



# CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

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◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆



*Kaisen Dixon, 2016 Choctaw Tribal Schools Spelling Bee Winner*

## 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 held Feb. 4 at the Standing Pine Elementary School Gymnasium.

Dixon will represent the Choctaw Tribal Schools in the Mississippi Spelling Bee in Jackson on Tuesday, March 15. The competition will be aired live on Mississippi Public Broadcasting beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Dixon was one of 45 local spelling bee winners representing grades fourth-eighth from Bogue Chitto (BCES), Conehatta (CES), Pearl River (PRES), Red Water (RWES), Standing Pine (SPES), and Tucker Elementary Schools (TES) and Choctaw Central Middle School (CCMS).

In the opening rounds, champion spellers from

.....see BEE, pg. 9

## USET SPF Impact Week Held in Washington

(WASHINGTON, DC) - The first official USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) Impact Week Meeting was held Feb. 8-11 at the Marriott Crystal Gateway and on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

USET SPF is a 501(c) 4 organization that places focus and attention on education of Congress and the nation's administration regarding issues challenging Indian Country and advocating for the policy and legislation needs of its member Tribal Nations.

During the Impact Week Meeting in Washington, D.C., Tribal leadership once again placed focus on renewing their efforts to promote and protect the inherent sovereign authority of Tribal nations.

In his opening remarks to Tribal leaders, USET President Brian Patterson stated, "Empowering our Indian people is key to making positive,

progressive, and visionary change across our Tribal Nations. In doing so, we are promoting and protecting our inherent sovereignty rights and authorities which will ensure that we have strong, healthy and vibrant communities."

"Our goal each time we meet is to unlock doors of opportunity for our Tribal Nations and find the solutions to the challenges that have prevented our Tribal Nations from thriving rather than just surviving. That is the important and sacred responsibility that we have and it is central to the work we face this week."

With a year remaining in the current Administration, USET's Board of Directors discussed its priorities for 2016; implementation of the Tribal Law and Order Act; updating of the Quiet Crisis Report with the U.S. Civil

.....see USET, pg. 4



*Tribal Youth Summit participants carry their respective Tribal flags during the USET Opening Ceremony.*



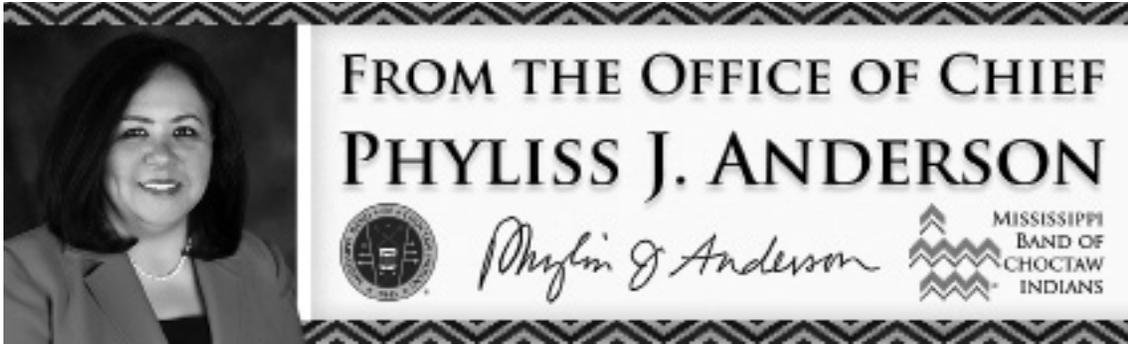
*USET President Brian Patterson, right, addresses participants of the Tribal Youth Summit.*



## Tribe Participates in Inauguration Parade

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians participated in the 2016 Inauguration Parade of Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant on Tuesday, January 12 in downtown Jackson. The delegation, led by tribal drummers & Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake, included princesses & braves from the Choctaw Tribal Schools & members of the Choctaw Central High School Social Dancers.





Halito! As we start this new year I am so encouraged and excited about the many things in store for our great Tribe. With our new budget, not only are we able to provide cost-of-living increases and several other employee benefits but we also set aside money for building renovations, community improvements and new projects that will improve services and quality of life for our tribal members.

Throughout this issue of *Community News* and in the coming months you will see these projects underway as we move forward in creating new Choctaw progress.

**Tribal Elder Roofing Project**

This summer I introduced my "Next 100 Day Plan" which included a \$10 Million Housing Plan. As part of this housing plan, I have set aside \$1 million to make much needed and necessary roofing repairs to the homes of many of our tribal elders living on the reservation.

In the month of February we accepted applications through the Choctaw Elderly Program. We had a number of elders apply for the program and assessment teams have already

gone out in the communities to evaluate the needed repairs.

Those tribal elders living in conditions with the most damage, income hardships and degree of disability are considered urgent and will be serviced first.

We are also collecting data to determine how we can best serve those elderly living off the reservation but in the local county area. I am confident this program will provide the needed services to so many of our tribal elders and I thank everyone that is supporting this project.

**Pearl River Community Center (formerly known as Downstairs Facility Building)**

Also included in the FY16 budget were funds to update and renovate the downstairs facility building in Pearl River. This building has been used over the years for countless occasions such as birthday celebrations, school programs, Choctaw Indian Fair exhibits, funerals, and meetings to name a few.

In the last few months engineers, planners and a construction crew have worked to correct infrastructure problems

such as drainage, electricity and sewage.

The facility had a number of overdue repairs that were made as well as fresh paint, new flooring and a new kitchen. I think the building looks great and I am excited to show it off.

Our new Pearl River Community Center (formerly known as the Downstairs Facility Building) was featured at an open house for tribal members on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 10:00 A.M. when light refreshments, self-guided tours and door prizes were offered.

The building is available to rent for \$50 by calling Tribal Member Services office at 601-650-1538. I encourage you to stop by and see our newly improved and renovated facility building.

**More Upcoming Renovations**

More updates are still scheduled in the coming months before our Choctaw Indian Fair. We will build a new press box and restrooms at the CCHS Football Stadium; provide significant updates and improvements at the CCHS Softball field; new bathrooms at the Amphitheater Stage area; repair drainage and sewage



*Pictured above is a view of the new flooring of the Pearl River Community Center. Below is a picture of the new porch constructed at the entrance.*

lines, and renovate the entertainment house at the Amphitheater.

**Choctaw Health Center Marks One Year of Service in New Facility**

It's hard to believe that just one year ago we held the grand opening celebration of our new Choctaw Health Center on March 2, 2015, and opened for services on March 9, 2015. It was indeed a monumental project and truly a great achievement for our Tribe.

We currently have 13 physicians on staff and offer a range of services to our tribal members for comprehensive healthcare. Those include dental, diabetes care, emergency department, emergency medical services, primary care,

women's wellness, WIC, laboratory services, optometry, medical imaging, pharmacy, rehabilitation services, respiratory therapy, behavioral health, and acute care.

We will celebrate the anniversary with a come-and-go reception on Wednesday, March 9th, 2016. Please stop by for light refreshments starting at 11 AM.

**NASA Tournament**

The Native American Sports Association (NASA) Basketball Tournament was held January 22-23, 2016, in Hollywood, Florida hosted by the Seminole Tribe.

Mississippi Choctaws were well represented with ten 18 &

.....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  
 Kathie Henry.....Communications Writer  
 Taryn Carey.....Communications Writer  
 Darron Tubby.....Communications Writer

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



*Congratulations to Victorious Secret, left, as they claimed this year's NASA men's division championship. Pictured right is Lady MBCI as they placed third in the women's division. Not pictured is MBCI Legends as they placed second in the Over-40 men's division.*

Over men and women's teams and one Over 40 men's team. There were 37 teams total competing in the tournament.

MBCI had the first place team in the 18 & Over division coached by Brison La-Sarge and Trent Thompson; and the MBCI Legends Over 40 Men's team coached by Rickey Anderson came in second in their division.

Congratulations to all our players and teams for a great showing at this year's basketball tournament.

**CCHS Athletics**

Rick and I have enjoyed watching our student athletes during this season of CCHS Warrior basketball and soccer.

So far CCHS Lady Warriors are #1 in their division; CCHS Girls Soccer has won district now for four years in a row; and CCHS Boys Soccer had a great season clinching a playoff bid for the first time. In addition, the CCHS Bowling Team has also finished their season after competing in the regionals in Tupelo, MS.

We congratulate all of these student athletes on their achievements on their field of play and look forward to cheering on our basketball teams as they continue their drive to the "Big House!"

**Upcoming Community Field Days**

In the coming months, I will visit our communities for the annual Community Field Days. It is a time of fellowship, fun and food for all community residents, but more importantly it is a time that I can provide a report and updates on our tribal and resort progress.

It is important to me that I have these occasions to visit with you in your home community and to hear of your concerns and personal growth. We are making great strides to improve all our communities and provide more employment and housing opportunities.

I will share important numbers, details on programs and spend one-on-one time with our tribal members. If you are interested in volunteering at a community field day we welcome your support. Please call the Office of Special Projects at (601) 663-7524.

**Closing**

Over the last few weeks we have been experiencing some rough weather conditions. As the temperatures change we have seen wintry weather conditions and some tornadoes. I want to encourage everyone

to take precautionary measures to ensure the safety and comfort of everyone in your homes, especially the elders, disabled and young children.

Please plan ahead and know your safe place in case of severe weather. We do our very best to alert people of bad weather through sirens, text messages and of course local media outlets.

Every Choctaw life is dear to me. Let's look after each other to ensure safety for all our tribal members and may God continue to richly bless our great Tribe, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Many Blessings,

*Phyllis J. Anderson*

Chief Phyllis J. Anderson

**Employees, Contest Winners Honored**

Several employees of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) and winners of the annual Christmas decoration contest were honored during the Tribal Government Christmas Luncheon Dec. 18 at the Pearl River Community Gymnasium.

Clarissa Stewart of the Choctaw Health Center was named recipient of the 2015 MBCI Employee of the Year. She was also the recipient of the Extra Mile Award.

Other employee category award recipients included: Leslie J. Willis of the Choctaw Health Center, Workplace Improvement/Innovation Award; Verna Williamson of the Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI, Administrative or Clerical Support Award; Kevin Cotton of Choctaw Transit, Heroism Award; and John K. Cumberland of Tribal Administration, Leadership Award.

Winners of the 14th Annual Reservation-Wide Christmas Decoration Contest were recognized for their efforts and

## News from the Tribal Distribution Office

**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 do 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](http://www.choctaw.org).

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



*Pictured from left are employee award recipients Verna Williamson, Kevin Cotton, Clarissa Stewart (Employee of the Year), Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake, Chief Phyllis J. Anderson, Leslie Willis, & John Cumberland.*

received cash awards.

With 29 registered contestants from all eight Choctaw communities, Juannina Mingo of Standing Pine was the overall winner and received \$600.

Shirley Wilson of Pearl River placed second and received \$500; Judy Nickey of Conehatta placed third and received \$400.

Contestants named Honorable Mentions and \$150 recipients include: Karene Jefferson, Bogue Chitto; Jennifer Thomas, Bogue Homa; Toniya Lay, Conehatta; Savannah Galvan, Crystal Ridge; Lorena Alex, Pearl River; Betty Ross, Red Water; Holly Peters, Standing Pine; and Marsha Davis, Tucker.



## CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

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

### TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 12, 2016

**Resolution CHO 16-012**, approving a Memorandum

of Understanding between the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Choctaw Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service, was ADOPTED 15 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 2 Absent (*C. Ben & D. McClelland*).

**Resolution CHO 16-013**, approving amendments to the Bylaws of the Choctaw Health Center, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-014**, approving Laurie Hamilton, MSN, FNP, research "Utilizing Culturally Congruent Educational Interventions To Improve Native American

Outcomes, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-015**, approving publication request by University Medical Center Children's Hospital employee, Dr. Laura Newman, Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist, regarding Congenital Amegakaryocytic Thrombocytopenia; A Case Series and Review of Literature, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-016**, applying for a grant from the State of Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Division of Public Safety Planning, to continue the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant

Program, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-017**, confirming the appointment of members to serve on the Tribal Personnel Grievance Panel, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-018**, appointing members to the Choctaw Health Department Governing Board, was ADOPTED 9 Yes (*H. Ben, T. Chickaway, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, B. Steve, D. Wilson*), 4 No (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, L. Parkerson, S. Willis*), 4 Abstain (*C. Ben, K. Edwards, W. McMillan, J. Wesley*).

**Resolution CHO 16-019**, appointing a member to the Tribal Enrollment Committee, was ADOPTED 15 Yes (*R. Bell, C. Ben, H. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley*,

*S. Willis, D. Wilson*), 0 No, 2 Abstain (*R. Anderson & W. McMillan*).

**Resolution CHO 16-020**, confirming appointments of members to the Choctaw Tax Commission, was ADOPTED 16 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain (*L. Parkerson*).

**Resolution CHO 16-021**, applying for a 2016 Native Agriculture and Foods Systems Initiative (NAFSI) Grant from The First Nations Institute, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-022**, approval of commercial land assignments between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians d/b/a Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise and various tenants, was ADOPTED 16 Yes, 1 No (*L. Parkerson*), 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-023**, adopting a Strategic Energy Plan, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-024**, applying for a 2016 Tribal Energy Development Capacity (TEDC) Grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-025**, accepting grant funds for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Planning Grant, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-026**, authorizing the Office of Economic Development to apply for a grant from the Administration of Native Americans, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-027**, appointing directors to the Board of Directors of Chahta Holding Group, Inc., was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-028**, approving Tribal enrollments, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-029(B)**, approving increase in blood degree from previously enrolled members, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

### USET ..... continued from page one

Rights Commission; discussing the Native specific provisions included in the recently passed Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and focusing on taxation issues facing Indian Country with the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Additionally, Impact Week also included updates and discussions regarding Trust modernization efforts, economic development, housing, health, Tribal historic preservation, and gaming. USET Tribal leadership also visited with members of Congress and discussed a

wide range of issues.

USET took a moment to reflect, remember, and honor the life of Catawba Indian Nation Assistant Chief Wayne George, who passed away in January.

One of George's passions during his lifetime was working to ensure opportunities and support to Catawba youth as he understood their success would ensure the success of the Catawba Nation and Indian Country.

USET also continued its tradition of involvement of its Tribal youth and focusing on future leadership development. Students from various USET member Tribal Nations were in Washington, DC to attend the Tribal Youth Summit. The week of activities was supported by USET and the Close Up Foundation, who worked in partnership to bring an enriching and empowering experience for USET Tribal youth.

About 100 high school students from 23 of the USET member Tribal Nations met in Washington, D.C. as part of the Tribal Youth Summit.

The 2016 Tribal Youth Summit is the 19th where the USET has partnered with the Close Up Foundation to promote within these students a greater learning about their Tribes, gain an understanding about how the federal government works with Indian Country, and engage in a cultural exchange.

A goal for the Tribal Youth Summit is to build leadership skills and foster positive development among the younger generations.

Throughout the week, students analyzed challenges facing their Tribal communities; developed solutions to those issues; visited with members of Congress; and held a mock board of director session where they discussed issues and presented resolutions to the USET Board of Directors.

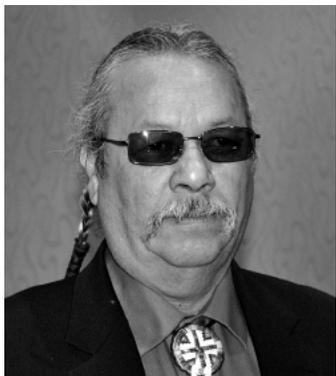
USET President Patterson told the students on Feb. 7, at the beginning of their Tribal

Youth Summit, the empowerment they receive through this week will help build resources for their Tribal Nations.

"You, as young leaders, will build some great skills and take back with you tools and resources that will eventually make a great impact on your community, and yes for your children's future. Empowering you to make positive and lasting changes is what this week is all about," said Patterson.

USET Secretary Dr. Lynn Malerba also told the students their attitudes toward making great change is a key factor in how their work as leaders will be effective.

"I really like how President Patterson always tells us at the beginning of each USET meeting that we must approach our work as Tribal leaders with good hearts and good minds. You must do the same this week and you will make the change," said Malerba.



The late Catawba Indian Nation Assistant Chief Wayne George

### USET Leadership Meets with Tribal Youth Summit Students



# NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER

## FROM THE CHC BUSINESS OFFICE

We would like for you to have the best patient experience at the Choctaw Health Center (CHC). Here are some quick reminders from the Business Office about referrals.

### REFERRALS

In order to be eligible for Purchased and Referred Care, you must live on the reservation or in one of the ten counties: Attala, Winston, Noxubee, Leake, Neshoba, Kemper, Scott, Newton, Jasper and Jones.

### REFERRAL APPOINTMENTS

- If the doctor at CHC decides you need a non-emergent referral, please allow a week or more before getting an appointment. We ask that you contact us if you have not received a phone call or a voice mail message.

- For **NEW and FOLLOW-UP appointments**, pick up your referral at the Business Office. You should not be asked for a co-pay at the appointment.

- For **FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENTS**, call to inform us or bring your appointment card at least one week in advance. If you bring it the day before, we may not have sufficient time to obtain all medical information from your referring physician. We want to ensure you have all information needed for your appointment.

- Be sure to take your **Driver's License or photo I.D., insurance card**, and medications to all doctor visits. Some providers will not see you without **photo I.D.**

- Be sure to call the doctor's office **within 24 hours** if you **CANNOT** make your **REFERRAL** appoint-

ment. Notify the Business Office as well. Call the doctor's office to cancel or reschedule your **REFERRAL** appointment. There will possibly be a **FEE to you**, for "no show" from that doctor's office. CHC cannot cover these "no show" charges.

### BILLS/STATEMENTS

- If you have received a bill from a previous referral, this means that we have not received it at CHC. Providers will send the bill to us or you, not both. We rely on you to bring in the bill to us timely. CHC pays only if you had a referral for the visit. Please

be aware when you go to the doctor outside of CHC on your own without a referral, you are responsible for the bill and/or copay.

- Bills/statements brought in to CHC will require a two forms to be filled out. This includes information about the bill/statement and an authorization for us to request your bill information from the doctor. According to

HIPAA guidelines, providers will not speak with us about your bill without this authorization form.

- We receive a high volume of bills/statements. Please allow us at least 30 days to receive the information from the doctor's office or hospital.

For more information, call the CHC Business Office at 601-389-4060.

## MEET THE CHC SPECIALTY DOCTORS

Dr. Sarita Elizabeth Cox, ND, LAc., practices Naturopathic Medicine and is a licensed Acupuncturist. Dr. Cox currently has a clinic in Meridian. She will be at the Choctaw Health Center (CHC) weekly doing acupuncture. Dr. Cox will be able to help with symptoms such as adult post-operative, chemotherapy nausea and vomiting, addiction, headache, menstrual cramps, fibromyalgia, osteoarthritis, low back pain, and carpal tunnel syndrome. You may call the Primary Care Clinic to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Gregory Auzenne, MD, is a staff physician at Rush Pain Clinic. He will provide pain treatment at CHC starting March 4. You may call the Primary Care Clinic to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Gregory A. Gordon, MD, will be a staff psychiatrist at CHC at the Behavioral Health Clinic. Dr. Gordon is currently a part-time contract psychiatrist but will be on staff full time starting March 15. He previously worked at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dr. Otis Gowdy, Jr., MD,

is a kidney doctor (Nephrologist) and will have a specialty clinic twice monthly. He currently works as a Kidney Specialist at Meridian Internal Medicine Clinic (IMC). You may call the Primary Care Clinic to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Jennifer Rodriguez, MD, is a heart specialist (Cardiologist). She will start her clinic in March 2016 and will be available monthly. She currently works as a cardiologist

at IMC in Meridian. You may call the Primary Care Clinic to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Ronnye Purvis, MD, is an OB/GYN who practices at the Purvis Clinic in Meridian. He will be available at Women's Wellness Clinic to see patients who are referred from the primary care physician or one of our nurse practitioners at CHC.

Dr. Urelaine Simon-Hart, MD, is an OB/GYN who practices at the Women's Wellness

Institute in Meridian. She is available at

Women's Wellness Clinic to see patients who are referred from the primary care physician or one of our nurse practitioners at CHC.

Dr. Juantina Johnson, Chief Medical Officer, has a weekly Pulmonology (Lungs) Clinic at CHC. She sees patients with asthma, COPD and other causes of lung diseases. You may call the Primary Care Clinic to schedule an appointment.



Dr. Sarita Elizabeth Cox



Dr. Gregory Auzenne



Dr. Gregory A. Gordon



Dr. Otis Gowdy, Jr.



Dr. Jennifer Rodriguez



Dr. Ronnye Purvis



Dr. Urelaine Simon-Hart



Dr. Juantina Johnson

## Dental Health Tips for Children

Children's Dental Health Month has been observed in February since 1941. It has grown from a day-long event to an entire month now. This time is intended to bring awareness of dental health of

children.

We are very busy with activities from the Early Child Care Centers to the Choctaw Health Center. Stay tuned for pictures and articles in the coming months.

to help them chew and to speak clearly. And baby teeth hold space for adult teeth.



### BEFORE BABY IS BORN

Mothers, before your baby is born, you can begin taking care of his or her teeth. How, you ask? By taking care of your mouth and teeth.

We can treat prenatal moms throughout the pregnancy now to ensure that no harmful bacteria is passed from mom to baby. The same bacteria that causes cavities in mom's mouth can cause preterm deliveries, low birth weights and miscarriages.

Please get a dental check up early during your pregnancy so dental treatment can be completed before delivery. We know how busy you will be after delivery.

### HEALTHY TEETH ARE IMPORTANT (EVEN BABY TEETH)

Children need healthy teeth

Please read the following and maybe put yourself in Maria's or Ann's place.

*Ann and her friend Maria were watching Maria's children play.*

*"What are you doing?" asked Ann.*

*"I'm cleaning my baby's teeth," said Maria.*

*"But your baby hardly has any teeth!" said Ann.*

*"Yes, but the dentist said there are things I can do to keep my baby from getting cavities," said Maria.*

*"But don't baby teeth just fall out?" asked Ann.*

*"Yes, but before they fall out baby teeth can decay and cause pain for the baby. And baby teeth are important - they hold space for adult teeth," said Maria.*

*"What else did the dentist*

*say?" asked Ann.*

*"She told me that fluoride protects teeth. She also said to feed my baby healthy foods and not to put my baby to bed with a bottle," said Maria.*

*"When do you have to start taking care of a baby's teeth?" asked Ann.*

*"As soon as they come in. Teeth can start to decay as soon as they appear in the mouth," said Maria.*

*"I'll have to start thinking of those things soon!" said Ann.*

### CHECK YOUR BABY'S TEETH

Healthy teeth should be all one color. If you see spots or stains on the teeth, take your baby to the dentist.

### CLEAN YOUR BABY'S TEETH

Clean teeth as soon as they come in with a small, soft cloth or a baby's toothbrush. Clean the teeth at least once a day. It's best to clean them right before bedtime.

Young children cannot get their teeth clean by themselves. Until they are 7 or 8 years old, you will need to help them brush. Try brushing their teeth first and then letting them finish. Also, let them see you brush your teeth. This will

reinforce the importance of brushing daily. You are your child's best example.

### FEED YOUR BABY HEALTHY FOODS

Choose foods without a lot of sugar in them. Give your child fruits and vegetables for snacks. Save cookies and other treats for special occasions.

Choose milk and water. Check the ingredients on the soft drinks, Gatorade, Powerade, lemonade and Kool-aid. Nothing good or healthy in these for your baby.

### TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE DENTIST

Your child should have a dental visit by his first birthday. Why? So the dentist can check your baby's teeth, show you the best way to clean your child's teeth, and talk to you about other things such as a healthy diet, and fluoride that can keep your child's mouth healthy.

If you have any questions or need to make a dental check up appointment for you or your child, please call the Choctaw Dental Department at 601-389-4030.

Keep smiling!

## Diabetes Clinic News

The Diabetes Clinic is providing better services to every diabetic patient that comes to our clinic. We now have two providers, Dr. Joshi and Teresa Cumberland, FNP. Our clinic days have increased from 3 days to 5 days per week

Diabetes patients have annual requirements to complete to satisfy the Diabetes Standards of Care. The requirements are:

- Diabetes check-up with labs;
- Diabetes management education;
- Foot exam;
- Diabetic eye exam;
- Dental exam;
- Nutrition assessment;
- Immunizations;
- Exercise education;
- Behavioral health screening.

Please call or stop by and make an appointment. If you are receiving any of these services from providers outside the Choctaw Health Center or one of the community clinics, let us know so the information can be placed in your CHC health record.

### Important to Know

If you are coming to the Diabetes Clinic to pick up supplies, please allow at least 20 minutes. Required education services will be provided when you pick up supplies.

Clinic hours are 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. from Monday-Friday. Phone number is 601-389-4370.

THE CHOCTAW HEALTH SERVICES  
OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM PRESENTS:

## CONNECTING KIDS TO COVERAGE HEALTH FAIR

Thursday, March 17, 2016  
1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.  
Pearl River Facility Building

*The Outreach Services Program received a grant through the Insure Kids Now program under the Department of Health & Human Services & is promoting education & enrollment for the Medicaid & CHIP Federal Programs. Kids & Teens - all the way up to the age of 19 - could qualify for the free health insurance. They can get regular check-ups, immunizations, doctor & dentist visits, hospital care, mental health services, prescriptions, & more.*

**The Outreach Services Program encourages Departments to come set-up a booth at the community event & offer their services at the Health Fair. If interested in setting up a booth, forms are available here at the Choctaw Health Center, 2nd floor - Public Health. Deadline to turn in booth forms is Thursday, March 10 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Lindsey Gibson at 601.389.4109 or Jenna Tubby at 601.389.4125.**



### Looking for Health Insurance that Fits Your Health Needs and Your Budget?

**Medicaid or CHIP May Be the Answer! You Can Enroll Any Time - But Why Wait?**

Connecting Kids to Coverage: Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) offer low-cost or free health insurance for you and your family. In many states, more adults than ever before may qualify for Medicaid.

#### Who may be eligible?

- Children and teens up to age 19
- Parents (and other adults, depending on the state)
- Pregnant women
- People with disabilities
- Youth "aging out" of foster care

Eligibility depends on income, the size of your family and the rules in your state.

#### When you enroll, you can get:

- Doctor visits
- Preventive care, such as immunizations, mammograms & colonoscopy
- Prenatal and maternity care
- Hospital stays
- Mental health care
- Needed medications
- Children get vision and dental care (adults may get these benefits too)

American Indians and Alaska Natives who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP:

- Can still get care from your Indian care provider
- Don't have to pay premiums or co-payments
- Indian trust income is not counted to determine eligibility and is protected from Medicaid estate recovery rules

You benefit by having greater access to health care services.

Tribes benefit because their health programs get more resources.

To find out if you qualify, visit [www.KidsPlus.com](http://www.KidsPlus.com) or call Outreach Services Program 1-601-389-4114 Durnose Farmer, 1-601-389-4124 Robert Ben, or 1-601-389-4289 Laura Dees (Managed Care) for help applying.



# MOSQUITO CONTROL

Submitted by the Choctaw Health Center Office of Environmental Health



The Choctaw Health Center Office of Environmental Health strives to aid Tribal members in keeping pests which may be detrimental to public health controlled to as reasonable a level as feasible. Homeowners, business owners & Tribal government must work together through a system known as Integrated Pest Management.

## WHAT IS INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an overall pest management strategy for control of pests in homes, apartment buildings, dorms, & businesses.

IPM is a pest management system that combines non-chemical control strategies with less toxic pesticide use minimizing risk to human health & the environment.

For example, traps, baits & gels might be used instead of sprays to control pests. IPM minimizes health risks for susceptible populations, such as small children & older adults. IPM also focuses on eliminating ways for pests to get into homes, as well as eliminating access to food & water if they do get inside.

## MOSQUITO CONTROL

Everyone has had the unpleasant experience of being bitten by a mosquito. Mosquito bites can cause skin irritation through an allergic reaction to the mosquito's saliva – which causes the red bump & itching. But a more serious consequence of some mosquito bites may be the transmission of serious diseases such as malaria, dengue fever & several forms of encephalitis, including West Nile Virus.

Not only can mosquitoes carry diseases that afflict humans, but they can also transmit diseases & parasites that dogs & horses are very susceptible to. These include dog

heart worms, eastern equine encephalitis & West Nile virus.

There are about 200 different species of mosquitoes in the U.S., all of which live in specific habitats, exhibit unique behaviors & bite different types of animals. Despite these differences, all mosquitoes share some common traits, such as a four-stage life cycle.

Different species of mosquitoes prefer different types of standing water to lay their eggs. The presence of beneficial predators, such as fish & dragonfly nymphs in permanent ponds, lakes & streams, usually keep these bodies of water relatively free of mosquito larvae.

However, portions of marshes, swamps, clogged ditches, & temporary pools & puddles are all prolific mosquito breeding sites. Other sites in which some species lay their eggs include:

- Tree holes
- Old tires
- Buckets
- Toys
- Potted plant trays & saucers
- Plastic covers or tarpaulins
- Places as small as bottle caps!

## REMOVING MOSQUITO

## HABITATS

An important part of mosquito control around your home is making sure that mosquitoes don't have a place to lay their eggs. Because mosquitoes need water for two stages of their life cycle, it's important to monitor standing water sources.

- Get rid of standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys or any other container where mosquitoes can breed.

- Empty & change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels, & potted plant trays at least once a week to eliminate potential mosquito habitats.

- Drain temporary pools of water or fill with dirt.

- Keep swimming pool water treated & circulating.

## PREVENT EXPOSURE TO MOSQUITOES

Use the following tips to help protect yourself from exposure to mosquitoes:

- Use EPA-registered mosquito repellents when necessary & follow label directions & precautions closely. Repellents containing DEET have proven to be very effective. Some other products, such as citronella-based repellents, are somewhat effective. "Bug zappers" are NOT recommended. These actually attract mosquitoes & other flying insects.

- Tuck shirt into pants & pants into socks to cover gaps in your clothing where mosquitoes can get to your skin.

- Use head nets, long sleeves & long pants if you venture into areas with high mosquito

populations, such as marshes.

- Stay indoors at sunrise, sunset & early in the evening when mosquitoes are most active, especially if there is a mosquito-borne disease warning in effect.

- Replace your outdoor lights with yellow "bug"

lights, which tend to attract fewer mosquitoes than ordinary lights. The yellow lights are NOT repellents, however.

- Cover all gaps in walls, doors, & windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering.

.....see **MOSQUITO, pg. 8**

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM FUNDS

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant and Children (WIC) have been awarded funds by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to provide free supplemental food to eligible and certified participants. Eligible to participate in the program are pregnant and breastfeeding women who are at nutritional risk, Infants and children up to the age of 5 years who are of low income and are eligible to receive services at the Choctaw Health Center. WIC also provides other services such as:

1. Nutrition Education
2. Referral services to other Health services when necessary for specific health protection and health promotion activities
3. Dietary assessment
4. Breastfeeding counseling
5. Farmer's Market

All applicants must bring proof of income, residence, and I.D. to certify.

Examples of Proof of Income:

- A current pay stub less than 60 days old
- A signed statement from an employer indicating gross income earnings for a specified pay period
- Current W-2 forms
- An income tax return for the most current year
- Proof of Medicaid, TANF, or Food Stamps

Examples of Proof of Residence Include:

- Pieces of mail that include the client's current address (e.g. current utility bill, bank statement, etc.)
- A valid driver's license with the current address
- A mortgage/rental agreement

Examples of Proof of Identification Include:

- Driver's license
- Tribal ID
- Student ID
- Employee Badge

The WIC Office, located on the first floor of the Choctaw Health Center, is open to process applications and issue Food Vouchers, Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information, please call the WIC Office at 601-389-4510.

*"In accordance with Federal law and US Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability or national origin. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free (866)632-9992 (voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339 or (800)845-6136 (Spanish)." USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. (2-11-11)*

Current eligibility guidelines appear below. If your annual income is at or below the amount listed for your family size, then you can qualify for WIC assistance. Income listed is gross income, before taxes, insurance, or any other deductions.

### INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

(Effective from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	\$21,776	\$1,816	\$908	\$908	\$819
2	29,473	2,456	1,228	1,228	967
3	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715
4	44,863	3,739	1,870	1,726	663
5	52,558	4,380	2,190	2,022	1,011
6	60,254	5,022	2,511	2,318	1,158
7	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,810	1,455
Each Adult Family member add	+ \$7,686	+ \$642	+ \$321	+ \$296	+ \$148

**SAVOR THE FLAVOR OF EATING RIGHT**

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH® 2016

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
www.eatright.org

Visit the WIC office during the month of March to learn more about National Nutrition Month. Healthy cooking tips and recipes will also be available.

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

# ACA Indian Exemption Info for Tribal Members

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires all Americans to obtain health care coverage beginning in 2014 or pay a tax penalty. American Indians and Alaska Natives are exempt from the penalty if they claim the Indian Exemption.

federally-recognized tribes and descendants who are part of a community served by the IHS or tribal health facility;

- California Indians as defined by 25 U.S.C. 1679;
- Non-Indian women who are pregnant with the child of an eligible Indian.

it using IRS Tax Form 8965.

### DO I NEED TO CLAIM INDIAN EXEMPTION IF I ALREADY HAVE INSURANCE OR SOME

### OTHER FORM OF COVERAGE (MEDICARE, MEDICAID OR THE VA)?

No, but you may want to claim the Indian Exemption in case you lose your coverage

for any reason during the year.

For more information, contact: Durnene Farmer, Outreach Services Program Director, at 601-389-4114; or Laura John, Adult Education Program, at 601-650-1756.

### WHO IS COVERED BY THE INDIAN EXEMPTION?

The Indian exemption applies to anyone who is:

- An enrolled member in a federally-recognized Tribe;
- An Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) village or regional shareholder; or
- Eligible to receive services from an IHS or Tribal health clinic.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES FROM AN IHS OR TRIBAL HEALTH CLINIC?

IHS eligibility includes:

- Enrolled members of

### WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO CLAIM THE INDIAN EXEMPTION?

The exemption may be claimed by you or your tax preparer by filling out IRS Tax Form 8965, and selecting option "E" in Part III.

You may also qualify for the exemption through the Health Insurance Exchange operating in your State, but using IRS Tax Form 8965 may be easier. If you already obtained an exemption certificate through the Exchange operating in your State, you may enter your Exemption Certificate Number in Part I.

The Indian exemption is not automatic. You need to claim

## MOSQUITO ..... continued from page seven

- Make sure window & door screens are "bug tight."
- Completely cover baby carriers & beds with netting.

### USING INSECT REPELLENTS SAFELY

For the safe & effective use of pesticide products, always read the product label before using the product. Apply just enough repellent to cover exposed skin and/or clothing. Remember these important points to use repellents safely:

- Follow the label directions to ensure proper use.
- Repellents should be applied only to exposed skin and/or clothing. Do not use under clothing.
- Store insect repellents safely out of the reach of children, in a locked utility cabinet or garden shed.
- Do not apply near eyes & mouth, & apply sparingly around ears.
- When using sprays, do not spray directly into face; spray on hands first & then apply to face.
- Never use repellents over cuts, wounds or irritated skin.
- Do not spray in enclosed areas. Avoid breathing a spray product & do not use near food.
- After returning indoors, wash treated skin & clothes with soap & water.
- Do not use any products on pets or other animals unless the label clearly states it is for animals.

### CONTROLLING MOSQUITOES AT LARVAL STAGE

Oils & films disperse as a thin layer on the surface of the water which causes larvae & pupae to drown.

Larvicides target larvae in the breeding habitat before they can mature into adult mosquitoes & disperse. Lar-

vicidal treatment of breeding habitats helps reduce the adult mosquito population in nearby areas.

Liquid Larvicide products are applied directly to water using backpack sprayers & trucks or aircraft-mounted sprayers. Tablet, pellet, granular, & larvicides are also applied by mosquito controllers to breeding areas.

### CONTROLLING ADULT MOSQUITOES

Communities seek to control adult mosquitoes to combat an outbreak of mosquito-borne disease or a very heavy, nuisance infestation of mosquitoes. Pesticides registered for this use are known as adulticides. They are applied either by aircraft or on the ground employing truck-mounted sprayers.

State, tribal & local agencies commonly use the organophosphate insecticides malathion & naled & the synthetic pyrethroid insecticides prallethrin, etofenprox, pyrethrins, permethrin, resmethrin, & sumithrin for adult mosquito control.

Mosquito adulticides are applied as ultra-low volume (ULV) sprays, ULV sprayers dispense very fine aerosol droplets that stay aloft & kill flying mosquitoes on contact. ULV applications involve small quantities of pesticide active ingredient in relation to the size of the area treated, typically less than 3 ounces per acre, which minimizes exposure & risks to people & the environment.

Adulticides can be used for public health mosquito control programs without posing risks of concern to the general population or to the environment when applied according to the pesticide label.

### MOSQUITO SURVEYING

If you would like your property to be evaluated for mosquito harborage, contact the Office of Environmental Health at 601-389-4142.

## Title I PAB Hosts Working Lunch

The Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) met at the Ayipa Café in Choctaw for their working lunch on Dec. 15, 2015. Fifteen board members and 22 guests enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch

Standing Pine Elementary School Music Teacher Melody Starling, along with eight of her exceptionally talented students, entertained board members and guests with their rendition of a Disney musical.

PAB Chair Ray Willis honored Walter Jim as December's Outstanding Choctaw Educator. Walter has worked with the Tribal Schools since 1994. He has been a custodian at both the old and new Tucker Elementary Schools and takes pride in his work and always strives to make the school look good.

Before his employment with the schools, Walter worked with the Tribal Construction Company. He and his late wife, Louise, have been blessed with two daughters and three sons.

Willa Brantley, Director of Education, and David Germany, Director of Schools, both shared information about the schools' progress with board

.....continued next page

### WHERE CAN I GET IRS TAX FORM 8965?

Pictured below is a sample of IRS Tax Form 8965. Actual form is available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8965.pdf> Instructions for IRS Tax Form 8965 may be found at <http://www.irs.gov/instructions/i8965/ch01.html>

**8965** Health Coverage Exemptions  
OMB No. 1545-0047  
2014  
Form 8965 (2014)

Part I Marketplace-Granted Coverage Exemptions for Individuals: If you and/or a member of your tax household have an exemption granted by the Marketplace, complete Part I.

Name of individual	SSN	Exemption Certificate Number
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Part II Coverage Exemptions for Your Household Claimed on Your Return:

a. Are you claiming an exemption because your household income is below the filing threshold?  Yes  No

b. Are you claiming a hardship exemption because your gross income is below the filing threshold?  Yes  No

Part III Coverage Exemptions for Individuals Claimed on Your Return: If you and/or a member of your tax household are claiming an exemption on your return, complete Part III.

Name of individual	SSN	Exemption Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6														
7														
8														
9														
10														
11														
12														
13														

For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see your tax return instructions. Form 8965 (2014)

# FIRST LEGO League Tournament Winners Announced

The Choctaw Tribal Schools held the 14th Annual FIRST LEGO League Tournament on Jan. 23 at the Pearl River Elementary School Gymnasium. Over one hundred students participated in this year's event.

FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is a hands-on, interactive engineering program that

captivates students' interest in science and technology as they learn problem solving and team building skills.

The following awards were presented after a day of competition.

### Judges' Award

During the course of competition the judges may en-

counter a team whose unique efforts, performance or dynamics merit recognition. Some teams have a story that sets them apart in a unique way. Sometimes a team is so close to winning an award that the judges choose to give special recognition to that team. The Judges' Award allows the freedom to recognize a remarkable team. The Judges' Award was presented to System Overload from Pearl River Elementary School.

### Robot Performance Award

The Robot Performance Award was presented to Oka Homma representing Red Water Elementary School. The Oka Homma's robot achieved the best score on the competition field.

### Robot Design Award

This award recognizes a team that designs a mechanically sound robot that is durable, efficient and highly ca-

pable of performing challenge missions. The team utilizes outstanding programming principles, including clear, concise and reusable code that allows their robot to perform challenge missions autonomously and consistently. Solid engineering principles and a well-developed strategy is used to design and build an innovative, high performing robot. The Robot Design Award

was presented to Choctaw Central Middle School's The Triple "R" Squad.

### Project Presentation Award

The Project Award was presented to Standing Pine Elementary School's Garbage Terminators for their utilization of diverse resources to formulate an in depth and comprehensive understanding of the problem they identified.

.....see LEGO, pg. 10



### Judges' Award Recipient - System Overload

Team members include Jordan Truss, Leia Phillips, Dylan Williams, Kaiden Anderson, Breanna Isaac, Aison Jim, Gannon Vaughn, Da'Kiren Wilson, Waniya Tubby, Lilah Reynolds, Coach Willard Bacon, Coach Dolores Russell, & Coach Tressie Charlie.



### Robot Performance Award Recipient - Oka Homma

Team members include Buford Billie, Miley Billie, Emmett Crowell, Hailee Stephens, Kobe Willis, Kerri Wilson, Samandan Kopaddy, Nicolas Barragan, Coach Madonna Watkins, Coach Brenda Clay, & Coach Charles Meely.

members and guests.

Chantay Frazier was elected Standing Pine representative to the PAB.

The Board will meet again

on Feb. 23. For more information, contact William F. Bell at 601-663-7660 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.



Pictured from left are Walter Jim, December's Outstanding Choctaw Educator; Willa Brantley, Director of Education; PAB Chair Ray Willis, new board member Chantay Frazier, & PAB Co-Chair Crystal Roach.



Standing Pine Elementary School music students & their teacher, Melody Starling.

## BEE ..... continued from page one

each grade competition included: (4th) Nataysia Willis, SPES; (5th) Dixon, PRES; (6th) Makayla Hickman, TES; (7th) Cheyan Robinson, CCMS; & (8th) Martina Willis, BCES.

Other participants included:

Fourth grade - Melanie Perez (BCES), Dexton Hall (CES), Zaynah Shoemake (CES), Tori Isaac (PRES), Kaily Willis (PRES), Kodi Jimmie (PRES), Delaiah Billy (PRES), Carmelo Dixon (RWES), & Raziya Cumberland (TES).

Fifth grade - Kacie Wallace (BCES), Catherine Jim (CES), Jaeon Johnson (CES), Tamaya Hampton (PRES), Azarie Willis (PRES), James Steve (PRES), Kerri Wilson (RWES), Taiton Stokes (SPES), & Lakenton Chickaway (TES).

Sixth grade - Neera Bell

(BCES), Malice Williams (CES), Annie Isaac (PRES), Crystal Routh (PRES), Taylor McMillan (PRES), Zander Sockey (RWES), & Seth Thomas (SPES).

Seventh grade - Breanne Mingo (BCES), Alarys Johnson (CES), Isley Mingo (CCMS), John Clemons (CCMS), Brighton Jimmie

(CCMS), Ashanti Body (RWES), & Gabriella Cumberland (TES).

Eighth grade - Ryan Smith (CES), Justina Hall (CES), Geric Hickman (CCMS), Jalen Williams (CCMS), Cody Roach (CCMS), JaShuntaye Isaac (CCMS), Armando Lopez (RWES), & Malakai Charlie (TES).



Pictured from left are spelling bee grade category winners Kaisen Dixon (5th grade-overall winner), Nataysia Willis (4th grade), Makayla Hickman (6th grade), Cheyan Robinson (7th grade), & Martina Willis (8th grade).

## LEGO ..... continued from page nine

The team's solution is exceptionally well considered and creative, with good potential to solve the problem researched. This award recognizes a team that effectively communicated the problem and their proposed solution to both judges and other potential supporters.

### FIRST LEGO League Core Values Award

This award celebrates a team that is empowered by their FLL experience and displays extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit. They are able to accomplish more together than they could as individuals

through shared goals, strong communication, effective problem solving, and excellent time management. This team's members show each other and other teams respect at all times. They recognize that both friendly competition and mutual gain are possible, on and off the playing field. The Core Values Award was presented to OTG Squad from Tucker Elementary School.

### Champion's Award

This award recognizes a team that embodies the FIRST LEGO League experience, by fully embracing our CORE Values while achieving excellence and innovation in both the Robot Game and Project. The Champion's Award was presented to Pearl River Elementary School's LEGO® Warriors.

Pearl River's LEGO® Warriors will represent the Choctaw Tribal Schools at the FIRST LEGO® League Mississippi Championship in Vicksburg in March.



### Robot Design Award Recipient - Triple "R" Squad

Team members include Traiton Martin, Gerrett Isaac, Brannon Jim, Alexandria Martin, Colin Martin, Rayven McMillan, Melane Jimmie, Junaluska Wilson, Hunter Orduno, Isley Mingo, Cheyan Robinson, Coach Paula Pankratz, & Coach Brian Jay.



### Project Presentation Award Recipient - Garbage Terminators

Team members include Jaeden Wesley, DeShaylee Tubby, Conner Billy, Tayen Jim, Taiton Stokes, Seth Thomas, Bishop Reed, Anya Anderson, Nataysia Willis, Jabari Denson, Armando Ben, Chloe Wesley, & Coach Donna Anthony.



### FLL Core Values Award Recipient - OTG Squad

Team members include Kristina Taylor, Seriah Cumberland, Malakai Charlie, Kyonia Kanagawa, Elray Willis, Dewight Chickaway, Leilani Charlie, Olivia Willis, Ariana Ramirez, Elliyonna Chickaway, & Coach Karla Clearman.



### Champion's Award Recipient - LEGO® Warriors

Team members include Jaylynn Briscoe, Andre'as Jim, Derek Reynolds, Crystal Routh, Memorie Willis, Peja York, Thomas Ben, Kaisen Dixon, Phoenix Wilson, James Steve, Jacob Frazier, Brydon Wesley, Tamaya Hampton, Tyra Billy, Demidrea Stokes, Aleyandro Clemmons, Coach Felcia Hudson, & Coach Maria Hartness.

Special thanks to our volunteers who donated their time, energies and talents to the Choctaw Tribal Schools' FIRST LEGO® League Tournament. Your contributions will have a lasting impact on our "Engineers of Tomorrow."

Robot Design judges were Elray King and Pat O'Neil.

Project Presentation judg-

es were Joyce King and Jerry Cain.

Core Values judges were Kristi Willis and Brenita Reynolds.

Robot Performance referees were Wes Wallace and Brandon Farve.

Choctaw Central High School Principal Fredrick Hickmon served as emcee.

## RWES Hosts Spelling Bee

Red Water Elementary School (RWES) hosted their school-wide spelling bee on Jan. 13. Winners in grades 4th-8th then participated in the Choctaw Tribal Schools' District-Wide Spelling Bee on Feb. 4.

Representing RWES in the district spelling bee were Carmelo Dixon (4th grade), Kerri Wilson (5th grade), Zander Sockey (6th grade), Ashanti Body (7th grade), and Armando Lopez (8th grade).

Students placing first, second or third in the RWES spelling bee included the following:

(Pre-K) - Presley Phillips, Ginger Burnside & Logan Bell;

(K) - Serenity Kopaddy, Hadley Mack & Paris Martinez;

(1st grade) - Zahe Wilson, Josiah Wishork & Ashlyn Killingsworth;



(2nd grade) - Christopher Williams, Leah Lewis, Adarius Lewis, Kinsleigh Willis, Ansley Wallace, & Carlyle Phillips;

(3rd grade) - Sebastian May, Bracyn Willis & Kaden Edwards;

(4th grade) - Carmelo Dixon, Buford Billie & Bralanna Wilson;

(5th grade) - Kerri Wilson,

Maddux Dixon & Tayler Tiger;

(6th grade) - Zander Sockey, Breely Wilson & Avontae Jones;

(7th grade) - Ashanti Body, Jurnee Jones & Trevell Vivians;

(8th grade) - Armando Lopez, Taezialin Tubby & Iverson Allen.



Choctaw Tribal Schools Girls Basketball Champions - CCMS Lady Warriors



Choctaw Tribal Schools Boys Basketball Champions - CES Choctaws

## 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 at the Tucker Community Gymnasium.

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.

The annual tournament, hosted this year by Tucker Elementary School, features seventh & eighth grade teams representing Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Red Water, and Tucker Elementary Schools and Choctaw Central Middle School.

The Lady Warriors jumped on the Lady Choctaws early as they took a 14-6 lead in the opening quarter. Choctaw Central then took a 9-2 advantage in the second for a 23-8 lead into halftime.

The Lady Warriors scored 15 to the Lady Choctaw's 9 in the third for a 38-17 lead. In the final quarter the Lady Warriors added 17 and held Conehatta to only seven points.

LaCaniya Anderson of CCMS scored a game-high 10 points and earned MVP honors. Tia Saunders scored seven & Shemah Crosby six. Jashuntaye Isaac, Maiya Joe, Taelor York, Meloney Thames scored five each & Melanian Jimmie four. Lali Crosby, Rayven McMillan, Jaida Bell,

& Krystyn Martin scored two each.

For Conehatta, Layla Wishork had a team high nine points as Christi Lewis scored six, Leloni Shoemake four, Shaylene Thomas three, & Candace Willis two.

In the boys' final, Conehatta went on a 13-7 run in the first quarter & was highlighted by a half-court shot at the buzzer by the Choctaws' Deshane Wishork.

Conehatta held CCMS to four points in the second as they scored 13 for a 26-11 halftime lead.

CCMS had a 11-10 advantage in the third but still trailed Conehatta 36-22.

Zane Lilly of CCMS scored 13 of the team's 18 points in the fourth but come up short as the Choctaws came away with the 50-40 win.

Conehatta's Gerald Isom had a game-high 22 points

as teammate Wishork had 18 points and earned MVP honors.

Ronald Billy and Chris Thomas scored four each and Billie Isom had two for the Choctaws.

Tristen Gibson scored 13 for the Warriors, Kashden Bell six and Dewayne Cotton and Miles Steve scored four points each.

**RIGHT**, Tourney MVP honors went to Deshane Wishork, left, of Conehatta & LaCaniya Anderson of CCMS.

**BELOW**, All-Tournament selections were, from left, (GIRLS) Jillian Lasiloo (Bogue Chitto), Layla Wishork (Conehatta), Olivia Willis (Tucker), Jashuntaye Isaac (CCMS); (BOYS) Octavious Jones (Red Water), Zane Lilly (CCMS), Gerald Isom (Conehatta), & Jalen Willis (Tucker). Not pictured were Pernie Arizvu (Red Water) & Jared Cotton (Bogue Chitto).



### RWES Science Fair Winners

The following students placed first or second in the school-wide science fair at Red Water Elementary School. They are, kneeling from left, Eladia Martinez, 2nd place; Ansley Wallace, 1st place; Natalie Chitto, 1st place; Carlisle Phillips, 1st place; standing, Ashanti Body, 1st place; Sissie Gibson, 1st place; Gabriel Chitto, 1st place; Ta'Jae Cook, 1st place; & Karidee Willis, 1st place.

## SPES releases Honor Roll

Standing Pine Elementary School announced the Honor Roll for the second nine-weeks of the 2015-16 school year. Students on the Chief's List attained an average of 90 or higher. Students on the Principal's List attained a 80 average or higher.

### CHIEF'S LIST

First grade - Brady Farve, Yazmine Hickman & Malena Sockey.

Second grade - Zander

Frazier & Tyris Stokes.

Third grade - Brylee Willis.

Fourth grade - Cameron Reed & Nataysia Willis.

Fifth grade - Taiton Stokes.

Sixth grade - Jaeden Wesley.

### PRINCIPAL'S LIST

First grade - Lacy Alex, Bayliss Billy, Ty Briscoe, Hayden Denson, Bryant Jim, & Jakayla Moore.

Second grade - Zahya Amos, Anniston Billy, Yuriana Crosby, Jonas Hardy, Treyton

Lindsey, & Sunshine Thomas.

Third grade - Kaymeree Gibson, Sadie Vaughn & Keira Willis.

Fourth grade - Aiden Alex, Anya Anderson, Jabari Denson, Chloe Wesley, & Fichik Willis.

Fifth grade - Tayen Jim, Christy John, Ruben Mendez, Bishop Reed, Braxton Roach, & Deshaylee Tubby.

Sixth grade - Connor Billy, Ethen Hernandez, Trenton Reed, Thomas Tangle, & Seth Thomas.



**CCHS 20+ Club Honored**

The 20+ Club at Choctaw Central High School is an organization with membership reserved for those who have scored 20 or above on the ACT. It was created to recognize & reward academic achievement & to encourage other students to strive for excellence on the ACT. Members of the 20+ Club & two students of the 30+ Club were honored. Pictured above, seated from left, are Tayshaun Mingo & Bryce Billy; middle row, Katie Mingo, Jaysari Mitch, Searra Wilson (30+), Lattoriah Johnson, Breanna Isaac, Harvey McMillan; back row, Reyes Willis, Nicholas McMillian (30+), Robert York, Emilee Thames, Coby Smith, Jennard Bollin, Peyton Bell, & Billy Johnson. Not pictured are Dylan Alex, Jasmine Hickman, Dustin Mingo, & Adonis Willis.



**Grant Named All-State Cross Country**

Choctaw Central High School sophomore Kyannah Grant, left, was selected to the Best of MSPreps 2015 Girls All-State Cross Country Second Team. For the second consecutive year she placed runner-up in the MHSAA Class 3A State Cross Country Championship on Nov. 9. Also pictured is Lady Warriors coach & mother Gwynn Grant.



**Billy Signs With East Central**

Choctaw Central High School senior Bryce Billy signed a football scholarship with East Central Community College during National Signing Day on Feb. 3. Billy was the starting quarterback the last two seasons & has passed for 2,263 yards with 22 touchdowns. He also rushed for 295 yards & 11 touchdowns. He is also a member of the Warrior basketball team. Pictured above, seated from left, are CCHS Head Coach Jerod "Taco" Thompson, Bryce Billy, mother Melanie Stephens, CCHS Assistant Coach Aleric Keams; standing, CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson & CCHS Basketball Head Coach Brent Farmer.



**CCHS Bowling Team Competes in Region Tourney**

The Choctaw Central High School Bowling Team competed in the Class I Central Bowling Regional Tournament on Feb. 9 in Tupelo. The Lady Warriors placed fourth & the Warriors placed fifth. Named to the All-Region Team were Mahali Henry (Girls 1st Team), Carlee Jimmie & Breanna Isaac (Girls 2nd Team), & Montel Jordan (Boys 2nd Team). Team members include (LEFT) kneeling, Hannah Anderson; back row, Carlee Jimmie, Breanna Isaac, Ammery Smith, Autumn Lewis, Katelyn Shoemake, & Mahali Henry; (RIGHT) kneeling, Billy Johnson, Derrick Mingo, Montel Jordan; back row, Josh Jordan, Quentin Naneto, Gunnar Tubby, Michael Wilson, & Brannon Farmer. Serving as coach was CCHS Assistant Principal Liddia Hughes.



**Warriors Earn Football Honors**

Several members of the Choctaw Central High School Warriors football team were honored for their outstanding play in District 5-3A during the 2015 season. Pictured, front row from left, are All Region honorees Bryce Billy (Co-Academic MVP); Dayton Bell (First Team); Harvey McMillan, Jr. (Second Team); Dakota Kennedy (First Team); middle row, Sri Grant (Second Team); Damion Williams (Second Team); Tanner John (Second Team); Titus Jim (Second Team); back row, Anfernee Dixon (First Team); & Jeremiah Robinson (Best Kick Returner).

**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. Team members include (LADY WARRIORS) Malania Grasshopper, Dana Briscoe, Keyla Mingo, Angelia Morales, Symone Williams, Leighanna Thomas, Breanna Billie, Alexis Sam, Betty Mingo, Hope Pesada, Jayna Ben, Brekaiya Ray, Jayna Thomas, Kalityah Tubby, Anastasia Ben, Alliyah King, Amiya McMillian, Charlita Gibson, &



Sierra Wallace; (WARRIORS) Wilson Dixon, Jeremiah Robinson, Graviel Velasco, Adam Joe, Jacob Billy, Randale York, Keynon Wilson, Jennard Bollin, Toby Lewis, Forrest Billy, Treyton Ben, Beeman Farmer, Isiah Billy, Coby Smith, Nick McMillian, Jacob Waiter, Josiah Tubby, Peyton Bell, Reyes Willis, & Robert York. Coaches are Aaron Terrell, Sharon Howard & Daniel Thomas.

# Business & Bugs

By Jim McAdory, MSU Extension Agent for MBCI

Craig Hilohwa Nickey, a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and a sophomore at Mississippi State University (MSU) in Starkville, has an ambition to earn a finance degree, return to the Tribe and serve the Choctaw people. But a job opportunity that's a little off the future accountant's beaten path has arisen.

Assistant professor Dr. JoVonn Hill, a Meridian native, is a research professor in the MSU Entomology Department. Through a grant from

the National Park Service, they are researching the Monarch Butterfly through native wildflower and prairie restoration. Much of this project is taking place near Tupelo.

Since the grant pays for a student worker, the search for a bright, dependable student landed Nickey into this unlikely field, literally.

"The work is unlike anything I've ever done, and I'm really glad to receive such a wide array of exposure to what MSU does, not just in academics, but in research too," said Nickey.

A product of Choctaw Central High School, Nickey believes the education he received prepared him well for the challenges of earning a degree.

"It's a lot of hard work but anyone can do it if they really want to."

Nickey said he highly recommends Tribal students in choosing MSU as their college of choice.

"The atmosphere here is great, the quality of education is very high and it's not too far from home."

Nickey is achieving great things. Not only is he studying hard and making the grades to prove it, but he's working in a field of research that will not only broaden his horizons, but benefit the university and the state while protecting the Monarch Butterfly. He is an example of what MSU is all about - learning, research and service to make a better world.

Congratulations to not only Nickey, but to his family, school and Tribe for producing such productive, young people.



MSU sophomore Craig Nickey, seated, is pictured with Assistant Professor Dr. JoVonn Hill of the MSU Entomology Department.

## CCHS Hosts Senior Night

Choctaw Central High School honored seniors in basketball & cheerleading during a recogni-

tion ceremony during intermission of the Choctaw Central-Kemper County contests on Friday, Feb. 5. Honored were basketball players Kyree Alex, Tori Johnson, Tiara Joe, Tayshaun Mingo, Bryce Billy,

Harvey McMillan, manager Hananiah Tubby, and cheerleaders Breanna Isaac, Hillary Joe, Cecilia Ketcher, & Autumn McMillan. Melanie Stephens was also honored as CCHS Supporter of the Year.



Lady Warrior Kyree Alex



Lady Warrior Tori Johnson



Lady Warrior Tiara Joe



Lady Warrior Manager Hananiah Tubby



Warrior Tayshaun Mingo



Warrior Bryce Billy



Warrior Harvey McMillan



Cheerleader Breanna Isaac



Cheerleader Hillary Joe



Cheerleader Cecilia Ketcher



Cheerleader Autumn McMillan



Supporter of the Year Melanie Stephens



Members visited the Philadelphia Fire Dept. Station #3, Party Safari & Pump It Up in Flowood.

### PEARL RIVER UNIT

The new regular closing hour for the Pearl River Boys & Girls Club will be 6:00 p.m. During 60 percent days, the closing time will be 5:30 p.m.

Hours during Spring Break will be 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Spring Break for students in county schools is March 7-11. Spring Break for students in Tribal schools will be March 21-24 & 28. The Club will be closed on March 25 for Good Friday holiday.

Activities for Spring Break will include: (County School) March 7, Lovern's Arena in Philadelphia; March 8-9, High Heaven Extreme Air Sports in Flowood; March 10, Canal Place Cinema in Philadelphia; (Tribal School) March 21-22, Lovern's Arena; & March 23-24, High Heaven.

Honored as Member of the Month in 2015 included: Ruth Dixon, (Aug.); Gannon Vaughn, (Sept.); Milena Bell, (Oct.); & Kristopher Espinosa, (Nov.).

Artists of the Month included: Brydon Wesley & Clarissa Benally, (Aug.); Sanjaya Chickaway & J'Kaydrin Bell, (Sept.); Tajha Bell & Adrain Frazier, (Oct.); & J'Haven Smith & Lexi Rodriguez,

(Nov.).

Members attending Neshoba School went to Pump It Up in Flowood on Oct. 12 while Tribal School students went on the 14th.

Members from Neshoba went to Party Safari on Nov. 24 while Tribal School students went on Dec. 22.

On Jan. 4, Neshoba members went to High Heaven.

On Feb. 27, all members participated in the Choctaw Wildlife rabbit stick hunt in Attala County.

The Pearl River Boys & Girls Club would like to welcome Tiara Morris as a new member to the staff.

## GED Test: "Pass" Score Lowered

Earning a GED just got easier. The company that administers GED testing for many states has lowered the score it takes to pass each subject area from 150 to 145.

Officials with GED Testing Service announced the changes on Jan. 26, explaining that data shows students who took the GED test were being held to a higher academic standard than their counterparts in high school.

Mississippi has adopted the lower test score effective immediately, according to an email to community college educators by Sandy Crist, state director for Adult Education & High School Equivalency, Mississippi Community College Board.

Officials with GED Testing Service also recommend that states grant a GED to students who have taken the test since Jan. 1, 2014, and scored at least 145 in each subject area.

"What this means for Mississippi: We will be issuing an additional 637 High School Equivalency Diplomas – grandfathering those students in from January 1, 2014," Crist wrote in the email.

At East Mississippi Community College, Adult Basic Education Director Jim Bearden said his staff is scrambling to identify students who have passed all or portions of the test under the new

guidelines.

Bearden said his office has already identified eight students who have taken the test and now qualify to receive their diploma. There may be more.

On the GED test, students must earn a passing score of 145 in each of the following areas: Reasoning through Language Arts; Mathematical Reasoning; Science; and Social Studies. Students who earned a 145 or greater in any of the four test areas will not need to retake that portion of the test, Bearden said.

"The pressing need right now is to get the word out so people who have passed part of the test will not be rescheduling to take that part again," Bearden said.

"We want students who have taken the test to review their account, so they don't pay to retake a portion of the test if they do not need to do so.

"I've got a list of 37 or 38 people who have passed parts of the test who do not know that they passed. Some are current students and some are former students. All of my staff are trying to call them to let them know."

Nationwide, GED Testing Service officials estimate more than 25,000 adults will be eligible to receive their GED diploma under the new guidelines, and more than 100,000 now have a passing score in one or more GED test subject areas.

Students who received a passing score under the new guidelines can expect to see their updated scores and information on their MyGED account on March 1. Students who have moved should update their address on their account.

Bearden said the lower score requirement will make it easier for those who have struggled with the test.

"There are a lot of people who took the practice test and could not quite get over the hump, scoring a 147 or a 148. We want to encourage students who have been holding off, thinking they weren't quite ready, to renew preparations to take the test now that the passing score has been lowered."

GED Testing Service has also added two additional performance levels: GED College Ready, used to signify readiness to enter credit-bearing college courses; and GED College Ready + Credit, which may qualify students for up to 10 hours of college credit.

The new GED test performance levels are:

- Pass / High School Equivalency (Score 145 or higher)
- GED College Ready (Score 165 or higher)
- GED College Ready + Credit (Score 175 or higher)

More information is available at [www.gedtestingservice.com](http://www.gedtestingservice.com).

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Tiny Boys (ages 5-6) Champions  
WILD INDIANZ



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Rookie Girls (ages 7-8) Champions  
LIL' CHAOS



Rookie Boys (ages 7-8) Runner-Up  
BULLDOGS



Rookie Boys (ages 7-8) Champions  
LIL' SOONERS



Little Girls (ages 9-10) Runner-Up  
STORM



Little Boys (ages 9-10) Runner-Up  
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Little Boys (ages 9-10) Champions  
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Little Girls (ages 9-10) Champions  
FLIGHTS



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Young Boys (ages 11-12) Runner-Up  
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Young Boys (ages 11-12) Champions  
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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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# NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI

## Chahta Immi Recipient of Award

The Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) was one of three recipients of a monetary award from the Mississippi Band of

Choctaw Indians (MBCI) at the 2015 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 3. The \$7,500 monetary award will go towards the Cultural Affairs Program's (CAP) *Alhipa Chito Ikbi* (drum making)

project. The Choctaw drum is considered the heart of our Choctaw people. The CAP staff will be seeking the expertise of experienced drum makers as project consultants so the younger generation can acquire skills to make Choctaw drums.



On Dec. 22, the DCI staff shared Christmas carols with Tribal elders at the Choctaw Elderly Center. Pictured from left are DCI staff members Edna Cotton, Phyllis McMillan, Abrianna Tubby, Jason Lewis, & Jay Wesley as they prepare to sing.

Support and generosity from the Tribal Administration greatly benefit CAP in their endeavor to inspire, promote, enhance, and embrace Choctaw culture. Thanks to all who were involved!

## ECCC Teams Up With DCI To Serve Up Native Cuisine

Chef Barry Karrh and the Culinary Arts Program at East Central Community College in Decatur had incorporated a unit on Native American food



Attendees at the luncheon at ECCC were, from left, Debbie Martin, Phyllis McMillan, Rowena Willis, Casey Bigpond, Priscilla Williams, Chef Barry Karrh, Trudy Jimmie, May McGeisey, Linda Williams, Lorena Alex, & Norma Bacon.



Beatrice Steve works on a beaded Christmas ornament.



Members of the Conehatta Boys & Girls Club participated in the beading workshop.

pathways and traditions into American Regional and International Cuisine and requested the MBCI to assist with the menu and preparation of the traditional meal.

The purpose for the luncheon was to educate Chef Karrh's students on the importance of Native food traditions and for the MBCI to share their understanding with students. An authentic meal was made consisting of roasted venison leg, pork loin, succotash (squash corn & bean stew), frybread, hominy, tomato salad, blueberry cobbler, and cake.

## Choctaw Beading Classes

Before Europeans brought beads over 500 years ago to America, animal bones, teeth, horns, stones, shells, seeds, wood, etc., were carved into beads by Natives. When glass beads were introduced, it became part of the culture of many tribes, including the Choctaws.

Today, CAP hosts beading classes to preserve traditional skills in beadwork using glass beads for necklaces, moccasins, earrings, and all sorts of ornamental coverings.

In December 2015, CAP conducted beading classes in the Pearl River and Conehatta communities.

## DCI Special Projects/ Media Program Announces Oral History Project

In August 2015, the DCI Special Projects/Media Program was awarded a grant by the Multicultural Intermediary for Collaborative Action (MICA) to conduct an oral history project.

The goal of Choctaw Tribal Elders Oral History Project (CTEOHP) is to conduct a series of oral history interviews with Mississippi Choctaw elders and create educational materials on Choctaw cultural topics to educate young Choctaws about their heritage. Project activities include collecting cultural artifacts and photographs.

Currently, the CTEOHP staff has begun recruitment

.....continued next page

activities. The project staff is seeking elders who would like to share their stories and wisdom in oral history interviews.

Community members are invited to share their photographs, newspaper clippings, video and audio recordings,

artifacts, and memorabilia from the 1930s-1960s.

Those interested in participating with the CTEOHP can contact the Special Projects/Media Program at (601) 650-7743.



CAP staff member Lorena Alex (seated third from left) gave instructions to one of the participants at the workshop.



Tribal elders Helen Thompson, left, & Emma King enjoyed the workshop inside the Elderly Activity Center.



**Pushmataha's Final Resting Place**

Pictured above after a recent snowstorm is the final resting place of Choctaw Chief Pushmataha in the Historic Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Many historians considered him the "greatest of all Choctaw chiefs" & was highly regarded for his skill & cunning in both war & diplomacy. In 1824, Pushmataha traveled to Washington to petition the Federal government against further cessions of Choctaw land. During his visit, he contracted a viral respiratory infection & passed away. He was buried with full military honors. A replica of his cenotaph is on display at the Chahta Immi Cultural Center in Choctaw.

(Photo courtesy of Historic Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C.)

**Round Comb Workshops**

A round comb workshop was held in Crystal Ridge on Jan. 4 and was a big success. The CAP staff instructed participants on applying modern style decorations on the combs using rhinestones. Participants used the new style Choctaw round combs to decorate.

The CAP staff incorporated into their Cultural Activity Workshops series a round comb decorating workshops throughout the fiscal year. Workshops are scheduled on the first Monday of every month, except June and July.

To date, workshops have been held in the Crystal Ridge and Red Water communities and the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center in Choctaw. The elders and CAP staff members met on Jan. 21.

In March, a round comb decorating class will be held in the Bogue Chitto community on Monday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

January was extremely busy for CAP. A collar necklace making workshop was held on Jan. 8 in Tucker and a Choctaw dressmaking class was held in Bogue Chitto on Jan. 19.

CAP also hosted a deer hide tanning event in Conehatta on Jan. 16 and a hog killing work-

shop on Jan. 30 in Pearl River.

The purpose for sponsoring workshops is to bring Tribal members together to share cultural information and tradi-

tion, celebrating and educating participants of Choctaw life ways from time past.

A schedule of upcoming workshops are listed below.

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM WORKSHOP SCHEDULE FOR 2016**

**DATE**

**ACTIVITY**

Feb. 20 (Sat.)	Alhipa Chitto Ikbi Part 1 (Pearl River)
Feb. 23 (Tues.)	Choctaw Shirt Making (Pearl River)
March 7 (Mon.)	Round Comb Making (Bogue Chitto)
March 8 (Tues.)	Deer Hide Tanning (Bogue Homa)
March 21-25	Princess & Warrior Survival Week
April 4 (Mon.)	Round Comb Making (Standing Pine)
April 12 (Tues.)	Pottery Ikbi Part 1 (Red Water)
April 19 (Tues.)	Collar Necklace Making (Standing Pine)
April 29 (Fri.)	Earrings Beading (Bogue Homa)
May 2 (Mon.)	Round Comb Making (Tucker)
May 17 (Tues.)	Beading a Medallion (Tucker)
May 24 (Tues.)	Kabotcha Ikbi (Crystal Ridge)
May 27 (Fri.)	Sash Making (Bogue Chitto)
June 4 (Sat.)	Round Comb Making (Pearl River)
Aug. 1 (Mon.)	Round Comb Making (Bogue Homa)
Aug. 9 (Tues.)	Blow Guns & Dart Making (Tucker)
Aug. 12 (Fri.)	Medallion Beading (Standing Pine)
Aug. 16 (Tues.)	Headband Making (Bogue Homa)
Sept. 5 (Mon.)	Round Comb Making (Conehatta)
Sept. 2 (Fri.)	Choctaw Dress Making (Conehatta)
Sept. 13 (Tues.)	Pottery Firing Part 2 (Pearl River)
Sept. 20 (Tues.)	Stickball Apron Making (Red Water)

Scheduled time will be from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Lunch on your own from 12 p.m.-1 p.m.). Workshop locations will be mostly at the Facility Building in each community. Participants 10-17 years old must have parental supervision. Child care services will not be provided. With respect, workshop will be postponed if there is a death in that community where the workshop is scheduled. If postponed, it will be rescheduled at a later date. These workshops are for MBCI Tribal members & their descendants. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Cultural Affairs Program at 601 663-7506. Yakokih.

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



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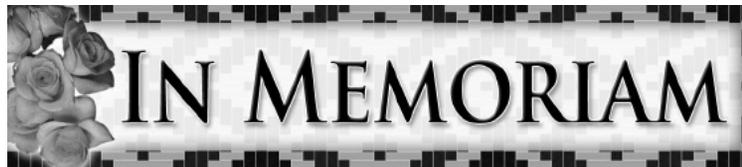
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**SEAN MYCHAL PERKINS**

Funeral service for Sean Mychal Perkins, 34, was held on Thursday, January 7, 2016, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Ricky Thompson, Sr. & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.

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

Mr. Perkins passed away on Jan. 1 at Leake Baptist Hospital in Carthage.

He was employed as a bartender at the Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed fishing, playing stickball, basketball & softball.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four aunts & three uncles.

Survivors include his daughters, Daisy'aly Perkins & Daz'lynn Perkins; sons, Daylen Perkins & Deiman Perkins; four aunts; an uncle; & a host of relatives & friends.

**HAYWARD McMILLAN, JR.**

Funeral service for Hayward McMillan, Jr., 41, was held on Thursday, January 7, 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.

Mr. McMillan passed away on Jan. 2 in Philadelphia.

He was employed as a dealer at the Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed being around family

& friends, playing air guitar, teaching & playing basketball, & being with his grandson.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, parents & sister.

Survivors include his daughter, Taryn Walking Eagle; son, Brenden McMillan; sisters, Adrienne Tubby & Jolena McMillan; a brother, Teddy McMillan; two grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces & great-nephews, relatives, & friends.

**HORACE REED**

Funeral service for Horace Reed, 48, was held on Friday, January 8, 2016, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. & Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

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

Mr. Reed passed away on Jan. 3 at Michigan Medical Center in Clare, MI.

He was an employee of Keep It Green, Corp. He enjoyed being in sales, traveling, football, & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his brother.

Survivors include his parents, William Reed & Allene Mitch Reed; sisters, DeeDee Grisham-Beckwith & Tondrea Williamson; brothers, Charlie Reed, Tommy Reed, Lannie Reed, Ronnie Reed, & William Hickman, Jr.; stepson, Joey Hamric; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JOANN WALLACE**

Funeral service for Joann Wallace, 62, was held on Friday, January 22, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Wallace passed away on Jan. 19 at Regency Hospital in Meridian.

She attended Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church & enjoyed playing volleyball, fishing & spending time with her grandkids.

She is preceded in death by her parents, a sister, three brothers, a great-aunt & a great-uncle.

Survivors include three daughters, Mary Johnson, Annie Wallace & Atnea Wallace; a son, Billy Wallace; brother, Don Frazier; sisters, Carlene Mingo & Clara Cotton; a companion, Joey Thomas; 16 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**LASHUNTIA DAWN JEFFERSON**

Funeral service for LaShuntia Dawn Jefferson, 17, was held on Saturday, January 30, 2016, from the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church. Rev. Tim Tubby & Rev. Glenn Myers officiated.

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

Ms. Jefferson passed away on Jan. 26 at her residence.

She was a senior at Neshoba Central High School where she was a member of the Big Blue Band & the color guard. She enjoyed attending band competitions, playing basketball, cheering, doing beadwork, & spending time with family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandfathers & great-grandparents.

Survivors include her mother, Ginger McMillan; father, Vincent Jefferson; sisters, VaShunti McMillan & Tiffany Jefferson; brother, Jessiah McMillan; grandmothers, Edna Cotton & Rosie McMillan; five aunts; two uncles; great-grandparents; & a host of relatives & friends.

**JAMES EDWIN FRAZIER**

Funeral service for James Edwin Frazier, 55, was held on Sunday, January 31, 2016, from the Standing Pine Facility Building. Pastor Curtis Willis, Sr. officiated.

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

Mr. Frazier passed away on Jan. 27 at Lackey Memorial Hospital in Forest.

He was employed with Choctaw Manufacturing Enterprise in Carthage for 13 years. He enjoyed fishing & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter, two grandchildren, two brothers, two aunts, & six uncles.

Survivors include daughters, Nina Frazier & Samantha Bell; a son, Alexander Frazier of Carthage; sisters, Nellie Kirk, Catherine John, Addie Sue Joe, Betty Mae Joe, Sharon Thames, Bernadine Dixon, Ashley Billy, & Sonya Monk; brothers, Joey Joe, Clifton Hickman, Jr. & Raymond Hickman; an aunt; an uncle; 11 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

**DONNIE EVANS FARMER**

Funeral service for Donnie Evans Farmer, 42, was held on Monday, February 1, 2016, from 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.

Mr. Farmer passed away on Jan. 28 at his residence.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran & member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church. He enjoyed family gatherings, listening to music, grilling, surfing the web, cheering for the Minnesota Vikings, & spending time with his father.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

Survivors include his daughter, Tala Rose Hughes; his father, Ervin Farmer; mother, Donna Jimmie; sisters, Shanna Tubby & Ashley Burr; two nieces, three nephews, & a host of relatives & friends.

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**RICHARD MASON JEFFERSON**

Funeral service for Richard Mason Jefferson, 30, was held on Thursday, February 4, 2016, from the Bogue Homa Baptist Church. Lee Farmer & Pastor Dennis Middleton officiated.

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

Mr. Jefferson passed away on Jan. 28 at his residence.

He enjoyed fishing, playing washers, cards, dominoes, softball, & spending time with his son.

He was preceded in death by his father, his wife, grandparents, an uncle, & cousins.

Survivors include his son, Ryder Jefferson; mother, Margaret Jefferson; brothers, Jason Jefferson, Jeffrey Jefferson & Bruce Jefferson; adopted sister, Randi Jefferson; adopted brother, Hunter Jefferson; grandmothers, Kathleen Isaac & Mazola Thomas; grandfather, Morris Jefferson; a companion, Alicia Frazier; & a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews; relatives & friends.

**JASON HESTER JOHN**

Funeral service for Jason Hester John, 36, was held on Thursday, February 4, 2016, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Rev. Travis Willis & Rev. Tim Tubby officiated.

Burial was in the John Memorial Methodist Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. John passed away on Jan. 30 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a member of the Pearl River Community Baptist Church & enjoyed watching *Walker, Texas Ranger*.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers & grandparents.

Survivors include his adopted mother, Christine John; sister, Rachel Willis; brother, Jonathan Willis; five aunts; & a host of relatives & friends.

**JANICE MARIE STRIBLING**

Funeral service for Jan-

ice Marie Stribling, 52, was held on Thursday, February 4, 2016, from the Chihowa I Chuka. Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

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

Ms. Stribling passed away on Jan. 29 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She enjoyed fishing, cooking & spending time with family & loved ones.

She was preceded in death by her parents & a sister.

Survivors include her children, Randy Sam, Kevin Sam & Tamekia Morris; stepchildren, Constance Brand & Jamie McDonald; sisters, Wanda Collier, Catherine Lee & Denyse Marcrum; brothers, Randy Miller & Eddie Sam; a friend, Chad Davis; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**MINNIE BELL**

Funeral service for Minnie Bell, 93, was held on Saturday, February 6, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. 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.

Ms. Bell passed away on Feb. 2 at the Lauderdale Community Hospital in Ripley, TN.

She was a member of the First Indian Baptist Church in Ripley & was known for weaving Choctaw baskets, sewing traditional Choctaw clothing, beadwork, & cooking outdoors.

She demonstrating her skills in Choctaw beadwork & basketry at festivals & museums throughout West Tennessee & surrounding states. Her work was featured in an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution.

She enjoyed going to church, listening to hymns, traveling, beading, making baskets, fishing, & spending time with family & friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, four brothers & a sister.

Survivors include her sis-

ters, Claudia Thompson & Jessie Thompson; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**ROBERT LEE BELL**

Funeral service for Robert Lee Bell, 78, was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. 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 Feb. 6 at his residence.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army & enjoyed gardening, woodworking, making bird houses & Christmas decor, whittling, doing word searches, & reading the Bible.

He is preceded in death by his parents, three brothers & a sister.

Survivors include three sisters, Ella Mae Isaac, Nan Whiteman & Ruby Thomas; three half-sisters, Shirley Jefferson, Gloria Hickman & Linda McMillan; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**WINCHY BELL**

Funeral service for Winchy Bell, 84, was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, from the Pearl River Facility Building. Rev. Doby Henry & Rev. Rocky Gilliam officiated.

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

Ms. Bell passed away on Feb. 4 at Tennova Healthcare-Dyersburg Regional Hospital in Dyersburg, Tenn.

She was employed with Tupperware for 25 years. She loved fishing, gardening, sewing, cooking outdoors, & visiting family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, five brothers, two grandsons, & a great-granddaughter.

Survivors include her daughters, Pauline LongFox, Mazelle Bell, Linda Rumbo, Bonnie Williams, & Annie Frazier; two sons, Calvin Bell & Newman Bell; 23 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; special brothers, Ricky Willis & John Crawford Willis, Jr.; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

**JEAN MCMILLAN ISOM**

Funeral service for Jean McMillan Isom, 84, was held on Saturday, February 13, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father John Edmunds, S.T., officiated.

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

Ms. Isom passed away on Feb. 9 at her residence.

She was a member of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. She was a retired Choctaw Health Center housekeeper & enjoyed fishing, sewing & spending time with family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, five brothers, & two sisters.

Survivors include two daughters, Mary Elizabeth McMillan & Alice Marie McMillan; two sons, Jimmy Ray McMillan, Sr. & Thaddeus James Tubby; 18 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews & relatives.

**LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*The family of Sean Mychal Perkins would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to the people who offered their assistance to our family during the untimely death of our beloved father, nephew & cousin. We are grateful to the Tribal programs for making available the cooks & fire-keepers during the wake. Thanks to Choctaw Tribal Maintenance for ensuring we had the necessary equipment as needed & the Office of Communications for all the paperwork. We are so appreciative to the Pearl River Baptist Church for allowing us the use of their facility & staff & to the different churches for singing & providing words of comfort. We thank you all for your prayers & words of comfort. May God bless you all.*

- The Family of Sean Mychal Perkins

*Come join us.....*

**Sunday**  
10:00 am



**Wednesday**  
6:30 pm

**Spirit of Life Christian Center**

278 Black Jack Road  
Choctaw, MS 39350  
Pastor Thomas Ben

601-389-5446  
Visit us on the web at:  
SPIRITOFLIFECHOCTAW.ORG

*Come and Worship with us*



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

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*Sunday*

8:50 a.m. - Morning Service  
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service  
2nd Sunday at 7:00

Pastor: Rev. George Dixon

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*Wednesday*

5:30 p.m. - Pray Walk  
6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting  
6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/ Family Ministry Class  
7:50 p.m. - Worship Service

Youth Pastor: Rev. Monte Jarve

*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

Happy 21st Birthday to my best friend, Daishia Mo'nique Billie, on Jan. 21, from Mare J... Happy 21st Birthday to my best friend, Katalina Morris, on Feb. 9, from Mare J.

Happy Birthday to Michele "Moss" Jim on Jan. 21, from Baby Sis, Bro, Falun, Dale Amos, Ashley B., Darry & Elizabeth Williams & family.

Happy Birthday to our friend Kathie Marie Henry on Feb. 22, from your cousin (P.R. downstairs).

Happy Birthday to our cousin, James "Falun" Bell, from your family in B.C., Arb, Sip Sara, Karene, & Kat. Keep



your head up!

**ON OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

To Joey - We made it this far through the mercy of God. We been through trials & tribulations, but we made it. Many more is coming but the spirit of Christ will see us through. Just got to hold on a little longer & it'll be worth it after all. God did say, "I give you rest," & He has. Thank you for being

my friend & partner in Christ. Prayer changed our lives & I wouldn't take anything back from the past, but just hold onto Jesus for he who holds our future. Love, Debi.

**Spring Creations set for April 1-2**

The 7th Annual Spring Creations Arts & Crafts Show is scheduled for April 1-2 at the Choctaw Town Center in Choctaw, located on Hwy. 16 West of Philadelphia.

The event, co-sponsored by Native Creations, LLC. & Glow Enterprises, showcases hand crafted or hand-finished items made by talented local & statewide artists & crafters.

**CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS**

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016**

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**Winter Guard Places at Competitions**

The Choctaw Central Winter Guard recently placed first in the Scholastic A division of the Mississippi Indoor Association's Guard Show in Oak Grove & Brandon. They scored 62.83 in Oak Grove & 68.82 in Brandon. Congratulations!

**Weaving Healthy Families Project**

Would you like to help us envision and strengthen healthy families?

→What you will do: Tribal community members (ages 12 and above) and professionals (who work with community members) can engage in some or all of the following activities:

- Life history interviews •Family interviews •Focus groups
- Observation •Questionnaire

This study is aimed at:

- (1) Defining healthy families;
- (2) Finding out how many people have overcome violence and trauma;
- (3) Lowering family conflict; and
- (4) Improving the well-being of community members.

→Participants will be paid for their time and effort. If you might be interested in helping tribal families, please contact: Catherine Burnette, PhD, LMSW at cburnet3@tulane.edu or 504-862-3495.



Catherine Burnette is an Assistant Professor at Tulane University and has been honored to work with the Tribal communities for over 4 years.

**Tribal Members Win \$1,000**

Three Tribal members were winners of a nationwide giveaway by H&R Block. The Choctaw office of H&R Block, located at the Choctaw Town Center in Choctaw, announced winners of the \$1,000 A Day Giveaway which included Alicia Vaughn, Leslie Tubby & Gabriel Bell. H&R Block was giving away \$1,000 to 32,000 people for a total of \$32 million during the first month of tax season. Anyone who filed at a participating H&R Block office by Feb. 15 was automatically entered into the sweepstakes. Pictured below is winner Leslie Tubby, left, as she was presented with her check by tax associate Cheryl Crane.



In addition, there will be entertainment, Native cultural demonstration/exhibitions, and food featuring cultures from our area.

For more information, call 601-650-8871, 601-416-2013 or 601-416-0010.

**Attention Stickball Coaches**

**2016 World Series Stickball Coaches Meeting**  
**Monday, March 7 • 6:00 p.m.**  
**Entertainment Trailer**  
**Pearl River Community**

We will hand out official roster forms & go over matters of concern. If you are unable to attend, please send a designee. This meeting is for COACHES ONLY. For more information, please contact World Series Stickball Commissioner Thomas Ben at 601.650.1611.




H&R Block office manager Alex Bell presents the \$1,000 check to winners Alicia Vaughn (pictured above right) & Gabriel Bell (pictured below left.)

