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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE *of the* POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

# creek corner

## *Member vs. Citizen*

AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION

**PILOTS FOR CHRIST:  
LIFTING UP PEOPLE WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST**

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Stands as a  
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Built On Trust**

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# FROM THE EDITOR



**MEGAN ZAMORA**  
Editor, Creek Corner

*...the idea of “better”  
has expanded to  
include health,  
financial savviness,  
education, building  
good relationships,  
implementing healthy  
boundaries, breaking  
generational trauma and  
cycles, and much more.*

“  
I  
n my conversations through the years, I’ve often heard the sentiment expressed, “I want my children to have it better than I had it.” Usually, this is expressed as it relates to financial means: having a roof over one’s head, not having to worry about where your next meal is coming from, and having shoes on your feet. And, while many no longer have to struggle with these issues, a whole realm of other challenges exist.

Yet, for all of these new complexities, the truth remains that we as parents, aunts, grandparents, elders, and community members want better for our children than what we have or had. As I listen to others and read all sorts of material, I’ve found that the idea of “better” has expanded to include health, financial savviness, education, building good relationships, implementing healthy boundaries, breaking generational trauma and cycles, and much more.

With the influx of research conducted, now more than ever we realize that being healthy is much more than having a hot meal on the table. Like many others, I was raised in the era of boxed lasagna, easy hamburger meals, Salisbury steak, and canned green beans. While I’m grateful that I always had a hot meal and my belly was full every night, we had no idea then of the impacts that preservatives in foods have on our health the way we do now. However, with new research and knowledge, comes a responsibility to make different decisions.

I’ve become keenly attune to the importance of having a well-rounded, healthy life that includes wholesome food, sustainable physical activity, and mental and spiritual well-being, and this mentality extends beyond myself to my family. Let’s face it, at 5 feet 0 inches, my love of pasta and sushi doesn’t leave many places to go on my body except for my belly, butt, and thighs. But, practicing moderation, drinking plenty of water, purging the “junk”, eating USDA organic, and having easy access to fruits and veggies have made all the difference in my well-being. I know I’m genetically prone to diabetes and heart disease (don’t forget that February is American Heart Month...wear red on February 2nd), but that doesn’t mean I have to accelerate the onset of those diagnoses. And this is a hard lesson that I’ve learned and continue to work at every day...just like many of you.

More importantly though, I not only feel strongly compelled to accustom my children’s young pallets to fresh fruit and veggies, lean meats, and the taste of water, but also to instill strong financial principles, the idea of education as a life-long journey, how to build strong relationships with healthy boundaries, and breaking through stigma, generational trauma, and cycles.

The preparations needed for my children to live a full, healthy, joy-filled life is a task that, at times, I feel ill-prepared to deliver on. Yet, like my predecessors and all of you, even with the changing times, we’ll continue to do our best to ensure our kids have it better than we had it.





# 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.

## 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





## FROM OUR LEADERS: A MESSAGE FROM SANDY HOLLINGER

By Megan Zamora



**W**e are off to a great start in 2024, and I wish you all a wonderful year! Each Tribal Council Member is appointed to specific legislative committees, and I am currently serving on the Health Legislative Committee (HLC) and the Land and Natural Resources Committee (LNRC). Our Tribe is constantly evolving and I'm happy to share some updates with all of you.

This past Thanksgiving was a wonderful time for me. I'm thankful for everyone's hard work to make our Pow Wow a success and especially that we were able to host it in our new Cultural Arena. The Cultural Arena was a project that the LNRC worked on, and I was proud to be part of that development. While I heard from many of you about the space being tight at times, overall it was wonderful to have our annual Pow Wow in the new arena. As I was there with many of you, I couldn't help but think

about what a long way we've come and how thankful I am to see where we are now. It's truly a blessing that we're able to have such a nice, safe place for our people to gather.

As a member of the HLC, I've been able to advocate for the First Generation Descendant (FGD) Native Winds health clinic. I've heard from many of you that you were not pleased at the cut off age of 19 at the health clinic, and I've also heard equally

important input from others that believe this type of help should only be for Tribal Members. The HLC carefully weighed out both viewpoints, however, we couldn't

overlook the fact that health clinic access assists the entire Tribal household. So, we moved forward with expanding the ages we serve at the health clinic for our FGD. We gradually expanded the age limits to ensure we can sufficiently support the change and soon, we will have this open to all FGD. I'm happy we provide this assistance to our Tribal families and alleviate the hardship that existed for many Tribal folks.

In January, I was surprised to be named a Recipient of Yellowhammer's Alabama Women of Impact 2024 award. It was an honor to be recognized for my contributions, but it ultimately reminded me of how thankful I am for the opportunity to be here and serve my people.

If all goes as planned, we will be opening our meat processing facility in December 2024. I've been part of this project through the LNRC and it's something I'm really excited about. With a husband who spends his time working in our Tribal gardens, I am very aware of the difference locally sourced, wholesome foods make in our overall well-being and health. The ability to offer farm raised beef here at the Tribe also means we know what our cattle is eating and the environment they are raised in. As a Native community, I hope that in having healthy food resources, we can eliminate diseases that plague our people such as heart disease, diabetes, and obesity.

It's my passion to help our Tribal people when issues arise and I'm thankful to be able to make sound financial decisions to help us move forward. I feel nothing but heartfelt gratitude to be a leader for the Poarch Creek Indians and thank you for the opportunity to work on your behalf.

**“  
It's my passion  
to help our Tribal  
people when  
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I'm thankful  
to be able to make  
sound financial  
decisions to help  
us move forward.”**





## DIVISION SPOTLIGHT

# CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

By Ashlee “Katie” Mothershed

*The Chief Financial Officer plays a critical role in managing the Tribe's financial resources and operations. Here are some key aspects of the CFO's role in this context:*

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

The CFO is responsible for overseeing the financial health of Tribal Government. This includes managing financial resources effectively, ensuring that funds are used in alignment with the Tribe's objectives and regulations, and safeguarding against risk and fraud.

### BUDGETING AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

The CFO plays a vital role in preparing and managing Tribal Government's budget. They work with various departments to forecast financial needs, allocate resources efficiently, and ensure financial sustainability.

### FINANCIAL REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE

The CFO ensures that Tribal Government complies with applicable financial regulations and reporting requirements. This includes preparing accurate financial statements, overseeing audits, and ensuring transparency in financial operations.

### ADVISORY ROLE

The CFO often serves as a key advisor to the Tribal Council on financial matters. They provide insight and recommendations on financial strategy, economic development opportunities, and risk management.

The CFO's office thus plays a crucial role in ensuring the financial stability and prosperity of Tribal Government, balancing traditional values with modern financial practices.



## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

# ACCOUNTING

By Ashlee “Katie” Mothershed

*The Tribal Government Accounting department plays a critical role in managing and overseeing the financial operations of the Tribe. Their responsibilities include:*

### BUDGET MANAGEMENT

They prepare and manage the Tribal budget, ensuring efficient allocation and utilization of resources.

### FINANCIAL REPORTING

The department is responsible for producing accurate financial reports, which are vital for transparency and informed decision-making by Tribal Council.

### AUDIT COMPLIANCE

They ensure compliance with auditing standards and regulations, maintaining the integrity and accountability of financial operations.

### RESOURCE ALLOCATION

They oversee the distribution of funds within various Tribal programs and initiatives, ensuring they align with the Tribe’s objectives and needs.

### FINANCIAL PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

They provide strategic financial planning and analysis to support the Tribe’s economic development and sustainability goals.

The role of this department is pivotal in ensuring the financial health and sustainability of Tribal Government operations, enabling them to serve their community effectively.

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**



**DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Dominic Cromartie



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# THE STATE OF *Native American Education*

By Virginia McGhee

**E**ducation in the Native American community has been a pressing issue for young people in Native tribes nationwide. It has been reported that Indigenous students are 237 percent more likely to drop out or be expelled from school, which is double the national average as reported by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Additionally, students in the Native American community are not as likely to obtain a bachelor's degree in comparison to their non-Native peers. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, "...of every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native kindergartners, only seven will earn a bachelor's degree..."

The leading reasons for the high dropout rate for Native American students today are economic issues on reservations and the cultural disconnect between Native students and their classmates. For example, an article by *The Christian Science Monitor* reports on a story of two Native teens of the Navajo Nation on a college tour. On their tour, the two young men

were accused of suspicious behavior and were reported to campus police at the University of Colorado by one of the student's parents. The two young men were only displaying Native cultural norms from their community, which were interpreted as questionable behavior by non-Native students and their parents. For example, as stated in the article, in some tribes it is considered a sign of respect when youth avoid eye contact with adults during conversation, while non-Natives may interpret such conduct as dismissive. Additionally, in some Native tribes listening can be of greater value than talking in Native American communities.

Understanding the difference in social normalities between Native and non-native students is a key factor in understanding the problems in education with Native students. Because of this cultural disconnect, Native students can find it hard to relate socially to

*The leading reasons for high dropout rate for Native American students today are economic issues on reservations and the cultural disconnect between Native students and their classmates.*



their non-Native classmates. In addition, there is a disconnect from the school's curriculum that does not teach their history, culture, or language.

Native languages specifically, are dying out and the preservation of Indigenous languages is more important than ever. As explained by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there are 245 indigenous languages in the United States, with 65 already extinct and 75 near extinction with only a few elder speakers left. The Regional Educational Laboratory explains that by learning their own cultural language, Native students can better develop cognitive and metalinguistic skills that transfer to academic English as well as other languages. Native language preservation would foster more interest in education for Native students and help them excel in other areas of academics to facilitate success for generations to come.



**VIRGINIA MCGHEE**

*is a student at the University  
of Southern Mississippi*

**7%** *only*  
*of American  
Indian/  
Alaska Native  
kindergartners  
will earn  
a bachelor's  
degree*





POARCH 101

# Member vs. Citizen

By Megan Zamora



...the word “citizen” conveys a different message and inherently carries a different weight along with it that indicates certain rights, privileges, and standing.



**T**he Tribal Government Communications team has been working on updating the Tribe's brand standards to a more robust manual. Part of this work includes addressing the proper words to use when referring to the Tribe, Tribal Council, and General Council.

You may have noticed, but we've already begun implementing some of this work into our messaging. This includes using the word "Tribal Citizen" instead of "Tribal Member". While this verbiage has been met with some mixed emotions, it is important to the mission of the Tribe that we stay current on developments in Indian Country and evolve accordingly. The distinction between Citizen and Member might seem insignificant, but it is part of important work towards bolstering our stature as a Tribe amongst ourselves, other Tribes, Tribal organizations, the state, and the U.S.

While the word "member" is something that we Tribal folks have become accustomed to and have a deep understanding of what that entails, not everyone recognizes what that means. From the outside looking in, when people hear the word "member", they might compare it to anything from a "member of Congress" to a "member of Sam's Club". However, the word "citizen" conveys a different message and inherently carries a different weight along with it that indicates certain rights, privileges, and standing.

I recently spoke with United South and Eastern Tribe's Kitcki Carroll and Liz Malerba for our podcast and they provide a great explanation on the importance of using the right words when we refer to ourselves. If you're interested in listening to that episode, you can scan the QR code below.

In no way does this diminish or take away from the work that has been done by the Tribe in the past, nor does it require any updates to our governing documents. This is just one small way we are changing our messaging to express a truer depiction of our Tribal government while supporting our sovereignty and self-determination.

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# CAMP BECKWITH STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO A RELATIONSHIP BUILT ON TRUST

*By Jamie Sawyer*

**A**s our nation was crawling out of the depths of the Great Depression, a relationship formed between the Episcopal Church and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. In 1930, the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama began a mission to the Tribe, bringing medical care, education and religion. The mission progressed slowly until the Episcopal missionaries formed a relationship with Chief Fred Walker. Within a couple of years, they had worked together

to build St. John of the Wilderness and St. Anna's churches as well as the Consolidated Indian School.

During the same period, the Diocese had been gifted 40 acres of land along the banks of Weeks Bay by the Beckwith family. Thirty years earlier, Bishop Charles Beckwith had purchased the land from Rev. Howard Walker, an Episcopal missionary priest. He built a cabin on the land and it became his personal retreat for more than twenty years. Six months before his death in 1928, the cabin



burned to the ground. The land that his widow gifted to the church had long been contested by squatters.

The new bishop, Rev. William George McDowell, saw the potential to establish a youth camp on the property. In 1933, he asked a local minister to lead a group of 17 young men and five adults to establish Camp Beckwith. He asked

Whether youth summer camps, Cursillo weekends, or clergy conferences, Camp Beckwith became a cherished place that has created lifelong memories for thousands.

On its 50th anniversary, the Diocese launched a campaign called Go Forward to raise funds to affirm and expand its mission. The name was pulled from the scriptural



*...thousands have enjoyed the tranquil sunrises, moonlit reflections, and the rustle of live oaks inviting contemplation and connection with the divine. ...Camp Beckwith became a cherished place that has created lifelong memories...*

the campers make basic improvements, including digging a well, clearing and marking the boundaries and building a small cabin to secure ownership.

Chief Fred Walker joined the effort, teaching the young men his logging skills and supervising the construction of what became Pioneer Lodge. They returned the next summer to build a second lodge. Before the church could ever hold a summer camp there, the cabins were burned in the winter of 1934. It was suspected that the squatters had burned these lodges as well as Bishop Beckwith's cabin almost a decade earlier.

The land sat dormant until the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast was formed in 1970. They began development of Camp Beckwith and hosted the first summer camp in 1972. Since then, thousands have enjoyed the tranquil sunrises, moonlit reflections, and the rustle of live oaks inviting contemplation and connection with the divine.

text that was the basis for the sermon that led to their founding. Part of that campaign focuses on refurbishing and expanding the facilities at Camp Beckwith. One of those needs is a new adult lodge. In the long tradition of cooperation between the Episcopal Church and the Poarch Creek Indians, the Tribe stepped up and pledged its support to help build the new lodge.

It's been ninety years since Chief Fred Walker helped build the first primitive lodge at Camp Beckwith. Today, the relationship between the Episcopal Church and the Tribe endures. St. Anna's Church still thrives on the Poarch Creek Reservation. The Consolidated Indian School stands as a reminder of the struggles the Tribe has had to overcome to achieve educational opportunities. And, Camp Beckwith stands ready to expand its mission for the next 50 years with the Tribe's commitment to support their efforts.



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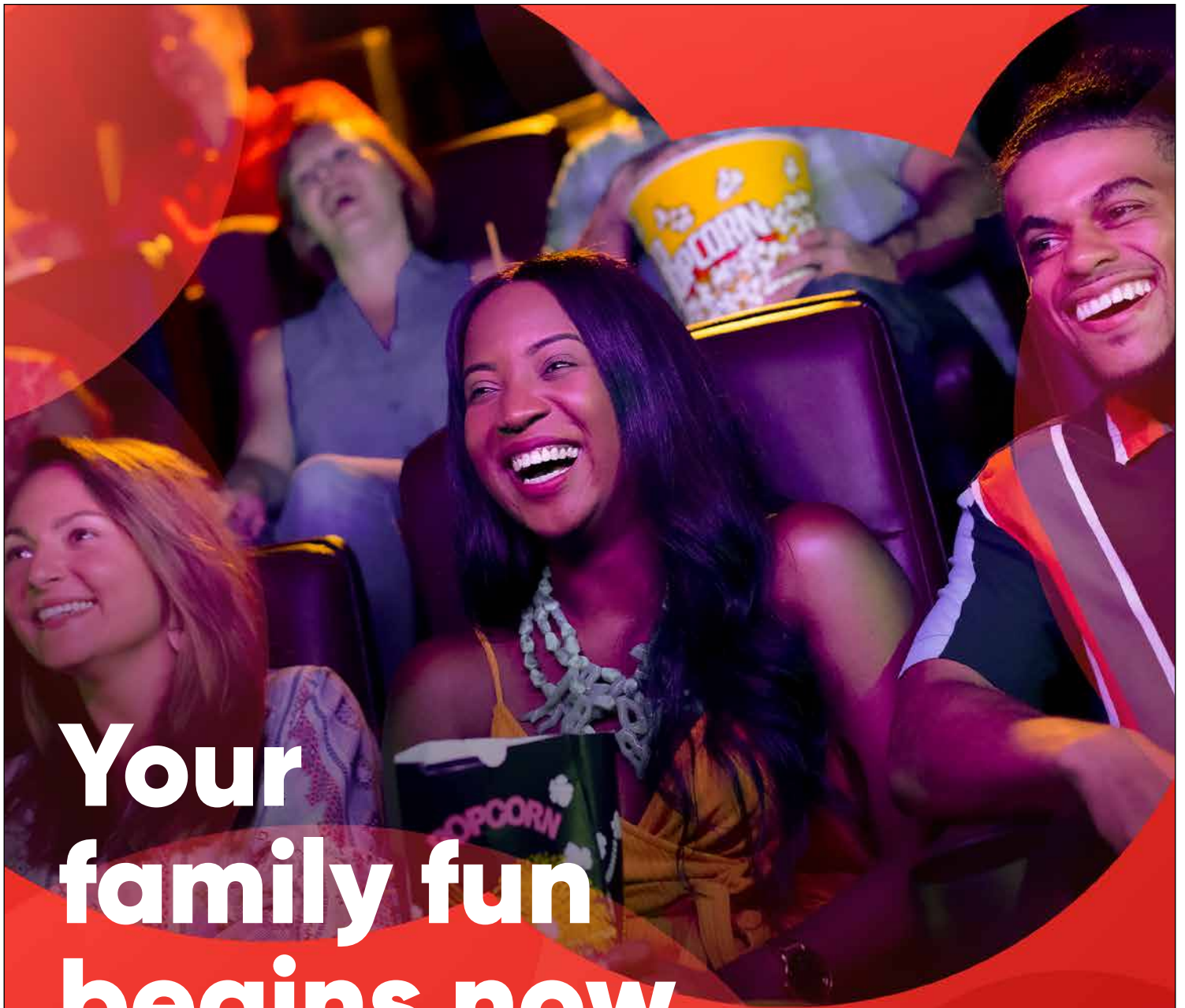
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# DEALS, DOGGIES, AND *Epic* DOWNTOWN FUN!



Downtown OWA's the place to be all month long! Join us for Puppy Gras and Krewe du Kidz Masquerade on Feb. 3, then our huge Mardi Gras Parade and After-party on Feb. 11! Let the good times really roll with tributes to musical legends The Rolling Stones (2/16-17) and Pink Floyd (2/23-24). Visit Downtown OWA every Friday in February for unique finds at limited-time savings during Friday Deal Days. Plan your February fun at [VisitOWA.com](http://VisitOWA.com)!

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## MEDICINE TAIL

Coming from many North American tribal backgrounds, The Medicine Tail Singers and Dancers have been singing and performing together since 2001. They have traveled all across the United States singing at powwows and performing at music festivals, cultural events, and concert venues. Aside from powwows, many members of The Medicine Tail Singers are active learners, teachers, and participants of their traditional heritage.

The drum group is composed of many tribes, including: Creek, Coushatta, Alabama, Choctaw, and Houma. Some of their travel highlights include performing for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festivals as well as the Midnight Sun Powwow and the World Eskimo Indian Olympics in Fairbanks, Alaska. They have released five independent albums to date.

The Tribe is committed to doing its part to further Native arts through books, media, movies, fashion, and similar artistic outlets. We'd love to include your recommendation in one of our future issues. Please feel free to share those with me. Mvto!

***Share your recommendation***  
with Megan Zamora at [mzamora@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:mzamora@pci-nsn.gov).







## OWA PARKS AND RESORT PLANS FOR INDOOR PICKLEBALL COURT FACILITY

By Kristin Hellmich

“

*Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States, and we are thrilled to bring this new offering to Downtown OWA.*

CODY WILLIAMSON

O WA Parks and Resort is continuing to expand its Downtown OWA offerings with plans to add four indoor pickleball courts. This exciting new addition will address the rapidly growing pickleball craze and provide an opportunity to enhance an existing space across from the OWA Theater. The handicap-accessible facility is set to include seating areas and lockers, with apparel, snacks and beverages available to guests. Optional membership will ensure convenient 24-hour access.

Rolin Construction has been tapped to lead construction efforts and oversee the buildout of the \$600,000 project, which is set to open in February 2024. “Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States, and we are thrilled to bring this new offering to Downtown OWA,” said Cody Williamson, President/CEO Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority. “This new indoor entertainment option allows OWA to add community-focused recreational activities for all ages,” he added.

Guests will have the ability to reserve courts online. Future plans include pickleball tournaments and the addition of a certified pickleball instructor to teach those interested in learning to play. For more information on OWA Parks and Resorts, entertainment options, and up-to-date water park news, visit [VisitOWA.com](http://VisitOWA.com).





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





# MARDI GRAS AT OWA

*By Catherine Hasty*

**L**et the good times roll all month long at OWA Parks & Resort! From family-friendly events to entertaining shows, there is something for everyone all month!

Dive into the ultimate tropical vibes at Tropic Falls with Tuki's Friday Fun Nights on February 2 & 9 from 4-9pm! Sit back and grab a bite to eat or enjoy a refreshing drink with a meal-deal specials. This family-friendly event includes the added fun of a DJ, bubbles, balloon artists, and lawn games! Plus, be on the lookout for Tuki the Toucan making surprise appearances! Are you a Tropic Falls season passholder? Enjoy the exclusive Season Pass area inside the waterpark for a private meet & greet with Tuki, along with free crafts, leis & arcade play. Learn more and purchase a ticket at [VisitOWA.com](http://VisitOWA.com).

Good times are ahead as Mardi Gras returns to Downtown OWA! Kick off the festivities with the Krewe du Kidz Masquerade party in the street on February 3, starting at 4pm, featuring a DJ, kid's crafts, Moon Pie Bingo, and more! No holiday celebrations would be complete without our furry friends, so bring them with you for the 3rd annual Puppy Gras Pet Parade on February 3, starting the parade at 2pm. A pet-friendly costume contest immediately follows the parade for a chance to win cash prizes. In an epic conclusion to the OWA Mardi Gras season, join us for the 5th annual Mardi Gras Parade & Party in the streets of Downtown OWA on February 11, starting at 2pm with Live Music and family-friendly activities after the parade!

But the fun doesn't end there! Enjoy the Mardi Gras Murder Mystery Dinner Show at Brandon Styles Theater on February 8 & 9. This family entertainment show features live actors with comedic experience as the audience members





A group of young women, likely members of the dance team, are performing a routine at night. They are wearing dark jackets and colorful, multi-layered tutus in shades of pink, purple, and blue. They are captured in a dynamic pose, with one woman in the foreground smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a city street at night with buildings and streetlights.

  
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**PILOTS FOR CHRIST:**

# LIFTING UP PEOPLE WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

By Jamie Sawyer

**W**hen most people think about flying on a private plane, they may think about celebrities and executives breathing the rarified air of luxury. There's one twin-engine airplane down in Monroeville, Alabama that serves a higher purpose. Instead of giving the wealthy a way to avoid flying with the rest of us, this plane provides the least of us with a blessing that helps save lives and families.

In 1994, Tommy Lee flew a cancer patient to receive life-saving treatment that they otherwise would not have been able to afford. Since then, his Pilots for Christ organization has provided more

than 4,500 free flights to patients in need. That's an average of 150 flights per year for 30 years. However, that doesn't even reflect the growth of the organization's mission. Last year, they took flight 600 times, transporting patients to specialists at no cost to the families.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians has supported Pilots for Christ for many years now. Their selfless mission completely aligns with the Tribe's values of helping those in need.

In 2016, that mission became more personal when Sandy Hollinger, a member of the Tribal Council, learned that her son, Denver, had been diagnosed with stage-4 cancer. Pilots for Christ transported Denver

and Sandy to St. Jude for treatment multiple times, even flying him home to be crowned Homecoming King during treatment.

The unfortunate truth is that many of the patients Pilots for Christ transports don't win their battles with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Denver was one of those patients who fought the good fight and passed away. Yet, when families are in the middle of these stressful times, Pilots for Christ makes it possible to receive the best treatment possible, spend more quality time with their loved ones, and

*...Pilots for Christ organization has provided more than 4,500 free flights to patients in need. That's an average of 150 flights per year for 30 years.*







avoid the hardships of travel. As one family described it, "Every time we fly with them, there is nothing but servanthood that comes out of them. They show exactly what a disciple of Christ should be."

Pilots for Christ has a single airplane to accomplish their mission. Considering that they flew 83 missions just last month, that's obviously a lot of hours on a single aircraft. In fact, last year, they had to replace both engines on the plane at a cost of nearly a million dollars. The organization's supporters stepped up and made it possible to pay off that expense in six months. It's not just larger donors like Poarch Creek that make their mission possible. Communities and families that have experienced their compassion first-hand hold fundraisers for the organization every year.

The organization makes it very clear that they do not receive any funding from government grants or reimbursements from insurance companies. They completely rely on charitable donations to run their operation. With every flight costing several thousand dollars, those costs add up quickly. But every donation directly affects a family in need. When their single aircraft is already serving one family, they have used funds to pay for commercial flights to serve other families.

Recently, Poarch Creek made a donation to expand and pave the parking lot around the hanger. Today, the team at Pilots for Christ welcomes almost every patient to their facility in Monroeville. The parking lot project will allow the organization to serve more patients and provide a safe transfer for patients with mobility issues. It also allows the staff to meet more members of patients' families and spend time with them in prayer prior to their departure.

With so many families literally being lifted up in their time of need, the power of prayer is sustaining. Prayer helps this selfless team endure the emotional weight of getting to know every patient. It helps the patients through some of the toughest times in their lives. And for 30 years, prayer has helped Pilots for Christ focus on its mission and grow, despite the growing costs. Anyone trying to make the numbers add up would consider this a miracle, which it is.



Carter has just turned six years old and is playing on his baseball team. Pilots for Christ flew Carter to Philadelphia for treatment and members of the PFC family got to wish him well before his flight. His mother, Meredith says,

***“ I cannot believe it! I am so thankful for how far he has come. We pretty much still live from one doctors appointment to the next but I try to fill the days between with fun stuff! ”***



**DAILY SPECIALS**

**Starts at  
11 am.**

**Monday**  
Burger and Fries

**Tuesday**  
Country Fried Steak

**Wednesday**  
Pork Chop

**Thursday**  
Hamburger Steak

**Friday**  
Seafood Basket

**Saturday**  
Meatloaf

**Sunday**  
Fried Chicken

4740 Jack Springs Rd.

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WETUMPKA





2024

# NATIVE PLANT GIVEAWAY

## 2 TREES PER HOUSEHOLD

Tribal Member and Tribal Employee Household

You may pick up for only one other household, but must bring a note.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

Starts at 8:00 am. First Come, First Served.

Environmental Department Building at 957 Martin Road

*Drive behind the building to the designated pickup area.*

*Scan QR code below to see our selection.*



**Environmental Dept**

For more information, contact  
Sehoy Thrower at 251.368.9136 ext. 2398  
or [sthrower@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:sthrower@pci-nsn.gov)







# TEAM MEMBERS AT WIND CREEK BETHLEHEM GIVE BACK WITH TOY AND COAT DRIVE

By Amelia Tognoli

**A**s 2023 drew to a close, Team Members at Wind Creek Hospitality's Pennsylvania property, Wind Creek Bethlehem, orchestrated not one, but two heartwarming initiatives that directly benefited the surrounding community.

The first act of kindness came in the form of the property's annual Toy Drive. From October to the end of November, Team Members generously purchased and donated a wide array of new toys, gift cards, games, puzzles, books, and more. These donations directly benefited the Northeast Community Center, a local non-profit social services agency and a steadfast pillar of support for those in need. After dropping off the donations, parents were able to select and wrap gifts for their children just in time for the holidays.

Shortly after, the team at Wind Creek Bethlehem delved into their closets during the property's annual Coat Drive. From November to December, Team Members donated bags filled with gently used winter wear, including scarves, coats, gloves, and more. New Bethany Ministries, an organization dedicated to supporting individuals facing poverty, hunger, and homelessness, gratefully accepted the donations.

"Thank you to all the Wind Creek Bethlehem Team Members who participated," said Trina Rackard, Director of Sponsorships and Events at Wind Creek Hospitality. "Because of their efforts, both drives were a huge success—providing much-needed community support during the holiday months."

“

*Because of [Wind Creek Bethlehem Team Member] efforts, both drives were a huge success—providing much-needed community support during the holiday months.*

TRINA RACKARD





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

If you have any  
questions, please call  
(251) 368-9136 ext. 2316



## ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT **SPAY & NEUTER PROGRAM**

 **JANUARY 15  
– MAR 29, 2024\***  
**9AM – 4PM**  
**MONDAY – FRIDAY**

Vouchers expire on June 30, 2024

\*or until funding is depleted

The Environmental Department will be giving out spay/neuter vouchers for cats and dogs. Only one voucher per Tribal Member will be allowed. These are available on a first-serve basis for Tribal Members only. Tribal Members must present their Tribal ID to receive spay/neuter voucher at one of the following veterinary offices to receive services.

Atmore Animal Hospital | Atmore, AL  
Bay Minette Animal Clinic | Bay Minette, AL  
Delta Animal | Bay Minette, AL  
Brentwood Animal Hospital | Pensacola, FL  
Brewton Animal Clinic | Brewton, AL





## CELEBRATING SHERRY WALLACE

We announce with great pride the graduation of Sherry Wallace from Keiser University. Sherry received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and graduated cum laude.



**BELTONE RELY™  
ITC**  
(In The Canal)  
~~was \$1,795~~  
**NOW \$998<sup>+</sup>**



**BELTONE RELY™  
CIC**  
(Completely-In-Canal)  
~~was \$1,995~~  
**NOW \$1,495<sup>+</sup>**



Come see Our Beltone  
Hearing Aid Specialist at the  
Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic



**\$1,000 Off a pair  
of hearing aids\***

\*Discount based off of MSRP

\*Cannot be combined with other offers or coupons. Not valid on previous purchases.

**Friday, February 16, 2024  
from 9:00am - 3:00pm**



Introducing Our Best Yet Beltone Serene™

*tiny but powerful hearing aids made for everyday life.*

Please call us TOLL FREE for an  
appointment at **(251) 369-6400.**

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Atmore, AL

**Pensacola Office**

6024 N 9th Avenue  
Pensacola, FL



SCAN ME







Government Relations  
and Public Affairs Office

5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502



# CREEK CORNER

## FEBRUARY 2023 IMPORTANT DATES

<b>2.1</b>	<b>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b> March Issue	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING</b> TC Chambers	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>TUKI'S FRIDAY FUN NIGHT</b> Downtown OWA	<b>4:00-9:00 PM</b>
<b>2.5-6</b>	<b>MUSEUM GIFT SHOP CLOSED</b> Inventory	
<b>2.9</b>	<b>TUKI'S FRIDAY FUN NIGHT</b> Downtown OWA	<b>4:00-9:00 PM</b>
<b>2.15</b>	<b>TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING</b> TC Chambers	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>2.23</b>	<b>NATIVE PLANT GIVEAWAY</b> 957 Martin Rd., Atmore	<b>8:00 AM</b>