

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

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

Tribal Students Sing National Anthem at Ole Miss Game

The University of Mississippi hosted Native American Heritage Night on Sunday, February 19, 2023, as several elementary school students representing the Choctaw Tribal Schools performed the National Anthem in the Choctaw language during pre-game activities of the Ole Miss-South Carolina women's basketball game in Oxford.

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben and 2022-2023 Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickey presented stickball sticks and a stickball to Ole Miss Chancellor Glenn Boyce and Athletics Director Keith Carter during a pre-game ceremony.

Chief Ben said he appreciated the opportunity for the Tribe to be recognized and sing the National

Anthem in the Choctaw language. He was also thrilled to see Tribal member and Ole Miss student Asa Jimmie of the Pearl River Community serving as one of the Lady Rebels' team managers.

The Lady Rebels sported commem-

orative warm ups with the official Tribal logo on the front and the phrase "CHAHTA STRONG CHAHTA PROUD" on the back.

Ole Miss took the undefeated, No. 1 ranked South Carolina into overtime before falling 64-57.



ABOVE, Choctaw Central High School Assistant Principal Elijah Ben led the students in their rendition of the National Anthem in the Choctaw language. **BELOW LEFT**, from left to right, 2022-2023 Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickey, Ole Miss Athletic Director Keith Carter, Chief Ben, Ole Miss Chancellor Glenn Boyce, & wife, Emily Boyce. **RIGHT**, Lady Rebels team manager Asa Jimmie.



LAKE LADY HORNETS
2023 MHSAA Class 2A Girls Basketball State Champions
Lyrice Lay
JONES COLLEGE BOBCATS
2023 NJCAA Region 23 Women's Basketball Champions
Carly Keats Meloney Thomas

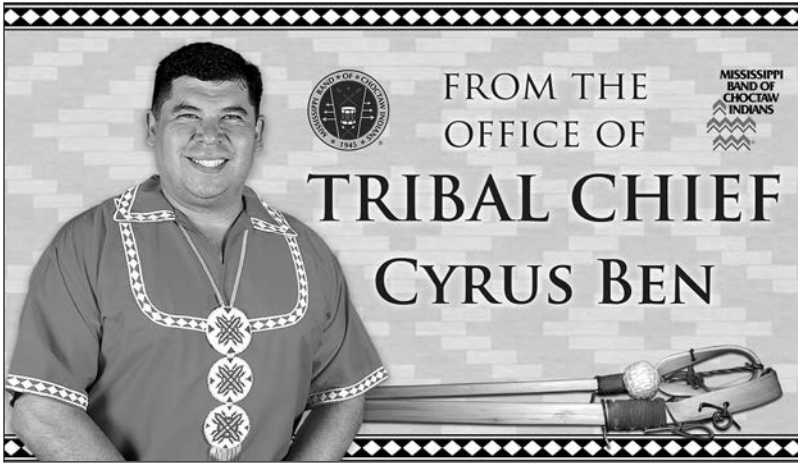


Ground Breaking in Bogue Chitto

On Tuesday, February 21, a ground breaking for new housing units was held in the Bogue Chitto Community. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, 2022-2023 Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickey, Vice Chief Ronnie Henry Sr., Tribal Council Representatives Richard Sockey, Demando Mingo, Loriann Ahshapanek, Wilma Simpson-McMillan, Angela Hundley, Kendall Wallace, Deborah Martin, & Choctaw Housing Authority officials were in attendance to help break ground. There will be six houses built consisting of four 3-bedroom & two handicapped-accessible houses, which are 2-bedroom houses. Willis Engineering from Grenada, Miss., did the infrastructure & house planning. Eric Farmer with Johnny Wynne & Associates, PA



of Ridgeland, Miss., was the architect for the design of the houses. IKBI has the contract & construction of the site work. Completion is anticipated to be in the fall of 2023.



Halito!

As we enter into a new year, we continue to progress as a Tribe and encourage our tribal members in their successes.

We have been visiting area high schools and congratulating our seniors as they were honored during their senior nights. These seniors have proven that hard work and dedication are the most valuable tools for success. We wish them the best as they prepare to leave high school and head for college, the

workforce or the military.

No matter where our people go or what career they end up choosing for themselves, we will always be supportive of them as they pursue their dreams and succeed.

We are proud of our CCHS Lady Warriors Soccer Team as they made it to the third round of the state playoffs. I have no doubt that our underclassmen will continue to build upon the successes of their senior teammates, and we will soon be state soccer champions in the near future. We look forward to next season!

I offer all of our local schools congratulations on an outstanding basketball season. It takes talent, skill and teamwork to achieve success, and I am proud to say that our Choctaw players have proven themselves to be some of the best basketball players in the state.

Congratulations to Lyric Lay and the Lake High School Lady



Chief Ben Attends State of the Union

On February 7, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben attended the State of the Union address at the U.S. Capitol as the honored guest of U.S. Representative for Mississippi's Third Congressional District Michael Guest. This was President Biden's second State of the Union address to the full Congress. Chief Ben was in the Nation's Capitol for USET Impact Week, February 6-7. Pictured, from left to right, are Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Tribal Chief Ben, & Representative Michael Guest (R-MS).

Hornets as they were the MH-SAA Class 2A Girls State Basketball Champions!

Congratulations also to Meloney Thames and Carly Keats and the Jones College Bobcats for winning the NJCAA Region 23 Womens Basketball Tournament. They now advance to the NJCAA National Tournament

in Lubbock, Texas. We wish them well as they compete for a national championship!

I want to congratulate all of the players, coaches and fans who participated in the Choctaw Tribal Schools basketball tournament. Thank you to Tucker for hosting the tournament. It was great watching

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
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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.



Maxwell New MBCI Attorney General *the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians*
 Congratulations to W. Diane Maxwell as she was confirmed by the Tribal Council & sworn in by Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben as Attorney General for her family in attendance for the ceremony.

our youth showing off their skills on the basketball court.

Congratulations to the Choctaw Central Middle School Lady Warriors and the Red Water Elementary Braves for their respective championship wins! Congratulations also to girls MVP Shastyn Lewis and boys MVP Braylon Edwards!

I am very proud of the winners and participants of the 29th Annual Choctaw Tribal Schools District-Wide Spelling Bee, held this year at Pearl River Elementary School. It takes not just a great knowledge of spelling out words, but also courage and determination, to stand in front of people and speak out loud and compete for the chance to be spelling bee champion.

Congratulations to our Spelling Bee grade winners: 4th Grade – Jaric Anderson

of Standing Pine Elementary School, 5th Grade – Nylah Wilson of Red Water Elementary School, 6th Grade - Ansen McMillan of Standing Pine Elementary, 7th Grade - Westbrook Thompson of Choctaw Central Middle School, and 8th Grade - Fred Comby of Choctaw Central Middle School.

A further congratulations to Ansen McMillan, who was the overall district spelling bee champion! Thank you to the organizers who put on a great program, and to the teachers and all individuals who worked with the students to prepare them for the bee.

I salute the hard work and creativity of the 11 teams who participated in the 20th Annual FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Tournament at the Choctaw Central High School gymnasium. This year's theme was "Su-

per Powered" as teams learned about different types of energy sources, storage, distribution methods, and ways in which energy is consumed.

After three robot performance rounds, five awards were presented to the following teams: Core Values Award - Native Pines (Standing Pine Elementary School), Innovative Project/Project Presentation Award - The Able Gamers Group II (Pearl River Elementary School), Robot Design Award - Smash Clan (Bogue Chitto Elementary School), Robot Performance Award - Tucker T'Bots (Tucker Elementary School), and the Champion's Award - Network Robot (Tucker Elementary School).

Congratulations to Network Robot as they advance to the Mississippi FIRST LEGO League Tournament. I thank

all of the organizers and volunteers who helped make this a successful tournament!

I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Tribal member Ms. W. Diane Maxwell, who was confirmed by the Tribal Council and then sworn in as Attorney General for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians at the regular call Tribal Council meeting on January 10th.

Ms. Maxwell has sixteen years of experience working for the Tribal government and Tribal entities. She obtained a Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law, a Master of Science degree in Administration of Justice from Mississippi College, and a Master of Law degree in Indigenous Peoples

see **LETTER**, pg. 4



Delegation Attends Grand Opening

A tribal delegation - led by Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & including Vice Chief Ronnie Henry, Sr., MBCI Director of Administration Jason Grisham, 2022-2023 Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickey, Director of Development Division Sarah Medlock, Director of MBCI Boys & Girls Club Glen Billie, & Office of Economic Development Operations Manager Anna Denson - attended the grand opening



& ribbon cutting ceremony for The New York Blower Company and KDS Windsor Lumber Drying Technologies on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, in Philadelphia, Miss. Joining New York Blower CEO Tim O'Hare & KDS Windsor Lumber Drying Technologies President Dan Young for the festivities were Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves, State Senator Jenifer Branning, State Representative C. Scott Bounds, Neshoba County & City of Philadelphia elected officials, area business & community leaders. This new venture represents an \$8 million capital investment for the state & will bring 60 new jobs to the area. This new manufacturing facility will serve the new build & aftermarket sectors for customers seeking service & replacement parts on their existing kilns, ventilation systems & fans. **PICTURED ABOVE RIGHT**, from left to right, are Office of Economic Development Operations Manager Anna Denson, MBCI Boys & Girls Club Director Glen Billie, Gov. Tate Reeves, & Chief Ben. **PICTURED LEFT**, A community contribution was presented to the MBCI Boys & Girls Club. Pictured, from left to right, are KDS Windsor Lumber Drying Technologies President Dan Young, MBCI Vice Chief Ronnie Henry, Sr., 2022-2023 Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickey, New York Blower CEO Tim O'Hare, Chief Ben, & MBCI Boys & Girls Club Director Billie.

BIE Director Dearman visits Tribe

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians had the honor and privilege to host Mr. Tony Dearman, Director of the Bureau of Indian Education and member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Director Dearman and members of his delegation visited Choctaw Tribal lands on Thursday, February 23rd, to gain a greater insight of the Choctaw Tribal School System. They met with Tribal and Choctaw Tribal School officials and visited the campuses of Pearl River Elementary School, Choctaw Central Middle School and Choctaw Central High School. The visit concluded with Mr. Dearman throwing out the ceremonial first pitch of the Choctaw Central High School Lady Warriors varsity softball game against the Philadelphia High School Lady Tornadoes.



LETTER continued from page three

Law from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. She is also a former United States Marine Corps Reservist. I am proud of her success and know she will serve our Tribe well as Attorney General.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to our Resort Associates who were recently recognized for 12 months of perfect attendance at Pearl River Resort and Bok Homa Casino.

Our Resort operations are open 24 hours a day, nonstop, and we benefit greatly from the dedicated and hard-working Associates who make every effort to be at work and serve our guests and help us be the success we are. Without our loyal Resort workforce, we would not be the one of the premier resort destinations of the Southeast. So again, I say thank you to our Resort Associates and wish you another great year of success!

Choctaw Housing Authority held the groundbreaking of a new housing subdivision in the Bogue Chitto community

on February 21st. Willis Engineering from Grenada, Miss. did the infrastructure and house planning. Eric Farmer with Johnny Wynne and Associates, PA of Ridgeland, Miss. was the architect for the designs of the houses. IKBI will do the construction of the site work to build the six houses. The project is expected to be completed in September 2023.

As mentioned in previous

columns, we have numerous projects in planning, some in progress, as well as others near completion. I hope to be able to share more exciting news with you in the upcoming issues of the Community News. Check out our MBCI Facebook page for the latest news and events.

Thank you for your support of me and of our great Tribe. Together, we have and can continue to make great progress for

all of our Chahta People! May God keep His favor upon our people.

Chi Yakokilih,

Cyrus Ben, Tribal Chief

Tribal Members Participate in Parade

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade was held in downtown Philadelphia, Miss., on Saturday, Jan. 14. Community members came out to honor & remember the legacy of Dr. King. Among the parade participants were 2022-2023 Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickey, Princesses & Braves from Tucker Elementary School, & a few Choctaw youth in the Neshoba Central Band. Thank you to Princess Cadence & our Choctaw youth for representing the Tribe!



Voter Registration for Tribal Election

The Tribal Election Committee has released the following information regarding Tribal Election on Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

NEW VOTER:

- You must be 18 years old or older and a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

- You will need a Photo I.D. with your current address. If your I.D. doesn't have a current address, then you can use mail or junk mail with your name and current address on it, along with your Photo I.D.

TO TRANSFER:

- You must have maintained residency within the geographical boundaries of one of the Choctaw Communities for at least 6 months prior to the date of June 6, 2023 election, which would have been December 6, 2022.

- You will need a Photo I.D. with the issue date as of or on December 6,

2022. If your I.D. doesn't have current information, then you can use mail or junk mail dated on or before December 6, 2022, with your name and address.

TO CHANGE YOUR LAST NAME:

- You will need a marriage certificate or divorce papers indicating a name change and your Photo I.D. with current address. If marriage certificate or divorce papers aren't available, a current Photo I.D. or Social Security card with your current last name can be used.

For more information, please contact: Mavis Hickman, Voter Registration Coordinator, at (601)650-1507; Stella Willis, Election Coordinator, at (601)650-7468; and Berdie John, Election Chairperson, at (601)650-7475.

Schedules for Registration Drive

COMMUNITY	DATES	TIMES	PLACE
Bogue Chitto	Monday, March 13, 2023 Monday, April 24, 2023	1:30 pm-4:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	(NEW) CERF Building
BC-Henning, TN	Saturday, March 18, 2023 Saturday, April 29, 2023	1:30 pm-4:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	MBCI Henning (NEW) CERF Bldg. 1230 Hwy. 87 W. Henning, TN
Bogue Homa	Wednesday, March 15, 2023 Tuesday, April 25, 2023	11:00 am-1:30 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	(NEW) CERF Building
Conehatta	Tuesday, March 14, 2023 Wednesday, April 26, 2023	9:30 am-12:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	(NEW) CERF Building
Crystal Ridge	Monday, March 13, 2023 Thursday, April 27, 2023	9:30 am-12:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	(NEW) CERF Building
Pearl River	Friday, March 17, 2023 Thursday, May 4, 2023	9:30 am-12:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	Tribal Election Office
Red Water	Thursday, March 16, 2023 Monday, May 1, 2023	1:30 pm - 4:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	(NEW) CERF Building
Standing Pine	Thursday, March 16, 2023 Tuesday, May 2, 2023	9:30 am-12:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	(NEW) CERF Building
Tucker	Tuesday, March 14, 2023 Wednesday, May 3, 2023	1:30 pm-4:00 pm 4:00 pm-8:00 pm	(NEW) CERF Building

New location for Registration Drive will be at the New Covid Emergency Relief Facility (CERF)


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 6, 2023 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 5, 2023 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 or (601) 650-7468.

Mavis Hickman
Mavis Hickman, Tribal Voter Registration Coor.

DATE POSTED: March 8, 2023

"CHOCTAW SELF-DETERMINATION"



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

NOTICE OF TRIBAL ELECTION

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will hold a Tribal Election on **Tuesday, June 06, 2023**, for eight (8) seats on the **Tribal Council** and **Tribal Chief**, all for **four-year terms**.

To be elected to the Tribal Council are:

- One seat in Bogue Chitto, with term expiring in 2027;
- One seat in Bogue Homa, with term expiring in 2027;
- One seat in Conehatta, with term expiring in 2027;
- One seat in Pearl River, with term expiring in 2027;
- Two seats in Red Water, with terms expiring in 2027;
- One seat in Standing Pine, with term expiring in 2027;
- One seat in Tucker, with term expiring in 2027.

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 time and places are listed below:

COMMUNITY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
1. Bogue Chitto	Tuesday, June 06, 2023	8:00am-8:00pm	CERF Building
a. Bogue Chitto-Henning, TN	Tuesday, June 06, 2023	8:00am-8:00pm	MBCI Henning CERF Bldg, 1230 Hwy. 87 W, Henning, TN
2. Bogue Homa	Tuesday, June 06, 2023	8:00am-8:00pm	CERF Building
3. Conehatta	Tuesday, June 06, 2023	8:00am-8:00pm	CERF Building
4. Crystal Ridge	Tuesday, June 06, 2023	8:00am-8:00pm	CERF Building
5. Pearl River	Tuesday, June 06, 2023	8:00am-8:00pm	CERF Building
6. Standing Pine	Tuesday, June 06, 2023	8:00am-8:00pm	CERF Building
7. Red Water	Tuesday, June 06, 2023	8:00am-8:00pm	CERF Building
8. Tucker	Tuesday, June 06, 2023	8:00am-8:00pm	CERF Building

*New location for each community polling place will be at the New Covid Emergency Relief Facility (CERF)

REGISTRATION

Tribal members 18 years of age or older who have not yet registered to vote may register at the Tribal Election Office. See Mavis H. Hickman. If you do not register to vote on or before 5:00 pm, **May 05, 2023**, you cannot vote in the June 06, 2023, election. **If you have already registered to vote, you do not need to register again unless you have moved to another community since the day of your registration.** Any registered voter in a community may challenge the residency of a person on the initial voters list by filing a voter challenge form to the Tribal Election Committee within ten (10) business days of the posting of the initial voters list on March 8, 2023. **The deadline to challenge voter residency is 4:30 pm on March 22, 2023.**

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 17, 2023**. 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 at the Tribal Election Office starting on May 18, 2023 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.

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 the 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 Bogue Homa 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 pm on **April 07, 2023**.
- 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.
- 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.

TRIBAL CHIEF 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 30 years of age at the time of the 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 community resident registered to vote in a community;
- Secures endorsement signatures of at least 51 registered voters, at least nine each from Pearl River, Bogue Chitto, and Conehatta, at least six each from Tucker, Red Water, and Standing Pine, and at least 3 from Bogue Homa and Crystal Ridge.

TRIBAL CHIEF CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Must submit these endorsement signatures on a standardized Nominating Petition Form at the Tribal Election Office to the Chairperson of the Tribal Election Committee on or before 4:30 pm on **April 07, 2023**.
- It shall be the responsibility of each candidate to ensure signature of 51 registered voter of his petition are registered to vote in tribal elections from the communities.
- Shall pay a non-refundable **filing fee of \$200.00** to the Finance Office and shall then present a copy of the receipt to the Chairman of the Tribal Election Committee.


The Tribal Election Committee must certify all candidates' petitions and qualifications before candidates' 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 (for mailing) or
101 Industrial Road (physical address)
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.


Berdie John, Chairperson


Wonda McMillan, Member


Amy Pauls, Member

DATE POSTED: March 08, 2023



CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

REGULAR CALL MEETING JANUARY 10, 2023

ORDINANCE NO. 81-C, approving & enacting the “Tribal Employment Code” as Chapter Two in Title XXXVI of the Choctaw Tribal Code, was ENACTED - 16 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, M. Briscoe, C. Eaves, N. Gibson, R. Henry, Sr., A. Hundley, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, W. Mc-Millan, D. Mingo, H. Nickey, G. Shoemake, R. Sockey, T. Thomas, Sr., K. Wesley*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (*K. Wallace*).

SUMMARY: *The Tribal Employment Code provides a general prohibition against hiring or rehiring anyone who has previously committed theft or any form of theft-related offense against the Tribe but includes an exception to the general prohibition depending on the amount of time that has passed & based on the amount of loss to the Tribe. For more information, please contact the Office of Human Resources.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-019(B), acknowledging a relinquishment of membership in the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves one (1) absolute relinquishment of membership in the MBCI for R.M. (DOB:05/28/1971). In accordance with Title XXII—Tribal Enrollment Code §22-4-1, any adult MBCI Tribal member may voluntarily relinquish their MBCI Tribal membership provided that both the Tribal*

Enrollment Committee & the Tribal Council approve the relinquishment. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Enrollment.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-020(B), approving an increase in blood degree & a name change for a previously enrolled Tribal member, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *In accordance with Title XXII—Tribal Enrollment Code §22-2-8, a person may submit an application for change in blood quantum calculation based upon new or additional information about paternity or maternity. The Tribal Enrollment Committee previously approved an increase in blood degree & name change for one (1) previously enrolled Tribal member. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Enrollment.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-021(B), enrolling Tribal members, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves Tribal Enrollment for forty-four (44) persons beginning with the name K. Alex-Wilson & ending with M. Wishork. With the adoption of the Resolution, there are 11,049 enrolled Tribal members in the MBCI. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Enrollment.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-022, approving an affiliation agreement for clinical experience between the University of Alabama & the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ Choctaw Health Center, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0

ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Field Affiliation Agreement is to provide clinical field experience in social work. The Choctaw Health Center will provide field supervision for any Tribal member or Choctaw Health Center employee pursuing social work degree programs including graduate level studies. For more information, please contact the Choctaw Health Center.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-023, authorizing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to apply for an Indian Housing Block Grant—Competitive Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The MBCI's Choctaw Loan Program will use IHBG grant funding for the development of a multi-unit apartment complex at a selected construction site on Frog Level road in the Pearl River community. For more information, please contact the Choctaw Loan Program.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-024(B), authorizing the Tribal Chief to approve certain rights-of-way on an ongoing basis, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The ongoing authority to approve rights-of-way will expedite the process of supplying electricity, water, sewer, gas, internet access, or other utilities to facilities located on MBCI Reservation lands. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-025(B), authorizing the Tribal Chief to enter into certain Service Line Agreements on an ongoing basis, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The ongoing authority to enter into Service*

Line Agreements will expedite the process of supplying buildings with electricity, water, sewer, gas, internet access & other utilities. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-026, designating an authorized customer representative for Trustmark National Bank transactions in conjunction with deposit accounts, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The authorized customer representative for Trustmark National Bank transactions is the Tribal Chief & the Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”). For more information, please contact the Office of Finance & Accounting.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-027, confirming the nomination of W. Diane Maxwell as the Attorney General for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *For more information, please contact the Office of the Attorney General.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-028, confirming the appointment of members to the Tribal Enrollment Committee, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The following individuals listed below are appointed to the Tribal Enrollment Committee: Gilbert Thompson, Chairperson, term expires January 2027; Willa Thomas, term expires January 2027; Celestine Steve, term expires January 2026; Rebecca Steve, term expires January 2026; Linda Williams, term expires January 2026. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-029, confirming the appointment of members to the Tribal

Personnel Grievance Panel, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The following individuals listed below are appointed to the Tribal Personnel Grievance Panel: Stanley Johnson, Chairperson, term expires October 2027; Melanie Carson, term expires October 2027; Julia Lindsey, term expires October 2027; Rhonda Bell, term expires October 2026; Joshua Weaver, term expires October 2026; Roberta Taylor, Alternate, term expires October 2027. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-030, confirming the appointment of members to the Tribal Credit Committee, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The following individuals listed below are appointed to the Tribal Credit Committee: Connie Deon, Chairperson, term expires July 2026; Edward Rangel, term expires July 2026; Kendall Grisham, term expires July 2027; Kelli Jones, term expires July 2027; Brittany Bell, term expires July 2027. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-031, confirming the appointment of members to the Choctaw Tax Commission, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The following individuals listed below are appointed to the Choctaw Tax Commission: Debra Smith, Chairperson, term expires July 2027; Janette Farve, term expires July 2027; Tenecia Bell, term expires July 2027. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-032, confirming the appointment of members to the Trib-

al Election Committee, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The following individuals listed below are appointed to the Tribal Elections Committee: Amy Pauls, Member, term expires October 13, 2026; Melanie Benn, Alternate, term expires October 13, 2026; Danita Willis, Alternate, term expires October 13, 2026. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-033, confirming appointments to the Choctaw Residential Center Enterprise Board of Directors, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The following individuals listed below are appointed to the Choctaw Residential Center Enterprise Board of Directors: Peggy Crawford, term expires October 2026; Jimmy Shannon, term expires October 2026. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-034, confirming appointments to the Choctaw Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The following individuals listed below are appointed to the Choctaw Housing Authority Board of Commissioners: Hilda Nickey, term expires January 31, 2026; Loriann Ahshapanek, term expires January 31, 2026; Kent Wesley, term expires January 31, 2026; Christopher Eaves, term expires January 31, 2026; Kendall Wallace, term expires January 31, 2026; Richard Isaac, term expires January 31, 2027; Michael Briscoe, term expires January 31, 2027; Demando Mingo, term expires January 31, 2027. For more*

information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-035, confirming appointments to the Chahta Enterprise Board of Directors, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The following individuals listed below are appointed to the Chahta Enterprise Board of Directors: Hilda Nickey, term expires November 2027; Angela Hundley, term expires November 2027; Nigel Gibson, term expires November 2027. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-036, confirming appointments to the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise Board of Directors, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The following individuals listed below are appointed to the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise Board of Directors: Timothy Thomas, Sr., term expires October 2027; Deborah Martin, term expires October 2027; Kendall Wallace, term expires October 2027. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-037, appointing Tribal Council Sergeant at Arms, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution confirms the appointment of James D. Willis as Sergeant at Arms of the Tribal Council. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

SPECIAL CALL MEETING FEBRUARY 27, 2023

RESOLUTION CHO 23-038, authorizing settlement of all claims against JUUL Labs, Inc., was ADOPTED - 14 YES

(L. Ahshapanek, M. Briscoe, N. Gibson, R. Henry, Sr., A. Hundley, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, G. Shoemaker, R. Sockey, T. Thomas, Sr., K. Wallace, & K. Wesley); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT (C. Eaves, D. Martin, & D. Mingo).

SUMMARY: *Previously, the Tribal Council adopted Resolution CHO 21-019 which authorized litigation of claims relating to electronic cigarettes manufactured & marketed by JUUL Labs, Inc. The MBCI received the terms of settlement offered by JUUL Labs, Inc. which adequately addresses all claims & the MBCI has agreed to fully resolve all claims against JUUL Labs, Inc. For more information, please contact the Office of the Attorney General.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-039(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Serena Chapman in the Bogue Chitto Community, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves a one year Land Use Permit for Serena Chapman to build a single-family home in the Bogue Chitto Community. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-040(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Becky Hickman Richarte in the Bogue Chitto Community, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves a one year Land Use Permit for Becky Hickman Richarte to build a single-family home in the Bogue Chitto Community. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-041(B), approving a Land Use
see RESOLUTIONS, pg. 8

USDA Takes Steps to Support Food Sovereignty with MBCI

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced on January 26, 2023, it has signed a cooperative agreement with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) under the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA). Through LFPA, the tribe seeks to purchase and distribute locally grown, produced, and processed food from underserved producers.

"USDA is excited to partner with Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to promote economic opportunities for farmers and producers and to increase access to locally sourced, fresh, healthy, and nutritious food in underserved communities," said USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt.

"The Local Food Purchase Cooperative Agreement Program will improve food and agricultural supply-chain resiliency and in-

crease local food consumption around the country."

With the LFPA funds, MBCI will contract with Choctaw Fresh Produce (CFP) to purchase fresh produce. This will lead the MBCI Produce Purchase and Distribution program to purchase fresh healthy produce and have it distributed among the tribe's underserved communities while utilizing community-based marketing and outreach methods/activities to promote it.

"We express our thanks to the USDA in their support of our Tribe's work. Through programs such as the LFPA, our Tribal communities and agricultural ventures like Choctaw Fresh Produce are empowered to produce locally grown and sourced food products for our people and others in the local supply chain," said Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben.

"Proudly, our Choctaw agricultural history runs deep. It is only natural that our

lands produce the food, cultivated by Choctaw hands, to sustain and enrich our families and communities."

USDA's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program provides up to \$900 million through non-competitive cooperative agreements to enable state, territory, and tribal governments to support local, regional and underserved producers, and maintain or improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency through the purchase of food produced within the state or within 400 miles of delivery destination.

Funding for the program comes from the American Rescue Plan and the Commodity Credit Corporation.

AMS looks forward to continuing to sign agreements under this innovative program that allows state and tribal governments to procure and distribute local and regional foods and beverages that are healthy, nutritious, and unique to their geographic area.

RESOLUTIONS continued from page seven

Permit for Addie Love in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves a one year Land Use Permit for Addie Love to develop a CBD business in the Pearl River Community. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-042(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Brandon Mitch in the Tucker Community, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approve a one year Land Use Permit for Brandon Mitch to build a single-family home in the Tucker Community. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-043(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Sonya Monk & Delvin Monk in Henning, Tennessee, was ADOPTED - 14

YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves a one year Land Use Permit for Sonya & Delvin Monk to build a single-family home in Henning, Tenn. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-044(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Randy Anderson in the Conehatta Community, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves a one year Land Use Permit for Randy Anderson to build a single-family home in the Conehatta Community. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-045(B), approving an Agricultural Lease in the Conehatta Community, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution*

approves a one year agricultural lease for Randy Anderson to develop a vegetable garden in the Conehatta Community. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-046(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Shannon Keats in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves a one year Land Use Permit for Shannon Keats to develop a garden in the Pearl River Community. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-047(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Shannon Keats in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves a one year Land Use Permit for Shannon Keats to build a single-family home*

in the Pearl River Community. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-048, authorizing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to apply for treatment as a State for the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act & Safe Drinking Water Act to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, was ADOPTED- 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *Indian Tribes that are treated as States for the purpose of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act & Safe Drinking Water Act have authority to regulate air quality, water quality & public water systems & are eligible to receive Federal funding to develop & implement their regulations. For more information, please contact the Office of Environmental Protection.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-049, authorizing a Distribution

continued next page



Dental Proclamation Signed

On Friday, February 3, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben visited the Choctaw Health Center Dental Department & signed a proclamation declaring February 3-10, 2023, as Give Kids A Smile Week & the month of February as Children's Dental Health Month. Staff from the CHC Dental Department, as well as the reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickey & Choctaw community youth, witnessed Chief Ben sign the proclamation. Thank you to the CHC Dental Department for all that you do to encourage good dental health for our children!



National Nutrition Month

On Wednesday March 1, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben signed a proclamation declaring March 2023 as National Nutrition Month on the Choctaw Reservation & March 8, 2023, as National Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day. All Tribal members are encouraged to participate in healthful eating habits & daily physical exercise to promote fitness & good health. Seated, from left to right, are Natalie Byram RDN, LD Director of Nutrition & Dietary, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Mary Harrison, Interim Health Director; Standing, from left to right, are Shannon Morrow MS, RDN, LD Dietitian & Food Service Coordinator, Lindsey Sims RDN, LD, Penny Dickerson MS, RDN, LD, & Anna Singleton RDN, LD.

of Tribal Funds, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution authorizes a distribution of Tribal funds in the amount of \$600.00 per Tribal member on July 1, 2023. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Distribution.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-050, approving the 2023-2024 School Calendar for Choctaw Tribal Schools, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: For more information, please contact the Department of Schools.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-051(B), approving increases in blood degree for previously enrolled Tribal members, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Title XXII—Tribal Enrollment Code §22-2-8, a person may submit an application for change in blood quantum calculation based upon new or additional information about paternity or maternity. The Tribal Enrollment Committee

previously approved an increase in blood degree for seven previously enrolled Tribal members. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Enrollment.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-052(B), enrolling Tribal members, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves Tribal Enrollment for 11 persons beginning with the name T. Baca & ending with C. Lewis. With the adoption of the Resolution, there are 11,033 Tribal members enrolled with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Enrollment.

To request a copy of the Resolution and/or attachment, please fill out a request for a Resolution/Ordinance form and submit it to the Policy & Legislative Office at krystina.thompson@choctaw.org. Requests for attachments to Tribal Enrollment Resolutions will not be honored due to confidentiality rules.

Has Your Mental Health Been Affected by Covid-19?

- When Covid-19 was on the rise, many experienced fear of contracting the virus. Fear and worry can exacerbate or lead to different mental health-related symptoms and behaviors (e.g. psychiatric disorders, anxiety & depression, chronic stress & trauma, substance abuse, & suicide thoughts/behaviors/attempts).
- Statistics show that a methamphetamine crisis has been silently, but vigorously gaining steam in Indian Country. (www.drugabuse.com)
- New research indicates that methamphetamine has increased interest and use amongst the young adult population and is more likely to push a user to paranoia and suicidal thoughts & behaviors, more so than any other drug! (www.narcsohn.org)
- Not only could the adverse health risks of meth cause death, but the "come down" from the drug could cause severe depression, which could lead to hopelessness and suicidal contemplation.
- Meth use and addiction, combined with social, physical, psychological, and even spiritual problems, can all come together, increasing the risk for suicide.

No one likes to confront the existence of drug use or an addiction amongst their family members or loved ones. However, we must remember that suicide, whether consciously committed or is the result of an accidental overdose, is the end-all of addiction, the final wound, the last injury, and the one, irreparable destruction that all addiction eventually causes if it is not addressed. We (family members, friends, community members, healthcare, etc.) do need to confront the fact that drug use and addiction, including alcohol use, goes hand-in-hand with suicide. When we know someone who is using or addicted, we have to do whatever we can to get them off of drugs and alcohol, so they never meet the misery of suicide. You are not alone. Please call for you or a loved one!

If you or your loved one has shown signs of being affected by COVID-19, alcohol and/or drug abuse & addiction, or suicidal thoughts, please call Choctaw Behavioral Health at 601-389-4150 from 8:00-4:30 to seek help. The after-hours/weekend # is 601-389-4400. The COVID-19 Hotline # is 601-389-4075. Reminder: The Grief Support Group meets Thursdays, 12:00-1:00 @ CHC Healing Grounds or Choctaw Behavioral Health Conference Room. Always remember you are loved and cared for. There is always hope!

CRISIS TEXT LINE

Text HELLO to 741741
Free, 24/7, Confidential

A "Crisis" doesn't just mean suicide...
It's any painful emotion for which you need support:
Bullying • School Stress • Depression • Anxiety • Suicide
Relationships • Friendships • Family Problems • Self-Harm

CHOCTAW
YOUTH
RESILIENCY
INITIATIVE

988

SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

MBCI Environmental Protection Household Hazardous Waste Collection

One Day Event Free to Tribal Members

March 25, 2023 8:00 a.m.—Noon
Old Choctaw Health Center Parking Lot
Pearl River Community

Items Accepted

PAINT, Aerosols, Cleaners, Anti-Freeze, Batteries, Brake Fluid, Chlorine Bleach, Pool Chemicals, Glass Cleaner, Disinfectants, Drain Opener, Furniture Polish, Gasoline, Herbicides, Insecticides, Pesticides, Tub & Tile Cleaner, Water Seal, Wood Finish, Fertilizers, Lighter Fluid, Paint Thinner, Tires, Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Electronic Waste, Used Motor Oil, Propane Cylinders



Items Not Accepted:
Explosives, Radioactive Materials, Materials containing PCB's, Syringes, Ammunition, Laboratory Chemicals, Prescription Drugs

ABSOLUTELY NO COMMERCIAL WASTE!!!

For more information, Please Call 601-663-7924

McMillan Top Speller at CTS Spelling Bee

Ansen McMillan, a sixth grade student at Standing Pine Elementary School, was the grand champion speller of the 29th Annual Choctaw Tribal Schools District-Wide Spelling Bee. This year's contest was held at the Pearl River Elementary School Gymnasium on Friday, January 27, 2023.

McMillan outlasted 43 other local spelling bee winners representing grades 4th-8th from outlying schools within the Choctaw Tribal Schools system. Participants from their respective schools and grades are listed below.

Bogue Chitto Elementary School (BC) - Kyler Hickman, 4th; Landry Henry, 5th; Jazmine Lewis, 6th; Kamryn Hundley, 7th; Delanie Wallace, 8th.

Conehatta Elementary School (C) - Colton Hickman, 4th; Rodgrick Anderson, 5th; Timothy Thomas & Cedric Williams, 6th; Dathian Williamson, 7th; Joshua McMillan, 8th.

Choctaw Central Middle School (CCMS) - Justice Thomas, Deann Comby, Mahaylia Nickey, Beauwy Bell, Westbrook Thompson, 7th; Callie Tubby, Kelly Williams,



Ansen McMillan, 2023 CTS District-Wide Spelling Bee Winner

Fred Comby, Sedney White, Ansley Shoemake, 8th.

Pearl River Elementary School (PR) - Kady Hickman, Traih'sin John, Natanya Allen, Truin Dixon, 4th; Kaecety Williams, Jacob Henry, Amaya Isaac, Jaycelynn Bell, 5th; Sherman Billie, Nikolai Denson, Amee Stell, Rainen Willis, 6th.

Red Water Elementary School (RW) - Serena Tubby, 4th; Nylah Wilson, 5th; Ashlyn Killingsworth, 8th.

Standing Pine Elementary School (SP) - Jaric Anderson, 4th; Daislin Isaac, 5th; Ansen

continued next page



Choctaw Tribal Schools Presented Check

The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia recently made a check presentation to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & Choctaw Tribal Schools officials. Proceeds were distributed from the bank's School Stash Debit Card Rewards Program which allows account holders carrying the bank's VISA 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. Pictured, from left to right, are Tucker Elementary School Principal Greg Carlyle, Tribal Council Tucker Representative Demando Mingo, Mark Taylor, SVP & COO, Citizens Bank, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Stacy Brantley, President & CEO, Citizens Bank, Jackie Hester, VP/Marketing Officer, Citizens Bank, & Director of Schools Dr. Randy Grierson.



Grade winners included, from left to right, Fred Comby (8th grade), Westbrook Thompson (7th grade), Ansen McMillan (6th grade/overall winner), & Jaric Anderson (4th grade). Not pictured is Nylah Wilson (5th grade).

McMillan, 6th.

Tucker Elementary School (T) - Mylah Gibson, 4th; Kaidence Thompson, 5th; Centarain "CT" Black, 6th; Braeson Sam, 7th; Kanyon Tubby, 8th.

In the opening round, spellers competed in their respective grade contests, with winners advancing to the overall final competition. Grade winners were Jaric Anderson (SP), 4th; Nylah Wilson (RW), 5th; Ansen McMillan (SP), 6th (overall winner); Westbrook Thompson (CCMS), 7th; & Fred Comby (CCMS), 8th.

Spelling bee staff included Andy Hardy serving as pronouncer, and Allen Peoples, Amy Pauls and Kendall Grisham serving as judges. LeAnn Boswell was the spelling bee coordinator.

Local spelling bee coordinators were Tina Wright (BC), Joshua Sheehan (C), Susie Henry (CCMS), Donna Crawford (PR), Madonna Watkins (PR), Leigh Chandler (SP), & Pam Breland (T).



Chickaway Wins MAIS Overall Spelling Bee

Congratulations to 7th grader Tayshaun Chickaway of Kemper Academy as he won the MAIS (Midsouth Association of Independent Schools) Overall State Spelling Bee, held on January 20 at Hartfield Academy in Jackson.

CCHS Hosts 20th Annual FLL Tournament

The Choctaw Tribal Schools held the 20th Annual FIRST LEGO® League (FLL) Tournament on Saturday, January 28, 2023, inside the Choctaw Central High School Gymnasium.

FLL is a hands-on, interactive engineering program that captivates students' interest in science & technology as they learn problem solving & team building skills.

Eleven teams comprised of over a hundred students from elementary & middle schools representing the Choctaw Tribal Schools participated in this wonderful & exciting event. This year's theme was "Super Powered" as teams learned about different types of energy sources, storage, distribution methods, & ways in which energy is consumed.

During the opening ceremony, the Choctaw Veterans Color Guard posted the American & Tribal flags as Deidre Tubby sang the National Anthem. Pastor Thomas Ben offered the invocation & reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickyey welcomed all in attendance.

Director of Schools Dr. Randall Grierson & Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben offered remarks encouraging the teams to do their best in this competition. Elisah Jimmie served as mistress of ceremonies as she introduced the judges, referees, & participating teams.

Every fall, FLL releases a challenge based on a real-world scientific topic. Each challenge has four parts: the Robot Game, Robot Design, Innovative Project, & Core Values. Teams program their autonomous robot (Robot Design) to score points on a themed playing field (Robot Game), developing a solution they have identified (Innovative Project), all guided by the FLL Core Values.

This season's game is about collecting energy units from different sources around the field & distributing them to where the energy will be stored or consumed. Points are scored for releasing energy units from the models & delivering energy units to target destinations.

Teams, comprised of up to 10 students along with a coach & mentor, compete in at least three 2.5-minute matches, with their highest score counting towards their final standing. At the conclusion of three robot performance rounds, the following awards were presented to the following teams listed below.

The Robot Performance Award was presented to Tucker T'Bots representing Tucker Elementary School. Their robot achieved the best score on the competition field.

The Robot Design Award was presented to Bogue Chitto Elementary School's Smash Clan. The award recognizes a team that designs a mechanically sound robot that is durable, efficient & highly capable of performing challenge missions.



FLL teams engage in highly competitive rounds to acquire as many points utilizing programmed autonomous lego robots on a themed playing field with various challenges to win the top prize, The Champions Award.

The team utilizes outstanding programming principles, including clear, concise & reusable code that allows their robot to perform challenge missions autonomously & consistently. Solid engineering principles & a well-developed strategy is used to design & build an innovative, high performing robot.

The Innovation Project Award was presented to Pearl River Elementary School's The Able Gamers Group II for their

see FLL TOURNEY, pg. 12



The Robot Performance Award was presented to Tucker Elementary School's Tucker T'Bots. Team members included (in no order) Colsen Stell, Kanyon Tubby, Brycetom McMillan, Braeson Sam, Logan Denson, Madelyn Henry, Leim McMillan, A'ria McMillan, & Coach Jennifer Bounds.

FLL TOURNEY continued from page eleven

utilization of diverse resources to formulate an in depth & comprehensive understanding of the problem they identified. The team's solution is exceptionally well considered & cre-

ative, with good potential to solve the problem researched. This award recognizes a team that effectively communicated the problem & their proposed solution to both judges & other potential supporters.

each other & other teams respect at all times. They recognize that both friendly competition & mutual gain are possible, on & off the playing field.



Bogue Chitto Elementary School's Smash Clan was recipient of the Robot Design Award. Team members included (in no order) Brydon Baca, Neveah McCool, Chacelyn Dixon, Koree Thompson, Ameryn Robinson, Bentley Ray, Terry Bounds, Jzahn Conrad, Kamryn Hundley, & Coach Janice Franklin.

The FIRST LEGO League Core Values Award was presented to Standing Pine Elementary School's Native Pines. This award celebrates a team that is empowered by their FLL experience & displays extraordinary enthusiasm & spirit. They are able to accomplish more together than they could as individuals through shared goals, strong communication, effective problem solving, & excellent time management. This team's members show

The Champion's Award was presented to Tucker Elementary School's Network Robot. This award recognizes a team that embodies the FLL experience, by fully embracing our CORE Values while achieving excellence & innovation in both the Robot Game & Project.

The Network Robot represented the Choctaw Tribal Schools at the FLL Mississippi Championship in Pearl on February 25.

continued next page



The Innovation Project Award was presented to Pearl River Elementary School's The Able Gamers Group II. Team members included (in no order) Sherman Billie, Wyatt Chickaway, Nikolai Denson, Riley Meely, Khanzlee Richardson, Ameer Stell, Rainen Willis, & Coach Gloria Seward.



The Champion's Award was presented to Tucker Elementary School's Network Robot. Team members included (in no order) Eric Shumake, Jacoby Willis, Marshall Mingo, Esiason Willis, Cameron Gibson, Kollier Thomas, William Willis, CT Black, Damarri Sam, Reyana Robinson, Brodie McMillan, Devin Johnson, Braydon Tubby, & Coach Kristina Taylor.



The FIRST LEGO League Core Values Award was presented to Standing Pine Elementary School's Native Pines. Team members included (in no order) Tekhyius Primer, Kalyana Allen, Ansen McMillan, Jayden Hardy, Xavi Vargas, Daislin Isaac, Shaylee Alex, Cerulean Lewis, Grayson Tangle, Braden Sam, Milayla Shomo, Avia Thompson, Liliana Frazier, & Coach Amy Armstrong.



Thank you to all the judges & volunteers for making this year's FLL Tournament a success!

Choctaw Tribal Schools Release Honor Roll

The Choctaw Tribal Schools recently announced students named to the second nine-weeks honor roll for the 2022-2023 school year. Students recognized on the Chief's List (all A's) & Principal's List/Honor Roll (all A's & B's) are listed below.

CHOCTAW CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CHIEF'S LIST

(9th Grade) - Ryleigh Anderson, Anniston Billy, Caitlyn Bounds, & Yuriana Crosby.

(10th Grade) - Kethan Anderson, Kaegen Henry, Christiana Weeks, & Brylee Willis.

(11th Grade) - Chesney Amos, Buford Billie, Delaiah Billy, Tristen Henry, Brannon Isaac, Peyton Mingo, Alesia Roa, & Connor Vaughn.

(12th Grade) - Isabelle Luis, Kaydee Taylor, & Peyton Willis.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

(9th Grade) - Yazzlyn Alex, Callie Amos, Danity Anderson, Akaylin Bell, Kaydence Bell, Lieisha Bell, Zaiya Bell,

Special thanks to Chief Ben & Dr. Grierson for offering words of encouragement & support, and to the volunteers who donated their time, energies, & talents to the Choctaw Tribal Schools' FLL Tournament. Your contributions will have a lasting impact on our "Engineers of Tomorrow".

This year's judges included: (Robot Design) Grant Gordon & Paula Covarrubias; (Project Presentation) Jessica Lewis & Nicklaus Shumake; & (Core Values) Mitzi Reed & Michelle Twiss. Robot performance referees were Wes Wallace & Matt Bell.

Zoe Bell, Arianna Cotton, Lexie Cotton, Imearia Davis, Tajjion Dixon, Xhaiden Edwards, A'Lanya Evans, Devree Farve, Marlena Fraire-Rains, James Hickman, Jamiya Hudson, Alessondra Jefferson, Dichelle Jim, Cambee Johnson, Kayliona Kessinger, Tracell King, Adarius Lewis, Seth Lewis, Nyla McCool, Ellee McMillan, Lexi Rodriguez, Keydren Thompson, Mikayla Wallace, Alexis Weeks, Christian Weeks, Crisayis Wesley, Kooper Wesley, Zaymian Williamson, Connor Willis, Deyanara Willis, Hayden Willis, Keynon Willis, Peyton Willis, & Deliana Wilson.

(10th Grade) - Amari Amos, Karli Bell, Tajha Bell, Damian Billie, Andre' Dan, Christian Davis, Aiyana Frazier, Desiny Hickman, Abram Isaac, Isaiah Johnson, Tamara Johnson, Mauhree Jones, Raiyleigh Per-

ry, Lola Slocum, T.J. Thomas, Ezra Triplett, David Watkins, & Jaryan Wesley.

(11th Grade) - Anya Anderson, Keondrae Anderson, Jocelyn Bell, Kylinn Bell, Mattison Bell, Mateo Ben, Miley Billie, Alannaysia Chickaway, Lakenton Chickaway, Aaliyah Clemmons, Jabari Denson, Lakaysia Dixon, Kaniya Frazier, Tori Henry, Zaiyah Isaac, Dalayla Jenkins, Dakota Jimmie, Kodi Jimmie, Kaysa Johnson, Brandon Mesteth, Tessney Morris, Jayce Sam, Amilia Sebastian, Ashlynn Stephens, Zylar Thomas, Destinee Williams, Dreshawn Williams, Koie Williams, Jalen Willis, Kambridge Willis, Markus Willis, & Nataysia Willis.

(12th Grade) - Audrianna Billy, Tyra Billy, Jathan Briscoe, Delycia Cunningham, Kaisen Edwards, Nickolas Farmer, Hunter Farve, Breanna Isaac,

see HONOR ROLL, pg. 14



Proclamation Signed at C-TEC

On Thursday, February 2, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben visited the Career and Technical Education Center (C-TEC) & signed a proclamation declaring February 1-28 as Career & Technical Education Month. C-TEC Administrator Sherry Tubby discussed the ongoing goal of linking C-TEC students with the opportunities growing in the new industries moving into the surrounding area. Choctaw Central High School technical honor students read the proclamation prior to the signing. Pictured above, seated from left to right, are C-TEC Administrator Sherry Tubby & Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben; standing, from left to right, students Jaleann Sockey, Deshaylee Tubby, Delycia Cunningham, Director of Schools Dr. Randy Grierson, Haygen Anderson, Catherine Jim, & Abram Cotton.

MBCI EARTH DAY ART CONTEST

THEME: CHOCTAW CULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ENTRY DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2023

WINNERS WILL BE CHOSEN FROM EACH AGE GROUP!!! THE WINNING ART WILL BE FEATURED AT THE FAIR AND IN THE 2024 ENVIRONMENTAL CALENDER!!

SUBMIT ENTRIES OR QUESTIONS TO EarthDayArt@CHOCTAW.ORG

EARTH DAY ART ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION P.O. BOX 6010 CHOCTAW, MS 39350

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HONOR ROLL continued from page thirteen

Aison Jim, Jaeon Johnson, Mathias Johnson, Emalayah King, Cadee McMillan, Braylon McMillian, Ethan Nanaeto, Braxton Roach, Jaleann Sockey, Quintin Sockey, Demidrea Stokes, Kookie Thompson-Steve, Deshaylee Tubby, Elaine Tubby, Tigel Tubby, Gannon Vaughn, Keshahn Wallace, & Cheyanne Weeks.

CHOCTAW CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL CHIEF'S LIST

(8th Grade) - Gracie Butler.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

(7th Grade) - Beauwy Bell, Kylie Bell, Anabella Farve, Jayshaun Hardy, Dracetin Isaac, Eliyah Jimmie, Jalaya Routh, Alaysia Steve, Westbrook Thompson, Ni'Leyah Williams, & Brylas Willis.

(8th Grade) Dorian Bell, Kyle Bell, Mileena Bell, Ty Briscoe, Ana'e'li Clemons, Lakayden Clemons, Fred Comby, Josias Hickman, Jacob Isaac, Asante Johnson, Shastyn Lewis, Ethaniel Nickey, Kailynn Perry, Kaleaina Rush, Anslee Shumake, William Slocum, Sedney White, Kelli Williams, & Nalayna Willis.

CONEHATTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHIEF'S LIST

(1st Grade) - Brayas Bell, Da'Nylie Ben, Hannah Crosby, Cheri Hicks, Desanaye Isaac, Bryten Jefferson, Tobias John, April Lewis, Espyn Stephens, & Gracie Wilson.

(2nd Grade) - Miley Dixon, Langston Logan, Namiayah Tubby, Zoe Wallace, Ka'Draizlyn Williams, & Janice Wilson.

(4th Grade) - Colton Hickman.

(6th Grade) - Konley Anderson & Alexis Smith.

(8th Grade) - Lillian Hickman & Joshua McMillan.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

(1st Grade) - Ameira Edwards, Everly Evans, Roslyn Farmer, Paisley Jefferson, Christian Mingo, Kaylynn Sardina, Jaycee Shoemake, DeAndre Shumake, Devante Tubby, & Nylesden Yazzie.

(2nd Grade) - Anielissa Bell, Kashay Charlie, Deanalyn Chickaway, Davaeya Christie, Kari Hicks, Daegan Isaac, Zayson Lasarge, Ryan Shumake, Jr., Peyton Wesley, Kelane Willis, & Kylyse Yazzie.

(3rd Grade) - Teyshoni Farmer, Jacelyn Lewis, Jayzin Shoemake, Ori Stevens, Charlaya Steve, Kayden Thomas, & Trevor Thomas.

(4th Grade) - Nadaleigh Chickaway, Shyne Chickaway, Macie Jefferson, Alistair King, Makiya Logan, Zaydrian Reynolds, Jay Shoemake, Jr., & Randalin Wilson.

(5th Grade) - Rodgrick Anderson.

(6th Grade) - Zahyce Bell, Carson Jimmie, Jaycee Shoemake, Kinsley Thomas, Tailyn Tubby, Anayah Wesley, Jes'sias Williams, & Justamia Wilson.

(7th Grade) - Lihayla Logan, Shanshia Mingo, & Traviona Wilson.

(8th Grade) - Taylor Jefferson, Taijah Kessinger, & Tiarri Kessinger.

PEARL RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHIEF'S LIST

(1st Grade) - Jayden Anderson, Danario Bell, Kysen Dixon, Piper Isaac, Kaison Thomas, Zayvier Wesley-Gamarra, Carly Baker, Arlando Bigpond, Hayden Dixon, Ethan Hickman, Khalani Isaac, Remington Isaac, Ashmariah McMillan, Hushtoposhik McMillan, Za'liyah Moncriease, Kleilali Dixon, Semaycelynn Bell, Ayame Jim, Alston Meely, Kemper Stafford, & Amarian Wishork.

(2nd Grade) - Kaycson

Clemons, Hamaya Morris, Jaylon Williams, Kyler Willis, Kodchakron "Padmae" Billie, Braylon Clemons, Kylus John, Mylee Ben, Tamatoa Bald Eagle, Khyrii Cantrell, & Jayce Isaac.

(3rd Grade) - Raine Billy, Neyalih Dixon, & Hazelin Joe.

(4th Grade) - Kady Hickman, A'mi Clemons, Anzaerius Huddleston, Laiya Willis, & Dawson Tubby.

(6th Grade) - Riley Meely.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

(1st Grade) - La'Ryden Cotton, Beth Lewis, Adriel Mitch, Anakin Mitch, Taurasi Sardina, Napoleon Tubby, Josie Wallace, Kaleyah Denson, Kasey Nickey, Calvin Willis, Chase Clemons, Javen Frazier, Crimson Robinson, & Oliver Carr.

(2nd Grade) - Kinya Bell, Logan Hickman, Kaiseton Shell, Baylan Buffalomeat, Teyana Clemons, Jalanna Dixon, Tyson Gibson, Kason Isaac, Kaeden Marshall, Ashlynn McMillan, Isaiah Mingo, Dakaizlee Clemons, Ahlaric Hernandez, Riley Isaac, Kaylee McMillan, Christopher Barojas, J'Hazlyn Bell, Bryson John, Garrett Johnson, Krymsen McMillan, Lane Willis, & Maydream York.

(3rd Grade) - Jaiyce'Yann Bell, Okshomichi Kyree Bell, Zaine Bell, Najsali Cuellar, Lyla Tubby, Alice Ferris, Kolvin Isaac, Madalynn Jimmie, Jayzin Shoemake, Hazzen Thomas, Liliana Thompson, Brydan Lewis, Mariah McBeath, Elilee Steve, Adelyn Daniel, Shohmalali Dixon, Cayzrea Stoliby, Neilani Thompson, Anna'Laiya Tubby, Myree Tubby, Eva Willis, & Kawhi York.

(4th Grade) - D'Ananlyn Bell, Kazden Ben, Andym Bigpond, Paeton Gibson, Jordana Polk, Dezmond Willis, Ladarian Bell, Kamarii Cantrell, Peyton Eaves, Kahlon Edwards,

Traih'sin John, Iylah King, Payton Meely, Felicianna Orduno, Colton Thomas, Jaciryn Vaughn, Aloni Dan, Deonte Isaac Carther, Hunter John, Alicia Stell, Manali'i Bald Eagle, Jayzn Dixon, Chanceton Shoemake, & D'Anthony Willis.

(5th Grade) - Caybrianna Hickman, Karyton Hudson, Chrysender Jones, Kaecety Williams, Chashion Dixon, Taven Tubby, Tav'n Wesley, Amaya Isaac, Kaylene Willis, Jaiycelynn Bell, & Paizley Dixon.

(6th Grade) - Sherman Billie, Wyatt Chickaway, Kairyn Dixon, Khanzlee Richardson, Nikolai Denson, Nizhoni McMillian, Ameer Stell, Summer Tubby, Sez Willis, & Rainen Willis.

TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHIEF'S LIST

(1st Grade) - Necie Charlie, Kayzlee McMillan, & Cliff Willis, Jr.

(2nd Grade) - Keilani Gibson, Cooper Jefferson, Eve Lewis, & Rhyus York.

(3rd Grade) - Arialyn Henry & Carter York.

(4th Grade) - Mylah Gibson & Karsyn Thomas.

(5th Grade) - Leim McMillan, Kaidence Thompson, & Elliana Tubby.

(6th Grade) - Vashunti McMillan.

(7th Grade) - Bryceton McMillan, Marshall Mingo, Braeson Sam, Esiason Willis, & Tamiyah York.

(8th Grade) - Brodie McMillan, Eric Shumake, Colsen Stell, & Canyon Tubby.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

(2nd Grade) - Taylia Henry & Dominic Willis.

(3rd Grade) - Nathaniel

continued next page

Amos, Karson Bell, Kaleb Farmer, Ja'sia Henry, Savion King, Keianna Lewis, James Polk, Liam Thomas, Jacaius Willis, & Raijen Willis.

(4th Grade) - Paycen Comby, Braydon Farmer, Gabriel Hilario, A'Ria McMillan, Crisney Perry, & Bella Steve.

(5th Grade) - Greatone Ben, Madelynn Henry, Lindraya King, Esmaralda Mingo, Damari Thomas, & Claire Willis.

(6th Grade) - Logan Denson, Cameron Gibson, Reyana Robinson, Damarii Sam, Kollier Thomas, & William Willis.

(7th Grade) - Roman Charlie.

(8th Grade) - Annabelle Anderson, Jyles Dixon, Jerinell Jefferson, Devin Johnson, & Jacoby Willis.

SUCCESSSES ON THE COURT

Congratulations to Choctaw student-athletes on their recent successes in this year's basketball seasons at their respective schools. We commend the players for displaying their skills, determination, sportsmanship, & a desire to be victorious as they contended for their respective championships.

Congratulations to the Choctaw Central Middle School Lady Warriors & Red Water Elementary School Braves as they claimed the 2022-2023 Choctaw Tribal Schools' 7th/8th Grade Basketball Championships. The CCMS Lady Warriors defeated the Bogue Chitto Elementary School (BCES) Lady Braves 55-17. Shastyn Lewis was named girls MVP. The RWES Braves defeated the Bogue Chitto Braves 53-40. Braylon Edwards was named boys MVP. The finals were held at the Tucker Community Gymnasium on Thursday, Jan. 19. All-Tournament Team selections were: (Girls) Milee Thomas, Conehatta Elementary; Elizabeth Lewis, BCES; Eloira Ben, RWES; Tai'lyn Wesley,

CCMS; (Boys) Brodie McMillan, Tucker Elementary; Brayson Jefferson, Conehatta Elementary; Connor Hickman, BCES; Jermichael Stewart, RWES; & Jamearan Wallace, CCMS.

PICTURES CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Members of the champion CCMS LADY WARRIORS included Shastyn Lewis, Dorian Bell, Kailynn Perry, Tai'lyn Wesley, Zayna Hudson, Callie Tubby, Aysue Wesley, Neliah Bell, Nalayah Phillips, Quintara Willis, Lacey Alex, Hiahni Denson, & Kaleaina Rush. Coaches were Jimmy Tangle & Kristen McBeath.



Participates in Bowling Qualifier

Congratulations to all the Choctaw student athletes who competed in the Region 2 Class II Bowling qualifier at Depot Bowling in Philadelphia on Jan. 25. In the girls' qualifier, the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors placed 4th. In the boys' qualifier, the Neshoba Central Rockets placed 1st & the Choctaw Central Warriors placed 3rd.



Members of the finalist BCES LADY BRAVES included Neveah McCool, Chalisia Mingo, Delanie Wallace, Elizabeth Lewis, Amalayah McMillan, Jasmine Hickman, Ameryn Robinson, Chacelyn Dixon, Raylond Morris, Sierra Ferris, & Kamryn Hundley. Coaches were Kendrick Bell & Trent Thompson.

CCHS Lady Warriors Soccer Ends in Class 4A Playoffs

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors faced the New Albany Bulldogs in the quarterfinals of the 2023 MHSAA Class 4A State Soccer Tournament at Choctaw on Saturday, January 28. Choctaw Central once held a 3-1 lead, but New Albany came back with 3 unanswered goals to take a 4-3 victory. CCHS concluded their season with an overall 10-7 record (7-4 region). Members of the 2022-2023 soccer team were Catherine Jim, Zaiya Bell, Audianna Billy, Kaniya Frazier, Delycia Cunningham, Fantasia Lewis, Lexi Rodriguez, Rayna Mendez, Cambee Johnson, Hunter



Farve, Marlena Rains, Natalee Eaves, Miley Billie, Aaliyah Clemmons, Lacy Alex, Mandy Proctor, Yazzlyn Alex, Destini Tubby, Roslyn Bohannon, Desiny Hickman, Kailynn Perry, Onyx Bobo, & Emalayah King.



Members of the champion **RWES BRAVES** included Jermichael Stewart, Jervon Lewis, Braylon Edwards, Payton Hernandez, Jalius Willis, Zahe Wilson, Bryant Jim, Delontae Reed, Axsell Willis, Brady Farve, Josiah Wishork, & Hunter Lewis. Coaches were Jeannette Barnes & Christine Wilson.



Members of the finalist **BCES BRAVES** included Mathias Bell, Eliason Chickaway, De'Zytae Williams, Jamien Joe, Conner Hickman, Aiden Bell, Treighton Robinson, Jzahn Conrad, Silas Morris, Jakori Robinson, & Hunter Lewis. Coaches were Kendrick Bell & Trent Thompson.



The **CHOCTAW CENTRAL LADY WARRIORS** concluded their season in the 2nd round of the Class 4A playoffs with a 55-53 loss to Tishomingo County on Feb. 17. Lady Warriors team members included Jocelyn Bell, Kylinn Bell, Tori Henry, Raiyleigh Perry, Keshahn Wallace, Mattison Bell, Almera Charlie, Ashlynn Stephens, Braycie McMillan, Chesney Amos, Malaka Morris, Tyra Billy, Nataysia Willis, & Tayla Willis.



The **CHOCTAW CENTRAL WARRIORS** concluded their season in the 2nd round of the Class 4A playoffs with a 66-50 loss to Clarksdale on Feb. 18. Warriors team members included Peyton Mingo, Jeriah Jimmie, Johnny Vaughn, Koie Williams, Taiton Stokes, Abram Cotton, Kaden Edwards, Alan John, Jayce Sam, Iverson Wallace, Keyshawn Ben, Zylie Clemons, Zylie Thomas, Gannon Vaughn, & Amzie Anderson.



The **NESHOPA CENTRAL LADY ROCKETS** concluded their season in the 2nd round of the Class 5A playoffs with a 58-56 loss to Lafayette on Feb. 17. Lady Rockets team members included Mataeya Dixon, Erica Lyons, Shaylynn Hunter, Kyli Truss, Jakaylin York, Kailyn Willis, Lailah Henry, Zharia Leflore, Katelin Williams, Jiar Henry, Ariel Henry, Breyonce' Jim, Aaliyah Tahahwah, Natalia Jones, Atyia Allen, Lanayah Henry, Shanna Ruffin, Zantoriya Clemons, Mellyssa Williams, & Jaliyah Lewis.



The **NESHOPA CENTRAL ROCKETS** concluded their season in the 1st round of the Class 5A playoffs with a 56-53 loss to Columbus on Feb. 14. Rockets team members included Isaiah Newton, Michael Ben, Zae Goodin, Patsden Williams, Kaden Bell, Elijah Ruffin, Dorshay Cole, William Dreifuss, Garrison Breedlove, Carmello Whitfield, Kameron McMillan, Jordan Ben, Rick Isaac, Max Weir, Emjae Willis, & Tryeston Thompson.

(RIGHT) The **NEWTON COUNTY LADY COUGARS** concluded their season in the 2nd round of the Class 4A playoffs with a 43-33 loss to Pass Christian on Feb. 17. Lady Cougars team members included Malayah Evans, Sheteri Nickey, Maeli Ben, Kelcei Thomas, Zahaylia Bell, Felisia King, Jayda Torgusson, Taelyn Nickey, Dazlie Tubby, Shallasen Jimmie, Ariel Hurst, Hannah Reilly, Haven Dixon, Adrianna Hunter, & Maddison Dawkins.





(LEFT) The **NEWTON COUNTY COUGARS** concluded their season in the 2nd round of the Class 4A playoffs with a 56-33 loss to Bay High on Feb. 18. Cougars team members included Zarius Johnson, Dasan King, Keaton Gray, Sebastian Johnson, Chaz Tubby, Roby Billy, Dresen Jimmie, Stephen Moore, Jaylen Torgusson, Satchel Oliphant, Jaysi Torgusson, Byron Pruitt, Cameron Bell, LJ Cole, & Cashton Smith.



The **RIVERSIDE INDIAN SCHOOL LADY BRAVES** won their district & regionals & made their first appearance in the OSSAA Class A State Tournament in Oklahoma City, Okla. They made it to the semifinals but were defeated by Caddo 49-45 on March 3. MBCI tribal members on the team included Mahle Jim, Sydney Frazier, Nevaeh Dixon, CeAnna Willis, & Sereney Anderson. Remaining team members included Day Whitehawk, Ma-Yia Haumpy, Karliey Parker, Angel Coriz, Alexis Parker, Tyuana Haumpy, Newakis

Goombi-Toles, Bobiey Parker, Nevaeh Nibbs, Terayna Jones, Perriana Brown, & Tanil Susanyatame... The **RIVERSIDE INDIAN SCHOOL BRAVES** won their district & regional consolation but lost in the Class A playoffs to Rattan 64-42 on Feb. 24. MBCI tribal members on the team included A'leron Lewis, McKinsley Isaac, & Landon Davis. Remaining team members included Michael Littleghost, Jeyren Ramirez, Davain Prentiss, Delos Lonewolf, Darien Sundust, Derry Ducheneaux, Jaxson Roden, Cheyem Cortier, Lawrence Littleghost, & Brendan Running Horse.

PICTURED LEFT ROW, from left to right, the **LEAKE COUNTY LADY GATORS** concluded their season in the 1st round of the Class 1A playoffs with a 35-25 loss to Lumberton on Feb. 13. Lady Gators team members included Tayen Morris, Kaitlyn Chapman, & Taylor Vaughn... The **LEAKE COUNTY GATORS** concluded their season with a 62-40 loss to Bay Springs in the 2nd round of the Class 1A playoffs on Feb. 18. Pictured is Gators team member Treylon Ricks.... The **NANIH WAIYA LADY WARRIORS** saw their season conclude in the 1st round of the Class 2A playoffs to West Lincoln 59-15 on Feb. 13. Lady Warriors team member included Angel Clemmons... The **KEMPER COUNTY LADY WILDCATS** season came to an end on Feb. 17 as they were defeated by Heidelberg 58-53 in the 2nd round of the Class 2A playoffs. Lady Wildcats team



member included Rodezah Smith. **PICTURED BOTTOM ROW**, from left to right, the **LEAKE CENTRAL LADY GATORS** concluded their season on Feb. 13 with a 49-43 loss to South Pontotoc in the first round of the Class 4A playoffs. Lady Gators team members included Taylor Tiger, Jamae Wright, Lania Willis, & Keynan Wilson... the **FOREST LADY BEARCATS** advanced to the Class 3A championship game, but were defeated by Booneville 58-33 on March 4. Lady Bearcats team roster included Haiden Anderson... the **LEAKE ACADEMY REBELETTES** saw their season end as they were defeated by Madison-Ridgeland Academy 58-43 in the semifinals of the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) Overall Tournament on Feb. 27. Rebelettes team roster included McKinley Peoples.



SOCCER SENIOR NIGHTS

CCHS Soccer Senior Night

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, Choctaw Central High School celebrated Senior Night for the Warriors & Lady Warriors Soccer Teams. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickey joined families, friends, & coaches to help celebrate their recognition. Among the seniors honored were: (Lady Warriors) Audrianna Billy, Delycia Cunningham, Hunter Farve, Catherine Jim, Emalayah King, & Mandy Proctor; (Warriors) Arral Frazier, Jaeon Johnson, Mathias Johnson, Aison Jim, Ruben Mendez, Haygen Anderson, & Kookie Thompson-Steve; & managers, Brydon Wesley & Grant Ben, Jr. Congratulations & best wishes for success in your future endeavors!

SENIOR PICS CONTINUED NEXT PAGE





Newton County Soccer Senior Night

On Tuesday, Jan. 10, tribal member Loriann Vaughn was honored during Senior Night for the Newton County Soccer Team. Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickey & Asa Jimmie from the Office of the Tribal Chief presented Loriann a gift on behalf of Chief Ben. Congratulations Loriann & best wishes on the rest of your senior year!



Neshoba Central Soccer Senior Night

On Tuesday, Jan. 10, tribal member Omar Williams was honored during Senior Night for the Neshoba Central High School Soccer Team. Mrs. TaRita Ben was in attendance to present Omar a gift on behalf of Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben. Congratulations & best wishes on your senior year.

SENIOR NIGHTS 2023

CCHS Hosts Senior Night

On Thursday, January 26, Choctaw Central High School celebrated Senior Night for the Lady Warriors & Warriors bowling, cheerleading & basketball teams. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, his wife TaRita, & reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickey were in attendance to celebrate with the seniors, coaches, family, & friends. Among the seniors honored were: (Bowling) Cheyanne Weeks, Thomas Ben, Ethan Naneto; (Cheerleading) Nataya Anderson; & (Basketball), Tyra Billy, Malaka Morris, Keshahn Wallace, Amzie Anderson, Abram Cotton, Jeriah Jimmie, James Steve (manager), Taiton Stokes, Gannon Vaughn, & Johnny Vaughn. Congratulations to all the seniors & best wishes for success in your future endeavors!

SENIOR PICS CONTINUED NEXT PAGE





Leake Academy Senior Night

Senior Night for Leake Academy basketball was held on Friday, Jan. 13. Choctaw community member McKinley Peoples was among the seniors recognized. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & his wife, Tarita, were on hand to celebrate with McKinley & her family. Congratulations & best wishes in your future endeavours.

Senior Night for Neshoba Central

Neshoba Central High School held Senior Night for boys basketball on Friday, Jan. 20. Among the seniors recognized were Choctaw community members Patsden Williams & William Dreifuss. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, his wife, TaRita, & Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Raine Nickey presented gifts to the seniors. Congratulations & best wishes for more success in the future!



Neshoba Central Senior Night

Neshoba Central High School held its Senior Night for girls basketball on Tuesday, Jan. 24. Among the seniors recognized were Choctaw community members Aaliyah Tahahwah, Mataeya Dixon, Shay-

lynn Hunter, & Mylena Isaac. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & his wife, TaRita, presented gifts to the seniors & congratulated them on their accomplishments & offered best wishes for their future successes.



Leake County Senior Night

Leake County High School hosted Senior Night for basketball on Friday, Jan. 20. Choctaw community member Tayen Morris was among the seniors recognized. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickey, & Standing Pine Tribal Council Representative Loriann Ahshapanek celebrated with Tayen & her family & friends. Congratulations & best wishes on your senior year & future endeavours.



Kemper County Hosts Senior Night

Senior Night for the Kemper County High School basketball program was held on Friday, Jan. 27. Among the seniors honored was Choctaw community member Rodezah Smith. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & wife, TaRita, were on hand with family & friends to celebrate her recognition. Congratulations & best wishes for more success in the future!



Senior Night at Nanih Waiya

Nanih Waiya Attendance Center held its Senior Night for basketball on Tuesday, Jan. 24. Among the seniors recognized was Choctaw community member Angel Clemmons. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben presented Angel with a gift as she was joined by her family & friends. Congratulations & best wishes for your future success!

Newton County Hosts Senior Night

Newton County High Schools hosted Senior Night activities on Tuesday, Jan. 31. Honored were Lady Cougars basketball team members Haven Dixon & Taelyn Nickey; Cougars team members Roby Billy, Dresen Jimmie, Sabastian Johnson, Zarius Johnson, & Chaz Tubby. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & wife, TaRita, congratulated the seniors on their accomplishments & presented gifts & celebrated with family & friends.

SENIOR PICS CONTINUED NEXT PAGE





Senior Night at Leake Central

Senior Night at Leake Central High School was held on Tuesday, Jan. 31. Choctaw community members Taylor Tiger & Jamae Wright were among the basketball seniors honored. Choctaw Indian Princess Cadence Nickey & MBCI Director of Administration Jason Grisham, on behalf of Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, presented gifts & offered best wishes on their senior years & future endeavors.



Riverside Hosts Senior Night

Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Okla., held Senior Night for the basketball program on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Among the seniors honored were CeAnna Willis & Mahle Jim. The two Lady Braves received congratulatory gifts from the Office of Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben. Congratulations & best of luck for the rest of your senior year & future endeavors!

2023 CHOCTAW CENTRAL SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	JV	VARSITY
SATURDAY FEB 11	NESHOPA	NESHOPA		12PM 3PM
MONDAY FEB 13	PHILLY	SPM		5:30PM
THURSDAY FEB 23	PHILLY	HOME	5PM	6:30PM
SATURDAY FEB 25	MIZE BULLDOGS BASH	MIZE		TBA
TUESDAY MARCH 7	LOUISVILLE	HOME	5PM	6:30PM
THURSDAY MARCH 9	LOUISVILLE	AWAY	5PM	6:30PM
MONDAY MARCH 13	EUPORA ROUND ROBIN	EUPORA		TBA
THURS FRI SAT MARCH 16 - 18	BATTLE AT THE BEACH	BILDXI		TBA
TUESDAY MAR 21	*NORTHEAST LAUDERDALE	HOME	5PM	6:30PM
THURSDAY MARCH 23	*NORTHEAST LAUDERDALE	AWAY	5PM	6:30PM
MONDAY MARCH 27	NESHOPA	HOME	5:30PM	7PM
TUESDAY MARCH 28	*WEST LAUDERDALE	AWAY	5:30PM	7PM
THURSDAY MARCH 30	*WEST LAUDERDALE	HOME	5:30PM	7PM
MONDAY APRIL 3	*KOSCIUSKO	HOME	5PM	6:30PM
TUESDAY APRIL 4	*KOSCIUSKO	AWAY	5PM	6:30PM
TUESDAY APRIL 11	*LEAKE CENTRAL	HOME	5PM	6:30PM
THURSDAY APRIL 13	*LEAKE CENTRAL	AWAY	5PM	6:30PM
MONDAY APRIL 17	NESHOPA	AWAY	5:30PM	7PM

*DIVISION GAMES

MAGNOLIA All-Star SENIOR CLASSIC
BOYS GAME COACHING LINE UP

TEAM HOWARD
HEAD COACH: WOODY HOWARD (STARKVILLE)
ASSISTANT: JOSHUA LUCKETT (NORTHWEST RANKIN)
ADMINISTRATIVE: KYLAN TIPPET SR (LOUISVILLE)

TEAM FARMER
HEAD COACH: COACH FARMER (CHOCTAW CENTRAL)
ASSISTANT: LEWIS LIGHTSEY (NORTHEAST LAUDERDALE)
ADMINISTRATIVE: CURTIS RUSSELL (HEIDELBERG)

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
275 W BROAD ST, DECATUR, MS 39327

Lady Warriors, Warriors Honored

Congratulations to members of the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors & Warriors who recently received post-season basketball honors. Representing the Lady Warriors on the Region 4-4A All District Tournament Team were (pictured above, left to right) Malaka Morris, Raiyleigh Perry, & Kylinn Bell. For the Warriors, named to the Region 4-4A All District Tournament Team were (pictured below, left to right) Johnny Vaughn, Taiton Stokes, Koie Williams, & Peyton Mingo. Abram Cotton was named tournament MVP.



John Named CCS Player of the Year

Shantashia John of Belhaven University's Women's Basketball team was named the Collegiate Conference of the South's (CCS) Player of the Year following her stellar debut campaign for the Blazers.

She was also named a First Team All-Conference selection. All honors were selected and decided upon following a vote by the conference's head coaches.

The freshman had a first year to remember, leading the conference in scoring with a 20.0 point per game mark while finishing among the top two in Field Goal Percentage, Three-Point Percentage and Free Throw Percentage.

John marked her arrival in a big way when she scored 38 points in a win over rival Millsaps which tied the 5th-most points scored in a single-game for the Blazers.

She went on to score in double-figures all but two games the rest of the season leading a Belhaven team that finished the



Shantashia is a 2021 graduate of Choctaw Central High School & former member of the Lady Warriors basketball program.

regular season 16-8 and 10-6 in conference play.

Throughout the year, John made it a habit of pulling in recognition being named the conference's Rookie of the Week a CCS-high eight times and being named Player of the Week on three occasions. Additionally, John was named to the D3Hoops Team of the Week once as she made her mark in the Green & Gold.

Choctaw Central Middle School SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Granada Tournament FEB 25 AWAY 12:00 PM / 4:00 PM	Newton County FEB 27 AWAY 1:00 PM / 6:00 PM	Newton County MAR 20 HOME 1:00 PM / 6:00 PM
Northeast Lauderdale MAR 21 HOME 4:00 PM	Northeast Lauderdale MAR 23 AWAY 1:00 PM	Neshoba Central MAR 27 HOME 4:30 PM
West Lauderdale MAR 28 AWAY 4:30 PM	West Lauderdale MAR 30 HOME 8:30 PM	Neshoba Central APR 17 AWAY 8:30 PM

Choctaw Central Middle School BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Columbus FEB 17 HOME 4:00 PM / 6:00 PM	Northeast Jones FEB 23 AWAY 1:00 PM / 6:00 PM	Quitman FEB 27 HOME 1:00 PM / 7:00 PM
Quitman MAR 6 AWAY 1:00 PM / 6:30 PM	Columbus APR 3 AWAY 1:00 PM / 6:00 PM	

CHOCTAW CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
February 14	DeSotoville Co.	Huntsville Co.	4:00 & 6:00
February 16	North Waiya Classic Nashopolis North Waiya	North Waiya	4:00 & 6:00
February 18	Philly Tournament Columbus Philly	TBA	
February 21	Kemper County	HOME	5:00 & 7:00
February 24	McLaurin	McLaurin	4:00 & 6:00
February 25	Neshoba	Home	11:00 & 1:00
February 26	Kosciusko	HOME	5:00 & 7:00
March 3	Kosciusko	Kosciusko	5:00 & 7:00
March 7	Northeast Lauderdale	HOME	5:00 & 7:00
March 9	MSU Tourney	Northeast Jones	TBA
March 10	Northeast Lauderdale	Northeast Lauderdale	5:00 & 7:00
March 13-16	Sebastopol Tourney	Sebastopol	TBA
March 14	Sebastopol	Sebastopol	5:30
March 15	Lake	Sebastopol	11:00
March 21	Louisville Central	Louisville Central	5:00 & 7:00
March 23	Quitman	HOME	5:00 & 7:00
March 24	Lake Central	HOME	5:00 & 7:00
March 25	Neshoba	Neshoba	11:00 & 1:00
March 26	West Lauderdale	West Lauderdale	5:00 & 7:00
March 28	West Lauderdale	HOME	5:00 & 7:00
March 31	Quitman	Sebastopol	11:00 & 1:00
April 4	Louisville	HOME	5:00 & 7:00
April 6	Louisville	Louisville	5:00 & 7:00
April 11	McLaurin	HOME	4:00 & 6:00
April 13	Lake	Lake	5:00 & 7:00
April 14	Kemper County	Away	5:00 & 3:00
April 16	Sebastopol	Sebastopol	4:00 PM / 6:00 PM
April 18	Medway	HOME	4 Varsity Only

Destination Lubbock: Bobcats bring home 7th straight region crown

Jones College (25-3) withstood a fourth quarter rally Sunday afternoon (March 5) at A.E. Wood Coliseum to knock off rival Pearl River, 59-51, & punch its ticket to the NJCAA Division I Tournament for an unrivaled seventh straight season.

"To win 19 straight games, the MACCC & Region 23 is such an incredible accomplishment," head coach Missy Bilderback said. "I'm just really thankful & proud of every single player on this team & the sacrifices they make. They stayed focused under pressure & with a target on their backs. We are loaded with talented players, but it's the unselfishness & commitment to winning that tells a lot about who they are."

Pearl River (24-3) scored the game's first six points but would never lead again.

Jones scored 10 straight & 19 of the next 21 to take control of the game.

Carly Keats scored the first five points for the Bobcats & would finish with a game-high 11 in the half. Her back-to-back 3s midway through the second quarter



gave the Bobcats a 25-11 advantage.

Jones led 31-23 at half & 45-31 after three quarters.

PRCC outscored Jones 13-4 to open the fourth quarter & quickly got within five with under three minutes to play. J'mani Ingram, who started the game 0-for-16, hit three straight buckets in the period.

Tierra Simon's three-pointer cut it to 53-49 with 49 seconds left before En'Dya Buford scored Jones' final six points. Her steal in the front court & ensuing layup with 35 seconds left put the game on ice.

Buford finished with 19 to lead all scorers. Keats had all 11 of her points in the first half, Sakyia White had 10 points & 15 rebounds & Meloney Thames 10 points.

Tasionna McDowell chipped in eight points, 10 rebounds & five assists.

Jones shot 32 percent as a team compared to 27 percent for PRCC.

The national tournament is set for March 22-27 at the Rip Griffin Center on the campus of Lubbock Christian University in Lubbock, Texas.

Jones made the program's first-ever Final Four last season & was the first team in nearly 40 years to make it that far from Mississippi.

"We are ecstatic that this team gets to go to Lubbock & compete with the best teams in the country," Bilderback continued. "We are going to go have fun & see what happens."

Thames, Keats named to All-MACCC team

Meloney Thames & Carly Keats were among four Jones College Bobcats named to the 2022-2023 First-Team All-MACCC. Head coach Missy Bilderback was named Coach of the Year for the MACCC & Region 23 champions. En'Dya Buford & Sakyia White were also named to the First-Team as White was named the league's Player of the Year.

The eighth-ranked Bobcats are currently 25-3 & headed to the NJCAA Division I Tournament, beginning March 22 in Lubbock, Texas.

Thames, a 5-foot-8 sophomore guard from Choctaw Central, averages 16.0 points & 4.5 rebounds per game. She shoots 73 percent (64-of-88) from the free throw line & 36 percent (69-of-194) from beyond the arc. She scored 31 points, including the game-winning shot at the buzz-



Meloney Thames & Carly Keats with the MACCC tournament championship trophy.

er, in Jones' 69-67 OT win over Shelton State (Alabama) on Nov. 10. She scored a career-high 35 points in an 86-78 OT loss to then third-ranked Trinity Valley (Texas) on Nov. 5.

As a freshman, Thames was an NJCAA Honorable Mention All-American, NJCAA All-Star & named to the NJCAA All-Tour-

namment Team. She was also a First-Team All-MACCC & All-Region 23 performer. She has already signed with Mississippi State University.

Keats, a 5-foot-8 freshman guard from Neshoba Central, averages 10.0 points, 3.6 assists & 3.6 rebounds per game. She shoots 70 percent from the free throw line & 36 percent (54-of-149) from the three-point line.

Keats had a season-high 21 points in a 78-63 win over Mississippi Gulf Coast on Jan. 9 & a season-high nine assists in an 87-58 victory over Copiah-Lincoln on Jan. 19. She has already signed with Arkansas.

Bilderback has compiled a 197-32 record (.860) in eight years as Bobcat head coach. In the MACCC, Bilderback owns a 100-11 mark (.900). She has been named Region 23 Coach of the Year seven times & led Jones to seven consecutive region championships. Last season, Bilderback guided Jones to its first-ever Final Four appearance at the national tournament.

Wilson Signs with MDCC

Neshoba Central High School Senior Dekiren Wilson recently signed a letter of intent to continue his academic & athletic career as part of Mississippi Delta Community College's Trojans football program in Moorhead. Pictured, seated from left, are DeKiren & his mother Tashina Wilson. Pictured, back row from left to right, are Neshoba Central Rockets coaching staff, Coach David Huffman, Coach Brian Anderson, Coach Shannon Ruffin, Head Coach Patrick Schoolar, Coach Curtis Blackburn, Coach Daryl Carter, & Coach Jacob Johnson.



Joe Signs with ECU

Hugo High School Senior Noah Joe recently signed a letter of intent to continue his academic & athletic career as part of East Central University's Tigers football program in Ada, Okla. Noah, standing at 6'2" & weighing 285 lbs., was an offensive lineman for the Hugo Buffaloes this season. He is the son of Keith Joe & Becca Ludlow, & the grandson of the late Dale Phillips, Sr. & the late Mattie Bell. Congratulations & good luck on your future endeavours!



Wilson Places 1st at Classic

Congratulations to Nylah Wilson, Red Water Elementary School 5th grader, as she recently placed 1st All-Around in her division at the 25th Annual Presidential Classic in Orlando, FL. Her scores for the competition were: Vault - 9.375 (1st); Bars - 9.050 (3rd); Beam - 9.250 (3rd); Floors - 9.150 (6th). The Courthouse Gymnastics Co. Level 4s, which Nylah is a member, placed 2nd at the Classic.

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NOW OPEN DURING LUNCH HOUR
12-1

Tribal Scholarship Contact Information

Mail to: PO BOX 6085 Choctaw, MS 39350	Fax: 601-650-7413	Office: 601-650-7409 1-800-446-5006
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Program email:
Scholarship.Program@choctaw.org

Melinda M. Ben Tribal Scholarship Director Melinda.Ben@choctaw.org	Eva Sam Billing Assistant Eva.Sam@choctaw.org
Samuel York Scholarship Assistant A-L last name/Dual Credit Recipients Samuel.York@choctaw.org	Renedra Thompson Data Entry Clerk Renedra.Thompson@choctaw.org

Elishia Thompson
Scholarship Assistant
M-Z last name recipients
Elishia.Thompson@choctaw.org



Tribal Scholarship Announcement

Applications and Supporting Documents

All applications and supporting documents can now be submitted electronically to Scholarship.Program@choctaw.org OR your assigned scholarship assistants' email.

New applicants will need to submit applications and supporting documents to Scholarship.Program@choctaw.org

TSP staff will notify students if forms are accepted, rejected or need to submit original to TSP office.

Official Transcripts must be sent to Scholarship.Program@choctaw.org

All applications and supporting documents will be reviewed by TSP staff for verification and authenticity

All applications and supporting documents will continue to be accepted in office during business hours.

TSP staff will contact applicants as needed after documents are reviewed



For more information or any questions, please contact the Tribal Scholarship Office at 601-650-7409 or email Scholarship.Program@choctaw.org

REMINDER

Tribal Scholarship

Application and all supporting documents Deadline Dates

MARCH 31-SUMMER

MAY 31-FALL SEMESTER QUARTER/TRIMESTER

COMPLETE FAFSA
IF NEED ASSISTANCE WITH FAFSA, CONTACT TSP STAFF FOR AN APPOINTMENT

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Rabbit Stick Hunt Held in Attala

The Choctaw Wildlife and Parks Department hosted the 2023 Youth Rabbit Stick Hunt on Saturday morning, February 25.

The event, held annually at the Attala County property off Highway 35 North near Kosciusko, brings Tribal members, especially the youth, to participate in the revival of traditional hunting practices of the Choctaw utilizing rabbit sticks.

Hunting dogs were used to follow the rabbit scents as hunters tracked their movements through heavy thickets and wooded areas. Seasoned hunters were on-hand to provide assistance and explain hunting methods to the youth and first-time hunters.

At the conclusion of the hunt,

a lunch was provided. The first 50 participants to register on-site received T-shirts. Door prizes donated by various businesses and organizations were awarded to youth and adults in attendance.

Special thanks to the following who donated items for door prizes: Office of Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben; Tribal Council for gift cards; Pow Wow for gift cards; Pearl River Resort for complimentary meals at Stats; Yates for a gift bag; Neshoba Co-Op for fishing poles; Northside Animal Clinic for a gift card; Willis Engineering for gift cards; Beem's Pawn & Gun for gift cards & items; Philadelphia Gun & Pawn for gift certificates; Merchant Foods for folding chairs; Weavers for a

monetary prize; & Canal Place Cinema for movie passes.

Special thanks also to K&M Portable for providing a portable & eye wash station, Jimmy & Chief Ben for providing two gallons of hominy, Williams Bros. for providing water & Gatorade, Brandon Chickaway of Conehatta for making an abundant supply of rabbit sticks for hunters that didn't have sticks, & to all the cooks who volunteered their time to provide a delicious lunch for all the participants.

Thank you to the Choctaw Wildlife and Parks staff and other volunteers for helping to organize this wonderful event that promotes our cultural traditions to our future generations!



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IN MEMORIAM

NAKEYA SHUNTA WILLIS-AMOS

Funeral service for Na-keya Shunta Willis-Amos, 27, was held on Friday, January 6, 2023, at the Red Water Community Gymnasium. Pastor Thomas Ben officiated.



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

Mrs. Amos passed away on January 1 in Philadelphia, MS.

She enjoyed being with family & friends, playing softball, stickball, basketball, volleyball, & beading.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents, Marion Willis & Robin Willis, Sr.

Survivors include her parents, Latonya Willis, Trisilla Willis, & Robin Willis, Jr.; husband, Nathaniel Amos, Sr.; daughters, Denalih Amos & Denanzlee Amos; sons, Na'Lijah Amos & Nathaniel Amos, Jr.; sisters, Kaitlyn Edwards, Nikilette Jim, Ahinna Jim, Catherine Jim, & Arabella Jim; brothers, Shawn Willis, Montero Willis, Robin Willis, III, Gavine Frazier, Hunter Edwards, & McKinley Jim; grandparents, Emma Sam & Edmond Sam, Sr.; 5 aunts, 2 uncles, & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

RITA FRAZIER

Funeral service for Rita Frazier, 71, was held on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Randy Tangle &

Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

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



Ms. Frazier passed away on January 3 at Anderson Regional Hospital in Meridian.

She earned a technical degree in Office Management & held various positions, including over 30 years with the Social Security Administration. She enjoyed cooking, watching her TV shows, attending pow wows, & being with family & friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence Frazier; parents, Rebecca "Bema" York & David Denson; stepfather, Hester York; sister, Shelby Denson; brothers, Faron Denson, Daniel York, Caldwell Denson, Larry Denson, & Donald Denson.

Survivors include her daughters, Alicia Wesley & Nana Frazier; son, Jay Wesley; sister, Angela Denson; brothers, Beasley Denson & Douglas Sam; special friend, Lloyd Thompson; 11 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, & a host of relatives & friends.

BRANDON GENE FRAZIER

Funeral service for Brandon Gene Frazier, 32, was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at Pearl River Community Center. Rev. George Dixon



officiated.

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

Mr. Frazier passed away on January 6 at University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

He was a member of Jesus New Covenant Church & was employed with Pearl River Resort as a table games dealer. He enjoyed photography, drawing, listening to music, cooking, & being with family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bobby Gene Frazier; grandparents, Frank Frazier, Lorena Jackson Solomon, Bronson Solomon; & a niece, Mya Frazier.

Survivors include his mother, Karen Solomon; brothers, David Keith Frazier & Joshua Keith Frazier; grandmother, Mary Hickman Frazier; & a niece, host of nephews, relatives, & friends.

LOLA MAE THOMAS JACKSON

Funeral service for Lola Mae Thomas Jackson, 69, was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 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.

Mrs. Jackson passed away on January 6 at her residence.

She attended Bogue Chitto Baptist Church & was employed at Bogue Chitto Child-care Center for 42 years, first as a teacher then director. She enjoyed being with her family, listening to 60's music, playing with her Pomeranian puppies,

& supporting Nanih Waiya & Bok Cito Stickball, CCHS Lady Warriors & Warriors. She was also a chanter & dancer with her Choctaw social dance group.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Jake & Ethel Clemmons Thomas; sisters, Imogene Wallace, Christine Joe, & Willie Dean Cotton; brother, M.D. Wallace; daughter, Trishahn Jackson; & a granddaughter, Baidon Eaves.

Survivors include her husband, Danny Jackson; daughters, Dayanna Jackson & Taliciahn Eaves; son, Dano Jackson; sisters, Norene Denson & Iris Thomas; special children, Theresa Joe & Duran Joe; special sisters, Gloria York, Betty Morris, Eleanor Cotton, & Gloria Dale; 3 grandchildren, & a host of relatives & friends.

DONOVAN RAY ALLEN

Funeral service for Donovan Ray Allen, 44, was held on Monday, January 16, 2023, at Tucker CERF Building. Rev. Ricky Thompson, Sr. officiated.



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

Mr. Allen passed away on January 12 at his residence.

He was a fan of the New Orleans Saints, MSU Bulldogs & Chicago Cubs. He was employed with Pearl River Resort, Canal Barge Company, Choctaw Transit, Choctaw Tribal Schools, & Choctaw Health Center. He enjoyed being with family & attending concerts.

He is preceded in death by his father, Donald Allen; grandparents, Maggie Allen, Roger

OBITUARIES continued from page twenty-seven

& Audie Mae Willis; an aunt & 5 uncles.

Survivors include his mother, Rita Allen; daughter, Raziya Cumberland; companion, Tonya Billie; sisters, Renita Willis & Kristina Robinson; brother, Marcus Allen; 3 nieces, 3 nephews, a great-niece, a great-nephew, an uncle, & a host of relatives & friends.

DAYNA SHAWN NICKEY

Funeral service for Dayna Shawn Nickey, 28, was held on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at Pearl River Community Center. Bro. Lee Farmer officiated.



Burial was in Old Canaan Baptist Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Nickey passed away on January 13 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

She enjoyed being with family, fishing, beading, reading, telling jokes, & taking trips.

She is preceded in death by her father, Gregory A. Nicky; grandparents, Nevaline & Raphael Billy, Martha Jim & John C. Lewis; a great-aunt, two uncles, two aunts, a cousin, & companion, Sky A. Shumake.

Survivors include her sons, Skyler Shumake & Malakai Shumake; mother, Shanda G. Lewis; brothers, Darren James Nickey & Michael Ray Wilson; a half-sister, Markisha Billy; a niece, a nephew, 4 aunts, an uncle, 2 great-aunts, & a host of relatives & friends.

ELAINE DENSON

Funeral service for Elaine

Denson, 70, was held on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at Stone-wall Baptist Church in Conehatta. Bro. Gabe Swann & Bro. Robert Patrick officiated.



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

Ms. Denson passed away on January 17 at her residence.

She was a teacher's aide with Early Childhood, then a housekeeper before becoming a homemaker. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, going to yard sales, & being with family.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Harold Denson; parents, Bennie Wesley & Alice Cotton Clemons; sisters, Dianne Clemons, Lillie Joe, & Cissie Cotton; & brothers, Egbert Cotton, Clay Wesley, Sr., Winston Clemons, Lynn Clemons, Bob Clemons, & Jerry Clemons.

Survivors include her daughters, Torrie Denson, Elena Denson, & Shunta Clemons; sons, Chris Denson, Ashley Denson, & Mason Mingo; sisters, Frances Clemons, Gloria Clemons, Maxine Thomas, Earline Willis, Sammie Lou Cotton, & Geraline Jeanguneat; brothers, Prentice Clemons, Jr., Bill Clemons, Sr., Edward Clemons, Tommy Clemons, Benjie Wesley, & Joseph Wesley; 24 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, & a host of relatives & friends.

GAIL WICKSON ISAAC

Funeral service for Gail Wickson Isaac, 62, was held on Friday, January 27, 2023, at Pearl River Community Center. Bro. Jack Sharp & Rev. Travis

Willis officiated.

Burial was in Pine Bluff Baptist Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Isaac passed away on January 18 at her residence in Cincinnati, OH.

She was born in Mississippi but moved to Ohio when she was in her 20's.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Kelly & Callie Tubby Wickson; & sisters, Ethel Tubby Willis & Martel Wickson Steve.

Survivors include her daughters, Kira Happy & Jamie Hood; son, Christopher Hood; sister, Catherine Tubby Benn; 7 grandchildren & a host of relatives & friends.

FRANK "BUTCH" MORRIS STEVE, JR.

Funeral service for Frank "Butch" Morris Steve, Jr., 61, was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at Pearl River Baptist Church. Bro. Ricky Edwards & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.



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

Mr. Steve passed away on January 26 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was employed with MBCI Landscaping. He enjoyed hunting, playing stickball with Beaver Dam, watching his grandchildren participate in their activities, & being a fan of the Mississippi State Bulldogs & New England Patriots.

He is preceded in death by his father, Frank Steve, Sr.; mother, Benedicta St. John Steve; sister, Stephanie Steve; & brothers, Sean Steve & Lee McMillian.

Survivors include his daughter, Courtney Steve; son, Grantham Steve; a step-daughter, Sunni Mingo; step-sons, Adrian Wesley & Isiah Mingo; a brother, Tony Steve; 17 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson, 6 nieces, 3 nephews, & a host of relatives & friends.

RUTH SOCKEY WILLIAMS

Funeral service for Ruth Sockey Williams, 86, was held on Friday, February 3, 2023, at John E. Stephens Chapel in Philadelphia. Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Ms. Williams passed away on January 29 at Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church & enjoyed gardening, attending social gatherings, making friends, & talking to people.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Carter Williams; parents, Mike Sockey & Nephus Amos Sockey; sisters, Valarie Sockey, Reba Jim, Dora Johnson, Delores Sockey, & Baby Girl; brothers, Enoch Sockey, Odell Sockey, & Elvin Sockey.

Survivors include daughters, Linda Williams & Dinah Williams; sister, Sadie Wilson; brother, Clyde Sockey; 2 granddaughters & a host of relatives & friends.

ZACHARY RYAN THOMAS

Funeral service for Zachary Ryan Thomas, 41, was held on

Monday, February 6, 2023, at 39 Tomechi Anowa Road in Bogue Homa. Rev. Chris Hodge & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.



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

Mr. Thomas passed away on February 1 at his residence.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, playing softball, fishing, hunting, going to the casinos, & learning Choctaw culture & history. He was a Florida Gators & Miami Dolphins fan.

He is preceded in death by his father, Randy Daland Thomas; & grandparents, Corrine Billy, Mazola Thomas & Newman Thomas.

Survivors include his mother, Ailene Thomas; sisters, Cecile Lopez & Shelby Reed; brother, Joshua Thomas; companion, Natasha Jefferson; special niece & nephew, Amyrah Reed & Caleb Guerra; nephews, Jacen Thomas & Malackai Thomas; 7 nieces, 6 nephews, & a host of relatives & friends.

CHRISTINE JOE

Funeral service for Christine Joe, 67, was held on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at the Pearl River Community Center. Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.



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

Ms. Joe passed away on February 3.

She enjoyed being with her

sister, talking, listening to country music, going to the casino & yard sales.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Billy Joe, Sr. & Mary Starr Joe; sisters, Mavis Joe Ramos, Virginia Mary Joe, & Rose Catherine Joe; brothers, Billy Joe, Jr. & Charles Joe.

Survivors include her sons, Michael Shaffer, Richard Irizzary, & Wilson Irizzary; sister, Patty Ann Joe; 7 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, 7 nieces, 7 nephews, & a host of relatives & friends.

DEMANUEL LASHANE WILLIS

Funeral service for Demanuel Lashane Willis, 24, was held on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at the Conehatta Community Gymnasium. Bro. Brian Parkman officiated.



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

Mr. Willis passed away on February 4 at his residence.

He enjoyed playing basketball & stickball, being with family & friends, fishing, & telling jokes.

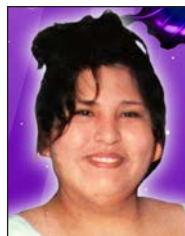
He is preceded in death by his mother, Mary Jefferson.

Survivors include his mother, Latonya Willis; sons, Sydus Willis & Amari Willis; fiancé, Amnery Smith; sister, Alesha Wahwasuck; brothers, Elray Willis, Shaunrey Jefferson, Lee A. Willis, Alvin Isom, Brylei Chickaway, Morrison Willis, & Lee D. Willis; & a host of relatives & friends.

ROSE MARIE MACARIO-TOMAS

Funeral service for Rose Marie Macario-Tomas, 43, was held on Friday, February 10, 2023, at her home, 151 Big

Spring Creek Road in Bogue Chitto. Bro. Marco Patrick & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.



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

Mrs. Macario-Tomas passed away on February 5 at her residence.

She enjoyed being with her children, baking, & cooking.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Glenn & Junice Thompson Bell; & brothers, Larry Thomas Bell & Jerry Lee Thompson.

Survivors include her husband, Eduardo Macario-Tomas; sons, Elian Macario-Tomas, Corbin Seth Macario-Tomas, & Luis Macario-Tomas; sisters, Anna Marie Bell & Cynthia Renee Bell; brothers, James Ray Bell, Cecil Christopher Thompson, & Alexander Keith Coley; & a host of relatives & friends.

FREDRICK DIXON, SR.

Funeral service for Fredrick Dixon, Sr., 54, was held on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at the Red Water CERF Building. Bro. Gordon Sam & Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.



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

Mr. Dixon passed away on February 7 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was with Choctaw Tribal Schools Maintenance from 1997-2022. He also repaired

small engines & enjoyed hunting, being with family & friends, riding through the community, telling jokes, & being a Dallas Cowboys fan.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Sequita Williams Dixon; parents, Woodrow Wilson Dixon & Mildred Sockey Dixon; sister, Linda Wesley; brothers, Michael Dixon & Howard Dixon; a niece & a nephew.

Survivors include his daughter, Trista Bell; sons, Fredrick Dixon, Jr., Redhmond Dixon, Nicholas Dixon, Nathan Smith, Scott Smith, Coby Smith, & Hunter Smith; brothers, Danny Dixon & Eric Dixon; 20 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ROBERT LEE CHICKAWAY

Funeral service for Robert Lee Chickaway, 60, was held on Thursday, February 16, 2023, at the Tucker CERF Building. Father Darnis Selvanayakam officiated.



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

Mr. Chickaway passed away on February 8 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

He enjoyed watching detective & western movies, professional wrestling, football, listening to music, & being with family & friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Clement & Lurline McMillan Chickaway; a sister, Earline Flores; & brothers, Hayward McMillan, Sr., Christopher Chickaway, & Silmon John.

Survivors include his sister, Mary Theresa Chickaway;

brothers, Billy Charlie Chickaway, John Lee Chickaway, & Lee Roy Chickaway; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

CHARLES RAY JEFFERSON, JR.

Funeral service for Charles Ray Jefferson, Jr., 43, was held on Friday, February 17, 2023, at the Conehatta Community Gymnasium. Bro. Ricky Thomas officiated.



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

Mr. Jefferson passed away on February 11 in Conehatta.

He enjoyed being with family & being a Florida State Seminoles fan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Jefferson, Sr. & Julie Jefferson; a sister, Gail Jefferson; a brother, Sidney Chapman; 5 aunts & 7 uncles.

Survivors include her daughters, Toriann Jefferson, Macie Jefferson, & Laney Jefferson; sons, Kyler Jefferson, Charles Ray Jefferson III, & Toro Jim; sisters, Natalie Jefferson & Cassie Jefferson; friend, Roxyann Jim; an aunt, uncle, great-aunt, & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

CORNELIA W. WILLIS

Funeral service for Cornelia W. Willis, 74, was held on Thursday, February 16, 2023, at the Pearl River Community Center. Bro. Eddie Johnson officiated.



Burial was in Phillips Ceme-

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

Ms. Willis passed away on February 12 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a member of Grace Fellowship Baptist Church & retired from Pearl River Resort's Food & Beverage Department after many years of service. She enjoyed traveling with her son, watching TV, doing word puzzles, & singing church hymns.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Earl Willis, Sr.; parents, Ollie Wickson & Irene Billy; sister, Betty Wickson; & brother, Steven Wickson.

Survivors include her son, Fred Willis; sister, Brenda Wickson; brother, Harry Wickson; & several nieces & nephews.

INFANT KYZLEIGH BRIELLE CHARLIE

Funeral service for Kyzleigh Brielle Charlie, 4 month old infant, was held on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at the Tucker CERF building. Bro. Leonard Jimmie, Jr. & Bro. Eddie Johnson officiated.



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

Infant Charlie passed away on February 15 at Neshoba General Hospital in Philadelphia.

She was deeply loved & brought immense joy to those around her.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents, Bruce Jackson & Cynthia Bell; great-grandparents, Laurine John Jackson, Coburn Charlie, Sr. & Gloria Davis Charlie; &

an infant cousin.

Survivors include her parents, Jaiden Jackson & Devin Charlie; brother, Kaizden Charlie; grandparents, Rahka Brescia & Coburn Charlie, Jr.; great-grandmother, Janis Jimmie; 7 aunts, 2 uncles, & a host of cousins & extended family.

DONALD WILLIAMSON

Funeral service for Donald Williamson, 68, was held on Monday, February 20, 2023, at Macedonia 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.

Mr. Williamson passed away on February 16 at his residence.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran & member of Hope Indian Baptist Church. He enjoyed being with family & friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Arnold & Anna Mae Farmer Williamson; daughter, Felicia Williamson; sisters, Rachel Williamson Wickson & Jeanette Williamson Shoemaker; & brothers, Milburn Williamson, Wilburn Williamson, Sr., & Frank Williamson.

Survivors include his daughters, Amy Williamson, Suzy Lane, & JoAnne Johnson; son, Stanley Johnson, Jr.; sisters, Evelyn Williamson John, Anslyn Williamson Ferris, Rose Mary Williamson, & Anna Marie Williamson; a special companion, Maria Johnson; 8 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MARIA FISHER JOHNSON

Funeral service for Maria Fisher Johnson, 78, was held on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at John E. Stephens Chapel in Philadelphia. Father Darnis Selvanayakah officiated.



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

Ms. Johnson passed away on February 18 at her residence in Petal.

She lived most of her life in the Conehatta community & was a member of St. Catherine Catholic Church. She enjoyed planting flowers.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Clay Oliver Fisher & Juanita Rodriguez; sisters, Guadalupe Fisher, Rosa Rodriguez, Mary Helen Fisher, Mary Jane Munn, & Consuelo Fisher; brothers, Roberto, Oscar & Clay Fisher; & special companion, Donald Williamson.

Survivors include her daughters, Joanne Marie Reyes, Suzy Lane (James), & Amy Williamson; son, Stanley Johnson, Jr.; sister, Susie Martinez; 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, several nieces & nephews, & her fur baby, Muffin.

TYLER LANE AMOS

Funeral service for Tyler Lane Amos, 32, was held on Friday, February 24, 2023, at Bogue Chitto Community Gymnasium. Pastor Thomas Ben & Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.



Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery.

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

Mr. Amos passed away on February 18 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

He lived most of his life in the Bogue Chitto Community & was a member of Bogue Chitto Baptist Church & Bogue Chitto Development Club. He enjoyed being with friends, mentoring youth, traveling, eating, fishing, & coaching.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather, Sammy Williams.

Survivors include his parents, Amilcar Tilson Williams & Tianie Amos; grandmothers, Donna Williams & Janice Amos; sisters, Anna York & Christiana Jean Amos; brothers, Antwan Amos, Braxton Amos, & Trevon Williams; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

atives, & friends.

LOUELLA SUE CROSBY

Funeral service for Louella Sue Crosby, 62, was held on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at Chihowa I Chuka Church in Wright City, OK.

Burial was in Slater Memorial Cemetery. Bunch-Singleton Funeral Home of Broken Bow, Okla., was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Crosby passed away on February 24 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She enjoyed planting flowers, being with family, loved church, traveling & singing. She lived in the Bogue Chitto Community for 15 years & was a member of Pentecostal Church of God.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Robertson Taylor

& Joanna Aaron.

Survivors include husband, Anthony Crosby; daughters, Marlana Crosby & Gabrielle Crosby; sons, Phillip Crosby, Ross Crosby (Marissa), Paul Crosby, & David Crosby (Kristen); 7 grandchildren & a host of relatives & friends.

LAYLA LEILANI DANIELLE LUIS

Funeral service for Layla Leilani Danielle Luis, 48, was held on Friday, March 3, 2023, at the Pearl River Community Center. Pastor Daniel Tubby officiated.



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

Mrs. Luis passed away on February 26 at Merit Health Hospital in Flowood.

She enjoyed cooking, baking, listening to music, dancing, enjoying coffee, watching movies, traveling, & being with family & friends. She also loved the Halloween & Christmas holidays, her fur babies, & being an MSU Bulldogs fan.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Hildreth Carl Tubby & Elvira Thin-Elk Tubby; brother, Sean Tubby; grandparents, Hudson & Estelline Tubby, Aloysius Thin-Elk & Vivian Brave; & father-in-law, Israel Luis, Sr.

Survivors include husband, Israel Luis; sons, Donte Decoteau & Brennan Luis; brother, Gall Tubby; 4 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

LIVING WATER
UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

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

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

Welcome To

**NANIH WAIYA
INDIAN
Mennonite Church**

10341 Road 789
Philadelphia, MS 39350
Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.

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

CBTC
CHOCTAW BIBLE
TRANSLATION COMMITTEE
ISAIAH 40:31

Download the Choctaw Bible App

Scripture & hymns written in Choctaw & highlighted with audio.

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Our Traditions

Plant-Based Cordage, 2/18/23



Jeanette Stone

Blackberry Stem Cordage

Shell Carving, 4/1/23



Alex Alvarez

Galactical Gazer Black Pearl Gorget

Yakni Achukma

All events are at the Southern Miss Medicine Wheel Garden at 1 p.m.
116 N. 31st Ave. Hattiesburg, Miss
Contact: tammy.greer@usm.edu for more information.



Okla Achukma

The Southern Miss Medicine Wheel Garden is a forest garden with hundreds of plants who are native here and who provided building materials, dyes, weapons, food, drinks, clothing, vessels, art and medicines to our ancestors.

Robin Whitfield



Robin Whitfield Studio, Granada, Miss

Plant-Based Pigments, 9/23/23

Jenna Mae



Bulbancha Collective

Plant Medicines, 11/4/23

TELENUTRITION CENTER



WECAN

EOE/FF/MVETS/DISABILITY



MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

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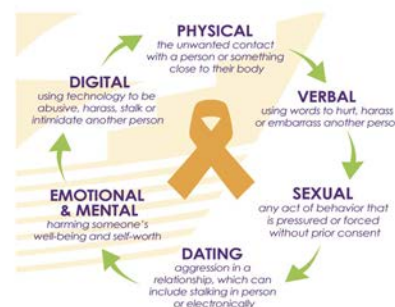
What is Teen Dating Violence?

Teen dating violence is a type of violence that happens between two young people in a relationship. The nature of the harmful and aggressive behavior can be physical, emotional, sexual or technological abuse:

- **Physical** – For example, when a partner is pinched, hit, bit, shoved or kicked.
- **Emotional** – This action can involve threatening a partner or harming a partner's sense of self-worth. Some examples include name-calling, shaming, bullying, embarrassing on purpose, or keeping the partner away from friends and family.
- **Sexual** – This is forcing a partner to engage in a sex act when he or she does not or cannot consent. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Dating violence often starts with teasing and name calling. These behaviors are often thought to be a "normal" part of a relationship. But these behaviors can lead to more serious violence like physical assault and rape.
- **Technological**– Using social media to harass, stalk, bully, shame, embarrass or humiliate

STATS ON NATIVE TEENS IN RELATIONSHIPS

- Nearly 1 in 11 female & approximately 1 in 15 male high school students report having experienced physical dating violence in the last year.
- About 1 in 9 female violence, including intentional injuries, homicide and suicide, account for 75% of Native youth deaths.
- 1 in 36 male high school students report having experienced sexual dating violence in the last year.
- 92% of American Indian girls who reported having sexual intercourse have been forced against their will
- More than 40% of children experience two or more acts of violence by the age of 18.
- Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner each year.



FAMILY VIOLENCE AND VICTIMS SERVICES
(601)650-1774

DID YOU KNOW the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) is the only college campus with a southeastern native plant Medicine Wheel Garden in the country? Dr. Tammy Greer, along with others, developed the Medicine Wheel Garden in 2005 to highlight plants used by the indigenous peoples of this area & promote awareness of the rich histories & cultures of Southeastern Native Americans.

The Center of American Indian Research and Studies is partnering with the Mississippi Humanities Council, WECAN (Women's Earth & Climate Action Network) & the Telenutrition Center to present four events at our Medicine Wheel Garden, located on USM campus behind the Liberal Arts Building.

- February 18: Plant-Based Cordage with Jeanette Stone
- April 1: Shell-Carving with Alex Alvarez
- September 23: Plant-Based Pigments with Robin Whitfield
- November 11: Plant Medicine with Jenna Mae

All events begin at 1:00 p.m., at the Medicine Wheel Garden & are free & open to the public. Snacks will be provided at each event. For more information about the events, the Medicine Wheel Garden or Native American history/culture, please contact Dr. Tammy Greer at tammy.greer@usm.edu.