



## CRDE Announces Debt Reduction Strategy, Refinancing Transaction

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – Tribal Chief and Chairman of Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise Board (CRDE) Chief Phyliss J. Anderson announced on Nov. 16 that CRDE paid off its outstanding bond debt and refinanced its existing bank credit facility to take advantage of the favorable bank credit market effectively reducing CRDE’s total debt by \$25.8 million and reducing its annual interest expense by an estimated \$8.5 million annually.

“Our financial status is stronger than ever and this deal shows we have been very successful and responsible in managing our tribal debt. These trusted financial institutions believe in our leadership and have worked with us to reduce debt and lower interest rates,” said Anderson.

“We are very pleased with this opportunity and appreciate the confidence these partners have shown in us. We are saving

.....see CRDE, pg. 4

## New Community Facility Opens In Henning



*A view of the 12,000 square-foot Henning Multi-Purpose Facility.*

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians hosted a ribbon cutting/grand opening

celebration for a newly-constructed multi-purpose facility building in Henning, Tenn., on

Saturday, Nov. 19.

Following the official opening, a community-wide feast was held to highlight the celebration for the day.

“We’ve been talking about this for years and its just so exciting to be here today. This building behind us represents a great investment, a lot of time and money for the benefit of our families and residents here in the Henning area,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

As a result of increased revenues by the Pearl River Resort and Tribal government, the Tribal Council passed FY16



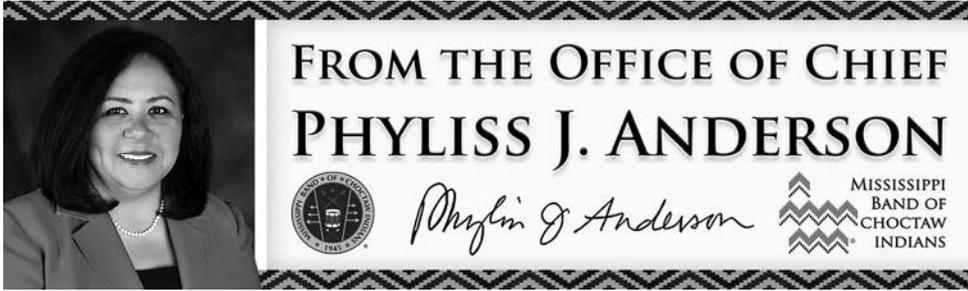
*Tribal members of the Henning community had their first Thanksgiving feast inside their new facility.*

.....see HENNING, pg. 5

## CCHS Lady Warriors Runner-Up in Class 3A Cross Country

*The Choctaw Central High School Lady Warriors Cross Country Team placed runner-up in Class 3A for the second consecutive year at the 2016 MHSAA State Cross Country Championships on Nov. 5 at Choctaw Trails in Clinton. The Warriors team placed third overall in the boys standing.*





Season's Greetings from the Choctaw Tribal Offices! What a beautiful fall we have been experiencing on our Reservation.

It is always wonderful to watch the leaves change color and feel the cool weather coming in. This is the time of year we also gather with family and friends to give thanks for the many blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us.

I am so happy to share wonderful news of our progress and the great successes our Tribe has experienced in 2016.

**Tribal Progress Continues To Strengthen**

In the September column, I shared some information about our recent budget season. The council passed our

FY17 Tribal Government Operating Budgets 10-7 during a special call council meeting. I am excited about this upcoming year and the work we will do for our tribal members.

But first, as we near the end of the year, I want to share a look back on the highlights of 2016. The progress we have made over the last year has been tremendous.

These accomplishments could not have happened without the support of our tribal members, tribal government employees and resort associates.

Construction and renovation of many of our facilities were completed in 2016. Those areas include a total renovation of the downstairs facility building in Pearl River, now known as the Pearl River Community

Center, the CCHS Pressbox at Warrior Stadium, new restroom facilities in several locations, renovated Wetlands Discovery Area in Conehatta, a new Multi-Purpose Facility Building for the Henning, Tenn. community and various other upgrades throughout our communities.

We also launched the tribal elder roofing project to provide needed roof repairs or replacements for elder homes. To date we have completed work on 142 elder homes with 26 still left to complete after we extended the application deadline.

We will continue the important work of serving our much respected elders to provide them comfort and safety in their homes.

In 2016, we also provided a \$2,000 pay increase for teachers and instructional aides in the Choctaw Tribal School System, Cost-of-living increases for tribal government employees, raised the minimum wage for regular employees to \$10 an hour, replaced dated program vehicles and equipment, and purchased 20 new school buses.

We also experienced a great victory for Indian Country with the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision on the Dollar

General v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians case. The tied decision affirmed the judgement of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in our favor.

This decision by the courts strengthens tribal sovereignty and allows our tribal members to seek justice in our Tribal courts. This case was precedent setting and historic for our Choctaw people and all of Indian Country.

**Tribal Progress Continues To Strengthen**

The Resort and Tribal Enterprises have had another successful year with earnings up even more than last year and profits continue to look great. Revenues are up by more than \$11 Million as compared to this time last year and profits (EBITDA) are up by more than \$2 Million!

We continue to grow our business interest on the reservation and at the Resort. One example this year is Pearl River Graphics.

We were pleased to purchase equipment from First American Printing and consolidate their services with our existing Resort print shop to start a new comprehensive graphics and multi-media business that is now open to the public in our Choctaw Tech Parc.

Our financial partners have taken note of these successes and the strong leadership we have in place. And they have confidence in what we

are doing on our reservation.

Recently, our Resort management team, tribal leadership and CRDE Board of Directors worked with our financial partners on a new debt reduction plan and refinance package that reduces our interest rates to historic lows and saves our Tribe millions of dollars in interest fees.

With this new deal we were able to pay off the Resort's outstanding bond debt and refinance existing bank credit facility to take advantage of the favorable bank credit market effectively reducing CRDE's total debt by \$25.8 million and reducing its annual interest expense by an estimated \$8.5 million annually.

The Tribe's financial status is stronger than ever and this deal shows we have been very successful and responsible in managing our tribal debt.

These trusted financial institutions believe in our leadership and have worked with us to reduce debt and lower interest rates. We are very pleased with this opportunity and appreciate the confidence these partners have shown in us.

We are saving millions of dollars while building a stronger financial future for the next generation of tribal members.

Our outstanding resort associates and government employees work hard every day to make life on our reservation

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**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
- Kathie Henry .....Communications Writer
- 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.

better and I thank each of you. Reservation wide you will see that we are reinvesting these savings and creating a better quality of life in our communities.

**Tribal Schools Show Excellent Performance**

Tribal school students continue to outperform themselves in the classroom and on the field. Our Tribe operates the largest tribally-controlled reservation school system in the United States that serves more than 2,100 students across 8 schools.

Our average daily attendance continues to improve with 92 percent attendance on an average day. Graduation rates continue to grow from 54 percent two years ago to 70 percent in 2016. And the high school drop-out rates have been cut in half over the past three years.

Our tribal schools recently received two grants totaling \$2.4 Million to assist in development of Choctaw Language curriculum, the hiring of Choctaw Language instructors and expanding classroom space for our elementary schools.

In the next five years we will see tremendous growth in opportunities for our students to develop strong fluency in the Choctaw language.

We are working on a new virtual high school that will allow students to “drop back into high school” and complete their regular high school diplomas at their own

pace. I know this program will be of great benefit to our tribe and helping many of our members accomplish their goals.

Choctaw Tribal Schools is also home to the Class 3A Slow-Pitch Softball champions and the Unified Special Olympics Team consistently brings home gold medals in their competitions.

Our girls’ basketball team made it all the way to the “Big House” this past season and our track team is bringing home great times and wins for our school.

I am happy to also share that in addition to a new scoreboard at CCHS Warrior Stadium, we have completed design work for renovations and improvements at the CCHS Girls Softball field.

Our tribal students and schools continue to inspire all of us and provide some of the best examples of success in Indian Country. But to continue growing and making these milestone achievements we must provide adequate resources and facilities for our students, teachers and staff.

Let’s continue to support our schools, students, teachers, and administrators and thank them for the work they do each day.

**Other Notable Community Projects**

As we continue to build our financial successes we are also looking forward to the fu-

ture. We have other projects in the works including:

- Construction of tribal homes - In the next few weeks we will start groundwork on 14 new homes in the Conehatta community. And then we will move to our other communities starting next in Tucker, Standing Pine and then Pearl River. We look forward to making new homes available to tribal members in all our communities over the next few years;
- The renovation and reimplementation of the former Choctaw Health Center building;
- A new health clinic in the Red Water Community;
- Construction of a new barn for Vocational Rehabilitation Services;
- Upgrades and repairs to the Conehatta community pavilion and softball fields.

And as our Tribe continues to grow we must responsibly explore new business opportunities that will provide new jobs and increased revenue.

Market research supports expanding our gaming market into Leake County and that is something we will continue to look at and consider. We are also reviewing other opportunities for partnership and development that will diversify our economy and keep our tribal members employed with good jobs close to home.



**Closing**

It makes me so happy to know the legacy of our Choctaw people will remain strong for many generations to come. That was the hope of our ancestors. And today we are united strong with 10,867 enrolled tribal members!

I have so enjoyed visiting with many of you during our most recent Tribal Thanksgiving Feast and Henning Multi-Purpose Facility Grand Opening Celebration. And I am filled with gratitude for

your continued support, words of encouragement and prayers for our great Tribe and my leadership.

As we enter the holiday season let’s take a moment to slow down, reflect on our blessings and give him praise! May God continue to bless our Choctaw people and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Many Blessings,

*Phyllis J. Anderson*

Phyllis J. Anderson,  
Tribal Chief

# Tribe Hosts Annual Thanksgiving Feast

Hundreds of Tribal members, guests and dignitaries were in attendance at the 2016 Reservation-Wide Thanksgiving Feast, hosted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw.

Led by a procession of tribal drummers, members of the Choctaw

Color Guard posted the flags adjacent to the stage as the National Anthem was sung in Choctaw by Deidre Tubby. Minister Curtis Willis, Sr. of the Spirit of Life Christian Center in Choctaw offered the invocation.

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson welcomed attendees to the annual gathering as she offered a report of Tribal suc-

cesses and upcoming projects.

With the passage of the tribal government budget by the Tribal Council in September, improved services will be available to tribal members and employees, as well as new facilities or upgrades to existing facilities.

"We all want what is best for the Tribe and for the future generation of our Choctaw people," said Anderson.

Renovations within the year have included a new press box and bathroom facility at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School, restrooms near the Pearl River Amphitheater, upgrades to the Pearl River Community Center (formerly the facility building), and a \$1 million roof repair project for Tribal elders.

Included in the FY17 budget is a \$1 million project to repair drive-

ways for Tribal elders in need and pay raises for Head Start and Early Childhood teachers and officers of the Choctaw Police Department.

Other projects in the works include:

- Tribal adult softball multi-complex (to start this spring);
- Purchase of three new fire trucks;
- Purchase of new program vehicles that need to be replaced;
- Addition of \$3 million into the housing program with plans to construct 100 new homes within the next three years;
- Additional funding for completion of the Tribal Council Hall;
- Funding for Domestic Violence Shelter operations;
- Providing Cost-of-Living increase for all Tribal government employees (full-time and regular part-time employees).

"As the year goes, we

keep showing a good financial trend. We manage our resources and the funds we have with the Tribe. We're very excited we have been able to do that," said Anderson.

Pearl River Resort enjoyed success as earnings have increased. Revenue has gone up by \$11 million, compared to the same time last year, while EBITDA is up by \$2 million.

The resort also took over operations of the former First American Printing and became Pearl River Graphics which offers small and large format printing, full service copying and digital printing, and graphic design to all businesses and the general public.

As part of a debt reduction strategy and refinancing transaction, the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise Board paid off its outstanding bond debt and refinanced its existing

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## NOTICE

### HALITO TRIBAL MEMBERS:

In compliance with the Choctaw Tribal Code §22-3-6, the Tribal Enrollment Office is reviewing enrolled member's files to assure that all required documents are in their files.

Many of our enrollment files were first approved by the Choctaw Agency before our Tribe contracted with the BIA for the responsibility to oversee Tribal enrollment, & the documentation in some of those files was lacking. We have encountered problems with documentation in these older files when we are reviewing new applications that are relying on these prior BIA files.

Tribal membership is a privilege, & our office is committed to making sure all tribal members' files are fully completed so that tribal members receive the highest possible blood degree.

If a required document is absent from your file, you will receive a letter from the Enrollment Officer, Angela Stevens, requesting the particular missing document or documents to be submitted to the Enrollment Office; our office staff will be happy to assist you in contacting other agencies & departments to obtain documents if you request that we do so.

The Enrollment Officer will be sending out letters in the near future. In the event you receive a letter, we ask for your cooperation in getting your file updated.

We look forward to working with & assisting each of you to update your files to ensure that you & your family members receive all rights & privileges afforded to members of our Tribe.

Thank you,  
Angela Stevens,  
Tribal Enrollment Officer

### CRDE ..... continued from page one

millions of dollars while building a stronger financial future for the next generation of tribal members."

CRDE owns and operates the Pearl River Resort, which includes Silver Star Hotel and Casino, Golden Moon Hotel and Casino, Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, Dancing Rabbit Inn and Geysers Falls Water Theme Park in Choctaw, Miss., and Bok Homa Casino in Sandersville just north of Hattiesburg, Miss.

Pearl River Resort offers over 2,400 slot machines, 70 table games, a 14-table poker room, three ho-

tels with 1,216 rooms, a large-scale events center, two nationally ranked 18-hole golf courses with lodging accommodations at the Dancing Rabbit Inn, the clubhouse and a fairway house, a top-ranked waterpark, as well as a number of food and beverage options.

Bok Homa Casino offers 720 slot machines and 12 table games along with an event center and quick serve eatery, Lucky's.

To learn more about Pearl River Resort, visit [www.pearlriverresort.com](http://www.pearlriverresort.com) or call 1.866.44PEARL.

bank credit facility to take advantage of the favorable bank credit market effectively reducing CRDE's total debt by \$25.8 million and reducing its annual interest expense by an estimated \$8.5 million annually.

"We have outstanding resort associates, wonderful employees at our enterprises and government employees that work very hard to make a better quality of life on the reservation for all people," said Anderson.

The MBCI operates the largest Tribally-controlled reservation school system in the U.S., the Choctaw Trib-

al Schools System, as it serves approximately 2,100 students in six elementary schools, a middle school and a high school.

The daily attendance average has improved to 92 percent as the graduation rate has gone from 54 percent to 70 percent in 2016. The high school drop out rate has been cut in half during the last three years.

The Tribe was a recipient of two Federal grants totaling \$2.4 million to preserve and promote the use of the Choctaw language in the Tribal School System and in the Choctaw



*A view of the convention center floor during the Thanksgiving Feast.*

communities. Funds will be used to hire Choctaw language instructors and expand classroom space in elementary schools in an effort to promote students speaking the Choctaw language flu-

ently within five years.

Also in the works is a virtual high school where all student services and courses are conducted through Internet technology which will allow students to

drop back into high school to complete their education and attain a diploma.

Anderson then commended student athletes .....see FEAST, pg. 6

**HENNING ..... continued from page one**

operating budgets in September 2015 which included allocated funding for building renovations, community improvements and new projects to improve services and quality of life for Tribal members.

"Today marks a great achievement that is



*Marcia Thompson, left, was honored for completing the Diabetes Awareness 30-Day Challenge in Henning as she walked 30 miles in 24 days. Presenting her plaque is Nana Frazier of the Choctaw Health Center's Diabetes Prevention Program.*

made possible through teamwork and community support. I say 'thank you' to all of those who have been a part of this great project."

The \$2 million construction project, approved by the Choctaw Tribal Council, began in March 2016. IKBI, Inc., a Choctaw Holding Group, served as general contractor with multiple local subcontractors.

"I believe (IKBI) built a beautiful building and

I hope you will take time to look at what we have in here," Chief Anderson told the audience.

The 12,000 square-foot facility features a four office complex for Tribal business activities, which includes offices for a facility manager, Tribal police, health worker, and an office for visiting Tribal programs, such as Tribal Enrollment, Social Services, Tribal Scholarships, etc.

The facility also includes a conference room for small, local meetings, an efficiency apartment for an on-duty Choctaw Police Officer and a full-size basketball court with bleachers, concession stand and restroom facilities.

Once community members toured the facility, they converged in the gymnasium for the feast and remarks by Chief Anderson detailing Tribal successes

during the year and updates on upcoming projects.

Choctaw social dancing was provided by members of the *Kabotcha Boli* dance group, Cultural Affairs Program and Henning community members. During the Stealing Partners dance, Santa Claus made his appearance and took pictures with the children afterwards.



*Henning community members take part in the Stealing Partners.*



*Santa Claus made his way from the North Pole to visit the children of Henning.*

FEAST ..... continued from page five

for their recent accomplishments.

Choctaw Central High School's Lady Warriors claimed the Class 3A State Slow-Pitch Softball Championship in October while the Cross Country teams placed in the state championships in November. The Lady

Warriors were runner-up in Class 3A while the Warriors placed third.

Choctaw Central special education and general education students, along with students from Leake Central, won gold medals in Unified Flag Football and Bocce competitions at the

Mid-Mississippi Region of Special Olympics.

A new scoreboard will be a new addition to Warrior Stadium in the summer of 2017 while designs have been completed for renovation and improvements to the Lady Warriors softball field.

"Our students continue to inspire all of us and provide the best examples of success in Indian Country. We have to continue to grow and make these milestone achievements. We have to provide adequate resources and facilities for our students, teachers and staff. Let's continue to support our athletes, students, administra-

tion, and staff within the school system," Anderson said.

Upcoming community projects include:

- Ribbon cutting and grand opening of multi-purpose facility building in Henning, TN on Nov. 19;
- Renovation of former Choctaw Health Center building to house several Tribal programs;
- Construction of new clinic in the Red Water community;
- Construction of a new barn for the MBCI Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program;
- Upgrades and improvements of facilities in the surrounding communities.

"As our Tribe continues to grow, we must responsibly explore new businesses and opportunities that will help provide new jobs and increase revenue. Our Tribe is growing and that is a great thing," said Anderson.

Anderson then announced the official enrollment for the Tribe is at 10,867 as she urged families to spend time during the Thanksgiving season.

"Count your blessings and be thankful for the many things the good Lord has richly blessed us with, not just as individuals, but the Choctaw Tribe."

After her address, Pearl River Resort staff members, Boys & Girls Club volunteers and Choctaw Central High School Beta Club members served the Thanksgiving meal to elders in attendance. Entertainment was provided by the Spirit of Life social dancers.

Officials are also reviewing research supporting the feasibility of expanding the gaming market into the Leake County area, in addition to opportunities for partnerships and development that will diversify the Tribal economy and keeping Tribal members employed.



The Pushmataha youth stickball championship banner was presented to Pearl River.



LEFT, The Tulli Okchi Ishko youth stickball championship banner was presented to Koni Hata Himitah. RIGHT, The men's 35-over stickball championship banner was presented to Koni Hata.



The women's stickball championship banner was presented to Oka Homma Ohoyo.



The men's stickball championship banner was presented to Pearl River.

Champions from the 2016 World Series Stickball tournaments, held at the Choctaw Indian Fair this past July, were presented championship banners to display in their respective community gymnasiums.

Honored were Pushmataha champion Pearl River (ages 10-13), Tulli Okchi Ishko champion Koni Hata Himitah (ages 14-17), men's 35-over champion Koni Hata, women's champion Oka Homma Ohoyo, and men's champion Pearl River.

# Persian Gulf War Veterans Honored At Parade

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians showed their appreciation to military veterans and those currently on active duty serving during the 14th Annual Choctaw Veterans Day Parade on Thursday, Nov. 10 in Choctaw.

This year's theme was "The Persian Gulf War: Operations Desert Storm & Desert Shield" as spectators lined part of Black Jack Road in the Pearl River Community to view numerous organizations pay tribute and appreciation to Tribal veterans.

A post-parade program and awards ceremony was held at the Choctaw Veterans Memorial as the Choctaw Color Guard posted the flags adjacent to the parade grandstand. Darien Tubby sang the National Anthem in Choctaw as Fred Willis of the Office of Public Information offered the invocation.

In her address to the audience, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson said brave men and women have answered the call of duty to our country to gain freedom and liberties for all American cit-

izens and conflicts have been fought by our military to earn and preserve freedom and rights we enjoy today.

"So many American citizens are unaware of the tremendous sacrifice Native Americans have made to protect our country. Today, we gather here at this wall to honor all our veterans. Respect them and show them the gratitude they

have earned," said Anderson.

"We all share great love for our country. The Lord has richly blessed our lives as American citizens and Choctaw tribal members. We ask the good Lord to watch over and continue to give blessings to our veterans, those in active service and members of our military. I encourage each of you to thank

those veterans for their services."

Guest speaker was Carl Chickaway of the Choctaw Police Department. As a veteran of the Marine Corps, he participated in Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

"We honor our heroes as we remember their

achievements, courage and dedication. We say 'thank you' for their sacrifices. To the heroes who are present with us today, and to those who are here in spirit, a person can't help but feel in awe of the enormity of what we have encountered. We stand in the midst of patriots who have served with

...see PARADE, pg. 8



Walking Category Winner - CCHS Lady Warriors Class 3A State Slow-Pitch Softball Champions



Vehicle Category Winner - Choctaw Regional Transportation & Maintenance Facility



Pictured from left are parade grand marshal John Ferguson (Army), Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, guest speaker Carl Chickaway (Marine Corps), & parade grand marshal Matilda Rikken (Navy).



Float Category Winner - Conehatta Elementary School



All veterans in attendance had their picture taken in front of the Choctaw Veterans Memorial in Choctaw.

# Veterans Honored At Pow Wow

Hundreds were in attendance at the Pearl River Recreational Field in Choctaw to honor military veterans and those in active service as part of the 22nd Annual Choctaw Veterans Day Pow-Wow Nov. 11-12.

Dancers of all ages showcased their artistry in the circle as drummers provided the heartbeat for the gathering as they honored veterans for their sacrifices they have endured for our country.

Listed below are the dance category winners.

## YOUTH

**Male**  
Grass - 1st, Andrew Cotton (MBCI); 2nd, Caiden Weaver (MOWA Choctaw); 3rd, Jayce Sam (MBCI).

Fancy - 1st, Kaegan Henry (MBCI).

Southern Straight - 1st, Jordan Langley (Choctaw).

Traditional - 1st, Joseph Bell (Choctaw).

### **Female**

Fancy Shawl - 1st, Sierra Willis (MBCI); 2nd, Jacelyn Ahshapanek (Coushatta/Kiowa/Choctaw); 3rd, Aiyana Bell (Choctaw).

Jingle - 1st, Aali-

yah Tahawah (Choctaw); 2nd, Angel Bell (MBCI); 3rd, Keyana Frazier (MBCI).

Traditional Cloth - 1st, Zaiya Bell (MBCI).

## TEEN

### **Male**

Grass - 1st, E-Cho Jim (MBCI); 2nd, Peyton Mingo (Choctaw/Coushatta); 3rd, William Isaac (MBCI).

Traditional - 1st, Delson Weaver (MOWA Choctaw); 2nd, Micah Lewis (MBCI).

### **Female**

Fancy Shawl - 1st, Taelynn Mingo (Choctaw/Coushatta); 2nd, Adrian

Suke (Potawatomi); 3rd, Mahle Jim (MBCI).

Jingle - 1st, Sophia Suke (Potawatomi); 2nd, Jaci Ahshapanek (Coushatta/Choctaw); 3rd, Charlita Gibson (MBCI).

Traditional Cloth - 1st, Sara Littlevoice (Choctaw/Ponca); 2nd, Annie Isaac (MBCI); 3rd, Celia Isaac (MBCI).

## ADULT

### **Male**

Grass - 1st, Jon Thompson (MBCI/Alabama Coushatta); 2nd, Kendall Wallace (MBCI); 3rd, Billy Hunt (Lumbee).

Fancy - 1st, Don Ahshapanek (Kiowa/MBCI); 2nd, Terrell

Bell (MBCI); 3rd, Adam Bell (MBCI).

Southern Straight - 1st, Randy Frazier (Choctaw/Shawnee); 2nd, Donovan McMillan (MBCI).

Traditional - 1st, Dustin Mesteth (Oglala Lakota); 2nd, Randy Solomon (MBCI); 3rd, Trilby Wahwasuck (Potawatomi).

### **Female**

Fancy Shawl - 1st, Traci Ahshapanek (Coushatta); 2nd, Meritza Henry (MBCI); 3rd, Kambree Chickaway (MBCI).

Jingle - 1st, Taryn Walking eagle (Cherokee/Choctaw/Dakota); 2nd, Monique Bell (MBCI); 3rd, Antonia Steve (MBCI).

Buckskin - 1st, Fawn Galvan (Paiute/Yaqui).

Traditional Cloth - 1st, Heather Hunt (MOWA Choctaw); 2nd, Kristin Weaver (MOWA Choctaw); 3rd, Sunshine Garcia (Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana)

## GOLDEN AGE

### **Male**

Grass - 1st, Lloyd Thompson (Alabama Coushatta).

Southern Straight - 1st, Zack Morris (Sac & Fox).

Traditional - 1st, Badger Wahwasuck (Potawatomi); 2nd, Jess Oosahwe (Cherokee); 3rd, Butch Mudbone (Seneca Nation).

### **Female**

Traditional Cloth - 1st, Karen Wahwasuck (Apache/Potawatomi); 2nd, Nancy Oosahwe (Cherokee); 3rd, Effie Bell (MBCI).

**(Winners pictures posted next page)**

## PARADE ..... continued from page seven

nobility, but let us also thank the family members of all service members. We know you have lived through difficult times, often taking a heavy load to maintain the home front. Thank you for what you have done," said Chickaway.

Veterans came from all walks of life as they shared fundamental qualities such as courage, pride, determination, selflessness, dedication to duty, & integrity. All these qualities were needed to serve a cause larger than one's self.

"Many of them didn't ask to leave their home to fight on distant battlefields, many didn't even volunteer. They didn't go to war because they

loved fighting. They were called to be a part of something bigger than themselves. They were ordinary people who responded in extreme times. They rose to the nation's call because they wanted to protect the nation which has given so much to them and us - freedom."

"To all service members and veterans who are here today, thank you for answering the call of duty. You have made our armed forces the most respected in the world. I leave two words for today - Remember and Honor. Remember our fallen and honor those veterans among us. They paid a lot. Embrace them with your gratitude for they are the protectors of your freedom, lives and our

nation's security," added Chickaway.

Navy veteran Matilda Riggen and Army veteran John Ferguson were selected as this year's grand marshals by the parade committee.

The committee also recognized several Tribal veterans for their service. Honored with a special plaque were Linda Williams, Herman Billie, Billy Chickaway, Elvin Sockey, Charles Denson, Jr., Larry McMillan, Charlie Benn, Frank Bell, Jr., Robert P. Tubby, Darrell Willis, & Matilda Riggen.

Winners of the parade categories were announced: (walking) Choctaw Central High School Lady Warriors Class 3A slow-pitch softball champions; (vehicle) Choctaw Region-

al Transportation & Maintenance Facility; & (float) Conehatta Elementary School.

Parade judges - Natasha John, Serena Stoliby & Charles Merrick - were recognized for their work in selecting this year's parade category winners.

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

All Choctaw veterans in attendance received a customized long-sleeve t-shirt with the phrase "I Walk the Walk - U.S. Veteran" as a token of gratitude compliments of the veterans committee, Chief Anderson and the Tribal administration.

# Title I PAB Hosts Meeting

The Title I Parent Advisory Board's (PAB) October working lunch was held at the Ayipa Café. Fifteen Board members and ten guests attended the meeting.

PAB Chair Ray Willis recognized Doris Bell as October's Outstanding Choctaw Educator. She began her career with the schools in 1989 & has worked in the same place for 27 years,

which speaks highly of her work ethic & ability to get along well with others.

Doris attended Red Water Day School then junior high at Pearl River Day School. Her high school career was spent at Haskell Institute. After graduation, she spent two years at Haskell Indian Nations University focusing on secretarial studies. She has one daughter, six grandchildren & seven

great-grand-children. Bogue Chitto Elementary School (BCES) Principal Lula Townsend was the guest speaker. Townsend grew up in Starkville & has been in education for 34 years.

Her goal for BCES is to make it all-inclusive for everyone. She wants every student to reach their full academic potential and she believes in giving students a fresh start every day.

Choctaw Language & Cultural Integration



*Pictured from left are Outstanding Choctaw Educator Award recipient Doris Bell, PAB Chair Ray Willis, BCES Principal Lula Townsend, & newly elected Pearl River Community Board Member Joy Alex.*

Coordinator Roseanna Thompson shared recent news that the Tribe was the recipient of two federal language grants that supports Choctaw language preservation.

“Language should be our number one priority

so that it will not be lost,” stated Thompson.

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



## Cross Country Teams Place At State

The Choctaw Central High School Cross Country Teams brought home a runner-up and third place finish in the 2016 Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) State Cross Country Championships on Saturday, Nov. 5 at Choctaw Trails in Clinton.

The Lady Warriors finished runner-up in Class 3A for the second consecutive year as

St. Patrick High School claimed their sixth state title in eight years and St. Andrews High School placed third.

Choctaw Central eighth grader Sierra Wallace placed third in the 5k race with a time of 20:24.1 & received a bronze medal. She was followed by teammates junior Kyannah Grant with a time of 20:24.9 for fourth place and junior Kyarra Grant with

a time of 20:30.3 for fifth place.

Choctaw Central junior Alana Billy placed 11th with a time of 21:58.1; junior Elisah Jimmie placed 28th with a time of 23:08.2; eighth grader Lyleonia Johnson placed 32nd with a time of 23:37.2; & eighth grader Jaiden Thomas placed 37th with a time of 24:17.2.

The Lady Warriors won consecutive Class

3A titles in 2013 & 2014.

The Warriors placed third in Class 3A as Mooreville High School was runner-up & St. Andrews High School claimed their sixth consecutive state championship.

Choctaw Central junior Ichukashhelohah Solomon placed second with a time of 17:33.3 & received a silver medal.

Warrior sophomore

McCoy Johnson placed 17th with a time of 18:54.3; eighth grader Dragen Denson placed 26th with a time of 19:25.4; junior Cameron Jenkins placed 30th with a time of 19:43.8; sophomore Lucas Thomas, Jr. placed 51st with a time of 20:40.4; senior Tyler Bell placed 56th with a time of 20:56.5; & senior Dylan Nickey placed 75th with a time of 22:06.8.



*CCHS Cross Country Team members include: (Lady Warriors) Sarah Allen, Alana Billy, Kyannah Grant, Kyarra Grant, Elisah Jimmie, Lyleonia Johnson, Allison Meely, Jaiden Thomas, Sierra Wallace, Taelor York; (Warriors) Ricky Anderson, Jr., Tyler Bell, Dragen Denson, Cameron Jenkins, McCoy Johnson, Dylan Nickey, Ichukashhelohah Solomon, & Lucas Thomas, Jr.*

## Beta Induction Ceremony Held At CCHS

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, the Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) chapter of the Beta Club inducted 57 new members in a ceremony held in the school library. The inductees bring the total number of members in the CCHS chapter to 134. The National Beta Club is an organization for 4th-12th grade students in the U.S. to promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, leadership & service among elementary & secondary school students. New members include: (SENIORS) Montae Bacon, Keyshanna Beamon, Danta Cotton, Aahliya Jones, Dedrick Jordan, Dakota Kennedy, Raina King, Cy McMillan, Betty Mingo, Allen Sockey, Merchaylee Sockey, Elyse Thomas, Tiwantha Thompson, To Wi Lena Thompson, Stacey Tubby, Xena Willis, Taylum Wishork; (JUNIORS) Julius Billy, Skylar Comans, Ichukashhelohah Solomon; (SOPHOMORES) Myric Anderson, Abigail Graves, Cameron Jenkins, Japheth John, Kijuanah Lewis, Jackson Martin, Hunter Smith, Jakob Waiter; (FRESHMEN) Iverson Allen, LaCaniya Anderson, Dathan Bell, Jaida Bell, Rianna Ben, Karl Butler, Jr., Malakai Charlie, Kessler Clemmons, Dantzler Clemons, Shemah Crosby, Shatina Farmer, Malahta Henry, Candace Hickman, Melanian Jimmie, Deontrae Joe, Julian Joe, Jasmine McMillan, Kayden McMillan, Rayven McMillan, Mercedes Peters, Cody Roach, Keyon Roach, Tia'Rain Saunders, Leloni Shoemake, Kristina Taylor, Tazialin Tubby, Denyunhia Willis, Michael Wilson, & Taelor York.



## Mingo Signs With MGCCC

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, Choctaw Central High School senior Betty Mingo signed a letter of intent/softball scholarship agreement with the Lady Bulldogs of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston. A signing ceremony was held in the Choctaw Central library as Mingo, a member of the 2016 MHSAA's Class 3A Slow-Pitch Softball Champions Lady Warriors, was heralded by her coaches & teammates 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 6-5 & 13-2 on Oct. 22. Pictured above with Betty is her parents Torrie Denson & Joseph Mingo, grandfather John Mingo, great-grandmother Laline Farve, & Lady Warrior teammates & coaches.

## Dyslexia Awareness Event Held

The Choctaw Tribal Schools' Exceptional Education Department's Dyslexia Therapy Program hosted a Dyslexia Awareness Community Night at the Golden Moon VIP Room in Choctaw on Oct. 25.

"Two years ago we started this event to honor dyslexic students and their accomplishments and to make the community more aware of what dyslexia is," said Sherry Tubby, Choctaw Tribal Schools' Exceptional Education Coordinator.

"We invite families to come, especially if they have a student that is newly diagnosed and the family doesn't understand what the disability is and how they can help their child."

The Exceptional Education Department began a pilot program during the 2008-2009 school year to provide

specialized reading services for students with specific learning disabilities primarily in the area of reading and language processing and who exhibited the characteristics of dyslexia.

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

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

method that is taught involving the senses of hearing, touching and seeing (known as a multi-sensory reading approach.)

With over 2,100 students in the Choctaw Tribal School System this school year, officials believe 15-25 percent of that population could be suffering from a mild to extreme form of dyslexia.

"We've grown to eight therapists now because the Tribal administration believes in it, they have invested in it and we can do the therapy at all our schools," said Mary Lou Johnson, Lead Dyslexia Therapist.

"There are other schools across the state that would give anything to have something like this, but they don't have the support. It's all about the kids."

Christy Bounds, par-



*Event attendees participated in exercises that put them in the perspective of a dyslexic student & found the difficulties of accomplishing certain tasks.*

ent of a dyslexic student, said the Dyslexia Therapy Program has been beneficial and life changing for her daughter.

"Dyslexic students don't understand why they can't learn a certain way other people can. They automatically assume they're not as smart as the other kids and don't feel they fit in. But this program gives them another opportunity to better themselves."

Bounds said after her daughter's therapy sessions, she now reads at a fifth grade level, and

she's only in the third grade.

As a first grade teacher assistant at Bogue Chitto Elementary School, Bounds said more involvement is needed to recruit more therapists.

"We have a lot of students that don't get therapy until the following semester or year because we don't have enough room to teach them. We also need to let people know this is just a speedbump that can be overcome. Parents have to work just as hard as the therapists do."

## Choctaw Child Find

The goal of Choctaw Tribal Schools is to provide full educational opportunity and a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all students with disabilities ages birth through twenty-one (21).

This Child Find project helps locate, evaluate, and initiate education or other needed services for Native American children and youth who have, or at

risk of, developing disabilities or other special needs through ongoing identification activities.

Services and Individualized programs are available for children who are determined eligible to receive specially designed instruction due to the following disabilities or areas of giftedness:

- Autism;
- Deaf - Blindness;
- Developmental Delays;
- Hearing Impairment;
- Emotional Disability;
- Intellectual Disabil-

ity,

- Multiple Disabilities,
- Orthopedic Impairment,
- Specific Learning Disability,
- Language or Speech Impairment,
- Other Health Impairment,
- Traumatic Brain Injury,
- Visually Impaired Gifted and Talented:
- Intellectual Ability
- Creative/Divergent Thinking
- Academic Aptitude/Achievement
- Leadership

• Visual and Performing Arts.

The Early Education Intervention Program has made a commitment to identify and serve disabled, developmentally delayed, and at-risk Choctaw children living on the reservation or to refer or help these families obtain services at their local county health department.

For more information about services provided, call Angie Gordon, Choctaw Early Education Intervention Program Specialist, at 601-663-7655 or send email

[angie.gordon@choctawtribalschools.com](mailto:angie.gordon@choctawtribalschools.com).

Persons knowing of a disabled or gifted child who is not receiving an education or know of other children who might be in need of special education services ages birth through 21 years of age, should contact Sherry Tubby, Child Find Coordinator, 122 Division of Schools Drive, Choctaw, MS 39350, telephone number 601-663-7643, or by email at [sherry.tubby@choctawtribalschools.com](mailto:sherry.tubby@choctawtribalschools.com).



**NEWS  
&  
NOTES**

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

**DEPARTMENT OF  
CHAHTA IMMI NEWS**



**Veterans Day Program At CES**

*On Nov. 9, the Boys & Girls Club Conehatta Unit staff & Conehatta Elementary School honored veterans & servicemen as students sang songs, waved flags, made signs, & thanked each servicemen at the program. Pictured above, from left, are Hugh King (Marines), Ferrell Thomas (Army), Randy Anderson (Army National Guard), & Edwin Thomas (Marines). We, the Conehatta Unit staff, appreciate the opportunity to participate in the activities with the school.*

**Jena Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Expo** On Nov. 15-17, the Mississippi Band



*Tribal members of the JBCI form almost a straight line during the Corn Dance as Albert Lewis (right) chants for them.*

of Choctaw Indians' (MBCI) Traditional Dancers commemorated Native American Heritage Month by participating in the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians' (JBCI) Tribal Expo at JBCI headquarters in Jena, Louisiana.

The group showcased Choctaw dances and Choctaw stickball presentations for students from LaSalle Parish Schools and the surrounding communities.

On Nov. 15 & 16, Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) staff members & consultants held Choctaw dance classes for tribal members of

**...continued next page**

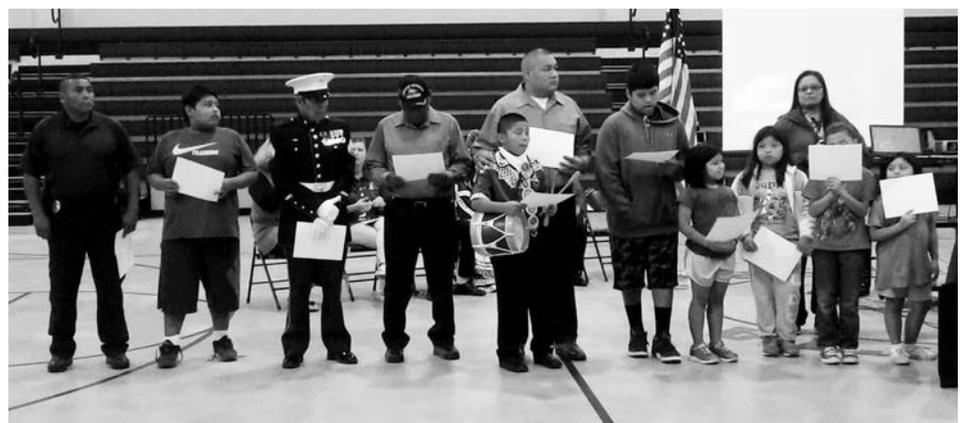


*Nov. 10 was the U.S. Marine Corps Birthday. Happy Birthday Marines! And THANK YOU for your service & sacrifices. We appreciate y'all very much, from the members & staff of the Boys & Girls Club Conehatta Unit. Also, to veterans & active servicemen & women, "Happy Veterans Day" & "Thank You."*



*Dancing the Tick Dance were, from left, Garrison Joe, Ken Frazier, Dustin Isaac, JBCI Tribal Chief Cheryl Smith, Sherrill Nickey, JBCI Tribal Attorney Julie Wilkerson, Peggy Williams, Louise Wallace, & May McGeisey.*

*Nov. 15th was the Boys & Girls Club's National Military Child Appreciation Day. While recognizing servicemen & women during the Veterans Day Program at the school, we also recognized their children/grandchildren with certificates of appreciation. We presented certificates to Keondrea Anderson for his father, Kelby Anderson, who is currently deployed & Haygen Anderson for his father, Rodgrick Anderson, who is also deployed. Pictured, from left, are Ferrell Thomas, Tazzden Thomas, Edwin Thomas, Hugh King, Kethan Anderson, Randy Anderson, Haygen Anderson, Taijah Kessinger, Kayliona Kessinger, Jordan Langley, & Tiarri Kessinger.*





Pictured above are members of the *Kabotcha Boli* social dance group & Indian Health Service (IHS) officials at the IHS Nashville Area Office. (IHS Photo)



Eleanor Chickaway, Mississippi Choctaw traditional bearer & swamp cane basket maker, presented her outstanding craftsmanship of Choctaw baskets at the Native American Heritage Month event in Nashville. She is a 1993 Governor's Award recipient by the Mississippi Arts Commission. (IHS Photo)

the JBCI. The instructors were quite thrilled to teach the enthusiastic group of students of the JBCI.

The MBCI Traditional Dancers presented various social dances at 19 different times for a total of 91 dances during the expo. Indeed, it was a record for the group to present a great number of dances at one place of event, and they enjoyed every minute of it!

Casey Bigpond gave a narration for the dances as Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) consultant

Albert Lewis chanted for the dance group. Lewis, grandson of Woodlin & Thallis Lewis, is a great, impressive chanter who performed very well.

The MBCI group receives outstanding hospitality from the JBCI as they always look forward to attending the tribal expo to share our Choctaw history & culture. This year marked MBCI's third appearance at the expo.

**Beaded Collar  
Necklace Workshop  
In Henning**

A CAP group conducted a beading workshop at the Choctaw Police Substation in the Henning, TN community on Nov. 18 from 9:00 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Classes on how to create collar necklaces were taught by Trudy Jimmie, Phyllis McMillan, Lorena Alex, and CAP consultant Rowena Willis.

The following day, the instructors attended the

grand opening and community feast celebration at the newly constructed multi-purpose facility building for the Henning Choctaw community. They also participated in dance entertainment during the Thanksgiving feast sponsored by the MBCI Administration.

**Nashville**

To commemorate Native American Heritage Month during the week of Nov. 14-18, Eleanor Chickaway's dance group, *Kabotcha Boli*, participated in the annual Native American Heritage Month Celebration at the Indian Health

**Group Attends  
Celebration in**

see DCI NEWS, pg. 14



**Correctional Officers Graduate**

Congratulations to the following Tribal members who recently graduated from the Indian Police Academy (IPA) as correctional officers. Pictured, from left, is Alicia Joe, Orita Jenkins, (unidentified IPA official), LeAnn Simpson, Shaun Butler, & Jamison Gibson.

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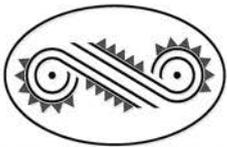
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Report It!  
Stop It!**

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- Hesitation to talk openly
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- 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



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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.

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SENIORS (57 AND ABOVE) FREE  
CHILDREN (UNDER 5) FREE

# IN MEMORIAM

## ROY WAYNE STEVE

Funeral service for Roy Wayne Steve, 51, was held on Monday, November 7, 2016, from Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Fu-

neral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Steve passed away on Nov. 4 at his residence.

He was a cook for the Choctaw Tribal Schools & enjoyed spending time with family & friends, helping people, fishing, & playing sports.

He was preceded in death by his father, Roy

## DCI NEWS ..... continued from page thirteen

Service (IHS)-Nashville Area Office and USET headquarters in Nashville, TN on Nov. 18.

A presentation of Choctaw culture was requested by Tribal member Dwight Isaac, Credentialing/Area Recruiter for IHS.

The 17-member dance group showcased the history and heritage of the Mississippi Choc-

taw. Afterwards, some of the dancers traveled to Henning for the Nov. 19 grand opening of the Henning Multi-Purpose Facility & Thanksgiving Feast for Henning's Choctaw community.

*Kabocha Boli* dancers participated with members of CAP's dance group & others during the feast.



From left, Choctaw drummers Garrison Joe, CAP Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond & Ken Frazier wait patiently for the opening of the Reservation-Wide Thanksgiving Feast festivities at the Silver Star Convention Center on Tuesday evening, Nov. 8. Their stickball team, Pearl River, was recognized for their World Series Stickball championship during the Choctaw Indian Fair by Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

James Steve; brother, Jerome Vincent Steve; half-brother, Irvin Jefferson; grandparents, Yates & Leslie Steve, Tony Bell & Annie Mitch; a niece, nephew & step-grandchild.

Survivors include his wife, Charlene Steve; daughter, Kayla Steve Montgomery; step-daughter, Marlena Tubby; sons, Jerome Steve & Jonathan Steve; mother, Delores Bell; sisters, Christine Phillips, Christina Cantrell,

Vera Monk, & Lillie Shoemake; brothers, Danny Steve, McKinley Steve & Nelson John, Jr.; four grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

## DARRYL RAY SOLOMON, SR.

Funeral service for Darryl Ray Solomon, Sr., 50, was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, from the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Conehatta. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

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

Mr. Solomon passed away on Nov. 11 at Anderson Regional

...continued next page

## Upcoming Workshops

The CAP resumed cultural classes in December. Workshops will be held in the Bogue Homa Community at the facility building on the following dates & times:

Dec. 9, Sash & Medallion Beading, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.;

Dec. 14 & 21, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Dec. 28, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

In January 2017, workshops will be held in the Pearl River Community starting on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017, and every Tuesday afterwards, if no emergencies arise.

The workshops will be the same as offered in other communities.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, there will be a traditional hog killing workshop from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please come and take part in the event.

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM 2017 SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

### Requirements:

- Enrolled member of MBCI
- Ages 15-24
- Middle school, high school & college students
- 2.0 GPA (C Average)
- One per family

Applications available at YOP Office!

Deadline: April 13, 2017

For more info, call 601-650-7321

Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a truck driver & enjoyed spending time with his family & listening to music.

He was preceded in death by his mothers, Geraldine John & Lela Solomon; fathers, Frank Dixon, Sr. & Murphy Solomon; sister, Catherine Solomon; & two nephews.

Survivors include his wife, Melissa Solomon; daughters, Darcia Solomon, Deanica Solomon & Demetria Storm; sons, Darryl Solomon, Jr., Dearthyl Solomon & Shaunrey Jefferson; sisters, Sarah John & Deanna John; brothers, Kenneth John & Percy Solomon; 11 grandchildren; two aunts, an uncle, a great-aunt, two great-uncles, a niece, a nephew, & a host of relatives & friends.

**RICHARD THOMPSON**

Funeral service for Richard Thompson, 50, was held on Saturday, November 19, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Bro. 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. Thompson passed away on Nov. 16 at Neshoba County General Hospital in Philadelphia.

He enjoyed spending time with family & friends & helping community members. He also enjoyed making people laugh.

He preceded in death by his parents, Steve & Oneva Thompson; sisters, Brenda John & Sandra Thompson; & a brother, Christopher Thompson, Sr.

Survivors include daughters, Koteila Thompson & Nashima Thompson; a son, Richard Tali Bell; sisters, Peggy Thompson & Gail Thompson; a brother, Cecil (Truck) Thompson; three grandchildren; three aunts; three uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**ARCHIE LEE WALLACE**

Funeral service for Archie Lee Wallace, 58, was held on Monday, November 21, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Rev. Jack Foster officiated.

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

Mr. Wallace passed away on Nov. 17 at Select Specialty Hospital in Jackson.

He was a security officer at Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed spending time with family & friends, hunting & fishing.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Karen Jefferson Wallace; mother, Margaret Rose Wallace; sister, Laura Wallace; brothers, Mark Wallace & two infant brothers; & several aunts & uncles.

Survivors include his father, Argie Wallace; stepsons, Tristan McMillan, Sammy Jefferson, Dakota Jefferson, & Kendrick Jefferson; an adopted son, Edwin Bell; brothers, Andrew Wallace & Anthony Wallace; & a host of

nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**EVALENE B. CLEMMONS**

Funeral service for Evalene B. Clemmons, 48, was held on Monday, November 21, 2016, from the Pentecostal Church of God Indian Mission in Bogue Chitto. Bro. Anthony Crosby officiated.

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

Mrs. Clemmons passed away on Nov. 17 at her residence.

She was employed with Pearl River Resort then became a homemaker. She enjoyed spending time with her family & friends & listening to gospel music.

She was preceded in death by her father, Royce Bell, Sr.; a sister, Mary Bell; a brother, Curtis Bell; & a granddaughter.

Survivors include her husband, Dana Clemmons, Sr.; daughters, Rhonda Clemmons, Keshia Clemmons, Dayna Clemmons, & Jena Clemmons; sons, Octavious Clemmons, Dana Clemmons, Jr. & Seymour Clemons; 17 grandchildren; sisters, Debra Bell & Evelyn Bell; a brother, Royce Bell, Jr.; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**SHARON MARIE ISAAC WILLIS**

Funeral service for Sharon Marie Isaac Willis, 52, was held on

Sunday, November 27, 2016, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Adam Dixon & Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

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

Ms. Willis passed away on Nov. 24 at University Medical Center in Jackson.

She was a piano director at Hopewell Baptist Church where she also enjoyed singing. She enjoyed spending time with her family & friends, cooking, fishing, doing beadwork, & taking care of her pets.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Todd Willis; a brother, Anthony Ray Taylor; & a step-father, Raymond Taylor.

Survivors include her daughter, Cassie Isaac; son, Christopher Bennett; mother, Regina Denson Taylor; father, Malcolm Isaac; sisters, Anita Johnson, Stacey Isaac, Allison Isaac, & Nicole Isaac; a brother, Christopher Tubby; three grandchildren; a special friend, Kernan Comby; & a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, relatives, & friends.

**CLAYBURN LEE JEFFERSON**

Funeral service for Clayburn Lee Jefferson, 69, was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, from the Tucker

.....see OBIT, pg. 16

*Come and Worship with us*



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

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Pastor Thomas Ben

**OBITS ..... continued from page fifteen**

Facility Building. Derrick Charley & Bro. Mark Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Jefferson passed away on Nov. 25 at his residence.

He held various employment positions & enjoyed spending time with family & friends, playing washers, fishing, watching TV, listening to music, & making jokes.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Malcolm & Mary Davis Jeffer-

son; sisters, Wilma Bell, Faith Osceola & Jerinell Jefferson; brothers, Brady Jefferson, Dewayne Jefferson & Roy Lee Jefferson, Sr.; three uncles; & two wives.

Survivors include his daughters, Debbie Joe & Gloria Bell; sons, Randall Nickey & Eric Nickey; stepsons, Kenneth Jefferson & Roy Lee Jefferson, Jr.; sisters, Rosie McMillan & Angela Bell; a brother, Jerome Jefferson; 14 grandchildren; an aunt, an uncle, a great-uncle, & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**BRONSON JON BELL**

Funeral service

for Bronson Jon Bell, 28, was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Bro. Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Bell passed away on Nov. 18 in Irving, TX.

He was a security officer with Allied Universal. He was a veteran of the Marine Corps & enjoyed being with family & friends, playing stickball, baseball, video games, fishing, hunting, watching sports, & attending concerts.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Brandon Billie; grandparents, Mable & William Jackson, Charlie Bell; & an aunt.

Survivors include

**CHOCTAW  
COMMUNITY  
NEWS**

**NOVEMBER 2016**

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his parents, Flora J. Bell; grandmothers, aunts; six uncles; & Billie & Odell Bell; Louisa Bell & Mary a host of relatives & a brother, Bracey B. Morris; two friends.

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(Office) 601-656-4818  
(Fax) 601-656-4418  
Allen Peoples, President/Owner,  
Choctaw Owned & Operated

**THE CHOCTAW COMMUNITY FUND,**  
established by the Choctaw Tribal  
Council in 1985, offers an  
opportunity for you - as an  
employee of the Tribe or one of its  
entities - to give a little back to  
those in need within the Choctaw  
community, as well as supporting  
service organizations that assist  
individuals residing on or off the  
reservation.

We ask that you donate your "fair share."  
This amounts to one-half of one percent of  
your annual income. If your annual salary is  
\$20,000 - for instance - your fair share would  
be a little less than \$2 per week.

Employees pledging \$20 or more are eligible  
to participate in a drawing for great prizes.  
Those who pledge \$40 or more will receive a  
2017 CCF T-shirt, in addition to participating  
in the drawing.

Please submit your CCF pledge card in the  
box at the Tribal Office by Friday, December  
23. These contributions reflect the caring  
power of you, the donors, who share our vision  
of the community coming together to support  
each other in health, happiness and success.  
Together, we are **MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

**2016 BENEFICIARIES**

Chahta Alla Youth Council • Chahta Anopolish Toffa Binachi - Speak Choctaw Language Camp • Chahta Alla Atoksoilchi  
Choctaw Elders Project • Department of Family and Children Services - Foster Care Program • Disabled/Handicapped Farmer's Market  
Early Childhood Education • Elderly Services • Fire & Flood Disaster Relief • Natural Resources (4-H Activities, Fall Harvest Ride)  
Nittak Himmona Domestic Violence Shelter • Princess and Warrior Survival Camp • School Services • Scouts • SDPI Family Day  
Veterans Day Committee (Parade) • Veterans Day Pow Wow • Vocational Rehabilitation • We Tip (Crime Search)  
Youth Assistance • Youth Recreation

*Yakoki • We Thank You*