

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Tribe Hosts Annual Thanksgiving Feast

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians hosted the 2017 Reservation-Wide Thanksgiving Feast on Tuesday, November 14 as Tribal members, guests & dignitaries gathered in the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw.

Tribal drummers led a

procession of dignitaries as members of the Choctaw Color Guard posted the flags. Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) senior Darien Tubby sang the National Anthem in Choctaw & Pastor Thomas Ben of the Spirit of Life Christian Center offered the

invocation.

Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson shared the Tribe's recent accomplishments, but also her concerns.

"Anytime any member of our Tribe is in harms way, that should concern all of us. We naturally want to protect our homes, our families, our way of life. We want to make sure we have a sense of security in our communities," said Chief Anderson.

In order to protect tribal members, Chief Anderson is working in conjunction with the Judicial Affairs Committee, Attorney General's Office & a taskforce working group to implement the Tribal Law & Order Act & Violence Against Women Act.

"Let us all remember

that it is also our responsibility as tribal members, parents, guardians, & neighbors to be mindful of what's going on within our communities. We must report & report early, & we must take care & support each other as tribal members."

"As elected leaders, it is our responsibility to report & share with you the work & progress of

our tribe. We should always be respectful of each other. We have very important work to do, & I pray that we find a common ground, a common purpose that will benefit all the Tribe & Tribal members," added Chief Anderson.

A video presentation highlighting the Tribe's recent accomplishments was shown.

.....see FEAST, pg. 12

MBCI Economic Development Website Now Online

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Office of Economic Development recently launched a new website focused on attracting & recruiting new business opportunities for the MBCI.

The website (www.MsChoctawbizopps.com) allows people who are not familiar with the MBCI to further understand who we are & what advantages we offer in our business relationships. Officials are excited about the direction they are heading as the website offers potential business partners helpful insights about the advantages of working with MBCI, as well as guides on how to do business with the Mississippi Choctaws.

A great resource to see what MBCI has built in regards to its economic diversity over the last 40 years, the website also provides information about land & facilities that are available for rent & includes the latest in tribal & economic development news.

The purpose of the Office of Economic Development is to support new opportunities, grow the economy & create more new jobs for the community.

For more information, visit www.MsChoctawbizopps.com, or contact Jason Grisham, Economic Development Specialist, at 601-650-1605, or email at jgrisham@choctaw.org.



Members of the Choctaw Central Social Dancers perform at the Reservation-Wide Thanksgiving Feast on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at the Silver Star Convention Center.

Congratulations CHOCTAW CENTRAL LADY WARRIORS

MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

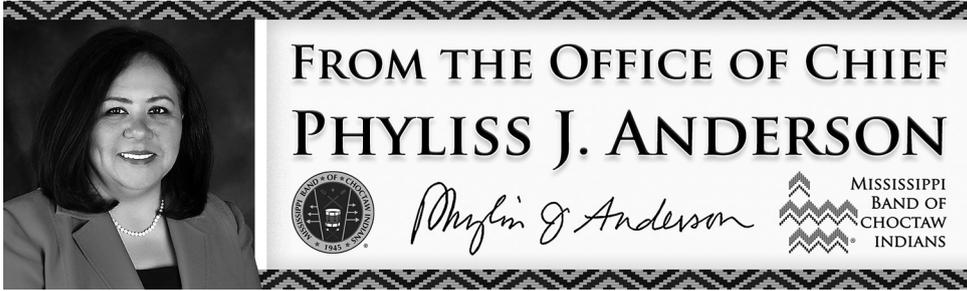
POWERADE

CLASS 3A

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

2017

STATE CHAMPIONS



Warm Greetings from the Choctaw Tribal Offices! There is much excitement and activity going on throughout the Reservation. Football and slow pitch softball seasons have come to an end, but our other fall and winter sports are beginning.

We have experienced another beautiful fall season of God's glorious colors and gifts. It is truly a blessing to watch the trees change and the air turn crisp and cool.

This is also a time of year that we enjoy gathering with friends and family for a time of fellowship and thanksgiving. And we have so much to be thankful for as a Tribe.

We have been blessed beyond measure and I am so happy to share the wonderful news of our progress and great successes in 2017.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

I signed a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month on the Reservation. Throughout the month, activities were held to bring awareness to the issue and to honor the survivors and remember those who have passed away due to domestic violence.

I commend the Department of Family and Community Services for their efforts to ensure that victims and survivors are well cared for and given the help that they need. Domestic violence is NOT a Choctaw tradition.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, or if you know of a situation that is happening, please seek out help. You can

contact local law enforcement, or call Family Violence and Victims Services at (601) 650-1774. Break the silence and stop the violence.

READ ALOUD MONTH

I enjoyed the visits I made to our Tribal elementary schools for Read Aloud Month. It was a joy to see the excitement and enthusiasm of the children as they welcomed me into their classrooms and allowed me to read to them.

I want to thank Tribal Development Division Director James Robinson and Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox for reading to students as well. I also thank parents, family members, community members and others who took the time to visit the schools and read.

Reading can open up a world of learning, curiosity, imagination and creativity for our students. I encourage families to help nurture a child's love of reading and help build a foundation of success in their education.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

October was also Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention



Pictured with Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson at the MS Top 50 Awards Banquet are Mississippi's Speaker of the House Phillip Gunn (left) & Congressman Trent Kelly from Mississippi's First District.

Month. Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in women, and although rare, men can also be diagnosed with breast cancer.

It is important for everyone to be aware of the signs of breast cancer, learn about risk factors and to follow recommendations for when to undertake breast cancer screenings, such as a mammography screening.

I thank every organization who held "Pink Out" events throughout the month to bring awareness to this disease and celebrate with those who have won the fight and to commemorate those who lost the battle.

TOP 50 AWARD

I was so honored and humbled to be presented with the Mississippi Top 50 Award at an awards dinner at the Mississippi State Capitol on October 17, 2017. The award recognizes individuals of influence that help, by virtue of their position and talent, move Mississippi forward.

Mississippi Top 50 is an annual list of the people who are judged to be the most influential leaders in the state. This bipartisan selection of leaders comes from the ranks of elected and appointed officials, economic development professionals, business, media and government affairs.

The awards are sponsored by Y'all Politics and Supertalk Mississippi, and awardees were nominated through an open process.

I thank those individuals who nominated me for this honor, and I accept it on behalf of the Choctaw people, for it is you who have been my inspiration to create and build upon all of the successes that we have enjoyed in the past six years.

CCHS SPORTS UPDATE

Our Warriors and Lady Warriors cross country teams have been doing very well throughout their season. The cross country ...continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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CHOCTAW, MS 39350**

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*Brian C. WillisCommunications Manager
Darron TubbyCommunications Writer
Melford FarveCommunications Writer*

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

state championships were held at Choctaw Trails on the campus of Mississippi College on Monday, November 6, 2017. We had excellent results with our girls team bringing home the state championship title.

The CCHS basketball season kicked-off on November 4th with the Choctaw Classic. The Warriors and Lady Warriors are once again hoping for a visit to the Big House, with the Lady Warriors looking to defend their championship title.

Our Warriors and Lady Warriors soccer teams are also gearing up for another exciting season. Their first game was November 9th. I thank all of our players and coaches for their hard work and dedication, and I urge everyone to come out and

show their support to our outstanding athletes.

**MOVING
PROGRESS
FORWARD IN 2017**

As we reach the end of another year I'd like to provide a look back at the progress the Tribe has made.

Early in 2017 the council passed a budget for the \$18 Million Ramah settlement the Tribe received from the federal government. In addition to a one-time increase to a \$800 distribution per tribal member during the July distribution period, the council and I also believe in reinvesting the money back into our communities for much needed projects.

These budgeted and upcoming projects include a new building

for Pearl River Upper Elementary School, a new Infant & Toddler Center in Pearl River, a new Day Care Center in Standing Pine, Community Housing Projects and Land Purchases, Electronic Voting Machines and a Recreational Football Project.

Other great accomplishments in 2017 include:

- 14 new houses in the Tushka Subdivision in Conehatta;
- A new Saferoom at Pearl River Elementary School;
- Construction of a new softball field at Choctaw Central High School;
- 247 home roof replacements for our tribal elders living on reservation;
- Renovation and re-opening of the Wetlands Discovery Zone in

Conehatta;

- Bogue Chitto Softball Field improvements;
- New lighting at the Conehatta stickball and softball fields;
- New docks at Lake Pushmataha;
- Newly renovated Entertainment House;
- New playground, fencing and lighting in Red Water;
- New computers for Tucker Boys & Girls Club and storage shed;
- Van Donations to Hope Baptist Church in Pearl River and Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta.

Many of our student athletes and teams have also received awards and recognitions including:

- CCHS Girls Cross Country State Championship Team;
- CCHS Lady Warriors

- Basketball 3A State Championship Team;
- CCHS Unified Championship Basketball Team;
- CCHS Solar Car Team at the World Solar Challenge in Australia;
- The Top 50 Leadership Award – Chief Phyliss J. Anderson recipient.

These are just some highlights and I look forward to another great year of progress in 2018.

**RESORT PROGRESS
AND UPDATES**

The Resort continues to be profitable and mark important milestones in 2017. We made \$94.8 in profits all while significantly paying down debt. Tribal member employment is at its highest levels ever from 28% in 2007 to 49% currently. And we continue to promote our own tribal members into executive and management positions.

This month, I had the wonderful opportunity to host a luncheon to introduce our new Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise board members. They are Secretary-Treasurer Richard Isaac, Councilwoman Loriann Ahshapanek, Councilman Richard Sockey and Councilwoman Davita McClelland. I was so proud to present this capable and progressive new board to our Resort management team.

At this luncheon, we also introduced the management team at Pearl

....see LETTER, pg. 4



LETTER continued from page three

River Resort. I was so delighted to see many of our own tribal members serving in important leadership roles in departments throughout the casinos and resort properties.

This year also marks an important milestone in our credit history at the resort. Because of strong and responsible management at our resort, healthy balance sheets, and restored confidence of financial institutions we were able to refinance our casinos to the lowest rate we've

ever had.

We went from a rate of 7.25% interest to 2.5% interest saving our Tribe \$8.5 Million in interest savings every year! We now have the lowest interest rate and debt in our gaming history!

Our resort has also been recognized and awarded for various community service projects and for outstanding resort amenities and offerings. These awards and accolades include:

- Mississippi Honors Awards for Diversity;
- Geysers Falls Best of

Mississippi – Mississippi Magazine;

· Dancing Rabbit #33 in Nation by Golf Magazine;

· Spirit of Promise Corporate Award – Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Congratulations to our Resort Associates for a wonderful year. Keep up the good work and let's make 2018 even better!

THANKSGIVING FEASTS CELEBRATIONS

We had another won-

derful season of Thanksgiving as we celebrated the Henning Community Feast on Sunday, November 5th at the Henning Multi-Purpose Facility Building and the Tribal-wide feast on Tuesday, November 14th at the Silver Star Convention Center.

In total we provided almost 5,000 Thanksgiving meals to tribal members.

In Henning, it was a time of fellowship but also a time to look back over the last few years at all we have been able to

accomplish for the residents living in the Henning community.

Since taking office, my administration has provided a great number of resources for Henning including the new Henning Multi-Purpose Building, a full-time facility building coordinator, basketball court with seating and concessions, a community meeting room and offices, full-time Choctaw Police presence with living quarters, a community

...continued next page

Voters Reject Resolution CHO 17-033

A proposed \$25 million casino project in the Red Water community of Leake County has been rejected by members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as a result of a special reservation-wide referendum vote held on Thursday, November 16.

The final tally was 1,506 No - 710 Yes, which included absentee ballots, according to official results released by the Tribal Election Committee on Nov. 17.

With a total number of 5,492 registered Tribal voters, the number of registered voters to meet a 40 percent voter requirement for the referendum to become valid was 2,197. The official total number of voters was 2,230, or 40.6 percent.

lowing communities are listed in the right table.

There were a total of 14 rejected votes and 7 spoiled/voter not properly registered ballots.

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson issued the following statement: "Today, members of the Tribe voted in a special referendum election on the Red Water Casino. The preliminary results show that the will of the people is not to expand in the Red Water community and I respect the decision of our voters."

"My commitment to our Tribe and people is to always do what I feel is in the best interest of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. We will continue to explore other opportunities to build on our existing success for our Tribe."

The Tribe owns and operates Pearl River Re-

sort, whose portfolio of assets includes three casinos in the state, Silver Star Hotel & Casino and Golden Moon Hotel & Casino in Choctaw and Bok Homa Casino in Sandersville.

On January 27, 2017, the Choctaw Tribal Council, via 9-7 vote, adopted Resolution CHO 17-033: A Resolution to Expand Gaming and Make Resort Area Designation in the Red Water Community, Choctaw Indian Reservation.

Opponents of the project stated the new Red Water Casino would take business away from the existing casinos and initiated a petition drive to have a referendum vote on the issue.

After the petition was denied, the sponsors appealed to the Choctaw Tribal Court where a

REFERENDUM NO. 2017-01 RED WATER CASINO PROJECT OFFICIAL RESULTS OF NOVEMBER 16, 2017 REFERENDUM ELECTION					
TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED TRIBAL VOTERS: 5492					
NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS TO MEET 40% VOTER REQUIREMENT: 2197					
PERCENTAGE OF REGISTERED VOTERS WHO VOTED IN ELECTION: 40.6%					
	Number of Registered Voters Who Voted (Polls + Absentee)	YES	NO	Rejected	Spoiled/ Voter Not Properly Registered
Bogue Chitto	292 + 10	73 + 2	217 + 8	2	
BC - Henning	35 + 3	4 + 0	31 + 3		
Bogue Homa	88 + 1	11 + 0	77 + 0	1 (absentee)	2
Conehatta	288 + 6	78 + 1	209 + 5	1	
Crystal Ridge	55 + 2	17 + 1	38 + 1		
Pearl River	744 + 49	213 + 17	525 + 32	6	3
Red Water	203 + 9	133 + 8	69 + 1	1	
Standing Pine	191 + 16	78 + 13	112 + 3	1	
Tucker	221 + 17	47 + 14	172 + 3	2	
TOTAL	2117 + 113	654 + 56	1450 + 56	13 + 1	7
TOTALS INCLUDING ABSENTEE BALLOTS	2230	710	1506	14	

judge ruled a legally sufficient number of valid petitions were submitted as required by the MBCI Constitution and Tribal Election Code to call the referendum election.

Chief Anderson stated it was in the best interest of the Tribe to stop further legal proceedings and move forward with a vote on whether or not the Red Water Casino project should proceed rather than appealing the Tribal Court's ruling.

The proposed 35,800 square-foot Red Water Casino was to have featured 500 slots, 10 table games, grab and go and seated dining.

Officials said the project would have created 200 new jobs and an estimated \$50 million in annual revenue.

The outcome of the referendum has reversed Resolution CHO 17-033.

health representative, community infrastructure repairs, and, most importantly, we have successfully placed the Henning lands into federal trust for our Tribe.

Looking back, it is very evident on the work and success we have built in the Henning community in just a few years. That is certainly something to be thankful for!

At the Tribal-wide Thanksgiving Feast, we had a great turnout of tribal members from all our communities. This year we featured a year-in-review video to look back on the accomplishments in 2017 and the upcoming work we have in progress.

We had a wonderful presentation of traditional social dancing by the Choctaw Central Social Dancers. During the

stage ceremony, I was so honored to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our various Choctaw Stickball Division Champions, the Choctaw Central Tushka Hashi Solar Car Team, the 2017 Choctaw Central Unified Team, the 2017 CCHS Lady Warriors Championship Basketball Team, and the 2017 CCHS Lady Warriors Cross Country team.

As always, we have a wonderful group of volunteers that help us pull off this huge event – our amazing decorating team, Choctaw tribal schools students, day training program, transportation staff, Pearl River Resort associates, the Choctaw Elderly Center, administration staff, facility building staff, Public Information, Choctaw Video,

and our various stage participants.

I especially want to thank our beautiful Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Lann Cox for taking the stage and helping with presentations and the ceremony. It takes a great team to pull off this event and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. We certainly have many blessings to count in 2017!

VETERANS DAY PARADE & POW-WOW

On November 9, 2017, MBCI Choctaw Veterans Affairs hosted the 15th Annual Veterans Day Parade. This year's parade and pow-wow was very well attended and featured more than 30 entries.

Grand Marshals for the parade were Staff

Sergeant Natasha John and Sergeant Jobie Charlie, both of the Army National Guard.

Guest speaker during the ceremony was Mr. Jimmy Manning, a Navy Veteran currently serving as coordinator for Minority Veterans in Mississippi.

A big thank you to our event coordinators and veterans parade committee for another job well done.

I also want to offer my congratulations to our parade winners: Car Division – Choctaw Transit, Float Division – Boys & Girls Club of MBCI, Walker Division – CCHS Visual Arts.

Most importantly, I want to express my gratitude to those brave men and women who selflessly serve our country

in the armed forces to protect our freedoms. Your sacrifices are greatly commended!

CLOSING

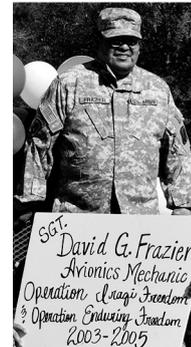
As always, whenever the temperatures fall, please check up on elders and those who need extra assistance to make sure they are all right and to see if they are adequately prepared to handle the cold weather.

I do look forward to celebrating the festive holiday season with all of you.

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson

Phyllis J. Anderson, Tribal Chief



Pictured above are members of the West Tennessee Choctaw Social Dancers with Chief Anderson, community members getting in line to receive their meal & Santa Claus making a visit to bring joy to the community children.

Several organizations honored veterans as they participated in the MBCI Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 9 in Choctaw.



CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed is a brief summary & action taken. Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/or its attachment must have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM completed & submitted to the Policy & Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

REGULAR CALL MEETING - OCT. 10

Resolution CHO 18-001, confirming the judicial appointment of Anthony Drew Taylor as Criminal Court Judge to the Choctaw Tribal Courts, was ADOPTED 13 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson*); 1 NO (*B. McMillan*); 3 ABSTAIN (*R. Anderson, T. Anderson, & W. McMillan*).

Resolution CHO 18-002, approving amendments to the Administrative Personnel Policy & Procedures, was ADOPTED 9 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, & K. Wallace*); 7 NO (*R. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, & D. Wilson*); 1 ABSTAIN (*C. Eaves*).

Resolution CHO 18-003, confirming appointments to the Chahta Enterprise Board of Directors, was ADOPTED 14 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, D. McClelland, B. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K.*

Wallace, & D. Wilson); 2 NO (*R. Anderson & W. McMillan*); 1 ABSTAIN (*T. Anderson*).

Resolution CHO 18-004, confirming appointments to the Choctaw Residential Center Enterprise Board of Directors, was ADOPTED 16 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, D. McClelland, B. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson*); 1 NO (*W. McMillan*); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-005, confirming appointments to the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise Board of Directors, was ADOPTED 11 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, D. McClelland, B. McMillan, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, & K. Wallace*); 5 NO (*R. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, W. McMillan, & H. Nickey*); 1 ABSTAIN (*D. Wilson*).

Resolution CHO 18-006, confirming appointments to the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise Board of Directors, was ADOPTED 15 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (*C. Eaves & D. McClelland*).

Resolution CHO 18-007, confirming appointments to the Choctaw Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, was ADOPTED 14 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, D. McClelland, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, H.*

Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson); 2 NO (*T. Anderson & L. Parkerson*); 1 ABSTAIN (*R. Anderson*).

Resolution CHO 18-008, approving revisions to the Choctaw Gaming Commission Regulations, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-009, authorizing Emily Rogers of Indiana University to conduct research on River Cane Access & Tribal Basketry among the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-010, approving the 2017-2018 Wildlife Proclamation to Regulate Hunting & Fishing on Tribal Lands, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-011, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, Mississippi Task Force & the MBCI, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-012, approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the MBCI Department of Fire & Rescue and East Central Planning & Development District, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-013, authorizing the Department of Family & Community Services to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, to continue the Title IV-B Program, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-014(B), approving a site lease for Lynette Farmer in the Conehatta Community, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-015, approving the Date Use Agreement between the Mississippi

State Department of Health & the MBCI Choctaw Health Department, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-016, authorizing the Choctaw Health Department, Behavioral Health Program, to submit a grant application to the Indian Health Service, Office of Clinical & Preventive Services for the Zero Suicide Initiative Project, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-017, authorizing the Tribal Chief to submit grant applications to the Indian Health Service, Office of Clinical & Preventive Services, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-018, authorizing the MBCI Choctaw Health Department to submit an application to implement the Strategic National Stockpile & Pandemic Influenza Program with the Mississippi Department of Health, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-019, approving the Choctaw Tribal School System's Dormitory Handbook for the 2017-2018 School Year, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-020, approving the Choctaw Virtual Learning Center's Handbook for the 2017-2018 School Year, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-021(B), accepting signature of legal guardian & enrolling two minor children, was DEFEATED 6 YES (*R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, D. McClelland, R. Sockey, & K. Wallace*); 9 NO (*T. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Eaves, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, & D. Wilson*); 1 ABSTAIN (*L. Ahshapanek*); 1 ABSENT (*R. Anderson*).

..see RESOLUTIONS, pg. 8

Infinity At Golden Moon Opens

Pearl River Resort announced the opening of its pool & lounge, Infinity at Golden Moon. After a five month renovation, the casino's pool amenity has been transformed into a deluxe resort-style pool & lounge for hotel guests to enjoy.

The grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Tuesday, Oct. 31.

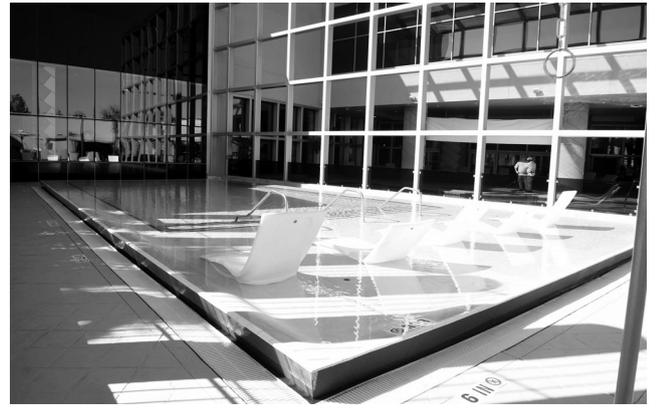
Located near the east entrance of the property, Infinity at Golden Moon features an indoor pool & hot tub, outdoor infinity pool with available zero entry chairs, a bar with large screen TVs, Big Ass® brand fans, three private cabanas,

daybeds, high-end green turf, LED lighting, & a staging area for live entertainment & special events.

The rentable private cabanas include wicker couches & lounge furniture, TVs, stainless

steel refrigerators, fans, safe, & USB charging stations.

Infinity at Golden Moon will be open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., during the winter & fall.



Tribal & Pearl River Resort officials in attendance for the grand opening of Infinity at Golden Moon on Tuesday, Oct. 31 included, pictured from left to right, Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO, Pearl River Resort; Matthew Perkins, Executive VP of Marketing & Operations, Pearl River Resort; Rachel Begalke, Project Office Manager, Pearl River Resort; Tribal Council member Richard Sockey; Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson; Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox;



Tribal Council member Loriann Ahshapanek; Carole Brand, Executive VP of Legal Affairs, Pearl River Resort; Tribal Council member Richard Isaac; & Tim Tubby, VP of Human Resources, Pearl River Resort.

Resort Associates Donate For Breast Cancer Awareness

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Pearl River Resort associates showed their support by donating \$12,125. Each year, the Resort gives its associates an opportunity to get involved with "Paint the Promenade Pink" and "Buttons for the Cause."

During "Paint the Promenade Pink," hundreds of associates wrote their name, a loved one's name or a positive message on pink ribbon decals. These beautiful symbols were displayed on the windows of the Silver Star Promenade. Associates also provided generous donations and received a but-

ton and shirt during "Buttons for the Cause." All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

"Our Pearl River Resort family comes together each year to raise awareness and support breast cancer research," stated Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO for Pearl River Resort.

"This is our fifth year having these activities, and I greatly admire the outpouring of love from our associates to those who have been affected as well as their continued support in finding a cure."

W e n d y Hutchins of the American Cancer Society receives a donation from Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO of Pearl River Resort & Tim Tubby, VP of Human Resources of Pearl River Resort.



GEYSER FALLS WATER THEME PARK.
Choctaw, Mississippi

the BEACH CLUB RESTAURANT
at Clearwater Key

NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS

For Geyser Falls Online
Visit www.pearlriverresort.com/careers-en.html to view jobs available.

Available Positions:
Retail* • Ages 15 & up
Admissions** • Ages 15 & up
Park Services • Ages 15 & up
Food & Beverage Host/Cashier* • Ages 15 & up
Shallow Lifeguards** • Ages 15 & up (Must turn 16 during the season)
Guest Attendant • Ages 16 & up

* Basic math test required.
** Must be able to swim a minimum of 50 yards.

For more information on Pearl River Resort, visit www.pearlriverresort.com or call 1.866.44PEARL. Guests must be at least 21 years old to play or attend shows. To stay updated on all Pearl River Resort news & events, join us on your favorite social media sites: www.facebook.com/PearlRiverResort, www.twitter.com/PRRofficial, or <http://www.youtube.com/user/PearlRiverResort>.

CHC Public Health Services Prepares for Accreditation

The Choctaw Health Center (CHC) Public Health Services has been awarded \$10,500 to support its progress in meeting the requirements of the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), the first & only voluntary national accreditation program for public health departments.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) CHC Public Health Services is one of 13 Tribes to receive funding through the Tribal Accreditation Support Initiative (ASI), administered by the National Indian Health Board (NIHB).

Funding for the Tribal ASI is provided by

the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Office for State, Tribal, Local, & Territorial Support.

“The MBCI Public Health Accreditation initiative presents opportunities to enhance public health, as well as direct health care services in the Choctaw community. Public Health Accreditation standards require that a Community Health Improvement Plan & a Strategic Plan be developed based on findings of a Community Health Assessment (CHA),” said Jesse Thomas, MPH, Public Health Advisor.

“The CHA is fundamental in quantifying health perceptions in

the community. Public Health Accreditation will enhance the strategic development of public health programs & health care services in the Choctaw commu-

nity.”
The grant will be used to conduct a CHA, analyze & interpret data, & establish & maintain electronic documentation storage process.

“CHC Public Health Services is very thankful to be recipients of this award. The CDC & NIHB Accreditation

...continued next page

RESOLUTIONS continued from page six

Resolution CHO 18-022(B), accepting birth certificate of parent & approving Tribal Enrollment, was ADOPTED 9 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, D. McClelland, R. Sockey, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson*); 7 NO (*T. Anderson, R. Bell, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, & B. Steve*); 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (*R. Anderson*).

Resolution CHO 18-023(B), approving increase in blood degree and/or name change for previous-

ly enrolled Tribal members, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-024(B), approving Tribal enrollments, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 18-025, authorizing the Boys & Girls Clubs of the MBCI to accept FY 2017 Funding from the Boys & Girls Clubs Mississippi Alliance, was ADOPTED 17 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN.

Choctaw Public Health Services
Healthy Community, Healthy Culture

Public Health Accreditation

ISSUE 01 OCT 17

Image 1: News Health Organization (n.d.). Tribal control over food. Retrieved from <http://www.health.org/report-of-governor-in-tribal-control-over-food-system/>

WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION?

The measurement of health department performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidenced-based standards.

- Seeks to advance quality and performance within public health departments.
- Defines the expectations for public health departments that seek to become accredited.
- Promotes continuous development, revision, and distribution of public health standards against the 10 Essential Public Health Services.

Benefits of Public Health Accreditation

- Strengthen internal and external partnerships
- Identifies strengths and areas for improvement
- Increases competitiveness for funding opportunities
- Improve service, value, and accountability to stakeholders
- Promotes continuous quality improvement and performance management

Steps to accreditation

- 1 Pre-Application
2. Application
3. Documentation Selection
4. Site Visit
5. Accreditation Decision
6. Reports
7. Reaccreditation

We are in the pre-application phase!

10 Essential Public Health Services

- Assess & Monitor Health
- Assure Competent Workforce
- Link to/Provide Care
- Enforce Laws
- Develop Policies
- Mobilize Community Partnerships
- Inform, Educate, Empower
- Diagnose & Investigate
- Research

Image 2: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (n.d.). The Public Health System. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/nphpp/essentialservices.html>

Team Accomplishments

- Awarded second round NIHB/CDC Tribal Accreditation Support Initiative Grant
- June: Public Health Improvement Training; Albuquerque, NM
- May: Open-Forum for Quality Improvement; New Orleans, LA

Current Activities

Community Health Assessment (CHA)

A community health assessment (sometimes called a CHA), also known as community health needs assessment (sometimes called a CHNA), refers to a state, tribal, local, or territorial health assessment that identifies key health needs and issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis. (CDC, n.d.). In efforts to learn more about the health of the MBCI community and how we can improve it, the Public Health Service will be developing a tribal specific community health assessment.

Image 3: U.S. Army Public Health Center (n.d.). Army Civilian Wellness program. Retrieved from <http://www.army.mil/health/inf/ai/Pages/ArmyCivilianWellnessProgram.aspx>

Upcoming Events

October/November

Partner/Stakeholder Continuity

- Orientation and invitation of partnership for new partners and stakeholders

Community Health Assessment (CHA) Survey

- November 1st through December 15th, the Public Health Service will be issuing surveys to collect information needed to construct the MBCI Community Health Assessment. If you would like to get involved with making sure this is a success, please contact Durnene Farmer.

CHC public health accreditation team

Denise John, RN • Jesse Thomas, MPH • Jordan Taylor, EHS • Jessica Pettway, MSPH • Sharon Hockett, RN

Contact us:
Durnene Farmer,
Accreditation Coordinator
Choctaw Health Center Public Health Services
389.601.4114 ph
389.601.4444 fax

Support Initiative funding will assist our Public Health Services department with our Public Health Accreditation journey,” said Denise John, RN, Public Health Services Director.

“We will be able to complete our CHA of our Tribal communities, &

initiate our development of a Community Health Improvement Plan & Strategic Plan. The goal of this process will be to identify our strengths & areas for improvement, strengthen our partnerships internally, as well as externally with other Tribal programs, & to

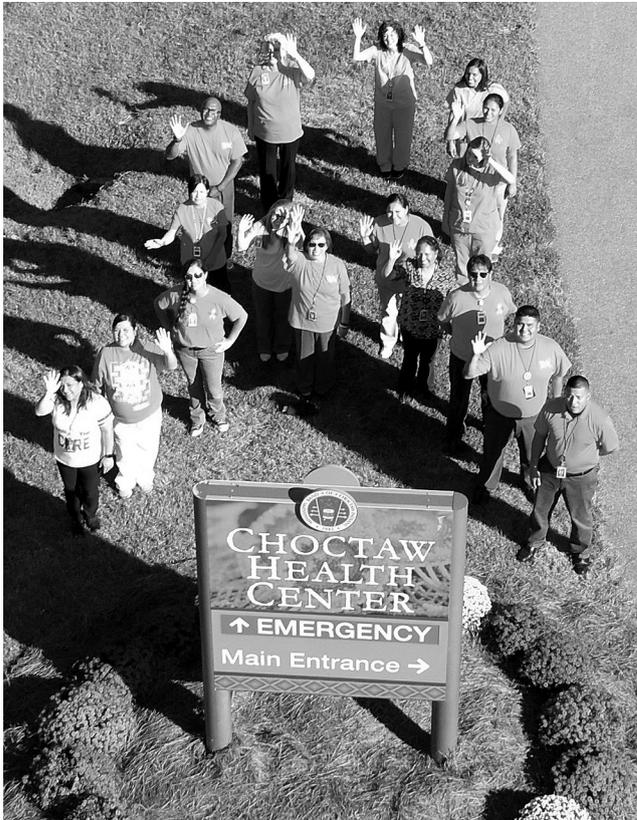
assist us with prioritizing our health needs for our communities, which will lead to continuous quality improvement of our services & our service to our people.”

The goal of the Public Health Services department is to enable MBCI Tribal mem-

bers to achieve optimal health by improving each individual’s health knowledge, attitudes, & practices about health by promoting, supporting & assisting the CHC with health care delivery at the community level. Our department motto is “Caring for the Com-

munity.”

A full list of Tribal awardees can be found at <http://nihb.org/tribalasi/index.php>. For more information about the local Tribal program, please contact Karrie Joseph at kjoseph@nihb.org, or 202-507-4070.



Choctaw Health Center observed October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month as staff members “Think in Pink” as they participated in “Wear Pink Day” on Thursday, Oct. 12. Pictured below are, front row from left, Theresa Cumberland, Denise John, Deedra Tubby, Lindsey Gibson, Theresa Fanning, Darlene Willis, Lindsey Wilson, Mandy Billy, Penny Dickerson, Natalie Byram, & Leslie Willis; back row from left to right, Hester Allen, Missouri Ferguson, Anissa Smith, Dietrich Taylor, Gerren Isaac, & Robert Ben.



CHC Offers Diagnostic Mammography Services

Submitted by the CHC Radiology Department

We provide mammography services by appointments scheduled through the Medical Imaging Department.

What is a Mammogram?

A mammogram is used as a screening tool to detect early breast cancer in women experiencing no symptoms & to detect & diagnose breast disease in women experiencing symptoms such as a lump, pain, or nipple discharge.

Mammography plays an important part in early detection of breast cancers because it can show changes in the breast up to two years before a patient or physician can feel them.

The American College of Radiology (ACR) recommends a screening mammography every year for women, beginning at age 40.

What to do on the day of exam:

The Choctaw Health Center (CHC) Mammography Department

& The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends that on the day of exam:

- Do not wear deodorant, talcum powder or lotion under your arms or on your breasts as these can appear on the mammogram as calcium spots.

- Describe any breast symptoms or problems to the technologist performing the exam.

- If possible, bring any prior mammograms with you & make them available to the radiologist at the time of the current exam.

It is highly recommended that each patient have a women’s wellness exam, which

includes a breast palpitation exam before having a yearly mammogram. We will be glad to schedule your mammogram the same day as your women’s wellness appointment if needed.

IMPORTANT FACTS:

- Breast self-examination, clinical breast exam & mammogram can lead to early detection of breast cancer;
- In 2017, it is estimated that among women, there will be 252,710 new cases of invasive breast cancer & 40,610 breast cancer deaths;
- It is the second leading cause of death among women;
- 2,190 men are diagnosed with breast cancer

..see MAMMOGRAM, pg. 10



Pictured from left are Ashley Vaughn & Rhonda McGee of the CHC Mammography Department.

SDPI Hosts 21st Fall Walk/Run



Overall winners were Alonso Henry (left) & Briana Wesley.

The Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) sponsored the 21st Annual 2 Mile Fall Walk/Run on Saturday, October 14 in Choctaw. Participants walked/ran the two-mile course from the Choctaw Cen-

tral High School parking lot entrance to the Smith John Justice Complex entrance before return-



Pictured above are first & second place finishers in the various age categories.

ing back to CCHS. The event promotes diabetes awareness across the reservation as participants are urged to become educated on diabetes prevention & management & overcome the devastating effects of diabetes.

Overall winners included: (male) Alonso Henry with a time of 11:44.9; (female) Briana Wesley with a time of 16:57.4.

First & second place finishers in the following age categories are listed below.

Ages 7 & Under - (male) Bryson Billie, 1st, 29:54.7; Ayzer Tubby, 2nd, 32:47.5; (female) Kaylene Willis, 1st, 33:32.4; Paizley Dixon, 2nd, 34:06.1.

Ages 8-12 - (male) Saylor Gibson, 1st,

20:29.9; Cordero Bobo, 2nd, 20:53.7; (female) Ansley Wallace, 1st, 21:35.5; Bracyn Willis, 2nd, 23:09.0.

Ages 13-18 - (male) Jason Bell, Jr., 1st, 16:01.0; Bjorn Williams, 2nd, 16:32.6; (female) Allison Meely, 1st, 18:51.0; Annalise Bell, 2nd, 21:07.3.

Ages 19-29 - (male) Tobiah Ben, 1st, 15:08.2; Michael Willis, 2nd, 17:57.9; (female) Deshayna Hickman, 1st, 17:59.5; Ashley Edwards, 2nd, 19:16.7.

Ages 30-39 - (male) Dakota Clemons, 1st, 19:14.6; Wes Wallace, 2nd, 21:52.7; (female) Clymene Bacon, 1st, 22:09.2; Latonya Bell, 2nd, 23:05.8.

Ages 40-49 - (male) Gaylon Williams, 1st, 20:57.6; Rodney Billy,

2nd, 24:52.7; (female) Annie Hickman, 1st, 24:43.1; Kim Ferris, 2nd, 28:37.3.

Ages 50-59 - (male) Hester Allen, 1st, 33:32.0; Ricky Willis, 2nd, 34:58.6; (female) Loriann Ahshapanek, 1st, 22:06.7; Melissa Charlie, 2nd, 25:25.3.

Ages 60 & Over - (male) Adolph Vivian, 1st, 22:28.9; Howard Tucker, 2nd, 27:30.6; (female) Ruthie Bell, 1st, 22:15.1; Cheryl Denson, 2nd, 24:26.4.

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

From the CHC Business Office



Did you know that if you are eligible for Purchased/ Referred Care (PRC Referrals), you are required to notify the PRC program for emergency room visits at other hospitals/clinics?

The PRC program must be notified of emergent care to other hospitals/clinics within 72 hours (3 days) of the emergency room visit or admission. The patient, provider, hospital, or someone on behalf of the patient must contact the PRC. The notification is extended to 30 days for the elderly (age 65+) and the disabled.

**Business Office Hours/Phone Number:
Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
601-389-4060**

When the Business Office is closed (after 5:00 p.m., weekends & holidays), please leave a message on the Business Office voicemail. We ask that you leave a clear message that include:

- Patient's full name
- Date of birth
- Name of emergency room facility
- Date of service or admission
- Reason for emergency
- Working phone number

The Business Office will call you the next business day following your notification. It is extremely important to leave a working phone number to contact you to get additional information.

Please note the 72-hour notification does not guarantee approval of payment. Case Management and/or the PRC Committee will review on a case-by-case basis and determine approval of payment, based on factors such as a life-threatening emergency room visit or if services were not available at Choctaw Health Center. Any services that could have been provided at Choctaw Health Center, such as a common cold or flu, will not be approved for payment.

If you have more questions regarding the PRC 72-Hour notification requirement, do not hesitate to contact the Business Office.

MAMMOGRAM continued from page nine

each year. Men are also welcome to schedule appointments.

Why should I use the CHC Mammography Department for my mammogram?

Our facility is recognized as an FDA approved mammography site, & our services are accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR). Your mammography will be

interpreted by board certified radiologists.

After your exam, the mammogram results will be available for your referring physician & a letter containing the results of your mammogram will be mailed to your home address.

As an added incentive, the CHC will have a drawing for \$30 gas cards or \$30 eye glass voucher for all who re-

ceives a mammogram from October thru December.

To schedule an appointment, please call 601-389-4350, 601-389-4362, or 601-389-4363. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**REMEMBER,
DETECTION IS
THE BEST
PROTECTION!**

DOECE Hosts Green Corn Festival

The 27th Annual Green Corn Festival, hosted by the Bogue Chitto Early Childhood Center, was held on Friday, Oct. 27, at the Bogue Chitto Elementary School Amphitheater.

The event was held so Choctaw customs would continue to survive among the DOECE children and bring appreciation of the culture for the young children and their families.

Flags were presented by the Choctaw Color Guard as all Early Childhood Education children made a grand entrance onto the amphitheater grounds, followed by an invocation by Rev. Charles Doby Henry.

Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox served as emcee as the DOECE

Princess & Brave Bailee Frazier & Zane Bell were introduced.

Davita McClelland, Bogue Chitto Tribal Council member, said it was good seeing everybody celebrating the Choctaw culture with the children.

“It’s good that parents & teachers are teaching our young the heritage we have today. Our Choctaw culture is unique from all the other tribes & its good to see we can embrace that every year.”

A total of 13 Head Start classes & the MBCI Elderly Program Dancers performed traditional social dances. Serving as chanter was Roger Ben.

This year’s festival was dedicated to Bogue

Chitto Center Director Lola Jackson, who is retiring after 42 years of service.

“She is so important to our program & everything she does is always about the people. She cares about the children, has a love for the program & has served our program for 42 years,” said Tina Routh, DOECE Department Director.



Bogue Chitto Center Director Lola Jackson was honored for her years of service to the DOECE as she recently announced her retirement.



Potluck Held in Bogue Chitto

Bogue Chitto community members gathered at the Bogue Chitto Elementary School Gymnasium for the 6th Annual Community Potluck, hosted by the Bogue Chitto Development Club. Attendees enjoyed the feast, participating in activities & honoring community members for their contributions to the community. Special thanks to Councilman Roderick Bell for his participation in the event.



DOECE Fall Fun

We’ve had fun times at DOECE during October. We participated in the 2017 Choctaw Central High School Homecoming Parade. We worked hard on our entry & were very pleased with the results! We give a big “thank you” to Gordon Willis, Jr. for his assistance in making our ideas into a reality! The DOECE Batmobile was a huge hit! Also, a big “thank you” to the parents who dressed up their child to ride the float with us. We tied with Boys & Girls Club for first place! Great job Team DOECE! We are still accepting applications year round for children. Please contact us for more information at 601-650-1680. Parents, please remember that attendance is very important & we need you to send your child to school every day!

Wallace Visits Riverside Students

Bogue Chitto Tribal Council member Kendall Wallace visited Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Okla., during the Thanksgiving holiday. Wallace, along with several Tribal members, provided refreshments & toiletry items, such as toothpastes & shampoos, to the students. Wallace also spoke to the students on the importance of an education & shared information on Tribal scholarships available to those wanting to attend college after graduation.



Veterans Honored During Parade

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians honored the brave men & women who served in our nation's military during the MBCI Veterans Day Parade on Thursday, Nov. 9 in Choctaw.

Spectators lined part of Blackjack Road in the Pearl River Community as various organizations offered appreciation to veterans. This year's theme was "Let Freedom Ring: Operation Enduring Freedom & Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox served as emcee of

the post-parade program & awards ceremony held at the Choctaw Veterans Memorial.

The Choctaw Color Guard posted the flags as Choctaw Central High School senior Darien Tubby sang the National Anthem in Choctaw. Fred Willis of the Office of Public Information offered the invocation.

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson said we honor veterans who have bestowed sacrifices so we can enjoy our precious freedoms we have today.

"We are very thankful for the bravery of our veterans & the services they have given to our

country. Being a veteran is one of the most unselfish acts that an American can give for the sake of brotherhood, freedom & protecting America's borders," said Anderson.

"We offer our thanks, salute you & celebrate this day with you."

Jimmy Manning, Minority Veterans Coordinator/Outreach Coordinator, Department of Veterans Affairs (Jackson Regional Office), was in attendance to inform Tribal service members & veterans of benefits they may qualify for from the VA.

"I want to help out

veterans get the benefits they deserve. I'm going to help you get those benefits also for your spouse & dependents," said Manning, who is also a Navy veteran.

According to the Department of Defense, American Indians & Alaska Natives have one of the highest representations in the armed forces. VA consults with American Indian & Alaska Native tribal governments to develop partnerships that en-



Pictured, front row from left, are Meritza Henry & Teddy McMullan; back row from left, Jobie Charlie & Natasha A. John.

hance access to services & benefits by veterans

...continued next page

FEAST continued from page one

The Tushka Subdivision in Conehatta was completed with 14 new houses, the Pearl River

Tornado Saferoom was opened on the campus of Pearl River Elementary School & Choctaw Central High School will open a new softball field this spring.

Tribal elder homeowners throughout the reservation were recipients of 247 home roof replacements, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a new health

clinic in Red Water, a Wetlands Discovery Zone in Conehatta was renovated & reopened, & a new Multi-Purpose Facility Building was opened in Henning, TN.

Champion athletes & students were honored for their recent accomplishments.



CCHS Girls Cross Country 3A State Champions



CCHS Unified Basketball Champions



CCHS Solar Car Team's participation in the World Solar Challenge in Australia.



CCHS Lady Warriors Class 3A State Basketball Champions

- Community improvement projects included:
- Bogue Chitto softball field improvements;
- Conehatta softball & stickball fields lighting;
- Lake Pushmataha docks & newly renovated Entertainment House in Pearl River;
- Red Water playground fencing & lighting;

..... Continued next page

& their families.

“We are going to come here periodically, and I’m going to get with Mr. (Sammie) Wilson [Choctaw Veterans Affairs Director] & see if we can make that happen,” added Manning.

Parade grand marshals were Sgt. Jobie Charlie & Staff Sgt. Natasha A. John, both members of the Army National Guard.

Charlie & John, along with Teddy McMillan of the Army National Guard & Meritza Henry of the Naval Reserve, were recipients of the Choctaw Warrior’s Eagle Feather award courtesy of the Choctaw Veterans Affairs Committee. The award signifies a symbol of courage & strength as the recipients were honored for their military service.

Parade category win-

ners were: (walking) Choctaw Central High School visual arts students; (vehicle) Choctaw Transit; & (float) Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI.

Elyse Ethridge of the Air National Guard, Marine Corps veteran Johnathan Billie & Barbara Wesley were parade judges this year.

The MBCI Protective Services Unit conducted a 21-gun salute, followed by the playing of Taps.

Choctaw veterans in attendance received a customized tumbler compliments of the Choctaw Veterans Committee, Chief Anderson & the Tribal Administration.

RIGHT, From left are Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox & Jimmy Manning, Minority Veterans Program Coordinator.

BELOW, Chief Anderson & Tribal Council members in attendance joined Tribal veterans as they had their photo taken at the Choctaw Veterans Memorial.

For information on Veteran benefits you may qualify for, contact Choctaw Veterans Affairs Director Sammie Wilson at (601)650-1737, or Jimmy Manning, Department of Veterans Affairs (Jackson Regional Office), Minority Veterans Coordinator/Outreach Coordinator/LAS, at (601)364-7168, Fax (601)368-4936, or email jimmy.manning@va.gov.



- New computers & storage shed for Tucker Boys and Girls Club;
 - 77 new slots at Bok Homa Casino;
 - Infinity Pool opening at Golden Moon;
 - Stogies & Bogies opening at Golden Moon;
 - Spa & Salon renovation at Silver Star;
 - Van donations to Macedonia Baptist Church & Hope Baptist Church;
 - Corinth Baptist Church construction.
- Projects currently ongoing include:
- New Tribal Council Hall;
 - Pearl River Upper Elementary School;
 - Standing Pine Day

- Care;
- Pearl River Infant & Toddler Center;
 - Adult softball complex at Lake Pushmataha;
 - Driveway replacement program for Tribal elders;
 - Housing developments in Tucker & Pearl River.
- On the business front, Chief Anderson was named a recipient of the Top 50 Leadership Award & Pearl River Resort received the following honors:
- Mississippi Honors Award for Diversity;
 - Geyser Falls, Best of Mississippi - Mississippi Magazine;
 - Dancing Rabbit

ranked #33 in Nation by Golf Magazine;

- Spirit of Promise Corporate Award from the Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

“2017 has been remarkable for our Tribe and each of you should be very proud in the accomplishments & work that we have all been a part of. Whether you are a Tribal employee, Resort associate, parent, student, or fan, this year is about you,” said Chief Anderson.

As Tribal members lined up to receive their meals, members of the Pearl River Resort staff, Boys & Girls Club volunteers and CCHS Beta Club members served

dinners to elders in attendance. provided by the Choctaw Central Social Entertainment was Dancers.

Champions from the 2017 World Series Stickball tournaments, held at the Choctaw Indian Fair this past July, were presented championship banners by Chief Anderson & WSS Commissioner Thomas Ben to display in their respective community gymnasiums.



Pushmataha champion Pearl River (10-13) MORE DIVISION CHAMPION PICS NEXT PAGE

Lady Warriors Win 3A Cross Country Title

The Choctaw Central High School Lady Warriors cross country team captured their third Class 3A state title in five years during the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) State Cross Country Championships on Monday, November 6 at Choctaw Trails in Clinton.

placed the top three finishers for the 5,000 meter course. Freshman Sierra Wallace placed first with a time of 20:59.5. Seniors Kyannah and Kyarra Grant placed second and third, respectively, with times of 21:02.4 and 21:12.8.

“My top three runners have been running really well. Sierra did a really good job coming in first



Pictured above are members of Choctaw Central's Cross Country Teams.

place for us. Kyannah and Kyarra worked really well coming in and supporting each other. All year long they've been running with each other and having to run the last race together is just a perfect ending,” said CCHS cross country coach Gwen Grant.

CCHS senior Elisah Jimmie placed 10th with a time of 23:39.5, freshman Lyleonia Johnson placed 11th with a time of 23:45.9, senior Teegan Clemmons placed 17th with a time of 24:29.4, and sophomore Taylor York placed 20th with a time of 24:45.3.

Kossuth High School was runner-up and St. Andrew's High School placed third.

Wallace, who placed third in last year's run as an eighth grader, said the team had an awesome season.

“The weather was hot & we started to slow down, but (coach) Gwen pushed us, & we all did great. We hope to keep the trophy here at Choctaw Central & keep winning.”

The Lady Warriors won consecutive state cross country titles in 2013 and 2014 and runner-up in 2015 and 2016.

The Warriors finished third overall in Class 3A as junior McCoy Johnson placed second with a time of 18:27.0. Luis Flores of eventual state champion St. Andrew's High School placed first

with his time of 18:18.4. Kossuth High School was runner-up.

Johnson said he was determined to overcome fatigue that had set in during the race.

“I've been running for five years straight, and my family was out here so I didn't want to put that in my mind. I put mind over matter and said 'I can do it, just do it for my family.' I got next year to work hard & go for first place.”

Senior Ichukashhelo-hah Solomon placed seventh with a time of 19:20.7, junior Dantzer Clemmons placed 13th with a time of 19:39.9, senior Cameron Jenkins placed 14th with a time of 19:41.5, senior Tyler Bell placed 48th with a time of 22:11.5, senior Brison Dixon placed 69th with a time of 23:12.4, and senior Naron Cotton placed 92nd with a time of 24:58.1.

“Past several years, we've come in third. Eventually, we're going to break through and our ultimate goal is to win first. These young



Tulli Okchi Ishko champion Koni Hata Himitah (14-17)



Men's 35-Over champion Bok Cito



Women's champion Koni Hata Ohoyo



Men's champion Koni Hata

...continued next page

CES Honors Veterans

Conehatta Elementary School (CES) students & staff hosted a Veterans Day program on Nov.



8 to honor veterans of the community. The program opened with a welcome by CES Principal Brian Parkman. The students led The Pledge of Allegiance & The Star Spangled Banner in their Choctaw language. A poem & reading was presented by J.T. Willis & Eliana Wishork. First grade teacher Ms. Casey Rowzee, along with the

CES student body, sang a song of thanks for our veterans. Conehatta council member & veteran Randy Anderson spoke to the assembly & presented Mr. Parkman, also a veteran, with a beaded emblem medallion. All veterans in attendance were recognized as students shook their hands & thanked them for their service.



CES Releases Honor Roll

Conehatta Elementary School recently released the first 9-weeks honor roll for the 2017-2018 school year.

Students with all A's were named to the Chief's List. Students with A's & B's were named to the Principal's List.

CHIEF'S LIST

First grade - Konley Anderson, Miley Flores,

Arabella Jim, and Elias Williamson.

Second grade - Taylor Farmer, Brayson Jefferson, Dearian Johnson, Cassius Williamson, Dathian Williamson, Dantzler Stephens, Savion Willis, & Traviona Wilson.

Third grade - Danna Ferris.

Fourth grade - Shal-lasen Jimmie & Kay-

liona Kessinger. Sixth grade - Ke-ondrae Anderson & Amilia Sebastian.

Seventh grade - Jaeson Johnson.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

First grade - Braely Isaac, Toriann Jefferson, Carson Jimmie, Komelias Mingo, Nevaeh Nickey, Day-sen Shoemake, Zerious Shoemake, Alexis Smith, Chyler Thomas, Timothy Thomas,

Tai'lyn Tubby, Jes'sias Williams, Spencer Williams, & Eli Williamson.

Second grade - Nalayah Chickaway, Alay-sa Clemmons, Antonio Flores, Kaydence Jim, Shelton Jim, Kaydison Nickey, Shaiden Thomas, & Ayslie Wesley.

Third grade - Kirk-lin Bell, Shenita Bell, Montraz Billy, Nolay-sia Chickaway, Lillian Hickman, Isabella Jef-ferson, Kadence Johnson, Tajjah Kessinger, Tali King, Joshua Mc-Millan, Milee Thomas, Tailyn Wesley, De'Ryan Williamson, & Antoine Willis.

Fourth grade - Ryleigh Anderson, Zahaylia Bell, Kaysen Dixon, James Hickman, Arace-

li Reyes-Cruz, Jobeth Shoemake, Reannan Thomas, Dazlie Tubby, & Trinity Tubby.

Fifth grade - Kethan Anderson, Sheanell Bell, Darein Chicka-way, Arman Jefferson, LaChantay Jefferson, Dasan King, Alissia Se-bastian, Shane Thomas, Chasen Williamson, & Memorie Willis.

Sixth grade - Alannay-sia Chickaway, Hailey-na Johnson & Zaynah Shoemake.

Seventh grade - Hay-gen Anderson, Jasanel Chickaway, Arral Fra-zier, & Catherine Jim.

Eighth grade - Christaysia Denson, Remini Nickey, Danessa Pennington, & Tanaecy Willis.

group of guys are setting a standard of what we expect in cross country and they're doing a really good job at it," said CCHS cross country coach Brent Farmer.

The Warriors placed third in 2016 and 2014. In 2013, they placed fourth and fifth in 2015.

"It takes a lot of heart to get up on Saturday morning at 5 o'clock, 6 o'clock and get on the bus and travel two hours to go run. These young kids, boys and girls, have a lot of heart. They fight through it and love what they do."



BCES Starts DARE Classes

Bogue Chitto Elementary School recently initiated the first class of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. DARE Officers Sherri Hall & Tonya McWhirter are in charge of the classes. Bogue Chitto Tribal Council member Roderick Bell offers his appreciation to the officers & Department of Schools Director David Germany for their assistance in getting this program started at BCES.



Conehatta Elementary students named on the Chief's or Principal's List for the first 9 weeks enjoyed a pizza party to celebrate their achievement.

Exceptional Education Hosts Dyslexia Awareness Event

The Choctaw Tribal Schools' Exceptional Education Department's Dyslexia Therapy Program hosted a Dyslexia Awareness Night at the Golden Moon VIP Room on Tuesday, Oct. 17 in Choctaw.

Students diagnosed with dyslexia and their parents were invited to learn more about strategies to help them be more successful in school and make the community more aware of what dyslexia is.

"I'm thrilled that we get so much positive feedback from parents. They tell us how much it has helped to know how their child is struggling and how to help them at home. When we can get that combination going, the kids thrive at school when they are understood," said Sherry Tubby, Choctaw Tribal Schools' Exceptional Education Coordinator.

The Exceptional Education Department began a pilot program

during the 2008-2009 school year to provide specialized reading services for students with specific learning disabilities primarily in the area of reading and language processing and who exhibited the characteristics of dyslexia.

Primary characteristics of dyslexia are difficulties with accurate word recognition, poor spelling, and decoding abilities which research has shown to be linked with the differences in the way the brain is developed in a dyslexic person. This results in the person having difficulty identifying separate speech sounds within a word and/or learning how letters represent these sounds.

Dyslexia is not due to a lack of intelligence or a desire to learn. Recent reading research shows dyslexic students can learn to read with a systematic, explicit reading method that is taught involving the senses

of hearing, touching and seeing (known as a multi-sensory reading approach.)

The 2017-2018 Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox was in attendance to offer her personal account on growing up with dyslexia.

"When I was a little girl, I didn't know what dyslexia was. I had to learn at an early age of 6 to own my dyslexia. I saw stars like Channing Tatum, Whoopi Goldberg and Will Smith say 'I'm dyslexic,' and they owned it. I said 'I'm going to own it too,' and today, I'm dyslexic and I look at it positively."

Cox told students to believe in themselves, always dream big and love yourself being dyslexic. She also told parents to always believe in your child and tell them they are smart and amazing.

Cox is currently a sophomore at Mississippi College in Clinton as she has greatly benefited from the Dyslexia Therapy Program.

"If I didn't have dyslexia therapy, today I probably would have still struggled with my words, how to spell it or how to decode it. It's also helped me in the long run with reading and writing."

Crystal Roach, a parent of a dyslexic student, said the event has helped a lot of parents understand the difficulties and situations their children go through in school.

"My son has come

a long way. We try to advocate as much as we can for parents that have questions and I'll say the Choctaw Tribal Schools' Dyslexia Program has done a tremendous job with our son," said Roach.

Roach said her son's sessions with a dyslexia therapist at the elementary level has helped him garner tremendous progress as he is now a student at Choctaw Central Middle School.

Roach, a Choctaw language instructor at Choctaw Central High School, said parents need to be very patient and try to learn as much as they can regarding teaching methods and learning styles they can implement at home.

"Everyday they're going to struggle. It's never going to go away for them, but as long as there are conferences and workshops, it helps enlighten us as parents and individuals. We have students that have dyslexia and it's helping me teach and come

up with different lesson plans. I'm hoping we can continue encouraging others to pick up learning techniques they can use at home."

Dyslexic therapists on staff for each school in the Choctaw Tribal Schools System include: Tim Busch, Choctaw Central Middle & High School; Mary Lou Johnson, Bogue Chitto Elementary School; Jodi Lovette and Rachel Smith, Pearl River Elementary School; Angel McKinion, Standing Pine Elementary School; Karla Russell, Conehatta Elementary School; Courtney Sorey, Red Water Elementary School; and Jill Vick, Tucker Elementary School.

All therapists have been trained in the Orton-Gillingham based method that is recognized by MS Dyslexia Law (formerly HB 1031) as appropriate education for students with dyslexia.

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CES Hosts Father/Daughter Banquet

Conehatta Elementary School held its 2nd Father/Daughter Banquet on Thursday, Oct. 5. The event was held in the gym decorated in pink & white. The girls & their fathers were served a meal, followed by a program presented by Bro. Gabe Swan. After the program, everyone enjoyed a time of dancing & socializing.



Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox poses with staff members of the Dyslexia Therapy Program. They include (in no order) Tim Busch, Mary Lou Johnson, Jodi Lovette, Rachel Smith, Angel McKinion, Karla Russell, Courtney Sorey, & Jill Vick.

Students who have been identified as having a reading disability or identified through the tier intervention are eligible to receive services by the trained therapists.

For more information about dyslexia therapy services, contact your local school or the Choctaw Tribal Schools' Office of Exceptional Education at 601-663-7643 or 601-650-7302.

CCHS Soccer Schedule 2017-2018

Tues., Nov. 7	West Point	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Nov. 9	Morton	5:30/7:00
Tues., Nov. 14	Louisville	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Nov. 16	SE Lauderdale	5:30/7:00
Mon., Nov. 20	@ Quitman	5:30/7:00
Tues., Nov. 28	McLaurin	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Nov. 30	@ Louisville	5:30/7:00
Tues., Dec. 5	@ MSMS	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Dec. 7	Philadelphia	5:30/7:00
Tues., Dec. 12	Winona	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Dec. 14	@ West Point	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Jan. 4	@ Forest	5:30/7:00
Tues., Jan. 9	@ Philadelphia	5:30/7:00
Fri., Jan. 12	@ Provine	5:30/7:00
Tues., Jan. 16	MSMS	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Jan. 18	@ Winona	5:30/7:00

CHOCTAW CENTRAL BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 2017-2018

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
November 4	Choctaw Classic	Home	TBA
November 7	Neshoba Central	Home	5:00 JV/6:00 V
November 10	Leake Central	Away	5:00 JV/6:00 V
November 20	Leake Central	Home	5:00 JV/6:00 V
November 27-December 1	ECCC Tournament	ECCC	TBA
December 5	Neshoba Central	Away	5:00 JV/6:00 V
December 15-16	Choctaw Invitational	Home	TBA
December 28-30	Oklahoma Tournament	Away	TBA
January 4	Morton	Away	5:00 JV/6:00 V
January 6	Pontotoc (Girls)	Away	TBA
January 9	Philadelphia	Away	5:00 JV/6:00 V
January 15	M.L.K. Shootout (Boys)	ECCC	TBA
January 16	Kemper County	Away	5:00 JV/6:00 V
January 18	Southeast Lauderdale	Home	5:00 JV/6:00 V
January 20	Choctaw County Shootout	Away	TBA
January 23	Forest	Home	5:00 JV/6:00 V
January 25	Philadelphia	Home	5:00 JV/6:00 V
January 27	Booneville (Girls)	Away	TBA
January 30	Morton	Away	5:00 JV/6:00 V
February 2	Kemper County	Home	5:00 JV/6:00 V
February 6	Southeast Lauderdale	Away	5:00 JV/6:00 V
February 9	Forest	Away	5:00 JV/6:00 V

FFA Member Places At Livestock Show

Katelyn Shoemake, Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) senior and Future Farmers of America (FFA) Vice President, competed in the 2017 Mississippi State Fair FFA & 4-H Livestock Show October 8-9 in Jackson.

CCHS FFA is very proud of Katelyn's hard work, as well as everyone who was involved.

Katelyn is pictured below with Miss Terrific Suspect.

Katelyn & her heifer, Miss Terrific Suspect, competed in the showmanship & beef breeding components of the show.

Katelyn & Miss Terrific Suspect took home a blue ribbon in their division & advanced to the Dixie National Livestock Show in late January, early February 2018.



CCHS "Pink Out" For Breast Cancer Awareness

Choctaw Central High School hosted "Pink Out" activities on Friday, Oct. 27. The staff wore pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month & in support of 9th grade reading teacher Tammy Morgan. That evening, a "Pink Out Game to Tackle Breast Cancer Awareness" featured the Choctaw Central Warriors vs. Southeast Lauderdale Tigers in a football division contest.



In pre-game activities, a survivors' walk & a walk in honor of loved ones lost was held. **BELOW**, Breast cancer survivors, along with students & friends, released hundreds of pink balloons into the sky from the grounds of Warrior Stadium in Choctaw.



Lady Warriors Claim Slow-Pitch Division Title

The Choctaw Central High School Lady Warriors slow-pitch softball team earned a berth in the 2017 Mississippi High School Activities Association's Class II (Class 3A-4A combined) playoffs. After defeating Shannon on Oct. 7 and Houston on Oct. 10, the Lady Warriors were swept by Nettleton 17-11 & 14-12 in the third round on Oct. 14. During the season, the Lady Warriors claimed the Class II, Region 4/District 4 championship. They concluded the season with a 17-6 overall record.



Ben Signs With MCC Lady Eagles

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, Choctaw Central High School senior Lauren Ben signed a letter of intent/softball scholarship agreement with the Lady Eagles of Meridian Community College. A signing ceremony was held in the Choctaw Central library as Ben, a member of the

2017 Class II, Division 4 champions Lady Warriors, was heralded by her coaches & teammates for her leadership, skill & determination she displayed on the softball field. Ben is pictured with her Lady Warriors teammates, left, & parents Robert & Olivia Ben and the rest of her family.

Bell Crowned CCHS Homecoming Queen

Choctaw Central High School senior Jordan Kelise Bell, left, was crowned the 2017 Homecoming Queen by Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson during halftime ceremonies of the Choctaw Central-Morton Panthers football game Oct. 6 at Warrior Stadium.



'Coach' Kirk Serves as CCHS Parade Grand Marshal

Former Choctaw Central High School teacher & coach Dr. Pamela A. (Catledge) Kirk of Louisville, Miss., served as Choctaw Central's Homecoming Parade Grand Marshal on Oct. 6.

"Coach" Kirk began her seven-year tenure at CCHS in the mid-1960's. She taught physical education & introduced badminton, volleyball, gymnastics, & dance. As girls' basketball coach, she led Choctaw Central to capture the Neshoba County Tournament.

Professor Emeritus Kirk holds a doctorate, Ed.D, in secondary education & a masters degree from Mississippi State University (MSU). She obtained her undergraduate degree from the then-Mississippi State College for Women, & an associate's degree from East Central Junior College.

She was a Department Head/Professor in the Department of Kinesiology, & interim Assistant Dean in the College of Education at MSU. She also co-authored and published in nine professionally-recognized publications & is a recipient of numerous professional honors.

She & her husband, Ben, operate an agricultural aviation business, a farm, & participate in church, school, & civic activities. They have two children & five grandchildren.

Students Gather Supplies For Hurricane Harvey Relief

Mittelstadt Elementary School students in Houston, TX affected by Hurricane Harvey were recipients of backpacks filled with school supplies, personal & bedding items courtesy of fourth grade students from Tucker Elementary School & Mississippi State University (MSU)-Meridian undergraduate Elementary Education students in the EDF 3423, Exploring Diversity through Writing class. Through a pen pal writing program established a few years ago between Tucker Elementary & the MSU-Meridian Elementary Education class, the Tucker students suggested a relief effort for fellow elementary students in need after Hurricane Harvey. The MSU Division of Education provided boxes for donations & gathered 28 backpacks worth of supplies for Mittelstadt Elementary. On Wednesday, Oct. 11, the MSU students traveled to Tucker Elementary & met with Ms. Rain Wallin's fourth grade pen pals. A Tucker student & MSU student teamed up to fill the backpacks & included a note of encouragement co-written by the students.



Dr. Pamela Kirk (left) rides in the homecoming parade. Pictured center & right are images from Dr. Kirk's tenure at CCHS during the mid-1960's.

News from the CTLP

The Choctaw Tribal Language Program (CTLP) is currently hosting two Chahta Annopa classes. Red Water community members meet with DeLaura Saunders and Peggy Williams on a weekly basis as they learn to increase their usage of the Choctaw language in the home.

CTLP will be in the Red Water community until December 18 and we encourage families to stop by one of the classes to learn ways to incorporate the Choctaw language in the home and with young learners.

The Tucker Boys & Girls Club have invited the language program staff to hold classes for their 6-7 year olds twice a week. Working with Boys & Girls Club has given CTLP the opportunity to help Trib-

al School students and public students alike and we look forward to working with other communities as we work towards training B&G Club staff to teach their own language classes.

Read Aloud Month was celebrated at the Choctaw Language Program with storytelling in the schools. Abrianna Tubby read the *Ná Powa Alhíha* story and *Ofi Shawi Hohchifo* to students at Pearl River Elementary School, Red Water Elementary School, & Neshoba Central Elementary School during the month of October.

Visuals and gestures were used as the story was read in Choctaw to help students understand the story without using English. The *Ná Powa Alhíha* story takes

elements from the Choctaw Language Learning Curriculum used in language classes to spread awareness about Choctaw culture & communities.

CTLP works in partnership with the *Annopa Tikbishtiya* Grant Project under the Department of Schools to aide in the continued success of the Choctaw language classes. Grant activities include Community Immersion Gatherings where families come together to learn to interact with young learners in an immersion setting.

CTLP helps with these events by interacting with families in Choctaw, and providing materials to be used at the events. Grant staff held a training event for the Choctaw Language Teachers, Choctaw Language Aides, and their families to provide

hands-on examples on October 17.

These events are important as the staff works towards influencing families to consciously use the language with their children. Additional support includes continuing training Choctaw Language Teachers

(CLT) in interactive activities, assessments, and documentation.

These trainings provide a space for CLTs to voice concerns, work through problems, and learn from one another as they continue to teach the Choctaw Language in the Tribal schools.



Choctaw Tribal Schools Principals Honored

In observance of National Principals Appreciation Month, Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson & officials attended a Choctaw Tribal Schools Principals Appreciation Lunch at the Dancing Rabbit Clubhouse in Choctaw on Wednesday, October 25. Chief Anderson commended the principals for their hard work & dedication to their schools & students. Pictured above, from left to right, are Choctaw Central High School Principal Dr. Fredrick Hickmon; Tucker Elementary School Principal Lari York; Red Water Elementary School Principal Presley Tate; Standing Pine Elementary School Principal Linda Peoples; Chief Anderson; Tribal Council Education Committee Chair Deborah Martin; Pearl River Elementary School Principal Suzanne Hyatt; Director of Choctaw Tribal Schools David Germany; Choctaw Central Middle School Principal Lula Townsend; MBCI Division of Education Director Willa Brantley; Conehatta Elementary School Principal Brian Parkman; & Bogue Chitto Elementary School Principal Skyla Hailey.

Immersion Gatherings Held In Communities

The *Annopa Tikbishitya* Grant Programs are in the second year of a 3-year and 5-year grants they received from the Department of Health and Human Services-Administration for Children and Families and the Department of Education NAM Grants.

One of the main concerns was a language barrier that has emerged among our elders, parents and the young children. Efforts are being made to help parents and elders decrease this barrier by providing ongoing training on how to teach second language learners in the home.

For year two, grants helped facilitate three Choctaw Language Immersion Gatherings during September 2017 - Tucker Elementa-

ry School on Sept. 11, Red Water Elementary School on Sept. 20, & Pearl River Elementary School on Sept. 25.

The gatherings are a time for Choctaw Tribal Schools' PreK-3rd grade students, parents, grandparents, guardians, and siblings to spend two hours together in total Choctaw immersion where everyone has to speak Choctaw and use hand and body movements (TPR) in order to communicate in the language.

Conducting the events were language instructors, staff members of partner programs Choctaw Tribal Language & *Annopa Tikbishtiya*, and assistants and cooks from the Division of Schools (DOS).

Parents are being



Tucker Elementary School hosted their Community Immersion Gathering on Sept. 11 with 41 in attendance (24 adults & 17 students). Temporarily certified Language Instructor Latisha Stephens & Choctaw Language Aide Larisha Morris demonstrated how parents can teach the Choctaw language to their children by integrating language teaching into daily household chores, such as sweeping & putting trash in a trash can (polhkash pashpolit apitta). Students did the activity as they taught them words for cleaning items in the house, such as trash (polhkash), trash can (polhkash ayalhto), broom (ishtpashpowa), & sweep (pashpolih). They also participated in a toy walk & bingo games with Abóha items.

trained how to do language activities with their children and to do "make and take" items they can take home to be used for language development with their children.

Roseanna Thompson, Choctaw Language and Cultural Integration Director, states overseeing three programs is a task that has her and her team (DOS and Tribal Language staff) working continuously trying to keep up with all the objectives set forth in the *Annopa Tikbishitya* Grant Programs.

The results of children and parents happily playing and learning Choctaw together brings joy to the staff and they realize the hard work they all put in is worth it.

The Choctaw Language and Cultural Integration Program also includes Choctaw language integration in all grades and unit lessons for 4th-8th grades, provides language training to the DOS staff, and provides Choctaw Language objectives oversight for all six elementary schools, Choctaw Central Middle

School, and Choctaw Central High School by using the Choctaw Language Education Plans set forth by the program to meet Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) requirements.

The need for a revision of the high school curriculum is evident and future plans are to apply for another grant that will help us accomplish the task of writing another curriculum for 7th-12th grade that is more geared towards culture and language for

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Students Named To Leadership Neshoba

Choctaw Central High School juniors Kravon Willis & Kiezer Johnson were selected to the 2017-2018 Leadership Neshoba program.

Leadership Neshoba, a program of the Philadelphia-Neshoba County Chamber of Commerce, brings together students to participate in a program focused on developing an understanding of personal leadership styles, learning personal and community responsibilities and reviewing character development.

The goal is to provide each student with the basic tools, resources and action plans on how to respond to a leadership role now and in the future.

The program is open (via application process) to all high school juniors who reside in Neshoba County.



On Sept. 20, Red Water Elementary School hosted their Community Immersion Gathering with 56 in attendance (26 adults & 30 students). Choctaw Language Instructor Pandora Sockey & Choctaw Language Aide Dianne John reviewed vocabulary words & pictures relating to things in the kitchen. Words included plates (apata), spoons (isht ipa), hapi, hapi losa, hapi chapoli/Ná tokwisíli, & áyishko. They also participated in a tic-tac-toe game & Áhopóni bingo.



2017 Halloween in Choctaw

Halloween was a fun time for children and their parents in Choctaw as several activities were held for their enjoyment.

Several hundred children and their families participated in Trunk or Treat events on Oct. 26. The Choctaw Tribal Council hosted their event in the parking lot of their offices, Tribal Maintenance held Fright Night in their building and the Department of Public Safety hosted their event in the parking lot of the Smith John Justice Complex.

On Halloween night, the Department of Chahta Immi and Choctaw Transit hosted their trunk or treat events.



second language learners as well.

Thanks to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians for supporting

efforts to revive and maintain our *Chahta Annopa* (Choctaw Language).



Debra Tubby & Nancy Tubby conducted a Community Immersion Gathering at the Pearl River Elementary School on Sept. 25 with 87 in attendance (37 adults & 48 students). Instructors reviewed vocabulary words relating to table wares & manners. Words included spoon (*isht ipa*), fork (*chifak isht ipa*), knife (*bashpo*), & plate (*apata*). Names & settings on a table were taught using a role playing activity & posters with pictures & names. Participants made a placemat & silverware cut outs to practice the names & how to set the table. They then participated in a game matching Choctaw words to their English translation.

Tribal Elders Have Halloween Fun

The Choctaw Elderly Activity Center in Choctaw had some fun as they hosted Halloween activities for their participants. On Oct. 23, they hosted a pumpkin carving contest & on Oct. 31 they held a mini-carnival with a cake decorating contest & costume contest. The elders & staff members had fun getting into the Halloween spirit.



Pumpkin carving contest winners were, from left, 3rd place, Lora Lewis of Standing Pine; 2nd place, Darry Lee Hickman of Bogue Chitto; & 1st place, Melba Jefferson of Conehatta.

Pumpkin carving contestants were, from left, Delores Bell of Tucker, Rosanita McMillan of Standing Pine, Gloria Wilson of Pearl River, Nora Chapman of Conehatta, Lora Lewis of Standing Pine, & Melba Jefferson of Conehatta. Not pictured are Corina Bear of Pearl River, Tommy Bear of Pearl River, Teresa Chickaway of Tucker, & Darry Lee Hickman of Bogue Chitto.



Not pictured are Corina Bear of Pearl River, Tommy Bear of Pearl River, Teresa Chickaway of Tucker, & Darry Lee Hickman of Bogue Chitto.



LEFT, Halloween costume contest winners, from left, 3rd place, Laline Rush of Bogue Chitto; 2nd place, John Mingo, Jr. of Standing Pine; & 1st place, Beverly Murphy of Bogue Homa.



RIGHT, Halloween cake decorating contest winners, from left, 1st place, Laline "Baby" Rush of Bogue Chitto; 2nd place, Rosanita McMillan of Standing Pine; & 3rd place, Michael Hickman of Standing Pine.

Taylor Sworn In As Criminal Court Judge

Anthony Drew Taylor, a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was confirmed as a judge for the Choctaw Tribal Criminal Court during a regu-

lar-call Tribal Council meeting on Tuesday, October 10. He was sworn in to the judiciary after the meeting.

Taylor is from the Tucker community and

is a 1997 graduate of Choctaw Central High School. He graduated from Belhaven University in 2001 with a degree in history and a minor in political science and from the Mississippi College School of Law in 2010.

He has served as a Teen Court instructor & has presented on behalf of the Tribe in the Tribal Youth, Criminal, Domestic Violence and Supreme Courts. His post prior to confirmation

and swearing in was as a Tribal Child Welfare Prosecutor/Lay Advocate.

"It is my distinct honor and privilege to see Drew Taylor sworn in as Criminal Court Judge," said Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson. "Drew's record of service has been exemplary, and his vast experience in our legal and judicial system will

serve him well as he takes on this new role on the bench."

Anthony Drew Taylor is married to Roberta, and they have two sons – Zach, 12, & AJ, 8.

Taylor's outlook can be summed up in the following: "Whether it's a good day or a bad day in court, I take comfort in knowing that I did my best to ensure justice is served on behalf of my people."

Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson (right) presented Judge Anthony Drew Taylor with a beaded gavel following the swearing-in ceremony.



Williams Re-Confirmed Chief Justice, Sac and Fox Nation Supreme Court

In October 2017, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians member Joseph Williams was unanimously re-confirmed



Joseph Williams

by four fellow Justices on the Sac and Fox Nation Supreme Court to serve another term as Chief Justice. He has been confirmed every year since 2011 to serve as Chief Justice.

The Sac and Fox Nation Supreme Court is located in Stroud, Okla., and hears appeals resulting from all final orders or judgments rendered by the Sac and Fox District Court and also hears original actions as may

be provided by Tribal law.

Williams is an attorney in private practice located in Okmulgee, Okla., with his primary area of practice being Indian law and policy and has over 16 years of experience.

He also serves on the Board of Directors for Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc., is a former Chair for the Oklahoma Bar Association-Indian Law Section, and is a former officer for the Oklahoma

Indian Bar Association. Williams, of the Standing Pine Community, has served as legal counsel for the MBCI Office of the Tribal Chief since 2012.



MBCI Secretary-Treasurer Richard Isaac (right) administers the oath of office to newly-confirmed Choctaw Criminal Court Judge Anthony Drew Taylor.

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Warning Signs

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- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkempt appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.

For more information on elder abuse, contact Family Violence and Victim's Services at 601-650-1774

Bell Graduates State Fire Academy Domestic Violence & the Holidays

Firefighter Justin Bell of the Choctaw Fire Department graduated from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Firefighter I-II course held at the Mississippi State Fire Academy in Jackson on November 9.

This intense seven-week course included classroom and hands-on instruction in the areas of fire behavior, fire suppression, rescue, incident command, hazardous materials and other fire related topics.

This course meets and

exceeds the National Fire Protection Association for Firefighter Qualifications and the uniform minimum training standards stated in the Mississippi Code section 45-11-7.

The Mississippi State Fire Academy is a division of the Mississippi Insurance Department. Commissioner Mike Chaney and Academy Executive Director Reggie Bell conclude that firefighters, through their newly acquired skills and knowledge, will be an asset to the



Justin Bell, Choctaw Fire Department

fire departments they represent in implementing fire protection and prevention for their community.

Submitted by Family Violence & Victims Services

Looking at data from the National Domestic Violence Hotline, would it surprise you to know the number of hotline calls for the years 2004-2010, dropped dramatically during the holidays?

On Thanksgiving Day, the number of hotline calls drop by approximately half. Furthermore, the number of calls decrease by an average of 53 percent on Christmas Day.

Does that mean domestic violence also takes a holiday? Unfortunately, no.

During the holiday season, often victims of domestic violence will try even harder to keep their abuser from escalating. This means the victims will sometimes allow the abuser to be verbally or physically abusive, just to keep the peace during the holiday season.

Often, the victim will try to do whatever will make the abuser happy in order to avoid confrontation. For example, if the abuser wants the victim to drink with him/her, the victim will do so to avoid any outburst or argument.

The victim may be coerced or forced into sexual acts also just to keep himself/herself safe or to keep the children in the home safe as well. Victims of domestic vi-

olence remain at risk no matter what time of year it is.

Staying safe involves planning ahead, & having a safety plan in place is very important. If a victim thinks there might be a confrontation, the victim should have a plan ready.

The following suggestions can be part of a victim's safety plan:

1) Try to move near a door or window to escape if a confrontation begins;

2) If there are children old enough to go for help, practice with the children to go run for help or to dial 911;

3) Keep extra clothes/money in a safe place in case you need to run;

4) Ask family or friends ahead of time if you can stay with them in case of an emergency, or call the Nittak Himmona Shelter (601-663-7851);

5) Finally, for your own safety, please remember that sometimes you have to go along with the abuser to keep the abuser calm so that you can later exit the home.

These are only a few suggestions. Please remember to plan ahead & practice the plan!

For more information, please contact Family Violence & Victims Services at 601-650-1774.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).



EVENTS HIGHLIGHT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Department of Family & Community Services and the Family Violence & Victims Services Program hosted a series of events in October. There was a Lunch & Learn session, *The Basics of Domestic Violence*, on Oct. 18. On Oct. 19, everyone was urged to wear purple to show awareness support during Purple Thursday. On Oct. 20, a 2 mile glow run/walk & candlelight vigil was held at Lake Pushmataha in Choctaw as hundreds of runners & walkers participated. On



Oct. 24, officials from the Department of Family & Community Services and the Family Violence & Victims Services Program were in attendance as Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson signed a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month on the Choctaw Reservation. Throughout the month, individuals were encouraged to tie a purple ribbon at the Pearl River Recreational Field fence as part of the Purple Ribbon Campaign.



In Observance of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The Family Violence & Victim's Services launched a domestic violence awareness campaign in October - 31 facts about DV in 31 days.

We mourn those who have lost their lives, celebrate those who have survived, & connect all of us so we can work together to end violence.

- Every 9 seconds in the U.S. a woman is assaulted.
- 1-in-3 women & 1-in-4 men have been physically abused by an intimate partner.
- In the U.S., an average of 20 people are abused by an intimate partner each minute.
- On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 calls to domestic violence hotlines.
- 72% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner.
- Between 21-60% of victims of domestic violence lost their jobs due to the abuse.
- 1-in-15 children are exposed to domestic violence each year.
- In the U.S., an average of 20 people are abused by an intimate partner each minute.
- Victims of domestic violence are at a higher risk of developing addictions to alcohol & drugs.
- 1-in-5 women & 1-in-71 men in the U.S. have been raped in their lifetime.
- 19.3 million women in the U.S. have been stalked in their lifetime.
- 76.1% of physical abuse toward older adults is perpetrated by a family member.
- 5.1 million men in the U.S. have been stalked in their lifetime.
- Domestic violence accounts for 15% of all violent crimes in the U.S.
- 19% of domestic violence involves a weapon.
- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.
- Domestic violence affects everyone regardless of age, race or gender.
- The cost of domestic violence exceeds \$8.3 billion each year.
- Only 1 out of every 24 cases of elder abuse is reported.
- Each year almost 4 million older adults are victims of elder abuse or neglect.
- Nearly 21% of female high school students have been abused by a partner.
- 13.4% of male high school students have been abused by a partner.
- A majority of elder sexual abuse cases involve female victims.
- A 2013 study found that 26% of teens who were victims contemplate suicide, & also develop anxiety or depression.
- 1-in-4 stalking victims contemplate suicide & also develop anxiety or depression.
- Approximately 50% of older adults with dementia are mistreated or abused.
- 76% of women murdered by their partner were stalked first.
- Only 33% of teen victims ever told anyone about their abuse.
- There is a 30-60% chance that a child who witnesses DV will also be abused.
- Video cameras or listening devices have been used to stalk 1-in-3 victims.
- Of all the children sexually abused, the perpetrator is usually the parent. (80%)

For more information, contact the
Family Violence & Victim's Services at 601-650-1774

Consumer Confidence Reports Released for Water Systems

*Submitted by Choctaw
Public Works*

IS MY WATER SAFE?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, & how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

DO I NEED TO TAKE

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, & infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of

infection by Cryptosporidium & other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

WHERE DOES MY WATER COME FROM?

Your water comes from an underground source. The underground water source that we pump from is called the Wilcox Aquifer.

(Bogue Chitto) - We pump water from two (2) wells that are over 300 feet deep. Once the water is pumped to the surface, chlorine, fluoride, & soda ash are added before it is sent out to the community water lines for use.

...continued next page

WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water & have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms & abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below.

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

Term-Definition

ppm - parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

ppb - parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L).

NA - Not applicable.

ND - Not detected.

NR - Monitoring not required, but recommended.

TT - Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

AL - Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Variances and Exemptions - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

MRDLG - Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

MRDL - Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MNR - Monitored Not Regulated.

MPL - State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level.

IMPORTANT DRINKING WATER DEFINITIONS

Term-Definition

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

(Conehatta) - We pump water from two (2) wells that are over 600 feet deep. Once the water is pumped to the surface, chlorine & fluoride are added before it is sent out to the community water lines for use.

(Pearl River) - We pump water from four (4) wells that are over 1,000 feet deep. Once the water is pumped to the surface, it is processed at our treatment plant before being sent out to the community water lines for use.

(Tucker) - We pump water from two (2) wells that are over 1,000 feet deep. Once the water is pumped to the surface, it is processed at our treatment plant before being sent out to the community water lines for use.

solves naturally occurring minerals &, in some cases, radioactive material, & can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses & bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, & wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts & metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil & gas production, min-

ing, or farming; pesticides & herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, & residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic & volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes & petroleum production, & can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, & septic systems; & radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil & gas production & mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Choctaw Public Works is honored that you allow us to operate YOUR water system. We view our customers

as partners in our efforts to provide safe drinking water.

Help us protect our water system from contamination by remembering these tips: never submerge a free running hose in water & never leave a hose submerged in standing water; never use a hose connected to your faucet to spray toxic chemicals (such as pesticides or lawn treatments); &, always report leaking septic tanks, manholes, pump stations, or sewer lines to Choctaw Public Works.

...see REPORT, pg. 26

Bogue Chitto Public Water System Report

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water		Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
			Low	High	Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products									
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)									
Halocetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	< 6.0	NA	NA	2016	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
THM5 [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	< 4.0	NA	NA	2016	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Inorganic Contaminants									
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	< 0.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.	
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	< 0.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0335	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	< 0.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries	
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints	
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.5	0.8	1.5	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Mercury [Inorganic] (ppb)	2	2	0.2	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland	
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	< 2.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines	
Thallium (ppb)	.5	2	< 0.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories	
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	< 0.08	NA	NA	2017	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	< 0.02	NA	NA	2017	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Volatile Organic Contaminants									
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories	
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	3	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories	
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills	
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities	
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene) (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories	
Dichloromethane (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories	
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries	
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills	
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners	
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum factories	
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories	
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories	
Xylenes (ppb)	10	10	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories	
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	600	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	75	75	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT & ITS AVAILABILITY

If you are interested in more information about where your water comes from, we can arrange for you to review or to get a copy of our Source Water Assessment Report. Call Choctaw Public Works at (601) 650-1760 to discuss your information needs.

WHY ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN MY DRINKING WATER?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants & potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water & bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, & wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dis-

Conehatta Public Water System Report

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water		Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
			Low	High	Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products									
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)									
Halocetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	7.0	3.0	7.0	2016	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination	
THM5 [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	3.0	NA	NA	2016	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Inorganic Contaminants									
Antimony (ppb)	6	6	< 0.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.	
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	< 0.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes	
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0019	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits	
Beryllium (ppb)	4	4	< 0.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from metal refineries and coal-burning factories; Discharge from electrical, aerospace, and defense industries	
Cadmium (ppb)	5	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Corrosion of galvanized pipes; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from metal refineries; runoff from waste batteries and paints	
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	0.6	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.2	0.8	1.2	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Mercury [Inorganic] (ppb)	2	2	0.2	NA	NA	2017	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from refineries and factories; Runoff from landfills; Runoff from cropland	
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	< 2.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines	
Thallium (ppb)	.5	2	< 0.5	NA	NA	2017	No	Discharge from electronics, glass, and Leaching from ore-processing sites; drug factories	
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	< 0.08	NA	NA	2017	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	< 0.02	NA	NA	2017	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Volatile Organic Contaminants									
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories	
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	3	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories	
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills	
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities	
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene) (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories	
Dichloromethane (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories	
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries	
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills	
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners	
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum factories	
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories	
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories	
Xylenes (ppb)	10	10	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories	
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	600	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	75	75	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories	

Pearl River Public Water System Report

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	< 6.0	NA	NA	2016	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
THMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	< 4.0	NA	NA	2016	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.3	0.8	1.3	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	< 0.08	NA	NA	2017	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	< 0.02	NA	NA	2017	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	3	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene) (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes (ppb)	10	10	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	600	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	75	75	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories

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These are all potential contamination sources that could affect our water supply. Also, help us control your water costs by promptly reporting line breaks or damaged equipment such as fire hydrants, storage tanks, etc. to Public Works at (601) 650-1760.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost & no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today & soon it will become second nature.

- Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.
- Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair & shaving & save up to 500 gallons a month.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, & can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Run your clothes washer & dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Water plants only when necessary.
- Fix leaky toilets & faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive & take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank & wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it & during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.

- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

MONITORING & REPORTING OF COMPLIANCE DATA VIOLATIONS

A routine sample for Synthetic Organic Compounds was missed in 2016 for the Pearl River Public Water System. This routine sample has been scheduled to be collected in 2017 & results reported on the 2017 Consumer Confidence Report. Health effects unknown.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women & young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials & components associated with service lines & home plumbing.

The Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Pearl River, & Tucker Water Systems are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, & steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR FLUORIDE

To comply with the 'Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies', the following water systems are required to report certain results pertaining to the fluoridation of our water system.

(Bogue Chitto) - The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.7 - 1.3 ppm was 11. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 91%.

(Conehatta) - The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.7 - 1.3 ppm was 10. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 100%.

(Pearl River) - The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.7 - 1.3 ppm was 11. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 100%.

(Tucker) - The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.7 - 1.3 ppm was 10. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.7-1.3 ppm was 90%.

For more information, please contact:
 Ricky Cook
 P.O. Box 6366,
 Choctaw, MS 39350
 Phone: 601-650-1760

Tucker Public Water System Report

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Detect In Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	< 6.0	NA	NA	2016	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
THMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	4.7	1.4	4.7	2016	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.3	0.8	1.3	2016	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	< 0.08	NA	NA	2017	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	1	1	< 0.02	NA	NA	2017	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	200	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	3	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,1-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	7	7	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	70	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from textile-finishing factories
1,2-Dichloroethane (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities
Chlorobenzene (monochlorobenzene) (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories
Dichloromethane (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	700	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries
Styrene (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from rubber and plastic factories; Leaching from landfills
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners
Toluene (ppm)	1	1	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum factories
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories
Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	0	2	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories
Xylenes (ppb)	10	10	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	70	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	600	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	75	75	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	100	< 0.5	NA	NA	2016	No	Discharge from industrial chemical factories

IN MEMORIAM

FULTON FAMILY

Funeral services for Naomi Ruth Fulton, 35; her husband, Richard Terrell Fulton, 34; & their children, Emma Louise Jewel Fulton, 3; & Richard Terrell Fulton, Jr., 1, were held on Sunday, October 1, 2017, from the Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Pearl River. Rev. Vernell Daniels, Bro. Shelly Peoples, Bro. Willie Solomon, Jr., & Rev. Mark Thompson officiated.

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

The family passed away in an automobile accident on Sept. 25.

Naomi Ruth Fulton lived most of her life in the Tucker Community & was a stay-at-home mom. She was a member of New Covenant Assembly of God.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Terrell Fulton; daughter, Emma Louise Jewel Fulton; son, Richard Terrell Fulton, Jr.; grandmother, Juanita Hall; an aunt, uncle, & a nephew.

Survivors include her daughters, Dinah Lynn Jim & Brianna Gail Martin; son, Jaylen Alonzo Fulton; parents, Tammy & James Jim; sisters, Mary Elizabeth Nickey, Miriam Renae Jim & Anna Marie Njoh; brothers, Samuel Paul Jim, Solomon Paul Jim & Mark Anthony Jim; & grandparents, Anthony Crochet, Sr. & Ramona Crochet.

Richard Terrell Fulton was a welder, avid hunter & fisherman. He was a member of New Covenant Assembly of God.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Naomi Ruth Fulton;

daughter, Emma Louise Jewel Fulton; son, Richard Terrell Fulton, Jr.; grandmother, Louise Fulton; & grandfather, Horace Nicholson.

Survivors include his daughters, Dinah Lynn Jim & Brianna Gail Martin; son, Jaylen Alonzo Fulton; parents, Terrell & Penny Fulton, Cynthia & Daniel Savell; grandparents, Leon & Charlotte Fulton, Cathy Nicholson; sisters, Summer Nicole Fulton & Ashley Michelle Cook; & brothers, William Thomas Fulton & Clifton Tyler Fulton.

Emma Louise Jewell Fulton attended New Covenant Assembly of God with her family. She was always laughing, giving hugs & kisses.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard & Naomi Fulton; & a brother, Richard Terrell Fulton, Jr.

Survivors include her sisters, Dinah Lynn Jim & Brianna Gail Martin; brother, Jaylen Alonzo Fulton; grandparents, Tammy & James Jim, Terrell & Penny Fulton, Cynthia & Daniel Savell; & several aunts, uncles, & cousins.

Richard Terrell Ful-

ton, Jr., attended New Covenant Assembly of God with his family. He loved playing with his toys.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard & Naomi Fulton; & a sister, Emma Louise Jewel Fulton.

Survivors include his sisters, Dinah Lynn Jim & Brianna Gail Martin; brother, Jaylen Alonzo Fulton; grandparents, Tammy & James Jim, Terrell & Penny Fulton, Cynthia & Daniel Savell; & several aunts, uncles, & cousins.

ORATTIE ANN KING

Funeral service for Orattie Ann King, 60, was held on Thursday, October 5, 2017, from the Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. Rev. Robert Patrick & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.

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

Ms. King passed away on Oct. 2 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She enjoyed spending time with family & friends, doing beadwork, & going to flea markets & yard sales.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joe King & Edna King; sisters, Florine Dixon, Geraldine Anderson, Annistine Billy, & Necie King; & brothers, Dalm- on King, Sr. & Emerson King, Sr.

Survivors include her daughters, Rita Ann

Jenkins & Loretta Jenkins; a son, Dwight Jenkins; brother, Danny Lee King; 20 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

CHESTER BRANTLEY ANDERSON, JR.

Funeral service for Chester Brantley Anderson, Jr., 46, was held on Friday, October 20, 2017, from St. Therese's Catholic Church in Pearl River. Father Bob Good-year, S.T., officiated.

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

Mr. Anderson passed away on Oct. 17 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He enjoyed spending time with his family, loved sports, music, reading, & playing dominoes.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Chester Brantley Anderson, Sr., & Marian Isaac Anderson; & grandparents, Jackson Wilson Isaac & Mattie Eva Tubby Isaac, Joe Carl (JC) Anderson & Cathie Johnson Anderson Ben.

Survivors include his wife, Natascha Trest; sons, Dalen Anderson & Jackson Anderson; a sister, Bernadina York; brothers, Bruce Anderson, Sr. & Steven Anderson; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

.....see OBITS, pg. 28

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
130 Campus Drive
Conehatta, MS 39057

Sunday

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

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**

Welcome To

**NANIH WAIYA
INDIAN
Mennonite Church**

**Preaching Every
Sunday - 10:00 am**

**10341 Road 789
Philadelphia, MS 39350**

OBITS continued from page twenty-seven**CLARENCE NEWSOME
THOMAS**

Funeral service for Clarence Newsome Thomas, 67, was held on Saturday, October 21, 2017, from the Standing Pine Facility Building. Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Thomas passed away on Oct. 17 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed spending time with his family, fishing, cooking hominy, & gardening.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Newman Thomas & Corinne Jim Billy; daughters, Daphne Rochelle Thomas & Kenita Sockey; a son, Isiah Thomas; brothers, Una Cotton & Carmen Thomas; common-law wife, Delores C. Sockey; 1 grandson; & a nephew.

Survivors include daughters, Jessica Arauz & Ashley McMillan; sons, Vidal Isaac, Matthew Derrick Thomas, Kendrick Sockey, & Isaac Sockey; sisters, Diane Ben, Ailene Thomas, Margaret Jefferson, Ramona Pitts, Brenda Vaughn, Reberta Smith, Mary Sykes, & Patricia Hickman; brother, Chris Thomas; 19 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MARGIE GAIL FRAZIER

Funeral service for Margie Gail Frazier, 47, was held on Sunday, October 22, 2017, from the Nanih Waiya Indian Mennonite Church. Rev. Harvey Yoder & Rev. Glenn Myers officiated.

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

Ms. Frazier passed away on Oct. 11 in Kansas City, MO.

She enjoyed being with her pets, reading, office work, telling stories, traveling, meeting new people, & bead work.

She was preceded in death by her father, Leroy Frazier, Sr.; sister, Margaret Lynn Frazier-Todd; brothers, Roy Frazier & Timothy Lee Frazier; grandparents, Lee Jim, Sr. & Lonie Cotton Jim, Fob Frazier & Lavada Sam Frazier; four aunts; & four uncles.

Survivors include her mother, Bobbie Jean Jim Frazier; daughters, Felicia Nickole Williams & Jade Willis; son, Christian Williams; brothers, Leroy Frazier, Jr. & Michael Frazier; 1 niece; 3 nephews; 2 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

HUBERT SHOEMAKE

Funeral service for Hubert Shoemake, 87, was held on Monday, October 23, 2017, from St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Conehatta.

Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

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

Mr. Shoemake passed away on Oct. 19 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed being with his family, playing the fiddle, baseball, stickball, cards, fishing, & doing crossword puzzles.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Buck & Annie Shoemake; daughters, Fronie Tubby & Ronie Tubby; son, James Monroe Shoemake; sisters, Carrie Jefferson, Liza Shoemake, Leoni Williams, Daisy Solomon, Martha Williams, Mary Williams, & Velma Jimmie; brothers, Elton Shoemake, Sr. & Edmond Shoemake; six grandchildren; & two great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his sons, Gerald Shoemake, Hilbert Shoemake & Bernon Shoemake; sisters, Georgia Lou Thomas & Juanita Shoemake; 23 grandchildren; 68 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

**NOLEEN JOHNSON
CHICKAWAY**

Funeral service for Noleen Johnson Chickaway, 88, was held on Thursday, October 26, 2017, from the St. Catherine Catholic Church. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

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

Ms. Chickaway passed away on Oct. 22 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

She enjoyed being with family & friends, making Choctaw baskets, dresses & beadwork.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ross Collins Chickaway, Sr.; daughter, Ives Chickaway Rhodes; sons, Alfred Chickaway, Ross Collins Chickaway, Jr., Alan Chickaway, Sr., Robby Lee Chickaway, Gerard Chickaway, & Ronnie Wayne Chickaway, Sr.; parents, Edgar & Beatrice Harper Johnson; sisters, Callie Shumake, Francis Jefferson & Neva Dixon; brothers, Harry Johnson & Larry Johnson; & 1 grandson.

Survivors include a daughter, Lynette Farmer; sons, Troy Chickaway & Randall Chickaway; a sister, Belfree Willis; 38 grandchildren; 98 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

**HAYWARD CHARLES
BRISCOE**

Funeral service for Hayward Charles Briscoe, 56, was held on Thursday, October 26, 2017, from the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta. Deacon Joseph Wesley & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Briscoe passed away on Oct. 23 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a fork lift driver & housekeeper at Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed watching New Orleans Saints games, & playing baseball & stickball when he was younger.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Maggie Briscoe; father, Rocco Ralston Chapman, Jr.; an aunt & 2 uncles.

Survivors include his sons, Eric Briscoe & Nathan Wallace; stepson, Bruce Thompson; stepdaughter, Rebecca Thompson; mother, Norma Briscoe; sisters, Cynthia Smith Dixon & Sharlene Vasques; half-sisters, Melinda Chapman & Erica Bell; brothers, John Paul Smith & Herman Neal Smith; half-brother, Ralstan Chapman, III; special friend, Darlene Thompson; 2 grandchildren; an uncle & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

VANELL FARMER

Funeral service for Vanell Farmer, 52, was held on Sunday, October 29, 2017, from the Pine Bluff Baptist Church in Sebastopol. Bro. Mark Patrick & Bro. Robert

...continued next page

Patrick officiated.

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

Ms. Farmer passed away on Oct. 23 in Thomasville, GA.

She enjoyed helping others, sewing, cooking, fishing, going to yard sales, growing plants, watching her favorite TV shows, going on long drives, & going on walks with her dog.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur Farmer, Sr. & Dorothy Polk Farmer; a sister, Patricia Ann Farmer; & brothers, Arthur Lee Farmer, Jr., Bobby Lee Farmer & Ricky Lee Farmer.

Survivors include sons, Nathan Wallace & Eric Briscoe; sisters, Clara Wilson & Sandra Wesley; brothers, Earl Farmer, Sr., Henry C. Farmer & Gilbert Bell; & a host of relatives & friends.

JONATHAN RAY MEELY

Funeral service for Jonathan Ray Meely, 49, was held on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, from the Red Water Facility Building. Pastor Thomas Ben, Jr. officiated.

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

Mr. Meely passed away on Oct. 28 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was employed with Tyson Foods and enjoyed classic cars & going to car shows & rock concerts.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Betty Lou Allen Meely; & a grandmother, Bessie Allen.

Survivors include his father, Charles Ray Meely; brothers, Charles Edward Meely, Randy E. Meely, Allen Meely, & Ronald D. Meely; an aunt; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

FRANKLIN KETCHER

Funeral service for Frank Ketcher, 49, was held on Friday, November 3, 2017, from St. Therese's Catholic Church in Pearl River. Father Augustine officiated.

Burial was in the John Memorial Cemetery. Wilcox Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Ketcher passed away on Oct. 31 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a painter at Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed making home improvements, watching football games, grilling, bonding with friends, & taking road trips.

He was preceded in death by his father, Roy Ketcher, Sr.; & a sister, Lauren Ketcher.

Survivors include his wife, Julia Ketcher; daughters, Amery Ketcher & Cecilia Ketcher; mother, Murlene Jim; sisters, Cathy Calimari, Carmen Bell & Vanessa Ketcher; brothers, Roy Alan Ketcher, Roy Ketcher, Jr., Terry Tubby, Maxwell Ketcher, Eric

Ketcher, & Gregory Jim; 1 grandchild; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

DEMETRIUS DUANE SAM

Funeral service for Demetrius Duane Sam, 35, was held on Monday, November 6, 2017, from Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

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

Mr. Sam passed away on Nov. 2 in Neshoba County.

He loved to visit with his family & helping others. He was a fan of the Chicago Bulls & played stickball for Beaver Dam & Tucker.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Shirley A. Sam; grandparents, Ellis & Mary Lou Sam, Irvin & Lillie Jefferson; a brother, Dominic Amos; 3 uncles, an aunt & a nephew.

Survivors include his father, Norman Sam; son, Diczno Sam; sisters, Kendra Sam, Ambrosia McDonald & Mariel Sam; brothers, Robert Farmer, Antonio Wallace, Mika Sam, Jeremiah Sam, & Kenzie Jefferson; & a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JUNIE BELL CABRERA

Funeral service for Junie Bell Cabrera, 61, was held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017,

from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Pastor Curtis Willis, Sr. & Pastor Thomas Ben, Jr. officiated.

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

Ms. Cabrera passed away on Nov. 3 at her residence.

She worked with Pearl River Resort & ABS as a custodian, homecare personnel & a homemaker. She enjoyed being with family & friends, fishing, watching movies, beading, making stickball aprons, cooking outdoors, cheering her favorite teams, & making people laugh.

She was preceded in death by her parents, G.W. Bell & Ann Frazier Bell; sister, Junita Chapman; half-sister, Lorene Cumberland; brothers, Elmer Bell & Elon Bell; 4 grandchildren; & an uncle.

Survivors include daughters, Melissa Wallace, Rochelle Wallace, DeeLenna Jefferson, Melinda Wallace, & Cecilia Cabrera; sons, Kenneth Wallace, Ronald Wallace & Jonathan Cabrera; sisters, Willie Mae Wilson, Rena Bell & Brenda S. Bell; a brother, Levon Bell; an uncle; 27 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

GLENDA NELL WILLIAMSON

Funeral service for Glenda Nell William-

son, 68, was held on Saturday, November 11, 2017, from the Conehatta Elementary School Gymnasium. Deacon John P. Smith & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Ms. Williamson passed away on Nov. 8 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Franklin Stephens & Odie Mae Anderson; her husband, Rev. Wilburn Williamson, Sr.; a sister, Judy Lynn Chickaway; a brother, Harry Wayne Stephens; & a grandson.

Survivors include her daughters, Allison Ann Smith & Andria Renee Williamson; sons, Javan Arnold Williamson & Wilburn Williamson, Jr.; 15 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

EDWIN TUBBY

Funeral service for Edwin Tubby, 50, was held on Monday, November 13, 2017, from the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Red Water. Rev. Carl Wilson & Rev. Gilbert Breedlove officiated.

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

Mr. Tubby passed

.....see OBITS, pg. 30

OBITS continued from page twenty-nine

away on Nov. 9 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He was a Maintenance Technician at Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed being with family & friends, playing dominoes, board games, bow hunting, & fishing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edison Tubby & Lecin Wilson; & a brother, Harold Denson.

Survivors include his sisters, Laurie Breedlove, Connie Goar & Patsy Tubby; brothers, Melvin Wilson, Sr. & Lefus Tubby, Sr.; a special friend, Peggy Shumake; 3 step-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

GEORGIA LOU THOMAS

Funeral service for Georgia Lou Thomas, 78, was held on Friday, November 17, 2017, from the Conehatta Facility Building. Pastor Mark Patrick officiated.

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

Ms. Thomas passed away on Nov. 12 at the University Medical Center in Jackson.

She enjoyed being with her family, weaving Choctaw baskets, playing softball, cards, bingo, washers, & fishing.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Buck & Annie Shoemake; husband, Dewey

Thomas; son, Vernon Thomas; stepson, Davis Thomas; two grandchildren; sisters, Leona Williams, Mary Williams, Daisy Solomon, Martha Williams, Carrie Mae Jefferson, Eliza Shoemake, & Velma Jimmie; brothers, Edmond Shoemake, Elton Shoemake, Sr. & Hubert Shoemake.

Survivors include her daughters, Glenna Phillips, Dyrona Thomas, Lenora Thomas, & Gloria Willis; sons, Theodore Thomas, Dewayne Thomas & Lyndon Thomas; a stepson, Fred Thomas; 28 grandchildren; 56 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JUDIE LENE ISAAC

Funeral service for Judie Lene Isaac, 75, was held on Wednesday, November 22, 2017, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

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

Ms. Isaac passed away on Nov. 18 at her granddaughter's residence.

She was a retired Cultural Activities Coordinator at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center. She loved cooking & spending time with her family & traveling.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wilburn Isaac & Millie Davis; brother, Harold Isaac; & half-sisters, Cathy Isaac & Cira Isaac.

Survivors include her companion, Hubert Willis; sons, Edward McMillan, Gregory McMillan, James McMillan, & Gary McMillan; a sister, Doris Billie; half-sister, Ina Isaac-Solomon; 8 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

CAP Workshops

On Friday, Sept. 29, the Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) held their last cultural presentation for fiscal year 2016-17 as they took part in the Canton-Madison County Historical Society's "Late 1800's-Early 1900's Living History Exhibition."

CAP staff members Trudy Jimmie, Lorena Alex, Casey Bigpond, & May McGeisey presented exhibits on Choctaw clothing, beadwork, drums, stickball sticks, & stickballs.

The first cultural presentation of fiscal year 2017-18 was held at the Madison Upper Elementary School gymnasium in Madison on Tuesday, Oct. 3.

Nearly 550 students experienced culture & developments that made up the city of Madison & the State of Mississippi.

Wendy Thompson told stories & legends from the Choctaw Tribal Language Program booklet, "Shokka Annopa."

Phyllis McMillan showed a video on Choctaw social dances while Trudy Jimmie displayed her collection of traditional beaded jewelry & shared the history of Choctaw beadwork.

Everett Sam brought several Choctaw dresses & shirts he made & Casey Bigpond demonstrated his skills & gave a lecture on Choctaw stickball & drum.

May McGeisey led a step-by-step making of the traditional Choctaw dish *banaha*. She, along with Wendy Thompson, prepared *banaha* with ingredients needed to make the dish, along with posters detailing the process.

Christmas Project

The Merrehope Project was off to a great start! May McGeisey, Casey Bigpond, Trudy Jimmie, Alanna John,

...continued next page

Pearl River Insurance Agency

Need Auto Insurance?

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

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

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

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202 Choctaw Town Center Choctaw, Mississippi

***** Business Hours *****

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Closed Wednesday & Sunday



Lorena Alex & Trudy Jimmie gave their beadwork presentation behind the Old Madison County Jail.

Raytina Hannig, & Lorena Alex traveled to all the Choctaw Tribal Schools during October & November to teach Talented & Gifted (TAG) class students how to bead Christmas ornaments.

The ornaments, representing the Choctaw communities, were part of a tree decorated by TAG students as part of Merrehope's "49th Annual Trees of Christmas."

Merrehope, a historic antebellum landmark located on 905 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive in Meridian, will host the holiday exhibit from Nov. 19-Dec. 30, & includes over 25 decorated trees & displays.

The tours include historical, educational & cultural facts telling the story of the theme:

CAP Outreach Coordinator Lorena Alex was selected the 2017 Elderly Princess during the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center's Brave & Princess Pageant on Thursday, Sept. 21. Lorena represented the elderly center during Choctaw Central High School's Homecoming Parade, the Green Corn Festival in the Bogue Chitto Community & at the Lauren Rogers Museum in Laurel. (Photo courtesy of Angie Alex)

Mississippi's 200 Years: Remembering & Celebrating.

CAP Workshop in Bogue Homa

CAP staff members Wendy Thompson & Casey Bigpond traveled to the Bogue Homa community on Wednesday, Oct. 11, to instruct community members the protocols of building a fire & outdoor cooking of hominy & fry bread.

The session was held, upon the request of Bogue Homa Tribal Council member Berdie Steve & Day Training Director Thomas Ben, in order to serve elders in the community.

Henning Workshop

On Friday, Nov. 3, the CAP staff made a see DCI NEWS, pg. 32



Casey Bigpond gave a presentation on Choctaw drums & stickball to children in Canton on Sept. 29



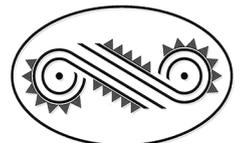
Everett Sam gives a presentation on Choctaw clothing to students of Madison Upper Elementary School.



Casey Bigpond (background left) demonstrates fire building techniques to Bogue Homa community members.



Casey Bigpond (far left) held Choctaw social dance practice for approximately 55 children at the Pearl River Head Start playground on Monday, Oct. 16. The practice was in preparation for the Green Corn Festival in the Bogue Chitto Community.



CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER

featuring

CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through "Choctaw Expressions" - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

CHAHTA IMMI
CULTURAL CENTER
Choctaw Shopping Center
Highway 16 West
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-650-1687
www.choctaw.org

HOURS OF OPERATION
TUESDAY - SATURDAY
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

ADMISSION	
GENERAL ADMISSION	\$5
EDUCATION DISCOUNT	\$5
MILITARY DISCOUNT	\$5
TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH TRIBAL ID	\$2
SENIORS (57 AND ABOVE)	FREE
CHILDREN (UNDER 5)	FREE

Happy 2nd Birthday to Lil Miss Emma Grace John on



Nov. 16, 2017. With all the love in the world, giant hugs & tiny kisses, from MiMi, your Aunt Gibby, & Uncles Dain & Jeter. We love you Puddin!

Happy Belated Birthdays to Yunnel Willis on Oct. 14, Denyunhia Willis on Oct. 16, & Meshia Willis on Nov. 2. We love you, from your family on Indian Hills.

Happy Birthday to my girls, Meshia & Denyunhia Willis. You both have grown to be very smart, beautiful young ladies. I am blessed to have you both in my life - I love you very much, from Dad.

DCI NEWS continued from page thirty-one

trip to the Henning community in Tennessee to conduct Choctaw Shirt Making & Christmas Tree Ornament

Beading classes at the multi-purpose building. The attendance & food were great!

Phyllis McMil-

lan, Lorena Alex & Wendy Thompson prepared a fine meal of Indian tacos which was enjoyed by all. The

atmosphere has always been incredible & always a pleasure to serve & visit the people of Henning.

Beading Workshop



ABOVE, Casey Bigpond (standing right) teaches students in Gloria Seward's sixth grade class how to bead a Christmas ornament.

RIGHT, Patsy Roach proudly displays her completed Christmas tree ornament while Noah Waits (background) looks on.



CAP staff members Phyllis McMillan, Trudy Jimmie, Wendy Thompson, & Lorena Alex traveled to the Lauren Rogers Museum in Laurel to participate in the 4th Grade Tours - Choctaw Days on Oct. 25-26. The group also assisted with Albert Lewis' cultural demonstrations. Pictured right, Bogue Homa Social Dancers, under the direction of coordinator Pearlie Thomas, perform the Raccoon Dance on the lawn of the museum. (Photo by CAP Coordinator Phyllis McMillan)



CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017

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On Saturday, Dec. 2, the CAP hosted a workshop on Christmas Tree Ornament Beading at the Pearl River Community Center from 9:00 a.m to 3:30 p.m.

Keep watch for a future schedule of cultural classes in the next issue of the Choctaw Community News & social media. For more information, call the CAP office at (601) 663-7506.



Lilly Obtains CPA License

Tony Lilly, pictured left, received his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license in a presentation ceremony by Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy officials on November 18, 2017. His children and grandchildren joined him in celebrating this great achievement at the State Capitol in Jackson. Tony's hard work and dedication have resulted in reaching a great milestone in his career - becoming a Certified Public Accountant. His loved ones are proud of him & congratulate him on a job well done. His favorite quote is from the late Alabama coach Paul "Bear" Bryant - "If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride - and never quit - you'll be a winner. The price of victory is high but so are the rewards."