

CREEK CORNER

ISSUE 12

The official magazine of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians



PBCI MUSEUM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS!

Photo Credit: Blake Crook

TRIBAL LEADERS

The mission of the Poarch Creek Indians is to protect our inherent rights as a sovereign American Indian Tribe, promote our culture and beliefs, to help our Tribal Members achieve their highest potential, maintain good relations with other Indian tribes and units of government, acquire, develop and conserve resources to achieve economic and social self-sufficiency, and ensure that our people live in peace and harmony among themselves and with others.

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.



Top Row (left to right):

Stephanie Bryan (Tribal Chair), Robert McGhee (Vice Chair), Charlotte Meckel (Secretary), Amy Gantt (Treasurer)

Bottom Row (left to right):

At-Large Council Members: Dewitt Carter, Candace Fayard, Sandy Hollinger, Keith Martin, Arthur Mothershed

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Katie Mothershed
akmothershed@pci-nsn.gov

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



HAPPY NEW YEAR



ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM: COLBERTS

Eighty-nine years of history was recounted by James Colbert who came into the Office of Archives and Records Management with his cousin, Ben Colbert, for our Oral History Program on September 14, 2022. At age 89, James Colbert shared with us his witness to history that included a variety of topics including his loving wife, the Korean War, and racism against Creeks.

Seated on the couch in front of the video camera, operated by videographer Cheryl Thrower, James answered questions about his life from Dr. Deidra Suwane Dees. He talked about his fifty-four-year marriage to Kay Wooten Colbert who passed away twelve years ago. He spoke fondly about their love for one another and how much he relied upon her throughout their marriage.

James also talked about his military service in the United States Army during the Korean War which was fought from 1950 to 1953. The North Koreans, supported by China and the Soviet Union, invaded South Korea which was supported by the United Nations, with the United States of America being its principal supporter. He recounted the hardship of frostbite, combat, and violence that soldiers encountered throughout the war. He remembered being stationed in Japan and being sent to the front line. Despite the hardship and violence, he said he learned a lot about discipline during his time in the Army which contributed to his life overall.

He said he went to school in Poarch in the 1940s because Creeks were not allowed to go to school with whites. It was not until the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s that Creeks and other students of color were permitted to attend schools with whites.

He remembered encountering bitter racism as a young man who had fallen in love with a young white woman. He said they had planned to be married until he found out that her father was opposed to the marriage because he was Creek. He said he was forced to break off the engagement with her which was the best decision he could have made under the circumstances. "It was the hardest thing I've ever had to do," he said sadly. In that era, interracial marriage was not as accepted as it is today.

James Colbert and Ben Colbert remembered that family members did not have electricity and had to wash clothes in the water at the spring. They remembered hog killing and salt meat which provided food for their family. For transportation, James said, "You could catch the train to Huxford for twenty-five cents."

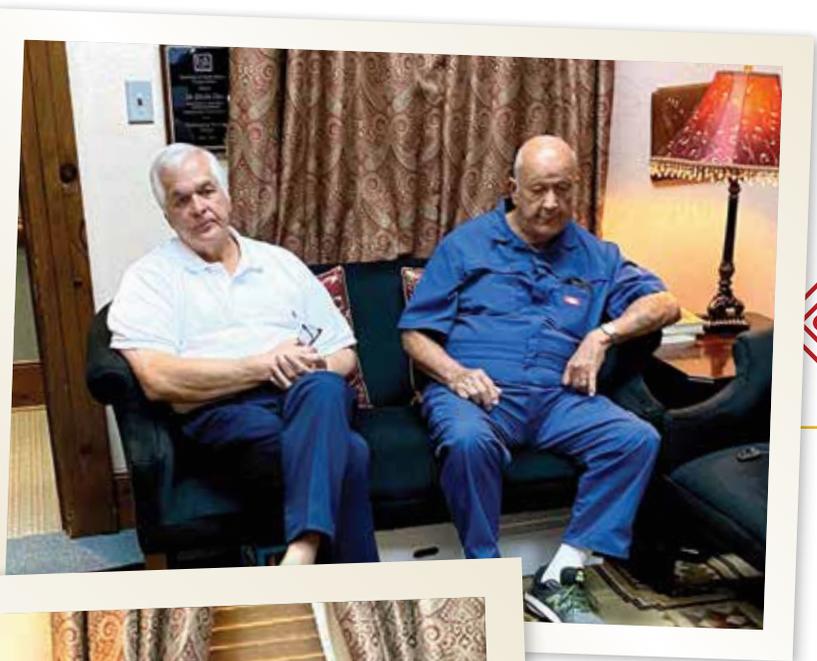
James Colbert recounted the progress the Tribe has made over the years. He said he appreciates everything the Tribe does for him. He ended his interview in a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Do you have a relative who would like to be interviewed? Call us at (251) 446-4942, and we will schedule a time for your interview. Mvto.

Submitted by Deidra Suwane Dees, Ed.D.



Ben Colbert (L) and James Colbert speak fondly about their family



Ben Colbert (L) and James Colbert (R) talked about hog killing

Cheryl Thrower (R) and Dr. Dees (L) get everything set up for the interview

Photo credit for all three photos: Chad Parker





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Merry Christmas!

TOP PERFORMER

September
TOP PERFORMER



Wilson
Lowery



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CCS
ATMORE
Next to Wind Creek



Indian Taco

Seasoned ground beef layered with lettuce, tomatoes and cheese, topped with salsa and sour cream.



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WCH CORNER



WIND CREEK[®] HOSPITALITY

In October, Wind Creek Bethlehem participated in a local trick-or-treating event hosted by the Iron Pigs—the property’s neighboring minor league baseball team.

The annual event has been a staple in the community for over a decade—allowing invited groups through local non-profits a chance to enjoy trick-or-treating inside a baseball stadium.

Over 25 participating organizations were encouraged to decorate a booth with a theme of their choice. This year, Wind Creek Bethlehem Team Members opted for a candy-themed table, complete with decorative balloons, matching apparel, candy bags and small giveaway items. From there, the invited trick-or-treaters walked around the stadium to collect candy and enjoy activities in a welcoming, inclusive, and accessible environment.



NATIONAL Stress Free Holiday Month

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**CHRISTMAS IS ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY.
HOW IS YOUR HOLIDAY STRESS?**

..........

“Are you ready for the holidays?” This is the question you hear daily at the grocery store, the post office and as you meet your colleagues at work. Some people ask because they want to feel like they aren’t the only ones struggling with holiday stress to get things done before the big day. Others ask because they are concerned about us, as we may look haggard.

TOP TIPS TO BUILDING RESILIENCY AND HAVING A STRESSLESS HOLIDAY

Avoid “holiday perfectionism.”

Thinking, saying, or planning for the best holiday ever can lead to certain disappointment.

Stop and be in the moment.

Have you noticed the wondrous sights, sounds, and smells around you or have you been too caught up in the to-do’s to notice?

Acknowledge your feelings.

Take into account the losses that you have experienced, but remember to keep your perspective and to talk positively to yourself about the past challenges that you have overcome.

Ask for help.

Remember your ultimate goal for the holiday and get support and assistance from those around you.

Submitted by Megan Argueta



CULTURAL DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY



In honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day, the Cultural Department was excited to be able to share just a small part of our Native American heritage with some of our youngest Indigenous people.

We were given the opportunity to read a children's story about frybread, serve frybread, and play stickball with the Fred L. McGhee Early Learning students. The Community Services Division served Indian Tacos to our staff as well. Everyday is a great day to be Indigenous!

PRESENTATION AT SOCIETY of ALABAMA ARCHIVISTS

“After over forty years of being lost, the ‘Trail of Tears’ film was finally found!” Director/Tribal Archivist Dr. Deidra Suwane Dees and Records Specialist Ms. Emily Fayard Escobedo shared this information with archivists from around the State of Alabama who gathered at Troy University, Dothan, for the Society of Alabama Archivists Annual Meeting on October 14, 2022. They were joined by Alabama A&M University Archivist Ms. Veronica Henderson for an encore presentation of their journey of rediscovery spanning decades.

Dr. Dees and Ms. Henderson had given this presentation in 2021 via Zoom because the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the Society from meeting in person. After two years of being apart, Society members were excited to finally meet in person this year.

Ms. Henderson explained to the audience that James Buford Robison studied film at Alabama A&M University. After graduation, Robison worked in the University’s Telecommunications Center with Dr. Hayward Handy and Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Ragland, leading the research journey to produce a documentary for Alabama Public Television.

Ms. Henderson said, in 1978, Robison learned about the Tribe and contacted our Tribal Council. Working together, the Center began developing the documentary on the 1830 Indian Removal Act, known as the “Trail of Tears.”

Dr. Dees explained that the Removal Act was intended to remove the five southeastern Indigenous nations to land west of the Mississippi to make room for the new Euro-American Nation. This life-shattering event changed the course of American history.

The presentation laid out how Creeks hand-sewed authentic 1800s clothing, and how Robison/crew developed scripts and shot film of Creeks reenacting the forced march out of their homeland. These scenes of removal were enacted by Creeks who, ironically, are descendants of those who were not removed.

Ms. Henderson said that before the film was televised, Robison left employment at the University and the film became lost. For almost forty-three years, the film remained lost except in the memory of the participants.

As the number one requested item in the Office of Archives and Records Management, Dr. Dees said that our Team worked diligently with Alabama A&M University officials, including Director Elvin Jenkins, to find the illusive film. The hard work paid off in March of 2020. While COVID-19 was intensifying, Mr. Jenkins announced that they had rediscovered this treasured jewel in the attic above the stage. What a great find!

Ms. Fayard Escobedo said that the film was digitized and shown to the Tribal community in several segments in the safe environment

of the Internet. One segment was shown on Thanksgiving Day, 2020, in the place of our Pow Wow which was cancelled because of COVID-19. For the first time, the Tribal community was able to view the Trail of Tears film together which showcased Tribal Member families who had been asking about the whereabouts of the film for so many years.

The trio of presenters showed a moving segment of the film showing a woman collapsing from exhaustion. This was a poignant example of the true-to-life account of the challenges Creeks faced on the Trail of Tears.

The presenters answered a myriad of questions from archivists who appeared enthralled by

the presentation. The archivists expressed how excited they were to see archival records recovered after such a prolonged period of absence from the archival record. Ms. Escobedo said that we are hoping to use our successful journey of rediscovery as a model for others to follow.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians was asked to host the Society of Alabama Archivists Annual Meeting in 2023. This will be the very first time the Tribe will host this important gathering of archivists who take care of Alabama's essential records. Mvto.



At the conference, Ms. Fayard Escobedo and Dr. Dees toured the replica Terracotta Warriors at Troy University's International Arts Center. The originals were buried 2,000 years ago with China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang Di, in order to go with him in the afterlife. They were rediscovered in 1974 by a man who was digging a well, the same decade the Trail of Tears film was recorded.



WHAT'S NEW AT OWA

Join OWA Parks & Resort this holiday season to experience a Winter Wonderland full of Christmas activities, events, and special offers! From shopping and dining in Downtown OWA to perhaps even meeting Santa Claus, we have it all here at OWA.

Beginning December 3, stop by the North Pole Experience in Downtown OWA and be transported into Santa's workshop! Warm up with Santa's favorite hot chocolate and cookies, make holiday-themed crafts with Santa's elves, and snag a photo with the jolly man himself! This cheerful holiday experience is available Saturdays and Sundays through December 23.

You're invited to a special pancake brunch with the jolly man himself this Christmas season. Select dates this December at The Bohemian in Downtown OWA, guests can dine with Santa and enjoy a delectable pancake spread. Your ticket to brunch includes pancakes, an assortment of toppings to pile on them, scrambled eggs, grits, sausage, hash browns, fruit, and your choice of drink (cocoa, coffee, juice, milk). Seating is limited because Santa must hurry back to his elves at the North Pole, so hurry and grab your spot today! Purchase your tickets online at VisitOWA.com.

Submitted by:
Courtney Coutinho
Marketing Coordinator



After a day of holiday magic, stick around for our Christmas light show in admission-free Downtown OWA. Our 36-foot-tall Christmas tree will put on a mesmerizing light show to holiday music nightly.

That's not all for this holiday season! Welcome 2023 with us at our New Year's Eve Celebration on December 31 in Downtown OWA! Wave goodbye to 2022 with this epic party featuring live music, activities, and fireworks.

Have you had the chance to visit our new indoor waterpark yet? OWA is proud to extend a complimentary Tropic Falls combination season pass to Poarch Band of Creek Indian Tribal members with a valid PCI Tribal ID. Tribal members will also receive additional benefits, including one birthday gift added to their pass during their birthday month, 25% off theme park passes, 50% off standard birthday party packages, and periodic promotions. For full details, please visit the Round House.

Keep up with the latest news on events, entertainment, and activities via our website at VisitOWA.com or by following us on social media @VisitOWA





EVERY KIND OF *Holiday* FUN

December's filled with holiday spirit at OWA! Bring the family for the North Pole Experience, select dates through 12/22. Upgrade your brunch plans to Santa Brunch, Saturdays and Sundays all month long. Catch nightly tree shows in Downtown OWA and check online for upcoming holiday shows at OWA theater. The December fun continues through our New Year's Eve spectacular—get all the details at VisitOWA.com!

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CREEK CORNER

DECEMBER 2022

12/1/2022	Submission Deadline	January Issue	5:00 pm
12/1/2022	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm
12/2/2022	Family Court	Tribal Court Room	10:00 am
12/6/2022	Tribal Court	Tribal Court Room	9:00 am
12/7/2022	Holiday Luncheon w/ Elders	Wind Creek Atmore	12:00 noon
12/15/2022	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm
12/16/2022	Family Court	Tribal Court Room	10:00 am
12/19/2022 - 12/23/2022	Tribal Government Offices Closed	Christmas	
12/30/2022	Tribal Government Offices Closed	New Year's Eve	
1/10/2023 - 3/31/2023	Spay & Neuter Vouchers	Environmental Department	9:00 am - 4:00 pm

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