



CHOCTAW COUNTY
mississippi

Choctaw County Economic Development Foundation

Foundation Matters

FOUNDATION MATTERS

JULY 2008

DID YOU KNOW?

- A gallon of milk weighs 8.5 lbs.
- The temperature of cow's milk is 97°F
- A typical dairy cow produces 40 lbs. of milk per day
- It takes 21 lbs. of whole milk to make 1 lb. of butter
- It takes 10 lbs. of milk to make one lb. of cheese
- More than 1/3 of milk produced in U.S. is used to manufacture cheese
- It takes 12 lbs. of whole milk to make 1 gal. of ice cream

1st Annual JuneFest A Success

Patrons and vendors enjoyed the first annual JuneFest. JuneFest began Friday night, June 6th, with the Sunset Gospel Jubilee featuring Sam Griffin, Bridget Leach, Scott Gregory, and the Spokesman Trio. Several cowboys and cowgirls competed in the inaugural Stick horse Rodeo in a mini-arena complete with a rodeo clown and a professional rodeo photographer. Bingo, which was held at Pap's Place as a fundraiser for the 20th Century Club, attracted a large crowd.

More than half of the 50 vendors arrived for Friday's activities, providing a wide array of food, beverages, and merchandise. Kid's World, with 4 different wet inflatables proved to be very popular with the kids on both days.

The Homemade Ice Cream contest was held on Saturday morning and many people enjoyed samples of all the tasty entries to select a People's Choice winner. Saturday's patrons also enjoyed the Pet Show and the Classic Car Show.

The Foundation thanks the sponsors who help make JuneFest possible and the volunteers who give of their time to actually make it happen. A special thank you goes to Mayor Cain and the employees of the town of Ackerman for all their support.



Left to Right: Cowboy at Stick Horse Rodeo, Kid's World, vendor booth, Homemade Ice Cream People's Choice Winner.



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Whit Hughes Featured Speaker at Annual Banquet

Whit Hughes, Deputy Director of the Mississippi Development Authority, was the featured speaker at the Foundation's Annual Banquet held in April. Hughes spoke of how business and community leaders need to become engaged in the process of selling a community. He also spoke of appearance, curb appeal, and quality of life as factors which influence the location decisions of businesses.

Prior to Hughes' presentation, Jerry Gatti, local plant manager for Suez Energy Generation NA, provided an update of operations at the Red Hills Power Plant and Choctaw Gas Generation.

The Annual Banquet began with the National

Anthem by Kole Nail followed by the invocation by Wayne Lee. After a tasty meal catered by Lake Tiak O'Khata, the audience was treated to entertainment by Stephanie McCully and Chelsea James, choral students at Ackerman High School.

The Foundation wishes to thank the audience for attending, the Foundation Board of Directors, the participants in the Program, and those that helped plan and organize the event.



Water Systems Analysis Project Completed

The Foundation recently completed an analysis of water systems serving Choctaw County, funded through a \$12,650 Flex-E-Grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. The grant enabled the community to meet one of the objectives in the 2006 ARC-sponsored Strategic Plan.

The analysis included rate studies, financial analyses and water loss evaluations conducted by the Mississippi Rural Water Association, as well as an evaluation of capacity and condition of infrastructure by Crowder Engineering. The analysis also

considered other facets for potential improvements to the systems including long range planning of the water associations.

The results will be presented to the Foundation Board of Directors, elected officials and water system managers. The recommendations in the final report are non-binding to the water systems, but will provide important information for the governing boards to consider. The Foundation thanks the participating water systems for participating in this study.

Turnipseed Dairy Reconstruction Progress

H.E. Turnipseed and Sons Dairy opened in 1960 in Weir, MS. In January 2008 a tornado came through and nearly took the dairy with it. The storm destroyed six cow barns, a milk barn, and grain bin. Although the dairy only lost six head of cattle that day they have lost another sixty following the storm because of injuries or from stress the animals suffered from weathering the storm. The dairy normally has around 400 head of cattle on the family owned farm in Weir, but since January the cattle have been in Senatobia at another dairy farm. The dairy, which is owned and operated by Jim, Parker, and Todd Turnipseed, is in the process of building back one of the milking barns needed to operate the dairy. The dairy was producing around 24,000 lbs of milk per day from about 350 head of cattle. The milk, which is measured in pounds not gallons, is collected at the dairy every other day or once a day during peak milking times. The Turnipseeds hope to have the dairy producing milk again by fall of this year. Recently Tricia Gillon and MSU Intern Timothy Engelmann were allowed to tour the new milk barn to see the progress

already made on rebuilding the farm. Todd and Parker Turnipseed talked about the progress that had been made since January and interesting facts concerning the day to day operations of a dairy farm. The Foundation would like to commend the Turnipseed family for the dedication they have shown in re-building the farm. The Foundation recently gathered some interesting facts concerning dairy farms. The information can be found on Page 1 under the *Did You Know?* section.



New milking barn at Turnipseed Dairy

Foundation Accepting Grant Applications for Local Projects

The Choctaw County Economic Development Foundation is pleased to announce the 2008-2009 Community Development Grant Program to support individual and community improvement projects within Choctaw County. The Foundation has set aside a fixed amount of funds to assist organizations that seek to enhance individual and community improvement. The Foundation encourages community service oriented organizations to undertake projects which could be considered for assistance from the Foundation.

This grant program is designed for qualified applicants that clearly demonstrate a community development mission or goal. Applicants should be able to demonstrate the ability to execute their project without depending on financial assistance from this grant program. The maximum grant award that will be made is \$250, but due to limited funding, the Foundation encourages

applicants to limit the amount of their requests in order to allow for more participants in the program.

Grant applications will be accepted until August 15, 2008, for projects that will occur between September 15, 2008, and February 28, 2009. Projects must be completed by March 31, 2009.

Grant guidelines and application forms are available at the Choctaw County Economic Development Foundation office. If you have questions about the 2008-2009 Community Development Grant Program, please contact the Foundation at 662-285-3778.

Deadline for accepting applications is August 15, 2008

EDAW Selected to Prepare Lake Interim Master Plan

In April the Choctaw County Board of Supervisors advertised for Statements of Qualifications from qualified individuals, firms, or teams of professionals for the Preparation of an Interim Master Plan or a Preliminary Land Use Plan for the lake to be located in the Sand Creek watershed. This plan will include preparation of a feasibility design, engineering, cost estimating, and budgeting services to determine land use for the acreage surrounding the proposed lake. The plan will also include a study of general market conditions to identify initial development opportunities.

There were 11 respondents to the advertisement, and a Selection Committee narrowed the list to seven who were interviewed in mid-May. Subsequent to the interviews, the list was reduced to three highly qualified firms. In order to arrive at a final decision, the Selection Committee and some members of the Board of Supervisors toured developments of the finalists, asking questions of those who worked with the firms. Upon conclusion of this process, the Selection Committee recommended EDAW as

the preferred firm. EDAW has earned hundreds of awards for their work, and they bring a deep-rooted understanding of responsible land stewardship, sustainable development and smart growth concepts gained through over 70 years of practice in land planning and design.

EDAW is the world's largest and most-recognized urban design and landscape architecture firm, with 34 offices and more than 1,600 employees worldwide. The Atlanta office of EDAW will be responsible for the management of the Interim Master Plan. EDAW will team with Economics Research Associates (ERA) for conducting the market opportunities analysis. ERA is an international consulting firm that works primarily in real estate, leisure, and land use policy and planning to help their clients understand their markets, assess risk and to clarify the uncertainties inherent in any business strategy and public policy development. The full project schedule will take approximately 12 weeks.

Bluegrass & Gospel Concert December 6th

The Foundation and Christian Way United will jointly sponsor a fundraising bluegrass and gospel concert on Saturday, December, 6, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Proceeds from the event will benefit Christian Way United. The concert will feature two headline groups – one gospel and one bluegrass.

Already booked are the Galloways, southern gospel music stylists who combine strong faith and talent with their passion for Southern Gospel to deliver quality performances. The Galloways were nominated for the 2004 *Singing News* Fan Awards "Trio of the Year". They also received the 2000 *Singing News* Fan Award nomination for "Horizon Group of the Year" and the 2000 Gospel Voice Diamond Awards nomination for "Sunrise Group of the Year". They were nominated by the Southern Gospel Music Association for "New Artist of the Year" in 2001. The trio was honored by their placement in the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame as "Artist of the New Millennium".



The Galloways in concert at the
Choctaw County Community Center
December 1st
6:00 p.m.

Foundation Elects New Officers

At a meeting on June 2, 2008, the Choctaw County Economic Development Foundation elected new officers for FY 2008.

The Foundation offers a special gratitude to two Directors who unselfishly gave of their time to serve as officers the past 2-3 years. John Tennant adeptly and enthusiastically served as President and likewise Katherine Black filled the Secretary position with equal vigor.

At the same meeting Donna Nail was elected to the Board of Directors. Welcome new officers and Donna!

CCEDF Officers

President - Randy Loper

Vice President - Charlotte Cornish

Secretary - John Baswell

Treasurer - Don Threadgill

**Choctaw County Economic
Development Foundation
Post Office Box 737
55 East Quinn Street
Ackerman, MS 39735**

Phone: 662-285-3778

Fax: 662-285-2440

E-mail: ccedoffice@yahoo.com



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.choctawcountymiss.com

The Choctaw County Economic Development Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote business and community development through coordinated effort of its membership.

The Foundation membership includes industry, small business, utility providers, local town governments, retail merchants, churches, and individuals.

The Foundation Board members are:

Ray Atkinson, John Baswell, Katherine Black, Lila Chandler, Charlotte Cornish, Tim Cutts, Gradie Ervin, Randy Loper, Terri Ming, Donna Nail, Dannie Reed, Betty Steiner, John Tennant, Ellen Turnipseed, Jody Webb, Sherry Woods, and Lewis Wright.



**Choctaw County Economic Development Foundation
55 East Quinn Street
P.O. Box 737
Ackerman, MS 39735**