuel Ray Tubby, 53, was held on Thursday, June 9, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Deacon Joseph Wesley & Pastor Mark Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Old Canaan Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was

in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Tubby passed away on June 6 at OCH Regional Medical Center in Starkville.

His hobbies included playing basketball, riding his scooter & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Sullivan Mingo Tubby; sisters, Madonna Willis, Myrna Willis & Mary Ann Tubby; a brother, Alfred Lee Tubby; two uncles, two aunts, a niece, & two nephews.

Survivors include two sisters, Ezaline Tubby Polk & Donna Tubby; a brother, Sullivan Tubby, Jr.; an aunt, 12 nieces, two nephews, numerous great-nieces & great-nephews, relatives, & friends.

BENJAMIN TYRONE BEN

Funeral service for Benjamin Tyrone Ben, 29, was held on Monday, June 13, 2016, from the Greenhill Methodist Church in Choctaw. Rev. Daniel Tubby officiated.

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

Mr. Ben passed away on June 9 at his residence.

He enjoyed being with family & friends & taking selfies.

Survivors include his mother, Willie Mae Ben; father, James Thomas; sisters; Nellie Meely, Terrell Proctor, Melissa Hughes, Michelle Jim, Juanokia Thomas, Lisa Lewis, & Roseanna Thomas; brothers, Stew Thomas, Darrell Thomas, Christopher Thomas, Ronnie Thomas, James Thomas, & Patrick Thomas; two aunts; two uncles; & a host of relatives & friends.

PEGGY NELL ANDERSON CHAPMAN

Funeral service for Peggy Nell Anderson Chapman, 61, was held on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, from the Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens

.....continued next page

REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY

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- Bullying
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- 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!

Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Chapman passed away on June 7 at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, TX.

She was a certified nurse assistant. She was a Baptist by faith & enjoyed spending time with family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rev. A.J. & Juanita Charley Anderson; sisters, Ella Nora Johnson, Sara Cox, Merilene Dixon, Melinda Anderson, Eunice Farmer, Melvina Stoliby, Zozaline Johns, & Evelyn Weldy; & brothers, Robert Anderson, Sr., Belvin Anderson & Elvis Anderson.

She is survived by two sons, Dale Wheeler & Steven Thomas; a daughter, Leslie Morgan; six grandchildren; a brother, James Anderson; a half-brother, Jerry Jim; & a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

BERTHA WILLIS TUBBY

Funeral service for Bertha Willis Tubby, 78, was held on Saturday, June 18, 2016, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Rev. Glenn Myers & Pastor Mark Patrick officiated.

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

Ms. Tubby passed away on June 15 at Rush Specialty Hospital in Meridian.

She was a devout Christian & held several church positions, such as Sunday School teacher, Sunday School superintendent & song leader. She & her husband were house parents for a youth center in the late 70's. She enjoyed listening to Choctaw hymns & being a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Finis Tubby; daughter, Sandra Kay Tubby; parents, Bennett & Eulie John; sister, Frieda John Imburgia; brothers, Roy John, Sr. & Hamilton John; & a grandson.

Survivors include daughters, Darlene Tubby Patrick & Julia Yazzie Tubby; a son, Kevin Tubby; brother, McArthur John; five grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MARY BELL

Funeral service for Mary Bell, 52, was held on Friday, June 24, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. 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.

Ms. Bell passed away on June 20 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She was a homemaker who enjoyed reading, cooking, doing crossword puzzles, & spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her father, Royce Bell, Sr.; & a son, Ryan Bell.

Survivors include her mother, Alma Bell; daughters, Ariel Bell & Alma Frazier; sons, Kingsley Bell, Sr., Joel Bell & Elliot Bell; sisters, Debra Bell, Evelyn Bell & Evalene Clemons; brothers, Royce Bell, Jr. & Curtis Bell; 9 grandchildren; a special companion, Ivan Wilson; an aunt; four uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

THURDREK HUSHUNTI HITHA TUBBY

Funeral service for Thurdrek Hushunti Hitha Tubby, 18, was held on Friday, June 24, 2016, from Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. Deacon Joseph Wesley and Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

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

Mr. Tubby passed away on June 21 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He enjoyed watching Sesame Street & Spongebob Squarepants & mimicking his favorite character, Elmo.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Leon Tubby, Jerry Clemons, Sr. & Betty Bell Clemons; a great-grandmother, Martha Bell; & an uncle.

Survivors include his mother, Rose Nell Clemons; father, Thurdis Ray Tubby, Sr.; brother, Thurdis Ray Tubby, Jr.; half-sister, Hope Thomas;

a niece, an aunt, two uncles, & a host of relatives.

EMMA LEE WILLIS

Funeral service for Emma Lee Willis, 63, was held on Saturday, June 25, 2016, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

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

Ms. Willis passed away on June 22 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She received her GED & attended Meridian Junior College & Mississippi State University. She held various jobs until her retirement. She enjoyed doing puzzles & listening to Choctaw hymns.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Philman & Aline Williams; a son, Aldridge Willis; brothers, Sammy Williams, Henry Williams, Bradley Williams, Jonas Williams, & Dennis Williams; & a granddaughter.

Survivors include her daughters, Tracey Waiter & Oneva Willis; sisters, Selma Denson, Ruby Williams, Fannie Willis, Annie Bell, Rose Mary Williams, Joanna Williams, & Wanda Isaac; brothers, Henderson Williams, Darry Williams, Jimmy Williams, & Wayne Williams; 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JIMMY RAY WILLIAMS, SR.

Funeral service for Jimmy Ray Williams, Sr., 68, was held on Friday, July 1, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building.

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

Mr. Williams passed away on June 27 at the Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in the Vietnam War. After his honorable discharge, he later worked on a riverboat, offshore work,

then the Choctaw Police Department as a Detention Officer/Supervisor.

He enjoyed fishing, playing golf, gourd dancing at the Veterans Day Pow Wow, and being with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Philmon & Aline Williams; sister, Emma Lee Willis; & brothers, Sammy Williams, Henry Williams, Bradley Williams, Jonas Williams, & Dennis Williams.

Survivors include three daughters, Deeda Williams, Fawndra Williams & Monique Williams; one son, Jimmy Williams, Jr.; seven sisters, Ruby Williams, Fannie Willis, Annie Bell, Rose Mary Williams, Joanna Williams, Wanda Isaac, & Selma Denson; three brothers, Darry Williams, Wayne Williams, & Henderson Williams; five grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ERIC SHANE BELL

Funeral service for Eric Shane Bell, 39, was held on Friday, July 1, 2016, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. Bro. Eddie Johnson

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 26 at his residence.

He was an outstanding baseball player at Ripley (TN) High School. He was a carpenter then worked at the Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed fishing, golfing, relaxing at home, & telling stories with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Larry Frazier & Dean Bell; sisters, Amelia Bell & Lori Frazier; & an uncle.

Survivors include wife, Vonda Bell; daughters, Marisa Hall, Dayrean Bell, Dalmonnia King, & MaCayden Tubby; sons, Skyler Bell & Zaiden Sam; an aunt who raised him, Mae Bell; a sister, Robin T. Bell; brothers, Eric Ketcher, Machiela Bell, Jeremy Bell, & Shawn Shoemake; a grandchild, three nieces, a nephew, & a host of relatives & friends.

Welcome To



**NANIH WAIYA
INDIAN
Mennonite Church**

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Sunday - 10:00 am

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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
Couchhatta, MS 39057

Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Morning Service
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service
2nd Sunday at 7:00

Pastor: Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr.

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. - Pray Walk
6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/Family Ministry Class
7:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Youth Pastor: Rev. Monte Farve

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 BIRTHDAY



A Happy July Birthday to Shelbi Bell. She visited the Pushmataha Monument in Washington, D.C. & won a bronze medal in the 2016 State Games of Mississippi in Archery.

Happy Big Birthday to Shirley Shoemake on June 9. We love you & thanks for always being there for us. From your sisters, Harold Jr., Hilbert, Katie, Derrick Jr., Devon, & Paneshia.

Happy Birthday to Frankie Farmer on July 4, from your wife, Stephania.

Happy Birthday to Karene Jefferson on July 29, from your family & friends.

Happy Birthday to "Sudie Booty." Don't overdo it! Much love from Mary & Derek Thompson.

To my kids Stephanie, Michael, Mikie, Billy Joe, & grandkids - Not a day goes by that I don't think of yall. Yall are grown with kids of your own & I'm proud of yall. I love yall so much. I will keep yall in my prayers. Love, dad (Mike Shaffer)... To my mom, Christine Joe - Happy Mother's Day, even though it's a little late, but everyday is Mother's Day. I will see you soon. Love you mom. From your son, Michael Shaffer.



Happy 11th Birthday to our baby brother who is now taller than us! Love you Will. - Natalie & Kassie



Laila Grace Jones celebrated her 1st birthday on March 30 with family & friends. She is the daughter of Jason & Lanie Jones, sister of Bryson Smith & Ky Jones, & granddaughter of Deborah Henry & Darren Tubby and Sterling & Joan Jones.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

JUNE 2016

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Tribe Takes Part in State Games

Amateur athletes from across the state took part in the 2016 State Games of Mississippi Opening Ceremonies on Friday, June 17 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.

The Pearl River youth stickball team (ages 9-12) claimed gold medals in the State Games Kabotcha Toli stickball tournament over Oka Homma 3-2 at Choctaw Central High School's Warrior Stadium in Choctaw on June 18.

Oka Homma received silver medals & Koni Hata Osi claimed bronze medals with a 10-0 win over the Warriors in the consolation game.



2016 State Games Kabotcha Toli Stickball Gold Medalists - Pearl River



2016 State Games Kabotcha Toli Stickball Silver Medalists - Oka Homma



2016 State Games Kabotcha Toli Stickball Bronze Medalists - Koni Hata Osi



LEFT, Tribal members Makaylin Alex & Thomas Saunders participated in the parade of athletes. RIGHT, Pearl River's Ayden McKinney (center) was named MVP. Congratulating him were Choctaw Recreation Director Jason Grisham (left) & Pearl River coach Jimmy Vaughn.