



Tribal Council Approves Red Water Casino Resolution

The Choctaw Tribal Council voted 9-7 to adopt Resolution CHO 17-033, “a Resolution to Expand Gaming and Make Resort Area Designation in the Red Water Community, Choctaw Indian Reservation,” during a special call meeting on Friday, Jan. 27.

Sixteen council members representing all Choctaw communities

were present for the meeting and vote.

The 35,800 square-foot Red Water Casino will be built in Leake County, Miss., and provide more than 200 new jobs. The facility will feature 500 slots, 10 table games, grab and go and seated dining.

“This project is a win for our Tribe. The Red Water Casino will bring new jobs and more rev-



A rendering of the Red Water Casino.

enue to our growing population,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

“We must invest in our

future; opportunities do not stand still and wait. I am very thankful to the members of our Council that support this project

and believe in moving our Tribe forward.”

The project’s estimated time frame is 12 months.

Tribe Breaks Ground For PRES Safe Room

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) held a groundbreaking ceremony for Phase II of the \$1.6 million Pearl River Elementary School (PRES)

Safe Room Project on Tuesday, Feb. 14, in Choctaw.

The 5,600 square-foot structure, to be constructed on the north side of the PRES build-

ing at 470 Industrial Road, is engineered to service PRES students, teachers & staff & residents & workers in the nearby community.

The Federal Emergen-

cy Management Agency (FEMA), through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), is covering 95 percent of the project under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The Tribe is covering 5 percent through tribal revenue & in-kind donations.

“I am very thankful to FEMA & MEMA for their partnership & support in helping us to provide this safe room

to our students, faculty & staff at Pearl River Elementary,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

“We want to do everything we can to protect our Tribal members & others who are in our care, & the building of this safe room is a step in the right direction.”

The one-story, re-enforced concrete building will have the capacity to accommodate up to 900 people. Built to meet FEMA P-361 Safe Room standards, the room will be able to withstand 250-mile-per-hour winds.

Tornadoes are considered to be the most dangerous & serious natural hazard affecting MBCI communities. In the past 60 years, approximately 201 tornadoes were reported in the counties



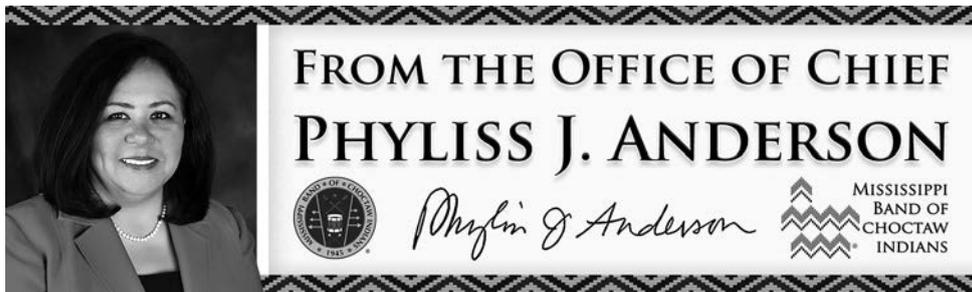
A rendering of the Pearl River Elementary School Safe Room.



The Tribe held a groundbreaking ceremony for the PRES Safe Room Project on Feb. 14. Pictured above are Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan, PRES Princi-

pal Suzanne Hyatt & staff, along with Choctaw Tribal Council members, Choctaw Tribal Schools officials, individuals involved in the planning, design & construction process, & the PRES princesses & braves.

.....see ROOM, pg. 4



Halito!
 It has been a busy first few weeks of 2017. There have been some recent decisions made that will greatly benefit our Tribe, and I appreciate all of you for your continued support, hard work and dedication. When we as a people stand united, we can accomplish many great things.

RED WATER CASINO PROJECT

I hosted a community meeting at the Silver Star Convention Center on Thursday, February 2, 2017, regarding the new Red Water Casino project that was approved by a recent Tribal Council vote. I thank all of you who came out to learn more about this wonderful new development. This project is a great win for our Tribe.

This new casino will be built and located in Leake County and will bring between 200-250 new jobs, increased revenue to our growing population and help us pay down debt.

The 35,800-square-foot gaming facility will include 500 slots, ten table games, grab and go and seated dining. The project's estimated time frame is 12 months.

I am very thankful to the members of our Tribal Council that supported and approved this project and who believe in moving our Tribe forward. I will continue to update you on the progress of this project in the coming months.

USET IMPACT WEEK

USET Impact Week was February 6-9 in Washington, D.C. This

was an important week as we gathered together and discussed the new Trump administration and working with federal officials on legislation that affects Indian Country.

We had a full agenda and met with many Congressmen, Senators and important agencies. With a new administration and Congress, there are many new faces on Capitol Hill and in federal offices. It is very important that we reach out to these decision makers and have meaningful discussions.

We will continue our efforts to build strong relationships with our USET partners, as well as the federal government, to insure that the needs of our people are not forgotten.

SAFE ROOM AT PEARL RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GROUNDBREAKING

On February 14, 2017, a groundbreaking was held at Pearl River Elementary School for a new Safe Room. This emergency storm shelter will provide a safe place for students at Pearl River Elementary School during times of severe weather and potential tornadic activity.

The 5,600-square-foot

shelter is built to serve a capacity of 900 people standing room only and is funded through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds and tribal revenue. Weather permitting, the shelter should be completed for use during the first semester of the 2017-2018 school year.

My special thanks to our development division, school officials, emergency management agencies and contractors for their support of this project. I also want to recognize and thank our braves and princesses from Pearl River Elementary School and Tribal Council representatives for their participation in the event.

YOP PRE-VALENTINE SALE

The Chahta Alla Youth Council sponsored the 7th Annual Pre-Valentine Sale on February 2, 3 and 13, 2017. Vendors on hand sold arts and crafts, beadwork and baked goods, just in time for individuals to find that special one-of-a-kind gift for their loved one. There were also informational booths from various Tribal programs, and breakfast and lunch food sales.

These events are wonderful opportunities for our Choctaw and other Native vendors to display their beautiful works of art for the public to view and purchase. Thank you to the Chahta Alla Youth Council for organizing this great event.

COMMUNITY FIELD DAYS

We are nearing that time of year when I go out to each of our Choctaw communities and host Community Field Days. These visits are always a wonderful opportunity for me to catch up on old times, and new ones, with you. It is also an opportunity to present an update on the progress our Tribe is making and what future plans are in the works.

As in years past, there will be activities for children and for adults, and a meal will be served during the program. It is a great time of fellowship and fun, and I hope you will make plans to join us.

We will begin hosting the field days around late March. Announcements and reminders of dates will be sent out via the Tribal email system and our MBCI Facebook page.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

The CCHS Lady Warriors won their district tournament championship! After consecutive wins in the opening rounds, the Lady Warriors and Warriors are making another trip to the Big House. GO LADY WARRIORS & MIGHTY WARRIORS!

It has been another exciting season cheering on our superior student athletes and we are so proud of their accomplishments on the

...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
 Taryn Carey.....Communications Writer
 Darron Tubby.....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.

court and in the classrooms.

The annual community Spring Festivals are fast approaching, and I know students in each of the elementary schools are working hard on their dances. Parents and family members are having beautiful dresses, shirts, beadwork and other accessories made for their children.

It is always delightful to see our students dancing in Choctaw attire and keeping our traditions alive. The Spring Festival schedule has been posted on the MBCI Facebook page and is also included in this issue of the *Community News*.

I am always proud to acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of our students, especially in the classroom.

Our Tribal schools will be hosting their annual Academic Banquets beginning in late March, and I hope that parents, guardians and family members will attend these programs and celebrate the excellent work of our children. I congratulate in advance all of the award winners that will be honored. Good job!

CLOSING

Busy days are ahead for the Tribe. At times, you may find your work challenging. I encourage all of you not to lose sight of the important role you have in making our Tribe the success that it is. In every challenge there is a great

opportunity. Give your very best, but take some time to rest and relax.

I am looking forward to seeing a more pros-

perous future for all of us here on the Reservation. May the Lord continue to shower His blessings on the Missis-

sippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Many Blessings,

Phylliss J. Anderson

Phylliss J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief

A Tribal delegation, led by Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson, Vice-Chief Ronnie Henry, Bogue Chitto Council Representative Davita McClelland and Red Water Council Representative Sharon Johnson, visited Congressional and Senate offices during USET Impact Week February 6-9 in Washington D.C. Topics discussed included upcoming legislation with important provisions for Native Americans, funding streams for tribal resources and new economic development opportunities for the Tribe. Not pictured is Mississippi Senator Roger Wicker.



Delegation with Congressman Bennie Thompson.



LEFT, Delegation presents Choctaw stickball sticks to Congressman Trent Kelly. **RIGHT**, Chief Anderson with Congressman Gregg Harper.



Delegation with Congressman Steven Palazzo (pictured left) and Senator Thad Cochran (pictured right).



The delegation met with Senate Indian Affairs Committee Vice-Chairman Senator Tom Udall of New Mexico (pictured left) & committee member Senator Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada (pictured right).



ROOM continued from page one

that contain an MBCI community. These storms resulted in 54 fatalities, approximately 724 injuries & \$268 million in property damage.

“This safe room is a result of a lot of work & collaboration,” said PRES Principal Suzanne Hyatt. “It will provide a safe shelter for all of our students & staff & we are very grateful for that.”

Phase I of the project included architectural & design planning by Major Design Studios of Starkville/Columbus, MS. Construction, headed by IKBI, Inc., of Choctaw, began on Feb. 15, & will be completed during the Fall term of the 2017-2018 school year. Built in 1990, PRES currently houses 618 students.

Tribal Distribution Office Notice

A Notice of Tribal Distribution was approved by the Tribal Council through Resolution CHO 17-032 on Jan. 10. Distribution date is set for Thursday, July 6, 2017, at the Silver Star Convention Center from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. This notice is available in limited quantities at community facility buildings, the Tribal Office and online at www.choctaw.org to view or print.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

- Choctaw Tribal Court Clerks Office - May 12, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.
- Distribution Office - June 5, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Contact the **Tribal Enrollment Office** for the following:

- NEW Application for Tribal Distribution for new enrollees only.

Contact the **Office of Tribal Distribution** for the following:

- Voluntary withholding request (IRS form W-4V);
- Direct Deposit;
- 18 years of age or older (ID with Birthday);
- Change in custody (Final Order of the Court);
- Name change (Copy of marriage license & Social Security card);
- Address Change.

For more information, contact Barbara Ben, Distribution Manager, at (601)650-1522, FAX (601)663-7512, or email distribution@choctaw.org.

EDUCATE YOURSELF!

A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE TRIBAL ELECTION COMMITTEE

The Tribal Election Committee (TEC) Office receives many questions about petitions & the procedures involved with referendum & initiative elections. Here is some important information to educate yourself about your government & elections.

The Choctaw Constitution gives Tribal members who do not agree with a “legislative action” of the Tribal Council OR who wish to bring a new ordinance/resolution to a vote of the Choctaw people the right to request an election for a referendum or initiative.

REFERENDUM - An action brought forth by members of the Tribe which, if approved, would reject any “legislative action” enacted by the Tribal Council.

INITIATIVE - An action brought forth by members of the Tribe to adopt an ordinance or resolution which, if enacted by the Tribal Council, would be deemed a “legislative action.”

*** A referendum or initiative shall address no more than one general subject matter or category of legislation action.*

LEGISLATIVE ACTION - An action of the Tribal Council which adopts or enacts a new law, new tribal policy or new plan approving a particular project, program, business or other objective.

PETITION - Once the legal requirements of an application for a petition for a referendum or initiative have been met, the Sponsors of the referendum or initiative action will then have a petition that must be signed by Choctaw voters. The Sponsors must obtain the signatures of at least 30% of registered Choctaw voters on the petition in order for an election to be held. If enough Choctaw voters sign the petition, the TEC conducts an election on the referendum or initiative measure.

Currently, there is no official petition issued by the TEC on a referendum or initiative measure. The only official petition issued by the TEC is based on certain Tribal members seeking a recall election for Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

If a person signed an official petition but later wants to remove their name this can be done by first writing a brief letter addressed to the TEC requesting a “REQUEST TO WITHDRAW SIGNATURE FROM PETITION” form. Address letter to:

Choctaw Tribal Election Committee
Berdie John, TEC - Chairperson
P.O. Box 6052
Choctaw, MS 39350

After receiving the “Request to Withdraw Signature from Petition” form, the voter must complete the form & return it to the TEC Office. The TEC will review each form & remove the signature as requested.

The “Request to Withdraw Signature from Petition” form can be mailed to the TEC. Walk-ins will also be accepted. A person can request & fill out the form in the TEC office trailer located on Industrial Road behind the Manpower building. TEC Office trailer is next to Day Training Office Trailer.

All withdraw forms must be filed with the TEC Office before the completed petition is turned in. No voter may request or remove their signature from a petition once it has been officially filed with the TEC or after the petition submission deadline, whichever comes first.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1: How many petitions are currently approved & are out there?

ANSWER: Only one petition has been officially issued by the Tribal Election Committee.

QUESTION 2: What is this petition for?

ANSWER: Only one official petition has been issued by the Tribal Election Committee. That Petition is to Recall/ Remove Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. Petition deadline is March 6, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.



CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed below is a brief summary & action taken. Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/or its attachment must have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM com-

pleted & submitted to the Policy & Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

**SPECIAL CALL MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2017**

Resolution CHO 17-033, expanding gam-

ing & make a resort area designated in the Red Water Community, Choctaw Indian Reservation, was ADOPTED 9 YES (*T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, & B. Steve*); 7 NO (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, W. McMillan, L.*

Parkerson, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (*C. Ben*).

Resolution CHO 17-034, applying for the U.S. Department of Justice Grants through the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Program, was ADOPTED 13 YES (*T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 2 NO

(*R. Anderson & R. Bell*); 1 ABSTAIN (*L. Parker-son*); 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-035, applying for a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, was ADOPTED 13 YES (*T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 2 NO (*R. Anderson & R. Bell*); 1 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resort Assists with Disaster Relief Efforts

Heavy machinery, hammering, chainsaws, & other distinctive sounds of disaster clean up was heard in the Pinebelt region of Mississippi weeks after an early morning tornado on Jan. 21.

Bok Homa Casino in Sandersville & its parent company, Pearl River Resort, provided assistance to victims in Hattiesburg. Workers on the storm tattered campus of William Carey

University were treated to salad, vegetables, chicken marinara, pasta, rolls, & cookies served by the casino's banquets department.

"This devastation has been really rough, but today's food gives us new strength, new hope, & a new future," said Dr. Lynne Houston, Assistant Professor of Education.

After lunch, the group from Pearl River Resort & Bok Homa Casino

caravanned a few miles away to Christian Services to deliver several pallets of linens, towels, & toiletries from the Resort's Golden Moon & Silver Star Hotels.

According to Jim Prout, Executive Director of Christian Services, his organization assisted people in their recovery, long after immediate needs were met by government agencies. He expected a donation of beds soon, so the resort's sheets & pillow cases couldn't have come at a better time.

"Having been a part of the Pinebelt area for more than six years, Bok Homa Casino has devel-

MARCH IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH!

Celebrate good nutrition by making healthy food choices! WIC offers nutrition education & supplemental foods for prenatal, postpartum, & breastfeeding women & infants & children. Visit the WIC office to apply for WIC benefits & to learn more about healthy recipes for the whole family!

MBCI WIC Program
210 Hospital Circle
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-389-4510

oped a connection, not only through its loyal guests, but with casino employees who live in Forrest County," said Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO of Pearl River Resort. "It's

an honor to step up & help when the community is hurting."



Relief workers have a hearty lunch provided by the Pearl River Resort & Bok Homa Casino's Banquets Department.



Pearl River Resort & Bok Homa Casino Employees with Michael Denham of Christian Services (far right).



Bok Homa Casino Receptionist Haley Jefcoat, left, with Dr. Lynne Houston, Assistant Professor of Education at William Carey University.

From the Choctaw Health Center 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+) & the disabled.

Business Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The phone number is 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 includes:

- 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 & 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, contact the Business Office at 601-389-4060.

Open Books, Open Worlds: 6 Ways to Get Free (or Cheap) Books for Kids

By Tanya H. Lee

Reprinted with permission from Indian Country Media Network

Books open worlds for kids, but books can be prohibitively expensive. With the launch of Open eBooks, however, low-income kids can have free access to thousands of best-selling titles using a smartphone or tablet.

Five additional programs also give educators & parents access to free & discounted books to help foster a love of reading, a critical goal since reading ability is one of the major predictors of high school completion.

Open eBooks

Open eBooks, a partnership between Digital Public Library of America, The New York

Public Library, & First Book, with support from digital books distributor Baker & Taylor, Institute of Museum & Library Services & the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, launched in February 2016 as part of President Obama’s ConnectED initiative.

Participating publishers supply content that is made available to low-income students ages 4-18 for free.

The program operates by having teachers, school administrators, program leaders & librarians who work with in-need youth in libraries, schools, shelters, clinics, out-of-school time programs, military family programs, early childhood programs, & in other capacities register with First Book.

They then apply for a code for each child to gain the ability to access up to 10 books at a time on a smartphone or a tablet

equipped with the free Open eBooks app. The app is available for IOS & Android devices & may be downloaded through iTunes or Google Play. There is no time limit on how long the child may “keep” the book.

Parents may ask their child’s teacher, local librarian or other eligible person to sign up with First Book & request an access code for their child.

One of the major upsides of this program is that the books are not out-of-copyright, but best-sellers by contemporary authors. The downside is that the child must have access to a smartphone or tablet & to wifi.

The ConnectED initiative, begun in 2013, has set a goal that 99 percent of American students will have access to next-generation broadband in their schools & libraries by 2018. As part of the initiative,

Microsoft & Apple have supplied free & discounted devices to some schools.

First Book

First Book is a nonprofit that provides books & other educational resources to schools & programs serving low-income children for free or at greatly reduced prices on the principle that access to books is a leading contributor to literacy & school success & the main impediment to access to books is their cost.

Programs have limited funds & 94 percent of teachers use their own money to provide books & resources for their students, according to First Book.

The disparity in access to books is profound. One study found that in middle income neighborhoods the ratio is 13 books per child; in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio is one book for every 300 children.

To date, First Book has distributed more than 135 million books & educational resources in the U.S. & Canada.

The first step for organizations that want to benefit is to register with First Book.



.....continued next page

Wesley wins District Spelling Bee

Jaeden Wesley, seventh grader at Red Water Elementary School, was the grand champion speller of the 23rd Annual Choctaw Tribal Schools District-Wide Spelling Bee on Feb. 3 at the Conehatta Ele-

mentary School Gymnasium.

Wesley was one of several local spelling bee winners representing grades fourth-eighth from Bogue Chitto (BCES), Conehatta (CES), Pearl Riv-

er (PRES), Red Water (RWES), Standing Pine (SPES), and Tucker Elementary Schools (TES) and Choctaw Central Middle School (CCMS).

In the opening rounds, each grade competition champion spellers were crowned: Winners included: (4th) Brylee Willis, SPES; (5th) Chloe Wesley, SPES; (6th) Tamaya Hampton, PRES; (7th) Jaeden Wesley, RWES; & (8th) Cheyan Robinson (CCMS).

Wesley advances to the Mississippi Spelling Bee in Jackson on March 14. The competition will be aired live on Mississippi Public Broadcasting at 10:00 a.m.



Spelling Bee winners include, from left, Brylee Willis, Chloe Wesley, Jaeden Wesley (District Champion Speller), Tamaya Hampton, & Cheyan Robinson.

Upper District Science, Engineering Fair Held

The Choctaw Tribal Schools held their annual District Upper Science and Engineering Fair on Feb. 2 at Conehatta Elementary School.

Thirty-five projects were entered representing Choctaw Central Middle School, Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Standing Pine, Pearl River, Tucker, and Red Water Elementary Schools.

Students placing first-third advanced to the Region V Upper Science & Engineering Fair (grades 6-12) at Mississippi State University in Starkville on Feb. 21.

The Choctaw Tribal Schools extend a special "thank you" to the following professionals for giving of their time and talents to participate as judges during this event: Wes Wallace, Roy Smith, Virginia Willis, & Mitzi Reed.

GRADE 6

Chemistry: 1st Kaiden Dixon, 2nd Autumn Johnson, 3rd Elliana Ben, Honorable Mention, Isabelle Luis;

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences: 1st Kaiden Anderson;

Engineering, Computers, & Math: 1st Claire

.....see FAIR, pg. 8

Schools, after-school programs, shelters & clinics, libraries & museums, early childhood programs, military family support programs, & faith-based organizations that serve low-income populations are among the entities that may be eligible for the program.

Eligible organizations receive access to new books at 50 percent to 90 percent off the retail price and/or access to the First Book National Book Bank, which supplies new books for free, charging only a shipping fee of 50 to 75 cents per book.

First Book has partnered with more than a dozen publishers & counts dozens of corporate & nonprofit partners among its supporters.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Every child who lives in Tennessee gets one book a month

from birth to age 5, so by the time the child starts kindergarten they have a library of 60 books! Dolly Parton's Imagination Library operates in dozens of communities across the U.S., including in Alaska & Hawaii, where parents may sign up their child to receive books if there is a local affiliate in their area.

Lisa Libraries

The Lisa Libraries donates children's books & small libraries to organizations, such as day care centers & after-school programs that work with low-income kids. The organization supplements library holdings & provides books to many children who may never have owned a book before.

Since 1990, Lisa Libraries has donated 375,000 new & "like new" books. In 2014, the organization gave 1,000 books to a medical clinic serv-

ing the Navajo Nation in Pine Hill, New Mexico. Some of the books were used to stock the shelves in the clinic library & others were sent home with children.

Project Gutenberg

Project Gutenberg has 50,000 free ebooks to download or read online. These are books whose copyright has expired, so while they are not "trending," they do include many classics, such as works by Charles Dickens, Emily Dickinson, Robert Louis Stevenson, Charlotte Bronte, Jack London & Zora Neal Hurston. Computer-read & human-read audio books are also available. Many Books offers 33,000 copyright-free ebooks at no cost.

Bookshare

Bookshare is a free program supported by the U.S. Department of Education Office of

Special Education Programs that provides free reading materials to anyone who has a print disability that keeps them from reading traditional print materials. An eligible Bookshare member would be someone with a visual impairment, a physical disability that impinges on reading ability, or a learning disability.

A competent authority, who might be a family doctor, ophthalmologist, neurologist, psychologist, teacher of the visually impaired or special education teacher, must verify the applicant's eligibility.

Bookshare has 300,000 books available from dozens of publishers as well as apps for reading the books on a computer or smart device. Works by every American Indian author whose name we checked were available. Sign up online.

15th FLL Tourney held at PRES

Spring Festival Schedule 2017

- Bogue Chitto Elementary**
March 10 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Conehatta Elementary**
March 24 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Pearl River Elementary**
April 28 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Red Water Elementary**
April 7 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Standing Pine Elementary**
April 13 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Tucker Elementary**
March 9 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Choctaw Tribal Schools held the 15th annual FIRST LEGO® League (FLL) Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Pearl River Elementary School Gymnasium in Choctaw. Nearly a hundred students participated.

FLL is a hands-on, interactive engineering program that captivates students' interest in science & technology. The

basis of FLL is a robotics tournament competition where teams - consisting of students ages 9-14, coaches & mentors - solve a given mission with the help of an autonomous robot while experiencing real product development process, solving a problem under time pressure with insufficient resources & unknown competitors.

Teams research, build,

and program the robot to score points on a themed playing field while developing a solution to a problem they have identified, all guided by the FLL Core Values.

Every fall, FLL releases a challenge based on real-world scientific topics. This year's challenge was Animal Allies. More than 28,000 teams of students from across the nation look into the eyes of our Animal Allies & see the

possibilities when we learn to help each other.

Seven teams participated in this year's competition: Bogue Chitto Elementary's Care Bears; Choctaw Central Middle School's Pet Detectives; Conehatta Elementary's Wildlife Defenders; Pearl River Elementary's Chahta Fury & Wonder Pets; Red Water Elementary's Oka Homma;

...continued next page



Oka Homma was the recipient of the Robot Performance Award. Team members include Diego Arvizu, Jaeden Wesley, Kobe Willis, Kerri Wilson, Nicolas Barragan, Carmelo Dixon, Gabriel Chitto, Karidee Willis, Bracyn Willis, Dayanara Lopez, Ansley Wallace, Miley Billie, & coaches Charles Meely & Dylan Dixon.



Chahta Fury was the recipient of the Robot Design Award. Team members include Kaisen Dixon, Tamaya Hampton, Jacob Frazier, Brydon Wesley, James Steve, Phoenix Wilson, Demidrea Stokes, Thomas Ben, Manny York, Jayce Sam, Aleyandro Clemons, Andrew Cotton, Tyra Billy, Delaiah Billy, Jaliah Mingo, Peyton Mingo, Justice Joe, & coach Felicia Hudson.

Academic Banquet Schedule 2017



- Bogue Chitto Elementary**
April 7 @ 10:00 a.m.
- Choctaw Central High School**
Senior Honors Banquet
March 31 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Choctaw Central Middle School**
May 4 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Conehatta Elementary**
April 20 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Pearl River Elementary**
May 9 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Red Water Elementary**
May 18 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Standing Pine Elementary**
May 16 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Tucker Elementary**
March 30 @ 5:30 p.m.

FAIR continued from page seven

Lopez, 2nd Nickolas Farmer;
Medicine & Health: 1st Tyra Billy, 2nd Kacie Wallace;

Physics: 1st Lexie Love, 2nd Ayers Chickaway, 3rd Shaylynn Farmer, Honorable

Mention, Deshaylee Tubby;
Zoology: 1st Coby Willis.

CLASS III, GRADES 7-8:
Biochemistry: 1st Kyla Farmer, 2nd Crys-

tal Routh;
Botany: 1st Peja York, 2nd Alyssa Farmer;
Chemistry: 1st Brannon Jim, 2nd Alexis Farmer, 3rd Trista Willis, Honorable Mention, Tiffany Jefferson;
Earth, Space, & En-

vironmental Sciences: 1st Tayleona Day, 2nd Leilaya McMillan, 3rd Memorie Willis & Celia Isaac;

Engineering, Computers, & Math: 1st Annie Isaac, 2nd Darian Young;

Medicine & Health: 1st Cadence Nickey, 2nd Sierra Willis;

Physics: 1st Isley Mingo, 2nd Dylan Williams, 3rd Makayla Hickman, Honorable Mention, Cameron Farmer.

Best of Fair: Tyra Billy.



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

& Tucker Elementary's Tucker Squirrels.

Five awards were presented at the end of the tournament.

The Robot Performance Award was presented to Oka Homma

as their robot achieved the best score on the competition field.

The Robot Design Award was presented to Chahta Fury for their mechanically sound robot that was durable, ef-

ficient & highly capable of performing challenge missions.

The Project Presentation Award was presented to Tucker Squirrels for their utilization of diverse resources to formulate an in-depth & comprehensive understanding of the problem they identified.

The FLL Core Values Award was presented to Wonder Pets for their FLL experience & displays of extraordinary enthusiasm, spirit & respect at all times.

The Champion's Award was presented to

Care Bears as they embodied the FLL experience by fully embracing CORE Values while achieving excellence & innovation in both the robot game & project.

The Care Bears represented the Choctaw Tribal Schools at the FLL Mississippi Championship in Vicksburg on Feb. 25.

Special thanks to those who volunteered their time, energies, & talents to the Choctaw Tribal Schools' FLL Tournament. Their contributions will have a lasting impact on our

"Engineers of Tomorrow."

Serving as Robot Design judges were Elray King & Pat O'Neil; Project Presentation judge Mitzi Reed; Core Values judge Bernita Reynolds; Robot Performance referees Wes Wallace & Rowena York; & event emcee Cambree York.

The combined efforts of the MBCI NASA Teacher Enhancement Center, Choctaw Tribal Schools, dedicated teachers & students, & volunteers are what form the foundation of the FLL program.



Tucker Squirrels were the recipient of the Project Presentation Award. Team members include JD Bell, Leilani Charlie, Nick Farmer, Kaydee Taylor, Kailyn Steve, Ayers Chickaway, Almera Charlie, Natalie Flores, Mauhree Jones, Nate Nickey, Karli Bell, Lakenton Chickaway, Makayla Hickman, Jordan Davis, Spencer Thompson, Akaysha Polk, & coach Brandon Farve.



Wonder Pets were the recipient of the FLL Core Values Award. Team members include Bonifacio Hernandez, Kaiden Anderson, Lila Reynolds, Lola Slocum, Kaniya Frazier, Kodi Jimmie, Tayla Willis, Waniya Tubby, Seth John, & coaches Delores Russell & Tressie Charlie.



Care Bears were the recipient of the Champion's Award. Team members include Daysia Henry, Tristen Henry, Neera Bell, Tessney Morris, Lela Morris, Koie Williams, Chesney Amos, Jayden Rush, Talon Bell, Delycia Cunningham, Erin Henry, & coaches Judy Palmer, Linda Jackson, Magda Bell, Renata Morris, & Shayla Chickaway.

BCES Releases Honor Roll

Bogue Chitto Elementary School announced the Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance list for the second nine-weeks.

Chief's List (All A's)

First grade - Brydon Baca, Kylie Bell, Tori Frazier, Neveah McCool, Raylond Morris, Westbrook Thompson, Chacelyn Willis, & Traviona Wilson;

Second grade - Eliason Chickaway, Aliyah Henry, Alastair Reed, Kaleaina Rush, Eric Shumake, & Sidney White;

Third grade - Akaylin Bell, Cherrell Chickaway & Nyla

McCool.

Principal's List (All A's & B's)

First grade - Osi Chapman, Amar'e Clemmons, Ja'ron Edwards, Delvin Espinoza, Kamrynn Hundley, Bryceton King, Chalisia Mingo, Silas Morris, Ameryn Robinson, & Koree Thompson;

Second grade - Lucas Allen, Aiden Bell, Chloe Bell, Onyx Bobo, Keirian Chickaway, Aaliyah Jim, Jamien Joe, Treighton Robinson, Heath Shoemake, & Lijah Tubby;

Third grade - Nolynn Bell, Peyton Bell, Layla Clemmons, Lexie Cotton, Jiar Henry, Miyah Henry, Joshua Hickman, Hailey Jefferson, Ryan Lewis, & Lacie Morris;

Fourth grade - Amari Amos, Skylar Cotton, Lanayah Henry, Kaliska McCool, & Lela Morris;

Fifth grade - Chesney Amos, Talon Bell, Aali-

yah Clemmons, Tristen Henry, Tessney Morris, Melanie Perez, & Jayden Rush;

Sixth grade - Delycia Cunningham;

Seventh grade - Sammy Vaughn & Kendesini Wallace; and

Eighth grade - Daysia Henry, Zander Waiter & Diaz Willis.

Perfect Attendance

Justin Anderson, Juanita Bell, Corde-ro Bobo, Onyx Bobo, Precious Chapman, Eliason Chickaway, Mona Frazier, Day-on Hickman, Desiny Hickman, Ulyla King, Brendon Morris, Shandal Morris, Manuel Perez, Melanie Perez, Danny Ray, Koree Thompson, Co-riann Triplett, Sammy Vaughn, Xavier Waiter, & Traviona Wilson.



CCHS 20+ Club Honored

The newest members of Choctaw Central High School's 20+ Club were recognized prior to the Feb. 7 CCHS-Southeast Lauderdale basketball game. The CCHS 20+ Club is an organization with membership reserved for students scoring 20 or above on the ACT. It was organized to recognize academic achievement & encourage other students to strive for excellence on the ACT. New members include (in no order) Ricky Anderson, Jaydre Bell, Jordan Isaac, Cy McMillan, Katarina McMillan, Alexis Sam, & Kameron Samuel. Also pictured are standing members Kyannah Grant, Kyarra Grant, Jayasri Mitch, & CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon.

Jones Signs With MCC

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, Choctaw

Central High School senior Aaliyah Jones signed a letter of intent/softball scholarship agreement with the Lady Eagles of Meridian Community College. A signing ceremony was held in the Choctaw Central library as Jones, a member of the 2016 MHSAA's Class 3A Slow-Pitch Softball Champions Lady Warriors, was heralded by her coaches for her leadership, skill & determination she displayed on the softball field. The Lady Warriors won their second Class 3A slow-pitch softball title since 2013 with a sweep of Mooreville on Oct. 22, 2016. Pictured above with Aaliyah are her parents Andrew & Delnita Jones & family members.



CCHS Forms SkillsUSA Chapter

A national student organization chapter was chartered this school year at Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) to assist students to prepare for successful careers in technical, skilled & service occupations.

SkillsUSA is a national partnership of middle school, high school & college/postsecondary



Pictured above are Culinary Arts students, front row from left, Keyshana Beamon, Allie Eaves, Alice Keats; back row, Jacoby Thompson, Braden Peters, Jaylen Dixon, Caleb Williamson, & Daniel Jordan.

students enrolled in career & technical education training programs, teachers & industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce.

Local chapters conduct a program of work during the school year & many students attend a district or state conference.

Select CCHS students in the Culinary Arts program at the Choctaw Tribal Schools' Occupational Training Center (OTC) recently participated in SkillsUSA competitions in Decatur & Jackson to develop & demonstrate personal, workplace & technical

skills. These three components comprise the organizational framework for SkillsUSA, which serves as a blueprint for career readiness.

Alan Chickaway, Jr., CCHS SkillsUSA advisor, said he realizes some students do not see college in their future, so the skills they develop at OTC can offer other avenues of opportunity after high school graduation.

"I would actually like to see more students go to college, but for those that don't, SkillsUSA & OTC gives them choices & opportunities. They will be able to use

...continued next page



Lady Warriors Receive Championship Rings

Members of the 2016 Choctaw Central Lady Warriors' Class 3A Slow-Pitch Softball State Championship team received championship rings during a special ceremony in the CCHS gymnasium on Friday, Feb. 17. Team members & coaches receiving rings included (in no order) Leia Phillips, Betty Mingo, Candace Jefferson, Tia'Rain Saunders, Maleigha Joe, Jayasri Mitch, Maiya Joe, India Samuels,



Meloney Thames, Darien Tubby, Christiana Amos, Aaliyah Jones, Kenaye Willis, Arionna Dixon, Lachrisa Williams, Averii Cotton, Lauren Ben, Iris Farve, Ciji Vaughn, Shamaiya Anderson, & coaches Crystal Roach, Randi Williams & Renate Ben. **LEFT**, Several members from the 2013 squad displayed their state championship ring collection.

the skills they learn & implement that to get future employment,” said Chickaway, who also assists as Culinary Arts instructor.

Nan Hartness, Culinary Arts Instructor, said students learn culinary basics from food preparation to service & sanitation.

Monday & Tuesday is classroom time while Wednesday through Friday is spent serving 50-60 patrons daily in the OTC’s Ayipa Cafe.

“Most of them enjoy it very much & a lot of them have improved greatly. We’re very impressed & some of them could pursue a culinary career,” said Hartness.

“They didn’t know what to expect at first & we threw it all on them at one time. Of course, not all of them responded to pressure & stress as well as some of the others, but they have really adapted well.”

Each chapter is encouraged to complete at least one activity from each of the seven areas of the National Program of Work: Professional Development; Community Service; Employment; Ways & Means; SkillsUSA Championships; Public Relations; & Social Activities.

By participating in program of work activities, SkillsUSA chapters become conduits for meaningful student growth. Students take part in the planning, organization & implementation of activities, which develops their skills & builds character.



CCMS Claims CTS Titles

Congratulations to the Choctaw Central Middle School Lady Warriors (above left) & Warriors (above right) as they claimed this year’s Choctaw Tribal Schools’ Annual 7th/8th Grade Basketball Tournament championships on Thursday, Jan. 26 at the Bogue Chitto Community Gymnasium. The Lady Warriors defeated the Red Water Elementary Lady Braves 50-31 & the Warriors defeated the Red Water Braves 46-30. MVP honors went to Meloney Thames (Lady Warriors) & Traiton Martin (Warriors) as they both scored a game high 16 points in their respective contests.

RIGHT, *Named to the All-Tournament Team were (no*



order): Girls - Bo Charlie, Tucker; Shantasha John, Conehatta; Daysia Henry, Bogue Chitto; Aleyonna Sockey, Red Water; & Ciji Vaughn, Choctaw Central; Boys - Dwight Chickaway, Tucker; Billie Isom, Conehatta; Jamel Jim, Bogue Chitto; Octavious Jones, Red Water; & William McKinney, Choctaw Central.

CCHS Hosts Senior Night

Choctaw Central High School honored seniors in basketball during a recognition ceremony during intermission of the Choctaw Central-Forest contests on Thursday, Feb. 9. Honored were basketball players Allison Meely, Candace Jefferson, Reese Tubby, Sarah Allen, Dylan Nickey, Sri Grant, & manager Kameron Samuel.



Lady Warrior Senior Sarah Allen



Lady Warrior Senior Allison Meely



Warrior Senior Dylan Nickey



Lady Warrior Senior Candace Jefferson



Warrior Senior Sri Grant



Lady Warrior Senior Reese Tubby



Senior Manager Kameron Samuel

2017 Choctaw Youth Recreation End of the Season Basketball Tournament Champions, Runners-Up



Tiny Girls (5-6) Champion - Tiny Gators



Tiny Girls Runner Up - Lil' Divas



Tiny Boys Champion - Lil' Savages



Tiny Boys Runner Up - Wild Indians



Rookie Girls (7-8) Champion - Lil' Hornets



Rookie Girls Runner Up - Sharpshooters



Rookie Boys Champion - USA Indians



Rookie Boys Runner Up - Bad Boyz



Little Girls (9-10) Champion - Storm



Little Girls Runner Up - Flights



Little Boys Champion - Bulls



Little Boys Runner Up - Native Storm



Young Girls (11-12) Champion - Chaos



Young Girls Runner Up - C-Town Girlz



Young Boys Champion - Tribal Property



Young Boys Runner Up - Red Water



Junior Girls (13-15) Champion - Team Hustle



Junior Girls Runner Up - South'z Best



Junior Boys Champion - RezBallers



Junior Boys Runner Up - Contenders



Big Girls (16-17) Champion - Rainmakers



Big Girls Runner Up - Lady Natives



Big Boys Champion - Bad Boyz



Big Boys Runner Up - Bulls

McAdory Honored For Service To Tribe

Jim McAdory, Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension Service Agent for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), was recently named the recipient of the Travis Tadlock Award for Outstanding Service during the annual extension service conference in Starkville.

McAdory, of Louisville, was nominated by fellow extension agents for his work and contributions on various health & educational projects throughout the Tribe as part of MSU's extension mission.

As the Tribe's Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program Agent for over 17 years, McAdory, along with various Tribal programs, facilitated the organization of Choctaw Fresh Produce, events such as the Wildlife Jamboree, and educational initiatives such as the Choctaw Agriculture Professional Program for Students (CAPPS) and Agriculture for Choctaw Empowerment and Life (Ag-CEL) to introduce Choctaw youth to careers in agriculture and natural resources.

McAdory also facilitated the inaugural Choctaw Challenge in 2015, asee **McADORY**, pg. 14



Pictured from left are Dr. Gary Jackson, MSU Extension Service Director, Travis Tadlock, Award's namesake, & Jim McAdory, MSU Extension Service Agent for MBCI.

From the Boys & Girls Club, Bogue Chitto Unit



ABOVE, Club members at the Bogue Chitto Unit are all smiles being back at the Club after the long holiday break.

LEFT, We say "thank you" & offer our sincere appreciation to Club member Bentley Ray for his creative & wonderful idea & helping us put together our eye catching entrance way. Bentley is one of many creative members attending the Bogue Chitto Unit. Keep up the good work!



McADORY continued from page thirteen

5K mud run and obstacle course held at Lake Pushmataha in Choctaw. The Challenge, which involves several Tribal programs and Choctaw Health Center departments, is the only health promotion event in the state to be initiated by the MSU Extension Service.

"I operate under a Tribal Advisory Committee. They are my bosses and they tell me what they want to see happen and I get it done," said McAdory.

In 1994, the Tribe signed an agreement with the MSU Extension Service to provide a centralized location for Tribal members.

Extension service priorities include the

4-H Youth Development, Animal Systems, Community Resource & Economic Development, Enterprise Economics, Environmental Systems and Sustainability, Family and Consumer Sciences, Forestry, Plant Systems, Staff Development, Wildlife and Fisheries.

Extension Service offices are maintained in 82 counties & one on the Reservation.

"Having a extension office here in Choctaw is a link to all the specialists and resources at MSU, like the chemistry or soil labs. This office is here for the Tribe 100 percent. I do help other counties because all extension service agents work together, but my

reason for being here is to work with the Tribe," said McAdory.

FOR THE RECORD

Submitted by
Choctaw Tribal Court
Services

"WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT THE CHOCTAW TRIBAL COURT?"

The Choctaw Tribal Court consists of four lower courts & one Supreme Court. Each lower court has at least one judge appointed by the Tribal Chief & confirmed by the Tribal Council, usually for a four-year term.

Civil Court matters, such as divorce, probate (deciding who will hold property after a death occurs), child custody, guardianships, adoptions, debt collections, & the like, are decided by a judge that "is an attorney who shall have graduated in good standing from an accredited law school & be duly

admitted to the practice of law in the State of Mississippi." (Choctaw Tribal Code).

Criminal Court addresses criminal offenses (listed specifically in the Choctaw Tribal Code or adopted from the Mississippi Code (as for traffic offenses) committed by tribal members with each complaint reading, "Such act being against the peace & dignity of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI)."

The Choctaw Tribal Youth Court handles both youth offender matters (when youth commit acts described in the Choctaw Criminal Code) & child protection cases where abuse or neglect by an adult is alleged.

Disputes of just about any kind can be transferred upon agreement

...continued next page

Prevent Elder Abuse

**Identify It!
Report It!
Stop It!**

Warning Signs

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

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

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

REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY

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

CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:

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

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

by all sides to the *Iti-Kana-Ikbi* Court (also known as Peacemaker Court) where a more traditional method to settle is employed. If unsuccessful, cases are returned to the original court that made the transfer for final settlement.

There is a fifth court – the Choctaw Supreme Court – where appeals from Civil, Criminal & Youth Courts are heard before a panel of three judges. The Chief Justice must be a Choctaw Tribal member. The two Associate Justices’

qualifications “include graduation from an accredited law school, be in good standing with a state bar & at least two (2) years of experience serving as a judge for a state, federal or Tribal court.”

These courts are first for tribal members (and members of other tribes residing on the reservation), but the MBCI also exercises jurisdiction over businesses providing services or products to tribal members residing on the reservation.

Additionally, offenses committed by non-tribal

members on the reservation fall under the Federal Court jurisdiction (citations being issued by Choctaw Police Officers).

Choctaw Criminal Court is essentially a misdemeanor court with a maximum fine of \$500 and/or 6 months in jail for a single offense.

Certain felony offenses (especially those of the 12 major crimes: murder, arson, etc.) committed by tribal members may be addressed in both the Tribal Court & the Federal Court without being

“double jeopardy.”

Alternatives to detention for both Adult & Youth offenders are managed for the Tribal Court by Court Services (located on the 2nd floor of the Smith John Justice Center across from Courtroom A). This includes Adult Probation, Youth Probation, Teen Court, Adult Healing To Wellness Court (Drug Court), & Youth Healing To Wellness Court.

There is much more to know about the highly sophisticated Tribal Court system which may be learned from visiting

www.choctaw.org.

A link is available to take the visitor directly to the Choctaw Tribal Code. Also, by clicking on the “Government” tab & then selecting “Court Services” from the drop down list, a brief description of some of the alternatives to detention is available (however, this is still under development).

For more information, contact Daniel Mittan, Director of Court Services, at 601-663-7822 or by email at dmittan@choctaw.org.

Tribe To Implement WIF Program

In October 2015, the U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration awarded more than \$35 million in grants to support & study federally funded employment & training programs.

As part of the grants, the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana was a recipient of a \$6 million grant to implement a Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) Program.

The Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, along with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the American Indian Center of Arkansas, Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas, & the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas, have planned over a year to launch its program to provide extensive employment & training opportunities & enhanced supportive services to

American Indians in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, & Texas.

The program offers three major initiatives to meet WIF objectives which include:

1) Implementing the Career Pathways model with extensive supportive services to create a “Free Flowing Workforce” across Section 166 Programs & the multi-state region;

2) Providing enhanced supportive services to program participants that are willing & able to relocate to regions that are abundant in in-demand industries & higher wages across Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Section 166 Programs;

3) Developing a centralized integrated online data resource center to be used by all participating Section

166 Program grantees, program participants, & major employers to include a common platform for entering participant data, maintaining centralized participant case management files, participant history with other Section 166 Programs, & a robust job bank of employers in all four participating major job markets (LA, MS, AR, Dallas Metro Area, & Houston Metro Area).

Since 2012, the fund has provided the support to enhance & study workforce development programs & enable sharing of best practices.

All WIF grantees are required to procure an independent evaluator to evaluate the project rigorously. These evaluations are likely to yield significant new evidence & best practices to stimulate innovation throughout the broader

workforce system.

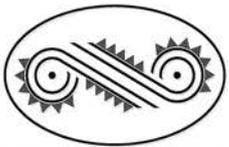
This is the first round of WIF funding since the passage of the WIOA of 2014. The act emphasizes coordination & alignment of resources across federal agencies & with

state & local partners.

For more information, or if you would like to enhance your current skill set, call the Choctaw Workforce Innovation Fund at (601) 650-7444.

Career Pathways is designated to correlate participants with training designed to provide education for a specific job skill, for in-demand jobs. Listed below are the available choices in the Career Pathway Model. Contact the Workforce Development Program at 601-650-7444 for any interested in the Career Pathways, provided by the Workforce Innovation Fund.

| TECHNICAL COLLEGE / INDUSTRY | CAREER PATHWAY CHOICE |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Meridian Community College: | Health Information Technology |
| | Health Information Coding Certificate |
| | Industrial Maintenance Technician |
| | Computer Network Technology |
| | Commercial Truck Driving Certificate |
| | Associate Degree Nursing |
| Hinds Community College: | Welder |
| | Commercial Truck Operator |
| | Barge & Deckhand Worker |
| Jones County Junior College: | Long-Term Health Care Assistant |
| East Central Community College: | Automotive Technology |
| | Microcomputer Technology |
| Griff's Marine Training, Inc.: | USCG AND STCW |
| East Mississippi Community College: | Maintenance Worker |
| Ingalls Shipbuilding Apprenticeship School: | Journeymen |



**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

DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

Cultural Workshops in Pearl River

The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) held its cultural arts classes in the Pearl River Community throughout January. CAP staff instructed participants on beading Choctaw jewelry & traditional Choctaw attire. The sessions were well attended.

Shokka Abi Workshop

A demonstration on traditional food ways of the Choctaw people was conducted on Saturday, Jan. 21. The annual *Shokka Abi* workshop was held in the Pearl River Community by CAP staff members & consultants led by Ricky Willis.

Attendees witnessed & took part in the hog butchering process. The event concluded with a potluck fellowship meal featuring a cuisine of freshly cooked hog meat

& a variety of side dishes.

Cultural Workshops

Cultural workshops were held in the Crystal Ridge Community throughout February. In March, there are no workshops scheduled for adults, but Choctaw Tribal Schools students can still participate in activities during Princess & Warrior Survival Week.

Upcoming Workshops

All workshop activities for April will be held at the Standing Pine Facility Building. Listed below is the workshop schedule.

April 4 - Sash & Medallion Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

April 11 - Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

April 13, Headband & Stickball Apron Mak-



Participants in the beaded collar necklace workshop were (seated from left) Sheila Frazier, Debbie Martin & Tyler Amos. Standing is consultant Everette Sam.



LEFT, Delana Williams proudly wears her headband she had just made. RIGHT, Joe Bell hems up one part of his stickball apron.



LEFT, Participants work on their beaded medallion pieces. RIGHT, Participating in the Choctaw dress, shirt making workshop were Renata Ben (seated front left) cutting fabric for a Choctaw dress, Elter Wilson (second from left) working on a Choctaw shirt, con-



sultant Nancy Vaughn (standing far background), Elijah Ben (standing right), Casey Bigpond (second from right) threading the sewing machine, & consultant Rowena Willis (seated front right) watching their work closely.

ing, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

April 18 - Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

April 25 - Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Please make plans to attend. Call the CAP at 601-663-7506 for more

information.

CCHS Class Visits Cultural Center

Students from Choctaw Central High School's history class took a field trip to the

...continued next page

IN MEMORIAM

RICARDO LEE WILSON

Funeral service for Ricardo Lee Wilson, 41, was held on Monday, January 30, 2017, from the Pearl River Community Gymnasium. Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

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

Mr. Wilson passed away on Jan. 26 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He enjoyed spend-

ing time with family & friends, playing sports, hunting, & fishing. He was employed as a Tribal Recreation Department Aide.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, John Mullet Hickman & Christine F. Hickman, Lee Will & Mable Wilson; father, William Hickman, Sr.; sister, Chrystal Bell; & an uncle.

Survivors include his mother, Sandra Gale Wilson Wesley; a daughter, Gabriella

Steve; a son, Greer Billy; sisters, Twyla York, Denitra Wilson, Kristen Wesley, Darrion Wesley, Ashley Wesley, Dee Beckwith, & Elizabeth Mingo; brothers, Kendrick Wesley, Jamie Wesley, Brennon Wesley, Ryland Wesley, Jeremiah Mingo, Eric Mingo, Jason Mingo, & William Hickman, Jr.; five aunts; six uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JERRY VAUGHN

Funeral service for Jerry Vaughn, 66, was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist

Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Vaughn passed away on Jan. 29 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

He enjoyed listening to country music & watching western movies. He was a farmer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clifton & Renie Vaughn; sisters, Judy Thompson & Betty Phillips; a nephew; & a great-nephew.

Survivors include his

sons, Jeremiah Thompson & Jarrett Thompson; a step-daughter, Myra Jackson; sisters, Lorena Alex Phillips, Rosalie Bell, Nancy Vaughn, Pauline Vaughn, & Earline Hickman; brothers, Jimmy Vaughn, Sr., Harley Vaughn, Harry Vaughn, Thomas Vaughn, & Roger Vaughn; & numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

HAROLD BRANT TUBBY

Funeral service for Harold Brant Tubby, 49, was held on Friday, February 3, 2017, from

.....see **OBITS, pg. 18**

Chahta Immi Cultural Center on Dec. 9, 2016. They were welcomed by Tribal Archivist Amanda Bell as she gave a brief history on Tribal Government as they toured the cultural center. Ms. Bell encouraged students to learn all they can, including Choctaw history & culture, to share & teach others.

Yale Student Donates Vintage Photographs to Archives

Anya Montiel, PhD candidate at Yale University, recently visited Choctaw to donate a collection of photographs to the Tribal Archives.

Ms. Montiel discovered the photo collection of the Indian Arts & Crafts Board (IACB) while employed at the Smithsonian Institute National Archives, which lead to her inter-

est in doing a dissertation on IACB Native Arts projects.

The collection includes photographs from the 1960's taken during arts & crafts workshops held on the Choctaw Reservation. Tribal Archivist Amanda Bell gladly accepted the collection on behalf of the Tribe.



ABOVE, Anya Montiel. **RIGHT,** A 1965 photo of an IACB workshop on the Choctaw Reservation. (Recognize anyone?)

For more information about the collection, contact Tribal Archives at 601-650-7399.

RIGHT, Ricky Willis (with bucket) demonstrates removing hair off the hog as he pours scalding hot water over the hog's body. The shokka abi workshop was held adjacent to the dance ground in Pearl River.



OBITS..... continued from page seventeen

the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

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

Mr. Tubby passed away on Feb. 1 in Philadelphia.

He enjoyed spending time with family & friends, fishing, making people laugh, & stickball. He was employed at a poultry plant, hatchery & Pearl River Day Care as a cook.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Tinsley Tubby & Lonie Davis Tubby; sisters, Valerie Tubby, Sheryl Martinez, Matilda Tubby, & Angela Tubby; a brother, Danny Anderson, Sr.; & a great-niece.

Survivors include his sisters, Janice Pedraza &

Jennifer McMillan; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

SERENA HICKMAN TUBBY

Funeral service for Serena Hickman Tubby, 65, was held on Saturday, February 4, 2017, from the Pearl River Community Center. Rev. Glen Myers officiated.

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

Ms. Tubby passed away on Jan. 31 at St. Dominic's Hospital in Jackson.

She enjoyed being with her family & friends, doing beadwork, watching her favorite soap opera, traveling, & shopping. She was a retail sales associate at Pearl River Resort.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George & Emma Hickman; husband, Doyle Tubby; son, Yannash Tubby; sisters, Willie Hickman, Willa Cotton, Amy Hickman, & Cindy Hickman; brothers,

Charlie Hickman, James Hickman & Jay Hickman; five aunts; & 11 uncles.

Survivors include a daughter, Deidre Tubby; sons, Eric Yazzie & Adrian Simpson; a sister, Loena Cotton; four grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

ROBERT LEE FARMER

Funeral service for Robert Lee Farmer, 78, was held on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, from the Standing Pine Facility Building. Deacon Ricky Edwards & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Farmer passed away on Feb. 4 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He was a Senior Deacon, prayer leader & Sunday School adult teacher at Stonewall Baptist Church. He loved being with his family & his trucks & enjoyed fishing, hunting, yard work, gardening, & reading his Bible.

He was a farmer, an employee at a plant in Kosciusko, Taylors Machine, Bureau of Indian Affairs, & Esco.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Otha Johnson & Venie Farmer Hickman; wife, Eunice Farmer; a sister, Ida Mae Steve; & a brother, Hester Farmer.

Survivors include daughters, Cynthia Isaac, Deborah Tubby & Trudy Farmer; son, Charles Farmer; sisters, Anna Lois McMillan & Evaline Davis; a brother, Harrison Hickman; 14 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

GENEVIEVE GIBSON ISAAC

Funeral service for Genevieve Gibson Isaac, 66, was held on Thursday, February 9, 2017, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

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

Mrs. Isaac passed away on Feb. 6 at Leake Baptist Medical Center in Carthage.

She enjoyed spending time with her family & friends, traveling, & helping others. She was a homemaker & held various occupations.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul Lee Gibson &

Norma Willis Gibson; sisters, Sarah Lou Bell, Frances Maxine Sam & Esterline G. Isaac; brothers, Roger Paul Gibson & John Lee Gibson; & a great-granddaughter.

Survivors include her husband, Emerson Isaac; a daughter, Samantha Denise Isaac; son, Hugh Ralph Isaac; brother, Billy Joe Gibson; five grandchildren; an aunt, uncle, & a host of relatives & friends.

EDWARD GRANT THOMAS

Funeral service for Edward Grant Thomas, 38, was held on Monday, February 13, 2017, from the Pearl River Mennonite Church. Rev. Daniel Tubby & Rev. Glenn Myers officiated.

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

Mr. Thomas passed away on Feb. 8 at University Medical Center in Jackson.

He was a grounds keeper at Dancing Rabbit Golf Club. He was a chanter & member of the Pearl River Social Dancers. He enjoyed his mom's home cooking & playing sports.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Arthur Thomas, Sr.; grandmother, Nellie Willis; an aunt & an uncle.

Survivors include his wife, Tilla Polk Thomas;

...continued next page

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
150 Campus Drive
Conehatta, MS 39057

Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service
1st Sunday Service 4:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Samuel Dixon

Wednesday

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

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

Come Join Us...



Spirit of Life Christian Center

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

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

Welcome To



NANIH WAIYA INDIAN Mennonite Church

Preaching Every
Sunday - 10:00 am

10341 Road 789
Philadelphia, MS 39350

a son, Jayshaun Thomas; parents, George Thomas & Zoe John; sisters, Georgena Thomas & Lashonha Thomas; brother, Casper Thomas; grandparents, Betty Thomas & R.J. Willis; & a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

FRANCES CATHERINE SOCKEY-BOLIN

Funeral service for Frances Catherine Sockey-Bolin, 73, was held on Monday, February 13, 2017, from the Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Gerald Willis, Sr. officiated.

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

Ms. Bolin passed away on Feb. 8 at North-eastern Health Services in Tahlequah, Okla.

She was a homemaker & enjoyed being with her family, beading, quilting, & crocheting.

She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Nephus Sockey; mother, Valeria Sockey; daughter, Felicia Bolin-Benton; & sisters, Jeanette Willis, Merdis Denson, Delores Sockey, & an infant sister.

Survivors include her daughters, Danita Hulburt & Renita Tubby; sons, Rodney Bolin & Derek Bolin; sister, Sadie Wilson; brothers, Elvin Sockey & Clyde Sockey; 5 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

LUKE SAMUEL ALLEN, SR.

Funeral service for Luke Samuel Allen, Sr., 70, was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Allen passed away on Feb. 10 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed being with his family & fishing. He was a tree planter then served two terms as a Bogue Chitto representative to the Choctaw Tribal Council. Afterwards, he was a recreation coordinator for the Bogue Chitto Community.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Houston Allen & Pauline Tubby; adopted mother, Jimmie Mingo Wallace; sons, Stephen Allen & Matthew Allen, Sr.; sisters, Sally Allen Jim & Kathy Clemmons Bell; & brothers, Harry Allen, Sammy Clemons, Sr., Donnie Clemons, Sr., & Ernie Clemons.

Survivors include daughters, Melissa Allen Smith, Patricia Mingo, Suzette Frazier, & Deandre Frazier; sons, Michael A. Allen, Samuel G. Allen, Luke S. Allen, Jr., Teddy L. Allen, Darrell Mingo, Sr., James Mingo, Jeremy Mingo, & Brian Frazier; sisters, Dorthy Allen, Iris Wesley, Shirley Philoman,

Millie Chickaway, Carrie Bell, Alicia John, & Histina Thomas; brothers, Hester Allen, Daniel Wesley & Dana Clemmons, Sr.; a special companion, Carlene Mingo; 37 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

LELAND LEWIS, JR.

Funeral service for Leland Lewis, Jr., 40, was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, from the Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. Deacon Max Anderson & Bro. Mark Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Lewis passed away on Feb. 9 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was employed as a call center operator at Pearl River Resort. He was a member of the Golden Eagle Intertribal Society & enjoyed pow wow singing & drumming.

He was preceded in death by his foster mother, Grace Smith.

Survivors include his wife, Karon Bryant Lewis; parents, Leland Lewis, Sr. & Pauline Cotton; daughter, Stefani Lewis; stepchildren, Holly Rodgers, Taylors Bryant, Brannon Bryant, & Cameron Bryant; sisters, Rebecca Cotton & Patricia Wesley; brothers, Billy Smith, Roy Smith & Acie Cotton; & a host of nieces,

nephews, relatives, & friends.

RICKY NELSON WILLIS

Funeral service for Ricky Nelson Willis, 57, was held on Friday, February 17, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Pastor Danny Fulton & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Willis passed away on Feb. 13 at his residence.

He was a former employee of the Department of Public Safety, Choctaw Tribal Security & Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed hunt-

ing, fishing, gardening, & being with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Zan Willis & Rose Bell Willis; & brothers, Ronald H. Willis & David L. Willis.

Survivors include his wife, Norma J. Willis; daughters, Meshi Thomas & Lisa Thomas; sons, Shawn Thomas & Tanyon Willis; brother, Monty Willis, Sr.; 4 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.



D's NATIVE EDGE Barber Shop

202 Choctaw Town Center
Choctaw, Mississippi

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

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

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

Closed Wednesday & Sunday



CHOCTAW TOWN CENTER

OUTDOOR MARKET

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

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

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



Pearl River Insurance Agency

Need Auto Insurance?

.....

*Multi-Vehicle Discounts
SR 22
Safe Driver Discounts*

.....

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

**300 Choctaw Town Center
Suite 106**

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



A&B mechanical, inc.

Heating & Air Conditioning Service



**A&B Mechanical, Inc.
P.O. Box 6003
Choctaw, MS 39350**

(Office) 601-656-4818
(Fax) 601-656-4418

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

Happy Belated Birthday to my mom, Lora J. Lewis, on Jan. 10. Have a good birthday & enjoy your blessed day. I miss you mom... keep me on your prayers. And to my brother & sister, I miss both of y'all & I love each one of you. Love your daughter & sister, Amanda Tassie Isaac.



Happy 21st Birthday to Ms. Renedra D. Thompson on Feb. 23, 2017. With all the love in the world, huge hugs & giant kisses from your mom, Lil Miss Emma, & the Thomas Kids - Hayden, Haylen & Dain. We love you!... And CONGRATULATIONS on being named Freshman Maid to Meridian Community College's Homecoming Court. A homecoming crowning celebration was held on Thursday, Feb. 9 at the MCC Graham Gymnasium prior to the MCC-Southwest



Mississippi Community College basketball contests. Renedra is a Business & Office Technology student & member of Phi Beta Lambda. She enjoys being with her family, friends & participating in the Choctaw Heritage Club. She was sponsored by Phi Beta Lambda. She was escorted by Shawn Smith.



Happy 1st Birthday to Ms. Roslynn D. Farmer on Feb. 25, from Mom, Dad & the rest of the family. We love you very much Dotti.

2017 World Series Stickball Adult Division Coaches Meeting
 Monday, March 6 · 6:00 p.m.
 Pearl River Community Center

- Adult Division Coaches ONLY!
- We will discuss upcoming issues and concerns regarding this year's WSS.
- For more information, contact WSS Commissioner Thomas Ben at 601-504-3249.

**CHOCTAW
 COMMUNITY
 NEWS**

FEBRUARY 2017

© 2017 MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS



2017 Petal Southern Miss Powwow
 April 8-9, 2017
 Willie Hinton Park, Petal, Miss.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| SATURDAY | 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Gourd Dancing 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Grand Entry | Head Staff : | Head Man Don Ahahapanek | Host Hotel | Wagon Wheel Inn |
| SUNDAY | 11 a.m. Gourd Dancing 1 p.m. Grand Entry | Head Lady Katelyn Shoemake | Head Gourd Doug Blanford | | 1872 MS 42 Petal, Miss 601.582.8477 |
| | | Emcee | Harold Comby | | |

Community Potluck Held in Bogue Chitto

Bogue Chitto Community members gathered at the Bogue Chitto Elementary School Gymnasium for the 5th Annual Community Potluck, hosted by the Bogue Chitto Development Club. All those in attendance enjoyed the feast, participating in social dancing & honoring several community members for their contributions & dedication for the betterment of the community. Special thanks to Councilman Roderick Bell for his participation in the event.