

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XLVII, NO. 9

CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

SEPTEMBER 2017



www.choctaw.org

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

Tribe Breaks Ground for New Red Water Clinic



The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians held a ground breaking ceremony for the new Red Water community health clinic on Thursday, Sept. 28.

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, along with community members and officials from the Choctaw Health Center, Tribal government and local community governments, attended this momentous occasion.



Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, 2017-2018 Johnson, Deborah Martin, Christopher Eaves, & Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Lann Cox, Choctaw Health Center (CHC) Director Tina Scott, CHC Project Manager James Denson, Tribal Council representatives Richard Isaac, Sharon *Richard Sockeye, along with Red Water & Standing Pine community members, break ground for the new Red Water community health clinic. Pictured above is the rendering of the clinic.*

.....see **CLINIC**, pg. 6

New Safe Room Opens At PRES

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, Sept. 8 for the opening of Pearl River Elementary School's new \$1.6 mil-

lion Safe Room.

The 5,600 square-foot structure is constructed of reinforced concrete and has the capacity to shelter 900 people, which includes PRES

students, teachers, staff, and community members.

Built to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) P-361 Safe

Room Standards, the room will be able to withstand 250-mile-per-hour winds.

FEMA, through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, covered 95 percent of the project under the Hazard Mitigation Grant

Program. The Tribe covered 5 percent through Tribal revenue and in-kind donations.

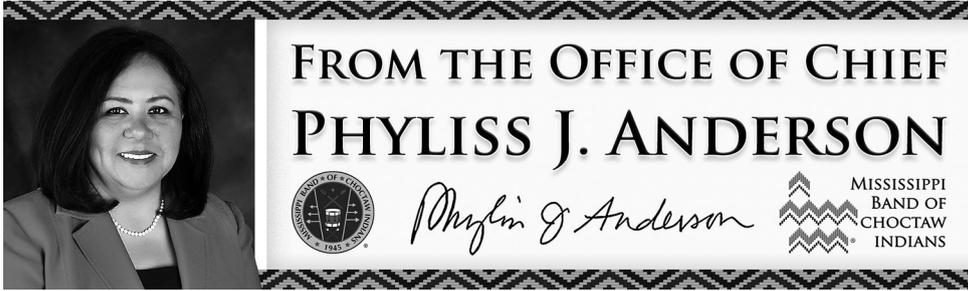
"Pearl River is the largest of seven elementary schools we have in

.....see **SAFE ROOM**, pg. 5



LEFT, A view of the new Pearl River Elementary School Safe Room. **RIGHT**, Participating in the ribbon cutting alongside Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson; 2017-2018 Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Lann Cox; and PRES Braves & Princesses Keagan Henry, Kaiya Cotton, Elijah Jimmie, & Eleanor Smith are, pictured left to right: Tucker Tribal Council Representative Wilma Simpson-McMillan; Pearl River Tribal Council Representative Debbie Martin; Tribal Development Manager Steve Hockins; PRES Principal Suzanne

Hyatt; Tribal Planner John Cumberland; Department of Schools Director David Germany; Education Division Director Willa Brantley; IKBI Contractor Ben Brummett; Architect Ryan Ashford; Pearl River Tribal Council Representative Barry McMillan; Architect Major Andrews; Standing Pine Tribal Council Representative Loriann Ahshapanek; Development Division Director James Robinson; & Bogue Chitto Tribal Council Representative Kendall Wallace.



Halito!
The temperatures are really beginning to cool down, and we are experiencing such beautiful fall scenes around the Reservation.

Several of our Tribal departments and programs will be hosting their annual fall events, and I know how excited many Tribal members are to participate in these fun activities.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these events and enjoying the fun and fellowship together!

CCHS SOLAR CAR TEAM

I am pleased to announce that members and support staff of our CCHS Tushka Hashi Solar Car Team traveled to and have safely arrived in Australia for the Bridgestone World Solar Car Challenge. The

team will travel a 3,000-km route from Darwin to Adelaide, and they are participating in this race along with other teams of students from over 30 countries.

This is the second time the Solar Car Team has participated in the Challenge, and we know they will well represent our Tribe, the State of Mississippi, Indian Country and the United States.

Thank you to everyone who made donations or supported the team in their fundraising efforts to make this trip possible. I can't wait to hear about the team members' experiences when they get back!

RED WATER CLINIC GROUND BREAKING

On Thursday, September 28th, we broke ground for the new Red Water community health

clinic. This \$2.5 million project is funded through Choctaw Health Department funds.

Construction on the new 10,860-square-foot facility will begin in October 2017 and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2018. This facility will be four times larger than the current facility built in 1972, allowing more space for services offered.

This was such a great day for the Tribe. I am so pleased that we will be able to provide this much-needed new and expanded facility for our Tribal members living in the Red Water and Standing Pine communities.

I thank all who are involved in this project and am proud that we are taking another posi-



Chief Anderson offered well wishes to the CCHS Solar Car Team members during a reception at the OTC on Sept. 21. The team traveled to Australia to participate in the World Solar Car Challenge. Pictured above, Chief Anderson with team members Taelor Sockey, Braden Peters, Antonio Bell, Kravon Willis, & Mahali Henry.

tive step forward in providing quality health-care for Tribal members.

I also thank members of the Tribal Council, 2017-2018 Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Lann Cox, Choctaw Health Center and Tribal officials, local government leaders, and especially our community members, for joining us for this wonderful celebration.

I hope to see all of you next year when we cut

the ribbon for the new clinic!

RED WATER/TEC ANNOUNCEMENTS

As I mentioned in my last column, the Red Water Referendum Election will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2017. The decision that is made in this election will have a great impact on the future of

...continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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

**COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350**

TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565

Brian C. WillisCommunications Manager
Darron TubbyCommunications 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.



Social dancers from Red Water Elementary School, which included recently crowned princesses and braves, pose with Chief Anderson & Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox after their performance at the Red Water clinic groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 28.

our Tribe.

I have always stood firm in my commitment to the Red Water Casino project because of the jobs and revenue it will bring.

A lot of progress has been made on the Reservation in the last six years, but we must continue to create more opportunities and a brighter future for our children. I truly believe this new project will take us in the right direction to do those things.

In the next few weeks, the Tribal Election Committee will hold public hearings in all eight Tribal communities. These hearings will provide an opportunity for the Office of the Tribal Chief and for the referendum supporters to speak and answer questions regarding the Red Water Casino project.

I encourage everyone to attend these hearings and learn more about the project and make an informed decision. A listing of the hearing dates, times and locations is included in this issue of the *Choctaw Community News*.

AMERICAN INDIAN DAY FESTIVITIES

The week of September 18-22, 2017, was American Indian Week, with the 22nd being the American Indian Day holiday. All of our Choctaw Tribal Schools commemorated this week with various activities such as princess and brave pageants and traditional Choctaw meals.

Congratulations to all of the princess and brave winners! I know you will do a great job representing your school. Many of these princesses and braves will be participating in upcoming parades, so make sure you give them a smile and a wave when you see them!

LADY WARRIORS SOFTBALL UPDATE

The CCHS Lady Warriors slow pitch softball team is having a spectacular season. As I write this column, the team is the 2017 Region IV district champions! I am so proud of our girls and coaches for their hard work and efforts.

Senior Night was held on Saturday, September 30th, and exceptional seniors Jayasri Mitch, Darien Tubby, LaChrista Williams, India Samuel, Maleighia Joe and Lauren Ben were recognized and honored in a ceremony before their game against Philadelphia.

These girls are the team leaders, and they are shining examples for the other players to follow. We wish them the best as they prepare for the future!

Playoffs will be held in the next couple of weeks, and I encourage everyone to come out and show your support. Girls, we are with you all the way! GO LADY WARRIORS!

DRIVEWAY REPAIR PROGRAM

I want to remind ev-

eryone of the Driveway Repair Program I introduced in our July issue of the *Choctaw Community News*. This project is to provide support to our Tribal Elders living in the Choctaw Tribal communities.

The Driveway Repair Project for Elders, Disabled and/ or Handicapped individuals began taking applications in August. Applications are still being accepted now at the Choctaw Elderly Center.

This program is for Tribal Elders, permanently disabled and handicapped individuals that are enrolled members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and who own their home on the Choctaw Reservation.

Funds have been budgeted to provide 100 feet of repair or replacement of the worst driveway sections at the permanent residence for eligible applicants. Driveway repairs will be prioritized based on damage and number of repairs needed.

To learn more about eligibility requirements and/or to fill out an application, please visit the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center or call Gary Williamson at (601) 663-3003.

I look forward to seeing the results of this program to benefit our honored Tribal Elders.

ADULT SOFTBALL COMPLEX UPDATE

The next exciting project we are kicking off this fall is the Adult

Softball complex. The plans include an area for 8 fields. We plan on finishing and opening with six of the fields completed, and the other two completed as demand requires.

This is phase one of a three phase plan to create an athletic field complex on James Billie Road.

The complexes will be built around concession stands and restrooms. The outfield fences will all measure 220 ft., and have plenty of viewing areas around them in a combination of stands as well as seating areas for lawn chairs.

This will be truly a place where the softball teams in Mississippi will want to come and enjoy a long weekend of softball tournaments.

HOUSING UPDATES

We are finishing up the new Tribal Loan Program houses which are part of our Housing Project. These beautiful homes are available for Mortgage, or Lease to Purchase through the Tribal Loan Program.

In the Tucker community we are currently clearing the site for home construction. The next steps will be sewer, water and road placement, followed by construction of the homes. We will begin construction in early spring.

The same is true for the Pearl River housing development on Choctaw Road. Once the BIA approves the road plan, we will initiate sewer,

water and road construction, followed closely by home construction.

We are working very hard to keep progress moving forward. I look forward to seeing these neighborhoods built for our growing Tribal population.

CLOSING

Although our Mississippi autumns are generally mild compared to other areas of the country, we cannot rule out a cold snap or two. So I urge everyone to start preparing for the cold weather.

If you have a loved one who is an elder who uses a wood heater, make sure they have an adequate stock of firewood, and if they do not, have them sign up for the firewood program at the Tribal Member Services office at the Tribal headquarters. Also, make sure your heating appliances are all in good working condition.

You can keep up-to-date on upcoming fall activities through the Tribal website, social media, and of course, here in the *Choctaw Community News*.

I hope to see you all at these events. I encourage us all to continue to work together for the common good of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson

Phyllis J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief

Tribal Distribution Notice

Distribution will be December 5, 2017.

IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES TO REMEMBER!

Tribal Court (Child Support) - October 20, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

Direct Deposit - November 6, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

Other changes listed below - November 6, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

*** If you did not pick up your checks, it will be mailed the next day!**

*** Our office will not hold any checks for pickup the day after Distribution!**

*** If your name is not on the check, you are not allowed to pick up another Tribal member's check!**

TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION REMINDERS!

Please help us make the process of receiving your check easier by having the following information current. Please list your children anytime you make any changes, whether to change your last name or address. (All of the following needs to be done & turned in to the Tribal Distribution Office.)

* Over 18 years old (Photo I.D.)

* Custody change (Court Order) - Parents need to fill out the Changes to Tribal Distribution form & the W-4V tax forms if you wish to stop the taxes from taking out once your child/children is released back to you.

* Name changes (Marriage/Divorce with new name on your Social Security card) - It is very important to list your dependants as well on the form.

* Address changes - If you do a forwarding address with your local post office, please fill out an application with our office since the forwarding time does have an expiration. Anytime you do an address change for yourself, **always** include all of your dependants. We DO NOT accept address changes over the phone.

* Tax (W-4V) - It needs to be filled out by the individuals for themselves and/or their dependants if they wish to have taxes taken out or stopped.

DIRECT DEPOSIT is still available!

Keep in mind if your check was captured for anything from the previous distribution, you will have to submit a new application to do direct deposit again. Only the individual/individuals listed as the account holder can do direct deposit. Please do not attempt to use someone else's account as they will be rejected.

It is very important that you let our office know whenever you close your account & do not wait until after the deadline.

NEW ENROLLEES

Contact the Enrollment Office at 601-656-5251, ext. 1542.

UNCLAIMED CHECKS

Tribal Distribution Office will only hold your check for 6 months. If you have not received your check, please contact Barbara Ben at 601-650-1522. The check will be returned to the General Revenue Fund after 6 months if not claimed.

The Tribal Distribution Office is located on the upper level at the Tribal Office building in the Finance Department. The forms are available in the lobby or in the Finance Office. You can also visit www.choctaw.org. For more information, contact Barbara Ben, Distribution Manager, at 601-650-1522.



CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed is a briefcontinued next page

NOTICE OF TRIBAL REFERENDUM ELECTION

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will hold a Reservation Wide Tribal Referendum Election on **Thursday, November 16, 2017.**

"Be It Enacted By the Members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Should Tribal Council Resolution CHO 17-033 Authorizing a New Class III Gaming Casino in the Red Water Community remain in effect?"

YES.....

NO.....

The MBCI Tribal Election Committee includes the following members: 1) Berdie John, Chairperson; 2) Amy Pauls, Member; 3) Wanda Davidson, Member; 4) Danita Darlene Willis, Alternate; 5) Shirley Wilson, Alternate; and 6) Gary Williamson, Alternate. The Tribal Election Committee will appoint a Local Community Election Committee (LCEC) for each community to conduct this election. Tribal members who are registered to vote will cast their ballots at the polling place operated by the Local Community Election Committee. Voters may be asked to show a form of identification.

Times and places are listed below:

COMMUNITY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
1. Bogue Chitto Bogue Chitto-Henning, TN	Thursday, November 16, 2017 Thursday, November 16, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm 8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Gym MBCI Henning, MultiPurpose Bldg. 1230 Hwy. 87 W Henning, TN
2. Bogue Homa	Thursday, November 16, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Gym
3. Conehatta	Thursday, November 16, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Gym
4. Crystal Ridge	Thursday, November 16, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Gym
5. Pearl River	Thursday, November 16, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Downstairs
6. Red Water	Thursday, November 16, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Gym
7. Standing Pine	Thursday, November 16, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Meeting Rm.
8. Tucker	Thursday, November 16, 2017	8:00am-8:00pm	Facility Building/Gym

REGISTRATION

Tribal members 18 years of age or older who have not yet registered to vote may register at the Tribal Election Office. See Mavis H. Hickman. If you do not register to vote on or before 5:00 p.m., October 17, 2017, you cannot vote in the November 16, 2017, election. If you have already registered to vote, you do not need to register again unless you have moved to another community since the day of your registration. Any registered voter in a community may challenge the residency of a person on the initial voters list by filing a voter challenge form to the Tribal Election Committee within ten (10) business days of the posting of the initial voters list on September 12, 2017.

ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified registered voter who is age 57 or above, or who is physically unable to appear at the poll on election date, or who resides 50 miles or more distance from the community in which he or she is registered to vote shall be entitled to vote by absentee ballot. Request for mailed absentee ballots must be submitted in writing to the Tribal Election Committee at the Tribal Election Office not later than 12:00 noon on October 27, 2017. Requests for mailed absentee ballots received after this date and time will not be honored. Walk-in absentee ballot requests shall be submitted in writing to the Tribal Election Committee starting on October 28, 2017 through 12:00 noon on the day before the election. Document of proof supporting the walk-in absentee ballot request is mandatory. Mailed and walk-in requests for absentee ballots can be only for the person making the request; the request cannot be made on behalf of others.

INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the Tribal Election Committee at one of the following numbers: (601) 650-7475, (601) 650-7468, (601) 650-1507 or FAX (601) 389-2252. You may also contact the Committee by writing to:

Office of Tribal Election
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 6052 or 131 Annex Circle
Choctaw, MS 39350

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

Berdie John, Chairperson

Amy Pauls, Member

Wanda Davidson, Member

DATE POSTED: September 12, 2017

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.

SPECIAL CALL MEETING - SEPT. 15
 A Resolution approving Fiscal Year 2018 Budgets for Tribal Administration, Programs, Agencies, & Operations, was ADOPTED 11 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Mar-*

tin, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, & K. Wallace); 3 NO (*T. Anderson, B. McMillan, & W. McMillan*); 1 ABSTAIN (*D. Wilson*); & 2 ABSENT (*R. Anderson & L. Parkerson*).

A Resolution authorizing a Distribution of Tribal Funds, was ADOPTED 15 YES, 0 NO,

0 ABSTAIN, & 2 ABSENT.
 A Resolution approving Fiscal Year 2018 Office of Headstart Continuation Application Request from The Administration for Children & Families, Department of Health & Human Services, was ADOPTED 15 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, & 2 ABSENT.

SAFE ROOM continued from page one

the Choctaw Tribal Schools System, and we wanted to make sure our students have a place of safety in case of severe weather," said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

"I hope we don't have anything severe, but in case we do, we will make sure our students and staff are all safe here."

Tornadoes are considered to be the most dangerous and serious natural hazard affecting MBCI communities. In the past 60 years, approximately 201 tornadoes were reported in the counties that contain an MBCI community. These storms re-

sulted in 54 fatalities, approximately 724 injuries and \$268 million in property damage.

"We're excited about the opening of this building," said PRES Principal Suzanne Hyatt. "We are so thankful to have this safe room on our campus. This building is going to provide safe shelter for our children, our faculty and staff and our school community."

Architectural and design planning was provided by Major Design Studios of Starkville/Columbus, MS. Project construction was headed by IKBI, Inc., of Choctaw.

Pearl River Resort Cares About the Community

Pearl River Resort maintains a close working relationship with The American Red Cross to provide humanitarian relief after disasters. Money, personal hygiene supplies, and water have all been donated over the past several years.

Two trucks filled with bottled water recently rolled into a supply staging area in Jackson. Matthew Perkins, Resort Executive Vice President of Operations & Marketing (pictured far right), rolled up his sleeves and jumped right in assisting the resort banquets team in unloading the 18 pallets of water.



In all, 1,300 bottles of water will be distributed by the American Red Cross to assist victims of recent hurricanes.



Pictured from left are Matthew Perkins, Executive Vice President of Operations & Marketing; Moses Wallace; Arnado Sam; Decarlo McMillan; James Stribling; Brantley Wash; & Erica Clemmons-Moore, Director of Public Relations, Internal Communications, & Special Projects.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON RED WATER CASINO REFERENDUM NO. 2017-01

Pursuant to Section 33-11-8 of the Tribal Election Code, the MBCI Tribal Election Committee is required to hold at least one (1) public hearing prior to the scheduled November 16, 2017 Referendum Election Day in each of the eight (8) recognized Choctaw communities. The public hearings will provide an opportunity for referendum proponents (the Sponsors) and opponents (the Office of the Tribal Chief) to speak and answer questions on the Red Water Casino project and referendum. This is notice of the following public hearing dates, locations and times:

COMMUNITY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Crystal Ridge	Thursday October 19, 2017	6:00 p.m.	Gymnasium
Bogue Homa	Tuesday October 24, 2017	6:00 p.m.	Gymnasium
Pearl River	Thursday October 26, 2017	6:00 p.m.	Gymnasium
Conehatta	Saturday October 28, 2017	10:00 a.m.	Gymnasium
Tucker	Saturday October 28, 2017	2:00 p.m.	Tucker Tribal School Gymnasium
Bogue Chitto	Monday October 30, 2017	6:00 p.m.	Gymnasium
Standing Pine	Saturday November 04, 2017	11:00 a.m.	Gymnasium
Red Water	Saturday November 04, 2017	2:00 p.m.	Gymnasium

The TEC will send out more detailed information on the public hearing process shortly. Questions regarding the public hearing should be directed to the TEC Offices at (601)650-7475.

DATE: October 4, 2017

TRIBAL ELECTION COMMITTEE:

Berdie John
 Berdie John, Chairperson

Amy Pauls
 Amy Pauls, Member

Wanda Davidson
 Wanda Davidson, Member

Pearl River Resort Chefs Compete in Challenge

(CHOCTAW, MS) – \$1,000.

As part of Pearl River Resort’s culinary training program, Resort chefs were encouraged to enter the Pearl River Resort Culinary Competition 2017: \$1,000 Pork Challenge.

The Pork Challenge is a two-part competition with qualifying rounds. Those who advance to the final round compete for a chance to win up to

On Sept. 12, qualifying rounds began with 15 chefs competing against one another, preparing dishes that include the key ingredient, pork, as well as mystery ingredients selected by Executive Chef Louis Chatham.

“We have many great chefs at the Resort who are very interested in learning new techniques

and striving to become the best of the best in providing greater dining experiences,” stated Chatham, “This competition is a way for our chefs to apply what they have learned in training, use their creativity, and create delicious dishes in a competitive atmo-

sphere.” Four chefs, Alex Delgado, Noelle Richards, Michael Rush, and Jimmie Smith, advanced to compete in the Live Challenge, which took place on Tuesday, Sept. 19 in the Pearl River Resort exhibition kitchen. The judges scored the

contestants as followed:
1st place, \$1,000 winner - Michael Rush
2nd place, \$500 winner - Alex Delgado
3rd place, \$250 winner - Jimmie Smith
4th place, \$125 winner - Noelle Richards
For more information on Pearl River Resort and its excellent dining options, visit www.pearlriverresort.com.



Pictured from left are Michael Rush (1st place); Alex Delgado (2nd place); Jimmie Smith (\$250); and Noelle Richards (\$125).

CLINIC continued from page one

“This is such a great day for the Tribe,” said Chief Anderson. “I am so pleased we will be able to provide this much-needed new and expanded facility for our Tribal members living in the Red Water and Standing Pine communities.”

“I thank all who are involved in this project and am proud that we are taking another positive step forward in providing quality healthcare for Tribal members.”

Construction on the new 10,860-square-foot Red Water community health clinic will begin this October and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2018. The facility will be four times larger than the current facility built in 1972, allowing more space for services offered.

Existing services that will continue in the new facility are primary care, dental, community health and environmental services. Staff members from the WIC program and behavioral health will also provide services on certain days during the week at the new facility.

“We’re here for your health care needs and I’m so pleased to see the young children and the elderly here today,” said Choctaw Health Center Director Tina Scott. “We’re committed to make sure you get those health care services.”

The \$2.5 million project is funded through Choctaw Health Department funds. The Red Water clinic serves nearly 1,500 Tribal members, primarily in the Red Water and Standing Pine communities.

The clinic is part of the Choctaw Tribal health-care system, which includes the Choctaw Health Center and other outlying clinics in the Bogue Chitto and Conehatta communities.

News From The DOECE

We have begun a new school year & are happy to see all the new children along with the returning children. Our days have been full of

activities, getting to know one another, learning routines, & settling in to new classrooms.

On Sept. 19, we held our DOECE American Indian Day Princess & Brave pageant. It was a tough decision as all the children were beautiful in their Choctaw attire, but the judges

picked two representatives for our program for the 2017-2018 school year.

This year’s Princess is Miss Bailee Frazier of Standing Pine Head Start. She is the daughter of Precious Farve & Tommy Frazier. Our Brave is Mr. Zaine Bell of Pearl River Head Start. He is the son of Amelia Ben & Justin Bell. Congratulations to them & we look forward to seeing them at the Green Corn Festival.

Speaking of which, our 27th Annual Green Corn Festival is set for Friday, Oct. 27 at the Bogue Chitto Elementary School Amphitheater at 10:00 a.m. We invite



Pictured from left is the 2017-2018 DOECE Princess & Brave Bailee Frazier & Zaine Bell.

...continued next page

everyone to attend this display of Choctaw culture & heritage as our children perform traditional Choctaw social dances and dress in their traditional Choctaw attire.

Lunch will be provided after the dances so we encourage everyone to stay the entire program & enjoy food & fellowship with us!

We still have openings available for PreSchool aged children (3 to 5 years old) in Conehatta, Pearl River, Pearl River Day Care, Red Water, & Standing Pine. Please stop by your local center and fill out an application.

Income guidelines are followed & priority is given to children with disabilities, homeless children, & children in foster care. Transportation is provided to & from the center for Head Start children. For more information, contact us at 601-650-1716.

We recognize the following children for Perfect Attendance during the month of August.

Bogue Chitto Head Start - Mark Billie, Easton Hundley, Aidan John, Aasin Morris, Narriah Shoemake, & Eliza Simmons.

Conehatta Head Start - Mahalia Anderson, Andrey Bell, Sebastian Jim, Jayzin Shoemake, Con'Ray Williamson, & Jay Shoemake, Jr.

Pearl River Head Start - Nathaniel Amos, Jr., Princeton Anderson, Houston Cotton, Alice Ferris, Journeigh Isaac, Rainee Wallace, Kawhi York, Kolvin Isaac, Garrett Johnson, Brydan Lewis, Faithlyn Mingo, Bema Reynolds, Hazzen Thomas, La'Nayah Thomas, Anna'Laiya Tubby, Zaine Bell, Elijah Hickman, Ky'layla Johnson, Connor Williams, Ryker Zimmerman, Hazelin Joe, Charles Wallace, Williams Willis, Colson John,

Azzlyn Shoemake, Alo'ni Dan, Cooper Jim, Da'leigh Johnson, & Aldrick Willis.

Red Water Head Start - Kaiden Gibson, Mesiah Greene, Cerulean Lewis, Romeo Lopez, Jr., Shaylin Shumake, & Charita Tubby.

Standing Pine Head Start - Bailee Frazier, Liliana Frazier, & Elizabeth Willis.

Tucker Head Start - Arianna Dixon, Braydon Farmer, Renaya Farmer, Jadalyn Lyons, Gideon McMillan, Liam Thomas, Jacaius Willis, & Rylee Young.

Bogue Chitto Early Head Start - Mariyanna Thomas.

Pearl River Early Head Start - Harmonie Junior, Easton Talamantes, Riley Isaac, Xaiden Leach, Caira Henry, Telayli Smith, & Alaneya Willis.

Red Water Early Head Start - Isabelle Flint, Elynn Grisham, Matthew Sam, Zaenillah Lopez, & Shariadon Tubby.

Tucker Early Head Start - Mila Isom, Nevaeh Toledo, Jensyn Bell, Kennedi Fields, Heilani Gibson, & Braydon McMillan.

Bogue Chitto Child Care - Rexanna Willis & Talia Ben.

Conehatta Child Care - Capriah Williamson, Nylesden Yazzie, Jan-

ice Wilson, & Klyse Yazzie.

Pearl River Day Care - Laryden Thomas, Sahyimmi Isaac, Trenton Kinsolving, Cainen Reynolds, Kyla Thompson, Kahlon Edwards, Kaylee Billie, Rudell Cotton, Ambriauna Hickman, Kai Jones, & Takedren Manakaja.

Pearl River Infant & Toddler - Jared Jefferson, Grayson Williams, & Sydney Isaac.

Red Water Child Care - Gunnar Grisham & Rayan Sutton.

Standing Pine Child Care - Lynlee Bell & Jacob Frazier.

Tucker Child Care - Emma Balderas.

CCHS Receives Laura Bush Foundation Grant

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) - Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) was awarded a \$7,000 library grant from the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries. CCHS is one of 160 schools in 38 states to receive a 2017 grant from the foundation established by the former First Lady of the United States.

"Congratulations to the schools and libraries that have been awarded a 2017 Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries grant!" said Mrs. Laura Bush. "As a former librarian, I know school libraries play an important role in improving student achievement, and with this grant, your librarian

will make your library the perfect place for students to fall in love with reading."

"We are very appreciative to the Laura Bush Foundation for their support of Choctaw Tribal Schools," said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. "Developing a love of reading to provide lifelong learning experiences is one of the greatest legacies our schools can instill in our students."

The foundation provides grants of up to \$7,000 to our nation's neediest schools so they can extend, update, and diversify the book and print collections in their libraries with the goal of encouraging students to develop a love of read-

ing and learning. Since its inception in 2002, it has awarded over \$14.3 million to more than 2,700 schools across the country. In addition to the annual grants, the "Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative" in 2006 provided nearly \$6.5 million to school libraries affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to rebuild book collections lost or destroyed in the storms.

In 2014, The Laura Bush Foundation transitioned from the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region in Washington, D.C. to the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, Texas, where it is managed as a restricted fund. More information can be found at www.laurabushfoundation.org.

Does your child enjoy playing?



Learning new things?



Making new friends?



Then EARLY CHILDHOOD is for you!

The Department of Early Childhood Education is looking for 3-5 year old children to fill slots in the following centers: Conehatta Head Start, Pearl River Head Start, Pearl River Day Care, Red Water Head Start and Standing Pine Head Start.

Apply now for the 2017-2018 School year!

Income guidelines are followed. Priority is given to children with disabilities. Bus pick up and drop off is available for Head Start children.

For more information, contact us at DOECE
601-650-1680

PAB Holds First Meeting of School Year

The Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) met August 29 at the Occupational Training Center's Ayipa Café in

Choctaw. Board members and guests enjoyed a meal prepared by the Choctaw Tribal Schools' Culinary Arts students.

PAB Chair Ray Willis recognized Ervin Farmer as the August Outstanding Choctaw Educator. Farmer, a U.S. Army Veteran, has proudly served his country as well as his Tribe.

During his 33-year career, he worked 20 years with the Tribal Schools Maintenance Department, 13 years with Environmental Indian Health Services at the old Indian Hospital and the Choctaw Health Center, and Laundry

Plumbing Company in Philadelphia. Farmer attended Tucker Elementary School and graduated from Choctaw Central High School and Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas.

When asked how the work environment is different now from when he first began, he replied, "There is much more equipment to maintain with fewer employees. Air conditioners, chillers, boilers, and kitchen equipment are more difficult to work on than the basic ones we had in the past."

Farmer comes from a large family, with five sisters and five brothers. Two of his brothers are deceased, as well as his beloved son, Donnie.

David Germany, Director of Schools, shared interesting information about the Tribal Schools as he reported there are presently 2,300 students enrolled this school year. Germany also spoke about amendments to The Elementary/Secondary School Act.

PAB members elected Ray Willis to serve as the 2017-2018 chair and Ann York to serve as co-chair.

For more information, please contact William F. Bell at 601-663-7660 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.



Ervin Farmer was the recipient of the Outstanding Choctaw Educator Award for August.



Students Donate To Hurricane Relief

The Conehatta Elementary School Beta Club members donated bottled water to Hurricane Harvey victims on Sept. 13. The donation served as a community service project that each Beta student is required to perform. The Beta sponsors thought this would be a great way for our students to help others in time of need. Pictured above are Alissia Sebastian, Haileyna Johnson, Malice Williams, Braylon Smith, Zarius Johnson, Dresden Jimmie, Keondrae Anderson, & Arral Frazier. Not pictured are Alannaysia Chickaway & Dominic Bell. Beta sponsors are Kelly Langford & Kendra Anderson.

CES Tutoring Program

Students at Conehatta Elementary School (CES) have opportunities to receive extra help in reading & math through the tutorial program.

We have certified teachers on campus Tuesday, Wednesday &

Thursday of each week to work with students in one-on-one and small group sessions.

The teachers also go in the classrooms while instruction & practice are taking place & are available to assist & reinforce the lesson being

taught. This gives the teachers the means to give personal attention to students in areas of reading & math.

The goal of the program is to reinforce the skills & activities that are being taught in the regular class, which in turn will help with preparation for the end of the year test.



LEFT, Reading tutor, Mrs. Teresa McDill, works with Chesley McMillan & Hunter Wallace to enhance their reading skills in a small group activity. RIGHT, Mrs. Margarette Handford, math tutor, works with Isabella Jefferson & Tiarri Kessinger to reinforce math skills that are being taught in the regular class.



Lady Warrior Seniors Honored

Senior members of the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors were honored during ceremonies prior to their contest against Philadelphia on Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Pearl River Recreational Field. Honored were, from left, Lauren Ben, Jayasri Mitch, India Samuel, Darien Tubby, Maleighia Joe, & LaChrisha Williams.

Activities, Fun Day in Choctaw

A day of fun and activities for the whole family was held on Saturday, Sept. 16 in Choctaw.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians hosted a Day for Kids event at the Pearl River Amphitheater

from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Hundreds of participants enjoyed games of bingo, basketball, face painting, bounce houses, prize drawings, and other activities.

Day for Kids is a national initiative that in-

vites adults and kids alike to take one day to celebrate what it means to be a kid! The mission of Day for Kids is to establish a day to celebrate and honor children through the gift of meaningful time.

Research shows that when adults spend meaningful time with kids it helps them develop a positive self-image and a sense of belonging, usefulness and purpose. Now, more than ever, Day for Kids provides adults and kids an opportunity to take a break from their busy lives and celebrate the wonder of life and the fulfillment of spending time together.

At Lake Pushmataha, the Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Department and Mississippi State University Extension Services hosted the 2017 Choctaw Wildlife Jamboree from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hundreds came out to enjoy a day dedicated to the great outdoors.

Activities included conservation booths, bow & arrow shoot, a rabbit stick throw, chili & wildlife tasting buffet, canoe rides, fishing competition, a birds of prey presentation, & horseback riding.

The goal of the event was to promote wildlife conservation & outdoor recreational activities through a hands-on arena where all those in attendance enjoyed a taste of the outdoors.



Jackson, Choctaw Fresh Produce Honored

On September 18-22, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program sponsored Disability Awareness Week activities to raise awareness of disability issues and celebrate successes of workers with disabilities.

Each year, the program honors an employer that has made a significant impact on the employment of qualified individuals who experience disabilities and an individual who experi-

ences a disability and has made a significant personal success in employment.

The theme for 2017 is mirrored after the national theme, "Inclusion Drives Innovation."

This year's recipients, Michael Jackson, Sr. as Employee of the Year and Choctaw Fresh Produce as Employer of the Year, were honored during a luncheon at Ronnie's Steak and Grill in Philadelphia on

see **HONORS**, pg. 10



Pictured from left are Mary Meruvia, Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program Director; Terry Ben, Choctaw Department of Workforce Development Director; Daphne Snow, Choctaw Fresh Produce; Michael Jackson, Sr., Choctaw Fresh Produce; Jason Grisham, Choctaw Economic Development; and Jonathan Williams, Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program Horticulture Assistant.

HONORS continued from page nine

Wednesday, September 20.

Theron Denson, Work Adjustment Skills Trainer, said people with disabilities have skills that need to be recognized by potential employers.

“Employ individuals with disabilities who also have the strength you need in your organization. Maybe it takes some accomodation or rearrangement of job tasks. The Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program staff are here to help you figure this out. Strengthen your workplaces by making

them inclusive of all individuals who have the education, training experience and desire to be successful in your workplace.”

Jonathan Williams, Horticulture Assistant, praised Jackson for his work ethic and drive to make a better living for himself during his time at the Work Adjustment Training Greenhouse Component.

“He understood what he needed to do to make progress and with a good attitude he accomplished what he set out

to do. We hear plenty of good things about Michael at Choctaw Fresh Produce. He is a full-time employee and is a tremendous asset to their program. He has been called their MVP.”

Terry Ben, Department of Workforce Development Director, presented the award to Jackson on behalf of the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program.

“I like to say thank you to Vocational Rehabilitation for helping me and to Choctaw Fresh Produce for hiring me,” said Jackson.

Jason Grisham of Choctaw Economic Development accepted the Employer of the Year honor on behalf of Choctaw Fresh Produce.

“We’re reaping the rewards now, and we say thank you. Work ethic and attitude is the biggest thing these employees bring with them. Choctaw Produce is growing and if, you haven’t been a part of it, we encourage you to try some of our vegetables.”

Choctaw Fresh Produce has utilized the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program by seeking qualified clients within the program and taking advan-

tage of the on-the-job training provided to clients while breaking down barriers caused by any physical or mental condition that may impact the employee.

Choctaw Fresh Produce, a tribally-owned business established in 2012, began with the goal of providing fresh fruits and vegetables to the tribal community and promoting healthy eating habits. They soon formed a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) share system to make fresh produce available to the public and surrounding businesses.

They have been described by the USDA as a “tribal community striving to regain food sovereignty” and received their organic certification after rigorous standards were met in 2015.

The Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program is a part of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ Department of Workforce Development and Education Division.

Disability Awareness Week activities is made possible by a grant from the Choctaw Community Fund.



December 5 & 6, 2017 • Pearl River Gymnasium
HOURS
December 5 - 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. • December 6 - 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

WE NEED EXHIBITORS
*Crafts... Choctaw Baskets... Arts... Beadworks Jewelry...
Handmade Items... Baked Goods... etc.*

Tribal Tax ID Number _____ (Updated)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

City State Zip

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

TYPE OF EXHIBITS OR GOODS TO SELL: _____

- Will you need electricity? Yes No
- Will you exhibit both days? Yes No **If No, which day?** Tuesday Wednesday
- Are you setting up bake stand for food consumption? Yes No
(If YES, attach a copy of health certification with registration)

Registration due Friday, November 17, 2017.

Department of Natural Resources
Attn: Virginia W-Willis, Candy Jimmie or Ronald Gibson
P.O. Box 6010
Choctaw, MS 39350
Phone: 601-656-2070 / Fax: 601-650-1992
vwillis@choctaw.org; candy.jimmie@choctaw.org;
ronald.gibson@choctaw.org

2017- 2018

4-H Schedule

4-H Monthly Meetings

Community Club	Date	Time	Location
Standing Pine	1 st Monday	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Standing Pine Facility Building
Bogue Chitto	1 st Thursday	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Bogue Chitto Facility Building
Bogue Homa	1 st Friday	4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Bogue Homa Facility Building
Conehatta	3 rd Tuesday	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Conehatta Facility Building
Crystal Ridge	2 nd Thursday	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Crystal Ridge Facility Building
Pearl River	3 rd Monday	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Dept. of Natural Resources
Red Water	4 th Monday	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Red Water Facility Building
Tucker	4 th Monday	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Tucker Facility Building

***No meetings in December 2017, July and August 2018**
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE 4-H OFFICE AT 601-656-2070
STAFF:
Ronald Gibson, 4-H/Home Extension Program Assistant • Virginia Wilson-Willis, 4-H/Home Extension Coordinator

Families Remember Homicide Victims

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Family Violence & Victim's Services (FVVS) hosted a special event at the Pearl River Baptist Church in Choctaw honoring the memories of homicide victims.

The event, held on Thursday, Sept. 28, coincided with the observance of the National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims.

Danielle Dixon, Victims Services Program Division Manager, welcomed the families as Robert Ben offered the opening prayer. Nana Frazier provided special music.

"I know all of you have been through tragic circumstances and it has been very difficult for you. We honor you for having the courage and strength to withstand all that you are having to deal with," said Kim Neal, Victim Assistance Therapist.

"We, at Family Violence, help family members who have been through a homicide. We provide counseling and it doesn't matter if a homicide was a month ago or 20 years ago, if you need to talk to someone about what you are going through, we can help."

FVVS also assist family members of victims with transportation to court proceedings if needed and drafting impact statements to be read during the sentencing phase.

Guest speaker Rae Nell Vaughn, MBCI Chief of Staff, said none of us can solve this crisis alone, but by working together we can make a real difference in our homes, communities and nation.

"We take this special day of remembrance to reflect upon the lives of those we have lost, but we must keep all victims of homicide in the forefront of our thoughts. We do not want any more victims. We want these tragedies to end."

Looking around the sanctuary, Vaughn said she saw love and compassion, both powerful human emotions that can be shared with each other.

"We can all work together to provide support and assistance to the survivors while working to create a world free of violence."

A listing of Tribal member homicide victims was called out as Priscilla Morris, Vulnerable Adult Specialist, lit candles in their memory.

The list included Priscilla Allen, Cecil Ray Amos, Dominic Amos, Frankie Lee Amos, Eula Mae Anderson, Irvin Anderson, Ernest Bell, Chester Ben, Terry Billy, Delvin Charlie, Johnny Chickaway, John H. Chickaway, Phyllis Jim Cotton, John Dan, James Davis, Shirley Davis, Easlin Denson, Roy Frazier, Stephen

Hall, Goodman Jim, Jonas Joe, Tinsley John, Kinnard King, Richard King, James G. McMillan, Miriam McMillan, Larry Mingo, Robert Mingo, Sr., Kenneth Polk, Deneetria Schrock, Cassidy Shoemake, Jennifer J. Sockey, Bennie Wayne Stafford, Jerome Steve, Anthony Ray Taylor, Davion Thomas, Kayzlyn Thomas, Matthew Thomas, Christopher Thompson, Sr., Amber Tubby, Jackie Williams, Pauline Williams, Reggie Williams, Holland Willis, Milburn Williamson, & Nikita Wilson.

A luncheon was held at the conclusion of the event in the fellowship



Family members remember their loved ones as candles were lit in their memory.

hall.

Robert & Charlotte Hullinger, of Cincinnati, formed Parents of Murdered Children following the 1978 murder of their 19-year-old daughter, Lisa, while she was studying in Germany.

In 2007, Congress designated Sept. 25 as the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. The annual day of observance is on the date Lisa was murdered.

Suicide Prevention Month Observed

Submitted by Choctaw Behavioral Health

WHY ADDRESS SUICIDE PREVENTION?

Many American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) communities experience an elevated suicide rate. In fact, suicide has a profound impact on the health of AI/AN individuals, families, & communities, with rates 1.7 times higher than the overall national average.

AI/AN young people ages 15-34 make up 64% of all suicides in Indian Country & is the 2nd leading cause of death for this age range. According to the 2007 CDC vital statistics, suicide is the 8th leading cause of death for all AI/AN age groups.

So, despite the strengths of AI/AN families & communities, suicide continues to remain a devastating event.

RISK FACTORS FOR SUICIDE AMONG AI/AN PEOPLE?

Risk factors include mental health disorders & stigma, substance abuse, intergenerational & historical trauma, family history of suicide or violence, family disruption/domestic violence, history of suicide attempts, physical or terminal illness, hopelessness, feeling alone, & community-wide issues.

PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR AI/AN PEOPLE?

Factors that protect AI/AN youth & young adults against suicidal behavior are a sense of belonging to one's culture, a strong tribal/spiritual bond, the opportunity to discuss problems with family or friends, feeling connected to family, & positive emotional health.

Other factors include tribal resources & services such as a supportive healthcare system which individuals & families can utilize when needed.

.....see **SUICIDE**, pg. 12

SUICIDE continued from page eleven

SUICIDE MYTHS & FACTS

- **Myth:** No one can stop a suicide, it is inevitable.
- **Myth:** Confronting a person about suicide will only make them angry & increase the risk of suicide.
- **Myth:** Only experts can prevent suicide.
- **Myth:** Suicidal people keep their plans to themselves.
- **Myth:** Once a person decides to complete suicide, there is nothing anyone can do to stop them.

• **Fact:** If people in a crisis get the help they need, they will probably never be suicidal again.

• **Fact:** Asking someone directly about suicidal intent lowers anxiety, opens up communication & lowers the risk of an impulsive act.

• **Fact:** Suicide prevention is everybody's business & anyone can help prevent these strategies.

• **Fact:** Most suicidal people communicate their intent sometime during the week preceding their attempt.

• **Fact:** Suicide is the most preventable kind of death, & almost any positive action may save a life.

WARNING SIGNS

Behavioral Clues

- *Previous suicide attempt (#1 predictor of suicide);
- *Acquiring a gun or stockpiling pills;
- *Co-occurring depression, moodiness, hope-

lessness (better predictor than depression);

- *Putting personal affairs in order;
- *Giving away prized possessions;
- *Sudden interest or disinterest in religion;
- *Drug or alcohol abuse, or relapse after a period of recovery;
- *Unexplained anger, aggression & irritability.

Situational Clues

- *Being fired or being expelled from school;
- *A recent unwanted move;
- *Loss of any major relationship;
- *Death of a spouse, child, or best friend, especially if by suicide;
- *Diagnosis of a serious or terminal illness;
- *Sudden unexpected loss of freedom/fear of punishment;
- *Anticipated loss of financial security;
- *Loss of a cherished therapist, counselor or teacher;
- *Fear of becoming a burden to others.

TIPS FOR ASKING THE SUICIDE QUESTION

- If in doubt, don't wait, ask the question.
 - If the person is reluctant, be persistent.
 - Talk to the person alone in a private setting.
 - Allow the person to talk freely.
 - Give yourself plenty of time.
 - Have your resources handy; phone numbers, therapist's name & any other information that might help.
- Remember: How you

ask the question is less important than you asking it!

HOW CAN WE PREVENT SUICIDE?

Remember that preventing suicide is EVERYBODY'S responsibility, as well as preventing related-suicidal behaviors or contagions. So take time to learn about the warning signs & get important information which can connect those in crisis with the proper line of help.

When warning signs appear, it is critical to quickly connect the person to supportive services. Do not leave that person alone if you suspect he/she may be suicidal. Listen openly & non-judgmentally.

For more information or services, please contact Choctaw Behavioral Health at 601-389-4150.

DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

CAP Hosts Workshops

On Tuesday, Aug. 1, the Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) resumed cultural classes in the Bogue Chitto community. The staff was pleased to have Conehatta Tribal Council member Tarina Anderson as a workshop participant for making a Choctaw dress & shirt.

On Friday, Aug. 4, upon request from the Department of Early Childhood Education (DOECE), the CAP held a cultural workshop on making head bands & stickball aprons at the Pearl River Community Center.



Conehatta Tribal Council member Tarina Anderson irons the fabric to sew diamonds on the Choctaw dress.

Trudy Jimmie, Lorena Alex, Casey Bigpond, Alicia Vaughn, and Rowena Willis were the instructors as there were 70 participants.

The main objective for

...continued next page

REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY

Wetip Inc.

Call 1-855-4-THE REZ (1-855-484-3739) or visit www.wetip.com

CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:

- Theft
- Child Abuse
- Vandalism
- Illegal Drugs
- Bullying
- Assault
- Or any other illegal activity

You can call 24 hours a day & report your concern to us. No one will ask your name, you will remain anonymous. Your tip may lead to a REWARD, up to \$1,000!

Prevent Elder Abuse

Identify It! Report It! Stop It!

Warning Signs

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- 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

the training was to provide the DOECE staff firsthand knowledge on making stickball aprons and head bands so they can display the myriad of information on bulletin boards. In return, the information would emphasize Choctaw culture & hopefully inspire students to embrace their Choctaw culture.

Dancers Perform At Ceremony

The MBCI Traditional Dancers performed Choctaw social dances at the Nanih Waiya Ceremony on Tuesday, Aug. 22, at the Nanih Waiya Ceremonial Mound.

Drummers included Speedy Lewis, Dan Isaac, Roland Billy, & Ralph Isaac. Tribal employees who performed

included Gina Bell, Ralph Isaac, Deanna McMillan, Trudy Jimmie, Phyllis McMillan, Casey Bigpond, Peggy Williams, Sherrill Nickey, drummer Speedy Lewis, & May McGeisey.

Thanks to Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson & all supervisors who permitted their employees to perform at the ceremony.

CAP Hosts Event For Tribal Youth

Princess & Warrior Survival Week, an event CAP hosts annually for tribal youth, was held on Sept. 13-15 for students of the Choctaw Tribal Schools.

Students participated in activities such as miniature drum making, weaving basket designs

on felt materials, sewing quilt blocks, cooking Indian taco, & making fry bread.

The CAP staff had great pleasure serving the enthusiastic & bright students.

Workshops Conclude For FY2017

The final cultural training activities for the fiscal year were held in the Red Water community in September. Classes included making sashes, beaded medallions, Choctaw dresses & shirts, stickball aprons & head bands, & beaded collar necklaces. Look out for the new schedule of classes for fiscal year 2018 in future issues of the *Choctaw Community News*. For more information, call (601) 663-7506.



ABOVE, CAP Outreach Coordinator Lorena Alex, seated far left, oversees the stickball apron making class at her table. BELOW, From left, MBCI Traditional Dancers



Sherrill Nickey, Peggy Williams & Phyllis McMillan await the start of the dance performance at the Nanih Waiya Ceremony on Aug. 22.



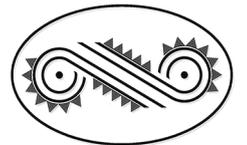
Seated from left, Olivia Williams, Trudy Jimmie, Phyllis McMillan, & Lorena Alex did a great job of cooking banaha for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians group luncheon on Sept. 20,



CAP Administrative Assistant Wendy Thompson, right, demonstrated to students how fry bread dough is prepared during Princess & Warrior Survival Week.



Lena Denson, standing right, was among the attendees of the stickball apron making workshop.



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

IN MEMORIAM

TIMOTHY LEE FRAZIER

Funeral service for Timothy Lee Frazier, 51, was held on Thursday, September 7, 2017, from the Nanih Waiya 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.

Mr. Frazier passed away on Sept. 3 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He loved dogs & making jokes. He enjoyed playing football & held various jobs before becoming a houseman & dealer at Pearl River Resort.

He was preceded in death by his father, Le-

roy Frazier, Sr.; sister, Margaret Todd; brother, Roy Frazier; grandparents, Lee Jim, Sr. & Lonie Cotton Jim, Fob Frazier & Lavada Sam Frazier; 3 aunts; four uncles; & 5 great-aunts.

Survivors include his mother, Bobbie Jean Frazier; sister, Margie Frazier Williams; brothers, Leroy Frazier, Jr. & Michael Frazier; 3 nieces; 4 nephews; & a host of relatives & friends.

NIKITA NICOLE WILSON

Funeral service for Nikita Nicole Wilson, 30, was held on Friday, September 8, 2017, from Hope Indian Baptist Church. Deacon Ricky Thompson, Sr. & Rev. Henderson Williams officiated.

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

Ms. Wilson passed away on July 23 in Kemper County.

She enjoyed being with family & friends, being around children, fishing, watching foot-

ball, playing basketball & stickball with Lady Beaver Dam.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Brenda Wilson & Brant Willis, Sr.; grandparents, Addis Wilson & R.L. Wilson, Sr., & Edmond Willis; 2 aunts; & 3 uncles.

Survivors include her sisters, LaNesha Wilson & Brandy Willis; brother, Brantly Wilson; grandmother, Susie Willis; 2 aunts; 4 uncles; a niece, a nephew, & a host of relatives & friends.

ANITA ANDERSON

Funeral service for Anita Anderson, 64, was held on Sunday, September 10, 2017, from the Conehatta Facility Building. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby & Hugh King officiated.

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

Ms. Anderson passed away on Sept. 6 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She enjoyed being with family & friends, listening to hymns, & teaching her children how to weave baskets.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Wayne Anderson; parents, Ruben & Janie Shumake; sister, Jeanell Anderson; brother, Thurman Shumake; & 3 grandchildren.

Survivors include her daughters, Theresa Shoemake, Sophia Frazier, Tonya Anderson, Nina Anderson, Sunshine Anderson, & Susanna Shoemake; sons, Nathan Anderson, Manuelito Anderson, Sr., Thunder Anderson, Lightning Anderson, & John Robert Anderson; stepson, Brian Charlie; sisters, Norma Hall, Pearlie Thomas & Eleanor Chickaway; brother, Genis Shumake; an uncle; 19 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

NORMAN DOUGLAS SAMUEL, SR.

Funeral service for Norman Douglas Samuel, Sr., 73, was held on Monday, September 11, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Charles D. Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Samuel passed away on Sept. 2 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran. He was a truck driver & a transportation driver for the elders.

He enjoyed being with family, gardening,

watching Oklahoma Sooners football, coaching baseball, visiting family in Oklahoma, & attending the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Samuel; sons, Mark Samuel, N.D. Samuel & Sylvester Samuel; sisters, Elfreda Willis, Ramona Strickland & Celestine Thomas; brothers, Edgar Samuel, Vernon Willis, Everet G. Willis, & Elesten Willis, Jr.; 10 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

RONALD KEITH WILLIS

Funeral service for Ronald Keith Willis, 59, was held on Monday, September 18, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Rev. Charles D. Henry & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr., officiated.

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

Mr. Willis passed away on Sept. 15 at his residence.

He was a Security Officer at Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed being with family & friends, playing basketball, softball, baseball, stickball, & dominoes.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Julia Isaac Willis; a son, Jordan Keith Willis; first wife, Synthia Willis; grandparents, Byrd Dixon & Paulin Jim Isaac,

...continued next page

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.

**273 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**

Spinks & Susie John Willis; 6 aunts; & 7 uncles.

Survivors include his wife, Andrea Thomas Willis; daughters, Johanna Wilson, Daphne Willis & Selena Willis; sons, James Willis, Ivan Willis, Dyamiko Willis, & Damian Willis; father, Martin Willis; a sister, Stephanie J. Farmer; brothers, Martin W. Willis, Sr., James B. Willis, Dan T. Willis, Terry B. Willis, Dave E. Willis, & Jerry B. Willis; 6 grandchildren; four aunts; an uncle; a great-aunt; & numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

TYLER MIKO OSSI COTTON

Funeral service for Tyler Miko Ossi Cotton, 2 month old infant, was held on Saturday, September 23, 2017, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Pastor Thomas Ben officiated.

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

Infant Cotton passed away on Sept. 19 at Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Charles Rydell Amos; great-grandparents, George & Emma Hickman, Raymond Lewis, & Lucille John; an uncle; & a great-aunt.

Survivors include his parents, Nittak-Hollo Fichik Thomas & Charles Rydell Cotton; brothers, La'Ryden

Cotton, Rudell Cotton & Bryceton John; grandparents, Loena Cotton, Stephania Farmer, & Gregory Thomas; step-grandmother, Monica Thomas; step-grandfather, Frankie Farmer; great-grandmother, Lucy Lewis; 7 aunts; 11 uncles; & a host of relatives.

BOBO THOMPSON, SR.

Funeral service for Bobo Thompson, Sr., 82, was held on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Thompson passed away on Sept. 22 in Holly Springs, MS.

He was a farmhand & enjoyed being with family, gardening, fishing, & repairing equipment.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Vina Mae Thompson; parents, Tommie Thompson & Bonnie Amos; son, Curtis Ray Thompson; sisters, Nora Hickman, Homen Dean Thompson & Ida Mae Brown; & brothers, Nathan Thompson & Curtis Thompson.

Survivors include his daughters Janie O'Kellely, Loretta Wilkins & Nannette Thompson; sons, Bobby Willis, Bobo Thompson, Jr., Paul Thompson, & David Ray Thompson; 13 grandchildren; 19

great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ELON BELL

Funeral service for Elon Bell, 66, was held on Friday, September 29, 2017, from the Standing Pine Facility Building. Pastor Curtis Willis, Sr. & Pastor Thomas Ben, Jr. officiated.

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

Mr. Bell passed away on Sept. 26 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a U.S. Army veteran. He was a custodian then worked in the poultry industry. He enjoyed being with family, fishing, watching western movies, attending school programs, & cheering for the Dallas Cowboys.

He was preceded in death by his parents, G.W. Bell & Ann Frazier Bell; a son, Christopher

Ryan Bell; sister, Juanita Chapman; half-sister, Lorene Cumberland; & brother, Elmer Bell.

Survivors include his companion Lennie Comby; a son, Kimathy Mingo; step-daughters, Nina Comby, Tarrika Comby & Keyosha Comby; step-sons, Demarious Comby & Clifford Comby; sisters, Willie Mae Wilson, Rena Bell, Junie Cabrera, & Brenda Bell; brother, Levon Bell; 7 grandchildren; 13 step-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

DEWANNA GAIL LEWIS

Funeral service for Dewanna Gail Lewis, 53, was held on Friday, September 29, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Rev. Samuel Fulton officiated.

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

Ms. Lewis passed away on Sept. 25 at St.

Dominic's Hospital in Jackson.

She was previously employed as a child care teacher. She enjoyed being with her family, attending church, cooking outdoors, & listening to gospel music.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tommy Cotton, Sr. & Judy Jackson Cotton; a son, Dewey Lee Lewis; & a brother, Ronald Cotton.

Survivors include three sons, Dewayne Cotton, Sr., Deon Lewis & Dustin Lewis; brothers, Gary Tubby, Donald Cotton, Tommy Cotton, Jr., Milton Chapman, & Jeffery Cotton; 16 grandchildren; an aunt, an uncle & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

D's NATIVE EDGE Barber Shop

**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

Pearl River Insurance Agency

Need Auto Insurance?

.....
Multi-Vehicle Discounts SR 22
Safe Driver Discounts
.....

Come in for a free quote or call 601-663-0971

300 Choctaw Town Center Suite 106

HOURS:
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Appointment Only

A&B mechanical, inc.

Heating & Air Conditioning Service



A&B Mechanical, Inc.
P.O. Box 6003
Choctaw, MS 39350
(Office) 601-656-4818
(Fax) 601-656-4418

*Allen Peoples, President/Owner,
Chakta Owned & Operated*

CHOCTAW TOWN CENTER

OUTDOOR MARKET

**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.

Happy 43rd Birthday to Eric D. Jackson, a.k.a. Elephant, on Oct. 8, from your wife Rachael...



Happy 20th Birthday to Isaiah Cotton on Oct. 16, from your mom & stepdad, Rachael & Eric Jackson, & the rest of the family.

Happy Birthdays to Sharon G. Williams on Oct. 2, Crystal John on Oct. 8, Yunnell Willis on Oct. 14, & Tessa Sanders on Oct. 19, from all who love you!

Happy Birthdays to Kaylan Gibson on Nov. 8, Janie Williams on Nov. 14, Judith Wesley on Nov. 21, & Happy 9th Birthday to H'ua Tristan Bell on Nov. 29, from all who love you!

Happy 12th Birthday to Mr. Hayden C. Thomas on Sept. 8, 2017 & Happy Birthday to our mom, Miss Renita K. Willis on Sept. 21, 2017. With all the love in the world, along with hugs & kisses from Gibby, Dain, Nedra & Lil Miss Emma. We love you Jeter & Mom!!!!

**2017 NCBA FALL
RESERVATION WIDE
CRUSADE**

Evangelist: Rev. Robert Patrick
Pastor of Stonewall Baptist Church
Conehatta, MS

November 27 – December 1, 2017

Monday – Friday
6:00 p.m. Nightly

Mt. Zion CI Baptist Church
Carthage, MS

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2017

© 2017 MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS 2017-2018 HUNTING AND FISHING SEASONS

Hunting Season	Bag Limit	
(A) Bobwhite Quail	11/23/17 – 03/04/18	8/day; 16 poss.
(B) Turkey, either sex (Gobbler with 6 inch beard or longer)	10/14/17 – 11/15/17	1/day; 3/fall season
Turkey, Gobblers only (Gobbler with 6 inch beard or longer)	03/15/18 – 05/01/18	1/day; 2/spring season
Youth Turkey (May harvest 1 gobbler any age)	03/08/18 – 03/14/18	1/day; 2/spring season
(C) Squirrel Youth Squirrel	09/30/17 – 02/28/18 09/23/17 – 09/30/17	8/day; 16 poss. 8/day; 16 poss.
(D) Deer – either sex		
ALL BUCKS MUST BE 6 POINTS OR HIGHER DURING THE 2017- 2018 SEASON. Exception: Youth less than fifteen (15) years old and elders (56+ years old) may have harvest one (1) buck with any hardened antler, regardless of number of points, inside spread, or beam length.		
Bucks: Three (3) per season, one (1) per day Does: Six (6) per season, two (2) per day; with additional two (2) allowed with archery.		
Archery Only	10/01/17 – 11/01/17	
Youth (Gun)	10/28/17 – 10/31/17	
Gun (without dog)	11/01/17 – 11/17/17	
Gun (with dog)	11/18/17 – 12/03/17	
Gun (without dog)	12/04/17 – 12/22/17	
Gun (with dog)	12/23/17 – 01/22/18	
Archery/Primitive/Gun (without dogs)	01/23/18 – 02/12/18	
(E) Rabbit Cultural Rabbitstick with dogs	10/07/17 – 02/28/18 10/01/17 – 03/11/18	8/day; 16 poss. 8/day; 16 poss.
(F) Fox, crow, blackbirds	No closed season	No limit
(G) Wild hog (No guns in October, Archery Only)	No closed season	No limit
(H) Opossum, raccoon, bobcat Raccoon only	09/30/17 – 02/28/18 07/01/18 – 09/30/18	No limit 1/nightly; 2 poss.
(I) Frogs	03/31/18 – 09/30/18	25/nightly; 50 poss.
(J) Trapping	11/01/17 – 03/15/18	No limit
1.2 MIGRATORY BIRDS (includes Doves)		
Canada Geese	09/01/17 – 09/30/17	5/day; 15 poss.
White-winged/Mourning Dove	09/02/17 – 10/08/17 10/21/17 – 11/04/17 12/09/17 – 01/15/18	15/day; 45 poss. 15/day; 45 poss. 15/day; 45 poss.
Teal	09/09/17 – 09/24/17	6/day; 18 poss.
Rails (Sora & Virginia)	09/02/17 – 11/10/17	25/day; 75 poss.
Rails (Clapper & King)	09/02/17 – 11/10/17	15/day; 45 poss.
Gallinules (Common & Purple)	09/02/17 – 11/11/17	15/day; 45 poss.
Snipe	11/14/17 – 02/28/18	8/day; 24 poss.
Woodcock	12/18/17 – 01/31/18	3/day; 9 poss.
Crows	11/04/17 – 02/28/18	No limit
Ducks, Mergansers, Coots	11/24/17 – 11/26/17 12/01/18 – 12/03/18 12/06/18 – 01/28/18	As listed in Article IV 4.1 (C)
1.4 FISHING	No Closed Season	

Paint the Reservation PINK

Fighting for a Cause through Legal Education

Join us for a day of LEGAL INFORMATION. If you are a member of the MS Band of Choctaw Indians and you have a legal issue, an attorney will be available to address your legal needs.

MUST MEET INCOME GUIDELINES ★ MUST BE A CHOCTAW TRIBAL MEMBER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**BREAKFAST & LUNCH
WILL BE PROVIDED**

GOLDEN MOON (VIP ROOM) • HIGHWAY 16 • PHILADELPHIA, MS



RSVP
by October 26, 2017
to Josselyn Sampson
jsampson@mslegalservices.org
or call 601-948-6752 ext. 2918



WORKSHOP SESSIONS

- BANKRUPTCY • EMANCIPATION/ TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS
- ELDERLY SCAMS • USED CARS/WARRANTIES • BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
- ESTATE (WILLS) & ADMINISTRATION • HUD/ RENTAL PROPERTY ISSUES
- BLOOD QUANTUM & DNA TESTING "HOW IT WORKS"