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 halftime lead evaporate in the second half of the MHSAA Class 3A girls state basketball championship on March 12 as the Booneville Lady Blue Devils 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, 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 Mississipi Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Chief Phyliss 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 Residential 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.

.............................see SEASON, pg. 8
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 electrifying 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 Color Guard Championships at the Mississippi Coliseum.

The CCHS Winter Guard Tournament 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 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 ‘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.

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
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.

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.

Many Blessings,

Tribal Chief

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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 course came to the Choctaw Reservation to learn more about our Tribe for a magazine article to be published in the fall of 2016. 

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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 dependents 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 since the forwarding time 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-4)

DIRECT DEPOSIT is still available!

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

UNCLAIMED CHECKS

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

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

For more information, please contact Barbara Ben, Distribution Manager, at 601-650-1522.
From the CHC Business Office

We would like 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: Atoka, Le Flore, McCurtain, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Pushmataha, Sequoyah, Wagoner, and Watauga.

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 copy 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 Doctor’s License or photo ID, Insurance card, and medications to all doctor visits. Some forms will not be sent without photo ID.

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 the bill in to us timely. CHC pays only if you have 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/statement brought in to CHS will require two forms to be filled out. This includes information about: the billing statement and an authorization form 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.

Why Do We Need to Brush, Floss Our Teeth?

Submitted by the CHC Dental Department

#1 - To Reduce the Plaque Build Up

What is plaque?
Plaque is a sticky, white film that grows every day on our teeth. 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. Doesn’t it?

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 line 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 under the gum 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.

Looking for Health Insurance that Fits Your Needs and 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 qualify for Medicaid.

Who may be eligible?
- Children and teens up to age 19
- Parents and other adults, depending on the state
- Pregnant woman
- People with disabilities
- Youth “ageing out” of foster care

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

When you enroll, you may get:
- Doctor visits
- Preventive care, such as immunizations, screenings & mammograms
- Mental 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 Indian lands

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 or call Outreach Services Program: 1-800-333-6114 or Diverse Famer. 1-800-389-4120 Lafourche Bera, or 1-800-389-4265 Laura Dierks (Manager Care) for help applying.

#2 - To Remove Calculus, or Tartar

You can remove tartar from your teeth easily with a toothbrush and a toothpick. You can also use a dental floss holder to help remove tartar from between your teeth.

Tartar can build below the gum line 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.

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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 Pinebelt 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 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! Alarming, 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.

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.”

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.

(Photoby Lance Davis/HII)
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. 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

Class II

CLASS III (Grades K-3)

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

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 started 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 Class II.

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

Gabriel Chitto; 3rd, Zaiah Isaac.

Physics - 1st, Natasha 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.


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

Physics - 1st, Tyril Billy; 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 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.

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.)

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.

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.

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.
Kemper County.

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.

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).

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 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 envisioned, being certain Choctaw Central will make another run at excellence next season. It’s a tradition.


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 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.”

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

SEASON .............................................................. continued from page one

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CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SEASON

CHOCTAW CENTRAL LADY WARRIORS

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

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.

**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.

**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.

**Principal’s List**

First grade - Brady Farve, Anya Anderson, Jabari Dennis, Cameron Reed, & Fichik Willis.
Second grade - Tayen Jim, Christy John, Bishop Reed, & Braxton Roach.
Third grade - Sierra Ben, Connor Billy, Tedra Dennis, Aleyona Sockey, & Seth Thomas.

**District Science Fair Winners**

**Fourth grade** - Aiden Alex, Aniya Anderson, Jabari Dennis, Cameron Reed, & Fichik Willis.

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

**Sixth grade** - Jaeden Wesley.

**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 Choc-taw 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.

**SPES Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten students celebrated the birthday of Dr. Suess as they dressed as their favorite characters.**
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 raccoons 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, Kaid 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 integrating 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 determine 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
Seven & eighth graders from Tucker enjoyed an educational field trip to the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson.

Representatives 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 Tsoisie, 3rd place, Chemistry.
- Alyssa Farmer, 3rd place, Earth Sciences.
- Sherente Tubby, 4th place, Chemistry.

Seventh & Eighth Grades
- Elioyanna “Lacie” Chickaway, 7th grade, 1st place, Earth Sciences.
- Tara Tsoisie, 7th grade, 2nd place, Physics.
- Alyssa York, 8th grade, 3rd place, Physics.
- Leilani “Bo” Charlie, 7th grade, Honorable Mention, Chemistry.

Eight Grade
- Malakai Charlie, 8th grade, 1st place, Botany.
- Kristina Taylor, 8th grade, 1st place, Medicine and Health.

Child Abuse Prevention Poster Contest Announced

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

Contest is open to students in grades K-12 who are Chocaw tribal members or enrolled in a federally recognized tribe & attending a Chocaw 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 Chocaw Social Services Child Abuse Awareness Event in April and will be featured in the Chocaw Community News. All posters become the property of Chocaw 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, & school name.

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

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 Chocaw Adult Education can help you. If you come to Chocaw 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.
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, Alhipa Chito Iibi (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 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 weather, the training 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

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

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.
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 CICC while the replica is on display at the Historic Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

We regret any inconveniences that may have occurred.

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)

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 stickball 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 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.
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 counseling 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 & Tidita 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 Fraizer, 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 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
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.

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.

Owen P. Willis

Funeral service for Owen P. Willis, 72, was held on Saturday, March 12, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Deacon William 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.
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.

Happy Birthday

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

Happy Birthday to Greg Tubby, Sr., from your friends in BC & RW... & to Jerry “Cachabi” Hickman in BC, from Baby Homie Gurl.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.