



Chief Ben Sworn In for 2nd Term

A thunderous cadence of tribal drum beats echoed throughout the Silver Star Convention Center to commemorate the second inauguration of Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben on Tuesday afternoon, July 11, 2023, in Choctaw, Miss.

Chief Ben, along with his family (wife, TaRita, and children, Brodie, Eden and Selah), were ushered into the convention center by a troupe of Tribal drummers in their traditional attire and regalia.

Former Choctaw Indian Princesses Alice Keats (2019-2021) and Shemah Crosby (2021-2022) served as Mistresses of Ceremonies, and Asa Jimmie was Master of Ceremonies. Members of the Choctaw Tribal Color Guard posted the flags of the United States, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the State of Mississippi.

Nana Frazier performed the National Anthem in the Choctaw language, followed by an invocation by Pastor Ricky Thompson, Sr. of the Pearl River Baptist Church.

“As I walked through the building, the drums had already started, and my mind began to wonder. Sometimes we see things we don’t see, and that’s faith. Through faith, and with the help of you, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, it gives me that honor and privilege to stand before you today,” said Chief Ben.

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Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, surrounded by his family, was administered the Ceremonial Oath of Office by Vice Chief Ronnie Henry, Sr. during inaugural festivities at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw on Tuesday, July 11, 2023.

Thompson crowned 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess

Nalani LuzMaria Thompson (center) was crowned the 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess during the opening night of the 73rd Choctaw Indian Fair on Wednesday, July 12, at the Main Stage. She was also selected Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants. Sydney Alyse Ben (left) was selected First Alternate & Miss Photogenic. Angel

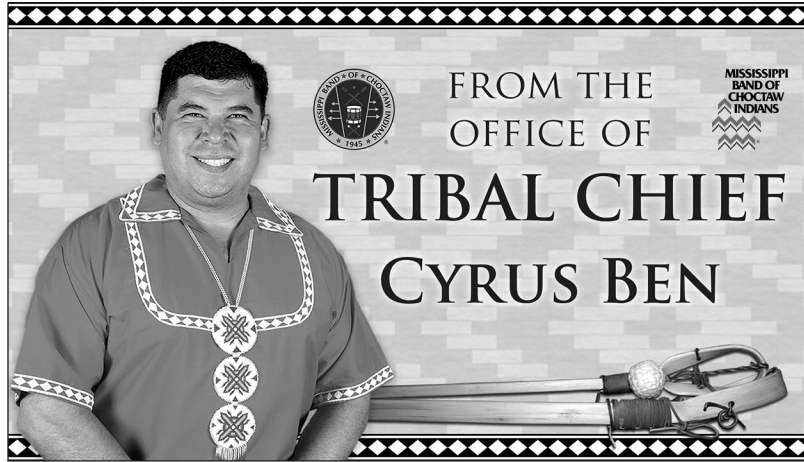


Bahlantah Clemmons (right) was selected Second Alternate.



Nanih Waiya Day Celebration

As part of Nanih Way Day Celebration activities, a ceremony was held at the Nanih Waiya Ceremonial Mound site on Thursday, August 10. The event included remarks from Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, traditional social dancing, and the posting of tribal community flags by community leaders. Pictured right, Tribal drummers lead the dancers as they performed the Walk Dance. (See story on page 7)



Halito!
 The 73rd Choctaw Indian Fair has come and gone, and what a tremendous success it was. There was lots of fun activities, cultural demonstrations and great times spent with Tribal members and visitors. Despite the excessive heat and a few moments of rain, everyone seemed to have had a great time.

Thanks to every Fair worker who labored long hours, many of them in the heat, to make

sure our Fair was successful and providing our guests with the opportunity to see Choctaw culture at its finest.

Congratulations to all of the winners of the various competitions! Their names will be mentioned later in this edition of the Choctaw Community News.

I do want to again congratulate Miss Nalani LuzMaria Thompson, our new 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess. Nalani has been on-the-go practically the minute she was crowned and has been doing a fantastic job representing our Tribe as its goodwill ambassador. I believe she will do well in her reign. I encourage everyone to please offer your support and positive words when you see her around.

We had another great World Series Stickball tournament! Thanks to Commissioner Thomas Ben and Youth Stickball Coordinator Adrian Wesley and their crews for their hard work in making sure everything was handled well. There were some great games to watch, and it was great to see the skills, talents and sportsmanship of the players on the field.

Congratulations to this year's champions Koni Hata (Men's), Koni Hata Ohoyo (Women's), Beaver Dam (Men's 35+), Bók Čito (Tulli Okchi Ishko), and Beaver Dam (Pushmataha)! I look forward to presenting the



Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben poses with newly crowned 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani LuzMaria Thompson at the conclusion of the Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant on Wednesday, July 12. Thompson is the 17 year-old daughter of Desmond & Kelli Jones of the Pearl River Community. She is a senior at Neshoba Central High School this fall & plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg & major in Geriatric Nursing.

championship banners later this year at the annual Thanksgiving Feast.

It was great to see several of our Choctaw teams participating in the NAYO softball/baseball tournament in Cherokee, North Carolina. We always have great representation at these tournaments, and I am always impressed by the skills, talents, and dedication of our youth. Thank you to Cherokee Recreation and NAYO leadership for this opportunity for our youth to have some summer

fun!
 The new school year has begun. There are many activities that take place at this time of the year. Excitement is definitely in the air for football and volleyball. I wish every student and athlete the best of luck in the classroom and on the field or court.

Parents, please make sure your students are prepared every day for school by ensuring they get a good night's sleep,

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CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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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.



Tribal Judges Sworn In

A swearing-in ceremony was held in the Choctaw Tribal Council Hall in Choctaw on Tuesday, July 10, 2023, for Choctaw Tribal Court System Judges who were confirmed for judicial appointment to a four-year term by the Tribal Council during a special call meeting on May 11, 2023. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben administered the Oath of Office to the following, from left to right, Hon. Bradley Alex as Peacemaker Court Judge, Hon. Peggy Gibson as Criminal Court Judge, Chief Ben, Hon. Holly Peters as Youth Court Judge, & Hon. Anthony Drew Taylor as Criminal Court Judge.

Tribal Officials Sworn In

Tribal officials were officially sworn in during a regular-call Tribal Council meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at the Tribal Council Hall in Choctaw. Choctaw Tribal Court Judge Peggy Gibson (left) administered the official Oath of Office to newly-elected or re-elected Tribal officials, which included, from left to right, Tribal Council members Timothy Thomas, Sr. (Conehatta), Nigel Gibson (Pearl River), Ronnie Henry, Sr. (Bogue Chitto), Sam John (Red Water), Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Berdie Steve (Bogue Homa), Dorothy Wilson (Tucker), Ricky Anderson, Sr. (Red Water), & Richard Sockey (Standing Pine). During the meeting, Ronnie Henry, Sr. (Bogue Chitto) was re-elected Vice Chief, Christopher Eaves (Crystal Ridge) was re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer, & Angela Hundley (Bogue Chitto) was elected Committee Systems Coordinator.



eating a healthy breakfast, and are doing their homework and studying. Also, I encourage community members to encourage our students by attending sports games, band concerts, pageants, academic competitions/programs, Christmas programs, spring festivals, and any other school activities open to the community.

Let us show our students that they have the support of our Tribe and we are proud of their successes!

Earlier this year we held various ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings, a definite sign of the great progress being made on our Tribal lands. The progress continues, as we plan to host more ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings in the coming weeks and months for different projects. I am proud of the hard work and efforts of the team of multiple departments for moving these projects forward for the benefit and betterment of our people.

On July 11th, I was sworn in to a second term as Tribal Chief. It is my honor to serve you in this role. I do not take the responsibility of being Chief lightly. It is hard work

with long days, long nights and many things achieved behind the scenes that do not get recognition. However, I do not do it for the recognition. I took on this challenge to move our Tribe forward and build a better future for our children. In this, I am not alone. I am thankful for my family, friends, supporters and fellow Tribal members.

Without you, I would not be where I am today-Thank you.

To our new elected/re-elected members of Tribal Council, congratulations on your elections. We must all step up and each do our part in creating success for our Tribe and our people. We still have much to do, but if we move together as one, we will get things done.

I appreciate your support and your prayers.

Chi Yakokilih,

Cyrus Ben, Tribal Chief



Groundbreaking in Standing Pine

The Choctaw Housing Authority (CHA) held a ribbon cutting on Monday, August 14, 2023, for five housing units to be constructed at Tiak Osi Cove in the Standing Pine Community. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani LuzMaria Thompson, members of the CHA Board of Commissioners, other Tribal Council members, CHA personnel & a community youth member broke ground to celebrate the new housing project. Completion of the project is slated for January 2024. The architect for the project is Johnny Wynne & Associates. Willis Engineering did the site plan, & IKBI, Inc. is the contractor.



FEMA Tribal Advocate visits Tribe

Kelbie Kennedy, National Tribal Affairs Advocate in the Office of External Affairs of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), met with Tribal officials on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. President Biden appointed Ms. Kennedy as the first tribal affairs political appointee in the history of FEMA & the Department of Homeland Security on October 11, 2022. As the first FEMA National Tribal Affairs Advocate, Ms. Kennedy will directly advise the Administrator & the Agency on all tribal affairs & work to ensure that FEMA lives up to its treaty responsibilities to all Tribal Nations. Ms. Kennedy will also work across the Agency to implement the first FEMA National Tribal Strategy. Ms. Kennedy, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, received her J.D. & certificate in American Indian Law from the University of Oklahoma, College of Law. She has focused her career on Federal Indian Law & has worked for Tribal Nations, private firms, & the federal government. She has worked on national policy issues surrounding tribal emergency management & resilience, tribal homeland security, tribal border issues, violence against American Indian & Alaska Native women, public safety & justice, Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Indian child & family welfare, & international Indigenous rights. Pictured above, from left to right, are Choctaw Fire Department Director Gabriel Bell, MBCI Director of Administration Jason Grisham, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, National Tribal Affairs Advocate Kelbie Kennedy, & Choctaw Emergency Management representative Austin Tubby.

INAUGURATION continued from page one

Moments before, Vice Chief Ronnie Henry, Sr. (Bogue Chitto Tribal Council Representative) administered the ceremonial Oath of Office to Chief Ben as he was joined by his family on stage.

“I thank God for the breath, strength, wisdom, and courage to walk this land, and I’m thankful for my mother and father for raising me and instilling in me love for my people and my tribe,” said Chief Ben.

He also thanked his wife and children for all their sacrifices

and the great support they have bestowed upon him as he told them he loved them.

As the fifth democratically-elected Tribal Chief since the adoption of the modern Choctaw Constitution in 1945, Chief Ben was re-elected to a second term during the June 6 Tribal election with 1,997 total votes (61.6 percent). Former two-term Chief Phylliss J. Anderson received 1,096 votes (33.8 percent) and former Tribal

continued next page



Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, along with drummers representing the Tribal communities, ready themselves for the procession into the Silver Star Convention Center for the inauguration ceremony.



Kuntry Boy Designs opens in Bogue Chitto

A ribbon cutting & grand opening was held on Thursday, July 20, 2023, for Kuntry Boy Designs, located adjacent to the Big Creek General Store site in the Bogue Chitto Community. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Tribal Council members Vice Chief Ronnie Henry, Sr., Kendall Wallace, Angela Hundley (Bogue Chitto representatives) & Sam John (Red Water representative), 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani Luz-



Maria Thompson, & State Representative Michael Ted Evans, joined together with shop employees & community members to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Congratulations to the owner & employees of Kuntry Boy Designs, and best wishes for much success in their endeavour.



Council Conehatta Representative Tarina K. Anderson received 149 votes (4.6 percent).

As he acknowledged his predecessors, he also recognized the leadership in the Tribal Council and offered his appreciation for their service to the Tribe.

“Four years ago, I was blessed with the opportunity to lead such great people and stand on this very stage. As we all know, we don’t have to talk much about what came along in 2020. Only through our leadership and fellow leaders that sit before me, thank you for joining us as we work together for our people. We will keep working for our people, and our work

will never stop.” Chief Ben reiterated his five key initiatives, which included: respect; fairness and equality; accountability; efficiency; and appreciation and support.

“Many of us ride in vehicles. It’s not one mechanism that makes that vehicle move, there are many moving parts. With this organization, there are so many moving parts, and I’m grateful to all of our employees, through our enterprises, our government, our corporation of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Thank you for your hard work and sacrifices to make sure the job is getting done.”

Standing before the Tribal

seal, Chief Ben stated of the progress made under his first term and moving forward in the right direction for years to come. That includes upgrades to the infrastructure, balancing compensation plans for the workforce, putting shelters in each community to protect Tribal members, road pavement projects, increasing housing opportunities, and the construction of a new Choctaw Central Middle and High School campus.

“We’re thankful for the efforts of our leadership and Tribal administrative personnel working for our future in our children who will one day stand at this very podium and

be our next leaders. We want to provide you the resources,” said Chief Ben.

He also recognized the great strides made on behalf of our ancestors and sovereign Native nations, as represented by a gold star emblazoned atop the new state flag of Mississippi and the passage of the Tribal Regalia Bill in 2020 by the Mississippi legislature which allows Native individuals the right to wear their Native regalia during events, such as graduations, in the state of Mississippi.

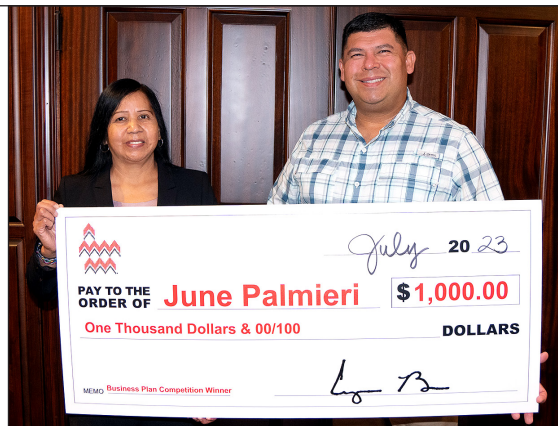
“There are many things that goes into providing for the welfare of our people and rest assure that we, as leadership, and I in the Office of Tribal Chief, will work tirelessly as I have for four years. I look forward for four more years that we will work for you, the people.”

Former Princess Shemah Crosby offered the benediction as Tribal chanters Bruce Jim, Melanie Benn and Melissa Isaac sang the Walk Dance chant as they led the procession of tribal drummers out of the convention center.

A reception was held and official inauguration T-shirts were distributed and photos were taken in the Silver Star Promenade.

Palmieri Wins Business Plan Competition

Congratulations to June Palmieri as she was the winner of the Fast Start Program’s Business Plan Competition. The program, hosted by the MBCI Office of Economic Development’s Small Business Program, offers Tribal member entrepreneurs an opportunity to gain valuable information & assistance in starting their own business. At the end of the six-week course, entrepreneurs who developed a detailed plan were entered into a Business Plan Competition with the winner receiving \$1,000 to invest into their venture. Palmieri plans to open a gourmet pizza restaurant, traditional brick oven-style, catering to a traditional pizza menu, as well as health-conscious options. Pictured above, Palmieri (left) receives her check & congratulations from Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben.





CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING JULY 11 & 18, 2023

RESOLUTION CHO 23-098(B), acknowledging relinquishment of membership in the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), was ADOPTED - 17 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Anderson, Sr., C. Eaves, N. Gibson, R. Henry, Sr., A. Hundley, S. John, D. Martin, D. Mingo, H. Nickey, G. Shoemaker, R. Sockey, B. Steve, T. Thomas, Sr., K. Wallace, K. Wesley, & D. Wilson*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *In accordance with Title XXII-Tribal Enrollment Code, Section §22-4-1, provides that any adult MBCI Tribal member may voluntarily relinquish their MBCI Tribal membership contingent upon their enrollment as a member of another federally-recognized Indian Tribe. The Tribal Enrollment Committee approved the two persons' requests to conditionally relinquish their MBCI tribal membership. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Enrollment.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-099(B), approving increases in blood degree & name changes for previously enrolled Tribal members, was ADOPTED - 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves an increase in blood degree for previously enrolled Tribal members. 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 three (3) previously enrolled Tribal members. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Enrollment.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-100(B), enrolling Tribal members, was ADOPTED - 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves Tribal Enrollment for sixteen (16) persons beginning with the name R. Allen & ending with C. York. With the adoption of the Resolution, there are 11,051 Tribal members enrolled with the MBCI. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Enrollment.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-101, confirming the Tribal Chief & Secretary-Treasurer & the authorities granted to each regarding cash & investments accounts, was ADOPTED - 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution confirms that the Tribal Chief is Cyrus Ben & the Secretary-Treasurer Christopher Eaves & that by the power granted to them by the Tribal Constitution both, signing together, are authorized on behalf of the MBCI, to open/establish one or more accounts at any approved depository & to act on behalf of the Tribe when executing necessary documents relating to the management of Tribal investment account(s) at financial institutions; authority is also given to Tribal Chief & Secretary-Treasurer to jointly instruct brokers/deal-*

ers to purchase, sell, possess, transfer, dispose & exchange any securities, in accordance with previously approved Tribal Council Resolutions of the Tribe beginning July 11, 2023. For more information, please contact the Office of Finance & Accounting.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-102, authorizing the Tribal Chief & Secretary-Treasurer to instruct the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Special Trustee (OST), to disburse funds & to provide investment instructions to the Tribe, was ADOPTED - 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution authorizes the Tribal Chief, Secretary-Treasurer & the Chief Financial Officer of the Tribe to provide specific written authorization for designated members of the Tribe's Office of Finance & Accounting to initiate financial transactions, obtain information or give investment instructions, & that no funds may be withdrawn for use by the Tribe without the specific authorization of the Tribal Council. For more information, please contact the Office of Finance & Accounting.*

RESOLUTION CHO 23-103, approving appointments to the Tribal Council committees & their chairpersons, was ADOPTED - 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution authorizes approving appointments to the Tribal Council committees & their chairperson as listed below:*

Budget & Finance Committee: Christopher Eaves;

Children & Youth Committee: Deborah Martin;

Community & Family Services, & Veteran Affairs Committee: Ricky Anderson, Sr.;

Congressional & Governmental Affairs Committee: Hilda Nickey;

Culture Committee: Berdie

Steve;

Economic Development Committee: Kendall Wallace;

Education Committee: Demando Mingo;

Health Committee: Dorothy Wilson;

Housing Committee: Loriann Ahshapanek;

Human Resources, Training & Development Committee: Samuel John;

Judicial Affairs and Law & Order Committee: Richard Sockey;

Lobbyist, Public Relations & Politics Committee: Nigel Gibson;

Natural Resources Committee: Gregory Shoemaker;

Public Works, Fire & Construction Committee: Kent Wesley;

Recreation Committee: Timothy Thomas, Sr.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Tribal Council.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-104, approving an extension request of the Weaving Healthy Families Program to Yappalli & Wakaya Programs from Dr. Catherine McKinley of Tulane University & Dr. Michelle-Johnson-Jennings of the University of Washington, was ADOPTED - 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves Dr. Catherine McKinley of Tulane University an extension of the Weaving Healthy Families Program & Dr. Michelle Johnson-Jennings of the University of Washington to conduct research by implementing the Yappalli & Wakaya Program. The conducted research will benefit the MBCI to promote resilience, wellness, health, cultural connectedness, leadership development among youth, families, & community while preventing high risk substance abuse, violence, suicide,*

continued next page

Tribe hosts Nanih Waiya Day Celebration

Despite an early morning shower, Tribal officials, members, and guests of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians gathered at the Nanih Waiya Ceremonial Mound site in Winston County on Thursday, August 10, 2023, to commemorate the return of the ancestral mound back to the Choctaw people.

The 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani LuzMaria Thompson, serving as Mistress of Ceremonies, recounted how generations of Choctaws have revered the historic Nanih Waiya Mound as a symbolic and astounding reminder of our past.

“Historical references tell us the miraculous story of the Choctaw people origination from these very grounds we stand upon,” said Princess Thompson. “From that time to now, we will fully continue

to write our own stories, either through the eyes of poverty, near extinction, successes of celebrations, still together and forever bonded to this place,

our sacred mother mound.”

The Tribe commemorates the return of Nanih Waiya during the second week of August with traditional songs, social

dancing, stickball games, traditional food, and an official Tribal holiday observed this year on Friday, August 11.

“Our Mother Mound is

see NANIH WAIYA, pg. 8



In attendance for the flag posting ceremony were, from left to right, Tribal Council members Sam John (Red Water), Kent Wesley (Pearl River), Dorothy Wilson (Tucker), Loriann Ahshapanek (Standing Pine), 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani LuvMaria Thompson, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Tribal Council members Vice Chief Ronnie Henry, Sr. (Bogue Chitto), Chris Eaves (Crystal Ridge), Demando Mingo (Tucker), & Kendall Wallace (Bogue Chitto).

& distress. The proposed extension would enhance & deepen sustainable & institutionalized culturally grounded programming that will continue to engage members on community advisory board(s) to help guide, adapt, & drive effective programs for MBCI. There will be no financial costs through external grant funding & Dr. McKinley & Dr. Johnson-Jennings will provide periodic updates/reports of said research in writing to the Office of Attorney General & the Policy & Legislative Office & failure to comply may result in termination of said research. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-105, authorizing Seth Katenkamp of Yale University to conduct research on the Choctaw Language by conducting

& recording interviews with MBCI Tribal members, was ADOPTED - 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution authorizes Seth Katenkamp, a doctoral candidate at Yale University, to conduct research to document & analyze the pronunciation of the Choctaw language, particularly the rhythm of Choctaw words, in order to complete doctoral research to fulfill graduation requirements. Mr. Katenkamp will provide periodic updates/reports of said research in writing to the Office of the Attorney General & the Policy & Legislative Office & failure to comply may result in termination of said research. There will be no cost to the Tribe & all information & products obtained through this research belongs to the MBCI. For more information, please

contact the Policy & Legislative Office.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-106, authorizing Amy Offner of the University of Pennsylvania to conduct research on “Experiences of Debt Among Choctaws in Mississippi During the Twentieth Century”, was ADOPTED - 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution authorizes Amy Offner, a history professor at the University of Pennsylvania, to conduct archival research on the MBCI. The proposed research focuses on the changing experiences of debt among members of the Tribe during the 20th century. Ms. Offner is authorized to review Tribal Council meeting minutes & Tribal Council Resolutions from 1945-1985 at MBCI’s Tribal Archives. Ms. Offner will provide periodic up-

dates/reports of said research in writing to the Office of the Attorney General & the Policy & Legislative Office. There will be no cost to the Tribe & all information & products obtained through this research belongs to the MBCI. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-107(B), acquiring ±80 acres of land in Neshoba County, Mississippi & to transfer fee title to the United States of America in trust for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was ADOPTED - 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution to acquire & purchase ±80 acres of land currently owned & offered for sale by Tamarack Timber Co. MS Inc., which is

see RESOLUTIONS, pg. 8



ABOVE, Chief Ben acknowledged special guests in attendance, included Jena Band of Choctaw Indians' Tribal Chief Elizabeth Rogers (right) & Councilwoman Lacy Robbins McGuffee (left). **BELOW**, Members of the Chahta Immi Social Dancers performed several traditional dances.

NANIH WAIYA continued from page seven

sacred to our ancestors. The heartbeat of our tribe was taken from us over a century ago. However, now and forevermore, she has been returned to her people," said Princess Thompson.

Pastor Shelly Peoples of Faith Missionary Baptist Church offered the opening prayer, followed by the singing of the National Anthem in the Choctaw language by Tribal member Nana Frazier.

Considered the heart of the Choctaw people, Nanih Waiya (translated as "lean-

ing hill") has been revered for centuries as the Mother Mound.

The darkest chapter of Choctaw history occurred as the Choctaw gradually lost their ancestral homeland as a result of nine treaties being signed with the United States between 1786-1830. The last treaty, The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek of 1830, forced the Choctaw to give up the remainder of their lands, which included Nanih Waiya. The majority of Choctaws were removed to Oklahoma, but a small

minority remained in Mississippi in isolation.

For a period after removal, Nanih Waiya remained under private ownership. Eventually, the State of Mississippi acquired it and operated it as a park.

In 1945, Choctaws voted to adopt a constitution and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians was established. Over the next decades, in keeping with the Choctaw Self-Determination doctrine, the Tribe

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RESOLUTIONS continued from page seven

located in Neshoba County & adjoins all sides of reservation lands in the Pearl River Community. The Resolution authorizes the purchase ±80 acres of land on behalf of the Tribe for a price not to exceed \$369,500 plus applicable closing costs & to submit an application to transfer title to the above-referenced private land to the United States of America trust for the Tribe without further Council action. For more information, please contact the Realty Office.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-108, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & BCI Mississippi Broadband, LLC D/B/A MaxxSouth Broadband, was ADOPTED - 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the scope of a future agreement under which BCI Mississippi Broadband, LLC d/b/a MaxxSouth Broadband ("MaxxSouth") would deploy its broadband service to all households on MBCI Reservation lands. On April 14, 2022, the Governor of the State of Mississippi signed House Bill 1029, which established a Broadband Expansion & Accessibility of Mississippi ("BEAM") Fund for the purpose of financially supporting projects that will provide broadband service to unserved or underserved areas of the state. There are MBCI Tribal members residing outside of the MBCI Reservation in areas of central Mississippi that still do not have adequate

broadband infrastructure. Through the collaborative relationship, MBCI & MaxxSouth have demonstrated the ability to effectively deploy broadband service in rural central Mississippi. For more information, please contact the Office of Public Works.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-109, authorizing formation of & to approve an operating agreement for Chahta Link, LLC d/b/a C-Link, was ADOPTED - 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution authorizes the formation of & to approve an operating agreement for Chahta Link, LLC d/b/a C-Link. There is a need for the Tribe to form a limited liability company to pursue business opportunities relating to the deployment of

telecommunications services & the marketing, billing, & subsidiary compliance activities associated with those services. The Tribal Council authorizes the Director of the MBCI Office of Economic Development to act as organizer for Chahta Link, LLC d/b/a C-Link. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.

To request a copy of the Resolution and/or attachment, please fill out a request for a Resolution/Ordinance form & 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.

became a leader in economic development in east central Mississippi.

In 2006, Mississippi Legislature State Bill 2803 officially returned control of Nanih Waiya to the Luke Family of Winston County. Soon, a member of the Luke Family deeded it back to the state, under the condition it be maintained as a park.

Coming full circle, Mississippi Senate Bill 2732 authorized the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks in April 2007 to transfer the mound back to the Tribe.

In August 2008, the deed was returned to Tribe and a proclamation was signed that year by

Tribal leaders celebrating the mound's return and declaring that Nanih Waiya would never be sold, traded or negotiated with ever again.

Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben said the Tribe is continuously doing research on the mound site and with the recent discovery of archival maps, a secondary mound may have possibly been in existence in the area.

"The owners of the land, or whoever took over, may have removed that mound and spread abroad what was inside. Therefore you will notice going forward that we will keep the gates locked in respect to these grounds being sacred," said Chief Ben.

With the site being closed to traffic, land was cleared and a new parking lot was paved across from the entrance gate.

"I'm glad there is some sensitivity, from this community and the non-tribal community alike, that respects that we address this property as being sacred. When you come upon it, please be respectful," said Chief Ben.

A project on the horizon Chief Ben reiterated is the Nanih Waiya Trails Program which will connect a trail system over a mile and a half long through the swamp area from the Nanih Waiya Mound to the mound cave site.

"We have our staff, our cultural program, environmental

program, and our construction program working cohesively to develop this plan and hopefully soon we can proceed with the trails program," Chief Ben said.

Throughout history, Choctaw ancestors endured many sacrifices with unfortunate lives lost during the Indian Removal Act. But the ancestors here in Mississippi stood strong as they were not removed from these lands, and today, they stand strong.

"Our culture and traditions are alive and well here in Mississippi and we're very grateful for that. I want to acknowledge

continued next page

FICHIK OSI (LIME) team members included Alarie Morris, Alexis Navarro Ortiz, Alston Meely, Amery Mingo, Anielisa Bell, Asher Willis, Ava Willis, Beth Lewis, Brayon Billie, Brylen Jefferson, Brylie Chickaway, Bryncess Thomas, Cadence Meely, Caprih Williamson, Carly Baker, Cayelea Frazier, Chipper Briscoe, Cliff Willis, Jr., Cohen McMillan, Cooper Jefferson, Danayeli Sam, Darrell Thomas, Jr., Deanalyn Chickaway, Dominic Tubby, Dylan Morris, Eilliana Wallace, Eisley Charlie, Eiyana Jimmie, Eli Steve, Elia Dougherty, Eliza Tangle, Ellynn Grisham, Erik Perez, Gabriel Brown, Gunter Wishork, Hamaya Polk, Hayzley Johnson, Im'unique Allen, J'Hazlyn Bell, Jacob Frazier, Jacoby Tubby, Jalayah Clemmons, Jariah Hundley, Javeyon Willis, Jaysa Gibson, Jep Johnson, Jeziel Perkins, Ka'Drazilyn Williams, Kai Jones, Kaizen Dixon, Kayden Flores, Keilali Dixon, Kenton Bell, Khalani Isaac, Kitsey Bigpond, Kree



Bingham, Kyler Willis, Kyla Thompson, Kylus John, Kysen Dixon, Laney Jefferson, Larson Robinson, Leigha Solomon, Maizuri Phillips, Makenzie Wilson, Marcin Billy, Miley Dixon, Naushoba Young, Nola Dixon, Nylesden Yazzier, Oliver Johnson, Owen Tubby, Peyton Wesley, Princeton Anderson, Raydon Bell, Rayen Willis, Rhyes York, Riley Isaac, Semaycelynn Bell, Shantel Clemens, Sharnellaya Tubby, Talia Ben, Tayzlynn Hickman, Terrance Tubby, Jr., Thomasina Wickson, Trevor Thomas, Xaiden Leach, Zeitler Farmer, & Zyleigh Thomas.

FICHIK OSI (ORANGE) team members included Aaniyah Robinson, Adonai York, Aiden Dixon, Aizlyn Wilson, Amicia Willis, Anakin Mitch, Andre Williams, Angel Perez, Anilah Tubby, Anzlon Thomas, Arlando Bigpond, Asylem Jefferson, Avery Comby, Ayden Jim, Balian Morris, Braya Mitch, Brayson Lewis, Brynleigh Cotton, Cainen Reynolds, Calvin Willis, Caysuri Williamson, Cheyette Isaac, Chloe Dixon, Colin Chickaway, Conner Christi, Corakko Gibson, Cornelia Bell, Daeagan Isaac, Deandre Shumake, Dkhyllon Marshall, Dolen Ben, Dylan Clemons, Easton Jimmie, Eciason Dougherty, Elora Thomas, Emerald Runnels, Espyn Stephens, Ethan Hickman, Ezra Hickman, Gunner Grisham, Harrington Allen, Jr., Hayden Dixon, Ignacio Vargas, Isaiah Mingo, Jr., J'Rayus Wesley, Jaisely Chickaway, Jakaizen Solomon, Jayda Lewis, Jaydee Shoemake, Jazelle Bell, Journey Wright,



Joziel Perkins, Kaison Thomas, Kason Isaac, Kaylee McMillan, Keilani Gibson, Kelcedi John, Ken Frazier, Jr., Knoxx Bell, Koi Bell, Koide Isaac, Kyler Phillips, Kylyse Yazzie, Lane Willis, Langston Logan, Liam Willis, Lillian Farve, Logan Hickman, Maddox Ben, Majesty Isaac, Na'Tyiah Gibson, Necie Charlie, Ninak-Oklanna Osi Charlie, Nylah Bender, Nyri Phillips, Paisley Jefferson, Remington Isaac, Ryan Shumake, Jr., Sahyimmi Isaac, Stacey Wallace, Sydney Isaac, Te'Layli Smith, Traceton Reed, Traivtin John, Trenton Kin-solving, Verron Tubby, Jr., Wyatt Nickey, Zoe Wallace, & Zyurs John.



NANIH WAIYA continued from page nine



our elders here today as they have been walking this land, keeping the traditions going, nurturing us young people to keep our language and culture alive,” said Chief Ben. “I also acknowledge all our Tribal members. We stand over 11,000 strong and will always keep the culture and tradition

alive and well, passing it on to future generations as many generations before us have passed it on down to us.”
 Traditional social dancing was performed by the Chahta Immi Social Dancers as they performed the Walk, Stealing Partners, and Snake Dances.
 A roll call of Choctaw Trib-

al communities was conducted as Tribal Council representatives and community members carried and posted the flags of their respective communities at the base of the mound.
 Mississippi National Guard Staff Sergeant Dana Johnson carried the U.S. flag and U.S. Army National Guard Special-

ist Cynthia Massey carried the State of Mississippi flag. Chief Ben carried the MBCI flag as a moment of silence was observed.
 Vice Chief Ronnie Henry, Sr. offered a closing prayer to conclude the ceremony as a
continued next page

FICHIK MALATA OHOYO team members included Lauren Ben, Leslie Fuller, Abrey Tubby, Hanna Lewis, Kayla John, Jamaica Montoya, Tiara Joe, Kayla Joe, Kayla Willis, Taelor York, Brittany Gomez, Hannah Peoples, Arionna Dixon, Alana Billy, Leia Phillips, Jocelyn Wesley, Chenice Ben, Jayasri Mitch, Robin Routh, Tanya Isaac, Evangeline King, Lyleonia Johnson, Ashley Stephens, Tia'Rain Saunders, Lana Tubby, Kaylee Routh, Darien Tubby, Sunni McMillian, Shaylyn Hunter, Lattoriah Johnson, Delynn Agee, Tia limmie, Taryn Gibson, Melony Thames, Maiya Joe, Kaedre Denson, Sheila Willis, Zcasha Vaughn, Pixie Jefferson, Erica Phillips, Kalen Willis, Lisa Frazier, Orita Jenkins, Zenetta Williams, Audrianna Billy, Kylie Williamson, Melody Jimmie, Onnahinli Williams, Diana Solomon, Fernel-



lia Thomas, Ahnaya Williams, Cenitria Smith, Cinidria Smith, Rem Nickey, Carly Keats, Kendra Anderson, Kayla Waiter, Deaundrea Johnson, Sharaina Farmer, Kandace Lasiloo, Shelby Factor, Tabby Carney, Shyla Ludlow, Kenae Sockey, Kayla Ward, Keri Cates, Kyra Hornbuckle, Heather Ramsey, Aliyah Myers, Kim Ludlow, Claire Young, Valerie Watson, Ladonna Ward, Amber Baptiste, Nichasie Smith, & Coach Jeron Johnson.

FICHIK CITO OHOYO team members included Channa Clemons, Anissa Smith, Sarah Allen, Tamara John, Lila Osceola, Searra Wilson, Makaylie Denson, Teanna Thomas, Ma-leisa Springwater, Shania Willis, Ahinah Alex-Wilson, Hunter Farve, Melayney Billy, Denise Denson, Jaiden Thomas, Samihah Willis, Ciji Vaughn, Tamika Tubby, Tiffany Riggins, Teegan Clemons, Daylynn Mingo, Shantashia John, Jaleesa Vaughn, Krystal Martin, Jasmine Chickaway, Khalid Hickman, Ga'Yu'eze Morris, Charmayne Henry, Daysianara Lewis, Shayla Vaughn, Katie Morris, Tanna McClelland, Mahali Henry, Shakenaria Dixon, Elyse Willis, Madison Dixon, Tiffany Thomas, El-leigh Willis, Ja'Shuntaye Isaac, Neera Bell, Ashley Wesley, Erin Henry, Tasha Mayfield, Brooklyn Bell, Joni Bell, Amelia Wallace, Darisa



Tubby, Daisia Genry, Justina Dixon, Kenaye Willis, Amber Smith, Asha Robinson, Jalique Williams, Jayna Ben, Klanen Williams, Peggy Jim, Tammy John, Ashley Edwards, Ceanne Thomas, Breely Wilson, Lynora Willis, Summer Wesley, Odessa Martin, Heather Tangle, Nastassija Wesley, Danna Rodda, MeShay Jimmie, Sarah Williams, Chelsey Bell, Leloni Shoemake, Aurella Sam, Stacey Dixon, & Coach Christina Wilson.

traditional meal was provided to all in attendance.

As part of the Nanih Waiya Day Celebration activities, the annual World Series Stickball (WSS) All-Star Stickball Games were held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School in Choctaw, Miss.

All-Star participants were selected by WSS officials as they represented their respective teams in the women's and men's divisions of the WSS tournaments during the 73rd Choctaw Indian Fair.

Teams were divided into Fichik Malata Ohoyo/Fichik Cito Ohoyo for the women & Fichik Malata/Fichik Cito for the men. Team Fichik Malata

was comprised of players from the Conehatta, Standing Pine, Bogue Homa, & Tucker communities. Team Fichik Cito's players were from the communities of Crystal Ridge, Bogue Chitto, Pearl River, & Red Water.

During the opening ceremonies, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben and 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani LuzMaria Thompson offered remarks as they congratulated the All-Stars on their selections. Pastor Thomas Ben, who also serves as WSS Commissioner, offered the invocation and Makayla Hickman performed the National Anthem in the Choctaw language.

The first contest of the evening was the Fichik Osi exhibition game featuring Tribal youth ages 6-8 as they showed off their skills and delight in front of their families in the audience.

In the Women's All-Star game, Fichik Malata Ohoyo defeated Fichik Cito Ohoyo

4-3. Leia Phillips was selected MVP.

In the Men's All-Star contest, Fichik Cito defeated Fichik Malata 4-2. Lorenzo Bell was named MVP.

R I G H T , MVP's of the All-Star Stickball Games were Leia Phillips (left) for the women & Lorenzo Bell (right) for the men. Both received stickball sticks with beaded handles & a ball from Chief Ben.



FICHIK CITO team members included Kanyon Jimmie, Dalton Clegg, Tristan Gibson, Frankie Garcia, Alex McMillan, Keith Riggen, Gage Wesley, Quenton Anderson, Alaric Keams, Cade Lilly, Bobby Mitch, Jr., Ayden McKinney, Tristan Whitacre, William McKinney, Mason Farmer, Zach Farmer, Gannon Vaughn, Kahlon Logan, Jeremiah Robinson, Treundes Willis, Lorenzo Bell, Anslem Henry, Michael Morris, Alonzo Henry, Drew Tubby, Jacobi York, Kiezer Johnson, Brias Bell, Rafael Gibson, Trent Thompson, Bracey Bell, Leslie Wayne Morris, Isaiah Mingo, Errol Brice Farmer, James Denson, Gary Willis, III, Rian Willis, Tayshaun Thomas, Caleb Mingo, Alex Bell, Thaddeus Hickman, Daniel Bell, Hester Dixon, Merrick Hickman, Jamie Wesley, Dillon Farmer, Harvey McMillan, Jr., Billie Isom, Derald Isom,



Gerald Isom, Jr., Justin Bell, Samuel Pennington, Ronnie Reed, Jr., Redhmond Dixon, Robin Willis, Michael Lyons, Octavious Jones, Trevell Vivians, Japheth John, Neshoba Reed, Caden Wilson, Randy Tangle, Drexler Tangle, Romero Thomas, Ramsey Reed, Miles Yazzie, Braxton John, Jaylyn Tubby, Stevin Steve, Dakota Farmer, Cameron Farmer, Thomas Ben, Jordan Truss, Jamison Wilson, Desmond Jones, & Coach Jimmy Vaughn.

FICHIK MALATA team members included Ronald Billy, Jr., Alarys Johnson, Caleb Williamson, Aaron Williamson, Braylon McMillan, Joshua Thomas, Kelby Anderson, Tushka Willis, Christopher Willis, Tayshaun Mingo, Clifton Willis, Rodgrick Anderson, Isaiah Billy, Yunish Billy, Rockky Isom, Brandon Shumake, Lorenzo Shoemake, Forrest Billy, Deshane Wishork, Denzel Mingo, Cain Chickaway, Tristen Steve, Harley Briscoe, Gaylon Willis, Jr., Teddy Allen, Galen John, Justus Day, Markeleus Mingo, Niemiah Jim, Seymour Clemons, Kayleb Denson, Gabriel Clemmons, Hunter Amos, Larindo Bell, Stephen Wallace, Dominic Denson, Andrew Sockey, Justin Willis, Kashden Bell, Quentin Nanaeto, Hayden Farmer, Manning Willis, Cameron Shoemake, Kyle Taylor, Matthew Brescia, Terrence Comby, Michael Stell, Decarlo McMillan, Malata Stoliby, Kamden Frazier,



Ferris Tubby, Lionel Bell, Coby Tubby, Tiak Willis, Howard Lewis, Christian Sockey, Seth Allen, Dustin Polk, Mickey Polk, Sam Comby, Kelly Anderson, Jamie Daney, Zach Tisho, Kyle Anderson, Dewayne Hornbuckle, Billy Eagle Road, III, Ki Jim, Caleb Martin, Tyler McKinney, Brenner Billy, Ethan Boykin, Wyatt Jones, Marcus Bobb, Braylon Farve, Tanner Watson, Darnell Colbert, Casey Bigpond, Jared Walker, Pat Jones, Chae Bell, Dylan Williamson, Gerren Isaac, & Coach Greg Shoemake.




Tribal Youth Complete Academy

Congratulations to two of our Tribal youth, Corey Wilson of the Red Water Community & Desiny Hickman of the Bogue Chitto Community, as they completed the first Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)-Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Youth Indian Police Academy on June 30, 2023, hosted by Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Okla. The academy was for students enrolled in 9th-12th grades with the goal to inspire, motivate, and mentor Native youth so they develop trusting relationships with law enforcement and first responders. All participants received a Certificate of Completion & Desiny Hickman was also awarded the Top Cadet award while serving as squad leader for her group.

FLU & COVID VACCINE AVAILABILITY

- Flu and COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all eligible patients beginning **October 16, 2023.**
- The new RSV vaccine will be made available to all high-risk patients on **October 16, 2023.** We will also encourage vaccination in prenatal care women when approved by the CDC.
- All three vaccines can be taken at the same time





For more information, contact Choctaw Health Center at 601.389.4500

Public Health Services HELPLINE

With the recent surge of COVID-19 positives, CHC Public Health Services will again utilize the Helpline to better service our community. Tribal members can call the Helpline at **601.389.4109/4118** for information about the following:

- Availability of masks and COVID-19 at-home test kits
- COVID-19 vaccine availability
- General COVID-19 information
- Return to work/school information



The Helpline is available weekdays from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Night time, holiday, and weekend calls should be directed to CHC ER at 601.389.4400.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

CONTACT INFORMATION
Behavioral Health Dept 601-389-4150 during business hours
After Hours 601-389-4400
Text HELLO to 74741
CALL National Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-TALK(8255)


Warning signs


- Talking about wanting to die, guilt or shame, or being a burden to others.
- Feeling empty, hopeless, or having no reason to live.
- Feeling extremely sad, more anxious, agitated, or full of rage.
- Unbearable emotional or physical pain.
- Changing behavior such as withdrawing from friends, giving away important items, eating or sleeping more or less, or using drugs or alcohol more often.

Prevention Strategies

1. Offer encouragement, such as:
"I want you to live."
"I'm on your side, we will get through this."
2. Get others involved.
Family. Friends. Pastors. Teachers. Coaches. Principal. Behavioral Health Staff.

Everyone Plays a Role in Suicide Prevention.





Add this number to your phone now. It could save a life later.

Unity Walk held for diabetes awareness

Choctaw stickball teams from the outlying Tribal communities gathered in the Pearl River community in Choctaw on Saturday morning, June 24, 2023, to promote diabetes awareness across the Choctaw Reservation. Unity Walk, organized in 2007 to encourage Tribal members to be physically active & maintain a healthy lifestyle, is sponsored by the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and Diabetes Prevention Program. Held every June prior to the Choctaw Indian Fair & World Series Stickball tournaments, runners representing stickball teams in the men's & women's division start from their home



community stickball practice fields & converge in Pearl River. When all teams gather at the Choctaw Central High School softball field parking lot, they walk "United to Fight Diabetes" to the Pearl River Amphitheater where a brief program is held.

COVID-19

11


WAYS TO HELP ELDERLY & OTHERS WITH UNDERLYING CONDITIONS WHO LIVE WITH YOU



- MONITOR THEIR HEALTH FOR SYMPTOMS**
LIKE FEVER, COUGH, AND DIFFICULTY BREATHING
- AVOID PHYSICAL CONTACT & TAKE HEIGHTENED PREVENTION MEASURES IF YOU DEVELOP ANY SYMPTOMS**
- IF THEY DEVELOP SYMPTOMS, CALL A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IMMEDIATELY**
- ENCOURAGE THEM TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE**
EAT NUTRITIOUS FOODS, GET ENOUGH SLEEP, DON'T SMOKE, STAY ACTIVE, AND LIMIT ALCOHOL USE
- REGULARLY CLEAN & DISINFECT SURFACES**
KEEP HOUSE WELL VENTILATED
- AVOID SHARING ITEMS LIKE GLASSES, CUTLERY, AND TOWELS**
- HAVE AT LEAST A MONTH'S STOCK OF ALL THEIR REGULAR MEDICATIONS**
IN CASE OF STAY AT HOME ORDERS. ENCOURAGE THEM TO FOLLOW MEDICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THEIR MEDICATIONS
- AVOID SHARED SPACES**
ENCOURAGE THEM TO AVOID LARGE INDOOR GATHERINGS
- IF GOING TO A DOCTOR, WEAR A MASK AND AVOID PUBLIC TRANSPORT**
FOLLOW IF EITHER IS AVAILABLE AND POSSIBLE
- BE KIND AND SHOW EMPATHY**
TALK & LISTEN TO THEM, HELP COPE WITH ANY STRESS THAT MAY ARISE
- ENCOURAGE HAND WASHING OFTEN**
CLEAN HANDS CAN HELP STOP GERMS FROM SPREADING FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER AND IN OUR COMMUNITIES

 Call CHC Public Health Services for more information at 601.389.4110

HEAD LICE



What's the treatment for lice?
If your child has head lice or nits, it's important to treat it quickly to avoid spreading it to other members of the home. Most cases of head lice can be treated with over the counter or prescription medications, known as pediculicides.

- After applying medication to hair, thoroughly comb your child's hair with a lice comb to remove remaining nits and lice every two to three days
- You may need to apply another dose of medication about a week after the first round
- Follow package directions and consult Choctaw Health Center Pharmacy at 601.389.4330 or Choctaw Health Center Telehealth Clinic at 601.389.4468 if you have any questions.

Do I have to see a Doctor at CHC to get treatment for lice?

- No, you can call CHC Pharmacy at 601.389.4330 to speak to a staff member.
- Give the name and date of birth of the person needing the treatment
- Once prescription is filled, it can be picked up at CHC Pharmacy or at CHC Pharmacy Drive-Thru window.

Should household members also be treated for lice?

- You should also check other household members for signs of lice and/or nits.
- Treat everyone who has lice and/or nits at the SAME TIME to lower the risk of one person spreading them back to others

HEAD LICE PREVENTION


TIP OF THE WEEK



WEARING HAIR UP IN A BUN, PONYTAIL, OR BRAIDS HELPS STOP THE SPREAD OF HEAD LICE TO OTHERS



HEAD LICE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION





What are head lice?
Head lice (or Pediculosis humanus capitis) are small, wingless parasitic insects about the size of a sesame seed that feed on blood on the human scalp. Head lice are very quick and use a hook-like claw to stay attached to the hair.

What are nits?
Nits are lice eggs laid by adult female lice. They are white oval sacs about the size of a pin head. The life cycle of head lice is approximately 30 days during which time each female louse can lay up to 7-10 nits a day.

Who gets head lice?
ANYONE can get head lice! It is most common in pre-school and elementary school-aged children (ages 3-12) and females. Kids are much more likely to get lice from family members and playmates than from classmates at school.

How do they spread?
DIRECT contact with an infested person. INDIRECT contact with personal belongings of an infested person such as brushes, combs, clothing, bedding, upholstered furniture and car interiors.

How to treat for lice

- USE AN FDA APPROVED, over-the-counter anti-pediculosis product. Prescription products are also available.
- READ THE INSTRUCTIONS before using any product and follow ALL instructions.
- COMB HAIR with a fine-tooth nit comb to remove lice and nits.
- DISINFECT all combs and brushes before using again by submerging them in hot water (at least 130°F) for 5-10 minutes or soak in anti-pediculosis shampoo for 1 hour.
- CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HAIR DAILY. Manually remove nits for 2 weeks following the initial treatment.
- RETREAT your child according to instructions on the box or label.
- CONTINUE to check your child's head every 2-3 days for at least 2-3 weeks.

Signs & Symptoms
ITCHING AND SCRATCHING usually on the back of the scalp and neck and behind the ears.
SORES ON THE HEAD caused by scratching.
VISIBLE lice or nits.
REMEMBER: NITS STICK TO THE HAIR. Some children may have no symptoms. Don't confuse dirt or dandruff with nits.

What to do if someone in your family has lice

- ALL Family members living with an infested person should be examined for the presence of head lice.
- Treat ANY family member with a head lice infestation.

Who should I notify if my child has head lice?

- School Health Nurse
- Playmates and close friends outside of school
- Healthcare Provider or Pharmacy for treatment

SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS

27th ANNUAL 2 MILE FALL WALK/RUN

OCTOBER 21, 2023
(RAIN OR SHINE)

NO REGISTRATION FEE

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Friday, September 29, 2023
by 4:30 p.m.

Please Bring The Registration And Waiver Form To The Diabetes Clinic On Or Before The Deadline.



NO REGISTRATION FEE

REGISTRATION BEGINS at 7:00 a.m. ON THE DAY OF THE RACE.

Race will start at 8:00 a.m. from CCHS parking lot to Justice Complex and return to CCHS parking lot.

For more information contact the Diabetes Clinic: Sharron Thompson @ 601-389-4390, Ethel Thomas @ 601-389-4389 or Willie Solomon Jr. @ 601-389-4388

World Diabetes Day Glo-walk

HOSTED BY: SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS

NO REGISTRATION FEE

November 13, 2023
(RAIN OR SHINE)

Walk is 1.5 mile

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 27, 2023 @ 4:30 pm

Please bring the completed registration and waiver form to Diabetes Clinic.

Participants under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian's signature on the registration form



Registration begins @ 5:00 PM on the day of the event at the softball field parking lot on Industrial Road

Walk will begin at 6:00 PM at softball parking lot to Manpower building and back to softball field

For more information contact the Diabetes Clinic: Sharron Thompson @ 601-389-4390; Ethel Thomas @ 601-389-4389; Willie Solomon, Jr @ 601-389-4388

PARENTS DID YOU KNOW... VAPES ARE HARMFUL & ILLEGAL FOR MINORS

Did you know?
It is not only against the rules for a student at Choctaw Tribal Schools to be in possession, distribute, or use tobacco/vape products but it is also illegal according to the Choctaw Tribal Code and a Class B offense.

According to the CTS 2023-2024 Parent/Student Handbook vaping and tobacco use is discussed on two pages:

- Page 48 Policies and Procedures for Weapons, Drugs, Illegal Substances, Alcohol, Tobacco or Vaping Products (Weapons Policy, including Explosives)
- Page 49 Drug, Illegal Substance, Alcohol, Tobacco Policy;
 - C. Any student found to possess, distribute, or use tobacco or vaping, in any form, shall be disciplined according to step 3 of the school discipline ladder. Subsequent violations shall be dealt with at the appropriate higher step to include referral to the Discipline Review Committee.

The Choctaw Tribal Code makes tobacco products including alternative tobacco products including "Vapes" illegal for Minors to possess and distribute.

C.T.C §3-6-28 Possession and Distribution of Tobacco Products and Alternative Tobacco Products to Minors. Violation of this section is a Class B offense.

A crime is a Class B offense if it is so designated by law or if upon conviction thereof a sentence of imprisonment not to exceed three (3) months and/or a fine not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) is authorized.

Vape pens and e-cigarettes are not harmless. They contain nicotine and other harmful chemicals.

The tobacco industry makes its products:

Sweet: E-cigarettes or vape pens come in over 8,000 different flavors. Flavors are the leading reason that youth are using e-cigarettes.

Cheap: Products are cheaply priced to encourage impulse buys by young people.

Easy to Get: These products are at gas stations, corner stores, pharmacies, mini-marts, and many more types of stores.



Talk with your kids!

Talk with your teenagers about vaping and make sure they know it's harmful. Nicotine is addictive and affects their brain development negatively, including increased risk for depression, mood disorders, or future drug addiction. The earlier they start, the harder it is to quit.

For more information, visit GetOutraged.org

Jones named new Director of Schools



Delnita Jones

Delnita Jones, an enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was appointed Director of Schools for the Choctaw Tribal School (CTS) system. She was most recently the Assistant Director of Schools, where she excelled in her leadership role.

Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben stated Jones is personally dedicated to improving education within the Tribal Schools by ensuring students readily access high quality educational opportunities in a manner that is age-appropriate and culturally relevant.

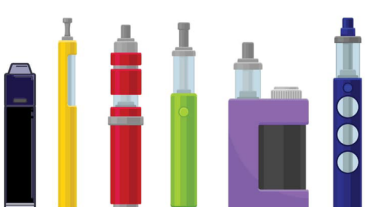
"She is focusing on students' need for receiving excellent instructional services at every grade level, pre-K through twelve. Her professional goal is to successfully integrate Choctaw culture into the schools' curriculum and classroom practices throughout the system," said Chief Ben.

"I have full confidence in Ms. Jones' leadership capabilities and request your cooperation with her as she executes the duties and responsibilities she has been assigned as Director of Schools."

Jones earned two specialist degrees in Counselor Education and School Administration, and a Master's degree in Counseling from Mississippi State University (MSU). Understanding the value and importance of continuing education, she is currently pursuing her PhD in Human Development and Family Sciences at MSU.

Jones lives in the Tucker community with her family.

Vaping Dangers: What Teens Should Know



SLANG: E-CIGS / E-HOOKAHS / VAPE PENS / VAPES / TANK SYSTEMS / MODS

The Choctaw Tribal Code makes tobacco products including alternative tobacco products such as "Vapes" illegal for Minors (anyone under the age of 21) to possess and distribute.

C.T.C §3-6-28 Possession and Distribution of Tobacco Products and Alternative Tobacco Products to Minors. This is a Class B offense that can be punishable with a sentence of imprisonment not to exceed three (3) months and/or a fine not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).


Vaping Facts

- E-cigarettes are unsafe for kids, teens, and young adults.
- Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development.
- E-cigarette aerosol is not harmless. It can contain harmful substances, including nicotine, cancer-causing chemicals, flavorings that have been linked to lung disease, and heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead.
- Young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.
- Many e-cigarettes come in kid-friendly flavors—including mango, fruit, and crème—which make e-cigarettes more appealing to young people. Teens can also vape marijuana.
- Youth are able to easily buy e-cigarettes online. Many online retailers sell counterfeit cartridges or "pods" that are compatible with Juul and other popular vaping devices. These cartridges are often manufactured overseas without rigorous testing or quality control measures in place.
- The CDC, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), state and local health departments, and other clinical and public health partners are investigating a multistate outbreak of lung injury associated with e-cigarette product use in adults and youth.

PARENTS, DON'T BE FOOLED!

E-Cigarettes and vape pens are now disguised to look like everyday items. Tobacco companies have gotten creative to get these harmful devices in the hands of our youth.


HOODIES!



LIPSTICK



HIGHLIGHTERS



Fourth Generation



Pod Mods

- Pod Mod is an e-cigarette, or vaping, product with a prefilled or refillable "pod" or pod cartridge with a modifiable (mod) system ("Pod Mods")
- These are other examples of fourth generation devices. Pod Mods come in many shapes, sizes, and colors.
- Common Pod Mod brands include JUUL® and Suorin®
- There are compatible prefilled pod cartridges that contain nicotine, THC, or CBD with or without flavoring.

Know what to look for!
Check your child's backpack and clothing.

CTS offers Parent, Community Involvement Programs

The Title I Parent Center/Community School Education Center has served parents, students, community members, & teachers since 1992 as the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians were the first Tribe in the nation to implement a program specifically targeting parents & their children.

The Choctaw Tribal Schools further enhanced its parental involvement program with the addition of the Mobile Education Resource Center in 2001. This center was designed to bring enrichment programs to the six Choctaw communities. Also in 2001, the Bogue Homa and Crystal Ridge Education Resource Centers were opened.

Parental involvement activities & programs - which inspire, teach, & help all to reach their full potential - are planned annually by local Parent Steering Committees & the Parent & Family Engagement Board. Parents are given opportunities to participate in the following programs:

• **Title I Parent & Family Engagement Board** is com-

prised of parents from the six Choctaw communities & serves as advocates for the children & parents of the Choctaw Tribal School District. Among regular business & duties performed, the Board also recognizes the following:

- Outstanding Choctaw Educator during each of their meetings;
- Parent/Parents of the Year (selected annually from each Tribal School);
- Choctaw Central High School valedictorian, saluta-

torian are honored during the May Board meeting;

- Outstanding students & staff.

• **The "I Care" Positive Parenting & Mentoring Curriculum** is an innovative curricular see **PROGRAMS, pg. 16**



WATERMELON PARTIES ARE SO MUCH FUN

Nothing is better than a delicious Smith County watermelon on a hot day! Children at the Crystal Ridge Resource Center & the Early Childhood Development Centers learned what is needed to plant watermelons. All of the smart & attentive children were treated to some homegrown Smith County watermelons afterwards! The watermelons, enjoyed by all, were donated by Ford Farms of Taylorsville, Miss. A big thank you to Tamara Eaves at Crystal Ridge Resource Center & Tina Routh & all that Early Childhood Development staff for allowing the Tribal MSU Extension Service to come have these fun watermelon parties for the children. (Submitted by Kaiti Ford, Tribal MSU Extension Agent)

TRIBAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Spring 2024
Application Deadline

OCTOBER 31ST 2023

FOR ANY QUESTIONS
CONTACT TSP OFFICE:
Phone : 601-650-7409
Fax: 601-650-7413
Email
Scholarship.Program@choctaw.org

SPRING APPLICATION AND ALL REQUIRED
DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY
OCTOBER 31ST 2023.

ALL TSP DOCUMENTS AND CHECKLISTS CAN
BE FOUND AT WWW.CHOCTAW.ORG IN THE
TRIBAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SECTION

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL
NOT BE ACCEPTED

OFFICE HOURS 8-4:30P
OFFICE IS OPEN DURING LUNCH HOUR

2023 Southern Miss Powwow

November 18, 2023
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Spirit Park
Hattiesburg Campus

FOE/METS/DISABILITY

PROGRAMS continued from page fifteen

approach to parental involvement & character development, which connects the home & school. The curriculum are designed to build strong relationships among parents, mentors, teachers, & children.

The Choctaw Tribal Schools were the first Native American School in America to use the "I Care" program in its six elementary schools.

Good parenting... lasts a lifetime!



Chief's Summer Slam Softball Winners

The 5th Annual Chief's Summer Slam Softball Tournament was held at the Choctaw Sportsplex in the Pearl River Community on August 4-5, 2023. Congratulations to the teams that participated in the co-ed tournament as cash prizes were awarded to the top three teams. Congratulations to Suicide Squad as they claimed their fifth consecutive championship. Congratulations also to finalist Hot Heads and third place finisher Braves.

LEFT, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben threw out the ceremonial first pitch during the opening ceremony.



CHIEF'S SUMMER SLAM CO-ED 1ST • SUICIDE SQUAD



CHIEF'S SUMMER SLAM CO-ED 2ND • HOT HEADS



CHIEF'S SUMMER SLAM CO-ED 3RD • BRAVES

NASA Winners, Finalists

The 2023 Native American Sports Association (NASA) Softball Tournaments were held on August 10-12 at the Choctaw Sportsplex in the Pearl River Community in Choctaw, Miss. Teams participated in the womens, mens, co-ed, womens & mens 40-over divisions. Congratulations to the following teams pictured below that represented MBCI that won or placed in their respective divisions. Not pictured were womens 40-over division finalist Lady A's.



2023 NASA WOMENS 1ST • S.O.S.



2023 NASA WOMENS 2ND • SPARKS



2023 NASA MENS 1ST • DIAMONDBACKS



2023 NASA MENS 2ND • FRYBREAD POWER



2023 NASA CO-ED 1ST • TEAM DKN



2023 NASA MENS 40-OVER 1ST • MBCI LEGENDS



2023 NASA MENS 40-OVER 2ND • MBCI TUSHKA



10U BASEBALL FINALISTS • BOMBERS



12U SOFTBALL 3RD PLACE • LADY TOMAHAWKS

NAYO Softball, Baseball Winners

The 2023 Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) Softball & Baseball Tournaments were held July 27-29 in Cherokee, NC. Teams participated in five age divisions in coach pitch (8U), fast pitch softball & baseball. Congratulations to the following teams representing MBCI that won or placed in their respective divisions.

MORE TEAM PICTURES NEXT PAGE



12U BASEBALL 3RD PLACE • CUBS



8U SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS • HUMMINGBIRDS



14U SOFTBALL FINALISTS • MISSISSIPPI SPARKS



8U BASEBALL CHAMPIONS • OUTLAWS



14U SOFTBALL 3RD PLACE • HOT SHOTS



10U SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS • REZ SOX



14U BASEBALL CHAMPIONS • DIRTBAGZ

Thompson crowned 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess

Nalani LuzMaria Thompson, of the Pearl River community, was crowned the 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess during the opening night of the 73rd Choctaw Indian Fair on Wednesday, July 12, at the Pearl River Amphitheater Main Stage in Choctaw.

Thompson, who was also selected as Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants, was sponsored by Morton Construction Company. She is the 17-year-old daughter of Desmond and Kelli Jones, and granddaughter of Gilbert Thompson and Anita Jim, Jerrel and Annette Griffin.

Thompson is a senior this fall at Neshoba Central High School where she is a member of the Lady Rockets basketball and powerlifting teams. After

graduation, she plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi's nursing program and major in Geriatric Nursing. She has a deep affection for the elders, which was nurtured by her experience of going with her grandfather to deliver food to elderly family members.

Her hobbies include making beadwork, basketry, and Latin American dancing, such as salsa and cumbia. Her favorite aspect of the Choctaw culture is that every piece of traditional Choctaw attire is hand-crafted and the artistry in making beadwork, dresses, and baskets is what makes it uniquely Chahta.

Thompson was among 14 beautiful young Chahta Ohoyo (Choctaw women) vying for the honor of becoming the 68th Choctaw Indian Princess. As



Newly crowned 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani Luz-Maria Thompson poses with her parents, Desmond & Kelli Jones, & siblings, Cara, Kai, & Ava.

Tribal ambassador, she will represent the Tribe at various events, occasionally alongside the Tribal Chief.

Tradition defines the Choctaw Indian Princess as a special young lady inducted into an elite and exclusive circle with the honor and responsibility of representing the Mississippi as she celebrates the Tribe's accomplishments in the forthcoming year as an iconic figure on Tribal, local, state, and national levels.

Sydney Alyse Ben, of the Pearl River Community, was

selected First Alternate and Miss Photogenic. She is the 19-year-old daughter of Alyssa Ben and was sponsored by the Choctaw Health Center Employees Association. She is a sophomore this fall at the University of Mississippi.

Angel Bahlantah Clemmons, of the Bogue Chitto Community, was selected Second Alternate. She is the 18-year-old daughter of Angela Hundley and Sammy Clemmons, Jr. She was sponsored by Willis Engineering and is a freshman this fall at Mississippi College.

NAYO CHAMPS continued from page seventeen



14U BASEBALL FINALISTS • REZ WARRIORS



14U BASEBALL 3RD PLACE • BRAVES



17U SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS • LADY TOMAHAWKS



17U SOFTBALL FINALISTS • TOXIC GIRLS



17U BASEBALL CHAMPIONS • SOUTHEASTERN DIAMONDBACKS

Little Mr. & Miss Choctaw Indian Fair Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Little Mr. & Miss Choctaw Indian Fair Pageant, held at the Áyipa Village stage on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. Winners in the following age groups included: (0-23 months) Ryland Triplett & Ka'mea Shoemake; (2-4 years old) Hayes Luke Nan Apela Bell & Amiliyah Carol Lisa John; (5-8 years old) KoiDe O'Ryion Isaac & Kaaya Carson Johnson.



WSS Champions Crowned at 73rd CIF

A highlight of the Choctaw Indian Fair, the World Series Stickball (WSS), concluded its 2023 showcase with five division championships decided on Friday & Saturday evenings, July 14-15, at Warrior Stadium in Choctaw.

Stickball enthusiasts witnessed 10 days of action packed contests, whether it was in person in the stadium or watching via Choctaw Indian Fair's YouTube channel. From the opening ceremonies & exhibition games on July 5 to the exciting division finals, Choctaw Stickball will always be an epic display of athleticism, determination & pride among the players & fans.

With last year's introduction of WSS championship-themed "Friday Night Lights" and "Choctaw Saturday Night," stickball fans enjoyed watching

the youth have their moment under the stadium lights instead of playing under the sweltering heat and humidity.

"It is unique and always amazing," said WSS Commissioner Thomas Ben. "There is never a dull moment when it comes to Choctaw Stickball. I'm so glad to be a part of it."

The first of three championship games scheduled for "Friday Night Lights" included reigning champion Beaver Dam facing Bok Cito for the Pushmataha (ages 10-13) Division championship.

Beaver Dam took control early with three goals in the first quarter. They ended the first half with another goal for a 4-0 lead.

After taking a 5-0 lead coming out of halftime, Bok Cito got on board to trail 5-1. Both teams scored a goal each to end

the third quarter 6-2 in favor of Beaver Dam.

Beaver Dam took control and added three more goals for a 9-2 lead. The game was called at the 6:14 mark in the fourth via mercy rule as Beaver Dam celebrated their fourth consecutive Pushmataha championship.

"We did pretty good. They practiced real hard and these guys put in the work. We had about 40 at every practice and they showed it on the field tonight," said Beaver Dam Coach Kyle John. "I think we dominated pretty well. We got this 4-peat and we're going to strive for 5 next year!"

Beaver Dam's Jayleb Dixon was named MVP of the series. This was Beaver Dam's ninth overall Pushmataha title.

Bok Cito Coach Elijah Jimmie praised the youth for put-

ting their heart and determination into playing their cultural sport.

"This is our culture and stickball is in great hands. Beaver Dam is an awesome team. They have a total package and they showed it out there. I'm proud of them and I'm also super proud of our guys, our coaches, everybody in the community. It's been a while since we made it to the championship game. We finally made it, but now we got to get over the hump. We appreciate the opportunity and thank the Creator."

In the second championship of the evening, Bok Cito - looking for redemption as they were defeated in last year's title game against Pearl River - faced Koni Hata Himintah for the Tulli Okchi Ishko (ages 14-17) Championship.

Koni Hata struck first in the

see WSS CHAMPS, pg. 22



Scenes from the WSS "Friday Night Lights" youth & men's 35-over championship games.

Looking Back at
The 73rd CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR
 July 12-15, 2023





Conehatta Development Club placed 1st for the second straight year in the CIF Community Booth Competition. Other development clubs placing were Henning, TN (2nd), Tucker (3rd), Pearl River (4th), Bogue Chitto (5th), Standing Pine (6th), Red Water (7th), Bogue Homa (8th), & Crystal Ridge (9th). Each development club submitted their own theme. Conehatta's theme was "Preserving our Chanta Tradition for Future Generation."



WSS CHAMPS continued from page nineteen

first quarter to go 1-0, but Bok Cito took the lead with two goals to take a 2-1 lead into halftime.

Bok Cito scored three more goals in the third quarter for a 5-1 lead. After a scoreless fourth, Bok Cito would hold on to capture this year's championship.

"It was unfinished business from the start since we came in runner up last year," said Bok Cito Coach Kiezer Johnson. "Koni Hata, historically, is a great team and I felt like we were the underdogs in this fight. Our kids have been working since March in the hot sun and they do everything they were told and it paid off. We're the champions and I'm proud of these kids."

Kai Morris of Bok Cito was named MVP of the series. This was Bok Cito's fifth overall Tulli Okchi Ishko title.

Eric Billy, Sr., Koni Hata Himitah coach, said it was a tough loss, but they will be working on making it to the finals next year.

"We made a good run, but we just didn't finish it. At the end of the game, we always learn. But I feel more work needs to be done on the officiating, but you know, they can't catch everything. We're gonna come back next year."

The final contest of "Friday Night Lights," Beaver Dam and Koni Hata would face off for the third consecutive year in the Men's 35-Over Division championship game.

Reigning champion Beaver Dam repeated with their 3-0 victory as Isaiah Zeke Mingo was named MVP of the series.

"We had good shooting going on our side. We had to make sure we adjusted to Koni Hata's players and get situated until we had some really good shots," said Beaver Dam Coach



Scenes from the hard hitting "Choctaw Saturday Night" women's & men's championship games.

Rory Willis, Sr. "We played our best as we could and with the luck of the draw it helped out. Hats off to Koni Hata too, they played a good game."

It was Beaver Dam's fourth overall 35-Over championship. "Choctaw Saturday Night" featured championship games in the women's and men's division as the Koni Hata teams were ready to make it a Conehatta Saturday Night.

First time finalist Tvshkahomma Ohoyo representing the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma had the daunting task of playing for the women's title against the reigning champion Koni Hata Ohoyo.

Both teams fought tooth and nail in the first half as neither team scored in the first half. In the second half, Koni Hata broke away from the stalemate as they posted two goals and claimed their seventh overall title with the 2-0 victory. Kylie Williamson was named MVP of the series.

"Give a lot of credit to the Tvshkahomma team. They made it to the finals and gave us a good game," said Koni Hata Ohoyo Coach Jeron Johnson. "I hope the fans enjoyed it and all I can say is we won again! Another title, another wow!"

Tvshkahomma Coach Jared Tom said the focus of his team was to play as one and playing in the finals was a learning ex-

perience.

"We have to take those bumps in the roads to get where we are at. Everytime we come down here, win or lose, we go back home and take what we can learn to help ourselves. This team is very special. I told one of our coaches about a saying, 'bring heart.' I say they brought heart. They were missing home, but when you look in the stands, home came to them. They brought a lot of heart."

"My hats off to Koni Hata, that's a championship-caliber team and they are writing their own history," said Tom. "For us, to be in a championship game gives us experience. This is our first shot, but this ain't our last. We are going back home, reshift our focus, recruit and build up our young girls. We were a whole lot faster and scarier this year. Next year, we will be back. We love this game and the ladies put everything into this."

The WSS finale pitted Koni Hata against last year's finalist Pearl River for the men's division championship. In the first round, Koni had ended Bok Cito's four year championship flood. This year, they were ready to end their championship drought since 2017.

With the contest going back and forth, Koni Hata made the most of their opportunities in the second half as they came

away with a flurry of points in the third and held on to a 5-3 victory. It was Koni Hata's 26th overall men's championship.

Ronnie Billy, Jr. was named MVP of the series.

"It's an honor to play with these guys and I'm shocked to win this honor," said Billy.

Koni Hata coach Greg Shoemaker said he was excited to finally win this one this year.

"We had heart, we practiced, and we had preserverence on our side. Hats off to Pearl River, they're a good team, but I couldn't ask for a better bunch of men to play for Koni Hata. Hopefully, we'll defend it again. It's anybody's ballgame, just depends on how bad you want it."

Pearl River team leader Frankie Garcia said this was a tough ending, especially playing in the finals last year.

"We started off slow. If we started scoring earlier we would have better momentum. We started late and they got some big points in the third quarter. I felt we gained momentum when we got our first point back, but this is a tough one.

During the trophy presentations, the Barry Ben Sportmanship Awards were announced as the Natives and Oka Homma were the women's and men's team recipients respectively.

2023 WORLD SERIES STICKBALL CHAMPIONS/MVP'S



PUSHMATAHA DIVISION CHAMPIONS • BEAVER DAM



**PUSHMATAHA MVP
JAYLEB DIXON**



TULLI OKCHI ISHKO DIVISION CHAMPIONS • BÓK ČITO



**TULLI OKCHI ISHKO MVP
KAI MORRIS**



MEN'S 35-OVER DIVISION CHAMPIONS • BEAVER DAM



**MEN'S 35-OVER MVP
ISAIAH ZEKE MINGO**



WOMEN'S DIVISION CHAMPIONS • KONI HATA OHÓYO



**WOMEN'S MVP
KYLIE WILLIAMSON**



MEN'S DIVISION CHAMPIONS • KONI HATA



**MEN'S MVP
RONALD BILLY, JR.**

11th Rez Run Results

The 11th REZ RUN took place on Saturday morning, July 16, as part of activities of the 73rd Choctaw Indian Fair. Hundreds of enthusiastic runners & walkers hit the pavement as they participated in the 10K, 5K or one mile fun run/walk through parts of the fairgrounds & Pearl River Community.

Overall winners in the 10K run were: (male) Peter “Gus Gus” Kazery, 32, with a time of 36:20; (female) Madeline Campbell, 24, with a time of 45:48. They were each awarded a \$500 cash prize.

Overall winners in the 5K run were: (male) Brennan Henry, 17, with a time of 18:44; (female) Ava Dickerson, 22, with a time of 21:49. They were awarded a \$200 cash prize each.

Overall winners in the one mile fun run/walk were: (male)

Ramen Willis, 12, with a time of 08:29; (female) Sarah Allen, 24, with a time of 09:25.

Top finishers in each age category in the 10K & 5K runs are listed below as they were awarded a \$50 cash prize.

10K AGE CATEGORY RESULTS

FEMALE: (20-29) Sierra Wallace, 53:35; (30-39) Cami Hickman, 1:07:54; (40-49) Rashni Barath, 58:26; (50-59) Sheryl West, 1:04:13; (60+) Lee Hartmann, 1:03:50.

MALE: (14-Under) Cullom Crowe, 44:51; (15-19) Evan Hallford, 37:01; (20-29) Jordan Isaac, 50:43; (30-39) Kelby Anderson, 49:04; (40-49) Lucas Rosen, 57:06; (50-59) Wyatt Roberts, 55:10; (60+) Roland Rhodes, 56:09.

5K AGE CATEGORY RESULTS



Overall winners, from left to right, (10K) Peter "Gus Gus" Kazery, Madeline Campbell; (5K) Brennan Henry, Ava Dickerson; (1 mile) Ramen Willis & Sarah Allen.

FEMALE: (14-Under) Roslyn Bohannon, 23:24; (15-19) Katelin Williams, 23:10; (20-29) Taylor Ben, 26:32; (30-39) Shelby Thames, 34:53; (40-49) Pamelyn Hobbs, 32:10; (50-59) Marion Sockey, 31:10; (60+) Loretta Hobbs, 38:46.

MALE: (14-Under) Channing Bloodsaw, 25:21; (15-19) Diontray Tubby, 19:32; (20-29) Harvey McMillan, Jr., 26:19; (30-39) Mitchell Crawford, 29:59; (40-49) Kyle Henderson, 20:28; (50-59) Thomas

Ben, 26:52; (60+) David Jones, 28:34.

There were a total of 182 participants in the 5K run, 43 participants in the 10K run & 159 participants in the one mile fun run/walk.

To see complete order & time of all participants, go to the MS Race Timing & Management website at www.msracetiming.com.



Top 10K finishers in the female & male category in their respective age divisions were, from left to right, (female) Sierra Wallace, Cami Hickman, Rashni Barath, Sheryl West, Lee Hartmann;

(male) Cullom Crowe, Evan Hallford, Jordan Isaac, Kelby Anderson, Lucas Rosen, Wyatt Roberts, & Roland Rhodes.



Top 5K finishers in the female & male category in their respective age divisions were, from left to right, (female) Roslyn Bohannon, Katelin Williams, Taylor Ben, Shelby Thames, Pamelyn Hobbs,

Marion Sockey, Loretta Hobbs; (male) Channing Bloodsaw, Diontray Tubby, Harvey McMillan, Jr., Mitchell Crawford, Kyle Henderson, Thomas Ben, & David Jones.

CIF Volleyball Tournament Winners

The 2nd Annual Choctaw Indian Fair Volleyball Tournament was held at the Choctaw Central High School Gymnasium, July 7-8, as part of this year's pre-Fair activities. In the Co-Ed Division, Team Texas took home the championship. Team McCoy placed 2nd, &

Team Okla Sippi placed 3rd. In the Women's Division, Team Clever Beaches won this year's championship. Team I'd Hit That placed 2nd, & 3rd place went to Team Candy. Congratulations to all teams that placed & to everyone who came out to enjoy great days of volleyball action.



2023 CIF CO-ED VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS • TEXAS



2023 CIF WOMENS VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS • CLEVER BEACHES



2023 CIF CO-ED VOLLEYBALL FINALISTS • McCOY



2023 CIF WOMENS VOLLEYBALL FINALISTS • I'D HIT THAT



2023 CIF CO-ED VOLLEYBALL 3RD PLACE • OKLA SIPPI



2023 CIF WOMENS VOLLEYBALL 3RD • CANDY



PICTURED ABOVE, from left to right, are 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani Thompson with Women's Division finishers Aspen Wesley (4th), Kalie Parks (5th), winner Sarah Williams, Krystal Harris (3rd), Christin Meely (2nd), & Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben. **PICTURED RIGHT**, from left to right, are Princess Thompson with Men's Division finishers Cade Griffin (2nd), winner Ethan McMullan, Randy Tangle (3rd), James Cook (5th), & Chief Ben. Not pictured is 4th place finisher Arthur Harris.

Iron Warrior Results

Finals of the Iron Warrior competition were held on Saturday afternoon, July 15, as part of activities of the 73rd Choctaw Indian Fair.

A new champion was crowned in the women's division as Sarah Williams see **IRON WARRIOR**, pg. 26



Cornhole Tourney Winners

This year's Choctaw Indian Fair Cornhole Tournament was a tremendous success as the CCHS Gymnasium was filled with teams vying for cash prizes. A Tribal member tournament was held on Friday, July 14. This year, there were two new divisions in the tournament, Competitive & Social. **PICTURED ABOVE**, from left to right, Competitive Division - 1st place, Espn Jackson & Randy Nickey; 2nd place, Dewayne Thomas & Kameron Thomas; 3rd place, Brian Thompson & Lakoda Bird; **PICTURED BELOW**, from left to right, Social Division - 1st place, Samuel Bell & Cortez Peebles; 2nd place, Jeriah Jimmie & Kameron McMillan; 3rd place, Jason Owl & Hattie Owl.



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Tribal Athletes Participate in Native American All-Star Baseball Showcase

The Atlanta Braves hosted the second annual Native American All-Star Baseball Showcase at Truist Park, June 24-25. The event highlights Native American high school baseball players who aspire to play the game at the next level. A pro-style workout was held on Saturday, June 24, & a showcase game was held on Sunday, June 25. The top 45 high school baseball players of Native American descent represented over 30 tribal affiliations from 13 states around North America, including North Carolina, Mississippi, California, Oklahoma, & Canada. Representing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians were Ian Lewis, Kethan Anderson, Gage Lewis (all of Choctaw Central High School), & Jordan Davis (Neshoba Central High School). Not pictured but listed on the roster was Tristen Henry (CCHS). (Photo courtesy of Atlanta Braves)



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 Closed Wednesday & Sunday

IRON WARRIOR continued from page twenty-five

outlasted four other finalists with her time of 2:34:15. In the men's division, Ethan McMullan repeated as champion with his time of 2:43:00.

Time trials were held on July 13-14 as top finishers advanced to the finals where they participated in 10 events that tested their strength, speed, & stamina.

Events included the Farmer's Carry, Tire Deadlifts, Atlas

Stones, Tire Flip, Keg Carry (women), Power Stairs, Sandbag Medley, Yoke Carry (men), Sled Push, Conan's Wheel, & the Truck Pull.

Official times of the top five finishers in each division are listed below.

(WOMENS) 1st, Sarah Williams, 2:34:15; 2nd, Christin Meely, 2:38:44; 3rd, Krystal Harris, 2:43:13; 4th, Aspen Wesley, 2:46:40; 5th, Kalie

Parks, 2:52:08.

(MENS) 1st, Ethan McMullan, 2:43:00; 2nd, Cade Griffin, 3:06:87; 3rd, Randy Tangle, 3:32:08; 4th, Arthur Harris, 4:11:33; 5th, James Cook, 4:14:81.

Cash prizes in each division were awarded \$600 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd, \$150 for 3rd, \$100 for 4th place, & \$75 for 5th.

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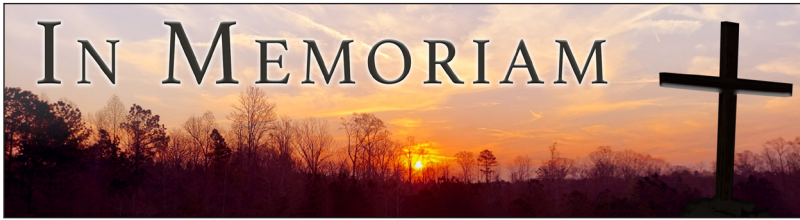
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GRACE OPAL BENN JEWELL

Grace Opal Benn Jewell, 91, passed away on May 12, 2023, at Banner Boswell Medical Center under Hospice care in Sun City, AZ. She was very loved & will be missed terribly.



Celebration of Life was held at the Golden Moon Casino in Choctaw, MS, on July 13th, with burial at Hopewell Baptist Cemetery in the Standing Pine Community on July 14th.

Grace was born in Carthage, MS, where she resided until the age of 12 when she was sent to attend high school in Chilocco, OK. After graduating high school, she married Benjamin Gilbert Sorrell, Sr. (passed on) & moved to Lukachukai, AZ, where she worked in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) dormitory. She moved to Dilkon, AZ, & worked there until she met & married John (Jack) Jewell while attending Northern Arizona University in 1973. They moved to Aneth, UT, where she commuted daily to work as a teacher/counselor at Teec Nos Pos boarding school, then moved to Leupp, AZ, again, commuting to Winslow to teach & counsel students.

Grace & her husband, Jack, retired & move to Prescott Valley, AZ, where they opened & operated a Native American jewelry store. After the passing of her husband, Grace resided in Phoenix, AZ, with her daughter, Victoria, then moved to Mission, SD, to live with her daughter, Billie.

Grace earned her Bachelor's

& Master's Degree in Education from Northern Arizona University. She retired from the BIA after working 30-plus years, starting as dormitory aide then becoming a teacher & counselor working with students. She later moved into administration. She was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Winslow Indian Center & belonged to the National Indian Education Association.

Grace was a proud member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & enjoyed fishing, reading, sewing, & creating jewelry. Later in life, she enjoyed weaving.

She is survived by her sister, Maybelle Brolick; brother, Charlie Benn (Suki); three children, Benjamin Sorrell, Billie Artichoker (Butch), Victoria Sorrell (Don); stepchildren, Milli Jewell-Bush (Gordon), David Jewell, Gwen Jewell & Denny Jewell; grandchildren, Tina, Sandra, Robin, David, Gwen Marie, Tamara, Richard, Suzanne, Casandra, Clinton & Carson; great-grandchildren, Keya, Isabelle, Natalia, August, Tameka, Savannah, Ashley, Marlon, Kai & Kaden; great-great grandchildren, Talia, Tatum, Taylyn, & Olivia; nieces, Melanie Benn (children, Tiffani & Tiger; grandchildren, Baylee, Brighton, Dior, Kai, Aurelia, Enara), Denise John (children, Cayley, Eason, & Kady), Donna Brolick, & Rebecca Ben; & cousins, Bonnie Bell Martin, Anslem Davis, & Willie Davis.

Grace was preceded in death by her husband, John (Jack) Jewell; her parents, Charles William Ben & Emeline Leona Willis Ben; brother, Rob-

ert Charles Ben; sister-in-law, Shirley Ann Thompson Ben; son, Charles William Sorrell; daughter, Cheryl Anne Sorrell; niece, Cristina Carol Ben; 3 grandsons, Vincent Dominic Morgan, Brennan Leighton Sorrell, & Benjamin G. Sorrell, III; & one great-grandson, Keith Bowen, Jr.

BETTY SOCKEY REED

Funeral services for Betty Sockey Reed, 71, was held on Thursday, June 8, 2023, from the Standing Pine Community Gymnasium. Pastor Ricky Thompson, Sr. officiated.

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

Ms. Reed passed away on June 4 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She lived most of her life in the Standing Pine & Pearl River Communities. She was a Pearl River Elementary School teacher & Baptist by faith. She enjoyed spending time with her granddaughter, devotions, & music.

She is preceded in death by her husband, James Reed; & mother, Reba Sockey Jim.

Survivors include her daughters, Mitzi Reed & Amanda Reed; sisters, Mary Jim, Sulane Jim, Beatrice Willis, & Sadie Wilson; a brother, Clyde Sockey; one granddaughter, Keyshana Beam; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JAMES BYRD WILLIS

Funeral services for James Byrd Willis, 65, was held on Monday, June 12, 2023, from the Pearl River Commu-



nity Center. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Deacon Ben Farve officiated.

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

Mr. Willis passed away on June 6 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He lived in Sapulpa, Okla., for 20 years before returning home to Mississippi. He graduated from Hartshorne High School & attained a certificate from Tulsa Welding School. He enjoyed fishing, playing softball, stickball, basketball, working on cars, grilling, & being an OU Sooners' football & softball fan.

Survivors include his daughter, Michelle Willis; son, Julian Willis; mother of his children, Lisa Watashe Willis; sisters, Stephanie J. Farmer, Shavna A. Jefferson, & Latasha Willis; brothers, Dave E. Willis, Martin W. Willis, Sr., Dan T. Willis, Terry B. Willis, Martin W. Willis, Jr., & Jerry B. Willis; & a host of relatives & friends.

SHIRLEY ANN BRISCOE

Funeral services for Shirley Ann Briscoe, 83, was held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at the Bogue Homa CERF Building. Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.



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

Ms. Briscoe passed away on June 7 at her residence.

She lived most of her life in the Bogue Homa Community & retired as a Registered Nurse from Ellisville State School &

see OBITUARIES, pg. 28

OBITUARIES continued from page twenty-seven

Mississippi State Hospital in Laurel. She was the 1957-1958 Choctaw Indian Princess & enjoyed attending the pageants each year, being with family & friends, going to yard sales & auctions, attending sporting events, & being a fan of the Atlanta Braves.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Scott Briscoe, Sr.; parents, Frank Asa Chapman & Mary McMillan Chapman; sisters, Theresa Willis, Mary Jane Vaughn, & Rosie Sorrells; & brothers, John Mingo, Clifton Chapman, & Gene Ray Chapman.

Survivors include her daughter, Beverly Rae Murphy (Ray); sons, Scott Briscoe, Jr. (Mary), Robert Earl Briscoe, Kevin David Briscoe, & Gregory Lance Briscoe; sisters, Betty Sutton, Annie Jalalzadeh, & Norma Chapman; brother, Claude Chapman; 7 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

INA MAE ISAAC

Funeral services for Ina Mae Isaac, 80, was held on Friday, June 16, 2023, from the Conehatta CERF Building. Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.



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

Ms. Isaac passed away on June 11 at Neshoba General Hospital.

She was a member of Canaan Baptist Church & enjoyed being with family, reading her Bible, & singing Choctaw hymns.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Carlston Isaac; parents, Woodrow & Corine

Thomas; brothers, Roger Dale Thomas, Earl Davis Thomas, & Aaron Randall Thomas.

Survivors include daughters, Dina Kay Gibson & Gwendolyn Hickman; sons, Carlston Isaac, Jr., Carl Isaac, & Randall Hickman; sister, Selma R. Johnson; brothers, Walter R. Thomas, Ray C. Thomas, & William D. Thomas; 31 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

EDMOND DAVID SPOTTEDCORN

Funeral services for Edmond David Spottedcorn, 37, was held on Saturday, June 24, 2023, from Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River. Rev. Tim Tubby & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.



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

Mr. Spottedcorn passed away on June 12 in Denver, Colorado.

He lived most his life in Okla., but lived the last seven years in Colorado. He was a music DJ known as "DJ Darren Scott."

He is preceded in death by his father, David Spottedcorn; grandparents, Michael Davis, Sr. & Martha Lee Tubby, Rex & Angeline Spottedcorn; & a sister, Evelyn Limbocker.

He is survived by his son, Dartagnan Spottedcorn; mother, Donna Spottedcorn; sisters, Mesa Spottedcorn & Raquel Rollyson; brothers, Morgan Spottedcorn & Levi Rollyson; an uncle, Michael Davis, Jr.; a special companion, Dory Lundstrom & Scarlett; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives,

& friends.

ANDREW LEE STOKES

Funeral services for Andrew Lee Stokes, 38, was held on Saturday, June 17, 2023, from Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Red Water. Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.



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

Mr. Stokes passed away on June 13 in Sebastopol.

He enjoyed being with family, listening to music & dancing. He was employed with Peco Foods.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Jackie Stokes, Sr. & Mattie Lou Wilson; an infant son, Zayton Rain Stokes; grandparents, Since Wilson & Gordon Jim, Addie Luckett & Joseph Stokes; 2 aunts & an uncle.

Survivors include a daughter, Demedria Stokes; sister, Catina Townsend; brothers, Jackie Stokes, Jr., Zorro Clayton, Chester Clayton, & Anderson Clayton; special companion, Shirley Mingo; 5 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JUANNINA LALINE MINGO

Funeral services for Juannina Laline Mingo, 42, was held on Monday, June 19, 2023, from the Standing Pine CERF Building. Rev. Allen Peoples & Pastor Thomas Ben officiated.



Burial was in the Standing

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

Ms. Mingo passed away on June 15 at Ochsner Rush Health in Meridian.

She was a resident of Standing Pine Community & a member of Hopewell Baptist Church. She graduated from Choctaw Central High School & East Central Community College. She was the Standing Pine Childcare Center Director & was previously with the Department of Family & Community Services as a Victim's Advocate & Activity Coordinator for the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center. She was a MSU Bulldogs fan & enjoyed being with family, especially the children.

She is preceded in death by her parents, John Mingo, Jr. & Betty Ann Farve Mingo; & grandparents, Laline Williams Farve & Joseph Farve.

Survivors include a brother, Joseph Juan Mingo; & numerous cousins, relatives, & friends.

MADGE SUE ISAAC

Funeral services for Madge Sue Isaac, 63, was held on Thursday, June 22, 2023, from



the Pearl River CERF Building. Rev. Ricky Thompson, Sr. & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Ms. Isaac passed away on June 19 at her residence.

continued next page

She resided in the Pearl River Community & was a member of Greenhill Methodist Church. She was employed with the Tribe for over 39 years, most recently as a Receptionist/Office Aide for the Department of Natural Resources, & an usher with Pearl River Resort for 20 years. She enjoyed being with her grandchildren & pets, going to yard sales, planting flowers, attending family gatherings, & volunteering for Tribal events.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Claude Preston Isaac & Prisilla Johnson Isaac; & a son, Larry Shane Thomas.

Survivors include her husband, Larry Thomas; sister, Cheryl Denson; brothers, Aaron Isaac, Charles Isaac, & Ken Isaac; 3 grandchildren; 5 uncles; & a host of relatives & friends.

PATSY TUBBY MONK

Funeral services for Patsy Tubby Monk, 73, was held on Friday, June 23, 2023, from the Conehatta Community Gymnasium. Deacon Billy Smith & Rev. Brian Parkman officiated.



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

Ms. Monk passed away on June 19 at her residence.

She was a Baptist by faith & a homemaker. She enjoyed watching MeTV & Let's Make a Deal, listening to church hymns, & visiting family & friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Jim Tubby & Effie Mingo McMillan; daughter, Sally Jim Frazier; sons, Mark Jim & Billy Jim; sisters, Mary Cotton, Jolean Wallace, Ora

Mae McMillan, Connie Tubby, & Minnie Sam; & brothers, Jimmy Tubby & Allen Tubby.

Survivors include her daughters, Sandra Jim, Laurie Monk, Alesha Jim, & Shirley Ben; sons, Claude Jim, Jr., Thomas Jim, Sr., & Terry Jim; a brother, Kemp Tubby; 29 grandchildren; 63 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-great grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

CLIFTON McMILLAN, SR.

Funeral services for Clifton McMillan, Sr., 84, was held on Monday, June 26, 2023, at the Pearl River CERF Building. Deacon Williamson Isaac officiated.



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

Mr. McMillan passed away on June 21 at his residence.

He resided in the Pearl River Community & was employed with the Choctaw Tribal Schools as a custodian until his retirement. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, working outdoors, attending St. Theresa's Catholic Church with his family, watching wrestling, Little House on the Prairie, Walker Texas Ranger, & facetimeing with his grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Mattie McMillan; parents, Jimmie & Maggie McMillan; son, Gregory McMillan; grandchildren, Danita McMillan & Joseph McMillan, Jr.; sister, Ruby Pinto; & brother, Leotha McMillan.

Survivors include his daughter, Leah McMillan; sons, Edward McMillan, James McMillan, Gary McMillan, Clifton McMillan, Jr., Elliott McMillan, Michael McMillan, &

Joseph McMillan; numerous grandchildren & a host of relatives & friends.

SHIRLEY FAYE SHOEMAKE

Funeral services for Shirley Faye Shoemake, 57, was held on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, from the Conehatta CERF Building. Rev. Brian Parkman officiated.



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

Mrs. Shoemake passed away on June 22 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

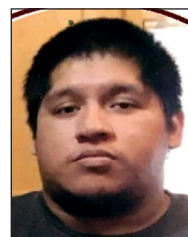
She was Catholic by faith & enjoyed cooking, going to yard sales, fishing, playing bingo, & spending time with family.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Luke Frazier & Freddie Mae Willis; son, Baby Shoemake; sisters, Tenalyea Mingo & Veronica Frazier; brothers, Freeman Frazier & James Frazier; & 3 aunts.

Survivors include her husband, Hilbert Shoemake; daughters, Katie Mingo, Panshia Mingo, & Shaneshia Mingo; sons, Derrick Floyd Mingo, Jr. & Devon Mingo; sister, Theresa Thomas; brothers, Timothy Thomas, Christopher Stoliby, Kendall Frazier, & Lucas Frazier; 7 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

SCOTTIE RAY LEWIS

Funeral services for Scottie Ray Lewis, 27, was held on Thursday, June 29, 2023, from the Pearl River CERF Building. Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.



Burial was in Isaac Ceme-

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

Mr. Lewis passed away on June 22 at his residence.

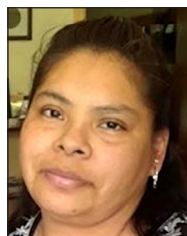
He enjoyed working on cars, being with family, drawing, hunting, fishing, playing dominoes, cornhole, washers, & volleyball. He was a fan of the Green Bay Packers.

He is preceded in death by his father, William Scott Tubby, Sr; grandparents, Roy Lee Lewis & Dallas Lewis, Ronie Tubby; & 2 aunts.

Survivors include his mother & step-father, Martisha Perez & Jose Carlos Perez; step-mother, Rochella Tubby; daughters, Tomika Rayleann Lewis & Sierra Rosalie Lewis; step-son, Bryceton Seth John; special companion, Ruby Ann John; sisters, Nicola Rene Lewis, Tyra McKay Lewis, & Joselyne Julietta Lewis; brothers, Gabriel Dwayne Tubby, Alex Tubby, Bo Lee Tubby, Ivan Hayes Tubby, Joseph Charlie Perez, Anthony Joseph Chase Tubby, & William Scott Tubby, Jr.; grandfather, Theress Tubby; 6 aunts, 3 uncles, & a host of relatives & friends.

CRYSTAL GAIL GIBSON MARTINEZ

Funeral services for Crystal Gail Gibson Martinez, 43, was held on Saturday, July 15



29, 2023, from the Red Water Community Center. Deacon Ricky Edwards, Sr. & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

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

Mrs. Martinez passed away

continued next page

on July 12 at her residence.

She resided in the Red Water Community & was a member of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. She enjoyed being with family, coloring, long drives, oldies music, & watching the community children play sports.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Evaline Gibson; brother, Daniel Gibson; & grandparents, Steve Gibson & Sissie Gibson.

Survivors include her husband, Jose Martinez; daughters, Sheyann Bell, Sissie Gibson, & Eladia Martinez; sons, O'Rieon Bell & Terrance Thomas; father, Tony Sockey; brother, Zachary Gibson; granddaughters, Azaria Farve & Oce'Anna Bell; a niece, Daniella Gibson; a nephew, Steven Gibson; those she helped raise, ZaDaniel (Dano) Thompson & Talaina Reed; & a host of relatives & friends.

SEAN ONIS TUBBY

Funeral services for Sean Onis Tubby, 32, was held on Thursday, July 20, 2023, from the



Tucker Community Cemetery. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Tubby passed away on July 13 in Philadelphia.

He enjoyed playing stickball, basketball, watching movies, & helping others.

He is preceded in death by his brother, Devin McMillan; grandparents, Hayward & Sarah McMillan, Ann Tubby; two aunts & an uncle.

Survivors include his parents, Patrick & Adrienne Tubby; daughter, Ariana Willis; sister, Reese Tubby; 3 nephews, & a host of relatives & friends.

ROY CECIL THOMPSON

Funeral services for Roy Cecil Thompson, 78, was held on Wednesday, July 26, 2023,



at the Bogue Chitto CERF Building. Deacon Randy Jim & 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. Thompson passed away on July 19 at the VA Medical Center in Jackson.

A resident of the Bogue Chitto Community, he was a U.S. Army Veteran & enjoyed playing basketball, football, softball, & running during his early years, bird watching, watching the news, & going to Choctaw Central sporting events.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Will Thompson & Zina Henry; son, Donovan Wayne Thompson; sisters, Oneva Thompson, Claudine Young, & Maxine Thompson Bell; & brothers, Danny Thompson, Henry Thompson, Jimmy Lee Thompson, & Jackson Thompson.

Survivors include his daughters, Samantha Thompson, Tara Nanaeto, & Dawni Thompson; son, Eric Thompson; sisters, Willadean Denson, Rosie York, & Margaret Vaughn; several grandchildren & a host of relatives & friends.

STEPHANIE JOY WILLIS FARMER

Funeral services for Stephanie Joy Willis Farmer, 54, was held on Sunday, August 13, 2023, at the Pearl River Community Center. Pastor Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the New Ca-

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

Ms. Farmer passed away on Aug. 9 at her residence.

She lived most of her life in the Pearl River Community but resided in the Standing Pine Community.

During her younger years, she enjoyed playing sports. She loved traveling, late night rides, working on puzzle books, listening to Choctaw hymns, & being with friends & family, especially her brothers. She obtained her GED & took classes at East Central Community College. She was employed with Pearl River Resort as a Slot Attendant, Player Services, & Soft Count. She was then employed with MBCI for over 10 years, first with Choctaw Community News, then being a secretary for the Office of Public Information. She served the Tribal Election Committee as a Local Election Committee Member, then chairperson, for the Standing Pine Community. She also assisted with the Choctaw Health Center's Public Health contact tracing program.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Martin & Julia Faye Isaac Willis; husband, Henry C. Farmer; brothers, Ronald K. Willis & James B. Willis; & an infant sister.

Survivors include her daughter, Domina Ben; son, Justin Cotton; a special daughter she loved as her own, Jalena Lewis; sisters, Latasha Willis & Shavna Jefferson; brothers, Martin Willis, Sr., Dan Willis, Terry Willis, Jerry Willis, Dave Willis, & Martin Willis, Jr.; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.



JAVAN ARNOLD WILLIAMSON

Funeral services for Javan Arnold Williamson, 48, was held on Wednesday, August



16, 2023, at Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. Rev. Brian Parkman & Pastor 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 Aug. 11 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

He was a graduate of Choctaw Central High School & member of Macedonia Baptist Church. He was a custodian & a fan of the Florida State Seminoles. He enjoyed playing stickball, basketball, softball, & being at family functions & events.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Wilburn Sr. & Glenda Stephens Williamson.

Survivors include his sisters, Allison Smith & Andria Renee Williamson; brother, Wilburn Williamson, Jr.; an extended family, Mya Kate (Titus) Jim & their children; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

GARCIA BRIAN DIXON, SR.

Funeral services for Garcia Brian Dixon, Sr., 49, was held on Saturday, August 19, 2023,



at Nanih Waiya Indian Menno-nite Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Dixon passed away on Aug. 15 at Regency Hospital in Meridian.

He resided most of his life in the Bogue Chitto Community, but moved to the Pearl River Community. He enjoyed being with family & friends, fishing, hunting, being on Facebook, playing dominoes, & being a fan of Nanih Waiya & Bok Cito Stickball & the Alabama Crimson Tide.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Eddie Dixon & Bobbie Jean Frazier Dixon; son, Garcia Brian Dixon, Jr.; brothers, Chris Frazier & Adrian Dixon; an infant, & two grandchildren.

Survivors include his daughters, Aamaya Ben & Alexandria Sheanna Vaughn; sons, Milo Vaughn, Julius Vaughn, Isaiah Dixon, & Jasiah Ben; sisters, Lacrishia Dixon & Priscilla Dixon; brothers, Orlando Dixon, Orlondo Dixon, Luke Allen, Jr., & Teddy Allen; special companion, Adrianna Willis; 7 grandchildren; 2 aunts, 2 uncles, & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MICHAEL DEROIN JOHN

Funeral services for Michael Dero-in John, 50, was held on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at the Pearl River CERF Building. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Daniel Tubby officiated.



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

Mr. John passed away on Aug. 17 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

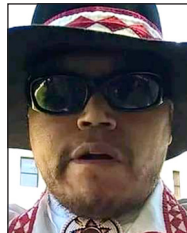
He resided in the Pearl River Community. He was employed with Pearl River Resort as a Valet Attendant & enjoyed being with family & friends, being on the phone, & watching football games with his friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Silmon & Redina Tubby John; grandmother, Ann Mingo; & an aunt, Alma Bell.

Survivors include his sisters, Crystal Clemmons, Sheena Clemmons, & Shonda John; brothers, Richard John, Sr. & Brandon John; 2 aunts, 5 uncles, & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

KEN CARLSON FRAZIER, SR.

Funeral services for Ken Carlson Frazier, Sr., 40, was held on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at the Bogue Chitto CERF Building.



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

Mr. Frazier passed away on Aug. 19 at Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He enjoyed singing & dancing at powwows, chanting, playing the hand drum, playing stickball, beading, telling jokes & stories, & being with family.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Minnie Pearl Wilson Willis; fathers, Billy Bell, Jr. & Tommy Frazier, Sr.; daughter, Kaylin Frazier; sisters, Jackie Clay, Sheila Rivera, & Catina Cotton; & grandmothers, Rose Wilson & Eva Beaver.

Survivors include his daughters, Ayshah Frazier, Kenisha Frazier, Cayden Billy, Keyana Frazier, Miley Frazier, & Tiffany Frazier; sons, Arral Frazier (Tessa Standing Elk), Whitebird Frazier, Kentray

Frazier, & Ken Frazier, Jr.; sisters, Cheryl McMillan, Antonia Steve (Shane), Marcia Frazier, LaShaunya Willis, Samantha Willis (Lee Amos), Janice Williamson (Gary), & Helen Telemaquae; brothers, Garrison Joe, Marlon Bell, Sr., Chad Frazier, Tommy Frazier, Jr., & Casey Bigpond; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ADDIE LOVE

Funeral services for Addie Love, 67, was held on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at Victory Fellowship Church in Union. Bro. Jack Foster officiated.



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

Mrs. Love passed away on Aug. 19 at Ochsner Rush Health in Meridian.

She attained her GED & attended beauty college, barber classes & received her licenses. She was employed as a Secretary for MBCI Employment & Training Program. She enjoyed shopping, auctions, making jewelry, & meeting new people.

She is preceded in death by her sisters, Rosie Ann Mitchell, Velma Jean Dinning, & Susie Brown; & brothers, Raymond Johnny Lewis & Watson Lewis.

Survivors include her husband, Kenneth Love, Sr.; sons, Kenneth Love, Jr. (Stacey) & James Love; a granddaughter, Lexi Love; a step-granddaughter, Darlene Beckham; & a host of relatives & friends.

HECTOR S. DENSON, SR.

Funeral services for Hector S. Denson, Sr., 91, was held

on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, at Hope Well Baptist Church in Standing



Pine. Bro. Don Ahshapanek, II & Bro. Mark Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Denson passed away on Aug. 22 at Aurora Hospital in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

In his younger years, he enjoyed playing baseball, basketball, & the guitar as he had a passion for music. He also enjoyed watching old western movies & listening to the radio. He played minor league baseball with the Cleveland Indians before he enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps in 1953.

He had a number of deployments, including combat deployments - one in Korea & two in Vietnam - & earned numerous honors. He retired in 1973 after serving 20 years with the rank of Gunnery Sergeant E7. He lived most of his life in Illinois with his family & was a member of the VFW & American Legion in Waukegan, Ill. He was a fan of the Chicago Cubs & Green Bay Packers.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Willie & Beaudie Anderson Denson; sisters, Margaret Denson, Norma "Sett" Long, Una Mae Denson, & Mary Mae Billy; & a brother, Easlin Denson.

Survivors include his wife, Willie Dean Thompson Denson; daughters, Victoria D. Denson & Romona C. Denson; son, Hector S. Denson, Jr.; sister, Regina Taylor; brother, Edward Denson, Sr.; three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Chahta Alla Youth Council Community Cleanup Schedule



Pearl River Community	Sept. 9, 23	9:30am-11:30am
Tucker Community	Sept. 16, 23	9:30am-11:30am
Conehatta Community	Sept. 30, 23	9:30am-11:30am
Red Water Community	Oct. 14, 23	9:30am-11:30am
Standing Pine Community	Oct. 28, 23	9:30am-11:30am
Bogue Chitto Community	Nov. 4, 23	9:30am-11:30am

NOTE: For any reason of bad weather, dates will be postponed to a later date. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Wilson at YOP Office, 601-650-7321.

CIF Exhibit Booths

Exhibit booths displayed during the 73rd Choctaw Indian Fair included items created by individuals in the Adult, Youth, & 4-H Divisions. There was a total of 140 exhibitors with items on display from categories including traditional arts & crafts, food & nutrition, woodwork, beading, & stickball sticks, to name a few.

The majority of youth participants consisted of members from Conehatta, Pearl River, Tucker, & Standing Pine Boys & Girls Clubs, & Conehatta Elementary School. Elders from the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center also participated in the Adult Division.

Exhibitors displayed their talents & skills as they created arts & crafts items in the areas of sewing, drawing, painting, crocheting, wood working, baking goods, & growing produce.

An addition to the exhibit booths was a display of beaded graduation caps. This year, there were 15 caps featured as we honored artisans for their fine work.

Congratulations to all who participated & thank you very much to all the judges. Each item was judged based on its own merit and awarded with blue (1st), red (2nd), & white (3rd) place ribbons, & cash awards.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2023

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