



## Choctaw Fresh Produce Receives ‘Cultivating Change’ Grant

Choctaw Fresh Produce, a certified organic fresh produce farm owned by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was recently awarded a \$20,000 grant by the PRO\*ACT Network, the nation’s largest network of independent fresh produce distributors.

PRO\*ACT (Produce Regional Operators Advancing Cooperative Trade) administers a sustainability program called “Greener Fields Together” for farmers, distributors, & food service operators in efforts to work toward a safer & more effective produce supply chain from seed to table.

Each year, the company holds an annual farm grant program called “Cultivating Change” in which farms from all across the country can submit applications for a share of grant money. It aims to fund projects & pursuits that will help local farmers do what they’re best at: farming.

This year, PRO\*ACT raised their contributions to \$75,000 as more than 100 farmers from 30 states applied.

Choctaw Fresh Produce, established in 2012, began with the goal of providing fresh fruits & vegetables (such as tomatoes, tomato berries, Romaine lettuce, collard greens,

eggplant, squash, bell peppers, cucumbers) to the tribal community & promoting healthy eating habits. They soon formed a Community Supported Agriculture share system to make fresh produce available to the public & surrounding businesses.

Comprised of five farms located on tribal lands, Choctaw Fresh Produce serves community members, employees, schools, restaurants, & large wholesale accounts. They have been described by the USDA as a “tribal community striving to regain food sovereignty” & received



The grant money will be used to establish permanent, raised beds in some of the Tribe’s outlying community farms.

their organic certification after rigorous standards were met in 2015.

“The Cultivating Change Grant will take our organic farming practices to the next level & prepare us to serve our larger, regional market,” said John Hendrix, General Manager of

Choctaw Fresh Produce.

“We are very excited about our future because of our new partnership with Greener Fields Together and Sunrise Fresh Produce!”

The grant will be used to build permanent,

.....see GRANT, pg. 6

## Washington Visitors

Keyshana Beamon, 2017 Choctaw Central High School graduate, (left) & her mother, CCHS educator Amanda Reed (right), were in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday,

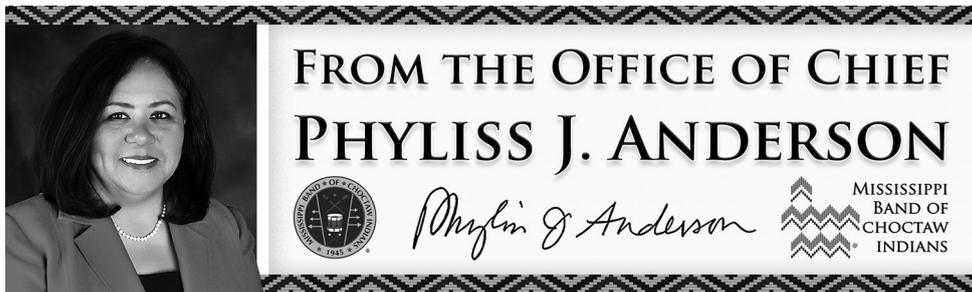


February 13, as they were selected to represent the Special Olympics of Mississippi as they met with members of Mississippi’s congressional delegation to discuss the importance of funding for the Special Olympics of Mississippi. While in Washington, they met up with Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson as she was in attendance for the Executive Council Winter Session for the National Congress of American Indians.



## Lady Warriors Back-to-Back State Champs

As of press time, the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors claimed their second consecutive Class 3A State Basketball Championship with a win over the Independence Lady Wildcats 89-56 in the finals at the Mississippi Coliseum (The Big House) in Jackson on March 10. It was their seventh overall state basketball championship as the Lady Warriors concluded the season with an overall record of 35-1. (State tournament coverage in the next edition.)



Greetings from Choctaw Tribal Offices!

It is my sincere hope that your 2018 has started off with great expectations & even greater successes! I know our students & employees have been working very hard in the new year on projects & goals. You can look around the reservation & see development all around.

We have a number of construction projects currently underway, like the new Tribal Council Hall, CCHS Softball Field, & Community Housing Division Developments. These are some of the goals my administration has set for our Tribe & it is very fulfilling to watch the advancement of these projects. I look forward to sharing more about these soon.

**UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES' IMPACT WEEK**

USET Impact Week was February 5-8, in Washington, D.C. This gathering of tribal leaders from across the South & Eastern United States is vitally important to our Tribes as we collectively work together to build important progress & opportunities for our people, as well as protect & strengthen tribal sovereignty.

We face new challenges with the Trump Administration & the 115th Congress. We have many champions in Washington that are committed to responding & supporting issues in Indian Country & creating awareness about the priorities & the federal trust responsibility

of the U.S. government.

Also, while in D.C., I had the wonderful opportunity to hear from & speak to federal officials & our Mississippi Delegation. I met with Congressman Trent Kelly, Senator Roger Wicker & Congressman Gregg Harper. I greatly appreciate their time & service to our Tribe. We are blessed to have these strong leaders representing our interests on behalf of Mississippi.

I also must commend the wonderful & capable USET staff for planning & organizing this week-long meeting. I know the efforts & arrangements that must be made well in advance & I am very grateful for the work they do to ensure our success.

**NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS**

In mid-February, I traveled to Washington D.C. to the National Congress of American Indians' 2018 Winter Executive Session. NCAI is the largest & most represented American Indian & Alaska Native organization serving Indian Nations across the country.

Many topics were introduced & discussed, however the most im-



*The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia offers a school spirit debit card to customers as CCHS debit card holders earn money for the school with certain qualified purchases. Rachel Cherry of the Citizens Bank recently made a check presentation to Chief Phyliss J. Anderson on behalf of the Choctaw Tribal Schools. Pictured above from left are CCHS seniors Quentin Anderson, Mahli Bell, Chief Anderson, Rachel Cherry of the Citizens Bank, Jayshun Thomas, & Jayna Ben.*

pactful issue of interest is the President's FY2019 Budget which poses to see detrimental cuts to programs beneficial to Indian Tribes.

Here in Choctaw, we are keeping a close watch on any legislative updates in Washington to ensure our vital services & programs continue to support healthy, growing tribal communities.

I am also pleased to report, while in Washington, I made important visits to the office of Congressman Bennie Thompson & U.S. Senator Thad Cochran. Both are long-time friends of the Tribe & while visiting I reiterated much concern over the president's budget cuts & proposed BIA actions.

These visits were very productive in strengthening our voice in Mississippi & preserving a strong government-to-government relationship.

**OLYMPICS VISIT TO D.C.**

I am so proud to congratulate Keyshana Beamon for her participation in representing the Special Olympics of Mississippi during the annual Special Olympics' "Capitol Hill Day" in Washington, D.C. on February 13. Marking Special Olympics' 50th Anniversary "Capitol Hill Day" was represented by all 50 U.S. states.

Keyshana shares she had a wonderful opportunity to tour our nation's capital city, meet members of Congress in both the House & Senate while advocating the need for continued funding for Special Olympics Unified Sports & Unified Champion Schools programming in Mississippi.

I am very confident this experience gave Keyshana & the other participants many warm memories, &

**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 presented “fanheads” to members of the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors & Warriors basketball teams in support of

their march towards a return trip to the Big House & a shot at the Class 3A state championships.

immeasurable opportunities & new lifetime friendships.

Independence Lady Wildcats 89-56 in the finals at the “Big House” in Jackson on Saturday, March 10.

fast pitch season will be played on Thursday, March 22. I am pleased to announce that we will hold a ribbon cutting celebration for the new softball field right before the beginning of the game. The Lady Warriors are already using the field for their practices.

March 10. She placed second and now advances to the state championship in Jackson at the Mississippi Coliseum on April 14.

great team this season.

**YOUTH RABBITSTICK HUNT**

The 2018 Youth Rabbitstick Hunt was held on Saturday, February 24, at the Attala County Property. This annual event is always a favorite activity for many of our Tribal members, especially our youth.

The Warriors had a remarkable season as well as they finished the season as Region 5-3A regular season and tournament champions.

I am so pleased that we could show our appreciation to our athletes in this way. I look forward to seeing everyone out at the games, & best wishes on a successful season to our players, coaches & supporters.

We also commend Cobi John & Taelor Sockey who competed in two of the toughest classifications & represented CCHS very well. Best of luck to our powerlifters!

**ACADEMICS**

The CCHS Beta Club recently attended the Mississippi State Senior Beta Convention in Biloxi, February 18-20, & competed in several categories. I congratulate Xavier Sam, who won first place in Visual Arts in the Homemade Jewelry category.

Participants work together & use our generations-old traditional method of hunting for rabbits. Everyone has fun, but they learn about the value of teamwork & about how very different life was for our ancestors.

On Friday, February 23, I presented all the players with a pair of “fanheads” as my show of support for their hard work on the court. I am proud of our basketball players, & I want them to know that the Tribe has their backs.

**CCHS SPORTS UPDATE**

Both the Warriors & Lady Warriors bowling teams were district champions & were also third place regional winners. The Lady Warriors were a wild card pick & moved on to the state championships, where they placed 6th in the state.

Our powerlifting teams are doing very well. The boys recently competed at South State Championships at Velma Jackson High School with Brayton Jim placing fourth in the 198 lb. division & Micaiah Tubby placing second in the Super Heavyweight division. Micaiah now advances to the state championship at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson on April 14.

The CCHS Unified basketball team competed March 3rd in the Special Olympics/Unified Spring State Games at the Turner Center on the campus of Ole Miss in Oxford, Miss. This is their third straight year to compete & I am proud to share they brought home third place in the competition. Congratulations to all our players & coaches!

My best wishes to the Beta Club members & sponsors for more continued success in the club.

I thank Mitzi Reed & the Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Department for their efforts in making this event a big success.

**CCHS BASKETBALL**

Our CCHS girls’ & boys’ basketball teams had another great season. As I write this, I am proud to share that our Lady Warriors repeated as Class 3A State Champions! The girls won their back-to-back championship over the

I am very proud of the efforts & determination of our players & coaches, & we look forward to another great season next year.

Earlier in the season, Lady Warrior Katelyn Shoemake won first place in the 97 lb. division to advance to girls Class II South State Competition at South Pike High School on

In addition to fast pitch softball, there are other spring sports that have begun or will begin soon. We look forward to another exciting baseball season. Our Warriors & Lady Warriors golf teams have already been practicing & have played their first matches.

There are 24 new members of the CCHS 20+ Club. The 20+ Club was established to recognize those students who have scored 20 or above on the ACT. The club also encourages students to strive for excellence on the ACT.

I offer my congratulations to these scholars & wish for continued success for them.

The Choctaw Tribal Schools recently held district science fairs. The Upper Elementary (6th-8th grades) Science Fair was held on Friday, February 2, & the Lower Elementary (Kindergarten-5th grade) Science

...see LETTER, pg. 4



# CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

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

### REGULAR CALL MEETING - JAN. 9

**Resolution CHO 18-032,**

approving the Youth Opportunity Program Policies & Procedures, was ADOPTED 14 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, & K. Wallace*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT (*D. McClelland, L. Parkerson & D. Wilson*).

**Resolution CHO 18-033,** approving an Office Space Lease for the purpose of housing the United South & Eastern

Tribes (USET) Area Diabetes Consultant, was ADOPTED 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-034,** authorizing a Distribution of Tribal Funds, was ADOPTED 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-035(B),** approving a site lease for a proposed housing subdivision for the Choctaw Housing Authority in the Conehatta Community, was ADOPTED 14 YES, 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-036(B),** approving a site lease for a proposed housing development for the Choctaw Housing Authority in the Conehatta Community, was ADOPTED 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-037(B),** approving a site lease for a proposed housing subdivision for the Choctaw Housing & Loan Program in the Tucker Community, was ADOPTED 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-038(B),** approving a site lease for a proposed housing subdivision for the Choctaw Housing & Loan Program in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-039(B),** authorizing the sale of an Isolated Fee Land Parcel in Neshoba County in accordance with the Land Consolidation

.....continued next page

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

Fair was held on Friday, February 23.

I congratulate all of the fair winners & also commend all of the students who participated. Thank you to the teachers, administrators & fair organizers who worked hard to host both fairs.

On Tuesday, February 20, the Citizens Bank of Philadelphia presented a check to Choctaw Tribal Schools. I was proud to be accompanied by a group of outstanding CCHS seniors & accept the check on behalf of the Choctaw Tribal Schools.

The Citizens Bank offers a spirit debit card to customers, & CCHS debit card holders earn school money with certain qualified purchases. Thank you to the Citizens Bank of Philadelphia for making this presentation to the Choctaw

Tribal Schools!

### SPRING FESTIVALS

This time of the year is an exciting time for each of our communities as they gather together & watch as our young Tribal members wear their traditional Choctaw attire & dance the dances of our ancestors.

Spring festivals are a wonderful time for community members to fellowship & enjoy a delicious traditional meal. I hope everyone will make plans to attend their community's spring festival & show your support to our students.

#### Upcoming Spring Festivals

Conehatta Elementary School – Friday, March 23 – 6:00 p.m.;

Red Water Elementary School – Friday, April 6 – 5:30 p.m.;

Pearl River Elementary School – Friday, April 13 – 5:30 p.m.

Schools that have already held their Spring Festivals include Tucker Elementary on Thursday, March 8, and Bogue Chitto Elementary and Standing Pine Elementary, both on Friday, March 9.

### MARTY STUART PROJECT

On January 31st, I was honored to join civic leaders from Philadelphia, several Mississippi Legislators, & Marty Stuart & Connie Smith at a press conference held at the State Capitol announcing the Marty Stuart Congress of Country Music initiative. This venue will serve as a concert venue, museum & educational center located in downtown Philadelphia.

Marty Stuart owns one of the world's largest collections of country music artifacts numbering well over 20,000 pieces, all of which will be on a rotating display just miles from Choctaw.

This must-see museum & venue will be a great addition to our joint tourism efforts in Choctaw, Philadelphia, & Neshoba County.

### CLOSING

Many times we set resolutions at the turn of the year, but circumstances can make us stray from those goals. If you are one of those that are looking to reset your efforts on these goals, I hope you find a



*From left are Chief Anderson, Marty Stuart & his wife, Connie Smith.*

renewed sense of energy & spirit in your efforts & that you find success.

My prayers for my administration & leadership are to always have a humbled spirit of servanthood for our Choctaw people & for our Lord, Jesus Christ. Thank you for your continued support & encouragement.

Many Blessings,

*Phyllis J. Anderson*

Phyllis J. Anderson,  
Tribal Chief

Act Plan of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), was ADOPTED 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-040(B)**, authorizing the sale of an Isolated Fee Land Parcel in Neshoba County in accordance with the Land Consolidation Act Plan of the MBCI, was ADOPTED 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-041(B)**, authorizing the sale of an Isolated Fee Land Parcel in Noxubee County in accordance with the Land Consolidation Act Plan of the MBCI, was ADOPTED 13 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Anderson, T. Anderson, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, & K. Wallace*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 4 ABSENT (*R. Bell, D. McClelland, L. Parkerson, & D. Wilson*).

**Resolution CHO 18-042(B)**, authorizing the sale of an Isolated Fee Land Parcel in Leake County in accordance with the Land Consolidation Act Plan of the MBCI, was ADOPTED 14 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, B. McMillan, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, & K. Wallace*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT (*D. McClelland, L. Parkerson & D. Wilson*).

**Resolution CHO 18-043(B)**, authorizing the sale of an Isolated Fee Land Parcel in Neshoba County in accordance with the Land Consolidation Act Plan of the MBCI, was ADOPTED 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-044(B)**, approving Expenditure Plan for Forest Management Deductions, was ADOPTED 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-045(B)**, authorization of Timber Sale in Pearl River Unit 18, was ADOPTED 14 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-046(B)**, approving Tribal Enrollments, was ADOPTED 13 YES (*L. Ahshapanek, R. Anderson, T. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Eaves, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. Martin, B. McMillan, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, & K. Wallace*); 0 NO; 1 ABSTAIN (*W. McMillan*); 3 ABSENT (*D. McClelland, L. Parkerson & D. Wilson*).

**Resolution CHO 18-047(B)**, approving increase in Blood Degree and/or Name Change for previously enrolled Tribal members, was ADOPTED 13 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

**Resolution CHO 18-048(B)**, approving the relinquishment of membership of three Tribal members, was ADOPTED 13 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.



### Kialegee Tribal Town Representatives Visit Tribe

A delegation representing the Kialegee Tribal Town of Oklahoma recently visited the Choctaw Reservation. They toured Tribal entities & services, such as the Choctaw Health Center, Chahta Immi Cultural Center & Geyser Falls Water Park. They also met with Chief Anderson & Choctaw Indian Princess Kassie Cox. Kialegee Tribal Town representatives included (in no order) Mekko Jeremiah Hobia, 1st Warrior Noratte Hobia, 2nd Warrior Agnes Givens, Tribal Treasurer Sharia Harjo, Tribal Secretary Gina Wesley, Advisor Brian Givens, & Advisor Jerry Foley.

## 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.

**\*\* IF YOU DID NOT PICK UP YOUR CHECKS, IT WILL BE MAILED THE NEXT DAY!!!\*\***

**\*\* OUR OFFICE WILL NOT HOLD ANY CHECKS FOR PICK UP THE DAY AFTER DISTRIBUTION!!!!\*\***

**\*\* IF YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THE CHECK, YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PICK UP ANOTHER TRIBAL MEMBER'S CHECK!!!\*\***

# Maxwell Appointed Shopping Center General Manager

The Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise announces the appointment of W. Diane Maxwell as its new General Manager.



W. Diane Maxwell

Maxwell is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians from the Pearl River Community. Her

work portfolio includes working at the Choctaw Housing Authority, where she worked her way up to Deputy Director; the DHHS-Public Health Division-IHS-General Counsel Office, & most recently with the Choctaw Tribal Court System.

Maxwell proudly served in the United States Marine Corps. She recently completed her studies at the University of Mississippi School of Law where she received her Juris Doctor.

In the role of the General Manager, she will oversee 700,000 square feet of retail, program, & industrial space that the Enterprise currently manages. Her work knowledge & education will be greatly utilized in her new role as General Manager.

“I am excited to take on this

new role & challenge,” said Maxwell. “I look forward to working with existing & new tenants to provide beneficial products & services to our Choctaw communities.”

The Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise is confident Ms. Maxwell will hit the ground running & surpass expectations.

The office of the General Manager is located on the 2nd floor of the three-story building at the Choctaw Shopping Center, & the office number is 601-656-2193.

# Pearl River Resort Donates to Chata Mission

The Choctaw United Methodist Missions, Chata Mission in the Pearl River Community in Choctaw was the recipient of food and monetary donations courtesy of the Pearl River Resort.

The resort once again participated in the annual Restock the Shelves event involving poker venues across North America. Sponsored by Ante Up Magazine and Blue Shark Optics, the event ran from December 1st through January 29th as players in the Pearl River Resort Poker Room donated non-perishable food items and money.

Donations were tabulated and a check totaling \$2,175 was presented to officials of the

Chata Mission on Tuesday, January 30.

“We thank you so much for this! It will help us because we are a caring ministry that reaches out to the Choctaw community,” said Patricia Battle, Choctaw United Methodist Missions Administrator.

“We provide food for about 96 families a month. We also have

breakfast on Saturdays and most of the breakfasts are for children and the elderly. During that time we have a fellowship and the food we are getting and the donation we received will be able to expand our outreach on Saturday mornings.”

Chata Mission is located at 10971 Road 2605, just off Highway 16 between Oswald Road and Blackjack Road in Choctaw.



Pictured from left are Connie Deon, Pearl River Resort; Patricia Battle, Chata Mission Administrator; Pastor Daniel Tubby; & Allene Hickman, Assistant Coordinator.

## GRANT ..... continued from page one

raised beds in some of the Tribe’s outlying community farms where the soils are not as productive, according to Hendrix.

“Over the past two growing seasons, we have really begun to focus on improving the health of our soils. We will be using our grant award to establish permanent, raised beds that will improve our yields, quality, & reduce our expenses over the long-term.”

Choctaw Fresh Produce submitted their application last October. This included the 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 all detailed in the grant application.

A panel of industry experts reviewed all applications & 20 finalists were named. Out of the 20, Choc-

taw Fresh Produce was announced the top winner in the panel review grant category during a live presentation on the Greener Fields Together’s Facebook page on Monday, Feb. 5.

To learn more about the program, visit the Choctaw Fresh Produce Facebook page or their website at choctawproduce.com.

PRO\*ACT was formed in 1990 as six independent foodservice distributors joined forces to achieve a competitive advantage through consolidated purchasing, collective marketing & networking.

Today, they include more than 50 distributors & 71 distribution facilities servicing North America. Each distributor is committed to delivering the right product at the right time, meeting the right specs & all at the right price.

# From the Wisdom Tooth

February was National Children's Dental Health Month as members of the Choctaw Health Center's Dental Program staff had various activities throughout the month.

They visited classrooms, Early Child Care Centers, parent meetings, and provided fluoride treatments for students in the Tribal elementary schools.

They also provided numerous dental information throughout the communities. Topics included: Why brushing and flossing is a necessary part of a daily routine? Or why isn't Gatorade and Powerade ok to drink? Isn't it better than Coke or Mt. Dew?

Pictured right are members of the Dental Team.



# 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.

# New Material Lets Patients Avoid the Dentists' Drill

*Submitted by the Choctaw Health Center Dental Program*

The Choctaw Health Center Dental Program announces the availability of a non-traumatic therapy for treating cavities.

We have begun incorporating the use of Silver Diamine Fluoride.

This material has been used for decades in other countries and has recently been introduced to the U.S.

Silver Diamine Fluoride is an antimicrobial liquid that is topically applied to cavities. The cavity absorbs the liquid and tooth decay is stopped. Now treating a cavity can be quick

and completely painless, no drilling or shots required!

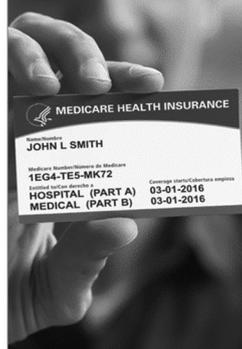
This treatment may not be for everyone as Silver Diamine Fluoride blackens the brownish decay on a tooth. This discoloration may not matter on back molar teeth, especially on small children who will lose the teeth in a few years anyway. Also, the black stain can often be covered up with a filling either the same day or anytime in the future.

This noninvasive treatment may be ideal for pediatric patients, nursing home residents, or even patients with severe dental anxiety who want to dodge the drill.

*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.

**PRIMARY CARE**  
PHONE: 601-389-4300  
FOR ALL EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

*Saturday Clinic*  
**OPENS ON THE  
4TH SATURDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
HOURS 8:00 AM-12:00 PM  
LAST SIGN IN AT 11:30 AM**

*Upcoming Dates*  
**March 24, 2018**

# Choctaw Transit Utilizes Technology To Better Serve Clients

By Melford Farve,  
Staff Writer

Choctaw Transit, a component of the Choctaw Regional Transportation and Maintenance Facility Program and operated by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, is constantly pursuing ideas to better serve Tribal and non-Tribal customers for their transportation needs.

The newest capability of the program is the utilization of a software system that provides a full-featured suite of easy-to-use, intelligent transportation solutions.

RouteMatch, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, brings innovative passenger transportation technologies that help more than 600 transit agencies transform rider experiences and manage operational

costs.

The goal is to make taking transit more convenient and accessible to all riders so they can get to work, medical appointments, school, or wherever life takes them - on time and safely. This is done through a scalable intelligent transportation systems (ITS) platform for fixed route and demand response operations.

Choctaw Transit will utilize the software to connect the dispatch office to each of the transit vehicles. The system will help in the scheduling of passengers during their route, in addition to Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking on transit vehicles.

The software also allows efficient data collection to be submitted to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the

Federal Transit Authority (FTA).

"I began working on this project about two and a half years ago. We had an old tracking system that did not fit our needs, so we discontinued the contract and looked for a new software system that would help us better serve the company and the reservation," said Jeremy Bell, Assistant Director of Choctaw Transit.

"We contacted MDOT which was looking for a single provider for all of the transit agencies in Mississippi. We obtained funds from the FTA to obtain a dispatching and GPS system and, after a long wait, were able to get bids out. RouteMatch was the winner."

One of the keys to the success of this system is the training of all drivers and dispatchers. During a recent training session, dispatchers were learn-



Computer tablets installed with the RouteMatch software system enables Choctaw Transit drivers to view their daily schedules. The tablets, which are affixed in metal cases mounted onto the floorboard of the vehicles, also contains a GPS to locate unknown addresses & monitor drive time.

ing to log in client trips into the computer system.

The previous way of logging information had dispatchers taking calls from the clients, writing down their names, addresses, destination, appointments, drop off time, and putting it in an appointment book. From this appointment book, dispatchers would then

create a schedule where ridership forms would be created for each transit driver with information on which community to go to, who to pick up, or who will be at an area at a certain time.

With the new RouteMatch system in place, once a dispatcher receives a call from a ...continued next page

## 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.**



Choctaw Transit conducted a public comment & hearing period on Thursday, February 8, at the Choctaw Transit Conference Room in Choctaw. The program intends to apply with the Mississippi Department of



Transportation, Public Transportation Division, for a grant under 49 U.S.C 5311 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) & Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, for the provision of public transportation services. Conducting the session was Nana Frazier, Choctaw Transit Mobility Manager (center) and Jeremy Bell, Choctaw Transit Assistant Director (right).

client, they will enter the information into the system where the computer configures all the routes and sets the times for all riders.

Once destinations are confirmed, transit drivers can go to their respective vehicles, log on with their personal code assigned by RouteMatch into an onboard tablet, and the driver's assigned manifest will come on screen detailing riders and pick up times.

Another essential element to the driver's tablet is the GPS. In case of a new client and not being able to find their location, the GPS will locate their exact place of address to ensure pick up of the clients. The GPS will also aid in tracking

all transit vehicles in order to confirm pick-ups and drop offs, as well as provide reports in the event no call/no shows should occur.

Dispatchers can bring up the GPS and locate all transit vehicle locations in real time, identify driving time on the road and monitor the speedometer of each individual vehicle in order to ensure safety of the passengers.

Choctaw Transit has future projects in the works to further accommodate Tribal members and the general public.

"We're working on an employment route to Tyson Foods in Carthage and have been in negotiations with both mayors from Philadelphia and

Carthage to make sure we have their approval to go ahead with the project," said Nana Frazier, Choctaw Transit Mobility Manager.

"We are collaborating with Tyson to provide transportation for their employees for the 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., shift and possibly create an early route if we receive enough requests for it."

Choctaw Transit is also working on an ini-

tiative with Greyhound to provide connecting rides to the Greyhound bus terminal in Meridian which will allow customers to travel across the U.S.

Another joint venture being discussed with the City of Meridian Tourism and MDOT includes providing transportation for service personnel stationed at Naval Air Station Meridian into the city of Meridian.

With a vision of improving services for their clients, Choctaw Transit and its staff strives to live up to their mission of bringing high quality transportation services to persons in the service area without the means to independently obtain conveyance to places of gainful employment, medical care, service programs, job training, or recreation.

## News from the Department of Early Childhood Education

The month of January was full of fun and activities at all of our centers. The cold snap that came through brought us some problems, but we are thankful to have understanding and patient parents at Pearl River Day Care as we work together to get our center back in order.

We rarely see this type of weather in the south, but it has been a cold winter. On the bright side, the children enjoyed their snow days at home.

We want to take a moment to recognize the children and their families who have made perfect attendance in the month of January 2018.

**Bogue Chitto Early Childhood Center**  
Kylia Thompson, Kai Jones, Mark Billie, Aiden John, & Aasin Morris.

**Conehatta Early Childhood Center**  
Amos Mingo & Sebastian Jim.

**Pearl River Head Start**  
Jediah Reed, Hazzen Thomas, Houston Cotton, & Cooper Jim.

**Pearl River EHS/ Infant & Toddler**  
Trenton Kinsolving, Riley Isaac, Koti Briscoe, Sydney Isaac, & Mylas Jefferson.

**Red Water Early Childhood**  
Gunner Grisham, Lakobe Thomas, Ellynn Grisham, Matthew Sam, & Cerulean Lewis.

**Standing Pine Early Childhood Center**  
Dreaden Sam.

**Tucker Early Childhood Center**  
Emma Balderas, Jaysa Gibson, Jensyn Bell, & Sage Grady.

Attendance is very important in our program and we want to encourage all our families to send their child in

every day!  
We still take applications year-round at every center. Even if there are no spaces available, your child can still be placed on the wait list for enrollment.

Currently, we have space available at the Conehatta Head Start Center for 3 and 4 year old children.

Please contact us for more information at 601-650-1680.

Upcoming events include a Fairy Tale Ball (date to be announced) and the annual March Madness Basketball Tournament on March 22-23, 2018. Come out and cheer for the children!





**Choctaw Housing Authority**  
P.O. Box 6088 • Choctaw, Mississippi 39350  
Telephone: (601)656-6617 • Fax: (601)656-5246  
*Serving Choctaw Communities in Mississippi & Tennessee*

**EXTENSION NOTICE!!!**

**Effective February 27, 2018**

**Choctaw Housing Authority will be accepting Housing Applications for all communities.**

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTATIONS:**

- Income Verification - 3 to 4 check stubs, Income Tax Return, SSI/SSA award letter, child support affidavit;
- Household's Social Security Cards;
- Household's Birth Certificates;
- Household's Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB);
- If married, a copy of Marriage License.

**Applications Will Not Be Accepted If All Documents Are Not Provided.**  
Applications can be picked up at CHA Office and surrounding Community Facility Buildings 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. (Monday-Friday)

**Extended to April 30, 2018**

"Choctaw Self-Determination"

# Wilson Wins District Spelling Bee

Kerri Wilson, seventh grader at Red Water Elementary School, was the grand champion speller of the 24th Annual Choctaw Tribal Schools District-Wide Spelling Bee on Feb. 1 at the Conehatta Elementary School Gymnasium.

Wilson was one of a total of 50 local spelling bee winners representing grades fourth-eighth from Bogue Chitto Elementary School (BCES),

Choctaw Central Middle School (CCMS), Conehatta Elementary School (CES), Pearl River Elementary School (PRES), Red Water Elementary School (RWES), Standing Pine Elementary School (SPES), & Tucker Elementary School (TES).

In the opening rounds, each grade competition champion spellers were crowned prior to facing each other in

the final competition. Grade winners included: (4th) Mena Willis (CES); (5th) Brylee Willis (SPES); (6th) Fichik Willis (RWES); (7th) Kerri Wilson (RWES); & (8th) Braycee Hall (CES).

Wilson advanced to the Mississippi Spelling Bee in Jackson on March 13. The event was aired live on Mississippi Public Broadcasting.



**ABOVE,** Pictured from left are grade champion spellers Mena Willis (4th), Brylee Willis (5th), Fichik Willis (6th), Kerri Wilson (7th), & Braycee Hall (8th).



**RIGHT,** Kerri Wilson was the overall grand champion speller of the Choctaw Tribal Schools.

# CCHS Concludes Soccer Season in Playoffs

The Choctaw Central soccer teams were defeated in the first round of the MHSAA 1A/2A/3A Soccer State Championships on Feb. 5 at Warrior Stadium. The Lady Warriors lost to Tupelo Christian Prep 3-0. The Warriors lost to Vardaman 5-3.

Both Choctaw Central teams won the regular season division titles. The Lady Warriors & Warriors concluded with overall 13-2 & 11-4 records respectively.



**2018  
SPRING FESTIVALS**

**TUCKER  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Thursday, March 8 @ 5:30 p.m.

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**BOGUE CHITTO  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Friday, March 9 @ 5:30 p.m.

---

**STANDING PINE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Friday, March 9 @ 5:30 p.m.

---

**CONEHATTA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Friday, March 23 @ 6:00 p.m.

---

**RED WATER  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Friday, April 6 @ 5:30 p.m.

---

**PEARL RIVER  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Friday, April 13 @ 5:30 p.m.



# CCHS Hosts Senior Night

Choctaw Central High School honored basketball seniors during a recognition ceremony prior to the Choctaw Central-Forest contests on Friday, Feb. 9. **(ABOVE)** Honored were, from left, cheerleader Elishah Jimmie, Lady Warriors Maleigha Joe, Kyarrah Grant, Kyannah Grant, LaChrisha Williams, Jordan Bell, Jennavia Bollin, Darien Tubby, Warriors Quentin Anderson, Brias Bell, Tiger Briscoe, manager Narron Cotton, manager Keenan Mingo, & Keanon McMillan. Not pictured is cheerleader Teegan Clemmons. **(RIGHT)** Fans of the Year were also honored as Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, on behalf of the CCHS athletic program, presented autographed game balls



to Melanie Benn, Darren & Marilyn Tubby, Shaun & Gwen Grant, & LaShawndrea Williams & 'Speedy' Lewis.

# Choctaw Tribal Schools Holds District Science, Engineering Fairs

The Choctaw Tribal Schools held their annual District Lower Science & Engineering Fair on Feb. 23 at Red Water Elementary School (RWES) Gymnasium.

Seventy-two projects were entered representing Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Standing Pine, Pearl River, Tucker, & Red Water Elementary Schools.

The following students who placed in their respective categories are listed below.

## CLASS I

Kindergarten: 1st, Leim McMillan; 2nd, Kaecety Williams; 3rd, Hunter McMillian.

### **Grade 1**

Biochemistry: 1st, Riley Meely; 2nd, Jadyn Joe; 3rd, Cameron Gibson.

Inorganic Chemistry: 1st, Aymeri McMillan; 2nd, Conner Anderson.

Organic Chemistry: 1st, Ameer Stell.

Animal Science: 1st, Konley Anderson.

Engineering: 1st, Sherman Billy, Jr.

Computer Science & Math: 1st, Miley Flores.

### **Grade 2**

Biochemistry: 1st, Cadrian Gibson; 2nd, Dayshawn Clayton; 3rd, Alivia Stell.

Organic Chemistry: 1st, Taylor Farmer; 2nd, Esaison Willis.

Earth & Environmental Sciences: 1st, Braeson Sam; 2nd, Zakaryus Nickey.

Microbiology: 1st, Brylas Willis.

Physics & Astronomy: 1st, Cayleb Rocha; 2nd, Zachary Polk; 3rd, Kollier Thomas.

Engineering: 1st, Draacetin Isaac; 2nd, Jae McMillan.

Computer Science & Math: 1st, Dathian Williamson.

Robotics & Intelligent Design: 1st, Bryceton McMillan.

Botany: 1st, Bentley Ray.

### **Grade 3**

Biochemistry: 1st, Nakota Willis; 2nd, Georgianna Sockey.

Inorganic Chemistry: 1st, Clayshaun Clayton; 2nd, Brady Farve.

Medicine & Health: 1st, Devin Johnson.

Physics & Astronomy: 1st, Shastyn Lewis; 2nd, De’Ryan Williamson.

Engineering: 1st, Gracie Butler.

Computer Science & Math: 1st, Jacoby Willis.

## CLASS II

### **Grade 4**

Biochemistry: 1st, Anniston Billy.

Inorganic Chemistry: 1st, Lacie Morris; 2nd, Tracell King; 3rd, Zahya Amos.

Earth & Environmental Sciences: 1st, Mahayla Tubby.

Medicine & Health: 1st, Ansley Wallace; 2nd, Daisy’Alynn Perkins; 3rd, Koden Willis.

Physics & Astronomy: 1st, Callie Amos; 2nd, Tyris Stokes; 3rd, Shal-lasen Jimmie.

Botany: 1st, Keynan Wilson; 2nd, Connor

Willis; 3rd, Gavine Frazier.

### **Grade 5**

Inorganic Chemistry: 1st, Tehya Ketcher; 2nd, Kaymeree Gibson; 3rd, Natalie Chitto; Honorable Mention, Tamara Johnson.

Earth & Environmental Sciences: 1st, Ajay Lewis; 2nd, Skyler Ben.

Medicine & Health: 1st, Almera Charlie; 2nd, Brylee Willis; 3rd, Charles Tubby.

Physics & Astronomy: 1st, Lela Morris; 2nd, Akaysha Polk.

Engineering: 1st, Isaiah Johnson.

Computer Science & Math: 1st, Kaegen Henry.

Best of Fair award recipients were Shastyn Lewis (Class I) & Lela Morris (Class II).

First-third place winners in grades K-5 will

advance to the 2018 Region V Lower Science & Engineering Fair at Mississippi State University (MSU) in Starkville on April 10.

The Choctaw Tribal Schools extend a special “thank you” to the following professionals for giving their time & talents to participate as judges for this event: Wes Wallace, Amy Pauls, Mitzi Reed, Julian Roach, Elray King, Jimmy Tangle, Roy Smith, Michelle Ferris, & Scottie Wallace.

The annual District Upper Science & Engineering Fair was held on Feb. 2 at the RWES Gymnasium.

Forty-three projects were entered representing Choctaw Central Middle School, Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Standing Pine, Pearl River, Tucker, & Red Water Elementary Schools.

The following students who placed in their

respective categories are listed below.

### **Grade 6**

Inorganic Chemistry: 1st, Talayah Kingsolving; 2nd, Nataysia Willis; 3rd, Silvio Morales; Honorable Mention, Destinee Williams.

Earth & Environmental Sciences: 1st, Aven Joe.

Animal Sciences: 1st, Zavian Tubby.

Physics & Astronomy: 1st, Manny York; 2nd, Gabriel Chitto.

## CLASS III

### **Grades 7-8**

Biochemistry: 1st, Alyssa Farmer; 2nd, Isley Phillips; 3rd, Tyra Billy.

Inorganic Chemistry: 1st, Layla Williams; 2nd, Nicholas Farmer; 3rd, Shaylynn Hunter.

Organic Chemistry: 1st, Cadence Nickey; 2nd, Arionna Dixon; 3rd, Makayla Hickman.

Earth & Environmental Sciences: 1st, Gage Lewis; 2nd, Demidrea

.....see FAIR, pg. 12



*Class I (Grades K-3) District Science, Engineering Fair Winners*



*Class II (Grades 4-5) District Science, Engineering Fair Winners*

# SPES Students Conduct Water Experiments

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Science Kids' Natural Resources Water Quality monitoring activity is a free "hands-on-science lab" brought to schools across the TVA service area.

Students test the water quality of a local river, lake, stream, or pond. They delve into scientific investigation & inquiry; collect, record & interpret data; infer & draw conclusions; use scientific equipment; observe chemical reactions; & discuss human impact & STEM careers.

Fifth & sixth grade students from Standing Pine Elementary School

(SPES) recently participated in the program led by TVA representative Vicki Jo Stevens-Valentine.

Students conducted water quality experiments at the McMillan Park Pond in Carthage. They used a scientific method to determine if the pond could support aquatic life.

Students observed organisms that live in the pond & what it would need in order to sustain life. They also conducted experiments on the pond water to check for:

- Water temperature;
- Dissolved oxygen in the water;
- Ph of the water;

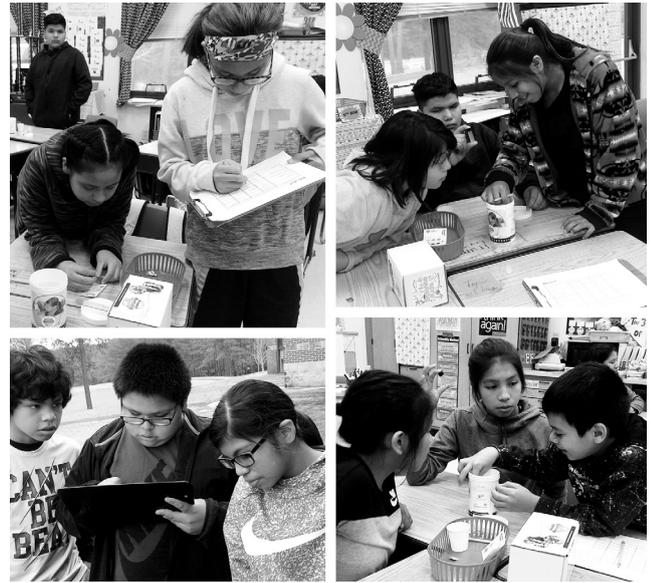
• Turbidity of the water.

The students concluded "McMillan Pond could support aquatic life because the water temperature, oxygen, Ph & turbidity were just right for the fish, turtles, & plants in our area... maybe even for an alligator."

The students loved being environmental scientists as they learned more about the scientific process by using the test kits provided by the TVA for use in their water experiments.

One aspect they enjoyed was dropping tablets in the test tubes of water. As water changed colors, it indicated the degree of oxygen in water & the Ph.

The students look forward to testing the



SPES students tested & recorded results from water quality experiments they conducted at the McMillan Park Pond.

Standing Pine Community pond water this spring with the kits & materials donated by the TVA to the school.

## FAIR ..... continued from page eleven

Stokes.

Animal Sciences: 1st, Alexis Frazier.

Medicine & Health: 1st, Tayleona Day; 2nd, Ahnaya Williams; 3rd, Hunter Farve.

Physics & Astronomy: 1st, Jaeden Wesley; 2nd, Bishop Reed; 3rd, Lexie Love; Honorable Mention, Quintin Sockey.

Jaeden Wesley was named Best of Fair award recipient.

First-third place winners in grades 6-12 advanced to the 2018 Region V Upper Science & Engineering Fair at MSU in Starkville on Feb. 20.

The Choctaw Tribal Schools extend a spe-

cial "thank you" to the following professionals for giving their time & talents to participate as judges for this event: Wes Wallace, Roy Smith, Virginia Willis, Scottie Wallace, Amy Pauls, Jimmy Tangle, Julian Roach, Michelle Ferris, Elray King, & Glen Billie.



## CCHS Students Complete Parenting Sessions

The 2017-18 Positive Parenting Practices for Pregnant & Parenting Teens session, provided through the MSU Extension Office, was held at Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) as student participants received 20 hours of parenting information. Participants who completed all session requirements received an iPad. This free program was led by Joy Rodriguez of the Neshoba County Extension Office. This is the program's second year at CCHS. (ABOVE) Pictured from left are Denyunhia Willis, Lenora Thomas, Tiara Cotton, program presenter Joy Rodriguez, Mahli Bell, Jacoby Thompson, & Teegan Clemmons. (RIGHT) Joy Rodriguez, left, was presented a Choctaw basket by CCHS school nurse Vickie Singletary.



Grade 6, Class III (Grades 7-8) District Science, Engineering Fair Winners



**CCHS SkillsUSA Team Places 3rd**

*Choctaw Central High School's SkillsUSA chapter members recently placed third in a "Quiz Bowl" competition during the 2018 Mississippi SkillsUSA Championships (Region 3) held on the campus of East Central Community College in Decatur on Feb. 2. They will advance to the state competition in Jackson in April. Pictured, front row from left, are Alanta Anderson, Julius Billy and Antonio Perez; back row, Braden Peters, Tushka Willis & Wayne Eason, ECCC Director of Career & Technical Education. (ECCC Photo)*

**Mitch Named Youth of the Year**

Jayasri Mitch has been named Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Pearl River Teen Center.

Jayasri will vie for the Mississippi Youth of the Year title & a \$5,000 college scholarship from Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

"Jayasri is a good role model & mentor to her peers. A lot of our members look up to her," said Gail Lilly, Unit Director, Pearl River Teen Center.

Jayasri, daughter of Alvina & Ray Mitch of the Standing Pine Community, is a senior at



*Jayasri Mitch*

emplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence & dedication to live a healthy lifestyle.

Now in its 71st year, the Youth of the Year program honors our nation's most awe-inspiring young people on their path to great futures & encourages all kids to lead, succeed & inspire.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year recognition program is presented by Disney, who has supported the youth advocacy organization for more than 50 years, empowering young people to reach their full potential & providing youth with access to the tools they need to build the great futures they imagine.

Toyota, the Signature Sponsor of Youth of the Year, is dedicated to inspiring the next generations of engineers, thinkers & leaders who will help drive the American economy.

Additional support is provided by University of Phoenix, a committed partner who has worked with Boys & Girls Clubs of America on many Academic Success initiatives, & the Taco Bell Foundation, Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier partner for teen empowerment.

For more information about the Youth of the Year program, visit [www.youthoftheyear.org](http://www.youthoftheyear.org).

Choctaw Central High School & plans to attend Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., this fall.

She is a recipient of the Presidential Scholarship at Millsaps & has contributed more than 30 volunteer hours in the past year. She hopes to inspire Tribal youth to strive for academic excellence & give back to the community.

If Mitch wins at the state competition, she will compete for the Southeast Region Youth of the Year title & an additional \$10,000 college scholarship, renewable for four years up to \$40,000.

Five regional winners will advance to Washington, D.C. in September 2018, to compete for the title of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year.

The National Youth of the Year will receive an additional scholarship of \$25,000, renewable each year up to \$100,000 & the opportunity to meet with the President of the United States in the White House.

The Youth of the Year title is a prestigious honor bestowed upon an ex-

**CCHS FFA Members Attend Legislative Breakfast**

*Choctaw Central High School's (CCHS) Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter members had a blast attending the Mississippi FFA Legislative/Sponsors Breakfast. The event was held on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the Mississippi State Fairground's Trade Mart Building in Jackson. The purpose of the event was to recognize the efforts of Mississippi legislators & sponsors in support of agriculture education & the FFA organization. CCHS*

*FFA attended breakfast & traveled to the state capitol for a flag ceremony & a tour of our capitol building by our district representatives, C. Scott Bounds & Michael T. Evans. Attendees included CCHS FFA president Dregen Joe, vice president Katelyn Shoemake, secretary Brittany Mingo, reporter Yasmine John, Terrance Thomas, Antonio Bell, Isabella Brescia, Denzel Mingo, advisor Anna Morrow, & Arlene Fuller.*





**NEWS & NOTES**

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS**

**CONEHATTA UNIT**

**Upcoming Events/ Field Trips**

The Choctaw Tribal Schools will have Spring Break from March 12-16. The club will be open from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Club members ages 6-7 will travel to Pearl to watch a movie, "Gnome Alone," on March 12.

The club will be closed on March 30 for Good Friday Holiday.

The Choctaw Tribal Schools will have no school on April 2 for the Easter Holiday. The club will be open from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

April 9-13 is Boys & Girls Club Week. The following activities

planned include:

- April 9 - Members & Parents "Ice Cream Social";
- April 10 - Art show;
- April 11 - Member vs Parent Pool;
- April 12 - "Walk With Me";
- April 13 - Pizza party & movie or Bingo.

The club will be closed April 25-27 due to annual all-staff conference.

**Youths of the Months**

**Amelia Sebastian  
January 2018**

Amelia Sebastian is the 12 year-old daughter of Amanda Cotton. They reside in Forest. She attends Conehatta Elementary School & is in the sixth grade.

Amelia & her sister, Alistia, have been club members since September 2017. Amelia is a member of the TORCH Club & participates in educational & prevention programs at the club's Teen Center. Congratulations, Amelia!

**Jamion Shoemake, Jr.  
February 2018**

Jamion Shoemake, Jr., is the 11 year-old son of Jamion Shoemake, Sr., & they reside in Conehatta. He is in the fifth grade at Conehatta Elementary School & has been attending the club along with his brothers, Zamion & Damion, since November 2017.

Jamion is a member of the TORCH club & participates in the prevention & educational programs at the club's Teen Center. Congratulations, Jamion!

**TORCH Club**

On January 15 (Martin Luther King, Jr.

Holiday), TORCH Club members participated in the annual community "clean-up" in Conehatta. Each year, members designate an area to pick up roadside trash to make the community have a cleaner appearance. This year, members picked up trash on Tushka Drive.

Nine members & two staff members met to work the community service project. Afterwards, participants were taken to the Outlets of Mississippi in Pearl for lunch & window shopping. They then watched a movie of their choice at Cinemark Theater.

We appreciate the efforts of TORCH Club members who selflessly gave their holiday to serve the community.

Members include Jailah Jefferson, Remini

Nickey, Taelyn Nickey, Braylon Smith, Braylon McMillan, Zarius Johnson, Jamion Shoemake, Adolfo Hernandez, & Rosa Shoemake. Thanks guys! Y'all are AWE-SOME!

**Teen Center**

Youth For Unity is a program designed to help clubs implement a comprehensive initiative to reach youth, staff & parents. The program is designed to teach & value "diversity" & appreciate seeing others for who they are, as unique individuals, each of whom contributes to our American society.

Activities are structured around four primary themes designed to help club members:

- See themselves as unique & special individuals;

**...continued next page**



Members of the Teen Center Youth For Unity program worked on self-portraits as an activity to show how they saw themselves.



Eighteen members were treated to a pizza party & movie on Friday, Jan. 9, for their participation & attendance in prevention programs offered during the fall session.



TORCH Club members participated in the community clean-up on Tushka Drive on Jan. 15. Afterwards they traveled to Pearl for lunch & a movie.



Eleven club members ages 6-7 were taken to Pearl on Jan. 31 to watch "Ferdinand" at Cinemark Theaters.

- Understand our society's diversity;
- Recognize bias & unfairness;

- Take personal leadership in confronting bias.

## Stalking Defined

*Submitted by Family Violence & Victim's Services*

Stalking can involve a variety of behaviors. Some of those behaviors are obvious; whereas, others are not.

Stalking can involve literally following that person around on foot or in a vehicle. Stalking may also mean the stalker has asked others to follow the victim for him/her so that the stalker is not actually seen.

Stalking can involve threatening phone calls, emails, voice mails, text messages, & even threats from third parties. And now with advances in technology, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) can be used to track people. There are apps on cell phones that are used to stalk victims.

Please understand that if a stalker is following someone, that stalker will do whatever he or she needs to in order to find the victim. There have been examples in the news of stalkers acting as private investigators or delivery drivers to find out where a victim may live.

One important fact about stalking is that the behavior is harassing, & it is usually repeti-

tive. No stalker is only going to do one type of stalking & be done with it. A stalker will engage in some form of stalking over & over again.

According to the Choctaw Tribal Code, someone who commits stalking knowingly places the victim in fear. Stalking is making someone feel intimidated on purpose. Sometimes, the stalking behavior has to be placed in context.

We want to share a chilling example for you that was explained in a recent seminar.

A woman entered a police station with a dozen yellow roses & told the officer she wanted to file charges. The officer asked why, & she replied a man had sent her a dozen yellow roses & she felt in fear for her life.

The officer looked at her as if she was saying something ridiculous. Why would a dozen roses make someone afraid? However, you have to understand something, as she explained to the officer.

She said the abuser told her the day he sent her yellow roses was the day he would kill her. The officer then understood why she was in such fear.

The victim knew the context & meaning of the yellow roses. This

see **STALKING**, pg. 16

## Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program FAQ's



*Submitted by Kasey Byrd, Rehabilitation Counselor*

### What is the Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program?

The Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program is a Federal-Tribal funded program whose purpose & goal is to assist American Indians with disabilities, living on or near the Mississippi Band Choctaw Indian (MBCI) Reservation within the boundaries of the state of Mississippi, in getting & keeping long-term successful employment.

### What is Vocational Rehabilitation?

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a process of providing vocational (job-related) & rehabilitation (healing) services to people with disabilities to support them as they overcome the limitations related to their disabilities.

The purpose of these services to help them prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment that is appropriate for their abilities, capabilities, interests, & resources.

### How can I be in Vocational Rehabilitation?

It is best to say, first, that not everyone can receive VR services. VR is an eligibility program; not an entitlement program. These services are provided only to people with disabilities who are having problems getting and/or keeping a successful job because of the problems with their disabilities.

However, the Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program staff will set an appointment for any person who would like to discuss doing an intake/application to be evaluated (tested) to see if they have any disabilities.

### What does it mean to be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services?

For a person to be eligible for VR services, they must meet the following criteria:

1. Has a physical or mental impairment that results in a substantial impediment (major limitation) to employment; and
2. Can benefit in terms of an employment outcome from VR services provided; and
3. Requires VR services to secure, regain, or retain employment; and
4. Is enrolled in a Federally or State-recognized Tribe; and
5. Lives on or near the MBCI Reservation.

### What services does the Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program offer if I am eligible?

If a person is determined to be eligible for VR services, the program has 18 different services available depending on their needs.

The services range from evaluations to help a person decide what career/job goal is best for them to training so they can learn about employment expectations or specific job skills to job placement services with follow-up services when they begin working.

Services are provided based on a person's individual needs & must be written up in their Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) before being provided.

### How do I contact the Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program?

If you would like more information or would like to schedule an intake, please contact Josephine Morris at 601-650-7343.

# CEAC Pageant Winners

The Choctaw Elderly Activity Center held its annual "King & Queen of Hearts" Valentine's Day Pageant on



Wednesday, February 14. Pageant winners were, from left, 2018 "Queen of Hearts" Dora Nickey of Conehatta Community, 2018 "King of Hearts" Patrick Collins of Pearl River Community, runner-up Suzanne Stoliby of Bogue Chitto Community, & runner-up R.J. Willis of Pearl River Community.

# Billy Honored By USET



EARL BILLY  
1926-2018

Earl Billy, Tribal elder of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) & World War II veteran, passed away on Tuesday, February 6, 2018. He was 91 years old.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 10, at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in the Red Water Community in Carthage. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Prior to his passing, Mr. Billy was honored by the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) during the 2018 USET SPF Impact Week Meeting on Feb. 5 in Arlington, Virginia. The USET Veterans Affairs Committee presented a plaque in honor of Billy's exemplary service in the U.S. Army from 1944-1948. On behalf of the Billy family, members of the MBCI delegation were on hand to accept the honor.

Earl was born on June 15, 1926, to Bennett Sockey & Leona Billy Dixon. When he was of age, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. At Fort McClellan, Alabama, he was with the First Company 188th Parachute Infantry from November 29, 1944, until his discharge from Sendai Miyagi, Japan on June 27, 1946.

The next day, Earl re-enlisted & launched another two-year course, this time with the 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment. He became an expert rifleman & received numerous accolades, including the Good Conduct Medal, Parachutist .....see BILLY, pg. 18



From left, MBCI Protective Services Deputy Director John Ferguson, Chief Phyliss J. Anderson & MBCI Veterans Affairs Coordinator Sammie Wilson accepted the award from USET on behalf of the Billy family on Feb. 5 in Arlington, VA.

## STALKING ..... continued from page fifteen

was stalking. The stalker was putting her in fear on purpose.

What can you do if you feel you are being stalked? Say something. If you are not sure, still say something. Documentation is very important in pursuing legal avenues against stalking.

Next, if you feel you are being stalked, main-

taining a diary of events can be helpful in justifying a pattern of harassment & abuse.

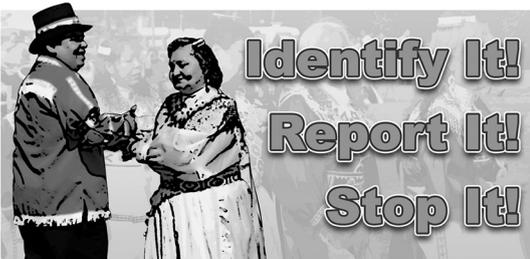
A stalking log can be used to chart when the event occurred, a description of what took place, a location where the event occurred, names of any witnesses that were there when the stalking behavior took place, & whether or not

it was reported to the police.

If you do report the incident to the police, write down the officer's name with whom you spoke with. This could be helpful later on if charges are pursued.

This is only a brief description of stalking behavior. To know more, please contact Family Violence & Victim's Services, 601-650-1774.

## 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



### REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY



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!

# DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

## Beading Workshops

The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) sponsored a Beaded Collar Necklace Workshop on Saturday, January 20, at the Pearl River Community Center. Attendance was great as participants spent the day in a quiet & relaxed atmosphere.

Instructors included CAP Coordinator Phyllis McMillan & consultants Alanna John, Raetina Hannig & Hester Allen.

For those who have mastered Choctaw bead work & are unable to attend the classes, the staff invites you to visit & bring your beadwork to exhibit for the workshop participants.

Ms. Anita Winstead of Fashions & Fabrics in Philadelphia brings some items required for workshops that you may want to purchase.

Similar classes on beading collar necklaces were conducted in each

community during the month of January, except Bogue Chitto, due to inclement weather.

## CAP Holds Squirrel, Rabbit Workshop

A unique & one-of-a-kind workshop featuring wild game such as squirrels & rabbits was held on Saturday, January 27, at the cooking area adjacent to the dance ground in Pearl River.

The *Fani Hicha Chokfi Abit, Askachit Hicha Nonachi* workshop involved the harvesting & preparation of squirrels & rabbits prior to cooking.

Marcus Tubby had one of the important jobs as he tended to the fire. Betty Tubby, widely known in Tribal communities for her remarkable skills in Choctaw traditional cooking, served as consultant as she assisted with the preparation of cooking the squirrels & rabbits.

Mitzi Reed of the Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Department & Casey Bigpond provided the *chokfi* (rabbit) & *fani* (squirrel) for the workshop. The meat was cooked with vegetables in large black pots over an open fire. Everyone at the workshop had an opportunity to consume the stew.

## Beading Medallion Workshops

Workshops in making beaded medallions were held in all the communities during February at their respective facility buildings from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Locations included Crystal Ridge on Feb. 2, Tucker on Feb. 6, Conehatta on Feb. 8, Bogue Chitto on Feb. 13, Standing Pine on Feb. 20, & Red Water on Feb. 23.

There were exceptions on time and locations at the following locations: Feb. 17 at the Pearl River cooking area adjacent to dance ground from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; & Feb. 27 at the Bogue Homa Gymnasium from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The Feb. 16 workshop at the Pearl River Community Center was canceled due to death in the community.

## Upcoming Workshops

Sash making workshops will be held in March in the following locations:

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

March 6, Tucker Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

March 9, Crystal Ridge Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

March 13, Pearl River Community Center from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

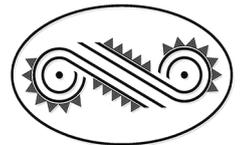
March 16, Conehatta Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

March 20, Standing Pine Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

March 23, Red Water Facility Building from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

March 27, Bogue Homa Gymnasium from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

For more cultural information, call (601) 663-7506.



CHAHTA IMMI  
CULTURAL CENTER

featuring

CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS  
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



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

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

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

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

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

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

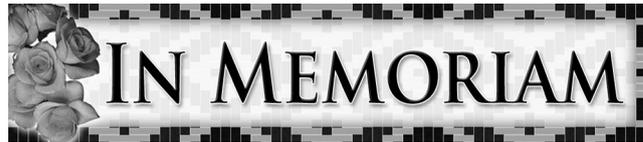
ADMISSION	
GENERAL ADMISSION	\$5
EDUCATION DISCOUNT	\$5
MILITARY DISCOUNT	\$5
TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH TRIBAL ID	\$2
SENIORS (57 AND ABOVE)	FREE
CHILDREN (UNDER 5)	FREE



Betty Tubby (far right) gives participants instructions on how to cut up the rabbit for cooking.



From left, Rick & Pauline Longfox of Dallas, Texas participated at a recent collar necklace class.



**SAMMY BELL, JR.**

Funeral service for Sammy Bell, Jr., 43, was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Felton John & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. 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 Feb. 4, 2018, at his residence.

He enjoyed spending time with family & friends, fishing, watching stickball & football.

He was preceded in death by his father, Sammy Bell, Sr.; brothers, Brainard Lewis, Scott L. Enerson & Jordan K. Willis; grandparents, Mary Lou Jenkins & Ben Hollis Lewis, Katherine Jackson Bell & Tom 'Shorty' Bell; 5 aunts; & an uncle.

Survivors include his mother, Mary Sue Lewis; daughter, Tonsha

Lyons; sons, Cagney Edwards, Michael Lyons & Harry John; sisters, Hillary Bell & Victoria Lewis; brothers, Steven Lewis, Sebastian Lewis, Jarritt Gibson, Shaukota Gibson, & Rafael Gibson; & a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**EARL BILLY, SR.**

Funeral service for Earl Billy, Sr., 91, was held on Saturday, February 10, 2018, from the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Red Water. Deacon Ricky Thompson, Sr. & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

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

Mr. Billy passed away on Feb. 6 at his daughter's residence.

He was a U.S. Army veteran & served in WWII.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bennett Sockey & Le-

ona Billy Dixon; wife, Mabel Tubby Billy; daughter, Rita Steve; sons, Earl Billy, Jr. & Alexander Billy; sisters, Cora Wilson, Mildred Dixon, Ina Sockey, Maybelle Starr, & Ruth Billy; brothers, Frank Dixon, Sr., Gene Austry Dixon, James Dixon, Woodrow Dixon, & Wilson Dixon; & a grandson.

Survivors include his daughters, Beatrice Steve, Brenda Isaac & Joan Thompson; sisters, Ida Billy & Myrtle Dixon; a brother, Herman Billie; 11 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

**KAZELYNN HAIZE McMILLAN**

Funeral service for Kazelynn Haize McMillan, 4 month old infant, was held on Saturday, February 10, 2018, from the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta. Rev. Robert Tubby, Sr. officiated.

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

Infant McMillan passed away on Feb. 4 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Billy McMillan; great-grandparents, Florine Dixon & Selby Dixon; an uncle & a cousin.

Survivors include her parents, Michael McMillan & Cheriya Dixon; sister, Grace-

lynn McMillan; brothers, Dracen McMillan & Tracen McMillan; grandmother, Rochella McMillan; great-grandmothers, Joyce Thompson & Betty McMillan; & a host of aunts, uncles, & relatives.

**DIANE RENEE BILLY HICKMAN**

Funeral service for Diane Renee Billy Hickman, 52, was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, from the Red Water Gymnasium. Randall Joe & Rev. John Frazier officiated.

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

Mrs. Hickman passed away on Feb. 10 at her residence.

She was a member of Jesus New Covenant Church & was a custodian aide at the Choc-

taw Tribal Office. She enjoyed doing word puzzles, watching game shows & cooking.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Ruth A. Willis; grandparents, Ike & Jeannie Billy; 4 aunts; & 4 uncles.

Survivors include her husband, Charles Hickman, Jr.; son, Gabriel Billie; father, Kirby Willis; sisters, Dava Meely, Danita Willis & Dorcas Willis; brothers, DeWayne Billy & Kimball Willis; 4 grandchildren; 2 aunts; 3 uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**MICHAEL JAMES ISAAC**

Funeral service for Michael James Isaac, 46, was held on Thursday, February 15, 2018, from the Pearl River Community Center.

...continued next page

**BILLY ..... continued from page sixteen**

Badge, Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon, Occupation Medal, & WWII Victory Medal.

He was discharged from Fort Bragg, North Carolina exactly two years to the day of his second enlistment.

He is survived by his daughters, Beatrice Steve, Brenda Isaac & Joan Thompson; sisters, Ida Billy & Myrtle Dixon; brother, Herman Billie; 11 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives, and friends.

*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*

**Welcome To**



**Sunday - 10:00 a.m.**  
**10341 Road 789**  
**Philadelphia, MS 39350**  
*Pastor Patrick Evans*

*Come Join Us...*



**Spirit of Life Christian Center**

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

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

Charles Hickman, Jr. & Pastor Thomas Ben, Jr. officiated.

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

Mr. Isaac passed away on Feb. 12 in Carthage.

He was a Baptist by faith & formerly employed at Chahta Enterprise & ABS. He enjoyed being with family & friends, listening to music, fishing, & browsing the internet.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Ava Isaac Mingo; brother, Marcus Isaac; grandparents, Edmund & Katie Tubby Isaac; an aunt; 6 great-aunts; & 6 great-uncles.

Survivors include his sister, Wynema Mingo; brothers, Jeremiah Mingo, Jason Mingo & Samuel Mingo; an uncle; a great-uncle; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**URSLA DENISE THOMAS FARMER**

Funeral service for Ursula Denise Thomas Farmer, 46, was held on Monday, February 19, 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.

Mrs. Farmer passed away on Feb. 15 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a member of the St. Catherine Catholic Church & enjoyed being with family & friends, going to yard sales & flea markets.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Roger Dale Thomas & Annie Dean Charlie Thomas; & an infant son.

Survivors include her husband, James Farmer; daughters, Kalisha Allen & Suwannie Willis; sister, Tammie Willis; brothers, Kenneth Thomas, Kevin Thomas & Daray Charlie; 3 aunts; 3 uncles; a great-aunt; 3 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JIMMY DELL ANDERSON**

Funeral service for Jimmy Dell Anderson, 69, was held on Tuesday, February 20, 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. Anderson passed away on Feb. 16 at his residence.

He was a U.S. Army veteran. He was formerly employed with BIA Law Enforcement. He was last employed with the Tribe's Department of Agriculture & Rural Development. He enjoyed being with family & friends, fishing, fixing cars, & gardening.

He was preceded in

death by his parents, Hinton & Belfa Johnson Anderson; wife, Jeanell Anderson; sisters, Virginia Willis, Betty Polk & an infant baby girl; brothers, Robert Anderson, Carl Anderson & James Anderson; & a grandchild.

Survivors include his daughters, Janet Willis & Keayanna Willis; sons, Jamie Anderson & Jarron Edwards; sisters, Velma Thomas, Wanda Anderson & Marinda Anderson; special companion, Earlene Willis; 18 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**WILLIE HOWARD SOLOMON, SR.**

Funeral service for Willie Howard Solomon, Sr., 60, was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, from the Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Pearl River. Bro. Wayne Anna, Bro. Shelly Peoples & Bro. Olin Williams officiated.

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

Mr. Solomon passed away on Feb. 23 at the University Medical Center in Jackson.

He was a member of Faith Missionary Baptist Church & served as Sunday School adult class teacher & song leader. He was a truck driver, factory worker, transit driver, & teacher's assistant. He was last employed at Tyson in Carthage.

He enjoyed spending time with family, landscaping, watching movies, fishing, beadwork, attending arts & crafts festivals, reading the Bible, & singing Choctaw hymns.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Grady & Betty John; sister, Meagan John; brother, Scott John; grandparents, Earnest & Jeffie Solomon; an aunt

& 5 uncles.

Survivors include his wife, Louvia Denison Solomon; daughter, Diana Solomon; sons, Kevin Solomon & Willie Solomon, Jr.; sisters, Sandra Thompson, Shelly Bell & Janie Williams; step-sister, Sylvia John; brothers, Jerry Mike John & Charles Isaac; 4 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JERRY KEAMS**



*Pastor Jerry Keams passed away on Monday, Dec. 25, 2017, at the Little Colorado Medical Center in Winslow, Ariz., following a sudden illness. He was 61 years old.*

*Services were held on Dec. 29, at the Castle Butte New Life Fellowship Church in Dilkon, Ariz. Interment was at the Dilkon Community Cemetery in Dilkon.*

*He was born on Sept. 23, 1956, in Winslow, to the late Jack Keams & Mae Jensen Keams. As a child, Jerry enjoyed living the ranch life, especially working with & riding horses. As a student at Holbrook High School, Jerry was on the cross-contry & long distance running team. During his time on the team, Holbrook won the state championship for 1974-1975. He loved sports & was an excellent basketball player.*

*Jerry met the love of his life, Phyllis Dan in Mississippi in 1976. They had four children, Daryl, Adrian, Danielle & Jerilyn. In 1985, the family moved back to Arizona & Jerry began working at a sawmill in Springerville. For many years, he was involved with the church band, "The Chosen Generation," playing the guitar. In 2000, Jerry began serving as the pastor of the Holbrook Pentecostal Church. He enjoyed serving the Lord, as it was the main focus in his life.*

*Pastor Keams is survived by his wife, Phyllis Keams & their four children; three grandchildren, Aiyana Gary, Coran Gary & Marckus Dan; his mother, Mae Keams; & siblings, Richard (Virginia) Keams, Lena (Venton) Nelson & Marlinda Keams.*

*Owens Livingston Mortuary of Holbrook handled the arrangements.*

Happy 22nd  
 Birthday to Miss  
 Renedra D.  
 Thompson on  
 February 23rd, 2018. With all the love in the world, giant  
 hugs & tiny kisses, from your Mom,  
 Lil Miss Emma, Gibby, Dain, &  
 Jeter. We love you!



(RIGHT) Happy Birthdays to our  
 beautiful daughters, from Mom &  
 Dad. Enslee Brooklyn Willis was  
 born on Feb. 5, 2018, weighing in at  
 6 lbs., 11 ozs. Happy 10th Birthday  
 to Kylee Brooke Willis on Feb. 28.



## YOP Summer Employment Deadline Set For April 13

The MBCI Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) has applications available for Tribal youth interested in this year's summer employment. Deadline to turn in applications is Friday, April 13. Employment positions are open to individuals:

- Enrolled members of the MBCI;
- Ages 15-24 years old (must be 15 years old before employment & 24 years old at the time when employment begins);
- Enrolled in middle school, high school, or college/university;
- Must have a "C" average. Grading system will be determined by school. If enrolled in a college/university, must be full-time with a 2.0 GPA or above;
- One per family (with an exception of college & high school sibling).

All applicants must have the following:

- Birth certificate;
- Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (must be 1/2 degree or above & enrolled with MBCI);
- Social Security Card;
- Selective Service Card for males 18 years

of age & older;

- Progress Report (3rd nine weeks);
- Final grades (4th nine weeks report card);
- For high school senior - Acceptance letter from university/college office of admissions must be submitted. Any applicant without an acceptance letter will be placed in the regular (high school) category;
- Legal guardianship/custody papers, if applicable.

Applicants need to completely fill out the application. Due to changes in the YOP filing system, items may not be in a folder if you have been previously employed with the program. Therefore, YOP officials may ask you to bring the item(s) for their files.

Applications must be completed before employment begins. Should there be any changes (such as address & contact numbers), contact the YOP office at 601-650-7321.

## CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

**FEBRUARY 2018**

© 2018 MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

### SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS

## 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPRING INTO FITNESS 2 MILE WALK/RUN

### IMPORTANT CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS WALK/RUN EVENTS

DATE: Saturday, March 24, 2018  
 (RAIN OR SHINE)

**NO REGISTRATION FEE**



PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
 FRIDAY MARCH 9, 2018  
 TO RECEIVE A T-SHIRT

**YOU MUST SIGN IN AND CLAIM YOUR RACE NUMBER ON RACE DAY NO LATER THAN 7:30 A.M. IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER 7:30 YOU MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RACE.**

**LATE REGISTRATION WILL BE ALLOWED FROM MARCH 12-24 AT THE CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER DIABETES CLINIC (2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR) BUT YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A T-SHIRT**

**ON-SITE REGISTRATION WILL BE FROM 6:45-7:15 A.M. ON RACE DAY. IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED AND IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER 7:15, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE RACE.**

**RACE WILL START PROMPTLY AT 8:00 A.M.**

These changes are necessary for chip timing system results.

Participants must complete a registration form before entering the race. Participants under 18 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian's signature on the registration form. Forms are available at the Diabetes Clinic and SDPI Fitness Center located next to Piggly Wiggly at Choctaw Town Center until March 9, 2018. For more information contact the Diabetes Center: Barbara Bell @ 601-389-4370; Ethel Thomas @ 601-389-4389 or Lefus Tubby, Jr. @ 601-389-4385.