

# CREEK CORNER

ISSUE 17

The official magazine of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians



Wind Creek Sponsors  
**Southeastern Livestock  
Exposition**

Photo Credit: Wind Creek

870

MAY 2023

# 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*

# CONTENTS

CREEKS MEET JOY HARJO. . . . . 4

NEW ONLINE ARCHIVES . . . . . 7

PBCI MEAT PROCESSING FACILITY . . . . . 11

FLYNN BUILT . . . . . 14

WIND CREEK CORNER . . . . . 16

WHAT’S NEW AT OWA . . . . . 18

FIGHT THE BITE . . . . . 20

HEARING LOSS MYTHS & FACTS. . . . . 22

RIVER REGION UNITED WAY DONATION. . . . . 26

HOME MAINTENANCE SPRING CHECKLIST. . . . . 27

**Memorial Day  
at OWA**  
including the Annual  
**Fireworks Celebration!**  
**May 26–28**  
featuring  
**live music and kid’s  
crafts and activities!**

More info on page 18.

Editor:  
Katie Mothershed  
akmothershed@pci-nsn.gov



# CREEKS MEET JOY HARJO

## IN HARPER LEE'S HISTORIC COURTROOM

“My grandfather Monahwee, some generations back, was allowed to visit his home, at Okfuske (near what is now known as Dadeville, Alabama), to stay there one night before being exiled to the West,” Ms. Joy Harjo said to attendees at the Monroeville Literary Festival in Monroeville, Alabama on March 4, 2023. Reading from her book, *AN AMERICAN SUNRISE*, she added, “After he left, he never turned back. He kept walking forward with his beloved people.”

**Ms. Harjo, Muscogee Creek Nation, “celebrates a connection to her Alabama homeland that was broken, but not erased, by the Trail of Tears,” the Festival Program says.**

Ms. Harjo spoke proudly of her grandfather and other relatives who were documented in records on the Trail of Tears, the tragic forced displacement of Indigenous peoples from the American southeast to present-day Oklahoma. It was initiated by the United States government under the Indian Removal Act of 1830 to “relieve the whole State of Mississippi and the western part of Alabama of Indian occupancy... It will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites.”

After almost two-hundred years, the granddaughter of Monahwee returned to the land where her ancestors were removed, not as an exile, but as a distinguished noblewoman. She was bestowed the prestigious Harper Lee Award for Alabama’s Distinguished Writer in the Monroe County Museum courtroom. This is the same courtroom where the Academy Award-winning movie, *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*, was filmed in 1962, two years after Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize book was published.

**“If Miss Lee’s masterwork, *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*, was, as she said, a novel of empathy and justice,” the Festival Program says, “Joy Harjo’s writings are a powerful heir to that tradition.”**





Photo Credit: Tom Mason  
L to R: Dr. Deidra Suwane Dees,  
Ms. Emily Fayard, Ms. Candace Fayard,  
Ms. Carolyn M. White, Ms. Joy Harjo

Lee's courtroom that exposed the injustice of racial inequality appeared to be a fitting location for Harjo's readings on the injustice of removal. Tribal employees sat in the audience that was so enthralled, you could hear a pin drop.

There has been a Tribal presence at the Monroeville Literary Festival for many years, but this was a rare treat for employees to see Ms. Harjo in person. In attendance was Tribal Councilwoman Ms. Candace Fayard, Director/Tribal Archivist Dr. Deidra Suwane Dees, Records Specialist Ms. Emily Fayard, and former Regulatory Affairs Division Director Ms. Carolyn M. White (pictured with Ms. Harjo).

**Ms. White said, "I have enjoyed attending this event for many years. It was extra special this year to be present when the first Native American U.S. Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo, was presented with the prestigious 2023 Harper Lee Award."**

The Festival Program documented the event's history stating, "Beginning in 1998, Monroeville and Coastal Alabama Community College have been home to the annual Alabama

Writers Symposium, re-imagined in 2020 as the Monroeville Literary Festival. The Festival brings together many of Alabama's most distinguished writers and scholars for two days of readings, workshops, and discussions for all ages."

**Ms. Harjo "served three terms as the twenty-third Poet Laureate of the United States from 2019 to 2022," the Festival Program states. "Winner of the 2022 Academy of American Poets Leadership Award, she examines the power of words and how poetry summons us toward justice and healing"—a true noblewoman.**

The newly named Leola McGhee Manac Special Collections Library, located inside the Office of Archives and Records Management at 100 Brookwood Road, now houses Ms. Harjo's books, *AN AMERICAN SUNRISE*, *CATCHING THE LIGHT*, and *POET WARRIOR*, all autographed by Ms. Harjo. Please contact Ms. Leasha Martin at (251) 446-4942 for an appointment to come in and read these inspiring books. Mvto.

# 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  
605-610-0961



**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

*1st 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.*

**ROADTRIP HQ**



**Next to  
Wind Creek**



**CREEK**  
Travel Plaza

**FRESH  
BAKED  
CINNAMON  
ROLLS**



**CRAVINGS  
HAPPEN  
WE'VE GOT  
THE FIX**

**4740 JACK SPRINGS RD.**

**WE'RE HIRING**

*Find  
Your  
New  
Career  
Path*

**CIEJOBS.COM**



# LAUNCH OF NEW ONLINE ARCHIVES!

The new Online Archives is launching in May! 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. Watch The Roundhouse for the link to visit the new Online Archives.

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.



*Above: Mr. Chad Parker uses "surgical tools" to preserve photographs*



*Chief Calvin McGhee*



*At right: Chief Calvin McGhee and unidentified leader*





# 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.

---

Escape every day at Wind Creek.



**WIND CREEK®**

**(866) WIND-360**  
**WindCreekAtmore.com**

©2022 Wind Creek Hospitality. Management reserves all rights.



ELECT  
**AMY BRYAN GANTT**  
Tribal Chair



MEMBER

**“THE POWER OF THE  
PEOPLE SHOULD BE  
GREATER THAN THE  
PEOPLE IN POWER”**

**PLEASE CONTACT ME AND  
JOIN OUR TEAM. TOGETHER,  
WE CAN CREATE A POSITIVE  
TRANSFORMATION THAT  
ENHANCES EVERYONE’S LIVES.  
TOGETHER, WE CAN MOVE  
THIS TRIBE FORWARD.**

*[amy4tribalchair.com](http://amy4tribalchair.com)*

[amy@amy4tribalchair.com](mailto:amy@amy4tribalchair.com) 251-253-9733





# RE-ELECT ARTHUR MOTHERSHED

**INSPIRED BY OUR PAST LEADERS**

**PROUD TO BE A PART OF OUR CURRENT SUCCESS**

**DETERMINED TO MAKE OUR FUTURE PROSPEROUS**



**We're Hiring**

**Diner Managers**

[ciejobs.com](http://ciejobs.com) **CREEK** Travel Plaza

**ROADTRIP HQ**

Next to **Wind Creek** **CCS** ATMORE

**BIG RIG**

Two Patties  
Double Cheese  
Creek Sauce  
Dressed To Perfection

4740 Jack Springs Rd.

# 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  
 khellmich@pci-nsn.gov



# CANDACE FAYARD

*Prepared for the challenges of our future while preserving our cultural and historical heritage*



**2023**

***Re-Elect Candace to Council***

**Fearless advocate for tribal member employment**

**Proponent for expansion of behavioral health services**

**Supporter economical health insurance premiums**

**Protector of Elders' Dignity**

fayardcandace@gmail.com  
(251)363-7208

I appreciate your vote of confidence on June 3!



**Serenity Heart Home Healthcare LLC**

VISA DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

**Compassionate Care you Can Trust**

WE PROVIDE A VARIETY OF SERVICES TO BALDWIN & ESCAMBIA COUNTY AREAS

- Light Housekeeping
- Bathing and dressing
  - Laundry
- 24 Hour Customer Service
  - Activities
  - Meal Preparation
  - Transportation
- Medication Reminders
  - Flexible Schedule
  - Companionship

Office: 251-321-0795 / Cell: 251-294-3419

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**

**LAND & CRUISE VACATIONS**

CALL TODAY for the best land and cruise packages!






**JERRY REECE**  
POARCH CREEK TRIBAL MEMBER  
**707.407.3808**

www.landahoycruising.com | greece@CruisePlanners.com

FLS # 38668  
FSA # 2014-001-01  
US-CA # 299-294

**MARY KAY**

Carol Cole  
Independent Beauty Consultant

215 Hwy 136 E  
Monroeville, Alabama 36460  
251-253-3333  
251-765-2356  
ccole123@frontiernet.net  
www.marykay.com

Call or Text me your order

**United Bank**  *Mortgage Services*



**The Native American Indian Program (184 Program)\***

-  No minimum credit score payment
-  2.25% down payment
-  Low monthly MI insurance
-  One time construction loan available
-  Primary residence only

\*All loans subject to credit approval, verification and collateral evaluation. 184 Program is only offered to members on active tribal roll and in designated geographic areas. See a United Bank representative for complete details. United Bank NMLS# 494759

www.unitedbank.com/mortgage

 **Member FDIC**



**Russell Helton**  
**850-356-4521**  
*Cash Jobs Welcome*

**LYNX SERVICES**

**Free Windshield With Full Coverage Florida Insurance**  
**Insurance Approved • Lifetime Warranty**  
Serving Escambia, Santa Rosa & Baldwin Counties  
**29+ Years Experience • Licensed & Insured**  
Email: outlawautoglass5@gmail.com

Going to Orlando to see a mouse or a wizard?

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



**Clint Daughtrey**  
Travel Advisor

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



# Visit Our Community!

110 St Stevens Court,  
Atmore, AL 36502



"Hi!

My name is Marti Crank, and we recently purchased a home through Flynn Built. We Moved into our forever home in October of 2022. All throughout the process of building our home, Flynn Built was there 24/7. If we had any questions, they were there to answer them all. We love our home so much. We would recommend them to anyone that needed to have a house built, or to anyone that wanted to purchase one of the houses that is already under construction in Olde Towne."

Thank you,  
-Mark & Marti Crank.

Olde Towne is a 50-lot new home community located in Atmore, AL. There are a variety of floor plans to choose from, starting at 1200 square feet. Customer satisfaction is our top priority, and we want to ensure you are involved in every step of the home building process. Our in-house design team will help you create the home of your dreams. Flynn Built homes include premium features, and we continue to take care of you after your home is built with in-house warranties.

Call us today to make an appointment to come and tour our model home! We are open Monday-Saturday from 11am-6pm.



## Alexis Westerfield

New Home Sales Consultant

O. 850.477.6118

alexis@flynnbuilt.com

M. 850.279.5465

1300 E Olive Rd, Pensacola, FL 32514



>> [www.flynnbuilt.com](http://www.flynnbuilt.com)

Florida LIC# CGCI52572 Alabama LIC# 24759

2023 © FlynnBuilt. All Rights Reserved.





ELECT

# PATRICK STRICKLAND

Tribal Council At Large  
June 3, 2023

Leadership.  
Integrity.  
Vision.

"An ear to the past. An eye for  
the future."

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

# 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Livestock Exposition

# WCH CORNER

Last month, Wind Creek Hospitality and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians (PBCI) supported the Southeastern Livestock Exposition's (SLE) mission to drive youth involvement in agriculture.

Dedicated to preserving farming and ranching by creating opportunities for youth through rodeos, livestock competitions, community activities, and educational events, the nonprofit organization hosted its 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Livestock Exposition Rodeo in March 2023.

This year's event welcomed 200 exhibitors and nearly 500 animal entries for the rodeo's Junior Beef, Swine, and Dairy expos. The Southeastern Livestock Exposition also paid tribute to past PBCI/SLE member, Billy Smith, for his long-term work with the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, SLE, and the rodeo. Billy Smith, along with Keith Martin, and Trina Rackard, played an essential role in building the foundation, relationship, and partnership with PBCI and Wind Creek Hospitality.

**“The Southeastern Livestock Exposition is an integral key to preserving and driving adolescent interest in agriculture,”** said Trina Rackard, Director of Sponsorships and Events at Wind Creek Hospitality. Wind Creek Hospitality wanted to ensure we supported the SLE's dedication to this cause.”



Proceeds from the annual rodeo pour back into the state of Alabama's youth through the support of scholarships, livestock shows, livestock judging contests, FFA Foundation scholarships, Alabama 4-H, the Children's Miracle Network, youth rodeo associations, and more.

*Submitted by Amelia Tognoli*





# Fun IS IN THE AIR AT OWA!

May events are reaching new heights this year, starting with our annual Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival, May 4-6! There's always something fun coming onstage at the OWA Theater—like the Pandora's Box Aerosmith tribute (5/5-6) and The Formation Beyoncé Experience (5/12-13). Check out all-you-can-play Mondays at Clash eSports and make plans for Memorial Day Weekend festivities including live entertainment and fireworks (5/27-28)! The sky's the limit on fun, so make your plan at [VisitOWA.com](http://VisitOWA.com)!

**OWA**  
*Parks & Resort*

**THRILL, THEN CHILL.**

A WORLD CLASS  
DEVELOPMENT BY





## WHAT'S NEW at OWA

### May is the month everyone has been waiting for at OWA Parks & Resort!

It kicks off with the **Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival**, making OWA the hot spot for high-flying adventure and family fun! Enjoy the entertainment, arts and crafts displays and more at the festival, daily. Weather permitting, balloon flights, glows and tethered rides add to the fun at dawn and dusk! Kick-off begins Thursday, May 4th at 5pm, and runs through Saturday, May 6th at 10pm. Festival admission is FREE, and activity tickets can be purchased online at [GulfCoastBalloonFestival.com](http://GulfCoastBalloonFestival.com), along with many details about the event. Up, up and away we go!

#### Are you ready to make a splash?

The newest phase of **Tropic Falls** is NOW open! We hope you were able to pick up your Tribal Grand Opening swag bags, with park passes included. Contact Tribal Member Benefits for

more information. Come enjoy 30,000 sq. ft. of tropical wave pool action and the new surf simulator, Coastal Curl, where you can catch the perfect wave. Bring your families and enjoy these exciting new attractions!

OWA Theater continues to bring you some amazing tribute bands in the month of May! On May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, you can see **Pandora's Box – The Ultimate Aerosmith Tribute** band! They will wow you with their impeccable impersonations of the original Aerosmith, so much that you'll think you are seeing the real band! **Beyonce Formation Experience**—a tribute to the Queen Bee herself—will be gracing the stage on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Get ready to sing along to “Single Ladies,” “Formation,” “Crazy in Love” and many more. And more shows to be on the lookout for include an **Intimate Evening**



**Performance with Taylor Hicks** on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, as well as **The Crowded Streets Compilation, a Dave Matthews Tribute** on Memorial Day weekend, Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>! Tickets are available for all shows at [VisitOWA.com](http://VisitOWA.com).

**More big celebrations on the calendar include our weekend full of fun for Memorial Day, Friday–Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Memorial Day Weekend Party** will include kids' activities and crafts. Live music is on the schedule and will be playing on OWA Island. Enjoy OWA's annual firework celebration on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:50pm, too! Be sure to

check our calendar leading up to the weekend for a full schedule of events.

That's not all that's happening! Don't forget to check out the **Magic and Variety Shows from Brandon Styles Theater**, with shows weekly in Downtown OWA! Specifically, in May there is not one, but TWO, **1980's Murder Mystery Dinner Shows** on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9:30pm. Tickets do sell quickly so buy tickets at [visitowa.com/entertainment/Brandon-Styles](http://visitowa.com/entertainment/Brandon-Styles) or call (251) 237-3330 today!

And 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](http://VisitOWA.com) or by following us on social media @VisitOWA.

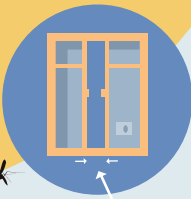
**Book your tickets for these events and more online at [VisitOWA.com](http://VisitOWA.com)!**



# FIGHT THE BITE



Use air conditioning.



## Keep mosquitoes **outside**.

Keep doors and windows shut.  
Repair holes in screens.



Keep screens on all windows.

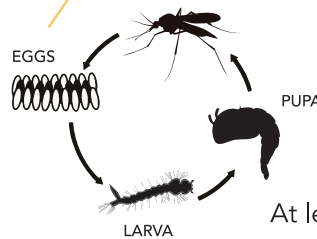
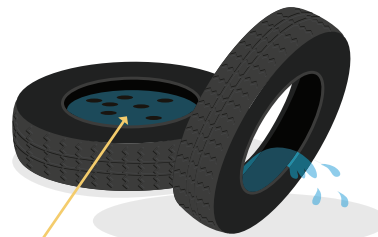
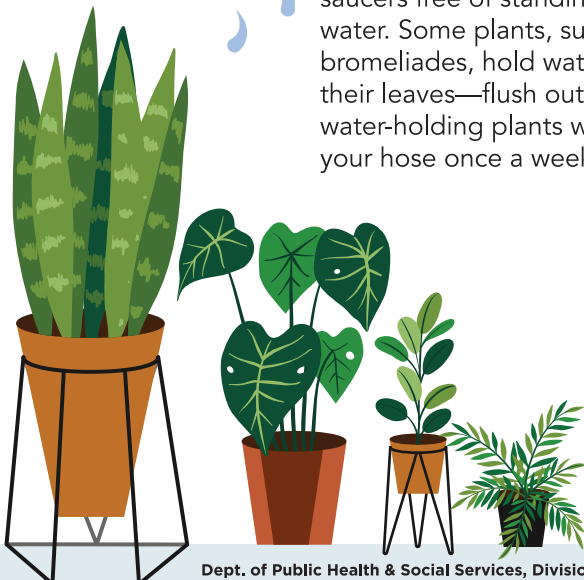
## Stop mosquitoes from **breeding**.

Mosquitoes breed by laying eggs in and near standing water. As little as one teaspoon or bottle cap of water standing for more than one week is enough for mosquitoes to breed and multiply.



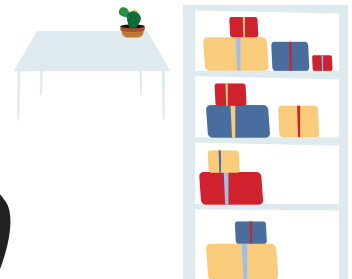
### In your garden:

Keep flower pots and saucers free of standing water. Some plants, such as bromeliads, hold water in their leaves—flush out water-holding plants with your hose once a week.



### At your house or business:

Put away items that are outside and not being used because they could hold standing water.



### Around all buildings:

At least once a week, empty, turn over or cover anything that could hold water:

- |                     |                   |              |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| BUCKETS             | TRASH             | ROOF GUTTERS |
| TOYS                | TRASH CONTAINERS  | COOLERS      |
| POOLS & POOL COVERS | RECYCLING BINS    | PET DISHES   |
| BIRDBATHS           | BOAT & CAR COVERS |              |



 **RE-ELECT**

**STEPHANIE  
BRYAN**

**TRIBAL CHAIR** JUNE 3, 2023

*ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS*

- *VISIONARY PROFESSIONAL WITH MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS*
- *A VALUABLE NETWORK THAT HELPS PROTECT OUR SOVEREIGNTY*
- *ACTION-ORIENTED WITH STRATEGIC AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS*
- *PASSIONATE ABOUT GROWING REVENUE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS*



*CONTACT ME ANYTIME:*

 251-253-5961

 [tribalceo001@gmail.com](mailto:tribalceo001@gmail.com)



## Myth:

If I had hearing loss, I would know it.

## Fact:

Hearing loss occurs so gradually over time that you don't notice it.

### Signs that you may have hearing loss include:

- Difficulty following a conversation when more than one person is speaking
- Thinking other people are mumbling, talking quietly or not speaking clearly
- Misunderstanding what others say and responding inappropriately
- Having loved ones complain that your TV's volume is too loud
- Hearing ringing, roaring or hissing sounds in your ears (tinnitus)



### **Annual hearing exams are recommended for anyone over 55.**

However, if you are experiencing any of the symptoms listed above at any age, schedule a hearing evaluation.



Elizabeth Pickett  
Au.D., CCC-A



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

# Facing the Facts

## Rejecting myths about hearing loss during May's Better Hearing & Speech Month

✘ **Myth:** Hearing loss doesn't need treatment right away.



**Fact:**

Untreated hearing loss can harm your mental, physical and social health.

It's important to be proactive about managing hearing loss. The longer you delay developing a strategy, the more at risk you are for developing associated health conditions, from social isolation and depression to cognitive decline.<sup>1</sup>

Treating your hearing loss with hearing devices will help your brain work less on deciphering speech and more on improving your quality of life. Patients who treat their loss with appropriate amplification report significant improvements in their relationships, sense of safety, mental health and self-confidence.<sup>2</sup>

✘ **Myth:** Hearing loss is only caused by old age.



**Fact:**

Hearing loss has multiple causes and affects people of all ages.

Various factors cause hearing loss; the two most common are:

**Aging**—Hearing loss increases with age—it affects one-third of adults aged 65–74 and nearly half of those 75 and up.<sup>3</sup> The effects of noise exposure over a lifetime lead to a loss of hair cells in the inner ear, causing hearing loss.

**Noise exposure**—Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) results from damage to the hair cells of the inner ear following exposure to excessively loud sounds. 12.5% of young people aged 6–19 and 17% of adults aged 20–69 have permanent NIHL.<sup>4</sup>

*Other causes include earwax buildup, ear infections, abnormal middle ear bone growth and ototoxic medications.*

✘ **Myth:** Hearing aids will help me hear well immediately.



**Fact:**

It can take months to adjust to wearing hearing aids and to hear your best.

Unlike glasses or contacts that can fix your vision quickly, hearing aids require an adjustment period. Since your brain has been deprived of certain sounds, it will need practice processing the sounds it's been missing. In addition, you'll need to adjust to the sound of your voice—hearing aids can make your voice louder and clearer than before.

**Getting used to hearing aids may take time, but your audiologist can help. After your initial fitting, you will have follow-up appointments where your audiologist will adjust your hearing aids to ensure optimal hearing.**

<sup>1</sup>Lin, F.R. et al. (2013) Hearing loss and cognitive decline in older adults. *Jama Intern Med* 173(4): 293-299.

<sup>2</sup>Kochkin, Sergei. (2011). MarkeTrak VIII patients report improved quality of life with hearing aid usage. *The Hearing Journal*. 64. 25-26,28,30,32. 10.1097/01.HJ.0000399150.30374.45.

<sup>3</sup>NIDCD. (2020). Age-related hearing loss. <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/age-related-hearing-loss>

<sup>4</sup>CDC. (2022). Preventing noise-induced hearing loss. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/noise.html#:~:text=>

# Myth:

I can't afford hearing aids.

# Fact:

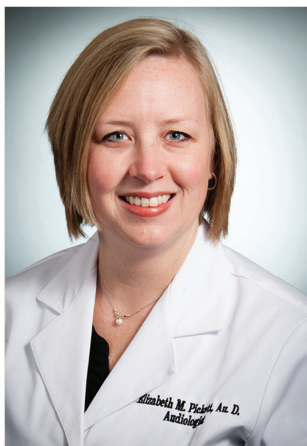
You have a hearing aid benefit with 100% coverage.

**HEARING AID  
100% coverage** !

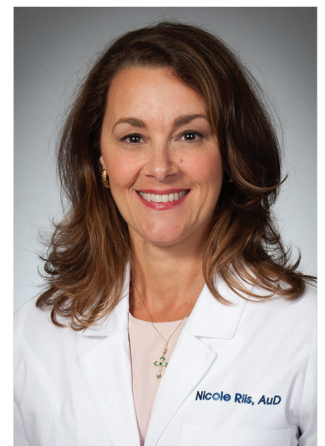
**Let us help you make use of that benefit.  
Call to schedule your hearing evaluation today!**

*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



**New Arrivals Every Week!**

**FURNITURE AND MUSIC**

**TERRY'S**

**Come See TERRY KELLY!**

Like Us On

**Locally Owned and Operated!**

**121 N. Main Street, Downtown Atmore, Alabama, Across from the Post Office**  
**Open Tues-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-2pm 251-368-8389**

# MAY IS BETTER HEARING MONTH



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

the **Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic** on **Friday, May 19, 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).
- ☑ 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.

Introducing the New award winning Beltone Achieve with a truly tailored hearing experience.

- \* Surround Sound
- \* Rechargeable
- \* Weatherproof + Sweatproof
- \* Calls + Audio Streaming
- \* Now including Imagine™ Custom



**Pensacola Office**  
 6024 N 9th Avenue  
 Pensacola, FL

**Atmore Office**  
 401 E Church Street  
 Atmore, AL

**(251) 369-6400**



**Veteran & Family Owned & Operated**

**Beltone Achieve™**

# RIVER REGION UNITED WAY DONATION

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians, concerned about dire conditions in the small community of Flatwood left by a December tornado there, have donated \$140,000 to River Region United Way, which is spearheaded rebuilding efforts.

The donation came at a community event held on a concrete slab – all that remains of the Flatwood Community Center which was once a gathering place for residents of this small community outside of Montgomery.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Chair & CEO Stephanie A. Bryan was clearly moved by what

she saw there and by her conversations with residents who have lost everything. “We watched the news back in December and grieved for the people of Flatwood. We are so thankful that the United Way is here, on the ground, working to rebuild this community and we are so glad to be able to help in their efforts. God has blessed us and in return, we get to bless you all. We can rebuild together!”

Jannah Morgan Bailey, President and CEO of River Region United Way noted, “in the four months since the natural disaster, we have received over \$300,000 for the community. That enabled us to buy three homes for residents who lost everything in the storm. Unfortunately, there is a lot of unmet need here still, and we are committed to seeing the job through. This community is very strong, and recovery here is more than building a house, it is about rebuilding a community.”

Chairwoman Bryan and CEO Bailey were joined at the event by Sen. Kirk Hatcher, Rep. Kenyatta Hassell, as well as several local elected officials, pastors, and community residents. River Region United Way is working to meet immediate needs as well as working on long-term plans to help rebuild the community and stabilize life for its residents. All of the funds collected by United Way will go to help the Flatwood community. Donations are still being accepted by texting FLATWOOD to 41444 and by visiting the website [www.rruw.com](http://www.rruw.com), Click DONATE, and Designate to “FLATWOOD”.

###

About River Region United Way:

The mission of River Region United Way is to improve lives and strengthen our communities by identifying needs and solving critical problems. United, we fight for the health, education, financial stability and basic needs of every person in every community we serve. To learn more, visit our website <https://www.rruw.org/>

Media Contact PBCI:  
Kristin Hellmich  
[khellmich@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:khellmich@pci-nsn.gov)

Media Contact River Region  
United Way:  
Aaleia Freeman  
[afreeman@rruw.org](mailto:afreeman@rruw.org)

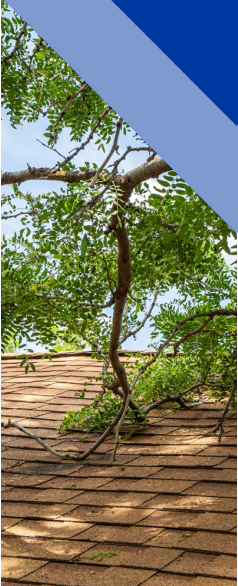


# Spring Into Action



## Home Maintenance Spring Checklist

- **Check** roof for missing, loose, or damaged shingles.
- **Check** chimney and roof vents for any nests and animal infestation.
- **Clean and inspect** gutters and downspouts.
- **Check and touch up** exterior paint.
- **Test** smoke and carbon dioxide alarms and change batteries.
- **Clean** debris from dryer lint trap and exhaust duct.
- **Remove** dead leaves and other debris around foundations, decks, porches, and stairs.
- **Check** grills for rust, worn parts, insects, grease, and other debris before use.
- **Use** grills at least 10 feet away from the house or any building.
- **Inspect** caulking and seams on doors and windows.
- **Check** for cracks or leaks around the foundation.
- **Drain and flush** sediment from water heater and check for leaks or corrosion
- **Clean** ducts and filters on HVAC system.
- **Trim trees** that are touching or overhang the roof or gutters.
- **Power wash** vinyl siding.
- **Inspect** caulking around base of shower and sinks, scrape it out, and replace if needed.
- **Vacuum** under refrigerator and clean condenser coils.
- **Clean** kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans.





Government Relations  
and Public Affairs Office

5811 Jack Springs Rd  
Atmore, AL 36502

# CREEK CORNER

MAY 2023

5/1/2023	Submission Deadline	June Issue	5:00 pm
5/1/2023-5/2/2023	Museum Gift Shop Closed	Inventory	
5/4/2023	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm
5/9/2023	Poarch Stories & Supper	PCCC	6:00 pm
5/18/2023	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm
5/29/2023	Tribal Government Offices Closed	Memorial Day	