

CHAHTA CORNER

MOWA CHOCTAW INDIANS NEWSLETTER

Volume 1/ Issue 4 – May



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FEATURED PROGRAM

A WORD FROM THE CHIEF:

Halito!

I would like to begin by thanking all the staff, volunteers, and patrons who attended our first annual Choctaw Days Culture Fair. The crowd was not as large as we had hoped, but I think those that turned out had an enjoyable time. There was some miscommunication surrounding some of the events and we sincerely apologize. We will ensure that things are handled better in the future.

We have the pleasure of featuring someone who has worked tirelessly for the betterment of our tribe. Mr. Framon Weaver who served as Chief is our featured tribal member this month. We appreciate his willingness to share his experiences with us.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the churches who attended "Church on the Reservation". A special thank you to Brother Jimmy Sullivan and members of the Lighthouse of Praise; Brother Dean Hopkins and members of the Simple House of Praise; Brother Bruce Shaw and members from Cedar Creek Baptist Church; and Brother Ray Johnson and his members from Shalon church. The song service was outstanding and the message was straight forward and to the point. We realize the efforts it took to participate in the event and we are so grateful.

Thanks goes to the vendors that set up booths. The food was delicious and there were lots of other nice items such as t-shirts and jewelry for sale. We appreciate you taking time to be with us to provide food and merchandise to the patrons.

MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians Food Programs

There has been some confusion with the different types of food programs provided by the tribe. Below is a description of each of the different food programs.

EFSP/United Way – The Emergency Food and Shelter Program provides funding for food distribution to low-income Tribal members in Mobile and Washington County. Funding is provided each year based on the number of eligible clients. There are 2 sites available for distribution--**MOBILE COUNTY** members pick up at the Tribal office; **WASHINGTON COUNTY** members pick up at the MOWA Community Center. Members must present a FOOD & ENERGY card. To see if you qualify, call and make an appointment and bring household proof of income and Tribal membership.

USDA/SENIOR Boxes – 100 boxes of food are distributed to 100 Seniors every month that have been selected and are on the active list. Participants must be 60 years of age, must provide proof of household income, and must be a Tribal member. Eligible tribal members that are not currently selected to participate are placed on a waiting list until a participating member is removed from the active list. Eligible members are selected by Feeding the Gulf Coast and not the tribe.

CFAP- Food for this program comes pre-boxed and may include milk, cheese, fruit, and vegetables, etc. This give away is for all members. Participates must show Tribal membership card. This is on a first-come, first-serve basis and is limited to 1 box per household. Participants cannot pick up for anyone except persons in the vehicle.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM - This program provides lunches for children 18 years and under from 11:00 am to 1 pm MONDAY – THURSDAY starting June 6, 2022, until July 28, 2022. There are 2 sites available, MOWA Choctaw Tribal Office and MOWA Choctaw Community Center.

FEATURED TRIBAL MEMBER - Framon Weaver

The MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians is proud to recognize Framon Weaver, our former chief, as our monthly featured tribal member. Framon was born and raised in McIntosh, Alabama. He graduated from Reed's Chapel High School in 1965 and started work as a carpenter helper and truck driver. He entered the Army on November 3, 1966 in Fort Benning, Georgia and trained in Field Communication at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and Paratrooper training at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Framon Weaver



Former Chief

Framon left the Army in November 1969 and drove trucks until March 1977. In 1975, he married Nita Covington and they had three children-- Sharon Lazette, Winter Leann, and Framon Odis Weaver Jr.

He was later employed with Olin Corporation. While at Olin, he started a store with his mother, Minnie Reed. He attended Bishop State Community College and soon became involved in Tribal Politics. He served for 17 years continuously as either Tribal Chief or Chairman but was defeated in the election of September 1995. He went back to construction for a few years and then purchased a truck and trailer and went back into trucking. He still owns a truck today.

Framon and Nita divorced in 1991 and he married Evelyn Rivers Weaver in 1995. They now have four children--Willia Dian Rivers, Tisha Cierra, Hannah Cecile and Hunter George Weaver. They are still happily married.

Framon became involved in tribal politics from the beginning of our new tribal government when Gallasneed Weaver and Bennett Weaver held a community meeting to announce a new Indian Education Grant. A committee was formed and Framon volunteered to serve on the committee and draft a constitution. He later became the first Chairman and Tribal Chief. He was serving as Tribal Chief in 1979 when the tribe became a non-profit corporation and when State Representative J. E. Turner introduced and passed two local bills giving State Recognition to the MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians.

On his first trip to Washington D C, Framon found that they could get funding for housing if they established an Indian Housing Authority. In 1984, he wrote a tribal ordinance and the council passed it and the MOWA Choctaw Housing Authority (MCHA) was born. They broke ground for the first housing in 1992. He has been instrumental in helping to fight for federal recognition for many years now. Thank you, Mr. Framon Weaver, for your service to the tribe!

Cultural Fair 2022



Veteran's Park

The Veterans Park to be located on the reservation by the museum is slowly, but surely becoming a reality. We have cleared the section of the ground where the Veterans Park will be located. We have met with contractors who will soon lay the foundation for us. Remember to purchase a brick for you or your loved ones who served in any branch of the military. Bricks are \$50 each.



Ambassador Program

The Ambassador Program is well underway! The purpose of this program is to increase cultural and historical knowledge; give back to the community through service and guided initiatives; develop tribal leadership capacity; and become strong representatives of the tribe. Congratulations are in order for those selected to participate in the Ambassador for this year: Adelyn Kirkwood, Brayden Huckabee, Brooklyn Byrd, Colby Dean, Bryant Weaver, Priya Weaver, Jorjalyn Weaver, Emma Grace Weaver, Kenleigh Orso, Lance Rivers, Khrislyn Davis, Mikalah Weaver, Olivia Lofton, Precious Walker, and Tyler Evans.

Applications for the next selection of Ambassadors will become available in September. Please contact Erin Cooper for additional information.

ADPH Grant

NEW!!!

We have finally been approved to offer the COVID-19 rapid testing. If you feel you are experiencing COVID related symptoms, please give us a call to schedule an appointment. As a reminder, COVID-19 vaccines are available for adults and children. We offer Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. Please call 251-244-3627 if you would like to schedule an appointment or for more details.

Housing Authority

The MOWA Choctaw Housing Authority will begin scheduling appointments for Medication Assistance at the end of June. This program will assist low-income, elderly, and disabled tribal members by providing a \$300 co-pay for their prescription medication. This co-pay can be used at McIntosh Drugs, Mt. Vernon Pharmacy, Citronelle Pharmacy, or CVS pharmacy. Please be on the lookout for when appointments begin for this program.

The MOWA Choctaw Housing Authority will begin scholarship applications in June as well (TBA). This scholarship will help pay for room and board on college campuses. Applicants must be enrolled in college and be housed on campus. Applications will close in July, so please stop by the MOWA Choctaw Tribal Office to fill out an application.

Upcoming Events

MWCYS Summer Basketball – It has officially started!!! Games will be held every Tuesday and Thursday starting in June at 6:00p.m. Everyone is welcome to come out and support our local youth basketball league.

Games are held in the gymnasium located on the Mt. Vernon reservation.

MWCYS Little League Football – Sign-ups began 6-1-2022.

Free Summer Food Program - This program provides lunches for children 18 years and under from 11:00 am to 1 pm MONDAY – THURSDAY starting June 6, 2022, until July 28, 2022. There are 2 sites available, MOWA Choctaw Tribal Office and MOWA Choctaw Community Center.

Available Programs for Tribal Members Only

- **The Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF)** - If you recently applied and received HAF benefits, contact **Angela Reed or Debbie Weaver at 251-276-5336**. You may qualify to be recertified.
- **Easter Seals** is a senior program that allows seniors to work for the tribe.
- **Senior Lunch Program** is a program where tribal members over the age of 60 can go to the Old Calcedeaver school to receive lunches Monday – Friday from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

COUNCIL CORNER



Chief: Lebaron Byrd

At – Large : Kristin Weaver, Secretary

John Byrd, Sr.: Mobile County, District 1

Freddy Weaver: Washington County, District 1

Brittney Davis : Mobile County, District 2

Michael Orso: Washington County, District 2

Joseph Lofton : Mobile County, District 3

Sherry Dean: Washington County, District 3

Joseph A. Byrd: Mobile County, District 4

Claudette Graves: Washington Co., District 4

Shirley Byrd : Mobile County, District 5

Kesler Weaver, Sr.: Washington Co., District 5

Contact Us

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