



Pearl River Resort Opens New Printing Company

The Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise (CRDE), a business enterprise of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, held a grand opening ceremony on Sept. 15 for their latest business venture, Pearl River Graphics Printing (PRGP).

Located in Choctaw, Miss., PRGP is a specialized printing company that was designed to service individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations locally and across the state.

The company's wide range of capabilities include small and large format printing of banners, stake signs, posters, invitations,



In attendance for the ribbon cutting ceremony included Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Isaac, Interim Pearl River Resort President & CEO William "Sonny" Johnson, PRGP/Marketing Director Gerrard Cook, other members of the Pearl River Resort executive leadership team, and staff of Pearl River Graphics.

business cards, letterheads, envelopes, flyers and much more.

The facility, located in the old First American building on 404 Industrial Road,

Suite 1, is open Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information, call 601.656.3636 or visit www.pearlriverprinting.com.

Tribe Receives Language Grants

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians announces its receipt of two highly beneficial Federal grant awards to preserve and promote

the use of the Tribe's native Choctaw language in the Tribal School System and in the Choctaw communities.

The Tribe has received a total of \$2.4M through

two Federal grant awards to expand its operation of the Choctaw Language Program in the Tribal Schools for the next five years.

The funding agencies are the U.S. Department of Education and the Administration for Native Americans in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The "Carry the Language Forward" program, called "Annoppa Tikbishtiya" in the Choctaw language, supports the teaching, learning, and studying of the Choctaw language, while increasing English language proficiency of Choctaw children.

The Tribe will work to help reduce language barriers in Mississippi



Pictured, front row from left, DeLaura Saunders, Tribal Language Director/Community Program; Roseanna Thompson, Director; Jason Lewis, Training & Evaluation Coordinator; Abrianna Tubby, Curriculum Coordinator; back row, Pam Smith, Accreditation Specialist; Choctaw Language teachers Penny Isaac, Pandora Sockey, Renata Morris, & Darlene Vaughn.

Choctaw households by increasing opportunities for children to learn and acquire the Choctaw language, while also providing opportunities for families to develop strategies and activities for overcoming Choctaw and English language barriers.

The program will

serve almost 800 young Choctaw students in its first year, with Choctaw language being taught in all six of the Choctaw Tribal elementary schools' early grade levels.

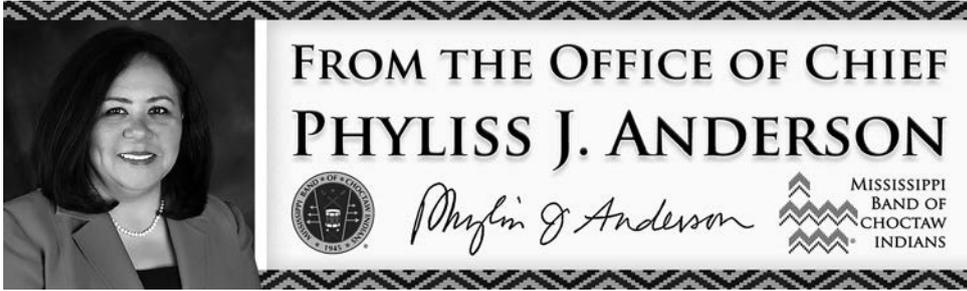
The program will also develop home- and

...see GRANTS, pg. 6



Battle of the Nations XX

The Choctaw Central Warriors came up short to the Cherokee Braves 26-25 in the 20th Battle of the Nations rivalry game on Sept. 2 in Cherokee. Pictured above, Choctaw Central running back Joshua Jordan runs through the Braves defense. The Braves hold a 11-9 advantage in the series.



Halito!

Fall is in the air and we have enjoyed some beautiful weather on the reservation. The school year and Warrior football is in full swing along with planning for many other events.

Our programs have been hard at work with budget presentations and at tribal offices we are preparing for the new Fiscal Year.

It's hard to believe we only have a few months left in 2016. Time passes very quickly and we have many great accomplishments to reflect on.

Choctaw Day at Geyser Falls

On Labor Day, September 5, 2016, I was so happy to host Choctaw Day at Geyser Falls Water Theme Park. We gave away 4,000 tick-

ets to tribal members to enjoy the closing weekend. Our tribal member guests also enjoyed 40 percent discount on food and beverage items.

We have received many positive comments and I am so happy our tribal members appreciated this free activity at the end of summer.

Thank you to the staff at Geyser Falls and Pearl River Resort for their support of this event and to our tribal government employees who assisted with distribution of tickets. I know many family fun memories were made.

White House Tribal Nations Conference

On September 26-27, 2016, I had the honor of representing our Choctaw people at the White House Tribal Nations

Conference in Washington D.C. This conference was first initiated by President Barack Obama as a gathering of tribal nation leaders to open important dialogue about pressing issues in Indian Country.

This was President Obama's last conference before he leaves the White House and it has been a true pleasure to work with President Obama and his capable administration.

The President and First Lady, Michelle Obama, have visited more tribal communities than any other U.S. President. President Obama has been a real champion for Indian Country on a number of key legislative pieces including the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, contract support cost, general welfare exclusion act, tribal healthcare and education to name a few.

While in Washington, I had the pleasure of speaking on a panel of tribal leaders about the importance of this conference and about the Obama administration's support of Indian Country.

I also participated in a National Advisory Council on Indian Education meeting that was attended by both Interi-

or Secretary Sally Jewell and Education Secretary John B. King, Jr.

During the conference our tribe was invited to showcase our traditional social dancing. Thank you to our dancers – Kendall Wallace, Pam Smith, Phyllis McMillan, Tyler Amos, chanter/drummer Speedy Lewis, and Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Layne Isaac for a beautiful performance.

It certainly was an eventful week in our nation's capital. It was truly an honor to represent our Choctaw people during these important meetings.

FY2017 Budget and Cost-of-Living Increases

On September 20, 2016, during a special call council meeting, I presented the Tribal government budget and it was passed 10-7. There has been a lot of hard work put into the FY2017 budget and I want to thank everyone involved with the preparation and presentations.

Our Audit report indicated the Tribe's financial health is the best it has been since FY2007 and we are continuing to grow! I truly believe we have found these successes by working together and looking out for the LONG-TERM interest of the Tribe.

We are on the right track and our budget for FY17 shows the continued strengthening of our tribal finances. Thank you to our program directors and managers

for their hard work and dedication in creating a budget that meets the needs of our tribal members while still operating programs proficiently.

I also want to thank tribal council members for participation at these meetings and attentive review of these budget reports.

Many thanks also to tribal administration staff, budget and finance personnel and associates at Pearl River Resort for their outstanding support over the last couple of months.

We have many excited things planned for the upcoming year. Some of the highlights include:

- \$2 Million for three new fire trucks required to maintain current insurance ratings;
- \$1.5 Million for Tribal Adult Softball Multiplex;
- \$3 Million in Housing Developments;
- \$1 Million in Elder roof and driveway repairs;
- Salary supplements for Head Start and Early Head Start teachers;
- Funding for needed vehicles and equipment;
- Funding for the completion of the new Tribal Council Hall;
- Funding for the completion and operating budget of the new Multi-Purpose Facility in Henning;
- Funding for recruitment and retention plan for Law Enforcement Officers

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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. WillisCommunications Manager
Kathie HenryCommunications Writer
Taryn CareyCommunications Writer
Darron TubbyCommunications Writer*

Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

(compensation plan);

- Funding for Domestic Violence Shelter Operations;
- Funding for New HVAC and Maintenance Technicians;
- Funding for New Engineer and GIS Technician;
- Funding for increased lobbying efforts in Mississippi and Alabama;
- Increased funding for Information Technology;
- Funding for a Grants Compliance Office.

The plans we have for the upcoming year include a 2.5 percent Cost of Living Increase for all Tribal Government employees. Program Directors were able to find the necessary funding in their existing budgets for the COLA without many significant increases in our recurring general revenue budget. The numbers we are reporting show great growth and indicate good management practices.

I believe the budget presented in its entirety represents a very strong financial plan for our programs. The strides we continue to make by managing our resources responsibly and operating a government that provides efficient and effective services for tribal members has proven to be successful. Now we move forward into a new year that holds great promise for our Tribe!

Choctaw Community Fund

Preparations are underway for the Choctaw Community Fund drive. I urge all tribal employees, Pearl River Resort team members and employees at our tribal businesses to consider making a contribution to the CCF.

Every contribution that is received allows the tribe to have more flexibility when assigning funds to organizations.

Contributors are asked to give their "fair share." This amounts to less than one-half of one percent of a person's annual income. For example, if an employee earns \$20,000 a year, their "fair share" would be a little less than \$2.00 a week.

A person can make a contribution up front or request payroll deduction. If you have any questions about the CCF, please contact Chassidy Wilson at (601) 650-1589 or at chassidy.wilson@choctaw.org.

Big Wins for MBCI Teams and Participants in Tushka Homma

Many of our tribal members traveled to Tushka Homma, Oklahoma in September for the Choctaw Nation's Annual Labor Day Festival.

Several of our stickball teams participated in this year's tournament, including Beaver Dam and MBCI. MBCI

took home the championship stickball trophy with Beaver Dam placing second!

The talented members of Mississippi's Finest Tribe well in the volleyball tournament as they brought home the championship.

Great job to all our players and congratulations to our coaches and supporters!

Service Awards at Pearl River Resort

On September 6-7, 2016, the Pearl River Resort hosted Service Awards for associates that have served the Resort for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years.

These associates enjoyed a nice meal prepared and presented by the Pearl River Resort Food and Beverage Department. They also received a certificate and pin for their years of service.

Our Resort's successes are a real testament to the hardworking and dedicated associates who loyally come to work and serve our valued guests.

Thank you again to associates and congratulations on this milestone achievement.

Wildlife Jamboree

We have enjoyed beautiful weather this month and Saturday, September 17th at Lake Pushmataha was a perfect day for the Wildlife Jamboree, sponsored by Choctaw Wildlife and Parks and the MSU Ex-

tension Services.

Hundreds of people came through the event to enjoy the multitude of activities available including canoe rides, archery range, conservation booths, face painting, horse back riding, obstacle course, rabbit stick throw, and other outdoor activities. There was also a tasting buffet of wild game including deer and wild pig available for all in attendance.

I know many that enjoyed the day and I want to thank all the staff and volunteers who came out and worked this event.

Boys and Girls Club Kids Day

The Annual Kids Day, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club, was held at the Pearl River Amphitheater on the morning of Saturday, September 17th.

As always, the event was filled with many fun activities for Boys and Girls including bounce houses, face painting, bingo and more.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers for putting on another wonderful event and to the parents for bringing their children out to enjoy this fun day of fellowship with friends.

Upcoming Events

As fall approaches there are so many activities we have planned on the reservation. While I cannot list them all, a few are listed below. I hope you will mark your

calendars and make plans to attend.

- Choctaw Central High School Tailgate Party is Friday, October 21, 2016, on the front lawn of Choctaw Central High School.
- The Reservation-wide Thanksgiving Feast is Tuesday, November 8, 2016, at the Silver Star Convention Center.
- Veterans' Day Pow-Wow is Friday and Saturday, November 11-12, 2016 at the Pearl River softball field. The Veterans' Day Parade is Friday, November 11, 2016, on Blackjack Road.
- The Grand Opening of the Henning Multi-Purpose Facility and Thanksgiving Feast is set for Saturday, November 19, 2016 in Henning, Tennessee.

Closing

In closing, I want to again express my appreciation and gratitude to our tribal government employees, council members, resort associates and management team, tribal enterprise employees and all of our MBCI tribal members for their support and encouragement over the last month.

What a joy it is to know we are on the right path as we start this new fiscal year!

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson

Phyllis J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief



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

**SPECIAL CALL MEETING
SEPT. 20, 2016**

Resolution CHO 16-088, approving Fiscal Year 2017 Budgets for Tribal Administration, Programs, Agencies & Operations, was ADOPTED 10 YES

(*T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, & J. Wesley*); 7 NO (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, S. York, & D. Wilson*); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 16-089, approving a Cost of Living Increase for Tribal Government Employees, was ADOPTED 15 YES (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 2 NO (*C. Ben & W. McMillan*); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 16-090, appointing mem-

bers to the Tribal Enrollment Committee, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSTAIN (*J. Wesley*).

Resolution CHO 16-091, confirming the appointment of members to the Tribal Credit Committee, was ADOPTED 9 YES (*T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, & B. Steve*); 8 NO (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 16-092, appointing Richard Sockey to the Choctaw Health Department Governing Board, was

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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, and 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, and our office is committed to making sure that 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 and departments to obtain documents if you request that we do so.

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

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

Thank you,
Angela Stevens,
Tribal Enrollment Officer

Tribal Distribution Office News

TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION REMINDERS!

Please help us make the process of receiving your check easier by having the following information current. (*All of the following needs to be done and turned in to the Tribal Distribution Office.*)

- Over 18 years old (Photo I.D.)
- Custody change (Court Order)
- Name changes (Marriage/Divorce with new name on your Social Security card)
- Address changes - (If you do a forwarding address with your local post office, please fill out an application with our office also since the forwarding time does have an expiration.)
 - Anytime you do an address change for yourself, always include all of your dependants.
 - We DO NOT accept address changes over the phone.
- Tax (W-4V)

DIRECT DEPOSIT is still available!

Keep in mind if your check was captured for anything from the previous distribution, you will have to submit a new application to do Direct Deposit again.

UNCLAIMED CHECKS

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

The Tribal Distribution office is located on the upper level of the Tribal Office building in the Finance Department. The forms are available in the lobby or in the Finance Office and you can also visit www.choctaw.org.

For more information, please call Barbara Ben, Distribution Manager, at 601-650-1522.

ADOPTED 15 YES (R. Anderson & R. Bell); (C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. Mc-Millan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 2 NO (R. Anderson & R. Bell); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 16-093, accepting a mini-grant award from the Mockingbird Foundation, was ADOPTED 15 YES (C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 2 NO

(R. Anderson & R. Bell); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 16-094, approving the Choctaw Tribal School System's Dormitory Handbook for the 2016-2017 School Year, was ADOPTED 15 YES (C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. Mc-Millan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 2 NO (R. Anderson & R. Bell); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 16-095, authorizing the Office of Utilities Management to install fiber optic & communi-

cation lines in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED 15 YES (C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry,

R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. Mc-Millan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Wil-

lis, & D. Wilson); 2 NO (R. Anderson & R. Bell); 0 ABSTAIN.

Tribal Law In Effect

According to Title XIX (19) of the Choctaw Tribal Code, Non-Members Residing in Indian Country, any non-member/non-Indian who lives on the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Reservation must have a valid permit to do so.

On July 1, 2016, a new Tribal law went into effect which makes it illegal for a tribal member to harbor non-members living on the Reservation without a valid permit.

Permit applications are available from the Permit Officer, Ferrell Thomas, at the Choctaw Police Department.

§3-6-35 Harboring or Assisting Non-Members Residing in Choctaw Indian Country without a Permit

Any person who intentionally or knowingly:

- Aids, abets, or harbors a person(s) who is/are required to comply with the residency application process under Title XIX (19) of this Code; or
- Prevents or obstructs law enforcement or the Tribe's permit officer from lawfully serving a permit notice to any non-Indian residing on the reservation; or
- Prevents lawful

service of process of summons or subpoenas upon any non-Indian person(s) by either law enforcement or private process server who is being unlawfully concealed; or

- Continues to provide a residence or shelter to any non-Indian person(s) who have been denied a permit after an application has been denied, or after non-re-

newal of a prior permit, or after revocation of a permit, Shall be guilty of Harboring or Assisting Non-Member Residents in Choctaw Indian Country.

Harboring or assisting non-member residents in Choctaw Indian Country is a Class B offense.

Any tribal member who is found in violation of this code can receive a maximum sentence of ninety (90) days in jail and/or a \$250 fine.

Exclusion From The Choctaw Reservation

*Submitted by
Tanya Phillips, Staff
Attorney*

Choctaw Tribal Code section 3-6-34, "Harboring or Assisting Excluded Persons in Violation of an Exclusion Order" went into effect on July 1, 2016.

Persons who allow an excluded individual to reside in their home on the reservation, or help to hide and conceal an excluded person on the reservation from law enforcement or from service of process, can be charged by the Choctaw Police Department. Violation of this section is a Class A offense.

The new code section reads as follows:

§3-6-34 Harboring or Assisting Excluded Persons in Violation of an Order of Exclusion

Any person who knowingly or intentionally:

- harbors or conceals a person who has been formally adjudicated by the Tribal Court to be excluded, or banned, from being within the boundaries of the reservation, or from residing on the reservation; or
- warns the excluded person of impending apprehension by law enforcement; or
- prevents or obstructs law enforcement or refuses to aid law enforcement in the search

.....see CODE, pg. 6

Williams Re-Confirmed Supreme Court Justice

O. Joseph Williams, an enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), was re-confirmed on August 27, 2016, by the Sac and Fox Nation Governing Council to serve as a Justice on the Sac and Fox Nation Supreme Court for a second six-year term.



O. Joseph Williams

During his first term, Williams was elected by the Supreme Court membership to serve as Chief Justice of the Court. The Sac and Fox Nation Tribal Court is located in Stroud, Okla.

Williams is an attorney in private practice located in Okmulgee, Okla., with his primary area of practice in Indian law and policy with 15 years of experience. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc., a former Chair for the Oklahoma Bar Association-Indian Law Section and a former Secretary for the Oklahoma Indian Bar Association.

Williams is from the Standing Pine Community and also provides legal counsel to the MBCI Office of the Tribal Chief.

PERSONS EXCLUDED FROM THE CHOCTAW INDIAN RESERVATION

Name	Sex	Date of Exclusion
Backstrom, Christopher	M	04/04/12
Barnett, J. B.	M	02/18/05
Berry, Abreal Jeedean	M	10/02/13
Billie, Zacharey Nathaniel	M	11/13/08
Brown, Charles	M	10/27/03
Carter, Jimmy	M	12/04/09
Chapala, Shannon	F	11/7/12
Clark, William *	M	08/11/05
Clemmons, Gary	M	08/22/05
Coble, John *	M	02/27/02
Concho, Wilbert	M	01/03/07
Craig, James	M	01/04/08
Decoteau, Donte	M	04/03/09
Dixon, Jarmal Antron	M	07/21/10
Drake, William Aaron *	M	09/21/06
Ealy, Timothy Hall	M	12/19/12
Edmund, LeRoger	M	12/17/04
Files, Kimberly	F	03/16/01
Goodin, Jason Leon	M	4/29/2015
Graves, Christopher Antonio	M	10/12/04
Greer, Tinsley Lee	M	09/01/00
Haik, James Emile	M	01/30/13
Hickman, John L.	M	11/18/96
Hickman, Robert	M	10/27/03
Hickman, Wanda Barbee *	F	07/17/09
Hill, Eddie Ray	M	11/20/14
Hill, Mack Arthur	M	02/18/05
Huddleston, Brad	M	06/20/02
Jaramillo, Jaime	M	11/06/09
Jones, Eric Dujuan	M	06/01/07
Jordan, Sharon	M	06/28/99
Kelly, Deanna Deshon *	F	12/04/09
Lee, Kendrick D.	M	02/23/10
Loper, Clyde O.	M	07/26/04
McCallum, Jarric L.	M	12/07/11
McCool, Charles Dewayne	M	10/09/09
McDill, James	M	01/26/98
McGee, Otis L.	M	4/21/2016
McKinney, Kedrick Marquez	M	6/18/2015
Miller, Reginald 'Red'	M	10/09/09
Mollie, Theophilus James, II	M	10/03/12
Monk, Alon Keith	M	08/06/10
Moore, Daniel	M	09/01/00
Moss, Monterrie Quinta	F	06/26/09
Nash, James Orlando 'Jamie'	M	03/16/01
Otter, Kristopher C.	M	05/27/14
Perez, Norberto	M	07/27/10
Proctor, Sam, Jr.	M	07/18/06
Ross, Eddie	M	09/28/10
Smith, Lawrence David	M	4/21/16
Stribling, Roderick	M	12/15/98
Talley, Michael Charles	M	09/01/00
Taylor, Donald Brian *	M	02/16/07
Tisdale, LaRobert	M	08/09/04
Toomes, Martravius L.	M	1/21/2015
Townsend, Dale	M	09/22/03
Triplett, Samuel	M	7/8/2015
Tubby, Marcell Reece, Jr.	M	10/17/12
Warren, Willie Joe	M	11/20/14
Weeks, Walter Shane	M	11/7/12
Whatley, Jack E.	M	01/05/01
Young, Trent Angelo	M	11/18/2015

*- Partial exclusion

CODE continued from page five

for or apprehension of an excluded person; or

- prevents lawful service of process of summons or subpoenas upon an excluded person by either law enforcement or private process server upon an excluded person who is being unlawfully concealed, shall be guilty of Harboring or Assisting Excluded Persons in Violation of an Order of Exclusion.

Harboring or assisting excluded persons in violation of an order of

exclusion is a Class A offense.

The Tribal Code may be accessed on the home page of the Tribe's website at www.choctaw.org.

Choctaw Tribal Code Title XX (20) provides the grounds and process for exclusion through the Tribal Civil Court.

Please note that a **Partial Exclusion** does allow the person to be on the reservation for specific purposes, but they are not allowed to reside

on the reservation.

Persons who are aware that an excluded individual can be found on the reservation should report their information to the Choctaw Police Department at 601-656-5711, or call WeTip at 1-855-4-THE-REZ to make an anonymous report.

A current list of the persons excluded from the reservation under Title XX of the Choctaw Tribal Code is listed on the left side of this page.

GRANTS continued from page one

community-based language advocacy strategies and Choctaw language-learning resources.

The Tribe's increased capacity through these two new Federal grants will enable the Tribal Schools to hire more certified Choctaw language instructors, further develop the Choctaw language curriculum, and strengthen training and evaluation efforts.

The Choctaw Language and Cultural Integration Program (CLCIP), under the Department of Schools, has been working in partnership with the Department of Chahta Immi's Choctaw Tribal Language Program for the past three years.

Currently, the first group is going through training sessions for the new Choctaw Language Classrooms at Bogue Chitto Elementary, Conehatta Elementary, and Red Water Elemen-

tary school. The next group will start as soon as classrooms are completed in Standing Pine, Tucker, and Pearl River Elementary.

The grants will, for the first time, provide six Choctaw language classrooms for Pre-K through 3rd grade to receive instruction daily.

Roseanna Thompson serves as the director of both grant projects and will oversee the projects during the 3/5 year cycle of the grants.

Some of the staff that will be instrumental in these projects are De-Laura Saunders, Tribal Language Director/Community Program; Jason Lewis, Training and Evaluation Coordinator; Abrianna Tubby, Curriculum Coordinator; Pam Smith, Accreditation Specialist; and Choctaw Language teachers Penny Isaac, Pandora Sockey, Renata Morris, and Darlene Vaughn.

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, who speaks Choctaw fluently, said, "These two new Federal grant awards that our tribe has received from the U.S. Department of Education and the Administration for Native Americans provide very necessary and important fiscal and human resources to support instruction of our native Choctaw language in our six elementary Tribal schools Reservation-wide."

"As we see a large number of Native American languages of other tribes being lost as English becomes predominant in their communities, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is determined to keep our native language alive and widely spoken for generations to come. Native American languages, including Choctaw, are a national treasure that we must preserve and protect."



NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER

From the CHC Business Office

Did you know that if you are eligible for Purchased/Referred Care (PRC Referrals), you are required to notify the PRC program for emergency room visits at other hospitals/clinics? The PRC program must be notified of emergent care to other hospitals/clinics within 72 hours (3 days) of the emergency room visit

or admission. The patient, provider, hospital or someone on behalf of the patient must contact the PRC. The notification is extended to 30 days for the elderly (age 65+) and the disabled.

Business Office hours are Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. When the Business Office is closed (after 5:00 p.m., weekends & holidays), please leave a message on the Business Office voicemail. We ask that you leave a clear message that include:

- Patient's full name;
- Date of birth;
- Name of emergency room facility;
- Date of service or admission;
- Reason for emergency;
- Working phone number.

ber.

The Business Office will call you the next business day following your notification. It is extremely important to leave a working phone number to contact you to get additional information.

Please note the 72-hour notification does not guarantee approval of payment. Case Management and/or the PRC Committee will review on a case-by-case basis and determine approval of payment, based on factors such as a life-threatening emergency room visit or if services were not available at Choctaw Health Center.

Any services that could have been provided at Choctaw Health Center, such as a common cold or flu, will not be approved for payment.

If you have more questions regarding the PRC 72-Hour notification requirement, do not hesitate to contact the Business Office at 601-389-4060.

Personal Health Record Is Here!

Choctaw Health Center (CHC) is pleased to announce the launching of the new Personal Health Record (PHR).

The PHR is a website where you can view and/or download your health information. You need to have access to the Internet or a data connection to use the PHR. You

.....see PHR, pg. 8



CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER

Main Telephone Number 601-389-4500
For Emergencies Call 911

Primary Care Department Hours Monday – Thursday 8am – 8pm (last sign in at 7:15pm) Friday 8am – 4:30pm (last sign in at 3:30pm)	Rural Health Clinic Hours Monday – Thursday 8am – 6pm (All clinics open) Rotating Clinic Hours on Saturdays 8am – 12pm 1 st Sat of the month: Conehatta 2 nd Sat of the month: Bogue Chitto 3 rd Sat of the month: Red Water 4 th Sat of the month: Choctaw Health Center	Pharmacy Hours Monday – Thursday 8am – 6pm Friday 8am – 5:30pm Saturday, Sunday & Holidays 9am – 11am
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NO MORE EXCUSES

THERE ARE MANY PLACES TO GET YOUR FLU VACCINE.

Anyone can get the flu, and it can be serious. Every year, protect yourself and those around you by getting a flu vaccine.

DOCTOR'S OFFICE	SCHOOLS	PHARMACIES	RETAIL STORES
GROCERY STORE	PEDIATRICIAN'S OFFICE	HEALTH DEPARTMENT	WORKPLACE
MEDICAL CENTER	DRUG STORE	CLINICS	COMMUNITY CENTER

For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

THE CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER PRIMARY CARE CLINICS & THE OUTLAYING HEALTH CLINICS OF BOGUE CHITTO, CONEHATTA & RED WATER WILL BEGIN OFFERING THE ADULT & CHILDREN FLU VACCINES IN OCTOBER. CONTACT THE FOLLOWING FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bogue Chitto Clinic	601.656.5442
Conehatta Clinic	601.775.3446
Red Water Clinic	601.267.8368
Primary Care Clinic	601.389.4302
Public Health Services	601.389.4110

The Personal Health Record (PHR) is a website where you can view your health information. Your PHR is at:
<https://phr.ihs.gov>





You need to have access to the Internet or a data connection to use the PHR. You also need to sign up for your PHR.

What can you do with PHR?

- View your lab results
- Learn about your medications.
- Keep track of your health issues.
- View a list of your medications.
- Save a copy of your health information.
- Send an e-mail message to your health care team.
- Make sure the information in your medical record is correct.
- View a record of your immunizations.
- Share your health information with a caregiver or family member.

Is your health information safe? Yes, your health information is secure. Be cautious when viewing or downloading your health information to a public computer. Always log out when you are finished looking at your PHR.

For more information, please call:

Health Information Management @
(601) 389-4187
(601) 389-4188

Or Visit:
Choctaw Health Center
Health Information Management
(3rd Floor)
210 Hospital Circle
Choctaw, MS 39350



PHR
Personal Health Record

<https://phr.ihs.gov>

From The Tooth Wisdom

Submitted by the Choctaw Health Center Dental Staff

We have been experiencing a high rate of broken appointments in the dental clinics. As a reminder, we have a Failed or Canceled Appointment Policy which everyone signs during their initial visit of the year. It states:

“To increase services to all patients, the following policy is in effect. You can be rescheduled only once. If you are charged with two failed appointments, you WILL NOT be scheduled for another appointment for at least six (6) months.”

What is a Failed or Broken appointment?

- You do not come to the dental clinic for your appointment.
- When you sign in at the dental clinic 10 minutes or more after your appointment time.
- When you do not cancel your appointment at least one day (24 hours) before your appointment time.

What is a canceled appointment?

When the dental clinic is notified 24 hours in advance that the patient will not be able to keep their appointment. A new appointment will be scheduled at a more convenient time.

Of course, there is consideration for sickness or a death in the family. If you are unable to make your appointment, a call is appreciated. We appreciate you and look forward to seeing you at your appointment.

Suicide Prevention Month Observed

The following information was provided by the Choctaw Health Center’s Behavioral Health Program.

Why Address

Suicide Prevention?

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

AI/AN young people ages 15-34 make up 64 percent of all suicides in Indian Country & is the second leading cause of death for this age range.

According to the 2007 CDC vital statistics, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death for all AI/AN age groups.

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

What Are Risk Factors For Suicide Among AI/AN People?

Risk factors include mental health disorders & stigma, substance abuse, intergenerational & historical trauma, family history of suicide or violence, family disruption/domestic violence, history of suicide attempts, physical or terminal illness, hopeless-

ness, feeling alone, & community-wide issues.

What Are Protective Factors For AI/AN People?

Factors that protect AI/AN youth & young adults against suicidal behavior are a sense of belonging to one’s culture, a strong tribal/spiritual bond, the opportunity to discuss problems with family or friends, feeling connected to family, positive emotional health, & tribal resources & services such as a supportive healthcare system which individuals & families can utilize when needed.

...continued next page

PHR continued from page seven

also need to sign up for your PHR.

What can you do with PHR?

- View your lab results.
- Learn about your

medications.

- Keep track of your health issues.
- View a list of your medications.
- Save a copy of your health information.

- Send an e-mail to your health care team.
- Make sure the information in your medical record is correct.

- View a record of your immunizations.
- Share your health information with a caregiver or family member.

Is your health information safe? Yes, your health information is secure.

Be cautious when viewing or downloading your health information to a public computer. Always log out when you are finished looking at your PHR.

How to sign up for

your PHR:

Step 1: Register online at: <https://phr.ihs.gov>. Create a PHR account at “Register to use PHR.”

Step 2: Meet your PHR Registrar at CHC’s Health Information Management (3rd floor). Please bring a photo ID. PHR Registrar will activate your account.

Step 3: After you talk with the PHR Registrar, your PHR account will be ready. Login to the PHR and start viewing your health information.

For more information, call Health Information Management, Charlene Sam (601) 389-4187 or Abigail Sockey (601) 389-4188; or visit the CHC’s Health Information Management (3rd floor) in Choctaw.

How to sign up for your PHR

Step 1: Create a PHR account

1. Go to <https://phr.ihs.gov> in your web browser.
2. Click the button labeled "Register to use PHR."
3. Choose a username and password that you can remember.
4. You will be asked to enter some information about yourself. When you are finished, you will get a message asking you to go to your hospital or clinic to finish the registration process.

Step 2: Meet your PHR Registrar

You will need to meet with the hospital or clinic's PHR Registrar. This person will activate your account. Please bring a photo ID if you have one.

Step 3: Login to the PHR

After you talk with the PHR registrar, your PHR account will be ready.

1. Go to <https://phr.ihs.gov>.
2. Enter your username and password.
3. Select the health record you would like to view.
4. You can now view your health information.

For more information, visit the Indian Health Service at <http://www.ihs.gov>

SUICIDE MYTHS & FACTS

- **Myth:** No one can stop a suicide, it is inevitable.
- **Fact:** *If people in a crisis get help they need, they will probably never be suicidal again.*
- **Myth:** Confronting a person about suicide will make them angry & increase the risk of suicide.
- **Fact:** *Asking someone directly about suicidal intent lowers anxiety, opens up communication & lowers the risk of an impulsive act.*
- **Myth:** Only experts can prevent suicide.
- **Fact:** *Suicide prevention is everybody's business & anyone can help prevent these strategies.*
- **Myth:** Suicidal people keep their plans to themselves.
- **Fact:** *Most suicidal people communicate their intent sometime during the week preceding their attempt.*
- **Myth:** Once a person decides to complete suicide, there is nothing anyone can do to stop them.
- **Fact:** *Suicide is the most preventable kind of death, & almost any positive action may save a life.*

Warning Signs For Suicide

- Behavioral clues include:
- Previous suicide attempt (#1 predictor of suicide);
 - Acquiring a gun or stockpiling pills;
 - Co-occurring depression, moodiness, hopelessness (better predictor than depression);

- Putting personal affairs in order;
 - Giving away prized possessions;
 - Sudden interest or disinterest in religion;
 - Drug or alcohol abuse, or relapse after a period of recovery;
 - Unexplained anger, aggression & irritability.
- Situational clues include:
- Being fired or expelled from school;
 - A recent unwanted move;
 - Loss of major relationship;
 - Death of a spouse, child, or best friend, especially if by suicide;
 - Diagnosis of a serious or terminal illness;
 - Sudden unexpected loss of freedom/fear of punishment;
 - Anticipated loss of financial security;
 - Loss of a cherished therapist, counselor or

- teacher;
- Fear of becoming a burden to others.
- TIPS FOR ASKING THE SUICIDE QUESTION**
- If in doubt, don't wait, ask the question;
 - If the person is reluctant, be persistent;
 - Talk to the person alone in a private setting;
 - Allow the person to talk freely;
 - Give yourself plenty of time;
 - Have your resources handy; phone numbers, therapist's name & any other information that might help.

Remember: How you ask the question is less important than you asking it!

How Can We Prevent Suicide? EVERYBODY'S responsibility, as well as

Choctaw SANE-SART News

Casey Willis, Choctaw Health Center (CHC) Emergency Room Supervisor, completed the Pediatric SANE Course at Baptist Medical Center in Jackson June 6-10.

The 40-hour course, supported by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), is for experienced Emergency Department (ED) nurses that have previously taken the Adult/Adolescent SANE Course.

Nurses who completed the course are able to perform the nursing/forensic episode of care for the pediatric sexual assault victim in the ED.

Willis completed the Adult/Adolescent SANE Course in April 2012 and has an interest in serving pediatric victims of sexual assault.

The Choctaw SANE-SART Program sent CHC nurses Holly Coburn and Tammy Townsend to the Adult/Adolescent SANE course in Gulfport July 25-29.

.....see SANE-SART, pg. 15

preventing related-suicidal behaviors. Take time to learn about the warning signs & get important information to connect those in crisis with the proper line of help.

When warning signs appear, it is critical to quickly connect the per-

son to supportive services. Do not leave that person alone if you suspect he/she may be suicidal. Listen openly & nonjudgmentally.

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

Zika Virus Update

KEEP CALM & EMBRACE BUG SPRAY



Zika is a viral disease that is spread primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. This mosquito is an aggressive daytime biter and prefers to live both indoors and outdoors close to people. Zika virus can cause illness that lasts several days or up to a week. Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly, as well as other severe fetal brain defects. Currently, there is no cure, vaccine, or direct treatment for Zika virus.

Symptoms	Transmission
<p>Four out of five people infected with Zika virus do not experience any symptoms. Once a person has been infected, he or she is likely to be protected from future infections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Fever → Rash → Joint Pain → Conjunctivitis (Red Eyes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → From mother to fetus during pregnancy or at delivery → Through sex from an infected person to his or her sex partners → Through a blood transfusion

Zika virus has also been linked to Guillain-Barre Syndrome, which can start as weakness and tingling in the feet and legs that spreads to the upper body. Paralysis can occur.



Be Alert



As of August 2016, there have been 6 laboratory confirmed Zika virus cases transmitted by local mosquitoes in the state of Florida. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Zika Response plan, the outbreak is currently in phase level 3, confirmed multi-person local transmission. CDC has sent staff to the Miami-Dade County area to assist the state and local health departments with confirmed and suspected cases.

HOW TO PROTECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

<p> If possible, avoid travel to an area with Zika virus</p>	<p> Treat clothing and gear with permethrin or buy permethrin-treated clothing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not apply directly to skin 	<p> SAFE SEX</p> <p>Use condoms to prevent transmission of the virus from an infected person to his or her partner</p>
<p> Stay indoors and use air conditioners, screen doors and windows to keep mosquitoes out</p>	<p> Use environmental protection agency (EPA) approved insect repellents as directed</p>	<p> To prevent mosquitoes from breeding, empty containers that hold standing water such as flower pots, pet dishes, buckets, toys, bird baths and discarded tires.</p>

ZIKA VIRUS AND PREGNANT WOMEN

The greatest concern of Zika virus is the health complications it has on the unborn fetus. If a woman becomes infected with Zika virus, she can pass the virus to the fetus. The virus can cause microcephaly, which is an underdeveloped brain and skull, and other defects, such as, defects of the eyes, hearing problems, and impaired growth.

How Long Should You Wait Before Trying to Have a Baby When Living in an Area with Zika Transmission?	Women	Men
With Zika Symptoms	At least 8 weeks after symptoms	At least 6 months after symptoms start
No Zika Symptoms	Talk with doctor or health care provider	Talk with doctor or health care provider

For more information please contact your local health department at or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>

Released on August 18, 2016 

PAB Holds First Board Meeting Of School Year

The Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) held their first meeting of the 2016-17 school year on Aug. 30. Eleven board members & 23 guests

were present for the working lunch at the Ayipa Café. The meal was

prepared by the Choctaw Tribal School's Culinary Arts students & staff.

PAB Chair Ray Willis recognized Betty York as the August Outstanding Choctaw Educator.

Betty has been employed by the Tribe for 28 years. She spent 10 years working with the Social Services Program, administered through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, & currently works at the Choctaw Central Dormitory.

She attended elementary school at Standing Pine & graduated from Choctaw Central High School. She attended East Central Community College & earned

a BA Degree in Social Work from Mississippi State University in 1983.

Betty has a daughter, Tia, & three grandchildren.

Roseanna Thompson, Choctaw Language & Cultural Integration Coordinator, told the board her program was awarded a three-year cultural grant. She introduced her education partner, Jason Lewis, along with cultural teachers Renata Morris of Bogue Chitto Elementary, Darlene Vaughn of Conehatta Elementary, Pandora Sockey of Red Water Elementary, Penny Isaac of Standing Pine Elementary, & Melissa Farmer of Tucker Elementary.

...continued next page



LEFT, Pictured is August Outstanding Choctaw Educator Betty York (left) & PAB Chair Ray Willis. **CENTER**, From left, newly elected PAB Co-Chair Roseanna Thompson, PAB Chair Ray Willis & Board Member-At-Large Ann York. **RIGHT**, From left, Tribal Education Department Educational Planner Dr. Bill Brescia, Project Coordinator Lucretia Williams & PAB Chair Ray Willis.

Cultural teachers introduced were, from left, Roseanna Thompson, Pandora Sockey, Penny Isaac, Renata Morris, Darlene Vaughn, & Jason Lewis. Not pictured is Melissa Farmer.



DOECE Hosts Training

The Department of Early Childhood Education (DOECE) hosted an intensive training for all Early Head Start, Head Start teachers & Early Intervention Program staff during the month of July. The training included areas of Child Development, Choctaw Language, Health, Early Intervention, & specific areas such as literacy for infant & toddlers, music with infant & toddlers, working with developmentally delayed infant & toddlers, & practical behavior intervention. Trainers were from the Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension Office, MSU Early Years Network, Department of Chahta Immi, Fire Management, Choctaw Tribal Schools Early Intervention Program, & DOECE staff.

CES Hosts Father, Daughter Banquet

On Thursday, Aug. 25, Conehatta Elementary School (CES) hosted their first father, daughter banquet. Fathers & daughters entered on a "red carpet" that led to a backdrop for picture taking.

After pictures, punch & cupcakes were served while everyone mingled & enjoyed the background music. Attendees then moved to the dining hall area where they were served a meal. After the meal, Cen-



tral High School boy's basketball coach Brent Farmer served as the guest speaker. Conehatta Elementary School Principal Brian Parkman then spoke with the group & showed a video of the book, *Dance Me, Daddy*.

At the conclusion of the video, the fathers & daughters returned to the atrium area for a dance. The night ended with an ice cream buffet as the girls received a "Princess" crown as a keepsake from the event.

Choctaw Adult Education Hosts Graduation On Aug. 25

*Submitted by the
Choctaw Adult
Education Program*

Thursday, August 25, 2016, was a day of celebration & inspiration for those who attended & participated in the Choctaw Adult Education Program's 2015-2016 GED Graduation Ceremony at the Silver Star Convention Center.

Family & friends gathered to honor those who worked diligently to earn their GED diplomas. This was a milestone worthy of honor

Tribal Education Department Project Coordinator Lucretia Williams & Educational Planner Dr. Bill Brescia shared their goal for all programs to work together to increase graduation rates for Choctaw students.

Tribal members, administrators & teachers are encouraged to contact them with grant ideas or thoughts on how to make the school system better.

PAB members elected the following to board positions: Joy Alex, Pearl River Community representative; Ann York, Board Member-At-Large; Ray Willis, 2016-17 PAB Chair; & Roseanna Thompson, 2016-17 PAB Co-Chair.

The board will meet on Oct. 25. For more information, contact William F. Bell at 601-663-7660 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.

& celebration because achieving a GED creates opportunities for these graduates that simply did not exist before.

The theme for this year's ceremony, "*Imagine, Believe, Achieve,*" was an encouraging reminder to have dreams & believe in yourself in order to achieve those dreams.

Guest speakers were Terry Ben, Workforce Development Director; Lola Parkerson, Pearl River Tribal Council member; & Rae Nell Vaughn, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Chief of Staff. Laura John, Adult Education Director, served as emcee.

They encouraged graduates & guests to dream, believe & continue their education so those big dreams can be achieved. They challenged everyone to use this opportunity to build a successful future.

The graduates were then presented a certificate of completion from the Choctaw Adult Education Program by the guest speakers.

Curtis Willis, Sr., of the Spirit of Life Christian Center, provided the invocation & benediction. The graduates, guests, & Choctaw Adult Education staff deeply appreciate their contribution to making this graduation ceremony a very special & moving experience.

However, the most important people attending the graduation ceremo-



Members of the Choctaw Adult Education Class of 2015-2016 include (in no order) Cameron Overland, Emily Shoemake, Justiny Billy, Seth Gentry, Quendal Sam, Cedrony Stephens, Angel Steve, Cathy Thomas, Victoria Meely, Allyson Peters, Heather Tangle, Kyle Wesley, & Mark Jim.

ny were the graduates themselves. It was because of their dedication & diligence in pursuing their GED diplomas that this ceremony was possible.

Victoria Meely, Red Water GED graduate, was the student speaker. In a moving, inspirational, & heartfelt speech, she expressed appreciation for those who helped her along the way, congratulated the other graduates for their achievement, & encouraged everyone to continue learning & to turn negatives into positives.

Each graduate has his or her own remarkable story of success as they worked & struggled in the pursuit of an educational goal: getting a GED diploma. We can be inspired by their achievement because of their diligence, perse-

verance, & dedication as they dreamed, believed, & achieved their goal.

In her speech, Rae Nell Vaughn quoted Muhammad Ali who said, "*If my mind can conceive it, & my heart can believe it—then I can achieve it.*" She further explained that we need to keep moving forward by valuing ourselves & ignoring negativity.

The Choctaw Adult Education program encourages & helps Choctaw people do this. They provide adults who, for whatever reason, were

unable to complete their high school education with an opportunity to achieve educational advancement.

In order to fulfill this purpose, Choctaw Adult Education offers classes in all communities. If you would like to take advantage of this program & complete yours, contact Choctaw Adult Education at the Manpower Training Center by calling 601-650-1756 to find out when class meets in your community.



The U.S. & Choctaw flags were presented by the Choctaw Color Guard & the Southern Pine Singers & Dancers (above) entertained by performing songs & dances of encouragement.

Day of Activities, Fun Held in Choctaw

A day of fun and activities for the whole family was held on Saturday, Sept. 17 in Choctaw.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians hosted their annual Day for Kids event at the Pearl River Amphitheater from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Over 500 participants enjoyed games of bingo, face painting, cake walks, a rock climbing wall, several bounce houses, and prize drawings for each community. Two lucky grand prize drawing winners received brand new bicycles & lunch was provided.

Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Isaac was in attendance to visit with the children and have their pictures taken with her.

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

“This event was a huge success and we are grateful to also have participation from other departmental programs. A big thank you goes to my staff for working together and displaying great teamwork,” said Melissa Martinez, Director of Operations for Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI.

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

From 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Department and Mississippi State University Extension Services hosted the 2016 Choctaw Wildlife Jamboree at Lake Pushmataha as hundreds came out to enjoy a day dedicated to the great outdoors.

Some of the activities included hourly door prizes, conservation booths, rabbitstick throw, bow & arrow shoot, wildlife tasting buffet & chili, canoe & boat rides, wildlife arts & crafts, facepainting, horse back riding, & a family scavenger hunt.

A new attraction to this year’s jamboree was a presentation by Freedom Ranch’s Birds of Prey.

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



Signs of Domestic Violence, Abuse

Submitted by the Family Violence & Victim's Services

Domestic violence & abuse can happen to

anyone, yet the problem is often overlooked, excused, or denied. This is especially true when the abuse is psychological, rather than physical.

Acknowledging signs of an abusive relationship is the first step to ending it. If you recognize the following warning signs & descriptions of abuse, reach out. Help is available.

Understanding Domestic Violence & Abuse

Domestic abuse (spousal abuse) occurs when one person in an intimate relationship or marriage tries to dominate & control the other person. Domestic abuse that includes physical violence is domestic violence.

Domestic violence & abuse are used to gain & maintain total control over you. An abuser doesn't "play fair" & uses fear, guilt, shame, & intimidation to wear you down & keep you under his or her thumb. The abuser may also threaten you, hurt you, or hurt those around you.

Domestic violence & abuse does not discriminate & occurs within all age ranges, ethnic backgrounds, & economic levels. While women are more commonly victimized, men are also abused—especially verbally & emotionally, although sometimes even physically as well.

Recognizing Abuse Is The First Step To Getting Help

Domestic abuse often escalates from threats & verbal abuse to violence. While physical injury

may be the most obvious danger, emotional & psychological consequences of domestic abuse are also severe.

Emotionally abusive relationships can destroy self-worth, lead to anxiety & depression, & make you feel helpless & alone. The first step to breaking free is recognizing the situation is abusive. Once you acknowledge the reality of the abusive situation, then you can get the help you need.

Signs Of An Abusive Relationship

There are many signs of an abusive relationship. The most telling sign is fear of your partner. If you feel like you have to walk on eggshells around your partner—constantly watching what you say & do in order to avoid a blow-up - chances are your relationship is unhealthy & abusive. Other signs may include a partner who belittles you or tries to control you, & feelings of self-loathing, helplessness, & desperation.

To determine whether your relationship is abusive, answer the questions below. The more "yes" answers, the more likely you're in an abusive relationship.

Signs You're In An Abusive Relationship

Your Inner Thoughts & Feelings

Do you:

- feel afraid of your partner much of the time?
- avoid certain topics

out of fear of angering your partner?

- believe you deserve to be hurt or mistreated?
- wonder if you're the one who is crazy?
- feel emotionally numb or helpless?

Your Partner's Belittling Behavior

Does your partner:

- humiliate or yell at you?
- criticize you & put you down?
- treat you so badly that you're embarrassed for your friends, family to see?
- ignore or put down your opinions or accomplishments?
- blame you for their own abusive behavior?
- see you as property or a sex object, rather than as a person?

Your Partner's Violent Behavior or Threats

Does your partner:

- have a bad & unpredictable temper?
- hurt you, or threaten to hurt or kill you?
- threaten to take your children away or harm them?
- threaten to commit suicide if you leave?
- force you to have sex?
- destroy your belongings?

Your Partner's Controlling Behavior

Does your partner:

- act excessively jealous & possessive?
- control where you go or what you do?
- keep you from seeing your friends or family?
- limit your access to money, the phone, or the car?

.....see FVVS, pg. 14



Rockin' Da Rez Held in Choctaw

The Pearl River Amphitheater in Choctaw was rockin' to the sounds of gospel music from local musicians on Friday, Sept. 23. The event, sponsored by the Choctaw Bible Translation Committee, featured area acts such as Nana Frazier & Choir, Caleb Willis, Psalms Trio, Deidre Tubby, Allen Winter, & The Crosbys.

FFVS continued from page thirteen

• constantly check up on you?

Physical Abuse & Domestic Violence

When people talk about domestic violence, they refer to the physical abuse of a spouse or intimate partner. Physical abuse is the use of physical force against someone to injure or endanger that person. Physical assault or battering is a crime, whether it occurs inside or outside the family. The police have the power & authority to protect you from physical attack.

Sexual Abuse Is Physical Abuse

Any situation in which you are forced to participate in unwanted, unsafe, or degrading sexual activity is sexual abuse. Forced sex, even by a spouse or intimate partner with whom you also have consensual sex, is an act of aggression & violence. Furthermore,

people whose partners abuse them physically & sexually are at a higher risk of being seriously injured or killed.

It is still abuse if...

• **Incidents of physical abuse seem minor** when compared to those you have read about, seen on TV, or heard other women talk about. There isn't a "better" or "worse" form of physical abuse; you can be severely injured as a result of being pushed, for example.

• **Incidents of physical abuse have only occurred one or two times in the relationship.** Studies indicate if your spouse/partner has injured you once, it is likely he will continue to physically assault you.

• **Physical assaults stopped when you became passive & gave up your right to express yourself as you desire, move about freely & see others, & make deci-**

sions. It is not a victory if you have to give up your rights as a person & partner in exchange for not being assaulted!

• **There has not been any physical violence.** Many women are emotionally & verbally assaulted. This can be as equally frightening & is often more confusing to try to understand.

Source: *Breaking the Silence Handbook*

Emotional Abuse: It's A Bigger Problem Than You Think

When people think of domestic abuse, they picture battered women physically assaulted. But not all abusive relationships involve violence. Just because you're not battered & bruised doesn't mean you're not being abused. Many men & women suffer from emotional abuse, which is no less destructive. Unfortunately, emotional abuse is often overlooked—

even by the person being abused.

Understanding Emotional Abuse

The aim of emotional abuse is to chip away at your feelings of self-worth & independence. If you're the victim of emotional abuse, you may feel that there is no way out of the relationship, or that without your abusive partner you have nothing.

Emotional abuse includes verbal abuse such as yelling, name-calling, blaming, & shaming. Isolation, intimidation, & controlling behavior also fall under emotional abuse. Abusers who use emotional or psychological abuse often throw in threats of physical violence or other repercussions if you don't do what they want.

You may think physical abuse is far worse than emotional abuse, since physical violence can send you to the hos-

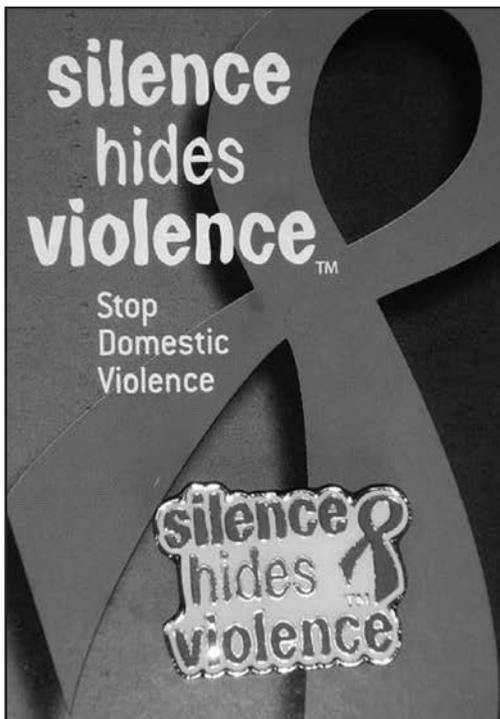
pital & leave you with scars. The scars of emotional abuse are very real, though, & they run deep. In fact, emotional abuse can be just as damaging as physical abuse—sometimes even more so.

Economic/Financial Abuse: A Subtle Form Of Emotional Abuse

An abuser's goal is to control you, & he or she will frequently use money to do so. Economic or financial abuse includes:

- Rigidly controlling your finances
- Withholding money or credit cards
- Making you account for every penny you spend
- Withholding basic necessities (food, clothes, medications, shelter)
- Restricting you to an allowance
- Preventing you from working or choosing

...continued next page



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OCTOBER 2016						Domestic Violence Awareness Month
1 Every 9 seconds in the US a woman is assaulted or beaten.	2 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been physically abused by an intimate	3 In the US an average of 20 people are abused by intimate	4 On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 calls to DV hotlines.	5 72% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner.	6 Between 21-60% of victims of DV lost their jobs due to the abuse.	7 1 in 15 children are exposed to domestic violence each year.
8 90% of children exposed to DV are eyewitnesses to the violence.	9 Victims of DV are at a higher risk of developing addictions to	10 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men in the US have been raped in their lifetime.	11 19.3 million Women in the US have been stalked in their lifetime.	12 76.1% of physical abuse toward older adults is perpetrated by a family member.	13 5.1 million Men in the US have been stalked in their lifetime.	14 Domestic violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime in the US.
15 19% of domestic violence involves a weapon.	16 The presence of a gun in a DV situation increases the risk of	17 Domestic violence affects everyone regardless of age, race, or gender.	18 The cost of domestic violence exceeds \$8.3 billion each year.	19 Only 1 out of every 24 cases of elder abuse is reported.	20 Each year almost 4 million older adults are victims of elder abuse or neglect.	21 Nearly 21% of female high school students have been abused by a
22 13.4% of male high school students have been abused by a partner.	23 A majority of elder sexual abuse cases involve female victims.	24 A 2013 study found that 26% of teens were victims of cyber dating abuse.	25 1 in 4 stalking victims contemplate suicide, and also	26 Approximately 50% of older adults with dementia are mistreated or	27 76% of women murdered by their partner were stalked first.	28 Only 33% of teen victims ever told anyone about their abuse.
29 There is a 30-60% chance that a child who witnesses DV will also be abused.	30 Video cameras or listening devices have been used to stalk 1 in 13 victims.	31 Of all the children sexually abused, the perpetrator is usually the parent	If you or someone you know is being abused, please call Family Violence & Victim's Services at 601-650-1774, or write: MBCI FFVS, P.O. Box 6010, Choctaw, MS 39350			



your own career

- Sabotaging your job (making you miss work, calling constantly)
- Stealing from you or taking your money

Violent & Abusive Behavior Is The Abuser's Choice

Despite what many people believe, domestic violence/abuse is not due to the abuser's loss of control over his or her behavior. In fact, abusive behavior/violence is a deliberate choice made by the abuser in order to control you.

Abusers use tactics to manipulate you & exert their power:

- **Dominance** – Abusive individuals need to feel in charge of the relationship. They will make decisions for you & the family, tell you what to do, & expect you to obey without question. Your abuser may treat you like a servant, child, or even as his or her possession.
- **Humiliation** – An abuser will do everything he or she can to make you feel bad about yourself or defective in some way. After all, if you believe you're worthless & that no one else will want you, you're less likely to leave. Insults, name-calling, shaming, & public put-downs are all weapons of abuse designed to erode your self-esteem & make you feel powerless.
- **Isolation** – In order to increase your dependence on him or her, an abusive partner will cut you off from the outside world. He or she may

SANE-SART continued from page nine

The SANE course, an in-depth 40-hour course with hands-on experiences & supported by the DOJ, is for experienced ED nurses.

Nurses who complete the course are able to perform the nursing/forensic episode of care for the sexual assault victim in the ED.

Completion of both the SANE and Pediatric SANE courses enables nurses to prepare for a certification exam offered through the International Association of Forensic Nurses.

The course was presented in collaboration with the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Department of Health, Office of the Attorney General, University of Mississippi Medical Center, School of Nursing (for the SANE course), and University of Mississippi Medical Center Children's Justice Center (for the Pediatric SANE course).

This is the first year the Pediatric SANE course was offered in Mississippi. The SANE course has been available in Mississippi for the past 15 years.

Both models have been very successful as it provides a nurse with expertise and moves both adult and pediatric patients through the ED in a more efficient way. In cases that go to court, the physician is also freed from testifying while the nurse is specially trained to do so.

Congratulations to Casey Willis, Holly Coburn and Tammy Townsend!



Choctaw SANE-SART Program
A Program of the Department of Family and Community Services
601-663-7796

keep you from seeing family or friends, or even prevent you from going to work or school. You may have to ask permission to do anything, go anywhere, or see anyone.

- **Threats** – Abusers commonly use threats to keep their partners from leaving or to scare them into dropping charges. Your abuser may threaten to hurt or kill you, your children, other family members, or even pets. He or she may also threaten to commit suicide, file false charges against you, or report you to child services.

- **Intimidation** – Your abuser may use a variety of intimidation tactics designed to scare you into submission. Such tactics include making threatening looks or gestures, smashing things in front of you, destroying property, hurting your pets, or putting weapons on display. The clear message is that if you don't obey, there will be

violent consequences.

- **Denial & blame** – Abusers are very good at making excuses for the inexcusable. They will blame their abusive & violent behavior on a bad childhood, a bad day, & even the victims of their abuse. Your abusive partner may minimize the abuse or deny that it occurred. He or she will commonly shift the responsibility on to you: Somehow, his or her violent & abusive behavior is your fault.

Abusers Control Their Behavior

- **Abusers pick & choose whom to abuse.** They don't insult, threaten, or assault everyone in their life who gives them grief. Usually, they save their abuse for the people closest to them, the ones they claim to love.

- **Abusers carefully choose when & where to abuse.** They control themselves until no one else is around to see their

abusive behavior. They may act like everything is fine in public, but lash out instantly as soon as you're alone.

- **Abusers are able to stop their abusive behavior when it benefits them.** Most abusers are not out of control. In fact, they're able to immediately stop their abusive behavior when it's to their advantage to do so (for example, when the police show up or their boss calls).

- **Violent abusers usually direct their blows where they won't show.** Rather than acting out in a mindless rage, many physically violent abusers carefully aim their kicks & punches where bruises & marks won't show.

Cycle Of Violence In Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse falls into a cycle of violence:

- **Abuse** – Your abusive partner lashes out with aggressive, belittling, or violent behav-

ior. Abuse is a power play designed to show you "who is boss."

- **Guilt** – After abusing you, your partner feels guilt, but not over what he's done. He's more worried about the possibility of being caught & facing consequences for his abusive behavior.

- **Excuses** – Your abuser rationalizes what he or she has done. The person may come up with a string of excuses or blame you for the abusive behavior—anything to avoid taking responsibility.

- **"Normal" behavior** – The abuser does everything he can to regain control & keep the victim in the relationship. He may act as if nothing has happened or may turn on the charm. This peaceful honeymoon phase may give the victim hope the abuser has really changed this time.

- **Fantasy & planning** – Your abuser begins to ...continued next page

Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges Through Legal Education

The Mississippi Center for Legal Services (MCLS), a provider of free legal aid since the late 1970's, has been a proud provider of free civil legal services to members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians for the past three years through a grant by the Legal Services Corporation out of Washington, D.C.

MCLS's free legal aid is available to anybody who meets certain low income eligibility requirements based on the federal poverty level.

They provide assistance in areas such as collection defense, education issues, divorce, adoptions, deeds, guardianships, custody matters, preparation of Last Wills & Testaments, Social Security benefits, &

other areas.

MCLS does not handle criminal matters, personal injuries, workers compensation, or other matters restricted by the Legal Services Corporation.

If you have a legal issue, contact Choctaw Legal Defense & schedule an appointment to meet with an MCLS intake worker. MCLS staff is usually available for intake assistance on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Choctaw Legal Defense offices.

Persons can call the MCLS Meridian office toll free at 1-888-631-9161, or the call center at 1-800-498-1804.

MCLS also provides information on certain topics that benefit Tribal members. MCLS hosts a

Community Law Day with Choctaw Legal Defense during the Spring and Fall each year and invites persons to come learn about their legal rights so they will less likely stumble into a legal pitfall.

The next Community Law Day is Thursday, October 27, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Golden Moon VIP Room. Attorneys & others will talk about issues, such as children & family services, new adoption laws, probate of Wills, bankruptcy, & blood quantum issues. Everyone is invited.

Representatives will also meet with individuals in private to discuss their particular legal issue. In addition, MCLS will provide a continental breakfast, lunch and door prizes.

FVVS continued from page fifteen

fantasize about abusing you again. He spends a lot of time thinking about what you've done wrong & how he'll make you pay. Then he makes a plan for turning the fantasy of abuse into reality.

• **Set-up** – Your abuser sets you up & puts a plan in motion, creating a situation where he can justify abusing you.

Your abuser's apologies & loving gestures in between the episodes of abuse can make it difficult to leave. He may make you believe you are the only person who can help him, that things will be different this time, & that he truly loves you. However, the dangers of staying are very real.

Source: *Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service*

Recognizing Warning Signs Of Domestic Violence & Abuse

It's impossible to know what goes on behind closed doors, but there are signs & symptoms of emotional abuse & domestic violence. If you witness any warning signs of abuse, take them very seriously.

Warning Signs Of Domestic Abuse

People who are being abused may:

- Seem afraid or anxious to please their partner;
- Go along with everything their partner says & does;
- Check in often with their partner to report where they are & what

they're doing;

- Receive frequent, harassing phone calls from their partner;
- Talk about their partner's temper, jealousy, or possessiveness.

Warning Signs Of Physical Violence

People who are being physically abused may:

- Have frequent injuries, with the excuse of "accidents";
- Frequently miss work, school, or social occasions without explanation;
- Dress in clothing designed to hide bruises or scars (e.g. wearing long sleeves in the summer or sunglasses indoors).

Warning Signs Of Isolation

People who are being isolated by their abuser may:

- Be restricted from seeing family & friends;
- Rarely go out in public without their partner;
- Have limited access to money, credit cards, or the car.

Psychological Warning Signs Of Abuse

People who are being abused may:

- Have very low self-esteem, even if they used to be confident;
- Show major personality changes (e.g. an outgoing person becomes withdrawn);
- Be depressed, anxious, or suicidal.

Speak Up If You Suspect Domestic

...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



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 (1-855-484-3739)
 or visit www.wetip.com

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- *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!**

Violence Or Abuse

DO'S & DON'TS

Do:

- Ask if something is wrong;
- Express concern;
- Listen & validate;
- Offer help;
- Support his/her decisions.

Don't:

- Wait for him/her to come to you;
- Judge or blame;
- Pressure him/her;
- Give advice;
- Place conditions on your support.

Adapted from: NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

If you suspect someone you know is being abused, speak up! If you're hesitating—telling yourself that it's none of your business, you might be wrong, or the person might not want to talk about it—keep in mind that expressing your concern will let the person know that you care & may even save his or her life.

Talk to the person in private & let him or her know that you're concerned. Point out the things you've noticed that make you worried. Tell the person that you're there, whenever he or she feels ready to talk. Reassure the person that you'll keep whatever is said between the two of you, & let him or her know that you'll help in any way you can.

Remember, abusers are very good at controlling & manipulating their victims. People who have been emotionally abused or battered

are depressed, drained, scared, ashamed, & confused. They need help to get out, yet they've often been isolated from their family & friends. By picking up on the warning signs & offering support, you can help them escape an

abusive situation & begin healing.

From HelpGuide.org

If you or someone you

know is a victim of domestic violence & need help, contact Family Violence & Victim's Services at 601-650-1774.

**DEPARTMENT OF
CHAHTA IMMI NEWS**

Medallion Workshop

On Friday, Aug. 6, the Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) sponsored a medallion workshop, under the coordination of Lorena Alex, at the Standing Pine Facility Building from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The workshop started with five participants but throughout the day more interested tribal members showed up. Eventually, the work-

shop turnout was wonderful.

Consultants included Nancy Vaughn, Everett Sam & Arita McMillan. CAP staff members Trudy Jimmie, Lorena Alex & May McGeisey also provided instruction.

Anita Winstead of Fashions & Fabrics was also there with supplies & materials available for purchase.

Blow Gun, Dart



ABOVE, *During the blow gun & dart making workshop, Jameson Williams (seated left) watches the participants as they remove impurities from the cotton. In the background, participants are having target practice with their completed blow gun.*

RIGHT, *Everett Sam (center) observes a student working on her medallion.*



Workshop

For educational purposes on Choctaw history, a blow gun & dart workshop was sponsored by the CAP in the Tucker Community on Aug. 9.

The cultural activity was coordinated by Casey Bigpond with consultants Elizabeth John of Red Water, Garrison Joe of Pearl River & Jamieson Williams of Conehatta. Youth Opportunity Program participants DeAundre Williams & Emerson Billy also assisted with the class.

Blow guns & darts were used for small game hunting to supplement food for Choctaws in the past. In modern times, only a few Choctaws still create the blow guns & darts for hunting. Most are used for demonstration & recreational purposes.

Headband Making Workshop in Bogue Homa

The CAP staff traveled to the Bogue Homa Community on Tuesday, Aug. 16 to conduct a headband making workshop. Twenty participants took part in the workshop. Trudy Jimmie, May McGeisey, Casey Bigpond, consultant Rowena Willis, & Lorena Alex served as instructors for the session.

Choctaw Drum Making

Over the past several months, the CAP hosted a series of Choctaw Drum making workshops for tribal members. The workshops are a part of the program's special revitalization effort called the "Choctaw Drum Project."

The most recent drum making activity was conducted on Aug. 22. Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond coordinated the event & was assisted by

see DCI NEWS, pg. 18



CAP Community Outreach Coordinator Lorena Alex (standing) shows Cheyenne Willis how to sew diamonds on her headband.



**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

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

IN MEMORIAM

**VICKIE ANN STEVE
FARMER**

Funeral service for Vickie Ann Steve Farmer, 51, was held on Saturday, September 10, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker.

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

Mrs. Farmer passed away on Sept. 7 at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Jackson.

She was a teacher assistant for over 20 years

at Conehatta Elementary then Tucker Elementary School. She enjoyed beading & being with family & friends.

Survivors include her husband, Bill Farmer, Sr.; daughter, Alexis Farmer; sons, Arrion Williamson & Bill Farmer, Jr.; mother, Nancy Willis; father, Robert Steve; sisters, Linda Martinez, Kathy McMillan & Dollianne Willis; brothers, Gary Chickaway, Edward Humble, Brian Willis, & Rodney Steve; & a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, rela-

tives, & friends.

**RITA PEARL BILLY
STEVE**

Funeral service for Rita Pearl Billy Steve, 60, was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, from the Red Water Facility Building. Rev. Jason Martin & Rev. Mike Ainsworth officiated.

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

Mrs. Steve passed away on Sept. 9 at Neshoba County General Hospital.

She enjoyed being with family & cooking.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Mable Billy; an infant brother, Earl Billy, Jr.; grandparents; a grandson; five aunts; four uncles; & a nephew.

Survivors include her husband, Peter Steve; daughters, Melina John & Marion Comby; son, Landon John; father, Earl Billy; sisters, Beatrice Steve, Brenda Isaac & Joan Thompson; a brother, Alexander Billy; an aunt; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives & friends.

...continued next page

DCI NEWS continued from page seventeen

Garland Bell, Jr., who served as instructor.

The drum project has been made possible

through a special funding awarded to Cultural Affairs in November 2015 by the MBCI Trib-

al Administration under the leadership of Chief Phylliss J. Anderson.



ABOVE, Taylor York (left) & Alan Martin thin out the interior part of their drum shells.

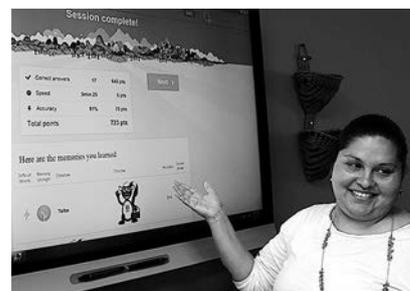
RIGHT, Choctaw Language Teachers & An-nopa Tikbishtiya Grant team are learning about the Memrise Online Language Activity. Pictured left is Renata Morris as she gives a demonstration of the Memrise activity. Right, the language program also provided teachers with

Orientation For Choctaw Language Teachers

The Choctaw Language Program partnered with the Division of Schools to host an orientation on Aug 29-31 for Choctaw Language Teachers. Teachers included Renata Morris of Bogue Chitto

(*Bók Chito*) Elementary; Penny Isaac of Standing Pine (*Tiak Hikíya*) Elementary, Pandora Sockey of Red Water (*Oka Homma*) Elementary, & Darlene Vaughn of Conehatta (*Koni Hata*) Elementary.

Each teacher has their own Choctaw Language classroom & will serve Pre-K, Kindergarten, second grade, & third grade classes for the 2016-2017 school year.



chanting sticks & rabbit sticks so teachers will be able to teach the language using authentic Choctaw materials.

SCOTT GRADY JOHN

Funeral service for Scott Grady John, 46, was held on Monday, September 19, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Bro. Willie Solomon, Jr. & Bro. Raymond Johnson officiated.

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

Mr. John passed away on Sept. 15 at his residence in Memphis, TN.

He was preceded in death by his parents,

Grady John & Nettie Solomon John; a sister, Megan John; & a nephew.

Survivors include his son, Alex Pitsch; sisters, Sylvia John, Sandra Thompson & Shelly Bell; brothers, Willie Solomon, Sr. & Jerry John; & a host of relatives & friends.

SHERYL L. MARTINEZ

Funeral service for Sheryl L. Martinez, 52, was held on Friday, September 23, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Augustine Palimattam officiated.

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

Mrs. Martinez passed away on Sept. 20 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She enjoyed socializing, listening to music, dancing, beading, playing bingo, & fishing with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tinsley & Lonie Davis Tubby; sisters, Angela Tubby, Matilda Tubby & Valarie Tubby; & a half-brother, Danny Anderson, Sr.

Survivors include her husband, Vincent Martinez; sisters, Jennifer McMillan & Janice Pedraza; a brother, Harold Tubby; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

SUSIE HENRY

Funeral service for Susie Henry, 97, was held on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Bro. Gary Chickaway & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Ms. Henry passed away on Sept. 24 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She was a Baptist by faith & enjoyed canning preserves, gardening, fishing, quilting, & collecting recipies.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Albert & Martha Henry; sisters, Beulah Tubby, Nettie Henry & Katie McKinney; half-sister, Gussie Henry; brothers, Elijah Henry, Melvin Henry & I.D. Henry; grandparents; a niece; & two great-nieces.

Survivors include her nieces, Martha Henry

& Mavis Hickman; & a host of great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great nieces, great-great nephews, & relatives.

HAZEL WILLIS

Funeral service for Hazel Frazier Willis, 82, was held on Thursday, September 29, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Indian Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Ms. Willis passed away on Sept. 26 at her residence.

She was a member of Bogue Chitto Indian Baptist Church. She was a nurse's assistant then a cook at Pearl River & Bogue Chitto Elementary Schools. She enjoyed cooking, attending gatherings & listening & singing Choctaw hymns.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clint & Josie Tubby Frazier; a daughter, Cindy Willis Mingo; a son, Vandell Willis; sisters, Ida Mae Frazier & Inez Henry; & a brother, Gaston Frazier.

.....see OBITS, pg. 20

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
130 Campus Drive
Couchhatta, MS 39057

Sunday

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

Wednesday

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

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

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601-650-1612.

Happy Belated Big Birthday to my sister, Shirley Shoemaker, on June 9. We love you & thanks for always being there for us. From your sisters & Harold Jr., Hilbert, Katie, Derrick Sr., Devon, & Paneshia.



Happy Belated Birthday to Frankie Farmer on July 4! From your wife of four years, Stephania Farmer.

Happy Birthday to "Sudie Booty." Don't over do it "sis." Haha, much love though! From Mary & Derek Thompson.

Happy Belated Birthday to April D. Lewis on Aug. 14, from your husband & family.

Happy Belated Birthday to my son, Mckenley L. Cotton, on Sept. 4. Love from Moma Karene... We wish a Happy Birthday to our brother, Mckenley! From Jon Kenzie & April, your uncle, & the Cotton family in B.C. We love you!

Happy Birthday to my two grandsons, Danny Ray on Sept. 19 & Rodney Ray, Jr., on Sept. 26, from Grandma Morris.



Places Fourth In Softball Tournament

Congratulations to the MS Chata Ohoyos who placed fourth in the women's softball tournament in Tahlequah, OK. Team members include, front row from left, Brooklyn Bell, Caylin Nickey, Danita Willis, Renaysia Polk, Elishia Thompson; back row, Savannah Galvan, Lila Willis, Thomasina Lindsey, Tamaran Johnson, coach Mary Jim, Jada Sockey, & coach Norma Willis. Not pictured is Laka Anderson.

OBITS continued from page nineteen

Survivors include a son, Timmy Willis; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

CURTIS RAY BELL

Funeral service for Curtis Ray Bell, 43, was held on Friday, September 30, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Indian 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. Bell passed away on Sept. 15 at his residence in Clearlake Oaks, California.

He enjoyed playing washers, fishing & being with his family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Royce Bell, Sr.; sister, Mary Bell; & a grandmother, Mary Wickson.

Survivors include daughters, Ariel Bell & Alma Frazier; mother, Alma Bell; sisters, Debra Bell, Evalene Clem-

**CHOCTAW
COMMUNITY
NEWS**

SEPTEMBER 2016

© 2016 MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

**A ROUGH
TERRAIN MUD
OBSTACLE
COURSE**

DATE:
Saturday, October 29, 2016

TIME:
8:00 AM
(7:00 Registration/Check-In)

LOCATION:
Lake Pushmataha
(Goat Ranch Road Entrance)

COST:
\$20 - Ages 10 and Up!

***Brighter Minds for
Healthier Bodies
5k Mud Run***

Helpful Hints:

- Wear clothing and shoes you are willing to get wet and very dirty!
- Bring an extra change of clothes and shoes for your drive home.
- Bring a big trash bag for your race clothes and shoes.
- Jewelry and accessories should be worn/used at your own risk.
- We know it's Halloween. If you dress up be prepared to get your costume dirty... It's a mud run!

FILL OUT REGISTRATION FORM AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO:

VIA MAIL:
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
101 INDUSTRIAL ROAD
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

IN PERSON:
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
(OLD MUSEUM BLDG.)
601.663.7532

ONLINE:
[https://racesonline.com/
events/2016-choctaw-challenge-
mud-run](https://racesonline.com/events/2016-choctaw-challenge-mud-run)

mons & Evelyn Bell; a brother, Royce Bell, Jr.; four grandchildren; a companion, Jeri Thom-

as; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.