

# CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XLVIII, NO. 3

CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

MARCH-APRIL 2018



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

## CCHS Valedictorian, Salutatorians Named

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – The valedictorian, and not just one, but two salutatorians for the Choctaw Central High School Class of 2018 were announced during a senior honors banquet on Tuesday, May 1.

Asa Jimmie is this year's valedictorian. He is from the Pearl River Community and is the son of Karla Keats and Elijah Jimmie. His honors throughout his high school career include being in the Top 10 and the ACT 20+ Club.

Asa participated in the BETA Club, CCHS Marching Band and Choctaw Central Winterguard. He is a member of the Chahta Alla Youth Council.

He plans to attend East Central Community College in the fall and

later transfer to an ACC or SEC school, majoring in business. One of his educational goals is to one day attain his doctorate.

Twin sisters Kyarra and Kyannah Grant, daughters of Shaun and Gwynn Grant, are this year's salutatorians. They are from the Conehatta Community in Newton County.

Kyarra's honors include highest average in biomedical research, calculus, AP literature and Composition II.

At Choctaw Central, both Kyarra and Kyannah participated in basketball, cross country and track and field and were members of the BETA Club and ACT 20+ Club.

Kyannah was also a member of the Chess

Club. Both sisters spent time volunteering at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center in Pearl River.

They were both members of the Dandy Dozen, Mississippi/Alabama All-Star basketball team and the WTOK All-Scholastic Sports Team. Both were awarded a full basketball scholarship to the University of Tennessee-Martin, and will attend in the fall.

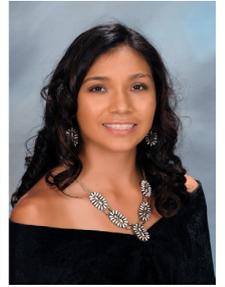
Kyarra plans to ma-



Asa Jimmie, Valedictorian



Kyannah Grant, Salutatorian



Kyarra Grant, Salutatorian

major in biology or physics, with the goal of becoming a physiatrist. Kyannah plans to major in cell and molecular biology, and her goal is to

become an orthopedic surgeon.

"I am so proud of Asa, Kyarra, Kyannah and

see HONORS, pg. 13

### CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR

CHOCTAWINDIANFAIR.COM

### CHOCTAW MISSISSIPPI 2018

JULY 11-14

#### MAIN STAGE ENTERTAINMENT

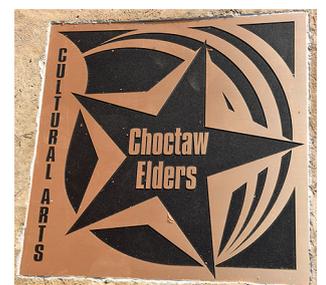
JAMEY JOHNSON    CODY JINKS

DUSTIN LYNCH    CITY GRITTY BAND

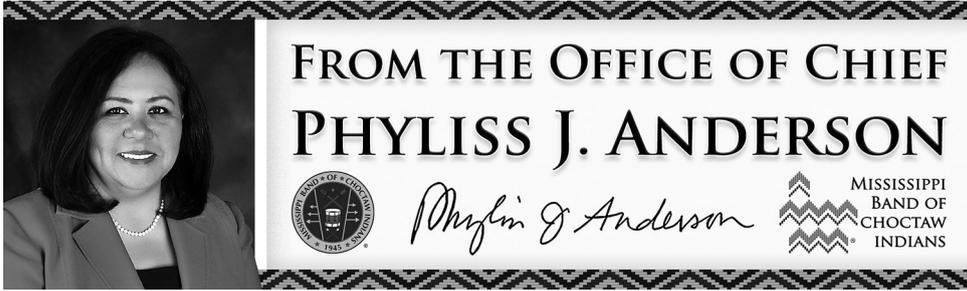


## Elders Honored at The MAX

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians were honored on Tuesday, May 1 as they were a recipient of a star on the Walk of Fame directly in front of the newly opened Mississippi Arts+Entertainment Experience (MAX)



in downtown Meridian. The honor was in tribute to Tribal elders who have carried forward the rich traditions & proud culture of the Choctaw Tribe to the next generation. Several Tribal elders were in attendance to perform social dances and present demonstrations on beadwork and basket weaving for attendees inside the facility.



Halito!  
 What a great time of year it is to welcome the warm weather outdoors and the increase of activities across our Reservation! It's great to see everyone enjoying spring, and reminds us all that with time and blessings from above, all things are renewed and continue the beautiful blessing of life.

This time of year draws a close to the end of another school year for our children, graduation, summer time, and the much anticipated Choctaw Indian Fair! May each of your calendar of events include fun, safety, great moments and traditions for the whole family to enjoy.

I will be seeing many of you at various spring events in our communities and look forward to

fellowship and visiting. Have a great spring!

**REZ BRAWL & NAYO TOURNAMENTS**

On the weekend of March 15-17, our Choctaw Recreation program oversaw the annual Rez Brawl basketball tournament that featured youth teams from across our reservation. This tournament is a great close-to-home start for teams competing in the NAYO basketball tournament.

At this tournament, it is very clear that our tribe has many talented youth up-and-comers, all of whom are always great to watch!

On behalf of this office, I send many thanks to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for hosting a successful Native American Youth Or-

ganization tournament in Cherokee, March 29-April 1. Thirty-three teams from Choctaw, traveled and competed in the annual tournament.

I am always amazed at the fundraising efforts and time each team and coaches contribute to get our kids ready for competition.

**CCHS SOFTBALL FIELD OPENING**

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Thursday, March 22nd for the newly built CCHS Lady Warriors softball field. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, delicious food and fun. In addition to the ribbon cutting, I was honored to throw out the ceremonial first pitch to dedicate the field to our Lady Warriors.



*On Thursday, March 22, Chief Phyliss J. Anderson signed a proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month on the Choctaw Indian Reservation. The importance of public awareness & prevention of child abuse should not be understated. All community members are encouraged to stand together to prevent child abuse on the Reservation. Pictured from left is MBCI Chief of Staff RaeNell Vaughn, Director of Tribal Member Services Division Janis Jimmie, Chief Anderson, & Children & Family Services Case Worker Randy Tangle.*

I hope everyone came out to the games and showed their support to the Lady Warriors fast pitch softball team during their season. Take a moment to go to the high school campus and look at our beautiful new softball field!

**CCHS WINTER GUARD**

The Choctaw Central Winter Guard have had a great season. They com-

peted in their final regular season competition at Pearl High School on March 24th and claimed first place!

They went on to perform beautifully at State Championship claiming a third-place title and advancing to World Championship Competition in Dayton, Ohio where they advanced and competed in the semi-final round.

**...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. Willis .....Communications Manager
- Darron Tubby .....Communications Writer
- Melford Farve .....Communications Writer
- Diana Solomon .....Communications 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.



*Chief Anderson threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the grand opening of the new CCHS softball complex on March 22. After the ceremony, the Lady Warriors faced the Newton County Lady Cougars in the first game on the new field.*



Congratulations to members of the CCHS Winter Guard on their successes this school year.

This season marks the most successful year so far for the CCHS Winter Guard. Great job to our winter guard team, coaches, coordinators and supporters.

**BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS**

I hosted a Breakfast of Champions for the CCHS Lady Warriors basketball team on

March 27th. During the breakfast, a highlights video was shown, and the girls were presented with a commemorative T-shirt recognizing their great win.

It has been a great high school basketball season for Choctaw Central boys and girls, and we all look forward to another exciting basketball schedule next fall.

Again, congratula-

**RIGHT**, U.S. Attorneys representing the Southern District of Mississippi recently visited the Choctaw Indian Reservation & met with Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson to discuss issues concerning crime & crime prevention in Indian Country. Pictured from left are Kevin J. Payne, Special Prosecutor, MBCI; Darren La-Marca, First Assistant, U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of MS; Cheryl Hamby, Acting Attorney General, MBCI; Courtney Coker, Criminal Chief, U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of MS; Chief Phyliss J. Anderson; Mike



Hurst, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of MS; Melissa Carleton, Deputy Attorney General, MBCI; & Pat Lemon, Deputy Criminal Chief, U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of MS.

tions Lady Warriors, and also to the coaches, faculty, and parents who have led these girls to great success.

**SENATOR COCHRAN / CINDY HYDE-SMITH**

Recently, Mississippi's senior U.S. Senator, Thad Cochran, announced his retirement after many years of

dedicated service. Senator Cochran officially stepped down on April 1st.

On Wednesday, March 21st, Governor Phil Bryant announced that he appointed state Agriculture Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith to succeed Cochran as senator. Ms. Hyde-Smith has the option to campaign in the November 6th special election to fill the remainder of Cochran's unexpired term.

I would like to thank Senator Cochran for being a great friend to the Tribe and for being supportive of many of the efforts the Tribe has

made in the past few decades.

I congratulate Cindy Hyde-Smith on her appointment to the U.S. Senate, and I look forward to working with her to make our government-to-government relationship even stronger.

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS TRACK & FIELD**

The Mid-Mississippi Special Olympics Regional Track and Field meet was held on Wednesday, April 4th. Last year was the first

....see **LETTER**, pg. 4



On March 27, Chief Phyliss J. Anderson hosted a Breakfast of Champions event at the Bistro at Golden Moon Hotel & Casino for the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors basketball team as they captured their second consecutive Class 3A state championship. They finished the 2017-2018 season with a 35-1 overall record. Chief Anderson presented the players & coaching staff a commemorative T-shirt as a token of appreciation for their success.



Mid-Mississippi Special Olympians take part in a race on the track at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School.

# News from the Tribal Distribution Office

## DISTRIBUTION DATE IS SET FOR JULY 3, 2018

Important deadlines to remember:  
Tribal Court (Child Support) - May 11, 2018  
Direct Deposit - June 4, 2018  
Other Changes Listed Below - June 4, 2018

### TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION REMINDERS!

Please help us make the process of receiving your check easier by having the following information current. 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);
- \* Name changes - (Marriage/Divorce with new name on your Social Security card.)
- \* Address changes - If you do a forwarding address with your local post office, please fill out an application with our office also since the forwarding time has 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 and/or parent or guardian.

### 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. Contact our office if your account has closed or changed.

### 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 of the Tribal Office building in the Finance Department. Forms are available in the lobby or in the Finance office & you can also visit [www.choctaw.org](http://www.choctaw.org). For more information, contact Barbara Ben, Distribution Manager, at 601-650-1522.

## LETTER ..... continued from page three

time in over 20 years that a Special Olympics event was held on the Choctaw Central campus, and we were honored to once again serve as host.

The Unified team, made up of CCHS special and general education students, is part of the Mid-Mississippi Area 18 Region of the Special Olympics. Other teams in the region are from Neshoba, Winston, Leake, Attala and Noxubee county schools.

This is the Unified Team's third year participating in the Special Olympics. Thank you to team coach Amanda Reed and her dedicated team of volunteers for organizing this event and making it a huge success!

### APRIL AWARENESS MONTH

The month of April has been a great time to bring about awareness to various causes in and around the Reservation.

On April 13, the MBCI Children and Family Services/ Advocacy Center held a day full of activities in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month. A fun parade, elderly social dancers, singing from the Southern Pine Drum Group and a poster contest was enjoyed by all who participated.

Choctaw Behavioral Health observed Alcohol Awareness during the entire month of April.

As part of Sexual As-

sault Awareness Month, on April 25th, Tribal communities promoted Denim Day as part of an international protest to the Italian Supreme Court's overruling of a rape conviction in 1999 and the misconceptions surrounding sexual violence.

Choctaw Behavioral Health also recognized April as Autism Awareness Month and held an informational session regarding autism on April 30th.

I commend the many Tribal employees, volunteers, and children who led the charge in remembering and honoring victims and celebrating victories.

### 69TH ANNUAL CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR

The best time of year for Tribal members will soon be upon us. It truly is remarkable to think about how our Choctaw Indian Fair has been going strong for 69 wonderful years. Much has changed over the years, but not the true intent and meaning behind celebrating our heritage as Mississippi Choctaw people.

The fair planning committee is gearing up for another great fair and recently released this year's fair entertainment line-up at the Amphitheater Main Stage: Thursday, July 12 - Cody Jinks and Jamey Johnson; Friday, July 13 - Dustin Lynch; and Saturday, July 14 - The

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. Like so many, I am looking forward to sharing information about our Tribe's progress with everyone during the opening and closing ceremonies, introducing guests and welcoming visitors, watching the Princess Pageant, attending stickball games, daily ordering of traditional foods, and my favorite, listening to and watching our time-honored tradition of Choctaw songs and dance.

Mark your calendars as the official fair dates are July 11-14. It's almost time to put our "best foot forward" and come together to celebrate with pride and hope our Tribe's future.

### CLOSING

We will have many more opportunities to celebrate new beginnings in the next few months, and I look forward to sharing those with you in upcoming community news columns and during the Choctaw Indian Fair. I believe you will enjoy many of the activities we have planned for the Fair.

Thank you for your support, encouragement and prayers. May the Lord continue to bless our Tribe, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Many Blessings,

*Phyllis J. Anderson*  
Phyllis J. Anderson,  
Tribal Chief



## 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.

### SPECIAL CALL MEETING - MARCH 20, 2018

**Resolution CHO 18-049**, authorizing the Department of Family & Community Services to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, to implement a Transitional Housing Assistance Program, was ADOPTED - 14 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson*); 1 NO (*H. Nickey*); 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (*C. Eaves & D. McClelland*).

**Resolution CHO 18-050**, approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' (MBCI) Department of Family & Community Services & the Choctaw Housing Authority, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 1 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-051**, submitting a proposal to the Administration for Native Americans for a Choctaw Youth Learning Through STEM & Career Technical Education (CYLSTEMCTE) Project for Choctaw Tribal Schools, was

ADOPTED - 14 YES; 1 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-052**, delegating authority to the Tribal Chief to execute contracts & other documents to fulfill E-Rate Requirements for the Provision of Telecommunication, Internet Access & any other E-Rate Eligible Services to Choctaw Tribal Schools, 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.

**Resolution CHO 18-053**, applying for funds from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical, & Adult Education for Operation of the Choctaw Career & Technical Education Program, was ADOPTED - 14 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, K. Wallace, & D. Wilson*); 1 NO (*H. Nickey*); 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-054**, applying for the U.S. Department of Justice Grants through the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Program, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 1 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT.

### REGULAR CALL MEETING - APRIL 10, 2018

**Resolution CHO 18-055**, appointing members to the Tribal Enrollment Committee, was ADOPTED - 14 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, T. Anderson,*

*R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, D. McClelland, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, & B. Steve*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT (*R. Anderson, K. Wallace & D. Wilson*).

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the re-appointment of 3 members to the Tribal Enrollment Committee whose terms expired in January 2017. The Tribal Council confirmed the re-appointment of Rebecca Steve, Gilbert Thompson & Linda Williams with terms to expire in January 2021 or until successors have been duly nominated & confirmed for subsequent terms. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

**Resolution CHO 18-056**, appointing members to serve on the Tribal Personnel Grievance Panel, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the appointment of two members to the Tribal Personnel Grievance Panel whose terms expired in October 2016. The Tribal Council confirmed the appointment of Rhonda Bell & re-appointment of Jimmy Jim with terms to expire in October 2020 or until successors have been duly nominated & confirmed for subsequent terms. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

**Resolution CHO 18-057**, designating representatives to serve as County Committee & District Board Members for the East Central Planning & Development District, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the appointment of three members to serve as County Committee & District Board Members of East Central Planning & Development*

*District whose terms expired in December 2014. The Tribal Council confirmed the appointment of Hilda Nickey (Newton County), Richard Sockey (Leake County) & Deborah Martin (Neshoba County) with terms to expire on December 1, 2021, or until a successor has been duly nominated & confirmed for subsequent terms. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

**Resolution CHO 18-058**, confirming the judicial appointment of Edwin R. Smith as Supreme Court Justice, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the judicial appointment of Smith whose term expired in October 2013. The Tribal Council confirmed the re-appointment of Smith as Supreme Court Justice with a term to expire in October 2019 or until a successor has been duly nominated & confirmed for a subsequent term. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

**Resolution CHO 18-059**, confirming the judicial appointment of Bradley Alex as Peacemaker Court Judge to the Choctaw Tribal Courts, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the judicial appointment of Alex whose term expired in July 2017. The Tribal Council confirmed the re-appointment of Alex as Peacemaker Court Judge with a term to expire in July 2021 or until a successor has been duly nominated & confirmed for a subsequent term. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

**Resolution CHO 18-060**, confirming the judicial appointment of Peggy Gibson as

..see RESOLUTIONS, pg. 6

# Ribbon Cutting Held For New CCHS Softball Complex

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly built Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) Lady Warriors Softball Complex on Thursday, March 22, in Choctaw.

“I am very pleased to present our CCHS Lady Warriors a new home field, one that is comparable & just as impressive as any other complex in the State of Mississippi,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. “Congratulations Choctaw Central High School on the opening of your brand-new field.”

Festivities also included souvenir giveaways, character races featuring fox, skunk & dog costumes worn by staff members of the Department of Chahta Immi & the National Anthem sung by Lady Warrior senior Darien Tubby.

A varsity game against the Newton County Lady Cougars was the first game played on the new field following the ceremony.

“It’s a real nice facility that this program has needed for a long time,” said Lady Warriors head coach Aaron Terrell. “These girls put in a lot of hard work through the years and won state championships. They deserve this.”

The Lady Warriors won the Class 3A slow-pitch state championships in 2013 and 2016. They captured the 2017 Class 3A South State fast-pitch title and were runner-up in the Class 3A state tournament.

“We are very proud of this facility. I love it,” said CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson. “Our goal is always to win a state championship and I hope the players adjust to it and make a run to our goal.”

Construction started in August 2017 with IKBI, Inc., a tribally-owned construction



*Pictured include characters from the Department of Chahta Immi, Bogue Chitto Councilman Kendall Wallace, Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Lann Cox, Tribal Chief Phyliss Anderson, Pearl River Councilwoman Deborah Martin, IKBI Representative Gary Pippen, Development Division Director James Robinson, CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson, CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon, Lady Warriors Head Coach Aaron Terrell, Assistant Coaches Renate Ben, Mercedes Cotton, & Randi Williams, & members of the CCHS Lady Warriors Fast-Pitch Softball Team.*

company, serving as the contractor of record.

The new facility has two new buildings. The press box, located along the first base line, includes restrooms, a concession stand & a press area upstairs. The building also includes a new sound system.

The outfield building houses

a locker room for the team & offices for the coaching staff. The dugouts also feature an equipment/storage room for team use.

Four new field lights were also installed along with a new grandstand that seats 168 people. The field has approximately 1,000 linear feet of fixed

fencing & 5,000 yards of sod placed along with 34 sprinklers to water the field. It is 220 feet from home plate to each outfield foul pole.

The field has been flipped from its previous configuration so that at any point of the day the sun will not be in the players’ or pitchers’ eyes.

## RESOLUTIONS ..... continued from page five

Criminal Court Judge to the Choctaw Tribal Courts, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the judicial appointment of Gibson whose term expired in April 2014. The Tribal Council confirmed the re-appointment of Gibson as Criminal Court Judge to the Choctaw Tribal Courts with a term to expire in April 2022 or until a successor has been duly nominated & confirmed for a subsequent term. For more information, please contact the Policy & Legislative Office.*

**Resolution CHO 18-061,** ap-

proving an Amended FY 2018 Capital Budget for Choctaw Residential Center Enterprise, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves an amendment to the capital budget for the Choctaw Residential Center Enterprise in the amount of \$125,000 to replace the fascia board & approves the total amended capital budget of \$295,485. For more information, please contact the Choctaw Residential Center.*

**Resolution CHO 18-062,** approving the 2018-2019 Budget for the Choctaw Tribal Schools

& to amend the Revised Education Compensation Plan, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the 2018-2019 budget for the Choctaw Tribal Schools in the amount of \$49,418,923. The Tribal Council also amended the Revised Education Compensation Plan to include a weighted factor of 1.8 for the Assistant Director position. For more information, please contact the Department of Schools (DOS).*

**Resolution CHO 18-063,** .....continued next page

approving the 2018-2019 School Calendar, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the 2018-2019 school calendar for all Choctaw Tribal Schools. For more information, please contact the DOS.*

**Resolution CHO 18-064**, approving the 2018-2019 Policy Handbooks for the Choctaw Tribal Schools, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the 2018-2019 following handbooks: Choctaw Central High School & Choctaw Central Middle School; Elementary Schools Parent & Student Handbook; & Choctaw Tribal School Staff Handbook. For more information, please contact the DOS.*

**Resolution CHO 18-065**, approving the Choctaw Tribal School System's Dormitory Handbook for the 2018-2019 School Year, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the policy & procedures for the Choctaw Tribal School Dormitory Handbook for the 2018-2019 school year. For more information, please contact the DOS.*

**Resolution CHO 18-066**, approving the Department of Early Childhood Staff Handbook for the 2018-2019 School Year, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the policy & procedures for the staff members of the Department of Early Childhood (DOECE) for the 2018-2019 school year. For more information, please contact the DOECE.*

**Resolution CHO 18-067**, approving the Department of Early Childhood Parent Handbook for the 2018-2019 School

Year, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the policy & procedures for the parents whose children are enrolled in the DOECE for the 2018-2019 school year. For more information, please contact the DOECE.*

**Resolution CHO 18-068**, authorizing the surplus & removal of mobile classrooms located on the Pearl River Elementary Campus, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the request to surplus, demolish or remove 6 mobile units from the Pearl River Elementary School in order to proceed with the Pearl River Elementary School expansion project. For more information, please contact the DOS.*

**Resolution CHO 18-069**, regarding the transfer of ownership of certain buildings that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has in its inventory which are located on the Choctaw Indian Reservation, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the transfer of 37 buildings or structures that are currently located on the Choctaw Indian Reservation. The BIA has requested those listed buildings be transferred to the MBCI & removed from BIA inventory. For more information, please contact the DOS.*

**Resolution CHO 18-070**, authorizing the MBCI, Choctaw Health Center (CHC), to apply for a 3-year funding opportunity "Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country" from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the CHC to apply for*

*a 3-year grant from the CDC in the amount of \$140,000 per year. The grant will help implement a project partnering with other tribal programs to address Type 2 Diabetes & associated cardio-vascular diseases & obesity in conjunction with cultural & traditional practices relative to nutrition & physical activities. For more information, please contact the CHC.*

**Resolution CHO 18-071**, approving Commercial Land Assignments between the MBCI d/b/a Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise & Tenants, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the Commercial Land Assignments between the MBCI d/b/a Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise with the following tenants for one year: (1) Big Creek Laundry/Roy White d/b/a Fluff & Fold & (2) Conehatta Market/Obai Hassan Elnaham & Salah Gamal Ali. For more information, please contact the Choctaw Shopping Center.*

**Resolution CHO 18-072**, approving an agreement between the MBCI & the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the ICE Mutual Agreement Between Government & Employers ("IMAGE") with the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement regarding the prevention of employing or continuing to employ persons who are not authorized to legally work in the U.S. The IMAGE Agreement will: (1) determine an employer's suitability to participate in the IMAGE program, & (2) develop training, employment policies, & other employment-related materials to assist employers in complying with immigration*

*laws. For more information, please contact the Human Resource Office.*

**Resolution CHO 18-073(B)**, approving increase in blood degree and/or name change for previously enrolled Tribal members, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves the increase in blood degree and/or name change for 4 Tribal members. For more information, please contact the Tribal Enrollment Office.*

**Resolution CHO 18-074(B)**, approving Tribal enrollments, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves Tribal enrollment for 29 new members & directs that roll numbers be assigned. With the adoption of this Resolution, there are 10,955 enrolled MBCI Tribal members. For more information, please contact the Tribal Enrollment Office.*

**Resolution CHO 18-075(B)**, granting right-of-way easement to Central Electric Power Association in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED - 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**SUMMARY:** *The Resolution approves a right-of-way easement to Central Electric Power Association to provide a power line on a strip on land on Blackjack Road in the Pearl River Community. For more information, please contact the Department of Public Works.*

Signed resolutions are available at [www.choctaw.org](http://www.choctaw.org). To request a copy of the attachment, please fill out a request for a resolution/ordinance attachment form & submit it to the Policy & Legislative Office at [krystina.thompson@choctaw.org](mailto:krystina.thompson@choctaw.org). Requests for attachments to Enrollment Resolutions will not be honored due to confidentiality rules.

# Resort Team Wins PRAM Award

Pearl River Resort took home the Award of Excellence at the Public Relations Association of Mississippi (PRAM) annual state conference.

Each year, PR professionals from across Mississippi are recognized for their outstanding work in their field.

Out of 104 entries submitted by various businesses, non-profit organizations, & educational institutions, Pearl River Resort Public Relations was selected as one of the esteemed winners in the category of long-term strategic programs for special events.

The project that was submitted for consideration was the Resort's breast cancer awareness activities: "Paint the Promenade Pink" & "Buttons for the Cause."

The Pearl River Resort Public Relations team consists of Erica Clemons Moore, Dominique Lewis, Todd Adams, & Cassandra Hickman.

"It is such an honor to be recognized for the work that we do. I couldn't ask for a better team than Cassandra, Todd, and Dominique. Our team works hard to provide quality communication and special events for our associates," stated Erica Clemons Moore, Director of Public Relations for Pearl River Resort.

"I am glad that our breast cancer awareness



## Resort Associates Donate To AHA

Pearl River Resort & Bok Homa Casino associates "Shared the Love" with their annual fundraiser for Heart Health Month. This year, associates raised more than \$3,700 for the American Heart Association. Pictured above from left are Pearl River Resort associates Angelina Martin, Jason Epsenhardt, Tim Tubby, Jordan Walker (American Heart Association), Cassandra Hickman, Lisa Paul, & Dominique Lewis.

efforts have been highlighted as its yearly success depends not only on the efforts of our PR and HR departments but also the generosity of our over 2,400 wonderful associates."

PRAM is a professional organization for public relations practi-

tioners across Mississippi, consisting of over 600 members from various businesses and industries.

For more information on Pearl River Resort, call 1.866.447.3275 or visit [www.pearlriverresort.com](http://www.pearlriverresort.com).



Pearl River Resort Public Relations team members are, from left, Erica Clemons Moore, Cassandra Hickman, Dominique Lewis, & Todd Adams.

# Huge Jackpot at Bok Homa Casino

St. Patrick's Day turned out to be a very lucky holiday for a special player at Bok Homa Casino as Luke C. of Taylorsville, Miss., won a jackpot totaling \$101,701.49 while playing the Wheel of Fortune slot machine.



Jackpot winner Luke C.

Wheel of Fortune is an exciting 3-reel, wide area progressive slot machine with a single payline. Featuring iconic design elements from the popular game show like the Wheel of Fortune wheel, this engaging slot machine provides players with excitement & chances to win big!

"We work hard to ensure that each of our players have a great time at Bok Homa Casino by providing multiple fun & exciting ways to win jackpots such as our slots & new bingo sessions," stated Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO for Pearl River Resort.

"Each time our players win, it is always a celebration around our property. We extend a huge congratulations to our latest jackpot winner."



## Grand Opening of Bok Homa Bingo Held March 24

Players now have a chance to win jackpots with a new permanent bingo offering! Bok Homa Casino celebrated the grand opening of bingo with special events & a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 24. In attendance for the ceremony included Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox, Tribal Council members Loriann Ahshapanek, Sharon Johnson, Berdie Steve, Richard Isaac, & Pearl River Resort & Bok Homa Casino officials. Bok Homa Bingo is open four days a week & is located in the Event Center. Early bird sessions begin on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.; regular sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. On Fridays, sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. (early bird) & 8:00 p.m. (main). Sunday matinee sessions begin at 3:00 p.m. (early bird) & 3:30 p.m. (main). For more information on Bok Homa Casino, call 1.866.447.3275 or visit [www.bokhomacasinocom](http://www.bokhomacasinocom).



# NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER

## CHC Welcomes New Staff Members

The Choctaw Health Center (CHC) would like to introduce new staff members to Tribal members.

### Dr. Neva Eklund, D.M.D., Pediatric

Dr. Eklund is a pediatric dentist at CHC. She comes to us from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson where she was instrumental in the development of their pediatric dental program.

She received her dental degree from the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry. She did her residency in pediatric dentistry at the University of New Jersey in Newark. She is a diplomat of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

She enjoys watching her son play football at the University of North Carolina & is involved with the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes

events.

### Dr. Nestor Olivo-Crespo, M.D., Hospitalist

Dr. Olivo-Crespo is a hospitalist at CHC & will be responsible for the admission & care of patients admitted into CHC's inpatient unit.

Dr. Olivo-Crespo comes to us from Centro Medico Samaritano Outpatient Private Clinic in North Lauderdale, Florida. Prior to working at Centro Medico, he worked in North Dakota with the Cheyenne Tribe at the Sioux San Hospital.

Dr. Olivo-Crespo received his medical degree at San Juan Bautista School of Medicine in Caguas, Puerto Rico. He completed an internal medicine residency at the Adult University



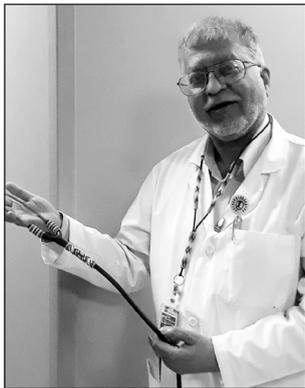
New CHC staff members include, from left, Dr. Neva Eklund, Dr. Nestor Olivo-Crespo, Constance Harthcock, & Dr. Stephen Simmons.

Hospital, Puerto Rico reading, gardening, Medical Center in San cooking, fishing, road Juan.

His hobbies include .....see STAFF, pg. 10

### Dr. Joshi Honored

On March 30 (National Physician Appreciation Day), the Diabetes Program staff presented a beaded stethoscope to Dr. Joshi to show their appreciation for his hard work & dedication to the diabetes patients. Thank you, Dr. J!



## Resort Participates in Health Fair

Pearl River Resort participated in the 3rd Annual Choctaw Central Middle School Health Fair. The Resort provided healthy snacks to the students, including apples, bananas, raisins, granola bars, & water. About 500 young people visited the health fair that included exhibits from Choctaw Fire, Choctaw Police, the National Weather Service, & other Tribal & community agencies...



“Thank you to the vendors & community for supporting the 3rd Annual CCMS Health Fair. Many of our district’s junior high students were reminded of how to es-

tablish healthy habits & how to avoid dangerous situations. These are great reminders & we couldn’t have done it without you!”

## 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.

News from the Choctaw Health Center Business Office...

**For People with MEDICARE**

**You're Getting a New Medicare Card!**



Medicare will mail new Medicare cards between April 2018 – April 2019. Your card will have a new Medicare Number instead of a Social Security Number.

Make sure your mailing address is up to date so you get your new card. Visit [ssa.gov/myaccount](http://ssa.gov/myaccount) or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778) to correct your mailing address.

Visit [Medicare.gov](http://Medicare.gov) for the latest updates.



CMS Product No. 12006 August 2017

**NEW MEDICARE CARD COMING**

- ⇒ The new Medicare card has a new “Medicare Number.”
- ⇒ Medicare is removing Social Security Numbers from Medicare Cards.
- ⇒ Medicare will mail you a new card with a number that’s unique to you.
- ⇒ The new card will help protect your identity.
- ⇒ Once you receive your new card, destroy your old card and use the new card right away.

**STAFF ..... continued from page nine**

trips, traveling, & everything outdoors.

with family.

**Constance Harthcock, FNP**

Mrs. Harthcock will be a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) at the Conehatta Clinic. She is coming from the Baptist Health System where she worked in their intensive care unit.

She received her Masters of Science in Nursing from the Mississippi University for Women. She has over 25 years of experience as a registered nurse. Some of her experience included taking care of patients at the Choctaw Residential Center.

Her hobbies include reading, cross stitching, crocheting, hunting, & spending time

**Dr. Stephen Simmons, M.D.**

Dr. Simmons will be a staff physician at CHC in the Primary Care Walk-in Clinic.

Dr. Simmons is board certified in internal medicine. He received his medical degree at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, TN. His residency took place at the Indiana University Medical Center.

Dr. Simmons was in private practice for 40 years & was on the staff of Maury Regional Hospital in Columbia, TN for 40 years. While there he served as chief of staff.

His hobbies include fly fishing & finger-style guitar.

**SDPI Hosts Spring Into Fitness Walk/Run**

The Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) sponsored the 13th Annual Spring Into Fitness 2 Mile Walk/Run on Saturday, March 24 in Choctaw.

Participants started & finished at the Geyser Falls Water Park parking lot. The two-mile course was on Blackjack Road in the Pearl River Community.

Overall winners were Alonso Henry (male) & Brianna Wesley (female).

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

**Ages 7 & Under -** (male) Bryson Billie, 1st, & Wyatt Chicka-

way, 2nd; (female) Paizley Dixon, 1st, & Azariah Balderas, 2nd.

**Ages 8-12 -** (male) Cali Wilson, 1st, & Cruz Wilson, 2nd; (female) Shareese Wallace, 1st, & Bayliss Billy, 2nd.

**Ages 13-18 -** (male) Brison Dixon, 1st, & Treyton Ben, 2nd; (female) Alana Billy, 1st, & Leilaya McMillan, 2nd.

**Ages 19-29 -** (male) Cy McMillan, 1st, & Jeremy Vaughn, 2nd; (female) Allison Meely, 1st, & Deonna Isaac, 2nd.

**Ages 30-39 -** (male) Jeremika John, 1st, & Rian Willis, 2nd; (female) Shanna Ben, 1st, & Dyranda Jimmie, 2nd.

**Ages 40-49 -** (male) Gary Willis, Jr., 1st, & Gaylon Williams, 2nd; (female) Tina Routh, 1st, & Annie Hickman, 2nd.

**Ages 50-59 -** (male) Allen Meely, 1st, & Tony Lilly, 2nd; (female) Betty Dodd, 1st, & Peggy Williams, 2nd.

**Ages 60 & Over -** (male) Adolph Vivians, 1st, & Dan Mittan, 2nd; (female) Cheryl Denson, 1st, & Annette Willis, 2nd.

SDPI was established in 2004 to serve Tribal members who are at-risk of developing diabetes. 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.



**CHC EMS Receives New Ambulances**

The Choctaw Health Center EMS is pleased to announce the purchase & arrival of two new ambulances. The new ambulances are 2017 Dodge RAM 4500 Braun Ambulances. Each unit is equipped with the Stryker Power Load System, which is the latest, most efficient, & safe patient loading system on the market. The new ambulances will help continue to provide a high quality of EMS Service to the MBCI & Pearl River Resort, & also continue to carry out the Mission Statement of Choctaw Health Center, which is to raise the health status of the Choctaw people to the highest level possible.

# Mosquito Control Spraying Schedule Released

The Choctaw Health Center Environmental Health Program will conduct monthly Ultra Low Volume (ULV) mosquito spraying in the Tribal communities between the hours of 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., as follows:

First Wednesday - Tucker Community;

First Thursday - Bogue Homa Community;

Second Wednesday - Red Water Community & areas north of Hwy. 16 in Pearl River Community, including Goat Ranch Road & Willis Road in Edinburg;

Second Thursday - Conehatta Community;

Third Wednesday - Bogue Chitto Commu-

nity; Third Thursday - Crystal Ridge Community;

Fourth Tuesday - Standing Pine Community & areas south of Hwy. 16 in Pearl River Community, including Cemetery Road, Wolf Trail, Park Place, & Rolling Hills;

Fourth Wednesday - Pearl River Community - Oswald Road, Willis Road, Ball Park Road, Lewis Road, & Black-jack Road;

Fourth Thursday - Pearl River Community - Tribal Complex, Industrial Road, James Billie Road, Frog Level Road.

The mosquito spraying schedule is subject to change contingent on weather & other unforeseen factors. The spraying program is in operation from April through September of each year.

For more information, contact the Choctaw Health Center Environmental Health Service at (601)389-4140.

# CCHS Seniors Honored During Banquet, Awards Ceremony

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) hosted a banquet and awards ceremony for members of the Class of 2018 on Tuesday, May 1 at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw.

Seniors were honored for their scholastic achievements for the 2017-2018 school year as parents, teachers, school and Tribal officials were in attendance to offer their congratulations.

After a recognition of all members of the Class of 2018 in attendance, several seniors were honored as recipients of various scholarships.

Sherrell Brown, East Central Community

College (ECCC) Student Recruiter/Enrollment Specialist, was in attendance to announce ECCC scholarships to members of Choctaw Central's 20+ Club.

Recipient of the Career Technical Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement in FBLA was Jayasri Mitch.

Recipients of the Dean's Award (ACT score of 20-23, half tuition) included Julius Billy, Jr., Teegan Clemmons, Skylar Comans, Narron Cotton, Mahali Henry, Brayton Jim, Ethan King, Damien Mesteth, Jayasri Mitch, India Samuel, & Tyus Whitecrow.

Recipients of the President's Award (ACT score of 24-28, full tuition) included Kyannah Grant, Kyarra Grant, Antonio Perez, Jayshun Thomas, & Reyes Willis.

Kyarra Grant, named 2018 STAR (Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition) student by the Mississippi Economic Council, was recipient of the STAR Student Scholarship worth \$1,000 per semester. Recognized as STAR teacher was Andy Hardy.

Brayton Jim was the recipient of the Entering Freshman Academic Excellence Award scholarship at Mississippi State University.

Mahali Henry was the recipient of the Philadelphia Rotary Club Scholarship worth \$500.

The following subject and elective awards and recipients are listed next page.

..see AWARDS, pg. 12

*Pictured from left are Tribal members Dr. Bianca York Crockett, Ashton Nicole Isaac & Lisa Cotton as they were honored as Excellence in Academics recipients as they recently completed their collegiate studies & earned their respective degrees.*



*Members of the CCHS 20+ Club honored as academic scholarship recipients included, front row from left, Skylar Comans, Asa Jimmie, Narron Cotton, Cobi John, Teegan Clemmons, India Samuel, Jayasri Mitch, Kyarra Grant, Kyannah Grant; back row, Jayshun Thomas, Julius Billy, Jr., Ethan King, Mahali Henry, Damien Mesteth, Brayton Jim, & Tyus Whitecrow. Not pictured were Antonio Perez & Reyes Willis.*

## Choctaw Transportation Guidelines for Health Center Clients and General Public

CHOCTAW TRANSPORTATION IS PROUD TO OFFER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND TRIBAL MEMBERS. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

**601-650-7430**

FOR NON-EMERGENCY/MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION, YOU MUST CALL 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE BEFORE 3:30 P.M. TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER

**3:30 P.M.**

FOR TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS ON MONDAYS, YOU MUST CALL THE FRIDAY BEFORE.

**601-650-7430**

**YOU MUST GIVE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, TIME, AND DATE OF APPOINTMENT, PHONE NUMBER WHERE YOU CAN BE CONTACTED.**



# CCHS Hosts 2018 Authors' Night

Choctaw Central High School hosted its annual Authors' Night on Monday, April 16 as members of the senior class read selections from a writing project they participated in since the start of the school year.

Family members, instructors, school officials, and guests were in attendance at the CCHS library and several classrooms as students entertained their audience by reading their selections

of personal stories and poems they had written during the school year.

Andy Hardy, English IV instructor and senior sponsor, said writing is important because it helps organize what's in one's thoughts, and to be successful in life, students need to be mentally organized.

"That's what writing helps with and that is one reason we have all our students write as frequently as they do. It's

putting their thoughts together on paper and they have to read these thoughts aloud on a regular basis so it helps them with public speaking as well."

"It instills confidence and helps boost self-esteem. To all the parents, family, guardians, and grandparents for showing up, we thank you for filling this library tonight and helping boost your children's self-esteem," said Hardy.

This year's event featured 95 members of the senior class. Authors were divided into several classrooms to give ample opportunity for all authors to showcase their work.

The entire CCHS student body participates in the project beginning in August of the new school year. Various topics are assigned and illustrations are encouraged throughout the year.

Several students had the honor of recording their narrative writing

to be included in an episode of the Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Rural Voices Radio. This year, 20 narratives from the CCHS fall semester were chosen for broadcast. Among those chosen included seniors Maleigha Joe, Elisah Jimmie, Isaiah Mingo, and Lorenzo Shoemake.

"We have been doing Authors' Night for several years, but for the last three years we've been doing it with the seniors only and highlighting

**...continued next page**

## AWARDS ..... continued from page eleven

- Business Fundamentals - Dorian Ben.
- Automotive Service I - Antonio Perez.
- Automotive Service II - Christian Whitecrow.
- Construction - Damian Sockey.
- Culinary Arts I - Tushka Willis.
- Health Science II - Skylar Comans.
- Horticulture I - Katelyn Shoemake.
- Horticulture II - Dregen Joe.
- Academic Achievement - Garrett Tubby.
- Personal Finance - Reyes Willis.
- Visual Arts I - Ethan King.
- Visual Arts II - LaChrisha Williams.
- Spanish I - Benlynnia Lewis.
- Spanish II - Jayasri Mitch.
- Choctaw Language & History - Malia Burnside.
- U.S. Government - Lauren Ben.
- Economics - Elisah Jimmie.

- Environmental Science - Tyler Bell.
- Botany - Keona Wilson.
- Human Anatomy & Physiology - Maleika Martin.
- Physical Science - Keylan McMillan.
- Chemistry - Benlynnia Lewis.
- Physics - Damien Mesteth.
- Biomedical Research - Kyarra Grant.
- Algebra II - Maleika Martin.
- SREB Math Ready - LaChrisha Williams.
- Algebra III - Ethan King.
- Calculus - Kyarra Grant.
- English IV - Antonio Perez.
- AP Literature & Composition - Kyarra Grant.
- Recognized as MS Scholars were Ethan King, Jayasri Mitch, Antonio Perez, Jayshun Thomas, & Reyes Willis.
- Named to the Class

- of 2018 Top Ten were Julius Billy, Jr., Teegan Clemmons, Kyannah Grant, Kyarra Grant, Mahali Henry, Asa

- Jimmie, Ethan King, Damien Mesteth, Jayasri Mitch, LaChrisha Williams, & Reyes Willis. Kyannah & Kyarra

- Grant were both announced as this year's salutatorians and Asa Jimmie was named valedictorian.



Seniors honored with subject & elective awards included, from left, Christian Whitecrow, Skylar Comans, Katelyn Shoemake, Dregen Joe, Garrett Tubby, Ethan King, LaChrisha Williams, Benlynnia Lewis, & Jayasri Mitch.



Pictured, from left, are Malia Burnside, Lauren Ben, Elisah Jimmie, Tyler Bell, Keona Wilson, Maleika Martin, Keylan McMillan, Damien Mesteth, & Kyarra Grant.



**LEFT**, Named as MS Scholars were, from left, Ethan King, Jayasri Mitch & Jayshun Thomas. Not pictured are Antonio Perez & Reyes Willis.



**RIGHT**, Top senior honor recipients are, from left, Asa Jimmie as valedictorian, Kyannah Grant and Kyarra Grant as salutatorians.

them,” said CCHS lead teacher Julia Faulk.

This year’s seniors have been participating in the writing project since their sophomore year.

“They do illustrations, they do their front cover. They write in every class and every teacher pushes writing in their classroom. I believe it’s one of the reasons our ACT scores have gone up because there is an emphasis on writing and reading here,” said Faulk.

Seniors participating in Authors’ Night included Cobi John, Lorenzo Shoemake, Teegan Clemmons, Mahali Henry, Alanta Anderson, Hannah Anderson, Keanu Anderson, Quenton Anderson, Brias Bell, Casey Bell, Kacy Bell, Tyler Bell, Mahli Bell, Abby Billy, Alana Billy, Isaiah Billy, Jacob Billy,

Julius Billy, Lynika Billy, Vashae Billy, Jennavia Bollin, Tiger Briscoe, Malia Burnside, Keylan McMillan, Kaleb Chickaway, Sky-

lar Comans.

Narron Cotton, Kasey Denson, Brison Dixon, Eric Dixon, Jaylen Dixon, Jaeden Doka, Emillo Frazier, Steven Gibson, Kyannah Grant, Kyarah Grant, Eva Hickman, William Isaac.

Brayton Jim, Asa Jimmie, Elisah Jimmie, Donte Jimmie, Yasmine John, Daniel Jordan, Ethan King, Brian LaBatte, Lakota Lacy, Deanna LaSarge, Benci Lewis, Keanon McMillian.

Maleika Martin,

Damien Mesteth, Britney Mingo, Isaiah Mingo, Keenan Mingo, Caitlyn Nickey, Antonio Perez, Braden Peters, Brekaiya Ray.

Katelyn Shoemake, Damian Sockey, Jayshun Thomas, Jacoby-Wayne Thompson, Josiah Tubby, Micaiah Tubby, Sawyer Tubby, Molliakai Vaughn.

Terrell Bell, Jayna Ben, Keyana Denson, Erica Dixon, Dregen Joe, Autumn Lewis, Chumani Salgado, Garrett Tubby, Christian

Whitecrow, Aysia Willis, Keona Wilson.

Tyus Whitecrow, Brandon Williams, Kainen Williams, Caleb Williamson, Gaylan Willis, Lynora Willis, Reyes Willis, Tushka Willis, Whitney Willis, Destiny Wilson.

Seniors unable to attend due to an athletic event included Jordan Bell, Lauren Ben, Maleigha Joe, Jayasri Mitch, India Samuel, Darien Tubby, & LaChrisha Williams.



On April 16, members of the CCHS senior class read their writing selections during Authors’ Night.

## CCHS STAR Student, Teacher Named

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) senior Kyarah Daileonis Grant was named STAR Student for the 2017-2018 school year by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) M.B. Swayze Foundation, sponsor of the Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program.

To be named as STAR Student, a student must have the highest GPA &

an ACT score of 25 or above. Grant had a score of 28.

Kyarah, from the Conehatta community, is the 17-year-old daughter of Shaun & Gwynn Grant. She has a twin sister, Kyannah, & two brothers, ShéChem

& Sri. Her favorite subject in school is calculus.

Kyarah is not only an outstanding scholar, but also a great athlete. During her CCHS career, she participated in track, basketball & cross country teams. The basketball team are back-to-back state champions, & the cross country team .....see STAR, pg. 21



Members of the Class of 2018 Top 10 are, from left, Julius Billy, Jr., Teegan Clemmons, Mahali Henry, Kyannah Grant, Asa Jimmie, Kyarah Grant, Jayasri Mitch, LaChrisha Williams, Ethan King, & Damien Mesteth. Pictured far right is CCHS Principal Dr. Fred Hickmon. Not pictured is Reyes Willis.

### HONORS ..... continued from page one

all of our graduates,” said Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson. “This is by no means the end of the journey for these outstanding individuals. These students are among some of the best and brightest in the state, and I know they will have many successes in the years to come.”

“A less than one percent difference in GPA is an indicator of hard work, competition and focus by our students at Choctaw Central High School,” said CCHS Principal Dr. Fredrick Hickmon. “Thank you parents for allowing your children to be under our care.”

This year’s graduating class will be the largest ever, with over 100 students receiving their diploma. The CCHS commencement ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Silver Star Convention Center.



**CCHS SkillsUSA Chapter**

**LEFT**, Members of the Choctaw Central High School SkillsUSA chapter (Culinary Arts program) include, front row from left, Antonio Perez, Braden Peters, Tushka Willis, Alanta Anderson; back row, Alan Chickaway (SkillsUSA Advisor, Culinary Arts Instructor), Makayla Jenkins, Jayna Thomas, Miriam Rehman, & Drake Anderson. Not pictured is Tarrell Chickaway.

**CENTER**, CCHS SkillsUSA Officers include, from left, Drake Anderson (reporter), Jayna Thomas (treasurer), Makayla Jenkins (president), Miriam Rehman (secretary), & Braden Peters (stand-in vice president). Not pictured is Larena McMillan (vice president). **RIGHT**, Quiz Bowl Team members include, from left, Antonio Perez, Braden Peters, Tushka Willis, & Alanta Anderson. Not pictured is Julias (J.J.) Billy.



**BCES Tutoring Program News**

Bogue Chitto Elementary School (BCES) students have been working hard this year to achieve their goals. There are approximately 60 students enrolled in the school day tutor program. Mrs. Sandra Holdiness

worked with students in grades 2-8 in the area of math. She also worked with several students in algebra. Ms. Janette French worked with students in reading & language arts in grades 2-6. Some of

these students worked in a special reading program called LLI.

All BCES students worked on lessons in the I-ready program. Students get 45 minutes of instruction each week in reading & math & are evaluated three times a year to monitor their progress.

Tutors & teachers have high expectations for all BCES students. They are encouraged to do their best daily & become productive citizens of their community & country.



**Willis Named Student of the Month**

Area students named Students of the Month for March by the Rotary Club of Philadelphia included, from left, Reyes Willis of Choctaw Central High School, Neylie Breazeale of Neshoba Central High School & Jayda Moore of Philadelphia High School. Pictured right is Elizabeth Frohse of the Rotary Club.

**SPES Students Love To Read**

Standing Pine Elementary School (SPES) was the first school in the Choctaw Tribal Schools to implement myON ebooks & their students are doing great!

They have read 7,215 books & 121,000 pages since the first of August 2017. They have also read the most news articles by far (513)!

Hats off to Standing Pine Elementary School!

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."* - Dr. Seuss

**Tutorial Program at TES**

The Tucker Elementary School (TES) tutorial program is an excellent resource for providing students with extra practice in needed skills.

The goal of the program is to keep all students working on or close to grade level objectives. The program is based on needs identified in the I-Ready diagnostic.

Math tutor Diann Cleveland works with small groups & individual students to provide extra math practice & needed skills.

She uses direct instruction, hands-on activities & games to reinforce skills taught in the classroom. This gives tutorial students additional instruction that is aligned with their instructional level.

Language arts tutor Rene Wood works with small groups & individual students in the classroom & in a pull-out setting. She provides instruction & reinforcement of the skills being taught in the classroom.

Students also receive instruction in skills prescribed by the I-Ready diagnostic & teacher created evaluation.



## CCHS 20+ Students Attend Rally

Members of Choctaw Central High School's ACT 20+ Club, along with counselor Claire Threatt, coach Alaric Keams & lead teacher Julia Faulk, attended the 2018 Healthy Teens Rally at the Bancorp South Arena in Tupelo on March 6.

The rally was sponsored by Families First for Mississippi, in partnership with Mississippi Department of Health & Mississippi Department of Human Services.

The rally featured the following speakers & topics:

- Jody Dyess (*Cyber Bullying*);
- Alivia Roberts (*Governor's Teen Council*);
- Ted DiBiase, Jr.

(*Healthy Choices*);

DeMarco Fomby (*Positive Peer Pressure*);

Mississippi Highway Patrol (*PROM Safety*); Antonio Wright (*Overcoming Obstacles*);

Say Something Assembly (*Finish the Race*); &

Marcus Dupree (*Healthy Choices*).

In addition to hearing the speakers, students visited exhibits where they were given resources. The purpose of the rally was to motivate students to make positive choices in life & have a positive influence on their peers.

## Lady Warriors Repeat as 3A State Champions

Championships are a staple for the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors basketball program. This year was no exception.

The Lady Warriors repeated as state champions as they defeated the Independence Lady Wildcats 89-56 in the finals of the MHSAA Girls Class 3A State Tournament at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson on Saturday, March 10.

"I thought we came out and played one of the best games we played all year. We shot the ball really well and everything worked out good today," said Lady Warriors head coach Bill Smith.

"This group of seniors went out with a bang. They have a 125-13 record for the last four years and you can't get much better than that."

The Lady Warriors had an overall 35-1 record for the 2017-2018 season, with their lone loss to Memphis Central by a point. It is their third consecutive 30+ win season.

For the game, the

Lady Warriors shot 53 percent from the floor, making 35-of-66 field goals. They made 11-of-24 three-pointers (45.8 percent) and made 8-of-10 free-throws (80 percent).

Lady Warrior senior point guard Darien Tubby was named C Spire Player of the Game for the second straight year.

"It was a long road, but we got back-to-back. That's what we wanted. We didn't want to let up. We just wanted to play our game," said Tubby.

"It's sad that this is our last year, but it was a good year. It was a good four years at Choctaw Central, and I wouldn't change any of it."

The Lady Warriors earned their third consecutive berth in the finals with wins over Belmont 59-42 in the quarterfinals on March 3 and Jefferson Davis County 70-35 in the semifinals on March 7.

From the opening tip-

off, Independence took an early 6-0 lead with in the first minute. The Choctaw Central seniors then took over as they scored 11 unanswered points to regain the lead. Kyarra Grant sank four 3-pointers while her sister, Kyannah, added two 3-pointers and a field goal. Tubby scored 9 in the quarter as the Lady Warriors led 31-18 at the end of the first.

Choctaw Central held a 21-12 advantage in the second as Tubby and senior Lachrisa Williams scored 6 each as Kyarra Grant scored 5 and junior Kaedre Denson scored 4 for a 52-30 halftime lead.

"We just had to execute, run them out and shoot. I knew we could get this done. We had teamwork. We grew up with each other and knew how each other played. We all worked together," said Williams.

"With this being our last game together, its a bittersweet moment. I wanted to cry, but this was more of a good

...see REPEAT, pg. 17

## First Battle of Nations in Golf Held in Choctaw

Girls golf teams representing Choctaw Central High School & Cherokee High School played the inaugural Golf Battle of Nations at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Course in Choctaw. At the end of the rounds, the teams tied with a score of 117. Congratulations to both teams on a highly competitive contest.



# CC Powerlifters Compete at State Championships

Two "Iron Warriors" representing Choctaw Central High School competed in the 2018 MHSAA Powerlifting Championships on Saturday, April 21 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

Senior Katelyn Shoemake placed second in the Class II 97 pound weight division and senior Micaiah Tubby placed fourth in the Class 3A 308+ pound weight division.

Competitors lifted in three categories - squat, bench press and deadlift. The best completed lift after three attempts in each category was added together to get the total pounds lifted.

Shoemake had a personal record as she lifted 170 pounds in the squat, 85 pounds in the bench press and 230 pounds in

the deadlift for a total of 485 pounds lifted.

"I worked extremely hard to get where I'm at today and for being on this team for four years and finally getting to state in my senior year was something that I'm proud of. It's a good feeling," said Shoemake.

"I was nervous and very emotional because this is my last year of powerlifting at Choctaw Central High School. I hope I made the coaches proud doing what I have done and setting history records for our school."

Powerlifting coaches Ed Routh and Amanda Reed said they were proud of Shoemake for all the hard work she put in her four years on the team.

"As a senior, she really took it serious and ran

with it. She's the first female that we've had come to state and we're really proud of her. She's worked extremely hard and she exemplifies everything that a Lady Warrior should be," said Routh.

"I hope we can get more young ladies to come out. This is a chal-

lenging, personal sport and you can learn a lot about yourself doing this. Hopefully, Katelyn has set the bar for other young ladies to come on"

"She worked really hard and many hours to get here. Today, second feels like first and I'm very proud of her," said Reed.

"She had a 50 pound jump from her south state total, which was 435. Today, she ended with a 485 total in under 4 weeks."

Tubby squatted 515 pounds, bench pressed 315 pounds and deadlifted 380 pounds for a total of 1,210 pounds lifted.



## Softball Seniors Honored

Senior members of the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors fast pitch softball team were honored during ceremonies prior to their contest against Southeast Lauderdale on Monday, April 16 at the CCHS Softball Complex in Choctaw. Lady Warriors honored were, from left, Jordan Bell, India Samuel, Maleighia Joe, Jayasri Mitch, Darien Tubby, LaChrisha Williams, & Lauren Ben.



## Warriors Conclude Season as 5-3A Champions

The 2017-2018 Choctaw Central Warriors basketball season came to an end on Feb. 24 as the Warriors dropped a 73-35 decision to eventual Class 3A champion St. Andrews Episcopal in the second round of the Class 3A state tournament. The Warriors had a successful season as they claimed the Region 5-3A regular season & tournament championships. They concluded the season with a 20-9 record. Members of the Warriors squad included (in no order) Kashden Bell, Treundes Willis, Myric Anderson, Octavious Jones, Keanon McMillan, Tiger Briscoe, Quentin Anderson, Dillon Farmer, Brias Bell, Deshane Wishork, Gerald Isom, & managers Narron Cotton & Keenan Mingo. Coaches were Brent Farmer (head) & Jimmy Tangle (assistant).

REPEAT ..... continued from page fifteen

feeling to play with this group of girls cause we have a lot of fond memories and moments on and off the court. The chemistry was there.”

Williams scored 9 in the third & Denson added 6 as the Lady Warriors took a 27-11 advantage, allowing coach Smith to substitute players off the bench.

Independence had a 15-10 advantage in the fourth but the Lady Warriors were well on their way to adding another state championship to their credit.

Kyarrah Grant led the Lady Warriors with a game-high 20 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, & a steal; Darien Tubby 17 points, 4 rebounds, 6 assists, & 6 steals; Lachri-sha Williams 15 points, 2 rebounds & an assist; Kyannah Grant 13 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals, & a block;

& Kaedre Denson 10 points, 4 rebounds, an assist & a block.

Sophomore Tia’Rain Saunders 4 points, 2 rebounds & a steal; sophomore Taelor York 4 points & a rebound; freshman Meloney Thames 2 points, 2 assists & a steal; senior JB Bollin 2 points, a rebound & an assist; & senior Jordan Bell 2 points & 2 rebounds.

Sophomore Lacaniya Anderson 3 rebounds, a block & a steal; sophomore Jaida Bell 2 rebounds; sophomore Wynter Dixon a steal; senior Maleighia Joe 2 rebounds; & sophomore Melanian Jimmie an assist.

Tekeria Newson had a team-high 14 points for Independence as they completed their season with a record of 26-7.

Choctaw Central claimed their seventh

girls state basketball championship & third back-to-back title wins. They won in 1996, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2017, & 2018.

During the season, the Lady Warriors held victories over eventual 2018 state champions Pine Grove (Class 1A), Olive Branch (Class 5A) & Starkville (Class 6A).



Darien Tubby was recognized as the C Spire Player of the Game for the second consecutive year.



Lady Warriors Honored By State Legislature

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors basketball team was honored with a resolution by the Mississippi State Legislature congratulating the team on winning their second consecutive Class 3A State Championship. State Senator Jenifer Branning & State Representative C. Scott Bounds presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 104 to members of the Lady Warriors, Head Coach Bill Smith & Vice Chief Hilda Nickey of behalf of the Tribe during a presentation in the CCHS library on Monday, April 23. Congratulations Lady Warriors!







# Back -2- Back



## 2017-18 State Champions



**Chief Phyliss J. Anderson  
and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
congratulate our Lady Warriors, Head Coach Billy Smith  
and Assistant Coach Elyse Willis-Etheridge on their  
3A State Championship!!**



**Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson  
and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
congratulate our Choctaw Central Lady Warriors  
on their Back - to - Back 3A State Championship!!**



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**KAEDRE DENSON**

2018 NORTH/SOUTH  
ALL-STAR TEAM  
2018 ALL-DISTRICT



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**LACHRISHA WILLIAMS**

2018 ALL-DISTRICT



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**DARIEN TUBBY**

CSPIRE PLAYER  
OF THE GAME  
2018 ALL-DISTRICT



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**KYARRAH GRANT**

2018 MISSISSIPPI/ALABAMA  
ALL-STAR BASKETBALL  
2018 WTOK ALL SCHOLASTIC  
SPORTS TEAM  
2017-18 CLARION LEDGER  
DANDY DOZEN  
2018 ALL-DISTRICT



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**KYANNAH GRANT**

2018 MISSISSIPPI/ALABAMA  
ALL-STAR BASKETBALL  
2018 WTOK ALL SCHOLASTIC  
SPORTS TEAM  
2017-18 CLARION LEDGER  
DANDY DOZEN  
2018 ALL-DISTRICT



## Lady Warriors Play in All-Star Games

Choctaw Central Lady Warriors Kyarra Grant, Kyannah Grant & Kaedre Denson were recently honored by participating in All-Star basketball games held at the AE Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton.

Kyarra & Kyannah, both members of The Clarion-Ledger's Dandy Dozen, participated in the 2018 Mississippi/Alabama All-Star Game on March 16. Alabama defeated Mississippi 109-96. Kyannah had 9 points, 4 rebounds & an assist while Kyarra had 8 points, 3 rebounds & 3 assists for the Mississippi squad.

Kaedre participated in the 2018 Mississippi Sports Medicine MAC Junior All-Star Game on March 23. The North defeated the South 85-82. As a member of the South squad, Kaedre had 4 points, 5 rebounds, an assist, a block, & 3 steals. Congratulations Lady Warriors!

# Players, Coach Honored

Several area high school basketball players & a coach were honored by state & national publications.

Choctaw Central seniors Kyannah Grant, Kyarra Grant, Darien Tubby, & Neshoba Central junior Taylor Ben were repeat selections to the Meridian Star's 2018 Premier Preps of East Mississippi girls basketball team.

The Grants & Tubby were also named to the Clarion Ledger's 2018 All-State Girls Basketball Team as fourth team selections. Choctaw Central coach Bill Smith was named Coach of the Year.

Smith was also named Coach of the Year by the American Family Insurance 2017-2018 ALL-USA Mississippi Girls Basketball Team. The announcement was made by USA TODAY High School Sports.



## CONEHATTA UNIT

On March 9, all staff members of the Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI

went to the Escape Room of Jaxon to participate in a team building activity.

.....see CLUB, pg. 22



On Monday, March 12, members (ages 6-7) watched "Peter Rabbit" at Cinemark Theaters in Pearl. Prior to the movie, they had lunch at McDonalds.

## STAR ..... continued from page thirteen

are three-time state champions.

Kyarrah is a member of the BETA Club, Chess Club & ACT 20+ Club.

Kyarrah & her sister will attend the University of Tennessee-Martin in the fall & continue to play basketball there. Kyarra plans to major in biology & hopes to become a psychiatrist.

When she first learned she was named STAR Student, Kyarra said she was surprised, but felt accomplished. When asked to designate a STAR Teacher, the teacher who made the greatest contribution to her scholastic achievement, she chose English teacher Andy Hardy.

"I selected Mr. Hardy because he helped me prepare for college. He is strict, like how a college

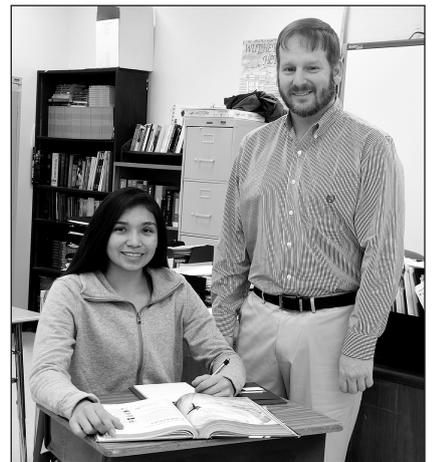
professor would be, but he can also be easy-going & easy to talk to," said Grant.

Hardy, from Philadelphia, Miss., is married to Penny Luke Hardy & they have two children, Nicholas (17) & Georgia (11). He earned his Bachelor of Science in English Education at Mississippi State University & has taught at CCHS for 22 years.

When asked how he felt about being selected as STAR Teacher, Hardy said he was "happy... grateful... honored."

Hardy believes Kyarra will be successful in whatever she does in the future & describes her as a "studious, responsible & mature student."

Kyarrah & Hardy, along with over 500 other STAR Students



STAR Student Kyarra Grant (left) and STAR Teacher Andy Hardy.

& Teachers, were honored at the Education Celebration hosted by the MEC M.B. Swayze Foundation on Thursday, April 12 at the Jackson Convention Complex in downtown Jackson, Miss.



## Lady Warriors Sign Letters of Intent

Choctaw Central Lady Warrior seniors Kyannah Grant, Kyarra Grant & Darien Tubby recently signed letters of intent in April to play collegiate basketball next season at their respective schools. Signing ceremonies were held in the Choctaw Central library as family members, teammates, coaching staff, school officials, & friends were in attendance. The Grants & Tubby were instrumental in the Lady



Warriors success as they went 125-13 over a four-year span & back-to-back Class 3A state championships the past two season. **LEFT**, On Tuesday, April 10, Kyannah & Kyarra Grant signed with Division I University of Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks of the Ohio Valley Conference. **RIGHT**, On Friday, April 13, Darien Tubby signed with the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Wolves of the Mississippi Association of Community & Junior Colleges (MACJC).

**CLUB** ..... continued from page twenty-one

The Choctaw Tribal Schools had no school on April 2 due to Easter holiday. The club was open as members held an Easter celebration as they dyed & hunted for eggs, watched movies & played Bingo.

Week was April 9-13. Activities included:

- April 9, Parents & members ice cream social;
- April 10, Art show;
- April 11, Parent vs member pool;
- April 12, "Walk With Me";

• April 13, Pizza party & movie or Bingo.

The club was closed from April 25-27 due to annual all-staff conference.

**Upcoming Events**

The club will be closed from May 28-June 1.

On June 4, the club will open their summer session. All members **MUST** have a new/updated application to participate in the summer session. Applications will be available May 29 at your local club or central office.



*Youths of the Months, from left, Braylon McMillan & Dominic Bell.*



**LEFT**, Since Feb. 13, several members participated in Choctaw Language classes facilitated by Peggy Williams & Dee Saunders. **RIGHT**, On Tuesday, March 13, a group of students from the University of Southern Mississippi volunteered their time to interact with the members & assist at the club.

**RIGHT**, On Wednesday, March 14, members (ages 8-10) went to Launch Trampoline in Pearl to enjoy the day. They participated in dodgeball, free bounce, & basketball bounce. They all enjoyed lunch at Launch & rode the carousel at Miskelly Furniture.

**BELOW**, On Thursday, March 15, members (ages 11-18) had lunch at The Outlets of Mississippi in Pearl & went to Launch Trampoline to enjoy the day bouncing, playing dodgeball, basketball, & laser tag.



**RIGHT**, On Friday, March 16, members (ages 6-7) went to the Mississippi Children's Museum in Jackson as part of Spring Break activities. They had lunch at Chik-Fil-A afterwards.



member of the TORCH club & participates in the Choctaw Language class. He volunteers his time, along with other TORCH members, to assist staff with activities at the club. Braylon is an honor roll student & Beta Club member at Conehatta. This year, he is playing baseball with Choctaw Central Middle School.

We are glad Braylon makes time to come to the club & participate in our activities. We are PROUD of you! From the staff & members.

**Dominic Bell  
March 2018**

Dominic Bell is our Youth of the Month for March. He is the 12 year-old son of SueAnn Thomas of the Conehatta Community & a sixth grader at Conehatta Elementary School.

Dominic is a member of the TORCH Club & volunteers his time to assist staff at the club with activities. He enjoys playing Xbox 2017 NBA with his peers & playing basketball & dodgeball at the club.

Dominic has been a member since April 2011. We appreciate your assistance & presence at the club.

# Activities Highlight Child Abuse Prevention Month

By Diana Solomon,  
Staff Writer

April was proclaimed Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue wreaths, pin wheels and blue ribbons were seen throughout the Choctaw Reservation as Children and Family Services promoted Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention with various activities during the month.

These activities included everyone showing their support by wearing blue on April 3 and a glow run on April 20. School children also participated in a poster contest, all in an effort to stop child abuse on the reservation.

On Friday, April 13, many participated in the annual Child Abuse Awareness Parade in the Pearl River Com-

munity. Participants included the Department of Early Childhood Education, day care centers from each community, student-athletes from Choctaw Central High School, Choctaw Transit, Standing Pine Elementary School students, and the Cultural Affairs Program.

After the parade, everyone gathered at the Pearl River Recreational Field as MBCI Chief of Staff Rae Nell Vaughn thanked everyone in helping support this great cause.

Participants received goodies from several organizations, such as the Choctaw Fire Department, Neshoba County Child Protective Services, WIC, Choctaw Behavioral Health, Boys & Girls Club, Choctaw Children Advocacy

Center, Department of Family and Community Services, Choctaw Health Center, Family Resource Center, Chahta Alla Youth Council, Court Services, Attorney General's Office, Choctaw Transit, Special Diabetes Prevention Program, & Family Violence and Victim's Services.

Choctaw Wildlife assisted kids in a rabbit throw activity and characters from Cultural Affairs were present to pose for pictures and give hugs to the children. Bottled water was donated by Brown Bottling Company to help keep everyone hydrated during the beautiful day.

Poster contest winners were announced. First place winners were Keylonia Kessinger of Conehatta Elementary

School (CES), Issabella Jefferson of CES & Sailor Jefferson of CES.

Second place winners were Mahalaya Tubby of Pearl River Elementary School, Dathian Williams of CES & Antone Jefferson of Standing Pine Elementary School.

Third place winners were Gabriel McMillan of Tucker Elementary School, Alexis Smith of CES & Jeric Frazier of CES.

About 350 people were in attendance for the event, the biggest it has ever been, according to Child Welfare Supervisor Albert Smith. He

was pleased with this year's numbers and desires to make child abuse awareness bigger on the Choctaw Reservation.

He seeks more community involvement, participation, and collaborations with organizations and schools to make each year bigger than the last.

Smith hopes to have a pin wheel garden on each school property, sidewalk chalk art done by the children and more activities during Child Abuse Prevention Month. He hopes this would benefit raising awareness and helping stop child abuse in our communities.



## Early Intervention at Parade

The Early Intervention staff of the Choctaw Tribal Schools participated in the Child Abuse Awareness Parade and field events on April 13. The Early Intervention Program seeks to identify, evaluate, and provide services for children meeting eligibility requirements in various disability areas. For more information, contact Program Coordinator Angie Gordon at 601-663-7655. Pictured above from left are Laurie Ward, Angie Gordon, Rhonda Fulton, & Edna Cotton.



## Dance To Healing

The Department of Family & Community Services and Department of Public Safety presented the Masala Chi I Hilha (Dance to Healing) event on Friday, April 20 at the Pearl

River Dance Ground in Choctaw. The event was held in observance of April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month as drummers & dancers performed to support victims of assault & abuse & start the healing process through music & dance. A candlelight vigil concluded the event in an effort to end all forms of sexual, relationship & domestic abuse & heal our sacred community.



# Choctaw Transit Hosts MPTA Rodeo

By Diana Solomon,  
Staff Writer

“Steering Mississippi Forward” was the theme for the Mississippi Public Transit Association’s (MPTA) annual Rodeo held in Choctaw on April 20-21. The event was co-sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Transportation Public Transit Division.

Choctaw Transit served as rodeo host for the 18th consecutive year as nearly 50 transit drivers from 20 agencies across the state of Mississippi gathered to test their driving abilities and knowledge as they were shown support by their families and friends.

What began as a training session has now become a two-day event where state and private sector transit drivers come together for the past 18 years to compete, learn and fellowship.

On Friday, April 20, drivers registered at the Silver Star Convention Center as they broke off into various general sessions for updates on rules, regulations, budgeting sessions, and round table discussions. Rodeo participants took a written test as part of their competition.

On Saturday, April 21, participants in the van and bus divisions competed in three categories, wheel

chair securement, pre-trip inspection and driving on a closed course obstacle course at the Choctaw Central High School baseball field parking lot. Each area is administered to help enhance driving skills while stressing the importance of vehicle safety.

Lunch was catered and provided by the MPTA.

After the competition, a banquet & awards ceremony was held in the Silver Star Convention Center as everyone enjoyed a southern inspired meal. The top three drivers in each category were honored with a trophy and cash awards.

First place finishers received \$500, second place \$250 & third place \$150.

Winners in the Van Division were: 1st place, Dwayne Butler of DJ Transit; 2nd place, Edwin Jackson of DJ Transit; & third place, Larry White of Copiah County Human Resources. Butler was named Mississippi Van Driver of the Year.

Winners in the Bus Division were: 1st

place, Brian Carvalho of Climb Up; 2nd place, Belth Rockingham of Claiborne County Human Resources; & 3rd place, Roger Olive of DARTS. Carvalho was named Mississippi Bus Driver of the Year.

First and second place drivers in both divisions will represent the state of Mississippi at the 2018 National Public Transit Association Competition in Pittsburgh, PA, this June.

Choctaw Transit Assistant Director Jeremy Bell & Mobility Manager Nana Frazier send their thanks and appreciation to Robert Briscoe, Billy Robertson, Sammy Wilson, the Choctaw Tribal Schools, and everyone who came together to make this year’s event a successful rodeo & “Steering Mississippi Forward” today, tomorrow and many years to come.



8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**INDIAN CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE**  
PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN

**REVISED DATE!**  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2018  
8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.  
SILVER STAR CONVENTION CENTER  
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

For more information about the conference or to register, visit  
<http://mjc.olemiss.edu/special-projects>  
E-Registration Begins July 2018  
For vendor info, contact Youth Court Judge Holly Peters at 601-650-1658



Drivers competed in an obstacle course set up on the CCHS baseball field parking lot.

# IRON WARRIOR

MEN AND WOMEN'S DIVISIONS  
18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

## JULY 12-14

**PRE-REGISTRATION GOING ON NOW**

\$25 PRE-REGISTRATION FEE • REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CHOCTAWINDIANFAIR.COM](http://WWW.CHOCTAWINDIANFAIR.COM)  
REGISTER BEFORE JUNE 25 TO GUARANTEE YOUR IRON WARRIOR T-SHIRT AND GET 1 FREE RETRY.

| COMPETITION SCHEDULE |                       | EVENTS         |                |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| THURSDAY, JULY 12    | 1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. | FARMER'S CARRY | SANDBAG MEDLEY |
| FRIDAY, JULY 13      | 1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. | TIRE DEADLIFTS | YOKE CARRY     |
| SATURDAY, JULY 14    | 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. | ATLAS STONES   | TRUCK PULL     |
|                      |                       | TIRE FLIP      | SLED PUSH      |
|                      |                       | KEG CARRY      |                |

**CASH PRIZES**

|           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| 1ST PLACE | \$500 |
| 2ND PLACE | \$200 |
| 3RD PLACE | \$100 |
| 4TH PLACE | \$75  |
| 5TH PLACE | \$50  |

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
SAM FARVE AT THE CHOCTAW  
FIRE DEPARTMENT BY PHONE  
AT 601.656.0620 OR EMAIL AT  
[FARVES@CHOCTAW.ORG](mailto:FARVES@CHOCTAW.ORG)

# Tackling Elder Abuse on the Reservation

By Melford Farve,  
Staff Writer

The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization has designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This observance serves as a call-to-action for individuals, organizations, and communities to raise awareness about elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Elder abuse is a silent crime with no boundar-

ies affecting all races, ethnicities, cultures, and socio-economic groups. According to the Administration for Community Living, an estimated 5 million older adults are abused, neglected, or exploited annually.

Elder abuse can occur in a variety of harmful ways, such as neglect, financial abuse and exploitation, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse.

Neglect is defined as mistreatment by caregivers or an agency re-

sulting from the lack of attention to an elder's medical, hygienic, nutrition and dietary needs including providing medications, changing bandages, bathing, grooming, dressing, or failing to provide enough food to maintain health.

Financial abuse or exploitation is the unauthorized use of an elder's funds, resources or property by a caregiver or scam artist for self-gain including:

- Misuse of an elder's personal checks, credit cards or accounts;
- Stealing cash, income checks or household goods;
- Forging elder's signature;
- Identity theft.

Those attributed to causing elder abuse are often family members, hired caregivers, and in some cases, nursing homes.

It's difficult to take care of a senior who has many different needs. It's also difficult for the elderly when age brings infirmities and dependence. The demands of caregiving and the needs of the elder can create situations in which abuse is more likely to occur.

There hasn't been enough research in Indian Country to establish reliable statistics, but elder abuse occurs on reservations. One of the reasons there aren't more reported cases is due to a hesitancy of the elder to seek help. This is due to love (or fear) of

.....see ABUSE, pg. 26

## JUNE IS ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH The National Center on Aging Explains Elder Abuse

What is elder abuse? Elder abuse includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation, neglect, and abandonment. Perpetrators include children, other family members, and spouses—as well as staff at nursing homes, assisted living, and other facilities.

• **Physical abuse** means inflicting physical pain or injury upon an older adult.

• **Sexual abuse** means touching, fondling, intercourse, or any other sexual activity with an older adult, when the older adult is unable to understand, unwilling to consent, threatened, or physically forced.

• **Emotional abuse** means verbal assaults, threats of abuse, harassment, or intimidation.

• **Confinement** means restraining or isolating an older adult, other than for medical reasons.

• **Passive neglect** is a caregiver's failure to provide an older adult with life's necessities, including, but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, or medical care.

• **Willful deprivation** means denying an older adult medication, medical care, shelter, food, a therapeutic device, or other physical assistance, and exposing that person to the risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm—except when the older, competent adult has expressed a desire to go without such care.

• **Financial exploitation** means the misuse or withholding of an older adult's resources by another.

### WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE?

• **Physical abuse, neglect, or mistreatment:** Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, burns;

• **Emotional abuse:** Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, a sudden change in alertness, or unusual depression; strained or tense relationships; frequent arguments between the caregiver & older adult;

• **Financial abuse:** Sudden changes in financial situations;

• **Neglect:** Bedsores, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, unusual weight loss;

• **Verbal or emotional abuse:** Belittling, threats, or other uses of power and control by individuals.

If you are being abused, or if you know of someone that is possibly being abused, please call Family Violence & Victims Services to speak with our Vulnerable Adult Specialist at 601-650-1774.

## Mental Health Awareness

Victims of domestic violence may have chronic health issues or mental health issues as a result of the violence they have endured. Here are a few statistics:

- 54% to 84% of battered women suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder;
- 63% to 77% of battered women experience depression; and
- 38% to 75% experience anxiety.

Abuse rates are higher among homeless women with serious mental illnesses. A study, with 99 episodically homeless women with serious mental illness, found that significant numbers had been physically (70%) or sexually (30.4%) abused by a partner. Rates of physical or sexual abuse in adulthood by any perpetrator were 87% and 76%, respectively (Goodman et al, 1995).

Violence against women, including sexual or physical violence, is linked to many long-term health problems. These can include arthritis, asthma, chronic pain, digestive problems (such as stomach ulcers), heart problems, irritable bowel syndrome, nightmares & problems sleeping, migraine headaches, stress, & problems with the immune system.

If you need assistance, please call Family Violence & Victim's Services at 601-650-1774.



# New K-9 Officers Join CPD

By Melford Farve,  
Staff Writer

Beware to those who are contemplating breaking the law. The Choctaw Police Department (CPD) has two new officers on board whose running speeds have been clocked at 30 miles-per-hour, have the ability to find the most cleverly hidden cache of illegal drugs & can make the toughest of men beg for mercy.



Pictured from left are CPD Officer Dwight McMillan, K-9 Officer Buddy, CPD Officer Shaun Jimmie, & K-9 Officer Soko.

“Soko,” both Belgian Malinois, were recently certified as part of the CPD’s K-9 Unit. Partnering with Buddy is Officer Dwight McMil-

lan & Soko is partnered with Officer Shaun Jimmie.

Belgian Malinois are considered one of the best dog breeds for

law enforcement & the military. Attributes the Malanois have are a strong work ethic, loyalty, intelligence, strength, alertness, strong-will, & a fearless attitude.

The last K-9 Officer, Mylo, was also a Belgian Malinois & partnered with Officer McMillan. She passed away in late July 2017.

The K-9’s came to the CPD all the way from Holland & Hungary by way of Peru, Indiana.

“We were able to secure a grant to buy the two dogs. Shaun & I went to the Vohn Lich Dog Kennel in Peru, Indiana, which specializes in police & military dogs. A lot of their dogs are imported from Europe & Brazil & are very expensive, but worth it,” said McMillan.

Dogs have been used in law enforcement for centuries & in most countries all over the world. To be considered

a K-9 officer, dogs & their human partners go through a series of specialized training.

Officers McMillan & Jimmie participated in an intensive 10-week training session with their partners in South-aven, Miss.

“The first days of training, we started with obedience training. With a lot of repetition, they will do whatever you tell them to do. After that, they started training to sniff out narcotics then to patrol work,” said Jimmie.

Police K-9’s are trained to serve either a “single purpose,” primarily for backup, protecting the officers & tracking, or a “dual purpose,” where they do the same duties but are specially trained to detect either drugs or explosives. They are not capable of doing both.

...continued next page

## ABUSE ..... continued from page twenty-five

the family member, feeling shame or isolation.

Priscilla Morris, Vulnerable Adult Specialist with Family Violence and Victim’s Services (FVVS), has the task of promoting awareness of elder abuse in the Choctaw communities.

Morris has been in her position for less than a year, and because elder abuse is not as publicized as much as child and domestic abuse, she did not realize this issue existed on the reservation.

“When I accepted this job last year, I didn’t realize this kind of abuse even took place, but it’s out there, I am really surprised, because I felt we took care of our own, especially the elders.” Morris explained.

To commemorate Elder Abuse Awareness Day, banners will be placed in all of the Choctaw communities, including Henning, Tenn. On Thursday, June 7, a guest speaker is scheduled to be at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center in Choctaw to talk to Tribal elders about elder

abuse and ways to report it.

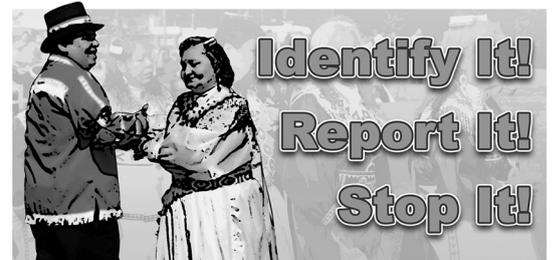
FVVS will also host Bingo Day for Tribal elders on Friday, June 15 at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center.

Many tribes across the nation have always placed the elders on a high pedestal. Their wisdom and life experiences are to be coveted for future generations. It is with great hope that this awareness will shed light on this lowly crime, so those elders who are being abused, can truly enjoy their “Golden Years”.

For more information about elder abuse, please contact the Family Violence and Victim’s Services at (601) 650-1774. FVVS is a program of the Department of Family and Community Services.

Report suspected mistreatment or concerns of an elder or vulnerable adult to the Family Violence and Victim’s Services at 601-650-1774 or the Choctaw Police Department. Callers may remain anonymous. In an emergency, call 9-1-1.

## Prevent Elder Abuse



### 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



Both officers believe the K-9's are an important asset to the police department.

"The CPD has seen an increase in drug activity, selling & using, on the Reservation the last several years. It's good to have these dogs around to help stop these types of crime," said Jimmie. "Plus,

we've come across some violent criminals & the dogs can easily subdue them."

McMillan points out their strong drug detecting attributes.

"When it comes to narcotics, dogs have a stronger sense of smell than a human. They can smell things that we can't. As officers, we're familiar with what marijuana smells like, but we are unable to detect cocaine, crystal meth, heroin, PCP, but our dogs are able to detect it."

The dogs are also trained in tracking, such as searching for perpetrators trying to evade the police or locating missing individuals.

Officers McMillan & Jimmie enjoy working with their new partners. They take great pride in caring for them at work & at home. They keep them in shape for whatever their work shift brings.

Once a week, they can be seen putting the K-9's through bite work training as they are let loose



*K-9 Officer Soko trains with a CPD officer in a heavy duty bite suit as part of his weekly bite work training on the grounds of the Smith John Justice Center in Choctaw.*

on a fellow officer in a heavy bite suit.

The life of a police officer can be days of traffic citations, break-in investigations & other normal routines, but there are times when an arrest can become dangerous. When lives become endangered, the K-9's are a valued deterrent to calm the situation.

**REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY**

**Wetip** inc.

Call 1-855-4-THE REZ  
(1-855-484-3739)  
or visit [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com)

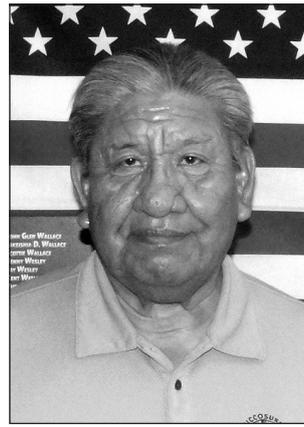
**CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:**

- 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!

## Helping Our Tribal Veterans

*By Melford Farve, Staff Writer*



*Sammie Wilson, Director, Choctaw Veterans Affairs*

There is a special bond among those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. From those who fought in combat to those who served during peace time, they share a kinship, one might say. It is this mindset that Sammie Wilson brings with him as he serves as Choctaw Veterans Affairs Director.

Following in the footsteps of his family's military service, Wilson enlisted with the Marines in 1970. At his first duty station in San Diego, CA, he assisted in transporting troops. He was then sent to Camp Pendleton where he worked in supplies. He then prepared for deployment to Vietnam.

Wilson was sent to Okinawa, Japan to await his orders, but the U.S. involvement in Vietnam was in its last stages as troops began to withdraw.

"In Okinawa, I was given new orders & worked in map storage. I was given security clearance & if the military needed a map, we would supply

them with that. We'd report back to Washington on what was picked up & who picked it up."

Wilson was sent to Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he became a platoon sergeant. After his discharge, Wilson returned home & found employment with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Adult Education program.

He enlisted in the Mississippi Air National Guard in Meridian & served for two years. He then enlisted with the Army National Guard. Upon his last discharge, he served a total of 12 years for his country.

Wilson's vast experience working with people, including a term as Red Water representative to the Choctaw Tribal Council, has prepared him to help his fellow Tribal veterans seek benefits they could be eligible for.

"The work I do is very similar to other local veterans offices. If they need help in searching for documents, file for benefits or pensions or set up appointments at

the Veterans Administration (VA), I will do what I can to accommodate them," said Wilson.

Veterans can apply for a broad range of benefits & services provided by the VA. Some may be utilized while on active duty.

These benefits include health care, service-connected disabilities, vocational rehabilitation & employment, pensions, education & training, home loan guaranty, life insurance, burial & memorial, reserve & national guard, special groups of veterans, transition assistance, dependents & survivors health care & benefits, appeals of claim decisions, military medals & records, & other federal benefits.

"I travel a lot taking Tribal veterans to their appointments in Jackson, but the VA hospital is very backlogged. The VA contracted out to other physicians & health facilities & I'm usually going to Meridian, Starkville, Madison, & Natchez. For veterans from the Bogue Homa Community, I take them to Hattiesburg or the VA Medical Center on the Gulf Coast."

Wilson assists several veterans on a regular basis. A veteran once asked for his assistance after he went to the VA to update his

see **WILSON, pg. 28**

## DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

### CAP Hosts Workshops

The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) held Beaded Medallion Making Workshops throughout February in the Tribal communities, except in Pearl River due to a death in the community.

On Feb. 17, CAP offered a unique activity as participants learned how to process chickens from the barnyard to the dinner table. Consultants included Donna Wil-

liams, Nancy Vaughn, Sesaun Williams, Garrison Joe, & Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond.

The first step, chasing & capturing the chickens, wasn't necessary as Lucille Cotton of Crystal Ridge provided the chickens as they were kept in a wire cage.

The process continued with the slaughtering of the chickens, removal of their feathers using boiling water, cutting, clean-



**LEFT**, Consultant Hester Allen (standing) shows Jessica Kay a technique on beading an arrow drop on a medallion during a workshop at the Bogue Homa Gymnasium on Feb. 27. **RIGHT**, Wendy Thompson looks at the chickens secured in a wire cage built by Casey Bigpond (right).



ing, then cooking over a fire. All steps were done using the methods utilized by our elders.

Lorena Alex, Nancy Vaughn & Carol M. Willis cooked biscuits & cornbread in an iron

skillet over the fire as Kimberly Nickey assisted. The meal also consisted of chicken stew & chicken dumplings. Desserts were donated by Wendy Thompson.

& gave people of many nations a taste of Choctaw bread. Long lines formed to sample the fry bread as a recipe was also handed out.

The CAP staff displayed a collection of books on Choctaw culture, Choctaw history, beadwork, Choctaw clothing, & Choctaw crafts.

MBCI Traditional Dancers (Phyllis McMillan, Wendy Thompson, May McGeisey, Toby Lewis, Ken Frazier, head dancer Garrison Joe, chanter Casey Bigpond, & narrator Kimberly Nickey) performed the Walk Dance, Jump Dance & Stealing Partners Dance.

A performance of the Snake Dance included energetic people from several cultures in their colorful garb & enthusiastic students as they made the movement of the snake so well the performance was exceedingly fun to watch.

Selena Jim & Carol M. Willis, CAP's temporary staff members, assisted with booth set-up.

### WILSON ..... continued from page twenty-seven

pension information. When his pension arrived in the mail, the amount was reduced.

"He came to see me wondering what happened to his pension. I accompanied him back to that office & we went found a mistake on the application. We were able to work with it & he got his full payment."

Although Wilson's clients are mostly seniors, his office is ready to help younger veterans as well.

"Young veterans who were in the warzone & got hurt don't realize some of them can receive benefits now if within the guidelines. Those who weren't in the warzone but got injured during their time in service, like a knee injury, can receive help if they meet the guidelines."

Wilson reminds all veterans, especially the younger ones, to turn in their service discharge form (DD-214) to the Choctaw Veterans Affairs office located at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center in Choctaw.

"If I come across someone I knew was in the service, I tell them I need

their DD-214. I make a copy so one day if they need it for any reason, we'll have a copy here. We can also see if they were in the warzone or honorably discharged."

"There have been times when a family needs a copy of the discharge paper for a flag to be used in the funeral. When they ask for the copy & the veteran never turned in a DD-214, I have to tell them to check the courthouse, another place where they should have turned in their DD-214. If it's not there, I tell them I can order it but it will take about 3 weeks. It's very important to have a copy on file."

The Choctaw Veterans Affairs office serves as a bridge between the veteran & the VA, enabling Wilson to wear many hats. From counselor, advocate & transporter, Wilson does it all with the same dedication he gave to his country.

For more information, contact Sammie Wilson at (601)650-1737 or email at [sammie.wilson@choctaw.org](mailto:sammie.wilson@choctaw.org).

### CAP Participates in Multi-Cultural Fair

For the fifth consecutive year, the CAP presented the Choctaw culture at the Multi-Cultural Fair hosted by the Madison County Schools District at Ridgeland High School on Feb. 15.

The Choctaw culture was one of many diverse cultures from countries being represented, such as Japan, Turkey, Russia, Palestine, Colombia, South Africa, China, France, India, Germany, Spain, & Yemen.

Several organizations were also in attendance, such as the Department of Health, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Ballet Magnificat, Statewide Federal Credit Union, Jackson State University, & others.

This year, Rosemary Williams (known as "Big Momma") made her famous fry bread

...continued next page



MBCI Traditional Dancers perform the Snake Dance with Fair attendees.



Rosemary "Big Momma" Williams of the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center made her famous fry bread & gave others a true taste of delicious Native American



Bread. She made fry bread for attendees of the DAR meeting in Oxford on April 5 (pictured above) & the Multi-Cultural Fair in Ridgeland on Feb. 15 (pictured left).

Top Photo courtesy of Bruce Newman, The Oxford Eagle

**Sash Making Workshops**

The CAP held (Mah-li Hashi) Sash Making Workshops in all eight communities in March. Class instructors included Lorena Alex, Selena Jim, Carol Jim, Kimberly Nickey, Casey Bigpond, Trudy Jimmie, & May McGeisey.

thank those who attended the sessions & invite all Tribal members & their descendants to attend or visit upcoming workshops.

**Exhibition For USM Student Group**

The CAP staff are often called upon to provide cultural demonstrations for visitors

to experience the rich traditions of the Choctaw Tribe. On Monday, March 12, Tribal dancers performed social dances for students from the University of Southern Mississippi at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center.

The dance exhibition was organized by Phyllis McMillan & Casey Bigpond. Selena Jim, Carol Jim, Willa Thomas & her daughter Shal-lasen Thomas, Cayden Billy, Ken Frazier, Garrison Joe, Ryan Charles Bell, & Adym Bigpond performed the dances.

**CAP Staff Share Stories with Students**

CAP staff members Lorena Alex, May McGeisey, Phyllis McMil-

lan, Wendy Thompson, Trudy Jimmie, & Casey Bigpond presented a series of stories with Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) students at the library on March 22. Presenters shared a variety of cultural & childhood experiences which shaped their lives & careers.

The activity was coordinated by the Special Projects/Media Program & the CCHS Student Advocacy Group (SAG) for the purpose of providing freshmen students the opportunity to learn more about their culture & history from fellow community members.

**Workshops in April**

April was a very busy month for the CAP staff as classes on Choctaw dress & shirt making were held in each community.

On Thursday, April 5, Lorena Alex & May McGeisey conducted an earring beading class for students at the CCHS Alternative School. Students grasped beading techniques very rapidly

see DCI NEWS, pg. 30



Tribal dancers performed the Walk Dance for a USM student group at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center. Casey Bigpond chanted & drummed for the group.



LEFT, A group from the Boys & Girls Club participated in a March 13 sash making workshop at the Pearl River Community Center. The classes will help these future Choctaw leaders embrace their culture so they can share their traditional knowledge to their family, friends & the next generation. Pictured above,



Lorena Alex shows a participant the length & width of fabric required for making a sash.

RIGHT, On March 22, CAP staff member Lorena Alex (center) gave a presentation on how she learned Choctaw arts & crafts from Thallis Lewis, Pearlle Thomas, & the late Nellie Steve.

DCI NEWS ..... continued from page twenty-nine

& did a marvelous job.

**CAP Presentation for DAR Group**

The CAP held a Choctaw history & cultural presentation for members of the Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) on Thursday, April 5, at the St. Andrews Methodist Church in Oxford, Miss.

Sammie Wilson, Director of the Choctaw Veterans Affairs, led the Choctaw Color Guard

for the opening of the annual meeting & luncheon for the David Reese Chapter of DAR in Oxford.

DCI staff members Trudy Jimmie, Phyllis McMillan, Carol Jim, & Wendy Thompson displayed several items of Choctaw traditional arts & crafts.

Amanda Bell presented the Choctaw history & culture from 8,000 B.C. to the present & a video of Choctaw Social

Dances was shown.

The DAR requested several Choctaw baskets to be showcased during the meeting, which was provided by the MBCI Tribal Administration.

**Resource Gathering at Mashulaville**

On April 13, several staff members of the Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) traveled to Mashulaville, Miss., to meet with Larry Miller, Mashulaville Dormito-

ry Coordinator. Miller donated a collection of historical Choctaw photographs & documents from the 1960's-1970's.

Tribal Archivist Amanda Bell, Special Projects/Media Coordinator Eddie Johnson & Chahta Immi Cultural Center consultant Ty Isaac met with Miller to accept the items, which are now a valuable addition to the Tribal

...continued next page



**CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER**

featuring

CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS  
Lifeways of the Choctaw People

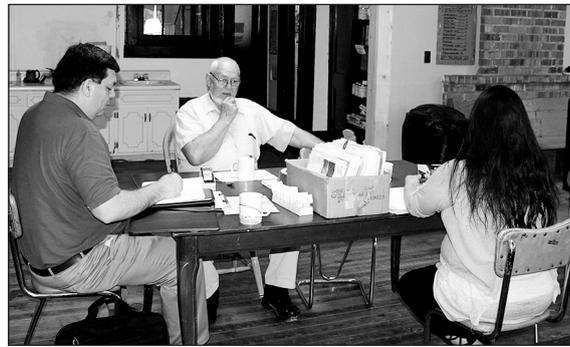


The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

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.



Viewing photographs & documents are, above from left, Special Projects/Media Coordinator Eddie Johnson, Mashulaville Dormitory Coordinator Larry Miller, & Tribal Archivist Amanda Bell.



Pictured is a view of the Mashulaville Dormitory.



On April 4, Garrison Joe, Ken Frazier, Lorena Alex, Trudy Jimmie, & May McGeisey traveled to Tucker Elementary School to teach Pre-K, Kindergarten, first, & second grade students how to create minia-

ture drums. Amazingly, all the children completed their drums. They enjoyed the class so much that some asked the staff for a repeat of the workshop.

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

Archives resources.

DCI staff members spent the day with Miller learning how the Mashulaville educational facilities played a historic significant role in the lives of Choctaws living in the area.

The Mashulaville Dormitory, as well as other buildings nearby, were built in the 1920's & served as the Noxubee County Agricultural High School before it was abandoned.

In the 1960's, the facilities turned into a Mennonite church-sponsored Choctaw school & children's home. The dormitory is now owned by Larry & Maxine Miller & used as the Mennonite Service Center retreat/training center.

To wrap up the day, Miller provided the DCI group a tour of historic Choctaw sites, such as the Dancing Rabbit Treaty Creek & the possible location of Choctaw Chief Mushulatubee's home.

**May Workshops**

In May, the CAP will be hosting workshops on making stickball aprons & aprons for Choctaw dresses. A cooking workshop will also be held. The following schedule includes:

May 2 at Bogue Chitto Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

May 8 at Tucker Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

May 10 at Crystal Ridge Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

May 12 cooking

demonstration at the cooking area adjacent the Pearl River Dance Ground from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.;

May 15 at Pearl River Community Center from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.;

May 17 at Conehatta Facility Building from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

May 23 at Standing Pine Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

May 25 at Red Water Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

May 29 at Bogue Homa Community Gymnasium from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The CAP will sponsor the Princess & Warrior Survival Week for members of the Boys & Girls Club in June. Dates will be announced soon through social media.

There will be no workshops in June & July due to the upcoming 69th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair on July 11-14. Workshops will resume in August.

For more cultural information, call the CAP office at (601) 663-7506 or visit the CAP office at 133 Annex Circle in Choctaw.

**CHAHTA ANNOPA  
ATOKSALI NAN  
ANNOWA**

*(News from CTLP)*

Halítoh, the Choctaw Tribal Language Program (CTLP) completed the spring community language classes in *Bihhi Áyásha* (Pearl River) on April 24. Weekly classes were held at the Manpower Building on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. At-

# Saving Our Language

*By Melford Farve, Staff Writer*

The Mississippi Choctaws are a people identified by their traditional way of dances, songs, games, & most importantly, their language. The Choctaw language has not only been a way of communicating, but also an integral part in teaching our culture, traditions & history to our next generation.

Since the removal of a majority of Choctaws to the west in the 1830's, the remainder that stayed in

Mississippi has seen the language steadily decline. Many factors have contributed to the erosion of the Choctaw language in its purest form. This includes the assimilation into a non-native society, the opening of schools for primary & secondary education, entertainment in various forms of media, & lastly, indifference in its importance.

There has been an effort to stem the tide of further loss of the Choctaw language. Work within the Department of Schools began when

.....see LANGUAGE, pg. 32

tendance for these classes was very good.

Our Language Development & Translation group have been meeting with community members & various Tribal programs to review ongoing language materials & final checks for production.

Programs include the Department of Early Childhood Education (DOECE), CAP, Department of Schools (DOS), Choctaw Language/Cultural Integration Program (CLCI), Workforce Development/Senior Community Service Employment Program, Department of Employment & Training, & CTLP.

**Chahta Ichowa  
Hiyohli Alfábit  
Holisso Sokko**

The CTLP will be releasing a picture book of the Choctaw modern alphabet. The first release was at a language/cultural event in Henning, Tenn., on March 28.

The event, sponsored by the CTLP & CAP,

was held during their Spring Break & included language based activities & cultural crafts.

The book features sentences written in both Choctaw & English. Previews of the alphabet book were distributed at the DOS Community Immersion Gathering events during February & March. The preview was accompanied with a short training on Active Reading.

Parents are encouraged to read a page a day, provide descriptions, & ask questions as they read along with their child. The language staff hopes this will increase the amount of *Chahta Annopa* our children will hear, offer both parent & child to interact with each other in Choctaw, & value its need.

These books will be available at the CTLP office beginning in May 2018.

Through a collaborative grant partnership among the Department of Chahta Immi, CTLP,

DOS, & CLCI, the CTLP staff assisted with the CLCI's Choctaw Language Immersion Gathering events held at all Choctaw Tribal Schools.

Upcoming CTLP events include:

- Choctaw Language class with Department of Employment & Training's Summer Youth Program during the month of June;

- Preparation for interactive language, culture stations at the 69th Choctaw Indian Fair;

- Three CTLP staff members will attend the Institute on Collaborative Language Research (CoLang) at the University of Florida's Department of Linguistics. They will attend workshops offering a mini-practicum & Choctaw Lexicon project. We will be working with linguist Jack Martin from June 17-29.

For more information regarding any of our Chahta Annopa activities, call 601-650-7440.

## CFP Receives \$20,000 Grant

Choctaw Fresh Produce (CFP), a certified organic fresh produce farm operated by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was presented a \$20,000 grant on Monday, March 5, as they won a national local farm grant program competition from Cultivating Change.

Sunrise Fresh Produce, who introduced the sustainability grant opportunity to CFP, presented the \$20,000 check to CFP officials at the Pearl River Farm located at 120 Ag Center Drive off of Blackjack Road in Choctaw.

Over 100 farms from

across the country applied to receive one of 10 grants through the Greener Fields Together organization administered by PRO\*ACT (Produce Regional Operators Advancing Cooperative Trade). This year, PRO\*ACT raised their contributions to \$75,000.

CFP plans to use the award to build raised growing beds with high quality soil that will help ensure better quality produce, allowing the farm to be more successful throughout the growing season.

Besides providing organic crops for the

Choctaw Reservation, they also partner with regional customers who are interested in buying & serving local, organic produce.

CFP, established in 2012, began with the goal of providing fresh fruits & vegetables (tomatoes, tomato berries, Romaine lettuce, collard greens, eggplant, squash, bell peppers, cucumbers) to the tribal community & promoting healthy eating habits.

CFP submitted their grant application last



*Pictured above include CFP employees, MBCI Economic Development Director/CFP General Manager John Hendrix (far left), MBCI Economic Development Specialist Jason Grisham (center left) & Sunrise Fresh Produce Regional Manager Chris Fuss (center right).*

October which included a narrative of “how” & “why” they were deserving of the grant. Their unique story of how the program was started & the strides they have

made was detailed in the application.

To learn more about the program, visit the CFP Facebook page or their website at [choctawproduce.com](http://choctawproduce.com).

## LANGUAGE ..... continued from page thirty-one

a Choctaw Language Literacy class was established for Choctaw Central High School students in the 1990's, which continues today with two language classes being offered.

The next focus was on the students of Choctaw Central Middle School as language classes began in 2010. With a foundation set, a new emphasis was placed on the younger generation.

Since 2016, the Choctaw Language & Cultural Integration (CLCI) program was initiated for early primary school children.

Roseanna Thompson, member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, serves as CLCI program director, & she & her staff are working diligently with Tribal school students to car-

ry on the Choctaw language.

“We serve Pre-K to third grades in all six elementary schools of the Choctaw Tribal School System. We provide a Choctaw language classroom for five schools, with a certified Choctaw language teacher & Choctaw language aide in each classroom. Pearl River Elementary will have two language classrooms when construction is completed,” said Thompson.

Students attend classes for 30-40 minutes of instruction per day using a Choctaw language curriculum developed by the CLCI program & the Choctaw Tribal Language Program (CTLP). They also provide oral language development skills for students that speak frequent English.

Financial support for the CLCI program comes from the *Annop Tikbishtiya* (Carrying the Language Forward) grants through the Administration for Native Americans & the Department of Education.

Another essential project funded by these grants are the Choctaw Language Immersion Gatherings. The aim of the gatherings is to decrease the language barriers that exist between parents & children.

“Essentially, it is to help parents who don't speak Choctaw but the children do, & vice versa, to start communicating with each other in the Choctaw language,” said Thompson.

The gatherings, conducted by certified language teachers, aides & CLCI/CTLP staff

members, are normally held on weekdays, but several Saturday sessions have been held. Activities, along with a meal, usually last for two hours.

Immersion events are held three times per year for each school. A typical agenda includes a prayer to start & a quick review of topics that will be covered & taught.

Whatever activity is planned, only Choctaw words pertaining to that activity must be spoken. After the activities, incentives are awarded, such as gift cards, prizes and a free dinner.

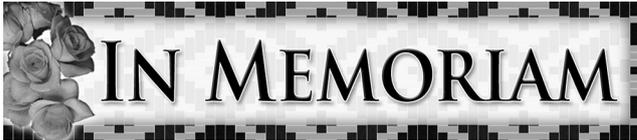
The work to save the Choctaw language continues & the language staff has seen the fruit of their labor be successful, but they can only do so much. Parents are reminded that they have to

shoulder a major part of this great effort to guarantee its survival.

“The time & effort into these school classes & immersion events have started to show some gain. Parents & children attending these immersion classes have really taken to it. I've had parents expressing surprise on how quickly their child is learning,” said Thompson.

“At the same time, a few of the parents who don't speak Choctaw are picking up some phrases. They are all enjoying it.”

It surely would be a day of great sadness if the Choctaw language should disappear forever. With our identity gone, no one will utter the proud words, “*Chahta Sia Hoke.*”



**GENEVA ALLEN FARMER**

Funeral service for Geneva Allen Farmer, 77, was held on Monday, March 5, 2018, from the Tucker Community Gymnasium. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Pastor Mark Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Holy Rosary Catholic Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Farmer passed away on March 2 at her residence.

She was a nursing assistant at the Choctaw Health Center. She enjoyed fishing, traveling, doing word search puzzles, & watching wrestling & western movies.

She was preceded in

death by her daughter, Lydia Farmer; husband, Raymond Farmer, Sr.; parents, J.C. Allen & Mattie Willis; sister, Stella Billie; & brothers, Ralph Allen, Harvey Allen & Freeman Allen.

Survivors include a daughter, Sandra Allen Isaac; son, Raymond Farmer, Jr.; sister, Nelda Lewis; 6 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**WILLIAM FRANKLIN BELL**

Funeral service for William Franklin Bell, 85, was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, from the McClain-Hays Chapel in Philadelphia. Dr. Dan Howard officiated.

Burial was in Phillips Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bell passed away on March 2 at Beehive Homes of Philadelphia.

He worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 30 years, 11 years at Conehatta Elementary, 12 years in Washington, D.C., where he served as Education Specialist. He was a teacher & served as principal at Conehatta & Red Water Elementary Schools. For the past 17 years, he was the Title I Coordinator for the Choctaw Tribal Schools.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Nicholas & Cleddie Ben Bell; sisters, Ruby M. Willis & Dorothy McMillian; & brothers, Lindy Dwight Bell & William Roger Bell, Sr.

Survivors include his sisters, Bonnie K. Martin & Sally A. Bread; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**GLEN COTTON**

Funeral service for Glen Cotton, 52, was held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, from the Crystal Ridge Community Gymnasium. Rev. Doug Nolt & Rev. Randall Joe officiated.

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

Mr. Cotton passed away on March 5 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

He worked offshore & drove trucks. He en-

joyed being with family & friends, telling jokes, listening to music, & cooking.

He was preceded in death by his father, Tubby Cotton; grandparents, John & Fannie Frazier Cotton, Gus Willis & Lizzie Cotton; sister, Barbara Cotton; & brothers, Bee Cotton, Barney Cotton & Kurtiss Cotton.

Survivors include his mother, Marie Cotton; daughters, Xavier Isaac & Jalissa Willis; son, Aven Isaac; sister, Frances Cotton; brother, Danny Cotton; 2 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**EMMALINE NICKEY LEWIS**

Funeral service for Emmaline Nickey Lewis, 65, was held on Friday, March 9, 2018, from the Bogue Homa Baptist Church. Bro. Chris Hodge & Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

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

Ms. Lewis passed away on March 6 at Regency Hospital in Meridian.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rev. William C. Nickey & Josephine Nickey; daughter, Latesha Lewis; son, Cokie McCombs; & a grandson.

Survivors include a daughter, Tenisha Bonney; sons, Kimo McCombs & Matthew Lew-

is; sisters, Vada Nickey, Ruby Thompson, Kathleen Isaac, May McGeisey, & Rosie Joe; brother, Nathaniel Nickey; 9 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JOHNNY RAY CLEMONS, SR.**

Funeral service for Johnny Ray Clemons, Sr., 49, was held on Sunday, March 11, 2018, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

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

Mr. Clemons passed away on March 8 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, fishing, playing softball, & going to the casino.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jerry Clemons, Sr., & Betty Bell; a son, Johnny Clemons, Jr.; brother, Jerry Clemons, Jr.; foster parents, Vernon & Elsie Jim; foster sister, Daisy Jim; & foster brothers, Waggoner Jim & Barry Jim, Sr.

Survivors include his daughters, Lindsey Navarro-Ortiz, Martha Morris & DeLana Willis; sons, Isaiah Clemons, John Clemons & Dwain Clemons; sisters, Rose Nell Clemons & Priscilla Clemons; foster

.....see OBITs, pg. 34

*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

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

OBITS ..... continued from page thirty-three

sisters, Thelma Barnes & Peggy Jim; foster brothers, Davis Jim, Jared Jim & Jimmy Jim; 11 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**TED RYAN JOHNSON**

Funeral service for Ted Ryan Johnson, 44, was held on Friday, March 16, 2018, from the Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. Pastor Curtis Willis, Sr. & Pastor Thomas Ben, Jr. officiated.

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

Mr. Johnson passed away on March 12 at his residence.

He enjoyed making stickballs, grilling, playing sports, & telling jokes.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, JD & Katie Mae Johnson, Barcum & Nancy King; 3 aunts; & 5 uncles.

Survivors include his mother & stepfather, Agnes & Danny King; father, Hugh King; daughter, Martisha Thomas; sisters, LeAndrea Morris, Lequita King, Danice King, Kisha King, Nicole King, & DeAnnie King; brothers, Dannan King, Murphy King, Donovan King, & Shane King; 3 grandchildren; 5 aunts; 3 uncles; 1 great-aunt; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**BEAMON BILLY**

Funeral service for Beamon Billy, 81, was held on Thursday, March 22, 2018, from the Red Water Community Gymnasium. Bro. Gary Chickaway & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

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

Mr. Billy passed away on March 19 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

He was a retired truck driver & enjoyed being with family, taking long walks, watching baseball & stickball, & collecting coins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Williston & Jessie Billy; a son, Bobby Lee Billy; sisters, Betty Jean Billy Tubby, Mary Billy & Eunice Billy; brothers, Milton Billy, Finis Billy, Horace Billy, & an infant brother; & a grandson.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra Billy; daughters, Annette Steve, Heather Billy, Tamara Eaves, & Kimberly Billy; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**THELMA RUTH JIM BARNES**

Funeral service for Thelma Ruth Jim Barnes, 75, was held on Saturday, March 24, 2018, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River. Deacon

Williamson Isaac & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

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

Ms. Barnes passed away on March 20 at her residence.

She was a U.S. Army veteran & became an LPN. She enjoyed sewing, beading, crocheting, traveling, bowling, planning events, & attending ball games.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Vernon & Elsie Willis Jim; sister, Daisy Jim; half-sister, Juanita Jim Hall; brothers, Rev. Barry Jim, Sr. & Waggoner Jim; foster brothers, Johnny Clemons, Sr. & Jerry Clemons, Jr.; & a sister-in-law, Frances Jim.

Survivors include brothers, Jimmy Jim, Davis Jim & Jared Jim; sister, Peggy Davis; foster sisters, Rose Nell Clemons & Priscilla Clemons; an aunt; two uncles; two sisters-in-law; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**WILLIE WILLIS**

Funeral service for Willie Willis, 75, was held on Monday, March 26, 2018, from the Red Water Community Gymnasium. Bro. Gary Chickaway & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral

Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Willis passed away on March 22 at his residence.

He enjoyed fishing, watching sports, listening to music, & watching stickball.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dennis & Amy Willis; wife, Virginia Nell Willis; daughter, Michelle Willis; sister, Fannie Lou Sockey; & brothers, Jim Willis & Aaron Willis.

Survivors include two sons, Jimmy Willis & Israel Willis; step-daughter, Velvet Edwards; step-sons, Anthony Anderson, Ricky Edwards & Delane Edwards; 34 grandchildren; 51 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

**WENDELL BELL**

Funeral service for Wendell Bell, 71, was held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Randy Jim & Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Bell passed away on April 2 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

He was employed with Sherwin Williams in Ohio, Chahta Enterprise & the Golden Moon Hotel & Casino. He enjoyed watching

sports, wrestling, news, & listening to music.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry Bell, Sr. & Roma Joe; son, Del Shannon Mingo; sisters, Jeanine Bell, Cynthia Rose, Linda Jean Schein, & Hanzie Bell; brothers, Henry Bell, Jr., Nolan Bell, Billy Bell, George Bell, Richard Bell, & Jessie Bell; & a half-brother, Frank Tubby, Sr.

Survivors include his wife, Maline Bell; sisters, Glenda Bell, Louie Bell, Barbara Bell Ben, & Hazel Bell Willis; brother, Gerald Bell; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**AMON LEWIS**

Funeral service for Amon Lewis, 66, was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, from the Standing Pine Community Gymnasium. Pastor Robert Patrick & Pastor Mark Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Lewis passed away on April 6 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was an ambulance driver for Choctaw EMS. He enjoyed being with family & friends, cooking hominy, fishing, attending area powwows, & playing Bingo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Prentis Lewis & Lula

...continued next page

Farmer Lewis; sister, Myra Lewis; & brothers, James Lewis, Sr., Daniel Lewis & Dickie Lewis.

Survivors include his wife, Deborah Bell Lewis; daughters, Shayla Lewis & Larosa Thompson; step-daughters, Miranda Wallace & Antonia Steve; sons, Damon Bell, Marshall Bell & Jonah Cotton; step-son, Joey Cotton; sisters, Linda Champion & Betty Jane Lewis; brother, Pete Lewis; 10 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; 5 guardian children; 3 godchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**ARVIN BRANTLEY CHARLIE**

Funeral service for Arvin Brantley Charlie, 60, was held on Monday, April 16, 2018, from the Standing Pine Community Gymnasium. Bro. Eddie Johnson & Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

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

Mr. Charlie passed away on April 12 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed being with family, playing music & managing the Standing Pine Social Dancers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edison Tubby & Irene Charlie; son, Claude Charlie; step-son, Garrison Jim; half-brothers, Edwin Tubby & Harold Denson; 3 aunts; & 2

uncles.

Survivors include his wife, Connie Jim Charlie; daughters, Denise Charlie & Brandi Charlie; step-daughters, Glenda Shumake & Mary Ann Briscoe; step-sons, Devin Johnson & Elias Johnson; half-sisters, Patsy Tubby, Connie Breedlove & Laura Tubby; half-brothers, Melvin Wilson, Sr. & Lefus Tubby, Sr.; 14 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; several nieces & nephews; 2 aunts; & a host of relatives & friends.

**FRANKLIN KENNETH JEFFERSON**

Funeral service for Franklin Kenneth Jefferson, 82, was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, from the residence of Kenneth Jefferson, 63 Arley Williams Road in the Bogue Homa Community. Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Jefferson passed away on April 13 at his residence.

He enjoyed reading his Bible, singing hymns & being outdoors.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Newt & Leona Nickey Jefferson; wife, Lena Jefferson; son, Kevin Lamar Jefferson; & sister, Nelda Shoemake.

Survivors include his sons, Kenneth Jefferson & Harold Jefferson; step-daughter, Helen Farmer; 4 grand-

children; 7 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

**JOHN LEWIS**

Funeral service for John Lewis, 75, was held on Friday, April 20, 2018, from the Bogue Chitto Community Gymnasium. Richard Farve & Rev. George Dixon officiated.

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

Mr. Lewis passed away on April 17 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

He loved being with family, cooking outdoors, fishing, gardening, playing the fiddle, listening to gospel & country music, & dancing.

He was preceded in death by parents, John Levi Bell, Sr. & Cecile Lewis Wesley; a daughter, Ann Davis; sisters, Rita Faye Wesley, Ruth Hickman & Elizabeth Allen; & brothers, Edward Wesley, Johnny Wesley, Bennie Bell, Lawrence Bell, & Benjamin Bell.

Survivors include his wife, Lilly Davis; daughters, Debbie Tubby & Courtney Davis; sisters, JoAnne Ben, Dorothy Wilson, Sally Bell, & Janice Lewis; brothers, Danny Wesley, Jerry Wesley & John Levi Bell, Jr.; 2 aunts; 8 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**TRISHAHN ASHLEY JACKSON HANNA**

Funeral service for Trishahn Ashley Jackson Hanna, 41, was held on Monday, April 30, 2018, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Rev. Robert Tubby, Sr. & Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mrs. Hanna passed away on April 25 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a receptionist at the YOP. She enjoyed being with family & friends, watching sports,

listening to music, & chanting social dance songs.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Jake & Ethel Thomas, Tubby & Missy Jackson; daughter, twin baby Hanna; 10 aunts; & 6 uncles.

Survivors include her husband, Marvin Hanna; daughter, Nollynn Daley Onma Bell; parents, Danny & Lola Jackson; sisters, Talicia Jackson & Dayanna Jackson; brother, Dano Jackson; 4 aunts; 1 uncle; & a host of relatives & friends.

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Happy 15th Birthday to Marylee Ann Hall on May 21! From your dad Corey Hall, Sr., your brother Corey Hall, Jr. & family & friends.



Happy Belated 5th Birthday to Melvin Zane Lewis (Tucker Space Jam #8) on April 3, from your family & friends, Leanna, Karene, Deborah, & Greg T.



Happy Belated Birthdays to Sylvester Hall & Martha Hall on April 23 & Lillie Wallace on April 25. We wish yall Happy Birthdays with many more years to come!



(LEFT) Happy Birthday to Kathie Henry, from all of your family & friends.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

MARCH-APRIL 2018

© 2018 MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Rez Brawl Winners, Runners-Up

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Tribal Recreation hosted the 2018 Rez Brawl basketball tournament March 15-17 in Choctaw. There were a total of 36 boys and girls teams divided into two age divisions, 12-14 and 15-17. All division championship games were held at the Choctaw Central High School Gymnasium.



Girls (12-14) Champion - CHAOS



Girls (12-14) Runner-Up - TEAM HUSTLE



Boys (12-14) Champion - RED DEVILS



Boys (12-14) Runner-Up - TUNE SQUAD



Girls (15-17) Champion - RAINMAKERS



Girls (15-17) Runner-Up - MS CHOCTAWS



Boys (15-17) Champion - 1 FAMILY



Boys (15-17) Runner-Up - ELITE