



CCHS Holds 2017 Graduation Ceremony



LEFT, Pictured (top) is 2017 CCHS Valedictorian Searra Wilson & (bottom) Salutatorian Diajah York. **RIGHT**, Members of the CCHS Class of 2017 toss their caps in the air.

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) hosted the Class of 2017 commencement ceremony on Tuesday, May 23 at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw.

Ninety-five seniors successfully completed their high school education requirements and will embark on a path towards collegiate studies, military service, or joining the work force.

CCHS Principal Dr. Fred Hickmon, Ph.D, offered the welcome and introductions. Senior class secretary Aahliya Jones gave the invocation.

....see **GRADUATION**, pg. 15

Lady Warriors South State Champs



ABOVE, Even in defeat, the Lady Warriors celebrate their appearance in the fast-pitch softball championship series with the 2017 Class 3A runner-up trophy.

RIGHT, Chief Anderson poses with the Lady Warriors & coaches. Team members include (in no order) Leia Phillips, Betty Mingo, Tia'Rain Saunders, Maleighia Joe, Jayasri Mitch, Maiya Joe, India Samuel, Meloney Thames, Darien Tubby, Taelor York, Melanian Jimmie, Christiana Amos, Aahliya Jones, Christina Willis, Lachrisha Williams, Averii Cotton, Lauren Ben, Iris Farve, Ciji Vaughn, Shamaia Anderson, and coaches Crystal Roach, Renata Ben, & Randi Williams.

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors fell short on their bid to capture their first fast-pitch softball title in school history as they were swept by the Mooreville Lady Troopers in the Mississippi High School Activities Association's Class 3A state championship series at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland.

Mooreville defeated

the Lady Warriors 3-1 on May 10 and 7-0 on May 12 to earn their second consecutive 3A title.

Last October, the Lady Warriors swept Mooreville to capture their second 3A slow-pitch softball title.

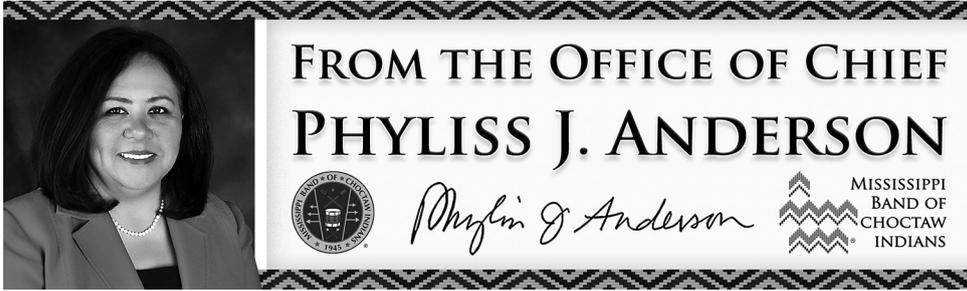
"When people say there is always next year, the hardest part is when you see the tears and sadness. Coaching is different. For me, it's not about the champion-

ship, it's that disappointment that I don't want to see," said first-year head softball coach Crystal Roach.

In the first contest, Mooreville's Hallie Donald hit a two-run home run at the top of the third. After a triple by India Samuel, Darien Tubby had a single RBI to make it 2-1 at the bottom of the third.

see **SOFTBALL**, pg. 15





Halito!
As the seasons change from spring to summer, we too adjust our routines from school schedules to summer break. This time of year at tribal offices we are gearing up for a busy few months of fair and summer activities.

As we enjoy the warmer temperatures, we look back on this school year with great pride in the accomplishments of our students and staff. Just this year we have brought home several championship trophies, top ACT scores and a number of state recognitions.

Congratulations to all our students, parents and school staff for a truly wonderful 2016-2017 school year.

Unity Walk Set for June 24th

On Saturday, June 24th, at 10:00 a.m., at the Pearl River Amphitheater, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) will host the 11th Annual Unity Walk/ Run.

This event has become widely anticipated over the years as a showcase of stickball teams from each community and it also marks the start of World Series Stickball. The walk is a special event as it combines the goals of exercise and healthy lifestyles with a treasured Choctaw custom, stickball.

Teams from across the Reservation begin the walk from their respective stickball practice fields and meet at the parking lot of the CCHS baseball field. From there, all teams complete the final leg of

the walk together to the Pearl River Amphitheater.

Participation and interest in this event has grown from a handful of teams to virtually every team that competes in the World Series Stickball tournament. I encourage our players, walkers and supporters to get plenty of sleep the night before and stay hydrated during the walk.

Thank you to the SDPI and DPP staff for all the hard work they put into this event each year and the encouragement they provide to tribal members to pursue fitness and health goals.

State Games of Mississippi

The State Games of Mississippi will kick off on June 16th with opening ceremonies in downtown Meridian, Mississippi. Our youth teams compete in the State Games stickball competition here on our Choctaw Indian Reservation at the CCHS Warrior Stadium June 21st-24th.

The games provide multiple sporting competitions for some of our state's best amateur athletes. MBCI is a proud sponsor of these events and this year marks the 26th edition of the competition with more than 40 sports on the roster.

You can view the full schedule on their website at StateGamesofMS.org. Come out and enjoy some great stickball action and let's welcome our guests to the reservation with warm Choctaw hospitality. Good luck to all our players!

Tribal Distribution Set for July 6th

Tribal Distribution is set for Thursday, July 6th, 2017, from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. in the Silver Star Convention Center. All enrolled tribal members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will receive \$800 each at the July 6th distribution.

I presented Resolution CHO 17-032 on January 10th, 2017, during a special call meeting of the Choctaw Tribal Council. The resolution titled "A Resolution to Authorize Distribution of Tribal Funds" was approved 11-6 by the council.

Mark your calendars and don't forget about this extra special day of distribution! If you have any questions, please call the Distribution Office at (601) 650-1522.

Tribal Financial Performance Continues to Show Great Strength

As we approach the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2017, I am proud to report management of our financial assets continues to strengthen.

We are working hard to operate our government efficiently and find new revenue sources.

And as our Pearl River Resort continues to produce good numbers, we are able to invest that money back into services for tribal members.

Here are some important facts:

- *Improved Resort performance has restored funding back to the Tribe, and through responsible leadership we have grown our government revenue from a low in 2009 of \$146 Million to a high of \$214 Million in 2016.*
- *In FY15, the Tribe started collecting more money than we spent. Even before receiving the Ramah Settlement funds, the FY16 Independent Audit reported revenues exceeded expenses by \$24 Million, the most since 2007!*
- *The new Choctaw Health Center proves to be a very good investment for our Tribe. Not only does it provide updated facilities and increased services, it has brought in new money.*
- *The Tribe received \$62.3 Million year in funding last year for the Health Center – \$46.2 million from Indian Health Services (IHS) and \$16.1 million from other non-tribal sources. We have made a real effort to collect up-to-date insurance information on all patients for billing purposes.*
- *We have enrolled more people on*

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CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

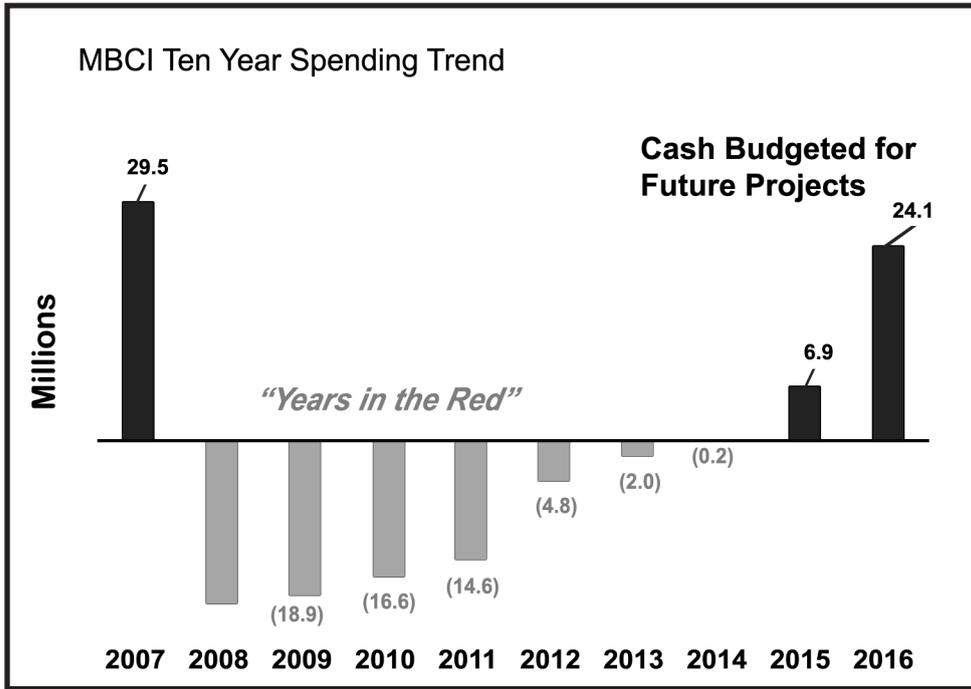
The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

**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.



Medicaid, Medicare and other insurance programs. Increases in services and number of patients seen have led to more funding from these non-IHS sources.

In summary, our tribal finances look really good. We have more money coming in and more money saved for the future. Our cash and investments are growing; and our programs are managing funds efficiently.

I am proud of our tribal employees for working hard to manage money, find grants and other funding sources and coming up with affordable solutions for your programs. Congratulations to everyone and keep up the great work!

Choctaw Central High School Graduation Ceremonies

A formal commencement ceremony was held at the Silver Star Convention Center on Tues-

day, May 23rd, 2017, for the Choctaw Central High School graduating Class of 2017. This year's class was one of the largest with 95 graduates.

On the Monday before graduation, I was so honored to host the Senior Class luncheon at the Silver Star Convention Center. I am confident that our Tribe is in good hands with the young, bright and energetic minds of our tribal students.

Congratulations to Valedictorian Searra Wilson and Salutatorian Diajah York on a job well done! I believe the graduation ceremony was very special for our students, parents and staff and I thank all those involved in creating a memorable evening.

Stocking of Ponds for Memorial Day Weekend

The long Memorial Day Weekend officially kicks off summer and

we have lots of tribal members enjoying outdoor activities with their families.

I am so happy to announce that community ponds in Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Pearl River, Standing Pine and Tucker have been stocked with more than 300 pounds of channel catfish per pond. I know there is a great spirit of competition on the reservation to see who can catch the biggest fish and I look forward to seeing your pictures!

We should always remember to pause and reflect on the meaning of Memorial Day and why we spend this holiday with our families and friends. Many of our military men and women over the years have paid the ultimate sacrifice of life to protect and ensure American ideals and values.

What a truly humbling thought to know we enjoy our freedoms because a brave American

.....see LETTER, pg. 4

News From the Tribal Distribution Office

- 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 changes, whether to change your last name or address.

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

- Over 18 years old - (Photo I.D.)
- 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 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 on 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)

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.

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

Resort Hosts Health, Safety Fairs

Associates of the Pearl River Resort and Bok Homa Casino attended

their annual health and safety fairs this spring. The fairs were presented by the Human Resources-Benefits Department.

Associates were able to have their blood pressure and blood sugar levels checked by local health professionals and learn more about their health care benefits and healthy lifestyle options.

Debra Robertson, Benefits Manager, said, "We had a very good turnout at both events. It's always encouraging to see our associates take their health seriously. It's also very important for us, as a business, to maintain a healthy workforce."

Risk Management was also on hand to give associates a refresher



course on safety procedures and awareness.

One hundred percent of accidents are preventable, according to Safety Coordinator Guy Bounds.

"Taking care of your health and being aware of the dangers around you are just a couple of examples of how to help ensure a safe and healthy work environment."

A blood drive was also conducted by United Blood Services of Mississippi as associates donated 29 pints of blood.

NOTICE

CHOCTAW HOUSING AUTHORITY WAITING LIST FOR ALL COMMUNITIES WILL CLOSE MAY 31, 2017

Choctaw Housing Authority will no longer take application for housing for all communities effective May 31, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

Applications will resume January 1, 2018, & close January 31, 2018.

LETTER continued from page three

soldier spilled blood to protect us. We are blessed to be American!

Planning Underway for Choctaw Indian Fair

The 68th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair is fast approaching. This year's edition will be held July 12th-15th, 2017, on the Choctaw Indian Reservation in Pearl River.

It is a time of great showcase for our Choctaw people as we display and celebrate our culture, heritage and traditions. We welcome visitors from near and

far to our reservation.

During the fair, we expect to see beautiful artistry in the dresses, beadwork, basketry and handmade crafts. Fairgoers experience traditional customs of our Choctaw people while watching social dancing, cheering on the live-action World Series Stickball and tasting our Choctaw foods.

We also feature many other forms of live entertainment and competitions.

On Wednesday night at the main stage, our beautiful young Choctaw ladies compete for the coveted title of

Choctaw Indian Princess. And starting on Thursday night at the Amphitheater Main Stage, we welcome music super stars Dan + Shay, Hunter Hayes on Friday night and The Band Perry on Saturday night.

Iron Warrior competition, Scales, Tails & Teeth Gator Show, and Birds & Exotics of the World Show starts Thursday through Saturday afternoon.

The 6th Annual Rez-Run footrace will take place on Saturday morning. Of course, we will have Mitchell Amusements back with excit-

ing midway rides and a variety of other hands-on activities for all to enjoy.

I hope you will make plans to attend and bring your family and friends. Season tickets are now on sale at the Pearl River Resort Exxon Welcome Center. Tribal member discounts are available for season ticket purchases with valid CDIB or MBCI ID card.

For more information visit www.ChoctawIndianFair.com.

Closing

Again, enjoy the long summer days with your

family. Stay safe, cool and hydrated. Please remember to check on our elders during these hot summer months and help provide them comfort.

May God continue to richly bless you and our great tribe, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

See you at the Choctaw Indian Fair!

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson, Tribal Chief

Willis Offers Campaign Statement

Raymond Willis, Jr., a candidate for the Pearl River seat on the Choctaw Tribal Council, released the following statement.



Raymond Willis, Jr.

The feedback I got from you was concerning employment and job opportunities needing to be created for the Choctaw people, elderly and disabled people, people needing help in their homes, housing for single parents, and the lifestyles of council people that are representatives of the Choctaw people.

Tribal Elections are scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2017.

“Hello Pearl River residents. The last letter to you was an introduction of what I think needs to be improved upon for the Tribe.

While delivering my flyers to every household in the Pearl River community, I had the opportunity to talk with some of you. The reason I delivered to everyone was that as tribal council representative, I will represent all Pearl River residents and not just pick and choose who I will represent.

I know a lot of people work at the casinos, but a casino job is not for everyone. Creating more jobs in different industries will be a priority for me. I don't know what plans the Tribe has for economic development, but as a Choctaw I would like to know what plans are in our future? Another casino? Another hamburg-

er stand? Maybe a dollar store? A few years ago, our population was at about 60 percent of children 18 years and younger. Now that they have gotten older, we are at around 50 percent adults vs 18 and younger. As these teens become adults, do we have jobs and housing for them? Are we purchasing more land to build houses? Hopefully they are furthering their education while they are still young and can put their best foot forward. Then, when they do obtain their college degrees or certifications, do we have jobs for them if they want to return home to work for their Tribe? Some concerns include the elderly and disabled needing help

in the upkeep of their homes. Like, grass cutting or when they have housing inspections and they can't reach the higher spots in their houses to be cleaned. I asked them where their family was to help with these functions and they said that they couldn't count on them.

I think that the family unit has become unglued nowadays. I now see why when I was younger we would visit with each other. It was to keep the family intact. My family is no different. We have grown apart, but I would like for us to come back together again.

Many have asked when I am going to have a rally. In the beginning of my campaign, I thought I would have one. However, I felt it would be more beneficial to you all for me to

make contact with you on an individual basis and that is why I made the visit to each house in the Pearl River community.

When you, the Pearl River residents, elect me as your Tribal Council representative, it is then that I will hold a gathering for all of you because it will display your trust in me. Until then, I am available at 601-504-5307 or you may e-mail me at raywillisforprtc@hotmail.com.

Please let me know if you have not seen the letter I distributed to each household. I will gladly get it to you.

As representative of the Pearl River community, I will do my best to represent you well. Vote for me, Raymond Willis, Jr., for Pearl River Tribal Council.”

SDPI Hosts Annual Walk/Run Event

The Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) sponsored the 12th Annual Diabetes Awareness Spring Into Fitness 2 Mile Walk/Run on Saturday, April 29.

The event promotes diabetes awareness across the reservation as participants are urged to become educated on diabetes prevention & management & overcome the devastating effects of diabetes.

SDPI was established in 2004 to serve adult Tribal members who are at-risk of developing diabetes. The program

objective is to recruit patients & test for a condition called Pre-Diabetes in an effort to prevent the onset of diabetes.

Participants started & finished at the Geysers Falls Water Theme Park parking lot & walked/ran the two-mile course on Blackjack Road in the Pearl River community.

Overall winners included: (male) Brison Dixon with a time of 14:05.3; (female) Tayla Willis with a time of 15:47.3.

First & second place finishers in the following age categories are

listed below.

Ages 7 & Under - (male) Deontrea Polk, 1st, & Frank Frazier, 2nd; (female) Bayliss Billy, 1st, & Madison Charlie, 2nd.

Ages 8-12 - (male) Taijion Dixon, 1st, & Sailor Frazier, 2nd; (female) Jaeden Wesley, 1st, & Brylee Willis, 2nd.

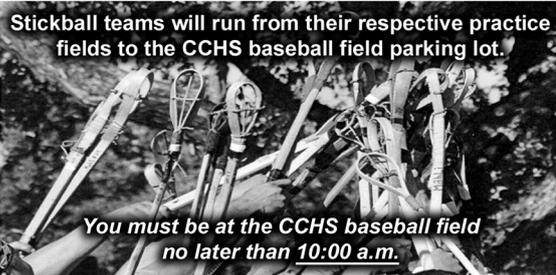
Ages 13-18 - (male) Logan Comby, 1st, & Kazden Henry, 2nd; (female) Alana Billy, 1st, & Allison Meely, 2nd.

Ages 19-25 - (male) Whinfred Denson, 1st,

..see SDPI RUN, pg. 8

SDPI
Diabetes Prevention Program

11th ANNUAL UNITY WALK/RUN
Saturday, June 24, 2017



Stickball teams will run from their respective practice fields to the CCHS baseball field parking lot.

You must be at the CCHS baseball field no later than 10:00 a.m.

Please Join Us! All Are Welcome To Participate In The Unity Walk!

SDPI
DIABETES
PREVENTION
PROGRAM

For more information, please call (601) 389-4370

TOGETHER LET'S DEFEAT DIABETES!

MRI Available At CHC

We are pleased to announce Choctaw Health Center is now offering Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) on Saturdays by appointment only. MRI services are offered by Alliance Imaging. Doctors use MRI to

find diseases or abnormalities in the body without using X-Rays. MRI uses a magnetic field & radio waves to create detailed images of the body.

MRI is non-invasive & painless. Most MRI scans require less than 60 minutes completing. During an MRI scan, you lie on a cushioned table that moves into the scanner. An injected contrast agent may be used.

Arrive a few minutes early to complete paperwork. Inform your referring physician if you have ever experienced claustrophobia. If necessary, your doctor can prescribe a mild sedative before your appointment. If you receive medication, you need to bring someone to drive you home.

Contact us to find out if you have any restrictions on what you can eat & drink before your appointment. Take your regular medications prior to your exam.

Please leave any valuables at home. No metal objects can be worn during your scan (such as watches, jewelry, keys, or cell phone). You may be asked to wear a hospital gown or your own clothing if there are no metal snaps or zippers.

Please notify your physician or medical imaging staff in advance if you:

- Have implanted devices;
- Have any serious health problems;
- Have had any surgery within the last eight

weeks;

- Have ever had surgery on your brain, ears, eyes, or heart;

- Have metal in your eyes, or work with metals;

- Have a bone or joint replacement or any prosthesis;

- Are or may be pregnant or breastfeeding;

- Weigh more than 350 pounds.

Once your scan is complete, you may resume normal activities & diet. If you had a contrast injection, the technologist will give you additional instruction if needed.



If you have any questions, call the Radiology Department at 601-389-4350 and/or Mary Jim in the Primary Care Department at 601-389-4300 for any MRI appointment scheduling needs.

From the CHC Business Office



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mosquito Control

Submitted by the Choctaw Health Center Office of Environmental Health

Everyone has an unpleasant experience of being bitten by a mosquito. Mosquito bites can cause skin irritation through an allergic reaction to the mosquito's saliva – that is what causes the red bump & itching. But a more serious consequence of some mosquito bites may be transmission of certain serious diseases, such as malaria, dengue fever, & several forms of encephalitis.

There are about 200 species of mosquitoes in the U.S. which live in specific habitats, exhibit unique behaviors, & bite different types of animals. Despite these dif-

ferences, all mosquitoes share common traits, such as a four-stage life cycle (egg, larva, pupa, adult).

Different species of mosquitoes prefer different types of standing water to lay their eggs. Portions of marshes, swamps, clogged ditches, temporary pools, & puddles are all prolific mosquito breeding sites.

Removing Mosquito Habitats

An important part of mosquito control is making sure mosquitoes don't have a place to lay their eggs. Because mosquitoes need water for two stages of their life cycle, it's important to monitor standing water sources such as:

...continued next page

- Tree holes;
- Old tires;
- Buckets;
- Toys;
- Potted plant trays & saucers;
- Plastic covers or tarpaulins;
- Places as small as bottle caps;
- Anything that holds water.

Prevent Exposure to Mosquitoes

Use the following tips to protect yourself from exposure to mosquitoes:

- Use EPA-registered mosquito repellents when necessary & follow label directions & precautions closely. Repellents containing DEET have proven to be very effective. Other products such as citronella-based repellents are somewhat effective. “Bug zappers” are NOT recommended. These actually attract mosquitoes & other flying insects.
- Tuck shirt into pants & pants into socks to cover gaps in your clothing where mosquitoes can get to your skin.
- Use head nets, long sleeves, & long pants if you venture into areas with high mosquito populations, such as marshes.
- Stay indoors at sunrise, sunset, & early in the evening when mosquitoes are most active, especially if there is a mosquito-borne disease warning in effect.
- Replace outdoor lights with yellow “bug” lights, which tend to attract fewer mosquitoes than ordinary lights. Yellow lights are NOT

repellents, however.

- Cover all gaps in walls, doors, & windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering.

- Make sure window & door screens are “bug tight.”

- Completely cover baby carriers & beds with netting.

Using Insect Repellents Safely

For a safe & effective use of pesticide products, always read the product label before using. Apply just enough repellent to cover exposed skin and/or clothing. Remember these important points to use repellents safely:

- Follow the label directions to ensure proper use.
- Repellents should be applied only to exposed skin and/or clothing. Do not use under clothing.
- Store insect repellents safely out of the reach of children, in a locked utility cabinet or garden shed.
- Do not apply near eyes & mouth, & apply sparingly around ears.
- When using sprays, do not spray directly into face; spray on hands first then apply to face.
- Never use repellents over cuts, wounds, or irritated skin.
- Do not spray in enclosed areas. Avoid breathing in a spray product, & do not use near food.
- After returning indoors, wash treated skin & clothes with soap & water.
- Do not use any products on pets or other animals unless the label clearly states it is for an-

imals.

Controlling Mosquitoes at the Larval Stage

Larvicides target larvae in the breeding habitat before they mature into adult mosquitoes & disperse. Larvicidal treatment of breeding habitats helps reduce the adult mosquito population.

Liquid larvicide products are applied directly to water using backpack sprayers, trucks or aircraft-mounted sprayers. Tablet, pellet, granular, & briquette formulations of larvicides are also applied to breeding areas.

Controlling Adult Mosquitoes

Communities seek to control adult mosquitoes to combat an outbreak of mosquito-borne disease or a very heavy, nuisance infestation of mosquitoes. The pesticides registered for this use are known as adulticides. They are applied either by aircraft or on the ground employing truck-mounted sprayers.

State, tribal, & local agencies commonly use the organophosphate insecticides malathion & naled & the synthetic pyrethroid insecticides prallethrin, etofenprox, pyrethrins, permethrin, resmethrin, & sumithrin for adult mosquito control.

Mosquito adulticides are applied as ultra-low volume (ULV) sprays. ULV sprayers dispense very fine aerosol droplets that stay aloft & kill flying mosquitoes on

contact.

ULV applications involve small quantities of pesticide active ingredient in relation to the size of the area treated, typically less than 3 ounces per acre, which minimizes exposure & risks to people & the environment.

Adulticides can be used for public health mosquito control programs without posing risks of concern to the general population or to the environment when applied according to the pesticide label.

Mosquito Spraying

The Choctaw Health Center Environmental Health Program will conduct monthly ULV mosquito spraying in the tribal communities during the hours of 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. as follows:

- 1st Wednesday - Tucker;
- 1st Thursday - Bogue Homma;
- 2nd Wednesday - Red Water & areas north of Hwy 16 in Pearl River including Goat Ranch

Road & Willis Road in Edinburg;

- 2nd Thursday - Conehatta;
- 3rd Wednesday - Bogue Chitto;
- 3rd Thursday - Crystal Ridge;
- 4th Tuesday - Standing Pine & areas south of Hwy 16 in Pearl River including Cemetery Road, Wolf Trail, Park Place, & Rolling Hills;
- 4th Wednesday - Pearl River - Oswald Road, Willis Road, Ball Park Road, Lewis Road, Blackjack Road;
- 4th Thursday - Pearl River - Tribal Complex, Industrial Road, James Billie Road, & Frog Level Road.

The mosquito spraying schedule is subject to change contingent on weather & unforeseen factors. The spraying program will be in operation from April-September of each year.

For more information, contact Jordan Taylor at the Choctaw Health Center at (601) 389-4140.

Mouth Guard Schedule

The Choctaw Dental Department is announcing its schedule for making mouth guards. Coaches & referees are reminded that players ages 17 & under are required to wear mouth guards during games. The following revised schedule is below:

- Bogue Chitto - Thursday, June 29 at 8:00 a.m.
- Conehatta - Thursday, June 15 at 8:00 a.m.;
- Tuesday, June 27 at 8:00 a.m.
- Pearl River - Tuesday, June 20 at 8:00 a.m.
- Red Water - Wednesday, June 7 at 8:00 a.m.;
- Wednesday, June 28 at 8:00 a.m.

Players are urged to PLAY SAFE & WEAR YOUR MOUTH GUARD!

Program Tackling Diabetes, Obesity Issues

Choctaw Food Distribution, a division of the Department of Family & Community Services, operates a USDA program called Federal Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). USDA is an equal opportunity pro-

vider & employer.

Distribution employees, whether they are at their work site in Pearl River or traveling throughout the reservation delivering food & providing nutritional education to needy families each month, are seeing the enormous issues facing Choctaw families today - diabetes & obesity.

Several individuals & programs have collaborated to provide nutritional education in ways that respect time honored traditions & ways of life.

Those involved in the

countless hours of planning, preparation & participation include Choctaw Food Distribution employees, Mississippi State University student & Tribal member Brendon Williams, Ralph Isaac & Southern Pine drummers & dancers, & Department of Chahta Immi Director Jay Wesley.

It's important for the team to present a program to young children that they not only came away from each session with newfound knowledge, but have fun also.

The team decided their presentation will

be based on the four-part series *Eagle Books*, written by Georgia Perez, with an emphasis on nutrition, physical fitness & Choctaw culture.

In the series, a wise eagle assumes the role of tribal elder in the time-honored Native American tradition of storytelling to pass on tribal culture. Through the eyes of the wise eagle, children are taught lessons in life dealing with the important challenges facing families today.

"In the past, stories were used by Native Americans to pass on their history, tradition, & culture to future generations because native languages were not written. *The Eagle Books* came from a dream & from the dreams of many Native Indian communities. It is from a dream of those who wanted to make life better for Native Americans dealing with diabetes," according to Perez.



Emphasizing physical activity through Choctaw dances & chants & a presentation of "everyday" foods & "sometimes" foods, students at Standing Pine Elementary were encouraged to appreciate the wisdom of elders as they focus on the hope for the future.



SDPI RUN continued from page five

& Joshua Hickman, 2nd; (female) Anna Willis, 1st, & Shauna Lewis, 2nd.

Ages 26-32 - (male) Michael Willis, 1st; (female) Ashley Edwards, 1st, & Stacy Dixon, 2nd.

Ages 33-39 - (male) Randy Tangle, 1st, & Elijah Jimmie, 2nd; (female) Shanna Ben, 1st, & Brandie Tangle, 2nd.

Ages 40-45 - (male) Thomas Ben, 1st, & Rodney Billy, 2nd; (female) Jonie Vaughn, 1st, & Barbara Wesley, 2nd.

Ages 46-52 - (male) Gaylon Williams, 1st, & Melford



Smith, 2nd; (female) Melissa Charlie, 1st, & Annie P. Hickman, 2nd.

Ages 53-60 - (male) Adolph Vivians, 1st, & Ricky Thompson, 2nd; (female) Betty Dodd,

1st, & Celestia Gates, 2nd.

Ages 61-65 - (male) Daniel Mittan, 1st, & Howard Tucker, 2nd; (female) Cheryl Denson, 1st, & Rose Cutler, 2nd.

Ages 66 & Over - (female)

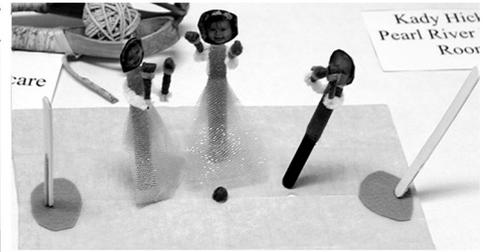
Gloria White, 1st, & Bernita Reynolds, 2nd.

To view a complete listing of official times for participants, go to www.time2run.net.

DOECE Hosts May Activities

We had a busy few weeks with activities going on with the Department of Early Childhood Education (DOECE) program.

We were very pleased with the hard work & creativity shown by students & staff for the Week of the Young Child Art Show: Stickball - The Granddaddy of All Sports! There were so many forms of art work produced & we were especially pleased



Pictured are several art pieces from the Week of the Young Child Art Show.

with the parent/family artwork submissions. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to have a large program display. In-

stead, each center displayed their art show at their center. We hope everyone viewed the displays at their child's center.



DOECE Stickball Shootout winners: **TOP LEFT,** (Accuracy) 1st place, Ryan Willis & Carter; 2nd place, Brandon John & Traisin; 3rd place, Jeremika John & Kazden. **TOP RIGHT,** (Distance) 1st place, Justin Peace Willis & Amarien; 2nd place, Ryan Willis & Carter; 3rd place, Shawn Williams & Kaecetyn. **RIGHT,** (Catch) 1st place, Justin Peace Willis & Amarien; 2nd place, Brandon John & Traisin; 3rd place, Ryan Willis & Carter.

CES Receives Donation

After a great school year at Conehatta Elementary School (CES) where our students worked hard & achieved many academic successes, a day of fun activities was granted when

CES received a \$1,000 donation from the Tribal Council Expense Allowance. We want to thank the Choctaw Tribal Council for this generous donation that allowed our students to end the school year in the most wonderful way. Pictured above, CES students participated in many activities during the school year, such as Read Aloud Month with guest readers like Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan.



Seniors Honored At Banquet

Choctaw Central High School announced top scholars for the Class of 2017 during a senior class banquet & awards ceremony Thursday, May 11, at the Silver Star Convention Center breakout room in Choctaw.

For the third straight year, the valedictorian was also named STAR Student. The salutatorian is also an academically-minded young woman.

Searra Blyss Wilson, daughter of Lucretia King & Vince Wilson of the Pearl River Community, was named the 2017 Valedictorian & Mississippi Economic Council STAR Student.

She participated in many clubs & activities during her high school career. She served as President of the Beta Club, member of the ACT 30+ Club, Choctaw

In keeping with the stickball theme, we had our Stickball Shootout on May 5. Despite the dreary weather, we had around 15 father/child teams to participate. It's wonderful to see children carry on the tradition of Choctaw Stickball, & we're proud of them for doing their best in the competition. Thank you to everyone who came out.

The DOECE provides services for children ages 8 weeks to 4 years. We are currently accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year. Be sure to contact your local center for more information.

Head Start is for children 3 years & older as of September 1, 2017. Early Head Start is for children ages 8 weeks to 2 years, depending on the center. Child care is for children 8 weeks to 4 years.

Head Start & Early Head Start give priority to homeless, foster, & income eligible children. For more information, contact us at 601-650-1680.

see SENIORS, pg. 10

SENIORS continued from page nine

Agriculture Professional Program for Students (CAPPS), Green Team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Chess Club, & the Prom Committee.

Searra was also part of Leadership Neshoba & 4-H of Neshoba County & named Philadelphia Rotary Club's Student of the Month for December 2016.

She received many

awards at CCHS, including Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Physics & Spanish II, all in her junior year. She was also a member of the CCHS cheerleading squad, bowling team & past member of both the slow- & fast-pitch softball teams.

This fall, Searra will attend East Central Community College

(ECCC) in Decatur, MS. After ECCC, she plans on continuing her education to obtain her Bachelors degree & one day her Master's degree in Nursing.

Diajah Malik York, daughter of Jerry York, Sr., & Marilyn York of the Pearl River Community, was named Salutatorian.

She was a member of the BETA Club, Pow Wow Committee, the Green Team, Robotics Team, & the bowling team.

Diajah received many awards during her high school career. She was named the Student of the Month for October



ABOVE, From left, 2017 Valedictorian & STAR Student Searra Wilson & Salutatorian Diajah Malik York. Wilson considered it her single greatest honor of her high school career, saying she was "honored to be added to such a distinguished group of students." RIGHT, Wilson selected Penny Hardy as her STAR Teacher. This is Hardy's first time being selected as STAR Teacher.



Recipients of the MS Scholars honor.



Class of 2017 Top 10 Students



Recipients of the ECCC Academic ACT Scholarships.



Recipients of the ECCC Academic Achievement Scholarships.

2016 by the Philadelphia Rotary Club.

Diajah also plans on pursuing a career in Nursing. She plans on attending Meridian Community College this fall & then transferring to Millsaps College to obtain her Bachelor's degree in both Nursing & Forensics.

"These two young ladies have made outstanding academic achievements at Choctaw Central, & I am so excited to recognize them," said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. "These students bring much honor & pride to our Tribe."

Named to the Class of 2017 Top Ten were Jaydre Bell, Jennard Bollin, Sri Grant, Jordan Isaac, Candace Jefferson, Aahliya Jones, Allison Meely, Angelia Morales, Searra Wilson, & Diajah York.

Recognized as MS Scholars were Sri Grant, Aahliya Jones, Cy Mc-

Millan, Angelia Morales, Diajah York, & Tanner York.

Sherrell Brown, ECCC Student Recruiter & Enrollment Specialist, was in attendance to announce ECCC scholarship recipients.

Recipients of the Academic Achievement Scholarship included Sarah Allen, Montae Bacon, Dylan Ben, Dana Briscoe, Madison Dixon, Sri Grant, Daiton Henry, Trent Hundley, Candace Jefferson, Aahliya Jones, Dawndrea Jordan, Dedrick Jordan, Joshua Jordan, Dakota Henry, Hannah Lewis, Allison Meely, Keyla Mingo, Ga'Yu'Eze Morris, Quentin Nanaeto, Mya Solomon, Denzel Stoliby, Audrey Tubby, Reese Tubby, Symone Williams, Xena Willis, Diajah York, & Tanner York.

Recipients of the Academic ACT (20-23)

...continued next page

CCHS Students Record For Rural Voices Radio

Twenty-two Choctaw Central High School students recorded their narrative writing for the Mississippi Public Broadcasting's (MPB) Rural Voices Radio (RVR) on Saturday, May 13.

Writing for radio & recording a piece of writing is a unique opportunity for students' voices to be heard.

Choctaw Central students have been reading for RVR since 2008. Teachers have made it their goal to encourage students to write in all subject areas, not only

in English classrooms, but math, history, Choctaw culture, personal finance, driver's education, visual arts, & science classes. Teachers, as well as students, are involved in writing.

Those who recorded on May 13 included Kendra Allen, Haylin Anderson, Myric Anderson, Montae Bacon, Shelbi Bell, Tyler Bell, Averii Cotton, Dillon Farmer, Bray Farve, Asa Jimmie, Maleighia Joe, Brandis Johnson, Kiezer Johnson, Hannah Lewis, Damien Mesteth, Mercedes Peters, Micaiah



Tubby, Emily Scobee, Jakob Waiter, Kravon Willis, Milton Willis, & Searra Wilson.

Lead teacher Julia Faulk serves as RVR Choctaw Central contact person.

Students who were chosen but unable to record their narrative were Michael Bell, Jacob Billy, Julius Billy, Jennavia Bollin, Jada Comby, Erica Dixon, Eva Hick-

man, Josh Jordan, Dakota Kennedy, Cy McMillan, Katarina McMillan, Allison Meely, Betty Mingo, Quentin Nanaeto, Hope Pesata, Dalrick Smith, Taijon Smith, Taelor Sockey, Kayla Stephens, Jalen Williams, Malayiah Willis, & Tara Willis.

Since July 1, 2003, MPB has aired pieces from the Mississippi Writing/Thinking Insti-

tute's RVR series. Students across the state can be heard on MPB stations each weekday at 3:28 p.m. (Meridian 88.1, Oxford 90.3, Booneville 89.5, Mississippi State 89.9, Greenwood 90.0, Jackson 91.3, Bude 88.9, Biloxi 90.3).

Visit RVR archives at www.mwti.msstate.edu/radio to hear past shows.

Scholarship were Ricky Anderson, Jr., Jaydre Bell, Jennard Bollin, Trent Hundley, Jordan Isaac, Brandis Johnson, Raina King, Cy McMillan, Angelia Morales, Alexis Sam, & Kameron Samuel.

Recipient of the ACT (24-26) Scholarship was Katarina McMillan.

Recipient of the ACT (31-36) Scholarship (full tuition, room & board) was Searra Wilson. She was also a recipient of another full-tuition scholarship for being named STAR Student.

Brown acknowledged Wilson had the highest ACT score this year out of 600 seniors within the East Central district (Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, & Winston Counties).

Tim Ben of the Philadelphia Rotary Club was

in attendance to award a \$500 scholarship to Aahliya Jones.

The following subject awards & recipients are listed below.

Automotive Service (Occupational Training Center) - Milton Willis.

Culinary Arts II (OTC) - Dawndrea Jordan.

Horticulture II (OTC) - Cy McMillan.

Academic Achievement - Beeman Farmer.

Academic Excellence - Dawndrea Jordan.

Personal Finance - Camry Mingo.

Driver's Education - Diajah York.

Visual Arts I - Dawndrea Jordan.

Visual Arts II - Dylan Ben.

Short Stories - Samuel Pennington.

Spanish I - Sri Grant.

Spanish II - Allison

Meely.

Choctaw Language & History - Angelia Morales.

U.S. Government - Sri Grant.

Economics - Dawndrea Jordan.

Botany - Dylan Nick-ey.

Human Anatomy - Sri Grant.

Chemistry - Montae Bacon.

Physics - Angelia Morales.

Algebra II - Camry Mingo.

SREB Math - Sri Grant.

Trigonometry - Jaydre Bell.

PreCalculus - Diajah York.

Calculus - Searra Wilson.

English IV - Xena Willis.

AP Literature & Composition - Diajah York.

Chess Brawl At CCHS

On Friday, May 5, the Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) Talented & Gifted (TAG) class hosted Chess Brawl for CCHS Chess Club members to determine the 2017 spring semester Chess Master.

The friendly double elimination competition featured girls vs. girls & boys vs. boys with the winners playing for the chess master title.

Games got fierce as eliminations progressed. As with most things, the ones who practice make successes.

Kaliyah Tubby edged out Camille Dixon for the girls & Hunter Smith fought hard with Chris Cotton until time forced a decision based on total games won. Smith went on to capture the 2017 Chess Master title.

The academic & individual benefits of playing chess are well documented. Mental clarity & mental dexterity is required for solving problems, analyze consequences, & formulate future tactics.

Children playing chess from an early age exhibit extraordinary memory skills, improved concentration & academic performance. Chess can:

- Raise IQ's;
- Help prevent Alzheimers;
- Exercise both sides of the brain;
- Increase creativity;
- Improve memory;
- Improve reading skills; and
- Grow Dendrites (signals of the brain).

But don't tell the kids that.

2017 Spring Festivals





Unified Team A Strong Force

There is a program at Choctaw Central High School that is a wonderful & valuable benefit to our Choctaw Tribal students called the Unified Team.

The Unified Team is comprised of CCHS special & general education students & are part of the Mid-Mississippi Area Region 18 of the Special Olympics. Team coach Amanda Reed is proud of the team's accomplishments since their formation in 2015.

She is personally passionate about seeing this program succeed because she is a mother to a special needs child. She also recognizes the lack of opportunities special education students have in regular physical education classes.

"You tend to see our special education students in regular P.E. class & they don't participate," said Reed. "They don't have confidence & they feel like they can't do it or have been ridiculed in the past. So they sit to the side. We wanted to get them involved."

Reed has been teaching for over 10 years & has a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education & a Masters in Elementary Education. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Adaptive P.E. Tonya Billie & Ralph Isaac are assistant coaches with several community volunteers helping out.

Despite being a relatively new program, the Unified Team has already racked up big successes. In their first year, Reed went with something familiar to them - basketball.

"A lot of our youth love basketball. Last year's basketball team won the gold at the spring state games."

Reed said team member Danta Cotton was one of the team's outstanding players & a great athlete.

"He got to play in the Unified Egg Bowl at Mississippi State against Ole Miss, & we won."

They branched out this year as they played flag football, bocce & track & field. Reed is grateful for the support of the team.

"There has been a lot of recognition from Chief Anderson & her administration & (CCHS Principal) Dr. Fredrick Hickmon & the school administration. They have been very supportive & put the kids on a pedestal. A lot of them weren't used to that. Very proud, very humble of our accomplishments. I tell them they are a blessing," said Reed.

There is currently a waiting list for students to join the team. "We had a lot more interest this past year & we had to cut it off. People wanting to sign up, but we already had our team. This year, we are losing five seniors so we will have some openings & be able to build up newer teams. We're excited about that."



The Unified Team captured gold medals at the Special Olympics spring basketball tournament on March 11 in Jackson.



The Unified Team traveled to Biloxi to compete in the 2017 Mississippi Special Olympics on May 19-21. All participants who went earned a medal! Terrance Thomas & Jerrick McMillan won gold as they joined the Leake Central team for the 4x100 unified relay. Tonya Billie & Raven McMillan won gold in bocce. Keyshana Beamon won silver in the 400m run & mini-javelin throw. In volleyball, Gunnar Tubby, Dorian Ben, Richard John, Tristian Cotton, Demarco Thomas, Austin Phillips, Hayden Farmer, & Mitzi Reed won bronze. Quentin Comby won silver for individual bowling. Congratulations to the Unified Team on an outstanding job they have done so far!

GRADUATION continued from page one

Director of Schools David Germany, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson and Pearl River Tribal Council representative and Education Committee Chair Lola Parkerson offered remarks to the graduates as they all congratulated them on their accomplishments.

Top scholars offering their addresses included Salutatorian Diajah York and Valedictorian Searra Wilson. Wilson was also the recipient of the Mississippi Economic Council STAR Student award.

Dr. Hickmon presented the graduating class as CCHS teacher Ferrell Davidson announced the roll call of seniors with Chief Anderson awarding them their diplomas. Senior class treasur-

er Sri Grant offered the benediction as the graduates then tossed their caps into the air to conclude the ceremony.

Members of CCHS's Class of 2017 included Sarah Allen, Ricky Anderson, Jr., Benjamin Baccus, Montae Bacon, Keyshana Beamon, Jaydre Bell, Dylan Ben, Breanna Billie, Justinina Billy, Jennard Bollin, Dana Briscoe, Danta Cotton, Tristian Cotton, Brooke Dixon, Jaydn Dixon, Madison Dixon, Alejandra Eaves, Beeman Farmer, Hayden Farmer, TeyJah Farmer, Zachary Farmer, Sri Grant.

Daiton Henry, William Henry, Joshua Hickman, Merrick Hickman, Trenton Hundley, Jordan Isaac, Candace Jefferson, DeeShaya Jeffer-

son, Melody Jimmie, Xavier Jimmie, Damian John, Tanner John, Ashton Johnson, Brandis Johnson, Aahliya Jones, Dawndrea Jordan, Derrick Jordan, Joshua Jordan, Dakota Kennedy, Raina King, Ben Lewis, Hannah Lewis.

Cy McMillan, Katarina McMillan, Allison Meely, Betty Mingo, Camry Mingo, Keyla Mingo, Imma-Bachi Mitch, Angelia Morales, Ga'Yu'Eze Morris, Quentin Nanaeto, Chamalely Nickey, Dylan Nickey, Miguel Pedraza, Samuel Pennington, Hope Pesata, Selena Phillips, Jeremiah Robinson, Alexis Sam, Kameron Samuel, Allen Sockey, Merchaylee Sockey, Mya Solomon, Denzel Stoliby.

Jacob Taylor, Elyse



Thomas, Leighanna Thomas, Shaunery Thompson, Tiwana Thompson, Anthony Tubby, Audrey Tubby, Bertha Tubby, Gunnar Tubby, Reese Tubby, Stacey Tubby, Winter Tubby, Aliyah Wahwasuck, Gatorson Wes-

ley, Jessalyn Williams, Deanna Willis, Hopoyoksa Willis, Milton Willis, Jr., Rebekah Willis, Xena Willis, Bryton Wilson, Searra Wilson, Taylum Wishork, Diajah York, Tanner York, and Trevor York.

SOFTBALL continued from page one

Mooreville added another run in the sixth as Addison Biffle had a single that brought home Abby McDonald for the deciding run. Choctaw Central was limited to only five hits throughout the contest.

In game 2 on May 12, the Lady Warriors took a 1-0 lead at the top of the second with a solo home run by seventh grader Leia Phillip. During the celebration at home plate, Mooreville coaches challenged the run. While on her way to home plate, a teammate had made contact with Phillips before she crossed home, which is against MHSAA rules. Moments later, Phillips was ruled out and the run was taken off the board.

Momentum swung in Mooreville's favor as they scored two runs at the bottom of the

second. Fielding errors plagued the Lady Warriors as Mooreville added four more runs in the bottom of the third.

Mooreville added another run in the sixth as the Lady Warriors were held to only two hits in the contest.

Senior pitcher Betty Mingo, a Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College signee, said the highlight of winning a slow-pitch title and runner-up in fast-pitch was being with her teammates.

"This is the greatest accomplishment we made this year. It has been great being part of this team making memories, making big plays, getting big hits, and celebrating."

For several seasons, the Lady Warriors fell short of making an appearance in the fast-pitch

state championship series until this season. In the post-season, they defeated Seminary, Raleigh, Choctaw County, and St. Patrick to earn their first South State title.

Mingo, along with reserve player Aahliya Jones, were the only senior players on the squad that will be moving on to the next level. Jones is a signee of Meridian Community College.

"It's always good that we bring something to the Tribe. We're thankful that Chief Anderson came out and supported us. I have great assistants that provided so much guidance and I'm thankful for that," said Roach.

"This group of girls here, they didn't give up. It didn't go our way but we kept battling

and that's what our program is about. The outcome, the championship, will be coming home at some point and I'm thinking it's going to be soon."

Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, who was in attendance for the contests, offered her congratulations to the team for their accomplishments this season.

"I'm very proud of the Lady Warriors. They did a wonderful job. They've been playing on that diamond for some time now and they made it here to the state championship. Although we did not get the win, we are very proud of the team, the coaches, the fans that were all here supporting this group," said Anderson.

Choctaw Central concluded their season with a 20-9 overall record. Mooreville was 29-3.



**NEWS
&
NOTES**

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

CONEHATTA UNIT

On May 5, members on the Honor Roll were rewarded with a pizza party at the club.

On May 12, members (ages 8-10) went on a field trip to Party Safari.

On May 15, the club hosted a Mother's Day activity.

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

From May 22-26, with the club being closed, there was a club clean-up.

The club was closed on May 29 due to Memorial Day holiday.

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

**Upcoming Events/
Field Trips**

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

Also on June 1, there will be a "Choosing the Best Way" orientation for teens (11-18) & their parents at the club's Teen Center at 5:30 p.m.

On June 2, there will be a Team Building Activity for Teens (11-18) at the club at 9:30 a.m.

On June 5, a "Relationships" presentation by Joy Rodriguez is scheduled for teens (11-18).

On June 9, members (8-10) will go on a field trip to Canal Place Cine-

mas in Philadelphia.

On June 12, a "Banking & Finance" presentation by Susan Cosgrove is scheduled for teens (11-18).

On June 13, a basketball game against the Pearl River Teen Center for teens (11-18) is scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

On June 16, teens (11-18) will go on a field trip to Tinseltown in Pearl.

On June 19, a "Checking & Savings" presentation by Susan Cosgrove is scheduled for teens (11-18).

From June 21-22, the Annual Youth Conference will be held in Tucker for teens (11-18). The club will be closed to teens until after the conference.

On June 23, teens (11-18) will go on a field trip to The Park in Meridian.

On June 26, a "Relationships II" presentation by Joy Rodriguez will be held for teens (11-18).

On June 27, teens (11-18) will go on a field trip to the Pearl River Teen Center to participate in a 16" co-ed softball game.

On June 28, teens (11-18) will participate in Career Launch: "All Health Care Day" presentations by health care professionals as they learn about their jobs.

On June 30, members (8-10) will go on a field trip to The Park in Meridian.

On July 4, the club will be closed due to 4th of July holiday.

On July 7, a summer session pizza party will be held for all members.

On July 10, a Wet & Wild Day will be held for all members.

July 11 is the last day of the summer session.

Youth of the Month

April's Youth of the Month was Montraz Billy. Montraz is the 8 year-old son of Shondria Chickaway & Ronald Billy, Sr. He is a second grader at Conehatta Elementary School & is on the Honor Roll.

Montraz enrolled with the Conehatta Boys & Girls Club in June of 2015 & has attended the club regularly. His attitude & behavior is great while at the club. He has been selected numerous times to participate on field trips throughout the

school year. Keep up the good work & behavior, Montraz.

**Special Thanks/
Recognition**

Happy Mother's Day to Deanna Anderson, Shondria Chickaway, Marina Smith, Katrina Cotton, Kelsey John, Allison John, Elana Denson, Latilda Jim, Kelly McMillan, Allison Smith, Kayla Waiter, Michelle Nickey, Mindy Bell, Selma Johnson, Courtney Johnson, Myleia Chickaway, Olivia Denson, Kisha King, Cindy Thomas, LaSheena Williamson, DeAndrea Johnson, Marie Wilson, Demetria Williamson, Natalie Jefferson, Jucina Thomas, Durnene Farmer, Laquita King, Kristina Jim, Shaunta Clemmons, Jaime Nickey, Hope Solomon, & Priscilla Williams.

Happy Father's Day to Ron Anderson, Ronald Billy, Sr., Ben Davis, Kevin Cotton, Alan John, Sr., Jamison Johnson, Bjoin McMillan, John Smith, Jeremy Stephens, Joey Stephens, Timothy Thomas, Sr., Craig Bell, Dewett Phillips, Chris Denson, Gurdy Farmer, Roddy Nickey, John Thomas, Curtis Williamson,

...continued next page



Members visited The Bounce Palace & played Putt Putt Golf on April 17. **ABOVE, Left,** Bashlyn & Jabazlyn race in the obstacle course. **Right,** Jabazlyn & Cassius enjoy the slide. **LEFT, Left,** Timmy is concentrating to make the hole. **Right,** Benzley studies what angle to make his shot.

RIGHT, Members have a pizza lunch at Pearl Park after visiting The Bounce Palace.



Donovan King, Bryan Williamson, Jamie Wesley, Julian Dixon, Brent Farmer, Todd Jim, Randy Nickey, Wendall Hall, Sr., Skyley Thom- as, & Cedric Williams.

Mya Solomon, club member since June 2004.

Hannah Lewis, club member since June 2004.

Brandis Johnson, club member since June 2008.

Melody Jimmie, club member since September 2004.

Sri Grant, club member since August 2010.

DeeShaya Jefferson, club member since September 2004.

Beeman Farmer, club member since June 2004.

Zachery Farmer, club member since June 2004.

Joshua Hickman, club member since June 2004.

Candace Jefferson, club member since June 2006.

Xavier Jimmie, club member since June 2004.

Leighanna Thomas, club member since January 2007.

Choctaw Transit Hosts 2017 Rodeo

Drivers representing transit providers throughout Mississippi gathered to test their driving abilities & knowledge to earn an opportunity to represent Mississippi at the national level.

The Mississippi Public Transit Association (MPTA), along with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) Public Transit Division, co-sponsored their annual Rodeo in Choctaw on April 21-22. It was the 17th consecutive year the Rodeo was hosted by Choctaw Transit.

Meetings & trainings were held at the Silver Star Convention Center on the first day. A closed course bus & van competition was held on Saturday, April 22 at the Choctaw Central High School baseball field parking lot.

A banquet & awards ceremony was held that evening at the Silver Star Convention Center breakout rooms. Top drivers in the bus & van categories were honored with trophies & monetary awards from the MPTA.

First place finishers received \$500, second



Drivers had to skillfully drive around the obstacle course at the CCHS baseball field parking lot.

place finishers \$250 & third place \$150.

Winners in the Bus Division were: 1st place, Bryan Carvano of Climb Up Inc., in Tupelo; 2nd place, Roger Oliver of Aaron E. Henry/DARTS in Clarksdale; & 3rd place, Randall Isaac of Community Regional Transportation/Choctaw Transit in Choctaw.

Winners in the Van Division were: 1st place, Wade Shepherd of Bolivar County Council on Aging in Cleveland; 2nd place, Fredrick Thomas of Mississippi Valley Mass Transit in Itta Bena; & 3rd place, Natalie Lee of Mississippi Christian Family Services in Rolling Fork.

Carvano and Shepherd will represent Mississippi at the 2017 National Community Transportation Rodeo in Detroit, Mich., in June. The event is sponsored by

the Community Transportation Association of America.

“It has been an honor to host the MPTA Rodeo for the past 17 years and we look forward to hosting many more in the future,” said Choctaw Transit Mobility Manager Nana Frazier. “We would like to thank the Pearl River Resort for the hotel accommodations, conference room usage & for the excellent services given to our visiting agencies.”

“Our Transit staff, volunteers & the Day Training program staff worked diligently to make this year’s Rodeo a success. Congratulations to all of our Rodeo winners & good luck to them as they go on to represent Mississippi in the National Rodeo in Detroit, Michigan this coming June,” Frazier added.

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to the following club members graduating from their respective high schools.

Newton County High School

Megan Jim, club member since June 2004.

Cassie Denson, club member since September 2004.

Neshoba Central High School

Tana Jimmie, club member since June 2004.

Choctaw Central High School

Samuel Pennington, club member since June 2004.

Madison Dixon, club member since September 2007.

Springwater Receives Honor

Congratulations to Zo Springwater, Unit Director at the Pearl River Boys & Girls Club. Zo, pictured right, received 3rd place overall in the entire state for the Full Time Employee of the Year Award. This award was given at the Mississippi All Staff Conference 2017 in Gulfport. Zo has contributed over seven years to the Boys & Girls Club movement. Congratulations Zo!



Rodeo winners include, from left, (Bus Division) Bryan Carvano, Roger Oliver, Randall Isaac; (Van Division) Natalie Lee, Fredrick Thomas, & Wade Shepherd.

CPD Officers Take Top Honors

Choctaw Police Department (CPD) Officer Dwight McMillan & K-9 Officer Mylo recently placed first at the 2017 Law Dog Obstacle Course Competition in Southaven, Miss.

Mylo, a 4-year-old Belgian Malinois, was paired with McMillan, of the Pearl River Community, this past January to patrol all Choctaw communities.

The two, having never worked together, went to a 10-week training session in Southaven. Something clicked between McMillan & Mylo because the pair beat out other dog/handler competitors that have been together much longer.

The CPD received Mylo in 2014 as a gift from Pearl River Resort & is trained to sniff out illegal narcotics. He has already been successful in making several drug arrests.

McMillan said his time spent on Meridian's police force sparked his interest in being part of a K-9 unit.

"I've always wanted to do it. I love dogs," said McMillan. "I am a dog person & applied for this position."



Officer Dwight McMillan & K-9 Officer Mylo

Although he does take Mylo home at night, McMillan says he & his family must remember that Mylo is a working dog. His 3-year-old daughter helps by giving Mylo orders in her command language of Dutch.

In order to stay on top of their training, McMillan & Mylo will be attending a three-day seminar in Biloxi. They also have a standing invitation to return to Southaven any time for additional training.

CPD Adds New Officers

The Choctaw Police Department (CPD) is growing with the recent addition of two new officers, Lorenzo Patrick & Precious Jim.

The pair completed a 13-week law enforcement training program for new officer recruits at The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), home of the Indian Police Academy, in Artesia, New Mexico.

Since graduating on April 8, Officers Patrick



From left, Officers Lorenzo Patrick & Precious Jim.

& Jim have taken part in the Field Training Program – an on-the-job training program that provides extra training for new officers.

CPD has four Field Training Officers & the two will each be paired with one until they are

ready to ride alone.

Officer Patrick, of Sebastopol, is a graduate of Sebastopol Attendance Center. Although training was long, he said he liked it. His father was a wildlife officer & in the back of his mind, he thought law



Dancing To Heal

The Department of Family & Community Services and Department of Public Safety presented the Masala Chi I Hilha (Dance to Healing) event on April 22 at the Pearl River Community Gymnasium in Choctaw. The event was held in observance of April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month as drummers & dancers performed to support victims of assault & abuse & start the healing process through music & dance. A candlelight vigil concluded the event in an effort to end all forms of sexual, relationship & domestic abuse & heal our sacred community.

enforcement might be something he would like to do but didn't immediately pursue it.

It wasn't until Officer Kevin Grisham reached out to him & suggested he look into applying to become an officer. That's when Patrick seriously thought about it.

When the opportunity came up, Patrick took the chance & now hopes to have a long career in law enforcement.

"I just want to make a positive impact on the reservation," said Patrick.

Officer Jim is from the

Pearl River Community & a graduate of Neshoba Central High School. After high school, she joined the Army National Guard. Being in the military, Jim wanted a career that was somewhat similar.

"This is the closest I will get to it," said Jim.

Jim found the academy fun & challenging & enjoys being a police officer. Proud to be part of the CPD, she hopes to have a long career.

"I love this. This is probably the only thing I would want to do," said Jim.

Domestic Violence & TBI Effects

A common scene takes place. It is 2:20 a.m., and there is an argument taking place in someone's home. A woman is suddenly slammed against a wall by the offender and her head hits the wall. The offender leaves.

The victim is able to call the police. When the police arrive, the officer on the scene begins to ask the woman what has taken place. The officer must ask things such as the time the argument began, who was there, what happened, did the offender use a weapon, etc.

The victim tries to answer the questions, but when she does, the officer notices that the woman is unable to keep her story straight. The officer has to repeat questions. The woman cannot seem to recall the time or the exact sequence of events.

The officer begins to wonder if the woman has been drinking, but she denies this. The woman seems a little confused or disoriented.

The officer collects the information and moves on. However, the officer feels as though the story is incomplete. Was the woman intoxicated? No.

What the victim and the officer had no way of knowing for certain, was that the woman had suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) from when her head was slammed against the wall.

TBI can be caused by a blow to the head, shaking of the brain, or loss of oxygen to the brain. This particular victim had a blow to the head.

Frequently, domestic violence victims have injuries to the head area. When working with a victim who has suffered a hit or injury to the

head/neck area, keep in mind that a brain injury may occur.

The following impairments may take place when a TBI occurs:

- Decreased concentration
- Short term memory loss
- Disorganization
- Blurred vision
- Difficulty balancing
- Changes in personality
- Poor coordination

These are only a few of the symptoms of a TBI. What is important to remember is that a victim may have a TBI after a blow to the head. And if the victim has had an injury to the head or neck area, the victim needs to be evaluated by a doctor.

The victim may not even realize the extent of his/her injuries. When the victim is being interviewed by police or others, the victim may

not make much sense. A TBI may be the reason why the victim does not respond clearly.

There are tools that can be used to help identify if there is a TBI. Understanding how a traumatic brain injury affects victims can pos-

sibly help the way service providers respond to victims of domestic violence.

For further information, please contact Family Violence & Victim's Services at (601) 650-1774. Yakoki!

SAVE THE DATE!

7th 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.

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



REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY



Call 1-855-4-THE REZ
(1-855-484-3739)
 or visit www.wetip.com

CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:

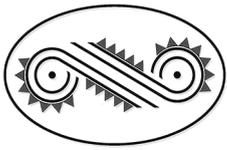
- **Theft**
- **Child Abuse**
- **Vandalism**
- **Illegal Drugs**
- **Bullying**
- **Assault**
- **Or any other illegal activity**

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!



Estonia Officials Visit Tribe

Judicial officials from the Republic of Estonia recently visited the Tribe as part of the International Visitors Center of Jackson's commitment to improve & strengthen cultural & economic understanding between citizens of Mississippi & foreign dignitaries. The delegates visited several Tribal locations, such as the Smith John Justice Center & Chahta Immi Cultural Center. Fred Willis of the Office of Public Information offered the tour for the delegation. Estonian officials included Kadriann Ikkonen, Tanel Saar, Villem Lapimaa, & Kristine Tamm.



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

DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

CAP Hosts Cultural Workshops

The staff of the Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) hosted five cultural workshops in the Standing Pine community during April. Workshops covered making Choctaw dresses & shirts, stickball aprons, sashes, headbands, medallions, & collar necklaces.

Conehatta community was the next locale for the workshops in May. They were held at the Conehatta Facility Building on the following dates below:

- May 2 - Sash & Medallion Making;
- May 9 - Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace;
- May 16 - Headband & Stickball Apron;
- May 24 & 30 - Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making.



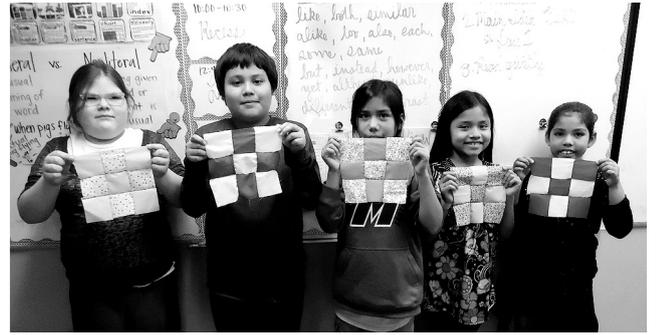
Antwynette Toledo displays the start of her collar necklace of a Choctaw boy & girl design at the collar necklace workshop in Standing Pine on April 11.

There will be no adult workshops for June & July due to the 68th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair July 12-15. Cultural workshops will resume in August in



ABOVE, From left, DCI characters Ofi (dog), Nita (bear) & Fox (cholah) appear at the lineup before the parade.

LEFT, Managers of all dance groups taken after the April 25 drawing.



PRES third graders holding their completed quilt block are, from left, Heaven Hodges, Peyton Willis, Miley Thomas, Dailyynn Willis, & Crisayis Wesley.

the Bogue Chitto community.

portunity to showcase their Choctaw dance performances at the fair.

Dance Groups Selected for Fair

An informational meeting was held at the Chahta Immi Cultural Center (CICC) on April 4 for all interested dance groups for the upcoming fair. The availability of slots are limited due to more dance groups forming every year; therefore, in fairness to all dance groups, the CAP developed a lottery-type drawing to determine which groups will perform at the fair.

Registration for dance groups was open April 5-20 at the CAP office. The drawing for slots were held at the CICC on April 25 by the CAP dance committee members Phyllis McMillan & Wendy Thompson. Casey Bigpond played a great role in the preparation & set up for the event.

A total of 31 dance groups will have the op-

Quilting Sessions at PRES

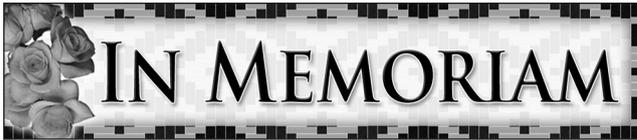
What exciting moments the CAP staff spent at Pearl River Elementary School (PRES)!

After Ms. Megan Richards requested a presentation on quilting for her third grade class, the CAP staff happily offered two quilt sewing sessions on April 10 at 9:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. The staff gave a brief report before giving students basic instruction on sewing pieces of 3"x3" precut fabric together.

The children were highly engaged in the sewing activity & gave the staff so much enthusiasm. Most of the students commented they had never done any sewing until that day.

Days later, the third graders sent some very

...continued next page



SHARON ANN BELL GIBSON

Funeral service for Sharon Ann Bell Gibson, 60, was held on Friday, April 21, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

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

Ms. Gibson passed away on April 19 at her residence.

She worked with Choctaw Adult Education & enjoyed being with family & friends, going to church, & being a fan of Bok Cito stickball.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tom & Katherine Jackson Bell; husband, John

Lee Gibson; son, Tommy Paul Gibson; sisters, Ruby Lewis, Shirley Lewis, Willie Cotton, & Synthia Willis; brothers, Henry C. Bell & Sammy Bell, Sr.; four aunts; & two nephews.

Survivors include her sons, Jarrit Gibson, Shaukota Gibson & Rafael Gibson; sisters, Etta Johnson & Roxanna Hamblin; brother, Beasley Willis, Sr.; three aunts; an uncle; 9 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

BILL R. WISHORK

Funeral service for Bill R. Wishork, 62, was held on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, from the Pearl River Mennonite Church. Rev. Glenn Myers & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Pearl River Community Cem-

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

Mr. Wishork passed away on April 23 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was employed at Pearl River Resort & enjoyed being with his family, attending ball games, playing bingo & pool, going to flea markets, watching westerns, & shopping.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Zella Wishork; brothers, Major Wishork, Raymond Wishork, Carl Wishork, & John Wishork; six aunts & an uncle.

Survivors include his wife, Marianna Wishork; daughters, Samantha Gibson & April Wishork; sons, Samuel Mingo, William Wishork, Marco Thomas, Jr., Demarco Thomas, & Romero Thomas; 7 grandchildren; an aunt; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, foster children, & friends.

INFANT SELBY KEISDEN TUSHKA-OSI DIXON

Funeral service for Selby Keisden Tushka-Osi Dixon, infant, was held on Thursday, April 27, 2017, from the Pearl River Community Center. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr., officiated.

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

Infant Dixon passed away on April 21 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Lincoln & Samantha Wallace, Bobby John, Florine Dixon & Selby Dixon; & cousins.

Survivors include his parents, Lakeisha Wallace & Selbylee Dixon; sisters, A'ali Dixon, Shohmalali Dixon & Kleilali Dixon; grandparents, Glen Dixon,

Sr., Tracy Wallace & Angie Billy, Julie John; great-grandparents, Lilly & Collins Billy, Ruby John; numerous aunts & uncles; a great-aunt; a great-uncle; & a host of relatives.

CARMEN THOMAS

Funeral service for Carmen "Moon" Thomas, 64, was held on Friday, April 28, 2017, from the Bogue Homa Baptist Church. Rev. Hubert Ladner & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr., officiated.

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

Mr. Thomas passed away on April 23 at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg.

He dedicated his life to God, his family &

.....see **OBITS**, pg. 22

heartfelt "thank you" cards to the CAP staff & telling them how much they appreciated the quilting class. All 32 cards are displayed at the CAP office.

CAP Participates in Parade, Activities

On a beautiful Wednesday morning, April 12, the CAP participated in a parade with other MBCI organizations & DOECE to promote child abuse prevention & awareness. The parade & activities

were sponsored by the Department of Family & Community Services.

The staff is always thrilled to dress in animal costumes to entertain the children. The parade started from the St. Therese's Catholic Church parking lot & ended at the Pearl River Recreational Field parking lot. All activities were held on the field.

Princess & Warrior Survival Week

The only cultural activity in June will be the

Princess & Warrior Survival Week. The staff is looking forward to the event to train our Choctaw youths in cultural development in hopes that they will learn & help the program to promote the Choctaw culture, as well as their own economical benefit for years to come.

Some of today's youths aspire to become Choctaw tradition bearers for future generations. For more information, call (601) 663-7506.



"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

OBITS continued from page twenty-one

numerous foster children. He enjoyed coaching softball, having conversations, & displaying his sense of humor.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Newman Thomas & Corine Jim Billy; a son, Gorman Thomas; a brother, Euna Cotton; & a granddaughter.

Survivors include his wife, Pearlie Thomas; daughters, Jennifer Thomas, Vita Johnson & Tina Thomas; step-mother, Mazola Thomas; sisters, Diane Ben, Margaret Jefferson, Ailene Thomas, Mary Sykes, Romona Pitts, Brenda Vaughn, Patricia Henderson, & Roberta Smith; brothers, Clarence Thomas & Chris Thomas; 13 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, foster children, & friends.

ROBY GIBSON

Funeral service for Roby Gibson, 76, was held on Saturday, April 29, 2017, from the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Red Water. Deacon Gary Chickaway & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

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

Mr. Gibson passed away on April 27 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He was a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church & was employed at Red Water Facility Building & Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed spending time with family & friends, doing crossword puzzles, watching wrestling, science fiction movies, & westerns on TV.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Nolie & Francis Gibson; a spouse, Helen Willis Gibson; sisters, Doreen Gibson Willis & Fannie Gibson Willis; & brothers, Clay Gibson, Paul Gibson, Houston Gibson, & Stephen Gibson.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Gibson; daughter, Flora Gibson; sons, Stanley Gibson & Nolan Gibson; 9 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

PRESTON FRANKLIN ISAAC

Funeral service for Preston Franklin Isaac, 87, was held on Saturday, April 29, 2017, from the Pearl River Community Gymnasium. Deacon Ricky Thompson, Sr. & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

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

Mr. Isaac passed away on April 26 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a Korean & Vietnam War veteran with the U.S. Army. He attained rank of 1st Master Sergeant & was with Department of Veterans Affairs for over 10 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, David Isaac & Lesper Phillips Isaac; brothers, Joe D. Isaac, Vann D. Isaac, Paul D. Isaac, & Milton Isaac; sisters, Wanzie

Isaac Christie, Theresa Isaac Wilson, & Catherine Isaac; & 3 grandchildren.

Survivors include his daughters, Cheryl Isaac & Prisinda Isaac; son, Edward Isaac; a brother, Malcolm Isaac; 9 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

SUDIE MAE BELL ISAAC

Funeral service for Sudie Mae Bell Isaac, 87, was held on Monday, May 1, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Rev. Travis Willis & Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

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

Ms. Isaac passed away on April 26 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She was a member of Bogue Chitto Baptist Church & worked as a school cook for 19 years. She was also a foster parent. She enjoyed fishing, sewing, watching sports & wrestling, & playing video games.

She is preceded in death by her spouse, Junius Isaac; parents, Bob & Geneva Bell; sister, Rose Willis; brother, Bobby Sam Bell; & sons, Leonard Paul Bell & an infant child.

Survivors include her daughters, Janie Wil-

liams, Veronica Thomas & Xavier Isaac; sons, Lucas Frazier, Kendall Frazier, Curtis Willis, Sr., & Charles Isaac; sisters, Thallis Lewis & Fairra Thomas; brother, Hayward Bell; 15 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

LAUREN KETCHER WESLEY

Funeral service for Lauren Ketcher Wesley, 52, was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, from the St. Therese Catholic Church in Pearl River. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

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

Mrs. Wesley passed away on April 29 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She was employed at the Pearl River Resort & enjoyed being with family & friends, doing beadwork, & traveling.

She was preceded in death by her father, Roy Ketcher, Sr.

Survivors include her husband, Danny Wesley; mother, Murlene Tubby Jim; daughter, Tori Nickey; step-daughters, Alicia N. Wesley, Nastassija Lyons & Summer Wesley; step-sons, Jay Wesley, Daniel Thompson & Clinton Wesley; sisters, Cathy Calamare, Carmen Bell & Vanessa Ketcher; brothers, Terry Tubby, Roy "Smoky"

...continued next page

Welcome To



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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*

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

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Pastor Thomas Ben

Ketcher, Roy Ketcher, Maxwell Ketcher, Gregory Jim, Franklin Ketcher, Eric Ketcher; 17 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; & a host of relatives & friends.

LOUIS "MIKE" DAVIS

Funeral service for Louis "Mike" Davis, 87, was held on Monday, May 8, 2017, from Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Augustine Palimattam, S.T., officiated.

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

Mr. Davis passed away on April 29 in Olympia, WA.

He was a U.S. Army veteran & attained the rank of Drill Sergeant. He was employed with Simpson Timber Co. & was also a traveling missionary for the Indian Shaker Church Incorporation.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, his loyal dog, reading western books, playing baseball, fishing, working in his yard, & traveling.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willie Davis & Mattie Martin Davis; first spouse, Shirley Cultee Davis; sisters, Mary Davis Jefferson & Annie Davis; & brothers, John Davis, Michael Davis, Sr., & William Davis.

Survivors include his wife, Rose Cooper Davis; a son, Eugene Davis; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ZELLA ROSE MINGO CRAVATT

Funeral service for Zella Rose Mingo Cravatt, 70, was held on Monday, May 8, 2017, from Pearl River Baptist Church. Rev. Carl Wilson & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

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

Ms. Cravatt passed away on May 4 at Rush Specialty Hospital in Meridian.

She was a retired Certified Nurse Assistant & enjoyed being with family & friends, watching sports & wrestling on TV, & playing bingo.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John Mingo, Sr. & Katie Mae Tubby Sam; sisters, infant Mingo, Joyce Needham Thomas, Mary Sullivan Tubby, & Sarah Jim; & brothers, Donald Sam, Douglas Sam, Sr. & Leo Sam.

Survivors include her daughters, Sandra Cravatt & Katie Cravatt Reed; son, Irvin Cravatt; brothers, J.T. Sam, James Earl Mingo, & Albert Mingo; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

MAGELINE "MAGGIE" POLK GIBSON

Funeral service for Mageline "Maggie" Polk Gibson, 71, was held on Saturday, May 13, 2017, from the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Red Water. Rev. Terry

Dixon & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

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

Mrs. Gibson passed away on May 10 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She loved fishing, watching Lifetime movies, doing puzzles, & watching her grandchildren play sports.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Francis Jack Polk & Minnie Odell Polk; sister, Shirley Sue Jim; brothers, George Polk, Sr., Harry Polk & Arthur Farmer; & an infant Polk.

Survivors include her husband, Stanley Gibson; a daughter, Samatha Polk; a son, Mickey Polk; sisters, Eva Shumake, Clettie Willis, Leslie Wallace, & Ruby John; four grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

MARY FRANCES SAM

Funeral service for Mary Frances Sam, 75, was held on Saturday, May 13, 2017, from the Red Water Facility Building. Joy McMillan officiated.

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

Ms. Sam passed away on May 9 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was employed in manufacturing & was a cook at Red Water Elementary School. She

had a strong work ethic, undying faith in God & enjoyed attending tent revivals & hosting services at her home.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Silmon & Rosie Wilson; husband, R.B. Sam; daughter, Patricia Gail Sam; son, Davis Ray Wilson; sister, Geraldine John; brothers, Jimmy Wilson & Audro Wilson; & a grandson.

Survivors include her sons, Bobby Sam, Eric Sam & Mark Sam; 3 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

JOSHUA HICKMAN

Funeral service for Joshua Hickman, 31, was held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Deacon Ricky Thompson, Sr. & Bro. Gerald Willis, Sr., officiated.

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

Mr. Hickman passed away on May 12 at Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, being on his cell phone, & joking around with others.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Gamblin & Ellen Willis; grandparents, Ivora Hickman Johnson & Willie Hickman; sister, Kelli Leann Hickman; an aunt, two uncles, & a step-grandfather.

Survivors include his

mother, Angela Hickman; grandmother, Stella Willis; seven aunts; five uncles; & a host of relatives & friends.

PATTY CAROL SHOEMAKE

Funeral service for Patty Carol Shoemake, 53, was held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, from the Pearl River Community Center. Felton John & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

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

Ms. Shoemake passed away on May 12 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She enjoyed listening to music, doing crossword puzzles, & being with family & friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Edmond Shoemake & Berdie Mae Jefferson Shoemake; brothers, Arthur Shumake & John Hemricks Shumake; sons, Marcus Dewayne Jefferson & Arman Duran Jefferson; & a grandchild.

Survivors include a son, Dallas Shoemake; sisters, Lora Jane Lewis, Peggy Sue Shoemake, & Sherry Jim; brothers, Lee Earl Shumake & Norman Ray Shoemake; 13 grandchildren; a special friend, Ronnie Willis; & a host of relatives & friends.

Happy Belated Birthdays to the following: Joshua Richard on April 7; Caleb Dixon on



April 7; Akiza King who turned 5 on April 10; Jermica Tubby on April 14; Ja'nayah Clayton on April 20 & Alistar King who turned 4; Duane Kelley on April 26; & Irvin Cravatt on April 28.

Happy Birthdays to the following: Brandi Bell on May 6; Hester Allen on May 9; Sarena Anderson on May 11; Naomi King who turned 8 on May 16; Kismet Addison Tubby on May 22; Jade LaBatte on May 24;

Ty Keams on May 30; & Lonzo Thomas on May 31 - from everyone who loves you all.

Happy Birthdays to the following: Amomit Bell on June 9; Denise John on June 11; Grandma Billy on June 16, from your loving family; Earl Henry on June 22 & J.B. Willis; Loretta Williams on June 24; & Brayson King who turns 3 on June 27 - from everyone who loves you.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

MAY 2017

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Ben Signs With Southwest Mississippi

Neshoba Central High School senior T.J. Ben recently signed to play college basketball at Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit. This past season, the Rockets finished runner-up in the Class 5A state basketball tournament in Jackson. Pictured, seated from left, are family members DeAnna Hernandez, T.J., Diane Alex, Paeton Gibson; standing from left, Terry Ben, Chenice Ben, Taylor Ben, T.K. Ben, & Barbara Ben.

Denson Graduates From MSD

Winfred Denson, of the Standing Pine Community, graduated from the Mississippi School for the Deaf (MSD) in Jackson on Friday, May 19. Denson was invited to participate in Choctaw Central's senior class luncheon on May 22, hosted by Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. He was recognized during Choctaw Central's graduation ceremony on May 23. Pictured above, from left, is Chief Anderson with Winfred Denson. MSD offers elementary & secondary education, covering students from pre-kindergarten to twelfth grade.



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