*Please note many photos throughout this State of the Tribe Report were taken pre-pandemic.
As we mark a year unlike any we have experienced in our lifetimes, it is important to pause and take a look at where we stand as a Tribe and recognize our resilience as a people. The Year 2020 has challenged nations across the globe and people from all walks of life in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. This year marked many generation defining moments and the lessons we learned together will be something none of us will forget.

While much of the focus in 2020 has been about stopping the spread of the virus on our Tribal lands, there are still many great stories of progress, hope, determination and celebration we shall embrace. As a people we mourn the loss of loved ones in our hearts and souls; as a community we came together in our struggles and prayed for healing.

Our Tribal programs and operations made significant adjustments to provide for Tribal members and deliver essential services and support in our communities. I am proud to say we have taken this moment to grow, learn and succeed despite tremendous adversities and hardships we all faced. I appreciate everyone who came together to make sure that our Tribal programs and operations remained functional during these uncertain times. Adversity is nothing new to our people. We will continue to remain Choctaw strong!

Included in this State of the Tribe Report is a look at the progression of our Tribe but more importantly the strength of the Choctaw spirit. My prayers for your health and wellbeing are continuous and I have great faith that our future is bright!

Sincerely,

Cyrus Ben
Tribal Chief
The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is a sovereign nation and the only federally recognized Tribe located in Mississippi. The Choctaw Tribal government operates under the auspices of the Tribe’s constitution. Ratified in 1945, the Constitution authorized the Tribe’s separation from the State of Mississippi and established a democratic form of Tribal government with representation from each of the eight recognized Tribal communities. The Constitution was revised in 1975 and amended in 2006 and 2013. In 2020, the Tribe marked the 75th Anniversary of the ratification of the Tribal Constitution. Cyrus Ben currently serves the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as the 5th and youngest democratically elected Tribal Chief.
RECOGNIZED TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Bogue Chitto / Henning, TN
Bogue Homa
Conehatta
Crystal Ridge
Pearl River
Red Water
Standing Pine
Tucker
TRIBAL ENROLLMENT

Total enrollment of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians: 11,019 (October 13, 2020 – as reported in first quarter FY21 Tribal Council meeting)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 18</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 - 56</td>
<td>2877</td>
<td>3081</td>
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<tr>
<td>57+</td>
<td>519</td>
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TRIBAL WORKFORCE*

**Tribal Enterprise Workforce**

2,475

**MBCI Tribal Employment**
Tribal government, Choctaw Health Center, Division of Schools, Other

2,170

**Choctaw Housing Authority**

40

*Denotes Full-time and Part-time
A 17-member Choctaw Tribal Council is the legislative body of the Tribal government. Each council member is democratically elected in a staggered four-year term. The number of council members from a community is based on population. The Council has legislative and policy-making authority. The Council bi-annually elects three officers, a Vice-Chief, Secretary-Treasurer and Committee Systems Coordinator, who serve additional roles in the Tribal government.
EDUCATION

FY21 Tribal Revenue Investment in Education
$16,289,601

CARES Act Funded Education Assistance
More than $1.245 Million provided in one-time emergency education assistance

3,088 CERA applicants
$400 per student

Choctaw Tribal Schools
The Choctaw Tribal School System is fully accredited by the Mississippi Department of Education and by AdvancED. It is the largest Tribally controlled, consolidated school system in the country with six elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school with a dorm to house residential students.

Choctaw Tribal Schools Current Enrollment
2,252 enrolled students

Over 350 Tribal students are participating in distance learning

Over 1,900 are physically attending school

Education During COVID-19
With COVID-19 on Tribal lands, educational programs and services were presented with a new challenge of providing learning opportunities in a safe space. The various divisions and program staff made it their number one priority to properly adjust and address safety concerns during this time of the pandemic.

• Close to $1 Million invested in campus safety, training, distance learning and other necessary actions
• Delayed start to school year and openings of Early Childhood Facilities to provide safe protocols for students and staff
• Training and equipment provided to parents, teachers and staff for online learning
• Multiple health and safety monitoring and sanitation systems purchased and installed for education programs
• Physical and social distanced barriers installed throughout buildings
• Personal Protective Equipment purchased and provided for all education facilities
• New processes for students, staff, and guests upon entering campuses, buildings and other school property
Connecting Better!
The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians now has Wi-Fi at all Tribal school locations. This includes six elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school on Tribal lands. External hotspots were placed at each of the Tribal schools. With a range of 400 yards, these provide access for anyone in the building as well as a substantial distance outside of the building. This will serve the schools whether the school year is in-person instruction or hybrid distance learning. Firewall protections are also in place to protect students from inappropriate sites. This effort will help students who have no broadband access at home. The Tribe utilized CARES Act funding to complete this project.

Communication with Parents is a Top Priority!
- Choctaw Tribal Schools Parent Center have documented over 35,654 contacts with parents of students since school started in August
- All schools have new social media accounts set up for the school to post information for each campus.

What’s happening at Choctaw Tribal Schools?
- Working through the University of Southern Mississippi to have an 11-month Coding Academy that is FREE of charge. It provides a coding certificate that secures employment as a certified coder upon completion of the program
- Creating additional dual-credit opportunities for students through Grade Results, and will apply to become a “District of Innovation” in December
- Initiating internship opportunities on the reservation for seniors who are interested in going to the work force after high school so they can begin their professional career prior to high school graduation
- Encouraging journalism through an elementary newspaper at Tucker Elementary School
- Five MSMS courses are being taught at all the CTS schools: Algebra I, Algebra II, Algebra III and Calculus. Over 50 students successfully participate in these advance courses
Over 180 middle school students in 8th grade studied Choctaw history on the Natchez Trace and participated in a field trip to historic tribal locations on the Trace.

The Department of Early Childhood Education made over 5,000 masks for the Choctaw communities.
Choctaw Tribal Schools served students meals during the COVID shutdown and summer break.

Two Tribal certified teachers presented about Choctaw history to state Social Studies teachers at the Two Mississippi Museums.

The Choctaw Day Training Program launched a Henning Day Training Program and a roadside clean-up project for all communities.

The Adult Basic Education Program has classrooms in all eight Tribal communities and in spite of COVID-19 served 200 Tribal members while graduating six people. The program also provides income tax assistance to over 1,000 Tribal members.

The Employment and Training Program operate three grants – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Grant, Native Employment Works, and Supplemental Youth Service Program. These grants served 124 participants.

Vocational and Employment Services Program provided services for 200 clients, increased grant funds and helped 62 adult students complete business/computer certificates.

Vocational Rehabilitation Program provided services for 137 individuals with 31 employment outcomes in FY20; hosted and/or participated in 5 job fairs and multiple outreach events.

Senior Community Services Employment Program was funded for another four years, provides job training services to elderly and helped four trainees obtain permanent jobs this year.

Choctaw Workforce Development Program established a new Class A = CDL Preparatory Class in partnership with East Central Community College (ECCC) and a weekly Private Sector Job Listing for Neshoba County and other area counties for Tribal members to use for job searches.

**MEALS SERVED**
- Breakfast: 28,765
- Lunch: 58,072

**DID YOU KNOW?**
A LOOK AT EDUCATION FROM YOUNG TO ELDER
Early Childhood

The Department of Early Childhood Education (DOECE) provides comprehensive services to children, parents, and families. Children practice socialization and basic skills such as learning colors in English and Choctaw, the alphabet, and songs in English and Choctaw. They are also provided with nutritious and healthy meals in safe and comfortable settings. Children also receive health care in the form of physical exams, dental exams, nutrition assessment, immunizations and early intervention services as needed.

By the Numbers

- The department serves children and families from birth to age five.
- Combined, all early childhood facilities have 210 children enrolled in Head Start, 70 in Early Head Start and 240 in childcare. A waiting list is maintained in all communities.
- Average daily attendance was 72% for the school year.

Providing Services During COVID-19

- Provided activity packets for children. Centers delivered packets to families, who were interested to give them continued learning throughout the shutdown.
- Pampers, wipes, formula, and books were made available to Early Head Start families for pick up at the DOECE admin offices.

Head Start Classrooms Have New Interactive Displays!

These 60” touch screens have proved to be very useful for activities in the centers - for example virtual field trips, Choctaw Language, and music and dance activities. The children are receptive to the new technology and enjoy it all.
DOECE Responds to COVID-19
The pandemic has challenged everyone and the DOECE has the wellbeing and safety of children and families as a top priority. The DOECE created policies and procedures to tackle possible scenarios. New procedures are in place for child drop-off, classroom sanitizing schedules, mask wearing requirements, and others necessary precautions.

Standing Pine Early Childhood Center

Pearl River Early Childhood Center

Scholarship
The Tribal Scholarship program is currently funding 364 students to attend 88 different colleges and universities, majoring in 130 different fields. Of those, 283 are full time and 81 are part time.

Equipping Success
• During the shutdown, Tribal Scholarship provided spaces with WiFi, and some with computers and internet access, for students upon request.

• A shipment of 100 laptops will be available to issue to students in need. Tribal Scholarships will distribute on a first come first serve basis, and only to students who have not previously received a computer from the program.

Current enrollment for Fall 2020

10 DUAL CREDIT
4 CERTIFICATES
131 ASSOCIATES
175 BACHELORS
33 MASTERS
1 SPECIALIST
10 DOCTORAL
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The Choctaw Tribal government works to provide good governance for the benefit of the Tribe and its members. Services such as emergency assistance, program oversight and interdepartmental communications, government-to-government relationships and cooperation, financial planning and budgeting, checks-and-balances, human resources and legal services encompass many of the overall operations of the Tribal government offices.

Budgets

The Tribal Chief presented two budgets for approval this year – the FY21 Operating Budget and a special CARES Act budget. Both were presented, reviewed and passed by the Choctaw Tribal Council. To note for FY21, due to six months of casino closure for COVID-19, the Tribe was unable to receive $35 Million in projected gaming funds to support the Fiscal Year 2020 Government Operations Budget. As a result Tribal budgets were cut by 5.8% to account for the lower funding. CARES Act funding ($61.6 Million) has helped support some payroll and other expenses during the shutdown but the Treasury Department has imposed some limitations on how the funds can be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Revenue Budget Summary</th>
<th>Approved Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fiscal Year 2021</strong></td>
<td><strong>$75,357,251</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribal Member Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Development</td>
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<td>Distributions &amp; Assistance to Tribal Members</td>
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<td>Courts &amp; Regulatory Agencies</td>
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<td>Government Officials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribal Events, Activities &amp; Projects</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$75,357,251</strong></td>
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<td><strong>INDIRECT COST BUDGET</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,946,109</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RESOLUTION TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$96,293,360</strong></td>
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</table>

*All Tribal government employees received paychecks during the shutdown.
Executive Orders, Emergency Proclamations and Declarations in FY20

- Four (4) Executive Orders and States of Emergency issued by Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben for tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding and pandemic
- Eight (8) Executive Orders and 19 extensions regarding COVID-19
- One (1) and 19 extensions - Emergency Proclamation/Executive Order and State of Emergency Proclamation regarding COVID-19
- One (1) and four (4) State of Public Health Emergency Declaration regarding COVID-19

Choctaw Tribal Code Statutory Changes

- 11 Ordinances enacting statutory changes in FY20. View the Choctaw Tribal Code on www.choctaw.org

Ordinance Highlight

- Ordinance No. 16-WWWW (May 21, 2020) makes it a crime to knowingly expose another person to an infectious or communicable disease and expands offense of “Assault on a Peace Officer or Judicial Officer” to “Assault or Battery on a Tribal Employee”

Zoom and Team Meetings

A new way of meeting and presenting during the COVID-19 Pandemic – Chief Ben has presented and represented the Tribe at numerous conferences utilizing this technology.

Emergency Assistance

Emergency Assistance to Tribal Members in FY20 from Tribal Revenue and CARES Act Funds - $985,514.34
Tribal Regalia Bill

*Senate Bill 2595 – Tribal Regalia Bill*

The Tribe worked with local legislators to pass an act to provide that a governmental entity may not prohibit an individual from wearing traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance at a public event; and for related purposes.

Tribal Car Tag

*Senate Bill 2288*

MBCI Car Tag Bill authorizes the issuance of distinctive motor vehicle license tags to qualifying applicants of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians who wish to pay the fee for the specialized tag. The tag will feature the Tribal Seal with the word “Chahta” and eight diamonds to represent the Tribal communities. MBCI submitted to the Department of Revenue applications for 383 specialty car tags; they have acknowledged receipt of the submission and are currently reviewing the submission. Once review is complete, the tag will be placed into production within 6-8 weeks. Monies go toward Elder Programs. The new car tag will be available for purchase at the local tax assessor offices in early 2021.
Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben was appointed to the Mississippi Flag Commission by Governor Tate Reeves. Chief Ben fulfilled the appointment as a representative of the Mississippi Economic Council. The nine-member panel received and reviewed hundreds of designs that were narrowed down to a Top 5 then a final design that was placed on the November 3 statewide ballot. Mississippi voters approved the new flag that incorporates the “First People Star” which represents the Native Americans, including the Choctaw people, who occupied the territory prior to statehood.
The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is often considered a model in Indian Country for economic success and community development. The reinvestment of earned income in areas such as public roads, water and sewer systems, natural gas service, broadband and telecom, housing, community, education and Tribal government facilities, business recruitment and retention contributes to an overall improved quality of life for all Tribal Members.

**Choctaw Sportsplex Phase 2 and Improvements**
- 2 football fields
- 1 softball field
- 1 baseball field
- Concession stand and outdoor eating area
- Maintenance building
- Improved dugout facilities and backstops
- Repainted concession stand

**Splash Pad and ADA Playground**
- Accessible playground to be featured attraction at softball complex
- Zero entrance between playground and splashpad
- Rubberized flooring for safety and comfort and wheelchair accessibility
- Splashpad will be sports-themed highlighting softball, baseball, and stickball – water feature
Tucker Community Welcomes New Housing Community
- **14** new homes
- Project oversight by Office of Construction Management
- Houses range in size from **1,055 – 1,794 square feet.**
- Majority of homes are 3 bed/2 bath with carport and appliances. Also constructed is a 4 bed/2 bath with carport and appliances as well as 2 bed/1 bath homes with carport and appliances

Emergency Operations Facility to be Built Using CARES Act Funding
- Located next to the Choctaw Fire Department, the 4,500 square foot facility will act as a receiving warehouse for COVID-19 supplies and other emergency resources
- Two (2) offices for Emergency Management officials

Upcoming Cemetery Projects
- Red Water
- Henning

New Community Cemetery in Tucker Community with 400 plots
Repaving of Industrial Road
Tribal corporation, IKBI, Inc., was recently awarded the contract for the repaving of Industrial Road from Choctaw Tribal Headquarters to the Pearl River Resort/Welcome Center. Work on the roads will start soon.

Trash-Free Waters Grant from EPA
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented a **$200,000 check** to MBCI's Environmental Protection Program
- Funds will be used in the clean-up effort of Kentawka Canal and the purchase and installation of a bandalong litter trap.

Choctaw Food Distribution Center Expansion
- Expansion of current warehouse, shopping area, restroom facilities and purchase of new equipment
- Funded through USDA Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation (FDPIR) CARES Act Facility Improvement and Equipment Fund.

Tribe Programs Continue to Serve Tribal Members
- 965 total grass-cutting services for 145 Elderly & Disabled Tribal member residents
- 163 Tribal members gardens prepared / 125 were elderly applicants
CARES Act Funds COVID-19 Emergency Relief Facilities (CERF)

- CERF Building planning and construction is currently underway in all eight communities plus Henning, Tennessee.
- The purpose of the CERF building is to provide a centralized location for community distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), field health services for COVID-19 patients, and other needs.
- The facility will be between 7,500 and 10,000 square feet depending on community size and is designed to withstand tornadoes.

- **Tribal Maintenance/Public Works** has worked under strict COVID-19 protocols aimed at reducing the possibility of virus spread. Protocols include verifying no known COVID cases at the residences where work has been requested and work orders are limited to those that address emergency needs. Despite these challenges, Tribal Maintenance completed 1,782 requests in FY 2020.

- A joint project between Tribal Member Services, Tribal Maintenance, and the Office of Public Information will soon result in “route tubes” being placed at each residence on MBCI reservation lands. These specialized receptacles, commonly used for newspaper deliveries, will be used by Tribal Government entities to deliver specific, targeted information to Tribal members. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the route tubes will be used to dispense information in a manner that will help reduce the spread of infection by limiting face-to-face exposures. Tribal members will be notified before the receptacles are installed.
• **The Pearl River Wastewater Treatment Plant** underwent a major renovation during FY 2020. All mechanical, electrical, and control components were replaced. Also, a new headworks structure was added to the plant, which includes fine mesh mechanical screening and grit removal. These additional treatment processes will improve the plant’s ability to continue meeting EPA regulations.
This Fiscal Year presented the Pearl River Resort with a challenge unlike any other time in our history with the COVID-19 pandemic, the closure of the hotels and casinos and a temporary furlough of employees. Before COVID-19 hit our area, the Resort was performing exceptionally well. In March, the hotels and casinos closed for the safety and health of our customers, associates and guests. During that time, many investments in the purchase and installation of health monitoring and sanitation systems were installed throughout the properties.

A Look at the Numbers

Five months of temporary closure as a result of COVID-19

- 3 full pay periods (while under closure) were made before any of the resort associates were furloughed
- Health Insurance Premiums were continuously paid for all associates during casino closure
- Resort Associate Workforce
  - 2,259 Total associates
  - 51.93% of Resort associates are enrolled MBCI Tribal members
- Before the closure of the Resort for COVID-19, gaming revenues and profits were even better than expected with the Resort on track to make more money than last year
- The Sportsbook continues to be a great success earning almost $1 Million in profits MORE than projected
A New Health and Safety Experience at the Resort

The Resort places the highest priority on the health and safety of guests and associates. Not only did the Resort do things that were expected, like deep cleaning, sanitizing and rearranging the gaming floor to create greater distance between guests, but they also invested in special technology designed to help keep everyone safer. Take a look!

- Trane UV Light Air Cleaning System
- Hold Safe Handrail UV Disinfection Units
- Chip Cleaning Machines
- Electrostatic Spray Technology
- Thermal Temperature Scanners

Hope is an Optimistic State of Mind

As the entire world faced the devastating realities of COVID-19 in the spring of 2020, many organizations worldwide went to their skies, balconies and porches with words of encouragement, songs of praise, and applause for our front-line workers.

The Resort took this opportunity to share a sign of inspiration for all those affected and sheltering-in-place. The Resort became our beacon of HOPE shining an encouraging light for all to see.

A special thank you to the Resort Management Team, Public Relations and Facilities department for sharing this reassuring message!
Resort Reopens and one Lucky Gamer Hits Major JACKPOT!!

While 2020 has been getting a bad reputation, one central Mississippian will always remember this as a fantastic year! Dominique R. of Kosciusko, MS hit a jackpot worth $1,235,666.35 playing the Wheel of Fortune slot machine at the Golden Moon Casino.

Sportsbook at Timeout Lounge

The Sportsbook is open and doing great business! Wagering is happening now on college football games each week, season win totals for each team, and Conference Championships.

- The Sportsbook currently has traditional retail counters at both Golden Moon and Bok Homa so guests can bet with a teller and ask questions or they can walk up to a kiosks and VIP terminals which offer in-play betting
- The Sportsbook mobile-app is available on-premise and allows guests to wager while social distancing
- The Sportbook has now partnered with SportsRadar, the global provider of sports betting and sports entertainment products and services, to provide more competitiveness in the industry and options for our customers
TRIBAL MEMBER SERVICES

Tribal Member Services has aided the Choctaw people from young to elder during good times and tough times. With the COVID-19 virus and other natural disasters this year, the services provided by the employees from this division have truly been a testament to the Choctaw spirit and how we must all care for and serve each other. These employees have worked day and night to provide comfort, healthcare, safety and response in crisis.

By the Numbers

- Assistance Services provided aid to **153 applicants** with utilities expenses, distributed **64 box fans** and assisted with **141 burials** of Tribal members who we have lost this year

- **864 Foster care/ relative placements** this year in Children and Family Services. (count includes duplicate for children being served more than 1 month)

- **537 certified families** with **1,102 participants** in the Choctaw Food Distribution program. The program was also awarded **$1,280,785.00 grant** for warehouse improvement and expansion

- Tribal Member Services, Recreation and Facility Building Staff partnered with Choctaw Fresh Produce to deliver food supplies to community members

- Choctaw Children’s Advocacy Center conducted over 60 forensic interviews for the year and continue to provide sexual assault services to children and their families

- Family Violence and Victim Services had a total of 14 intakes for the year, 8 emergency protection orders, 84 vulnerable adult referrals and housed 26 women and children at shelter
• Veterans Affairs conducted 36 office/home visits and served 126 veterans over the year
• The Elderly Center served over 14,500 meals and delivered 4,636 during the partial government shutdown
• Elder Outreach Program received 497 referrals for home maintenance (from Oct 2019 until partial shutdown)

• “The necessity of protecting our Elders (the legacy of MBCI) and the children (the future of our Tribe) has been the utmost priority in overcoming this pandemic.”
  -Mary Harrison, Interim. Director of CHC

• Family Violence and Victim Services was awarded three (3) grants totaling $2,044,379
• Choctaw Fire Department made 37 fire calls, 154 EMS/rescue calls, and 8 public service calls
• Choctaw Fire Department and Choctaw Emergency Management received a donation of 660 gallons of hand sanitizer from Exxon Mobil through FEMA. Refills no larger than 32 ounces of this alcohol-based hand sanitizer is offered free to all MBCI Choctaw Tribal Members and their households at the Choctaw Fire Department.

• Choctaw Transit Routes for dialysis and medical appointments are still available for patients during the pandemic. Additionally Transit provides an important service in helping with elderly meal delivery and communications
• Choctaw Transit worked closely with Public Health and CHC officials, Emergency Management, Procurement and Environmental Health offices to get needed supplies, set-up a disinfection process for buses and establish a screening protocol for all drivers and riders to ensure the health and safety of all

• The Department of Chahti Immi conducted 57 cultural presentations, 102 instructional events and 27 visits in 2020 while the Cultural Center greeted 1,851 visitors
• Chahta Immi assisted other programs with public service announcements by translating materials, providing audio in Choctaw, made and distributed face masks and utilized storybook characters to provide messages.

• Chahta Immi is currently working with two (2) grants: The National Endowment for the Humanities’ project to assist in completing the MBCI lexicon and the MS National Delta Heritage Area project to research, gather resources and interpret the death and life of Greenwood Leflore and the Malmaison property in MS Delta History.

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**CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER**

- **391** CHC EMPLOYEES (OCT 2020)
- **21** NEW HIRES WITH COVID FUNDING
- **9** PHYSICIANS
- **1** PEDIATRICIAN
- **1** PODIATRIST
- **1** PSYCHIATRIST
- **1** OPTOMETRIST
- **5** DENTISTS
- **18** FNPS
- **39** RNS
- **17** LPNS
- **7** PHARMACIST

- WIC EBT cards system implemented. New app allows users to check benefits, scan food items, view approved food list, check upcoming appointments and find MBCI WIC approved stores.

- National “Give Kids a Smile Week” Kick-off at Choctaw Health Center.

- Bogue Chitto and Conehatta Facility Updates.

- Improved Patient Access by relocating the Referral Office to the 1st floor.

- Virtual runs/challenges by Special Diabetes Program for Indians.
Choctaw Health Center Responds to COVID-19 on Choctaw Tribal Lands

- Hospital Incident Command Systems activated on March 15, 2020 in response to COVID-19 pandemic
- COVID-19 Testing sites open to Tribal members at CHC, clinics and periodic rounds of onsite community testing.
- Face masks distribution available to Choctaw Tribal members
- iPads provided for inpatients to communicate with family
- Hazard pay compensation for frontline healthcare essential personnel from March to August 2020
- Supported with workforce with meals, appreciation luncheon, safety kits, employee awning installation, and de-stressing room
- Awarded and received COVID-19 funding in the amount of $14,125,561.68
Use of COVID-19 Funds at CHC

- Hired new full-time and part-time staff members
- Purchased COVID-19 testing and PPE supplies
- Testing tents, air Conditioner units and portable generators
- Installation of safeguard glass partitions and barriers
- Purchase of TRU-D Robot, Wello Stations (temperature screening)
- Purchase of disinfectant supplies
- Purchase of portable ventilators, dental irradiation units
- Negative pressure room conversion in inpatient and ER departments
- Auto clave replacement
Partnerships During Crisis

- MBCI Tribal Emergency Management Services, including Tribal and Enterprises
- United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)
- Indian Health Services (IHS)
- Community Partnerships with Neshoba General and Philadelphia - Neshoba County COVID-19 Taskforce
- Partnership with Tribal Nations – Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Behavioral Health launches a Health Podcast

Mississippi State Department of Health

Veterans Affairs – G.V. Sonny Montgomery
There are 15 identified Emergency Support Functions (ESF). Each person assigned to an ESF plays a very important role in the Tribe’s planning, preparation and response to emergency situations and major disasters. This group of individuals have worked tirelessly during the various natural disasters and pandemic to coordinate resources, services and response efforts with Tribal, Local, State and Federal officials – all for the care and safety of our MBCI Tribal Members and Tribal communities. We salute these heroes!
BECAUSE WE CARE

Public Service Announcements

Virtual Fair Experience
Ishtika says “Wear a mask when out in public!”

BECAUSE WE CARE
WEAR A MASK
STOP THE SPREAD
#stayhome #staysafe
The Choctaw people have lived here for centuries and overcame many hardships to become the strong Tribe it is today. Now, with the COVID-19 virus, Choctaw Tribal members face a new challenge. In a maximum of 250 words, describe how you are staying healthy, strong and keeping the Choctaw spirit and traditions alive during this time of pandemic.

**OVERALL WINNER**

**Kelli Williams (6th grade)**

“While in quarantine, drummers, jingle dancers, and rain dancers gave their condolences to us Choctaws by dancing on their porches and playing their drums. Even though we have all lost some family members, COVID has brought us all together to give and receive our condolences from each other.”

**Gracie Willis (8th grade winner)**

“Keeping the Choctaw traditions alive and thriving can differ from person to person. So, one of my ways of keeping the spirit alive is learning how to cook Choctaw dishes like Indian tacos, fry bread, and hominy. School and family have also taught me more of the Choctaw language.”

**Jaeon Johnson (10th grade winner)**

“Throughout our history, our people have faced many hardships. This pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, limiting our social interactions, and taking beloved individuals from their families. This is an obstacle today’s Choctaw people must overcome.”

**Taylor McMillian (11th grade winner)**

“Our elders are the root of our Tribe. COVID-19 has been known to attack elders the hardest. To lose many of our elders is unbelievable. I want to help keep the Choctaw spirit alive for our elders. One way I keep the Choctaw spirit alive is by teaching my siblings how to bead. Beading is very important to my Tribe because it allows us to show our tradition.”

1st place winners received $150. 2nd place winners received $100. 3rd place winners received $50.

**5th-6th Grade Winners**

1st: Kelli Williams, 6th  
2nd: Callie Stafford, 6th  
3rd: Shastyn Lewis, 6th

**7th-8th Grade Winners**

1st: Gracie Willis, 8th  
2nd: Peyton Bell, 7th  
3rd: Peyton Willis, 7th

**9th-10th Grade Winners**

1st: Jaeon Johnson, 10th  
2nd: Anthony Robinson, 9th  
3rd: Iysiahs York, 9th

**11th-12th Grade Winners**

1st: Taylor McMillian, 11th  
2nd: Memorie Willis, 11th  
3rd: Melayney Billy, 12th