

# CREEK CORNER

The official magazine of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians

### JULY 2023



## 2023 Tribal Council Election Winners!

Read more about Election Results on page 18.

Pictured are Justin Stabler, Chairwoman Stephanie Bryan, and Arthur Mothershed

# 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, Sandy Hollinger, Keith Martin, Arthur Mothershed, Justin Stabler

# CONTENTS

FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FINDINGS 4
FRED L. M <sup>c</sup> GHEE EARLY LEARNING CENTER 6
$4^{TH}$ OF JULY
TRIBAL MEMBER SUBMISSION
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
GRADUATES
KEEP OUR BEACHES CLEAN
WCH CORNER
LORI STINSON - ATMORE HALL OF FAME
ELECTION RESULTS
USA ONLINE COURSE
GRADUATE



Editor: Katie Mothershed akmothershed@pci-nsn.gov

New Online Archives More info on page 4

## FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FINDINGS ON THE NEW ONLINE ARCHIVES

"We acknowledge that the Poarch Band of Creeks be acknowledged as an Indian tribe with a government-to-government relationship with the United States and be entitled to the same privileges and immunities available to other federally recognized tribes by virtue of their status as Indian tribes."

After over a decade of hard labor by our Tribal leaders and supporters in the quest for federal recognition, the Bureau of Indian Affairs finally issued these words on December 29, 1983. These words begin the memorandum referred to as the findings of our Federal Recognition Petition which led to the Tribe's Federal Acknowledgment the following year on August 11, 1984. The findings are on display in an exhibit at our Tribal museum, Kerretv en Cuko. Our team of records warriors at the Office of Archives and Records Management is excited to inform you that you can now access the findings on our new Online Archives. We are making these records available to all because our Tribal sovereignty rests on these important documents. Please see link below:

#### pbciarchives.org

Our Digital Archivist, Mr. Chad Parker, oversees the Online Archives. Do you have Creek documents in your personal collection that you would like to see posted on the Online Archives? If so, please contact Mr. Parker at (251) 446-4965. You could see your own documents shared on the Online Archives for all to access. Mvto.



Congressman Jack Edwards announces our Federal Recognition at Pow Wow Grounds



### United States Department of the Interior BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Tribal Government Services-FA

DEC 29 1983

#### MEMORANDUM

To: Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

From:

Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (Operations)

Subject: Recommendation and summary of evidence for proposed finding for Federal acknowledgment of the Poarch Band of Creeks of Alabama pursuant to 25 CFR 83.

#### RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the Poarch Band of Creeks be acknowledged as an Indian tribe with a government-to-government relationship with the United States and be entitled to the same privileges and immunities available to other federally recognized tribes by virtue of their status as Indian tribes.

#### GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The contemporary Poarch Band of Creeks is a successor of the Creek Nation of Alabama prior to its removal to Indian Territory. The Creek Nation has a documented history back to 1540. Ancestors of the Poarch Band of Creeks began as an autonomous town of half-bloods in the late 1700's with a continuing political connection to the Creek Nation. The Poarch Band remained in Alabama after the Creek Removal of the 1830's, and shifted within a small geographic area until it settled permanently near presentday Atmore, Alabama.

The Band has existed as a distinct political unit since before the Creek War of 1813-14. It was governed by a succession of military leaders and prominent men in the 19th century. From the late 1800's through 1950, leadership was clear but informal. A formal leader was elected in 1950.

The group's bylaws describe how membership is determined and how the group governs its affairs and its members. Virtually all of the Band's 1,470 members can document descendancy from the historic Creek Nation and appear to meet the group's membership requirements. No evidence was found that the members of the Poarch Band of Creeks are members of any other Indian tribes or that the tribe or its members have been terminated or forbidden the Federal relationship by an Act of Congress.





## FRED L. MCGHEE EARLY LEARNING CENTER 2023 K4 GRADUATES

Colbert, Chasyn Hayes, Curtis Hornady, Oakleigh Jackson, Spencer Kervin, Christopher"Lane" McGhee, Mahaya Pearson, Rowan "Lane" Rodriguez, Joheim Smedley, Kendrick Smith, Weston Stephens, Avery Thomas, RobbieGrace Walker, Halle Williamson, Lilah Black, Augustus Dean, Porter Flowers, Oaklee Hamilton, Kyla Huckabaa, Jaxon Ikner, Lilly Johnson, Benjamin Johnson, Tylen Linam, Judson "Cade" Phillips, Ella Pierce, Adalynn "Jo" Rolin, Brynleigh Rolin, Lawson Rolin, Sadie Whitehead, Blakelee



6

The Fourth of July is a national holiday in the United States that celebrates the country's independence. Here are some popular activities that people do on this day:

Watch Fireworks: One of the most popular activities on the Fourth of July is watching fireworks displays. Many cities and towns have their own firework shows, but there are also private shows that people put on in their backyards.

**BBQ and Picnic:** Another popular activity is having a BBQ or picnic with family and friends. People often grill burgers, hot dogs, and other meats, and enjoy a variety of sides and desserts.

Attend Parades: Many cities and towns host Fourth of July parades with floats, bands, and other entertainment. It's a great way to get out and enjoy the festivities with your community.

#### Attend Concerts and Festivals:

Some cities host outdoor concerts and festivals on the Fourth of July. These events often feature live music, food vendors, and other fun activities.

**Sporting Events:** The Fourth of July is a popular day for sporting events like baseball games, bike races, and running races.

**Beach Day:** For those who live near the coast, spending the day at the beach is a popular activity on the Fourth of July. People often bring a picnic and enjoy the sun, sand, and surf.

**Patriotic Crafts:** Some families like to get creative and make patriotic crafts like flags, t-shirts, and decorations to display at home.



Overall, the Fourth of July is a day to celebrate with family and friends and enjoy the many festivities that the day has to offer.





#### **BORN APRIL 16, 2023**



We are happy to announce the birth of Josephine Pearl Billie-Ann Bailey. She was born on April 16, 2023 at 11:56am, weighing 9lbs 3oz and 21.25 inches in length to proud parents Miriah Bailey and Carson Bailey. She is the granddaughter of Ariel McGhee, Tribal Member; granddaughter of Billy Bailey, Tribal Member, and Cheyanne Bailey. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Ricky McGhee, Tribal Member; and the great-granddaughter of William Bailey, Tribal Member, and Cheryl Blackwelder Bailey. We are all so excited for this beautiful addition to our families.

#### SUBMITTED BY LIESL BAILEY

# Your family fun begins now.

Whether it's a big competition at Strikes Bowling Alley, a hit movie night at Cinema or a memorable dinner at FIRE Steakhouse, we've got excitement for all ages. So grab the whole family or plan a date night, and make it unforgettable at Wind Creek Atmore.



(866) WIND-360 WindCreekAtmore.com ©2022 Wind Creek Hospitality. Management reserves all rights.

Escape every day at Wind Creek.



## NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance in the United States that brings together people from different religious backgrounds to engage in prayer and spiritual reflection. This day serves as a unifying force, encouraging individuals and communities to set aside their differences and come together in a collective act of faith. The National Day of Prayer, which has a rich history dating back to the founding of the nation, continues to hold significance in modern times, promoting unity, gratitude, and interfaith dialogue.



## **2023 GRADUATES**

### **Rachael Gregson**



Congratulations to Tribal Member Rachael Maria Gregson! Rachael graduated with Honors from the University of Mobile, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science in Psychology, cum laude. She is the daughter of Michelle Moree Pezent (John) and Timothy Gregson (Meagan). Her grandparents are Janell and the late Kevin Moree, and the late Daisy Rolin and late Charles Gregson. We love you and praying God's continued grace, favor, protection and direction over your life always in Jesus Name ~Psalm 91. So proud of you and all your hard work!

Love, Mama and Family

Submitted by Michelle Moree

## Kayla Burnham



Miss Kayla Mae Burnham, age 17, of Navarre, FL will graduate with the Class of 2023 Navarre High School, Navarre, FL with AP honors. Kayla was an LT Commander for the Navarre Navy ROTC Program where she was the officer in charge of supply. Through her hard work and dedication she has qualified for the Florida Lottery Medallion Status Tuition Program, a 4-year Scholarship through The Poarch Creek Indian Tribe in Atmore, ALwhere she is a 1st Generation Descendant, The Shirley and Charlie Brown Memorial Scholarship for Superior Performance and a three year Full Tuition U.S. Army ROTC Scholarship to, The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). She will enroll in the study of Biology this fall. Kayla was accepted by the following colleges: The University of Mississippi(Ole Miss), The University of Alabama, Troy State University, The University of Central Florida (UCF), Florida State University (FSU) and The University of South Florida (USF).

Before college graduation Kayla will attempt to pass the entrance exam to attend Military Medical School where she plans to become an Army Psychiatrist.

Kayla will be commissioned as a 2LT in the US Army (Active Duty) after graduation from Ole Miss. Kayla is the great granddaughter of, the late Otis (OD) Gibson and the late Ruby Gibson of Walnut Hill, FL, the late James H. and the late Kathleen Burnham of Atmore, AL. She is the granddaughter of the late James E. and Nola Burnham of Defuniak Springs,FL and the late Marlan and Shirley Barstow (formally) of Macksville, KS . Kayla is the daughter of, James D. (Tribal Member) and Tracy Burnham of Navarre,FL and the sister of Jared J. Burnham also of Navarre. All the best wishes to you. You did it baby girl! Love, Mom and Dad. Best wishes from all your family and friends-Go Rebels.

## From whispered GHOST STORIES

TO BOOMING FIREWORKS

**..... Your hearing health matters.** 





\*\*\*\*\*\*

Our team has over **100 years** of combined experience in providing customized patient care.

Let us help you have the best summer ever. Schedule a hearing test today!

Make use of your amazing zero out-of-pocket hearing aid benefit. Call 251-272-8975 To Schedule An Appointment.

Questions regarding your Poarch Creek hearing aid benefit? Contact Nioma Till, Case Manager, 251-368-9136, Ext. 2386.



2880 Dauphin St., Mobile, AL 36606 1302 US Hwy. 98, Daphne, AL 36526 610 Providence Park Dr., Bldg. 2, Suite 203 Mobile, AL 36609





Elizabeth Pickett, Au.D., CCC-A

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

KEEP.OUR BEACHES CLEAN

Keeping our beaches clean is essential to preserving the beauty and health of our oceans and marine life. Here are some tips on how we can all contribute to this effort:

#### **BRING YOUR TRASH WITH YOU**

Make sure you remove all trash when leaving the beach, including food wrappers, bottles, cans, straws, and anything else you may have brought with you. Don't leave anything behind.

#### **USE RECYCLING BINS**

If the beach has recycling bins, make sure you use them properly. Separate your recyclables from your trash, and place them in the appropriate bin.

#### **DON'T LITTER**

If you see others littering, politely encourage them to pick up their trash. Always dispose of any trash you create or find, regardless of who left it. Small actions can make a big difference.

#### MIND THE CIGARETTE BUTTS

Cigarette butts are one of the most common forms of litter found on beaches today. Properly dispose of your cigarette butts in a designated container.





Many organizations host beach cleanups, and they're always in need of volunteers. Check with local environmental groups or beach associations to find out how you can help.

Remember, keeping our beaches clean is everyone's responsibility. By doing your part, you're helping to protect our oceans and the animals that call them home.

### Get Pre-Qualified TODAY with the nation's most experienced HUD 184 Mortgage Lending Team!

- Purchase Refinance New Construction Rehab
- On or Off the Reservation Low Down Payment Low Monthly PMI
- Credit is important, but you are not judged on your score



### Call me today

Eric Sprenkle Loan Officer (NMLS 402092) eric.sprenkle@1tribal.com Direct: 605-610-0961



Ist Tribal Lending, a dba of Click n' Close, Inc., NMLS 150009 Arizona Lic BK 091759; licensed by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act Lic 4131103 and Finance Lenders Law Lic 603J732; Kansas Licensed Mortgage Company MC0025093; Massachusetts Lic ML150009; Oregon ML-5045; Washington Lic CL-150009.

1st Tribal Lending

The Nation's Most Experienced Section 184 Lending Team

5010 S. Broadband Ln., Suite 110 Sioux Falls, SD 57108 www.hud184loans.com





#### Going to Orlando to see a mouse or a wizard?

Let a tribal member travel planner guide you at no cost to you.

f KTTWClint

- (334) 377-1939
  - Clint.Daughtrey@keytotheworldtravel.com



Clint Daughtrey Travel Advisor







Guests at Wind Creek Wetumpka donated unused vouchers—earned from play—into collection boxes throughout the property. With the donations, Wind Creek Wetumpka donated \$12,980 to the Wetumpka High School Theater Guild and Stanhope Elmore Baseball Diamond Club last month.



Team Members at Wind Creek Bethlehem collected and donated over 250 bags of clothing during April's clothing drive. The drive benefited Via Thrift Stores—an organization that supports Via of the Lehigh Valley's goal of creating success in individuals with disabilities.



Wind Creek Bethlehem Team Members participated in Habitat for Humanity's "She Nailed It!" competition—an event that seeks to empower women and raise funds for affordable and safe housing. Wind Creek Bethlehem placed 16 out of 65 teams.

Amelia Tognoli Corporate Communications Manager



### LORI STINSON INDUCTED INTO THE PRESTIGIOUS ATMORE AREA HALL OF FAME

(May 23, 2023 - Atmore, Alabama) This May, Lori Stinson, Attorney General and Chief Legal Officer for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, was one of 12 Atmoreans inducted into the Atmore Area Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame, which began in 2005, recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the fields of: business/medicine; government/military; education/theatrical/ ministry; and athletics.

Stinson was selected because of her superior competence and professionalism, being a positive role model, and the significant contributions she has made to the betterment of the community.

"I am very humbled and honored to be included in the same category as the other recipients, both past and present, including seven other amazing Tribal Members," said Stinson.

Stinson grew up in Atmore and has made it her home most of her adult life. She graduated from Escambia Academy in 1995 as valedictorian of her class. After high school, she attended Samford University and graduated summa cum laude in 1995. While at Samford, Stinson lettered in varsity tennis and was inducted into numerous honor societies.

While in college, she worked for local attorneys, Robert H. Maxwell and Shirley D. Darby, during her breaks from school. "Mr. Maxwell and Ms. Darby not only introduced me to the practice of law, but they inspired me to pursue it as a career," she said. Stinson attended Thomas Goode Jones School of Law, where she graduated at the top of her class in 2003.

Stinson met her husband, Brad, in law school, and they practiced together in Enterprise until 2007, when Stinson came home and began working for the Tribe, in the in-house legal department.

In January 2014, Stinson was hired as the Attorney General for the Tribe. As AG, she leads the enrollment department and a team of inhouse attorneys who provide legal services and representation to the Tribe, the Tribal Council, and all the Tribe's entities, including Tribal Government, PCI Gaming Authority (d/b/a Wind Creek Hospitality), and Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority. Being AG has given her opportunities to testify before a Congressional committee on behalf of the Tribe; draft Tribal, state, and federal legislation; assist with the Tribe's litigation; and manage the Tribe's appellate issues in Tribal, state, and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court. Stinson is most proud of the role she has played in protecting her Tribe's lands and sovereignty.

"Lori Stinson is an incredible asset to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, not only in her professional capacity as our Attorney General, but on a personal level as well," remarked Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Chair & CEO, Stephanie A. Bryan.

Stinson is a Member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, First Baptist Church of Atmore, the Atmore Planning Commission, the Atmore Historical Preservation Commission, the Alabama Anti-Human Trafficking Alliance Task Force, Main Street Atmore's Economic Vitality Committee, and United Bank's Escambia County Advisory Board. She is a 2000 graduate of Leadership Atmore and is currently in Leadership Alabama's Class of XXXII.

Bryan went on to say, "Lori is a wonderful mother, friend, and role model to our younger generations. She is a Tribal Member who grew up in Atmore and chose to come home after law school and give back to our community. Lori is a selfless person who works tirelessly to protect our Tribe's sovereignty and she leads a team deeply committed to our long-term security and prosperity. Our Tribe is blessed to have Lori Stinson as a Member and we congratulate her on this great and well-deserved honor."

Stinson is the widow of Brad Stinson. She has two daughters, Bradleigh Anne and Bailey Catherine, and is the daughter of Billy Conn and Shirley Madison.



Lori Stinson (center) pictured with her daughters at her Atmore Area Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

## **2023 ELECTION RESULTS**

#### Congratulations to Stephanie Bryan (Tribal Chair), Arthur Mothershed (At-Large), and Justin Stabler (At-Large)!

Stephanie A. Bryan, the incumbent Tribal Chair was re-elected for another term in office as was Arthur Mothershed, incumbent Council Member At-Large. Tribal Council welcomes newly-elected Council Member At-Large Justin Stabler.



(L to R): Gilbert McGhee, Justin Stabler, Stephanie Bryan, and Arthur Mothershed

#### Shout out to our first-time voters!

The Tribe's state-of-the-art vote tallying machines make voting quick and easy so every General Council Member can participate. These are some of the new faces we welcomed to the poll this year.



How many votes did we tally?



835 Walk-In Votes

275 Absentee Votes

292 Day-Of Votes

continued next page...

### **2023 TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS**

These are the number of votes each candidate received in person either before election day or on the day of and the number of absentee votes submitted during the 2023 Tribal Council Election.

CANDIDATE	WALK-IN VOTES	ABSENTEE VOTES	DAY-OF VOTES	TOTAL VOTES PER CANDIDATE	
Tribal Chair					
Stephanie A. Bryan (incumbent)	536	219	154	909	
Amy Bryan Gantt	292	55	136	483	
Write-In	3	-	2	5	
At-Large					
Keith Colbert	38	26	10	74	
Candace Fayard	204	114	78	396	
Carla McGhee	124	30	64	218	
Arthur Mothershed (incumbent)	471	199	155	825	
Justin Stabler	397	63	131	591	
Patrick Strickland	305	78	92	475	
Westly L. Woodruff	49	13	17	79	
Write-In	3	1	1	5	
TOTAL VOTES	835	275	292	1,402	



Last voter on election day: Kevin McGhee!



## SUMMER IS HEAR

Hearing Loss doesn't need to slow you down. This June, choose to hear BETTER with Beltone. Come see Our Beltone Hearing Aid Specialist at



the **Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic** on **Friday, July 21, 2023** from 9:00am - 3:00pm for all your hearing needs. Please call us TOLL FREE for an appointment at **(251) 369-6400**.

Beltone makes it easy for you to re-connect with:

- ✓ FREE Hearing Screenings for you and your family.
- ☑ Financing Available (see office for details).

RETAILERS

Newsweek

- Hearing solutions to fit almost every hearing loss, lifestyle and budget.
- ☑ 3 Generations of helping people hear better.
- ☑ Special Incentives for Poarch Creek residents if you choose to purchase.

Pensacola OfficeAtmore Office6024 N 9th Avenue401 E Church StreetPensacola, FLAtmore, AL(251) 369-6400

208

Let our family help yours!



Was \$1,795

**NOW \$998** 



CIC (Completely in Canal) Was \$1,995 NOW \$998

Check out these amazing deals!



## USA ONLINE COURSE FALL 2023

Earn college credit without ever leaving your home! The University of South Alabama (USA) is offering an **online course** this Fall entitled:

## NAS 101 INTRODUCTION TO NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

Team taught by Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees and Dr. Philip J. Carr

This course is offered as part of the USA Native American Studies Program which was initiated by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in 2014.

The course features American Indian topics including **Chief Calvin McGhee**!

#### Register by August 15, 2023!

Class runs August 22-December 14, 2023

I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in learning a great deal about the history of Native Americans and their true relationship with the U.S. Government which is not taught in K-12 schools. **99** 

- USA Student, Billy Bailey

**C** The Education Department is proud to endorse this course and will cover the cost of tuition, books, and mandatory fees for Tribal Members and First Generation Indian Descent Students. **9** 

- Education Director, Sandra Hiebert

**Questions? Call Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees at (251) 446-940X** Mvto. NEED DR DEES FULL NUMBER

## M<sup>c</sup>GHEE GRADUATES FROM UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI



The family of Keegan Jamison McGhee is proud to announce that Keegan received his Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies on May 12th, 2023 from the University of Southern Mississippi. Keegan graduated cum laude with a 3.5 during his time at USM. Keegan is a Tribal Member and would like to say "thank you" to the Tribe for supporting his education with The McGhee-Tullis Tuition Assistance Program and for making his educational success come to light.

Keegan is the son of Kendall and Karen McGhee of Perdido, Alabama. Keegan's maternal grandparents are Dorothy McGhee and the late Joe Frank McGhee of Atmore, Alabama. His paternal grandparents are the late Mary Ann Woods Roley and the late Winford "Buck" Roley of Bay Minette, Alabama.

We are extremely proud of your achievements and the fine young man you have become. You were well disciplined and kept yourself focused the entire 4 years while at USM. We love you dearly and are very honored to have been a part of this journey with you. May God continue to bless you and guide you in your future, wherever life may take you.

We Love You, Dad, Mom, Kody, Emily, Hazel Grace & Ruthie

Submitted by Karen McGhee







Government Relations and Public Affairs Office

5811 Jack Springs Rd Atmore, AL 36502

# CREEK CORNER

#### JULY 2023

7/1/2023	Submission Deadline	August issue	5:00 pm
7/6/2023	Tribal Council Meeting	TC Chambers	4:00 pm
7/10/2023-7/11/2023	Museum Gift Shop Closed	Inventory	
7/20/2023	Tribal Council Meeting	TC Chambers	4:00 pm