



CREEK CORNER

The official magazine of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians

JUNE 2023



**Shout out to our
Emergency Dispatchers!**

TRIBAL LEADERS

The mission of the Poarch Band of 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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**How to make
the most of
your summer!**

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Editors:
Katie Mothershed
akmothershed@pci-nsn.gov

Dakota O’Barr

ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION HEARS ABOUT TRAIL OF TEARS FILM

“It will relieve the whole State of Mississippi and the western part of Alabama of Indian occupancy,” said Records Specialist, Ms. Emily Fayard to attendees at the 75th Alabama Historical Association Annual Meeting in Prattville, Alabama on April 15, 2023. She was quoting President Andrew Jackson’s address to Congress about the Removal Act of 1830 which tragically forced the displacement of Indigenous peoples from the American southeast to present-day Oklahoma, infamously known as the Trail of Tears.

Ms. Fayard and Director of the Office of Archives and Records Management, Dr. Deidra Suwane Dees, along with Ms. Veronica Henderson of



Alabama A&M University, were invited by the leadership at the Alabama Historical Association to give an encore presentation on the “Rediscovery of the 1978 Trail of Tears Film,” reenacted by Creek Nation East of the Mississippi

forty-five years ago. They gave this presentation at the Society of Alabama Archivists Annual Meeting last year. It was so well received that these three powerhouse presenters were asked to give the presentation again. They helped the audience understand the significance of the Trail of Tears in Alabama history and how the rediscovery of the film led to a greater understanding of this awful period in American history.

Through a vibrant PowerPoint slideshow with archival images, they gave details about the steps taken by our Team to locate the film, how staff worked extensively with Ms. Henderson, and how—after being lost for over forty years—the Trail of Tears film was finally rediscovered in 2020. They provided information on how the reels were professionally digitized by Image Hive in Birmingham to make the analogue film available digitally. Once digitized, they said that Office of Archives and Records Management staff showed the film to all via the Internet, pursuant to the Records Management Ordinance to “Ensure efficient access to the records of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians” (TCO 2010-004; 1.2) and to make records such as this “available for reference and scholarship” (TCO 2010-004; 2.1

In addition to the slideshow, the presenters showed moving clips from the film including the reenactment of a woman who fell down from exhaustion and died. The clip showed the United States soldiers leaving her on the trail and forcing the others to march forward



Photo credit: Ms. Keri Hallford

at gunpoint, beating them and preventing them from holding a memorial or burial for her; link below. The audience was stunned by these scenes of injustice and inhumanity, some stating that they had not known about this horror before now.

<https://vimeo.com/494197771/7d50e55291>

As a part of the conference which ran from April 13 to 15, Dr. Dees and Ms. Fayard attended sessions by other presenters and toured the Prattaugan Museum & Archives, operated by the Autauga County Heritage Association. They conducted research and found a number of archival records related to Creeks. For example, Ms. Fayard found a 1966 newspaper article about Chief Calvin McGhee reporting on the status of the Creek land claims cases. They brought copies of the Creek records they discovered home to our Archives to make them available to Tribal Members and beyond.

Dr. Dees was invited to present at last year's Annual Meeting in Florence, Alabama, the first time the Tribe was represented at the Alabama Historical Association. The Secretary, Dr. Mark Wilson, said the presentation "conveyed the complex history of Indigenous peoples of our state, and our attendees found the presentation informative and inspiring. Dr. Dees' work to preserve, assess, and interpret the Tribe's history is critical to our entire state's

knowledge and understanding of Indigenous peoples."

This year's Annual Meeting was attended by over 250 members made up of professionals and laypeople who value Alabama history. In the Business Session, the membership voted Dr. Dees to the Board of Directors. "I appreciate this honor and I look forward to serving on the Board to advocate for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians to be represented in Alabama history," Dr. Dees said.

You can learn more about the Alabama Historical Association at the below link.

<https://www.alabamahistory.net/>

The conference leadership invited Dr. Dees and Ms. Fayard to attend next year's Annual Meeting to give another archival presentation on the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.



Submitted by Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ed.D.

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LAUNCH OF NEW ONLINE ARCHIVES!



The new Online Archives is here! Office of Archives and Records Management staff has been working on the development of the Online Archives for over a year. Our Team is excited to launch this new program for all to access. Here is the link to visit the new Online Archives: pbciarchives.org

Our Digital Archivist, Mr. Chad Parker, oversees the Online Archives. He is responsible for posting digital content on the Online Archives. If you have Creek photographs that you would like to see posted, please contact Mr. Parker at (251) 446-4965. Mvto.

Mr. Chad Parker uses “surgical tools” to preserve photographs

Chief Calvin McGhee



Chief Calvin McGhee & unidentified leader

Submitted by Deidra Suwane Dees, Ed.D.



IN LOVING MEMORY TOMMY CASTLEBERRY, JR.

DECEMBER 9, 1944

to

MARCH 8, 2023

Tommy Castleberry, Jr., 78, of Desoto, Texas, passed away March 8, 2023, after an extended illness. Tommy was born December 9, 1944, in Flomaton, Alabama to the late Johnny and Flora Belle Colbert Castleberry. He was a truck driver by trade who owned and operated Castleberry Trucking Company for many years before retiring in 2008. Tommy was a proud Tribal Member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Atmore, Alabama. Tommy's fulfilled life outlasted those of all his Tribal siblings. He loved to write and recite poetry. He also enjoyed watching wrestling. But most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. Tommy was a very loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his children, Rebecca and husband Chris Hancox and a son, Justin and wife Taylor Castleberry; wife of 10 years, Dean; one half-sister, Juanita Trotter; 13 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; 2 stepsons; and 1 stepdaughter. Mr. Castleberry was preceded in death by his parents, one stepson, and numerous Tribal brothers and sisters.



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Poarch Creek Indians
FEDERAL SERVICES

Meet our new

President

Joseph (Joe) Harrison



We are thrilled to welcome Joseph (Joe) Harrison, a respected leader with 15 years of experience in senior and executive management, as the new President of PCIFS (PCI Federal Services). Reporting directly to the PCIFS Corporate Officers, Joe Harrison will be responsible for the management of twelve active LLCs and any associated Joint Ventures (JVs). His impressive track record in managing Tribal GOVCON Enterprises and multi-faceted Tribal Enterprise subsidiaries, which included overseeing Presidents, General Managers, Directors, Program Managers, and 1,500+ contract and back-office support employees, makes him the ideal leader for PCIFS.

Joe Harrison's credentials include a BS Degree in Psychology from San Diego Christian College, a Master of Arts in Strategic Communications from the University of Missouri, a Master of Business Administration/Telecommunications Management from the University of Alaska Pacific, a Graduate Certification in Executive Management and Leadership from Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Sloan School of Management, and a Graduate Certificate in Executive Negotiations from Harvard University School of Law. He is also an active Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Joe will lead the Enterprise Strategic Planning, Mergers & Acquisitions, Business Development, and P&L Centers across PCIFS and be accountable for significant milestone attainment and transformation initiatives.

"Joe is the right leader for PCIFS," said Cody Williamson, PCIFS's Chief Executive Officer. "Joe's extensive GOVCON operational management background and business development skills will enable PCIFS to expand Federal Agency and DoD customer sets, strengthen partnerships, further diversify our Key Business Areas (KBAs), develop strategic alliances, and expand our U.S. and overseas support services presence."



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NATIVE WIND PEDIATRIC & FAMILY IS NOW OPEN!

If you are an enrolled PCI First generation Indian Descendant between the ages of 19-35, and would like to utilize the Native Wind clinic for your primary care medical needs, please call to schedule an appointment today.

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2nd floor, Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic
Hallway entrance beside Employee Clinic

Hours

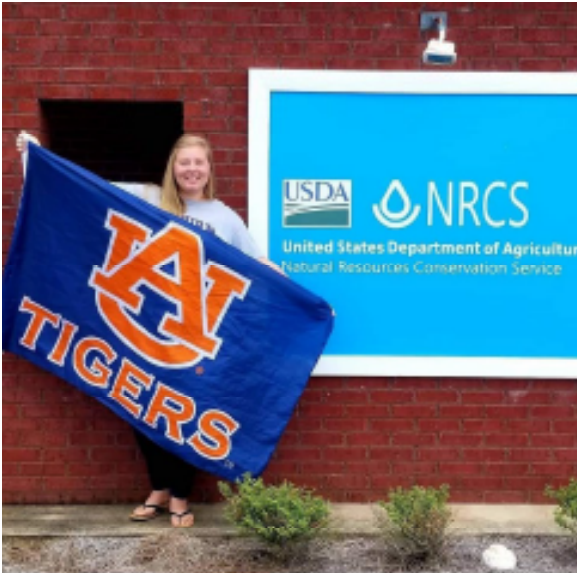
Monday: 7am-5pm
Tuesday 7am-6pm
Wednesday 7am-6pm
Thursday 7am-6pm
Friday 8am-6pm

To begin the registration process please call the Native Wind Clinic at (251) 446-4901 or extension 2001 or email at Nativewindclinic@pci-nsn.gov. Phones are answered 8am-5pm.

By utilizing the Native Wind clinic, you may also be eligible to receive other services within the Buford L. Rolin clinic (by referral only).

The Native Wind clinic accepts all insurances and will file insurance on your behalf. If you do not have insurance, there is a \$50 fee for each clinic visit. Pharmacy services are available and prescriptions for all patients are \$2 per prescription.

Dental and Eye Clinic will be available soon, stay tuned!



Jessica Ascott-Williams
Soil Conservationist - Tribal Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service

5535 Poarch Road
Atmore, AL 36502
www.al.nrcs.usda.gov

Cell Phone: 334-296-0141
jessica.ascott@usda.gov

Tribal office is open from 8:30 am- 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Closed on Holidays.

*Will be closed during field visits and while servicing surrounding counties. Please call to schedule an office appointment or field visit.

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PBCI MEAT PROCESSING FACILITY

After undergoing an arduous, months-long process of design and permitting that included rigorous health safety requirements, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is beginning construction on its much-needed meat processing facility in Atmore. Scheduled to open in the Spring of 2024, it will have the capacity to process up to 125 cattle per week.

The Tribe is investing \$15 million in the state-of-the-art facility as part of its long-term goal to create a model for sustainable food production that will serve Tribal Members as well as Poarch's neighbors and citizens across the State.

"Alabama cattle producers have expressed the need for additional meat, slaughter and processing facilities for some time," said Alabama Agriculture and Industries

Commissioner Rick Pate. "The opening of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians processing facility will not only help address food supply chain issues but also greatly benefit Alabama cattle producers."

The Tribe has owned and operated Perdido River Farms (PRF) since 1992. PRF is one of the largest cattle farms in Alabama and has plans to expand their production when this new facility is completed. This project allows the Tribe to efficiently harvest and process cattle and hogs for both livestock-producing customers and for retail and wholesale business.

"Like so many other local meat producers, we have had to send the cattle that we raised at Perdido River Farms out of state for processing," said Stephanie A. Bryan, Poarch Band of Creek Indians Chairwoman and CEO. "During the pandemic, we came to see just how unsustainable that model is, and we made a commitment to provide those critical resources close to home. We are excited that our new facility will give us and our neighboring farmers the ability to process locally-raised beef and pork in Atmore. That will make it easier and more cost-effective to bring a wonderful product to market, and it will give Alabama producers an opportunity to be part of the "farm to table" movement that is so important to both consumers and local agriculture," she added.

Current processing facilities across the southeast have limited capacity for new business. The Tribe's new facility will help meet that demand and create a larger capacity for meat processing in the future while providing 15-20 full-time positions in Escambia County, Alabama. It will also serve as an example of how the Tribe's current business practices connect with its culture as a sovereign Indian nation that is committed to being self-sustaining and to protecting the environment.



Media Contact:

Kristin Hellmich

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WCH CORNER

Last month, Wind Creek Hospitality announced a partnership with Fabio Viviani Hospitality, LLC to operate the food and beverage outlets at Wind Creek Chicago Southland, located in the Villages of East Hazel Crest and Homewood.

Viviani, who has participated in multiple seasons of Bravo's Top Chef and also has his own cooking show, Fabio's Kitchen, has over 50 locations of various offerings in his portfolio, many of which are in the Chicago area.

"Bringing in a partner like Fabio Viviani to our Chicago Southland property is a home run for our food and beverage offerings. Fabio's expertise in the hospitality industry will give Wind Creek Chicago Southland an unmatched competitive edge," said acting General Manager, Roger Kuehn.

The partnership will include a steakhouse, food hall, and in-room dining as well as banquets.

"We are delighted to be collaborating with Wind Creek on their Southland property! It's an impressive project and the fact that it's in my hometown of Chicago makes it even more appealing. We look forward to sharing more details with you soon. Something truly special is in the works."

-Fabio Viviani





STRONGHEARTS RAISES ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS

“Despite the horror of being physically hurt, and having their money or medication stolen, elders who are abused or neglected often endure the abuse without calling for help. As lifelong caregivers and protectors, many elders suffer in silence to maintain the well-being of their family and that may include their abuser. June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) - a day to raise awareness and prevent elder abuse. It’s a day to reflect on what it’s like to become an Elder and the many challenges they are facing such as: losing strength, muscle, and bone mass. Mental clarity can deteriorate and lead to memory loss. These inevitable vulnerabilities leave our elders at risk of being abused.

According to the National Council on Aging, most abuse occurs in the home and at the hands of family members. “It’s unacceptable when elders silently suffer abuse and neglect at the hands of those who should be protecting them,” said CEO Lori Jump, StrongHearts Native Helpline. “Many elders refuse to report their abusers because they are closely related and want to protect their family, but there are so many more reasons that most people can’t imagine.”

Reasons why Elders may not report abuse:

- Love: Despite the abuse or neglect, victims continue to love their abusive partner or relative.
- Fear: Elders may fear retaliation if they report the abuse.
- Embarrassment: Worrying about what others might think or do to make matters worse.
- Lack of Resources: Many elders live on fixed incomes and may depend on their abuser for shelter.
- Accessibility: Elders may not be able to report if they do not have access to cell phones, internet and/or transportation.
- Polyvictimization and Normalization: For generations, Native people have endured multiple types of abuse at the hands of non-Natives - so much so that abuse seems normal - an everyday part of life.

Types of Abuse

Elder abuse is an intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult. The abuser

can be a family member, caretaker or another person that the elder trusts. Types of abuse can include:

- Emotional abuse - causes mental pain, fear and/or distress
- Physical abuse - the use of force to cause pain, injury, etc
- Financial abuse - improper use of an elders money, property or assets
- Caregiver neglect - a failure to meet basic needs (food, water, medical care)
- Sexual abuse - forced or unwanted sexual interactions of any kind
- Cultural and spiritual abuse

Learn The Signs Of Abuse

The signs of elder abuse may be difficult to spot as they could sometimes be the result of disease, side effects from medications or similar reasons. However, if you suspect that an Elder is being abused, be patient, talk and listen to them. Be aware that they may say that they are being “disrespected” rather than abused. Other signs of abuse may

include:

- Unexplained bruising or injury
- Changes in behavior
- Lack of interest in family or social events
- Loss of weight
- Not having necessary medical aids (glasses, walkers, teeth, etc) or adequate food, water, shelter

How can you help?

- Education is always the first step. Understand the warning signs of elder abuse and pay attention to the elders in your life. Ensuring that our elders are properly cared for can include:
- Offering to help those in your family that might be feeling burdened with the care of a loved one.
- Spending time with an elder and planning a rotating schedule if you have multiple caregivers.
- Bringing them nutritional foods like baked goods or even better fry bread.
- Talking and listening to their stories because elders have a lot of wisdom to share and appreciate.

Every state has an Adult Protective Services division for those wishing to report abuse at www.napsa-now.org/help-in-your-area.

StrongHearts can help. Advocates are available 24/7 to provide support and advocacy, make referrals to Native centered service providers and connect our relatives to regionally available resources. We are here 24/7/365.

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WHAT'S NEW at OWA

Celebrate Summer with a Splash this June at OWA Parks & Resort!

In case you missed the news, the newest phase of Tropic Falls is now open! With school out for the summer, staffing is amping up and Big Water Bay is ready to welcome you. Watch the big screen as you ride the ocean like waves. More adventurous? Then grab a board and hang 10 as you surf the Coastal Curl.

Check VisitOWA.com for summer hours.

If you haven't already picked up your Grand Opening swag bag, exclusive to PCI Tribal Members, pick-up is still available at the Museum. Don't forget - Tribal Members also receive a Tropic Falls Season Pass, good for your admission through 2023. To activate your Season Pass, be sure to stop at the Tropic Falls ticket window. Simply present your valid Tribal ID to activate your pass. If you're activating passes for multiple family members, each members' Tribal ID must be presented in person to complete the activation process.

In the mood for dinner and show? Then Downtown OWA and the OWA Theater is the place to be. The month kicks off with a trio of comedy shows. Thursday, June 1st, Lee Hardin is back by popular demand. The laughs keep coming on the 2nd with long-running favorite, Killer Beaz. The weekend wraps up on Saturday, June 3rd with Jourdain Fisher, popular club and college headliner. Lot's of laughs are in store all summer with HypNaughty, a hilarious, adult only show featuring Thom Kaz and participating audience members. It's the audience that makes it a different show every week, Thursdays June through September. Check out the OWA Theater page at VisitOWA.com for dates and times for tributes to Skynard and U2, evenings with rising country star Kevin Nichols, and White Tie performances. There's not a bad seat in the house!



OWA
Parks & Resort



Join us on Father's day weekend to pay tribute to the best of all, Dad! Free Father's Day events will be held throughout Downtown OWA on June 17th and 18th. Then put a bit of culture in your weened with the first ever OWA Art Walk on June 23rd. Plans are still in the making, so be sure to check Visit OWA.com for updates and more information.

Plus, don't forget to check out the Magic, Comedy, and Variety Shows from Brandon Styles Theater. Tuesday & Saturday laugh and be amazed as Brandon brings you comedy, magic and 60 impressions with his Variety Show! On Mondays and Wednesdays, Brandon dazzles with big magic, little magic, and funny magic to amaze you. Then don't miss your chance to be hypnotized (or watch your friends and loved ones) as legendary hypnotist Terry Stokes brings 60 minutes of hilarious antics during the Stoked Comedy Hypnosis Show. This one's for all ages, so

bring the kiddos and watch the audience "stars" of this unforgettable show!

You can always keep up with the latest news on events, entertainment, and activities, plus new tenant openings in Downtown OWA, via our website at VisitOWA.com or by following us on social media @VisitOWA.

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

SUMMER FUN: “MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR JUNE!”



As the weather gets warmer and the days get longer, it's time to kick off the summer season and enjoy all the fun activities that come with it! With June being the official start of summer, there are plenty of ways to make the most of this sunny and exciting month.

Beach Time

What better way to soak up the summer sun than by heading to the beach? Whether you're going solo or with friends and family, spending time by the water is a classic summertime activity. Pack a cooler with snacks and drinks, grab a towel and sunscreen, and head to your favorite beach for a day of relaxation and fun.

Outdoor Adventures

June is the perfect time to get out and explore the great outdoors. From hiking and camping to biking and kayaking, there are endless ways to enjoy nature and get some exercise at the same time. Look up nearby state parks or nature reserves and plan a day trip or weekend getaway to explore the scenic beauty of your area.

Picnics and BBQs

Summer is the season for outdoor dining, and June is the perfect time to host a picnic or BBQ with family and friends. Set up a cozy picnic blanket in a nearby park or grill up some burgers and hot dogs in your backyard. Make sure to bring along some refreshing drinks and delicious snacks to share with everyone.

Summer Solstice Celebrations

June 21st marks the summer solstice, the longest day of the year and the official start of summer. Many communities hold celebrations to mark this special day, from outdoor concerts and festivals to bonfires and beach parties. Check your local events calendar to see what's happening in your area and join in on the fun.

Gardening

If you have a green thumb or simply enjoy being outdoors, June is a great time to start a garden. Whether you have a small balcony or a spacious backyard, planting flowers, herbs, or vegetables is a fun and rewarding way to spend your summer. Not only will you get to enjoy the beauty of your plants, but you'll also have fresh produce to use in your summer meals.

With so many fun activities and events to choose from, June is the perfect time to get outside and make the most of the summer season. Whether you're relaxing on the beach, exploring the great outdoors, or hosting a BBQ with friends, there are endless ways to enjoy the warm weather and sunshine. So grab your sunscreen and your sense of adventure, and let the summer fun begin!



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JUNE 2023

6/1/2023	Submission Deadline	July Issue	5:00 pm
6/3/2023	Tribal Election Day	Pickrell House	8:00 am - 7:00 pm
6/5/2023 - 6/6/2023	Museum Gift Shop Closed	Inventory	
6/15/2023	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm