



## Chief, Tribe Recognized During State Address

(JACKSON, Miss.) – Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant gave his State-of-the-State address during the third week of legislative session and also highlighted the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Chief Phyliss J. Anderson in his comments. Governor Bryant’s speech outlined the three-month legislative session and also marked Mississippi’s bicenten-

nial celebration. “Like most nations and states, Mississippi has had trials and tribulations that cannot be forgotten or excused but, we also have a rich history that should be celebrated by us collectively. We were first inhabited by Native Americans who continue to preserve their culture. We are joined tonight by my dear friend who leads the original and



ABOVE, Chief Anderson with Governor Phil Bryant. RIGHT, Chief Anderson & the Tribe were recognized during the State-of-the-State address at the Capital.

first people of this state, the Chief of the noble .....see **SPEECH**, pg. 8



## IHS-Nashville Area Honors Officials, CHC Employees

Tribal leaders and health care employees were recognized during the 2016 Indian Health Services (IHS)–Nashville Area Honor Awards Ceremony at the Hermitage Golf Course and Club House in Old Hickory, TN on January 12, 2017.

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ Chief Phyliss J. Anderson

was the recipient of the Nashville Area Director’s Award for Excellence for her selfless act as a Tribal Health Advocate “to hold tribal shares harmless to other tribes as not to dilute healthcare for the good of all.”

.....see **HONORS**, pg. 11

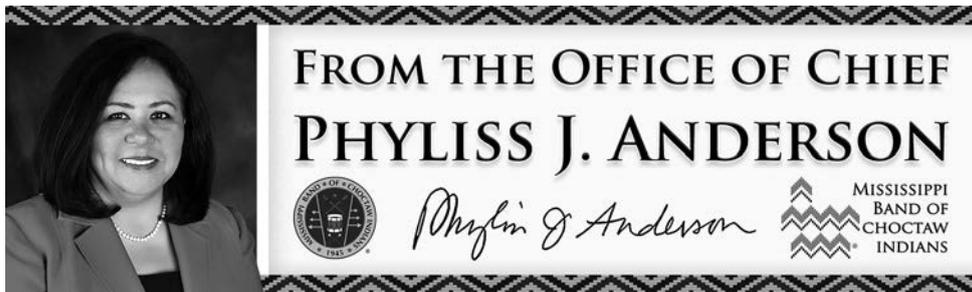


In attendance at the awards ceremony were Chief Phyliss J. Anderson (left picture) & Beverly Terry (right picture) with their awards from Martha Ketcher, Area Director, IHS-Nashville Office (pictured left), & Mark Skinner, Executive Officer, IHS-Nashville Office.

## Participates in Parade

2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan, Teen Club members of the Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI & Pearl River Resort participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on Saturday, January 14 in downtown Philadelphia.





Halito!  
It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone! This is a time when many of us pause to reflect on the events of the previous year and start making goals and plans for the new year.

I am proud of the many accomplishments we made in 2016, and I am excited about the achievements we will make in 2017.

As always, I appreciate all of you for your prayers, well wishes, words of encouragement, input, dedication and hard work. Our Tribe's success is largely due to your invaluable contribution. Thank you!

has begun at our Choctaw Tribal Schools. I want to encourage all of our students to work hard and give their best effort every day.

Parents and guardians, I ask that you spend time with your children after school and ask them about their day and guide them as they work on their homework or on a project. We have many bright students who may simply need to be inspired to reach their full potential.

I thank our teachers, support staff and administrators for all you do to ensure our Tribal schools are safe and nurturing learning environments for our students.

the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians traveled to Washington, D.C. to witness the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump.

The peaceful transition of power from one presidential administration to another is part of the great democracy we live in. I am pleased that representatives from our Tribe were on hand to see this historic event.

I am very grateful to former President Barack Obama for his strong support of MBCI and Indian Country. I look forward to building a meaningful partnership with the new Trump administration.

**PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION**

On Friday, January 20th, a delegation from

**TOYS FOR CHAHTA ALLA OSI TOURNAMENT**

I want to thank everyone who participated in the 12th Annual Toys for Chahta Alla Osi tournament December 8-10, 2016.

Whether you played in the tournament, or donated money or a new toy, you helped our Department of Public Safety carry out their mission of providing toys to children in need. The generosity of our people makes me proud.

The Tribal Administration team was the winner in the 40 and Over division, and

Recreation was the All Ages division winner. Congratulations to the winners, and thank you again to all who participated and gave donations.

**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

I want to once again congratulate Mitzi Reed, Director of the Tribe's Wildlife and Parks Department, on being named the 2016 Employee of the Year.

Mitzi is very knowledgeable and passionate about her work and loves to be out in the field in the middle of the action. She is a strong proponent of wildlife conservation and educating the public on how to be good stewards of the great outdoors.

She does not shy away from the challenges of her job and continually works to improve upon her already-stellar job performance. Congratulations Mitzi on this well-deserved honor!

**UPCOMING SCHOOL SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

Our Choctaw Central High School Warriors and Lady Warriors basketball and soccer teams are currently in the middle of their seasons.

The girls' basketball team is looking for another chance to head for the Big House. Playoffs will be in February.

Our soccer teams are playing their district games, with the Lady Warriors and Warriors fighting hard to be in the

top ranks in the district. I will continue to follow up with more details on how they are doing in the next issue. I am proud of our athletes' determination and efforts to be the best they can be.

I encourage everyone to come out to the games and show your support to our players. **GO WARRIORS AND LADY WARRIORS!!!**

The Choctaw Tribal Schools Tribal basketball tournament will be held January 23-27, 2017, hosted by Bogue Chitto Elementary School. We hope you will be out there to cheer on our young athletes as they vie for the title of district champs.

**NASA TOURNAMENT**

Our Tribe was proud to host the annual Native American Sports Association's (NASA) basketball tournament here on the Choctaw Reservation January 12-14, 2017.

We had a record number of teams from here and from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, Iroquois Nations and the Seneca Nation of Indians.

We all look forward to spending time with our fellow Natives from near and far and to play a friendly and competitive game of basketball. I thank Recreation

**...continued next page**

**CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS**

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should

be addressed to:

**COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM**

**P.O. BOX 6010**

**CHOCTAW, MS 39350**

**TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565**

*Brian C. Willis .....Communications Manager*

*Taryn Carey .....Communications Writer*

*Darron Tubby .....Communications Writer*

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

Director Jerod Thompson and his hard-working staff for making this tournament a big success.

**CLOSING**

As we look ahead to this new year, we have many things to be thankful for. I am pleased at the progress we have

made recently and in the past few years, and I believe we can achieve even greater success in the coming months.

There are several proj-

ects in the works, and I will share more details in future issues. To all of you, may this new year be full of joy, peace, success and prosperity!

Many Blessings,

*Phyllis J. Anderson*

Phyllis J. Anderson,  
Tribal Chief

# 2017 NASA Basketball Tournament Champions, Runner-Ups



Women's Division Champion - #WeGotGame (Choctaw)



Women's Division Runner-Up - We Still Got Game (Cherokee)



Women's Legends Division Champion - Choctaw Legends Lady Hoops



Women's Legends Division Runner-Up - Xtreme (Choctaw)



Men's Division Champion - Native Soldiers (Seminole)



Men's Division Runner-Up - #VS (Choctaw)



Men's Legends Division Champion - Fly's Guys (Cherokee)



Men's Legends Division Runner-Up - Seminoles



# SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM CHIEF PHYLISS J. ANDERSON



I am writing to provide important information to you regarding a supplemental budget resolution for FY2017 that was passed in a Regular Tribal Council meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. I presented CHO 17-031 "A Resolution to Increase Fiscal Year 2017 Budget for Tribal Operations and to Authorize the Use of Settlement Funds Received from the *Ramah Navajo Chapter et al. v. Jewell* Class Action Lawsuit." The resolution was passed by the Council in a 10-7 vote.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians was a member of a class action lawsuit that resulted in a settlement in the case of *Navajo Chapter et al. v. Jewell* to recover unpaid or underpaid contract support costs owed by the Federal government to Indian tribes and tribal organizations that paid for these costs out-of-pocket.

I spent several hours with Council members on two separate days, January 5th and 6th, seeking input and discussing the plan on the proposed Resolution and the use of the additional dollars. On January 10th, the following submitted budget was passed by the tribal council.

Pearl River Elementary School	\$6,000,000
Per Capita Income Distribution	\$3,270,000
Pearl River Infant & Toddler Center	\$3,000,000
Standing Pine Day Care Center	\$3,000,000
Community Housing Projects	\$2,000,000
Land Purchases	\$ 575,000
Electronic Voting Project	\$ 90,000
Recreation Football Project	\$ 65,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,000,000</b>

This supplemental budget addresses vitally important and long-standing needs. Leaders must look to the future and provide for the next generations of Choctaws - our grandchildren and their grandchildren!

As we all know, there is a great need for upgrades at some of our educational facilities. Pearl River Elementary School is in need of expansion. The school, built in 1990 for a student population of 350, now houses 618 students with 15 portable classrooms! The school is not eligible for the BIA construction assistance. The Infant and Toddler Center in Pearl River and the Daycare Center in Standing Pine are other facilities of great need. We will provide funds from this settlement for the planning, design and construction of new buildings to provide important education and care for our children.

A one-time per capita income distribution to tribal members (\$300 per member) will be added to the normal distribution of \$500 in July 2017 for a total of \$800 to be distributed. I am happy we are able to share a portion of these funds with our tribal members.

My administration is committed to building new housing in every Choctaw community for our young and growing tribal population so we will make an important investment in the Community Housing Project. The remainder of the settlement funds is allocated for land purchases, an electronic voting project and installment of a Tribal Recreation Pee-Wee Football League.

I know these projects will provide great benefits for all tribal members as we look forward to building stronger futures for our communities. Again, I express my sincere appreciation for the continued support of my administration.

Thank you.

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson

# LOOKING BACK AT 2016



### Tribe Participates in Inauguration Parade

The Tribe participated in the 2016 Inauguration Parade of Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant on Jan. 12 in downtown Jackson.

### FLL Tournament Winners

The Choctaw Tribal Schools held the 14th Annual FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Tournament on Jan. 23 at the Pearl River Elementary School (PRES) Gymnasium. Champion's Award recipient LEGO® Warriors of PRES represented the Choctaw Tribal Schools at the FLL Mississippi Championship in Vicksburg.

### Lady Warriors, Choctaws Win CTS Tournament

The Choctaw Central Middle School Lady Warriors and Conehatta Elementary School Choctaws claimed this year's Choctaw Tribal Schools basketball championships on Jan. 28. The Lady Warriors defeated the Conehatta Lady Choctaws 55-24 for the girls title while the Choctaws topped the Warriors 50-40 for the boys championship.

### CCHS Soccer Teams Make Playoffs

The Choctaw Central High School soccer teams earned a berth in the girls & boys Class 1A-2A-3A playoffs. The Lady Warriors (17-3-1) claimed their fourth consecutive division title & made it to the second round of the playoffs before being defeated by South Pontotoc 3-0 on Jan. 30. The Warriors (9-8) made the playoffs for the first time & were defeated in the first round to Independence 4-1 on Jan. 26.

### Dixon wins 2016 CTS Spelling Bee

Kaisen Dixon, fifth grade student at Pearl River Elementary School, was the grand champion speller of the 22nd Annual Choctaw Tribal Schools District-Wide Spelling Bee on Feb. 4.

### Anderson Appointed To Key NACIE Post

President Barack Obama announced on Feb. 19 the appointment of Chief Phyliss J. Anderson to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE).

### CHC Celebrates One Year Of Operation

The staff of the Choctaw Health Center celebrated their first year in operation at their current location at 210 Hospital Circle off New Frog Level Road on March 10.

### Lady Warriors Conclude Memorable Season At Final

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors saw

an 11-point halftime lead evaporate in the second half of the MHSAA Class 3A girls state basketball championship on March 12 as the Booneville Lady Blue Devils stunned the Lady Warriors 58-49 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

### Tribe Mourns Passing of Councilman Ben

The Tribe remembered the legacy of Choctaw Tribal Council member Harrison Ben, 81, during funeral services on April 16 at the Standing Pine Community Gymnasium. Ben passed away on April 9.

### Programs Host Pow Wow For Victim Support

April was observed as Sexual Assault Awareness Month as the Choctaw SANE-SART Program, in collaboration with the Choctaw Public Safety Program and Family Violence & Victim's Services, hosted the Masala Chi I Hilha/Dance to Healing Pow Wow on April 23 at the Pearl River Recreational Field.

### Breakfast of Champions

On May 11, Chief Anderson hosted a Breakfast of Champions with the CCHS Unified Basketball Team. The team captured gold medals in the 5-on-5 basketball tournament as they represented Region 18 in the 2016 Spring State Games for Special Olympics Mississippi on April 2 in Jackson.

### CCHS Hosts 2016 Graduation Ceremony

Choctaw Central High School hosted their commencement ceremony for the Class of 2016 on May 17 at the Silver Star Convention Center. Valedictorian and STAR Student honors went to Nicholas McMillian as Emilee Thames was named Salutatorian.

### S&P Raises CRDE's Bond Rating

Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise (CRDE), a business enterprise of the Tribe, announced on June 10 that Standard and Poor's Ratings Services has upgraded their respective ratings of CRDE's issuer credit rating, senior secured issue rating and senior notes rating.

### New Press Box Opens at CCHS

The Tribe held a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 15 for a newly-constructed press box and concession stand, pavilion and bathroom facility at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School.

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**Pearl River Youth Wins State Games Stickball Tournament**

The Pearl River youth stickball team (ages 9-12) claimed gold medals in the 2016 State Games of Mississippi Stickball Tournament over Oka Homma 3-2 at Warrior Stadium on June 18. Oka Homma received silver medals & Koni Hata Osi claimed bronze medals with a win over the Warriors in the consolation game.

**Supreme Court Deadlocked, Ruling Stands in Favor of Tribe**

On June 23, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in the case of *Dolgenercorp, Inc. v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians* (13-1496) announcing that the Court was equally divided and unable to reach a majority ruling in the case. The result is that the judgment of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in favor of the Tribe is affirmed. At issue in the case was whether the Mississippi Choctaw Tribal Court may hear and decide a civil lawsuit brought by Choctaw Tribal members against Dolgenercorp, Inc. ("Dollar General"), a corporation which owns and operates the Dollar General retail store located on Choctaw Indian Reservation lands.

**Halito Dollar Store Opens at Choctaw Town Center**

The Tribe celebrated the opening of the newest Tribal member-owned business. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new Halito Dollar Store on June 23 at the Choctaw Town Center. The store is owned and managed by Mark John of Philadelphia.

**10th Annual Unity Walk/Run**

Players representing Choctaw stickball teams participating in this year's World Series Stickball converged in Choctaw on June 25 as part of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians and Diabetes Prevention Program's 10th Annual Unity Walk/Run.

**CYCC Members Complete Program**

Fourteen members of the Choctaw Youth Conservation Corps (CYCC) completed a four-week program of conservation work at the Nanih Waiya cave mound on July 1. The CYCC members, all high school students, participated in hands-on activities and natural resources profession oriented classes. Participants also learned about Choctaw culture with the help of the Department of Chahta Immi's Cultural Affairs program.

**Sockey Sworn-In As Councilman**

Richard Sockey was officially sworn-in as Standing Pine representative to the Choctaw

Tribal Council during a regular call meeting on Tuesday, July 12. Sockey won a special election on June 7 to fulfill the unexpired term of the late councilman Harrison Ben who passed away on April 9.

**WSS Champions Crowned**

The 2016 World Series Stickball (WSS) brought forth exciting stickball action as part of the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. The following teams were crowned champion of their respective divisions: Pearl River (mens); Oka Homma Ohoyo (womens); Bok Cito (men's 35-over); Pearl River (Pushmataha Division, ages 10-13); and Koni Hata Himintah (Tulli Okchi Ishko Division, ages 14-17).

**WSS Stickball All-Star Game Held Aug. 9**

The 4th Annual All-Star Stickball Games were held on Aug. 9 at Warrior Stadium. Fichik Malata Ohoyo (Shining Star) defeated Fichik Cito Ohoyo (Big Star) 6-3 in the women's game. In the men's contest, Fichik Cito defeated Fichik Malata 6-2.

**Tribe Observes Nanih Waiya Day**

Tribal members and guests gathered on the grounds of the Nanih Waiya mound in Winston County on Aug. 19 to commemorate the restoration of the mound and cave sites back to the Tribe.

**Pearl River Resort Opens New Printing Company**

The Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise (CRDE), a business enterprise of the Tribe, held a grand opening ceremony on Sept. 15 for Pearl River Graphics Printing in Choctaw. PRGP is a specialized printing company that was designed to service individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations locally and across the state.

**Day of Activities, Fun Held in Choctaw**

A day of fun and activities was held on Sept. 17 in Choctaw. The Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI hosted their annual Day for Kids event at the Pearl River Amphitheater while the Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Department and Mississippi State University Extension Services hosted the Choctaw Wildlife Jamboree at Lake Pushmataha.

**Tribe Receives Language Grants**

The Tribe received two highly beneficial Federal grant awards to preserve and promote the use of the Choctaw language in the

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Tribal School System and in the Choctaw communities. The Tribe received a total of \$2.4M to expand its operation of the Choctaw Language Program in the Tribal Schools for the next five years.

**PRES Students At Final Harvest Of White House Kitchen Garden**

Two students from Pearl River Elementary School had the opportunity to visit the White House & meet President Barack Obama & First Lady Michelle Obama. Fourth graders Rhiannon Willis & Ajay Lewis worked alongside the first lady picking fruits & vegetables in her final harvest of the White House Kitchen Garden on the south part of the White House lawn on Oct. 6.

**DOECE Hosts Green Corn Festival**

The 25th Annual Green Corn Festival, sponsored by the Department of Early Childhood Education, was held on Oct. 14 at the Pearl River Amphitheater. The event was established so Choctaw customs would continue to survive and bring about the appreciation of the culture.

**Chief Anderson Named ECCC Alumna of the Year**

Chief Anderson (Class of 1994) was one of four alumni to receive recognition at East Central Community College's 2016 Homecoming celebration on Oct. 15.

**Area Teams Bring Home State Softball Titles**

Tribal student athletes brought home state championships to their respective high schools in the 2016 MHSAA Slow-Pitch Softball Championships on Oct. 22. Choctaw Central claimed the Class 3A title as they swept Mooreville, Newton County won the Class 4A title over West Lauderdale and Neshoba Central won the Class 5A/6A title as they swept George County.

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

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

**CRDE Announces Debt Reduction Strategy, Refinancing Transaction**

Chief Anderson announced on Nov. 16 the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise Board paid off its outstanding bond debt and

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

**Tribe Hosts Annual Thanksgiving Feast**

Hundreds of Tribal members, guests and dignitaries were in attendance at the 2016 Reservation-Wide Thanksgiving Feast on Nov. 8 at the Silver Star Convention Center.

**Veterans Honored At Parade**

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians hosted the 14th Annual Choctaw Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 10. This year's theme was "The Persian Gulf War: Operations Desert Storm & Desert Shield."

**New Facility Opens In Henning**

The Tribe hosted a ribbon cutting/grand opening celebration for a newly-constructed multi-purpose facility building in Henning, Tenn., on Nov. 19. Following the official opening, a community-wide feast was held to highlight the celebration for the day.

**Tribe Holds Tree Lighting Ceremony**

The Tribe hosted the Tribal Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on the grounds of the Choctaw Tribal Office complex on Dec. 1.

**McMillan Assumes Princess Duties**

Autumn Diane McMillan assumed the rights, obligations & commitments of the 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess & will serve as the Tribe's goodwill ambassador until the annual Choctaw Indian Fair in July 2017.

**Tribe Hosts Christmas Luncheon For Employees**

The Tribal Government Christmas Luncheon was held on Dec. 22. Chief Anderson offered her appreciation to all employees and credited them for the success of the Tribe in 2016. Tomika Bell was named overall winner of the Reservation-Wide Christmas Decoration Contest and Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Director Mitzi Reed was announced as the 2016 MBCI Employee of the Year.

**Bok Homa Casino Celebrates 6th Anniversary**

Bok Homa Casino celebrated its six year anniversary on Dec. 20. The event kicked off with the cutting of the anniversary cake as guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment & a choice of a free anniversary t-shirt or hat, while supplies lasted.





# CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

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

to discuss his linguistic research on the Choctaw language at language conferences & to publish research data in journal articles & papers, was ADOPTED 16 YES (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 0 NO; 1 ABSENT (*D. McClelland*).

ducting & recording interviews with the MBCI Tribal members, was ADOPTED 15 YES (*R. Anderson, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 2 NO (*R. Bell & J. Wesley*).

**Resolution CHO 17-020**, approving the Department of Early Childhood Staff Hand-

book for the 2016-2017 School Year, was ADOPTED 17 YES, 0 NO.

**Resolution CHO 17-021**, approving the Department of Early Childhood Parent Handbook for the 2016-2017 School Year, was ADOPTED 17 YES, 0 NO.

**Resolution CHO 17-022**, providing Blended Virtual Instruction Services within the Division of Education, was ADOPTED 17 YES, 0 NO.

**Resolution CHO 17-023(B)**, contracting with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in accordance with Public Law 93-638 for the planning, design, & construction of certain Transportation Improve-

ment Projects using Tribal Transportation Program Funding, was ADOPTED 17 YES, 0 NO.

**Resolution CHO 17-024**, applying for & receiving sub-grant funding from a Hazard Mitigation Grant Protection through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, was ADOPTED 17 YES, 0 NO.

**Resolution CHO 17-025**, accepting a subrecipient award & authorize a Homeland Security Agreement between Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, State Administrative

...continued next page

**REGULAR CALL MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2017**

**Resolution CHO 17-018**, amending **Resolution CHO 16-031** to authorize Matthew Tyler of Yale University

**Resolution CHO 17-019**, authorizing Victoria Lee Marshall of Mississippi State University to conduct applied anthropological research on the river cane access among the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) by con-

## Native Americans with Diabetes

*From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website*

### BETTER DIABETES CARE CAN DECREASE KIDNEY FAILURE

Native Americans (American Indians & Alaska Natives) have a greater chance of having diabetes than any other U.S. racial group. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, a costly condition that requires dialysis or kidney transplant for survival.

Kidney failure can be delayed or prevented by controlling blood pressure & blood sugar & by taking medicines that protect the kidneys. Good diabetes care includes regular kidney

testing & education about kidney disease & treatment.

Kidney failure from diabetes among Native Americans was the highest of any race. However, this has declined the fastest since the Indian Health Service (IHS) began using population health & team-based approaches to diabetes & kidney care, a potential model for other populations.

### HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS CAN:

- Use population health approaches to diabetes care. Assess long-term outcomes & address disparities. Promote wellness of the entire community & connect people to local resources, in-

cluding healthy food, transportation, housing, & mental health care.

- Develop a coordinated team approach to diabetes care. Team based care should include patient education, community outreach, care coordination, tracking of health outcomes, & access to healthcare providers, nutritionists, diabetes educators, pharmacists, community health workers, & behavioral health clinicians.

- Integrate kidney disease prevention & education into routine diabetes care. Screen people with diabetes for kidney

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**SPEECH..... continued from page one**

Choctaw Tribe, Chief Phyliss Anderson," stated Governor Bryant.

Chief Anderson, in attendance at the capitol, acknowledged the special recognition.

"On behalf of the Tribe, we are honored and very much grateful for the long standing working relationships with Governor Bryant, state, and local officials. Progress depends on the ability to support and main-

tain a positive partnership when moving a government forward. Cooperation between our branches of government especially affects the livelihood of our tribal members and neighboring communities that border our reservation in the state. I thank Governor Bryant for his recognition and for including our works in Choctaw as part of his message today."

Agency & the MBCI Choctaw Fire Department, was ADOPTED 17 YES, 0 NO.

**Resolution CHO 17-026(B)**, approving a site lease for Lorian Ahshapanek in the Standing Pine Community, was ADOPTED 17 YES, 0 NO.

**Resolution CHO 17-027**, for the MBCI Choctaw Health Center to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Indian Health Board for funding to support a Choctaw Health Center Public Health Accreditation Initiative, was ADOPTED 17 YES, 0 NO.

**Resolution CHO 17-**

**028(B)**, approving Tribal enrollments, was ADOPTED 17 YES, 0 NO.

**Resolution CHO 17-029(B)**, approving increase in blood degree and/or name change for previously enrolled Tribal members, was ADOPTED 17 YES, 0 NO.

**Resolution CHO 17-030(B)**, approving the relinquishment of membership of a Tribal member, was ADOPTED 17 YES, 0 NO.

**Resolution CHO 17-031**, increasing Fiscal Year 2017 Budget for Tribal Operations & to authorize the use of settlement funds received from the Ramah Navajo Chapter et al. v. Jewell

Class Action Lawsuit, was ADOPTED 10 YES (*T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, & D. Wilson*); 7 NO (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, J. Wesley, & S. Willis*).

**Resolution CHO 17-032**, authorizing a distribution of Tribal funds, was ADOPTED 11 YES (*C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, & D. Wilson*); 6 NO (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, J. Wesley, & S. Willis*).

## Turning Business Dreams Into Reality

You have a great idea for business. You know it would be a perfect fit for the community. You have lots of questions about how to turn your dream into a reality: Where will you get the money? Will you qualify for a loan? Who do you talk to about a loan? What information will a lender need? There are so many questions that your head is spinning. Well, don't worry... we are going to give you the information you need to help you get started.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is dedicated to increasing entrepreneurial opportunities for Choctaw tribal members. The Choctaw Entrepreneurial Loan Program (CELP) provides small business loans that can help you, as a Choctaw tribal member, obtain the necessary monies to start a new business or even expand an existing one.

There are two types of loans for which a prospective business owner can apply. The first is a Micro-Loan in which the total amount of funding is less than \$25,000. The second is an Enterprise Loan in which the total amount of funding is between \$25,000-\$200,000.

Both loan types are administered through the Tribe's Office of Economic Development (OED).

Now, you can't just walk into the OED and request money for a business. In order to be eligible for a loan, you must first meet the following basic criteria:

- 1) Applicant must be an enrolled member of the MBCI;
- 2) Applicant must be the majority owner of the business;
- 3) The business must be located within an MBCI designated county;
- 4) Applicant must demonstrate the ability to repay the loan.

There are also certain key pieces of information that you will need when you apply for your loan.

If you are applying for a Micro-Loan, you must present:

- 1) Completed application;
- 2) Brief narrative explaining the proposed business;
- 3) Work history of the applicant;
- 4) Three-year pro-forma with written explanation of assumptions;
- 5) Detailed listing of use of proceeds;
- 6) Personal financial statement for applicant;

see **BUSINESS**, pg. 12

disease & make sure that kidney disease is routinely addressed as part of diabetes care.

### PROBLEM

**Kidney failure from diabetes was highest among Native Americans.**

**Native Americans are more likely to have diabetes.**

- Native Americans are twice as likely as whites to have been diagnosed with diabetes.

**Native Americans were more likely to have kidney failure from diabetes than other races until recently.**

- Native Americans were nearly 5 times more likely than whites to have kidney failure from diabetes in 1996.

- Reasons include: high blood sugar, high blood pressure, & significant barriers to health care.

**Diabetes-related kidney failure among Native Americans decreased by 54 percent from 1996 to 2013.**

- The Indian Health Service uses population health & team-based approaches to diabetes & kidney care.

- Native Americans with diabetes have had important improvements:

- Use of medicines to protect kidneys increased from 42 percent to 74 percent in 5 years.

- Average blood pressure in those with hypertension was well-controlled (133/76 mmHg).

- Blood sugar control

**Native Americans are twice as likely as whites to have diabetes.**

**In about 2 out of 3 Native Americans with kidney failure, diabetes is the cause.**

**Kidney failure from diabetes dropped by 54% in Native Americans between 1996 and 2013.**

improved by 10 percent.

- Kidney testing in those 65 & older was 50 percent higher compared to the Medicare diabetes population.

**Kidney failure is a disabling & expensive complication of diabetes throughout the U.S.**

see **DIABETES**, pg. 10

# Hello from the Wisdom Tooth!

*Submitted by the Choctaw Dental Staff*

February is National Children's Dental Health Month and here is a little background.

National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) began as a one-day event in Cleveland, Ohio, on February 3, 1941. The American

Dental Association held the first national observance of Children's Dental Health Day on February 8, 1949. The single day observance became a week-long event in 1955.

In 1981, the program was extended to a month-long observance known today as National Children's Dental

Health Month. Since 1941, the observance has grown from a two-city event into a nationwide program.

NCDHM messages reach thousands of people in communities across the country and at numerous armed services bases. Local observances often include displays of posters pro-

vided by the ADA, coloring and essay contests, health fairs, free dental screenings, museum exhibits, class visits.

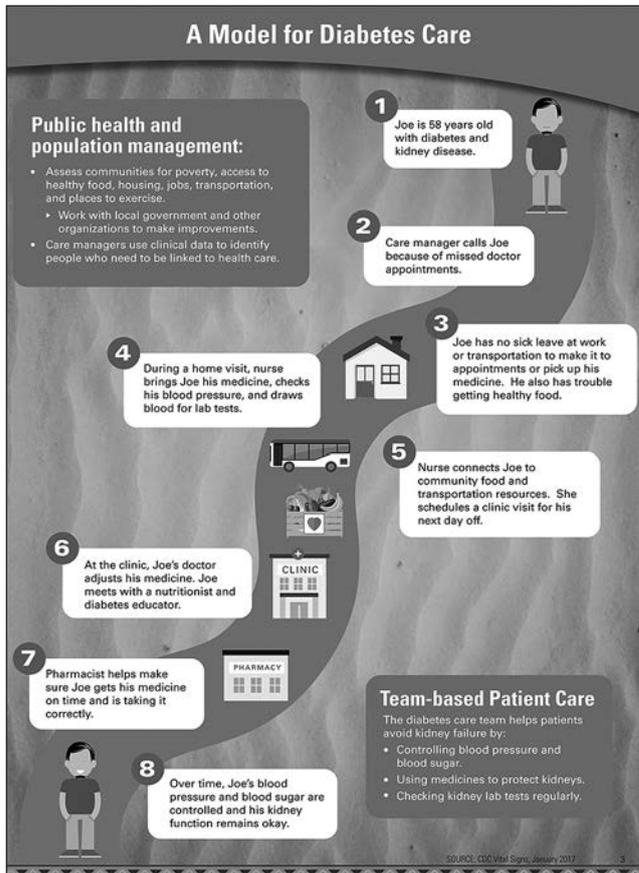
**Here is some information on a subject you thought was no big deal – Oral Piercing: Not as safe as you think**

Piercing, like tattooing, is just one of today's popular forms of body

art and self-expression. Piercing may seem daring, cool and totally safe because some celebrities use piercing to flaunt their particular style or attitude.

But piercing the tongue, lips, cheeks or uvula (the tiny tissue that hangs at the back of the throat) is not as safe as some would have

....continued next page



## DIABETES..... continued from page nine

- Medical costs for kidney failure from diabetes were about \$82,000 per person in 2013.
- Medicare spent \$14 billion to treat people with kidney failure from diabetes in 2013.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The Federal government is:

- Funding diabetes treatment & prevention services in Native American communities through the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.
- Improving diabetes

outcomes for populations who receive direct health care from federal agencies, including Native Americans, veterans, & others.

Assisting community health centers throughout the U.S. to provide comprehensive diabetes care.

Developing a comprehensive system for tracking chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Health care policy leaders & insurers can:

- Set standards & track performance measures requiring health plans to assess

the health of all members of their population with diabetes, including those who don't regularly visit their healthcare provider.

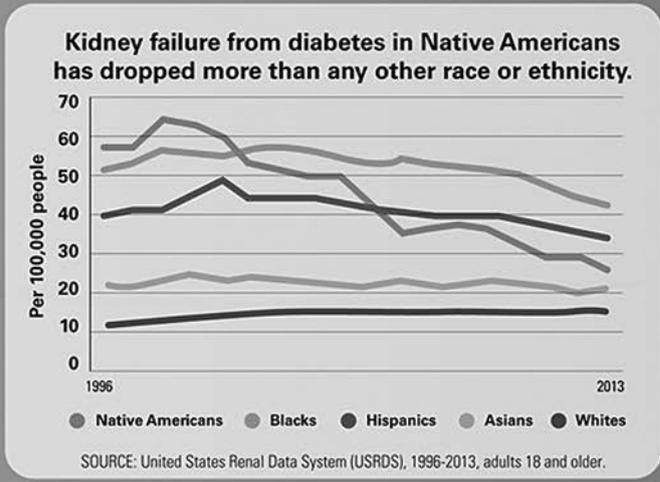
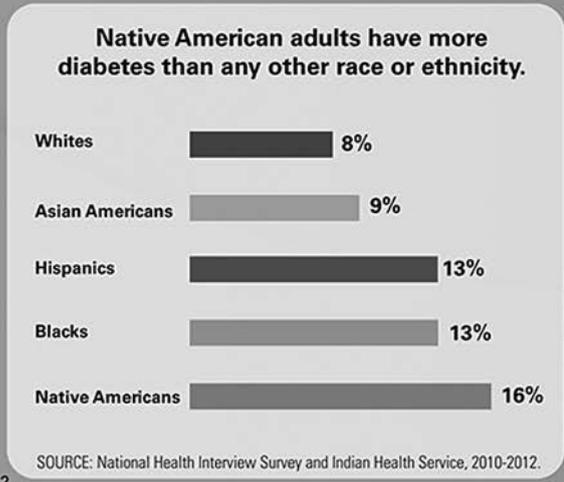
Promote CKD screening & monitoring & appropriate use of medicines that protect the kidneys in people with diabetes and CKD.

Support team-based care, care management, patient education, home visits, & community outreach.

Patients with diabetes & their families can:

- Ask about being tested for kidney disease.
- Check their blood pressure & blood sugar regularly; talk with their healthcare provider about goals.
- Talk with their healthcare provider if they are having problems getting or taking their medicines.
- Reduce salt intake to lower blood pressure & protect their kidneys.

## Team-based and population approaches reduce kidney failure from diabetes in Native Americans: can be a model for other groups.



you believe. That's because the mouth's moist environment – home to huge amounts of breeding bacteria – is an ideal place for infection.

An oral piercing can interfere with speech, chewing or swallowing. That may seem like a mere inconvenience until you consider that it may also cause:

- Excessive drooling (something you won't see in hip fashion magazines!);
- Infection, pain and swelling;
- Chipped or cracked teeth;
- Injuries to the gums;
- Damage to fillings;
- Increased saliva flow;
- Hypersensitivity to metals;
- Scar tissue; and
- Nerve damage.

These harmful effects can happen during the piercing, soon after, or even long after the procedure.

quickly become life threatening if it's not treated promptly. For example, oral piercing carries a potential risk of endocarditis, an inflammation of the heart valves or tissues. Bacteria can enter the bloodstream through the piercing site in the mouth and travel to the heart, where it can colonize on heart abnormalities. This is a risk for people with heart conditions and, in the worst of cases, results in death.

After a piercing, the tongue may swell. There have been reports of swelling serious enough to block the airway. And it's very possible to puncture a nerve during a tongue piercing.

If this happens, you may experience a "numb" tongue – nerve damage that is sometimes temporary, but can be permanent. The injured nerve may affect your sense of taste, or how you move your

mouth. And damage to the tongue's blood vessels can cause serious blood loss.

In addition, piercing jewelry can sometimes cause allergic responses to the pierced site. The jewelry can even get in

the way of dental care by blocking x-rays.

Don't pierce on a whim. The piercing will be an added responsibility to your life, requiring constant attention and upkeep. Talk to your dentist for more information.

The Choctaw Dental Staff wants to thank all our patients for making and keeping their appointments. It is our desire to provide the best dental care possible.

## DOECE News

Halito (Hello) from the Department of Early Childhood Education!

We enjoyed the holidays at Early Childhood. There's nothing like the wonder and beauty of Christmas and New Years to make the children happy.

In addition to the different holiday-themed activities held at each center, we had a special Christmas program with a performance from the Pearl River Head Start at their center. The children dressed in their holiday best and sang Christmas songs to their parents and families.

Afterwards, everyone was treated to a meal of ham and dressing and all the fixings. It was a wonderful and happy celebration. Thank you to all the parents and family who attended!

The DOECE would like to remind



everyone that children's applications are accepted year round for Head Start, Early Head Start, and Child Care.

Required verifications include income verification (check stubs, etc.), birth certificate, CDIB, & a 121 Immunization form. Other health forms may be required.

If you are interested, please stop by your local center and fill out an application. Some classrooms have immediate openings, while others may have a wait list. Contact the center director for more information.

We look forward to a 2017 filled with fun, learning, and making new friends.

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

Anderson served as special guest speaker and delivered remarks about the important and beneficial relationship between the Tribe and IHS-Nashville office.

The following Choctaw Health Center employees were also honored in their respective categories.

Laura Dees and Beverly Terry were recipients of the Exceptional Performance Award for their "ex-

pertise, leadership and ability to bring compassion and sensitivity in the managed care department."

CHC's Philip J. Evans, D.M.D., was recipient of Employee of the Year-Dental Provider.

Gregory Griffin was recipient of the Self-Development Achievement Award.

Matthew Bell of the IT Department was recipient of the Volunteer Service Award.





**PRES Hosts 2nd Annual Literacy Night**

*Pearl River Elementary School hosted their 2nd Annual Literacy Night on Tuesday, January 17. The event was attended by students & parents as they participated in fun activities in the gymnasium & cafeteria to promote literacy. Students displayed storyboards in the gymnasium of their favorite stories. Several students dressed as their favorite characters from the story. Refreshments were served in the cafeteria as entertainment was provided by several student groups singing & teachers rapping about the joys of reading.*

**Guidelines Strengthen ICWA Implementation**

(WASHINGTON) – Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary–Indian Affairs Lawrence S. Roberts announced on Dec. 30, 2016, a final, updated Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) guidelines for implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA) that will better protect the rights of Indian children, their parents & their tribes in state child welfare proceedings.

Act guidelines are the capstone of the Obama Administration’s efforts to support the stability & security of Indian families & tribes by providing a more consistent interpretation of ICWA, regardless of the child welfare worker, judge or state involved,” Roberts said.

The guidelines explain the ICWA statute & regulations while also providing examples of best practices for its implementation, the goal of which is to encourage greater uniformity in the application of ICWA measures.

“I want to thank tribal leaders, the Indian child welfare community, & our state & federal partners for their valuable input & assistance with updating the guidelines. The guidelines themselves will help with ensuring the rights of Indian children & their families under ICWA, & in strengthening the cohesiveness of tribal communities everywhere.”

“The BIA’s updated Indian Child Welfare

The BIA first published its ICWA guidelines in 1979, shortly after the law’s passage. While the Department updated the guidelines in 2015, it updated them further to complement its recently finalized regulations which became effective on Dec. 12, 2016.

Congress enacted ICWA to address the separation of Indian children from their families at a disproportionately high rate, as a result of state agency policies & practices that placed the children in non-Indian foster & adoptive homes.

Based on 2013 data,

....continued next page

**BUSINESS..... continued from page nine**

7) Description of collateral.

For the Enterprise Loan:

- 1) Application;
- 2) Complete business plan including an executive summary, description of product/service, market size, sales/marketing strategies, competitor analysis, description of management structure, pro-forma financial statements, and detailed assumptions and key factors for success;
- 3) Personal financial statement for applicant;
- 4) Description of col-

lateral.

Wow, that was a lot of information to read and comprehend. Don’t worry if you don’t know how to put together a pro-forma financial statement. The OED has a Small Business Coordinator that can help guide you and answer your questions along the way.

The OED and the Tribe wants to ensure that your business will be successful. All of the required documents will ensure that you have thought about all aspects of owning the

business... that you don’t wind up in debt from which you won’t be able to recover.

In order to prepare you for the application process:

- 1) Make a list of all equipment needed with price quotes;
- 2) Get quotes for utility deposits, monthly utility expenses, insurance coverage, rent, advertising, and miscellaneous expenses such as labor;
- 3) Prepare monthly revenue/income projections that show the number of clients

weekly, cost per client and any other necessary calculations.

Loan applications are available at the OED in the TechParc on Industrial Road in the Pearl River Community in Choctaw. All of the above information and more is provided with the application.

If you have read this far, you have an idea that you want to bring to life. You have a business that you want to start. The Tribe wants to see you be successful. Let’s turn that dream into reality.

Native children nationwide are represented in state foster care at a rate 2.5 times greater than their presence in the general population. In some states, Native American children are represented in state foster-care systems at rates as high as 14.8 times their presence in the general population of that state.

Since ICWA's enactment, state courts & state agencies have sometimes differed in their interpretations of the law & been inconsistent in their implementation of it. To address this problem, the updated guidelines provide information for them to consider in carrying out

the Act's and final rule's requirements, often drawing upon approaches states have already used.

In developing these guidelines, the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs worked closely with the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children & Families in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services & with the U.S. Department of Justice to produce a document that reflected the expertise of all three agencies.

Its development was also informed by public hearings, tribal consultations, & more than 2,100 written comments

on the March 2015 proposed rule, as well as input received during training conducted on the final rule from July to November 2016.

The Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs oversees the BIA, which is headed by a director who is responsible for managing day-to-day operations through four offices - Indian Services, Justice Services, Trust Services, & Field Operations.

These offices directly administer or fund tribally based infrastructure, economic development, law enforcement & justice, social services (including child welfare), tribal governance,

& trust land & natural & energy resources management programs for the nation's federally recognized American Indian & Alaska Native tribes through 12 regional offices & 81 agencies.

To view the updated guidelines, visit the Indian Affairs website at: <http://www.indianaffairs.gov/WhoWeAre/>

[BIA/OIS/HumanServices/IndianChildWelfareAct/index.htm](http://www.indianaffairs.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/HumanServices/IndianChildWelfareAct/index.htm).

The Office of Indian Services' Division of Human Services administers the BIA's ICWA regulations at 25 CFR Part 23 & the guidelines. For more information, visit <http://www.indianaffairs.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/HumanServices/IndianChildWelfareAct/index.htm>.

## 4-H Offers Programs To Tribal Youth

The 4-H Youth Development Program strives to improve the quality of life for youths by developing their potential & providing "hands-on" educational programs.

Program priorities include leadership development, life skills training, developing positive self-esteem, & empowering volunteers. Programs are delivered through local county extension offices to volunteer leaders.

On the Choctaw Reservation, the 4-H program is staffed by 4-H Home Extension Coordinator Virginia Willis & 4-H Program Assistant Ronald Gibson as they serve Tribal youth ages 5-8 in the eight outlying communities.

crease personal growth, agricultural & horticultural awareness among Choctaw tribal youth & surrounding communities," said Willis. She has served as agent then coordinator for the past 19 years.

"We are a stand alone group & not associated with any other Tribal program. We recruit in every community & currently have 111 members with 37 volunteers," added Willis.

Members are categorized by age. Youth ages 5-7 are Clover Buds, 8-9 are Clover Leafs, 10-13 are Junior Division, & 14-18 are Senior Division.

The program is currently accepting interested youths & volunteers for upcoming events.

"We have a lot of youth that are interested in what we present to them. Our strongest group is between the ages of 8-16. We encourage all kids to join," said Gibson who has served as assistant for the past five years.

In conjunction with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, the 4-H program will offer basic sewing classes for members ages 14-18 as part of their life skills workshops. Other workshops may include topics such as robotics, entomology, gardening, bow shooting, & arts & crafts.

A complete list of upcoming classes & dates are available at the **see 4-H NEWS, pg. 14**



### February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

The Centers for Disease Control reports that 21% of females and 10% of males in high school who have dated, have experienced physical or sexual dating violence. There is a very realistic chance that the number of teen victims of dating violence is higher because so many teenagers will not tell anyone what is happening.

Teen dating violence includes physical, psychological, and sexual violence. Stalking is also considered a part of teen dating violence. Unfortunately, so many teens think that dating violence is acceptable and "normal" and dating violence can have a negative effect on health for many years to come.

Where can we learn more about this issue?

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence ([www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org))  
 National Sexual Violence Resource Center ([www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org))  
 Family Violence and Victim's Services (601-650-1774)



## STALKING: KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

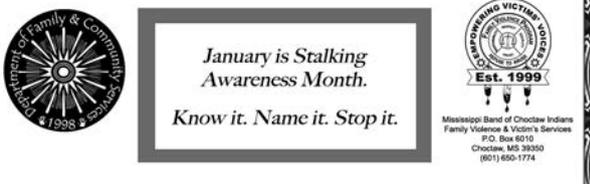
**Stalking** is a course of conduct or behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear according to the Stalking Resource Center.

**Examples of Stalking:** Following another person repeatedly, showing up at a person's job without reason or just cause, or harassing another person. The victim may receive unwanted gifts, phone calls, emails, or messages when being stalked. For more information, please contact **Family Violence and Victim's Services**.

**Did you know?**

- 7.5 million people are stalked in one year in the United States.
- 15% of women and 6% of men have experienced stalking at some point during their lifetime.
- The majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know.

January is Stalking Awareness Month.  
 Know it. Name it. Stop it.



**4-H NEWS** ..... continued from page thirteen

Department of Natural Resources office in the Pearl River Community.

4-H is best identified by its green four-leaf clover with an H on each leaf. The four H(s) on the emblem stand for Head, Heart, Hands, & Health. These words emphasize the basis of the four-fold development of youth involved in 4-H.

**Head:** 4-Hers focus on thinking, making decisions, & understanding & gaining knowledge.

**Heart:** 4-Hers are concerned with the welfare of others & accept the responsibilities of citizenship & developing attitudes & values.

**Hands:** 4-Hers use their hands to learn new skills & develop pride & respect for their own work.

**Health:** 4-Hers develop & practice healthy

*living physically, mentally, spiritually, & socially.*

The four essential elements of 4-H include:

**Mastery** - By exploring 4-H projects & activities, youth master skills to make positive career & life choices. 4-H provides a safe environment to make mistakes & receive feedback, & youth can discover their capabilities while meeting new challenges.

**Generosity** - By participating in 4-H community service & citizenship activities, youth can connect to communities & learn to give back to others. These connections help youth find & fulfill their life's purpose.

**Independence** - By exercising independence through 4-H leadership opportunities, youth mature



*in self-discipline & responsibility, learn to better understand themselves, & become independent thinkers.*

**Belonging** - Through 4-H, youth can develop long-term consistent relationships with adults other than their parents & learn that they are cared about by & connected to others. 4-H gives youth the opportunity to feel physically & emotionally safe in a group setting.

For more information on joining 4-H or volunteering, please contact Virginia Willis or Ronald Gibson at 601-656-2070.



From left are Ronald Gibson, 4-H Program Assistant, & Virginia Willis, 4-H Home Extension Coordinator for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

**4-H MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE**

- Bogue Homa - 1st Friday @ 5:00 p.m.
- Bogue Chitto - 2nd Tuesday @ 6:00 p.m.
- Standing Pine - 2nd Monday @ 5:00 p.m.
- Crystal Ridge - 2nd Thursday @ 5:00 p.m.
- Pearl River - 3rd Monday @ 6:00 p.m.
- Conehatta Clover Buds - 3rd Tuesday @ 6:00 p.m.
- Red Water/Tucker - 4th Monday @ 6:00 p.m.

**CHOCTAW WILDLIFE AND PARKS' 2017**

**ANNUAL YOUTH RABBITSTICK HUNT**

FEBRUARY 25, 2017 BEGINNING AT 07:00 AM  
ATTALA COUNTY PROPERTY OFF OF HIGHWAY 35 NORTH  
(LOOK FOR SIGNAGE DIRECTING YOU TO THE HUNT)

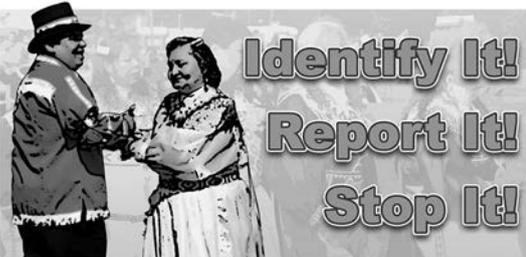
**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!**

\*SHIRTS TO FIRST 50 PARTICIPANTS TO SIGN IN ON-SITE, FIRST COME FIRST SERVE!

- \*Seating is limited so you are welcome to bring your own!
- \*Please wear weather appropriate clothing, boots are suggested!
- \*Rabbit sticks will be available but you are welcome to bring your own!

COME OUT AND ENJOY THE OUTDOORS WITH US!

**Prevent Elder Abuse**



**Warning Signs**

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

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

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



**REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY**



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

**CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:**

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

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

**HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE**

February 4, 2017  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Choctaw Justice Complex  
Back Entrance of Complex

Persons born after January 1, 1972 must take and pass a hunter education course before hunting on tribal and/or state lands.

**MUST be 10 years or older to attend!**

Contact 601-663-7900 to pre-register for the course. Must have address birth date and social security number for certification!

Sponsored by Choctaw Wildlife and Parks Department

Lunch will be provided!!

# Foster Children Assisted During Christmas

*Submitted by Albert Smith, Children & Family Services*

The staff of Children and Family Service would once again thank Pearl River Resort for their annual commitment to the program over the

Christmas period.

We want to mention Chelsea King and the staff from the Public Relations/Marketing Department and others for sponsoring an Angel Tree which benefitted all of the foster children during the 2016 Christmas period.

We are grateful to have them support our program and the children who are in our care and custody. We could not do it without your commitment and support. We thank you once again for making Christmas special for our foster children.

The Toys for Chahta Alla Osi annual basketball tournament was held in Pearl River December 2016. A big thank you to all those who donated to Children and Family Services.

We would like to mention Kevin Grisham and Valerie Thomas from

the Choctaw Police Department and others for their efforts in making this event successful once again.

We also thank Tribal Security and Children and Family Services' staff. Without the help from y'all, this event could not take place.

## DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

### Choctaw Cooking To be Featured on PBS

Red Dirt Projects, a production company dedicated to giving a voice to forgotten com-

munities, was on location in Choctaw on December 2, 2016, to film a segment on southern foods for the Public Broadcasting Service

(PBS).

The documentary allows viewers to gain insight of the Choctaw culture and to observe the unique ways of cooking Choctaw traditional food.

The cooking of *bana-ha* was demonstrated by CAP Coordinator Phyllis McMillan. Volunteers Jennifer Hall, Betty Tubby, Gloria Clemons, and Marcus Tubby took part in cooking hominy and Choctaw blackberry dumpling for dessert.

Volunteer Charlie Wilson took on the most laborious task of all - he had the duty of splitting firewood and tending the fire to make sure there were sufficient embers for the cooking

demonstration during the filming.

The staff of the Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) is privileged and extremely grateful when members of the Choctaw Tribal Council take time from their busy schedule to visit sponsored events of the CAP.

To the three council members who came to the filming of the series, the staff of the Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) thank you wholeheartedly for your support in the endeavor to keep Choctaw traditions alive. The staff is extending an invitation to other Tribal Council members to attend future events hosted by the

CAP.

### Community Workshops

CAP instructors were very blessed with great weather as they traveled to the Bogue Homa Community in December to teach cultural classes. The program provided community members instructive workshops on making beaded medallions, sashes, Choctaw dresses, Choctaw shirts, head bands, stickball aprons, & bugle and seed bead collar necklaces.

Tucker Community members were also offered the same type

see DCI NEWS, pg. 16



ABOVE, From left, Crystal Ridge Tribal Council member Joseph Wesley, Lari York & Pearl River Tribal Council member Stella Willis sample the traditional food that was prepared for the PBS documentary.

RIGHT, Cook volunteers included, from left, Marcus Tubby, Betty Tubby, Jennifer Hall, Gloria Clemons, & Charlie Wilson.



From left, Ross Spears, Jamie Ross & Pearl River Tribal Council member Cherienna Ben take a break from their meal to pose for the camera.

DCI NEWS ..... continued from page fifteen

of cultural classes last October. The activities mentioned will be offered to the rest of the communities throughout the months of 2017.



Workshop consultant Rowena Willis (standing center) gives sash making instructions to participants of the Bogue Homa Community.



ABOVE, Standing, from left, are Elijah Ben, Lorena Alex, Jason Lewis, Priscilla Williams, Trudy Jimmie, Wendy Thompson, Phyllis McMillan, Casey Bigpond, Peggy Williams, May McGeisey, & Rosemary John.

RIGHT, Henning community members (seated from left) Patsy Roach, Sammie Jean Devlin, (standing from left) Andrea Thompson & Dorian Thompson muse over a scrap book of old articles shared by Dorian Thompson (not pictured).



**DCI Staff & Friends Share Choctaw Christmas Carols with Tribal Elders**

The group sang Christmas carols at the Elderly Activity Center on December 16, 2016. They sang all time favorite traditional Christmas songs in the Choctaw language for the elders' entertainment.

Elijah Ben provided the piano accompaniment for the group as they celebrated the birth of Jesus through songs.

**Cultural Arts Workshop Schedule for January, February**

Remaining workshop schedule for January in the Pearl River Community include:

Jan. 21 - Hog Killing (8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.);

Jan. 24 - Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making;

Jan. 31 - Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making;

(All workshops in the Pearl River Community will be held at the community center from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (unless there is an emergency).

In February, cultural workshops will be held in the Crystal Ridge Community from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the facility building. Below are schedule dates and activities:

Feb. 1 - Sash & Medallion Making;

Feb. 7 - Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace;

Feb. 15 - Headband & Stickball Apron;

Feb. 21 - Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making;

Feb. 28 - Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making.

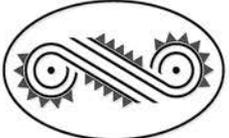
Spring Festivals are coming, so please come and learn the basics on how to make your

.....continued next page



**CICC GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNERS.** Pictured above are Chahta Immi Cultural Center's customer appreciation open-house gift certificate drawing winners in December. From left, CICC employee Evaline

Davis with \$25 gift certificate winners Torrie Mingo, Marisa Lewis, Cynthia Isaac, & Debbie Boone. Not pictured is \$75 gift certificate winner Janice York.



**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.

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

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

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ADMISSION

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

own Choctaw attire and beadwork.

Anita Winstead will have required items for sale at the workshops. Please visit the workshops, even if you just need to purchase fabrics,

beads, or other supplies!

**Oral History Project Presentation Held at Henning**

Tribal members in the Henning, Tenn., com-

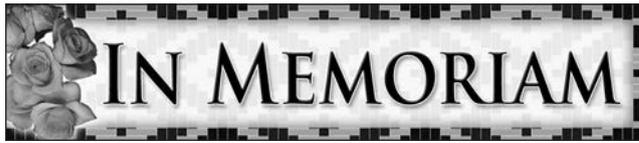
munity were provided the opportunity to learn about the Choctaw Tribal Elders Oral History Project (CTEOHP).

On the evening of December 15, 2016, CTEOHP project staff

members Priscilla Williams, Eddie Johnson, Melford Farve, & Ty Isaac presented their efforts of recording Tribal elders on Choctaw culture & their resource gathering activities

among Tribal members.

Community members were delighted to learn about the project efforts and the CTEOHP goal of producing cultural learning material for Tribal youth.



**ELVIS HICKMAN**

Funeral service for Elvis Hickman, 58, was held on Monday, December 26, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Deacon Randell Joe & Bro. John Frazier officiated.

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

Mr. Hickman passed away on Dec. 22 at Anderson Regional Medi-

cal Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed spending time with family & friends, listening to music, drawing, painting, making model airplanes, & fishing. He was employed with Taylor Machine Works.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Hickman, Sr. & Eva Wallace Hickman; a sister, Terri Ann Hickman; a grandchild; two aunts; & nine uncles.

Survivors include daughters, Patricia Hickman, Amanda Hickman, Vanessa Hickman, Maggie Billie, & Terrie Billy; step-sons, Joshua Hickman & Scottie Billie; brothers, Bruce Hickman, Brady Hickman & Charles Hickman, Jr.; 15 grandchildren; two aunts; & a host relatives & friends.

**SHERRY ANN McMILLAN ISAAC**

Funeral service for Sherry Ann McMillan Isaac, 48, was held on Wednesday, December 28, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

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

Mrs. Isaac passed away on Dec. 24 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She enjoyed spending time with family & friends, yarn stitch quilting, cooking, & socializing. She was a teacher aide at Tucker Headstart & Tucker Elementary School.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Augustine McMillan & Ora Mae Tubby McMillan; brother, Edward

Lee McMillan; seven aunts; five uncles; & a sister-in-law.

Survivors include her husband, Randall Isaac, Sr.; daughters, Megan Rocha & Yvonne Isaac; sons, Randall Isaac, Jr. & Brian Isaac; brothers, Bobby McMillan & Matthew McMillan; an aunt; an uncle; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

**MARY CHAPMAN THOMAS**

Funeral service for Mary Chapman Thomas, 68, was held on Thursday, December 29, 2016, from the Conehatta Facility Building. Deacon Billy Smith & Bro. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Ms. Thomas passed away on Dec. 25 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She enjoyed being with family, fishing, cooking, basketry, & doing word search puzzles.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond & Bobbie Sue Jim Chapman; sis-

ter, Eula King Anderson; brother, John E. Chapman; & four nephews.

Survivors include daughters, Samantha Chapman, Vickie Johnson, Ann Jim, Wadessa Chapman, & Shunna Chapman; son, Willis Chapman; sisters, Julia Jefferson & Martha Denson; brother, Jimmy Chapman; special companion, Rondall Jim; 20 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**CHEYENNE CAHA COTTON**

Funeral service for Cheyenne Caha Cotton, 33, was held on Saturday, December 31, 2016, from the St. Therese Catholic Church in Pearl River. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

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

Miss. Cotton passed away on Dec. 27 in Philadelphia.

She enjoyed being with family & friends, traveling, playing sports, cooking, & making people laugh.

.....see OBITS, pg. 18

*Come and Worship with us*

**Macedonia Baptist Church**  
130 Campus Drive  
Conehatta, MS 39057

Sunday

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

Wednesday

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

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

*Come Join Us...*

**Spirit of Life Christian Center**

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

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

Welcome To

**NANIH WAIYA INDIAN Mennonite Church**

Preaching Every Sunday - 10:00 am

10341 Road 789  
Philadelphia, MS 39350

**OBITS..... continued from page seventeen**

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Thurman Thompson, Sr. & Minnie Steve Thompson, Bobo Phillips & Helen Cotton Phillips; a son, Heath Cotton; an infant brother; & special brother, Moses Thompson, Sr.

Survivors include parents, Robert Cotton & Patricia Thompson Cotton; daughters, Belinda Frazier & Lauren Taylor; son, Adrian Frazier, Jr; sisters, Cecilia Cotton, Cassie Cotton & Mercedes Cotton; brother, Jon Thompson; five aunts; six uncles; five special children; & a host of relatives & friends.

**REV. LEONARD  
MCDONALD BEN**

Funeral service for Rev. Leonard McDonald Ben, 57, was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Pearl River. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Bro. Mark Patrick officiated.

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

Rev. Ben passed away on Dec. 30, 2016, at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a minister at Hopewell Baptist Church, then Calvary Baptist Church & Hope Indian Baptist Church. He also served in the Sunday School Convention & the New Choctaw Baptist Association.

He played bass in the

NCBA praise band & Psalms Trio. He was a Senior Mother-Tongue Translator with the Choctaw Bible Translation Committee.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, working for the Lord, camping, fishing, hunting, playing cards & pool.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Rev. Arthur Ben & Mary Ben; a sister, Janet Willis; brothers, Jesse Ben, Barry Ben, Jerome Ben, & LC Willis; & a step-daughter, Noranna Davis.

Survivors include his wife, Vivian Ben; daughters, Wendy Ben & Domina Ben; sons, Richard Ben & Grant Ben; step-children, Mariah Davis & Benjamin Davis; sisters, Marlene Richwine & Nellie Garcia; a brother, Falton Willis; two aunts; 22 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; five step-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JOHN EDWIN JOHN**

Funeral service for John Edwin John, 58, was held on Friday, January 6, 2017, from the Pearl River Community Center. Deacon Rick Edwards, Sr. & Bro. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. John passed away on Dec. 27 at his residence in Willis, Texas.

He was a truck driver who enjoyed hunting & fishing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry Bell John & Geneva Thomas Williams; grandparents, Ira & Orta John; two aunts; & four uncles.

Survivors include daughters, Jennifer John Cook & Stephanie John; sisters, Kimberly Henegar, Brenda Davis, Glenda Fagan, & Sharon Ruiz; two aunts; two uncles; a great-uncle; one granddaughter; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**BRENT CHARLES HENRY**

Funeral service for Brent Charles Henry, 30, was held on Friday, January 6, 2017, from The Chapel at Griffin-Hillcrest Funeral Home in Ardmore, Okla. Rev. Vincent Baptiste officiated. Burial was in the Nelda Cemetery.

Mr. Henry passed away on Dec. 30 in Ardmore, Okla.

He enjoyed spending time with family & friends, talking on the phone with his daughter, rapping, & being a Raiders & Oklahoma Sooners fan. He was employed with Flanders Precision Air.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Grady Charles Henry; grandmother, Irene Mose; brother, Brandon Henry; six uncles; a niece; & a special cousin.

Survivors include his mother, Barbara Shoe-

maker; father, Charles Henry; daughter, Aubree Shase Polk; sister, Charlene Henry; brothers, Chad Henry & Alex Henry; grandmother, Faye Taylor; an aunt; an uncle; & a host of nieces, family & friends.

**MORRIS CLEVELAND  
JEFFERSON**

Funeral service for Morris Cleveland Jefferson, 76, was held on Monday, January 9, 2017, from Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. Deacon Ricky Thompson, Sr. & Bro. Robert Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Jefferson passed away on Jan. 6 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a Baptist & enjoyed spending time with family & friends, reading the Bible, singing hymns, watching pro wrestling & baseball.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph King & Salene Farmer; a son, Randy Jefferson; sisters, Geneva Jefferson Chapman & Mary Ann Jefferson Farmer; half-sisters, Evanelle Lewis & Louiana Polk; half-brothers, Baxter Jefferson, Jr., Clinton Jefferson, Sammie Lee Jefferson, Malcolm Jefferson, & Ervin Jefferson; & two grandsons.

Survivors include

his daughters, Sandra Jefferson Willis & Vonda Vermilyea; step-daughters, Venisia Isaac & Sheila Isaac; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**CHARLES RAY HENRY**

Funeral service for Charles Ray Henry, 55, was held on Monday, January 9, 2017, from The Chapel at Griffin-Hillcrest Funeral Home in Ardmore, Okla. Rev. Merritt Youngdeer officiated. Burial was in Hillcrest Memorial Park.

Mr. Henry passed away on Jan. 5 in Ardmore, Okla.

He was a truck driver & a passionate sports fan who loved Oklahoma Sooners football.

He was preceded in death by his father, Grady Charles Henry; sons, Brandon Henry & Brent Charles Henry; brothers, Milton Ray Henry Sr., Franklin Henry & Hanson Henry; grandparents, Charley Taylor & Betsy Johnson; a special uncle; & a granddaughter.

Survivors include his mother, Faye Taylor; children, Chad Henry, Alex Henry & Charlene Henry; sisters, Janet Henry & Stephanie Allen; brothers, Bryant Henry & Carey Daniel; seven granddaughters; & numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

.....continued next page

**JUDY LYNN CHICKAWAY**

Funeral service for Judy Lynn Chickaway, 59, was held on Friday, January 13, 2017, from Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. Deacon John Smith & Rev. Gerald Willis, Sr. officiated.

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

Ms. Chickaway passed away on Jan. 8 in Newton County.

She enjoyed being with her family, playing bingo, & basket weaving. She was a community aide then a bus driver.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Franklin & Odie Mae Stephens; a brother, Harry Stephens; husband, Ross Chickaway, Jr.; & a grandson.

Survivors include daughters, Melanie Stephens, Anna Chickaway, Ara Chickaway, Mylie Chickaway, & Joanie Chickaway; a son, Jeremy Stephens; sister, Glenda Williamson; an aunt; 20 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JESSIE MAE THOMPSON**

Funeral service for Jessie Mae Thompson, 86, was held on Saturday, January 14, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Commu-

nity Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Thompson passed away on Jan. 9 at Lauderdale County Hospital in Ripley, TN.

She was a member of the First Indian Baptist Church in Ripley. She was a sharecropper then later worked for Tupperware. She enjoyed being with family & friends, going to yard sales, fishing, cooking, gardening, beadwork, & sewing Choctaw dresses & shirts.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Melvin Thompson; parents, Jamus & Winnie Bell; a son, Dezmon Thompson; sisters, Ronnie Robinson & Minnie Bell; & brothers, Wood Bell, Edmond Bell, George Bell, & Stribling Bell.

Survivors include a son, Harry Thompson; sister, Claudia Thompson; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**HAROLD WAYNE LEWIS**

Funeral service for Harold Wayne Lewis, 55, was held on Monday, January 16, 2017, from the Conehatta Facility Building. Deacon Billy Smith & Rev. Samuel Dixon officiated.

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

Mr. Lewis passed away on Jan. 13 at the Choctaw Health Center

in Choctaw.

He was full of humor & had a unique personality.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George Lewis & Verdie Charley; & sisters, Nelvalina Lewis & Maria Faye Lewis.

Survivors include his sisters, Jenny Smith, Veronica Stewart, Dolliana Chickaway, Patty Billie, & Clarissa Stewart; a half-brother, Sam Houston; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JULIA ANN YAZZIE TUBBY**

Funeral service for Julia Ann Yazzie Tubby, 58, was held on Monday, January 16, 2017, from the Spirit of Life Christian Center in Choctaw. Pastor Curtis Willis, Sr. & Pastor Thomas Ben, Jr. officiated.

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

Mrs. Tubby passed away on Jan. 11 at her residence.

She enjoyed being with her family, traveling, caring for her birds, visiting aquatic museums, collecting sea shells, & visiting Ship Island. She was a MSU graduate & held various positions.

She was preceded in death by her son, David Martin; parents, Bertha & Finis Tubby; father, Justin Yazzie; sister, Sandra Kay Tubby; & step-brothers, Jerry Tubby & Melvin Tubby.

Survivors include her

husband, Austin Tubby; daughter, Jennifer Martin; step-daughters, Tiffany Thomas, Latonya Bell, Lana Tubby, & Kelly Tubby; step-son, Fabien Tubby; sister, Darlene Patrick; brother, Kevin Tubby; step-sisters, Gloria White, Bernita Reynolds, Rita Mattera, & Brenda Stephens; step-brother, Bobby Tubby; 25 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

**ALEXANDER RAY BILLY**

Funeral service for Alexander Ray Billy, 56, was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, from the Red Water Facility Building. Pastor Thomas Ben, Jr. & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Billy passed away on Jan. 13 at Leake County Baptist Hospital in Carthage.

He was a U.S. Air Force veteran. He enjoyed sports, traveling & learning. He was employed at Pearl River Resort where he was a slot manager then general manager.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Mable Tubby Billy; brother, Earl Billy, Jr.; & sister, Rita Steve.

Survivors include daughter, Ashleigh Billy; son, Kent Wesley; father, Earl Billy, Sr.; sisters, Beatrice Steve, Brenda Isaac & Joan Thompson; two grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**OCTAVIUS DURAN CLEMMONS**

Funeral service for Octavius Duran Clemmons, 30, was held on Thursday, January 19, 2017, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Rev. Charles Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Clemmons passed away on Jan. 15 in Leake County.

He was a member of the Pentecostal Church of God Indian Mission. He was employed with Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed being with family & friends, & playing sports.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Evalene Clemmons; grandfathers, Royce Bell, Sr. & Sim John Clemmons, Sr.; grandmother, Jimmie Lee Wallace; three aunts; six uncles; & a niece.

Survivors include daughters, Lazeya Clemmons & Jacelynn Clemmons; sons, Zavius Clemmons & Julien Clemmons; companion, Latina Hall; step-children, Hayli Hall & Kaden Hall; father, Dana Clemmons, Sr.; sisters, Rhonda Clemmons, Keshia Clemmons, Dayna Clemmons, & Jena Clemmons; brothers, Dana Clemmons, Jr. & Seymour Clemmons; grandmother, Alma Bell; eight aunts; four uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

I wish my grandson & granddaughter Happy Birthdays! Bentley on Jan. 6 & Re-lissia Ray on Jan. 16. From your loving grandma Betty Morris.

Happy ?? Birthday to Timothy "O.J." Thomas, Sr., from your sisters, brother-in-law & the rest of the family on Jan. 23. Don't overdo it.



Happy Belated Birthdays to Riley Meely, Payton Meely & Cadance Meely! We love you! From family & friends.

**CHOCTAW  
COMMUNITY  
NEWS**

**JANUARY 2017**

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**Pearl River Resort is offering a  
FREE Dealer School  
starting Monday, February 6, 2017**

Based on the determination of the number of applicants.

Candidates must be at least 21 years of age and be able to obtain and maintain a gaming license with the Choctaw Gaming Commission.

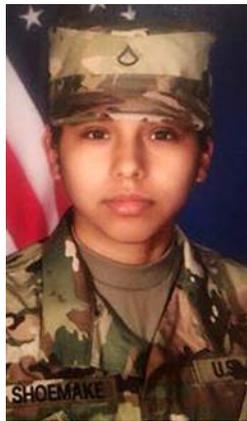
Table Games opportunities available here at Pearl River Resort and Bok Homa.

Completing the training is not considered a guarantee of employment. Dealer School is offered as a FREE service and opportunity to learn a trade.

Apply at our new career site!  
<https://careers-pearlriverresort.icims.com>

**Deadline to apply is Friday, February 3 at noon.**

For more information or to inquire about the Dealer School, You may contact the Employment Center at 601-663-0131 or 1-866-44PEARL(73273) extension 30131. Our office hours are Tuesday through Friday (9:30am - 4:30pm).



PFC Emily Shoemake

**Shoemake  
Graduates  
Basic  
Training**

PFC Emily Shoemake graduated

from Basic Combat Training on December 8, 2016, at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. She will continue Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Lee, Virginia.

Emily, a 2016 graduate of East Central Community College & 2015-16 Choctaw Indian Princess, is the daughter of Tracy & Greg Shoemake of the Conehat-

Community & granddaughter of Charles & Linda Carey of the Pearl River Community.

**HALITO  
DOLLAR  
STORE**

Choctaw Town Center  
Choctaw, MS

**STORE HOURS**  
Open Daily-  
8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.  
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Insurance?**

Multi-Vehicle Discounts  
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Come in for a free quote  
or call 601-663-0971  
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Suite 106  
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Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Saturday, Appointment Only

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Choctaw, Mississippi

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Closed Wednesday & Sunday

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WATER THEME PARK**  
Choctaw, Mississippi

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BEACH CLUB  
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Visit [www.pearlriverresort.com/careers-en.html](http://www.pearlriverresort.com/careers-en.html)  
to view jobs available.

Resort Associates interested in applying for Geyser Falls  
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601-650-1612.

**ATTENTION**

**2017 World Series  
Stickball  
Adult Division  
Coaches Meeting**

Monday, Feb. 6, 2017  
6:00 p.m.  
Pearl River  
Community Center

For more information,  
call Thomas Ben,  
WSS Commissioner,  
601-504-3249  
(MEETING FOR COACHES ONLY)

**WORLD  
SERIES  
STICKBALL**  
MISSISSIPPI CHOCTAW