



Tribal Election set for June 10

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will hold a Tribal Election on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, for nine (9) seats on the Tribal Council, all for four-year terms expiring in 2029. To be elected to the Tribal Council are:

- Two seats in Bogue Chitto;
- Two seats in Conehatta;
- One seat in Crystal Ridge;
- Two seats in Pearl River;
- One seat in Standing Pine;
- One seat in Tucker.

The Tribal Election Committee will appoint a Local Community Election Committee (LCEC) for each community to conduct this election. Tribal members who are registered to vote will cast their ballots at the polling place operated by the Local Community Election Committee. Voters may be asked to show a form of identification.

Voting times will be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the following locations:

- Bogue Chitto - CERF Building;
- Bogue Chitto-Henning, TN - MBCI Henning CERF Building, 1230 Hwy. 87 W, Henning, TN;
- Conehatta - CERF Building;
- Crystal Ridge - CERF Building;
- Pearl River - CERF Building;
- Standing Pine - CERF Building;
- Tucker - CERF Building.

REGISTRATION

Tribal members 18 years of age or older who have not registered to vote may register at the Tribal Election Office. See Mavis H. Hickman, Tribal Voter Registration Coordinator. If you do not register to vote on or **before 5:00 p.m., May 09, 2025**, you cannot vote in the June 10, 2025, 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.

see NOTICE, pg. 4

LADY WARRIORS STATE CHAMPS!

The winning tradition continues!

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors (30-2) utilized their stifling defense to outlast the Morton Lady Panthers (25-6) en route to a 52-31 victory to claim this year's MHSAA Class 4A Girls State Basketball Championship on Saturday afternoon,

March 1, at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

It was the Lady Warriors' 13th appearance in the state championship game, winning nine titles overall since 1996.

see STATE CHAMPS, pg. 10





Halito!

We welcome the warmer temperatures as springtime approaches. The winter months have not slowed down progress on Tribal lands. Housing units have been built, and more are in the construction and planning phases. The Choctaw Central campus is really taking shape. I am thankful to my administration team, Tribal Council members, and our project partners, for their efforts.

It takes many hands to bring

about success, and it shows with all of the work we have accomplished since the day I first took the oath of office as Tribal Chief. I look forward to celebrating more accomplishments throughout this year.

We applaud the great achievements of our Tribal Members near and far. It is a great sense of pride to hear one of my fellow members has been recognized for their hard work and dedication. I encourage every one of you to give your best in your labors and in your community service endeavors. The success of our Tribe depends not just on our leaders but on everyone working together with the common goal of improving the quality of life for every Tribal member living in our communities.

On February 1st, the Choctaw Tribal Schools hosted the 22nd Annual FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Tournament at Pearl River Elementary School. FLL introduces science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to students through fun, exciting hands-on learning. This year's challenge was called SUBMERGED, as students used creative thinking and LEGO technology to explore the layers of the ocean and innovate for a better future with healthy oceans.

Eight teams participated in this year's event. The following teams receiving honors included: Core Values Award - Tushka



Kicking off Nutrition Month

The Choctaw Health Center's Nutrition Department & WIC Program hosted a proclamation signing with Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben to kick off Nutrition Month in our Tribal community on Wednesday, March 5. The Choctaw Food Distribution Program & MSU Extension Services also participated in the signing event. The goals of the programs are to promote healthy eating & nutrition awareness for individuals & families of all ages. The event also featured valuable resources, delicious samples, & engaging activities to help our community embrace healthier lifestyles.

Chiponta (Pearl River Elementary School); Project Presentation Award - Loksi Osi (Pearl River Elementary School); Robot Design Award - Nita Osi (Pearl River Elementary School); Robot Performance Award - Tucker Gems (Tucker Elementary School); and the highest award of the tournament, the Champion's Award - Native Tech Tigers (Standing Pine Elementary School).

The Native Tech Tigers represented the Choctaw Tribal Schools at the FIRST LEGO® League Mississippi Championship March 8, 2025, in Biloxi, MS. Congratulations to all the teams that participated and thank you to the volunteers for your help at the FLL Tournament.

On February 3rd, I signed a proclamation declaring the month of February as "Give Kids A Smile" Month on Choctaw Tribal lands. In attendance to witness the signing were members of the Choctaw Health Center Dental Department, the CHC leadership team, and several young Tribal members who are dental pa-

tients. "Give Kids A Smile" is a program launched nationally in 2003 that provides free dental care to children. Offered by dedicated dentists and dental teams, this initiative aims to improve children's oral health through preventive care, education, and treatment. Thank you to our CHC Dental staff for your tireless efforts to promote healthy dental hygiene to our Tribal community.

I am proud of our area soccer and basketball teams. They have had a great season, and it is always bittersweet when we get to the last game. We are happy for the players, but we long to see them out on the field or court again next season. I do want to congratulate all of Tribal senior athletes and look forward to showing my appreciation at upcoming senior nights.

Congratulations to our Choctaw Central Lady Warriors basketball team and Coaches Elyse Willis and Renate Ben on an outstanding season and winning the MHSAA Class 4A State Championship! This is

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

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Communications Writer

Darron Tubby

Communications Photographer

Deon Denson

Communications Photographer

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Communications Photographer

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

New housing units in Bogue Homa

The Choctaw Housing Authority (CHA) held a ribbon cutting for five new housing units on Beaver Run Trail in the Bogue Homa community on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, members of the CHA Board of Commissioners, Choctaw Indian Princess Leilani Elyse Allen, Tribal Council members, CHA officials, project partners, homeowners, & community members, were on hand to cut the ribbon. Two houses are two-bedroom/two-bathroom ADA-compliant houses, & three houses are three-bedroom/two-bathroom standard houses. Site planning was done by Willis Engineering, Morton Construction did the dirt work & infrastructure, & IKBI, Inc. constructed the houses.



the ninth Lady Warriors state championship win in school history, and we are so proud of these remarkable young ladies. These girls are role models for our up-and-coming youth. They have proven that hard work, dedication, and grit can bring much success. Congratulations again, ladies, and we all know our youth athletes are raised, not recruited.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to several of our area colleges and universities for hosting Native American Heritage recognition events on their campuses. Thank you for honoring our Choctaw youth and for celebrating our rich cultural heritage in your collegiate community.

On February 25th, The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia made a check presentation in the amount of \$3,609.80 to the Tribe and Choctaw Tribal Schools. The presentation was made at the Tucker Elementary School (TES) gymnasium with the student body and teachers in attendance. I was honored to be present with our 2024-2025 Choctaw Indian Princess Leilani Elyse Allen, Director of Schools Delnita Jones, TES Principal Elijah Ben, and several members of the Junior BETA Club, as we accepted the check on behalf of the Choctaw Tribal Schools from Brad Copeland, Vice President/Branch Manager of The Citizens Bank's Eastside Location.

Proceeds were distributed

from the bank's School Stash Debit Card Rewards Program, which allows account holders carrying the bank's debit card to contribute to their local school of choice for every qualified transaction. Every time a School Stash card is used, the bank donates \$.05 to that customer's selected school system. The money is donated by the Bank at no cost to the customer; it is the bank's way of investing in our children's education. The more purchases that are made, the more money will be generated for our schools. Thank you to The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia for their generosity and support of our students in our Choctaw Tribal Schools.

Also on February 25th, the Choctaw Housing Authority (CHA) held a ribbon cutting for new housing units in the Bogue

Homa community. I, along with members of the CHA Board of Commissioners, Princess Leilani, Tribal Council members, CHA officials, project partners, homeowners, and community members, were on hand to cut the ribbon and celebrate this great occasion.

Five houses were built at Beaver Run Trail. Two houses are two-bedroom/two-bathroom ADA-compliant houses, and three houses are three-bedroom/two-bathroom standard houses. The site planning was done by Willis Engineering, Morton Construction did the dirt work and infrastructure, and IKBI, Inc. constructed the houses. Thanks to CHA and our project partners for their work in providing high-quality homes for our Tribal Members!

It's hard to believe that we

are only weeks away from the end of the school year. I hope that you as parents and family members take every opportunity you can to support our Tribal students at the various school and extracurricular activities coming up before graduation and summer break.

I believe you'll find when you think back on those memories, you'll realize that they were the most valuable times of your lives. Thank you for your support not just of me, but of our Tribe. Together, we can accomplish greater things for our people. I wish you all the very best.

Chi Yakokilih,

Cyrus Ben, Tribal Chief

Check presentation made to Choctaw Tribal Schools

The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia presented a check in the amount of \$3,609.80 to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & Choctaw Tribal Schools on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at Tucker Elementary School's (TES) gymnasium. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & several members of the school's Junior BETA Club accepted the check from Brad Copeland, Vice President/Branch Manager of The Citizens Bank's Eastside Location. Also in attendance were Choctaw Indian Princess Leilani Elyse Allen, Director of Schools Delnita Jones, & TES Principal Elijah Ben. Proceeds were distributed from the bank's School Stash Debit Card Rewards Program, which allows account holders carrying the bank's Debit Card to contribute to their local school of choice for every qualified transaction. Every time a School Stash card is used, the bank will donate \$.05 to that customer's selected school system.



NOTICE

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Any registered voter in a community may challenge the residency of a person on the initial voters list by filing a voter challenge form to the Tribal Election Committee within ten (10) business days of the posting of the initial voters list. **The deadline to challenge voter residency is 4:30 p.m. on March 26, 2025.**

ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified registered voter who is age 57 or above, or who is physically unable to appear at the poll on election date, or who resides 50 miles or more distance from the community in which he or she is registered to vote shall be entitled to vote by absentee ballot. Request for mailed absentee ballots must be submitted in writing to the Tribal Election Committee at the Tribal Election Office **not later than 12:00 noon on May 21, 2025.** Requests for mailed absentee ballots received after this date and time will not be honored.

Walk-in absentee ballot requests shall be submitted in writing to the Tribal Election Committee starting on May 22, 2025, through 12:00 noon on the day before the election. Document of proof supporting the walk-in absentee ballot request is mandatory.

Mailed and walk-in requests for absentee ballots can be only for the person making the request; the request cannot be made on behalf of others. The deadline to return absentee ballots to the TEC is 12:00 noon on June 09, 2025. Absentee ballots received after the deadline shall not be counted.

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

Any enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians may become a candidate for Tribal Council to be

filled by tribal election who:

- Is at least 21 years of age at the time of election;
- Has not been convicted of, or pled nolo contendere to, any felony offense occurring at any time in any jurisdiction, unless such felony conviction has been pardoned;
- Has a minimum of High School diploma or a GED of a twelfth grade equivalency;
- Is a resident of the Choctaw community which he or she desires to represent for at least six (6) months prior to the date of the election;
- Is registered to vote in the Choctaw community which he or she desires to represent;
- Secures endorsement signatures by at least 10 persons registered to vote in the Tribal Election in the community

from which he/she intends to run for office. (This requirement shall not apply to Crystal Ridge community where three (3) signatures will be required.)

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Must submit these endorsement signatures on a standardized Nominating Petition Form at the Tribal Election Office of the Tribal Election Committee **on or before 4:30 p.m. on April 11, 2025.**
- It shall be the responsibility of each candidate to ensure that the persons signing his or her petition are registered to vote in tribal elections in the community which he or she wishes to represent.

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

REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE NEXT TRIBAL ELECTION ON JUNE 10, 2025

Schedules for Registration Drive

COMMUNITY	DATES	TIMES	PLACE
Bogue Chitto	Tuesday, March 18, 2025 Thursday, May 1, 2025	1:30 pm-4:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	CERF Building
BC-Henning, TN	Saturday, March 22, 2025 Saturday, May 3, 2025	1:30 pm-4:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	MBCI Henning CERF Bldg. 1230 Hwy. 87 W. Henning, TN
Conehatta	Wednesday, March 19, 2025 Friday, May 2, 2025	9:30 am-12:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	CERF Building
Crystal Ridge	Tuesday, March 18, 2025 Monday, May 5, 2025	9:30 am-12:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	CERF Building
Pearl River	Thursday, March 20, 2025 Thursday, May 8, 2025	1:30 am-4:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	Tribal Election Office
Standing Pine	Thursday, March 20, 2025 Tuesday, May 6, 2025	9:30 am-12:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	CERF Building
Tucker	Wednesday, March 19, 2025 Wednesday, May 7, 2025	1:30 pm-4:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	CERF Building

Tribal members who are 18 years of age or older, who have not yet registered to vote in Tribal election must register in the community where they live and have maintained residency for a minimum of 6 months prior to the date of the June 10, 2025 tribal election. Those who have already registered to vote do not need to register again unless they have moved to another community since they last registered. Please come and update your information. **Deadline date to register to vote is Friday, May 9, 2025 at 5:00pm.**

Voter registration is open year round Monday through Friday 8:00am-4:30pm at the Tribal Election Office, located at Tribal Headquarters. To register to vote, please have available: photo identification, tribal enrollment number and a current address with your name on any document or mail. For more information please call (601) 650-1507, (601) 650-7475 or (601) 650-7468.



Mavis Hickman, Tribal Voter Registration Coor.

DATE POSTED: March 12, 2025

“CHOCTAW SELF-DETERMINATION”



Tribal officials visit Ole Miss

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, along with reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Leilani Elyse Allen & MBCI Department of Family & Community Services (DFCS) Director Alyssa Ben, attended & presented at the University of Mississippi's Department of Social Work's 8th Annual Social Work Conference, entitled "Unity in Diversity: A Cultural Lens." Princess Leilani gave a welcome on behalf of the Tribe before introducing Chief Ben, who spoke about his experiences growing up Choctaw. Director Ben then provided an overview of the DFCS, & in particular, the Children & Family Services Program. After the presentations, an Q&A session was held, where Chief Ben discussed the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), & Princess Leilani spoke about the princess selection process. Thank you to the Ole Miss Department of Social Work for the opportunity to share our story & discuss our cultural heritage & social issues of our Choctaw people.

• Shall pay a **filing fee of \$50.00** to the Finance Office and shall then present a copy of the receipt to the Chairperson of the Tribal Election Committee.

Candidate qualification challenges must be filed with the Tribal Election Committee within two (2) business days of the posting of the initial candidate list. The Tribal Election Committee must certify candidate petitions and qualifications before candidate names are placed on the ballots.

INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the Tribal Election Committee at one of the

following numbers: 601-650-7475, 601-650-7468, 601-650-1507 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, Choctaw, MS 39350

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



Princess at Laurel Mardi Gras Parade

Reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Leilani Elyse Allen participated in the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Laurel Lodge #2's annual Mardi Gras Parade in downtown Laurel on Saturday, Feb. 22. The parade, sponsored by Bok Homa Casino, was held as a fundraiser for the FOP, which sponsors the annual Shop with a Cop event each Christmas. Princess Leilani joined the Bok Homa Casino's float & threw out beads to excited parade attendees. Thank you to Bok Homa Casino for having the Princess join in on the great fun.

Measles IS ON THE RISE

Measles can be dangerous, especially for babies and young children.



MEASLES SYMPTOMS TYPICALLY INCLUDE

- High fever (may spike to more than 104° F)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash breaks out 3-5 days after symptoms begin



Measles Can Be Serious



About 1 out of 4 people who get measles will be hospitalized.



1 out of every 1,000 people with measles will develop brain swelling due to infection (encephalitis), which may lead to brain damage.



1 or 2 out of 1,000 people with measles will die, even with the best care.



You have the power to protect your child.

Provide your children with safe and long-lasting protection against measles by making sure they get the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine according to CDC's recommended immunization schedule.

Call Public Health Services for more information at 601.389.4110



Vaccines save lives.
Measles are vaccine-preventable.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Did You Get Your Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccine?

What is the MMR Vaccine?

The MMR vaccine can prevent measles, mumps and rubella. Most people who get the MMR Vaccine are protected for life.

What is Measles?

Measles causes fever, cough, rash, runny nose and red, watery eyes. Complications can include ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia, brain damage and death.

What is Mumps?

Mumps causes fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, loss of appetite, and swollen and tender salivary glands under the ears. Complications can lead to deafness, swelling of the brain and/or spinal cord, painful swelling of the testicles or ovaries, and rarely, death.

What is Rubella?

Rubella causes fever, sore throat, rash, headache, and red, itchy eyes. It can cause arthritis in half of teenage and adult women. If rubella is caught during pregnancy, it can result in a miscarriage or the baby could be born with serious birth defects.

Who should get vaccinated?

Children need 2 doses of the MMR vaccine:

- First dose: 12-15 months of age
- Second dose: 4-6 years of age

Adults who are not already immune to measles, mumps, and rubella should get at least 1 dose of MMR vaccine. Certain adults may need 2 doses. Your health care provider will help determine the number of doses needed.



For more information on MMR vaccination, please speak with your health care provider.





Tribal Members at Dixie National Rodeo

This year, the Dixie National Rodeo celebrated 60 years. On Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, the annual Dixie National Parade took place in Jackson, starting from the state capitol grounds & ending at the Mississippi Coliseum. This year's parade theme was "Shine Bright Like A Diamond." The parade, a beloved tradition of the Dixie National Livestock Show & Rodeo, featured a lineup of rodeo & title queens, marching bands, floats, car & tractor clubs, riding groups, & the famous Dixie National Wagon Train, which is made up of eight individual wagon trains from around the state of Mississippi. **LEFT**, Choc-

taw Indian Princess Leilani Elyse Allen was invited to participate in the parade as her brother, Malakai Allen, & cousin, Brylas Willis, joined her as they rode in a horse drawn carriage. **RIGHT**, Also participating in the parade were the Mystic Wind Choctaw Dancers of Neshoba County. Their originality, uniformity, & creativity impressed the panel of judges, securing them first place for best decorative float & the Commissioner's Award, which recognizes the best overall participant in the procession. The Commissioner's Award, the most coveted honor, is chosen from the 46 parade entries, making Mystic Wind's achievement even more momentous. Congratulations!

PFE Board holds mid-winter meeting

The Parent & Family Engagement (PFE) Board Meeting was held at the Ayipa Café, located in the C-TEC Complex in Choctaw. Denise John, PFE Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:37 a.m. Twenty-six board members & guests enjoyed a delicious meal prepared & served by the Culinary Arts students & their instructor, Marinda Woodruff.

Amelia Thompson, new board member representing Bogue Chitto community, was welcomed. She works at Choctaw Housing Authority as the Accounts Payable Clerk for the Modernization & Development Department. She is married to Kyle Thompson & they have four children.

Victoria Billie, PFE Co-Chair, introduced February's Outstanding Choctaw Educator, Waudine Sockey. She has worked for the schools for 28 years & has spent her entire career at Standing Pine Elementary School. She has served as a certified instructor for the Choctaw Language Program &

is presently a first-grade teacher assistant.

Waudine attended Standing Pine Elementary before completing her middle & high school years at Choctaw Central. She furthered her education at East Central Community College. She & her husband, Clyde Sockey, have been married for the past 43 years & are parents to three children.

Choctaw Language & Culture Integration Coordinator Latricia Johnson, along with Administrative Assistant & Assessment Development Coordinator Renata Morris, shared information about their program, which began in 2016. The program's mission is to provide Choctaw language/cultural maintenance & restoration for all Choctaw children. The program's goal is for all students to be speaking their native Choctaw language proficiently. Choctaw language is taught by a certified instructor beginning in pre-K through the 12th grade.

For the next business meet-

ing:

- Anthony (Tony) Steve, Choctaw Tribal Schools' Transportation Coordinator, was selected Outstanding Choctaw Educator for May 2025.

- 2025 Parents of the Year will be honored during the May

7 board meeting.

- Choctaw Central High School Valedictorian & Salutatorian will be recognized during the meeting.

For further information, please contact Heather Adams at 601-663-7640 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.



Pictured from left, Waudine Sockey, Outstanding Choctaw Educator; PFE Chair Denise John & new Bogue Chitto Board Member Amelia Thompson; Board Member Victoria Billie, Choctaw Language/Integration Coordinator Latricia Johnson, & Choctaw Language Administrative Assistant/Assessment Coordinator Renata Morris. Pictured below are Culinary Arts students with their instructor, Marinda Woodruff.



CTS District Upper Science, Engineering Fair winners announced

Red Water Elementary School hosted the Choctaw Tribal Schools' Upper Science & Engineering Fair on Friday, Feb. 7. Seventy-five projects were entered representing Choctaw Central Middle School (CCMS), Red Water (RWES), Conehatta (CES), Pearl River (PRES), Tucker (TES), Bogue Chitto (BCES), & Standing Pine Elementary Schools (SPES).

First through third place winners advanced to the Region V Upper Science & Engineering Fair, hosted by Mississippi State University in Starkville on Feb. 25. Students who placed in the following grade divisions & categories are listed below.

GRADE 6

Behavioral & Social Sciences - 1st, Bayleigh Nickey, RWES.

Biochemistry - 1st, Dawson Tubby, RWES.

Inorganic Chemistry - 1st, Jaciryn Vaughn, PRES; 2nd, Serena Tubby, RWES; 3rd, Kaitlyn Edwards, RWES; Honorable Mention, Crisney Perry, TES.

Organic Chemistry - 1st, Jayceon Willis, RWES; 2nd, Jacy Tubby, CES; 3rd, Brazilon Davis, CES; Honorable Mention, Amaizlee Comby, PRES.

Earth & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Anzaerius Huddleston, PRES; 2nd, Mylah Gibson, TES; 3rd, Alistair King, CES.

Biomedical & Health Sciences - 1st, Cayson Willis, RWES.

Microbiology - 1st, Ava Waiter, PRES.

Physics & Astronomy - 1st, Zuri Flint, RWES.

Engineering Mechanics - 1st, Zaydrian Reynolds, CES; 2nd, I'zden Charlie, SPES.

Plant Sciences - 1st, A'mi Clemons, PRES; 2nd, Alicia Stell, PRES.

GRADE 7

Behavioral & Social Sciences



- 1st, Hunter Edwards, RWES; 2nd, Kaleb Gibson, RWES.

Biochemistry - 1st, Aymeri McMillan, CCMS; 2nd, Kyla Dixon, RWES.

Inorganic Chemistry - 1st, Ryelyn Jim, RWES; 2nd, Kajun Burnside, RWES; 3rd, Shau-niece Gibson, RWES; Honorable Mention, Nylie Phillips.

Organic Chemistry - 1st, Tyrell Ford, RWES; 2nd, Jayden Evans, CES.

Earth & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Amaya Isaac, CCMS; 2nd, Nylah Wilson, RWES; 3rd, Zaide Buffalomeat; Honorable Mention, Lyla Gibson.

Microbiology - 1st, Isis Willis & Kelsey Bell, BCES.

Physics & Astronomy - 1st, Emily Wickson, CCMS; 2nd, Ginger Burnside; 3rd, Kaylynn Willis; Honorable Mention, Jay'ce Chickaway.

Engineering Mechanics - 1st, Chauncey Dixon; 2nd, Rashard Lyons.

Mathematics & Systems Software - 1st, Kyla Briscoe, CCMS.

Robotics & Intelligent Machines: 1st, Leim McMillan, CCMS.

Plant Sciences - 1st, Azariah Williams, CCMS.

Grade 8

Behavioral & Social Sciences - 1st, Athan Wilson, RWES; 2nd, Carly Henry, BCES.

Biochemistry - 1st, Komelias

Mingo, RWES.

Inorganic Chemistry - 1st, Alexis Smith, CES; 2nd, Arabela Thomas; 3rd, Aleyah Lyons.

Earth & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Jessiny Cotton & Araya Hickman, BCES.

Biomedicine & Health Sciences - 1st, Damarii Sam, CCMS; 2nd, Jakobe Eaves, BCES; 3rd, Ivy Houston & Jasmine Lewis, BCES.

Physics & Astronomy - 1st, Dezaray Anderson, RWES; 2nd,

Jaydn Joe, RWES; 3rd, Chaylea Kopaddy, RWES; Honorable Mention, Jalen Gibson.

Engineering Mechanics - 1st, Hailey Benally, RWES; 2nd, Reyana Robinson, BCES; 3rd, Wyatt Willis, RWES; Honorable Mention, Spencer Williams, RWES.

Mathematics & Systems Software - 1st, Summer Lewis, RWES.

Plant Sciences - 1st, Cayden Mendez, RWES.

CTS Jr. Beta Clubs attend convention in Biloxi

Members of the Choctaw Tribal School's Elementary & Junior Beta Clubs attended the 33rd Annual Elementary/Junior Beta Convention at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center in Biloxi on Feb. 26-28. Congratulations to the following students who placed in their respective categories in the elementary or junior division.

Accessorized Design (Elementary) - Standing Pine Elementary School (SPES) placed 2nd.

Black & White Photography (Elementary) - Elilee Steve, Pearl River Elementary School (PRES), placed 4th.

Cake Decorating (Elemen-

tary) - Cerulean Lewis, SPES, placed 3rd.

Club Trading Pin (Elementary) - Standing Pine Elementary School placed 1st.

Computer Science Principles, 7th Grade - Mabelena Wilson, Bogue Chitto Elementary School (BCES), placed 3rd.

Digital Art (Elementary) - Carter York, Tucker Elementary School (TES), placed 3rd.

Digitally Enhanced Photography (Elementary) - Cerulean Lewis, SPES, placed 1st.

Digitally Enhanced Photography (Junior) - Caybriana Hickman, Choctaw Central Middle School (CCMS), placed 5th.

see JR. BETA CLUB, pg. 8

MSU hosts Native American Heritage Night

Mississippi State University (MSU) hosted Native American Heritage festivities on Thursday, Feb. 6, prior to the Bulldogs' basketball contest against the University of Arkansas Razorbacks women's team at Humphrey Coliseum in Starkville. Two Native members of the Razorbacks team, Carly Keats (MBCI) of Choctaw, Miss., & Kiki Smith (Comanche) of Topeka, Kan., were unable to play due to injuries. However, that didn't diminish the support given to these outstanding players by the fans in attendance. During pre-game ceremonies, MBCI Tribal youth Taelor Crosby sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem in the Choctaw language. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Leilani Elyse Allen were in attendance & presented gifts to MSU President Dr. Mark Keenum, MSU Athletic Director Zac Selmon, Bulldogs Head Coach Sam Purcell, & Razorbacks Head Coach Mike Neighbors. The Bulldogs were victorious with a 78-55 win over the Razorbacks.



JR. BETA CLUB continued from page seven

Drawing (Elementary) - Shohmalaliy Dixon, PRES, placed 2nd.

Fiber Arts (Elementary) - Mikel Osceola, PRES, placed 5th.

Hand Drawn Anime (Elementary) - Braden Sam, SPES, placed 1st.

Health & Physical Education, 7th Grade - Cohen Morris,

BCES, placed 3rd.

Jewelry (Elementary) - Isabelle Flint, RWES, placed 3rd, & Kari Hicks, Conehatta Elementary School (CES), placed 4th.

Jewelry (Junior) - Carlee Henry, BCES, placed 2nd, & Laiya Willis, PRES, placed 3rd.

Language Arts, 7th Grade - Daison Crosby, BCES, placed

2nd.

Language Arts, 8th Grade - Reyana Robinson, BCES, placed 1st.

Living Literature (Elementary) - Conehatta Elementary School placed 2nd.

Math, 5th Grade - Grayson Tangle, SPES, placed 4th.

Math, 7th Grade - Elgin Amos, BCES, placed 1st.

Mixed Media (Junior) - Kaylene Willis, CCMS, placed 4th.

Onsite Art Painting (Elementary) - Mikel Osceola, PRES, placed 1st.

Painting (Junior) - Kady Hickman, PRES, placed 5th.

Performing Arts (Elementary) Solo, Duo, Trio - Vocalist
continued next page



Choctaw Tribal School students placing at the Jr. Beta Club Convention competitions included members from (top left) Bogue Chitto Elementary School, (top right) Conehatta Elementary School, (bottom

row, from left to right) Pearl River Elementary School, Red Water Elementary School, Standing Pine Elementary School, and Tucker Elementary School.



ECCC hosts Native American Night

East Central Community College (ECCC) hosted Native American Night activities during the ECCC Lady Warriors basketball game against the Southwest Mississippi Community College Lady Bears on Thursday, Feb. 13. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Leilani Elyse Allen, & Bogue Chitto Tribal Councilman Kendall Wallace were in attendance. MBCI Tribal Members received free admission to the game. Lady Warrior players Erica Lyons, Jakaylin York & manager Mckinley Peoples were recognized during halftime. The Chahta Alla Youth Council Social Dancers performed the Stealing Partners Dance during halftime also. Chief Ben & Princess Leilani were introduced after the 3rd quarter as gifts were presented to them, and they posed for a picture with ECCC President Dr. Brent Gregory. Princess Leilani helped the ECCC Native American Club throw T-shirts to the crowd. The shirts were generously donated to the club by Pearl River Resort. The Lady Warriors were defeated by the Lady Bears 68-47.

- Tucker Elementary School (TES) placed 4th.

Quilling (Junior) - Mabelena Wilson, BCES, placed 4th.

Recyclable Art (Elementary) - Grayson Tangle, SPES, placed 4th.

Science, 7th Grade - Ivan Houston, BCES, placed 1st.

Science, 8th Grade - Carlee Henry, BCES, placed 1st.

Scrapbook (Elementary) - Standing Pine Elementary School placed 3rd.

Sculpture (Elementary) - Ja'zairen Solomon, RWES, placed 4th.

Social Studies, 7th Grade - DeAngelo Vaughn, BCES, placed 3rd.

Spelling, 7th Grade - Trevon Willis, BCES, placed 1st.

Three Dimensional Design (Elementary) - Standing Pine Elementary School placed 1st.

Two Dimensional Design (Elementary) - Standing Pine Elementary School placed 2nd & Red Water Elementary School placed 4th.

U.S. History, 7th Grade - Landry Henry, BCES, placed 5th.

From Standing Pine to the court: MCC's Willis finds strength in basketball, community

As Nataysia Willis steps onto the court for the Meridian Community College Lady Eagles, she carries more than just a basketball - she carries the support of an entire community.

The 19-year-old freshman guard from Standing Pine, a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, prepared for a special home game where her heritage took center stage.

On Thursday, Feb. 20, at the College's Graham Gymnasium, MCC honored Native American culture with a celebration featuring Choctaw traditions, including a performance of the national anthem in the Choctaw language and a halftime powwow performance and jingle dance. The event was especially meaningful for Willis, whose tribe eagerly claimed 100 free tickets to show their support.

"I was thrilled to have my community come," Willis said.



"The tickets were gone in two hours. It is really how my tribe comes back and provided me with a village. I really love that about my tribe."

Willis added that she's excited for fellow Lady Eagles. "I love that for my team, too, because they (tribal members) cheered us on. It's a good opportunity for me and my tribe - to teach MCC about Native Americans."

see MCC, pg. 13



Sr. Beta members place at convention

The 79th Annual Senior Beta Convention was held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi on Feb. 24-26. Congratulations to the following Tribal students who placed in their respective high school competition categories, pictured from left, Miyah Henry, Neshoba Central High School, 3rd place in Accessorized Design (Senior); Kaymeree Gibson, Neshoba Central High School, 3rd place in Jewelry, Division II; & Cambee Johnson, Choctaw Central High School, 4th place in Jewelry, Division II.



STATE CHAMPS continued from page one

“This is the culmination, the ultimate prize that we’ve worked for,” said second year Lady Warriors Head Coach Elyse Willis. “These girls have worked so hard for so long, and they deserved this, they earned it.”

After claiming the Region 4-4A regular season and tournament championships, the Lady Warriors began their playoff run with wins over Amory 96-23 and Houston 61-54 before facing defending Class 4A champion Tishomingo County in the quarterfinals. Fighting tooth and nail with the Lady Braves, the Lady Warriors emerged with a 64-58 win.

Returning to “The Big House” in Jackson on Wednesday, Feb. 26, Choctaw Central defeated Lanier 42-19 in the semifinal round. On the other side of the bracket, Morton defeated Louisville 46-41, setting up a rematch a year in the making. In last year’s semifinal game, Morton defeated Choctaw Central in OT 47-40.

“When we started the playoffs, I told them to visualize themselves holding the gold ball,” said Coach Willis. “Every time we advanced, that vision got clearer. I kept reminding them their hard work was going to pay off, and here we are.”

In the opening quarter, Morton took a 3-0 lead before baskets by junior Yuriana Crosby and senior Raiyleigh Perry gave the Lady Warriors a 4-3 lead. Morton regained the lead 7-4, until sophomore Kailynn Perry scored 7 points to give the Lady Warriors a 11-10 lead at the end of the first.

Morton regained a 12-11 lead early in the second, but Choctaw Central started rolling as they went on an 18-5 run and never looked back as they took a 30-17 lead into halftime. Junior Zyanna Thomas had 7 points in the quarter.

In the third, Morton had a 11-8 advantage, but still trailed the Lady Warriors 38-28. Scoring in the quarter were the Perry sisters, Raiyleigh with 5 and Kailynn 3.

Raiyleigh, who was honored in pre-game ceremonies as the BSN Scholar Athlete Award recipient, said the key to winning the game was defense.

“Our defense is number 1! We had to be able to stop them and still score. That was our number one key.”

Choctaw Central’s defense remained relentless as Morton could muster only 3 points in the final quarter as the Lady Warriors added 14 points - Crosby 4, junior Yazzlyn Alex 6, and Thomas 4 - as they secured a 52-31 win and another state championship.

Raiyleigh and Kailynn Perry both had a game high 12 points to lead the Lady Warriors in scoring, followed by Zyanna Thomas with 11. Raiyleigh also had 7 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals. Kailynn had 6 rebounds, 3 steals and an assist. Thomas had

continued next page

2 rebounds and a block.

Yazzlynn Alex had 9 points, 6 rebounds, and a game high 7 steals. Yuriana Crosby had 5 points, 3 rebounds, and an assist. Freshman Tia John had a 3-pointer and an assist.

As a team, the Lady Warriors shot 21-of-54 (38.9%) field goals, made 4-of-18 (22.2%) 3-pointers, and 6-of-11 (54.5%) free throws.

For Morton, junior Tessa Jenkins and senior Charity Beemon both had a team high 8 points for the Lady Panthers.

Morton shot 10-of-33 (30.3%) from the field, as they connected on 4-of-11 (36.4%) 3-pointers, and 7-of-11 (63.6%) free throws.

In the contest, Choctaw Central created 30 Morton turnovers, which lead to 26 points off of turnovers. They scored 28 points in the paint, with 14 coming in the 2nd half.

"This is our bread and butter. They know they need to put in the work to be able to last four quarters and to create turnovers," Coach Willis said of her defense. "We always tell them it doesn't matter who scores, as long as we have 2 points on the board. I think it was (former Warriors/Lady Warriors head coach) Walter Wilson that created the FIDCS (First Indian Down Court Shoots), so they stick to that rule too. That's Rez Ball."

With her sister, Raiyleigh, being honored as a BSN Scholar Athlete during pre-game activities, Kailynn was selected as this year's BSN Most Valuable Player during the post-game ceremony.

"I was really shocked. I did not think it was going to be me, but I'm really happy to be named MVP," said Kailynn. "I'm still in disbelief, but I'm very excited."

For the Perry sisters, this will be the last time they play together in a Lady Warrior basketball uniform with Raiyleigh being a senior and Kailynn a sophomore.

"I'm really gonna miss my sister. I played with her for so long, and it hurts that she has to leave me this year," said Kailynn. "But I know she's going to do great, and it's going to be an amazing year. It was a good year to end the year for us."

For Raiyleigh, playing with her sister and amazing teammates made this season memorable for her.

"I'm really happy. That's my sister, and I grew up playing with her all my life and to finally be able to say we're state champi-

ons together is really a good feeling!"

To get the big win over Morton, especially after last year's defeat, Raiyleigh said she played this season for redemption.

"I wasn't able to win last year, so to be able to come and beat them this year, it feels really good!"

Yazzlyn Alex, who had a breakout game against Lanier in the semifinal round, was not going to be denied a chance to play for a championship again as she rallied her teammates to play their best in the final game of the season.

"Playing with this amazing group of girls, they really pushed us in practice and in games. We look out and do for each other and it's a great feeling that everything turned out the way we worked on. We had to focus on their shooters. If we could stop their play makers, then everything would fall into place. As long as we got them down, then everything else would play out," said Alex.

With a legion of Lady Warrior fans in attendance, Coach Willis said she was appreciative of the support, but it also offers a glimpse of what dreams can become for Tribal youth, especially for the girls.

"It's a tradition. For every little girl that sits here in the stands watching these girls play, these players were once those girls in the stands. They start playing when they are 5 years old and its like a ritual."

Although this is Willis' first state title as head coach in basketball, she actually won her first state title in 2013 as head coach of the Lady Warriors cross country team and was named MHSAA's Coach of the Year. In her 14 years at Choctaw Central, she has served as head coach in volleyball, cross country, track, golf, and middle school basketball. She also served as assistant to former Head Coach Bill Smith as they led the Lady Warriors to three state basketball championships in 2017, 2018, and 2022.

She spent the 2022-2023 school year at East Central Community College in Decatur, Miss., as an assistant women's basketball coach. She returned to Choctaw Central in the fall of 2023 to take over the Lady Warriors program after the retirement of Coach Smith.

Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben was in attendance as he praised the Lady Warriors' determination to win another state championship.

"It was great! You have to reflect back to last year when they came up short. They

definitely used that as a motivator to work through the offseason and regular season. They only had 2 losses, and those losses were close ones. They could have had a perfect season, but it's not all about perfection. Sometimes, flaws drive you and it's great to see these girls used that."

Chief Ben also appreciated the Tribal community for coming together to support Tribal student-athletes in their respective activities.

"These young ladies and men stand for a lot more than a mascot or school name, it's pride for the Tribe and they definitely showed that today. We're very proud of them for their quest and ultimately accomplishing their goals to be state champions. Congratulations!"

In the Clarion-Ledger's final Mississippi high school girls basketball Super 25 rankings, the Lady Warriors were ranked #3. Ranked #1 was Class 7A champion Tupelo, followed by Class 6A champion Callaway at #2.

Warriors end season in 4A semifinals

The Choctaw Central Warriors' quest for a third state title came to an end in the semifinals of the MHSAA Class 4A Boys State Tournament as they were defeated by the Morton Panthers 51-48 on Wednesday evening, Feb. 26, at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

It was the Warriors' second consecutive appearance in the state semifinals.

After coming in second in the Region 4-4A regular season and runner-up in the region tournament, the Warriors began their incomparable run in the post-season with wins over Tishomingo County 60-47 in the opening round, then a thrilling double OT win over Kosciusko 67-58. In the quarterfinals, the Warriors got the victory, in OT again, against region foe Newton County 66-55 to earn a berth in the semifinals.

Carrying that momentum into their game with Morton, the Warriors got an early 2-0 lead via junior Tyris Stokes' basket, but Morton took the lead with a 3-pointer. The

see **WARRIORS**, pg. 12

WARRIORS continued from page eleven

Warriors tied the game 3-3 as senior Zylrier Clemons made 1-of-2 free throws. Morton regained the lead, but Choctaw Central tied the game again at 5-5. Morton went on a 8-0 run to close the quarter with a 13-5 lead.

The Warriors went on a 7-2 run early in the second with baskets by senior Kaden Edwards and Stokes, and a 3-pointer by Clemons to trail the Panthers 15-12. Morton regained the momentum and went on a 12-4 run to close out the quarter with a 27-16 lead into halftime.

Morton got their largest lead at 12 to open the third, but the Warriors started chipping away at the lead as they had a 13-10 advantage as they still trailed Morton 37-29 into the final quarter.

The Warriors got within 4 with a basket

by Edwards and two free throws by Clemons to trail 37-34. After a 6-0 Morton run, Clemons reeled off 4 points to keep the Warriors within 6. After a Morton basket, senior Jamari Wesley nailed a 3-pointer to make it a 45-40 contest. With less than a minute remaining, both teams traded baskets as Choctaw Central junior Elias Isaac connected on two 3-pointers to make it 49-46. After a quick foul on the in-bounds pass with :07 left, Morton made two free-throws. With time winding down, Choctaw Central attempted a 3-pointer but missed as senior Andre Dan connected on the put back for the final score of 51-48 in favor of the Panthers.

Three Warriors scored in double figures as Zylrier Clemons, Choctaw Central's first Dandy Dozen selection in boys basketball

and East Mississippi Community College commit, had a team-high 12 points, along with 9 rebounds and 2 steals. Kaden Edwards had 10 points and 4 rebounds, and Elias Isaac had 10 points, 2 rebounds and 2 steals.

Jamari Wesley had 6 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, and 2 steals; Tyris Stokes had 4 points, 3 rebounds, and a steal; senior Alex Argueta had 4 points, 2 rebounds, and a block.

As a team, the Warriors shot 20-of-51 (39.2%) field goals, made 4-of-24 (16.7%) 3-pointers, and 4-of-5 (80%) from the free throw line.

For Morton, senior Perry Fletcher had a game high 18 points. As a team, they shot 21-of-36 (58.3%) field goals, made 3-of-5 (60%) 3-pointers, and 6-of-9 (66.7%) free throws.

The Warriors finished the season with an 18-13 overall record under first-year coach Louis Wright. He was assisted by Jimmy Tangle. The Warriors have 3 appearances in the state championship game since 1996, winning back-to-back Class 2A titles in 1998 and 1999.

Congratulations to Choctaw Central senior Zylrier Clemons as he was named to The Clarion Ledger's 2025 Mississippi High School Small Class All-State Boys Basketball teams. The two teams are comprised of MHSAA & MAIS teams in Classes 1A-4A. Clemons was named First Team - guard position.



CHOCTAW CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL

Graduation
CEREMONY

HONORING THE
Class of 2025

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025 6:00PM

Silver Star Convention Center
13541 Highway 16 W, Philadelphia, MS 39350

"Alla Momat Ikkana Chih"

MCC continued from page nine

In the contest, the Lady Eagles were victorious over the Northwest Mississippi Community College Lady Rangers 58-55.

Willis' journey to MCC was unexpected. Initially, she had no college offers to play basketball and considered attending Mississippi State University. But after MCC Lady Eagles Basketball Coach Jocelyn McGilberry watched Willis play at

Choctaw Central High School and extended an offer, Willis decided to become a Lady Eagle.

"I realized how much MCC cares about students and helps us succeed," Willis said.

She noted her coaches, Coach McGilberry and Assistant Coach Jatterra Hurst, have been instrumental in building up Willis' confidence. And she credits her teammates, too.

"The team put so much confidence in me that I didn't have myself. I'm playing with much more confidence. I shoot better, I play better. I can do everything better. Confidence plays a real part in how you play," she said.

Off the court, Willis is driven, too. She arrived at MCC with an associate of arts degree completed through a dual-credit program at East Central Community College. Now, she is continuing her education while balancing basketball and a full class schedule that includes chemistry, philosophy, and theater appreciation.

Though she's still deciding on her future path, Willis has a passion for working with children, inspired by her young niece and little sister.

"I don't know exactly what I want to do yet, but I know I want to work with kids," she



Nataysia had 9 points, 2 assists, 2 steals, & a rebound for the Lady Eagles in their 58-55 win.

said.

Her focus remains on making the most of her time at MCC, both as a student and as a player. And with her tribe cheering from the stands, she was ready to give them a game to remember.



Meridian Community College hosted Native American Heritage Night on Thursday evening, Feb. 20, in Graham Gymnasium. In attendance were Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Choctaw Indian Princess Leilani Elyse Allen, & Tribal Council members Kendall Wallace of the Bogue Chitto community & Loriann Ahshapanek of the Standing Pine community as they honored MBCI student-athlete Nataysia Willis, of the Standing Pine community, who is a freshman guard with the Lady Eagles basketball program. During pre-game festivities, Shay Lewis & Ilani Wallace performed their rendition of the National Anthem in the Choctaw language. During halftime, attendees were treated to a performance by Blue Nation, a powwow singing & dancing group from Choctaw, Miss. After the third quarter, MCC honored Chief Ben & Princess Leilani, who is an MCC alumna, as they were presented with gifts by MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner.



17th ANNUAL CHOCTAW CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SPRING INTER-TRIBAL POW-WOW

NEW DATE: Friday & Saturday, April 18-19, 2025
Pearl River Recreation Softball Field • Choctaw, MS

FREE ADMISSION • POW-WOW OPENS TO THE PUBLIC AT 9:00 AM FRIDAY & SATURDAY

<p>HEAD STAFF</p> <p>MC: Cubert Bell</p> <p>ARENA DIRECTOR: Kirk McMillan</p> <p>HEAD MAN: Bonifacio Hernandez</p> <p>HEAD LADY: Cella Isaac</p>	<p>HEAD GIRL: Lexi Rodriguez</p> <p>HEAD BOY: Ajay Lewis</p> <p>HEAD GOURD: Victor Isaac</p>
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HOST DRUM: BLUE NATION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>9:00 TO 11:00 AM – Choctaws got TALENT contest (If you have talent come show it)</p> <p>11:00 TO 12 Noon – Flute Music – James D. Willis</p> <p>2:00 TO 3:00 PM – Hand Drum Contest</p> <p>4:00 TO 5:00 PM – Blue Nation Inter-Tribal Singing</p> <p>5:00 TO 6:00 PM – Gourd Dancing</p> <p>6:00 TO 10:00 PM – GRAND ENTRY and Dancing</p>	<p>12 :00 Noon TO 2:00 PM – Committee Auction</p> <p>3:00 TO 4:00 PM – CCHS Social Dancing</p> <p>4:00 TO 6:00 PM – CCHS POW-WOW PRINCESS Contest Registration</p> <p>6:30 TO 7:00 PM – PRINCESS CONTEST</p>
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PRINCESS CONTESTANTS (ages 14 yrs. old to 21 yrs. old) MUST BE PART OF FRIDAY EVENING GRAND ENTRY

SATURDAY

<p>9:00 TO 11:00 AM – Gospel Singing – Adam Bell</p> <p>12 Noon TO 3:00 PM – Grand Entry</p> <p>4:00 TO 5:00 PM – Dinner Break</p> <p>6:00 TO 10:00 PM – GRAND ENTRY</p>	<p>11:00 TO 12 Noon – Gourd Dancing</p> <p>3:00 TO 5:00 PM – Committee Auction</p> <p>5:00 TO 6:00 PM – Gourd Dancing</p>
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ALL DANCERS, VENDORS, DRUMMERS & ROYALTIES WELCOME!

PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL AND DO NOT BRING DRUGS & ALCOHOL!

For more information, contact:
Randall Chickaway, 601.480.3261 • Ralph Isaac, 601.741.0021 • Rowena York, 601.663.7715



C-TEC students place in competition

Local high school students recently participated in the SkillsUSA Region 3 Competition at East Central Community College in Decatur. SkillsUSA is the #1 workforce development organization for students as they are empowered to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders & responsible community members. These competitions help sharpen & enforce learning of real-world skills that

employers demand from their employees. Students competed in events, such as Carpentry Skills, Carpentry Team Works, Welding Fabrication, Job Interviews, & Prepared Speech. Congratulations to the following Career & Technical Education Center (C-TEC) students who placed in

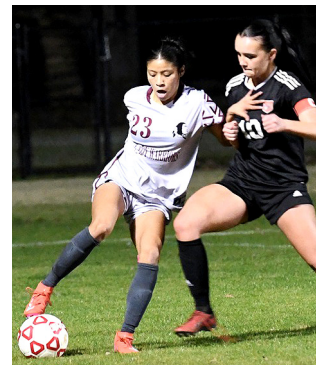
their respective categories: Carpentry - Chance Briscoe, 2nd place; Carpentry Team Works - Alex Argueta, Avander Shumake, Zavious Clemons, & Ferris Tubby, 3rd place; & Prepared Speech - Kanyon Tubby, 1st place. First & second place finishers will advance to the state competition in April. Club advisors are Colton Gibbs, Steve Burton, & Susan Strickline. **ABOVE RIGHT**, C-TEC's Technology Student Association (TSA) competed in the TSA Mississippi High School Competition in Vicksburg. TSA competitions allow students to explore topics of interest & learn beyond the classroom. Students competed in various categories, such as Forensic Science Exams, Game Board Design, Future Technology Teacher, Prepared Presentation, & Technology Problem Solving. Congratulations to Choctaw Central High School C-TEC students Seth Lewis & Peyton Willis as they placed 1st in the Technology Problem Solving category.



Lady Warriors Soccer ends in 4A playoffs

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors made an appearance in the 2025 MHSAA Class 4A Girls State Soccer Tournament. With playoff wins over Tishomingo County 10-0, Caledonia 4-1, & New Albany 2-0, the Lady Warriors earned a berth in the North State championship game on Monday evening, Feb. 10, at West Lauderdale. After falling behind 4-0, the Lady Warriors got within 2. Although they battled to the end, the Lady Knights were victorious 4-2. CCHS concluded their season with an overall record of 14-6 (5-3 division). Team members included

Lacy Alex, Shaylee Alex, Yazzlyn Alex, Zaiya Bell, Ansley Briscoe, Macy Clemmons, Caitlyn Bounds, Gillion Eaves, Zanayah Denson, Desiny Hickman, Cambee Johnson, Khyal Johnson, Kailynn Perry, Raileigh Perry, Kalieya Thomas, Shareese Wallace, & Alexis Weeks; managers Akaylin Bell, Araceli Reyes-Cruz, & Arianna Steve; & coaches Brittany Johnson, Shonda Wesley, & Chris Perry (volunteer coach).



Warriors Bowling Team honored

Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben hosted an appreciation luncheon for members of the CCHS Warriors Bowling team on Friday, Feb. 7, at Stats Restaurant in the Silver Star Hotel & Casino. The team was honored for their recent Class I Central Regional Championship win & earning a berth in the MHSAA Class I State Bowling Championships in Brandon. They placed fifth overall. Team members included (in no order) Damien Billie, Abram Isaac, Seth Lewis, Hayden Willis, Malloy Williams, Ladainian Isom, Brandon Lewis, Cameron Truss, Angel Willis, & Head Coach Kendall Steve.

Rockettes place in finals

Congratulations to Choctaw youth Ansley Wallace & the Neshoba Central High School Rockettes as they competed in the 2025 Universal Dance Association's National Dance Team Championships in Orlando, Fla., Jan. 31-Feb. 2. The team advanced to the Varsity Intermediate Division II-Pom Category finals & placed 10th overall.



SENIOR NIGHT 2025



Redhouse honored at Senior Night

Nashoba Redhouse, a senior at Saguaro High School in Scottsdale, Arizona, celebrated basketball senior night with family & friends on Feb. 6. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben congratulated Nashoba with a gift to commemorate his success during his high school career. We commend his dedication & hard work & send him best wishes for great success in his future endeavors.



Riverside makes OSSAA playoffs

Riverside Indian School, located in Anadarko, Okla., saw their Lady Braves & Braves basketball teams conclude their seasons in the 2025 state playoffs. The Lady Braves concluded their season at the Area I tournament. They were regional champions and had an overall record of 19-9. The Braves won a district championship & made an appearance in the OSSAA Class 2A State Tournament quarterfinals before being defeated by Pocola. They concluded their season with a 18-5 record. Congratulations to all the players on their regional & district championships. MBCI Tribal members on the teams included: (LADY BRAVES) Riannon Willis & Tajha Bell; (BRAVES) Adarius Shoemake, Cordero Bobo, Jr., Landon Davis, Amari Amos, & Jacobi Robinson.



Riverside Senior Night

Riverside Indian School recently held Senior Night activities for several sports on Feb. 7, in Anadarko, Okla. In attendance to present gifts to several MBCI student-athletes being honored were Bogue Chitto Tribal Council members Kendall Wallace and Angela Hundley. Seniors recognized in their respective sports included: (**Lady Braves Softball**) Nevaeh Dixon; (**Braves Baseball**) McKinsley Isaac; (**Lady Braves Basketball**) Riannon Willis & Tajha Bell; (**Braves Basketball**) Amari Amos, Adarius Shoemake, Jacobi Robinson, & Cordero Bobo, Jr. Congratulations & best wishes on your future endeavors!

(More senior photos next page)

RIVERSIDE SENIORS continued from page fifteen



Hunting with rabbit sticks

The Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Department held their annual Youth Rabbit Stick Hunt on Saturday morning, February 23, at the Attala County property off Highway 35 North near Kosciusko, Miss.

The event brought together hunters, especially the youth, to revive a traditional hunting experience utilizing rabbit sticks. Over 200 individuals took part in this year's event.

Seasoned hunters explained hunting methods & etiquette to the youth & first-time hunters. Hunting dogs were used to follow the rabbit scents as hunters tracked their movements through heavy thickets and wooded areas.

After several hours on the hunt, two rabbits were harvested. The event concluded with a traditional meal prepared on-site. The first 75 participants to register on-site received T-shirts.

Door prizes, generously donated by local businesses and

individuals, were awarded to youth & adult participants. Listed below are donors and volunteers who assisted with the event.

Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben and Tribal Administration, Choctaw Tribal Council, Neshoba County Co-Op, Walmart, David Wayne Small Engine Repair, Beem's Pawn & Gun, Philadelphia Pawn & Gun, Westside Body Shop, Williams Brothers, Hinkles Pawn & Gun of Carthage, Tooties Restaurant, D&W Tire Company, Eastside Pawn & Gun of Carthage, Withers Wrecker Service, Leake County Co-Op, Performance Food Service, Griffis Ford, Yates Building Supply, Huddle House, Weaver Sebastopol, Geyser Falls Water Park, Pow Wow, Mid-South & Uniform, Jimmy & Chief Cyrus Ben, Pearl River Tribal Council Member Debbie Martin, Conehatta Tribal Council Member Greg Shoemake, Phyllis

continued next page

FVVS host basketball tourney

The Family Violence & Victim Services program hosted a basketball tournament on Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Pearl River Community Gymnasium. February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month as the event raised awareness about teen dating violence while promoting teamwork, sportsmanship, & healthy relationships. Fourteen teams were divided into two co-ed age divisions (12-14, 15-17) in single elimination tournaments. N8V Elite (top pic) won the 12-14 division, while Bhaddies (bottom pic) won the 15-17 division. Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner each



year, while 81 percent of parents believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know it is an issue. According to the **2021 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance**, American Indian & Alaska Native students reported the highest levels of teen dating violence at

18.5 percent, nearly 5 percent higher than the national average of 13.6 percent. Officials emphasize romantic relationships should be grounded in respect, not based on power & control masked as love. For more information, contact FVVS at 601-650-1774.

McMillan of Cultural Affairs, fairs, & Bradley Isaac of the Stacey Billy of Cultural Affairs, & Office of Public Information.



HUBERT JEFFERSON

Funeral service for Hubert Jefferson, 89, was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at Conehatta CERF Building. Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.



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

Mr. Jefferson passed away on Feb. 9 at his residence.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. After his honorable discharge in 1962, he became a truck driver. He was also a member of the American Indian Movement. He later worked as a maintenance groundskeeper at Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed hunting, playing washer throws, going to the casino, watching western movies, playing cards, having Sunday lunch with his wife, & telling stories & jokes.

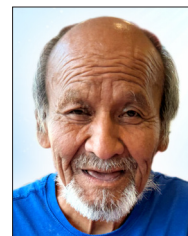
He is preceded in death by his parents, Amos & Ida Farmer Jefferson; sisters, Mary Etta Willis & Maudine Ficklin; & a brother, Goldman Leon Jefferson.

Survivors include his wife, Melba Jefferson; nieces, Minnie Shoemake & Barbara Willis; nephews, James Morales & Christopher Buckley; & a host of relatives & friends.

JOHN LEE CHICKAWAY

Funeral service for John Lee Chickaway, 66, was held on Friday, February 21, 2025, at

Tucker Community Gymnasium. Pastor Thomas Ben officiated.



Burial was in Holy Rosary Catholic Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Chickaway passed away on Feb. 14 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

He was a member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church & enjoyed watching football, especially the Ohio State Buckeyes, traveling, attending family gatherings, & listening to music. He was a goalie for Tucker Stickball & won a championship in 1988.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Clement & Lurline McMillan Chickaway; wife, Joan Chickaway; son, Kimathy Mingo; sister, Earline Flores & brothers, Robert Chickaway, Christopher Chickaway, Hayward McMillan, Sr., & Silmon John.

Survivors include his daughter, Jenny Mingo (Nelson John, Jr.); son, Demando (Candice) Mingo; sister, Mary Theresa Chickaway; brothers, Leroy Chickaway & Charlie Chickaway; & a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

SUMMER RAINE MCCAA

Funeral service for Summer Raine McCaa, 15, was held on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at the family residence on 124

see OBITUARIES, pg. 18

**MEMORIAL DAY
3-MAN GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025

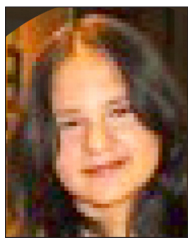
-\$375 - 3-MAN TEAM
-\$400 - TEAM + HOLE SPONSORSHIP
-\$150 - HOLE SPONSORSHIP
TOURNAMENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!!

'AZALEAS' @ DANCING RABBIT
CHECK-IN: 08:00 AM, SHOTGUN: 10:00 AM

for more INFORMATION or register your team. CONTACT:
KEVIN GRISHAM (601) 622-4018, kevin.grisham@choctaw.org

OBITUARIES continued from page seventeen

Wolf Trail Extension in Choctaw. Deacon Ricky Edwards, Sr. & Rev. Carl



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

Ms. McCaa passed away on Feb. 17 at her residence.

She resided in Pearl River community & enjoyed being with family & friends, drawing, & making videos on Facebook.

She is preceded in death by her grandmother, Audrey Lynn Wishork Wilson; brother, Davin Grant Wilson; aunt, Wendy Lynn Wilson; uncle, Andrew Lee Wilson; great-grandparents, Carolyn Wilson, Aaron Willis, Lum Presley Wilson, & Warner W. Starr; great-great-grandparents, Eva Barnett, John Wilson, Maggie B. Starr, & Sommers Starr; & a great-great-uncle, Claude Tubby.

Survivors include her parents, Chris Jim & Wanda Wilson; sisters, Halle (Jose) Cruz, Emily (Hilowah) Davis & Cristen Jim; grandparents, Jerry Wilson, Barbara Scobee, & Annie Sam; aunt, Karen Wilson; uncles, Barry Jim & Landon Jim; great-aunts, Adalyn Jim & Rita Faye Tubby; a niece, nephew, & a host of relatives & friends.

MARCIE JOE

Funeral service for Marcie Joe, 47, was held on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at Pearl River CERF Building. Bro. Leonard Jimmie officiated.



Burial was in Greenhill Methodist Cemetery. John E.

Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Joe passed away on Feb. 19 at Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She resided in Pearl River community & was a member of Lighthouse Baptist Church. She enjoyed being with family & friends, watching Choctaw Central sports, cheering for the New Orleans Saints, being on her phone, watching movies, & being on Facebook.

She is preceded in death by Hattie Joe, who raised her; parents, Noah Joe & Joyce Bell Joe; & sisters, Frances Joe, Jenny Joe, Mattie Bell, & Lanell Trejo.

Survivors include her son, Justice Joe; sisters Paula Bell, Tashina Wilson, Marsha Berry, & Jessica Poncio; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

GLENDA FAYE JACKSON SHUMAKE

Funeral service for Glenda Faye Jackson Shumake, 64, was held on Monday, February 24, 2025, at Standing Pine Community Gymnasium. Deacon Max Anderson & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.



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

Ms. Shumake passed away on Feb. 20 at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Leake in Carthage.

She resided in Standing Pine community & enjoyed watching Choctaw Central Lady Warriors basketball, being with family, beading, & playing softball when she was younger.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Shumake; parents, Wayne Clemons & Majorie Jackson Charlie; & sister, Dorsey Mae Clemons.

Survivors include her son, Ryan (Veltina) Shumake, Sr.; sisters, Denise Charlie & Mary Ann Gibson; 4 grandchildren, 5 nieces, 5 nephews, & a host of relatives & friends.

DAYLEN RAY BRISCOE

Funeral service for Daylen Ray Briscoe, 4, was held on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at Conehatta CERF Building. Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Master Briscoe passed away on Feb. 20 at Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson, MS.

He lived in Conehatta community & attended Stonewall Baptist Church. He loved fishing, going to the Bass Pro Shop, cutting grass with his grandpa, shopping for dinosaurs & Sonic toys, playing with family & friends, & going to school.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather, Darryl Ray Solomon Sr.; great-great-grandparents, Homer & Cornelia Bell, Annie Steve, Audie Day, W.C. Tubby, Ruben & Mae Bell Starr; great-great-great-grandmother, Grace Farmer Smith.

Survivors include his parents, Dearthyl Ray Solomon & Jaylynn Briscoe; grandparents, Jathan Sr. & Danielle Briscoe, Melissa Solomon; great-grandparents, Vanessa Tubby, Paul Bell, Sr. (Erika), Rafael Tubby & Brenda Dixon; aunts, Robin Tubby, Laya Briscoe, Ansley Briscoe, Kyla Briscoe, Brylee Briscoe, Darcia Solomon, Demetria Jefferson, Deani-

ca Solomon; uncles, Jayson Briscoe, Jathan Briscoe, Jr., Zacharias Briscoe, Darryl Solomon, Jr.; & a host of great-uncles, aunts, & relatives.

CARL RANDALL HICKMAN

Funeral service for Carl Randall Hickman, 58, was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at Bogue Chitto Community Gymnasium.



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

Mr. Hickman passed away on Feb. 22 at Baptist Anderson Hospital in Meridian, MS.

He grew up in Bogue Chitto but lived in Standing Pine community. He enjoyed making stickball sticks, playing softball, fishing, being with family, watching football, & fixing cars. He was a LSU fan.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Willis Hickman, Sr. & Gloria Mingo Hickman; sisters, Laura Hickman & Debra Thames; & a brother, Willie Hickman, Jr.

Survivors include his wife, Revalene Hickman; daughter, Maya Stewart; son, Randall Hickman; sisters, Melissa Hickman Bell & Lois Hickman; half-sister, Teresa Anderson; brothers, Eric Hickman, Sr., & David Hickman; half-brother, Edwin Bell; foster brother, Robert Mingo, Jr.; 18 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

continued next page

ANDREW DANNY JACKSON

Funeral service for Andrew Danny Jackson, 78, was held on Sunday, March 2, 2025, at Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Randy Jim & Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.



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

Mr. Jackson passed away on Feb. 25 at St. Dominic's Hospital in Jackson.

He resided in Bogue Chitto community & was a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. He was a teacher aide/bus driver at Bogue Chitto Elementary School for over 40 years until his retirement. He served as basketball coach & won his first championship in 1985. He enjoyed fishing, doing word puzzles, watching western shows, game shows, channel 11 news, going to Bobby's Country Store, & being with his grandchildren. He was a supporter of Nanih Waiya & Bok Cito Stickball teams, Choctaw Central athletics, Oklahoma Sooners, New York Giants, & Atlanta Braves.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Tubbee & Missie Morris Jackson; wife, Lola Thomas Jackson; daughter, Trishahn Jackson; granddaughter, Baidon Eaves; sisters, Luceline Bell, Katherine Bell, Samantha Wallace, Margaret Wallace, Emma Lee Wallace, Judy Cotton, & Florine Jackson; & brothers, William Jackson, Coleman Jackson, Claude Jackson, Wendell Jackson, & Jerry Jackson.

Survivors include his daughters, Taliciahn Eaves (Brandon) & Dayanna Jackson; son, Dano Jackson; sister, Mary Jane

Branning; 3 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

MARTHA DAN ANDERSON

Funeral service for Martha Dan Anderson, 68, was held on Monday, March 3, 2025, at Pearl River CERF Building. Bro. Daniel Tubby & Bro. Leonard Jimmie officiated.



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

Ms. Anderson passed away on Feb. 25 at Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She was a member of Chihowa i Chukka (Assembly of God) Church, but attended Lighthouse Indian Mission Baptist Church. She loved attending church functions. During her younger years, she loved playing volleyball & softball. She enjoyed family gatherings, socializing, taking photographs, & traveling to Arizona & Nevada to see her family. She worked as a CNA & loved doing her job until her retirement.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Bonnie & Betty Waiter Dan; sister, Nancy B. Dan; brothers, Robert W. Dan & John F. Dan; step-daughter, Sequita Williams Dixon; grandson, Tyler L. Amos; & grandmother, Lela Jimmie.



LOCATED IN THE TUCKER COMMUNITY
(Adjacent up the hill from Tucker Elementary School)

We invite you and your family to join our family for services.

SUNDAY SERVICES - 2:00 pm
TUESDAY EVENINGS - 6:00 pm

Survivors include her daughters, Tracey M. Trolle, Marlena Anderson, Sesaun K. Williams, & Shannon Mingo; sons, Ramey T. Dan, Ali Kent Dan, Lamo Johnson (Modina), & Tilson Williams; sisters, Brenda Dan Carter (Perry), Arlene Fuller, & Phyllis Keams; brothers, Michael Patrick Dan, Bodron Dan, Edward Dan, Eric Shane Dan, & Carl Phillips; 25 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; an aunt, Bertha Jane Willis; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

RUTH KAREN SMITH

Funeral service for Ruth Karen Smith, 56, was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at Conehatta Community Gymnasium. Deacon Billy Smith & Rev. Tim Tubby officiated.



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

Ms. Smith passed away on Feb. 28 at Merit Health River Oaks in Flowood.

She was a member of Mace-

donia Baptist Church & enjoyed being with family & friends, sewing Choctaw attire, reading, attending church, listening to music, fishing, hunting, traveling, shopping, & joking with friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Allene Willis Dixon (Cecil Dixon, Sr.) & Edmond Dixon; sisters, Stacey Dixon & Gloria Bell; & brothers, Darryl Bell, Raynard Bell, Gary Bell, & Bobby Bell.

Survivors include her daughters, Cenitria Skye Smith & Cinidria Tawnie Smith; sons, Cody Shane Smith & Ethan Sebe Smith; sisters, Patty Dixon, Rosie Dixon, & Levinie Bell; brothers, Cecil Dixon, Jr., Richard Dixon, & Donald Bell; & a host of relatives & friends.

Welcome To

10341 Road 789
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.

Come Join Us...

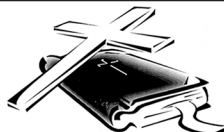


SUNDAY: 10:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY: 6:30 p.m.

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

Pastor Thomas Ben

Come & Worship with us

**MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**

130 Campus Drive
Conehatta, MS 39057

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Evening Service

1st Sunday Service 4:00 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Dixon

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

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

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



Small Business Directory

Below is a listing of Tribal member businesses offering diverse services. For updates or inquiries regarding this directory, please contact the Office of Economic Development at 601-650-1605.

(Barbershop)

D'S NATIVE EDGE

Owner, Demando Mingo
202 Choctaw Town Center
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-504-0496

(Construction/Renovation)

HOUSEWORX LLC

Owner, Henry Dixon
313 Deer Trail
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-650-6521
email: webbdixonjr1@hotmail.com

(Food/Beverage)

BIGGIE'S SNOWIE

Owner, Terry Kinsolving
10061 Road 604
Philadelphia, MS 39350
Phone: 601-504-9004

(Food/Catering)

KINGS AND QUEENS BAR-B-QUE, CATFISH, SEAFOOD

Owner, Mike Briscoe
140 Choctaw Rd.
Heidelberg, MS 39355
Phone: 601-422-7900
email: briscoe601@yahoo.com

SOLOMON'S BBQ

Owner, Will Solomon
115 Cobblestone Rd.
Walnut Grove, MS 39189
Phone: 601-291-1983

(Graphics/Screen Printing)

KUNTRY BOY DESIGNS

Owner, Kendall Wallace
13141 MS-491
Philadelphia, MS 39350
Phone: 601-663-5376
email: ndnchoctaw@yahoo.com

(Insurance)

PEARL RIVER INSURANCE

Owners, Leticia & Edward Rangel
300 Choctaw Town Center, Suite 106
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-663-0971
email: lrangel@pearlriverins.com

(Nutritional Drink)

PINKYY PEARL NUTRITION

Owners, Cecilia Ketcher &
Mahlih Bowden
300 Choctaw Town Center, Suite 103
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-389-8091
email: pinkyypearlnutrition@gmail.com

(Party/Event Rentals)

SPONGY'S INFLATABLES LLC

Owner, Emerson Billy
Phone: 769-258-9086
email: spongysinflatables@gmail.com

(Storage)

HWY 16 MINI STORAGES

Owner, Henry Dixon
313 Deer Trail
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-650-6521
email: webbdixonjr1@hotmail.com

Choctaw Shopping Center Business Directory

Below is a directory showcasing the businesses who service the communities. For additional details or assistance, contact the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise office at 601-656-6066.

(Car Services)

WM AUTO BODY SHOP, LLC

710 Highway 35 South
Carthage, MS
Phone: 601-334-4208

(Church)

CENTER POINTE CHURCH

6201 Highway 57
Ocean Springs, MS
Phone: 228-875-7878

LIVING WATERS

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

10090 BIA Road 0241
Philadelphia, MS 39350

(Convenience Store)

BIG CREEK GENERAL STORE

13141 Highway 491 North,
Philadelphia, MS 39350
Phone: 601-938-2054
769-757-7070

CONEHATTA WARRIOR

10417 Highway 489
Conehatta, MS
Phone: 601-775-3996

CRYSTAL SKY TRAVEL PLAZA

1320 S. Church Ave.
Louisville, MS

PEARL RIVER RESORT

WELCOME CENTER

13541 Highway 16
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-650-9393

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025

© 2025 MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

(Design, Construction Engineering Services)

WILLIS ENGINEERING

100 Blackjack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-389-8116

(Dialysis Center)

FRESENIUS KIDNEY CARE

404 Industrial Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 800-881-5101

(Financial Services)

CHOCTAW FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

200 Choctaw Town Center, Suite 203
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-676-0566

CHOCTAW LOAN PROGRAM

300 Choctaw Town Center
Suite 302-308
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-656-0056

TRUSTMARK BANK

110 Choctaw Town Center
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-650-1975

(Fitness Center)

CHAHTA OKLA FITNESS CENTER

301 Choctaw Town Center, Suite 104
Choctaw, MS 39350

(Graphics Printing)

PEARL RIVER GRAPHICS

404 Industrial Road, Suite F
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-656-3636

(Grocery Store)

PIGGLY WIGGLY

100 Choctaw Town Center, Suite 100
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-389-1938

(Laundry)

FLUFF & FOLD

13141 Highway 491 North
Philadelphia, MS 39350

FLUFF & FOLD

200 Choctaw Town Center, Suite 104
Choctaw, MS 39350

(Mailing Service)

U.S. POST OFFICE

200 Choctaw Town Center, Suite 103
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-656-4006

(Propane Gas Services)

PARTRIDGE PROPANE

200 Choctaw Town Center,
Suite 105-106
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-656-0270

(Restaurant)

EL RODEO MEXICAN RESTAURANT

13811 Highway 16 West
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-663-4100

(Transportation Services)

CHOCTAW TRANSIT AUTHORITY

390 Industrial Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-650-7430