

JANUARY 2017 VOLUME 35 ISSUE 1  
POARCH CREEK NEWS

# Cho-ka-da-lami

*(cho-ka-da-la-mi/newspaper)*



### *A Moment With The Tribal Chair*

Stephanie Bryan, Tribal Chair/CEO

Happy New Year! 2017 has made its grand debut and I feel incredibly blessed to have enjoyed another year. This past year has been challenging at times, but also very rewarding. As a leader of our Tribe, there is no better feeling for me than to know that decisions I've been a part of have positively impacted the lives of our Tribal Members.

Over the past 12 months, we have embarked on many new endeavors for the betterment of the Tribe and Tribal Members. Overall, 2016 was a phenomenal year in which we were richly blessed. Throughout the year, emphasis has been placed on the importance of being fiscally responsible and accountable. CIEDA and PCIGA have worked diligently to diversify our investments so the Tribe is able to sustain and develop services to Tribal Members and Tribal Member families. We want to be wise with our resources so that our seven generations – the three before us, ourselves, and the three after us – are well taken care of.

Division Directors and CFO Tim Speegle successfully completed a full year here at

Tribal Government, and Chief of Staff (COS) Terry Sweat was hired. Having highly skilled individuals on staff translates into elevated levels of efficiency, effectiveness, and service for those we assist. Our team members have worked very hard this past year and have made great strides towards bolstering the services we are able to provide. As a team, we are challenging status quo by asking a set of simple, but powerful questions: (1) Can we do it better? (2) Are we getting the best value for the money we are spending? (3) And, is this truly benefitting the ones we serve? As we continue to go through this exercise of evaluating and re-evaluating our programs by asking these important questions, my hope is that we never become stagnant as an organization, but that we always seek excellence in all that we do.

Without the wonderful team of people who work at all our entities every day, we would be unable to accomplish the many lofty goals that we have set as a Tribal Council. As your leaders, we recognize the importance of working well together, and



*Stephanie Bryan, Tribal Chair/CEO*  
*sbryan@pci-nsn.gov*

I believe the recent decision regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline is evidence of how powerful teamwork can be. Many Tribes, organizations, and people from all over the world came together to make a stand for something they believed in. I am very grateful that the right individuals ultimately heard and respected these wishes and decided to put a stop to this potential atrocity. I am proud that the Poarch Band of Creek Indians was able to support this important initiative.

For the month of January, we can anticipate the inauguration of Donald Trump as President

of the United States. This transition has the potential to be very impactful for the Tribe, and your leaders will be very active in Washington, D.C. throughout the year. We must ensure that this new administration understands and respects Native American issues, Tribal sovereignty, and the special government-to-government relationship we've worked so hard to attain and preserve. We depend on our legislators to make good decisions and enact positive

legislation on our behalf. But, we must continue to do our part to educate and work hand-in-hand with these decision-makers.

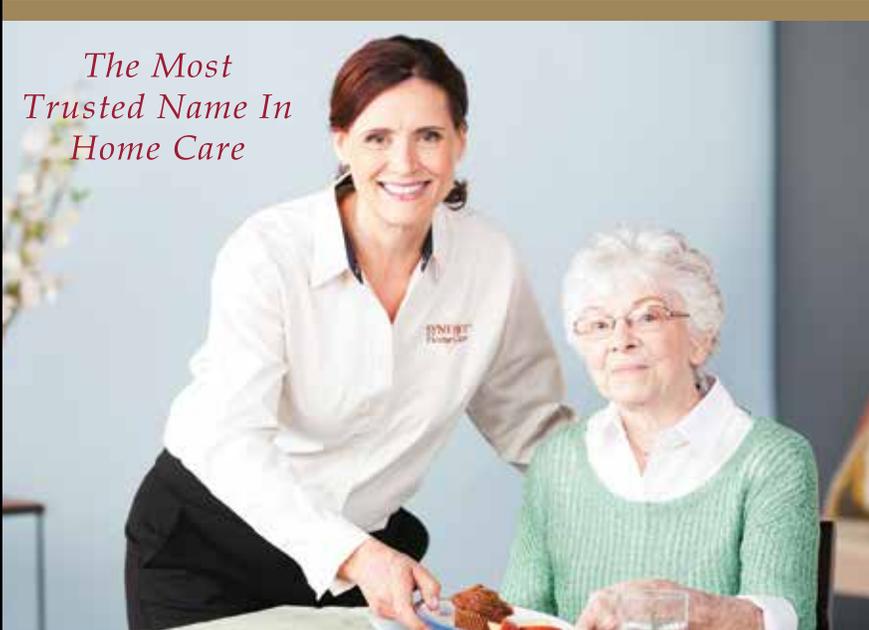
For 2017, I believe that we as a Tribe are limited only by our imagination and our willingness to work hard. We have come a long way since our first days of federal recognition. And, as we continue this path towards expansion and diversification, our responsibility towards Tribal Members is heightened. The responsibility that you've

entrusted to your leaders is not taken lightly. I ask that you continue to keep your leaders, your Tribe, and your country in your prayers. May God bless you and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

In love,

Stephanie A. Bryan

Tribal Chair/CEO



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A Moment With Tribal Chair



Standing Rock Protest



2016-2017 Princesses



Veteran's Salute



Obituary/In Memory

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

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:

Gayle Johnson, Editor	Regular Office Hours
Poarch Creek News	Tuesday - Friday
5811 Jack Springs Road	7:00 am - 6:00 pm
Atmore, AL 36502	
<a href="mailto:gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov">gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov</a> <a href="http://www.pci-nsn.gov">www.pci-nsn.gov</a>	
(251) 368-9136 x 2210	Direct Dial # 251 446-5210

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

*Poarch Creek News, keeping the family and friends of Poarch informed*

## Poarch Creek News Accessible On Tribal Web Site

The *Poarch Creek News*, the official newsletter of the Poarch Creek Indians, is posted monthly in the Pressroom of the Tribe's official web site, [www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov), and is accessible to Tribal Members and the public at large at no cost.

**Going Green & Saving Trees!** We strongly encourage Tribal Members, and other interested individuals, to access the newsletter online in lieu of receiving issues through the U.S. Postal Service.

If you are a Tribal Member Head of Household and prefer to access the newsletter online and not receive a monthly issue of the newsletter through the U.S. Postal Service, please notify *Poarch Creek News* at (251) 368-9136 x 2210 or [gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov](mailto: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.

- Submission Criteria**  
Tribal Member submissions for publication in the *Poarch Creek News* are limited to Tribal Members & spouse, first generation, as submitted by a Tribal Member, and those living in Tribal Member households unless an 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 to obtain applicable copyright license.
- Photo Submissions:**  
One per article submission; photos will be cropped to fit available space. High resolution .jpg or PDF format. **Head shots are preferred.** Individuals in the photos are to be appropriately dressed; for example, men must wear a shirt, no swim suits except for swim team photos, no photos with cigarettes or alcohol, etc. We will do our best to publish submitted photos, but we cannot fix blurred or distorted photos.
- Birthday Wishes**  
Birthday Wishes will be accepted for the month before, the month of, or the month after the birthday. However, Birthday Wishes will no longer be published in the newsletter. A list of Tribal Member birthdays will be obtained from Tribal Enrollment each month; these birthdays will be posted on the Community Life page of the web site as well as on the Tribe's official social media pages.  
  
Tribal Members may continue to submit individual birthday wishes as in the past for Tribal Members and spouses, First Generation Descendants, and those living in a Tribal Household. These wishes will also be posted on the web site and social media.
- Anniversary Wishes:**  
May be published the month before, the month of, or the month after, the anniversary.
- Obituaries:**  
Tribal Members are asked to add *Poarch Creek News* contact information to the media list when completing the appropriate paperwork or planning the funeral of a loved one. The obituary will be published in the next issue of the newsletter after it has been received from the funeral home. Contact information: Poarch Creek News, 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL 36502 or via email to [gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov).  
  
Tribal Members may continue to submit obituaries/thanks, and other applicable submissions by the last business day of the second month immediately following the death. *Photos will be cropped to reflect deceased only.*
- In Memory:**  
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.* In Memory submissions are limited to one 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.
- Corrections:**  
Corrections will occur only if error/misprint is made by *Poarch Creek News*.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. (CST) the first business day of the month prior to the month of publication.

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.

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

The ***Tribal Members Only Portal (TMOP)*** for Tribal Members age 18 and above is located on the left sidebar of the website's home page, [www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov). Information such as Tribal Council Minutes, Tribal surveys, proposed ordinances, and other confidential information, will be posted in this area that is accessible to Tribal Members only.

The TMOP is not an automated site; it will be up to individual users to resolve

issues they have if they are unable to login to the TMOP. We are unable to provide assistance beyond confirming that you have the correct username and password to access this area of our website. Confirmation of correct username and password may take up to 24 hours.

You can receive updated news and information via the Tribe's social media pages at [facebook.com/PoarchBandofCreekIndians/](https://www.facebook.com/PoarchBandofCreekIndians/), [twitter.com/](https://twitter.com/PoarchBandofCreekIndians/)

[PoarchCreek](https://www.instagram.com/poarchbandofcreekindians/); and [www.instagram.com/poarchbandofcreekindians/](https://www.instagram.com/poarchbandofcreekindians/).

The Tribe's website and social media accounts are maintained by the Government Relations Department.

Please contact Kim Smith, Social Media Manager, at (251) 368-9136 x 2169 or [ksmith@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:ksmith@pci-nsn.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.



*www.poarchneighbors.com*

*Visit to find out more about our story, our values, our people, and our neighbors*



## OUR STORY

OUR ANCIENT CULTURE SHAPES OUR IDENTITY.  
TRADITION INSPIRES US TO KEEP OUR HISTORY ALIVE.  
WE ARE A RESILIENT PEOPLE WHO HELPED EACH OTHER  
OUT THROUGH TRYING TIMES TO BECOME THE ONLY  
FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE IN ALABAMA.  
TODAY, WE JOIN OUR NEIGHBORS' EFFORTS TO HELP  
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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*www.youtube.com/channel/UCpPKy0-WEM1c\_OV4-cMc3BA*

# TRIBAL COUNCIL



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**Arthur Mothershed, At-Large**  
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**Garvis Sells, At-Large**  
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**Poarch Council Purpose & Values**

**Purpose Statement**  
Our love for our people and our commitment to its future drives us to make tough decisions and stand by them to provide stable governance.

With our blend of mature wisdom and modern knowledge, we grow the Tribe's assets to build self-reliance and enhance quality of life for all.

Poarch Band of Creek Indians

**Poarch Government Purpose & Values**

We act with **fairness** in all our decisions and policy aspirations inspiring others to fulfill our intentions and our actions. This affirms our **commitment to something bigger than any one of ourselves** and encourages all to **persistence** when we confront challenges along the journey. The **respect** we show for the **contributions** of all to our common purpose creates the platform for **open and honest interactions**. This leads to **collaborative relationships** and openness for new ideas and growing levels of **accomplishment**.

**Purpose Statement**  
We bring a reservoir of expert knowledge to secure the health, education, and well-being of all Tribal members today and in the future. We act as role models who go beyond the call of duty and leaders who instill confidence in the fairness and wisdom of government decisions and actions.

We make a difference in the lives of Tribal members by fostering in them a spirit of independence and pride, connecting them to each other and their cultural heritage.

Poarch Band of Creek Indians

I hope that each and every one of you had a fantastic Christmas and are on track for a great New Year! We were truly blessed throughout the year of 2016 and I am hoping that 2017 will be even better.

To say that the last six months has been a learning experience is an understatement. I have been completely enlightened to the depth of what it means to be a Tribal Council Member for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

When we (the Tribal Council) say that we work 24/7 we truly mean it. We are “on call” for our people 365 days a year from sun up to sun down. But that’s what it takes to be a good Tribal Council Member, in my opinion.

I came on board just as the Presidential race heated up and the National Conventions were taking place. I had the privilege to attend both and like I said earlier, the enlightenment began.



*Dewitt Carter, At-Large*  
*dcarter@pci-nsn.gov*

From there I have traveled to various meetings across the country networking with important and influential Native Americans and politicians.

Being able to travel and meet with all types of people is a true honor and very humbling. At the end of these meetings I walk away sometimes feeling confident that we have made headway, and

sometimes feeling frustrated that we still have a very long way to go. One thing is for sure though, we have to get out there and meet these people and work for each of you not only on a local level but a national one as well.

On a different note, the General Welfare Assistance (GWA) program is brand new, and in some ways uncharted territory. Ultimately, we are trying every way we can to put more money in your pocket. Bear with us as we work out the kinks, and please feel free to reach out to me any time if you have questions. In the end, in my heart I know that this will be a beneficial program for many years to come.

My door is always open to you and my phone is always on. I am here for you!

Dewitt Carter

## Community Garden Focus Group Schedules Meeting

Community Garden Focus Group

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Auditorium in Building 500.

All Tribal Members and extended family members are invited to participate.

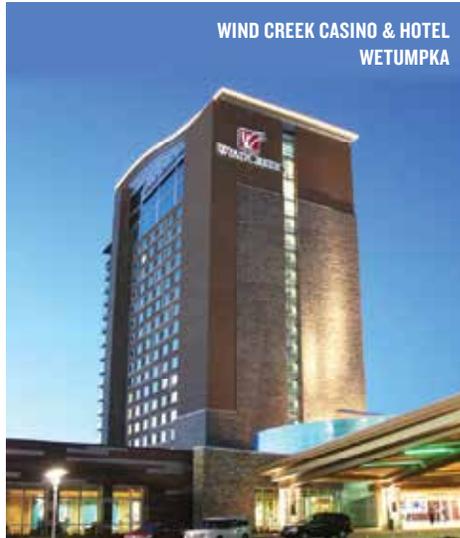
Snacks will be provided.

This focus group is open to the Tribal Community to provide opportunity for them to share ideas about expansion of the Community Garden Program and related food security projects.

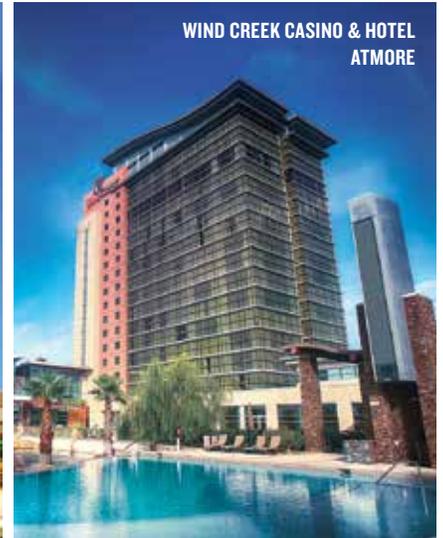
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## Congressional Update - January 2017

### *What to Expect Under President Trump*

After years of divided government, we are poised to enter a period of unified Republican government. President-elect Donald Trump really struck a chord with the American people by talking about putting America first and looking out for the American worker, so I expect our agenda to follow those principles.

One of the first items on the agenda should be to repeal Obamacare. Just getting rid of Obamacare won't be enough though. We need to follow up with patient-centered health care reforms that actually lower costs and improve care.

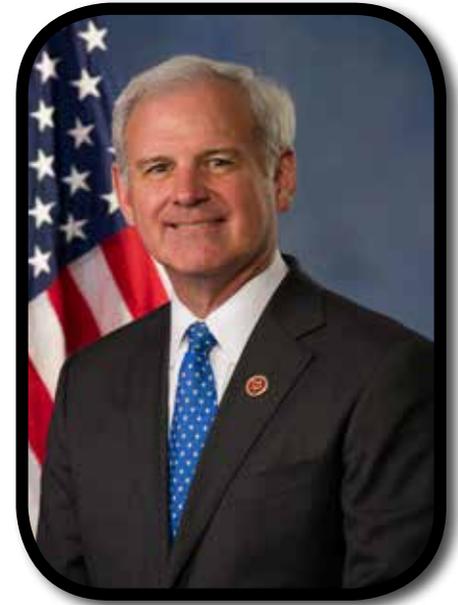
Another item toward the top of the agenda will be finally securing our border. I look forward to working with President-elect Trump to increase border security and crack down on illegal immigration. We must also end amnesty policies and ensure our immigration policies reward immigrants who follow the system to enter our nation legally.

There are also a number of commonsense reforms we can push through early in the Trump Administration to cut back on overregulation. President-elect Trump will be able to quickly end some of these actions that were implemented through executive orders, but other changes will require Congressional action.

Rebuilding our military will also be a top priority under President-elect Trump. We need to rollback harmful cuts to our military and ensure each branch of the military has the tools and resources they need to get the job done. We must restore the strategy of peace through strength.

I also think a number of our local priorities stand to benefit under President Trump. First, I look forward to working with the Trump Administration to finally get us back to a regular Red Snapper season in the Gulf. A longer Red Snapper season benefits our local fishermen, but it is also good for tourism in general.

Finally, I expect some action on infrastructure improvements. There are many important road and bridge



*Representative Bradley Byrne  
(251) 690-2811  
Byrne.House.Gov*

projects that need attention right here in Southwest Alabama, and it is time we tackle them head on. A strong economy requires an efficient and safe infrastructure system.

Ultimately, the most important step is for our country to unify behind Donald Trump. I know not everyone supported Mr. Trump, but in his victory speech he promised to be the President for every single American. I hope everyone will take President-elect Trump at his word and give him the opportunity to lead our country.

---

*I think there's no higher calling in terms of a career than public service, which is a chance to make a difference in people's lives and improve the world.*

*Jack Lew*



**Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic Health Clinic Offers A Variety of Services**

*The administrative staff of the Health Clinic are shown above. Sitting left to right are Edie Jackson, Division Director of the Health & Elder Services Division, and Dr. Jamie McKinley, Chief Physician/Chief Medical Officer. Standing left to right are Sheila Odom, Senior Health Information Systems Manager, Carrie Martin, Quality Assurance Coordinator, Lisa Parker Executive Assistant, and Kelly Dirting, Revenue Cycle Director.*

The administrative staff of the Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic is comprised of Edie Jackson, Division Director of the Health & Elder Services Division; Dr. Jamie McKinley, Chief Physician/Chief Medical Officer; Sheila Odom, Senior Health Information

System Manager; Carrie Martin, Quality Assurance Coordinator; Lisa Parker, Executive Assistant; and Kelly Dirting, Revenue Cycle Director.

For the year 2017, we will go more in depth into the specific services

offered through the Health & Elder Services Division. This month concentrates on Quality Assurance, Revenue Cycle, and why it is important to have health insurance coverage.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE**

The Quality Assurance Coordinator, Carrie Martin, ensures the Health Department provides the highest quality of care to Tribal Members, by making sure that improvements are monitored and enforced.

Carrie is also responsible for all new hire orientation and annual education for all health employees, patient and employee satisfaction surveys, and resolving patient complaints.

**REVENUE CYCLE DEPARTMENT**

The Revenue Cycle Department, Kelly Dirting, is responsible for organizing and implementing strategies to bill insurances for health services, processing insurance payments, and managing payments for purchase/referred care services.

We also verify patient insurance, and assist patients with signing up for insurance plans through Marketplace, Medicare programs and Medicaid.

## WHY DO YOU NEED INSURANCE WHEN THERE IS AN INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES CLINIC AVAILABLE AT POARCH?

With every government program, there is never enough funding to operate to full capacity. An overview of the budget it requires to operate the Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic may help you understand why it is important for every Tribal Member to have health insurance which covers all essential health benefits.

Essential health benefits are a set of 10 categories of services health insurance plans must cover under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). These include doctors' services, inpatient and outpatient hospital care, prescription drug coverage, and more.

The Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic offers a variety of services. When a Tribal Member comes to the clinic for services, we ask for any insurance they can provide. We bill that insurance if it is applicable to the service provided. By billing for the services provided to you, those charges count on most insurance toward the deductible. We do not charge co-pays or deductibles for any services.

The 2017 operating budget for the Health Clinic is approximately \$14 million. We receive \$4.7 million from Indian Health Services. In order to operate for the year, the

Tribe must fund the remainder of the budget. We currently collect about \$3 million from third party billing, which is billing the insurance of our patients. This leaves a balance which the Tribal Government funds from discretionary monies. The more monies we get reimbursed from billing patient insurance, the less we have to rely on the Tribe to fund. The less money needed to fund the government services, the more money the Tribe has to provide new and expanded services for all Tribal Members.



Ahh, the holidays are such a wonderful time of the year! There are colorful holiday decorations, time to socialize with family and friends and more than likely a lot of calorie laden foods to entice you.

## Healthy Weight Awareness Month

There have been rumors that the average person gains 7 to 10 pounds between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Most people are convinced that they will gain at LEAST five pounds.

Some studies have found that most people truly only gain one pound, but overweight people can gain five pounds or more. The problem is that if you do this to your body every year, it is understandable why you may put on 25 pounds or more over the years.

If you would like to start the New Year off on a positive note, Jill Lee or Marsha Fendley will be glad to assist you with meal planning and weight loss information.

Feel free to contact Jill or Marsha at the numbers below:

Jill Lee  
Nutrition Specialist  
(251) 368-9136 x 2372

Marsha Fendley  
Registered Dietician  
(251) 368-9136 x 2354



## Poarch Descendant Participates In Standing Rock Protest

*George Charvis is shown above in the center of the photo in blue shirt that states 'You Should Be Here'*

*By Shauna Colbert Shackleton*

Over the last several months I have participated in several marches and gatherings in Washington DC and locally in Raleigh, NC to stand in solidarity with Standing Rock.

Two events that I attended have really made an enormous impact on me, the last being the march from the Justice Department to the Washington Monument with over 1,000 people and the concert following it. I felt so honored to be able to shake the hands with Chase Iron Eyes and thank him for his incredible resolve and activism on behalf of his, and all Native, people. His 13 year old daughter spoke at the podium and I think you would

have been hard pressed to find a dry eye in the crowd.

I have heard some of the most eloquent speakers express their thoughts and tell their stories of what is happening on the front lines in North Dakota. I am extremely grateful to all of Council for recognizing the struggle that they are dealing with and have offered such generous monetary support.

I recently connected with a first generation descendant of Poarch that has been at the Oceti Sakowin camp for almost a month. I asked him several questions and would like to share them with you. I think it is so important that his story be told and shared with the Tribe.

I have expressed to him how proud we are of his actions and I think it would be an incredible act of support if Council acknowledged his presence at camp and included his story in a newsletter. Please continue to pray for everyone at camp during this terrible cold.

**First let's start off with an introduction of who you are. What is your name, who are your parents and grandparents that are PCI?**

*I am George Charvis. My mother is Debra Charvis Sanders. My grandparents (deceased) were Pete & Vera Wiggins. My biological grandfather was George Charvis with Lumbee heritage.*

**What date did you arrive to Standing Rock?**

*I arrived on November 4<sup>th</sup>. I made the decision to make the trip on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.; I was on the road by 7:15 p.m.. I drove 25 hours straight through.*

**What motivated you to go?**

*I remember fighting in combat in Afghanistan for what I thought then was for the preservation of our rights. In a way it was for those rights, but I now know and understand the bigger picture and uglier side of war for profit.*

*I saw the videos and read the stories of how those at Standing Rock were being treated. I always admired those that exercised their freedom and right to peacefully assemble and stand up for what is right. I had to come experience it for myself. The cause is absolutely valid in that these pipelines will leak and will cause damage to major bodies of water. To see corporate fascism at play and combat armed police forces escalating their use of force beyond what can be considered humane is atrocious.*

*It's not only for my own descendants, but for all future generations to include the children and grandchildren of those sided with, profiting from or defending this pipeline. We may not stop the pipeline. However, the spiritual transformation that I and many others have experienced just being here will transcend generational divide. I had to be here to stand up for what I feel is right. That was my intent when*

*deciding to come, but this experience has been so much more for me.*

**Since your arrival what does a typical day look like for you?**

*I've become very well integrated into the community. I am staying with a family of Cheyenne River Sioux from South Dakota. I do whatever I can to keep our camp in order daily. I also reach out to help in the larger camp as much as possible.*

*There are big projects to get involved with like building yurts for the school or something as simple as helping a cook carry a pot in passing. The selfless service here is spectacular.*

**Do you feel safe at camp and would you recommend others coming?**

*I absolutely feel safe. There have been a few incidents that were dealt with by the tribal council, but nothing that concerns personal safety. I certainly recommend people come. Just make sure you're prepared for extreme cold weather.*

**What is the greatest need you feel that is still needed there?**

*Winterization. Hay bales, wood stoves with proper insulated piping and dampers that help burn less wood, more wood and salt for roads.*

**Would you like to share any short memories or stories with us on your time there?**

*I've had many firsts since being here. The one that impacted me the most so far was the sweat lodge. I was physically*

*depleted after three hours although I'm the type who pushes myself beyond physical limitations. The prayer and song during the sweat helped me dive deep spiritually and address emotional limits I've held onto. This experience was hugely impactful. I plan to carry on with this ritual and many others that I've learned here. Everything feels so natural for me, like I've been missing it all along.*

**Has the momentum or feeling at camp changed since the election?**

*There were rumors spreading, but overall the feeling has not changed. If anything, the newly elected is seen as a can opener. It is now up to us to awaken our mind, body and souls to the change we want to see in the world. We're seeing that here and around the world as people become fed up with the profiteers who disregard anyone or anything in their paths of destruction. They must be stopped. It will take a lot more of us waking up.*

**What can we do to help if we can't go to camp?**

*As far as supplies go, we don't always know what we need until we need it. So, it's hard to give lists of items as we're really just living as simply as possible. Donations in cash and gift cards are very helpful. Not many know how to get the funds that are donated to the main camp funds. Many have their own GoFundMe campaigns that have been a huge help from people's personal networks.*

*Continued on next page*

*I have read many stories of profound awakenings by people that have been at camp.*

**Have you experienced anything that you would like to share with the Tribe?**

*There are so many moments that I've had here that make this one of the most impactful experiences of my life. I didn't grow up on the reservation, and never learned the traditions of ceremonies, song, dance, and praying. When I would attend the Pow Wows,*

*I felt deeply connected internally, but also disconnected because I did not understand what was taking place most of the time. I'm not a tribal enrollee, but I am a first generation descendant. I have a huge heart and desire to make life better for Native communities.*

*I want to see more traditions being practiced, languages spoken, song and dance. I'm not naive in that I know we're not going to go back to living in tipis completely, but I think we need*

*more immersive therapy like this to heal.*

*My mission is to help as many Indigenous people as possible to become self-sufficient financially. This is my mission. There will be other frontlines to stand on and when money is not a factor, more people can stand in solidarity.*

*George Chavis to Shauna Colbert Shackleton*



*Standing strong, George is second from the right.*

Shauna: George has a PO Box set up there and I think it would show incredible appreciation for what he is doing if we mailed him letters and cards of support. You can also follow George on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/realgeorgechavis?ref=ts&fref=ts>

George Chavis  
PO Box 1281  
Cannonall, ND 58528

*\*Since this article was submitted, the Army Corp of Engineers has announced that it will not immediately grant the Dakota Access Pipeline the right to cross the Missouri River next to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.*



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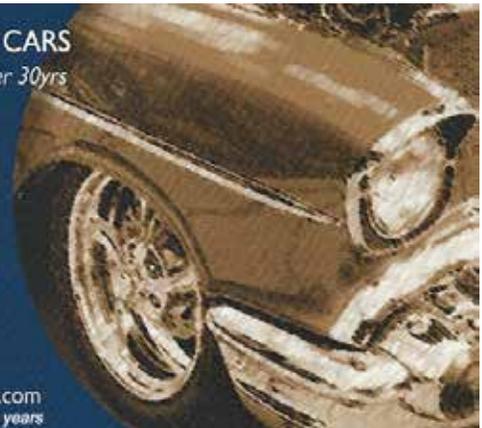
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Charlotte McGhee Meckel, Tribal Council Secretary, Traveled The World Before Coming Home To Poarch To Serve Her People & Community

*Charlotte takes Oath of Office. Left to right are Tribal Judge Joseph Brogden, Charlotte, and Tribal Chair Stephanie A. Bryan.*

Charlotte McGhee Meckel was elected to serve as Tribal Council Secretary during the 2016 Tribal Election process.

Most of you may know Charlotte, but with this article we will get to know her a little bit better.

Charlotte is the daughter of Ernestine McGhee Daughtry and the late Julius "Jack" McGhee; she was born and raised in the Poarch Community, but moved from Atmore in 1969 when she got married.

The military took Charlotte and her family all over the world, where most of her adult life was spent in Europe. Charlotte and her family

were able to visit and see things that you only read about in history books. In 2009, Charlotte returned to the United States and lived in San Antonio, TX for two years before she and her husband, Martin Meckel, moved back to Atmore in November of 2011.

Looking back, Charlotte says she really doesn't have a favorite childhood memory, but the Christmas pageants and Vacation Bible School at St. Anna's and Summer Camp at Bessemer, Alabama hold fond memories.

"What I do recall and love the most growing up in the Poarch Community is the closeness and love we had for each other, it

made no difference if you were my brother, sister, my cousins or my friend we looked out for each other," she says.

Who was the most influential person in Charlotte's life? There are two strong ladies that



*Left to right are Charlotte, Jackie Smith, and Maxine Johnson.*

immediately come to her mind. First is her mother, Ernestine McGhee Daughtry. Her mother taught her at an early age that your "word" is your bond and that is the rule she lives by. It has sustained her throughout her entire life. She has instilled the same mindset and value in her children and grandchildren.

The other influential person was a missionary named Elloie Bradshaw. She taught Charlotte and others the meaning of integrity at a young age and the importance of obtaining a good education. Charlotte says she owes her a huge debt of gratitude for the things Ms. Elloie taught her.

Charlotte was asked to name major accomplishments in her life. First and foremost, is being a mother to her children Allison Salter-Rodriguez and Ronnie Lee Salter Jr. "They make me so proud!" she says. "They are each raising a family and they have each obtained several degrees, which I have to say part of those achievements is contributed to PBCI Education Fund." Even though they both do not live close to Poarch they, as well as their children, are very proud to say "I am a Poarch Creek Indian!"

Charlotte is also proud of her college degree and her 36 years of service with the Department of Defense. She also feels her election to the Tribal Council is a great



*Ernestine McGhee Daughtry*

accomplishment.

"After returning to Poarch in 2011, I decided to run for Tribal Council." She continues "I wanted to follow in the footsteps of my mother and brother, Jack Allen McGhee. I had heard, and seen, in the past that running for Council was more of a popularity contest. It was about 'who had the biggest family', but I thought with my education and work experience background, I could bring something to the table for Tribal Members. Well, I got close but no cigars."

Charlotte continued "Since I was passionate about being on the Council, I threw my name in the hat the next year. I wanted the Tribal Members to know that I was serious about being elected. Again I got close, then another year rolled around and I still wanted to give it a try so I did for the fourth year, and

here I am. So, after being a candidate for three years prior, getting elected was very monumental to me. I felt that getting this chance to serve the people would be the greatest opportunity for me to give back to the community."

Since this is Charlotte's first term on the Council, she is not sure what her political future may be. "No one knows what the future holds, but I feel that if during my three year term I am making a difference, there will be a strong possibility I will seek re-election."

Charlotte has been involved in Tribal politics since she was a small child; she would attend council meetings with her mother on Sunday afternoons. As she grew older, she always tried to stay involved because her mother, brother, and cousins served on the Council.

Charlotte says she became more personally involved when she was approached by a former Tribal Council Member (Ms. Helen Hallman) to serve on the newly established Ethics Board in 2006. From there she has served on the Housing Board and Regulatory and Grievance Board.

Charlotte feels that the issues facing today's Council are the same as those faced by previous Councils, just on a larger scale.

*Continued on next page*

Health, Education and affordable housing have always been at the forefront.

As the Tribe prospers, the issues become more complex; but the seated Council Members have steadily made strides to protect the Tribal resources that are available to ensure that all the resources and staff needed to maintain the same, if not better, quality of services and programs.

As a member of the Tribal Council, Charlotte serves on three Legislative Committees. She serves as Chair for the Tribal Records Committee. She also serves on the Budget/Finance/Labor Legislative Committee and the Health/Elder Services Legislative Committee.

As a Tribal Member, Charlotte is most proud of how far the Tribe has come. "We have steadily grown by leaps and bounds, just look around at our Housing, Education, and Economic Development. Gaming has played a large role in changing the mind-set of how the Poarch Creek Indians are looked at today. We are striving daily to regain the Poarch Creek culture. More Tribal Members young and old are getting involved in basket weaving, hand carving, bead work, and competition dancing. What I am proud of, and the most passionate about, is how the Tribal Council values the quality of life



*Charlotte is shown with her children, Ronnie L. Salter, Jr. and Allison Salter-Rodriguez*

not only for the Elders but for all Tribal members." Charlotte is also passionate about affordable housing, health care, education,

and preserving our Tribal heritage. Where would she be if she were not on the Council and where does she see the Tribe in ten years? "I would still be working on various boards and volunteering throughout the community. The Tribe is steadily growing, with more job opportunities and programs for our youth. If everyone will continue to work together we can accomplish many things, who knows maybe one day we will have our own school again, a bank or even a grocery store."

*Charlotte M. Meckel*



*Charlotte and Martin Meckel*

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## Crowning of New Princesses Remains One of The Main Attractions At Our Annual Pow Wow

*The Tribe's reigning royalty for 2016-2017 are shown left to right, Sehoeye Rose Buckley, Junior Princess; Linda Colbert Cook, Elder Princess; Mallory Olivia Gibson, Senior Princess; Emmee Gracyn Hayes, Little Miss Princess; and Karlie "McKenna" Pettis, Elementary Princess.*

Beautiful weather, beautiful regalia, and beautiful Princesses, these are just a few of the things that come to mind when thinking of the Tribe's 46th Annual Pow Wow held November 24 & 25, 2016.

There were 19,650 visitors at this year's Pow Wow in addition to approximately 300 dancers and 74 vendors. The main draw on Thursday, at least for our local community, was the 2016-2017 Princess Contest. The thirteen contestants have been practicing and working on their regalia since the last Sunday in August.

### LITTLE MISS PRINCESS

Emmee Gracyn Hayes was crowned as the 2016-2017 Little Miss Princess.

Emmee is the five year old daughter of Mallory and Justin Rolin and Curtis Hayes of Poarch, AL. She is the granddaughter of Phillip and Denise Young, Rayford and Norma Jean Rolin, and Charlene McGhee and Jimmy Hayes. She is the great granddaughter of Jackie Smith & Pearlina McGhee, and the great-great granddaughter of Ernestine Daughtry & Lucille Sells.

Emmee is a Pre-K student at Fred L. McGhee Learning Center. She enjoys learning Creek language, and can say her colors, numbers, and sing some songs in the Creek language.

### ELEMENTARY PRINCESS

Karlie McKenna Pettis was crowned as the 2016-2017 Elementary Princess.

McKenna is the eleven year old daughter of Roy Pettis and Carla and Andrew Hammonds of Atmore, AL. She is the granddaughter of Mary and the late Benny McGhee and the late Leroy and Annie Mae Pettis.

McKenna is in the 6th grade at Huxford Elementary School. She is a member of the Tribe's Boys & Girls Club and the Tribe's swim team.

### JUNIOR PRINCESS

Sehoeye Rose Buckley was crowned as the 2016-2017 Junior Princess.

Sehoeye is the thirteen year old daughter of Bridgett Buckley and Anthony Peebles of Atmore, AL. She is the granddaughter of Rickie

and Rose Coon and Lester and Sharon Peebles.

Sehoye is in the 8th grade at Atmore Christian School. She is a member of the Pow Wow Club, Poarch 4-H, and the Atmore Christian School Choir and Drama Club.

### SENIOR PRINCESS

Mallory Olivia Gibson was crowned as the 2016-2017 Senior Princess.

Mallory is the seventeen year old daughter of Steve and Kristy Gibson of Bratt, FL. She is the granddaughter of the late Martez Dortch and JC Dortch, Debbie Barlow, and Billy Joe Gibson.

Mallory is a Senior at Northview High School. Mallory volunteers as a mini cheerleader coach; she was recognized by UCA as an All-American Cheerleader and will be performing in the London New Year's Day Parade. She has worked the past two summers with the Poarch Boys & Girls Club and is on the Honor Roll at Northview High School. She also represented her class on the 2016 Homecoming Court.

### ELDER PRINCESS

Beauty, grace, and a love of Tribal traditions did not stop with the young ladies. Sixty-seven year old Linda Colbert Cook was crowned as the 2016-2017 Elder Princess.

Linda is the daughter of Lillian Gibson Colbert and Willis Colbert. Linda was raised in Jeddo, AL and currently lives in Magnolia Springs, AL.

Linda is married to James Cook and is retired from the Baldwin County Board of Education with 25 years of service. She has four children and two grandchildren.

Congratulations to all our Princesses, we know each of you will make great good will ambassadors for the Tribe.

*Submitted by Mallory Rolin, Planning & Events Assistant*



### NOVEMBER IS BUSY TIME FOR POW WOW CLUB

*The Pow Wow Club (Adult & Youth) performed at this year's Pow Wow and several members actually competed in dance competition, but this is not all they did in November. The Pow Wow Club visited several local area schools on November 2 & 9, 2016. The Pow Wow Club visited and performed at Flomaton Elementary, Escambia Academy, Bratt Elementary, Rachel Patterson, J.U. Blacksher, Huxford Elementary, Atmore Christian School, Escambia County Middle School, and Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center. Combining all these exhibitions, they performed for approximately 2665 people in two days. Great job everybody!*



*Charles Eugene Woods  
E5 Sargent*

*U.S. Army/ AL Army National Guard*

Charles Eugene Woods of Frisco City, Alabama is the son of Charles Lavon and Melba Turner Woods. He joined the United States Army on August 8, 1974. He served active duty for two years in the Military Police, and afterwards served with the Alabama Army National Guard for 24 years before retiring on January 10, 2015.

During his service with the Alabama Army National Guard, Charles was ordered to active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm in 1990.

Throughout his military career, Charles received many medals and accommodations such as: the National Defense Service Medal; Sharpshooter Medal (M-16), Marksman Medal (.45 cal), the Army Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal w/Bronze Service Star, the South West Asia Service Medal/with three (3) Bronze Service Stars, the Government of Kuwait Medal Kuwait Libation Medal, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal/with 4 oak leaves, the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon w/ #5, the Army Achievement Medal/with 4 oak leaves, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal/with gold hour glass and M/Device, the Faithful Service Medal of Alabama/with silver and one bronze, the St Andrews Cross South West Asia Service Medal, the State of Alabama W/ Bronze Service Star Meritorious Unit Commendation, Expert's Badge/Hand Grenade, Driver's Badge, and Mechanic's Badge. His MOS were 95B10, 11B20, 76Y20, and 63#30.

Charles is married to Debbie H. Woods, they have been married since March 29, 1975. They have one daughter, Crystal and one son, Charles Ryan; and one granddaughter, Carlie Elizabeth.

After his active duty service, Charles worked at Monroeville Telephone Company/Frontier Telephone. He stayed with the phone company until February 2, 2002.

Charles is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8485 and the American Legion Post 61, both of Monroeville. He is a life member of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and loves to hunt, fish, and cook as well as reading war books.

Charles Eugene Woods, just one of many Tribal Members who have proudly served for their family, their Tribe, and their country.

Charles, we thank you for your service and the sacrifices you made so we can enjoy the freedoms we have today.

## Honoring Our Veterans

You may submit a veteran's information via email to [gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov](mailto: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 a return address and contact information.



## WHO IS CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY?

Birthday Wishes will no longer be published in the newsletter. They are now posted on the Tribal web site and will be featured on the Tribe's social media pages the day of their birthday. The birthday link is a new and exciting addition to the web site!

Please visit [www.pci-nsn.gov/birthdays](http://www.pci-nsn.gov/birthdays) each month to see who is celebrating a birthday. Each month the Birthday List will include the names of all Tribal Members who will be celebrating a birthday that month.

The Birthday List will be posted on the web site at the same time the latest issue of the newsletter is posted, customarily on or around the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month.



If a birthday wish has been submitted, an icon will appear beside their name. Click on the icon and it will take you to their Birthday Card. This Birthday Card may be printed, saved to your computer, or shared on social media.

If a birthday wish has been submitted for a Tribal Member spouse, First Generation, or someone living in a Tribal household, this submission has been included and a Birthday Card has been generated as well.

If you wish to submit a birthday wish, the criteria remains the same with the exception that submission deadlines are the first business day of the month prior to the month of publication.

As of the submission deadline for the January newsletter, no one told us what they wish their super hero power was.

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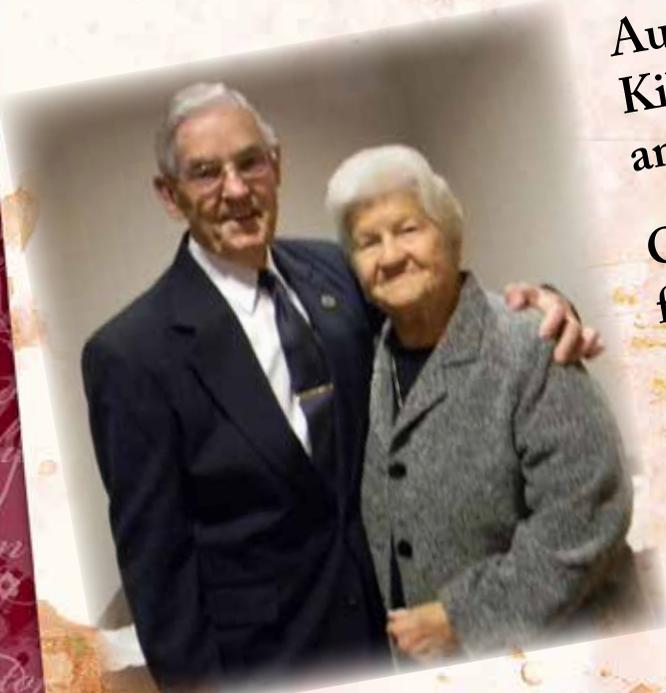
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*But the problem is that I am and I will be...*

**Celebrating an Anniversary**  
**AUBREY & ELLA RAYE KILPATRICK**  
**DECEMBER 26, 2016**



Aubrey and Ella Raye Kilpatrick celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Dec. 26, 2016

Our wish is for God's blessings for many more years to come.

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### IN LOVING MEMORY OF ERIC LEON ROLIN MAY 13, 1970 - NOVEMBER 5, 2016

There are simply no words to express our heartfelt thanks for the love and support extended toward our family during our time of loss. We are eternally grateful to our family, friends, and community for the prayers, love, and support we received.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and please keep our family in your prayers.

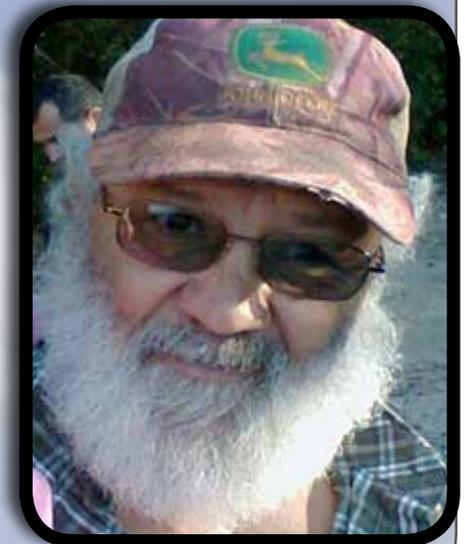
With our love and appreciation, the Rolin, Knowles, and Sells family.



### IN LOVING MEMORY OF ARNOLD VICKERY ON HIS BIRTHDAY JANUARY 30, 2016

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Although we are apart,  
God has you in His keeping,  
We have you in our hearts.

Gone, but not forgotten by family and friends.




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## Forward Thinking Creek Leaders Build Archival Collections

At this writing, the Library contains 299 volumes of catalogued and bound publications and manuscripts. Of this number, all are historical in nature with the exception of 20 children's volumes and 32 adult level fictions. In addition, there are 1,000 pages of Smithsonian manuscripts, and 500 pages of the Bradshaw-Episcopal Collection, as well as 10



**CREEK COMMUNITY NEWS**

Published monthly by the Creek Nation East of the Mississippi, Route 3, Box 243A, Atmore, Ala. 36502

Eddie Leon Tullis	Tribal Chairman
John Arthur McGhee	Vice-Chairman
Jennie Lee Dees	Editor
Julliette A. McGhee	Associate Editor

*Excerpts from Creek Community News, 1979*

“[T]here are 1,000 pages of Smithsonian manuscripts, and 500 pages of the Bradshaw-Episcopal Collection...” the author writes in this thirty-five-year-old Tribal newspaper in 1979. The article documents archival records and ten artifact collections donated by private donors.<sup>1</sup> Even then, before Federal Recognition was granted in 1984, our Creek leadership was building the Tribe’s archival collections for posterity.

This article was found by our Team at the Office of Archives and Records Management in one of the newspapers titled *Creek Community News: The Newspaper By And For Creek Indians East Of The Mississippi* in the Dr. J. Anthony Paredes Collection. This Collection was donated to the Tribe by Dr. Paredes’ widow Dr. Alleen Deutsch Paredes and was acknowledged publically by our Tribal Chair Stephanie A. Bryan at our Thanksgiving Pow Wow in

2015. The Collection holds many old Tribal newspapers that we did not have in our archival collections.

The article says that the Tribal Council made a decision to relocate the Library Museum to the Tribal Center Building, now used to accommodate our Boys and Girls Club. The article states that the relocation “will increase the security control that is so vitally necessary for protection of historical records and artifacts.” From this quotation, we can see our leaders had the vision to protect our priceless records, and to preserve them for us to read these many years later.

We are unsure who wrote this news article, but it could have been written by the newspaper’s Editor Ms. Jennie Lee Dees, who served as the Tribal Administrator of Creek Nation East of the Mississippi for many years. We know the names of those who served on the editorial staff with her as they are listed in the

newspaper: Eddie Leon Tullis, John Arthur McGhee, and Julliette A. McGhee. These forward-thinking leaders thought our archival and museum collections were so important that they wrote about them in the newspaper to preserve this knowledge and share with all Tribal Members. If you have old Tribal newspapers or family records you would like to share with us, please give us a call at (251) 446-4942 or stop by our Office at 100 Brookwood Road in the CIEDA complex in Atmore. Our capable Team will be delighted to assist you in preserving your valuable records. *Mvto.*

*Submitted by Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ed.D.*

<sup>1</sup>“Creek Library Museum Re-locates,” *Creek Community News: The Newspaper By And For Creek Indians East Of The Mississippi*, Volume I, Number 3, May, 1979, page 6.



## *Being Thankful with our Elders*

We, at the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility, understand the importance of spending quality time with our loved ones and encourage our residents to do so by inviting their families for special holiday parties!

A Thanksgiving dinner was held on Sunday, November 20, 2016. Our residents were treated to a joyous evening of delicious food, family, and fellowship.

We are grateful to all of our guests for making this event memorable!



## *Nurturing Her Fall Garden*

A lot of people think that gardening is over once fall begins and the leaves start to change, but not our Ms. Alice Pierce! She is passionate about growing vegetables and as you can see, she knows exactly what she is doing during this time of year. From cabbage to collards and rutabagas, her beautiful garden is on display in the courtyard for our residents to enjoy! She may even cook us up a hearty serving if we are lucky.....

*Life at the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility is the beginning of a beautiful new chapter full of fun, peace of mind, and friendships. If you are interested in joining our family, feel free to contact our Administrator, Michelle Colbert Shiver at (251) 446-4899, for more information.*





Congratulations to the Boys & Girls Club December Youth of the Month winners!

PK-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade division winner - Sophia Ikner, top left; 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade division winner - Fredrick Barnhill, top right; and Teen Center division winner - Jayce Sells, bottom right. These youth were nominated for their outstanding demonstration of good behaviors and leadership. Congratulations Sophia, Fred, and Jayce!

*The Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Month is a year-round recognition program that focuses on acknowledging and making Club members aware of their own leadership abilities. The program also gives Club members a chance to showcase their achievements within the Club and in the community. The program is broken down into 3 divisions: PK-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade, and Teen Center. All youth are nominated by staff and Club members. The Youth of the Month Committee is required to evaluate each nominee to determine who will be the YOM for their division. The evaluations measure each of the nominees leadership achievements—demonstrating character and leadership ability, setting and reaching goals, helping others at the Club and being an example for peers. The Youth of the Month has a special bulletin board that highlights their achievements and encourages fellow Club members to become leaders. Selected Youth of the Month winners receive a certificate, a \$5.00 arcade card, a special dinner with cupcakes, and will be invited to the Annual Youth of the Year banquet.*

The Boys & Girls Club Open Enrollment will run from January 1, 2017 through January 31, 2017. All applications and fees must be received by the deadline. No applications will be accepted after January 31, 2017. Contact Debra Ramer at (251) 368-9136 x 2282 or [dramer@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:dramer@pci-nsn.gov) for more information.

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Located in Mobile, AL

Entering Grades 6-10

Launch a Rocket

Kayak in Mobile Bay

Build a Robot

Solve a Crime

Prepare for the ACT

Day & Overnight Camp



### SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

Want to earn a one-week scholarship to the Adventures In Math and Science (AIMS) STEM-based summer camp at the Alabama School of Math and Science?

#### DIRECTIONS AND TOPIC

Current 5-9th grade students are eligible to win a scholarship by **pitching an invention that could help humanity in a short essay (2-3 paragraphs).**

All essay entries must be submitted by March 1, 2017. Only Tribal Member Students and First Generation Students are eligible to win a scholarship. The top 10 essays will win a one-week scholarship to AIMS. All participants will receive a \$25 discount code for one week of AIMS.

#### TWO WAYS TO SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY

Make sure we know who you are. Send us your name, address, phone number, grade level, and where you currently attend school.

**OPTION ONE** - Email us your essay to [aims@asms.net](mailto:aims@asms.net)

**OPTION TWO** - Snail mail ASMS your essay.

Mail to: AIMS Essay Contest

1255 Dauphin Street

Mobile, AL 36604

#### WHAT IS AIMS?

The Adventures In Math and Science summer camp is an academic-oriented summer program for 6-10th graders. AIMS runs for three sessions (weeks) in June at the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile. Please visit [www.asms.net](http://www.asms.net) for detailed information.



### An Easy, One-Step Budget

When it comes to personal finance, most of us abhor the ‘B’ word, the dreaded budget. After all, a budget is restraining and confining. It reveals our financial limitations, of which we’d rather remain unaware.

Well, let me propose the simplest budget that I’ve ever seen – A budget that is sure to work for everyone who uses it. It’s based on a psychological shift in your thinking. You see, most of us try to save what’s left after we spend. The problem is, there’s usually not any left. The budget I’m proposing suggests this simple shift – It’s PYF, or Pay Yourself First. With this method, you spend what’s left after you save.



The first and only step to this budget is to decide the percentage or amount that you’ll save each pay-period and immediately deposit this into savings, before making any other payments. Now, go spend the rest as you desire.

How much should you save? Most personal finance experts recommend saving 10% – 15% of your gross income. If this seems too high, start with a lower percentage and gradually increase this percentage each year until you reach your goal.

If your employer offers a 401k or other retirement plan, strive to contribute at least enough to receive the maximum matching portion of this plan. If you don’t do this, you’ll be leaving ‘free money’ on the table.

So remember, PYF – Pay Yourself First – Then spend what’s left after you save. This simple shift makes saving a priority and you’ll be glad you did at year-end.

*Bryan Fayard, Financial Education Counselor*

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## Megan Young, A Determined Student

Pursuing her Master of Arts in Communication from the University of South Alabama, Megan Young is very thankful to the Tribe for funding her educational goals. "Furthering one's education is a huge financial burden for many individuals, and I am very grateful that our Tribe places emphasis on education and assists so tremendously with funding," added Megan.

Megan currently holds a challenging position as Director of Strategy & Special Projects within the Tribal Chair's office. She has set the goal of implementing what she has learned for the benefit of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. "Communication is a vital resource that we all use every single day. While this was an area in which I naturally excelled throughout high school and college, my experiences with graduate school have given me the opportunity to better develop my skillset. The education I received through the M.A. in communication graduate program is applicable to many endeavors in which the Tribe is engaged," according to Megan.

The challenges that Megan faced while attending school and

working full time were many; they included being pulled in different directions by work, school, home, family and friends. She found herself feeling guilty about not having the energy to keep up with everything that she wanted to accomplish. Her Mama reminded her, "Megan, even God rested on the seventh day!"

Megan credits many people with supporting her during her educational journey. "Different individuals would give me an encouraging word exactly when I needed it most. Or sometimes, they would just let me vent about the agony of school.

*"You can do it! I believe in you, and so do many other people. If you have naysayers, get rid of them. Only surround yourself with those individuals that are going to uplift and encourage you."*

*Megan Young*

So many people have had faith in me, and it made me work harder to make them proud. I know that numerous prayers and positive thoughts were sent my way when I



*Megan with niece Emmee Hayes*

was struggling, and I appreciate it more than anyone will ever know."

Megan also credits her strong faith and gives all the praise and glory to God for giving her the strength, wisdom and perseverance she needed to make it through.

For anyone who is currently pursuing a degree and may be struggling, Megan offers the following advice, "You can do it! I believe in you, and so do many other people. If you have naysayers, get rid of them. Only surround yourself with those individuals that are going to uplift and encourage you."

Congratulations Megan!

*By Anne Nowak*



### Tribe Partners with Green Industry Web Portal For Tree Planting Project

Darrell Hollinger, Tribal Community Garden Supervisor, received approval from the Tribal Council to partner with Fred Kapp, Educational Director for the Green Industry Web Portal (GIWP), to plant thirty-three (33) fruit trees north of the Tribal wetland cells near the ball fields off of Green Road.

The initiative is an early part of a partnership with Green Industry Web Portal to strengthen the Tribe's food security efforts over time as Community Garden expansion occurs.

There are several different varieties of pear (3), plum (6), persimmon (6), peach (9) and apple (9) trees which the Public Works team have kept watered during the recent drought.

The Green Industry Web Portal is a project originally developed to help Alabamians in the Appalachian Regional Commission to gain industry certification and State licenses to increase their knowledge base, ability to obtain employment, and to legally operate their own Green Industry business in Alabama. It is base-funded through Auburn University and grant-supported by other agriculture grants. Other Poarch Creek operating divisions have also partnered with Green Industry, including the casinos.

Other Green Industry Web Portal partners include the Appalachian Regional Commission, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama State Department of Education, Auburn University - Montgomery,

Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association, Alabama Turfgrass Association, Alabama Urban Forestry Association, Greater Birmingham Association of Landscape Professionals, Daniel Foundation of Alabama and many industry suppliers, vendors and Green Industry companies.

More trees are planned for planting by the Community Garden in 2017.

**Photos Left to Right:** Council members Sandy Hollinger and Eddie Tullis provided guidance with on site selection for tree planting. Waylon Tucker augered holes in the extremely hard soil, due to the recent drought. Public Works staff Vincent Lambeth, Jeremy Odom, and Bryan Ledkins plant trees.

*Submitted by Arlene Mack*

### Spay & Neuter Program

The Tribal Council has provided funding for the Environmental Department to continue its Spay and Neuter Program under limited program requirements.

Starting January 23, 2017 the Environmental Department will

begin giving out vouchers for spay/neuter services for cats and dogs.

Vouchers will be given out from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Environmental Department in Building 300.

Only 1 voucher per household will be allowed. These are available on a first-come first-serve basis for Tribal

Members only. Tribal Members must come in person to get the voucher(s) and present Tribal ID.

If you have any questions, please call (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2683.





### Celebrate Arbor Day By Planting A Tree!

The Environmental Department will be giving out bare-root tree seedlings February 21-24, 2017:

- Red Maple
- Stiffcornel Dogwood
- Wild Black Cherry
- White Oak

One of each type of seedling will be given out on a first come, first serve basis. Supplies are limited!! These are available for Tribal Members and Tribal Employees.

Location: Environmental Office Building 300  
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(251) 368-9136 x 2683 for more information.

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2017

# The Family Services Department

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF TRIBAL MEMBERS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES.

## The Family Services Department Announces 2017 WINTER LIHEAP INFORMATION (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

**DISTRIBUTION DATES:** February 21, 22, 23  
March 7, 8, 9  
March 21, 22, 23

### **\*\*General Information\*\***

- Applications will be accepted in the Family Services Department.
- No appointments are necessary. Services are offered on a first come, first served basis.
- Note the various dates and come in according to your household composition.
- Priority is given to Senior Households, clients receiving Disability Income, Households with children under the age of 5, and Households receiving Food Stamps or TANF benefits.
- LIHEAP does NOT pay for any additional fees or services such as late fees, connection fees, outside lights, etc.
- Approval amounts range from \$250-\$325. You will be responsible for any charges that are not covered by LIHEAP. If your bill is less than the awarded amount, only the total amount of the bill will be paid.
- ALL PER CAPITA WILL BE COUNTED AS INCOME.

### **\*\*Required Documentation for All Applicants\*\***

- Current energy or gas bill.
- Social Security cards for ALL members of the household. There will be no exceptions or approvals without SS cards. This is a federal requirement.
- Tribal ID for applicant/head of household.
- Current income verification for all household members that are over the age of 19, such as paystubs, paychecks, letters of salary verification, etc...
- If anyone in the home over 19 is unemployed, you must bring a statement verifying they are not working. The statement must be signed by three people who do not reside in your household and must include their phone numbers.
- Current verification if receiving state unemployment benefits.
- Current verification if your household is receiving Food Stamps benefits.
- CURRENT Social Security or Disability Income Verification. We must have current income verification on file for all 2017 applications and services.

\*Please call the Family Services Department if you have any questions.

Family Services Department

2017 LIHEAP Information Continued

**ESTIMATED STATE MEDIAN INCOME, BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND BY STATE  
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2017**

State	Estimated State Median Income (4 person Household)	60 % of the estimated SMI for 4 person household	1-Person Household	2-Person Household	3-Person Household	4-Person Household	5-Person Household	6-Person Household
Alabama	\$67,621	\$40,573	\$21,098	\$27,590	\$34,081	\$40,573	\$47,065	\$53,556
Florida	\$67,643	\$40,586	\$21,105	\$27,598	\$34,092	\$40,586	\$47,080	\$53,574

Please note income guidelines have changed due to changes in federal guidelines.

\*\* Please be aware of household income adjustments \*\*

\*\* LIHEAP applicants must meet above listed income guidelines to qualify. \*\*

\*\* 2017 PER CAPITA TOTAL- \$3,500\*\*

**2017 Winter LIHEAP Dates and Times.**

**\*WINTER APPLICATION DATES\***

DAY	DATE	TIME	PRIORITY SCHEDULE
Tuesday	February 21, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	SENIORS & DISABILITY INCOME ONLY
Wednesday	February 22, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Senior Households; Households with Children Under 5 years; and Households receiving Food Stamps and TANF benefits
Thursday	February 23, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Tuesday	March 7, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Wednesday	March 8, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Thursday	March 9, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Tuesday	March 21, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Wednesday	March 22, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Thursday	March 23, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households

## FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT EXTENDS THANKS TO ALL WHO HELP MAKE THEIR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES A SUCCESS

The Family Services Department would like to extend a huge "Thank You" to many people, departments, agencies, and Tribal Members for assisting with and supporting our community events. We host several events during the fall months, but we could not do it alone.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Prevention Month and our department hosts an annual vigil. We have many organizations and people who help us meet the needs of DV victims, support our programs, and assist with our vigil.

Special thanks to Renee Cain, Esc. Co. Sheriff's DV Task Force; Martha Salter, Penelope House; Rhyon Ervin, The Lighthouse; Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Heather Cook, SART Team; Gwen Packard, NIWRC; Sehoy Spence, from Human Resources, Arlene Mack, Grants & Project Manager, and the Tribal Police Department.

We are truly thankful for the Tribal departments, community, and surrounding areas that help keep our families safe and promote prevention programs.

In October, we also hosted the annual community Fall Festival. We love to see all of the smiles on children's faces having fun & families enjoying events together!

Special thanks to the Recreation Department for use of the facilities, to the Boys & Girls Club for preparing the food & several games, Tribal Emergency Management, Tribal Police Department, and many other departments that participated along with local churches and community groups.

We are truly thankful that everyone worked together to make the Fall Festival a success in a safe, happy, fun-filled environment!

We also want to thank those that helped us with our annual Kids Christmas event. Each year, we are able to host a holiday event for the children. Special thanks to our co-sponsors this year, Recreation, Housing, Education, and Wind Creek Entertainment Center. Thank you so much from the entire staff of the Family Services Department!

Many, many hours go into planning and coordinating events. We have a great staff that works hard to

make sure these events are a success and that Tribal Members enjoy themselves.

A big thank you to all Tribal departments that work with us on many events and help ensure things go well.

We are thankful to have a Tribe and Tribal Council that supports community events and programs for our families.

Thank you to all and we truly appreciate the teams we have working with us, coordinating, and supporting our events.

I can't close this article without saying a heartfelt thanks to my staff. Sure, the events and activities are "part of the job", but each of you do so much more that what any job description can cover. I am truly blessed to work with a group of people who truly care for those they serve. It is so much more than just a job to us all.

MVTO!

*Amanda Montgomery, Family Services Director*

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*Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.*

Mark Twain

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW PROVIDERS

The Health Clinic has added OB/GYN services to the patient services available through the Health Clinic.

Dr Max Rogers from Mobile will be seeing patients at our clinic once a month. Dr Rogers comes highly recommended and he will perform minor procedures, well women check -ups and obstetrical visits.

Dr. Max Rogers was born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, and attended The Virginia Military Institute for college.

After graduating from VMI, he was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps where he flew the F/A-18 "Hornet" Strike Fighter. After serving for seven years, Dr. Rogers attended medical school at the University of Alabama School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at The University of Alabama Hospital in Birmingham.

Dr. Rogers returned to Mobile, Alabama in 1998, and entered private practice in Obstetrics and Gynecology.



He is board certified, a Fellow in The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and a Diplomat of The American Board of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Given his passion for quality improvement in women's healthcare, Dr. Rogers has served on the National ACOG Committee for Patient Safety and Quality Improvement. He has served the Infirmity Health System in several leadership capacities, including President of the Medical Staff.

Today, Dr. Rogers specializes in routine and high risk obstetrics, treatment of menopause, treatment of urinary incontinence, medical and surgical treatment of Gynecologic disorders of the pelvic floor, including minimally invasive laparoscopic and Robotic surgery.

He looks forward to serving the Poarch Creek community, and feels very privileged to do so.

To schedule an appointment for Dr. Rogers please call 251-368-9136 ext. 2383.

We are also pleased to welcome Dr. Stella von Troil to our clinic staff.

Dr. Stella is a board certified family practice doctor with many years of experience. She is from the Pensacola area and has worked with many of our patients in the past two years.

Dr. Stella will be starting on January 9, 2017.

*We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon.*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

### Reminders To All Health Clinic 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
- 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

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Monday and Thursday



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*Megan Rackard and family moved into their new TAHO home on November 15, 2016. Megan is a first time homeowner.*

*Leslie Presley and family moved into their new TAHO home on November 18, 2016. Leslie is also a first time homeowner.*

### REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Applications for the Rehabilitation Program are taken year round.

This program is for Tribal Members who live inside the service area and have health or safety issues within their home.

Some examples would be: roofs, windows, bathrooms, insulation, ramps, unsafe flooring, plumbing and electrical problems.

### HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM PROGRAM

The Program is available to Tribal Members to assist in repairs or replacement of heating and cooling systems.

Loan amount shall not exceed Five Thousand Dollars (5,000.00) Tribal Members must own or have no less than a five (5) year lease on a home or manufactured home.

Each request for service will be considered on a case by case basis.

### RENTAL HOUSING PROGRAM

The Poarch Creek Indians Housing Department is currently taking applications for two (2) bedroom senior units, single family two (2) bedroom, three (3) bedroom, four (4) bedroom, and five (5) bedroom units and two (2) bedroom Moniac Townhouses.

In order to apply for the rental program, you must be at least nineteen (19) years of age and complete an application which includes: Tribal identification, back ground investigation, proof of household income, social security card, marriage certificate, divorce decree, child custody information if applicable, and any other documentation requested by the Housing Department's staff.

If the applicant is married, his/her spouse's information must be included, and the spouse must also sign the application.

# FIRE SAFETY TIPS

**1** Put the phone numbers of the fire department near the phone.



**2** Eliminate fire hazards through good house-keeping. Dispose waste paper, rubbish, and other flammable materials regularly.



**3** Keep flammable materials inside proper containers and store them properly.



**4** Regularly check your electrical installations, and have all frayed wirings and electrical fixtures changed or repaired by a licensed electrician.

**5** Do not overload electrical circuits by putting additional lights and appliances.



**6** Blown fuses should not be replaced with coins, wires, or any metal.

**7** Unplug all electrical appliances after every use.



**8** Never leave lighted candles unattended.

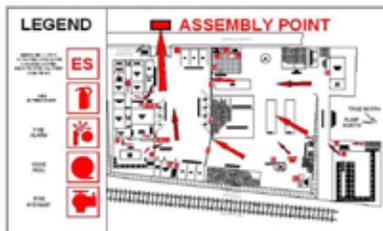
**9** Strictly obey the no smoking signs.



**10** Do not throw lighted cigar or cigarette butts on dried leaves and garbage.

**11** Never leave a lit cigarette/cigar/pipe unattended – it may fall on flammable materials which could start a fire.

**12** Ensure that you have a pre-fire plan at your office.



**13** Check fire protection gadgets or devices of appliances and equipment regularly.

**14** Be fire-safety conscious.



The Recreation Department hosted the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. It was a Fun Run that began and ended at the Health Department. We had 75 participants in the 5k run.



November 13, 2016, NB3FIT DAY, was a national day of inspiration, learning and physical movement to support the health and fitness of Native American youth. The Recreation Department hosted a stickball game for the youth. We had 20 kids to participate.

# Your Health Matters

## GATHER TOGETHER IN HEALTH



## RESET AND RECHARGE

**BY ASHLEY RICHARDS**

*Advantage Training Nutritionist*

*Let's have a heart to heart for a minute. Do you loooove every meal you eat? I mean really love it. Like, enjoy the heck out of every bite, get giddy when you're about to eat it, then feel totally satisfied afterward?*

Nine times out of 10 when I ask this question, the answer I get is "um, no." It's funny how much attention we give to food when we're not eating, only to ignore it, or eat foods we don't even enjoy, when it's actually time to sit down and have a meal. I love food. I really love food. I love sweets, savory food, I love smelling food, and I even love enjoying how a great meal looks before I eat it. But, even though I am a nutritionist, I can get wrapped up in

the go-go-go lifestyle and forget to tune into every meal and really appreciate it. Here's something I'll never do: eat something that I don't want to eat. If we eat the healthiest food in the world unwillingly, our bodies register that icky emotion as stress. When we're stressed, our nervous system goes into fight-or-flight mode, shutting down all unnecessary-to-survival bodily functions (digestion and metabolism being at the top of list!) and our

[www.mypciwellness.com](http://www.mypciwellness.com)

# My PCI WELLNESS

***I live by the 80/20 rule when it comes to food: 80 percent whole foods: (in their natural state, preservative free, minimally processed) and 20 percent non-whole foods (packaged, bottled, usually in the cupboard)***

bodies can't break that healthy food down properly. This may be why people don't see results from their diets, and why some foods sometimes bother our stomach and other times they don't. So what do we do, eat burgers and fries all day? Nope. We reset our viewpoint and recharge our desire for health and wellness. Here are three things that may help change our relationship with food — and ourselves.

## **1) What Are You Consuming?**

I highly recommend starting a food journal. Include everything you eat for two week days and one weekend day. See what are you eating. Ideally, you want the majority of your consumption to be from whole-foods. I live by the 80/20 rule when it comes to food: 80 percent whole foods (in their natural state, preservative-free, minimally processed) and 20 percent non-whole foods (packaged, bottled, usually in the cupboard.). What are you drinking and chewing? So many of us complain of digestive issues. Are you chewing sugar-free gum or drinking diet soda during the day? The fake sugars in these products wreck havoc on digestion.

## **2) Redefine What You Want**

Ok, you want a certain number on the scale and, or maybe to fit into a certain pair of jeans, but what is driving you to achieve your dream body even more than that? Is it to be healthy, strong, clear-minded, and happy so that you can squeeze every last drop out of your time on this planet with your family and friends? Is it to have a healthy relationship with all food, freeing up the time you obsess over what to eat and when, so that you can focus on your

creative projects, relationships, and daily life? At the foundation of each of these examples is joy, fun and living life to the fullest. That's what we all want. The more that you can start guiding your choices by this principle of joy, infusing it into every day, the faster you're setting yourself up for long-term, dream-body success. Because you're no longer chasing: You're living in the now and excited about the future. How amazing would that feel?

## **3) Be Open to a Change of Perspective**

People ask me all the time, "So, how does this really work? Do you really eat whatever you want, all the time?" Yes, I do. Yes, I eat burgers and fries. Sometimes. But I honestly love the way I feel when I eat mostly fresh, creative salads, veggies, and proteins. Dessert is a staple for me, so I choose healthy options that leave me feeling like I did something good for my body in addition to satisfying my sweet tooth. Guilt is no longer a part of my personal vocabulary. These practices are not just for nutritionists! You can do this too. Seriously, it's totally possible. It's not something that applies to everyone but you. You can do this. I know you can. And if you need some help, I'd be honored to support you every step of the way.

*Ashley*



*SMALL DECISIONS MAKE BIG THINGS HAPPEN*

POARCH CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT NOW A TRAINING SITE FOR ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

In January 2016, Poarch Creek Fire Department announced a partnership with the Alabama Fire College to offer Emergency Medical Technician courses. The partnership is ready to take flight in January 2017.

The Alabama Fire College will offer EMT-Basic Courses to the surrounding community. The EMT-Basic class will be taught via a video conference platform. Class will be hosted by Poarch Creek Fire Department.

More info can be obtained by calling, Chris McGhee, Poarch Creek Fire Training Officer, at 251-253-9571.

*What is required to become an Emergency Medical Technician?*

This course is required to apply for licensure as an EMT. Students are given insights into the theory and application of concepts related to the profession of emergency medical services. This course is based on the Emergency Medical Technician National Standard Curriculum.



Successful graduates are eligible to take the National Registry certification exam and advance to Advanced EMT.

This is an intensive, fast-paced course, taught by experienced Paramedics. Healthcare Provider CPR is taught and students are certified at the beginning of the class. Attendance is mandatory. Students are encouraged to read the assigned text and complete the assignments in order to successfully complete this course.

Subject matter includes:

- EMT Operations and Safety
- Trauma Management
- DOT Laws and Regulations
- Infectious Diseases
- Blood-borne Pathogens/ Universal Precautions

- OB/GYN
- Airway Management
- Neurological Emergencies
- Cardiac Emergencies
- Environmental Emergencies
- Medical Emergencies

Emergency Medical Technician Course Cost per student:

Tuition	\$691.00
Fees	\$ 83.00
Books	\$202.00
Clothing	\$ 30.52
Supplies	\$ 65.35

### 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 anonymous; your name or phone number will never be required.

All information provided via the Tip Line will be investigated.



**Tribal Tip Line \* (251) 446-ITIP \* (446-4847)**

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**Edie Jackson**  
 INDEPENDENT DESIGNER #22035  
 ORIGAMI OWL

251-253-5818  
 Jackson.edie@yahoo.com  
 Ediejackson.OrigamiOwl.com

Happy New Year!!! We hope your holiday's were filled with beautiful memories with your family and loved ones. On this occasion of the New Year, we take this opportunity to wish you and your family the very best in life. Here's praying that all of life's joys, successes, and contentment be with you in the next year.

In an effort to reduce after hour call outs, which exceeded over 100 in 2016, and to minimize interruptions of water services, the Canoe Improvements Project is well underway. The project is replacing significant failing sections of the system. After completion, which should be within the next two months, the project will have replaced 5 sections of lines.

The Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund Project was awarded and the construction phase has begun. Construction will include a new administration building that will accommodate the growth of the Utility Authority after absorbing surrounding systems, Huxford and Canoe. It will also be friendlier to our customers. The existing lab for water and wastewater testing will be renovated as well.

The planning, design, and procurement process for the Man Hole Lining Project is nearing completion. We are pleased to have been able to secure a grant to assist with this project; and will also allow us to rehabilitate the most deteriorating man holes in the system, which primarily consist of the ones in the older

part of the system in the Martin and Jack Springs Road areas. The focus of this project is to apply an epoxy or epoxy type liner to the inside of the man holes. This will reduce I&I (Inflow and Infiltration) from entering into our sanitary sewer system. Reducing the I&I will decrease the spikes of flow that is received at the Waste Water Treatment Plant from rain events, and other unforeseen conditions, enabling us to stabilize the biological treatment process and impact the cost to treat sewage.

Please contact our office, should you need assistance, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 251-446-1617. We are always here to answer any questions or concerns.

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## APPLICATION FOR SERVICE

Applications for Service with the Utilities Authority are available at the Utilities Department and have been posted on the Utilities Authority page of the Tribal web site, [www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov).

Applications must be downloaded, completed, signed, and returned to the Utilities Authority. Signed applications must be hand delivered or mailed to Poarch Creek Indians Utilities Authority at 263 Aplin Road, Atmore, AL 36502.





## RV PARK AT WIND CREEK ATMORE

Mardi Gras is months away but the good times will be rolling early into the newest attraction at Wind Creek Atmore (WCA). The RV Park at Wind Creek is set to open in early January.

With 24 spacious spots and full sewer and water hook-ups, the RV Park is estimated to welcome over 8,000 travelers to the area each year.

Complimentary Wi-Fi; free shuttle service to and from the casino; and regular security patrols will make the park an inviting and convenient option for visitors to the Gulf Coast.

All spaces are 75ft. long and will allow for pull-through parking. The park includes picnic tables, fire pits, grills, and a dump station. Guests

can reserve spots with nightly (\$38), weekly (\$211) and monthly rates (\$850).

When camping at the park, guests have access to the RV Clubhouse which features showers, washers and dryers and vending machines. RV Park reservations also include access to the following amenities:

- Spa at Wind Creek
- Hotel Pool/Hot Tub
- Hotel Fitness Center
- All other amenities inside WCA (gaming floor, Strikes bowling alley, Cinema at Wind Creek, Essentials gift shop and multiple restaurants including B.B. King's World Famous Café)

The upscale park marks the first project of its kind for an authority

of the Tribe and will add even more variety to the AAA Four-Diamond resort.

Known as the “family property”, WCA already includes a little something for everyone, from a state-of-the-art cinema to one of the premiere restaurants in Alabama, FIRE Steakhouse.

The addition of the RV Park is sure to provide guests with more ways to find their winning moments at Wind Creek.

*Kristen Gehman, WCH PR Specialist*



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

# CIEDA on SOCIAL MEDIA



We live in a technology, digital era. Practically everything you do is online or mobile these days.

From paying bills and purchasing items to getting news information, sports alerts and funny memes, our lives are consumed with constant dings and sounds coming from our mobile devices.

Social media plays a huge roll in how a majority of people live their lives. A plethora of avenues exist in which consumers can get information — Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat, Tumblr, Reddit, Google+ — the list is endless. The 24/7 news cycle doesn't stop. That's why it is important for businesses to be on social media and engage with their customers.

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA) and its enterprises are on a multitude of social media platforms. A quick search on each site will bring up the page.

Each business has its own **Facebook page:**



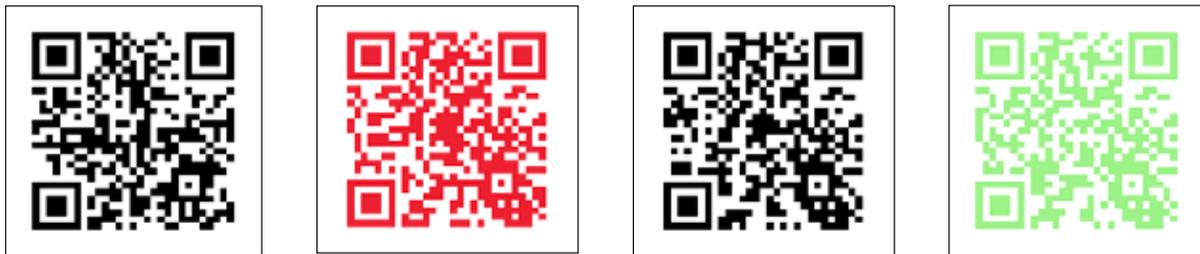
CreekTravelPlaza

MuskogeeInn

MagnoliaBranch

PCI.CIEDA

MuskoTech



PerdidoRiverFarms

CCSAtmore

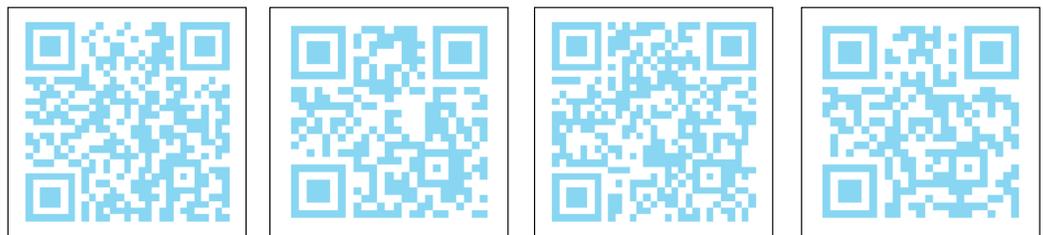
CCSWetumpka

CreekIndianJobs



Four enterprises have **Twitter accounts:**

- [twitter.com/creektravelplaz](https://twitter.com/creektravelplaz)
- [twitter.com/MuskogeeInn](https://twitter.com/MuskogeeInn)
- [twitter.com/magnoliabranch](https://twitter.com/magnoliabranch)
- [twitter.com/Muskotech](https://twitter.com/Muskotech)

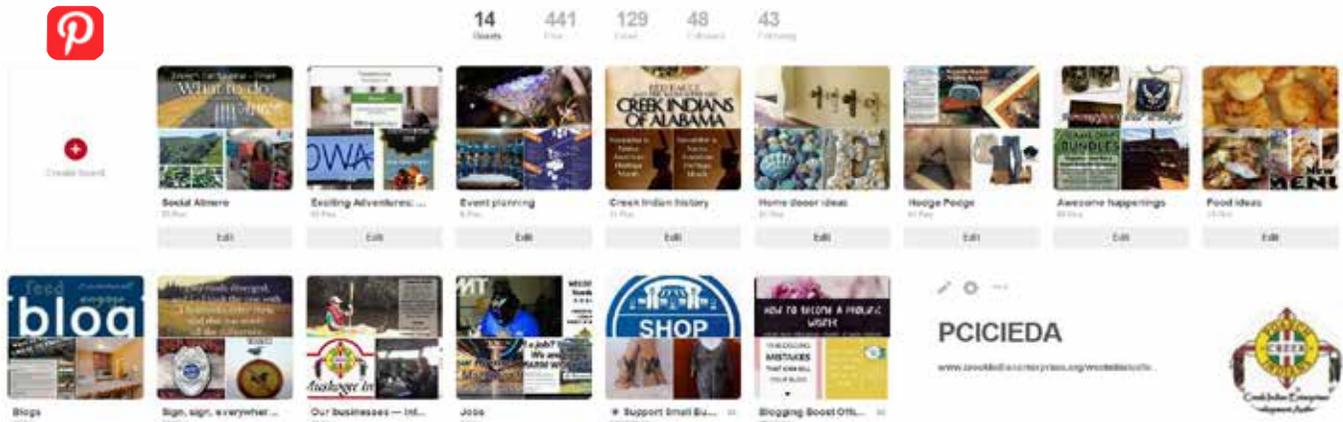


CreekTravelPlaz

MuskogeeInn

MagnoliaBranch

MuskoTech



CIEDA is on Pinterest and has boards representing each of its enterprises: <https://www.pinterest.com/pcicieda/>. CIEDA uses Tumblr to promote the enterprises as well: <https://www.tumblr.com/blog/pcicieda>.



CIEDA and Muskogee Technology are on Instagram, and CIEDA also manages the Social Atmore Instagram page, where it promotes city and Tribal events and businesses. The Instagram accounts can be found here, as well as searching for the name after the @ symbol:



- <https://www.instagram.com/pcicie22/>
- [https://www.instagram.com/muskogee\\_tech/](https://www.instagram.com/muskogee_tech/)
- <https://www.instagram.com/socialatmore/>



@pcicie22



@muskogee\_tech



@socialatmore

Creek Travel Plaza, Muskogee Inn and Muskogee Technology have a news blog page on the main CIEDA site, but each of these businesses host a blog on its own website as well. CIEDA also maintains a “catch all” blog site on blogspot.

- <http://creektravelplaza.com/westminster/blog.html>
- <http://www.muskogeeinn.com/category/blogs/>
- <http://muskotech.com/blog.html>
- <http://www.magnoliabranch.com/page/Blog>
- <http://pcicie.blogspot.com/>



So as you can see, social media is an important and vital part of CIEDA’s strategy to grow and maintain its businesses. Tribal Members can stay up to date just by following or “liking” a page. Comment on our posts, share a photo and create chatter. Re-pin some of our Pinterest items. Get involved with your Tribal entities on social media and in person.

**We are doing great things, and we want you to know about them!**



Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority

<http://tinyurl.com/o36gh2n>



In addition to all these social media platforms, each business also utilizes a **blog**. Blogs keep Tribal Members and the public informed about what’s going on in the industries we serve. Some blogs give tips on certain things, such as ways to save money if you are traveling on a budget (Muskogee Inn) or horseback riding safety tips (Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve). You can read and follow the blogs on each business’ respective websites. CIEDA, Perdido River Farms, Creek Convenience Store Atmore and Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka have blogs hosted on CIEDA’s main website: <http://www.creekindianenterprises.org/westminster/blogs.html>.

For easy access to all listed sites, you can find clickable links in this same article on CIEDA’s blog page (<http://tinyurl.com/o36gh2n>) so you aren’t having to type in long addresses on your mobile devices.

Scan the QR code on the left to be taken directly there.

# 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.

# The Speed of convenience store TRANSACTIONS

By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist  
 Statistics sourced from NACS Retailing

Convenience and quickness are important in today's world of always-on-the-go consumers. When waiting in line at Wal-Mart just seems too much to deal with, some will opt to jet on down to the nearest convenience store to pick up a few items.

Here's a breakdown of just how quick a convenience store transaction goes:



**CCS**  
**ATMORE**

**START HERE**

**35**  
seconds

The time it takes to walk from the car to the store

**71**  
seconds

The time it takes to select items to purchase

**42**  
seconds

Approximate time you wait to check out

**FINISH**

**44**  
seconds

The time it takes to leave the store

**21**  
seconds

The average person pays within this time



**CCS**  
**WETUMPKA**

# Hiking Safety Tips

**Never hike alone.** Many hikers enjoy escaping from the daily grind and getting some alone time with Mother Nature. Although some outdoor activities can be safely enjoyed alone, others, including hiking, should never be done without a friend in tow. There are numerous benefits to hiking in pairs or groups, not the least of which is having someone there to go for help should anyone suffer an injury on the trails.

**Know the weather forecast.** When planning a hiking trip, know the weather forecast for the day or days you plan to hike. Pack an extra jacket or coat, ideally a rain coat that can serve double duty should it start to rain.

## Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve

**Share your itinerary with someone staying behind.** Even if you are hiking with others, it's best to share your itinerary with someone who is not joining you on your trip. This way someone can alert authorities to you and your fellow hikers' direction if you get lost on a trail and cannot find your way out.

**Carry water and snacks.** Staying hydrated can make a long or challenging hike easier on your muscles, so be sure to bring plenty of water, which also can quench your thirst throughout your hike. Bring some snacks along as well. Snacks should provide you with energy to continue your hike, so leave behind potato chips or pretzels and pack fresh fruit, granola, protein bars or trail mix.

**Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve** is a great place for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy some of their favorite activities. Visitors can camp out after a day spent canoeing or kayaking on the water or doing other outdoor activities, such as hiking or biking.

Hiking is among the more popular activities enjoyed at many parks across the globe. That's why it's important to take the following precautionary measures when hiking.

**Start early.** Embarking on a hike early is beneficial in a variety of ways. Nature is beautiful at all times of the day, but part of the joy of hiking is taking in all of the beautiful landscapes, which are easier to see during daylight hours than at night. Wildlife also might be more prevalent after sundown. Magnolia Branch has abundant and various wildlife, some of which can be seen from a distance on hiking trails.

Hiking is a great way to enjoy the great outdoors. But even veteran hikers must take safety precautions to ensure their trips are as safe as they are enjoyable.

By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

# BEAR HUGS 4 kids



By Jen Peake  
CIEDA  
Marketing  
Specialist

Trauma situations can be difficult for anyone to process, but for children, it can be a pretty scary time in their young lives. However, with the help of law enforcement, first responders and the local community, children involved in confusing circumstances can get a little comfort from a stuffed animal.

Creek Travel Plaza (CTP) is the organizer for the Bear Hugs 4 Kids program, which helps alleviate fear and anxiety in children during traumatic events, such as car accidents, domestic violence, house fires, etc. And this year, there are more animals to choose from for donating to the cause.

For \$25, you can purchase two animals — one will go home with you to keep or give to a family member or friend, and the other bear will be donated to local first responders and law enforcement officers. Or you may choose to donate both. It's your choice. CTP has added elephants, tigers, giraffes, cows and puppy dogs to the mix, as well as the Nokose bear.

All patrol officers carry the animals in their cars. When responding to calls involving children, the officers use the stuffed animals as an ice breaker for frightened youngsters.

A quick online search shows Teddy bear programs involving law enforcement and first responders date back to the 1980s.

The Poarch Fire Department sees about 800-900 calls per year and they distribute the animals from CTP as well.

National statistics show about half of all American children have been exposed to at least one or more serious traumatic childhood experiences, according to a survey conducted by the National Survey of Children's Health.

So help a local child by donating a stuffed animal. It might be just what they need.

# ENJOY A STAYCATION

By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist



Recovery from the recession that began in 2008 has sparked renewed interest in vacation travel. Hotel bookings at Muskogee Inn are up, and millions across the globe will enjoy vacations in the months to come.

Although discretionary spending is increasing, some individuals and families continue to take a conservative approach to their finances, and that approach extends to how they spend their time off. Many are still embracing staycations, in which families forgo expensive travel in favor of staying home. Plus, putting your money back into the local economy boosts your community.

The month of November is an especially good time to take advantage of this because Pow Wow happens during the Thanksgiving holiday and many locals and Tribal Members book rooms for family members who are coming to town to attend Pow Wow festivities.

Did you know that Muskogee Inn also offers a locals discount at various times of the year? Here are several other ways families can make their staycations enjoyable and memorable:

- **Become a tourist in your hometown.**

Chances are you have never experienced the sights of your hometown the way a tourist might. Stay a weekend at Muskogee Inn and act like someone who is visiting Atmore for the first time. Seek out and visit points of history in the community, such as the train depot downtown or the Poarch Creek Indian Cultural Museum. You just might be surprised at what you can discover.

- **Look for hidden gems.** Some local businesses might be willing to open up for “behind the scenes” tours if you ask. This can be a fun excursion for young children. Newspaper offices might host tours of their facilities. Even the bowling alley at Wind Creek Atmore can be fascinating to children.

Ask management if they can see ball-return mechanisms or how equipment is stored. Or take time to do an activity at Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve that you normally don’t partake in.

- **Turn off electronics.** Take a break from some of your devices during your staycation. By doing so, you will be less likely to fall into your daily habits and more likely to make the most of your time to rest and relax.



- **Dine out a few nights.**

Vacations often entail eating out. Use your staycation as the opportunity to dine at local restaurants, such as Creek Travel Plaza’s diner. Forget those diet plans for a day or two and savor that triple-scoop sundae on the diner’s menu.

- **Splurge on a show or sporting event.**

Attend an event you normally wouldn’t unless you were on vacation. Take the family to see the Mobile Bay Bears or Pensacola Blue Wahoos baseball teams play a home game. Treat yourself to concession stand snacks and a few souvenirs. During the summer, Wind Creek Atmore hosts a concert series at the amphitheater. Spend the night at Muskogee Inn after the concert to make it feel as if you were miles away from home.



- **Read the newspapers.**

Chances are you can find a number of entertaining and low-cost activities sponsored by your town or other organizations close to home.



# Lifetime achievement: 20 years

## Muskogee Technology's Anthony Hall celebrates 2 decades of service

Twenty years is a long time. And when you think about working at the same company for that long, it can either seem like an eternity or like it was just yesterday.

The latter is how it feels to Anthony Hall at Muskogee Technology (MT). Hall, the spouse of a Tribal Member, is a composite machine operator at MT and has just celebrated his 20th year working for the Tribe at the manufacturing plant. Muskogee Technology Plant Manager Jeff Nelson and Com-



posite Supervisor Phillip Hughey honored

Hall with a lunch celebration at David's Catfish and presented him with a crystal award for his service of 20 years. Hall also was given time off with pay.

And to hear him talk about his time there, you would think the past two decades were a breeze — but he credits that to the fact that working locally allowed him to be with his family and watch his children grow up and to help mold their lives.

"I am so thankful for the opportunity to work for this company, but especially glad that, because of this job, I was able to be home with my wife, Rita, and I have been able to watch my son, Dustin, and daughter, Breanna, grow up.

"I was doing shift work at the time when I was hired on at Muskogee Technology (then Muskogee Metal Works)," Hall said. "I was gone a lot be-



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

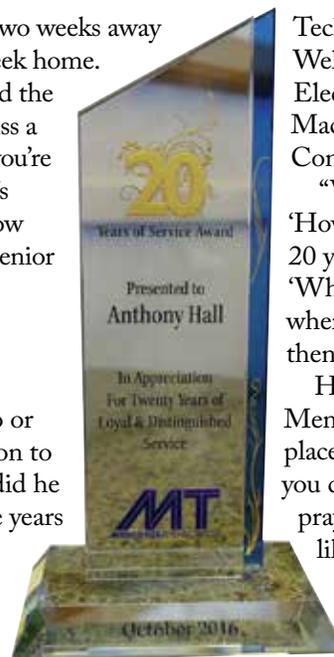
fore, working offshore two weeks away and having only one week home. It takes a toll on you and the family. Plus, you just miss a lot of memories when you're gone all the time." Hall's daughter, Breanna, is now the 2015-2016 Tribal Senior Princess.

Hall said when he applied for the job, he expected to only be employed there for two or three years then move on to something else. Little did he know, that two or three years would turn into 20. Since his original hire, Hall has held a few different positions at Muskogee

Technology — Forman, Welder, Stamp Press Operator, Electronics Inspector, Painter, Machine Operator and now Composite Machine Operator.

"When people ask me 'How did you stay there for 20 years?', my answer is: 'When you know you are where you are supposed to be, then that's all that matters.' "

Hall said his advice to Tribal Members and anyone seeking a place in the world is this: "If you don't like your job, pray to find one you do like. It will make your life and your family's life more enjoyable ... and you won't look back."



# Artificial Insemination

Perdido River Farms gets training in reproduction techniques using AI



As a cow-calf operation, Perdido River Farms (PRF) maintains a steady herd of cattle. One of the fundamental factors in sustaining a good herd is reproduction. Perdido River Farms prides itself on producing high-quality cattle, and recently the farm hosted a training class on artificial insemination (AI) of cows, demonstrated by Select Sires Inc., a frozen semen company that aids farmers in cattle reproduction. The company offers a customized approach to reproductive management.

There are benefits to artificially inseminating a cow instead of

breeding her traditionally. First, it allows farmers to use more diverse genetics than might be available onsite or in the geographical region, and second, it can improve individual traits in the offspring.

“A farmer in Atmore can use the same bull as a farmer in Wisconsin or Montana,” said Len Holliman with Select Sires Inc. “You don’t have to have the bull in the same physical proximity in order to breed, which saves the individual farmer on expenses, such as housing, feeding, etc., while at the same time improving the quality of the calf produced.”

The three-day training process involves education on the cow system and her anatomy and education on handling/use procedures for the frozen product, as well as hands-on training.

“We’re at Perdido River Farms to train producers to breed their cows artificially using AI techniques,” Holliman said. The PRF staff went through the training course along with farmers from other companies.

Another benefit for PRF is AI enables the farm to produce more high-quality show animals for Tribal 4-H and FFA students to take to competitions.



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

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. Please keep you information accurate and up to date.

Contact Tribal Member Benefits at (251) 368-9136 x 2209 to update your information.



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**CREEK Travel Plaza**

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



**No. 1**

*Creek Travel Plaza is now ranked No. 1 in the state of Alabama! Kudos to our customers for helping us achieve this honor!*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JANUARY (Rvfo 'Cuse) 2017

**January 1-31, 2017**

**Boys & Girls Club Open Enrollment**  
(251) 368-9136 x 2282 for questions or more information.

**Monday, January 2, 2017**

Tribal Government Offices, Boys & Girls Club, Museum, and Gym will be closed in observance of the New Year Holiday.

**Tuesday, January 3, 2017**

**5:00 pm (CST)**

**Deadline to submit information for publication in February 2017 issue of Poarch Creek News**

**January 3 & 4, 2017**

Tuesday & Wednesday  
Museum gift shop closed for monthly inventory

**January 10, 2017**

Community Garden Focus Group Meeting  
6:00 pm  
Building 500 Auditorium

**Tuesday, January 17, 2017**

Cancer Support Group Meeting  
Wind Creek Hospitality  
6:00 pm

**Monday, January 23, 2017**

Spay & Neuter Vouchers available  
Environmental Department  
One Per household  
Limited supply available

**Tribal Council Meetings**

Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>  
Building 500 Auditorium  
4:00 pm

**Tribal Court Sessions**

Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Tribal Courtroom  
9:00 am

**Tribal Regulatory Commission Meetings**

Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>  
Building 500 Auditorium  
8:00 am

**Tribal Grievance Board**

Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>  
Building 500 Auditorium  
1:00 pm

**Calvin McGhee**

**Cultural Advisory Committee**  
Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>  
Cultural Building on Hwy 21  
4:00 pm

**Education Advisory Committee**

Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>  
Family Services Conference Room  
Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic  
3:00 pm

**Utility Authority Board Meeting**

Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>  
Utilities Office  
1:00 pm

**4H Club Meeting**

Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Education Department  
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, February 1, 2017**

**5:00 pm (CST)**

**Deadline to submit information for publication in March 2017 issue of Poarch Creek News**

**Monday, February 15, 2016**

Tribal Government Offices, Boys & Girls Club, Museum, and Gym will be closed in observance of Presidents Day

**Winter LIHEAP**

February 21-23, 2017 /March 7-9 & March 21-23, 2017  
Family Services Department

### 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](mailto:gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov) [www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov)



**Poarch Creek Indians**  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502

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