



Tribal Chief Ben Named ECCC Alumnus of the Year

Recognizing his personal achievements and his tireless dedication to his culture and community, Cyrus Ben, Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was named Alumnus of the Year at East Central Community College and was recognized during the college's Homecoming ceremonies on Thursday, Oct. 12, on the Decatur campus.

When notified of his selection, Chief Ben said, "I am humbled to be selected for this honor. To be viewed as someone worthy of this award is amazing. It is a great honor to be recognized as an academic and cultural Warrior."

Ben, who recently began his

second term, is the fifth elected Tribal Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, a federally-recognized tribe of over 11,100 members living on or near 35,000 acres of tribal lands in east central Mississippi.

Chief Ben has a 14-year record of public service to the Choctaw Tribal government and Tribal business leadership, including 8 years as Pearl River community's representative on the Tribal Council prior to being elected as Tribal Chief in July 2019. He served four years as the Tribe's Secretary-Treasurer and three years as the President of Choctaw-Ikhana, a Tribally-chartered corporation.

Ben has always looked for ways to give back to his community and to the Tribe. It was with careful consideration and encouragement from fellow Tribal Members that he decided to pursue the Office of the Tribal Chief, a position he doesn't take lightly.

"From a member standpoint, I think of us as a great Tribe. From where we have come from to where we are now, I hope to be part of history in leading the Choctaw People forward so that the next generation can build upon our successes."

During his first term, Ben worked to strengthen relationships with state officials which led to the passing of several bills, including the Regalia Bill, Tribal ID Bill, and the Tribal car tag. He also served



Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, ECCC Alumnus of the Year

on the state flag commission.

Chief Ben's younger sister, Cheriena Ben, who also served as Pearl River representative on

see **HALL OF FAME**, pg. 4

CONGRATULATIONS

NEWTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LADY COUGARS

STATE CHAMPS

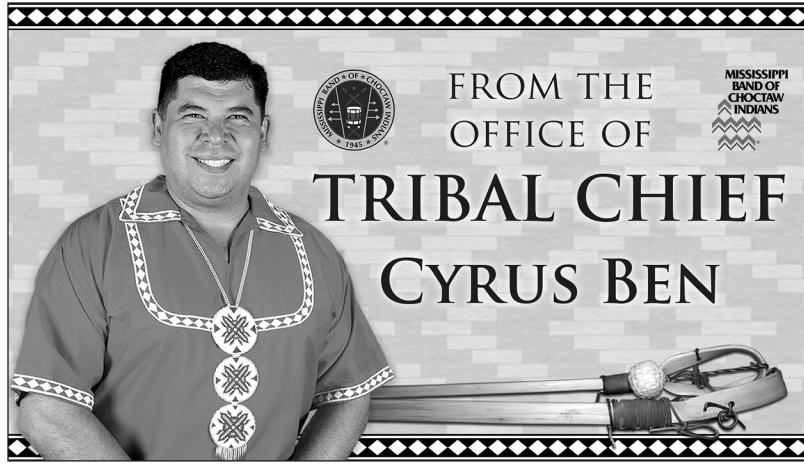
CTS Students Honored for Perfect Test Scores

A total of 25 students representing the Choctaw Tribal Schools System were recently honored as they achieved a perfect subject score on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP).

The students, ranging in grades from 3 through 8, were recognized as part of Choctaw Tribal Schools' Perfect Score Luncheon on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at the Clearwater Key Beach Club in Choctaw. Guests included several family members and principals from the Tribal schools.

Director of Schools Delnita Jones welcomed those in attendance as she said it was an honor to acknowledge the students' achievements as they have made their families, schools, and Tribe proud.

see **PERFECT SCORES**, pg. 14



On Wednesday, October 4, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben signed a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Community members are encouraged to "Break the Silence & Stop the Violence" & speak up if they see something concerning domestic violence. In attendance for the signing were staff members of the Family Violence & Victims Services Program. Thank you to the FVVS staff for your tireless efforts to bring awareness & prevention of domestic violence in our Tribal communities.

Halito!
 We finally are getting to enjoy some cooler temperatures, after several rounds of extreme heat this summer. It's hard to believe that football and volleyball seasons are already coming to an end. However, we do look forward to watching our students participate in winter sports, such as soccer and basketball, and we wish them the best as they strive for their opportunity to play and win at the state championships.

our Mighty Warriors football team, Coach Routh and his staff, the Maroon Band, cheerleaders, and the dedicated fan base who cheered on our boys at every game. Though the season has come to an end, I hope the fans will continue showing their support for our Warriors and Lady Warriors the rest of the school year.

I congratulate the Newton County High School Lady Cougars volleyball team on earning the title of MHSAA Class 4A State Champions. Hard work, teamwork, skill and dedication went into the making of this successful season. The Tribe is very proud of you, ladies, and I encourage you to keep up the grind as you prepare for next season. Great job, ladies!

It has been my honor to visit our local schools to honor our seniors in football, volleyball, cross country, band, cheer and golf. We are proud of all of you,

and we wish you a successful rest of your senior year and as you make your plans for your post-secondary lives. Also, I have been honored to visit and congratulate our young Chahta ladies who were selected as maids on homecoming courts. Congratulations to Lexi Flint of Leake Central High School, Nataysia Willis of Choctaw Central High School, and Nalani Thompson of Neshoba Central High School for being crowned as Homecoming Queen at their respective schools.

I am always proud to see our youth achieve success and be recognized. I look forward to making more visits to schools

in the coming months to honor more of our Chahta scholars and athletes.

One of my favorite annual activities is to visit our Tribal elementary schools and read to our students as part of Read Aloud Month in October. I love seeing the smiling faces of our children and their delight in having a guest come to their classroom and read a book to them. My good friend Okfochosh (Duck) joined me, and together, we passed out goody bags to the students. Reading is a fundamental part of a child's education and growth, and I encourage families to make time for reading at home.

October was both Breast

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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Communications Photographer
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Communications Photographer

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



A "Pink Out" Breast Cancer Awareness recognition was held at Choctaw Central High School's Warrior Stadium on Friday, October 20, prior to the Choctaw Central-West Lauderdale football contest. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben recognized & presented gifts to breast cancer survivors in attendance.

Recognized were Janet Chickaway, Louisa "Louie" Bell, Brenda Stephens, Rachel Willis, Karen Thomas, Peggy Willis, Carla Bobo, Melanie Benn, Marilyn York, & Karen Chickaway. We salute these survivors, pray for those who are currently in the fight, & remember those who lost the fight.



Congratulations to the Newton County High School Lady Cougars Volleyball Team as they defeated Purvis to win the 2023 MHSAA Class 4A State Volleyball Championship on Friday evening, October 20. The game was held at the University of Mississippi's Gillom Center in Oxford. Earlier in the morning, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben presented goodie bags to the team before they departed their campus in Decatur. He acknowledged Tribal student-athletes on the team & offered his best wishes. They included Zee Bell, Isabella Jefferson, Dazlie Tubby, Annika Anderson, Shay Jimmie, Maeli Ben, Claudia Allen, & Felisia King. Congratulations to the Lady Cougars on their state championship win!



Cancer Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Unfortunately, both breast cancer and domestic violence are realities we may encounter in our lives, whether personally or through someone we love. But we are not alone. We have family members and friends who care about us and want us to succeed and survive.

If you know of a case of domestic violence, break the silence and help stop the violence. If you or a loved one is battling breast cancer, know that you are not alone. Seek out those who will be by your side every step of the way. My prayers to domestic violence and breast cancer survivors and to those families whose loved ones lost the battle. God bless you.

I enjoyed seeing many members of our youngest generation

gather together and dance the traditional dances of our Chahta people during the Green Corn Celebration on Friday, October 20 in the Tucker community. These students, dressed in their traditional Choctaw attire, were from our community Early Childhood programs, and they seemed to be having the time of their lives dancing with classmates and friends.

As they continue to grow and practice this and other cultural artforms, they will become the future stewards of our cultural heritage. Thank you to the staff of the Department of Early Childhood Education for promoting cultural awareness and preservation to our youth.

The Community Trunk or Treat events held on October 24th and the Henning Community Trunk or Treat event held on October 28th were

great successes, due to the hard work, good planning, and excellent execution of the event. Thank you to all of the participants who gave out candy and goodies to our youth. It was great to see the smiles of the children as they enjoyed dressing up in their costumes and getting some sweet treats.

As I write this column, there are ribbon cuttings taking place soon for housing subdivisions in two of our communities. Although many of these projects may not be front and center of anyone's attention, we are making much progress across our Tribal lands.

We are working hard to address longstanding needs that have been there for years prior to my administration. I am proud of the great work that people in my administration have been doing, and I am also

grateful for the support and partnership of the Tribal Council. We can get more work done when we roll up our sleeves and work together than when we try to do things on our own.

I truly believe that everyone plays an important role in our Tribe's success. So I encourage you to always give your best in the work you have been entrusted with on behalf of the Tribe. If we all give it our best and move forward together, we can leave behind a great legacy for our future generations. Thank you always for your words of encouragement and support and your prayers.

Chi Yakokilih,

Cyrus Ben, Tribal Chief

HALL OF FAME continued from page one

the Tribal Council and works closely with Policy and Legislative Affairs for the Tribe, said, "Chief Ben is the epitome of leadership. He leads with love and compassion. The reason I believe in Chief Ben is due to him walking his talk. He could work for any group, any

state, any government, however he chose MBCI. His loyalty to his people is strong and pure. His ethics are real. He cares. He is threaded into family. He is every stitch in every tribal motif we display. I couldn't be prouder."

Chief Ben has also been rec-

ognized in Indian Country as an emerging young leader. In 2009, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development named him to the "Native American 40 Under 40" class. He is a board member for the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service. He also serves as a delegate on the Health Resources and Services Administration Tribal Advisory Council, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity Tribal Advisory Committee.

He was named the 2022 Citizen of the Year by the Philadelphia-Neshoba County Community Development Partnership and was presented the 2022 Order of the Golden Arrow award by Mississippi College which is presented to graduates who have accomplished outstanding personal and/or professional achievements during their lifetime.

Chief Ben is an advocate for education and said he is

thankful for the Tribal Scholarship program created under the leadership of the late Chief Phillip Martin that allowed Tribal youth to receive full scholarships to college. It was an opportunity that he took advantage of himself and became a first-generation college graduate.

He encourages others to do the same, saying, "Whatever challenge may have been there for others, you can break the barrier and get a degree. Know you have the opportunity of a local community college that you can go to and obtain your goals and dreams. Use it to create your foundation and as a stepping stone to create your next accomplishment."

He gives much credit to his parents, Jimmy Ben and Karen Ben, for teaching him the importance of working hard and helping him build a strong work ethic. And he said he was fortunate to have teachers and coaches along the way who also helped to shape him as a

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GED Students Graduate

Congratulations to Choctaw Adult Education's Class of 2022-2023 graduates Richard Laird, Jr. of the Pearl River community (pictured left) and William Thomas, Jr. of the Conehatta community (right) as they attained their GED diplomas in a commencement ceremony held at the Golden Moon Casino's Magnolia Room on Thursday, August 31. MBCI Workforce Development Director Terry Ben and Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben (pictured with the graduates above) offered remarks & encouraged the graduates to go further in their future successes. A luncheon was held afterwards for the graduates & their families, Choctaw Adult Education staff, & those in attendance for the ceremony.

Tangle Wins Business Plan Competition

Congratulations to Brandie Tangle 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. Pictured above, Tangle (left) receives her check & congratulations from Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben.



CEAC Princess, Brave Crowned

The Choctaw Elderly Activity Center held its 2023 American Indian Day Princess & Brave Pageant on Thursday, September 21. Pictured, from left to right, is Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben with newly crowned Princess Gail Clemons, Brave Everette Sam, Brave 1st Alternate Leroy Denson, & Princess 1st Alternate Peggy Williams.

person.

Ben said East Central offered him not only the opportunity to pursue his education, but to also play a sport he loved, and remain close to home. He was a member of the Warrior Corps student ambassadors and played on the 1996 Warrior football team that won the Golden Isles Bowl and finished fifth in the nation.

“Many of the events that occurred in my life during my two years at East Central helped prepare me for situations I would have to overcome in the future.”

An active member of his community, he serves as a coach and mentor for local youth sports teams. As an avid supporter for local youth sports and activities, he has served as a volunteer coach and team/field sponsor at Northside Park for soccer, baseball and softball. He has been a volunteer coach for Native American Youth Baseball and Softball teams.

He also provides volunteer services and is an advocate for youth with special needs. As a supporter and advocate for the Diamond Dreams program and as part of his commitment to disabled youth, he ensured the Choctaw Sportsplex park area was completely ADA compliant, the only park of its kind in the State of Mississippi. He was a volunteer coach for Warrior Youth Football its inception year. He and his wife served as youth leaders at First Pentecostal Church of Philadelphia for 10 years.

Chief Ben was a National Board member for the Native Big Brothers Big Sisters Organization and has been a long supporter of Local Boys and Girls Club organizations. His work with Tribal youth promotes peer and elder mentorships, personal goal-setting and an appreciation of Choctaw

Self-Determination.

In 2020, Chief Ben was named a recipient of the Governor’s Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Award recognizing his volunteerism within the State of Mississippi.

He was a small business owner in Neshoba County for 16 years (Choctaw Office Supply). He continues to work with local government and state agencies to help provide a better way of life for all citizens, not just his Tribal communities. This includes, but is not limited to, law enforcement and business opportunities.

ECCC President Dr. Brent Gregory said, “Chief Ben is an outstanding alumnus who represents his family, his community, and East Central Community College well. He continues to partner with the college today in educational advancements that benefit both the Tribe and the surrounding areas.”

Chief Ben can be found most weekends at a ballfield as a coach, parent, or supporter, sometimes at the same time. It is not uncommon to find him



In attendance for the induction ceremony with Chief Ben was his family, wife Tarita & their children, Brodie, Eden & Selah.

in the stands of local school games. He knows the importance of supporting Choctaw students and athletes locally and across the country.

An enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and a fluent speaker of his native Choctaw language, Chief Ben is a life-long resident of Neshoba County and the Pearl River community,

where he resides with his wife TaRita, who is also an ECCC alumna, and their children, Brodie, Eden and Selah.

A graduate of Mississippi College, Chief Ben earned his Bachelor’s degree in Marketing and Management in 2001. He earned an Associate’s degree in Business from East Central Community College in 1998.



Chief Ben Attends EBCI Inauguration Ceremony

Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians attended the October 2 Inauguration Ceremony for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' Principal Chief Michell Hicks and Vice Chief Alan B. Ensley, and the swearing-in ceremony for elected members of the Tribal Council and Cherokee School Board. The event took place in the Charles George Memorial Arena on the campus of Cherokee High School in Cherokee, North Carolina. Chief Ben was among hundreds in attendance as he, along with Tribal leaders from throughout the region, offered their congratulations to the newly-sworn EBCI leadership. (PICTURED LEFT) from left to right, are Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Council Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola, Jr., EBCI Tribal Council Member Jim Owle, EBCI Tribal Council Vice Chairman David Wolfe, Tribal Chief Ben, & EBCI Tribal Council Member Adam Wachacha; (CENTER) EBCI Vice Chief Alan B. Ensley with Chief Ben; (RIGHT) Chief Ben with EBCI Tribal Council Member Boyd Owle.



CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

SPECIAL CALL TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

ORDINANCE NO.16-UUUU, enacting the Child Support Code as Title XXX-VII of the Choctaw Tribal Code, was TABLED - 16 YES (L. Ahshapanek, R. Anderson, Sr., N. Gibson, R. Henry, Sr., A. Hundley, S. John, D. Martin, D. Mingo, H. Nickey, G. Shoemake, R. Sockey, B. Steve, T. Thomas, Sr., K. Wallace, K. Wesley, & D. Wilson); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (C. Eaves).

SUMMARY: The Ordinance approves the establishment of the Choctaw Tribal Code Title XXXVII, Child Support Code. On April 11, 2023, the Tribal Council adopted Resolution CHO 23-056, which authorized an application of funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to operate a Tribal Child Enforcement Program. Per 45 CFR §309.65 provides Indian Tribes must demonstrate that they have the administrative capacity to operate their proposed Tribal Child Support Enforcement Program to receive funding for the program. The Child Support Code provides a statutory framework for the administration of an MBCI Child Support Enforcement Program. For more information, please contact the Department of Family & Community Services.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-114, authorizing a Distribution of Tribal Funds, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution authorizes a Distribution

of Tribal Funds in the amount of \$600.00 per enrolled Tribal member on December 7, 2023. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Distribution.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-115, approving the Department of Early Childhood Education Staff Handbook for the 2023-2024 School Year, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves the Department of Early Childhood Education Staff Handbook for early childhood center employees. DOECE annually reviews & updates all handbooks to ensure comprehensive & up-to-date policies for school staff, parents, & students for the 2023-2024 school year. For more information, please contact the Department of Early Childhood Education.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-116, approving the Department of Early Childhood Education Parent Handbook for the 2023-2024 School Year, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves the Department of Early Childhood Education Parent Handbook for parents whose children attend Tribal childcare, Head Start, & Early Head Start programs. DOECE annually reviews & updates all handbooks to ensure comprehensive & up-to-date policies for school staff, parents, & students for the 2023-2024 school year. For more information, please contact the Department of Early Childhood Education.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-117, approving the 2023-2024

Wildlife Proclamation to regulate hunting & fishing on Tribal lands, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves the 2023-2024 Wildlife Proclamation to regulate hunting & fishing on tribal lands including a schedule of permit hunting & fishing fees & fees for Lake Pushmataha, as well as penalties & fines for violations & are effective immediately. For more information, please contact the Department of Public Safety.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-118, authorizing formation of & to approve an operating agreement for Choctaw Housing Authority LIHTC 1, LLC, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: For more information, please contact the Choctaw Housing Authority.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-119, authorizing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to accept grant funding from the First Nations Development Institute's Advancing Digital Equity & Entrepreneurialism in Native Youth Program, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The First Nations Development Institute is a non-profit organization committed to improving economic conditions for Native Americans through technical assistance & training, advocacy & policy, & direct financial grants & has awarded \$25,000 in grant funding to support Choctaw youth. The grant funds will cover expenses to support Choctaw youth entrepreneurship & digital skills pilot project. The MBCI Office of Economic Development has existing programs supporting entrepreneurship through training & coaching & is in the process of building a maker space that will include digital

fabrication equipment such as 3D printing & laser etching, among others. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-120, approving Fiscal Year 2024 Budgets for Tribal Administration, Programs, Agencies & Operations, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The budget includes increased funding for Tribal member assistance programs including emergency assistance, disaster assistance, & funeral assistance. The Tribal Council does hereby approve the following budgets for fiscal year 2024:

General Revenue Operation Budget - \$114,667,239 [Including appropriations totaling \$1,800,000 for emergency assistance, disaster assistance, and funeral assistance];

Tribal Projects, Equipment & Facilities - \$5,724,225.

The Tribal Council does hereby authorize use of funds from the following sources:

Indirect Cost Collections - \$26,824,784;

Gaming Revenues - \$65,000,000;

General Fund Non-Gaming Revenue - \$7,191,631;

Health Center Lease, Interest & Income - \$4,105,671;

Prior Year Funding - \$4,100,000;

Choctaw Gaming Commission Fees & Charges - \$3,543,384;

Other Program Income - \$9,625,994.

For more information, please contact the Office of Finance & Accounting.

RESOLUTION CHO 23-121, approving Fiscal Year 2024 Budgets for Choctaw Health Center, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: CHC
continued next page

continues to receive operating funds from IHS under the terms & conditions of the Compact & CHC's operations generate significant annual income from service charges, third party reimbursements, & earned interest on program revenues.

The Tribal Council does hereby approve the following budgets for FY 2024:

Indian Health Service Self-Governance Compact - \$56,459,592;

Health Related Grants Authorized by the Tribe - \$4,530,004;

General Health Fund - \$7,500,000;

Medicaid, Medicare & CHIPS Revenue - \$15,000,000;

Tribal Revenue Fund - \$3,525,000.

For more information, please contact the Choctaw Health Department.

REGULAR CALL TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 10, 2023

ORDINANCE NO. 24-001, enacting the Child Support Code as Title XXXVIII of the Choctaw Tribal Code, was ENACTED - 16 YES (L. Ahshapanek, R. Anderson, Sr., C. Eaves, N. Gibson, A. Hundley, S. John, D. Martin, D. Mingo, H. Nickey, G. Shoemake, R. Sockey, B. Steve, T. Thomas, Sr., K. Wallace, K. Wesley, & D. Wilson); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (R. Henry, Sr.).

SUMMARY: The Ordinance approves the establishment of the Choctaw Tribal Code Title XXXVIII, Child Support Code. The Child Support Code provides a statutory framework for the administration of an MBCI Child Support Enforcement Program. For more information, please contact the Department of Family & Community Services.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-002, amending Criminal Code Sections §3-6-8 and §3-9-6, was

ENACTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Ordinance approves the amendment to Choctaw Tribal Criminal Code Sections §3-9-8 Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs; Possessing/Selling of Drug Paraphernalia & §3-9-6 Payment of Fines & Other Monies. For more information, please contact the Office of the Attorney General or Choctaw Tribal Courts.

RESOLUTION CHO 24-001(B), approving a name change for previously enrolled Tribal member, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves a name change for a previously enrolled Tribal member C. Willis. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Enrollment.

RESOLUTION CHO 24-002(B), enrolling Tribal members, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves the enrollment of 17 members beginning with the name K. Bell-Ben & ending with T. Willis. Sections §22-2-10 & §22-2-14 of the Tribal Enrollment Code provide that new MBCI Tribal Members are to be enrolled by Tribal Council Resolution upon recommendation by the Tribal Enrollment Committee that those new members meet the membership criteria set forth in Article III of the Revised Constitution Bylaws of the Tribe. For more information, please contact the Office of Tribal Enrollment.

RESOLUTION CHO 24-003, approving Choctaw Loan Program's Lease-to-Purchase Program Policy, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves the Choctaw Loan Program to implement a Lease-to-Purchase program for newly

built homes for the new ARPA home construction plan for all communities. The Lease-to-Purchase program will enable homeowners to move into new homes at an affordable monthly amount for five (5) years with the option to mortgage the home thereafter. For more information, please contact the Choctaw Loan Program.

RESOLUTION CHO 24-004(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Melanie Huerta-Silva in the Bogue Chitto Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Melanie Huerta-Silva in the Bogue Chitto Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.

RESOLUTION CHO 24-005(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Reberta Smith in the Bogue Homa Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Reberta Smith in the Bogue Homa Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.

RESOLUTION CHO 24-006(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Max Anderson in the Conehatta Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Max Anderson in the Conehatta Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.

RESOLUTION CHO 24-007(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Eric & Victoria Billy in the Conehatta Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Eric & Victoria Billy

in the Conehatta Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.

RESOLUTION 24-008(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Yunish & Rosa Billy in the Conehatta Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Yunish & Rosa Billy in the Conehatta Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.

RESOLUTION 24-009(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Alanna Billy in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Alanna Billy in the Pearl River Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.

RESOLUTION 24-010(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Rahka Brescia in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Rahka Brescia in the Pearl River Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.

RESOLUTION 24-011(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Tasha Charlie in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Tasha Charlie in the Pearl River Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.

RESOLUTION 24-012(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Heather Jim in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0

RESOLUTIONS continued from page seven

ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Heather Jim in the Pearl River Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.*

RESOLUTION 24-013(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Earl Willis in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Earl Willis in the Pearl River Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.*

RESOLUTION 24-014(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Heather Tangle in the Red Water Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Heather Tangle in the Red Water Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.*

RESOLUTION 24-015(B),

approving a Land Use Permit for Dalton Willis in the Red Water Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Dalton Willis in the Red Water Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.*

RESOLUTION 24-016, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & Mississippi State University to conduct an economic impact study, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT

SUMMARY: *The Tribe continues to conduct economic activities including construction, human capital investment, tourism, & operations that generate positive economic impacts. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.*

RESOLUTION 24-017, amending the Memorandum of Understanding between the

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians & BCI Mississippi Broadband, LLC D/B/A Maxx-South Broadband authorized by Tribal Council Resolution CHO 23-108, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *Resolution CHO 23-108 authorized a MOU establishing the scope of a future agreement under which Mississippi Broadband, LLC d/b/a MaxxSouth Broadband to collaborate with MBCI to deploy broadband service outside of the MBCI Reservation. MaxxSouth Broadband has proposed additional amendments to the MOU to clarify the terms of the MOU. For more information, please contact Choctaw Public Works.*

RESOLUTION 24-018(B), designating a site in the Pearl River Community for an office & a shop that will be used by MBCI's Tribally Owned High-Speed Broadband Service Provider, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves the designation of a site to carry deployment of high-speed broadband service on the MBCI Reservation. MBCI has received funding to build an office & shop for its Tribally owned high speed broadband service provider. For more information, please contact Choctaw Public Works.*

RESOLUTION 24-019(B), approving a Land Use Permit for Antonio Garcia in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *The Resolution approves a one-year land use permit for Antonio Garcia in the Pearl River Community. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.*

RESOLUTION 24-020(B), designating a site in the Pearl River Community for a Commercial Driver's License Training Center, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: *There exists a*
continued next page

Fitness Center Re-Opened

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to re-open the Chahta Okla Fitness Center at its new location at the Choctaw Town Center on Thursday, October 12. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, along with Tribal Council Representative Sam John (Red Water) & Representative Kent Wesley (Pearl River), & officials from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) & Choctaw Health Center, joined 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani LuzMaria Thompson as she emceed the event & cut the ribbon to officially open the center. The fitness center required a larger space to accommodate the growing number of participants. The program utilized carryover money from previous years by moving the fitness center to a more spacious location. This project was funded by the Initiative SDPI Grant. One project partner was HouseworX LLC for remodeling of the new space. The hours of operation for the Chahta Okla Fitness Center are Mondays-Fridays, 10:00 am to 6:15 pm. The new fitness center now has 2 showers & 3 restrooms.



need for a commercial driver's license (CDL) training center. For more information, please contact the Office of Economic Development.

RESOLUTION 24-021(B), acquiring ±46 acres of land in Lee County, Mississippi, & to transfer fee title to the United States of America in trust for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: Sara Thomas & Elizabeth Favier intends to donate ±46 acres of land & the Tribe is authorized to accept the donation. For more information, please contact the Realty Program.

RESOLUTION 24-022(B), rescinding Resolutions CHO 18-038(B) & CHO 22-072(B) & to designate a site in the Pearl River Community for the development, maintenance, & administration of single-family

housing units by Choctaw Housing Authority, was ADOPTED - 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

SUMMARY: The Choctaw Loan Program no longer plans to develop 171.5 acres for single-family housing. Choctaw Housing Authority is capable of developing, maintaining, & administering single-family units & is authorized to utilize the designated site in the Pearl River community. For more

information, please contact Choctaw Housing Authority.

To request a copy of the Resolution and/or attachment, please fill out a request for a Resolution/Ordinance form and submit it to the Policy & Legislative Office at krystina.thompson@choctaw.org or cheriena.ben@choctaw.org.

Requests for attachments to Tribal Enrollment Resolutions will not be honored due to confidentiality rules.

SDPI Hosts 27th Diabetes Awareness Walk/Run

With cool temperatures in the morning air, runners and walkers of all ages gathered to participate in the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) 27th Annual Fall 2-Mile Run/Walk on Saturday, October 21. Participants completed the course which began at the Choctaw Central High School entrance to the Smith John Justice Complex side entrance and back to CCHS.

Overall winners were (female) Kylie Truss & (male) Kenzariah Chickaway.

Winners in the following age categories are listed below.

7-Under: (female) 1st, Natalynn Chapman; 2nd, Kyla Thompson; (male) 1st, Esiason Daughtery; 2nd, Calvin Willis.

8-12 Years: (female) 1st, Kaylene Willis; 2nd, Onnahinli Morris; (male) 1st, Wyatt Chickaway; 2nd, Aleric Thomas.

13-18 Years: (female) 1st, Nakota Willis; 2nd, DeShaylee Tubby; (male) 1st, Quinton Stephens; 2nd, Josiah Wishork.

19-29 Years: (female) 1st, Jennaya Steve; 2nd, Jasmine Comby; (male) 1st, Kena Brings-Plenty; 2nd, Dregen Joe.

30-39 Years: (female) 1st, Cami Hickman; 2nd, Shanna Ben; (male) 1st, Kyle Thompson; 2nd, Nehemiah Lewis.

40-49 Years: (female) 1st, Dyranda Jimmie; 2nd, Lou Alex; (male) 1st, Todd Stephens.

50-59 Years: (female) 1st, Marion Sockey; 2nd, Sharon Brown; (male) 1st, Thomas Ben; 2nd, Auburn Jefferson.

60-Over: (female) 1st, Cheryl Denson; 2nd, Betty Dobbs; (male) 1st, Leonard Jimmie, Jr.; 2nd, Adolph Vivians.

Pictured right are members of the SDPI staff.



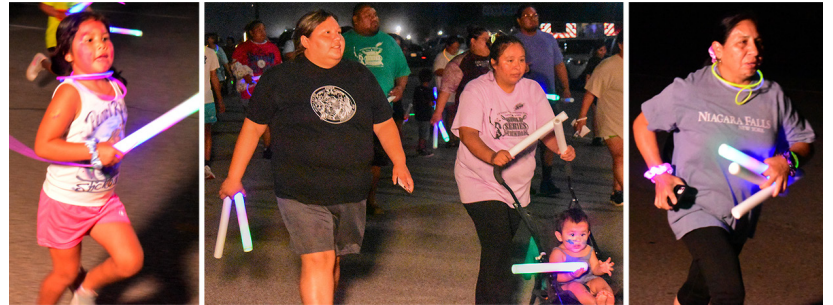


Glow Run/Walk for Suicide Prevention

Choctaw Behavioral Health hosted a Suicide Prevention Awareness 2-Mile Glow Run/Walk on the evening of Thursday, September 7, in Choctaw. Over 600 participants, wearing or carrying glowing accessories, made their way from the Geyser Falls Water Park parking lot to the Choctaw Sportsplex & back.

Patty Steve, Choctaw Youth Resilience Initiative (CYRI) project director, said it was a moving sight to see the participants "glowing" as they made the 2-mile run/walk.

"The significance of having the event at night was to demonstrate that although it may be dark in some instances in our lives, we rely on & support each other to make it out of the darkness. All in all, everyone had a great time, & we appreciate those who came out."



Members of Choctaw Behavioral Health/CYRI sincerely thank the Choctaw Police Department, Choctaw Fire Department, Choctaw Tribal Security, Choctaw Health Center (CHC) EMS, Choctaw Recycling, CHC Maintenance Department, MBCI Boys & Girls Club Teen Center (Pearl River), Chahta Alla Youth Council, Geyser Falls Water Theme Park, & DJ Matt Bell for their support.

Donates to Diamond Dreams

Diamond Dreams, a baseball/softball league that started in 2010 for special needs children of Neshoba and surrounding counties, kicked off their season on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at Northside Park in Philadelphia, Miss. As a proud supporter of the league, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Red Water Tribal Council Representative Sam John, 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani LuzMaria Thompson, & other Tribal & Pearl River Resort officials were in attendance to assist in the festivities. Chief Ben had the honor of tossing out the ceremonial first pitch. On behalf of the Tribe & Resort, a check of \$1000 was presented to league organizers to assist in their season activities.



Unveilings at Ham Jam

Ham Jam Arts Festival, held on Saturday, October 14, 2023, in downtown Philadelphia, Miss., featured an array of family fun activities, arts & crafts vendors, food vendors, kid's area, a corn hole tournament, live music, & special presentations. Tribal members participated during the event, including Deidre Tub-



by singing the National Anthem in the Choctaw language & Happy Feet Social Dancers performing several traditional social dances. Reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani Thompson joined local royalty as a Bristol Sessions marker was unveiled acknowledging the 1927 studio recordings of 76 songs in Bristol, Tenn., including the first recordings of the recognized Father of Country Music & Mississippian Jimmie Rodgers. Those sessions launched the early commercial country music industry. Bristol now salutes Marty Stuart's Congress of Country Music as the spiritual home of Country Music in Mississippi. Later in the afternoon, a mural inspired by the song 'Jolly Roger', written by Roger McGuinn, co-founder & frontman of The Byrds, was unveiled. The mural was designed by David Howell & Casey Byars. That evening, McGuinn, along with Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives, performed a concert in the Ellis Theater to close out activities of this year's Ham Jam.



Day for Kids celebrated in Choctaw

On Saturday, October 7, 2023, the Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI held its annual Day for Kids at the Choctaw Sportsplex in the Pearl River community. Day for Kids creates an opportunity for an entire community to get involved with the development of kids. Simply having fun for a few hours allows kids to feel energetic & establish relationships through activity. When kids interact with others on a positive level, they tend to think more positive of themselves. Oftentimes, that positive thinking leads to making better decisions as they grow. Families participated in fun activities such as corn hole, face painting, cake walks, bingo, volleyball, inflatable bounce houses, & a princess & brave pageant. Congratulations to the following: Tiny Princess Zoey Jim & Tiny Brave JaKaizen Solomon; Little Princess Iylah G. King & Little Brave JaZairen Solomon; Junior Princess Arabela Thomas & Junior Brave Benzley Davis; Boys & Girls Club Princess Nataysia Willis & Boys & Girls Club Brave KaJavion Dixon. A grab-and-go lunch was prepared by the Steve Family. The event also highlighted several Tribal programs providing information of services they provide to the community.





Green Corn Festival held in Tucker

The MBCI Department of Early Childhood Education held its 31st Annual Green Corn Festival on Friday, October 20, 2023, at the Tucker Community stickball field. This year's festival was hosted by the Tucker Early Childhood Center. The Green Corn Festival, derived from the Green Corn Ceremony, was celebrated by our ancestors as a time for forgiving as feuds were settled to begin a new year. It was a time to give thanks for a good harvest & a time for new beginnings for the Choctaw people, young and old alike. The activity

was re-established so the Choctaw customs would continue to survive & bring about the appreciation of the culture through dancing & feasting for the young children & their families. Children from the surrounding Early Childhood Centers performed a social dance, and a traditional meal was served at the conclusion of the festival. Serving as emcee for the event was 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani Thompson. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & Tucker Tribal Council member Dorothy Wilson offered remarks & the invocation was given by Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., of Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

Halloween Fun at 2023 Trunk or Treats

Tribal trick-or-treaters came out for an evening of fun & goodies during the 2023 Community Trunk or Treat events in the Tribal communities on Tuesday, Oct. 24. Henning, TN held their event on Saturday, Oct. 28. Other trunk or treat events were held at the Choctaw Town Center, Chahta Immi Cultural Center, & Smith John Justice Complex on Friday, Oct. 27. Tribal Risk Management & Choctaw Transit held their event on Tuesday, Oct. 31. The events included participation from the Office of Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & the Tribal Administration, Choctaw Tribal Council Representatives, programs, organizations, clubs, & families as they enjoyed distributing goodies to all the trick-or-treaters dressed in their favorite costumes.



CTS Read Aloud Events

Numerous Tribal officials & individuals took part in this year's Read Aloud Month activities in the local Choctaw Tribal Schools during October. Among those to participate were Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani Thompson. Studies show that when you read aloud together, you build up your child's "word bank" of vocabulary. You also introduce them to formal grammar & sentence structures (which might not be as apparent in our day-to-day conversation.) By reading consistently to a child, you improve their readiness to learn & give them the basic literacy skills to succeed in school. Some benefits of reading aloud include: language development; literacy skill building; instilling a love of reading; brain development; knowledge gained & shared; & personal bonding.



Honor Rolls for 1st 9-Weeks

The Choctaw Tribal Schools recently recognized students named to the first nine-weeks honor roll for the 2023-2024 school year. Students recognized on the Chief's List (all A's) & Principal's List/Honor Roll (all A's & B's) at their respective schools are listed below.

CHOCTAW CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL CHIEF'S LIST

(7th grade) - Konley Anderson, Sherman Billie, Ansen McMillan, Riley Meely, & Arizona Willis.

(8th grade) Bryceton McMillan, Camden Rodriguez, & Jay-zlee Wesley.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

(7th grade) - Wyatt Chick-away, Kairyn Dixon, Nizhoni McMillian, Tekhyius Primer, Khanzlee Richardson, Ameer

Stell, Summer Tubby, & Sez Willis.

(8th grade) Beauwy Bell, Deontae Bell, Tyreke Ben, Rozland Billy, Rozland Bohannon, Osi Chapman, Dayshaun Clayton, Ja'Qualin Clemmons, Lazeya Clemmons, A'yaan Cotton, Devion Davis, A'Lali Dixon, Braylon Edwards, Taylor Farmer, Anabella Farve, Alexiana Frazier, Marison Gonzalez-Rosa, Dracetin Isaac, Lazarus Isaac, Dacey Jefferson, Elijah Jimmie, Tia John, Asia Marquez, Chazzden McMillan, Jalaya Routh, Alivia Stell, Alaysia Steve, Conswella Thomas, Westbrook Thompson, Carmella Tubby, Ayslie Wesley, Gunner Wesley, Kason Wesley, Ni'Leyah Williams, & Brylas Willis.

see HONOR ROLL, pg. 14

HONOR ROLL continued from page thirteen

**CHOCTAW CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL
CHIEF'S LIST**

(9th grade) - Aiden Bell, Allison Benally, Danna Ferris, Candice Hickman, Tiarrri Kessinger, Angel Killingsworth, Ashlyn Killingsworth, Brodie McMillan, Kailynn Perry, Kaleaina Rush, Anslee Shumake, Kenaylah Smith, Colsen Stell, Jake Steve, Marquavious Talley, Tai'Lyn Wesley, Jacoby Willis, Nalayna Willis, Nakota Willis.

(10th grade) - Yazzlyn Alex, Nakayla Anderson, Ryleigh Anderson, Zoe Bell, Anniston Billy, Caitlyn Bounds, Julien Clemmons, Yuriana Crosby, Imearia Davis, Xhaiden Edwards, A'Lanya Evans, Marlena Fraire-Rains, Jonas Hardy, James Hickman, Alessondra Jefferson, Dejay Jenkins, Cam-

bee Johnson, Kayliona Kessinger, Tracell King, Adarius Lewis, Seth Lewis, Brodie Lilly, Keydren Thompson, Dailynn Willis, Peyton Willis, & Trelene Willis.

(11th grade) - Karli Bell, Zylier Clemons, Abram Isaac, Khyal Johnson, Natalia Jones, Stonewall King, Raiyleigh Perry, Jacobi Robinson, Alexaviar Thompson, Ezra Triplett, Anthony Tubby, Christianna Weeks, & Brylee Willis.

(12th grade) - Aiden Alex, Leeland Amos, Shaleah Amos, Aisha Bell, Mattison Bell, Mateo Ben, Delaiah Billy, Lakenton Chickaway, Gabriel Chitto, Jabari Denson, Lakaysia Dixon, Natalee Eaves, Kristopher Espinosa, Kaniya Fraizer, Baxter Hall, III, Brennan Henry, Tristen Henry, Brannon Isaac, Kodi Jimmie, Seth John,

Kayden Johnson, Tessney Morris, Alesia Roa, Amilia Sebastian, Jorgan Vaughn, Destinee Williams, Koie Williams, Markus Willis, Jayce Sam, Ashlynn Stephens, Nataysia Willis, & Sequoia Willis.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

(9th grade) - Lacy Alex, Alleigh Anderson, Annabelle Anderson, J'Kadryn Bell, Memorie Bell, Mileena Bell, Neliah Bell, Montraz Billy, Laya Briscoe, Ty Briscoe, Gracie Butler, Nolaysia Chickaway, Brady Farve, Kyleigh Flint, Kah'Xylon Gomez, Payton Hernandez, Zayna Hudson, Ariela Jefferson, Jamien Joe, Asante Johnson, Tajjah Kessinger, Hunter Lewis, Shastyn Lewis, Ethaniel Nickey, Treighton Robinson, Eric Shumake, William Slocum, Georgianna Sockey, Bonnie Spiv-

ey, Eulanna Thomas, Kanyon Tubby, Taelor Tubby, Jamearan Wallace, Sedney White, Malloy Williams, Sabien Williams, & Laylee Wishork.

(10th grade) - Olin Alex, Danity Anderson, Akaylin Bell, Chanelle Bell, Kaydence Bell, Peyton Bell, Zaiya Bell, Carlos Ben, III, Divine Ben, Silas Billy, Zavius Clemmons, Arianna Cotton, Aatilya Denson, Tajjion Dixon, Devree Farve, Jazzlynn Goetz, Zyan Hickman, Jamiya Hudson, Elias Isaac, Hailey Jefferson, Dichelle Jim, Prentiss Jim, Slater Jim, Alyssa John, Leah Lewis, Ellayla McMillan, Malaki Morris, Araceli Reyes-Cruz, Lexi Rodriguez, Malaya Sam, Tyris Stokes, Alexcia Townsend, Crisayis Wesley, Kooper Wesley, Sebante

continued next page

PERFECT SCORES continued from page one

“These brilliant students have achieved something extraordinary and exhibit such qualities that will not only help them in achieving their goals, but also bring success to the Choctaw Tribal Schools and our Tribe. Achieving a perfect score is a tremendous accomplishment. Not only does it reflect a student’s hard work, but it also reflects their commitment to academic excellence,” said Jones.

MAAP is designed to measure student achievement in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, and US History. Students are assessed in grades 3 through 8 in ELA and Mathematics, grades 5 and 8 Science, Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and US History. The results of all MAAP assessments provide information to be used for the improvement of student achievement.

Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben commended not only the students,



Front row, from left to right, are Director of Schools Delnita Jones, Nylah Wilson, Cerulean Lewis, Grayson Tangle, Jay Shoemake, Jr., Anzaerius Huddleston, Kahlon Edwards, A'mi Clemons, Traih'sin John, Neyalih Dixon, Shohmalali Dixon, Serena Tubby, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben; back row, Shastyn Lewis, Nalayna Willis, Gracie Butler, Terry Bounds, Eliason Chickaway, Eric Shumake, Jaysena Wishork, Jayshaun Hardy, Bryceton McMillan, Marshall Mingo, Braeson Sam, & Kaegen Henry.

but the support and encouragement shown to them by their family members, teachers, principals, and friends.

“I am grateful for everyone that supported these students and let them to have an opportunity to achieve greatness. I

tell students who love athletic sports that if they want to be winners, you have to become winners in academics because that is what is going to help them in life. It doesn’t matter if you want to be a teacher, principal, elected official, or what-

ever career path you want to go into, you have to be winners in the classroom before you become professionals in the community.”

He also added, “Don’t let

continued next page

Williams, Zaymian William-son, Connor Willis, Hayden Willis, Rozlind Willis, Deliana Wilson, & Orex Wilson.

(11th grade) - Alex Argueta, Amari Amos, Dominic Amos, Jr., Juanita Bell, Skyler Ben, Damian Billie, Halle Briscoe, Sanjaya Chickaway, Natalie Chitto, Andre Dan, Aiyana Fraizer, Shawn Gomez, Kae-gen Henry, Desiny Hickman, Naliyah Jim, Isaiah Johnson, Tamara Johnson, Mauhree Jones, Tehya Ketcher, Lyriq McMillan, Lela Morris, Kanyon Tubby, Traeh Vaughn, David Watkins, Elias Wesley, Damien Wickson, Jonathan Willis, & Memphis Wilson.

(12th grade) - Chesney Amos, Kalvenlena Bell, Kylinn Bell, Talon Bell, Miley Billie, Hailey Briscoe, Aaliyah Clemmons, Andrew Cotton, Acarnan Denson, Taylor Dixon, Belinda Fraizer, Zeya Gomez, Zaiyah Isaac, Dalayla Jenkins, Lay-

la Jim, Aven Joe, Justice Joe, Talayah Kinsolving, Eric Martin, Lorena Martinez, Brandon Mesteth, Peyton Mingo, Tyrece Mingo, Truman Lewis, Richie Shoemake, Delayna Steve, Miles Taylor, Destini Tubby, Zavian Tubby, Jalon Wesley, Eliza Willis, Kambridge Willis, Jalen Willis, Derrant Wilson, & Diaz York.

**CONEHATTA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CHIEF'S LIST**

(1st grade) - Brayleigh Bell, Steven Bell, Zellar Dixon, Jaychell'e Evans, Kayden Flores, Deshanalie Isaac, Kyrie Jim, Zoey Jim, Kelcedi John, Jalahyah Lewis, Amos Mingo, Alarie Morris, DeeAngel Monk, Nyri Phillips, I'zyus Thomas, J'Rayus Wesley, & Haiden Willis.

(2nd grade) - Danario Bell, Jr., Hannah Crosby, Cheri Hicks, Tobias John, & April

Jr., Math.

**PEARL RIVER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

(3rd grade) Neyalih Dixon, Math; Shohmalali Dixon, Math; (4th grade) A'mi Clemmons, Math; Kahlon Edwards, Math; Anzaerius Huddleston, ELA; Traih'sin John, Math; (6th grade) Arizona Willis, ELA.

**RED WATER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

(4th grade) Serena Tubby, Math; (5th grade) Nylah Wilson, Math; (7th grade) Jaysena Wishork, Math.

**STANDING PINE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

(3rd grade) Cerulean Lewis, ELA; Grayson Tangle, Math.

**TUCKER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

(7th grade) Bryceton McMillan, Math; Marshall Mingo, Math; Braeson Sam, Math.

Lewis.

(3rd grade) - Kashay Charlie, Miley Dixon, Kari Hicks, & Zoe Wallace.

(4th grade) - Kayden Thomas.

(6th grade) - Kinsley King.

(7th grade) - Alexis Smith.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

(1st grade) - Malayah Anderson, Jeslie Bell, Ninak Charlie, Conner Christie, Aziya Denson, Dykylie Hickman, Ezra Hickman, Brayson Lewis, & Maizuri Phillips.

(2nd grade) - Brayas Bell, Da'Nylie Ben, Aiden Dixon, Ameira Edwards, Bryten Jefferson, Deandre Shumake, Espyn Stephens, & Gracie Wilson.

(3rd grade) - Deanalyn Chickaway, Davaeya Christie, Daegan Isaac, Zayson Lasarge, Laney Jefferson, Sebastian Jim, Langston Logan, Daniley Shoemake, Ryan Shumake, Shinobi Solomon, Elora Thomas, Za'Daniel Thompson, Namiayah Tubby, Peyton Wesley, Ka'Draizlyn Williams, Kelane Willis, Janice Wilson, & Kylyse Yazzie.

(4th grade) - Edka Charlie, Arianna Dixon, Teyshoni Farmer, Taliani King, Jacelyn Lewis, Jayzin Shoemake, Ryatina Shumake, & Ori Stephens.

(5th grade) - Jayston Bollen, Shyne Chickaway, Colton Hickman, Alistair King, Makiya Logan, Zaydrian Reynolds, Jay Shoemake, Jr., Zayvion Shoemake, & Randalin Wilson.

(6th grade) - Rodrick Anderson, Javaylius Chickaway, Nylie Phillips, Alex Smith, & Darcy Williamson.

(7th grade) - Jes'sias Williams.

(8th grade) - Shanshia Mingo & Dantzler Stephens.

**PEARL RIVER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CHIEF'S LIST**

(1st grade) - Koi Bell, Emaline Clemons, Maegan Her-

nandez, Natalie Jim, Telayli Smith, Leigha Solomon, Anilah Tubby, Tru Williams, Liam Willis, Aubri Charlie, Nevaeh Dixon, Zabdiel Felipe, Na'tyiah Gibson, Traiy'tin John, Alaire Ketcher, Juana Pablo-Lewis, Kohen Routh, Karalane Willis, Marcin Billy, Shantel Clemons, Aeston Martin, Andre Mitch, Kazyon Willis, Rayen Willis, Imayya Alex, Paxton Farve, Gracelyn Frazier, Jaysa Gibson, Majesty Isaac, Sydney Isaac, Emma Johnson, Daylen Rodriguez, Wyatt Stoliby, & Ava Willis.

(2nd grade) - Kaison Thomas, Semaycelynn Bell, Oliver Carr, Kleilali Dixon, Ayame Jim, Beth Lewis, Alston Meely, Adriel Mitch, Brooke Nickey, Zayvier Wesley-Gamarra, Ettalyn Chickaway, Hayden Dixon, Everly Evans, Ashmariah McMillan, Hushtoposhik McMillan, Kysen Dixon, Carly Baker, Crimson Robinson, Zayelynn Nickey, & Jayden Anderson.

(3rd grade) - Jalanna Dixon, Ahlaric Hernandez, Ambriauna Hickman, Kaylee McMillan, Hamaya Morris, J'Hazlyn Bell, Braylon Clemons, Kayson Clemons, Kylus John, Tama Bald Eagle, Kinya Bell, Padmae Billie, Ashlynn McMillan, Christopher Barojas, Teyana Clemons, & Garrett Johnson.

(4th grade) - Okshomichi (Kyree) Bell, Madalynn Jimmie, Marin Williams, Shohmalali Dixon, & Brydan Lewis.

(5th grade) - Dawson Tubby, D'Anthony Willis, Ilyah King, & Anzaerius Huddleston.

(6th grade) - Karyton Hudson, Kaelynn Chickaway, Aryana Mitch, & Kaylene Willis.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

(1st grade) - Torrence Farmer, Kamila Pablo-Lewis, Crimson Tubby, Khyon Williams, Journey Wright, Peyton

today's celebration be your last. Go for another perfect score so we can celebrate your accomplishment again next year."

Honorees were presented trophies and medallions by Director Jones and Chief Ben. They are listed below.

**BOGUE CHITTO
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

(7th grade) Terry Bounds, Math; (8th grade) Eliason Chickaway, Math; Eric Shumake, Math.

**CHOCTAW CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL**

Alexandria Amos, English II; Kaegen Henry, English II.

**CHOCTAW CENTRAL
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

(7th grade) Jayshaun Hardy, Math; (8th grade) Gracie Butler, Math; Shastyn Lewis, Math; Nalayna Willis, Math & ELA;

**CONEHATTA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

(4th grade) Jay Shoemake,

2023 American Indian Day Princess & Brave Pageant Winners

DOECE

Princess, Brave

Department of Early Childhood Education held their American Indian Day Princess & Brave Pageant on Friday, September 15. Congratulations to newly crowned 2023-2024 Princess Addison Comby & Brave Keantry Thomas, Jr.



CCMS, CCHS Princesses, Braves

On Thursday, September 21, American Indian Day Princess & Brave Pageants were held at Choctaw Central Middle School & Choctaw Central High School. Winners included, from left, CCMS Brave Ansen McMillan, CCMS Princess Karsyn Wallace, CCHS Princess Tayla Willis, & CCHS Brave Adam Bell.

HONOR ROLL continued from page fifteen

McMillan, Danayeli Sam, Peyton Clemons, Chloe Dixon, Pailyn Eaves, Lillian Morris, Hamaya Polk, & Maelyn Henry.

(2nd grade) - Chase Clemons, Shelnaliya Frazier, Khalani Isaac, Piper Isaac, Remington Isaac, Napoleon Tubby, Denaje Bell, Kaizen Dixon, Javen Frazier, Alexis Navarro Ortiz, Taten Stephens, Garrianna Thomas, Harrington Allen, Knox Bell, Arlando Bigpond, Carson Charlie, Kaleyah Denson, Zyus John, Cadence Meely, Taurasi Sardina, Eli Steve, Keyon Willis, Ethan Hickman, La'Ryden Cotton, Kemper Stafford, Josie Wallace, Calvin Willis, & Amariann Wishork.

(3rd grade) - Madison Bell, Baylan Buffalomeat, Jayce Isaac, Bryson John, Kaeden Marshall, Isaiah Mingo, Jediah Reed, Kyler Willis, Mylee Ben, Riley Isaac, Krymsen McMillan, Lane Willis, Brayden Cutler, Kason Isaac, Xaiden Leach, Jaylon Williams, Dakaizlee Clemons, Tyson Gibson, & Kaiseton Shell.

(4th grade) - Jaiyce'Yann Bell, Alice Ferris, Amarien Lewis, Kamea Mitch, Hazzen Thomas, Neilani Thompson, Lyla Tubby, Kawhi York,

Sayahna Amos, Zaine Bell, Brody Dixon, Kylyn Jim, Mariah McBeath, Teegan McMillan, Saniyah Nickey, Elilee Steve, Charlee Wallace, Dreynic Williams, Eva Willis, Nolan Willis, Rainee Billy, Neyalih Dixon, Kolvin Isaac, Raijen Willis, Adelyn Daniel, Hazelin Joe, & Mi'Kel Osceola.

(5th grade) - Natanya Allen, Peyton Eaves, Hunter John, Payton Meely, Manali'i Bald Eagle, A'Mi Clemons, Aloni Dan, Jaythan Dixon, Truin Dixon, Paeton Gibson, Kady Hickman, Kyzler Nickey, Layla Willis, Ladarian Bell, Deonte Isaac-Carter, Alicia Stell, Annaleigh Tubby, Kahlon Edwards, Traih'sin John, Xavian John, Jordana Polk, Chanceton Shoemake, & Jaciryn Vaughn.

(6th grade) - Jaicelynn Bell, Kyla Briscoe, Paizley Dixon, Ambraysia Isom, Sanaeya Martin, Chrisaenn Stoliby, Kamson Thomas, Kaidence Thompson, Kaecetyn Williams, Bryston Wilson, Jairden Wishork, Chase Bell, Chashion Dixon, Aubrey Wilson, Taylor Bacon, Taiden Ben, Jacelynn Clemons, Zanayah Denson, Laken Dixon, Sadie Farve, Caybriana

Hickman, Deitric Isaac, Chryssander Jones, Zade Lilly, Joseph McMillan, D'Andre Nickey, Kenneth Thomas, Hector Willis, Lovelle Dixon, Elvira Hickman, Amaya Isaac, Treyton Kinsolving, Ryden McGee, Kyrie Tubby, Tav'n Wesley, Azariah Williams, & Velton Williamson.

STANDING PINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHIEF'S LIST

(1st grade) - Keri Farve & Camila Pinto.

(2nd grade) - Rueshawn Allen, Violet Farve, Colt Frazier, Riley Frazier, Deaiden Jefferson, Draeden Sam, Dominic Tubby, & Garilayne Willis.

(4th grade) - Cerulean Lewis & Grayson Tangle.

(6th grade) - Jayden Hardy.

HONOR ROLL

(1st grade) - Lillian Farve, Mason Martinez, Ricky Mingo, & Charlotte Willis.

(2nd grade) - JaShayen Bell, Hayden Martinez, Rakaezlynn Mingo, Darnesha Willis, Treyvon Willis, & Trinity Willis.

(3rd grade) - Krailee Chapman, Zendaya Frazier, Teyari Primer, & Maydream York.

(4th grade) - Bailee Frazier, Liliana Frazier, Jack John, Braden Sam, & Riley Wilson.

(5th grade) - Avery Hardy.

(6th grade) - Shaylee Alex, Ja'Keisha Farmer, Melody Frazier, Daisy Isaac, Mel Lindsey, Xavi Vargas, & Ratika Wilson.

TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHIEF'S LIST

(1st grade) - Eisley Charlie, Asylem Jefferson, Kelise Perry, Matayah Stokes, & Bryncess Thomas.

(2nd grade) - Necie Charlie, Bresaya Isaac, Kayzlee McMillan, Kasey Nickey, & Cliff Willis, Jr.

(3rd grade) - Keilani Gibson, Cooper Jefferson, & Eve Lewis.

(5th grade) - Paycen Comby, Mylah Gibson, Crisney Perry, Bella Steve, & Merlainy York.

(6th grade) - Elliana Tubby.

(8th grade) - Marshall Mingo, Braeson Sam, Esiason Willis, & Tamiyah York.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

(1st grade) - John Isaac, Koide Isaac, Onnesy McMillan, Noah Tubby, & Julyssa Willis.

continued next page



CES Princesses, Braves

The 2023 Conehatta Elementary School American Indian Day Princess and Brave Pageant was held on Tuesday, September 19. 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani Thompson served as mistress of ceremonies. Congratulations to (Division I) Princess Zoey Jim & Brave Xaige Stephens, (Division II) Princess Kari Hicks & Brave Jay Shoemake, (Division III) Princess Toriann Jefferson & Brave Jes'sias Williams.



PRES Princesses, Braves

Pearl River Elementary School held their annual American Indian Day Princess and Brave Pageant on Thursday, September 21. Winners in the following divisions include: (Division I) Princess Kaceleigh Thompson & Brave Otter Shore; (Division II) Princess Sydney Isaac & Brave Zayvier Wesley; (Division III) Princess Mylee Ben & Brave Cainen Reynolds; (Division IV) Princess Paeton Gibson & Brave Ladarian Bell.

(2nd grade) - Bonnie Orellana, A'Ria McMillan, Brayden Sam, & Karsyn Thomas.
 (3rd grade) - Taylia Henry, Taylee Charlie, Zayden Comby, Briley Dixon, Faithlyn Mingo, Ariana Willis, Samari Jefferson, Leim McMillan, & Rhyus York.
 (4th grade) Karson Bell, Kaleb Farmer, Renaya Farmer, Esmaralda Mingo, Cayden Rocha, & Damari Thomas.
 (5th grade) - Zeta Ben, Braydon Farmer, Gabriel Hilar-
 (6th grade) - Logan Denson, Vashunti McMillan, Damarri Sam, & Kollier Thomas.
 (7th grade) - Logan Denson, Vashunti McMillan, Damarri Sam, & Kollier Thomas.
 (8th grade) - McKayla Allen, Xanaeya Chapman, Roman Charlie, Jr., & Mamie Sam.



RWES Princesses, Braves

Red Water Elementary School held its annual American Indian Day Princess & Brave Pageant on Thursday, September 21. Winners were: (Category I) Princess Aleeria Denson & 1st Alternate Honoree Lewis; Brave Dennis Dixon & 1st Alternate Carter Tangle; (Category II) Princess Macey Davis & 1st Alternate Maddi Dear; Brave Jerrion Willis & 1st Alternate Atticus Jim; (Category III) Princess Nylah Wilson & 1st Alternate Kyla Dixon; Brave Ja'Zairen Solomon & 1st Alternate Brayon Billie; (Category IV) Princess Paris Martinez & 1st Alternate Reagan Willis; Brave Hunter Edwards & 1st Alternate Malik Ford.



SPES Princesses, Braves

Standing Pine Elementary School held its American Indian Day Princess & Brave Pageant on Wednesday, October 20. Winners & alternates in each division were announced. They included: Tiny Princess Madeline Watkins, 1st Alternate Baylee Briscoe, & 2nd Alternate Azaylin Smith; Tiny Brave Ja'Vaughn Jefferson & 1st Alternate Tru Steve; Little Princess Keri Farve, 1st Alternate Camila Pinto, & 2nd Alternate Garilayne Willis; Little Brave Ja'shayen Bell, 1st Alternate Draeden Sam, & 2nd Alternate Rueshawn Allen; Princess Alaysia Willis, 1st Alternate Mel'laney Lindsey, 2nd Alternate Raenise Jefferson; Brave Abel Farve & 1st Alternate Braden Sam.



TES Princesses, Braves

Congratulations to the winners of the 2023 Tucker Elementary School American Indian Day Princess & Brave Pageant on Thursday, September 21. Winners were: (Division I) Princess Jacaiya Willis & Brave Maddox Ben; (Division II) Princess Eve Lewis & Brave Kaleb Farmer; (Division III) Princess Aymeri McMillan & Brave Pepper Jones.

CCHS Announces New Basketball Coaches

The Choctaw Central High School Athletic Department has announced the addition of two new head coaches for the basketball program.



Pictured from left, new Lady Warriors Head Coach Elyse Willis & new Warriors Head Coach Delvin Thompson.

Elyse Willis returns to the Choctaw Central coaching staff as the new head coach of the Lady Warriors basketball program. Willis is no stranger to the Choctaw Central Athletics Program as she previously served 14 years at Choctaw Central High School & Middle School.

She served as head coach in volleyball, cross country, track, golf, & CCMS basketball. She also served as assistant coach in slow-pitch softball & CCHS basketball.

In 2013, Willis led the school to its first cross country state championship that garnered her a MHSAA's Coach of the Year honor. She was also the assistant to former Head Coach Bill Smith as they led the Lady Warriors to three basketball state championships in 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2021-22.

Willis spent the 2022-2023

school year at East Central Community College in Decatur, Miss., as an assistant women's basketball coach, alongside Coach Betsy Harris. Willis was also given the opportunity to coach with Fletcher Perry, of Hinds Community College, in the Magnolia Sports Association Rising Juniors All-Star game.

Willis, a resident of the Bogue Chitto community, graduated from Neshoba Central High School, East Central Community College, & the University of West Alabama. She also played basketball at NCHS & ECCC.

Willis is a staff sergeant in the Mississippi Air National Guard in the 186th Air

continued next page

CHOCTAW CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY 2023 / 2024

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER	
07 NOV HOME - 4P, 5P, 6P, 7:30P	22 NOV AWAY - TBA SMOOTHIE KING CENTER, NEW ORLEANS, LA
16 NOV HOME - 4P, 5P, 6P, 7:30P	25 NOV TOUGALOO - TBA (G-NORTHWEST RANKIN, B-VICKSBURG)
20 NOV AWAY - VICKSBURG - 2P VS CLINTON	28 NOV AWAY - 4P, 5P, 6P, 7:30P
21 NOV AWAY - 5P, 6P, 7:30P	30 NOV AWAY - 6P, 7:30P
DECEMBER	
02 DEC AWAY - 6-5:30P, 8-7P (G-LAFAYETTE, B-SOUTH PONTOTOC)	21 DEC HOME - 6P, 7:30P
7-9 DEC AWAY - TBA	27 DEC HOME - 5P, 6P, 7:30P
12 DEC AWAY - 6P, 7:30P	29 DEC AWAY - 6-2P, 8-5P BGG-CLARKSDALE
15 DEC AWAY - 5P, 6P, 7:30P	30 DEC AWAY - 8-12:30P, 6-5P (B-MORTON, G-FLORENCE)
JANUARY 2024	
02 JAN AWAY - 5P, 6P, 7:30P	19 JAN HOME - 5P, 6P, 7:30P
05 JAN HOME - 5P, 6P, 7:30P	20 JAN CHOCTAW CO - TBA
06 JAN AWAY - 10A VS BELMONT	23 JAN AWAY - 5P, 6P, 7:30P
12 JAN AWAY - 5P, 6P, 7:30P	26 JAN HOME - 5P, 6P, 7:30P
16 JAN HOME - 5P, 6P, 7:30P	30 JAN AWAY - 5P, 6P, 7:30P
FEBRUARY 2024	
02 FEB AWAY - 5P, 6P, 7:30P	

McMillan Named Coach of the Year

Congratulations to Cherokee Lady Braves Golf Coach Jason McMillan for being named Smoky Mountain Conference (SMC) Coach of the Year. Coach McMillan led his team to the Conference Championship, broke school records & made history at Cherokee Central Schools in Lady Braves Golf this season. They claimed their first SMC championship in school history & were undefeated in conference play. Coach McMillan is the son of MBCI Tribal members Barry & Raeline McMillan. Congratulations to Coach Jason McMillan & the Lady Braves Golf Team!



Refueling Wing stationed at Key Field in Meridian, Miss.

Fayette native Delvin Thompson has been hired as the next Warriors head basketball coach.

Thompson was recently head coach and athletics director at Jefferson County High School,

where he once was a star basketball player & led the Tigers to a South State Championship. He has coached at JCHS since 2020 before earning his new position with the Warriors.

At JCHS, the Tigers went from winning one game in the year prior to Thompson's arriv-

al to picking up multiple wins & competing with much larger schools. He has had a 100 percent graduation rate & Team GPA of 2.8 or higher each year.

Thompson brings many years of experience to the Warriors' program as he has led St. Aloysius & JCHS, in addition

to serving as an assistant coach at Alcorn, where he contributed to the Braves' 29 wins in two seasons. This included an 18-14 record during the 2016-17 season, which concluded with a second-place finish in the regular season and a run to the finals of the SWAC Championship.

CCHS Golf Teams in State Championships

Congratulations to the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors & Warriors Golf Teams as they recently competed in their respective MHSAA Class 4A State Golf Tournaments. The Lady Warriors placed fifth & the Warriors placed ninth overall. During the season, they both won district titles. Members of the golf teams include, from left to right, Harmony Sam, Imearia Davis, Nataysia Willis, Laylee Wishork, Warriors Coach Adam Lewis, Peyton Mingo, Amari Amos, Alan John, Jr., Ajay Lewis, & Wyatt Chickaway. Not pictured are Lady Warriors Coach Breanna Isaac & Taylor Farmer.



Willis Crowned 2023 CCHS Homecoming Queen

Congratulations to Choctaw Central High School Senior Maid Nataysia Willis as she was crowned the 2023 Homecoming Queen on Friday, October 6. The ceremony was held during halftime of the CCHS-Newton County football contest. Other members of the court included Se-

nior Maids Mattison Bell & Julisa Lewis, Junior Maid Teresa Willis, Sophomore Maid Yazzlyn Alex, Freshman Maid Lacy Alex, flower girl Julyssa Willis, & crown bearer Zeitler Farmer. Participating in the ceremony were Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Director of Schools Delnita Jones, CCHS Principal Alaric Keams, & the maid escorts.



(PICTURED RIGHT)

Thompson NCHS Homecoming Queen

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani Thompson as she was named Neshoba Central High School's Homecoming Queen during a pre-game ceremony on Friday, September 22. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & his family joined Nalani's family as they congratulated Princess Nalani on her selection to the court & being named this year's Homecoming Queen.



SENIOR NIGHTS 2023



Chapman Named LCHS Senior Maid

Congratulations to Choctaw youth Kaitlyn Chapman as she was named a Senior Maid on Leake County High School's Homecoming Court. Prior to the ceremony on Friday, October 6, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben presented a bouquet of flowers & an appreciation gift to Chapman during the homecoming parade held the previous day.



Lay Named Senior LHS Maid

Lake High School held their Homecoming Ceremony on Friday, October 6. One of the senior maids on the court was Choctaw youth Lyric Lay. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben offered her a bouquet of flowers & a gift in recognition of her selection to the homecoming court.



LCHS Homecoming Court '23

Congratulations to Choctaw youths Lexi Flint, Amlee Shumake, & Kayla Comby as they were named to Leake Central High School's 2023 Homecoming Court. During a pep rally on Thursday, September 14, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben presented flower bouquets to Senior Maid Flint, Senior Maid Shumake, & Freshman Maid Comby. The following evening, MBCI Director of Administration Jason Grisham, representing the Office of Tribal Chief Ben, presented flowers & gifts



CCHS Hosts Senior Night

Choctaw Central High School hosted Senior Night activities on Tuesday, October 3, for Tribal student-athletes on the volleyball, cross country, & golf teams. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben joined family members & supporters as they congratulated the seniors on their accomplishments. Honored were Chesney Amos, Kylinn Bell, Aaliyah Clemmons, Natalee Eaves, Kodi Jimmie, Tori Henry, Mattison Bell, Delayla Jenkins, Nataysia Willis, Brennan Henry, Alan John, Jr., Peyton Mingo, Jayce Sam, Kenyun Thomas, Koie Williams, Keondre Anderson, Delaiah Billy, Zylar Thomas, & Cassius Thompson.

(PICTURES CONTINUED PAGE 21, 22)



to the young ladies after the homecoming ceremony. Congratulations to Senior Maid Flint as she was crowned Homecoming Queen.





CC SENIORS continued from last page



CCHS Hosts Senior Night

Choctaw Central High School held Senior Night activities for members of the football team, cheer squad, & band on Friday, October

20, 2023. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben joined family members, friends, teammates, & supporters as they honored these outstanding Tribal student-athletes. Honored were: (FOOTBALL) Kezmond Carter, Kagel Chickaway, Andrew Cotton, Kristopher Espinosa, Brannon Isaac, Jayden Rush, Richie Shoemake, Jorgan Vaughn, Adrellius Tubby, Derrant Wilson, Malcom Willis, & Zander Ben; (CHEER) Chesney Amos, Mattison Bell, Delayla Jenkins, Lorena Martinez, Destinee Williams, & Kenyun Thomas; (BAND) Aiden Alex, Sha'leah Amos, Kaiveniena Bell, Taylor Dixon, Eric Martin, Kodin Mingo, Alesia Roa, Delayna Steve, & Joelton Thomas.

(PICTURES CONTINUED PAGE 23, 24)





CC SENIORS continued from last page



Newton County Honors Volleyball Seniors

Newton County High School held Senior Night for members of the Lady Cougars volleyball team on Tuesday, October 3. Amongst the seniors honored were Tribal student-athletes Annika Anderson, Maeli Ben, & Claudia Allen. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben joined family members as they congratulated the seniors on their accomplishments.



NCHS Hosts Senior Night

Neshoba Central High School hosted Senior Night activities on Friday, October 20, for members of the band & cross country teams. Amongst the seniors honored were Tribal student-athletes Noah Ben, Ruth Dixon, Chris Lewis, Jr., Kameron McMillan, Boyce Thomas, Katelin Williams, Kailyn Willis, & Joslian Winters. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben joined family members as they congratulated them on their accomplishments. (PICTURES CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)





Volleyball Lady Rockets Honored

Neshoba Central High School held Senior Night activities on Thursday, September 28, for members of the Lady Rockets volleyball team. Amongst the seniors honored were Tribal student-athletes Mya Willis & Erica Lyons. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben & the 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani Thompson joined family members as they congratulated the seniors on their accomplishments.



Senior Night at Neshoba Central

Neshoba Central High School held their Senior Night activities for members of the Rockets football team on Friday, October 27. Amongst the seniors honored were Tribal student-athletes Tryeston Thompson, Garry Jim, & Brodie Ben. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani LuzMaria Thompson, family members, friends, & supporters were on hand to congratulate these seniors on their achievements. Chief Ben presented gifts to the seniors. This was also a personally proud moment for the Ben family, as Brodie is the son of Chief & Mrs. TaRita Ben.



NCHS Royalty Recognized

During Senior Night activities on Friday, October 20, Neshoba Central High School recognized local royalty who are currently attending NCHS. Honored were, from left to right, Miss Neshoba County Fair Hattie Hicks, Miss Black Neshoba County Marlee Washington, Neshoba County Distinguished Young Woman Maggie Taylor, & 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani LuzMaria Thompson. Princess Nalani was also selected the 2023 NCHS Homecoming Queen.



Philadelphia Holds Senior Night

Congratulations to Tribal student-athlete Brady Parkerson as he was amongst the seniors honored during Senior Night activities on Friday, October 20. Parkerson is a member of the Philadelphia High School Tornadoes football team as he was congratulated by his family & Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben during the recognition ceremony.



Northeast Jones Hosts Senior Night

Tribal student-athletes Yahnish Clifton & Jillian Thomas were honored during Senior Night activities for football & band members on Friday, September 8, at Northeast Jones High School in Laurel, Miss. Family members, along with Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, congratulated the seniors as they were also presented gift bags.



Kemper County Senior Night

Tribal student-athlete Danny Ray was honored during Senior Night festivities at Kemper County High School on Friday, October 27. Danny is a member of the Wildcats football team as he was joined by his family, Bogue Chitto Council Representative Kendall Wallace, & Diamond Hundley as she presented gift to Danny on behalf of Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben.

Keams Honored During Senior Night

Congratulations to Tribal student-athlete Brannen Keams as he was recently honored as a member of the Kennewick High School Lions football team during Senior Night activities in Kennewick, Washington. Keams received a token of appreciation courtesy of Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben.



Collegiate Cross Country Runners

The collegiate cross country season has officially begun as several Tribal student-athletes are proudly representing their respective colleges & universities. Pictured are, from left to right, Hunter Farve representing Delta State University, Audrianna Billy representing Tougaloo College, Lylo Johnson & Omar Williams, both representing Belhaven University, & Logan Lyons, Brayon Farve, & Emalayah King all representing East Central Community College... Congratulations to Lylo Johnson of Belhaven as she was honored as a C Spire Athlete of the Week. At the MC Watson Invitational, hosted by Mississippi College & featuring several Division I & II schools, she finished with a time of 28:08.40 to lead the Blazers on the day.



Lay Receives 2A Championship Ring

The 2022-2023 Lake Lady Hornets basketball team was honored on Friday, September 8, during a championship ring ceremony prior to the Lake-Pelahatchie football game. The Lady Hornets won the 2023 MHSAA Class 2A state basketball championship with a 67-48 win over Heidelberg last March in Jackson. Pictured is Tribal student-athlete Lyric Lay (left) as she received her championship ring from former head coach Holly Moncrief.



Sunflower Painting Contest

Submitted by Kaiti Ford,
Tribal MSU Extension Agent

The Tribal Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension Service & Choctaw Elderly Activity Center collaborated in implementing a sunflower painting activity, which turned into a contest. Participants saw several colors of sunflower varieties & also learned about sunflower heliotropism, which means the turning of sunflowers toward the sun. At the conclusion, the paintings were judged by the Tribal MSU



Extension Agent. PICTURED RIGHT, Congratulations to our winners, from left to right, Cynthia Isaac (1st); Maria Wilson (2nd); & Gloria Clemons (3rd).

Extension Agent. PICTURED RIGHT, Congratulations to our winners, from left to right, Cynthia Isaac (1st); Maria Wilson (2nd); & Gloria Clemons (3rd).



Choctaw Residential Sunflower Painting

Submitted by Kaiti Ford,
Tribal MSU Extension Agent
Sunflowers are so beautiful, especially when you paint them! The Choctaw Residential Center was so gracious to allow the Tribal MSU Extension

Service to come & implement a sunflower painting activity with the residents! Residents learned the different colors of sunflowers as they were able to show off their artistic talents by creating their own sunflower masterpieces. Fun was had by all!

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FVVS hosts Healthy Family Fall Festival

The 2023 Healthy Family Fall Festival, sponsored by the Family Violence & Victim's Services Program, was held at the Choctaw Sportsplex in the Pearl River community on Thursday, October 5. Students from the area Choctaw Tribal Schools were in attendance as representatives from various Tribal departments & programs provided fun-filled and informative activities for the children. The event was held in observance of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



Cultural Center turns 10

The Chahta Immi Cultural Center, located in the Choctaw Town Center in Choctaw, celebrated its 10th Anniversary on Saturday, October 21, 2023. The day included a visit from the 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani LuzMaria Thompson, local arts & crafts vendors, food vendors, & demonstrations of Choctaw basket weaving & beadwork. The Center was open for visitors to tour the gift shop, gallery & media room. Drawings for gift certificates were held throughout the day and a Choctaw basket was awarded to a lucky individual. Happy 10th Anniversary to the Chahta Immi Cultural Center!

Warrior Youth Football, Cheer Honored

Prior to the 25th edition of the Battle of Nations football game featuring the Choctaw Central Warriors vs. the Cherokee Braves on Friday, September 1, 2023, at Warrior Stadium, a pre-game ceremony was held as Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben made a check presentation in the amount of \$1250 to the coaches & sponsors of the Warrior Youth Football players & cheerleaders to assist with future needs of this beneficial program for our Tribal youth. The program provides Tribal youth an opportunity to have fun while learning the fundamentals of football & cheerleading. They participate in area leagues where they compete with other youth football programs. In the Battle of Nations contest, the Braves were victorious after coming back from behind to take a 41-37 win over the Warriors.





Employer, Employee of the Year Honored

The Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program hosted its 2023 Employer and Employee of the Year ceremony & luncheon on Thursday, September 28, at the Golden Moon Hotel and Casino's VIP Room in Choctaw. Recipients of this year's Employer of the Year is Chahta Enterprise Commercial Laundry & Employee of the Year is Ida Sam. Chahta Enterprise Commercial Laundry, established in 2002, provides linen laundry services for medical, hospitality, & entertainment venues in the Choctaw, Miss., area, as well as Alabama. In addition to providing fast turnaround & quality laundry services for the casinos, the operation provides valuable employment opportunities for members of the reservation. Pictured above, from left to right, are Department of Workforce Development Director Terry Ben, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Chahta Enterprise Commercial Laundry General Manager Mark McKay, Finance Officer Kathy Barnett, Ida Sam, & Vocational Adjustment Counselor Speedy Lewis.



FVVS Hosts National Day of Remembrance

The Family Violence & Victims Services (FVVS), a program of the Department of Family & Community Services, hosted a National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims event at the Homicide Victims Memorial at Lake Pushmataha on Monday, September 25. FVVS Program Director Danielle Dixon welcomed attendees & introduced 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani LuzMaria Thompson, who also welcomed everyone & offered thoughts & prayers for the loved ones of homicide victims. Featured speakers were Marco Patrick, Randy Tangle, & Dan Isaac. Candles were lit in remembrance of children, adults and elders who were victims of homicide. The Southern Pine Drum Group performed several songs as a turkey feather was placed on a nearby tree to remember victims. The event concluded with a prayer by Mr. Isaac. To-go traditional meal plates were offered to those in attendance. Thank you to everyone who attended, & thank you to the FVVS staff & volunteers who helped coordinate the event.



"Dancing Away the Violence"

The Family Violence & Victims Services (FVVS) Program held the "Dancing Away the Violence" Social Dance Night on Saturday, October 21, at the Dance Ground Pavilion in the Pearl River community. Participants enjoyed dancing traditional Choctaw social dances throughout the night. Vice Chief Ronnie Henry, Sr. & 2023-2024 Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani Thompson were in attendance. During the program, statistics were provided regarding domestic violence. Following the program, a to-go spaghetti plate was offered to attendees. Thank you to the FVVS staff for hosting events such as this & creating more awareness of domestic violence. Break the Silence, Stop the Violence.





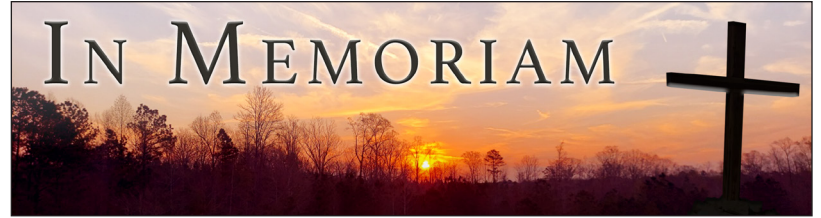
Partridge Retires from CFD

The Choctaw Fire Department recently held a retirement luncheon for Sgt. Derek Partridge after a total of 45 years in the fire fighting service. Sgt. Partridge served 14 years with the Choctaw Fire Department & was retired from the Meridian Fire Department after 31 years of service. Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben was in attendance for the luncheon & presented Sgt. Partridge a Choctaw basket in appreciation for his service to the Choctaw Fire Department & the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.



Remembering 9/11

In commemoration of the 22nd anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11/2001, members of the Choctaw Fire Department's A-Shift paid tribute on Sept. 11, 2023, in memory of the first responders & lives lost on that horrific day. Dressed in full gear, the firefighters walked 3 miles around the Choctaw Central High School track & walked 110 flights of stairs in Warrior Stadium, equivalent to the flights of stairs first responders had to climb inside the World Trade Center. Let us remember the lives lost & the heroism of all first responders who gave their lives for others & to those still with us today.



ISABELLA RENEE WILLIS COMBY

Funeral services for Isabella Renee Willis Comby, 27, was held on Friday, September 8, 2023, at the Red Water CERF Building. Deacon Shaunde Ahshapanek & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.



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

Mrs. Comby passed away on Sept. 1 in Walnut Grove, Miss.

She resided in the Red Water community & was employed at Koch's Food in Forest. She enjoyed being with family & friends.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents, Jim & Mary Willis, Audrey Wilson; mother, Wendy Wilson; children, twin babies; brothers, Brandon Wilson, Aaron James Wilson, Keagan Isaac & Baby Boy Willis; & an uncle.

Survivors include her spouse, Keyosha "Keya" Comby; father, Timothy Jim Willis, Sr.; sisters, Maegan Willis, Trinity Willis, Timesha Willis, Torianna Willis, Tiana Willis, & Taraji Willis; brothers, Timothy Willis, Jr., Treyvon Willis & Tyreke Willis; grandmother, Barbara Scobee; grandfather, Jerry Wilson; 5 aunts, 2 nieces, 3 nephews, & a host of relatives & friends.

MERLENE JOHN

Funeral services for Merlene

John, 79, was held on Saturday, September 9, 2023, at the Red Water Community Gymnasium.



Pastor Thomas Ben officiated. Burial was in the John Memorial Methodist Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. John passed away on Sept. 4 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw, Miss.

Raised in the Standing Pine community, she completed her education at Sequoyah Vocational School in Tahlequah, Okla. She married Batman Vardaman John & relocated to Dallas, TX with their family in 1965. She was a technician with the Zales Jewelry Company. In 1989, they moved to Red Water where she was employed at the Red Water Elementary School Cafeteria. She volunteered for the after-school program & was active in the development club & sang church hymns.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Houston & Edna Sam Lewis; husband, Batman Vardaman John; a daughter, Darnell John; sisters, Lucille Chickaway & Lennie Mae Lewis Comby; & brothers, Gilbert Jack Lewis, Winnard Lewis, Sr., Calvin Lewis, George Lewis, Roy Lee Coleman Lewis, Carrol Lewis, & Clifton Lewis.

Survivors include her daughter, Erin "Cookie" John; son, Errol John; sisters, Waudine Sockey & Ella Mae Isaac; brother, Truman Lewis; 8

continued next page

grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; a special niece & great-nephew, Kimberly Lewis & Vandy Lewis; & a host of relatives & friends.

DARON RAY CHARLIE

Funeral services for Daron Ray Charlie, 61, was held on Friday, September 15, 2023, at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. Deacon Billy Smith & Pastor Thomas Ben officiated.



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

Mr. Charlie passed away on Sept. 10 at Ochsner-Rush Hospital in Meridian, Miss.

He was a member of Calvary Indian Baptist Church & was a Security Guard at Silver Star Hotel & Casino. He enjoyed being with family, attending gatherings, doing crossword puzzles, watching sports, basketball, MSU Bulldogs football, & cheering on the Koni Hata stickball team.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Thomas R. Charlie & Necie King; sister, Belinda Cotton; brothers, Garth Charlie, Harold Charlie, & Delvin Charlie; & a grandson, David Anderson, Jr.

Survivors include his daughters, Sonya Charlie (Nekota) & Jaime B. Nickey; sons, Aaron Charlie (Hannah) & Daron Charlie II (Stacy); sister, Melinda Bell (Harlan); half-brother, Alvin Jefferson; an aunt; 12 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; & a host of relatives & friends.

THURDIS RAY TUBBY, SR.

Funeral services for Thurdis Ray Tubby, Sr., 52, was held

on Monday, September 18, 2023, at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta.



Deacon Williamson Isaac & Pastor Thomas Ben officiated.

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

Mr. Tubby passed away on Sept. 10 at Ascension St. John Hospital in Tulsa, Okla.

He resided in the Pearl River community & attended Choctaw Central High School. He later moved to Tulsa, Okla. He enjoyed socializing & talking with his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Leon Tubby, Sr. & Arlene Anderson Tubby; & sons, Thurdis Tubby, Jr. & Thurdict Tubby.

Survivors include his daughter, Hope Thomas; son, Coleman Willis; brother, Mack Anderson; 11 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MARIAN LEWIS

Funeral services for Marian Lewis, 63, was held on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at



the Standing Pine Community Gymnasium. Bro. Michael Sockey & Rev. Don Ahshapane, II officiated.

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

Ms. Lewis passed away on Sept. 12 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian, Miss.

She resided in the Standing Pine community where she

raised her family. She was previously employed as a teacher aide, cook, & custodian for the Choctaw Tribal Schools & was recently with the Senior Community Service Employment Program. She enjoyed cooking, baking, barbequing, reading, doing crossword puzzles, being on Facebook, watching old TV shows, & being with family.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Lynch & Nervie Lewis Bell; sisters, Maudine Bell, Janelle Bell, & Linda Alex; & brothers, Jack Rodger Bell, Mitchell Bell, & JD Bell.

Survivors include a daughter, George Ann Lewis; sons, Truman Lewis, Jr., Joseph Lewis, & Danny Bell; sisters, Julie Bell & Mae Bell; brothers, O'Neal Bell & Mike Bell; 18 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

ADDIE MAE WALLACE MARTIN

Funeral services for Addie Mae Wallace Martin, 59, was held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at Bogue Chitto Indian Baptist Church. Deacon Randy Jim & Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.



Burial was in the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Martin passed away on Sept. 18 at her residence.

She resided in the Bogue Chitto community & attended Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church. She enjoyed supporting her grandchildren in their activities, cooking outdoors, fishing, & working on puzzles.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Curtis D. Martin; parents, Almon Wallace & Imogene Thomas Wallace; a

daughter, Keshia Wallace; & brothers, Charles Wallace & Artis Wallace.

Survivors include her daughter, Kristen Wallace; sons, Kendril Wallace, Kendall Wallace, & Tyler Wallace; step-daughters, Lavonda Martin, Lydia Martin, Latonya Martin, & Cadenza Martin; sisters, Vane-da Wallace & Anita Wallace; a brother, Jason Wallace; 34 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

HULON WILLIS

Funeral services for Hulon Willis, 66, was held on Sunday, September 24, 2023, at



Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

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

Mr. Willis passed away on Sept. 18 at his residence.

He was a Army National Guard Veteran & member of Hope Indian Baptist Church. He resided in the Pearl River community & graduated from Choctaw Central High School in 1975. He was previously employed as a riverboat deckhand before working at Pearl River Resort in 1995. He worked in several positions & was a Security Shift Supervisor. He enjoyed reading, telling stories & jokes, being a New Orleans Saints fan, & being Papo to his grandchildren & great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Henderson & Maggie Scott Tubby, Bill & Sweeney Smith Willis; parents,

see OBITUARIES, pg. 32

OBITUARIES continued from page thirty-one

Claude & Gladys Willis; wife, Mary Bell Willis; daughter, Shannon Willis; son, Marcus Willis; sisters, Caroline Morris, Jennie Roa, & Baby Girl Norma Jean Willis; & a brother, Gillis Willis.

Survivors include his sisters, Annie Noah, Marilyn Tucker (Howard), Vanessa Pam McMillan, & Sandra Weaver; brothers, Hubert Willis & Travis Willis (Fannie); great-uncles, Billy Smith & Roy Smith; 8 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; a godson; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

KEVIN DAVID BRISCOE

F u n e r a l services for Kevin David Briscoe, 54, was held on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at the Bogue Homa CERF Building. Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.



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

Mr. Briscoe passed away on Sept. 20 at his residence.

He was a Baptist by faith & resided in the Pearl River community. He enjoyed traveling, meeting new friends, serving the community, supporting local sports teams, & cooking. He graduated from Northeast Jones High School in 1988 & earned his AA Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from Meridian Community College & Bachelor's Degree in Business Science Management from Belhaven University. He was also named the BSM Presidential Scholar Award recipient from Belhaven in 2005

Briscoe held several positions in the MBCI judicial court system. In 2002, he was first appointed as an Associate Youth Court Judge. He was then appointed Senior Youth Court Judge from 2010-2013. From 2002-2013, he held special assignments as a Peacemaker Judge, Youth Teen Court Judge, Youth Healing to Wellness Judge, & Adult Healing to Wellness Judge.

In 2013, Briscoe was appointed Chief Justice of the Choctaw Supreme Court & served in that capacity from 2013-2023. He served as a board member for the National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) from 2004-2020 & served as the group's director for Region 7 South for several years and earned the 2016 Judicial Excellence Award.

He also served on several committees & boards, including: the Mississippi Commission on Children's Justice; Model Court Lead Judge for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Association (NCJFCJ); Project Advisory Board for The Center for Court Innovation (CCI); Tribal Judicial Institute with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; Native American Rights Fund (NARF) Indigenous Peacemaking Advisory Committee and being a national trainer for Peacemaking.

He was a strong advocate for Native children and families and established the annual State-Tribal Mississippi ICWA Conference. He helped create a Memorandum of Understanding between the Tribe and the State of Mississippi on child welfare that was signed by Governor Phil Bryant and Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson. He also served as a bridge for Tribal-State Court Judicial Collaboration on a national level.

Briscoe had the honor of administering the Oaths of Office during the swearing-in ceremonies for Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson in 2015 and Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben in 2019.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Scott Briscoe, Sr. & Shirley Ann Chapman Briscoe; maternal grandparents, Frank & Mary McMillan Chapman; 5 aunts & 4 uncles.

Survivors include his sister, Beverly Briscoe Murphy (Ray); brothers, Greg Briscoe, Robert Briscoe, & Scott Briscoe, Jr. (Mary); 3 aunts; an uncle; 2 special cousins; 3 nieces; 4 nephews; & a hosts of cousins, great-nieces, & great-nephews.

CEDRIC TRENT CHICKAWAY

F u n e r a l services for Cedric Trent Chickaway, 42, was held on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at the Tucker CERF Building. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.



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

Mr. Chickaway passed away on Sept. 21 at his residence.

He resided in the Tucker community & was previously employed as a driver for Choctaw Transit, security at Bok Homa Casino, & soft count attendant at Silver Star Casino. He enjoyed watching sports, playing stickball in his younger years, going to the casino, telling jokes, & being a LSU Tigers fan.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Clement & Lurline Chickaway, Roger & Audie Mae Willis; an aunt; 9

uncles; & a nephew.

Survivors include his parents, Billy & Delphia Willis Chickaway; sons, Lakenton Chickaway & Cedrian Chickaway; brothers, Ryan Chickaway & Irwin Billie; 2 aunts; 3 uncles; a nephew; & a host of relatives & friends.

GILBERT RAY BELL, SR.

F u n e r a l services for Gilbert Ray Bell, Sr., 59, was held on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at the Conehatta Community Gymnasium. Rev. Brian Parkman officiated.



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

Mr. Bell passed away on Sept. 22 at Delta Regional Medical Center in Greenville, Miss.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, listening to music, fixing or building things, & being with family.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Arthur Farmer, Sr. & Susie Bell Sockey; daughter, Cyntina Bell; sons, Gilberth Bell & Gilbert Casey Bell; sister, Vanell Farmer; brothers, Henry Farmer & Ricky Farmer; & 3 grandchildren.

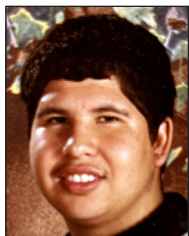
Survivors include his daughters, Kristina Jim, Relinda Blalock, Casey Bell, Sheanell Bell, & Shenita Bell; sons, Tolbert Bell, Gilbert Bell, Jr., & Jason Sam; 11 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

DAKOTA BRYANT BELL

Graveside services for Dakota Bryant Bell, 32, was held on

continued next page

Sunday, October 15, 2023, at the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church Cemetery. Rev. Daniel Tubby officiated.



Mr. Bell passed away on Sept. 23 in Choctaw, Miss.

Raised in Blountsville, Ala., he attended JB Pennington High School & was on the football team. He was a member of Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church & enjoyed working on vehicles & ATV's, doing tattoos, pen & ink drawings, playing with the Warriors Stickball Team, & helping others.

He is preceded in death by his grandmothers, Betty Bell & Jurietha Pass; & a niece, Hallie Smith.

Survivors include his mother, Elizabeth (Beth Bell) Pass; father, Brian K. Bell; sister, Cheyenne (Clint) Bell Smith; brothers, Tahlequah T. (Christina) Bell & Jayce B. Bell; grandfather, Bill Pass; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

DORIS ANN BEN WILLIS

Funeral services for Doris Ann Ben Willis, 82, was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River.

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

Ms. Willis passed away on Oct. 6 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian, Miss.

She was a member of Arkabutla United Methodist Church & enjoyed gardening & being outdoors.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Melvin Willis; parents, Mike Ben & Otis Tubby Ben; sisters, Marcela Vaughn & Sadie Hisson;

brothers, Freeman Ben & David Ben; & a nephew, Gene Vaughn.

Survivors include her nephews, Michael Hisson, Greg Hisson & Kevin Edwards; & a host of relatives & friends.

JAMES KEVIN GRANT, SR.

Funeral services for James Kevin Grant, Sr., 57, was held on Friday, October 13, 2023, at the Conehatta Baptist Church. Bro. Shannon Davis officiated.



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

Mr. Grant passed away on Oct. 10 at his residence.

He was a member of Conehatta Baptist Church & enjoyed being with family & grandchildren, doing carpentry work & fixing vehicles.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert James Grant & Donna Jean Farmer Denson; & a sister, Tammy Denise Grant.

Survivors include his wife, Beth Grant; daughter, Amber Lynn Kyzar (Eric); son, James Kevin Grant, Jr.; brothers, Kenneth Grant & Shaun Grant (Gwynn); 3 grandchildren; & numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ROSE NELL CLEMONS

Funeral services for Rose Nell Clemmons, 55, was held on Sunday, October 15, 2023, at the Pearl River CERF Building. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.



Burial was in the Bogue Chit-

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

Ms. Clemons passed away on Oct. 12 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She resided in the Pearl River community & was a member of Hope Indian Baptist Church. She enjoyed watching TV, playing Bingo, telling jokes, & being with family & friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Betty & Jerry Clemons, Sr.; sons, Thurdis Tubby, Jr. & Thurdick Tubby; a sister, Priscilla Clemons; brothers, Johnny Clemons & Jerry Clemons, Jr.; & a special brother, Jared Jaye Jim.

Survivors include her nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, relatives, & friends.

JARED JAYE JIM

Funeral services for Jared Jaye Jim, 45, was held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River. Deacon Marco Patrick & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.



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

Mr. Jim passed away on Oct. 12 at his residence.

He resided in the Pearl River community & was a member of Hope Indian Baptist Church where he served as assistant Sunday school superintendent. He graduated from Choctaw Central High School & East Central Community College. He earned a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University, master's degree from Belhaven & was working on his doctoral degree in business. He enjoyed beading, texting, talking on the phone, & telling

jokes. He was preceded in death by his parents, Vernon & Elsie Willis Jim; sisters, Thelma Barnes & Daisy Ann Jim; brothers, Barry Davis Jim, Sr. & Waggoner Jim; half-sisters, Odean Bell Nickey & Anna Dixon Farmer; & half-brothers, Emmette Dixon, Harold Jefferson, & Harry Dixon.

Survivors include his sister, Peggy (Allen) Davis; brothers, Jimmy Jim & Davis Jim; half-sisters, Sarah Dixon Willis & Anna Dixon; half-brothers, Steve Dixon, Chester Dixon, Paul Jefferson, & Kenneth Dixon; & a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, & friends.

CARSON LINRO BILLY

Funeral services for Carson Linro Billy, 73, was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Red Water. Deacon Ricky Edwards, Sr. & Pastor Carl Wilson officiated.



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

Mr. Billy passed away on Oct. 14 at his residence.

He resided in the Red Water community & enjoyed repairing vehicles & lawnmowers, being outdoors & working on his lawn. He graduated from Choctaw Central & was employed at various businesses until his retirement in 2015. He enjoyed watching TV & being with family & friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Ike & Lusan Wilson Billy; son, Jarrod Ethan Billy; sisters, Rose Mary Wilson, Nannie Mitch, Katie Willis,

Ruth Ann Willis, & Lilly Billy; brothers, John Billie, Cephus Billy, Lewis Billy, Herman Billie, Larry Billy, & Samson Billy.

Survivors include his daughter, Penny Lynn Mitch; son, Travis Linroy Wilson; sisters, Clarice Billy & Nancy Sockey; 8 grandchildren; a special companion, Emma Sam; & a host of relatives & friends.

HARRY RUSSELL THOMPSON

Funeral services for Harry Russell Thompson, 71, was held on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. 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 Oct. 20 at the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson, Tenn.

He was a member of First Indian Baptist Church in Ripley, Tenn. He was a U.S. Army Veteran & was previously employed as a team leader & supervisor at Maremont, then a conservative worker for the state of Tennessee. For the last 20 years, he served the MBCI as coordinator for the Henning Multi-Purpose Building. He was a chanter for the West Tennessee Social Dancers & enjoyed watching western shows & wrestling, fishing with his family, riding "the bottoms" of Ripley, & cheering for the Tennessee Titans.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Melvin & Jessie Thompson; & a brother, Dezmund Thompson.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra Thompson; daughters

Dorian Thompson & Andrea Thompson; a son, Jamison Thompson; a granddaughter, Maleah Thompson; an aunt, Claudia Thompson; & a host of relatives & friends.

MARSHALL LEE LEWIS

Funeral services for Marshall Lee Lewis, 47, was held on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at the Standing Pine Community Gymnasium. Deacon Ricky Edwards, Sr. & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.



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

Mr. Lewis passed away on Oct. 25 at the University of Alabama Heart & Vascular Center in Birmingham, Ala.

He was a member of Mt. Zion Indian Baptist Church & was previously employed as a poultry handler then with the Choctaw Central High School cafeteria until his illness. He enjoyed listening to music on his phone, socializing, being at the casino, & being a fan of the Tennessee Titans & Florida Gators.

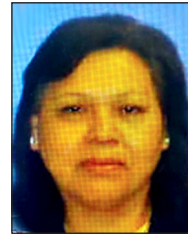
He is preceded in death by his wife, Daphne Marie Ben Lewis; parents, Coleman Roy Lee Lewis & Dallas Willis Lewis; son, Josie Lee Lewis; & a sister, Dianne Louise Lewis Chickaway.

Survivors include his sisters, Lynette Willis, Trudy Lewis, Martisha Perez, & Dwilette Lewis; a brother, Benjamin Lewis; & a host of relatives & friends.

LINDA JANE CAREY

Funeral services for Linda Jane Carey, 75, was held

on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at the McClain-Hays Chapel in Philadelphia.



Father Joffin George officiated.

Burial was in the Pearl River Community Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Carey passed away on Oct. 28.

She was Catholic by faith. Born & raised in Neshoba County, she graduated from Choctaw Central High School & attended Haskell Junior College in Lawrence, Kan. She was employed as a secretary for the Choctaw Tribal Schools & later in the call center for Pearl River Resort until her retirement. She loved to read, doing beadwork, attending pow-wows & flea markets. She enjoyed playing softball & basketball in her younger days. She especially enjoyed attending her children & grandchildren's sporting events.

She was preceded in death by her parents, J.C. Tubby & Mary Lou Sam; step-father, Ellis Sam; sister, Henrietta Thomas; & a brother, Thurman Sam.

Survivors include her husband, Charles E. Carey; daughters, Tracy Shoemake (Greg) & Taryn Stell (David); sons, Charles Eugene Carey (Doreen) & Michael Shane Carey; 13 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a sister, Velma Henry; brothers, Dorman Sam & Norman Sam; several nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ANGELINE JOHN DIXON

Funeral services for Angelina John Dixon, 65, was held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at the Red Water CERF Building. Pastor Thomas Ben officiated.

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



Ms. Dixon passed away on Oct. 27 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

She was a member of John Memorial Methodist Church & enjoyed spending time with her family & watching sports.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Bilbo John & Eunice Isaac John; sisters, Mary Lou Wilson, Rosie Marie John Steptin, Judy Ann John Mitch, Deles Marie John Deon, Leona John Dixon, & Carmelita John Dixon; & brothers, Hillman John & Delano John.

Survivors include her sons, Alexander Dixon & Howard Dixon, Jr.; 4 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

RYAN KURT TUBBY

Funeral services for Ryan Kurt Tubby, 50, was held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at the



Red Water Community Gymnasium. Rev. Daniel Tubby & Pastor Thomas Ben officiated.

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

Mr. Tubby passed away on Oct. 28 at Merit Health River Oaks Hospital in Flowood, Miss.

He lived most of his life in the Red Water community before residing in Philadelphia. He enjoyed watching

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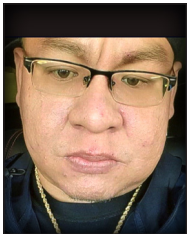
Superman movies & Supernatural TV show. He was a fan of the Dallas Cowboys & enjoyed being with family & friends, & singing along to 80's music.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Rufus Tubby & Billie Jean John; sister, Bridgette Lindsay Tubby; & a brother, Michael Anthony Tubby.

Survivors include his sisters, Olivia Tubby Evans, Charisity L. Tubby, & Kristen Tubby; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ROBERT PAUL TUBBY, JR.

Funeral services for Robert Paul Tubby, Jr., 41, was held on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at the Pearl River Baptist Church. Rev. Ricky Thompson, Sr. officiated.



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

Mr. Tubby passed away on Oct. 28 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw, Miss.

He lived most of his life in the Pearl River community, but lived in Sylva, N.C., since 2017. He was a table games dealer at Harrah's Casino in Cherokee. He enjoyed texting, going to the casino, & being with family & friends.

He is preceded in death by his father, Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr.; grandparents, Johnson & Annie May Farve Williams, Earnest & Effie Isaac Tubby; & 4 aunts.

Survivors include his daughters, Abrey Tubby & Amerie Bell; sons, Canaan Tubby & Izaih Tubby; mother, Lana Tubby; sisters, Angelina Martin, Tamika Tubby, Desiree McMillan, & Annette Chickaway; brother, William Tubby; special companion, Michelle

Delvalle; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JOHN YANNASH USHI CLEMONS

Funeral services for John Yannash Ushi Clemons, 21, was held on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at the Pearl River CERF Building. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.



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

Mr. Clemons passed away on Oct. 29 in Jackson, Miss.

A resident of the Pearl River community, he graduated from Choctaw Central in 2021 & continued his education at East Central Community College in the Culinary Arts Program. He was employed as a custodian at Pearl River Elementary School. He enjoyed traveling, fishing, watching wrestling, playing video games, being active with his family, playing sports, board & card games, supporting the Beaver Dam stickball teams, & being with his companion & her siblings.

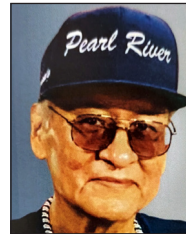
He is preceded in death by his father, Johnny R. Clemons, Sr.; brother, Johnny Ray Clemons, Jr.; grandparents, Clavin J. Isaac, Jerry & Betty Clemons; 4 aunts & 2 uncles.

Survivors include his parents, Margaret & Joe Bell, Sr.;

companion, Saerin Chickaway; sisters, Debria Watson, Sabrina Isaac, Kalvenlena Bell, DeLana R. Willis, Martha Clemons, & Lindsey Navarro; brothers, Isaiah Clemons, Dwain Clemons, & Joe Bell, Jr.; & a host of great-aunts, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, & friends.

RANDY LEE JIMMIE

Funeral services for Randy Lee Jimmie, 66, was held on Friday, November 3, 2023, at the Pearl River Community Center. Rev. Ricky Thompson, Sr. officiated.



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

Mr. Jimmie passed away on Oct. 30 at his residence.

A resident of the Pearl River community, he was a 1976 graduate of Choctaw Central then Haskell Indian Nations University. After college, he was employed with Chahta Enterprise in wire harnessing & later became a supervisor. After 30 years of service, he

transitioned to Chahta Laundry where he was a truck driver then production supervisor. He retired in 2022. He enjoyed fishing, watching football, grilling, & attending his grandchildren's sporting events. He was an inaugural member of the Independence championship team, then became a player & coach for the Pearl River stickball team.


He is preceded in death by his mother, Charlotte Jimmie; son, Damian Jimmie; & sister, Jacqueline Jimmie.

Survivors include his daughter, Dyranda Jimmie; son, Shaun Jimmie; sister, Stacie Lilly; 9 grandchildren; a special companion, Gail Thompson; 1 niece; 4 nephews; 6 aunts; & a host of relatives & friends.

Welcome To

NANIH WAIYA
INDIAN
Mennonite Church

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



LIVING WATER
UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

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

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

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

Come & Worship with us



MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
130 Campus Drive
Conehatta, MS 39057

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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


1st Sunday Service 4:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Samuel Dixon

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

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

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

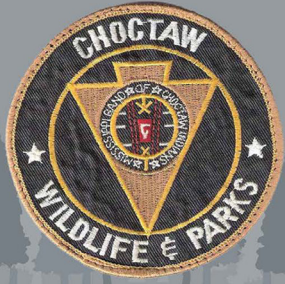
Come Join Us...



Spirit of Life
CHRISTIAN CENTER

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

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



2023 - 2024 HUNTING & FISHING SEASONS



MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Hunting Season	Bag Limit
A Bobwhite Quail 11/23/23 - 03/02/24	8/day; 16 poss.
B Turkey, either sex 10/14/23 - 11/14/23 (Gobbler with 6-inch beard or longer)	1/day; 2/fall season
Turkey, Gobblers only 03/15/24 - 05/01/24 (Gobbler with 6-inch beard or longer)	1/day; 2/spring season
Youth Turkey 03/08/24 - 03/14/24 (May harvest 1 gobbler any age)	1/day; 2/spring season
C Squirrel 09/30/23 - 02/29/24	8/day; 16 poss.
Youth Squirrel 09/23/23 - 09/29/23	8/day; 16 poss.
D Deer - either sex	



ALL BUCKS MUST BE 6 POINTS OR HIGHER DURING THE 2023-2024 SEASON. Exception: Youth less than fifteen (15) years old and elders (50+ years old) may have harvest one (1) buck with any hardened antler, regardless of number of points, inside spread, or beam length.

Bag Limit

Bucks: Three (3) per season, one (1) per day

Does: Six (6) per season, two (2) per day; with additional two (2) allowed with archery

Archery Only	10/01/23 - 10/31/23
Youth (Gun)	10/21/23 - 10/31/23
Gun (without dog)	11/01/23 - 11/10/23
Gun (with dog)	11/11/23 - 12/01/23
Gun (without dog)	12/04/23 - 12/17/23
Gun (with dog)	12/18/23 - 01/21/24
Archery/Primitive/Gun (without dogs)	01/22/24 - 02/11/24

	Bag Limit
E Rabbit 10/14/23 - 02/29/24	8/day; 16 poss.
Cultural Rabbit Stick (with dogs) 09/23/23 - 03/03/24	8/day; 16 poss.
F Fox, crow, blackbirds No closed season	No limit
G Wild hog No guns in October Archery Only No closed season	No limit
H Opossum, raccoon, bobcat 09/30/23 - 02/29/24	No limit
Raccoon only 07/01/24 - 09/30/24	1/nightly; 2 poss.
I Frogs 04/01/24 - 09/30/24	25/nightly; 50 poss.
J Trapping 11/01/23 - 03/15/24	No limit

1.2 MIGRATORY BIRDS (including Doves)

- Regulations and Season will follow federal and state requirements.

1.3 FISHING

- No Closed Season

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

© 2023 MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER (SAD)

A form of depression, in which people that have normal mental health most of the year, experience beginning fall and winter when there is less light, less activity, colder temperatures and a changing schedule.

SAD is highly treatable with a variety of options:

- Light Therapy
- Psychotherapy
- Medication

Symptoms of SAD are:

- Loss of energy
- Oversleeping
- Increased anxiety
- Feeling sad
- Craving food with lots of sugar like cakes, candies and cookies.

- Spending more time outdoors
- Eating a balanced diet
- Getting enough sleep
- Limiting alcohol use
- Avoiding drugs
- Create a buddy system to have someone you can call when you feel down.

If you or someone you know seems to be suffering from seasonal depression or other mental health concerns please contact your local provider or Choctaw Behavioral Health at 601-389-4150.

This flyer was developed (in part) under grant number 5H79SM082142 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS