



# CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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



## MBCI To Air FNX

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – On March 1, the Choctaw-run MaxxSouth channel returned to the air full time with First Nations Experience (FNX). FNX is the first and only public TV network in the U.S. dedicated to Native American content.

“I am so pleased that our Tribal channel is once again on the airwaves,” said Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson. “As an added plus, our new programming provider, First Nations Experience, will feature Native American programming. Channel 5 has been off-air since TLC left in early 2014. We are opening an exciting new chapter for our viewing audience.”

This partnership between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ Choctaw Video and FNX will still allow for Choctaw News to be aired at 12:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Special programming specific to Choctaw will be aired on a pre-emptive basis.

The creation of Choctaw Video and airing Choctaw programming on Channel 5 began on July 1, 1990, by the late Bob Ferguson. The Learning Channel (TLC) was just beginning, and Ferguson used their daily programming in between his news show “WHTV Pictorial Report.”

.....see FNX, pg. 5

## Lady Warriors Conclude Memorable Season At Final

Thirty-two wins in a season is a remarkable achievement for any high school basketball program. But a 33rd win would have been epic for the 2015-2016 Choctaw Central Lady Warriors.

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

Booneville is no stranger to the Lady Warriors as they ended Choctaw Central’s run in the 2015 state tournament with a 51-49 win in the quarterfinal.

“We played a real good first half but the second half we couldn’t put the ball in the basket. They turned up their defensive pressure and we just didn’t handle it very well,” said Lady Warriors head coach Bill

Smith.

Choctaw Central made 13-of-32 field goals, 4-of-12 three-pointers and 2-of-5 free throws in the first half. The second half was a different story as the Lady Warriors were held to 1-of-19 field goals, 0-of-5 three-pointers but made 15-of-23 free throws.

“We couldn’t make a shot. We were 1-for-19 from the floor. We made some free throws, but Booneville got hot. They scored their first seven points in the third quarter and we couldn’t get the momentum back after halftime,” said Smith.

The Lady Warriors concluded the season with an overall 32-3 record.

Smith told his team after the game to keep their heads up and be proud of the year they had.

“All three teams that beat us (Newton,



Choctaw Central’s Melody Jimmie goes for a basket against a Holly Springs defender during the Class 3A state tournament quarterfinals at Jackson State University on March 6.

Olive Branch and Booneville) are very good basketball teams. We have get ready to do it again next year. We made it to the championship game. Hopefully we can get back here next year and finish what we started.”

.....see SEASON, pg. 8

## Anderson Appointed To Key NACIE Post

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – President Barack Obama announced on Feb. 19 his intent to appoint Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE).

In a press statement released from the White House, Pres. Obama said, “I am honored that these talented individuals have decided to serve our country. They bring their years of experience and expertise to this Administration, and I look forward to working with them.”

Anderson will serve alongside 14 other members. The council advises the Secretary of Education on funding and administration of programs as it relates to

Indian children and adult education under Title VII, PART A of Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

“The responsibility of education in our tribal communities is very important to our future. I am extremely honored in President Obama’s confidence in my leadership and I look forward to serving alongside the other gifted and capable members of this council,” said Anderson.

Currently in her second term as Tribal Chief, an office she has held since 2011, Anderson serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Tribal Government and, among other tasks, oversees the Tribe’s gaming, hospitality, and family destination resort industry, multiple business enterprises and economic development initiatives, comprehensive educational and

healthcare systems, Reservation-wide law enforcement and police protection, Choctaw Tribal Courts, social services programs, recreation and community development, and natural resources.

Anderson is also responsible for the administration of more than \$450 million in annual Tribal budgets and Reservation-wide program operations for the benefit of all Tribal citizens.

Previously, she served as Tribal Council representative for the Red Water Community from 2003 to 2011 and Director of the Tribe’s Department of Natural Resources from 1984 to 2003.

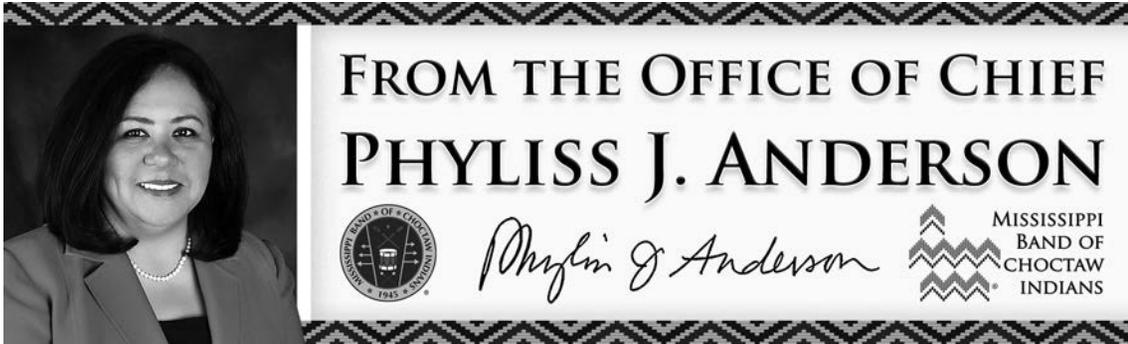
Anderson chairs the boards of the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, Choctaw Health Center, Chahta Enterprises, the Choctaw Residen-



Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson

tial Center Enterprise, and the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise.

She is a member of the boards of United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., the National Congress of American Indians, Choctaw Missions, and the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Advisory Board. She received an A.A. from East Central Community College in Decatur.



Halito! The change of seasons is upon us all and thankfully spring is in the air. Fortunately, our tribal communities experienced a very mild winter. Exciting spring sports, such as softball and baseball, will begin in a matter of days. Several of our stickball teams are already practicing and preparing for the State Games of Mississippi and World Series Stickball tournaments. Those of you with green thumbs are heading outside to plant your crops and flowers.

Here at Tribal Headquarters, my staff and I are as dedicated as ever, preparing for many upcoming events, including Community Field Days, CCHS Graduation and the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair in July.

**CCHS Lady Warriors**

Our CCHS girls basketball team once again took us to the Big House in Jackson. They defeated the Holly Springs Lady Hawks in quarterfinals at Jackson State University on March 5th, and were victorious against the Velma Jackson Lady Falcons in the MHSAA Class 3A semifinals at the Mississippi Coliseum on March 9th.

It was a tense and electri-

fying game on March 12th as the girls returned to the Big House and competed against the Booneville Lady Devils for the 3A championship. Although they did not get the win, they did an outstanding job. This was another great season of CCHS Lady Warriors basketball.

I am so proud of our players and coaches! Their hard work and dedication have produced wonderful results. Rest assured, the Lady Warriors will continue to improve and they will take us all back to the Big House. I thank everyone who has supported our athletes throughout this season, and I encourage you to continue giving them your support.

**CCHS Winter Guard**

The CCHS Winter Guard also had an exciting competition season as they performed in various competitions across the state, such as at Pearl High School, South Pontotoc High School, Wayne County High School, and Clinton, Miss.

The Winter Guard also traveled to Tate High School in Pensacola, Florida on February 27th to compete in the Winter Guard International Pensacola Regional. They competed against other units

from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Their successes can be attributed to long hours of practice and dedication to their performance.

On Saturday, April 2nd, they competed in the Mississippi Indoor Association Color Guard Championships at the Mississippi Coliseum and came away with bronze medals. Their show was beautifully designed and executed. I am proud of the Winter Guard members and Director Elter Wilson for their outstanding successes.

**Lego League Tournament**

The Choctaw Tribal Schools held its 14th Annual FIRST LEGO League Tournament at Pearl River Elementary School on Saturday, January 23, 2016. Over one hundred students from the Choctaw Tribal Schools participated in this year's event.

Awards were announced at the end of the tournament and trophies were given out to the teams for their outstanding performances.

The Judges' Award was presented to System Overload

from Pearl River Elementary School.

The Robot Performance Award was presented to Oka Homma representing Red Water Elementary School.

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

The Project Award was presented to Standing Pine Elementary School's Garbage Terminators.

The Core Values Award was presented to OTG Squad from Tucker Elementary School.

The Champion's Award was presented to Pearl River Elementary School's LEGO Warriors.

Congratulations to all of the winners and participants of the FIRST LEGO Tournament!!

**Science Fairs**

Recently, students in the upper and lower grades in the tribal elementary schools competed in their respective district science fairs. It is exciting to our students to take what they learn in class and apply it in their science projects.

I congratulate all the winners who advanced to the regional science fair at Mississippi State University. It is my hope that more of our tribal youth venture into the fields of math and science and be a part of ever-changing discoveries to help improve our world.

**CHC Celebrates One Year of Service in New Facility**

It has been one year since we cut the ribbon and opened the doors to the new Choctaw Health Center facility. On March 10th, a one-year anniversary reception was held to celebrate the continuing progress of the Tribe's healthcare program.

The need for a new Health Center facility had existed for many years, and through the collective efforts of tribal officials and other parties, we made this vision a reality. But our great progress cannot and should not stop here.

In the past year, we established new services and brought in more specialists to the Choctaw Health Center, so that tribal members do not have to travel far to get the care and attention they need.

I look forward to working with our capable health center staff to continue building upon our successes to ensure tribal healthcare needs are met.

**CHC Passes Accreditation Surveys**

I extend my congratulations and appreciation to the Choctaw Health Center Staff for earning continued accreditation from the DNV GL's accreditation program. This accreditation not only demonstrates the staff's commitment to providing exceptional healthcare services for tribal members, but also shows the CHC meets or exceeds patient safety standards that has been

.....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 the CCHS Winter Guard as they captured bronze medals at the Mississippi Indoor Association Color Guard Championships at the Mississippi Coliseum on April 2.

set forth by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

This accreditation program now involves annual hospital surveys and encourages hospitals to openly share information across departments and to discover improvements in clinical workflow and safety protocol.

For those of us not trained in the healthcare arena, this might be hard to understand, but it is a big accomplishment for our Choctaw Health Center. Keep up the great work!

**Elder Roofing Project Update**

In February, we launched a \$1 Million Elder Roofing Program to provide needed roof repairs and replacements to the homes of tribal elders living and owning a house on the Choctaw Indian Reservation. Applicants were accepted in February through the Elder Outreach Program.

We have teams visiting applicants to assess roof damage and make needed repairs to the homes of our tribal elders.

I appreciate the Choctaw Elder Center Staff for working with these applicants and our development and construction teams that helped put this project together and see it through its successful completion.

**National Advisory Council on Indian Education**

Recently, I was asked by President Barack Obama to serve alongside 14 other Native American Council members on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE). The responsibility of education in our tribal communities is very important to our future and I am committed to building stronger resources and opportunities for our tribal youth.

Congress established the NACIE to ensure issues of importance to Indian Education would no longer be ignored or given less attention than rightfully deserved.

The Council advises the Secretary of Education on funding and administration of education programs as it relates to Indian children and adults. The Council also advises the Secretary and the President on personnel needs, including whenever a vacancy occurs for the Director of Indian Education.

This Council will also serve as an excellent opportunity to exchange new ideas and successful methods for Indian Education.

I am extremely honored in President Obama's confidence in my leadership and his trust

in the Choctaw people. I look forward to serving alongside the other gifted and capable members of this council.

**Recreation End-of-Season**

The Tribal Recreation department has been very busy in the last few months organizing sports games throughout our communities. I appreciate their efforts in ensuring tribal members have an enjoyable time participating and attending these sporting events.

**Spring Festivals**

The spring festival season has already begun and will continue throughout the month of April. It's always wonderful to see our children engaged in our culture, and it is an opportunity for community members to gather together and enjoy some fellowship and good Choctaw food.

**Upcoming Community Field Days**

With spring, we also enjoy a time of visiting our tribal communities during our annual Community Field Days. I am excited to share information about the progress our Tribe is making and also about projects that are in the works.

I enjoy the good times and happy memories made during these field days. As we have in years past, we will have fun activities for all ages and have fellowship over a picnic style meal. Dates will be announced per community via door-to-door flyers, the MBCI Facebook page, tribal email, and [www.choctaw.org](http://www.choctaw.org).

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Office of Public Information at (601) 663-7532. I hope you and your family will join us for this fun activity.

**Closing**

To some people, springtime represents a new beginning.

The grass turns green, trees come alive again and flowers begin to bloom. I encourage all of you to take a moment and reflect on the different aspects of your life and rededicate your time and attention to the things that matter most.

For me, as your Tribal Chief, it is most important that the Tribe and our tribal members are successful in all endeavors to ensure a happy, healthy and bright future. I appreciate all of your encouragements, prayers and support. Let us keep our Tribe moving forward together.

Many Blessings,

*Phyllis J. Anderson*  
Tribal Chief

**Ole Miss Students Visit Tribe**

Spring break for college students usually means going home, laying out in the sun at the beach or even staying on campus to study. Sixteen University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) students, however, gave up their spring break vacation and traveled to Choctaw, Miss. on March 14-18.

Students in Professor Bill Rose's Honors Journalism



*Ole Miss students pose with Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemaker. Kneeling, from left, are Chi Kalu & Ariel Cobbert; middle row, Princess Shoemaker, Josie Slaughter, Lana Ferguson, Tori Hosey, Tori Olker, Mrudvi Bakshi, Taylor Bennett; back row, instructor Bill Rose, Mitchell Dowden, Kate Hayes, Slade Rand, & Will Crockett. Not pictured are Anna McCollum, Zoe McDonald & Mikki Harris.*

course came to the Choctaw Reservation to learn more about our Tribe for a magazine

to be published in the fall of 2016. ....see VISITORS, pg. 13

**News from the Tribal Distribution Office**

**IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO REMEMBER!**

- Tribal Court - May 13, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.
- Direct Deposit - June 6, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.
- Other Changes Listed Below - June 6, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

**TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION REMINDERS!**

Please help us make the process of receiving your check easier by having the following information current. Please list your children anytime you make any changes whether to change your last name or address. (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). It is very important to list your dependants as well on the form.
- 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.



# 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. 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** appointment. 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 CHS will require 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, contact the CHC Business Office at 601-389-4060.



## CHC Celebrates One Year Of Operation

The staff of the Choctaw Health Center celebrated their first year in operation at their current location at 210 Hospital Circle off New Frog Level Road in Choctaw on March 10. MBCI Chief of Staff RaeNell Vaughn (left) & CHC Director Tina Scott (right) spoke briefly of the new services & specialty clinics being offered at the facility. The staff, along with patients & guests, enjoyed light refreshments in the lobby after a special rendition of "Happy Birthday" was sung by staff members in attendance.



## Why Do We Need to Brush, Floss Our Teeth?

Submitted by the CHC Dental Department

doesn't it!

### #1 - To Reduce the Plaque Build Up What is plaque?

Plaque is a sticky, white film that grows, (yes grows!), on our teeth every day. I say grow because plaque has germs and bacteria that weakens the enamel.

Plaque begins to build at the gum line around our teeth. It can build to the point of looking like cottage cheese and take on the colors of what we eat. Plaque can be a yellow color instead of the white film.

The feel and taste of your mouth when you get up in the morning is the feel and taste of the germs that have been growing in your mouth all night. This happens because as we sleep, the saliva stops flowing and the germs sit and feed on what we ate last.

And, of course, we provide a perfect incubator with our 98.6 degree mouth! Makes you want to brush your teeth,

### How does this affect our mouth?

These germs eat away at the enamel over time. You may have noticed white spots at the gum line of your teeth, your children's teeth or your friend's teeth. These areas are a sign of weak enamel.

Plaque begins to build at the gum line of our teeth and this also allows the gums to be affected by the germs in plaque as well. These germs cause red, swollen and bleeding gums called *gingivitis*. This is the first step of gum disease.

If plaque isn't removed daily with correct brushing and flossing, it eventually hardens into calculus, or tartar. This can't be removed with a brush or floss.

Tartar can build below the gum level to the point that germs and toxins eat away at the bone that holds our teeth in. This is usually painless, but you can have sensitivity to cold and hot in the later stages,

along with mobile teeth.

This is not an "old person's" disease. We all have plaque in our mouth and this is where it begins. It doesn't happen overnight. It is a slow disease that can begin in the early 20's, but the symptoms and effects don't show up until later in life. How much do you feed your plaque?

### How can we reduce the plaque in our mouth and our children's mouth?

The best way to remove plaque is by brushing and teaching your children to brush. We should brush our teeth twice a day for at least two minutes. Brushing removes the plaque on the outside, inside and tops (chewing surface) of our teeth. Flossing once a day removes the plaque from where our teeth touch.

The bristles of the brush are too fat to get between the teeth, but the food gets pushed down under the gums and between teeth when we bite and chew. Using the circular motion, instead of back and forth, brushes the food and plaque from under the gums.

.....continued next page



## 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 Durnene Farmer, 1-601-389-4124 Robert Ben, or 1-601-389-4280 Laura Dees (Managed Care) for help applying.



# Bok Homa Casino Donates to Pinebelt Non-Profit

Bok Homa Casino recently donated a commercial freezer to a Laurel/Hattiesburg area non-profit agency that was in desperate need to store food.

Pinebelt Association for Families provides food to 75 grandparents on a fixed income and are responsible for raising their grandchildren. The agency was having to turn down healthy food donations because they had no way to store it.

Pearl River Resort received a monetary donation request from the Pine-

belt Association for Families to purchase a new freezer. Resort officials wanted to help so they decided Bok Homa Casino will purchase and donate the entire \$3,000 freezer to the group so they are able to more quickly have access to the needed appliance that allows them to assist their community members.

Sylvia Forster, Executive Director Pinebelt Association for Families, said it was a big surprise to receive the freezer from Bok Homa Casino.

“As they say in the south, it’s been a blessing!”

Jason York, Executive Director of Development/Operations for Bok Homa Casino, said the Pinebelt Association for Families was a very good organization to help as they assisted



Representatives from Bok Homa Casino in Sandersville presented the new freezer to members of the Pinebelt Association for Families.

grandparents within the Laurel area that were raising their grandchildren.

“They were asking for a donation towards a freezer, so we decided to donate a freezer to them. On behalf

of Bok Homa Casino and Pearl River Resort, we’re very glad we could contribute back to the community here in Laurel,” said York.

Remember, children are NOT old enough to brush their own teeth until around 7 years old. Also, this doesn’t mean they will remember, so getting in the habit of brushing your teeth along with your children sends an important message of health.

## #2 - Avoid Sipping and Snacking

Americans are consuming foods and drinks high in sugar and starches more often and in larger portions than ever before. Think about “super sizing” soft drinks and the size of candy bars.

For example, the average teenage boy drinks 81 gallons of soft drinks every year! Alarmingly, a steady diet of sugary foods and drinks can ruin teeth, especially those who snack throughout the day

or some call it grazing – constantly eating and sipping high sugar.

When sugar is consumed over and over again in large, often hidden amounts, the harmful effect on our teeth is drastic. Remember, I talked about the plaque germ weakening the enamel of our teeth? When we take in sugar from food or drinks, it becomes an acid in our mouth. We all know battery acid will eat holes in clothes and this is what the acid in our mouth does to our weak enamel.

Every time a sugar is put in our mouth, an acid attack begins and can last up to 15 minutes. If we are constantly eating, acid is constantly attacking our teeth. This is why we encourage eating sweets, along with meals, so the attack is over at one time.

If you sip on a sugar drink, (like soft drink, Kool-aid, Gatorade, or Powerade), while watching television, movie or throughout the “game,” sugar is constantly turning to acid and attacking our teeth.

ALL food has some sugar in it, except water. Please read the labels. You notice I mentioned Gatorade and Powerade. They are not a safe change from soft drinks. The second ingredient in them is High Fructose Corn Syrup. This is another name for sugar.

These drinks were designed for people burning a lot of energy during a hot workout. Sitting at home watching a sports game in December doesn’t count! They have no nutritional value and this is causing more problems for small children than we might think. Think about it.

## What can you do to reduce tooth decay?

- Sugary foods and drinks should be eaten with meals. Saliva production increases at this time and helps neutralize acid production and rinse food from the mouth.
- Limit snacks. If a snack is given, be sure it’s nutritious.
- If you allow gum, make it sugarless. Chewing gum after

eating also increases saliva production. This could work if you are at a ball game with no chance to brush any time soon.

- Watch what you drink and what you offer your children. No sipping or sippy cups constantly during the day. Even milk has some sugar in it.
- Remember #1, remove plaque germs twice a day.



## Tribal Member Involved in Ceremony

Huntington Ingalls Industries’ Ingalls Shipbuilding division authenticated the keel for the company’s seventh U.S. Coast Guard National Security Cutter, Kimball (WMSL 756) on March 4. The ship is named in honor of Sumner Kimball, who organized and directed the U.S. Life Saving Service and was a pioneer in organizing all of the different facilities associated with the service into what eventually would become the U.S. Coast Guard. Kay Webber Cochran (center), wife of Sen. Thad Cochran (left), R-Miss., was the ship sponsor and had her initials welded onto a steel plate to signify the keel had been “truly and fairly laid.” Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ member and Ingalls Shipbuilding employee Jerry Wesley (right) welded the initials onto the plate.

(Photo by Lance Davis/HII)

## FNX ..... continued from page one

Today, Choctaw Video records and edits footage of many Tribal events that take place throughout the year. These events are featured in Tribal news broadcasts and for DVD sales.

FNX was created at KVCR Public Television in San Bernardino, California, through a gift from founding partners, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. It

went on the air on September 25, 2011.

FNX is currently carried by stations broadcasting in 9 states from Alaska to Illinois, including the metro areas of Chicago and Los Angeles.

“FNX is thrilled to have the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians join our family of national affiliates, said Alfredo Cruz, General Manager of FNX. “We look forward to

serving the community and strengthening our programming partnership.”

“FNX is committed to being a vehicle for indigenous voices across the Americas and around the world. I hope the Choctaw Tribal audience finds our programming to be a valuable addition to their viewing options and that FNX enriches the hearts and lives of all who watch.”

## Choctaw Tribal Schools Host District Science, Engineering Fairs

The Choctaw Tribal Schools hosted their annual District Science & Engineering Fair for upper & lower grades in February as local fair winners from Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Standing Pine, Pearl River, Tucker, & Red Water Elementary Schools & Choctaw Central Middle School participated.

The upper fair (grades 6-8) was held on Feb. 5 & the lower fair (grades K-5) was held on Feb. 26. Both fairs were held in the Tucker Elementary School Gymnasium.

Forty-eight projects were entered in the upper fair & 105 projects in the lower fair.

Students placing first

through third advanced to the 2016 Region V Science & Engineering Fair at Mississippi State University in Starkville. The upper fair for grades 6-12 was held on Feb. 23. The lower fair will be held on April 7.

Listed below are students who placed in their category at their respective fairs.

### UPPER FAIR (Grades 6-8)

#### Sixth Grade

Chemistry - 1st, Neera Bell; 2nd, Sissie Gibson; 3rd, Chad Tsosie; Honorable Mention, Zaylee Shoemake.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Crystal Routh; 2nd, Kyla Farmer &

Alyssa Farmer.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st, Kacey Nickey; 2nd, Cadence Nickey.

Physics - 1st, Makayla Hickman; 2nd, Peja York; 3rd, Connor Billy.

### CLASS III (Grades 7-8)

Botany - 1st, Malakai Charlie; 2nd, Ivaniel Jefferson; 3rd, Breann Mingo.

Chemistry - 1st, Brannan Jim; 2nd, DeShayna Jefferson; 3rd, Ashanti Body; Honorable Mention, Leilani Charlie.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Cody Roach & Brighton Jimmie; 2nd, Isley Mingo & Amaya McMillan; 3rd, Tyiesha Dixon; Honorable Mention, Oren Ferris.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st, Traiton Martin; 2nd, Jaylen Bell; 3rd, Alarys Johnson; Honorable Mention, Sherente Tubby.

Medicine & Health - 1st, Kristina Taylor.

Physics - 1st, Elliyonna Chickaway; 2nd, Tara Tsosie; 3rd, Alyssa York.

Zoology - 1st, Evangeline Hall.

Best of Fair recipients were Cody Roach & Brighton Jimmie.

### LOWER FAIR CLASS I

### (Grades K-3)

#### Kindergarten

First, Bryceton McMillan; 2nd, Ashton Stephens; 3rd, Zachary Polk.

#### First Grade

Biochemistry - 1st, Jacoby Willis.

Chemistry - 1st, Nakota Willis; 2nd, Aiden Bell; 3rd, Annabella Anderson; Honorable Mention, Brady Farve.

Earth, Space, and Environmental Sciences - 1st, Shastyn Lewis; 2nd, Tali King.

Physics - 1st, Zathian Waiter; 2nd, Amalyiah McMillan.

Zoology - 1st, Nuseka Dixon.

#### Second Grade

Biochemistry - 1st, Aston Eades.

Botany - 1st, Carlisle Phillips; 2nd, Shallasen Jimmie; 3rd, Miyah Nickey.

Chemistry - 1st, Conner Willis; 2nd, Yuriana Crosby; 3rd, Anniston Billy; Honorable Mention, Hayden Willis.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Ferris Tubby; 2nd, Jennalee McMillan.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st, Makailah Moore; 2nd, Ansley Wallace.

Physics - 1st, Zahya Amos; 2nd, Kodi Thomas; 3rd, No-lynn Bell.

#### Third Grade

Botany - 1st, Akaysha Polk;

2nd, Teresa Willis.

Chemistry - 1st, Ajay Lewis; 2nd, Alleiyah Butler; 3rd, LaChantay Jefferson; Honorable Mention, Charles Tubby.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Nathanael Nickey; 2nd, Karidee Willis.

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

Medicine & Health - 1st, Raiyleigh Perry; 2nd, Almera Charlie; 3rd, Karli Bell.

Physics - 1st, Brylee Willis; 2nd, Ta'Jae Cook; 3rd, Javon Williams; Honorable Mention, Kethan Anderson.

Zoology - 1st, Kaegan Henry; 2nd, Katrina McMillan.

### CLASS II (Grades 4-5)

#### Fourth Grade

Biochemistry - 1st, Zavian Tubby; 2nd, Destinee Williams.

Botany - 1st, Tristen Henry; 2nd, Kailyn Steve.

Chemistry - 1st, Chloe Wesley; 2nd, Talayah Kinsolving; 3rd, Kezmain Carter; Honorable Mention, Koie Williams.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Keondrae Anderson; 2nd, Isaiah Johnson; 3rd, Aaliyah Clements.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st, Miles Taylor; 2nd,

.....continued next page

## Title I PAB Meeting Held in Choctaw

Fifteen Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) members, along with 15 guests, recently met at the Ayipa Café in Choctaw for the February working lunch.

PAB Chair Ray Willis recognized Sandra Willis Weaver as the Outstanding Choctaw Educator for February 2016. Sandra has worked in the school system for 31 years. She has worked with the Early Childhood Cultural Education Program, the Follow-Through Program, Head Start, and Pearl River Elementary School's Special Education program since 1986.

She attended elementary & middle school in Pearl River and graduated from Choctaw Central High School. Sandra furthered her education at Hinds Junior College, East Central Junior College, & Mississippi State University.

"When I first start-

ed teaching we were trying to get the students to speak English, whereas today, we encourage them to speak Choctaw," said Weaver.

She & her husband, Douglas, have been married for 31 years. They are the parents of two sons, Joshua & Zachary.

Daniel Mittan, Director of Court Services, presented information about the Choctaw Youth Healing to Wellness Court Services Program. Andrew Jones, Division Coordinator, was also on hand to answer questions.

The Board will meet again on Tuesday, April 12. For more information, contact William F. Bell at 601-663-7660 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.



Pearl River Elementary School Principal Suzanne Hyatt, left, presents Sandra Weaver the February Outstanding Choctaw Educator Award.



First through third place finishers in sixth grade & Class III.



First through third place finishers in Class I.



First through third place finishers in Class II.

Gabriel Chitto; 3rd, Zaiyah Isaac.

Physics - 1st, Natashia Willis; 2nd, Talon Bell; 3rd, Manny York; Honorable Mention, Miley Billie.

Fifth Grade

Chemistry - 1st, Brendon Morris; 2nd, Kacie Wallace; 3rd, Kaydee Taylor; Honorable Mention, Sharyl Thomas.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st, Catherine Jim; 2nd, Ayers Chickaway; 3rd, Zarius Johnson; Honorable Mention, Patsden Williams.

Medicine & Health - 1st, Deshaylee Tubby; 2nd, Lexie Love; 3rd, Kaiden Anderson; Honorable Mention, Aison Jim.

Physics - 1st, Tyra Bily; 2nd, Coby Willis; 3rd, Delshaun Thomas; Honorable Mention, Abram Cotton.

Best of Fair recipients were Kaegan Henry (Class I) & Chloe Wesley (Class II).

The Choctaw Tribal Schools extend a special "thank you" to professionals who gave their time & talents to participate as



From left are Best of Fair recipients Kaegan Henry of Class I & Chloe Wesley of Class II.



judges during the event.

Judges for the upper fair included Wes Wallace, Elray King, Roy Smith, Willie Solomon, Virginia Willis, Bobby Smith, Jim McAdory, & Mitzi Reed.

Lower fair judges were Wes Wallace, Liddia Hughes, Willie Solomon, Jim McAdory, Susan Strickline, Candy Jimmie, Nick Monk, Michelle Ferris, Jo Billie, & Mitzi Reed.

### Williamson Reaches 1,000 AR Points

Anastasia Williamson, seventh grader at Conehatta Elementary School, accumulated 1,000 AR points. A student must read a book on their level & take an AR test on the book to receive points. We are very proud of her & congratulate her on this accomplishment.



### CES Beta Club Collects Canned Goods

The Conehatta Elementary School Beta Club recently collected canned food for a service project. They presented the food to Doby Henry of the Choctaw Baptist Center in Choctaw to be distributed among those who are in need.



### CCMS Students Present Sidewalk Solution

In our seventh grade year, our science class noticed a problem in the Choctaw Central Middle School courtyard. When it rains, water washes soil away, causing erosion.

It would end up on the sidewalk where students, staff & visitors had to walk. The sidewalk was not a clean or safe area to walk due to the mud.

Our science class researched the problem and offered a solution to the problem. The class divided into groups with each group addressing a different issue.

We investigated and researched various ways to correct the problem, such as raised planters, drainage issues, sidewalk gutters, and the appropriate grass to reseed the area.

The class presented the problem and solution to our principal, Mr. Harpole, and to Mr. Lewis. Mr. Lewis thanked us for our presentation and informed us that he would address the problem. The problem is now corrected and the sidewalk is no longer unsafe to walk on.

(Written by Melanian Jimmie, Aliyah King & Rayven McMillan.)



### Students place at District Science Fair

Congratulations to the following students who placed at the Choctaw Tribal Schools District Science & Engineering Fair: Gabriel Chitto, 2nd place, Math & Engineering; Ansley Wallace, 2nd place, Math & Engineering; Carlisle Phillips, 1st place, Botany; TaJae Cook, 2nd place, Physics; & Miley Billie, Honorable Mention, Physics.



SEASON ..... continued from page one

Choctaw Central's most recent appearance in the MH-SAA state basketball tournament is a continuation of what began in 1996 when the Lady Warriors won the very first state championship in school history with a win over then undefeated and number-one ranked West Tallahatchie Lady Choctaws for the Class 2A title.

The Lady Warriors claimed four more state titles during the 20-year span, with Class 2A wins in 1997 and 1999 and 3A wins in 2004 and 2005, in addition to countless division and south state titles. They were also named the number one team in Mississippi in 2004 and 2005.

Not to be outdone, the Warriors added two Class 2A championships of their own in 1998 and 1999.

A tradition of excellence has been established at Choctaw Central and the 2015-'16 Lady Warriors took the task of achieving those high expectations.

With no seniors in the starting rotation, the Lady Warriors were determined to make it back to Jackson as they won their season opener on Nov. 7 with a convincing win over Class 6A power Meridian 71-34.

They reeled off 15 straight wins and claimed tournament titles at the East Central Community College Invitational, Leake County Invitational and their own Choctaw Central Invitational to cap off 2015 undefeated.

The Lady Warriors suffered their first defeat on the season on Jan. 5 as Newton came away with a 46-45 win.

Choctaw Central rebounded with four straight victories in division play before suffering their second defeat of the season to then-number one team in the state Olive Branch 66-53.

The Lady Warriors rallied with six straight wins to finish undefeated in division play enroute to winning two more games for the division tourney title.

Choctaw Central ran the 3A playoff gauntlet with wins over St. Andrews Episcopal, Port Gibson, Holly Springs, and Velma Jackson in the state semifinal before their final matchup with Booneville.

Although the final result was not what the Lady Warriors had foreseen, be certain Choctaw Central will make another run at excellence next season. It's a tradition.

## Warriors End Season At Division Tourney

By Darron Tubby, Staff Writer

The Choctaw Central Warriors saw their 2015-2016 basketball season come to an end on Feb. 16 as they dropped an 89-75 decision to the Choctaw County Chargers in the first round of the 5-3A division tournament.

The Warriors finished the season with an overall 12-16 record and 5-6 in the division.

Division 5-3A was considered the toughest in the state, which was evident in the 2016 MHSAA Class 3A boys tournament as two teams from the

division - Kemper County and Forest - met in the final with Kemper County winning the state championship.

To their credit, the Warriors had defeated the eventual state champion 90-75 during a division contest on Feb. 5.

"One of our accomplishments this year was our split with Kemper County," said Warriors head coach Brent Farmer. "Looking back at that game, I think it showed a lot of potential of what kind of team we can be if we all get on the same page in the future."

Farmer said the season



Members of the Warriors 2015-2016 squad included (in no order) Tayshaun Mingo, Dylan Nickey, Bryce Billy, Myrick Anderson, Dayton Bell, Demanuel Willis, Trent Hundley, Tiger Briscoe, Harvey McMillan, Tanner York, Quentin Anderson, Dillon Farmer, Brias Bell, Sri Grant, Rome Jefferson, & Caleb Williamson. Coaches were Brent Farmer (head) & Jimmy Tangle (assistant).

started on a rocky note but by mid-season the team pulled together and played as serious contenders in the division.

"A lot of young players stepped up and played really good basketball for us. As we got into division play, I knew Forest and Kemper County were going to be pretty tough teams to beat. We ended up playing Choctaw County in the division tournament and they ended up beating us."

Choctaw Central had three seniors on the team - Bryce Billy, Tayshaun Mingo and Harvey McMillan, Jr. - and Farmer will once again look to

the younger players to fill the void next season.

"Bryce and Tayshaun were very instrumental this season because they had a lot of experience and showed a lot of leadership. Bryce was the big man and did what he could to hold down the inside and get us some rebounds and points. For his size, I thought he did really well. Tayshaun was more of a floor general for us, getting everybody in the right spots. He did a really good job for us this year. Harvey did his part coming into the game and doing what he was supposed to do like a senior should."

Farmer is hoping to build upon the experience the Warriors gained coming off the last season. They will once again be a young team, having four returning for their senior season. Having a state champion in the division is giving the Warriors something to strive towards.

"I believe we are headed in the right direction. Next year, we got some more young players coming in and hopefully we can get them on board with these guys that got a lot of playing time to step up. I'm looking for a better season next year."



Despite their overall 12-16 record, the Warriors played well during the second half of the regular season, which included a Feb. 5 division contest win over eventual Class 3A champion Kemper County.



**CONGRATULATIONS  
ON A  
GREAT SEASON**

**CHOCTAW CENTRAL  
LADY WARRIORS**

 A collage of action shots from a basketball game. It shows several players in white and black jerseys. One player in a white jersey is jumping to shoot the ball, while others are jumping to block. The jerseys have "CHOCTAW CENTRAL" and numbers like 30, 31, and 13 visible.


From  
Chief Phyliss J. Anderson  
and the  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians!



**RWES Honors Dr. Seuss**

Red Water Elementary School celebrated Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss's birthday Feb. 29-March 4. Students and teachers had fun dressing up as their favorite Dr. Seuss characters during the week.



**Tucker Elementary School News**

**First Grade Busy Bees**

Do you like to be the best YOU can be? Our first graders are serious about doing their best & reaching their goals. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Whatever you are, be a good one!" This is a motto we follow every day.

We recently focused on famous Americans throughout history. Did you know Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States? Well, we do. We learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. & Rosa Parks as well.

Our class was excited to embark on an adventure to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson. We love science & working on interesting projects. We love spending time in nature & getting our hands dirty! In fact, we recently learned about natural resources, such as rocks & soil.

Did we mention most of us are working on grade 2 lessons on I-ready? We are not only mathematicians, but are excelling in reading. We love learning to sort & compare data using graphs & can tell you all about two-dimensional shapes. We strive to read as much as possible. Most of us are reading on a second or third grade level. In fact, three of our students read fourth grade level Accelerated Reading Books.

We learned so much this .....continued next page



**Standing Pine Elementary School News**

**SPES Honor Roll**

Standing Pine Elementary School announced the Honor Roll for the third 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.
- Second grade - Tyris Stokes.
- Third grade - Brylee Willis.
- Fourth grade - Chloe Wesley & Nataysia Willis.
- Fifth grade - Taiton Stokes & Deshaylee Tubby.

**Sixth grade - Jaeden Wesley. Principal's List**

First grade - Ty Briscoe, Hayden Denson, Yazmine Hickman, Bryant Jim, Jakayla Moore, & Malena Sockey.

Second grade - Yazzlyn Alex, Zahya Amos, Anniston Billy, Yuriana Crosby, Zander Frazier, & Treyton Lindsey.

Third grade - Kaymerce

Gibson.

Fourth grade - Aiden Alex, Anya Anderson, Jabari Denson, Cameron Reed, & Fichik Willis.

Fifth grade - Tayen Jim, Christy John, Bishop Reed, & Braxton Roach.

Sixth grade - Sierra Ben, Connor Billy, Tedra Denson, Aleyona Sockey, & Seth Thomas.

**Student Art Project**

In January, the third & fourth graders learned how to make *Chokash Alhlh Shikalla Chih* (beaded edges of a heart.) The class learned how to say Choctaw words by using the items to make this project.

Words they learned included: *Chokash Nittak* (Valentine's Day), *chokash* (heart), *pōnoshi* (thread), *chifak* (needle), *homma* (red), *shakalla nihi* (seed bead) & several more.

Students enjoyed making this project & learning how to speak Choctaw during Choctaw Language Class.

**District Science Fair Winners**

Congratulations to the following Standing Pine Elementary School students who placed in the 2016 District Science and Engineering Fair.

Brady Farve, Honorable Mention.

Anniston Billy, 3rd place, Chemistry.

Zayah Amos, 1st place, Physics.

Yuriana Crosby, 2nd place, Chemistry.

Brylee Willis, 1st place, Physics.

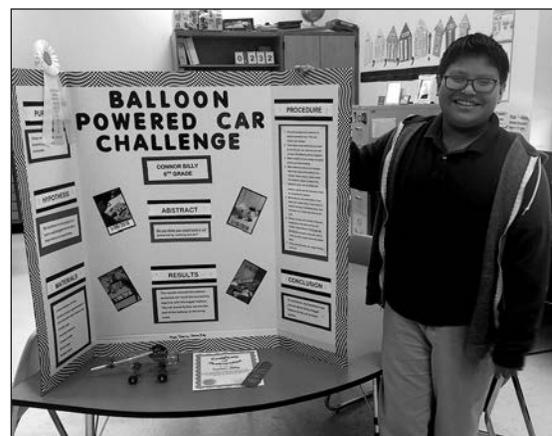
Zavion Tubby, 1st place, Biochemistry.

Nataysia Willis, 1st place, Physics.

Deshaylee Tubby, 1st place, Medicine and Health.

Chloe Wesley, 1st place, Chemistry and Best of Fair.

*Pictured below is Connor Billy, 3rd place, Physics.*



SPES Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten students celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss as they dressed as their favorite characters.



**LEFT**, A student had fun making his own snow!  
**RIGHT**, Valentine King Astin Eades & Queen Miyah Nickey.

nine weeks about amazing animals that live in the forest. Here is an example of a favorite animal from a student after recently reading the story, "Where Are My Animal Friends?"

*"My favorite animal from Where Are My Animal Friends? is raccoon. I like raccoon because he climbs a tree. Next, I like raccoons because they get food at night. Finally, I like raccoons because they run fast. This is why my favorite animal is a raccoon."*

We are the first graders of Tucker Elementary! We are smart, kind, creative, & energetic! Keep a lookout for us in the future because if you think we are amazing now, we are just getting started!

**Second Grade Math Fun**

The second grade class had fun learning math in February. They studied how to collect data to display on a tally chart. As part of an assignment, they voted on a Valentine King & Queen. Winners were Astin Eades & Miyah Nickey. Students enjoyed voting & making their tally chart. They then celebrated a Valentine Party to honor their king & queen.

Second grade students include LaBrandon Chickaway, Astin Eades, Dannon John, Ashlynn McMillan, Jennalee McMillan, Miyah Nickey, Kodi Thomas, & Ferris Tubby.

**Third and Fourth Grade News**

For several weeks, Ms. Hanson & Mrs. Savell's third & fourth grade classes have integrated Language Arts & Mathematics Vocabulary. Students have learned vocabulary for measurements through writing & mathematical application.

Hanson & Savell are looking for ways to keep students interested in real world experiences through intergrating across subject areas. Some concepts learned are square, inches, area, & perimeter.

**Snow Lesson**

Miss Haylee's class is learning about the weather! Students composed their very own weather radars that we use every morning to deter-

mine weather & snow. It even snowed IN OUR classroom! How exciting!

Students used a secret mixture & added water to make our very own snow & were even able to take it home. After creating our snow & learning how snow is made, we went to the freezer for ice. Yum! A few days after making our own snow, we were able to have a REAL snow day outside! We love learning about the weather.

**Mississippi State Capitol Field Trip**

Seventh & eighth graders from Tucker enjoyed an educational field trip to the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson.

Representative Scott Bounds greeted students & were taken on a guided tour of the historical building. Students were then introduced to the House of Representatives by Rep. Bounds.

Senator Jennifer Branning also introduced the group to members of the senate. The

group was also greeted & welcomed by Rep. Michael Ted Evans.

Students enjoyed lunch at the popular downtown restaurant, Two Sisters, afterwards. Chaperones were Pam Breland, Karla Clearman & Brandon Farve.

**District Science Fair Winners**

Congratulations to the following Tucker students who placed in the District Upper Science and Engineering Fair.

**Sixth Grade**

Makayla Hickman, 1st place, Physics.

Cadence Nickey, 2nd place, Engineering.

Chadwick Tsosie, 3rd place, Chemistry.

Alyssa Farmer, 3rd place, Earth Sciences.

**Class III**

(7th & 8th Grades)

Ellioyanna "Lacie" Chickaway, seventh grade, 1st place;

Tara Tsosie, seventh grade, 2nd place; Alyssa York, eighth grade, 3rd place, Physics.

Leilani "Bo" Charlie, sev-

enth grade, Honorable Mention, Chemistry.

Malakai Charlie, eighth grade, 1st place, Botany.

Kristina Taylor, eighth grade, 1st place, Medicine and Health.

Sherente Tubby, eighth grade, Honorable Mention, Engineering.

**Choctaw Adult Education Can Help You Get a GED!**

Today's job market seems to be getting more and more competitive. There are fewer jobs available and more people applying for this smaller number of jobs. One way to improve your chances of getting one of these jobs is to improve your educational background.

For instance, if you lack a high school diploma, you can get a GED (General Education Development) diploma. Passing the GED test is a way to earn a secondary school credential without graduating from a traditional high school.

This is how Choctaw Adult Education can help you. If you come to Choctaw Adult Education class, we can help you figure out what you need to improve in order to pass the GED test.

We have many resources that can assist you with improving your academic skills, including staff members with knowledge and experience, current books and other written materials, and internet access at most sites that will provide you with information you need.

GED is an exam with four separate test sections (Science, Social Studies, Reasoning through Language Arts, and Reasoning through Mathematics) that measure knowledge and skills that are expected of

.....see GED, pg. 12



Officials welcoming students to the capitol included Rep. Michael Ted Evans (far left), Sen. Jennifer Branning (second from left) & Rep. Scott Bounds.

**Child Abuse Prevention Poster Contest Announced**

Choctaw Social Services is announces their annual Child Abuse Prevention Poster Contest. Deadline is Friday, April 15, no later than 4:00 p.m. at the Choctaw Social Services building in Choctaw.

Contest is open to students in grades K-12th who are Choctaw tribal members or enrolled in a federally recognized tribe & attending a Choctaw Tribal School or public school (Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Winston, & Jones County Schools.)

Entries will be judged in the following

categories: K-2nd; 3rd-5th; 6th-8th; & 9th-12th. First & second place finishers will be awarded cash prizes. In grades K-8th, first place will receive \$20; second place \$15. In grades 9th-12th, first place is \$30, second place \$25.

Posters will be displayed at Choctaw Social Services Child Abuse Awareness Event in April and will be featured in the *Choctaw Community News*. All posters become the property of Choctaw Social Services and will not be returned to the

student artist.

Poster must focus on the theme of "Light up Awareness for Child Abuse." Students may enter only one poster. The back corner (bottom right) of the poster entry must contain the following information: full name, parent's name, phone number, grade, and school name.

Parents will be notified by a staff member if their child placed. For more information, contact Brittany Bell at 601-650-1741.

# NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI

## Workshops Held in February

The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) hosted four cultural activities workshops during the month of February.

The first one was a round comb workshop in the Red Water community on Feb. 1. The purpose of the workshop was to offer participants the new style comb and how to apply rhinestones to it.

The second workshop, held in the Crystal Ridge community, was on headband making. It took place on Feb. 4.

The third workshop, *Alhpa Chito Ikbi* (drum making), was conducted by CAP Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond at the dance ground in the Pearl River community on Feb. 20.

Funding for the drum making project was provided

through a donation from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in December 2015.

Participants were taken into the vicinity of Beaver Dam to search and select proper wood for their creation as part of their training. Teddy Hickman, of Pearl River, took charge of the woodcutting process.

Drum making is great therapy for the body and mind and gives drum makers a great



The photo illustrates how well Teddy Hickman played in the woodcutting role of making the drums. (Photo courtesy of Bradley Isaac, Jr.)

sense of pride to create a drum with their own hands.

The last workshop offered in February was a shirt making class on Feb. 23. Due to the effects of mother nature, the session was held in the morning hours only. Although the weather affected the training

session, turnout was good but the class was rescheduled.

## Sash Making Workshop

Everett Sam, of the Pearl River community, conducted a sash making workshop during

.....continued next page

## GED ..... continued from page eleven

high school graduates.

Choctaw Adult Education offers you the chance to take the GED Official Practice Test (OPT) on the computer. Because the GED exam is taken on computer at a designated testing site, it is important to get comfortable with the test by practicing on the computer.

Once you have taken and passed the OPT, Choctaw Adult Education will assist you with registering and paying for the GED test. We can

even give you a ride to the testing site.

Refer to the following schedule listed below and come to Adult Education class in your community at the designated times.

### MONDAY

- Pearl River (Day) 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Bogue Homa (Day) 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Tucker (Day) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

- Bogue Chitto (Night) 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Pearl River (Night) 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### TUESDAY

- Pearl River (Day) 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Bogue Homa (Day) 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Conehatta (Night) 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Standing Pine (Night) 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Pearl River (Night) 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

- Pearl River (Day) 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Crystal Ridge (Day) 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Red Water (Day) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

### THURSDAY

- Pearl River (Day) 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Conehatta (Day) 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
- Bogue Chitto (Night) 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Standing Pine (Night) 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

For more information or transportation to class, call 601-650-1756, or come by the Choctaw Adult Education office in the Manpower Training Center in Choctaw.



A Choctaw shirt making class was held on Feb. 10.



Seated from left are Lorena Alex, Everett Sam, Diane Ben, & Trudy Jimmie at the sash making workshop.



Standing from left are Demetrius Williams, Trudy Jimmie, Curtis Willis, Jr., & Priscilla Williams at the DCI's cultural information booth at Ridgeland High School's Multi-Cultural Diversity Fair.

## CHOCTAW VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM & EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DEADLINE - May 30, 2016 for the "FALL" Term

### COURSE OF STUDIES:

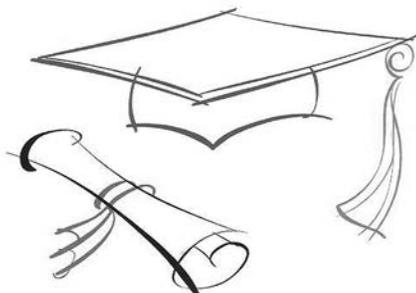
- Associate Degree Nursing
- Licensed Practical Nursing
- Hospitality & Tourism Management
- Culinary Arts Technology\*
- Business & Office Technology
- Office Assistance Certificates\*
- Construction Trades – Carpentry\*
- HealthCare Data Technology
- Child Development Technology
- Industrial Maintenance Trades
- Cosmetology \*
- Automotive Technology \*
- Welding – Certificate\*
- Collision & Repair

\*SOME TRAINING COMPONENTS MAY ONLY BE AVAILABLE ONCE A YEAR.\*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION AND COURSE LISTINGS

Contact The Vocational Education Program Angeline King or Bernadine Dixon @ 601-650-1745 or 601-650-1749

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS are available at the Choctaw Manpower Training Center Vocational Education Department All documentation is required before the deadline date. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS will not be accepted.



"STRIVING FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE"

a recent Staff Development Day at the CAP conference room. Sam brought several beautiful sashes, which appeared to be of archival quality he had made, to utilize as samples.

**Tribal Members Participate in Diversity Fair**

On Feb. 10, several Tribal members and DCI staff members participated in the Multi-Cultural Diversity Fair at Ridgeland High School in Ridgeland. The event was sponsored by the Madison County Schools.

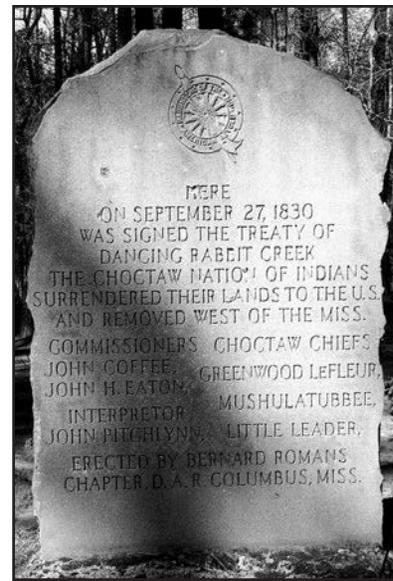
Tribal members showcased the Choctaw culture to diversified groups of various countries. MBCI Traditional Dancers also performed several Choctaw dances. A variety of food representing cultures from around the globe were available for sampling.

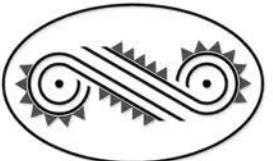


**The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek Site**

*The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek was signed between the Choctaw Tribe & the U.S. Government on September 27, 1830, in the southwest corner of Noxubee County, Miss. The treaty ceded 11 million acres of Choctaw homeland in Mississippi to the U.S. The treaty also carried into effect the removal of the Mississippi Choctaw to Indian territory, what is now the state of Oklahoma. Tens of thousands of Choctaws walked the 800-kilometer journey to Oklahoma on what is known as the "Trail of Tears," as many Choctaws died during the trek. In 1831, the treaty was ratified by the U.S. Congress & allowed Choctaws who remained in Mississippi to become the first major non-European ethnic group to gain recognition as U.S. citizens. A monument, donated by the Daughters of the American Revolution, was erected on the site of the treaty signing where it stands today.*

(Photos courtesy of Tribal Archives, located at the Chahta Immi Cultural Center)





**CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER**

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



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

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

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

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

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

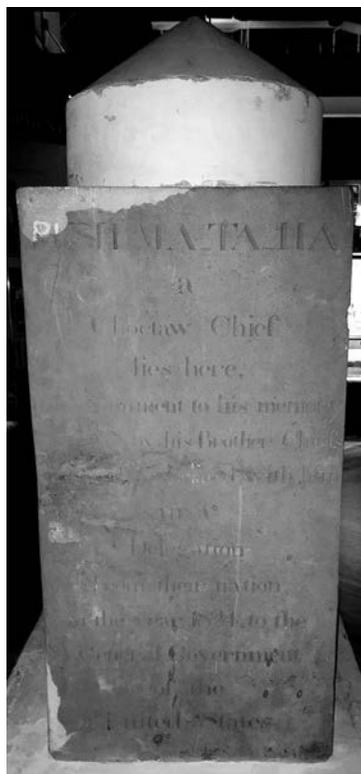
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HOURS OF OPERATION  
TUESDAY - SATURDAY  
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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ADMISSION

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



**PUSHMATAHA'S CENOTAPH**

In the Jan./Feb. 2016 edition of the Community News (pg. 17), it was reported that a replica of the late Choctaw Chief Pushmataha's cenotaph was on display at the Chahta Immi Cultural Center (CICC) in Choctaw. According to a center staffer, the original cenotaph is housed at the Historic Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. We regret any inconveniences that may have occurred.

**VISITORS ..... continued from page three**

Each year, Prof. Rose selects topics for his students to study. At the end of the semester, the class creates a magazine featuring articles on their respective topics. This semester, the story of the Choctaw people will be featured alongside the Chickasaw.

Students conducted interviews and learned a great deal about the Choctaw. They started their adventure with a tour of the reservation and an informational session at the Office of Public Information. They also visited the Chahta Immi Cultural Center and experienced a Choctaw Expressions event with traditional Choctaw food, demonstrations of stick-

ball stick making, rabbit stick making & throwing, beadwork and clothing.

During a Beaver Dam stickball practice, students enjoyed watching the players showing off their skills, and those brave enough even participated. The students ended their trip by attending Tucker Elementary's Spring Festival and enjoyed meeting our Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake.

The journalism students covered topics such as the Nanih Waiya mound, Choctaw history, past and present chiefs including Chief Martin and Chief Anderson, culture & traditions, the Choctaw Health Center, judicial process (specifically Peacemaker and Teen Courts), economic

development, education, religion, language, stickball and Tribal member-owned businesses. Over the course of five days, the students conducted over 40 interviews.

Every step the journalism students took there was a photographer with them. They went everywhere! Attending softball and baseball games, waking up early every morning to take scenic pictures and taking pictures of anything and everything they could.

It was an enjoyable experience for the Ole Miss students and a great opportunity for our Tribe to share our rich historical and cultural legacy.



Several of the Ole Miss students took a hands-on-approach to cultural activities, such as hunting with a rabbit stick, using a lathe to form a stickball stick and cooking outdoors.

# IN MEMORIAM

**BEVERLY ANN WILLIS WALLACE**

Funeral service for Beverly Ann Willis Wallace, 56, was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mrs. Wallace passed away on Feb. 13 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She was employed with the Tribal Finance Office & Accounting Department. She was a member of the Pearl River Hunting Club & enjoyed pow wows, cooking, sewing, playing washers, dominoes, cards, fishing, & being with family & friends.

She was preceded in death

by her parents, a brother & a grandson.

Survivors include her husband, Michael D. Wallace; daughters, Renada Lilly, Tialenia Ben & Aleshia Chapman; a son, Kendall L. Wallace; sisters, Gloria Willis, Glenda Willis, Jenny Lewis, & Cindy Willis; brothers, Gordon Willis, Jr. & James D. Willis; 9 grandchildren; an aunt, uncle & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**ERIC SHANE CHARLEY**

Funeral service for Eric Shane Charley, 39, was held on Thursday, February 18, 2016, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. John Smith & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

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

Mr. Charley passed away on Feb. 14 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He enjoyed playing stickball with Beaver Dam & spending time with family & friends.

He was a fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers & Texas Longhorns.

He was preceded in death by his mother, son, aunt, grandparents, two great-aunts, & three great-uncles.

Survivors include a daughter, Breanna Charley; sister, Veronica Thomas; brother, Verdon Thomas; stepfather, Vernon Thomas; a special companion, Karen Smith; a great-uncle; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JOHN SCOTT YORK**

Funeral service for John Scott York, 59, was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Deacon Ricky Thompson & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

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

Mr. York passed away on Feb. 20 at his residence.

He enjoyed music, working on cars, carpentry, & home construction.

He was preceded in death by his parents, stepfather, grandparents, & a sister.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia York; two daughters, Lora Leigh Voyles & Jodi Collado; two sons, Jason Potter & Jeremy Scott Bridges; sisters,

Karen Burns & Sharon Hockett; two stepchildren, Teresa Goolsby & Gary Clanton; 10 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**DEL SHANNON MINGO**

Funeral service for Del Shannon Mingo, 48, was held on Friday, February 26, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Mingo passed away on Feb. 22 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a Baptist by faith. He was employed with Chahta Enterprise & ABS. His hobbies included cheering for his favorite Cleveland teams & listening to music.

He is preceded in death by

his grandparents.

Survivors include his parents, Wendell & Maline Bell; a half-sister, Christina McMullan; six aunts, an uncle, & a host of relatives & friends.

**L.C. WILLIS**

Funeral service for L.C. Willis, 54, was held on Sunday, February 28, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Rev. Leonard Jimmie, Jr., Rev. Duane Reinhardt, Rev. Leonard Ben, & Rev. John Stephens officiated.

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

Mr. Willis passed away on Feb. 25 at his residence.

He worked with the Choctaw Police Department & Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed spending time with family &

.....continued next page

*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. George Dixon

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 Farue

*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

Welcome To



**NANIH WAIYA INDIAN Mennonite Church**

Preaching Every Sunday - 10:00 am

10341 Road 789  
Philadelphia, MS 39350

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The family of the late Sean Mychal Perkins would like to acknowledge he was preceded in death by his parents, Calvin Perkins, Jr. & Joycie York Perkins. He passed away on Jan. 1. Funeral service was held on Jan. 7 & burial was in Phillips Cemetery in Choctaw.

*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

**HUMBLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*This is truly a time when our faith is tested. It has not been easy to accept the death of our beloved mom, Ruby Mae (Bell) Willis. While we are for certain that she is in a more pleasant & joyous place, it has been extremely difficult to let go.*

*We wish to express much gratitude for the consoling gestures offered through phone calls, texts, visits, & the flowers sent. First & foremost, however, we thank the Lord for giving us strength during our trying time. Next, we are absolutely grateful to the Tribe's Administration/Government Services for the food assistance, Choctaw Social Services for their help with arrangements, the Tribal Day Labor Program for providing us with patient workers as fire-keepers, Choctaw Recreation for needed assistance, the Tribal Maintenance Department for their hard work & support, to Cyrus & TaRita Ben, & to the Choctaw Police & Fire/EMS Departments for the care shown to us at such an unfortunate moment.*

*We also wish to acknowledge those who prepared the food during the wake & after the funeral, as well as to those who brought food. Much gratitude goes to the Spirit of Life Christian Center for the use of the beautiful facility; & to those who served integral parts during the lovely service — Pastor Thomas Ben, Minister Curtis G. Willis, Sr., the pallbearers, Elijah Ben, Nana Frazier, Josh Peoples, Karla Keats, Phillip Bread, the Pearl River Baptist Church Choir, & singers from the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center — we are appreciative of your willingness to assist. We also thank John E. Stephens Chapel & Funeral Home for the care, compassion, & understanding as to whom we entrusted our loved one to.*

*We extend a very special thank-you as well to Bonnie, Deb, Louise, & Nigel for all your help, thoughtfulness, & guidance.*

*To all of you we have mentioned, always know your sympathy, empathy, condolence, & counsel has directed us to the path of healing while continuing our livelihood. Thank you for helping us to grieve, cry, laugh, & live.*

- The Children of Ruby Mae (Bell) Willis  
Lois Keats, Jerome Willis, Herman Willis, Tim Willis, & Sandra Williams

friends & listening to music. He is preceded in death by his parents, eight sisters, three brothers, two foster brothers, & three grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Lena Willis; daughter, Rachel LeAnn Willis; son, Eric Brian Willis; step sons, Alan Martin, Joseph Martin & Wesley Martin; sisters, Nellie Garcia & Marlene Richwine; brothers, David Willis & Felton Willis; foster brother, Leonard Ben; 15 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**MATTHEW DAVID COMBY**

Funeral service for Matthew David Comby, 27, was held on Monday, February 29, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

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

Mr. Comby passed away on Feb. 26 in Choctaw.

He was employed with the Pearl River Resort since 2007. He loved listening to music, playing video games, joking with his friends & co-workers, & taking care of his pets.

He was preceded in death by his brother, a niece, grandparents, & great-grandparents.

Survivors include his mother, Susie Henry; father, David Comby; sisters, Tonya Henry & Briana Gibson Bell; a brother, Bryant Comby; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**GERALDINE JOHN**

Funeral service for Geraldine John, 67, was held on Saturday, March 5, 2016, from the Red Water Community Gymnasium. Ricky Edwards & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

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

Mrs. John passed away on March 2 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She spent most of her life as a housekeeper & a babysitter. She enjoyed watching daytime

television, doing word finds, reading the Bible, & listening & singing Choctaw hymns.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include her husband, Mike John, Jr.; daughter, Sara John; sons, Kenneth John & Daryl Solomon; sisters, Mary Frances Sam & Marjorie Hunter; a brother, John Lee Tubby; an aunt, two uncles, & a host of grandchildren & great-grandchildren, relatives, & friends.

**OWEN P. WILLIS**

Funeral service for Owen P. Willis, 72, was held on Saturday, March 12, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

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

Mr. Willis passed away on March 9 at Regency Hospital in Meridian.

He enjoyed watching western shows on TV, taking walks & being with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, brother, nephew, granddaughter, &

three great-grandchildren. Survivors include his son, John E. Willis; sisters, Willie Mae Ben, Betty McMillan & Mary Alice Mingo; 19 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**JIMMY LEE BELL**

Funeral service for Jimmy Lee Bell, 61, was held on Monday, March 14, 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. Bell passed away on March 11 at the Choctaw Health Center.

He was a Baptist by faith. He worked as a tree planter then a janitor at the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. He enjoyed fishing, watching WWE & Western movies, playing stickball with Bok Cito, & spending time with family & friends.

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

Survivors include a son,

Shannon Bell; two sisters, Sandra Willis & Lillie Wallace; & host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**FREDERICK STOLIBY, SR.**

Funeral service for Frederick Stoliby, Sr., 68, was held on Sunday, March 20, 2016, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Gerald Willis & Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

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

Mr. Stoliby passed away on March 17 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a Army National Guard veteran. He enjoyed spending time with his family, fishing, hunting, watching Choctaw Central High School games, & working at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center.

He is preceded in death by his parents, wife & a brother.

Survivors include his daughter, Pam Stoliby; son, Abe Stoliby; sisters, Lynette Omen-Rojo & Renea Frederick; a special friend, Delilah Gibson; two grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.



**A&B 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**  
**COME JOIN US!!**  
**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.



**Pearl River Insurance Agency**  
**Need Auto Insurance?**  
*Multi-Vehicle Discounts SR 22*  
*Safe Driver Discounts*  
**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



**Prevent Elder Abuse**  
**Identify It!**  
**Report It!**  
**Stop It!**  
**Warning Signs**  

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

**Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.**  
 For more information on elder abuse, contact Family Violence and Victim's Services at 601-650-1774



**REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY**  
**WetIP**  
 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!



**RIGHT,** Here's wishing this wonderful little lady a Happy Belated Birthday. Nakota Willis celebrated her 7th Birthday on Jan. 23. May the Good Lord continue to bless you & watch your every step in your future. We wish you many more blessings as you continue to grow. We love you very much. From Momma Ashley, Connor, Trish, Sonny & Cookie, Carol & Ricky.



Happy 5th Birthday to Mr. Redainian D. Thomas on Dec. 1, 2015. With lots of love, giant hugs, & kisses from your mom, dad, siblings Nedra, Jeter & Gibby, & your niece, Tweety... Happy 20th Birthday to Miss Renedra D. Thompson on Feb. 23, 2016. We love you! From mom, dad, Tweety, & siblings Jeter, Gibby & Dain.

Happy Birthday to Greg Tubby, Sr., from your friends in BC & RW... & to Jerry "Cacha-bi" Hickman in BC, from Baby Homie Gurl.

Happy Birthday to Morgan Dale Jefferson on March 31, from Mom Michele, Aunt Karene, Peggy & family, Uncle Arb, nieces, nephews, sisters, brothers, your wife Shena & kids, cousins Sara Bell & Falun. We love you Boy! Have fun!



Happy Birthday to Cinidria & Cenitria Smith on March 13, from your family & friends.



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

**Now, its time to participate in a follow-up survey! Any adult Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians 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 and 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 information 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.



*It was just one year ago  
God sent an angel on  
this earth  
You are a precious gift  
who has  
Filled our lives with  
happiness*

Happy 1st Birthday Ethan! Love, Mom, Big Sis Mylee, grandparents, aunties, uncles & rest of the family.

## CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

### MARCH 2016

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## Longest Walk 5 to make stop in Choctaw May 16-20

Runners and walkers participating in The Longest Walk 5: "Calling an End to Drug Abuse and Domestic Violence," will be making a stop in Choctaw, Miss. May 16-20.

The nationwide journey, which began on Feb. 13, 2016, in La Jolla, CA and will conclude at Washington, DC on July 15, 2016, calls attention to seek guidance on drug related issues that are causing devastation on Indian Reservations and communities in the U.S.

"Our mission is to cross this continent on foot, seeking cultural and spiritual solutions to end drug abuse and domestic violence. The destruction is at a pandemic stage," said American Indian Movement co-founder and senior walk advisor Dennis Banks.

Along the 3,600 mile journey, participants will work with communities to collect information on ways to heal our people and the Earth.

"We will host forums to see how communities are addressing one of

the most difficult issues facing people and the Earth today. We will gather information about solutions from community leaders,

law enforcement, clergy and drug program directors. College students will interview community members, students, parents, spiritual leaders, counselors and tribal officers in an attempt to get the bigger picture of the issues," said Banks.

Banks added they will travel any distance to discover these solutions, expressing native spirituality and reverence for all life as they journey across the U.S.

"Issues facing our people and the issues facing our Earth are connected. They both arise from the kind of thinking that does not value people or the Earth. Native American traditions oppose this sort of thinking. We say all life is sacred, and we speak as the conscience of our Earth."

Community awareness events and Choctaw cultural demonstrations are currently being finalized and interested Tribal members and the general public are encouraged to attend and support the Walk participants as they continue their trek to Washington, D.C.



## Tribal Member Wins \$1,000

Tribal member Matthew York, right, was the recent winner of a nationwide giveaway by H&R Block. The Choctaw office of H&R Block, located at the Choctaw Town Center, announced York as the latest \$1,000 A Day Giveaway winner. York, along with Tribal members Alicia Vaughn, Leslie Tubby & Gabriel Bell, filed their taxes at H&R Block by Feb. 15 & were automatically entered into the sweepstakes. H&R Block gave away \$1,000 to 32,000 people for a total of \$32 million

