



# CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

MAY 2016



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

## CCHS Hosts 2016 Graduation Ceremony

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) hosted their commencement ceremony for the Class of 2016 on Tuesday, May 17 at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw.

Hundreds were in attendance as 75 seniors received their diplomas as they suc-

cessfully completed their high school education requirements and embark on a path of collegiate studies, military service or joining the work force.

CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon served as emcee of the ceremony. Seniors Kassie Cox and Samuel Wallace offered

the invocation, followed by a special presentation of the Class of 2016 video yearbook.

Remarks were given by Director of Schools David Germany, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson and Tribal Council Pearl River representative and Education Committee Chair Lola Parkerson.

Top scholars for the Class of 2016 included Valedictorian Nicholas Raymark McMillian (son of Lee and Sunni McMillian of the Pearl River Community) and Salutatorian Emilee Ann Thames (daughter of Anthony and Sharon

Thames of the Pearl River Community.)

McMillian, also the recipient of the STAR Student award, will be attending Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Thames will be attending the University of Alabama - Birmingham.

Hickmon presented the graduating class as CCHS

see GRADUATION, pg. 6



Offering remarks to the graduates included, from left, Director of Schools David Germany, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson and Tribal Council Pearl River representative and Education Committee Chair Lola Parkerson.

## 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Choctaw Indian Fair

**Wednesday, July 13**  
 11:00am Gates Open  
 5:00pm Choctaw Social Dancing at Amphitheater  
 6:00pm Opening Ceremonies with Chief Phyliss J. Anderson  
 7:00pm Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant  
 10:15pm World Series Stickball

**Thursday, July 14**  
 11:00am Gates Open  
 6:00pm Choctaw Social Dancing at Amphitheater  
 7:00pm Got Gospel Singing Challenge Winner in Concert  
 8:30pm Sawyer Brown in Concert  
 10:15pm World Series Stickball

**Friday, July 15**  
 10:00am Gates Open  
 6:00pm Choctaw Social Dancing at Amphitheater  
 7:00pm Living Traditions Dance Troupe  
 8:30pm Sara Evans in Concert  
 10:15pm World Series Stickball

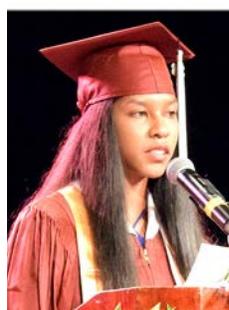
**Saturday, July 16**  
 7:00am REZ RUN 2016  
 10:00am Gates Open  
 5:00pm Choctaw Social Dancing at Amphitheater  
 6:00pm Closing Ceremonies with Chief Phyliss J. Anderson  
 8:30pm Trace Adkins in Concert  
 10:15pm World Series Stickball Championship

**Special Appearances**  
 Thursday - Saturday: Scales, Tails & Teeth Gator Show  
 Living Traditions Dance Troupe

See Iron Warriors in Competition Thursday-Saturday!

**TICKETS:**  
 Adult Season: \$20    Adult Day: \$12  
 Student Season: \$10    Student Day: \$7  
 Ages 5 and Under: Free

Pre-fair tickets sale at Pearl River Resort Welcome Center, Monday, June 20 to Sunday, July 10, 2016.



LEFT, Pictured (top) is 2016 CCHS Valedictorian Nicholas McMillian & (bottom) Salutatorian Emilee Thames. RIGHT, Members of the CCHS Class of 2016 toss their caps in the air.

## USET Opening Fire Ceremony

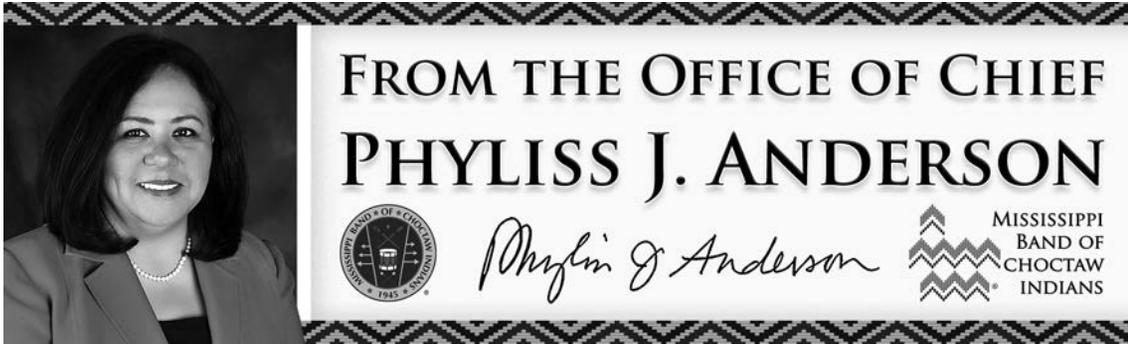
Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council Chairwoman Stephanie Bryan, left, looks over the opening ceremony fire as Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians representative Rae Nell Vaughn mixes ashes & coals from the last USET meeting in Choctaw. Vaughn, Chief of Staff for MBCI Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, passed the USET fire to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. In October, at the USET 2015 Annual Meeting held at Choctaw, Miss., the fire was passed from the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Over 300 Tribal Nations were at Poarch Band of Creek Indians near Atmore, Ala., for the 2016 USET Semi-Annual Meeting May 16-18.



For More Information: 601.650.7450  
www.ChoctawIndianFair.com  
This is a family, non-alcoholic event.

For More Information on REZ RUN:  
601.650.1765  
www.racesonline.com





Present for the school bus presentation were, from left, CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon, MBCI Chief of Staff Rae Nell Vaughn, Choctaw Tribal Schools' Transportation Director Benson Lewis, Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Division of Education Director Willa Brantley, & Director of Schools David Germany. Pictured below are several of the buses at the CCHS parking lot.

Halito!  
As I write this letter, we have reached the end of another school year and the beginning of summer. I know our children are excited to have a break and gear up to play stickball and enjoy a number of activities such as State Games of Mississippi and the Choctaw Indian Fair.

ways that are on display and celebrated during this time of year.

Many of our artisans are beading, basket weaving and stitching now in preparation for fair. Our stickball teams and dance groups are practicing and the fair committee planning is well underway. It's going to be a great summer!

at the Amphitheater to select teams and place in the stickball schedule. This is done by random drawing in front of a public audience to ensure fairness in the tournament.

The event was overseen by Stickball Commissioner Thomas Ben and assisted by the 2015-2016 Choctaw Indian Princess Emily LeAnn Shoemake.

This year we have 32 teams playing in the World Series Stickball (WSS) Tournament. WSS officially kicks off on July 5th with the adult league games – Men's 35 & Over at 7 PM, Men's at 8 PM, and Women's at 9 PM.

You can view the 2016 WSS brackets and schedule of play on [www.choctawindianfair.com](http://www.choctawindianfair.com) or on the Choctaw Indian Fair social media sites: Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

As Choctaws, we have a unique story to share of our heritage, traditions and identity. Whether it's through our traditional Choctaw social dancing, food, artistry or recreation, it is our unique life-

**WORLD SERIES STICKBALL BRACKET DAY**

On June 6th, the Choctaw Indian Fair Stickball Committee hosted Bracket Day



Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake was on hand at the Pearl River Amphitheater on June 6 to announce brackets for the upcoming World Series Stickball at the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair July 13-16. There will be 50 teams total competing in three adult divisions and two youth divisions. Games will begin July 5 and conclude on July 16 with the men's championship game. All games will be played at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School in Choctaw.



nity on June 7th, to fill the seat of the late Councilman Harrison Ben.

Election results from the community are posted below in this edition of *Choctaw Community News*.

I congratulate newly elected Councilman Richard Sockey and I look forward to working with him on continued progress for our Tribe.

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**CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM  
P.O. BOX 6010  
CHOCTAW, MS 39350  
TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565**

Brian C. Willis.....Communications Manager  
Kathie Henry.....Communications Writer  
Taryn Carey.....Communications Writer  
Darron Tubby.....Communications Writer

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

**\*\*\*\*\*OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS\*\*\*\*\***

**Standing Pine Community  
Tribal Council Special Election  
June 7, 2016**

509 REGISTERED VOTERS

Tribal Council Candidates	Ballot Casted & Counted	Absentee Ballot	Reject Accepted	Challenge Accepted	Official Results
<b>Chickaway, Christopher</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Denson, Beasley</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Farve, Benjamin</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Isaac, Jr., Brant</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Sockey, Richard *(Elected)</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>206</b>
<b>Williams, Dinah</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>375</b>

Berdie John, TEC-Chairperson  
Amy Pauls, TEC-Member  
Wanda Davidson, TEC-Member

**POSTED: June 8, 2016**

**NEW BUSES FOR CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOLS**

On Monday, May 23, 2016, I was so proud to hand over the keys to ten brand-new full-sized school buses to Benson Lewis, Director of Transportation for Choctaw Tribal Schools. In addition, ten smaller buses are set to arrive in the next few months.

These new buses will greatly expand the Choctaw Tribal Schools' fleet. The cost for the buses totals \$1.5 million. We used available Tribal revenues in the purchase of these buses.

My administration is dedicated to building the resources for our Tribal school system and investing in our children.

**STOCKING OF COMMUNITY PONDS**

Just in time for the long Memorial Day weekend, we

were happy to work with MBCI Wildlife and Fisheries personnel in the stocking of five community ponds: Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Pearl River, Standing Pine and Tucker. The ponds are brimming with bass, bream and an addition of 300 pounds of catfish.

I know many families went out to enjoy the ponds and I enjoyed seeing your pictures on Facebook. It brings great pleasure to know our tribal members are getting out with their kids to enjoy our community ponds and spend quality time together. Those are memories in the making to cherish for a lifetime. Small things matter most!

**MBCI WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

We have so many hard-working and capable staff members throughout our tribal govern-



*Ponds in the communities of Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Pearl River, Standing Pine, and Tucker were recently stocked with bass, bream, and 300 lbs. of catfish.*



*The Tribe commemorated Memorial Day with a wreath laying ceremony at the Choctaw Veterans Memorial in Choctaw on Friday, May 27. Members of the Choctaw Veterans Color Guard, MBCI Chief of Staff Rae Nell Vaughn, Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake, and Choctaw Veterans Affairs Director Sammie Wilson observed a moment of silence after they placed the ceremonial wreath at the base of the memorial.*

ment programs. I want to highlight the capable and dedicated staff of the MBCI Wildlife and Fisheries program under the direction of Mitzi Reed.

In addition to caring for our ponds, piers and habitats, they host numerous educational events and activities for our youth such as the annual Wildlife Jamboree and Choctaw Challenge at Lake Pushmataha and most recently a boat-safety class at the Lake. Many thanks to MBCI Wildlife and Fisheries for a great job!

**MEMORIAL DAY**

We recently celebrated Memorial Day, and I hope everyone enjoyed the long holiday weekend with their families and loved ones. But I also hope everyone took some special time to remember the reason we observe Memorial Day and that is to honor and pay tribute to the many brave men and women who have fought and paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives for our freedoms.

It is really quite sobering to realize the true cost of liberty when you consider the number

of lives lost in American Wars. In total more than 1.1 million soldiers have lost their lives and in the current war on terrorism there have been 6,852 casualties.

Let's always remember our soldiers and their families in our thoughts and prayers and thank members of our military for the service they provide to us.

**MBCI SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE BENEFITS**

After a review of our existing supplemental insurance benefits, I am pleased we have been able to provide improved product offerings for tribal and resort employees.

Over the last few weeks a team of enrollers have been on the reservation to meet with each employee to discuss the new options and to sign them up if they so choose.

The new products being offered are: Accident Expense Insurance, Accident Indemnity Insurance, Cancer Insurance, Critical Illness Insurance, Short-term Disability, Term Life Insurance, Whole

Life Insurance, and Hospital Indemnity Insurance.

I encourage all tribal and resort employees to take time to discuss and learn about the new options that are available.

**CLOSING**

In closing I want to express my gratitude to everyone who volunteered and came out to our Choctaw Community Field Days. It took a few months to visit all of the communities but it was a great time of gathering and I hope you received all the information and updates we provided in our brochure and presentation.

Our Tribe is headed in the right direction because of the hard work, dedication and support of our tribal members and employees. Yakoki!

Many Blessings,

*Phyliss J. Anderson*

Phyliss J. Anderson,  
Tribal Chief



*LEFT, Eighth grade students from Red Water Elementary School invited Chief Anderson to their school as they surprised her with a plaque congratulating her on her recent appointment by Pres. Obama to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.*

*On Wednesday, May 11, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson hosted a Breakfast of Champions with the CCHS Unified Basketball Team at the Bistro at Golden Moon Hotel & Casino in Choctaw.*



*The team captured gold medals in the 5-on-5 basketball tournament as they represented Region 18 in the 2016 Spring State Games for Special Olympics Mississippi on Saturday, April 2. The games were held at the Mississippi Basketball and Athletics Center in Jackson as Choctaw Central Middle School and High School students participated in individual basketball skills, 3-on-3 traditional team and 5-on-5 unified competitions. Team members included Dorian Ben, Keyshana Beamon, Danta Cotton, Marina Davis, Darrel Mingo, Terrance Thomas, Gunnar Tubby, Allen Sockey, Nick Williams, Keyshawn Willis, Kaitlyn Wilson, & Trevor York. Serving as coach was Amanda Reed. Case Manager Gloria Echols was instrumental in connecting with Mississippi Special Olympics to ensure the project occurred at Choctaw Central.*



## 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.

### REGULAR CALL COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 12, 2016

**Resolution CHO 16-030**, approving the Execution, Delivery and Performance of the Term Sheet, Engagement Letter, and Fee Letter, with Trustmark National Bank, as

Administrative Agent of a Proposed Replacement Facility up to \$200,000,000 to be used to Refinance the 2014 Secured Facility and to pay off the 7.25% Senior Secured Notes of the Enterprise; and Approve the Negotiation and Execution by the Enterprise of the Proposed Replacement Facility, including the Credit Agreement, Notes, Security Agreement, Springing Depository Agreement, By and Among the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) d/b/a Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, the MBCI, Trustmark National Bank as Administrative Agent and the Lenders Referred to therein; Along with other Agreements, Forms, and Certificates related to the Credit Agreement, the

Limited Waivers of Sovereign Immunity contained therein; and Other Matters Related Thereto, was ADOPTED 16 Yes (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-031**, authorizing Matthew Tyler of Yale University to Conduct Linguistic Research on the Choctaw Language by Conducting and Recording Interviews with MBCI Tribal Members, was ADOPTED 16 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-032**, approving Dr. Shrinidhi Am-

binakudige to Conduct a Study on Rivercane Ecosystem and Basketry on the Choctaw Indian Reservation, was ADOPTED 11 Yes; 3 No (*T. Chickaway, H. Nickey, B. Steve*); 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*); 1 Absent (*K. Edwards*).

**Resolution CHO 16-033**, amending the Criminal Code of the Choctaw Tribal Code to Correct an Error on Omission in Section 3-3-21, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-034**, amending Title XX of the Choctaw Tribal Code, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-035**, amending the Criminal Code of the Choctaw Tribal Code to Amend or Add Certain Provisions, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-036**, approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between the MBCI and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0

No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-037**, approving Amendments to Title XV of the Tribal Code and Enactment of Related Ordinances, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-038**, authorizing a Distribution of Tribal Funds, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-039(B)**, Authorization of Pearl River Unit #47 Timber Sale, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-040(B)**, approving the Timber Use Policy Statement for Cutting and Removal of Forest Products from Lands of the MBCI, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-041(B)**, approving Land Lease of ½ acre to Toniya Lay, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

.....continued next page

## Resort Announces Promotions

Pearl River Resort announced the recent promotions of Tribal members Cheryl Steve as Executive Director of Information Technology (IT) and Rahka Brescia as Director of Operations Compliance.

Steve, who has been with the Resort for 20 years, most recently served as Director of IT Project Management. During her tenure, she has also held several managerial and technical positions within the IT department. She began her gaming career as a computer operator.

In her new role of Executive Director of Information Technology, Steve will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day IT operations which include the overall



From left, Cheryl Steve, Executive Director of Information Technology & Rahka Brescia, Director of Operations Compliance.

planning, organizing, and execution of all IT functions.

Most recently, Brescia served as Guest Services Manager. As Director of Operations Compliance, she will be responsible for monitoring the Resort's reporting compliance with federal and tribal laws, codes, ordinances, regulations, rules and policy.

Brescia will work with each department to build and maintain a sustainable compliance structure for Pearl River Resort.

Congratulations Cheryl and Rahka!

## CCHS Seniors Receive Honors At Banquet

Choctaw Central High School hosted their Senior Awards Banquet on March 31 at the Golden Moon VIP Room in Choctaw.

The Class of 2016, along with parents, guests and school personnel, enjoyed an evening as they were honored for their scholastic achievement for the 2015-2016 school year.

East Central Community College (ECCC) representative Michael Alexander was in attendance to announce ECCC

scholarship recipients.

Recipients of the Academic Achievement Scholarship included Kyree Alex-Ben, Skyler Bell, Forrest Billy, Kassie Cox, Hallie Denson, Nicholas Joe, Tiara Joe, Montel Jordan, Cecilia Ketcher, Tanesha Lewis, Garyton Lilly, Autumn McMillan, Andreana Morales, Coby Tubby, Hananiah Tubby, & Briana Wesley.

Recipients of the ACT (20-23) Scholarship included Dylan Alex, Peyton Bell, Ju-

lian Billy, Jasmine Hickman, Breanna Isaac, Billy Johnson, Jr., Lattoriah Johnson, Harvey McMillan, Jr., Laraya McMillan, Dustin Mingo, Katie Mingo, Tayshaun Mingo, Coby Smith, and Emilee Thames.

Recipient of the ACT (24-26) Scholarship was Adonis Willis.

Recipient of the ACT (27-30) Tuition Scholarship was Robert York, Jr.

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Academic Achievement Scholarship recipients included Kyree Alex-Ben, Skyler Bell, Forrest Billy, Kassie Cox, Hallie Denson, Nicholas Joe, Tiara Joe, Montel Jordan, Cecilia Ketcher, Tanesha Lewis, Garyton Lilly, Autumn McMillan, Andreana Morales, Coby Tubby, Hananiah Tubby, & Briana Wesley.

**Resolution CHO 16-042**, authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Damaged Rental Program Mobile Homes, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-043**, authorizing Grant Rights-of-Way for Jim Road (BIA Route No.2211) and Hospital Circle (BIA Route No.2226) in Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-044**, apply for and Receive a Subgrant from the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc., for Workforce Innovation, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-045**, approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Mississippi, Department of Human Services and the MBCI, Division of Education, Department of Workforce Development, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-046**, approving the 2016-2017

School Calendar, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-047**, authorizing the MBCI Department of Schools to Request a Grant from the Association of American Indian Physicians, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-048**, authorizing the MBCI Department of Schools to participate in a Research Study of the Farm-to-School Program to be conducted by Research & Evaluation Solutions, Inc., was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-049**, authorizing the MBCI, Choctaw Department of Schools to Apply for the Administration for Native Americans Grant for Language Preservation and Maintenance, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-050**, authorizing the MBCI Office of Public Health, Choctaw Health Center, to Apply for a Two Year Staff Resource Op-

portunity from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-051**, approving a Pharmacy Education Affiliation Agreement between the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy and the MBCI, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-052(B)**, approving Increase in Blood Degree for Previously Enrolled Tribal Members, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-053(B)**, approving a Blood Decrease for Previously Enrolled Tribal Member, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-054(B)**, approving Tribal Enrollments, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-055**, approving Publication Request by Abigail Farmer of Jackson State University on "Choctaw

Tribal School Instructional Aides' Perceptions of Preparedness for Implementing Choctaw Language Materials in Elementary Classrooms," was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

**Resolution CHO 16-056**, approving Amendments to the Administrative Personnel Policy & Procedures, was ADOPTED 9 Yes (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, K. Edwards, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 7 No (*T. Chickaway, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, & B. Steve*); 0 Abstain.

**Resolution CHO 16-057**, approving Amendments to the Tribal Council Expense Allowance Policies, was ADOPTED 9 Yes (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, K. Edwards, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 5 No (*T. Chickaway, R. Isaac, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, & B. Steve*); & 2 Abstain (*R. Henry & S. Johnson*).

## Students Place at Region V Fair

The 2016 Region V Lower Science and Engineering Fair for grades K-5 was held at Mississippi State University in Starkville on April 7. The following students from the Choctaw Tribal Schools placed at the event.

### Kindergarten

Ashton Stephens, 1st; Zachary Polk, 2nd; & Bryceton McMillan, 3rd.

### First Grade

Biochemistry - Jacoby Willis, 2nd.

Chemistry - Nakota Willis, 3rd.

Earth, Space, and Environmental Sciences - Shastyn Lewis, 3rd; Tali King, 5th.

Zoology - Nuseka Dixon, 3rd.

### Second Grade

Biochemistry - Aston Eades, 4th.

Botany - Carlisle Phillips, 4th.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - Ferris Tubby, 3rd; Jennalee McMillan, 5th.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - Makailah Moore, 1st; Nolyann Bell, 3rd; & Ansley Wallace, 4th.

Physics - Kodi Thomas, 4th.

### Third Grade

Chemistry - Brylee Willis, 2nd.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - Nathanael Nickey, 6th.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - Callie Amos, 1st.

Medicine & Health - Almera Charlie, 6th.

Zoology - Kaegan Henry, 5th.

### CLASS II

#### Fourth Grade

Biochemistry - Zavian Tubby, 5th.

Botany - Kailyn Steve, 4th.

Physics - Nataysia Willis, 5th.

#### Fifth Grade

Medicine & Health - Lexie Love, 5th.

Physics - Tyra Billy, 4th.

Recipient of the ACT (31-36) Tuition/Room Board Scholarship was Nicholas McMillian.

The following subject awards and recipients are listed below.

Culinary Arts I - Adonis Willis.

Culinary Arts II - Carlee Jimmie.

Business Fundamentals - Kaleigh Allen.

Automotive Service - Bryson Sam.

Construction - Bradley Billy.

Health Science - Adonis Willis.

Academic Achievement - Kaleigh Allen.

Academic Excellence - Kassie Cox.

Personal Finance - Peyton Bell.

Band - Coby Smith.

Spanish I - Emilee Thames.

Spanish II - Nicholas McMillian.

Choctaw Language & History - Kassie Cox.

U.S. Government - Emilee Thames.

Economics - Harvey McMillan.

Chemistry - Kassie Cox.

Physics - Cecilia Ketcher.

Forensics - Nicholas McMillan.

Algebra II - Kassie Cox.

Trigonometry - Coby Smith.

Advanced Algebra - Tiara Joe.

.....see SENIORS, pg. 6



ACT Scholarship recipients included Dylan Alex, Peyton Bell, Julian Billy, Jasmine Hickman, Breanna Isaac, Billy Johnson, Jr., Lattoriah Johnson, Harvey McMillan, Jr., Laraya McMillan, Dustin Mingo, Katie Mingo, Tayshaun Mingo, Coby Smith, and Emilee Thames.



CCHS Class of 2016 Top Ten were Peyton Bell, Kassie Cox, Hallie Denson, Tiara Joe, Cecilia Ketcher, Autumn McMillan, Harvey McMillan, Nicholas McMillian, Emilee Thames, & Robert York, Jr.

**SENIORS ..... continued from page five**

PreCalculus - Peyton Bell.  
 Calculus - Emilee Thames.  
 English IV - Adonis Willis.  
 AP Literature & Composition - Nicholas McMillian.

Nicholas McMillian was named Valedictorian and Emilee Thames was named Salutatorian. McMillian was also named the 2016 Mississippi Economic Council

STAR Student. Jamie Franklin was named STAR Teacher for the second consecutive year in a row.

The Class of 2016 Top Ten included Peyton Bell, Kassie Cox, Hallie Denson, Tiara Joe, Cecilia Ketcher, Autumn McMillan, Harvey McMillan, Nicholas McMillian, Emilee Thames, & Robert York, Jr.



**TOP LEFT**, Pictured from left are ACT Scholarship recipients Adonis Willis, Robert York, Jr. & Nicholas McMillian. **TOP RIGHT**, From left, Valedictorian Nicholas McMillian & Salutatorian Emilee Thames.



**RIGHT**, Pictured from left are CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon, STAR Student Nicholas McMillian & STAR Teacher Jamie Franklin.

**Students Record for Rural Voices Radio**

On Saturday, April 30, twenty-three Choctaw Central High School students and one teacher recorded their narrative writing for Rural Voices Radio (RVR) for Mississippi's Public Broadcasting (MPB). Writing for radio and recording a piece of writing is a unique opportunity for our students' voices to be heard.

since 2008. CCHS teachers have made it their goal to encourage students to write in all subject areas. These writings chosen for RVR not only came from English classrooms, but from math, history, Choctaw culture, and science classes. Teachers, as well as students, are involved in writing.

nard Bollin, Teegan Clemmons, Hallie Denson, Jasmine Hickman, Pegan Jackson, Asa Jimmie, Martrikus Jimmie, Maleighia Joe, Eason John, Cecilia Ketcher, Autumn McMillan, Nicholas McMillian, Betty Mingo, Jayasri Mitch, Angelia Morales, Dylan Nickey, Hope Pesata, LaChrisha Williams, Mi-Lyn Jones

Choctaw Central students have been reading for RVR

Those who recorded included coach Daniel Thomas, Jayna Ben, Lauren Ben, Jen-

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Pictured, front row from left, are Jennard Bollin, Nicholas McMillian, Martrikus Jimmie, Eason John, Asa Jimmie, Tyler Bell; back row, Jasmine Hickman, Autumn McMillan, Pegan Jackson, Maleighia Joe, Angelia Morales, Teegan Clemmons, LaChrisha Williams, Hope Pesata, Jayna Ben, Lauren Ben, Jayasri Mitch, & Whitney Willis.

**Parents Visit TES Science Class**

We had a special assignment for students at Tucker Elementary School for extra credit work. Their assignment was to find information pertaining to their favorite aspect of science and present what they learned to the class.

Students Spencer & Maggie Thompson decided to bring a pet to class, their three-year old guinea pig named Benjamin.

Parents Johnathan & LaRosa Thompson brought Benjamin to school so Spencer and Maggie can tell their classmates about Benjamin's life expectancy, habitat, and nutrition.

**Autism Walk Held At CCHS**

In observance of April as National Autism Month, the Choctaw Tribal Schools hosted an Autism Celebration Walk on April 22 at the Choctaw Central High School track in Choctaw. Autism is a complex mental condition and developmental disability, characterized by difficulties in the way a person communicates and interacts with other people. Autism can be present from birth or form during early childhood (typically within the first three



years). Autism is a lifelong developmental disability with no single known cause. Pictured above are the walk participants.

**GRADUATION ..... continued from page one**

teacher Ferrell Davidson announced the names and Chief Anderson awarded the diplomas.

Senior class president Breanna Isaac and vice-president Robert York, Jr. offered the benediction. Afterwards, the graduates tossed their caps in the air as Pomp and Circumstance played overhead.

Members of CCHS's Class of 2016 included: Dylan Alex, Kyree Alex-Ben, Kaleigh Allen, Brooklyn Bell, Kayla Bell, Peyton Bell, Ryan Bell, Skyler Bell, Ashlyn Billie, Bradley Billy, Forrest Billy, Julian Billy, Kassie Cox,

Marina Davis, Hallie Denson, Anfernee Dixon, Onedaro Dixon, Stormin Dixon, Kelly Dumont.

Jalena Farve, Roberto Fonseca, Anthony Gonzalez, Malaina Grasshopper, Jasmine Hickman, Breanna Isaac, Pegan Jackson, Reanna Jefferson, Titus Jim, Carlee Jimmie, Hillary Joe, Kayla Joe, Nicolas Joe, Tiara Joe, Billy Johnson, Jr., Lattoriah Johnson, Mi-Lyn Jones-Williams, Montel Jordan.

Cecilia Ketcher, Garyton Lilly, Autumn McMillan, Harvey McMillan, Jr., Laraya McMillan, Marayah McMillan, Nicholas McMillian, Darrel Mingo, Jr.,

Dustin Mingo, Tayshaun Mingo, Michael Mitch, Jr., Andreana Morales, Bryson Sam, Shawn Shoemake, Tiffany Shoemake, Ammery Smith, Coby Smith, Aleyah Sockey, Janeisa Steve, Tristen Steve.

Emilee Thames, Coby Tubby, Hananiah Tubby, Kendall Vaughn, Jasmine Wallace, Samuel Wallace, Briana Wesley, Damion Williams, Adonis Willis, Keyshawn Willis, Reanna Willis, Shanteria Willis, Kaitlyn Wilson, Karl Wilson, Keynon Wilson, Lucas Wilson, Shawn Wishork, and Robert York, Jr.

Williams, Michael Willis, & Whitney Willis.

Reading coaches were Dr. Sherry Swain (National Writing Project), Coach Thomas (World History teacher), Andy Hardy (English IV teacher), Beverly Combs (English II teacher), and Julia Faulk (lead teacher).

Students/teachers who had their writings chosen for RVR but will record at a later date include Sarah Allen, Peyton Bell, Terrell Bell, Tyler Bell, Frances Bigby, Forrest Billy, Isaiah Billy, Jacob Billy, Carol Boler, Dana Briscoe, Beverly Combs, Keyana Denson, Jaylen Dixon, Madison Dixon,

Sri Grant, Ricky Graves, Breanna Isaac, Lindy Jim, Summer John, Jennifer Jones, Renee Jones, Raina King, Cade Lilly, Ray Mathis, Cynthia McLeod, Harvey McMillan, Katarina McMillan, Tammy Morgan, Quentin Nanaeto, Neshoba Reed, Richard Rivers, Crystal Roach, Emily

Shoemake, Emilee Thames, Linda Tingle, Gabriel Tubby, Kendall Vaughn, Tyus Whitecrow, and Aurelia Wilcher.

Since July 2003, MPB has aired pieces from the Mississippi Writing/Thinking Institute's Rural Voices Radio series. Students across the state can be heard on eight MPB

stations each weekday at 3:28 p.m. Stations include Meridian 88.1, Oxford 90.3, Booneville 89.5, Mississippi State 89.9, Greenwood 90.0, Jackson 91.3, Bude 88.9, & Biloxi 90.3.

To hear past shows, visit the RVR archives at [www.mwti.msstate.edu/radio](http://www.mwti.msstate.edu/radio).



From left, the Southern Pine Drummers sang to commemorate Child Abuse Prevention Month on the Choctaw Reservation. Providing remarks included Department of Human Services Region IV North Director Iris Joiner & Division of Early Childhood Education Director Tina Routh.

## CFS Observes Child Abuse Awareness Month

Children and Family Service (CFS) hosted several events during the month of April in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

CFS kicked off the month with a planting of a pin wheel garden at CFS office grounds on April 6. We were pleased to

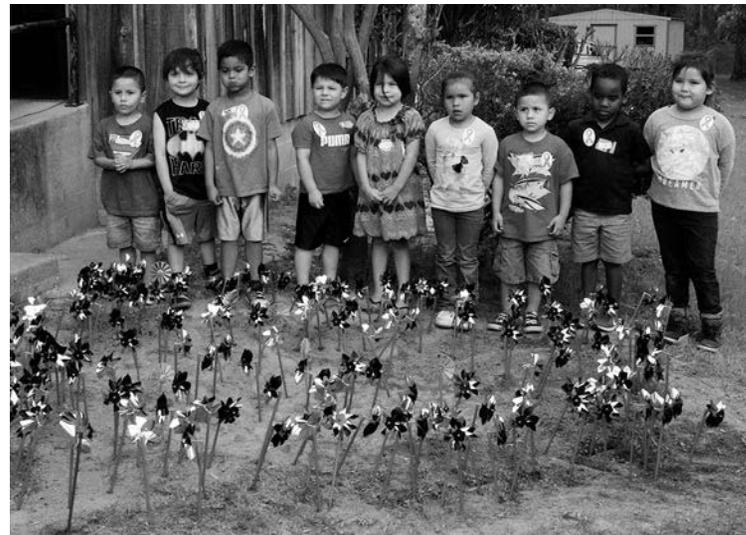
have several Head Start children assist us. We thank Division of Early Childhood Education Director Tina Routh and other staff members for making this day a memorable one.

We thank Department of Human Services Region IV

North Director Iris Joiner who attended the event and spoke about the collaboration between the state of Mississippi and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

CFS also thanks Dan Isaac and the Southern Pine Drummers as they are always willing to perform at any CFS event.

Several CFS staff members attended a walk in the Bogue Homa community on April 20.



Pictured above are several DOECE Head Start children as they planted a pin wheel garden on the ground of the CFS office.

A poster contest was held as Seyonea Thomas was named the winner.

CFS staff members traveled to the area Tribal schools and spoke to students about child abuse prevention and awareness.

The final event for the month was a child abuse awareness fun run, Color Me Blue, on April 30 at Lake Pushmataha in Choctaw.

CFS would like to thank all the children who participated in the poster contest, which ran in conjunction with area schools. In our eyes, you are all winners.

In Category K-2nd Grade - Jacoby Willis, first grader at Tucker Elementary School, placed first; Mahayla Tubby, second grader at Pearl River Elementary School, placed second.

In Category 3rd-5th Grade - Jeri-

**RIGHT**, Bogue Homa poster contest winner Seyonea Thomas.

ah Jimmie, Hayden Wofford, Alex Espinosa, & Patsden Williams (Boys & Girls) placed first; Kodin Mingo, fourth grader at Conehatta Elementary School, placed second.

In Category 6th-8th Grade - Martina Willis, eighth grader at Choctaw Central Middle School (CCMS), placed first; Cody Roach, eighth grader at CCMS, placed second.

In Category 9th-12th Grade - Treyton Ben, ninth grader at Choctaw Central High School (CCHS), placed first; Keyshaun Nickey, ninth grader at CCHS, placed second.

CFS would like to acknowledge Pearl River Resort for their donation toward recognizing foster parents.

(See poster contest winners, pg. 10)



### Members Meet Tribal Athletes

Members of the Boys & Girls Club Pearl River Teen Center attended collegiate games participated by Tribal members. **TOP**, Members attended the April 24 Ole Miss Rebels-Arkansas Razorbacks softball game in Oxford as freshman shortstop Hailey Lunderman (Mississippi Choctaw/Lakota) took the field for the Rebels. **BELOW**, Freshman pitcher Brandon Kennedy (Mississippi Choctaw) talked to club members after his baseball game on April 25. Kennedy plays for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Bulldogs in Perkinston. Teen Center members greatly appreciate Lunderman & Kennedy for meeting them after their games as they offered words of encouragement. We wish them best of luck in their collegiate careers.





# 2016 Spring Festivals

Spring Festivals are major community events as much work & effort is directed toward acquiring traditional Choctaw garments & accessories for young Choctaw boys & girls. It is believed that over 95 percent of students participating in Spring Festivals wear traditional Choctaw apparel.

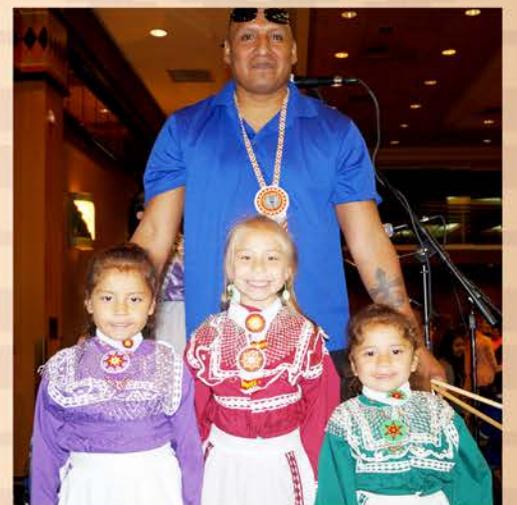
The earliest Spring Festival memories go back to 1960 on the campus of Choctaw Central where all students in grades K-12 participated & danced by grades. At that time it was estimated that five percent of festival participants wore traditional Choctaw apparel.

During these Spring Festivals, it was customary for the final dance to feature tribal elders exclusively. Following their dance, a traditional feast was served.

Prior to 1968, all Choctaw schools gathered & celebrated a May Day Program at Choctaw Central on the football field. The girls wore black skirts & white blouses & the boys wore black pants & white shirts. Patriotic songs & dances were performed, followed by a picnic held under the pine trees.

In 1970, with a goal of increasing student participation & attendance by community residents, a decision was made for each community school to host their own Spring Festival.

This year's Spring Festivals were held at Tucker Elementary School on March 17, Bogue Chitto Elementary School on March 18, Standing Pine Elementary School on April 1, Red Water Elementary School on April 8, Conehatta Elementary School on April 15, & Pearl River Elementary School on April 29.





# Programs Host Pow Wow For Victim Support

April was observed as Sexual Assault Awareness Month as the Choctaw SANE-SART Program, in collaboration with the Choctaw Public Safety Program, hosted the *Masala Chi I Hilha*/Dance to Healing Pow Wow on Saturday, April 23 at the Pearl River Recre-

ational Field. The pow wow, held in support of victims of sexual assault, brought people together to start the healing process through music and dancing, which is known to have calm and soothing effects on people.

tendees, vendors, drummers, dancers, chanters, and cooks for making the event possible.

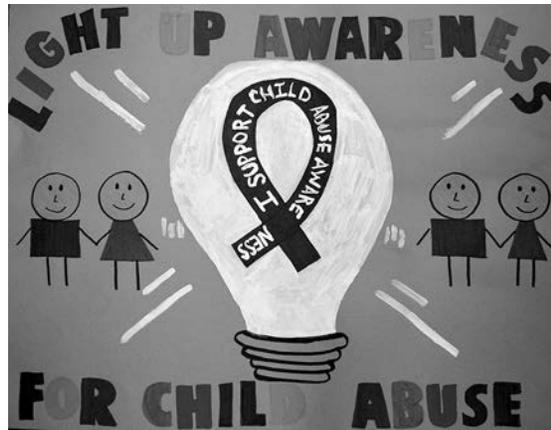
They also thank Kathleen Ferris of Family Violence and Victim's Services, Juannina Mingo of Nittak Himmona Domestic Violence Shelter, Kelby Anderson of the Choctaw Public Safety Program, Evaline Davis, James Johnson and Leland Lewis for sharing their thoughts and knowledge of sexual assault with those in-

There was a very good turnout for the pow wow as organizers said it was a wonderful sight to see the children getting involved and dancing.

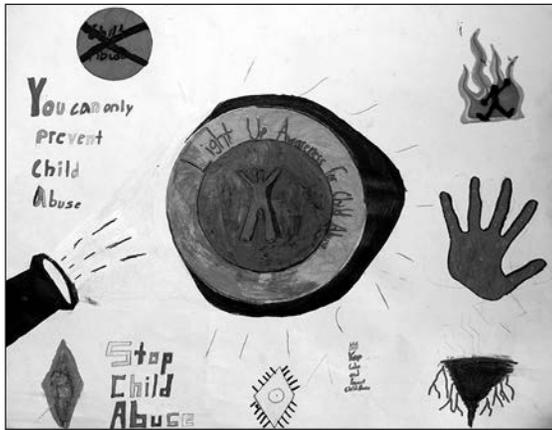
The sponsors thank all at-

.....continued next page

## POSTER WINNERS ..... continued from page seven



K-2nd Grade - (left) Jacoby Willis, TES, 1st place; (right) Mahayla Tubby, PRES, 2nd place.



3rd-5th Grade - (left) Jeriah Jimmie, Hayden Wofford, Alex Espinosa, & Patsden Williams, Boys & Girls Club, 1st place; (right) Kodin Mingo, CES, 2nd place.



6th-8th Grade - (left) Martina Willis, CCMS, 1st place; (right) Cody Roach, CCMS, 2nd place.



9th-12th Grade - (left) Treyton Ben, CCHS, 1st place; (right) Keyshaun Nickey, CCHS, 2nd place.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**INDIAN CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE**

**PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016  
8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
SILVER STAR CONFERENCE ROOM  
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE OR TO REGISTER, VISIT [HTTP://MJC.OLEMISS.EDU/SPECIAL-PROJECTS](http://MJC.OLEMISS.EDU/SPECIAL-PROJECTS).  
E-REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 1, 2016.  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A VENDOR, CONTACT CHIEF JUSTICE KEVIN BRISCOE OR YOUTH COURT JUDGE HOLLY PETERS AT 601-650-1658.

**Weaving Healthy Families Project**

**Yakoki! We have learned so much from speaking to over 200 people (about healthy families, overcoming trauma & violence, lowering family conflict & improving the well-being of community members)!**

**Now, its time to participate in a follow-up survey! Any adult MBCI member can participate! For completing the survey, you can enter into a drawing for one of many \$50 gift cards**

- What you will do:** Tribal community members (ages 18 & above) can complete an online survey, which will take 30 minutes to an hour by following this link: [http://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_3K7P6fPy5dtEe45](http://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3K7P6fPy5dtEe45)
- OR, if you prefer, you can contact Catherine at:** [cburnet3@tulane.edu](mailto:cburnet3@tulane.edu) or 504-862-3495, and she or someone she works with can help you complete the survey (by reading it to you and entering the info for you)



Catherine Burnette is an Assistant Professor at Tulane University and has been honored to work with the Tribal communities for over 5 years.

attendance.

Special thanks to Harold “Doc” Comby for helping with the event as they hope to work together again for next year’s event.

Most often, a perpetrator is someone that we love and trust, such as a family member. It is hard to accept that this person has committed such an assault on another person, whether it’s a child or an adult. That sometimes leads to denial that the assault has actually happened.

That is why information is important to let victims know they are not alone. We, as a community, need to focus on the victim and show them support. Be aware of ways your biases about sexual assault and victims may affect your ability to support and assist the victim. If you cannot be objective, refer the person to pro-

grams that can offer services as they help the victim from being re-victimized.

We need to start holding the perpetrators accountable for their actions. We may feel that we don’t want to ruin their lives by having them convicted, but they have forever altered the lives of victims they have assaulted. As long as we continue to overlook what they are doing, they will continue to victimize others.

The Department of Family and Community Services has services to provide support for victims of sexual assault. For more information, contact the Family Violence and Victim’s Services Program (601-650-1774), Choctaw Children’s Advocacy Program (601-663-7790) or the Choctaw SANE-SART Program (601-663-7796).



## Dance to Healing Event Held in Choctaw

On Saturday, April 23, the Family Violence and Victim’s Services (FVVS) participated in the Dance to Healing powwow hosted by the Choctaw SANE-SART Program, in collaboration with the Choctaw Public Safety Program.

At the conclusion of the event, FVVS staff members led a Take Back the Night walk in an effort to end all forms of sexual, relationship and domestic violence. We, as a community, stand against these issues and stand together to heal our sacred communities.

We thank all walk participants and would like everyone to take time to remember as we need to come together as a community to stop these atrocities and heal. We need to hold offenders accountable and help the ones victimized to heal their minds, bodies and spirits.

If you have been a victim of sexual assault you need to know your rights.

**You have the right to be notified of:**

- All victims’ rights;
- Return of property used in



investigation;

- Charges filed;
- Criminal proceedings and results;
- Release, death, or escape/capture of the offender.

**You have the right to participate in prosecution:**

- Right to talk to prosecution before final disposition of case;
- Right to talk to prosecution prior to beginning of trial;
- Right to trial without unreasonable delay;
- Right to purchase copy of the trial transcript;
- Right to be present at proceedings before a judge;
- Right to attend the sentencing hearing;
- Right to inform the court of impact of crime at sentencing;
- Right to address the parole system.

**You have the right to protection from harm:**

- Tampering with a witness is a crime;
- Victims have a right to a secure waiting area during court;
- Employers may not discipline or dismiss victims who are called to testify in court.

**You have the right to apply for financial assistance.** Victims may be eligible for financial assistance from the state if they have suffered economic loss as a result of a violent crime. Victims can request the court to order the defendant to pay restitution.

Exercising these rights may require action by you. For more information, contact Victim Assistance Program, Office of the Attorney General, at 800-829-6766.

### FAQ’s ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT

#### CAN I GET HELP AT FVVS?

FVVS works with men and women who are 18 and over. The Choctaw Children’s Advocacy Center (CCAC) helps victims who are 17 and under. We can help you if you are a victim or survivor of rape,

sexual assault, sexual abuse or domestic violence or if someone in your family is a victim or survivor. Services at FVVS are free. We believe that money and insurance should never prevent people from getting the help they need.

#### IF I GO TO FVVS, WILL THEY TELL ANYONE?

Services at FVVS are confidential. That means that we cannot tell anyone anything without your written consent. Your privacy and comfort are very important to us. It is important to understand that there are exceptions to confidentiality. We are required to follow the Mandated Reporting laws, which require us to report any suspected cases of child abuse, neglect, and we are also required to report to law enforcement if you tell us you plan to hurt yourself or anyone else.

#### I WAS RAPED, BUT I DON’T WANT TO TALK TO THE POLICE. DO I HAVE TO REPORT IT?

It is completely up to you whether or not to report a rape or sexual assault. If you want

the person who attacked you to go to jail, then you have to report the crime to the police - the sooner the better. You do not have to report to the police in order to get services through FVVS.

#### I HAVE HEARD THE MEDICAL EXAM IS SCARY. DO I HAVE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL?

It is extremely important for you to get medical attention as soon as possible. You may have injuries that are not apparent. The doctor or nurse can give you emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy and medications to prevent HIV and AIDS. The hospital will call the police only if you want them to. You will also be offered an advocate from the FVVS office to be with you during the exam to answer any questions.

#### IF I DON’T REPORT THE ASSAULT, CAN I CHANGE MY MIND AND REPORT IT LATER?

You can always file a report with the police, but it is best to

...see FVVS NEWS, pg. 12

FVVS NEWS ..... continued from page eleven

do so right away. Your memory will be most clear soon after the attack, and there may be physical evidence that will be lost if you wait. Reporting the crime right away and having a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner collect evidence during a

medical examination increases the chances that your attacker can be caught and prosecuted.

**WILL THE PERSON WHO SEXUALLY ASSAULTED ME GO TO JAIL?**

Sexual assault is a serious crime. If you choose to report your assault to law enforcement, the Attorney General's office will decide if there is enough evidence to bring charges against the attacker. If convicted, it is possible that the attacker could receive a jail or prison sentence.

**WHAT IF I WAS ON A DATE OR AT A PARTY? WILL ANYONE BELIEVE ME?**

Sexual assault is a crime. It does not matter if you were on a date, at a party, or if you were drinking when it happened. It is never okay for someone to force sex on you. Under the law, date and acquaintance rape are no different from rape by a stranger.

**I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED. HOW DO I KNOW IF I WAS DRUGGED?**

People who have had rape

drugs slipped into a drink often do not remember what happened while they were unconscious. They may remember what happened but not be able to remember clearly. If you have memory loss and

have been sexually assaulted, you may have been given a rape drug such as Rohypnol, or GHB. If you think you have been drugged, get to a hospital right away. If you or someone you know

has been a victim of violence, please contact the Family Violence and Victim's Services offices at 601-650-1774.

**REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY**



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

**CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:**

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

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

**NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI**



Tribal members participated in the round comb decorating class in Standing Pine.

**Round Comb Workshop**  
The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) hosted their fourth round comb workshop at the Standing Pine Facility Building on Monday, April 4. The class was coordinated by May McGeisey.

The purpose of the workshop was to issue the latest style of round combs to participants and teach them to decorate it the modern way with rhinestone application. Seventeen tribal members attended

.....continued next page

**Prevent Elder Abuse**



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



**Warning Signs**

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

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

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



**Denson Attends CANAR Conference**

Theron Denson, Work Adjustment Skills Trainer with the Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program, attended the CANAR (Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation) mid-year training conference.

He represented the program by walking in the grand entry of programs and carrying the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians flag. He was recognized with a certificate of appreciation for his volunteerism at the conference in facilitating breakout sessions. He also submitted artwork that was included in the conference agenda booklet.

By attending training conferences, program staff are able to learn new techniques and best practices to bring back to their day-to-day work with Tribal members who have physical or mental conditions that impact their employment.

Program staff members strive to provide the highest quality services as possible. Continued training helps the staff understand



Pictured above is Theron Denson with the tribal flag at the CANAR conference.

Federal funding agency rules and expectations regarding service provisions and to learn from others striving to provide high quality services in their communities.

If you are a Tribal member who has a physical or mental condition and that condition is significantly impacting your employment, you may be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. For more information, contact Billy Smith at 601-650-7343.



From left are Education & Outreach Coordinator Trudy Jimmie, Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond, Canton Mayor Arnel Bolden, & basket weaver Rosie Joe.

the workshop.

Sherrill Nickey, of the Chahta Immi Cultural Center, brought round combs for sale from the Choctaw Museum. Instructors for the sessions included McGeisey, Shayna McMillan, Trudy Jimmie, and Casey Bigpond.

**“Living History”**

“Living History,” an event hosted by the Madison County Canton Historical Society - Canton Redevelopment Authority, took place at the Madison County Historic Jail in Canton on Friday, April 15.

Several Tribal members were in attendance as they made cultural presentations to third to fifth grade students on the history and cultural aspect of the area they reside in.

Rosie Joe demonstrated her methods of basket weaving and Casey Bigpond gave an overview on Choctaw blow guns and darts.

Trudy Jimmie and May McGeisey gave a brief summary on preparing hominy the Choctaw way and how to cook it. Preparing hominy does not involve a whole lot, but they emphasized long hours and tiresome labor required to prepare the hominy.

The Mississippi Agricultural Museum also participated, making the event even more educational and interesting.

**Collar Necklace Workshop**

A collar necklace workshop, coordinated by Trudy Jimmie of CAP, was held in the Standing Pine Facility Building on Tuesday, April 19. Larry Thomas and Larin Thomas, Industrial Trainers from Vo-

also in attendance.

For beading workshops, CAP usually provides start-up supplies as the staff teaches participants the basic steps for beginners. In order to complete a collar necklace, a significant amount of beads and long hours are required.

Anita Winstead, of Fashions & Fabrics in Philadelphia, travels to the workshops for participants to purchase needed supplies. Winstead has a great deal of knowledge about the Choctaw culture and knows exactly what to bring.

The staff and participants are very thankful and appreciative for her service in providing availability of items needed for the workshops.

**VRS Training**

Casey Bigpond, Trudy Jimmie and May McGeisey conducted a “How to Bead on a Loom” workshop for staff members of the Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) on Wednesday, April 27 at the Industrial Training Component.

The concept of the training was for the VRS staff to redirect their learning experiences to the trainees in hopes that they will be taught protocols to market the products to the general public and generate funds back into the program.

The CAP staff were excited and elated because the cultural education VRS received from their training will hopefully empower the trainees on their Choctaw culture and boost their income.

**Preparing Hominy**

DCI-CAP Cultural Researcher May McGeisey and



From left, participants Carolyn Willis, Pandora Sockey & Patricia Willis at the beading session in Standing Pine.

DCI Special Project/Media Coordinator Eddie Johnson, in cooperation with the Vocational Rehabilitation Program, attended a very special cultural training activity at the Industrial Component site at the Choctaw Manpower Building on Thursday, April 20, as they recorded and photographed the process of preparing hominy by the training program volunteers.

The activity focused on documenting, promoting Choctaw ways and encouraging knowledge sharing utilizing traditional based methods to make hominy for future references, presentations and archival purposes.

Volunteers were under the coordination of VRS Industrial Trainer Larry Thomas. Trainees who shared their information included Israel Willis, Gerald Denson, Carolyn Gibson, and Curtis Willis.

**Cultural Workshops**

The CAP will not offer cultural classes after the round comb workshop in the Pearl River community on Monday,

June 6 due to upcoming preparations for the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair on July 13-16.

Classes will resume on Monday, Aug. 1 in the Bogue Homa community for the round comb workshop. The remaining classes are listed below:

Tuesday, Aug. 9 - Blow guns & dart making in Tucker;

Friday, Aug. 12 - Medallion beading in Standing Pine;

Tuesday, Aug. 16 - Headband making in Bogue Homa;

Friday, Sept. 2 - Choctaw dress making in Conehatta;

Monday, Sept. 5 - Round comb making in Conehatta;

Tuesday, Sept. 13 - Pottery firing part 2 in Pearl River;

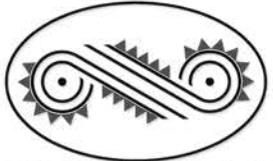
Tuesday, Sept. 20 - Stickball apron making in Red Water.

Please make plans to attend!



Larin Thomas, left, is heavily concentrating on his bead pattern. Israel Willis (right) pounds corn in a mortar (kiti) using a pestle (tachi ishit litóli or boli) to loosen hulls from the kernels.





**CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER**

featuring  
**CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS**  
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through “Choctaw Expressions” - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

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

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

---

**ADMISSION**

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

**AB**  
mechanical, inc.

**Heating & Air  
Conditioning Service**



**A&B Mechanical, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 6003  
Choctaw, MS 39350  
(Office) 601-656-4818  
(Fax) 601-656-4418  
Allen Peoples, President/Owner,  
Chahta Owned & Operated

**CHOCTAW  
TOWN CENTER**

**OUTDOOR  
MARKET**

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A GREAT PLACE  
FOR A SALE!!**

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

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

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River  
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*Multi-Vehicle Discounts  
SR 22  
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**Come in for a free quote  
or call 601-663-0971  
300 Choctaw Town Center  
Suite 106  
(Behind Wendy's on Hwy. 16 West)**

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

**IN MEMORIAM**

**RONIE MAE TUBBY**

Funeral service for Ronie Mae Tubby, 61, was held on Sunday, May 1, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Ms. Tubby passed away on April 27 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a kitchen worker at the Pearl River Resort. She enjoyed spending time with her family, watching TV cooking shows & attending ball games. She was a fan of Warriors Stickball.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Victoria Jeffer-

son; daughters, Doris Tubby & Chasity Renee Tubby; a son, Gabriel Lee Tubby; a sister, Fronie Mae Tubby; a brother, James Monroe Shoemake; five grandchildren; & a nephew.

Survivors include her father, Hubert Shoemake; daughters, Shelley Tubby, Lois Tubby & Makila Tubby; sons, William Scott Tubby, Sr. & Brandon Keith Tubby; brothers, Hilbert Shoemake, Gerald Shoemake & Bernon Shoemake; 26 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; & numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**WILTON FARMER**

Funeral service for Wilton Farmer, 82, was held on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, from the Bogue Homa Com-

munity Gymnasium. Father Mike Thornton officiated.

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

Mr. Farmer passed away on May 1 at Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

He enjoyed reading, playing & watching baseball, & being around family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard & Lonnie Farmer; wife, Edith Ray Farmer; a sister, Martha Jim; daughters, Mary Upshaw & Vena Solomon; & three grandchildren.

Survivors include his sisters, Lula Lewis & Louise Wallace; a daughter, Rose Marie Farmer; a son, Lee Farmer; 14 grandchildren; & a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**LORIANNA LYNELL SHOEMAKE**

Funeral service for Lorianna Lynell Shoemake, 31, was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, from the Bogue Homa Baptist Church. Bro. Lee Farmer & Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

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

Ms. Shoemake passed away on May 14 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was employed as a greeter at the Silver Star Hotel & Casino. She enjoyed spending time with her family, fishing, texting, & dancing. She was a fan of Conehatta Stickball.

She is preceded in death by her parents, John & Nelda Shoemake; grandparents,

.....continued next page

**PRCDC Thanks Supporters**

The Pearl River Community Development Club officers (Austin Tubby, president; Michael Lozares, vice-president & Miranda Farve, secretary/treasurer) thank all who participated in club meetings and to the volunteers who helped during community events and tournaments.

The club also recognizes Pearl River Tribal Council representatives Stella Willis, Lola Parkerson & Cheriena Ben for their contributions.

The club hosted a dinner and bingo on American Indian Day and, more recently, two

successful fundraiser volleyball tournaments. All proceeds went to the Pearl River community princess contestant and for additional upcoming community events.

The club appreciates all teams who participated in our tournaments.

Teams placing first in the March 19 tournament in Tucker included: (womens) Breena Chickaway's team; (co-ed) Elter Wilson's team.

Teams placing first in the April 16 tournament in Pearl River included: (womens) Priscilla Williams' team; (co-ed) Elter Wilson's team.

All Pearl River community residents are invited to regular meetings held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Justice Complex community meeting room.



**ABOVE**, PRCDC volleyball tournament winners on April 16 in Pearl River included (top) womens champion Priscilla Williams' team & (bottom) co-ed champion Elter Wilson's team. MVP's were Gail Tubby (pictured top, center) & Darryl Solomon, Jr. (pictured bottom, center). Pictured far right is PRCDC President Austin Tubby.



**LEFT**, PRCDC hosted a dinner & bingo on American Indian Day at the Pearl River Community Center.

Newt & Leona Jefferson, Edmond & Berdie Shoemake; a sister, Evelyn Shoemake; a niece & an uncle.

Survivors include sisters, Barbarella Johnson, Christon Flores & Lachristianna Shoemake; brothers, Gerald Isom, Sr., Jamion Shoemake, Manuel Shoemake, & Demanuel Shoemake; a special person, Davin Solomon; three aunts; three uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JIMMY LELAND MORRIS**

Funeral service for Jimmy Leland Morris, 64, was held on Thursday, May 19, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Morris passed away on May 13 at his residence.

He was a Baptist by faith & a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. He enjoyed watching TV game shows, doing crossword puzzles & watching his grandchildren play sports.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe & Winnie Morris; a daughter, Jamie Morris; brothers, RB Morris, Olen Morris, Marvin Morris, & Leo Morris; half-brothers, George Hickman, Snood Hickman, Felix Hickman, Sam Hickman, & Willis Hickman, Sr.; half-sisters, Eula Thompson, Frances Aguilar, Onie Smith, Margie Charlie, & Martha Bell; two aunts & an uncle.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Morris; two daughters, Melody Morris & Brenda Ray; five grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**PATSY SAM BUFFINGTON**

Funeral service for Patsy Sam Buffington, 73, was held on Monday, May 23, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. McClain-Hays Fu-

neral Service was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Buffington passed away on May 18 at the University Medical Center in Jackson.

In 1955, she was crowned the first Choctaw Indian Princess at the Green Corn Festival at the age of 13. At Haskell Indian School in Lawrence, Kan., she was the homecoming queen & homecoming jubilee queen.

She owned the Village Co-op in Pearl River & also worked at Choctaw Housing Authority, Harold's Short Stop & Pearl River Resort. She enjoyed spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tom & Nellie Sam; a sister, Carol Henry; a granddaughter, & a nephew.

Survivors include her daughter, Christina Buffington; sons, Kevin Butler, Ken Butler, Karl Butler, & Kenny Johnson; 22 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; a niece, nephew & a host of relatives & friends.

**ADELAIDE HICKMAN JOHNSON**

Funeral service for Adelaide Hickman Johnson, 66,

was held on Thursday, May 26, 2016, from the Memorial Park Funeral Home in Memphis, Tenn. Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorial Park Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Johnson passed away on May 20 in Memphis.

She was employed at various printing companies, American Greetings, The Commercial Appeal, & Fed-Ex. She loved fishing, doing beadwork, sewing, playing softball, & playing pool.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Donald Hickman & Christopher Johnson; parents, Homer Sam Hickman & Nola Thompson Hickman; brothers, Robert Hickman & Dewayne Hickman; & a sister, Clara Hickman.

Survivors include two daughters, Brenda Frazier & Audrey Hickman; sisters, Reba Lewis & Vivian Ben; a brother, Cary Hickman; 12 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

Welcome To

**NANIH WAIYA**  
INDIAN  
**Mennonite Church**

Preaching Every  
Sunday - 10:00 am

10341 Road 789  
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Come Join Us...



**Spirit of Life Christian Center**

Sunday 10:00 a.m.	Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
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**278 Black Jack Road  
Choctaw, MS 39350  
601-389-5446  
Pastor Thomas Ben**

*Come and Worship with us*



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

Sunday

8:30 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. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr.

Wednesday

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

Youth Pastor: Rev. Monte Farve

*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*

**JIMMIE JOE FRAZIER**

Funeral service for Jimmie Joe Frazier, 71, was held on Thursday, May 26, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, 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 May 22 at Circle of Life Hospice in Bentonville, Ark.

He enjoyed gospel singing, reading his Bible, praying, fishing, playing baseball, tossing horse shoes, bead work, &

being at family gatherings.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Joe & Bessie Frazier Morris; wife, Bettie L. Frazier; a son, Henry L. Frazier; sisters, Pauline Williams & Carolyn Nickey; & brothers, Quincy Morris, Randall Morris, Sr. & Burnice Morris.

Survivors include daughters, Phyllis Boldra & Claudine Riffe; sisters, Arlene Morris, Melba Cline & Mary Lou Morris; two brothers, Harris Morris & Larry Morris; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; an aunt, uncle & a host of relatives & friends.

**In Memory of  
Mary Lene (Bell) Silmon**

Sunrise: June 21, 1941  
Sunset: March 24, 2016



*Mary went to be with the Lord on March 24, 2016. She passed away at the Oklahoma University Medical Center in Oklahoma City. A wake was held on March 28 at the First Baptist Indian Church in Shawnee. Funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 29, with interment at Resthaven Memorial Park. Resthaven Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.*

*Mary was born on June 21, 1941, in Philadelphia, Miss., to Frank Keen Bell, Sr. & Ivenia Lewis Bell. She attended Pearl River Indian School in Philadelphia & graduated from Chillico Indian School in Philadelphia in 1960. She worked as a dental assistant with the Indian Health Services (IHS) in Talihina, Okla., & later became an IHS clinic supervisor in Ada, Okla. She retired after 36 years of service. In her spare time, she was a Mary Kay consultant.*

*Mary served as treasurer at First Baptist Indian Church & was in charge of the nursery & mission groups. Her mission work took her, her husband (Turner) & other church members to different churches. While visiting Mississippi in July 2015, Mary joined the Native Praise Group. The group, consisting of various tribal members singing each other's songs in their native language, travel across the U.S. & other countries.*

*On July 18, they performed at a Native American mission work training at Macedonia Baptist Church in Petal, Miss. On July 19, they sang at the First Baptist Church in Philadelphia as Mary was thrilled to sing in her hometown. Prior to this visit, she sang with the group at Pearl River Baptist Church.*

*When Mary & her husband were not involved in church work, they enjoyed camping near the Tushkahoma festival site every September or watching their grandchildren play ball.*

*Mary is preceded in death by her parents, Frank Keen Bell, Sr. & Ivenia Bell; sisters, Judie Rae Bell-Billie & Ennie Ryan Bell-Billy; & grandparents, Thompson & Ellen Isaac Bell.*

*Mary is survived by her husband of 52 years, Turner Silmon, Jr.; a daughter, Lahoma Gayle Silmon-Roberts (Donyell); a son, Mark Allen Silmon; grandchildren, Danielle, Christine & Misty McGirt, Dakota & Zachary Silmon; great-grandchildren, Aurelius, Iunicius, Kenacius, Leonidas, Tiana, & Briseis McGirt; siblings, Frank Bell, Jr., Harlon Dwight Bell, Melba Smith (Roger), & Rose Cutler (Terry); & a host of nieces & nephews.*

