



CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Tribe Mourns Passing of Councilman Ben

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians remembered the legacy of Choctaw Tribal Council member Harrison Ben, 81, during funeral services on Saturday, April 16, 2016, at the Standing Pine Community Gymnasium.

Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated the service and burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services of Philadelphia was in charge of arrangements.

Ben, a representative of the Standing Pine community, passed away on Saturday, April 9 at Abrazo Central Campus Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona.

Members of the Tribal Council observed a moment of silence during an April 12 meeting as they offered their appreciation and praise for the longtime public servant, respected elder of the community and mentor.

"It has been my honor to know and work with Mr. Ben for more than three decades," said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson during the meeting. "In those years I have known him to be a wise leader, passionate in his beliefs, unafraid to speak his mind, a compassionate and loyal public servant to the Choctaw people, a mentor, a voice of reason and, most importantly, a dear and respected friend."

Ben was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. After 20 years of service, he retired



HARRISON BEN
1934 - 2016

as Master Staff Sergeant in August 1975 and returned home with his family to Standing Pine.

He received his Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from Clarke Junior College in Newton in 1955. He then earned his Bachelor's Degree in business management with a minor in economics from the University of Tampa in Tampa, Fla. in 1975 and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Mississippi State University in 1982.

From November 1975 through August 1976, he was an assistant superintendent at Chata Development. He was then employed as a juvenile officer for the Tribe. From 1980 until 1994, he served as director for the Tribe's Department of Family and Community Services.

In 1995, he was elected to the Tribal Council. During his tenure, he served as secretary/treasurer from July 1999 through July 2003 and served twice as vice-chief from 2005-2007 and 2009-2011. Throughout his terms, he chaired the Tribal Council's committees on Veteran's Affairs, Culture, Insurance & Investment, Children & Youth, and Natural Resources.

.....see BEN, pg. 3

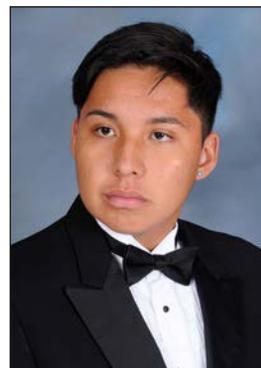
CCHS Announces 2016 Top Scholars

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) announced the top scholars for the Class of 2016. Once again, the valedictorian was also named the STAR Student. The salutatorian is a young woman who is both a scholar and an athlete.

This year's Valedictorian and STAR Student honors go to Nicholas Raymark McMillian as Emilee Ann Thames was named Salutatorian.

"It is always exciting to witness the extraordinary accomplishments our Tribal students have made," said Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. "Nicholas and Emilee and their peers demonstrate the type of exceptional academic excellence that is a long-standing tradition in the Choctaw Tribal Schools."

Nicholas is the son of Lee and Sunni McMillian of the Pearl River Community. Nicholas had an active high school career as he served as president of the pow wow committee, secretary of both his senior class and the Beta Club, and a member of the High School Green Team, Solar Car Team, and the ACT 20+ Club. He is also an



Pictured from left are CCHS Valedictorian Nicholas R. McMillian & Salutatorian Emilee Ann Thames.

active member of the Chahta Alla Youth Council and was named Philadelphia Rotary Club's Student of the Month for November 2015.

Nicholas received many awards during his four years at Choctaw Central. This year alone

.....see CCHS HONORS, pg. 7

Fair Entertainment, Extras Announced

It's that time of year again for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to showcase their beautiful Choctaw cultural traditions during the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair July 13-16.

The fair will host chart-topping and award-winning country music artists Sawyer Brown, Sara Evans and Trace Adkins at the Pearl River Amphitheater main stage, in addition to fan favorite the Scales, Tails and Teeth Gator Show

featuring Andy Riffle and Ian Tyson, as seen on Animal Planet's "Gator Boys," and the Living Traditions Dance Troupe with World Champion Hoop Dancer Derrick Davis.

The entertainment schedule features the 62nd Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant on Wednesday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Sawyer Brown will hit the stage on Thursday, July 14, followed by Sara Evans on Friday, July 15 and Trace

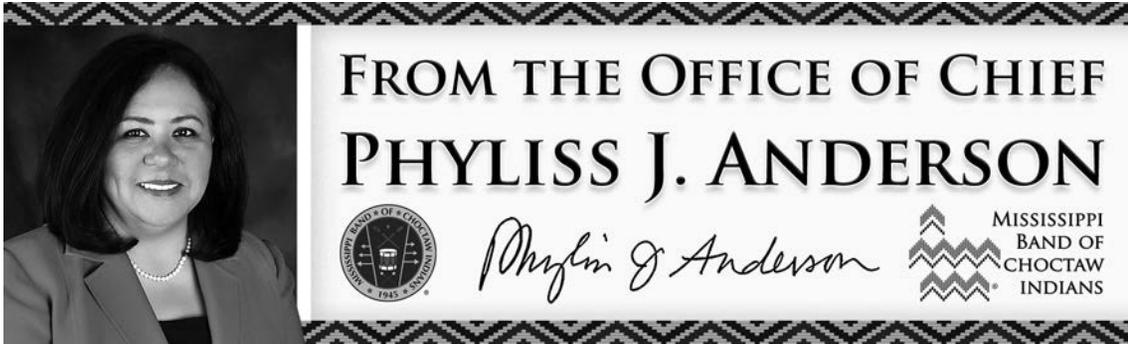
Adkins on Saturday, July 16. All concerts begin at 8:30 p.m.

The Scales, Tails & Teeth Gator Show is scheduled for Thursday-Saturday with three shows daily.

The Living Traditions Dance Troupe is scheduled for Thursday-Saturday, with a special performance on Thursday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m. on the main stage.

Fair competition includes

.....see FAIR, pg. 3



Halito! Spring has sprung on the Choctaw Indian Reservation with beautiful flowers, warming temperatures and, of course, our annual Choctaw Tribal Schools spring festivals. With one more month to go before the end of the school year, students are eagerly awaiting summer break and seniors are excited about graduation and college. We have had many wonderful activities take place in the past few weeks, and we look forward to more in the coming months.

I'm pleased to share renovation projects that were included in our FY2016 budget are nearing completion. I feel confident that you will enjoy the much-needed improvements that are being made to our facilities.

We are continuing to finalize our plans for the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. We are excited to make some Fair announcements in this *Choctaw Community News* edition. I look forward to sharing more great news with you in the coming months.

PASSING OF COUNCILMAN HARRISON BEN

On Saturday, April 9, 2016, our Tribe mourned the loss of

respected Tribal elder Harrison Ben, Tribal Council representative of the Standing Pine community.

I have known Mr. Ben for many years, even before our service together on the Tribal Council. He was a great friend and a mentor to me, but what I most admired about him was his love and passion for his family and the people of his community.

He was a loving husband, father and grandfather who instilled in his family the virtues of hard work, dedication and establishing a firm foundation through education. Even before his six terms on the Council, he was already well-known for lending a helping hand to his fellow community members. His faith was what guided him in the decisions he made.

He leaves behind an outstanding legacy of public service that we should all seek to follow. I continue to pray for peace and comfort for his family.

CCHS ATHLETICS UPDATE

Choctaw Central High School baseball and fast-pitch softball has concluded for the year, and I congratulate our

players and coaches for a successful season and urge them to keep up the good work. Both are young teams that will return year after year and build upon the skills they have learned.

Our golf teams recently competed in the regional tournament. Lady Warrior golfer Breanna Layne Isaac placed second in the tournament, as well as Trent Hundley who placed second in his tournament. Both advanced to the state championships, which begin May 2.

Our track and field team has had a successful run and recently competed in the regional tournament. The athletes' superior performance advanced them to state championships in Pearl, MS on Saturday, May 7.

In powerlifting, Cobi John placed sixth in his weight division at the state championships on Saturday, April 16.

The Choctaw Central Unified team and other individual winners competed in the Special Olympics and 2016 Spring State Games Championship on April 2 and brought home several wins! Traditional 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament received the Silver Medal (team members: Raven McMillan, DeMarco Thomas, Quentin Comby, Mia Alex and Richard John, Jr.) and Individual Team Skills competitors brought home several pieces of hardware: Shawn Wishork - Gold Medal, Bryce Martin - Silver Medal, and Taylum Wishork - Bronze Medal. Again congratulations to all our student athletes and coaches.

TRIBAL STUDENTS AT SCIENCE FAIR

Our students did a great job at the Region V Lower Science and Engineering Fair at Mississippi State University

Pictured from left are CCHS athletes Breanna Isaac, Trent Hundley & Cobi John.



on Thursday, April 7, 2016.

We had several participants place in the top ten and top five, and we could not be more proud of them! I encourage all of our young scholars to keep on learning and discovering the wonders of the world around them.

NAYO TOURNAMENT

We were proud to host the 2016 NAYO basketball tournament on March 23-26, 2016. There was a record turnout of 75 teams, and we actually had to start the tournament a day early. As always, our Tribe was well-represented with several local community teams, and a good time was had by all participants.

I thank the hard-working staff at Tribal Recreation for their efforts in making this a successful tournament. We hope to see everyone come back for the softball and baseball tournaments in the fall.

CCHS GRADUATION

It's hard to believe that another school year is about to end and that we celebrate graduation with the Class of 2016. This year's CCHS graduation ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the Silver Star Convention Center.

Valedictorian and STAR student is Nicholas McMillian, and salutatorian is Emilee Thames. I am proud of our seniors and am excited to participate in this ceremony to share this wonderful milestone with them. I hope you will all join us and show your support to our graduates.

CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOL SPRING FESTIVALS

We are so proud of all our students, teachers, parents, school faculty and staff for

their preparation and performance at this year's spring festivals. I know there is a lot of time and skill put into the making of dresses, shirts, beadwork and other clothing items.

Our children have worked hard to learn the steps of our dances and it is a joy to share these experiences with them.

Events like spring festival instill a strong sense of cultural pride and life-long memories they share with their peers.

It is our unique Choctaw traditions that we celebrate and pass along to the next generation. I cannot think of a more beautiful display of our culture than seeing our young showcase their talents. Congratulations and great job!

RESORT PERFORMANCE AND REFINANCE PACKAGE

Our resort continues to improve performance as we continuously examine management practices and resort operations.

The gaming industry is very fast paced and changes happen every day. We have to adapt with the times to keep our customers and bring in new ones. That's why last year we made the renovations and upgrades at the Resort and it continues to pay off.

Here are just a few numbers to prove our success.

- In the first 4 months of FY2016, we are earning \$2.1 Million above our projected budget.

- Our cash on hand continues to grow as we put aside money for our future. In just 5 years we have grown our cash reserves by \$45 Million!

- And the reactivation of the Golden Moon continues to show success with revenues up by \$12 Million since opening.

.....continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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

**COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350
TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565**

Brian C. Willis.....Communications Manager
Kathie Henry.....Communications Writer
Taryn Carey.....Communications Writer
Darron Tubby.....Communications Writer

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

• Our Choctaw workforce at the Resort is strong with 48% of all Resort Associates enrolled MBCI tribal members.

And most recently, we have secured and gained approval by the Choctaw Tribal Council for a refinance package that consolidates all our outstanding debt at a rate of approximately 2%! This results in a tremendous savings of interest expenses.

This is good money management and proven confidence by investors in our leadership.

CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

On April 12, a regular call Tribal Council was held to consider 26 items on the agenda based on draft resolutions considered and forwarded to the full Council during the Pre-Council meeting held on April 8. However, at the April 12 meeting, a majority of the Council voted to include on the agenda two additional items: one, amendments to the Administrative Personnel Policies and Procedures (the "HR Policy"), and, two, amendments to the Tribal Council Expense Policy (the "Expense Policy").

I objected to the inclusion of these two additional items based on the following legal and procedural grounds, and I expressed my hope for the Council to delay a vote on these two additional items until these concerns were adequately addressed through further discussion and cooperation since the two items were not necessary to address any emergency situation.

First, there are certain amendments to the HR Policy that unlawfully transfer management authority and responsibility over certain Executive Branch employees from the Tribal Chief to the Tribal Council, and this is not permitted under our Constitution and Bylaws.

While I respect the constitutional authority of the Tribal Council to establish procedures for the conduct of all tribal government and business operations, the exercise of that authority must not infringe on the express and inherent au-

thority of the Tribal Chief, as the principal executive officer of the Tribe, to manage, direct, and administer the operations of the tribal programs and services.

Second, my objection to the Expense Policy is based on the fact the proposal was never approved by the proper committee to be submitted to the full Council.

The Tribal Council should abide by its own committee systems rules and procedure, as well as historical practice, to require that (non-emergency) proposed enactments be considered and approved by the appropriate committee of the Council before being submitted to the Tribal Council.

Despite my objections, a majority of the Tribal Council voted to approve the HR Policy and the Expense Policy.

I am disappointed in the members of the Tribal Council that supported these two resolutions. As elected officials, we all took an oath to uphold and protect the Constitution and to abide by the laws of our Tribe. That's what I have done and will continue to do in order to protect the future of our Tribe.

Since 1975, our reservation has grown and prospered as the result of a stable Tribal government built on the strong foundation of a Tribal Chief who is elected by the people of all Tribal communities to serve as the principal executive officer and head of the Executive Branch of the Tribal government. I am also concerned the inability of the Tribal Council to work cooperatively with the Tribal Chief sends a message of instability to reservation customers, outside investors and the many tribal members both on and off the reservation who depend on us.

I am not giving up. I am thoroughly reviewing these new policies that were adopted, and I am looking at how to move forward and serve the best interests of our Tribe while faithfully and honestly executing the duties of my office, which include protecting our Tribal Constitution.

CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR UPDATE

I am excited to announce the nightly entertainment schedule for the Choctaw Indian Fair. As usual, the Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant will be held on the opening night, Wednesday, July 13, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. Nightly entertainment Thursday through Saturday nights will begin at 8:30 p.m.

On Thursday, July 14th, we welcome Sawyer Brown to the stage, followed by Sara Evans on Friday, July 15th and Trace Adkins on Saturday, July 16th.

We are also excited to bring back crowd favorites such as the Scales, Tails and Teeth Gator Show, Living Traditions Dance Troupe and competitions such as Iron Warrior and REZRUN.

As our tagline says, there's something for everyone at the Choctaw Indian Fair!

CLOSING

I hope that you are spending time with family during these spring sports games and community gatherings. These events are opportunities for you to have fun and make memories, and it is vital in this fast-paced world to slow things down and have an enjoyable time with loved ones. I appreciate your hard work and commitment to a better future for our Tribe. I remain dedicated to my pledge of building a high quality of life for our people. Thank you for your support and your prayers.

Many Blessings,



Phylliss J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief

FAIR continued from page one

Gospel Night on Tuesday, July 12. The winning act will perform prior to either the Sawyer Brown or Sara Evans concert.

The Iron Warrior competition (men's & women's division) will be held Thursday, July 14-Saturday, July 16. Registration is open at www.choctawindianfair.com/competitions.

The 5th Annual REZ RUN will be held on Saturday, July 16 beginning at 7:00 a.m. at Warrior Stadium. Registration is open at www.racesonline.com

Choctaw Social Dancing and cultural displays will also be showcased at the stage nightly before musical performances. Immediately following the show, World Series Stickball games will be played at Warrior Stadium with the World Series Stickball Championship Game capping off the last night of the fair on Saturday, July 16 at 10:15 p.m.

To learn more about the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair, visit www.choctawindianfair.com, like us on Facebook at Choctaw Indian Fair or call the fair hotline at 601-650-7450.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TRIBAL ELECTION

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will hold a Special Tribal Election on Tuesday, June 07, 2016, for one (1) seat on the Tribal Council for the remainder of the four-year term (2015-2019). The MBCI Tribal Election Committee includes the following members: 1) Berdie John, Chairperson; 2) Amy Pauls, Member; 3) Wanda Davidson, Member; 4) Gary Williamson, Alternate; 5) Shirley Wilson, Alternate; and 6) Danita Darlene Willis, Alternate.

To be elected to the Tribal Council:
One seat in Standing Pine, with term expiring in 2019.

The Tribal Election Committee will appoint a Local Community Election Committee (LCEC) to conduct this election. Tribal members who are registered to vote will cast their ballots at the polling place operated by the Local Community Election Committee. Voters must bring a form of identification.

Times and places listed below:

COMMUNITY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Standing Pine	Tuesday, June 07, 2016	8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.	Facility Building/Gym

REGISTRATION

Tribal members 18 years of age or older who do not yet registered to vote may register at the Tribal Election Office. See Mavis H. Hickman. If you do not register to vote on or before 5:00 p.m., May 6, 2016, you cannot vote in the June 07, 2016, election. If you have already registered to vote, you do not need to register again unless you have moved to another community since the day of your registration.

ABSENTEE BALLOT

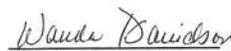
Any qualified registered voter who is age 57 or above, or who is physically unable to appear at the poll on election date, or who resides 50 miles or more distance from the community in which he or she is registered to vote shall be entitled to vote by absentee ballot. Request for absentee ballots shall be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Tribal Election Committee at the Tribal Election Office no later than 12:00 noon on May 23, 2016. Requests for absentee ballots received after this date and time will not be honored. Walk-in absentee ballot requests shall be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Tribal Election Committee no later than 12:00 noon on the day before the election date. Document of proof supporting the walk-in absentee ballot request is mandatory. Mailed and walk-in requests for absentee ballots can be only for the person making the request; the request cannot be made on behalf of others.

INFORMATION

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

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

The chairperson of the Local Election Committee, who is officially appointed to conduct an election in your community, may also be contacted.

  
Berdie John, Chairperson Amy Pauls, Member Wanda Davidson, Member

BEN continued from page one

He and his wife, Mary Jane (Wickson) Ben, were married for 57 years until her death in 2010. They had six children. He enjoyed being with his family, attending high school basketball games at Choctaw Central and Neshoba Central, farming, raising cattle, fishing, and playing baseball with his sons.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Olen and Neva Ben; wife, Mary J. Ben; and sisters, Nannie Mae Ortiz, Annie Laura Alex and Mattie Lou Ben.

He is survived by his daughters, Gwen Ben of Austin, TX, Karen (and Todd) Adams of Madison & Marion (and Richard) Sockey of Standing Pine; sons, Timothy (and Donna) Ben of Philadelphia, Gary (and Helen) Ben of Standing Pine & Greg (and Dianna) Ben of Choctaw; a sister, Josephine Schoonover of McAlister, OK; nine grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.



NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER

What is Zika Virus?



Question

Symptoms

Transmission

Zika is a viral disease that is spread primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. This mosquito is an aggressive daytime biter and prefers to live both indoors and outdoors close to people. Zika virus can cause illness that lasts several days or up to a week. Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly, as well as other severe fetal brain defects. Currently, there is no cure, vaccine, or direct treatment for Zika virus.

- Four out of five people infected with the virus do not experience any symptoms
- For people who do develop illness, the most common symptoms are:
 - ★ Fever
 - ★ Rash
 - ★ Joint Pain
 - ★ Conjunctivitis (red eyes)
- Once infected, he or she is likely to be protected from future infections.

Anyone who lives in or travels to an area where Zika virus is found and has never been infected, can get the virus from a mosquito bite. The virus is also transmitted from:

- Mother to unborn child
- Having sex with a man that is infected by the virus (only sexually transmitted by men)
- Through a blood transfusion

Zika Virus and Pregnant Women



A main health concern of Zika virus is the potential problems that can affect an unborn child. If a woman becomes infected with Zika virus prior to or during pregnancy, she can pass the virus to her unborn child. The virus can cause serious brain damage, such as underdeveloped brain and skull (microcephaly), defects of the eyes, hearing problems and impaired growth.

How to Protect You and Your Family



Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellents as directed by manufacturer's guidelines and wear long sleeve shirts and pants.

SAFE SEX

Use condoms to prevent the transmission of the virus



Stay indoors and use air conditioners, screen doors, and screen windows to keep mosquitoes out

Be Alert



Currently, there are 41 out of 50 states that have laboratory confirmed Zika virus cases. Take caution when in areas that have confirmed cases of Zika virus.



Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Sites



To prevent mosquitoes from breeding, empty containers that hold standing water such as flower pots, pet dishes, buckets, toys, bird baths and discarded tires.

Kidney Talk

Submitted by Dr. Otis Gowdy, Jr.
(Nephrologist, Internal Medicine Clinic, Meridian, & CHC Primary Care Clinic)



Kidney disease is often referred to as the “silent” disease. Early kidney disease has no symptoms. You can’t feel that you have it, so it’s important to know if you are at risk so you can get tested.

The two main causes of kidney disease in Mississippi are Hypertension (high blood pressure) and Diabetes (sugar). Kidney disease also runs in families.

The Risk Factors

- Do you have diabetes?
- Do you have high blood pressure?
- Do you have a family history of kidney disease?
- Do you have heart disease?
- Do you have a relative (mother, father, sister, or brother) who has diabetes or high blood pressure?
- Are you Native American, African American, Hispanic, or Asian?

If you have any of these risk

factors, I encourage you to talk with your doctor about being tested for kidney disease. Blood and urine tests are the only way to know. Talk to your doctor if you notice swelling in your legs, hands or feet as that could mean you may be having problems with your kidneys.

Kidney disease can be treated if caught in the early stages. Don’t wait for symptoms if you are at risk... GET TESTED!

Ways to Prevent or Slow the Progression of Kidney Disease

- Have regular checkups with your doctor.
- Take medicines as prescribed.
- Keep your blood pressure at a healthy level of less than 120/80.
- Control your blood sugar.
- Eat a healthy diet.
- Exercise regularly.
- Maintain your ideal weight.
- Limit your daily salt in-

take.

- Do not smoke.
- Talk to a dietitian or ask your doctor about a “kidney friendly” diet.

With early detection and treatment, the progression of kidney disease can be delayed or even prevented. GET TESTED!

SDPI hosts Spring Into Fitness event

The Special Diabetes Prevention Initiatives (SDPI) sponsored the annual Diabetes Awareness Spring Into Fitness 2 Mile Walk/Run on Saturday, April 2.

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

The annual event promotes diabetes awareness across the Choctaw Reservation as

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“Talk Early, Talk Often: Parents Can Make a Difference in Teen Alcohol Use”

Each April since 1987, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) has sponsored Alcohol Awareness Month to increase public awareness and understanding, reduce stigma and encourage local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues.

With this year’s theme, “Talk Early, Talk Often: Parents Can Make a Difference in Teen Alcohol Use,” the month of April will be filled with local, state, and national events aimed at educating people about the treatment and prevention of alcoholism, particularly among our youth, and the important role that parents can play in giving adolescents and children a better understanding of the impact that alcohol can have on their lives.

Alcohol use by young people is extremely dangerous—both to themselves and to society, and is directly associated with traffic fatalities, violence, suicide, educational failure, alcohol overdose, unsafe sex and other problem behaviors, even for those who may never develop a dependence or addiction. Adolescence is a time of heightened risk-taking and as alcohol and drugs are involved, parents are faced with a unique set of challenges. They can simply sit back and hope their kids will “get through it,” or they can take an active role in learning about alcohol and drugs and helping their kids do the same.

It can be daunting to talk with children about drinking and drug use, but it is well worth the effort parents put into it. In fact, research has shown that kids who have conversations with their parents and learn a lot about the dangers of alcohol and drug use are 50% less likely to use these substances than those who don’t have such conversations, (NCADD, 2016).

For More Information, call Choctaw Behavioral Health at 601/389-4150



participants are urged to become educated on diabetes prevention and management and hopefully overcome the devastating effects of diabetes.

Overall winners were (male) Alonzo Henry with his time of 13:04 and (female) Allison Meely with her time of 16:45.

First and second place finishers in each age category are listed & pictured above.

(Ages 7-Under) Male - 1st, Koi Denson; 2nd, Shad Thompson; Female - 1st, Iyley

Denson; 2nd, Lailah Henry.

(Ages 8-10) Male - 1st, Kaden Bell; 2nd, Rocky Steve; Female - 1st, Briley Willis; 2nd, Jaden Wesley.

(Ages 11-14) Male - 1st, Logan Comby; 2nd, Jareth Isaac; Female - 1st, Taysia Kewis; 2nd, Sherale Lewis.

(Ages 15-18) Male - 1st, Alex Bell; Female - 1st, Autumn Lewis.

(Ages 19-24) Male - 1st, Ralando Bowden; 2nd, Josh Farmer; Female - 1st, Deshayna Hickman; 2nd, Deandrea Williams.

(Ages 25-34) Male - 1st, Beasley Willis, Jr.; 2nd, Jermika John; Female - 1st, Lacey Sharp; 2nd, Cheriena Ben.

(Ages 35-44) Male - 1st,

Rian Willis; 2nd, Jay Wesley; Female - 1st, Renita Willis; 2nd, Valerie Sam.

(Ages 45-54) Male - 1st, Gaylon Williams; 2nd, Tony York, Jr.; Female - 1st, Deborah Henry; 2nd, Peggy Williams.

(Ages 55-Above) Male - 1st, Aldolph Vivians; 2nd, Dan Mittan; Female - 1st, Carleen Gilmore; 2nd, Cheryl Denson.

SDPI was established in 2004 to serve adult Tribal members who are at-risk of developing diabetes. The program objective is to recruit patients and test them for a condition called Pre-Diabetes in an effort to prevent the onset of diabetes.

They provide 16 weeks of

intensive activities for patients with Pre-Diabetes and upon completion, the staff provides a monthly follow-up with the

patient. After-care classes are provided for patients to attend each month.

Dental Program Offering Mouth Guards

The Choctaw Health Center Dental Department in Choctaw announces the following dates and locations (listed below) for Tribal member athletes to receive custom-made mouth guards.

Bogue Chitto Dental

Thursdays (April 28, June 2 & June 30) beginning at 8:00 a.m.

CHC Dental

Fridays (May 27, June 10 & July 1) beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Conehatta Dental

Thursdays (May 26, June 9 & June 28) beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Red Water Dental

Wednesdays (May 25 & June 29) beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Anyone registering on these days should arrive at 8:00 a.m. and no later. We will not accept late sign-ins as custom-made mouth guards are done and delivered in a timely manner.

Remember, accidents happen during practice, sometimes more often than during a game. Mouth guards should be worn at all times during any contact sport. This is important to prevent serious injuries to the mouth, chipped or fractured



teeth, and/or nerve damage, and tooth loss.

The CHC Dental Department would like to remind athletes the following information regarding mouth guards.

Why a custom mouth guard? The fit and thickness protects your teeth better than boil and bite.

Do not share your mouth guard! It is made for you and you only. It will not fit anyone else.

Wear your mouth guard for practice and games. You need to wear your mouth guard for practice to get used to breathing and talking with it in your mouth.

Keep it clean. Rinse your mouth guard after each use, just like your toothbrush.

Do not lose your mouth guard! Keep your mouth guard with your stickball sticks. Use one, use the other.

RELAXATION & MINDFULNESS GROUP

PURPOSE:
Learn & practice mindfulness & relaxation for increased awareness & well-being for individuals experiencing stress, depression, anxiety, & mood disorder.

WHAT TO EXPECT:
Confidential, Informal & Welcoming Environment.

WHY ATTEND:
Learn new coping & relaxation skills.

WHEN:
2nd Wednesday of the Month (4:45-5:30 p.m.)
First session begins May 11.

WHERE:
CHC Behavioral Health, 2nd Floor.

***If you wish to join the group or have questions, please call Jody Dorman at Choctaw Behavioral Health at (601) 389-4150 for more information. An intake is required for all participants.**



Looking for Health Insurance that Fits Your Health Needs and Your Budget?

Medicaid or CHIP May Be the Answer! You Can Enroll Any Time - But Why Wait?

Connecting Kids to Coverage: Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) offer low-cost or free health insurance for you and your family. In many states, more adults than ever before may qualify for Medicaid.

Who may be eligible?

- Children and teens up to age 19
- Parents (and other adults, depending on the state)
- Pregnant women
- People with disabilities
- Youth "aging out" of foster care

Eligibility depends on income, the size of your family and the rules in your state.

When you enroll, you can get:

- Doctor visits
- Preventive care, such as immunizations, mammograms & colonoscopy
- Prenatal and maternity care
- Hospital stays
- Mental health care
- Needed medications
- Children get vision and dental care (adults may get these benefits too)

American Indians and Alaska Natives who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP:

- Can still get care from your Indian care provider.
- Don't have to pay premiums or co-payments.
- Indian trust income is not counted to determine eligibility and is protected from Medicaid estate recovery rules.

You benefit by having greater access to health care services.

Tribes benefit because their health programs get more resources.

To find out if you qualify, visit www.KidsPlus.com or call Outreach Services Program 1-601-389-4114 Durnene Farmer, 1-601-389-4124 Robert Ben, or 1-601-389-4280 Laura Dees (Managed Care) for help applying.



Resort Promotes Key Marketing Leader

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – The Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise (CRDE), a business enterprise of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, has announced the promotion of Matthew Perkins to Executive Vice President of Operations and Marketing.



Matthew Perkins

He has 16 years of experience and a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the gaming industry.

Since joining Pearl River Resort as Vice President of Marketing in 2013, Perkins has seamlessly led all aspects of advertising, public relations, database marketing, promotions, entertainment, creative services and sales efforts

for all properties in the CRDE portfolio, including Silver Star Hotel & Casino, Golden Moon Hotel & Casino, Bok Homa Casino, Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, and Geyser Falls Water Theme Park.

“We are excited to have Matthew transition into the role of Executive Vice President of Operations and Marketing,” stated Sonny Johnson, Interim President and CEO for Pearl River Resort.

“During his tenure, he has made significant contributions in rebranding the Resort and reaching thousands of new guests in various markets. He has the type of credentials, high level of expertise, and strong leadership skills that will help ensure continued growth for Pearl River Resort.”

Prior to joining Pearl River Resort, Perkins has held vari-

ous senior leadership positions with Caesar’s Entertainment in Mississippi and Louisiana, including New Orleans, Vicksburg, Shreveport/Bossier, Tunica, and Biloxi.

He previously served as Vice President of Marketing at Grand Biloxi Hotel & Casino, where he was responsible for all facets of marketing including Casino Marketing, Database Marketing, Advertising, Promotions and Events, and Sales. Under his leadership, revenue was significantly increased by the design, implementation and adjustment of the overall marketing strategy and property positioning.

Perkins also served as Regional Vice President of Database Marketing at Harrah’s, where he led the marketing team in implementing marketing strategies that increased revenue and profitability for the company in both the Tunica and Gulf Coast regions. Previous leadership roles held include Director of Database Marketing, Database Marketing Manager, and Database

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For more details, call 601.656.3636, email PRGP@pearlriverresort.com or visit www.pearlriverprinting.com.

We are still conveniently located in the old First American building at 404 Industrial Road, Suite 1, Choctaw, MS 39350

We look forward to doing business with you!

Marketing Analyst.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, Perkins’ gaming career began with Harrah’s/Caesar’s Entertainment, Inc. as General Manager Associate.

Perkins holds a bachelor’s degree in Hospitality Management from the University of Southern Mississippi. He was also the recipient of the Harrah’s Entertainment Chairman’s Award, the highest hon-

or that can be achieved by its employees.

In his new role of Executive Vice President of Operations and Marketing for Pearl River Resort, Perkins will continue to lead all aspects of Marketing and will take on additional responsibilities in leading resort operations, including overseeing the day-to-day activities of all non-gaming aspects of the Resort.

RAISE THE ROOF

Serving Choctaw Communities in Mississippi & Tennessee

Choctaw Housing Authority (CHA) is proud to announce the Raise the Roof Project for current CHA Homebuyers. The CHA Board of Commissioners has approved to service eligible CHA Homebuyers that are in need of roof replacement. At this time, services for roof replacements are only extended to Housing Project 1100 (HOME) and 2700 (NAHASDA). Paid out CHA Units will not qualify.

Raise the Roof Project Eligibility

- Emergency housing tenants will move to the top of the list.
- Selection for the roofing project will be on a first come / first serve basis according to the date applied.
- All recipients’ payments must be current on their account (rent and/or work order).
- Must be 80% or below median family income. (2016 United States Median Family Income Limits listed below).

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

REQUIREMENTS:

- No funds will go directly to tenant.
- Paid out CHA Units will not qualify.
- Recertification must be conducted with current income to meet qualification.
- Inspection of dwelling must meet approval of the Executive Director and Development Manager before assistance can be provided.
- Cost will be added to the original price of home or
- Payment Agreement Plan (approved by Collection Manager and Executive Director).
- 1100 (HOME) & 2700 (NAHASDA) Housing Projects only for 2016 Year.
- Tenant or 18 years old or older must be home during replacement of roof.

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

PAB Honors Thompson

Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) members & guests met on April 12 at the Ayipa Café. They enjoyed a delicious working lunch prepared by the Culinary Arts students & staff at the Occupational Training Center in Choctaw.



Roseanna Thompson, left, was named Outstanding Choctaw Educator for April as she receives her award from PAB Co-Chair Crystal Roach.

Crystal Roach, PAB Co-Chair, recognized Roseanna Thompson as the Outstanding Choctaw Educator for the month of April. Thompson is a strong advocate of her Choctaw culture & language.

She attended Conehatta Elementary School and is a graduate of Choctaw Central High School, Mississippi State University and Penn State University where she obtained a Masters degree in Educational Administration in 1984.

During her 30-year tenure with the Tribe, she served as a teacher, elementary principal, Director of Language Ini-

tiatives, Supreme Court judge, Director of Tribal Language Program, Professional Development Director, Director of Education, and Choctaw Language & Cultural Integration Coordinator for the Department of Schools (DOS).

She is responsible for the creation of Choctaw Language classes & the first Choctaw Immersion Pilot Program for Head Start through grants she administered. Thompson strives to remain humble in all she does.

“I have ideas & visions, but I credit the Tribal Language staff & the DOS staff I have working with me in being able to help the Tribe accomplish these projects. I owe them much gratitude. My vision is to one day hear the sweet sound of the Choctaw language being spoken fluently by all Choctaw children,” said Thompson.

Roseanna is the wife of Billy Thompson.

Students Participate in Special Olympics

Twenty students from Choctaw Central Middle and High School represented Region 18 in the 2016 Spring State Games for Special Olympics Mississippi on Saturday, April 2.

The games were held at the Mississippi Basketball and Athletics Center in Jackson as students participated in individual basketball skills, 3-on-

3 traditional team and 5-on-5 unified competitions.

Special Olympics Unified Sports is a fast-growing initiative that brings people with and without intellectual disabilities together on the same team to compete. The 2015-16 school year is the first year that the Unified approach to Special Olympics was introduced at Choctaw Tribal Schools.

Case Manager Gloria Echols was instrumental in connecting with Mississippi Special Olympics to ensure the project occurred at CCHS. Amanda Reed, CCHS physical education teacher, was responsible for preparing students for the event.

All students showed great compassion and sportsmanship while participating in the day's events. Their demeanor was a glowing example of the true spirit of a Choctaw Central Warrior and Lady Warrior. We are all proud of their accomplishments and congratulate them on a successful season.

For more information, contact District Special Education Coordinator Sherry Tubby at 601-663-7643.



ABOVE, CCHS had 10 student athletes on the CCHS Unified basketball team. They went undefeated & won the 5-on-5 unified gold medal. Team members included Dorian Ben, Keyshana Beamon, Danta Cotton, Marina Davis, Darrel Mingo, Terrance Thomas, Gunnar Tubby, Allen Sockey, Nick Williams, Keyshawn Willis, Kaitlyn Wilson, & Trevor York.

RIGHT, The following CCHS students receiving medals in Target Pass, Spot Shot & 10-Meter Dribble skills included: Shawn Wishork, gold; Bryce Martin, silver; & Taylum Wishork, bronze.



Choctaw Central students Danta Cotton, left, & Nick Williams carried the Olympic Torch as part of the Opening Ceremonies.



CCMS students competed in the 3-on-3 traditional basketball tournament & were awarded silver medals for their efforts. Team members included Mia Alex, Quentin Comby, Richard John, Jr., Raven McMillan, & DeMarco Thomas.



RWES Students Enjoy Field Day

Red Water Elementary School students who met their reading goal participated in the March Madness Field Day. Way to go students!



SPES Jr. Betas Attend Convention

The Standing Pine Elementary School Jr. Beta Club attended the State Jr. Beta Convention in Biloxi on March 20-22. Several Beta Club members took part in competitions & placed in their respective categories. Nataysia Willis placed 3rd (Color Photography), Jaeden Wesley placed 2nd (Handmade Jewelry) & 1st (Watercolor Painting) & Connor Billy placed 1st (Recyclable Art). Other club members in attendance were Chloe Wesley, Tayen Jim, Taition Stokes, TaSheena John, DeShaylee Tubby, Aiden Alex, Cameron Reed, Fichik Willis, Jabari Green, Anya Anderson, & Bishop Reed. Beta sponsors are Dawn Harrell & Amie Pike.



CCHS HONORS continued from page one

he earned awards in AP English IV, Spanish II and Forensics. Academics and clubs aside, Nicholas was a four-year member of the CCHS boys soccer team. The team made it to post-season play for the first time in school history this year.

This fall, Nicholas will attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. In recognition of his academic achievements, Nicholas has received a General Dartmouth Scholarship and the ACT Tuition/Room Board Scholarship.

Nicholas also serves as this year's STAR Student and named student favorite Jamie Franklin as STAR Teacher. This is Franklin's second consecutive year being named STAR Teacher.

Emilee, the daughter of Anthony and Sha-

ron Thames of the Pearl River Community, is a member of the Beta and ACT 20+ Clubs. She was also named Student of the Month for September by the Philadelphia Rotary Club. Emilee received the Calculus, U.S. Government and Spanish I Awards during her senior year at CCHS.

This fall, Emilee will stay close to home and attend the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as high school principal," said CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon. "As shown through the accomplishments of these young people, college and career readiness is being achieved at high levels by our students."

Hoop, CAPPs & Growing the Tribe's Legacy

By Jim McAdory, MSU
Extension Service Agent for
MBCI

A few years ago, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) did a story titled "Agriculture Renaissance for the Choctaw Tribe." The story discussed the rebirth of agriculture within the Choctaw Tribe and how it has become a valid part of the tribe's economic portfolio and an educational tool for young people. Two years later, this is still true.

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) recently implemented a hoop house, or high tunnel, to enhance student's educational experience. When students learn material in Botany, Earth Science, Biology, etc., they can actually

see, touch, smell, and even taste what they're learning about and apply it to real life situations.

The tunnel got its start from a grant from MDAC, but partnerships quickly formed for the students' benefit. Partners, which include the Tribal Natural Resources, Recycling, Court Services Green Re-Entry, Occupational Training Center, and Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension, spent many hours getting the outdoor classroom ready for instruction. Classes are being conducted now in the newest educational addition, and surely for many years to come.

The hoop house is currently utilized to grow tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, herbs, lettuce, and onions. Students have watched these plants

start as seeds and nurtured them to the blooming stage as they learned firsthand what it takes to grow their own food. They've also learned about insects, both good and bad, and how to treat plants when they get sick.

Agriculture and nature is recognized as the root of Tribal culture through culturally recognized foods, items made from trees and animals, as well as given birth to the oldest sport in America, Choctaw Stickball.

Natural resource management and agriculture continue to grow at CCHS with these students and future tribal professionals. Training agriculture professionals outside the classroom has become priority as CCHS partnered once again with MSU Extension to create a positive youth development program to introduce prospective college students to agriculture and natural resource career options and educational paths to these careers.

The new program, Choctaw Agriculture Professional Program for Students (CAPPs), was implemented in 2016 to introduce students to ag-

riculture professionals face to face with opportunities for students to see firsthand what these professionals do.

To date, students have been introduced to careers with not only the Extension Service, but U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Mississippi Department of Agriculture.

CAPPs students recently toured the MSU campus and met with several current students and administration members. A component of CAPPs

is to write essays about agriculture professionals they have met and give oral presentations about what they've learned in this new program. All students presented and represented CCHS well.

My (MSU) Bulldog hat is off to the efforts taken by CCHS to educate these students. What's going on for these Choctaw youth will ensure the Tribe continues to write the long agriculture and natural resource management story in Mississippi history and leave an even greater legacy than what has already been established.



Pictured above is the hoop house, or high tunnel, located on the campus of CCHS where students are growing tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, herbs, lettuce, & onions.

Pictured right is Jim McAdory, MSU Extension Service Agent for MBCI, as he explains to students the importance of agriculture in today's economy & education.



CAPPs members & advisors pose in front of a tractor (above) & in from the high tunnel on the CCHS campus (below).



CAPPs members & chaperones visited the MSU campus in Starkville.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI

The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) presented exciting cultural activities during the month of March!

Our first workshop, round comb decoration, was held in Bogue Chitto on March 7 at

the facility building. Participants were delighted to receive their combs & decorate it. CAP staff members Trudy Jimmie, Lorena Alex & May McGeisey provided instructions

Several tribal members from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma attended a workshop on weaving river cane baskets at the Pearl River dance ground March 14-17.

CAP provided the best weavers available - Louise Wallace, Eleanor Chickaway, Sophia Anderson, Tonya Stoliby, Susanna Shoemake, Rosie Joe, Catiea Anderson (sub for Nina Anderson), Norma Hall, & Theresa Shoemake - to teach them the craft. They gave individualized & step-by-step instructions to the participants.

After four days, participants learned to weave various types of baskets, trays, pencil holders, cones, egg baskets, & wall decor.

Amanda Malloy of the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) & Jennifer Jamieson of the Mississippi Arts Commission interviewed participants & instructors for a future publication of the event.

The CAP staff received great responses from the Choctaw Nation participants as they requested a repeat of the classes.

On March 15, several students from Ole Miss conducted a project at the activity area at the CAP office. They conducted interviews for a future magazine article on Choctaw Expressions.

Activities highlighted included traditional cooking led by Phyllis McMillan, bead work by Trudy Jimmie, stickball by Casey Bigpond, Choctaw clothing by Dora Nickey, rabbit sticks by Stacey Billy, & baskets by Anita Anderson.

The CAP hosted beading & making stickball towa workshops for Boys & Girls Club members in Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Red Water, & Tucker during the Choctaw Tribal Schools' Spring Break March 21-24.

The workshops were funded through the 2016 Choctaw Community Fund. Participants had the option to learn how to bead daisy chain necklaces, bracelets & one-strand necklaces or how to make a stickball towa.

Beading instructors were Shayna McMillan, May McGeisey & Trudy Jimmie. Casey Bigpond & Jamieson Williams were instructors for the stickball towa making session.

The CAP staff appreciates the Choctaw Community Fund and contributors for making cultural activities possible as it enables the staff to reach out to Choctaw youth & offer them worthwhile projects. The children & staff said they absolutely enjoyed the workshops.

On March 26, Casey Bigpond, along with Garland Bell, Jr., conducted a drum making workshop in Red Water. The workshop was made possible through a donation from the MBCI.

All CAP workshops are for tribal members & their descendants. The staff encourages and welcomes every Tribal member to attend cultural training classes to help continue Choctaw culture.



Several Bogue Chitto community members participated in the round comb decorating activity on March 7.

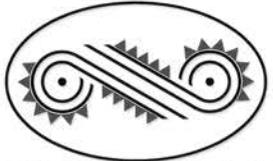


Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma members displaying their beautiful baskets include, front row from left, Kanda Jackson, Joshua Jacob, Jennavie Tom, Jared Tom, Brad Joe, Debbie Damson; back row, Regina Green, Kay Jackson & Shelly Garner.



From left, Tucker participants wear their completed beaded daisy chain necklace... Red Water participant Kerri Wilson holds the stickball towa she completed... Conehatta participant Tazzden

Thomas shows off his key ring with beaded daisy chain... Bogue Chitto participant Cordero Bobo looks on as his sister, Onyx, finishes her first one-strand necklace & starts on another one.



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



NEWS & NOTES

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

CONEHATTA UNIT

Members of the Conehatta Unit participated in field trips & events during February & March.

On Feb. 18, staff members from the Family & Community Services' Family Violence & Victim's Services did a presentation on "Healthy Relationships" for teens.

On Feb. 26, Officer Kelby Anderson of the Choctaw Police Department informed teens about the "We Tip" program.

On Feb. 26, teen members

watched the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors basketball team at Choctaw Central High School.

On March 3, members (ages 6-7) watched "Shrek the Musical" at the Ellis Theater in Philadelphia. Members (8-10) were in attendance for the March 4 showing.

On March 5, members (6-7) went to the Mississippi Children's Museum in Jackson to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday.

On March 16, the Mobile Resource Center

came to the club for the member's enjoyment & homework assistance.

On March 17, all members enjoyed an ice cream social to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

On March 18, members of TORCH & Keystone went to Laredo Grill Mexican Restaurant & Canal Place Theaters for an evening with their peers. They watched "Miracles from Heaven."

On March 22, members (6-7) went to the Jackson Zoo.

On March 23, members (8-

10) went to Party Safari in Flowood.

On March 24, the MBCI Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) facilitated a daisy chain making workshop & a stickball towa making workshop for the members. The demonstration was a part of the annual Warrior & Princess Survival Week during Spring Break.

On March 28, members enjoyed a day outside as they celebrated Easter. They had an Easter

egg hunt, egg race, putt-putt golf, volleyball, & kickball. Members also enjoyed eggs, popcorn, cupcakes, & kool-aid for snacks.

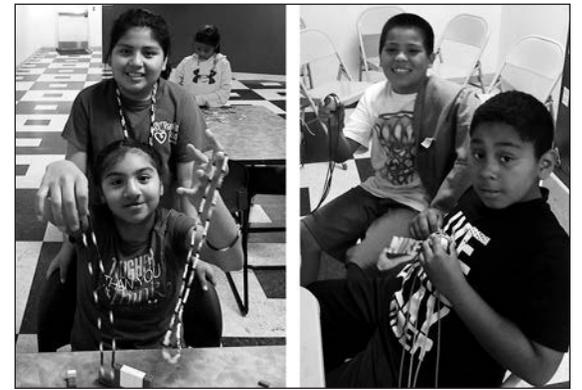
Upcoming Events

On May 17, the club will close at 5:30 p.m. due to Choctaw Central High School Graduation.

.....continued next page



Congratulations Emily! We will miss you as we appreciate the time you shared with us.



LEFT, Remini & Hailey with their beaded necklaces for Princess Survival Week. **RIGHT**, Tyrein & Jaeon learned how to make a stickball towa during Warrior Survival Week.



Conehatta Teen Center members went to Canal Place Theaters to watch a movie. Prior to the movie, they had dinner at the Laredo Grill Mexican Restaurant.



Kelby Anderson of the Choctaw Police Department informed members about the We Tip program.



The 6-7 year-old members took a train ride at the Jackson Zoo during Spring Break.



The 6-7 year old members celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday at the Children's Museum in Jackson.



The 6-7 year-old members (left) & 8-10 year olds (right) enjoyed watching "Shrek the Musical."



The 8-10 year-old members enjoyed their visit to Party Safari in Flowood during Spring Break week.



Easter activities included coloring Easter eggs, left, and an egg race.



May 19 is the last day for Choctaw Tribal Schools & will be a 60 percent day. Club hours will be from 12:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

From May 20-27, club hours will be from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Youth of the Month

Braycee Hall, 11 year-old daughter of Justin Hall of Conehatta, was named February Youth of the Month. Braycee, a sixth grader at Conehatta Elementary, has been a member of the Conehatta Unit since May 2014. She is a member of the Teen Center & TORCH Club & likes to volunteer while demonstrating excellent behavior at the club.

Honor Roll

The following members named to the 2nd nine-weeks honor roll include Keondrae Anderson, Kethan Anderson, Kirklain Bell, Greer Billy, Dexton Hall, Windell Hall, Jr., Jarrien John, Jaeon Johnson, Sebastian Johnson, Tali King, Jordan Langley, Braylon McMillan, Braylon Smith, Haven Dixon, Justina Hall, Cambee Johnson, Hailey Johnson, Kadence Johnson, Taijah Kessinger, Tiarrri Kessinger, Kayleona Kessinger, Remini Nickey, Taelyn Nickey,

Aaliyah Tahawah, ReAnnan Thomas, Zyanna Thomas, Taily Wesley, Janina Williams, Dylan Stephens, Tayden Wesley, Sabien Williams, Sebante Williams, Chasen Williamson, DeRyan Williamson, Malice Williams, Kylie Williamson, & Ashlynn Stephens.

Congratulations from the staff & members! These members will receive a matinee ticket from Canal Place Cinemas for their efforts.

Special Thanks

The club members & staff say “thank you” to Phyllis McMillan & the CAP staff, Officer Kelby Anderson & Tashia Two-Hawks. We really appreciate the time & knowledge each provided for our members & staff.

The CAP staff came to our club & demonstrated how to make necklaces, keychains, bracelets, & stickballs. Thank you for teaching our members how to make beautiful necklaces & stickballs.

Officer Anderson came to our club after his National Guard duty requirement. Thank you for making the effort to inform our members about your program. They enjoyed the handouts too!

Tashia, a former club employee, volunteered a couple

of her spring break days to chaperone field trips. The kids enjoyed seeing her again. Thanks!

The club staff & members congratulate newly inducted members of the Conehatta School Beta Club. They include Taelyn Nickey, Malice Williams, Braylon Smith, Greer Billy, Haven Dixon, Haygen Anderson, Zarius Johnson, J.T. Willis, Jaeon Johnson, Dresen Jimmie, Dylan Stephens, & Aaliyah Tahawah.

PEARL RIVER UNIT

On Feb. 12, the Pearl River Unit held a pre-Valentine’s Day party. The staff served cupcakes, popcorn, kool-aide, & distributed goodie bags to members.

Members attending Neshoba & Choctaw Tribal Schools went to Lovern’s Arena in Arlington during their respective Spring Breaks on March 7 & 21. Members had fun riding the mechanical bull, ponies, chasing chickens & little pigs, & riding the trolley.

On March 18, the unit held Easter activities & contests. Contest winners included:

Jamal Isaac & Mauhree Jones (Pin the Tail on the Bunny);

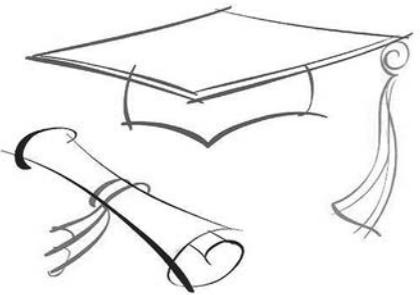
CHOCTAW VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM & EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
DEADLINE - May 30, 2016 for the “FALL” Term

COURSE OF STUDIES:

- Associate Degree Nursing
- Licensed Practical Nursing
- Hospitality & Tourism Management
- Culinary Arts Technology*
- Business & Office Technology
- Office Assistance Certificates*
- Construction Trades—Carpentry*
- HealthCare Data Technology
- Child Development Technology
- Industrial Maintenance Trades
- Cosmetology *
- Automotive Technology *
- Welding—Certificate*
- Collision & Repair

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND COURSE LISTINGS
 Contact The Vocational Education Program Angeline King or Bernadine Dixon @ 601-650-1745 or 601-650-1749

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS are available at the Choctaw Manpower Training Center Vocational Education Department
 All documentation is required before the deadline date. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS** will not be accepted.



SOME TRAINING COMPONENTS MAY ONLY BE AVAILABLE ONCE A YEAR.

“STRIVING FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE”

Jacob Isaac & Kaisley Hernandez (Pin the Tail on the Bunny);

Jacob Isaac & Delaiah Billy (Guess What’s in the Egg);

Johann Espinosa & Hunter Farve (Guess How Many Jelly Beans in the Jar).

On March 23, Tribal School members went to High Heaven in Flowood. Members enjoyed high flying during the trampoline jumps & playing dodgeball.

On April 15, members wore purple in support of military-connected youth.

Unit members ages 6-7 attended the Party For the Planet celebration on April 23. Members had fun in the bounce houses, face painting, dancing, animal encounters, & learning healthy habits.

On May 13, the Boys & Girls Club staffs will be attending a staff training conference in Louisiana.



Pearl River Unit members received a cupcake during a pre-Valentines Day party.



Easter contest winners included, from left, Jamal Isaac, Mauhree Jones, Kaisley Hernandez, Jacob Isaac (Pin the Tail on the Bunny), Jacob Isaac, Delaiah Billy (Guess What’s in the Egg), & Johann Espinosa (Guess How Many Jelly Beans in the Jar). Not pictured is Hunter Farve.



The Pearl River Unit staff had an Easter Egg decorating contest on March 17. Satchell Willis was the winner. Congratulations & thank you to the staff members for their participation.



Members had a good time at Lovern’s Arena during Spring Break.



Members enjoyed the trampolines at High Heaven in Flowood during Spring Break.

2016 NAYO BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT WINNERS



12-14 Junior Girls Champion - Rainmakers

Team members include Tia'Rain Saunders, Maiya Joe, Rayven McMillan, Hallie Billie, Jaida Bell, Christy Amos, Melanian Jimmie, Jashuntaye Isaac, LaCaniya Anderson, Leia Phillips, Meloney Thames, & Layana Morris. Coaches were Trish Phillips & Randi Williams.



Junior Girls Runner-Up - Native Elite

Team members include Charli Frye, Tiana Stubbs, December Stubbs, Madelyn Osceola, Amarys Huggins, Alena Stockton, Analyse Jimenez, Talia Rodriguez, & Alexis Foreman. Coaches were Ashlie Wilcox & Danielle Frye.



Junior Girls 3rd Place - Nation 1

Team members include Jillian Lasiloo, Larena McMillan, Bridgette Farve, Ciji Vaughn, Breanna Mingo, Daysia Henry, Reneesha Farve, & Ahlyric Ben. Coaches were Jaleesa Vaughn & Jennifer Lasiloo.



12-14 Junior Boys Champion - Crazy Nation

Team members include Darius Lambert, Isaiah Armachain, Blake Smith, Tino Pete, Josiah Lossiah, Sterling Santa Maria, Tihjah Lossiah, Bobby Crowe, & Isiah Evans. Coaches were Spencer Moore & Duck Lossiah.



Junior Boys Runner-Up - Hawks

Team members include Myrick Anderson, Kearson Grisham, Chaney John, Octavious Jones, Kaleb Solomon, O'Rieon Bell, Joshua Isaac, Eason John, & Parrion Hunter. Coach was Ricky Anderson, Sr.



Junior Boys 3rd Place - Hurricanes

Team members include Zane Lilly, Bryceton Jimmie, Jacobi York, Baron Parkerson, Bryce Parkerson, Gage Wesley, William Williams, Dantzler Clemmons, Miles Steve, Samuel Bell, Jr., & Dayne Parkerson. Coach was Anzulum Parkerson.



15-17 Senior Girls Champion - #TeamTenacity

Team members include Candace Jefferson, Tia Amos, Sarah Allen, Mercedes Jefferson, Lattoriah Johnson, Melody Jimmie, Tiara Joe, Dalmerika King, & Aleshia Tisho. Coaches were Keith Riggen & Tiffani Riggen.



Senior Girls Runner-Up - Lady Ballerz

Team members include Taylor Ben, Larena McMillan, Christina Willis, Darien Tubby, Sydni Tangle, Kelsey Tangle, Emilee Thames, Kyree Ben, Janeon Alex, & Kaedre Denson. Coaches were Terry Ben & Benson Lewis.



Senior Girls 3rd Place - Native Hoops

Team members include Shae Pierce, Burgiendy Pierce, Skyla Osceola, Sydnee Osceola, Sage Osceola, Audrey Whitegrass, & Lahna Baker. Coaches were Drew Bowers & Claudia Gore.



15-17 Senior Boys Champion - Angry Ducks

Team members include Chayton York, Terrell Ben, Tayshaun Mingo, Justus Day, Quentin Nanaeto, & Brias Bell. Coaches were Clifton "Yogi" Willis & Christopher "Poncho" Willis.



Senior Boys Runner-Up - Seneca Chiefs

Team members include Chase Scanlan, Trevon Thompson, Jermahi Benton, Ayden Jimerson, Huron Snow, Elliot Bowen, Justin Hemphill, Efrain Barreto, Gates Abrams, & Eagle Eye Stevens. Coach was Scott Snyder.



Senior Boys 3rd Place - Braves

Team members include Jason McMillan, Kennan Panther, Steven Straughan, Holden Straughan, Logan Teetsateskie, Shannon Albert, Cory Junaluska, Dodge Crowe-Moss, Jeffery Girty, Jr., Karson Wildcat, & Trace Lambert. Coaches were David Jumper & Duke McCoy.

Partnership to Strengthen ICWA Implementation, Compliance

(ST. PAUL, Minn.) - In keeping with President Obama's commitment to supporting Indian families and fostering resilient, thriving tribal communities through his all-of-government approach, acting Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Lawrence S. Roberts announced on April 4 that the Departments of Interior (DOI), Justice (DOJ), and Health and Human Services (HHS) have entered into a collaborative agreement to ensure more robust compliance with and implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978 (Public Law 95-608).

The agreement, in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), brings three federal agencies together in partnership to strengthen federal oversight of the Act. The MOU's effective date is April 1, 2016.

"This MOU marshals the appropriate focus and resources of Interior, Justice and HHS to ensure that Congress's intent in protecting Indian children and families is carried out," said Roberts. "We want to assure Indian families and tribal leaders that the Obama

Administration's dedication to ICWA's goals remains an enduring policy for Indian Country.

"Focused implementation and compliance of ICWA protects Indian children and families, strengthens the social fabric of tribal communities, and ensures that tribes are able to serve their citizens for generations to come."

Roberts made the announcement while speaking at the National Indian Child Welfare Association's 34th Annual Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect taking place April 3-6 in St. Paul.

According to NICWA's website, its annual conference is the largest national gathering dedicated to Native American tribal child welfare advocacy.

Congress enacted ICWA based on hearings which confirmed that an alarmingly high percentage of Indian families had been broken up when public and private agencies subjected Indian children to unwarranted removal, most of who were eventually placed in non-Indian homes.

Congress recognized this

was a tragedy not only for American Indian and Alaska Native families and their children, but for tribes, as well, because they suffered from losing generations of their future members and leaders.

ICWA set forth a federal framework for maintaining American Indian and Alaska Native children with their families, including extended families, and deferring to tribal courts on matters concerning the custody of tribal children. Through ICWA, Congress also sought to carry out the United States' trust responsibility for protecting Indian children and for the stability and security of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and families.

To further ICWA's purpose and the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the U.S. and federally recognized Indian tribes, and to promote improved outcomes for Indian children in foster care and child welfare proceedings, the federal partners will collaborate on matters related to implementing the letter and spirit of ICWA.

The purposes of the MOU are:

- To memorialize the part-

ners' commitment to the continued importance of ICWA and its implementation for the health and well-being of Indian children, families, and communities;

- To formally establish the ICWA Interagency Workgroup to promote the purposes of ICWA and the partners' mutual interests in ensuring ICWA implementation and compliance;

- To promote communication and collaborative efforts on federal activities that support ICWA implementation and compliance; and

- To establish structures and procedures to ensure that the Workgroup operates effectively and efficiently.

The principal co-chairs of the ICWA Interagency Workgroup are the DOI Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, the HHS Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families; and the DOJ Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division. Each agency will designate a senior staff member to serve as a staff co-chair of the Workgroup.

The Workgroup will meet

monthly at a staff level, with principal-level meetings at least twice a year, and will identify priorities, goals and tasks, as well as establish committees to carry out its work. It also will seek input from and conduct outreach to federally recognized tribes and other stakeholders via existing federal tribal advisory groups, stakeholder groups, tribal consultations, listening sessions, and public meetings.

The acting Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which is headed by a director who is responsible for managing day-to-day operations through four offices - Indian Services, Justice Services, Trust Services, and Field Operations.

These offices directly administer or fund tribally based infrastructure, economic development, law enforcement and justice, social services (including child welfare), tribal governance, and trust land and natural and energy resources management programs for the nation's federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes through 12 regional offices and 81 agencies.

SAVE THE DATE!

6TH ANNUAL

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE



PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN

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

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

REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY

Wetip inc.

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!

Prevent Elder Abuse

Identify It!
Report It!
Stop It!

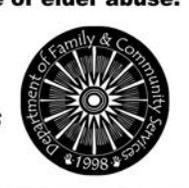


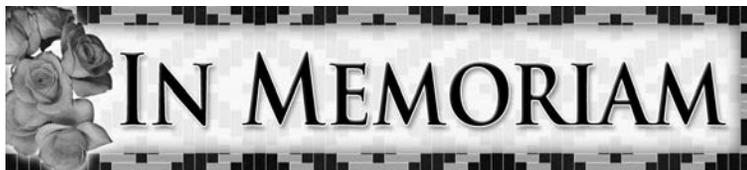

Warning Signs

- 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





IN MEMORIAM

PAUL DELANO ANDERSON

Funeral service for Paul Delano Anderson, 42, was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, from the Conehatta Facility Building. Max Anderson & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the St. Catherine Catholic Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Anderson passed away on March 18 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed spending time with his family & friends, being a Choctaw drummer & making stickball sticks.

He was preceded in death by his parents, an infant son, a brother, & grandparents.

Survivors include his daughters, Delanea Anderson & Alanea Anderson; sons, Foy

Anderson & Joey Anderson; wife, Janice Anderson; a sister, Olivia Denson; a grandson; an uncle, six nieces, & a host of relatives & friends.

PAUL D. ISAAC

Funeral service for Paul D. Isaac, 63, was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, from the St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Choctaw. Father Augustine Palimattam officiated.

Burial was in the Isaac Family Cemetery. Wilcox Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Isaac passed away on March 19 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army & Reserves. He was a counselor at USET, an electrician at Ingalls Ship Building & a member of electrical maintenance at Silver Star Casino. He was an avid runner & enjoyed spending time with his family, watching sports & reading.

He was preceded in death by his parents, an infant son, an infant daughter, two brothers, & two sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Regina John Isaac; three sons, Richard Isaac, Christopher Isaac & Dwight Isaac; two brothers, Preston Isaac and Malcolm Isaac; six grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

VONNIE EARL SAM

Funeral service for Vonnie Earl Sam, 78, was held on Monday, March 28, 2016, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

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

Mr. Sam passed away on March 24 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

He was a former sharecropper & enjoyed fishing, singing Choctaw hymns, playing the guitar, watching television, & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, three daughters, a brother, sister, half-sister, four grandchildren, & a special cousin.

Survivors include a daughter, Ida M. Sam; a son, Everette Sam; half-sister, Bessie Wilson; two nieces; three nephews; 11 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandchild; & a host of relatives & friends.

STANLEY JOHNSON, SR.

Funeral service for Stanley Johnson, Sr., 71, was held on Monday, March 28, 2016, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Pastor Leonard Ben officiated.

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

Mr. Johnson passed away on March 24 at his residence.

He was a member of Hope Indian Baptist Church. He enjoyed listening to Elvis Presley music, working in his yard & attending the Choctaw El-

derly Activity Center.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister & a brother.

Survivors include his daughters, Joanne Marie Johnson & Suzy Johnson Lane; a son, Stanley Johnson, Jr.; two sisters, Marjorie John & Loreda Johnson; a brother, Clarence Johnson; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

PENNINGTON JOHNSON, SR.

Funeral service for Pennington Johnson, Sr., 63, was held on Friday, April 1, 2016, from the Conehatta Facility Building. Deacon Billy Smith & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Johnson passed away on March 27 at the Attala County Nursing Home in Kosciusko.

He was a member of the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church. He was a carpenter, plumber & mechanic & was employed with the Tribal Maintenance Program. He enjoyed listening to music, woodworking & watching western shows on TV.

He was preceded in death by his mother, sister & grandparents.

Survivors include his daughter, Jannifer Willis; step-daughter, Lisa Gibson Vaughn; sons, Kennington Johnson, Pennington Johnson, Jr. & Lamo Johnson; a sister, Roseanna Thompson; 18 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; & a host of family & friends.

JIMMY WAYNE BILLIE

Funeral service for Jimmy Wayne Billie, 51, was held on Saturday, April 2, 2016, from the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Philadelphia. Cator W. Escho & William B. Nickerson officiated.

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

Mr. Billie passed away on

March 30 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed doing beadwork, watching TV, traveling, listening to music, helping out people, studying his Bible & attending meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses.

He was preceded in death by his parents & a son.

Survivors include his wife, Patty Lynn Billie; daughter, Tara Willis; step-daughters, Nolita Chickaway, Verdisa Chickaway & Lakitia Chickaway; step-sons, Damein Ross Chickaway, Alan Chickaway, Jr., Mario Chickaway, & Dameon Wayne Chickaway; sisters, Patsy Martin, Manzie Billy & Glenda Billy; brothers, Wilson Billy, Jr. & Harold Amos; 13 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

EMMA ROBINSON

Funeral service for Emma Robinson, 66, was held on Monday, April 4, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Ms. Robinson passed away on April 1 at Rush Hospital in Meridian.

She was a member of Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. She enjoyed doing beadwork & sewing traditional Choctaw dresses & shirts.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister & two brothers.

Survivors include a host of relatives & friends.

RITA JOHN DENSON

Funeral service for Rita John Denson, 79, was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Rev. Samuel Dixon & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

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

Ms. Denson passed away on

.....continued next page

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
130 Campus Drive
Conehatta, MS 39057

Sunday

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

Pastor: Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr.

Wednesday

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

Youth Pastor: Rev. Monte Farue

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

Welcome To

**NANIH WAIYA
INDIAN
Mennonite Church**

Preaching Every
Sunday - 10:00 am

10341 Road 789
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Come Join Us...



Spirit of Life Christian Center

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

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

April 1 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She enjoyed fishing, singing Choctaw hymns, playing the piano, & being with family & friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, an infant son, three sisters, five brothers, & a special cousin.

Survivors include a daughter, Gaydon Denson; sons, Theron Denson, Don Denson, Gerald Denson, Carl Phillips Rick Denson & Brandon Denson; sisters, Delores Bell, Jennie Jackson, Loriane Jackson, & Ida Mae John; three grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MARY ETTA WILLIS

Funeral service for Mary Etta Willis, 82, was held on Monday, April 11, 2016, from the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta. Deacon Billy Smith & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Ms. Willis passed away on April 8 at her daughter's residence in Conehatta.

She enjoyed fishing, working on word puzzles, listening to the radio, and spending time with family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three sons, a sister, brother, and a nephew.

Survivors include her daughter, Barbara Nell Willis; a brother, Hubert Jefferson; 9 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; 11 great-great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

FRANK DIXON, JR.

Funeral service for Frank Dixon, Jr., 45, was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Deacon John Smith & Rev. Leonard Jimmie, Jr. officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John

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

Mr. Dixon passed away on April 9 in Choctaw.

He was a graduate of East Central Community College & attended Mississippi State University. He was the first tribal member to be awarded the Riley Scholarship & was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He was employed with the Pearl River Resort.

He enjoyed golfing, fishing, playing stickball, & spending time with his family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents & a brother.

Survivors include his wife, Cynthia Dixon; children, Quinten Dixon, Taylor Dixon, Chelsey Bell, & Brandi Bell; & a host of relatives & friends.

DELMON ISAAC

Funeral service for Delmon Isaac, 50, was held on Friday, April 15, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Isaac passed away on April 10 in Philadelphia.

He enjoyed fishing, telling jokes, playing basketball, playing the guitar, & spending time with family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his father, daughter, grandparents, stepfather, step-sister, a great-grandmother, three aunts, & three uncles.

Survivors include his son, Morgan Dale Jefferson; mother, Suzanne Stoliby; three sisters, Martisha Barrack, Amanda Isaac & Vanessa Isaac; a step-sister, Amanda Frazier; four brothers, Randall Isaac, Sr., Thurman Isaac, Darren Isaac, & Darris Isaac; step-brothers, Gerald Stoliby & Harold Stoliby; seven grandchildren; four aunts; four uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

HARRISON BEN

Funeral service for Harrison Ben, 81, was held on Saturday, April 16, 2016, from the

Standing Pine Community Gymnasium. Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

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

Mr. Ben passed away on April 9 at the Abrazo Central Campus Hospital in Phoenix, AZ.

He was a member of the Choctaw Tribal Council as a representative for the Standing Pine Community. He served as secretary/treasurer and vice-chief twice during his terms.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force & achieved the rank of Master Staff Sergeant. He honorably retired in 1975 after 20 years of service.

He earned degrees from Clark Junior College, University of Tampa & Mississippi State University.

He served as director for the Department of Family & Community Services from 1980-1994.

He enjoyed attending Choctaw Central High School and Neshoba Central High School basketball games. In his younger days, he enjoyed fishing with his family, playing baseball on the same team as his sons, farming & raising cattle, & being with his family.

He is preceded in death by his wife & three sisters.

Survivors include his daughters, Gwen Ben, Karen & Todd Adams and Marion & Richard Sockey; sons, Timothy & Donna Ben, Gary & Helen Ben and Greg & Dianna Ben; 9 grandchildren; a sister, Josephine Schoonover; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

STELLA VIRGINIA ALLEN BILLIE

Funeral service for Stella Virginia Allen Billie, 81, was held on Sunday, April 17, 2016, from the Tucker Community Gymnasium. Deacon Williamson Isaac, Rev. John E. Stephens & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mrs. Billie passed away on April 14 at Anderson Hospital in Meridian.

She was a Baptist by faith and a member of Corinth Baptist Church. She was friendly & always had a smile on her face.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband & three brothers.

Survivors include her son, Terry Billie; sisters, Geneva Farmer & Nelda Lewis; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JIMMY RAY McMILLAN, SR.

Funeral service for Jimmy Ray McMillan, Sr., 56, was held on Monday, April 25, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

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

Mr. McMillan passed away on April 20 at his residence.

He was a member of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. He received a certificate in tractor-trailer training & was a logger. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, being in a drum group, & being a guitarist in a band.

He is preceded in death by his mother, grandparents, five uncles, & two sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Janie McMillan; daughters, Felicia Sanchez, Shayna McMillan, Cherish McMillan Shoemake, Christi McMillan Becerra, Seriah Cumberland, Gabriela Cumberland, & Raziya Cumberland; sons, Jimmy Ray McMillan, Jr., B.J. McMillan, Ashley L. Billy, Daniel R. McMillan, Randall Morris, Jr., & Roberto Fonseca; sisters, Mary Elizabeth McMillan & Alice Marie McMillan; a step-sister, Barbarella Isom Johnson; a brother, Thaddeus James Tubby; a step-brother, Gerald Isom; 17 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.



Heating & Air Conditioning Service



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CHOCTAW TOWN CENTER

OUTDOOR MARKET

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

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

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

Pearl River Insurance Agency

Need Auto Insurance?

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Multi-Vehicle Discounts
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Safe Driver Discounts

Come in for a free quote or call 601-663-0971
300 Choctaw Town Center Suite 106
(Behind Wendy's on Hwy. 16 West)

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



Happy belated birthday to my wife, Janet Mynell Willis, on March 10. I love you! From John E. Willis.

Happy Birthday to Michael B. Jackson, Sr., on April 2. We love you & miss you a lot! Love

from Momma Laurene, Bruce & Eric Jackson, nieces, nephews, & a very special friend.

Melvin Zane Lewis is turned 3 years old on April 3. Happy Birthday "Baby." We all love you! From your family.

Happy, Happy 11th Birthday to Gavin Massey on May 28. Have a wonderful birthday! Love, Mommy, Blake & Baley.



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

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

What you will do: Tribal community members (ages 18 and above) can complete an online survey, which will take 30 minutes to an hour by following this link: http://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3K7P6fPy5dtEe45



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

OR, if you prefer, you can contact Catherine at: cburnet3@tulane.edu or 504-862-3495, and she or someone she works with can help you complete the survey (by reading it to you and entering the information for you)



Lanisha Bell

Bell Selected To Ambassadors Program

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) member Lanisha G. Bell was recently selected as a member of the 2016-2017 Class of the Ambassadors Program.

Bell, Victim Assistance National Coordinator for the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Office of Justice Services, was

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

APRIL 2016

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selected out of more than 150 national and international applicants. Her selection was based on her ability and qualities as an emerging leader in her community.

Bell's expertise in family violence and victim's services reflects her passion for protecting Indigenous cultures.

She will represent the MBCI community and all of Indian Country as the Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO) meets with leading Indigenous activists and government officials.

Weaving an international Indigenous network, AIO catalyzes and facilitates culturally ap-

propriate initiatives and opportunities that enrich the cultural, political and economic lives of Indigenous peoples.

AIO Ambassadors are at the forefront of implementing innovative initiatives to improve the well-being and growth of their communities.

21st Annual
Tunica-Biloxi Pow Wow
Marksville, LA – May 21 & 22, 2016
Earl J. Barby, Sr. Convention Center • Mari Showroom
Paragon Casino Resort • Marksville, LA

2016 Tunica-Biloxi Pow Wow Head Staff			
Head Lady Crystal Williams Elton, LA	Head Dance Judge Randy Frazier Oklahoma City, OK	Northern Host Drum White Bull Singers Wind River Reservation, WY	Co-Emcee Tim Tall Chief Jones, OK
Head Man Dancer Gabe Bullock Livingston, TX	Head Drum Judge Bert Polchies Wato, ME	Southern Host Drum Southern Red Singers Santo Domingo Pueblo, NM	Co-Emcee Alexander Santos Apache, OK
Arena Director Leland Thompson Elton, LA	Head Gourd Dancer Tony Conrad Zachary, LA		

DANCE COMPETITION
Cash Prizes
3 Places in 13 categories
Including Chicken Dance and Northern & Southern categories in Men & Women's Golden Age

DRUM COMPETITION
Cash Prizes
2 Places in Northern & Southern categories

*Contest registration is 8AM-12PM on Saturday in the Mari Showroom Lobby.
Contest points start at 1:00PM Grand Entry on Saturday.

General Admission - \$5; Children (5 yrs. & younger) - \$3
Registered Drum (singers) and Dancers (in regalia) with numbered credentials - Free

For lodging or general information, call 800-946-1946 or visit tunicapowwow.org.
Vendors must apply in advance.
Contact Sharon at 318-253-1923 or email avosar@paragoncasinoresort.com.

Sponsored by
The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana,
Paragon Casino Resort
and Pepsi Americas

Contest specials to be announced

Weaver's Report

By Laura Christel Horlings,
Choctaw Bible Translation
Committee Program Coordinator

On Saturday, March 12, a group assembled in the Pearl River Community Baptist Church kitchen. They cooked breakfast and by 9:00 a.m. were introduced to Weavers, a community of practice.

The group included De-Laura Saunders, Pam Smith, Becky Richarte, Chris & Millie Chickaway, Darlene Willis, Edna Cotton, Gerald Denson, Roseanna & Billy Thompson, Alex & infant, Laura Christel Horlings, Abby Farmer, and Ed & Elenore Beach.

This particular day was led by Ed & Elenore as Ed reflected on how honored he felt to hear their stories the day before & responded by sharing their life. They showed pictures & told about the places & people alongside whom God had led them in Guatemala.

Ed & Elenore led us through stories of people telling stories by means of role playing. Sometimes they stopped in the middle of role playing to explain what they were doing.

They let people play roles, such as one pretending to be an unbeliever & the other sharing their life with a new friend.

Ed & Elenore wove in a couple of God's stories as we didn't have time for practicing telling God's stories.

The weekend was a special

time for me. It was refreshing to meditate on God's story & God speaking to us. It got me thinking about how much I enjoy sharing God's story & how we got to talk to each other.

I really miss having time for that. What a wonderful weekend this was, hearing what we've been doing & getting caught up. A community practicing weaving these stories seems to be a beautiful thing.

One Choctaw Bible Translation Committee member said, "We sincerely enjoyed having the opportunity to listen to the Weavers! I enjoyed it because I love to tell stories and this gives me an opportunity to practice what I love doing, telling stories and also spreading the gospel! Thanks to the Weavers!"