

Cokv-Tvlove/Newspaper (cho-ka da-la-mi)

Poarch Creek News

December 2016



Volume 34, Issue 12 | Rvfo-Rakko (December)

Keeping the friends & family of Poarch informed

A Moment With The Tribal Chair

December, 2016

Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair

sbryan@pci-nsn.gov

Merry Christmas! I am truly astonished at how quickly 2016 has gone by. This year of 2016 has been incredibly rewarding and fulfilling. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians has experienced tremendous growth this year, and I am proud of the progress we have made. Throughout the year, our Tribe has witnessed many changes. I'd like to take this opportunity to recap a few of the highlights from this year.

The Tribal Government's organization has finally come up to speed with the growth we have experienced in our programs throughout the last several years. Additionally, our campus has been prepared so that new buildings can be erected that will better meet the needs of Tribal Members. This includes the new Child and Youth Development Center that will provide much needed space for the Boys & Girls Club (which has 465 enrolled members!), Education,

and Cultural department. While these departments service our Tribal Members and youth across the nation, the Boys and Girls Club alone picks up children from 9 different schools in 3 counties and 2 states!

Also this year, PCIGA built its newest addition Wind Creek Montgomery which features the BB King Blues Club. This new property continues to do very well. More recently, CIEDA unveiled its newest economic venture in Foley, Alabama which is slated to have a positive economic impact on the Tribe and the State of Alabama.

The General Welfare Exclusion (GWE) has been an instrumental piece of legislation that has helped Native American Tribes better provide for their Tribal Members. Our ability to offer benefits such as the utilities program is in large part due to the GWE. I personally witnessed



and participated in advocating for the passage of GWE. But, the passage of legislation of this magnitude ultimately takes the hard work of Tribal Council and our leadership advocating on your behalf so you benefit in a positive financial manner. For example, I have been really pleased with how successful the utilities program has been and that it has met the needs of so many constituents. We are working together to make improvements to the program and ask for your patience as we continue to make progress in the area of benefits that are provided to Tribal Members.

Together as a Tribe, we were met with a plethora of issues both externally and internally. But, through the grace of God and the dedicated hard work of our legal team and staff members, we

overcame these obstacles. 2016 saw the addition of new faces at the Tribal Council table. I would personally like to welcome the two newest Tribal Council Members who are doing a great job acclimating to their leadership roles: Tribal Council Member Dewitt Carter and Tribal Council Secretary Charlotte Meckel.

Also, on the forefront of many individuals' minds has been the recent Presidential Election. Although it is on a smaller scale, we as a Tribe have witnessed the difficulty in leadership being able to come to the same conclusion about the best ways to move forward in situations. Our country is in a similar situation. However, we must learn to work together for the betterment of the people. While it has often been used, it still stands very true that, "Together we stand, divided we fall." Now more than ever, our country needs to come together

as one so that we can continue to be the greatest country on earth!

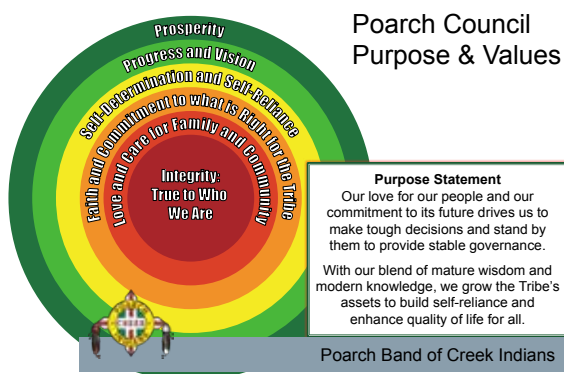
Although this year has been truly outstanding and rewarding, it has also been very difficult for me and many of you as well. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians has lost well over thirty Tribal Members this year. I don't think I've ever attended so many funerals in my life as I have this year. I've often heard that dying is a part of living, and that is true. But, it doesn't make the loss any easier. As many of you know, this year my mom has really struggled with her health. But, in everything, there is a lesson to be learned. Because of mom's health, our family has spent more time with each other and has worked together to take care of the woman who worked so hard all her life to take care of us. More and more I realize that there is nothing that can take the place of your family and your elders. Cherish every moment,

seek out their wisdom, and do something kind for them. It is so much more blessed to give than to receive.

In closing, let's not forget the true meaning of Christmas. I'm thankful for all of my blessings that have been bestowed upon myself, my family, our Tribe, and our country. I know that we would be no where if it were not for the grace and goodness of God. I pray that all of you enjoy this precious season and the time spent with family.

Please continue to uplift your leaders, nation, state, and Tribe in prayer. I love each of you and wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Mvto,
Stephanie A. Bryan
Tribal Chair/CEO



2017 CHANGES TO NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Beginning with the ***January 2017*** issue of the Poarch Creek News, the deadline to submit information for publication in the newsletter will be the ***first business day of each month***. Please remember that the newsletter is generated one month in advance of the month of publication and is mailed on or about the 27th of the month prior to the month of publication.

Month of Publication/ <i>Approximate Publication Date</i>	Submission Deadline	Month of Publication/ <i>Approximate Publication Date</i>	Submission Deadline
January 2017 <i>December 27, 2016</i>	Thursday December 1, 2016	July 2017 <i>June 27, 2017</i>	Thursday June 1, 2017
February 2017 <i>January 27, 2017</i>	Tuesday January 3, 2017	August 2017 <i>July 27, 2017</i>	Monday July 3, 2017
March 2017 <i>February 27, 2017</i>	Wednesday February 1, 2017	September 2017 <i>August 28, 2017</i>	Tuesday August 1, 2017
April 2017 <i>March 27, 2017</i>	Wednesday March 1, 2017	October 2017 <i>September 27, 2017</i>	Friday September 1, 2017
May 2017 <i>April 27, 2017</i>	Monday April 3, 2017	November 2017 <i>October 27, 2017</i>	Monday October 2, 2017
June 2017 <i>May 29, 2017</i>	Monday May 1 2017	December 2017 <i>November 27, 2017</i>	Wednesday November 1, 2017

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY METHOD

In an effort to lower publication costs of the newsletter, Tribal Members now have the option to select their preferred method of receiving the newsletter.

Method #1 Monthly issues will continue to be mailed to Tribal Member Head of Households (HOH) at the address on file with Tribal Member Benefits. If you want to continue to receive your copy of the newsletter by U.S. Mail, no action is necessary. If you are the Head of Household of a Tribal household and do not receive a copy of the

newsletter, please contact Tribal Member Benefits at (251) 368-9136 x 2209 to establish your designation as HOH.

Method #2 The newsletter is posted on the Tribal web site each month; from this issue forward, the newsletter will be posted on the web site as soon as the issue has been finalized and sent for publication. If you prefer to access the newsletter online and not receive a monthly issue of the newsletter through the U.S. Mail, please notify *Poarch Creek News* at (251) 368-9136 x 2210 or gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov.

If you choose this option and change your mind, just notify us and your address will be added back to the mailing list.

Please be reminded to keep your address and other contact information updated with Tribal Member Benefits at all times. Tribal Members whose newsletters have been returned by the Post Office for two consecutive issues will be removed from the newsletter mailing list until their information has been updated. Once the address has been updated, their name will be added back to the mailing list.

LIVE STREAM ON TRIBAL SOCIAL MEDIA

The Government Relations staff now has the capability to live stream events directly to the Tribe's official Facebook page, facebook.com/PoarchBandofCreekIndians.

When you see the Government Relations staff out and about at Tribally sponsored events or activities with their iPhones and tripod, you will know they may be streaming portions of the event/activity to Facebook.



In This Issue

There are 3025 enrolled members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.



**2 A MOMENT WITH
THE TRIBAL CHAIR**



**12 ON THE COVER
MUSKOGEE INN**



**16 TRIBE REVEALS
NEW TOURIST
DESTINATION**



**18 AN EVENING
WITH ELLOIE
BRADSHAW**



**30 VETERAN'S SALUTE
MICHAEL GLASS**



**31 BIRTHDAY
WISHES**

4	2017 Changes To Newsletters
6	Submissions Guidelines
7	Note From Editor 2016 Word Limits & Deadlines
8	2015-2016 Tribal Council
9	Tribal Council Christmas Wishes
10	Returned Newsletters
20	USET: Passing The Fire
22	USET Board Of Directors Elect New Officers
23	Cultural Exchange 2016
24	An Empty Place At The Table
26	Athletes Of The Year Recognized
28	Meth: Not On Our Rez!
34	Anniversary Wishes
38-47	Community Services Division
48-54	Health & Elder Services Division
55-60	Public Safety Division
61	Regulatory, Grants, & Compliance Division
62-68	Tribal Member Services Division
69-70	Non-Divisional Departments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources • Tribal Utilities Authority
71-78	CIEDA News & Updates
79	NRCS News & Updates
80	Monthly Calendar

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4: 31-32

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- **Submission Criteria**
Tribal Member submissions for publication in the *Poarch Creek News* are limited to Tribal Members & spouse, first generation, as submitted by Tribal Member, and those living in Tribal Member households unless exception is noted. When submitting information, please identify the person featured as a Tribal Member, Tribal Member spouse, first generation descendant, or individual living in a Tribal Member household.
- **Copyright Materials**
Copyrighted poems, graphics, etc. will not be published without permission from copyright holder. It is the responsibility of the individual submitting the information to determine if material is copyrighted and obtain applicable copyright license.
- **Birthday & Anniversary Wishes:**
May be published the month before, the month of, or the month after, the birthday/anniversary.
- **Obituaries:**
Submit information by the last business day of the second month immediately following the death. *Photos will be cropped to reflect deceased only.*
- **In Memoriam:**
Published month before, the month of, or the month after the birthday of the deceased or the anniversary of the death of the deceased. *Photos will be cropped to reflect deceased only. Limit one In Memoriam submission per deceased individual per issue.*
- **Birth Announcements:**
Submit information by the last business day of the month immediately following the birth. A Tribal Member may submit the birth announcement of their grandchild, even if the child is not first generation.
- **Engagement/Wedding Announcements:**
Submit information by the last business day of the month immediately following the engagement/wedding.
- **Photo Submissions:**
One per article submission; photos will be cropped to fit available space. High resolution .jpg or PDF format. Poor quality/inappropriate photos will not be published.
- **Corrections:**
Corrections will occur only if error/misprint is made by *Poarch Creek News*.



35 OBITUARY-
IN MEMORIAM



37 TRIBAL MEMBER
SUBMISSIONS



38 DEPARTMENTAL
INFORMATION

In order for annual Tribal Member distributions and benefits to be processed accurately, Tribal Member Benefits must be informed of any changes you may have to your address, phone number, banking information, and/or other personal information. Numerous newsletters and other Tribal correspondences have been returned by the Post Office marked 'undeliverable as addressed', 'insufficient address', 'unable to forward', etc. Contact Tribal Member Benefits at (251) 368-9136 x 2209 to update your information.



71 CIEDA/NRCS
UPDATES

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



The *Poarch Creek News* is the official newsletter of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and is published by the Government Relations Department at the direction/discretion of the Tribal Council.

The *Poarch Creek News* is **not** the forum where individuals/groups can submit their views regarding matters of operations of Tribal Government or any decisions or policies enacted by Tribal Council, Authorities and/or Boards. Nor is it the vehicle to submit policies issues/concerns of individuals/groups.

All questions or concerns about the *Poarch Creek News* should be addressed to:

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Poarch Creek News
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502
gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov
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(251) 368-9136 x 2210
Direct Dial # 251 446-5210
Regular Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The *Poarch Creek News* office is located in Building 400 of the Tribal Complex.

The Poarch Creek News reserves the right to edit or refuse any item submitted for publication.

WORD LIMITS

Birthdays	40 words or less
Anniversary	50 words or less
Engagement	50 words or less
Reunions	50 words or less
TM Submissions	300 words or less
Birth/Weddings	300 words or less
Graduation	300 words or less
Achievements	300 words or less
In Memoriam	300 words or less
Obituary	300 words or less
News Article	400 words or less

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

The *Poarch Creek News* is generated one month prior to the month of publication.

Submission Deadline: 5th of the month prior to the month of publication. If the 5th falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is extended to the next business day. **Beginning with the [January 2017](#) issue of the *Poarch Creek News*, the deadline will be the [first business day of each month.](#) **

Please keep the established deadline in mind when submitting information for all sections of the newsletter.

Please submit information as soon as possible, any delay may cause you to miss the established deadline.

REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Luke 2: 1-12 KJV

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of

David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping

watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL.

POARCH VALUES

LOVE & COMMITMENT TO FAMILY

SELF-DETERMINATION & SELF-RELIANCE

FAITH & COMMITMENT TO DO

WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE TRIBE

RESPECT FOR ELDERS

INTEGRITY: BEING TRUE TO WHO WE ARE

PROSPERITY

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TWITTER.COM/POARCHNEIGHBORS

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www.youtube.com/channel/UCpPKy0-WEMlc_OV4-cMc3BA

RETURNED NEWSLETTERS

Approximately 20-25 newsletters are returned by the Post Office each month as undeliverable due to incorrect addresses, incomplete addresses, etc. From this point forward, if an individual's newsletter is returned by the Post Office for two consecutive months their name will be removed from the mailing list prior to mailing the next issue of the newsletter until the address has been updated. Be sure to update your addresses with Tribal Member Benefits at (251) 368-9136 x 2209 to assure that your newsletter, as well as other Tribal correspondence, is being sent to the correct address.

Names that have been removed from December variable data; please update your contact information:

Leslie Albrittion/Elberta, AL	Brian Moore, Atmore, AL	Taylor Thomas, Peridido, AL
Wanda Gaines, Pensacola, FL	Brandy Rolin, Atmore, AL	Bobby Walker, Lacombe, LA
Nicole Hubbard, Greenville, WI	Randy Rolin, Abilene, TX	Joanna Ward, Pensacola, FL
Kyle Lage, Freeport, FL	Timothy Rolin, Atmore, AL	Phylliss Ward, Atmore, AL
Brandy McGhee, Foley, AL	Katelyn Rondeau, Ogden, UT	Guy Wynn, Atmore, AL
Dewitt McGhee, Pensacola, FL	Marcia Shipps, Pensacola, FL	

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Thomas A. Edison

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The inaugural business for
Creek Indian Enterprises
Development Authority

Big winner

for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Every year, the hotel has enjoyed many full bookings during peak months. Family reunions and construction workers bring in the most guests, usually during the summer. The concert series at Wind Creek Atmore has rooms at Muskogee Inn booked up as well, and Pow Wow also brings an influx of guests to town. Muskogee Inn has repeatedly been fully booked for the week leading up to Pow Wow in November.

Muskogee Inn

Address: 6141 Highway 21 in Atmore, Ala. | Purchased by Poarch Creek Indians: 1986 | Remodel: 2014

It's 1985. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians were still celebrating their hard-fought victory as the only federally recognized Indian tribe in the state of Alabama, having only gained the designation the previous year. Now it was time to grow economically and sustain themselves as a people.

First up was to create a company specifically designed to manage, establish and run economic

development for the Tribe. Creek Indian Enterprises (CIEDA) was born to do just that and would later add "Development Authority" to its name.

Next was to research and find profitable businesses that would provide stability and income for Tribal Members. That's when the Tribe bought the Best Western hotel on Highway 21 in Atmore. CIEDA now had its very first business.

From national brand to local independent hotel

What's in a name? Just like location ... everything! Branding and location for hotels are the most important things behind customer service that will make a hotel successful.

In 1986, Best Western of Atmore was a profitable and highly sought after lodging establishment that just happened to be sitting directly at an interstate exit. With major roadways Interstate 65 and Highway 21 running through the town of Atmore, having a hotel at that intersection provided travelers with the first opportunity to stop and stay the night.

From either direction, travelers will clearly see the hotel. Drivers will learn to step on the gas as they pull into the parking lot, too. Muskogee Inn sits high up on a hill that has a steep winding road on both sides, kind of like a dual staircase where people can go up the left or the right side.

And with a national recognition of the Best Western name at the time, guests trusted the hotel brand. The change in ownership didn't change the way people saw the hotel. Rooms were still booked, and guests were still happy with their experience.

However, CIEDA wanted guests to know the Poarch Band of Creek Indians owned and operated the hotel. So Best Western of Atmore was transformed to reflect its Native American ownership. Slowly, the Tribe began to incorporate Poarch Creek Indian elements into the inn. Decorations, such as wood carvings, paintings and archival photographs were strategically placed around the premises and on the walls. Guests staying there inquired from time to time about the Tribe, and the staff was more than happy to tell their stories. Customer service ramped up and friendly smiles were seen more often as the Southern charm of Atmore took over.

And the hotel has seen a steady profit since being bought by the Tribe. Every year, the hotel has enjoyed many full bookings during peak months. Family reunions and construction workers bring in the most guests, usually during the summer. The concert series at Wind Creek Atmore has rooms at Muskogee Inn booked up as well, and Pow Wow also brings an influx of guests to town. Muskogee Inn has repeatedly been fully booked for the week leading up to Pow Wow in November.

The faces of Muskogee Inn

General Manager Rochel Martin, who is a Tribal Member spouse, is one of only four original employees left over from the Best Western days.

"I'm very blessed to be here and running this wonderful hotel," Martin said. "I have seen firsthand how the Tribe takes care of its people and the Atmore community as a whole. And to be the 'inaugural' business so to speak for Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority is a high accolade for me and for this hotel."

The other employees who still work at Muskogee Inn are Angel Caraway, Brenda Jay and Gracie Barnes. Martin said there are currently 23 employees on staff at the hotel. One is a Tribal Member, one is a Tribal Member spouse and one is a



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist



See HOTEL, continued on next page

HOTEL, continued from previous page

First Generation Member.

"The hospitality industry is a very rewarding career," Martin said. "And representing the Tribe makes it that much more enjoyable. I come to work every day with pride of being in the Poarch Band of Creek Indians family."

Time lapse of transformation

Keeping up with the times in the hotel industry isn't as easy as it might seem. Trends change quickly, and Muskogee Inn is no different. By being the first economic business trusted to CIEDA, Muskogee Inn had a lot to prove.

The year 1989 was the cusp of the Internet age. The World Wide Web was introduced and changed how people communicated and learned new information. It took about five years for most businesses in the world to catch on and start using the Internet to their advantage. The Best Western brand of hotels offered its first online listings in 1995. But things really started improving in 2009 when the hotel changed names. A new logo and name provided the perfect opportunity for rebranding, especially online. In 2015, Muskogee Inn, installed new phone systems and Internet structure as well.

As the Internet age continued to grow in popularity, Muskogee Inn followed suit. Online bookings began to take hold across the country so the hotel started adding its listings to sites, such as Expedia, Booking.com, Priceline and many others.

Muskogee Inn launched its own website, muskogeeinn.com, and also started a Facebook page, facebook.com/MuskogeeInn, and Twitter account, twitter.com/MuskogeeInn.

Social media began to skyrocket as numerous other platforms arose to compete with Facebook and Twitter. Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr ... gone were the days where a hotel could just answer phones as guests booked rooms and made plans. Now it's like the 24-hour news cycle: constant. However, Muskogee Inn did more than just transform with technology. Guests wanted a luxurious feel for a budget price. So Muskogee Inn got to work upgrading



its grounds and entire campus.

The huge outdoor pool has always been a tremendous draw for travelers staying at Muskogee Inn.

But again, outdoor trends began to change. So Muskogee Inn built two decks for patrons to host social gatherings and just hang out and relax. Gazebos were added to the pool area for guests to get out of the sun and eat or talk in the shade.

More guests began to spend extra time at the pool and have more cookouts. The landscaping looked fresher and added an enhanced appeal to the surroundings. And it wasn't just the outside that got a facelift.

Historical photos from Creek Indian archives were framed and placed along hallways in the buildings. A new logo featuring the Poarch Band of Creek Indians symbol debuted on signs. And in 2014, a complete remodel of all 88 rooms began to update furniture, bedding, decorations, carpet, etc. But Muskogee Inn's makeover doesn't stop there.

Recently, a security wall with the hotel's name and logo was built along the front rail, giving even more depth to the grand entrance. And when the Tribe built its first casino just down the street from Muskogee Inn, the hotel promoted a free shuttle service to and from the entertainment district

at Wind Creek Atmore, courtesy of Wind Creek. Guests can call the front desk at Muskogee Inn any time they want to use the shuttle.

In October 2016, the van Muskogee Inn uses also got a makeover. Gone is the plain white paint with the hotel name written on the side in plain letters. Muskogee Inn decided to have the entire van wrapped with professional artwork to depict the remodel and remake of the whole hotel. The van matches Muskogee Inn's branded gold coloring and shows the rooms and amenities along the side and back of the vehicle, much like a tour bus showcases advertising on the sides.

The hotel also started the Muskogee Inn Club, where guests and locals can sign up for a monthly newsletter and get discounts and offers specially tailored to them. Muskogee Inn offers locals a discount to stay during various times of the year. And with the addition of Wind Creek Atmore, the hotel has partnered with the casino to give a free play with every booking a guest makes at Muskogee Inn.

Much more is in store for this independent hotel. Trends change and guests look for the best deals with the best accommodations. Muskogee Inn is a solid player in the hospitality industry and a big winner for the Tribe.

"The hospitality industry is a very rewarding career. And representing the Tribe makes it that much more enjoyable."

— General Manager
Rochel Martin

The Grand Christmas Sale

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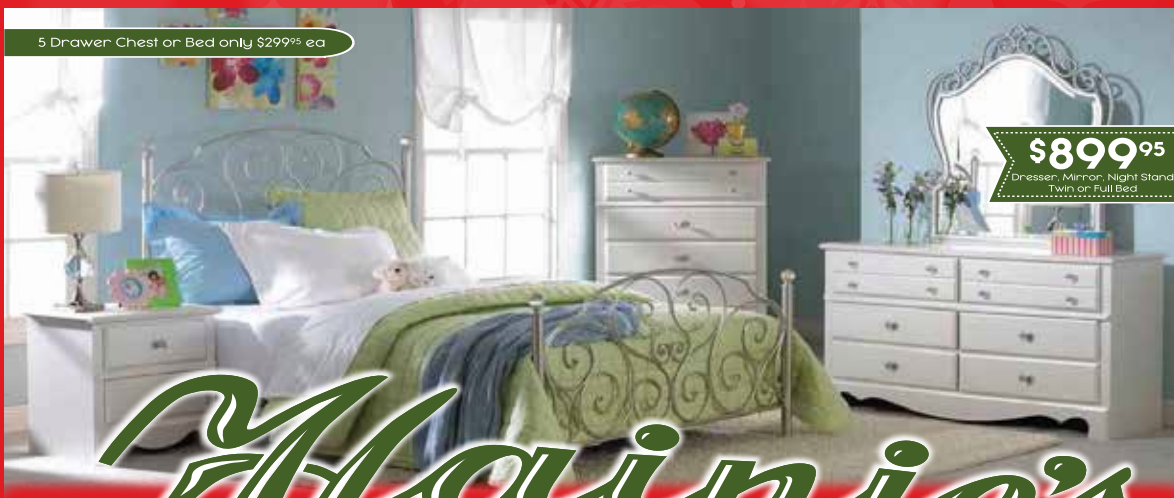
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On Wednesday, November 2, 2016, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians unveiled detailed plans for its first-class, family-friendly tourist destination currently under construction near Alabama's most popular beaches.

The development's name, OWA, means "Big Water" in the Muscogee Creek language. OWA "Big Water" refers to the 14-acre lake at the center of the unique project that features a themed amusement park, a 150-room Marriott Town Place Suites hotel, and a wide selection of restaurant and shopping opportunities.

Stephanie A. Bryan, Poarch Creek's Tribal Chair and CEO noted, "As a Tribe, we have worked hard to ensure that our businesses bring revenue and jobs into the State and add to

the quality of life in the rural communities where they are located. OWA is being built in this tradition, and we are very excited to be both neighbors and partners with the City of Foley in bringing economic development to this area."

When completed, the OWA development will generate close to 3,500 jobs (both direct and indirect) and will boost tourist spending in South Alabama by 7%. That increase in spending is expected to increase Baldwin County's economic output by close to \$250 million.

The 520-acre OWA development is adjacent to the City of Foley's \$40 million sports tourism complex which features 16 state-of-the-art outdoor fields and a 90,000 square foot indoor events

center that is slated to open in the summer of 2017. The two projects will provide a seamless experience for "sport families" who travel to the area specifically for tournaments, but who will avail themselves of opportunities offered by OWA to entertain the entire family.

"For every visitor, OWA will provide a top-notch experience," said Tim Martin, President of Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority, the Tribe's business entity charged with developing the property. He continued, "It is an added benefit that families who come to Foley for sporting events will also have all of OWA's offerings available to them. We believe that this is a winning combination that will have families coming back to

Alabama for years to come.”

OWA, located just off the Foley Beach Express and County Road 20, is just 9 miles from Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. While that area of the State already hosts 6.2 million each year, OWA is expected to bring in an additional 1 million visitors annually.

Foley’s Mayor John Koniar added, “No place can beat Alabama’s Gulf beaches for their natural beauty. We are happy to offer visitors to our area a one stop, family-friendly destination

that is near the beach but will provide another option, for not only overnight visitors, but those looking for a day trip getaway.”

OWA’s design celebrates its rural roots. The complex will have the feel of a small Southern town that evolves through time with distinct districts such as the Warehouse District, Downtown District, and Amusement Park.

Phase One of OWA, which includes the 150-room hotel, retail and dining spaces, amusement park, and lake will open Summer 2017. Future plans

call for a water park, additional hotels, a condominium complex, and a resort level RV park.

When complete, total investment in the development will top \$500 million.

You can find out more about OWA at www.visitowa.com.

Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time.

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Wishing a Merry Christmas to all Tribal Member families and supporting staff of our Tribal entities! For those residing within and outside of our service area it is my sincerest hope that you all have a blessed holiday season and a Happy New Year!



Let us continue to remain persistent and steadfast in prayer for a prosperous and joyous 2017.

Garvis Sells



AN EVENING WITH MS. ELLOIE BRADSHAW

From the Elloie Bradshaw Collection (Christmas play at St. Anna's)

"Much is given, much is received," said Tribal Chair Stephanie A. Bryan about Ms. Elloie Bradshaw at the Evening with the Elders on October 18. "She gave a lot to this community and to the people in this community. She influenced a lot of people's lives in a very positive way."

People in this community have often talked about Ms. Bradshaw and the positive influence she had on the Poarch Creek community in the 1950s and 1960s. Our Team at the Office of Archives and Records Management featured her work among Creek Indians at this event that drew over one-hundred people. Everyone gathered in the Auditorium of Building 500 to hear her speak through audio recordings of Dr. J. Anthony Paredes' interview of her in 1972 (digitized by the University of Florida).

Panelists shared fond memories and recollections of Ms. Bradshaw from their youth and the influences she had on their lives. Tribal Council Secretary Charlotte McGhee Meckel said, "She stressed education, I think she was very influential in my life. Because of her, I went away to school... and I think I owe her a great big debt of gratitude because of her stressing integrity and the value of an education."

Panelist Ms. Carolyn White recalled that she had a lot of fun as a child. "I remember going up there to the Episcopal Church and having Christmases. There were gifts for the children; we always left with something. That's when I would get the apple, the orange, and the piece of peppermint candy. I was just so proud of that when I got that every Christmas!"

"I remember her bringing in clothing, and I wore an outfit that actually matched!" said Ms. White. "In a sense, she brought things that helped build the self-esteem of the children in the community by having the Vacation Bible School and by giving out clothes." In reflection, Ms. White wondered if she received her first view of social work from Ms. Bradshaw that, later in her life, led her into the Social Work profession.

Ms. Elloie Bradshaw's grandson Mr. Claburn Bradshaw donated her personal archival collection to the Tribe including slides, videos, and photographs. The slides were displayed in PowerPoint format on a large screen for the audience to see. They were professionally digitized by Havard's Film, Video, Audio, Incorporated in Mobile, Alabama.

Mr. Bradshaw also donated a hand-sewn quilt that was sewn by Tribal elders. He said the story he was told was that Chief Calvin McGhee gifted the quilt to Grandmother Elloie when she retired from her work among Creek Indians.

She was so important to this Tribe that one of the facilities of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians was named the Elloie Bradshaw Building which is now the Teen Center for the Boys & Girls Club. This building has been used for many programs throughout the years. Sewing classes were taught there, at one time the Family Services Department was housed there. The Tribe may have outgrown the building, but we have never outgrown our love and respect for Ms. Bradshaw.

Ms. Bradshaw considered herself a loose woman. No, not in the terms we may think of as a “loose woman!” She considered herself that because she was a widow; with her son and his family living in Texas she was free to go wherever she wanted to go and do whatever she wanted. “I lived alone; I had no pets; I had no houseplants. I was free to go anytime, so I was a loose woman,” Ms. Bradshaw said during her recorded interview with Dr. Paredes.

Ms. Bradshaw first visited the Poarch Creek community in August of 1954 when she and her friend Ms. Estelle Warren came to have Vacation Bible School. Ms. Leola Manac had asked Bishop Murray, the local Bishop for the Episcopal Church, why there was no Vacation Bible School. That request led to Ms.

Bradshaw’s and Ms. Warren’s trip to south Alabama. They did not know anything about the Creek Indians in the community. Ms. Bradshaw stated that they were not sure if the Indians could speak English or if they would be greeted with grunts. She quickly assured Dr. Paredes that they were not greeted with grunts, but with warm, welcoming smiles and jubilee.

Ms. Bradshaw and Ms. Warren were very surprised at the turnout for their planned Vacation Bible School program at St. Anna’s Episcopal Church. Not only did the children attend, but so did the adults. Everyone wanted to attend and be a part of church activities. From these humble beginnings, Ms. Bradshaw returned to the Poarch community each summer through 1964 to host the Vacation Bible School program. She thought she was coming for a summer but ended up staying fulltime for five years. During this time she stayed at the Greenlawn Motel in Atmore. Mr. Dan McGhee, the Church’s caretaker, would go to town every morning to pick her up and would take her back to the motel in the afternoon.

“I think it says a lot about a person when they give up years of their life, like she did, to come down to a bunch of people that she really didn’t know—as a missionary—to help them out,” Panelist Mr. Jack Allen McGhee said. “She loved God, and she loved our people. She really believed in education, and she influenced my life because she wanted us to be fine Christian

young men and women.” He added, “She was an encourager; she really stressed education.”

Ms. Bradshaw’s love for Creek Indians, this community and its people grew over time. “[W]e have never seen greater reverence in any church and we have never seen more beautifully conducted services than Ms. [Girly] Rolin conducted,” Ms. Bradshaw said, speaking of the mother of Panelist William Thomas Rolin. Remembering that era, Mr. Rolin said, “My brother and I were ten years old. We got on a bus in Atmore, went all the way to Birmingham; she would meet us in Birmingham. She wanted us to get out and go be educated.”

During her interview with Dr. Paredes, Ms. Elloie stated that she had no formal training for the mission that brought her to Poarch, but she feels everything she had done in her life up to that point had prepared her for what she was able to do for the people and community of Poarch. She talked about St. Anna’s services, altar equipment, and the chewing gum that held the organ key in place. She also shared memories of Chief Fred Walker, 80 acres of land, a fence, and a shotgun. She also told of how the community grew and changed during her time here. These stories are truly a treasure.

By Gayle Johnson and Dr. Deidra Surwanee Dees



PASSING THE FIRE

Photo : from left to right USET President Brian Patterson (Oneida Indian Nation – New York), Former USET President Eddie Tullis (Poarch Band of Creek Indians), Lakota/Dakota/Nakota Chief Arvol Looking Horse, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Principal Chief Patrick Lambert, and Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Robert Thrower.

During the United Southern and Eastern Tribe's Sovereignty Protection Fund, Inc. (USET SPF)) Annual Meeting opening ceremonies the USET fire was passed from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, where the last meeting was hosted, to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, who hosted this week's 2016 Annual Meeting.

USET President Brian Patterson welcomed members of the Board of Directors and leadership from the 26 member Tribal Nations to the 2016 USET SPF Annual Meeting saying, "Some great

change, development, and success is taking place with USET and USET SPF. I have great confidence in all of us that we will continue to evolve, grow, and strengthen as an organization and as Tribal Nations. While here in the mountain region of the Qualla Indian Boundary we take the opportunity to build on our strength in unity."

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Principal Chief Patrick Lambert welcomed attendees saying, "These meetings serve as important dialogue where we can collectively meet challenges and improve the lives of our people. As one of the

original founding Tribes of USET, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has witnessed the growth and positive impact this organization has made through the south and east. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our home in Cherokee, North Carolina."

The meeting started with the passing of the fire from Poarch Band of Creek Indians' Tribal Treasurer, Eddie Tullis to Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' Principal Chief, Patrick Lambert. The three day 2016 USET Annual Meeting took place at the Harrah's Cherokee Casino. Leaders from USET's 26 member

Tribal Nations that comprise the Board of Directors and committees received updates and took action on issues that make an impact on their Tribal Nations and throughout Indian Country.

The USET Board of Directors also heard updates and presentations on the following:

- Indian Law Resource Center: Discussions of the impact and value of international economic development, healthcare, best practices, and diplomacy.

- Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL): Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairman David Archambault discussed the status of DAPL.

- USET Organizational Growth and Development: The organization is growing to include new enterprises that will foster economic development, healthcare support, and administrative services to its member Tribal Nations.

*Article by Gayle Johnson
Composed utilizing portions of USET Press
Release dated October 24, 2016.*



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Merry Christmas

From our home to yours!

Martin and I pray that this holiday season be blessed and filled with peace, hope, and joy. Always remember the Reason for the Season.

Charlotte Meckel, Tribal Council Secretary






TRIBAL VICE CHAIR ELECTED TO SERVE ON USET BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shown left to right are Treasurer B. Cheryl Smith, President Kirk Francis, Sr., Vice President Robert R. McGhee, and Secretary Lynn Malerba.

During its 2016 Annual Meeting in Cherokee, North Carolina, the USET/USET SPF Board of Directors selected and installed its officers. The officers are President Kirk Francis, Sr. (Chief of Penobscot Indian Nation), Vice President Robert R. McGhee (Vice Chairman of Poarch Band of Creek Indians), Secretary Lynn Malerba (Chief of The Mohegan Tribe), and Treasurer B. Cheryl Smith (Chief of Jena Band of Choctaw Indians). These officers will serve as the Executive Officers Committee (EOC) for two years.

“On behalf of the entire Executive Officers Committee, we are honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve this great organization.

Throughout our history, beginning with our founders, the leadership of this organization has always demonstrated vision, commitment, and passion on behalf of the Tribal Nations and citizens that we serve. Together, we seek to honor their legacy and to work tirelessly on behalf of our entire membership to ensure that we continue the progress and momentum that we have experienced. Finally, as we complete this transition of leadership, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors I want to thank Brian Patterson for his 10 years of dedicated, thoughtful, and passionate leadership during his presidency”, stated President Kirk Francis.

Over the last several years, through a Board driven and guided strategic planning process, the organization has grown, evolved, and matured to better respond to the needs of its member Tribal Nations. As stated by Executive Director Kitcki A. Carroll, “Our newly elected officers are representative of the tremendous diversity found within our membership. Through their daily leadership responsibilities, as entrusted to them by our Board of Directors, we will have the necessary continuity of strong and dedicated leadership to build upon our success.”

The above is a portion of a press release from USET. For the complete press release or to find out more about USET, please visit <http://www.usetinc.org/>



Pictured: (Front L-R) Kaylee Salter, Madelynn Boatwright, Breanna Hall, and Sarah Mills. (Back L-R) Blake Crook, Reece McNairn, Max Martin, Jordan Sborov, Bradley Rolin, Kyle Salter, Tyler Weaver, Andrew Chance, and Dusty Manning.

In June, 2016, a group of 13 Tribal Member and First Generation graduating high school seniors were selected to travel on the first Poarch Creek Cultural Exchange trip.

The students traveled over 9,500 miles through Canada and Alaska visiting the Indigenous Peoples: Ahousaht, Tuckkwiowhum, and Kuskokwim.

During their stay our students participated in Indigenous People's Day in Vancouver, Canada; went whale watching in the Pacific Ocean; hiked through unclaimed rainforests, national parks, and trails; visited Whistler Mountain where the 2010 Olympics was held; went kayaking and canoeing in

Alaska; and tried many new foods including poutine and salmon fresh out of the water.

A few of their favorite parts of the trip included visiting the First Nation schools, learning their culture, and interacting with all of the people they encountered. Their favorite part of all was learning about the immersion school and First Nations school we visited.

Our students were excited to see other Indigenous students in schools where their Indigenous language was the only language spoken; allowing no English. They continuously talked about how they wished our Tribe would have their own school where our culture and language could be taught.

This trip opened our students' eyes to many things they had never seen or experienced before. Over and over many of our students commented on things that they are thankful for that our Tribe provides for our people, such as health care, transportation, air conditioning, clean water, trash pick-up, and emergency personnel.

The students would like to thank the Tribal Council for allowing them to go on this trip; without their support and funding, the trip would not have been possible.

Our students also ask that the Tribal Council continue to fund this trip each year for high school seniors.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVES AN EMPTY CHAIR AT THE TABLE

Domestic violence leaves an empty chair at the table. Sometimes that empty chair is where an abuser would sit; sometimes...most often... it is where a victim once sat. The Empty Chair Ceremony was performed, followed by a very emotional Balloon Release, as part of Family Services' Annual Domestic Violence Vigil held on October 20, 2016.

I Got Flowers Today

I got flowers today. It wasn't my birthday or any other special day. We had our first argument last night. He said a lot of cruel things that really hurt me. I know he is sorry and didn't mean the things he said, because I got flowers today.

Domestic violence is a carnivorous cancer that touches us all; yes, just like we all know someone who has

been touched by cancer, we know someone who has been affected by domestic violence. I am a domestic violence survivor. Yes, me.

Most people don't know that I have been married twice. The first time I was married to someone who was very controlling. He alienated me from my family and if you know my family you would find that almost inconceivable. He told me what to wear and who I could talk to. He controlled my money...the money I worked for while he 'found himself.'

He even tried to control what I ate. I am allergic to shell fish; he knew that. He would tell me it was all in my head. One day his mother fixed gumbo. He told me to eat some. "I can't it has shrimp in it." He says "No, there is no shrimp in it; you can eat it." I did, and guess who had an

allergic reaction to the shrimp that 'wasn't' in the gumbo?

I got flowers today. It wasn't our anniversary or any other special day. Last night he threw me into a wall and started to choke me. It seemed like a nightmare. I couldn't believe it was real. I woke up this morning sore and bruised all over. I know he must be sorry, because I got flowers today.

The most hurtful thing he did was to not allow me attend two funerals during the time we were together. The first was the funeral of a young man that I grew up with. No, this was not an ex-boyfriend, it was the boy who lived down the road from us as we were growing up; it was almost like losing a brother. He also did not allow me to attend my grandfather's funeral. If you know me well, you know how important

my grandchildren are to me; I felt the same about my grandfather. I loved him beyond measure.

Some of the memories fade, but I will *never forget* that he would not let me attend those two funerals. Why didn't I go? I was 23 years old and didn't have a driver's license, if he didn't want to take me I could have ridden with someone in my family. There was no reason why I could not have gone except that he said 'No', it was a control issue.

I got flowers today. It wasn't Mother's Day or any other special day. Last night, he beat me up again. And it was much worse than all the other times. If I leave him, what will I do? Where will I go? How will I take care of the kids? What about money? I'm afraid of him and scared to leave. But I know he must be sorry, because I got flowers today.

I love to watch TV; I am a reality show fanatic and once submitted an audition tape to "Big Brother"! Back then there were no reality shows on TV. My favorite show was The Waltons. John Boy was my favorite character. I made the mistake of saying that one Thursday night while we were dating. I was not allowed to watch The Waltons after we got married. Not much TV at all after that. He was to be my only entertainment. If he was outside, I was outside. If he was cutting grass I had to sit on the porch and watch. If he was working on his car, I had to be there. It is one thing to do it by choice, but an entirely different thing to be forced to do it. He had friends, I had no friends. It is still hard for me to make friends today.

Although there was physical violence at the end, the abuse I was subjected to was emotionally and mentally devastating. I left, I went back because he promised he would change; I left, I went back...a cycle that was repeated several times. I held my breath for five years. Finally, he met someone at work, yes, he finally got a job,...she would not talk to him because he was married...so he finally agreed to a divorce.

Needless to say, the relationship with the 'other woman' didn't work out; her 'you're married' was simply an excuse to avoid his advances. He stalked me and broke into my apartment one night, he took the hinges off the door and took the door off the frame. I was asleep and did not know until he jumped on me in the bed and beat and strangled me. I filed a police report the next day, but they never followed up. I spent the next two years looking over my shoulders.

It has been 40 years, but I still tense at the mention of his name. It was only through the love and support of my family and salvation through Jesus Christ that I got through this period.

I thank God every day that we never had children. What would life had been like for them?

Ben, my late husband who many of you may have known, often told me that *he* paid for the sins of my first husband because I had developed walls that never came down. Walls that he was never able to breach. It affected our relationship. So you see, domestic violence can affect your

life long after the violence is over and your life situation has changed.

What does a domestic violence perpetrator look like? You may think you can look at someone and tell, but you can't. Domestic violence wears a mask. The bank president; known and respected by all can be an abuser...but wait this same person can be a victim. So can the stay at home Mom, the clerk at the grocery store, and yes, even a rising star on your favorite college or professional football team. Not all abusers are men, not all victims are women.

I got flowers today. Today was a very special day. It is the day of my funeral. Last night he finally killed me. He beat me to death. If only I had gathered up enough strength to leave him. If only I had reached out for help...or took the help that was offered to me, I would not have gotten flowers today.

Author Unknown

If you or someone you know needs help, please contact Family Services at (251) 368-9136 x 2600 or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). You are not alone, we can help.

Gayle Johnson, Editor

A friend once told me that I have a story for every occasion. Yes, I do. My story of abuse is one that is well known in my family, but one I do not talk about. It is part of my life that I don't share...at least not the details I have shared here. Maybe by sharing I can help someone else. I wear my purple fingernail, for domestic violence awareness, with pride.



ATHLETES OF THE YEAR NAMED

Bryan Stanley, head coach for the Point University Women's Lacrosse Team, was the guest speaker at this year's annual Sports Banquet. Coach Stanley served in the United States Air Force and worked as an Air Traffic Controller at the Atlanta International Airport after his active duty service. While working as an Air Traffic Controller, he spent his off time coaching.

He developed and initiated the Lacrosse Program at Starr's Mills High School in 2002, and coached the program through 2012. In 2011

he coached the Women's Lacrosse team at the University of Alabama. In October of 2014 Point University hired him as the head coach for the Women's Lacrosse team; he is in his third season with the Skyhawks.

During his opening comments Coach Stanley told the student athletes and their families how important it is to know who you are and where you come from. "I feel connected to you guys," he stated; "I am Native American also; I am part Muskogee Creek. I have been searching my entire life to find out

who I am; but you don't have too. I can see the pride your community has, the pride to be who you are, to have overcome adversity to become the people you are. You should know who you are, and where you came from. You should be proud to be who you are."

Continuing with his comments, Coach Stanley stated that there are three great rewards when participating in sports: 1. It is fun. 2. You get to be part of a team/part of a community. 3. You get a uniform! He said he was always proud to

get his uniform at the beginning of every season. "It made me feel good to know that I was a part of something," he said; "besides, the girls all smile at you when you are in uniform!" Putting the joking aside, he also said that coaches have to have strong leadership skills and must be good mentors to the members of their team.

Coach Stanley also addressed the development of a great athlete:

- A great athlete is educated. Education is not just book learning. You have to educate yourself on your surroundings, your community. You have to know what is going on around you and you have to know the evils of the world that you will face; evils such as drugs and alcohol.
- A great athlete will overcome adversity. It is okay to make a mistake. Everyone makes mistakes. Learn from them. Mistakes do not mean failure; failure is when you give up.
- A great athlete is accountable for their actions. You are accountable for your actions. Are you ready? Do you help your teammates? Do you listen to your coach, your parents, to God?
- A great athlete has a great work ethic. Always do your best, on the field and off the field. Who you are off the field molds who you are on the field.
- A great athlete has heart and attitude. You have to have a great

attitude. The heart is a muscle; you have to strengthen it and build it up. Good self-esteem is a positive reinforcement of heart. You have to have drive and effort to succeed.

- A great athlete has character. Character is what you do when no one is watching. You must have character to succeed.

The presentation of certificates and awards followed Coach Stanley's comments. This year's NAYO coaches and players were recognized. The Recreation Department also recognized those who helped them during Tribal events and activities; Tribal Police, Tribal Fire, Recreation staff, and Recreation Board.

The night ended with the announcement of the 2016 Athletes of the Year. Alia Snow was named Female Athlete of the Year and Luke Ward was named Male Athlete of the Year.

Alia is a senior at Escambia Academy. She is the daughter of Kim O'Barr and Kevin Snow. You can name just about any sport and Alia has played it; she has been playing one sport or another since she was 4 years old. She has played Wee-Ball, Tee-Ball, softball, basketball, volleyball, and has played in numerous NAYO tournaments. She has been a cheerleader when the sport of football did not allow girls to play. At Escambia Academy she plays on the basketball team (serving as captain on the JV and Varsity) and the softball team as well as running on the track and field team. She has received many

sports achievement awards such as Most Valuable Player, Rookie of the Year, Best Defensive Player, Best Offensive Player, Most Athletic, etc. (Coach Stanley encouraged her to add lacrosse to her list of sports activities. "I don't think so!" she laughed.)

On her Athlete of the Year application Alia stated "I feel that playing sports teaches you dedication, determination, and leadership. Sports keeps you active and keeps you from going down the wrong path."

Luke is a senior at Northview High School. Luke, a First Generation Descendant, is the son of Carl and Melissa Ward. Throughout his youth he played on numerous NAYO baseball teams and has played in the Northwest Florida (NWF) football and baseball leagues. He placed on the Ernest Ward Middle School football and baseball teams and Northview's track & field, football, basketball, and baseball teams.

On his Athlete of the Year application Luke stated, "I have always found it fun to play sports. As a child I looked forward to practices and loved playing the game, win or lose. I have always given extra time to practices and have volunteered with other youth sports leagues."

Congratulations to Alia, Luke, and all of the coaches and players. Thanks to Coach Stanley for sharing his time with us. We wish him and his Women's Lacrosse team the best of luck.

Gayle Johnson, Editor

METH *NOT ON OUR REZ!*

My Name Is "Meth"

I destroy homes, I tear family's apart,
Take your children, and that's just the start.

I'm more costly than diamonds,
More precious than gold,
The sorrow I bring is a sight to behold.

If you need me, remember I'm easily found,
I live all around you - in schools and in town
I live with the rich; I live with the poor,
I live down the street, and maybe next door.

I'm made in a lab, but not like you think,
I can be easily made under the kitchen sink;
In your child's closet; even in the woods,
If this scares you to death, it certainly should.

I have many names,
But there's one you know best,
I'm sure you've heard of me,
My name is meth.

My power is awesome; try me you'll see,
But if you do, you may never break free.

Just try me once and I might let you go,
But try me twice, and I'll own your soul.

When I possess you, you'll steal and you'll lie,
You do what you have to -- just to get high.

The crimes you'll commit
For my narcotic charms
Will be worth the pleasure you'll feel
Through your lungs, nose, and arms.

You'll lie to your mother;
You'll steal from your dad,
When you see their tears, you should feel sad.

But you'll forget your morals
And how you were raised,
I'll be your conscience,
I'll teach you my ways.

I take kids from parents,
And parents from kids,
I turn people from God,
And separate friends.

I'll take everything from you,
Your looks and your pride,
I'll be with you always -- right by your side.

You'll give up everything,
Your family, your home,
Your friends, your money,
Then you'll be alone.

I'll take and take,
Till you have nothing more to give,
When I'm finished with you,
You'll be lucky to live.

If you try me be warned - this is no game,
If given the chance, I'll drive you insane.

I'll ravish your body, I'll control your mind,
I'll own you completely, your soul will be mine.

The nightmares I'll give you while lying in bed,
The voices you'll hear, from inside your head.

The sweats, the shakes, the visions you'll see,
I want you to know, these are all gifts from me.

But then it's too late,
And you'll know in your heart,
That you are mine,
And we shall not part.

You'll regret that you tried me,
They always do,
But you came to me,
Not I to you.

You knew this would happen,
Many times you were told,
But you challenged my power,
And chose to be bold.

You could have said no, and just walked away,
If you could live that day over,
Now what would you say?

I'll be your master, you will be my slave,
I'll even go with you,
When you go to your grave.

Now that you have met me,
What will you do?
Will you try me or not?
It's all up to you.

I can bring you more misery
Than words can tell,
Come take my hand,
Let me lead you to hell.

Submitted by email

This poem was written by a young Indian girl, addicted to meth, who was in jail on drug charges. As you have read, she fully grasped the horrors of the drug. She was released from jail, but as her poem foretold, the drug owned her. Shortly after her release they found her dead, with the needle still in her arm.

Please keep praying for our Native People to understand that the euphoria of the high is short lived and the end result is worse than any of use realize.

We all know someone...seems to be a common theme with this issue doesn't it?

But, we all do know someone who has been affected by meth(or other illegal and illicit drugs) and alcohol. It seems they just can't say no, that they can't kick the habit or round the corner. Some seriously try, some don't.

They are our sons, daughters, mothers, brothers, sisters, fathers, nieces, nephews, cousins, husbands, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, and so on. The list goes on because addiction has no age limit, no gender preference, no sexual orientation preference, no financial standing preference, etc. Addiction simply does not care.

Addiction doesn't care if your crying 11 year old daughter looks at you and asks "Why Daddy? Why? You said you would never do it again. Don't you love me enough to stop?"

It doesn't care if the strong grandfather's heart breaks as his grandchild begs him to get Momma out of jail one more time.

It doesn't care if your brokenhearted mother tearfully steps back and watches you be placed in handcuffs and taken to jail and visits you every Sunday, just to show that she loves you, no matter what.

Does the shoe fit? Change it! Addiction doesn't care, but we do.

METH....NOT ON OUR RESERVATION!



*Michael Glass
Cpl/E-4
United States Marine Corps*

Michael Glass grew up hearing stories of adventure and service to country from his grandfather, Hubert Rackard. After hearing these stories Michael knew he wanted to join the military. He signed up for delayed entry program on his 16th birthday. After turning 17, with the signatures of both parents, Michael left for Parris Island on June 21, 2009, his Mom's birthday. (Sorry Mom!).

Michael served as an 0311 Infantryman in India Company 3rd Battalion 8th Marines.

He served two deployments to Afghanistan, the first in 2010, the second in 2012.

In 2010 Michael's MEU was called in to support 3/5 in Sangin and 3/8 and was sent to Nahri Saraj district of the Helmand Province, Afghanistan. In 2012 Michael's unit was deployed to Marjeh, Afghanistan.

During his first deployment Michael and his unit were also assigned to Crete, DiJibouti, Africa, and Jordan where his battalion helped to train the Jordanian army. While there, they visited Mount Sinai, the Dead Sea, The Lost City of Petra, and the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized.

Michael was discharged on March 23, 2013 at the rank of a LCpl/E-3; he continued to serve his Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) commitment and was promoted to Cpl/E-4.

Michael is the son of Anita and David Glass; he has two half sisters Becky and Brooke Presley, and two half brothers Shawn Barnhill and Pete Stacey.

Michael and his wife, Heather Stabler Glass, were married on

VETERAN'S SALUTE

June 28, 2010; they have two children, Arianna Elise Glass and Michael David Glass II.

For about a year after his active duty service, Michael worked in the oil fields in Castleberry, AL. He and his young family then moved to Palmer, Alaska for a year while he attended school at University of Alaska in Anchorage.

Michael currently lives in Daphne, Alabama; he is studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama.

In his spare time Michael enjoys riding and working on motorcycles and spending time with his wife and kids.

Michael Glass, just one of many Tribal Members who have proudly served for their family, their Tribe, and their country. Because of their sacrifices, we enjoy the freedoms we have today.

You may submit a veteran's information via email to gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov, via hand delivery to the *Poarch Creek News*, or via US Mail to *Poarch Creek News*, 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL 36502.

Please be sure to include return address and contact information.

Daniel Henson
October 28, 2016

Happy birthday
Daniel!

We love you!

From your family
and friends.



*Daniel's birthday was erroneously
reflected as October 29th in the November
newsletter.*

*We apologize for this error and any
confusion it may have caused.*

Brad Adams
November 2, 2016

Happy birthday
Uncle Brad!



We love you!

Nana, Harley, and the rest of the family.

Jenna Turberville
November 3, 2016

Happy birthday
Jenna!



We love you!

From Dad, Mom, and Michael.

Jason Bryars
November 5, 2016

Happy birthday
Jason!



Hope your birthday is as special as you
are to me. I love you!

From Mama.

Jayla Mosley
November 9, 2016

Happy birthday
Beautiful!



We love you so much!

From your family.

Samuel Ronquille
November 13, 2016

Happy birthday!



I love you!

Renee.

Rachael Gregson
November 19, 2016

Happy 16th
birthday Rachael!



We love you! May God bless you
always!

Mom, Zach, family, and friends.

Charlie Mosley
November 20, 2016

Happy birthday
Charlie!



I love you!

From Momma.

Michael Turberville
November 29, 2016

Happy birthday
Michael!



We love you!

From Dad, Mom, and Jenna.

Happy birthday to all those who are celebrating a birthday this month!

Brantlee Till
December 1, 2016

Happy 2nd birthday
Brantlee!



You are such a blessing!
We love you!
Mommy, Daddy, and Gabe.

Samantha Odom
December 3, 2016

Happy birthday!



We love you!
BooBoo, Jackson, and the rest of your
family and friends.

Easton Jase Baggett
December 8, 2016

Happy 1st birthday!



We love you so much!
Love, Mimi and PawPaw.

Brittany Adams
December 12, 2016

Happy
birthday Brittany!



We love you and are very proud of the
beautiful and kind-hearted woman
you have become.
Love, your family and friends.

Jackson Odom
December 14, 2016

Happy
birthday!



We love you!
Momma, BooBoo, and the rest of your
family and friends.

Avery Grace Baggett
December 15, 2016

Happy 2nd birthday!



We love you so much!
Love, Mimi and PawPaw.

Jennifer Vickery Kelly
December 15, 2016

Happy birthday!



We love you!
From Aunt Connie and the rest of
your family.

Noah Kodet
December 15, 2016

Happy birthday
Noah!

Being 8 is going to
be AWESOME!



We love you and are so proud of the
smart, kind, funny, and creative boy
that God has created you to be.
Love, Mommy, Daddy, Papa, Ben, and
Lina.

Dalton Luke
December 18, 2016

Happy 16th
birthday Dalton!



We love you!
From your family.

Happy birthday to all those who are celebrating a birthday this month!

Braylon Snow
December 19, 2016

Happy 7th birthday
little buddy!



We love you!
From your family and friends.

Ainsley Rey Colbert
December 24, 2016

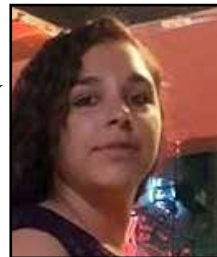
Happy 1st
birthday Ainsley!



You're such a blessing to our family.
We love you!
Mom and Dad.

Kaliegh Luke
December 24, 2016

Happy 15th birthday
Kaliegh!



We love you!
From your family.

Glenda Ellis
December 24, 2016

Happy birthday
Glenda!



We love you!
Love, your family.

Michael Hutto
December 25, 2016

Happy birthday
Michael!



We love you!
Love, your family.

Mackenzie Mosley
December 27, 2016

Happy birthday
Beautiful!



Hoping your birthday is as awesome
as you are! We love you!
From your family.

William Jason Vickery
December 29, 2016

Happy 20th
birthday!



We love you!
From Aunt Connie and the rest of your
family.

Kierra Kelly
December 29, 2016

Happy 17th
birthday!



We love you!
From Aunt Connie and the rest of your
family.

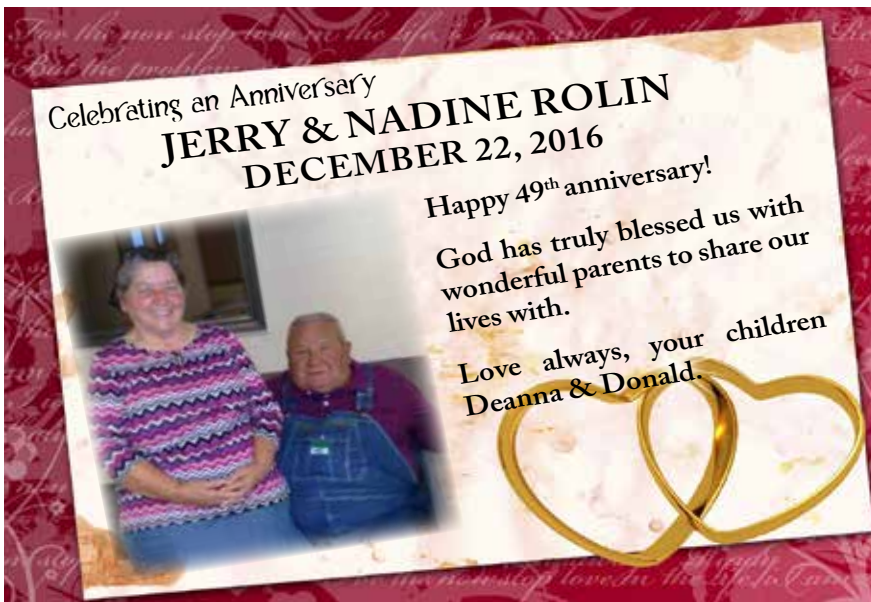
Kaden Hutto
December 29, 2016

Happy 5th
birthday Kaden!



We love you very much!
From your family.

Happy birthday to all those who are celebrating a birthday this month!

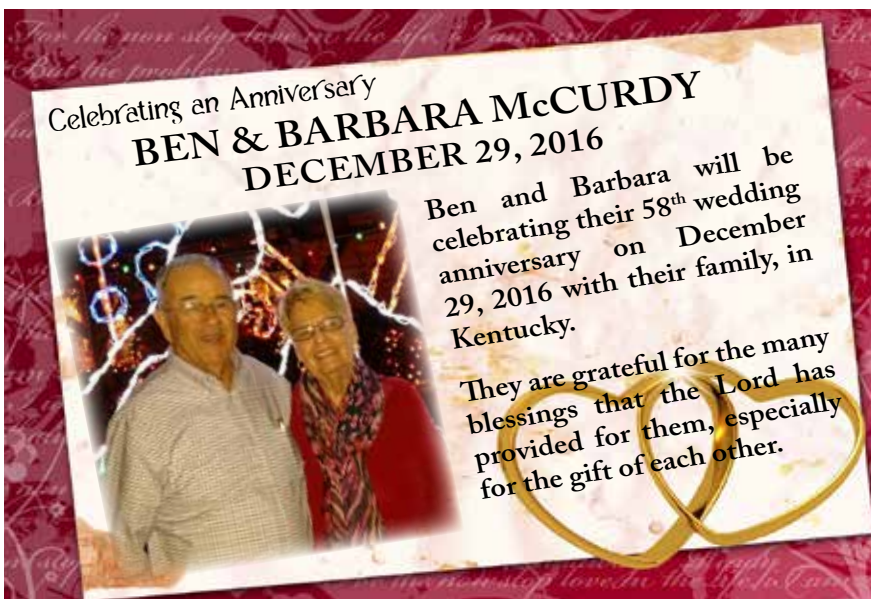
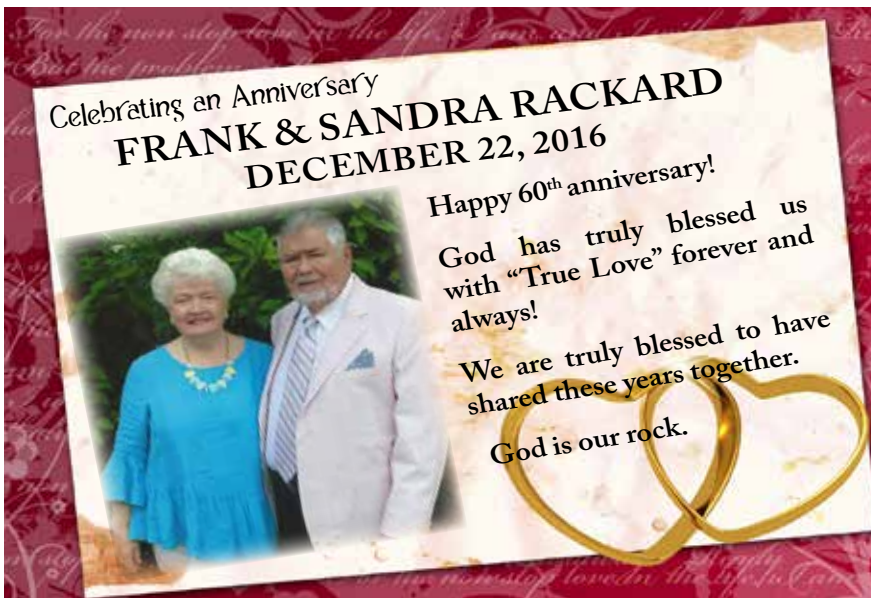


Remember?

Remember the first flush of love
 That drew you powerfully together?
 It still feeds the unassailable bond
 That makes your marriage so secure.
 Remember all the qualities about each other
 You found so endearing?
 They are still there,
 And new ones create sweet surprises.
 Remember thinking that this love
 Would last forever?
 Your love has strengthened and grown
 Into eternal affection and admiration.
 Years from now, you'll look back
 At this anniversary
 And realize you love each other
 More than ever.

Happy Anniversary!

By Joanna Fuchs poemsource.com



In loving Memory of

ARENTHA MCGHEE

MAY 30, 1921 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

The Arentha McGhee family would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown to us during the passing of our dear mother.

Special thanks to Dr. Jon Yoder, Dr. Shane Harigel, Dr. Sheldon Harigel, Atmore Family Medicine staff, Atmore Community Hospital, Atmore Ambulance Service, ACH Home Healthcare, Comfort Care Hospice, her personal caregivers, and Johnson-Quimby Funeral Home.

We also extend a heartfelt thank you to Poarch Community Church, Poarch Tribal Council and the many friends and family that helped during our time of need.

No words could ever express our appreciation for the love and support shown to us.

Thank you.

The Arentha McGhee Family



In loving Memory of

BERRY LYNN ROSS

JULY 3, 1969 - SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

We love you.

We miss you.

You will always be in our hearts.

Love you always,
Melissa, Elliot, and Troy.

*Someday I will go to him, but he
cannot come back to me.*

2 Samuel 12:23



In loving Memory of

LECIE JO MCGHEE

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING DECEMBER 9, 2001

Precious Lecie, run free with the angels
Dance around the golden clouds
For the Lord has chosen you to be with Him

And we should feel nothing but proud

Although He has taken you from us

And our pain a lifetime will last
Your memory will never escape us
But make us glad for the time we did have

Your face will always be hidden
Deep inside our hearts
Each precious moment you gave us
Shall never, ever depart

So go and run free with the angels
As they sing so tenderly
And please be sure to tell them
To take good care of you for me



Lecie Jo McGhee
March 16, 1983 - December 9, 2001
Forever in our hearts
Your family

In loving Memory of

CLOIS "BUCK" REID

FOR HIS BIRTHDAY JANUARY 6, 2017

We Still Cry

We cried when you passed away

We still cry today

Although we loved you dearly

We couldn't make you stay

Your golden heart stopped beating

We laid you down to rest

God broke our hearts to prove

That He only takes the best.

We are sad as your birthday approaches, but we know you will be joyfully celebrating this birthday in Heaven.

Not a day goes by that we do not think of you and miss you.

Buck passed away on July 24, 2016.

He was born in Uriah, AL and is the grandson of Fannie David Reid.

He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Jackie Reid as well as six children, Peggy (David) Crossley, Malcom Reid, John (Angie) Reid, James Read, Jack Reid, and Aubrey (Halie) Reid. Buck has 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at Pensacola Memorial Gardens.



Clois 'Buck' Reid
January 6, 1938 - July 24, 2016
You remain forever in our hearts.
Jackie & family.

TRIBAL MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Nathan Depetris has graduated from Dallas Baptist University with a Master's Degree in Worship Leadership with a concentration in Communications. It is Nathan's goal to find a church or ministry in which to serve to lead music and lead people to God.

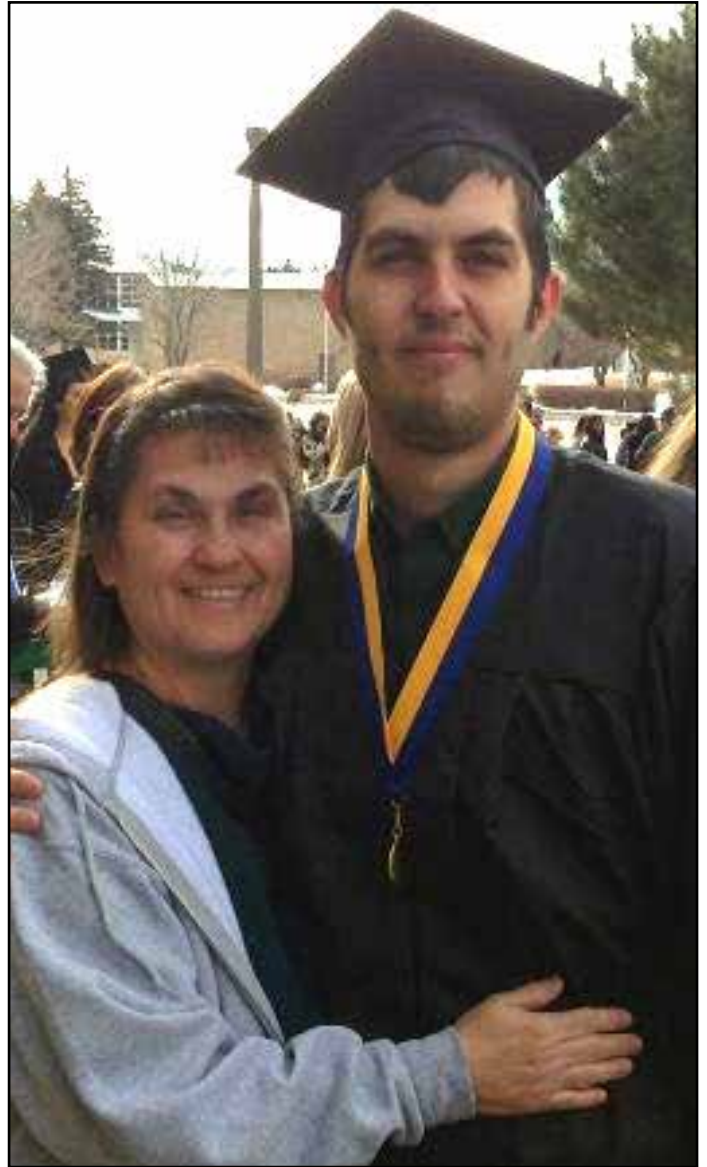
Nathan is the son of Jamie and Mark Depetris and the grandson of the late Viola "Bobby" McWilliams and James "Denny" McWilliams. He is the brother of Brittany Depetris.

Nathan has had a heart for serving others in all settings. His family is proud of what he has accomplished while pursuing his education which includes earning a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and Performance from Fort Lewis College prior to his Master's Degree from Dallas Baptist University.

Nathan is thankful for the support he has received through his educational journey. This support means a great deal to him. He feels none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his family and many others too numerous to list. He extends his thanks to the Tribe, the Education Department and its staff, and the financial funds from the First Generation Scholarship Tuition Assistance Program.

"I don't know what I would have done without such love and guidance from my late grandparents and only wish they could see me finish my degree in which they saw me through." Nathan states.

DEPETRIS GRADUATES FROM DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers for Nathan's education journey.

Congratulations Nathan! We love you so much!

The Depetris and McWilliams family.

Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy.

Norman Vincent Peale

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Karla Martin, Division Director

CULTURAL DEPARTMENT

CULTURAL DEPARTMENT OFFERS TRADITIONAL ARTS PROGRAMS

The Cultural Department now offers various clubs/classes through its Traditional Arts program.

- **Beading Club.** The Beading Club will meet on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at the offices on Highway 21 (across from Dixie Catfish Shack). Class will start at 4:00 p.m. and will meet each night of the week throughout the month of January. There will be ten(10) slots available.
- **FLM Patchwork Club.** The FLM Patchwork Club is for the parents of Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center (FLMELC) students. The FLM Patchwork Club will begin on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at the offices on Highway 21 (across from Dixie Catfish Shack). Class will start at 4:00 p.m. and will meet Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings throughout the month of January. There will be ten (10) slots available for each two week session.
- **Quilting Club.** The Quilting Club will focus on piecing a quilt top, and will meet on Friday, January 6, 2017 at the offices on Highway 21 (across from Dixie Catfish Shack). Class will start at 4:00 p.m. and will meet on Friday evenings in January ONLY.

Please fill out an application to secure your spot in the any of these clubs you may be interested in! Please remember that the FLM Patchwork Club is open to parent of students from FLMELC only.

Applications will be available on the Cultural Department page of the Tribe's website www.pci-nsn.gov. Applications will also be available at the Tribal Museum and the Cultural Department.

Please contact the Cultural Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2537 or traditionalarts@pci-nsn.gov if you have any questions.

If you haven't visited the Traditional Art's Facebook page, check them out at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/poarchtraditionalart/>

If you haven't signed up for Traditional Arts alerts, please text the word TRADARTS to the number 84483 to receive alerts from Poarch Traditional Arts. You should get a message back from a service called "RainedOut" stating that you have been successfully enrolled.



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of Business and Professional Studies



IF YOU HAD A SUPERHERO POWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

What would your superhero power be? Would you like to be like Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, the Incredible Hulk, Spiderman, etc.?

Send an email to gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov and let us know what your superhero power would be. We will publish responses in the January newsletter.

I would like to be able to transport myself wherever I wanted to go! "Beam me up Scotty!" Might not exactly be a superhero power, but that is what I, Gayle Johnson, would like to do.



Sign up today for the **2017 POW WOW CLUB**

Open to all Tribal Members and 1st Generation
Descendants

Youth Pow Wow Club

Ages 8-18

*(*Must be 8 years old by December 31, 2016*)*

Adult Pow Wow Club

Ages 19 & Older

Deadline to submit an application is **December 16, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.** Applications are available and must be returned to the Cultural Offices on Hwy 21 or mailed to:

Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Attn: Chris Blackburn

5811 Jack Springs Rd.

Atmore, AL 36502

For further information, please contact Chris Blackburn, Planning and Events Coordinator, at 251-368-9136 ext. 2052 or
Email: cblackburn@pci-nsn.gov.

NEVER THINK 'THAT WON'T HAPPEN HERE!'

A few weeks ago, Tribal Officers Craig Helton and Billy Bailey conducted an active shooter training for the Education Department.

The very next day the “Flomo Clown” incident shocked us all and made the national news. Most of the local schools went on lockdown, including the Fred L, McGhee Early Learning Center (ELC).

The ladies on staff at the ELC did ***EXACTLY*** as they had been taught the day before. They secured their building and their students, and went so far as to not allow Tribal Police to enter the facility until they were given the all clear from upper management.

While this turned out to be a non threat incident, the bottom line is the ladies at the ELC leaned on the training they had received and followed proper protocol.



Mary Boyte and Dr. Karla Martin

We all had a good laugh about the Flomo Clowns, but parents can rest assured that the ladies of the ELC will protect your children, no matter what may arise.

Karla Martin, Division Director was so impressed by their actions, she brought doughnuts for the staff and children and gave small gifts to the staff.

Fran Southard, who had refused entrance to the building to the Tribal Police, received a gift card.

We are very proud of the staff at the ELC, and grateful to our Community Services Division Director, Dr. Karla Martin, for taking time out of her jam-packed schedule to recognize the staff for a job well done.



Fran Southard

Education's Library will be **CLOSED** to the public each Tuesday and Thursday From 3:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

This will allow our teens from the Boys & Girls Club to utilize the library for tutoring and homework.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Searching for 2016–2017 Tribal Member & First Generation
High School Graduating Seniors Interested in Attending:

Cultural Exchange Abroad 2017

11 Day Trip
June 21st – July 1st

Applications are due
Monday, February 6,
2017 by 5:00 p.m.

Applications are available
online and at the
Education, Cultural, and
Community Services
Departments.

If you have any
questions, join us for an
information meeting on
Tuesday, December 13th
at 6:00 p.m. in
Building 500.

CONTACT:

Magen Weaver
mweaver@pci-nsn.gov
251-368-9136 ext. 2021

Mallory Martin
mmartin@pci-nsn.gov
251-368-9136 ext. 2930

Location: Belize



This trip is for Graduating Seniors who are
interested in learning about Indigenous
peoples in Belize.

THIS IS AN ALL EXPENSE PAID TRIP!!

Graduating seniors must complete an
application, 40 hours of community service,
must attend a 2 day course on your Poarch
Creek History and Culture, and successfully
pass a drug screening. If you do not meet all
of the requirements, you will not be able to
attend.

OFFICE OF ARCHIVES & RECORDS MANAGEMENT

SEARCHING FOR TRAIL OF TEARS FILM AT ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

"The film was beautiful. We knew we really had something!" exclaimed Professor Jim Robison, who produced the Trail of Tears film on Creek Nation East of the Mississippi in 1978 to document our history.

Tribal Chair Stephanie A. Bryan recollected being with her mother and family during the filming. "I would love to see the film," she said.

Working with Professors Haywood Handy, Dick Knight, Elizabeth Sloan-Ragland, and the Telecommunications Center at Alabama A&M University, Robinson made the 16mm film of Tribal Members performing historical reenactments.

Where is this film today? As the #1 requested archive by Tribal Members, our Team at the Office of Archives and Records Management sought to find it at Alabama A&M University October 24-28 and bring it home. We met with professors/professionals including University President Andrew Hugine who champions "projects of personal conscience" such as this undertaking with the Tribe. "These projects provide outgrowth, access, opportunities, and understanding of cultures, which fit in with who we are," said Hugine.

Interim Director Erica Fox at the University's WJAB radio station said they have continued to work on social justice projects including the



Ms. Ellen O'Barr and Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees interview Interim Director Ms. Erica Fox at WJAB Radio in Huntsville.

Selma March to Montgomery 50th anniversary—which drew Tribal sponsorship. She said she worked on interviewing Congressmen John Lewis and Bernie Sanders, and survivors of the nine church-goers killed at Emanuel AME in Charleston.

Providing extensive research, University Archivist Veronica Henderson/staff/students histrionically directed our Team to Professor Robison, now in Baldwin County. Engaging telephone discussions with him led us into a room of hundreds of recordings, guided by Director Fox and Chief Engineer Michael Morns at the Morrison Building. Searching through cabinets, we uncovered a reel-to-reel soundtrack labeled "Escambia County/1978." Hearts racing, we asked each other, "Could this be it?"

Hastily digging, we found another one, "Dr. Paredes," then, "Houston McGhee," "Jennie Dees," "Trail of Tears." After thirty-eight years,

crescendos of Hallelujah shouts and tears of joy reverberated throughout the building! Our Team found twenty-seven soundtracks that could connect with the Trail of Tears film! Digitization—underway—will reveal their veracity. With rapturous jubilation, we gave prayers of thanksgiving to Creator.

Film unfound, Professor Handy's daughter Alfreda Handy-Sullivan said her mother and grandchildren are still searching for the film in his personal archival collections.

"My mother and the whole community got involved in the film," said Tribal Council Treasurer Eddie L. Tullis. "It was really historically educational."

Did your family participate in the filming? Find out by contacting our Office at 100 Brookwood/446-4942, and our courteous Team will assist you. Mvto.

Deidra Suwannee Dees

Your Health Matters

GATHER TOGETHER IN HEALTH



FOR LOVE OF FITNESS

BY SPENCER TATUM

Advantage Training Director of Training

They say that love can move mountains. So it is with any big endeavor, especially fitness. If you discover an activity that you love, you will move more, even if you've never enjoyed exercise in the past.

When we think about our jobs, relationships and our hobbies, most of us understand that if we want to stick with something and get good at it, we need to have some passion for it. Unfortunately, when it comes to exercise, most of us slog through workouts that bore or frustrate us. We think that this is what we "should" be doing but really we should be having fun with pastimes that engage our bodies and minds, and raise our spirits.

Finding Fun

Ok, so we've established that we need to incorporate fun into our physical activity. How do we figure out where to start? Think about this: Maybe in the past you loved gardening, playing outdoors or riding your bike. All those hobbies count as exercise if you do them with an intensity that gets your heart rate going and your muscles working. It's easy to overlook fun activities because you don't consider them fitness

www.mypciwellness.com

My PCI WELLNESS

What did you love doing as a child? Were there sports you enjoyed as a kid? Did you dance? Climb monkey bars? Swim? Jump rope? Try to recall what active pastimes gave you the most joy.

related, but they are! Another mistake people make when it comes to fitness is that they assume they dislike all exercise because they haven't found that something that inspires them. For example, you go out for a run, and you find it painful and boring. You'll assume you hate all exercise because you hate running. Finding an exercise you're passionate about takes a bit of consideration, self-reflection and experimentation.

Ask yourself the following questions to help discover your fitness passion.

1. What did you love doing as a child? Were there sports you enjoyed as a kid? Did you dance? Climb on monkey bars? Swim? Jump rope? Perform gymnastics? Which active pastimes gave you the most joy? You may not be able to replicate the exact activities you did as a child say, but you can find something similar like slow-pitch softball, tennis, golf, visiting the batting cages.

2. What was difficult about fitness in the past? Look back on your life, consider what stood in the way of enjoying exercise. Consider, too, what messages and values you learned about exercise growing up. Maybe you were raised in a family that didn't value being active, or that emphasized sports and activities that weren't your natural strengths. If you had a bad experience doing pushups in grade school, for example, don't focus your energy there. You can find other things to enjoy without the emotional baggage.

3. What are your fitness goals? Give some thought

to your reasons for exercising. Are you interested in building strength or dropping weight? Do you have a specific goal, like running your first 5K or doing a pull-up? Are you just looking for fun activities that get you moving? Knowing your goals helps make sure that your workouts are both satisfying and successful.

Finding "The One"

So how do you know when you've found the right fitness activity? For some people, it's a lot like falling in love. Suddenly, they just know. For others it's just a sense of "maybe." For this reason, give a new activity at least three tries before you move on. My No. 1 measure of success with any new fitness routine is how much fun I'm having. I don't look to numbers like weight, heart rate or calories as much. It's about how good I feel.

So, try something new or reach back in your memory bank and recreate something you've enjoyed in the past. It's important to have fun so you'll look forward to exercise and how great it makes you feel. The best time to discover a new fitness passion is now! Please reach out if you have any questions, I'd love to hear from you.

Spencer



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HEALTH & ELDER SERVICES DIVISION

Edie Jackson, Division Director

LAVAN MARTIN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY (ALF)

Carnival Day At ALF!

Those were the days.....being a kid and going to a carnival! Well, the atmosphere at the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility was set just for that on Thursday, October 27, 2016!! The staff of ALF pulled out all of the stops to make this event special for our residents! From carnival games to delicious food and great prizes, our residents had a grand time feeling like a kid again!

We would like to thank Wind Creek Casino & Hotel, our Tribal Chair's office, and the Creek Travel Plaza for the gracious prize donations.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to our volunteers; Thelma Williamson, PJ Rolin, Kelli Ramer, Tawana McGhee, Joseph McGhee, and J. Ross Railey!!!

If you are looking for peace of mind and want to embrace LIFE, join our family at the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility. You may obtain additional information by contacting the ALF Administrator, Michelle Colbert Shiver, at (251) 446-4899.



UNMASKING THE FUTURE OF DIABETES



November was National Diabetes Month. During the month the diabetes team hosted an event to celebrate the month. We all know diabetes is a devastating disease that impacts the lives of so many; so what, you may ask, could we possibly find to celebrate.

Simply put, we celebrate life! Thanks to all the wonderful medical advancements; diabetes is no longer a death sentence. We now have the tools to empower ourselves with the knowledge to control diabetes

if we have it and also prevent or delay it, if we don't. People with diabetes control their own destiny. Remember diabetes doesn't have to control you. If you have diabetes, get your annual exams to detect problems early. You are worth it.

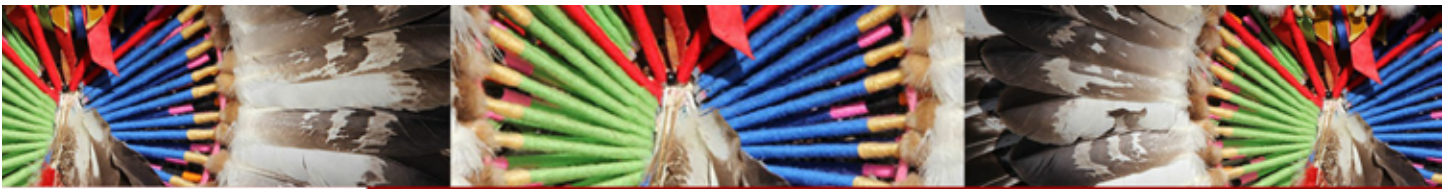
A special thank you to everyone that helped to make our masquerade ball a great success. Thank you also to Wind Creek Casino and the Tribal Council for providing the ballroom and extra resources that make this event possible.

Common symptoms of diabetes include:

- Frequent urination
- Constant thirst
- Fatigue
- Blurry vision
- Cuts or sores that won't heal

If you want more information or have questions, please call 251-368-9136 ext. 2326 and ask to speak to a diabetes educator.





The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Top Three Causes of Death 2002-2015

Heart Disease

Heart disease was the leading cause of death



Cancer

Cancer was the second leading cause of death, and lung cancer was the most common type



Kidney Disease

Kidney disease was the third leading cause of death



According to the 2016 United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Mortality Report, the average age at death for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians was 68. This is far below the national average for the U.S., which is 79.

2002-2015 Deaths

Heart Disease

122 Tribal Citizens died due to heart disease*

Cancer

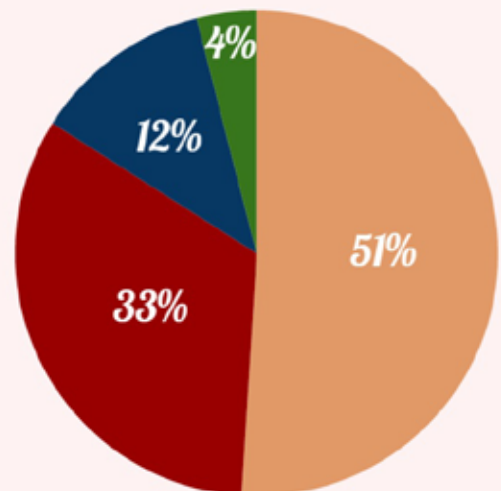
42 Tribal Citizens died due to cancer*

Kidney Disease

13 Tribal Citizens died due to kidney disease*

Other Causes

187 Tribal Citizens died due to other causes*



*This report only reflects those Tribal Citizens for whom USET obtained records for.



Making one small change towards a healthy lifestyle is better than no change at all. It's never too late to start!

Heart Disease Prevention ABCs



Avoid tobacco



Become more active



Choose good nutrition

Common Warning Signs of a Heart Attack

Shortness of Breath

Cold Sweats, Nausea or Lightheadedness

Discomfort in Upper Body

Chest Pain

If you think you are having a heart attack, call 911



Many cancer deaths could be prevented by early detection.

Recommended Cancer Screenings for Women



Pap Smear every 3 years (if normal) for ages 24-64*

Mammogram every 2 years (if normal) for ages 52-64*

Colonoscopy every 10 years (if normal) for ages 50-75*

Recommended Cancer Screenings for Men



Colonoscopy every 10 years (if normal) for ages 50-75*

Prostate exam every year for ages 50 and older according to the American Cancer Society

*According to 2016 Indian Health Service Government Performance and Results Act Logic



Kidney disease often has no symptoms until it is very advanced. A simple urine test can tell you if you have kidney disease.

Prevention Tips

1. Don't smoke
2. Lower salt in your diet
3. Exercise
4. Avoid alcohol

Major Risk Factors Include

1. Diabetes
2. High blood pressure
3. Heart disease
4. Family history of kidney disease

TIPS FOR THIS FLU SEASON

The Nasty Flu Bug has already invaded the Poarch Community and the surrounding areas. The Medical providers at the Poarch Creek Indians Health Department's Ambulatory Clinic have already identified several patients who have tested positive for the Flu.

How Can You Protect Your Family?

The following are some simple steps that you can take to help keep yourself, your child, and your entire family healthy this flu season:

- Get vaccinated. According to the centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the influenza vaccination is safe and effective and is the single best way to help protect yourself and your family from the flu each year.
- Wash your hands. Frequent hand washing keeps lots of germs out of our bodies. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer.

- Stay home if you don't feel well. Should you become infected, keep the germs from spreading by staying home-and don't forget to take care of yourself!
- Do the elbow cough. Cough into elbows, not hands where it's more likely to spread bacteria and viruses through touch.

Remember:

- It is impossible for the Flu vaccine to give you the flu because it is not a live vaccine.
- The side effects of the Flu vaccine are very mild (and nothing compared to having the flu).
- It takes 2 weeks for the flu vaccine to take effect so get it as soon as possible.
- We have plenty of Flu vaccine available in the Health Department for patients 6 months old and over.

Please call the Poarch Health Department at 251-368-9136 to schedule your Flu Shot.

***Tribal Health Department will close at 12:00 noon on Friday, December 2, 2016;
Health Department will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 5, 2016.***

ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS: LAB AND X-RAY SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOU

We're striving to improve and give the best quality of healthcare here at the Health Department. We would like for you to remember the services that we offer right here in Poarch, at no additional cost to you.

We have a Laboratory that can perform almost any blood test that can be ordered.

Also, we have a Radiology department that performs X-RAYS and Ultrasounds.

When you go to specialists and they order bloodwork and/or radiology services that we can offer here at the

Health Department, kindly ask them if you can have them done here.

We'll be glad to fax them the results. The time it takes us to get results is fast, and we'll be glad to perform those services. We want your business and are here for you!

Call us at 251-368-8630 if you have questions.

Dr. Jamie McKinley
Chief Physician/Chief Medical Officer



Important notice to all Tribal Members that are enrolled in Alabama Medicaid!

The Poarch Creek Indian Health Department is pleased to announce that our Medical providers now participate in Alabama Medicaid-Patient First Program. If you are currently enrolled in Alabama Medicaid and want to continue seeing your PCI Health Department Doctor, our registration staff will be happy to assist you in the process of selecting us as your primary care provider at your next scheduled appointment at the PCI Health Department.

Changing your Primary Care Provider to one of our physicians will greatly improve the referral process if a specialty physician is needed for your care.

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PRIMARY CARE CLINIC INITIATES 24-HOUR ANSWERING SERVICE

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Primary Care Clinic now has a 24-hour answering service.

We have contracted with Dr. Shane Harigel and Dr. Sheldon Harigel for after-hours phone call services.

This service will be for urgent medical questions only outside of the normal business hours of Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. This service can be reached after hours by calling (251) 368-8630.

Please note that this service is NOT for medication refills, appointment requests, or lab results. Do not call the Answering Service and ask for a staff member to return your call. Those calls/questions should be made during normal business hours.

As always, if you have a potential life threatening emergency, call 911 immediately for emergency services.

We welcome all Tribal Members to utilize our healthcare services, and it is a pleasure to serve your healthcare needs at the Health Department.



*James E. "Jamie" McKinley, M.D., M.S.
Chief Physician/Chief Medical Officer*

MEDICATIONS MAY COME IN DIFFERENT PACKAGING



Please be aware that your medications may come in different bottles or packaging. Medications from different manufacturers may also look different.




Please do not hesitate to call the Pharmacy at (251) 368-9136 x 2304 if you have any questions.

REMINDERS TO ALL OUR PATIENTS

Remember that one of our providers will continue to see patients during the traditional lunch hour. Visits are scheduled by appointment only. A limited number of visits each day are reserved for "work ins"; so if you are sick and require a "work in" appointment, please call the clinic early in the morning and we will do our best to assign an appointment time that day.

Please bring the following items on every visit to the Health Department: Driver's License, Tribal ID, Insurance card, and medication List

These items are needed so that we may keep all your information and medications updated.



Health & Elder Services Purpose

Focusing on prevention and well-being through a variety of medical and educational programs, we guide our members to make choices that will enhance their quality of life and help them make healthy choices that are in their best interest.

We want all Tribal Members to feel their best so they can live life to its fullest.

Poarch Band of Creek Indians

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

Bruce Lee, Division Director

TRIBAL COURT

PUNT, PASS, AND KICK DRUGS OUT OF OUR COMMUNITY

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Drug Court's 2nd annual "Punt, Pass, and Kick Drugs Out Of Our Community" was a huge success. The event was held on October 11, 2016 reaching well over 150 community members with our drug free message from our speaker Mr. Mike Lutzenkirchen.

Mr. Lutzenkirchen is the father of Auburn football player, Phillip Lutzenkirchen who died in a drunk driving accident. He spoke against drunk driving, and the influence of friends and the importance of wearing a seat belt. His message was very powerful, from the heart, and well received by everyone who attended.



The Drug Court Team and participants had a lot of fun working with the children on their football punts, passes, and kicks.

Prizes were given out for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each age group. All in attendance received a t-shirt, and to the delight of everyone, the Kona Ice Truck made a special appearance.

The Drug Court Team and participants would like to give a special thanks to the Recreation staff for all of their help with this spectacular event.

DRUG COURT PARTICIPANTS VOLUNTEER AT PRODISEE PANTRY

The Drug Court staff and participants volunteered at Prodissee Pantry in Spanish Fort on October 29, 2016 filling over 1,500 boxes for needy families for Thanksgiving. The participants and staff left the pantry feeling blessed and thankful for all of the blessings we have in our lives.

We were thankful to be able to be a part of nourishing a community with respect, kindness, and food without judgement. We will definitely be back in December for the filling of the Christmas boxes.



Submitted by: Keesha O'Barr, Tribal Court Administrator

TRIBAL COURT ANNOUNCES POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Tribal Court held its 2nd Annual Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest in October. Tribal Court would like to thank everyone that participated; well over 100 posters were submitted for the contest. All of the posters were colorful and creative, making the judge's job very difficult.

Seth Hammonds won Best Slogan in the 5-7 year old age group with his slogan "Me and my pawpaw don't do drugs, we fish!" Carson Wilson won Best Slogan in the 8-11 year old age group with his slogan "Drugs wreck lives!" Caitlyn Lambeth won Best Slogan in the 12-14 year old age group with her slogan "Stay in the game; Just say NO!" Halle Ra Peebles won Best Slogan in the 15-17 year age group with her slogan "If I stay clean I can be anything." Malori McGhee won the Best Slogan in the Adult category with her slogan "Be a Warrior Against Drugs."

Thanks to the Boys & Girls Club and the Education Department for all of their help with this project.

Drugs are a huge problem, not only in the Poarch community but throughout our country. Alcoholism and drug abuse cut across all age groups, races, and social and economic levels.

As a member of the Poarch community, you can help make things better. It is everyone's responsibility to educate the young people in our community about the dangers of drugs, and to help ensure young people have healthy outlets such as jobs, chemical-free entertainment, athletic and art outlets, and educational opportunities. All of these can provide fulfilling goals that help keep young people rooted in society instead of looking for an escape.

Please join Tribal Court in the battle against drugs on the reservation.

5-7yr



1st Kyndal Hadley
2nd Bryce Miller
3rd Ellie Bartley

Best Slogan: Seth Hammonds

8-11yr



1st Clifton Quiggins
2nd Jazen Quiggins
3rd Lance Presley

Best Slogan: Carson Wilson

12-14yr



1st Karleigh Patrick
2nd Caitlyn Lambeth
3rd Aron Chavira

Best Slogan: Caitlyn Lambeth

15-17yr



1st Devin Wooten
2nd Halle Ra Peebles
3rd Lukas Presley

Best Slogan: Halle Ra Peebles

Adults



1st Malori McGhee
2nd Willard Rayborn III
Best Slogan: Malory McGhee

Congratulations to all of our Poster Contest winners as well as all those who participated.

Together we can defeat the hold drugs has on our community.

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- » Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



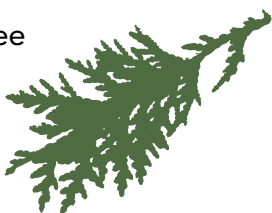
PLACING THE TREE

- » Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- » Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- » Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- » Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- » Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- » Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- » Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **One** of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every four** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA® NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Poarch Creek Fire Department

251-368-9136 ext 2290

www.nfpa.org/education

Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.



HOLIDAY DECORATING

- » Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- » Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- » Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- » Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- » Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- » Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- » Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- » Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- » Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- » Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ! **Two of every five** home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! **Nearly half** of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

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Poarch Creek Fire Department

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www.nfpa.org/education

TRIBAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



Fire Truck and crew from Station #1 take Fire Prevention Week to Freemanville Head Start.



Pre-K students from Escambia Academy also made a visit to see Sparky and to tour Station #2 during Fire Prevention Week.



Shown above, the students from the Fred L. McGhee Learning Center made a visit to see Sparky and to tour Station #2 during Fire Prevention Week in October.

TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRIBAL TIP LINE

Call (251) 446-ITIP (446-4847) to leave an anonymous tip about:

- Drug Activity
- Alcohol Activity
- Known Underage Drinking Parties
- Recent Crimes-Thefts, Vandalism, Drug Sales, etc.
- Bullying
- Concealed Weapons
- Other Safety or Community Concerns

As a partner with our Tribal Community, the Poarch Creek Tribal Police Department is pleased to provide this service.

We hope this service will be a great benefit to you as a citizen. Together we can make our community safer.

The Tip Line is not monitored; your name or phone number will never be required.

All information provided via the Tip Line will be investigated.



Tribal Tip Line * (251) 446-TIP * (446-4847)

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REGULATORY, GRANTS, & COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Carolyn White, Division Director

ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY EXCELS



The Household Hazardous and Electronics Recycling Event was held on October 29, 2016. This event was one of the best attended events in the last couple of years. A total of 77 cars came through the event!

As in the past, there were two vendors on-site to help with the event. The household hazardous waste was handled by Stericycle and the electronics were handled by AT Recycling.

The Environmental Department has worked with Stericycle for the last 7 years. The Environmental

Department has worked with AT Recycling for three out of the last four events. Both companies are terrific to work with and are a great help at the events.

At the last three events we have had help from our EPA 319 Non-Point Source Water Program Project Office, Sharon Brown. Sharon has been a big help at our events and has made suggestions on expanding the events. Having a project officer at the events gives the Department a chance to show that the program has expanded from the time that EPA was funding the events.

The event was a success that saw more materials received than at the last couple of events. AT Recycling hauled 18 pallets of electronics away. Stericycle almost filled a tractor trailer with household hazardous waste.

The Department will be receiving information from both vendors in the coming months on the amounts of materials that were received. The next event is scheduled for April 2017.

*Submitted by:
Tiffany Janes,
Environmental Specialist I
Solid Waste Management Program*

TRIBAL MEMBER SERVICES DIVISION

Martha Gookin, Division Director

FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF TRIBAL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

2016 KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Family Services Department will host the 2016 Kid's Christmas Party at the Wind Creek Cinema on Thursday, December 8, 2016 starting at 5:30 p.m.

- The theater has been reserved for this event.
- The times for the movie to start will be staggered to allow everyone a chance to see the movie.

- Seating in each theater room is limited. Once a theater room is filled, the remaining participants will go to the next theater and so on. The movie will start as soon as the theater is full.

- Free food. A hot dog, candy, and a drink will be served prior to the movie starting.
- Each participant will be able to see the movie one time and will then be given an opportunity to

take a picture with Santa and receive a Christmas gift.

Plan to join us for this event and also take time to enjoy the beautiful Christmas lights in the Wind Creek Casino's amphitheater area!

Contact Family Services at (251) 368-9136 x 2600 if you have questions or need more information.

You must have pre-registered for this event. The deadline to register was Friday, November 11, 2016.

Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
For loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away
Like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others is good you do yourself...

~Norman Wesley Brooks (1923–2002)




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IT'S TIME TO UPDATE FOR THE TAHO PROGRAM

Tribal Members 21 years of age or older, interested in a new house, must come into the PCI Housing Department and submit a new application even if you already have an application on file.

Listed are some of the items you will need to provide:

- A copy of 2015 tax returns;
- Social Security card(s) of all persons listed on the application;
- Tribal ID card(s);
- Letter of First Generation Indian Descendant if applicable;
- Custody verification; homeless verification; substandard living verification;
- Must have a credit score of 550 or higher;
- Must live in the Tribe's service area: Monroe, Mobile, Elmore, Montgomery, Baldwin, and Escambia County Alabama and Escambia County Florida;
- Must not have participated in any homeownership program for five (5) years;
- Must qualify for very low income, low income, or over income;
- Must not have withdrawn for the TAHO Program or declined in the past twelve (12) months;
- Plus other required documents.

LAST DAY TO UPDATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016

Questions? Contact Wendy Davis at (251) 368-9136 x 2257 or wdavis@pci-nsn.gov.

FOUR TAHO HOMES COMPLETED

Four Tribal Member families have moved into their new homes constructed through the Tribal Assisted Home Ownership (TAHO) Program.

Pictured to the left are Monica and Chad Johnson on the porch of their new home in Brewton; they moved into their new home on October 13, 2016.

Trent Flowers and his family moved into their new home in Atmore on October 11, 2016.

Theresa Rutherford and her family moved into their new home in the Bell Creek sub-division on October 13, 2016.

Crystal Sawyer moved into her new home in the Bell Creek sub-division on October 19, 2016.

Congratulations to these new Tribal Member homeowners!



HOUSING DEPARTMENT OFFERS TWO DIFFERENT REHABILITATION PROGRAMS ONE FOR THE ELDERLY & DISABLED, AND ONE FOR HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

EMERGENCY REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Emergency Rehabilitation Program is for elderly and disabled Tribal Members.

Housing completed eleven (11) projects for this program in the months of September and October, with one (1) being outside of the service area. These projects consisted of roof repair, heating and cooling, wheelchair ramps, and handicap bathrooms.

REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Rehabilitation Program is for Tribal Members who live inside the service area, and have health or safety issues in their homes.

Housing completed one (1) project in the month of October for this program.

WINTER HOME MAINTENANCE TIPS

Preparing your home for winter is an important annual ritual for homeowners here are some helpful items:

HEATING SYSTEM

Before you use your heating system this winter, take the time for preventive maintenance. It may help extend the life of your system and identify potential problems.

BEFORE WINTER:

- Replace your filter.
- Have your chimney checked and serviced by a licensed contractor at least once a year. Pay attention to having the creosote buildup removed from chimneys.

DURING WINTER:

- Set your heat no lower than 55 degrees as the temperature inside the walls where water piping is located is colder than the living spaces.
- Open doors to unoccupied rooms to keep an even temperature throughout the house.
- Have your fuel tanks for your home filled and keep an eye on levels throughout the winter.

INSULATION

An important line of defense from winter's gusty winds and freezing temperatures, it is worth taking time to inspect and upgrade insulation and weather stripping before the season starts.

- Add weather stripping around doors and caulk windows to help guard against drafts and heat loss.
- Remove screens from windows and install storm windows, if appropriate.

UTILITIES

Freezing temperatures can be damaging to your home's water piping. Make sure your pipes are adequately prepared to withstand a cold snap and remember to take extra precautions if you are going to be leaving your home, including shutting off your water.

- Check for water leaks and fix problems immediately.
- Wrap water piping in UL-List heat tape and insulate if it is exposed in unheated areas such as garages, crawl spaces or attics. Use only thermostatically-controlled heat tape if your water piping is plastic, and follow the manufacture's installation instructions.
- Learn how to shut off your water and know where your pipes are located in case they freeze; you may be able to prevent water damage.

WINTER SAFETY MEASURES

As you prepare for winter, follow some further safety measures that are especially important during the cold season.

- Trim trees and remove dead branches so they do not damage your home or injure someone if they fall.
- Keep gutters clean of leaves, sticks, and other debris to help ensure melting snow can drain properly. Make sure downspouts direct water away from foundation.
- Repair steps and handrails to help prevent falling hazards.
- Check smoke detectors, fire alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors; replace batteries to ensure they are operating properly.

TRIBAL MEMBER BENEFITS DEPARTMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS

DECEMBER 16, 2016 UPDATE DEADLINE QUICKLY APPROACHING

- If you have any changes to your current bank account, please make the necessary changes NO LATER THAN December 16, 2016 for your 2017 General Welfare Exclusion Benefit Distribution.
Health Insurance Marketplace Resource Navigator Information
- If you have not turned in your 2017 Benefit Application your DBS Health and Utility benefits will be DELAYED.
In-Service Area Alabama Residences
Kay Gattis (251) 368-9136 x 2387
kgattis@pci-nsn.gov
- You must now provide a document showing proof of residency before changing your address.
In-Service Area Florida Residences
Juanita Mainster (305) 281-2782
jmainster@efof.org
- Please make sure you have a Burial Enrollment form on file. If you have not submitted a completed enrollment form, funds will only be disbursed to the officiating funeral home upon receipt of an invoice and death certificate for the deceased member.
Out-of-Service Area
ACA Enroll Market Place Solutions
(844) 208-7484
www.acaenroll.com/poarchcreek
- If you have not signed up for individual health insurance, you must do so to be eligible for your 2017 DBS Health and Utility Benefits. Marketplace navigators are listed in the next column.
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tribal Member Benefits at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2209.

Tribal Member Benefits Open Enrollment deadline: November 30, 2016.

You must have made your benefit selections by November 30, 2016 to receive benefit funding in January of 2017. Call 1-844-969-8627 for additional information.



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Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Direct Deposit Agreement Form

Roll #: _____

Tribal Member Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Per-Cap _____ Elder _____ DBS Utility & Health Reimbursements _____

You MUST attach a voided check for payments to checking accounts OR a copy of your debit card if you have a pre-paid debit card account and return this form to the Tribal Member Benefits Department. We will not accept this form without this information.

Authorization Agreement

I hereby authorize the Poarch Band of Creek Indians to initiate automatic deposits to my account at the financial institution named below. I also authorize Poarch Band of Creek Indians to make withdrawals from this account in the event that a credit entry is made in error. Further, I agree not to hold Poarch Band of Creek Indians responsible for any delay or loss of funds due to incorrect or incomplete information supplied by me or by my financial institution or due to an error on the part of my financial institution in depositing funds to my account. This agreement will remain in effect until Poarch Band of Creek Indians receives a written notice of cancellation from me or my financial institution, or until I submit a new direct deposit form to the Tribal Member Benefits Department.

Account Information

Name of Financial Institution: _____

Address of Financial Institution: _____

Routing Number: _____

Account Number: _____

_____ Money Market Account _____ Checking Account _____ Savings Account

Notarized Signature

Authorized Signature (Primary): _____ Date: _____

Authorized Signature (Joint): _____ Date: _____

Signed before me this _____ day of _____, _____

Notary: _____

My Commission Expires: _____

My Commission Number: _____

IMPORTANT 2017 GENERAL WELFARE EXCLUSION BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

- If you have a pre-paid debit card account, please check the expiration date to ensure the card is active. If your pre-paid debit card has expired, *please contact your financial institution.*
- Please make the necessary changes and submit a new direct deposit form. You ***MUST*** attach a copy of your pre-paid debit card to the new direct deposit form. *The Tribal Member Benefits Department will not accept this form without this information. The deadline for these changes is December 16, 2016 at 5:00p.m.*

*If you have questions, you may contact Tribal Member Benefits at
251-368-9136 ext. 2209*

DBS BENNY HEALTH ACCOUNT

If you have the Marketplace Health Insurance and your health premiums are paid from your DBS Benny Health Account, you must contact Tribal Member Benefits if you have an increase or decrease in your monthly premium amounts. You will need to provide the proper documentation showing the new premium amounts.

When enrolling in the 2017 Tribal Benefits Program you will need to include the new premium documentation.

NON-DIVISIONAL DEPARTMENTS

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Friday, December 2, 2016 Tribal Health Department will close at 12:00 noon for an Employee Morale event/activity.

Friday, December 16, 2016 Government offices, including Boys & Girls Club, gym, and Museum, will close at 12:30 p.m. for the Employee Christmas Party.

Friday, December 23, 2016 Government offices, including Boys & Girls Club, gym, and Museum, will be closed in observance of Christmas Eve.

Monday, December 26, 2016 Government offices, including Boys & Girls Club, gym, and Museum, will be closed in observance of Christmas Day.

Friday & Saturday, December 30 & 31, 2016 The Recreation Department will close at 12:00 noon on Friday December 30th and will remain closed on Saturday, December 31st to prepare for a cultural event.

Monday, January 2, 2017 Government offices, including Boys & Girls Club, gym, and Museum, will be closed in observance of New Years Day.

Please remember these closures when planning your visits to the Tribal Complex, Pharmacy, Health Clinic, gym, Museum, or other Tribal Governmental offices.

2016 CHRISTMAS PARADE AND CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

This year's Christmas Parade has been scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2016. The theme for this year's parade is "A Colorful Christmas", each float will be decorated in their selected color scheme.

The parade will begin at 5:30 pm and will start at Building 300 and take a left on to Martin Road, the route will then take a right on to Green Road followed by a left on Lynn McGhee Drive. The parade will end at the gravel entrance to the parking area across the road from Arrowhead Park.

The Poarch Creek Christmas Festival will begin immediately following the Christmas Parade. The Christmas Festival will be located in the parking lot of the Wellness Center (Gym).

There will be no vehicle parking along Lynn McGhee Drive. Handicapped parking will be available. Tribal Police will be blocking off sections of Lynn McGhee Drive; please pay close attention to their directions as they direct you to the proper areas for parking.

Watch the newsletter, Tribal web site, and social media for further details and information about the parade and Christmas Festival.

Tribal Members interested in having a booth at the Christmas Festival should contact Sehoy Spence, Employee Events Coordinator, at (251) 368-9136 x 2260 or sspence@pci-nsn.gov.

TRIBAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

"The road to success is always under construction." (Chinese Proverb)

PCI Utilities is always under construction, whether that be upgrading water lines, replacing old meters to the new Neptune Radio Read, or administrative. We are always trying to improve services to our Tribal Community and ECU as we strive for excellence.

The Canoe Improvements Project has started. The first segment under construction is Tumbling Lane, and the next segment will be Nichols Avenue. With these segments replaced it should greatly reduce water service interruption for our Canoe (ECU) customers. We continue to ask customers to be patient as we work through these upgrades.

The Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund Project went out for bid in October 2016. Bids were opened on



November 15, 2016. Construction should begin soon.

We are pleased to welcome a new, yet experienced asset, to our team, Rebecca Black, Customer Service Supervisor. Rebecca brings ten years of experience in Tribal accounting and utility billing to Utilities.

We are always here to answer any questions or concerns. Should you need assistance, please contact our office Monday through Friday from 7a.m. to 4p.m. at 251-446-1617.

The staff and Utility Authority Board would like to wish you and your family a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

334-514-2700

Holiday travel tips



INTERSTATE CCS
WETUMPKA

Prepare for traveling during the holidays with these tips from Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka.

89 River Oaks Drive, Wetumpka, AL 36092

251-446-3423
magnoliabrand.com

Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve

CAMPING ESSENTIALS

Everything you need for camping at Magnolia Branch

What's on your must-have list for outdoor adventures?



CREEK
Travel Plaza

4740 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, Ala.
Interstate 65, exit 54

 251-368-0088



We can accommodate tour buses, RV's and many other large vehicles at Creek Travel Plaza!

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are waiting
ON YOU



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CIEDA

SMALL BUSINESS
Loan Program

If you are a Tribal Member who owns a business or is considering starting a business and are interested in obtaining a small business loan, you may request additional information or schedule an appointment by calling the CIEDA offices at 251-368-0819. Please ask for Ed Powell, Business Development Analyst (epowell@pcicie.com) or Chad Klinck, CIEDA CFO (cklinck@pcicie.com).

Working as the economic development arm of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA) oversees the nongaming businesses owned by the Tribe. CIEDA actively supports each business, achieving their specific business goals and to grow and maintain economic stability as put forth by the CIEDA Board of Directors and Tribal Council. CIEDA also executes and oversees building, construction and development projects commissioned by the Tribe.

Getting your loan request approved depends on how well you represent:

- Yourself
- Your business
- Your financial needs

The lending limit may extend up to \$100,000 in aggregate to any Tribal Member.

All loans exceeding \$50,000 must be approved by the CIEDA Board of Directors. Additional credit criteria, as well as loan collateralization requirements, apply.

Lending Guidelines

Are you or have you...

- At least 18 year of age?
- An enrolled member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians?
- Established a one year period of residency at your current address?
- Have a credit score of at least 650?
- Have had the same job or worked in the area of business in which the loan is being requested for atleast one year?
- Own atleast 51% of the business that the loan is being applied for?
- Providing real value for your stated ownership in the business?
- Receiving a percentage of all profits that are equal to your ownership stake in the business?

If so, you are a good match for the loan program!

Will I have to disclose personal information?

Yes, personal information, such as tax returns, credit score and a personal financial statement, are required.

How do the rates compare to banks and financial institutions?

Often the CIEDA loan program lending rates are more competitive than traditional banks.

How successful is the CIEDA loan program?

To date this program has a 95 percent success rate.

Last minute gift ideas

 **CREEK**
Travel Plaza

Poarch Creek Indian-made jewelry
makes a great Christmas gift!



Get Poarch logo items plus authentic
artisan jewelry here in our store.

1st Place

in the state of Alabama



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist



Award winning truck stop

Back in August, it was revealed that Creek Travel Plaza (CTP) was ranked No. 24 for truck stops in America. That's a big accolade, but now it has been learned that CTP is ranked No. 1 in the state of Alabama!

Out of 46 truck stops listed by state, CTP is the highest ranked in Alabama by users of the Trucker Path mobile app.

"We thought being No. 24 in the whole country was

awesome, but this; this is beyond amazing,"

General Manager

Tammy Smith said. "We know Creek Travel Plaza is a special place, but to learn that our customers think that as well just humbles me."

CREEK

Travel Plaza

Trucker Path is an app that lets users give other travelers useful information, such as parking, weigh stations and more. According to its website, the app is a trip planning companion for truck drivers, enabling a large community of drivers to help update the real-time status of places on their route.

Upon hearing about Creek Travel Plaza's newest rank, President and CEO of Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority James T. Martin said, "We are honored and extremely proud to receive this designation from the people we serve. This achievement shows us we are doing something right, and we now set our goals even higher. The employees and management at Creek Travel Plaza are outstanding workers, and I praise their willingness to serve and their commitment to making our truck stop the best of the best."





Customer incentives

Creek Convenience Stores use promotions, contests to drive sales

Innovation is key for retail businesses to stay current and competitive in the local markets they serve. There are many ways for businesses to capture new customers and retain loyal ones. One of those ways is through promotions and contests.

Creek Convenience Store Atmore (CCSA), Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka (CCSW) and Creek Travel Plaza (CTP) have used promotions and contests throughout 2016 to engage customers in utilizing what each store has to offer.

In September, all three stores celebrated National Coffee Day by offering customers a free 16 oz. coffee with the purchase of gasoline. All patrons needed to do was buy gas at that store and show the receipt to the cashiers inside.

"It's a fun way to get people to interact with us and come inside the store," CCSA General Manager Susie McCann said. "A lot of times once we

get them in the store, they will make an additional purchase they normally wouldn't have if it hadn't been for the promotion or giveaway. By coming inside, it might trigger a memory of something they need or wanted but didn't take the time to pick up before."

CCSW General Manager Ellis Martin agreed. "We enjoy getting to know our customers," he said. "And the only way to do that is if they come inside and interact with us. When we offer a contest, this gives people the chance to participate in something fun and unique. We always have a high participation rate of people who sign up for contests or come in for promotional items. And many times they say 'It's a good thing I came in today. I needed to get A, B or C.'"

And it's not just contests or giveaways that drive people inside. CCSA and CCSW are always promoting best-selling items, such as discount tobacco products. The two convenience

stores excel in advertising to customers about these items on social media.

Facebook is the main avenue for the stores, as is Pinterest and Instagram. CCSA has 51 likes on Facebook while CCSW has 192 likes. The Pinterest and Instagram accounts include all businesses under Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority, but Creek Convenience Store Atmore and Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka are pretty active on each site.

If you haven't already, go check out the Facebook, Pinterest and Instagram accounts. CCSA can be found at facebook.com/ccsatmore. CCSW is at facebook.com/ccswetumpka. Look on Pinterest at pinterest.com/pcicieda and on Instagram for the name [@pcicie22](https://instagram.com/pcicie22) as well as [@socialatmore](https://instagram.com/socialatmore). Like and follow our pages and help support our stores. And watch for upcoming promos and contests. You could be the next winner.

CONTESTS

PROMOS

SALES



Instagram: [@pcicie22](https://instagram.com/pcicie22)

[@socialatmore](https://instagram.com/socialatmore)

Facebook: facebook.com/ccsatmore

facebook.com/ccswetumpka

Pinterest: pinterest.com/pcicieda



CCSA FACEBOOK



CCSW FACEBOOK

T OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING during the winter

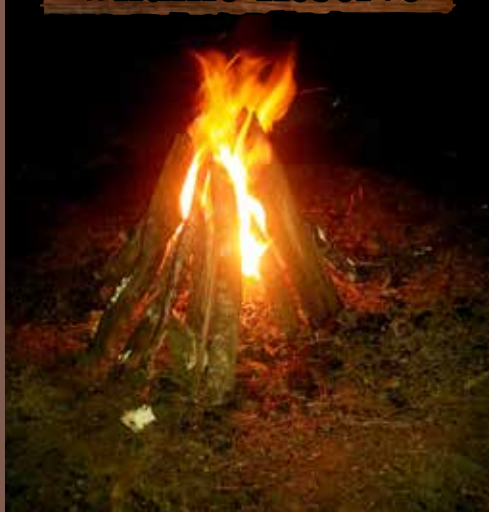
By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

Outdoor entertaining has never been more popular. According to the American Home Furnishings Alliance's (AHFA) 2015 Outdoor Furniture Trend Report, out-of-doors areas on large properties, such as Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve offers, are the favored venues for celebrations with family and friends.

Although outdoor entertaining was once relegated to the warm weather seasons, advancements in technology have now made it more comfortable and enjoyable to entertain outdoors for much of the year. But hosts who want to extend the outdoor party after summer has come and gone should consider a few important entertaining tips when the winter sets in:



Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve



- **Start the party early.** Temperatures can drop considerably once the sun begins to set, so starting early can save hosts and their guests from the harsh cold air. At Magnolia Branch, we offer pavilions for rent for large gatherings, such as reunions, weddings or your average cookout. **Reservations are necessary for the picnic pavilions, and must be paid before the day of use. The cost is \$30 per day.**

- **Heat things up.** The AHFA report found that 38 percent of winter outdoor entertaining involved the use of fire pits to keep guests warm as the sun goes down and the night air gets chilly. And campfires not only provide a heating source, but also a way to cook.

- **Change the menu.** Grilling hot dogs and hamburgers is great when entertaining outdoors in fall and winter, but hosts might want to consider other options as it gets colder. Bring a pot to make soup in over the fire. From potato soup to chili, get creative and serve up something different this winter. And in lieu of cold beverages like lemonade and soda, serve hot chocolate or cider to keep guests warm.

Outdoor entertaining need not end because fall has come and gone. But with these suggestions, hosts can take a different approach when throwing outdoor gatherings at Magnolia Branch in the winter.

Mentorship earns MT award



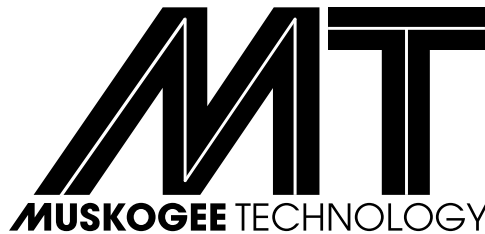
Muskogee Technology was honored by the Mobile Chamber of Commerce recently as the recipient of the Rev. Wesley A. James Minority Business Award winner. This award is given to businesses for its outreach, supplier diversity programs and community involvement specifically geared to helping minority-owned companies succeed.

Although Muskogee Technology is itself a minority-owned company, it also seeks out other minorities and Native American-owned businesses and mentors them in how to do business successfully.

“We have been privileged to be a part of two Department of Defense mentor/protégé programs and have learned a great deal as a protégé. It is only fair we pass on the knowledge we have learned to other minority-owned businesses,” Director of Marketing Mal McGhee said.

McGhee said through the Mobile Chamber of Commerce, he has had the opportunity to mentor those referred to him and help them further their business and is a member of the chamber’s diversity outreach committee.

“It’s a joy to be able to advise and give guidance to those who need it,” he said. “Muskogee Technology is in a fortunate position to be able to do these things. We have come a long way and now is our time to give back and assist others.”



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist



Careers in AGRICULTURE

A career in agriculture can prove richly rewarding. Opportunities to work in the agriculture industry stretch beyond the farm and into the corporate world. The following are a few of the paths men and women with a passion for agriculture can pursue. **Perdido River Farms (PRF) is a prime example for each of these areas in agriculture.**

Social service: The agricultural industry also has positions of social service, including environmental consultant and conservation officer. Men and women also can work to develop programs that encourage youngsters to pursue careers in the agricultural industry. **David Elliott is the Tribal liaison for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He works closely with PRF General Manager John English to get assistance for ongoing conservation efforts and is helpful with various events that the farm hosts for students in 4-H and FFA organizations.**

Production: Of course, the agricultural industry has a host of careers for those who want to get their hands dirty. Ag production includes crops, livestock and poultry, not just cattle. Hay must be gathered and rolled, cattle have to be well fed and moved to different pastures and the farmland needs to be well-maintained to continue operating efficiently and effectively. Although technology has taken the place of many agricultural production positions, there are still many opportunities out there for those who want to work under the sun. **For example, Perdido River Farms has many farm workers who are knowledgeable in operating tractors and other heavy equipment and who enjoy working outside during irregular hours.**

Business: Agriculture is big business, and the industry has many opportunities for those who want to pursue a career in business. Farmers and producers of agricultural products need someone to do reports and other office related tasks. **PRF Clerk and Administrator Candice Dawe takes care of the office work as well as assists in keeping the financial numbers straight by updating computer programs with new statistics.**

Education: Those who want to share their love of agriculture with others can put their skills to work in the classroom. Agricultural instructors can train the next generation of agriculture professionals at the university or high school level, ensuring today's farms are left in good hands tomorrow. PRF hosts educational tours and other events for students to learn about the industry. **If you are an educator and would like your students to know more about Perdido River Farms and the agricultural industry as a whole, call John English or Candice Dawe at 251-368-0826 to set up an appointment.**



By Jen Peake
CIEDA Marketing
Specialist



Mission: Helping people help the land

Vision: Productive soil, healthy land

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the USDA agency which works at the local level to help people conserve all natural resources on private lands.

Visit the NRCS web site www.al.nrcs.usda.gov to see updated news and information about services that may be helpful to you and your family.

Other sites that may be of interest to Tribal Members include:

Farm Service Agencies

www.fsa.usda.gov

www.fsa.usda.gov/al

www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill

USDA Rural Development

www.rurdev.usda.gov

www.rurdev.usa.gov/al

Alabama Forestry Commission

www.forestry.state.al.us

For more information contact:

David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison

5535 Poarch Road, Atmore, AL 36502

(251) 368-0826

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Shown: Dancing Flower's Sterling Silver Spiney Oyster Ring & Bracelet designed and created by Cher Christensen



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muskogeeinn.com

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call today to reserve your room.



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I-65, exit 57



4740 Jack Springs Road | Atmore, AL 36502
251-368-0088 | Interstate 65, exit 54



*TripAdvisor rates the
diner at Creek Travel
Plaza at No. 5!*



E-cigarettes are sold here!
Get your favorite flavor vaping
liquids at CCSA today.

December (Rvfo-Rakko) 2016

SMART Recovery

Every Monday night @ 6:00 pm
Tribal Court Lobby

Parenting Skills

Every Wednesday @ 11:00 am
Tribal Court Activity Room
Open to TM & FG
RSVP/Lunch Provided

Quilting Classes - Ongoing

Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays
1:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Cultural Department/Hwy 21

Applications for TAHO Program

Deadline to submit new/updated applications for TAHO program ongoing through Friday, December 16, 2016

Monday-Tuesday December 5-6, 2016

Museum Gift Shop closed for inventory

Friday, December 1, 2016

Deadline to submit information for publication in the January 2017 issue of *Poarch Creek News*. New submission deadlines and other applicable changes start with this issue.

Friday, December 2, 2016

- Tribal Health Department closing at 12:00 noon
- Last day to submit application for Creek Indian Art Show

Friday, December 2, 2016

Teen Christmas Party Ages 13-17
Wind Creek Hospitality Ballroom
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Must have pre-registered for this event by November 11, 2016.

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Kids Christmas Party Ages 0-12
Wind Creek Cinema 5:30 pm

Must have pre-registered for this event by November 11, 2016.

Friday, December 9, 2016

Tribal Christmas Parade 5:30 pm
Parade starts at Building 300
Christmas Festival in gym parking area immediately after the parade.

Friday, December 16, 2016

Staff Christmas Party
Tribal Offices close at 12:30 p.m.

Friday, December 16, 2016

Deadline to update banking information for 2017 Per Capita Disbursement

Friday, December 16, 2016

Deadline to sign up for 2017 Pow Wow Club Youth & Adult
5:00 pm

Friday, December 23, 2016

Tribal Offices closed in observance of Christmas Eve Holiday.

Monday, December 26, 2016

Tribal Offices closed in observance of Christmas Day Holiday.

December 30 - 31, 2016

Recreation Department will close at 12:00 noon on Friday December 30th and will be closed all day on December 31st in preparation for a cultural event.

Tribal Council Meetings

Thursday, December 3rd & 17th
Building 500 Auditorium 4:00 pm

Tribal Court Sessions

Monday, December 12th & 19th
Tribal Courtroom 9:00 am

Tribal Regulatory Commission Meetings

Tuesday, December 13th & 27th
Building 500 Auditorium 9:00 am

Tribal Grievance Board

Tuesday, December 13th
Building 500 Auditorium 1:00 pm

Calvin McGhee Cultural

Advisory Committee

Monday, December 12th 4:00 pm
Cultural Building on Hwy 21

Education Advisory Committee

Wednesday, December 14th 3:00 pm
Family Services Conference Room
Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic

4-H Club

Monday, December 12th
Education Department
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Utility Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, December 15th 1:00 pm
Utilities Office

Monday, January 2, 2016

Tribal Offices closed in observance of New Years Day Holiday

Tuesday, January 3, 2016

Deadline to submit information for publication in the February 2017 issue of *Poarch Creek News*. New submission deadlines and other applicable changes start with this issue.

Newsletter Contact Information

Poarch Creek News

The Poarch Creek News is the official newsletter of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Government Relations Department

Gayle Johnson, Editor

(251) 368-9136 x 2210

Direct Dial # 251 446-5210

gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov www.pci-nsn.gov



Poarch Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

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