

CREEK CORNER

ISSUE 14

The official magazine of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians



February Fun includes Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras activities at OWA Parks and Resort. And don't forget the indoor water park!

Photo Credit: OWA



FEBRUARY 2023

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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A **Valentine’s Murder Mystery Dinner Show** at Brandon Styles Theater and beloved **Mardi Gras** traditions are just some of the February activities OWA Parks & Resort have to offer! **pg 16**



Editor:
Katie Mothershed
akmothershed@pci-nsn.gov



WHERE OUR ANESTORS LIVED



“This is the land where our ancestors lived!” exclaimed staff as we viewed this amazing map from 1764.

Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ms. Emily Fayard Escobedo, and Tribal Councilwoman Ms. Candace Fayard learned about this rare map by visiting the University of Pittsburgh Library System’s Archives & Special Collections Department. We learned the original 1764 map is located in the British Museum today. In 1875, James A. Burt copied the original map by hand for W. M. Darlington which is the map that staff viewed in person.

“The moment was surreal,” Ms. Fayard said. “I could hardly believe that I was looking at an authentic drawing/recording that depicts the towns of our Tribal ancestors. Right there in front of me was proof that Mvskoke people thrived before so called “civilization” came to this land. A feeling of gratitude and deep appreciation enveloped me in humility as I reflected on our history.”

Her daughter, Records Specialist Ms. Emily Fayard Escobedo, said, “It is so important that we were able to find this map and now have a permanent copy in our Archival collection. This map is rare in the fact that it features the names of many Mvskoke towns, an important feature that is often omitted by colonizers in an attempt to erase Indigenous history.”

Staff recognized the original locations where our ancestors lived. They realized that the cartographer made this map before the Revolutionary War of 1775-1776, before the Red Stick War of 1813-1814, and before the Removal

Act of 1830, all pivotal events that brought chaos and devastation to Creek Nation. It was drawn at the time that Chief Alexander McGillivray lived; at the time when Creek Nation was thriving and prosperous.

Chief Alexander McGillivray (ca. 1750?-1793), elected by the Tribal Council as the Principal Creek Chief of Creek Nation, served as a diplomat and statesman who signed the Treaty of New York with President George Washington in 1790 in order to maintain Creek sovereignty and protect Creek territorial rights. A successful trader who spoke a number of languages including Mvskoke and English, he lived on the Coosa River near present-day Wetumpka which is well documented on this map.

Other townships are documented including Hillabee, Coweta, Tucabatchee, Tallassie, Little Tallassie, Tuskegee, Weetumpkee, Okmulgie, Little River, and Catawba. Some of the spellings differ from the way we spell the towns today, but their locations were meticulously documented on the map by the cartographer.

Near a town called Augusta on the Savannah River, the map says, “old boundary line by the Creeks.” Staff wondered, “What is the date of the old boundary line? Did European colonization trigger the boundaries to change?”

On the Apalache River, the map shows less distinct documentation marking towns by the name of “Indian Town” and “Village of Creek.” This could be interpreted as a lack of research in the areas of these townships.

The occasion for viewing the map came about when staff attended the Association of Moving



L to R: Dr. Deidra Suwane Dees, Ms. Emily Fayard Escobedo, and Tribal Councilwoman Ms. Candace Fayard view the rare 1764 Map of the Southern Indian District at the University of Pittsburgh Library System in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Photo credit: Jon Klosinski

Image Archivists conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from December 7-10, 2022. Conference organizers encouraged attendees to visit nearby archival repositories which led staff to the University of Pittsburgh Archives.

Archives Assistant, Mr. Jon Klosinski, said, “The map of the southern Indian District 1764 is part of the historic Darlington Library collection at the University of Pittsburgh Library System’s Archives & Special Collections Department. William Darlington, an attorney who was born in Pittsburgh in 1815, was an avid collector and polymath whose collection of historic books, manuscripts, atlases, and maps was donated to the University of Pittsburgh by members of the Darlington family in the early 1900s. This map is representative of Darlington’s passion for geography, natural history and Indigenous cultures. We at the Archives & Special Collections Department were happy to connect our visitors from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians with this unique historic resource.”

The conference yielded a lot of knowledge about archival repositories in Pittsburgh, as well as how to store and care for films of archival images including analogue media

that we have in our holdings. This includes films on reel-to-reel tapes and VHS tapes.

Staff learned that even films that were born digital need special care. The term “born digital” means the original films were filmed on a camera that records the moving images digitally. So much advancement has been made in digital recordings, such as higher resolution and definition, that films born digital (as young as five or ten years ago) are in need of being migrated into higher resolution to preserve them in a more advanced state.

While the conference covered a wide range of helpful preservation tips, staff remained in awe of the historic map that depicted the land where our ancestors lived. Dr. Dees found herself wondering, “Which town did my relatives come from?” Do you know which towns your relatives came from?

You can access the 1764 map digitally at this link: <https://digital.library.pitt.edu/islandora/object/pitt%3ADARMAP0398>. “I am so glad we now have this wonderful map available at the Office of Archives and Records Management to be shared with the public,” stated Ms. Fayard Escobedo.

Submitted by Deidra Suwane Dees, Ed.D.

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HEE HAW SHOWING

OFFICE OF ARCHIVES & RECORDS MANAGEMENT



FEATURING

Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Tribal Members

**Tuesday, February 21,
2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

**POARCH CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**

GPS address: 517 Martin Road, Atmore, AL 36502

Everyone is invited.

Popcorn and drinks will be served.

Join us for a showing of the 2003-2005 Hee Haw show featuring Tribal Members who performed country music and comedy skits. The original Hee Haw was a variety tv show which first aired on the CBS network in 1969, and ran for twenty-five seasons until 1993. Mvto.

Questions? Contact Ms. Emily Fayard Escobedo, Ms. Leasha Martin, Mr. Clayton Coon, Mr. Chad Parker, Ms. Cheryl Thrower, or Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees at (251) 446-4942





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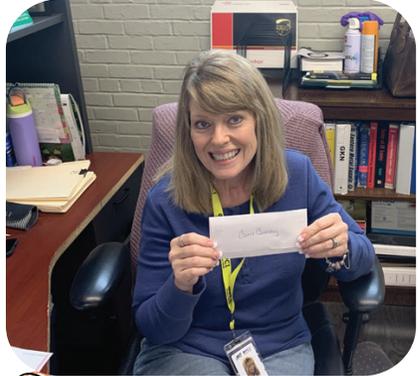
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Creek Indian Enterprises
Development Authority

2023 ARBOR DAY TREE GIVEAWAY!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

Pick up your trees around back of Environmental
Department building, located at:

957 MARTIN RD

****2 trees per HOUSEHOLD****

(Tribal Member Household or Tribal
Employee Household)

- You may pick up for only **ONE** other household but must **bring a note**- this is to accomodate pick-ups for the elderly, disabled, out of area people, etc.
- Trees will be pawpaw, chinquapin, Chickasaw plum, redbud, sassafras, dogwood, red maple, mayhaw, American persimmon, red anise, and native azaleas (orange and pink)

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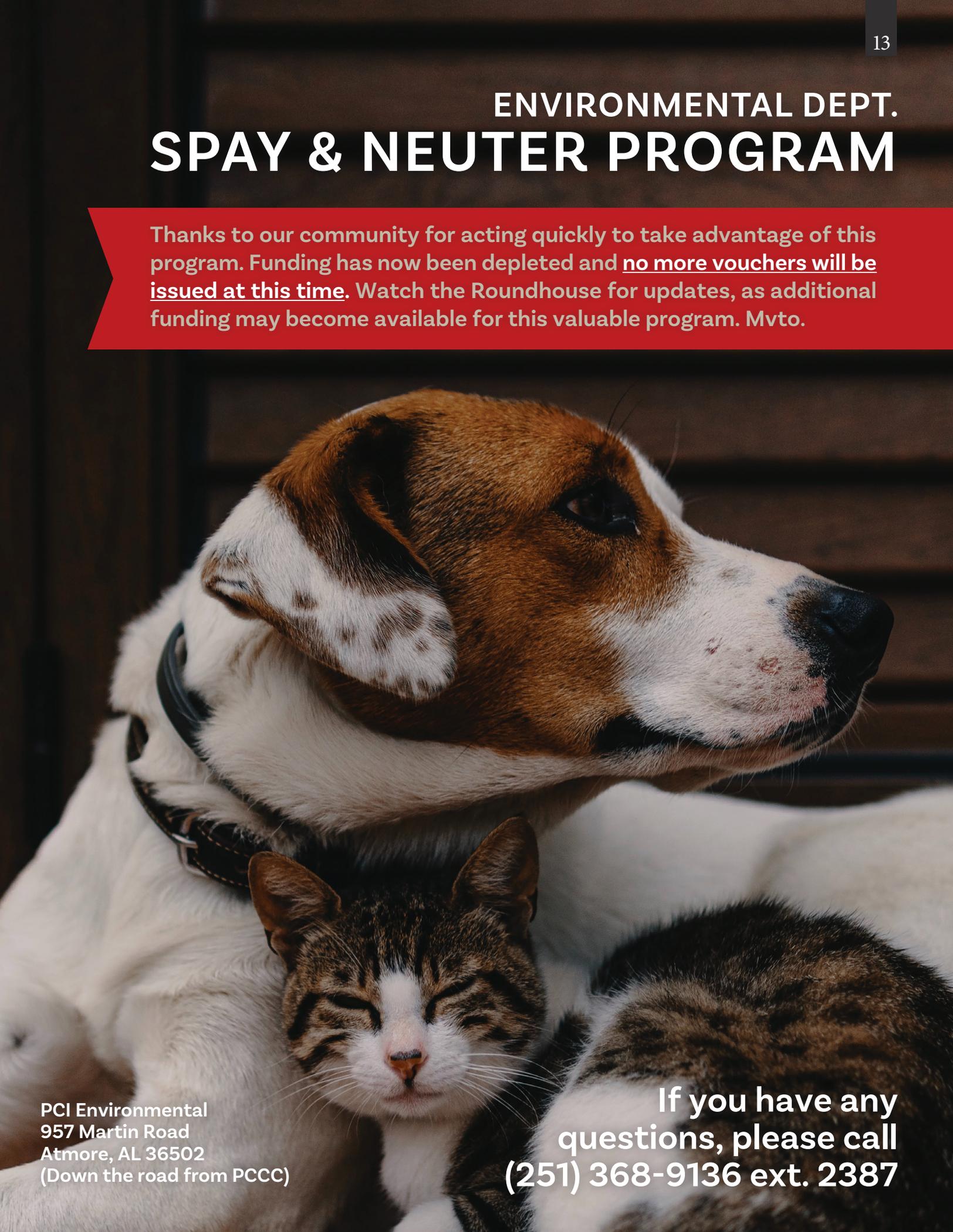
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ENVIRONMENTAL DEPT. SPAY & NEUTER PROGRAM

Thanks to our community for acting quickly to take advantage of this program. Funding has now been depleted and no more vouchers will be issued at this time. Watch the Roundhouse for updates, as additional funding may become available for this valuable program. Mvto.



PCI Environmental
957 Martin Road
Atmore, AL 36502
(Down the road from PCCC)

If you have any
questions, please call
(251) 368-9136 ext. 2387

WCH CORNER



WIND CREEK[®] HOSPITALITY

Wind Creek Hospitality's Pennsylvania property, Wind Creek Bethlehem, announced the opening of a new and improved Poker Room last month.

The new space offers Guests the ability to play on one-of-20 action-packed tables.

Elevating an already exciting game, Wind Creek Bethlehem ensured that the room offered new, built-in conveniences including:

- A dedicated Cage Cashier inside of the room
- Table side massage service
- An upgraded Poker Lounge for Guests waiting to play
- Complimentary beverage services

In addition to offering high-end amenities, the room is complete with luxe finishes—aiming to provide a second-to-none experience for Poker players at Wind Creek Bethlehem.

Submitted by Amelia Tognoli



LET THE TALENT, TOURNAMENTS & *Good Times* ROLL!

There's a parade of fun coming to OWA! Don't miss our own annual Mardi Gras celebrations in Downtown OWA (see calendar for details)—and then catch all the entertainment options on stage at the OWA Theater, like Big Bam Boom, a Hall and Oates tribute. Bring your Valentine for dinner, date & a show! Plus, check out the great line-ups at Brandon Styles Theater and Clash eSports & VR Experience with All You Can Play Mondays and Super Smash Bros. tournaments on Saturdays. See our events calendar and details at VisitOWA.com!

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WHAT'S NEW at OWA

Love, laughter, and good times are always on the agenda for OWA, even more so this February!

Enjoy a delectable plated dinner followed by an up close and personal show on a **Trip Down Memory Lane** as Brandon Styles magically changes his voice while singing 40 of your favorite artists from 1950-1970 at the Downtown OWA Brandon Styles Theater! You'll enjoy the likes of Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Neil Diamond, and Louis Armstrong. This show is family-friendly, with no dress codes or age restrictions. VIP experiences are also offered. Select Wednesdays, including February 1 and March 1 (7:00pm). Visit BrandonStyles.com or call (251)237-3330 to purchase tickets.

For date-nightery, enjoy the **Valentine's Murder Mystery Dinner Show**. Based on a reality cooking

show, "Kitchen Masters" will be pitting three top restaurant owners against one another for a chance at prizes that are to die for! Dull knives are the least of these chefs' worries! Help the detective solve this sordid mystery only on February 2 and 3 (6:30pm) at Downtown OWA's Brandon Styles Theater. Visit BrandonStyles.com or call (251) 237-3330 to purchase tickets.

Time travel with us to the '80s to re-live the Rock-and-Roll R&B fusion that is Hall and Oates! Experience **BIG BAM BOOM**, a high energy tribute band, LIVE at OWA Theater. There is no dress code, but you're encouraged to dress in your favorite '80s attire! Your time machine departs on the weekend of February 3 and 4 (7:00pm).



OWA

Parks & Resort



Mardi Gras in Downtown OWA is always a hit, so check the event calendar on VisitOWA.com to learn more as events unfold. *Laisse le bon temps rouler* (let the good times roll)!

- OWA Kid's Parade: Sat, February 11
- OWA Puppy Gras Parade: Sat, February 18
- And more!

On Saturday, February 18 (8:00pm) don your purple, green and gold and/or '80s attire and return to OWA Theater to party hardy at the **Totally '80s Mardi Gras After-Party featuring the M-80s!** You'll celebrate with hits like "We Got the Beat," "Anyway You Want It," "Livin' on

a Prayer," & more! The M-80s is a Birmingham-based band of professional entertainers that will definitely let the good times roll!

Last but not least—treat your sweetheart to a glass of wine from **C'est Le Vin** or visit **Murder Creek Distillery** for a drink! Perhaps some heart-shaped candy from **Sweet Tooth**, too! Stop by **Native Treasures** to support indigenous makers and get something they'll treasure forever.

These are just a few of our exciting offerings, so keep up with the latest news on events, entertainment, and activities at VisitOWA.com or by following us on social media @VisitOWA.

Book your tickets for these events and more online at VisitOWA.com!

THE FORGOTTEN CREEKS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – A new documentary about Alabama’s Poarch Band of Creek Indians premiered on Alabama Public Television (APT) on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022. Produced by Jacksonville State University’s Longleaf Studios, *The Forgotten Creeks* can also be streamed from APT’s website and the PBS video app, or watch it on our website: pci-nsn.gov/about/the-forgotten-creeks

More than two years in the making, this documentary tells the story of the Poarch Creek people through their long and important history. It also traces how the Tribe has evolved from being an impoverished, isolated community to the independent, self-sufficient Indian nation it is today.

“We are honored that our Tribe was selected to be the subject of this documentary produced by Jacksonville State University and Alabama Public Television,” said Stephanie Bryan, Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Chair. “We feel incredibly blessed to have this recounting of both our history and our lives today.”

The Forgotten Creeks recalls the history of Alabama’s Mvskoke Creek Indians from Spanish contact in the 1500s through the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The documentary explores what happened to those Mvskoke Creeks who remained in Alabama following the Trail of Tears and documents those ensuing years of poverty, assimilation and discrimination that nearly destroyed their indigenous identity.

It also traces how finally, in 1984, after more than 40 years of unwavering advocacy by Tribal Leaders, the federal government recognized the Tribe as a sovereign, or independent, Indian nation with ancestral lands in Atmore, Alabama and elsewhere in the state. Federal recognition was the beginning of a new chapter

in the Tribe’s history. Economic development brought self-sufficiency and the Tribe’s focus on educational opportunities, family values, and faith guided its transition to prosperity.

“As an APT commissioner, JSU employee and friend of the Poarch people for nearly 30 years, it was a real honor to connect these organizations and work together to produce such an important documentary,” said Pete Conroy, director of strategic partnerships and special projects at JSU. “I particularly thank Tribal Leadership for their trust and also JSU producer and director Seth Johnson for his mastery in telling this powerful story.”

Seth Johnson, who serves as distinguished professor of graphic design and assistant dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at JSU, said, “Producing this film was a rewarding experience. Our students were able to work alongside an accomplished film studio in the production of the film and gained valuable industry experience in doing so. We owe a significant thank you to the Poarch Creek Tribal Members who gave us their trust, welcomed us into their homes and allowed us to tell their story.”

You can watch the full documentary online at

<https://aptv.org/watch/alabama-public-television-presents/the-forgotten-creeks-s2bc3w/>





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*Elizabeth M. Pickett, Au.D.
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Nicole Riis, AuD

Elizabeth Pickett, Au.D., CCC-A

Nicole Riis, Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA



Government Relations
and Public Affairs Office

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Atmore, AL 36502

CREEK CORNER

FEBRUARY 2023

2/1/2023	Submission Deadline	March Issue	5:00 pm
2/2/2023	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm
2/6/2023 - 2/7/2023	Museum Gift Shop Closed	Inventory	
2/21/2023	Hee Haw Show	PCCC	6:00 pm
2/24/2023	Arbor Day Giveaway	Environmental Dept.	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
1/10/2023 - 3/31/2023	Pet Spay & Neuter Program	Environmental Dept.	9:00 am - 4:00 pm