## CREEK CORNER

**ISSUE 15** 

The official magazine of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians





## TRIBAL LEADERS

The mission of the Poarch Creek Indians is to protect our inherent rights as a sovereign American Indian Tribe, promote our culture and beliefs, to help our Tribal Members achieve their highest potential, maintain good relations with other Indian tribes and units of government, acquire, develop and conserve resources to achieve economic and social self-sufficiency, and ensure that our people live in peace and harmony among themselves and with others.

We bring a reservoir of expert knowledge to secure the health, education and well-being of all Tribal Members today and in the future. We act as role models who go beyond the call of duty and leaders who instill confidence in the fairness and wisdom of government decisions and actions.



















Top Row (left to right): Stephanie Bryan (Tribal Chair), Robert McGhee (Vice Chair), Charlotte Meckel (Secretary), Amy Gantt (Treasurer)

Bottom Row (left to right):

At-Large Council Members: Dewitt Carter, Candace Fayard, Sandy Hollinger, Keith Martin, Arthur Mothershed

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HHWEW
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OWA

Grab the green and join us for

### OWA's Annual St. Pawtty's Day Celebration

Saturday, March 11 1-5 pm

Pre-register online at VisitOWA.com/PAWS

More info on page 18.

Editor: Katie Mothershed akmothershed@pci-nsn.gov

# DIGITAL ARCHIVIST CHAD PARKER

### A MAN YOU SHOULD KNOW



"An easy way that I like to explain my job to my kids is preserving the Tribe's history, from old documents... from paper formats to digital formats, so they are never lost," Digital Archivist Mr. Chad Parker said to Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees in his Oral History Program interview on January 27, 2023. He is one of our six-member-team of Records Warriors who take care of Tribal records.

Records Coordinator Ms. Cheryl Thrower, served as our videographer who documented the interview on video. Ms. Thrower holds the same position that Ms. Ellen O'Barr held for more than thirty-one years at the Tribe.

"You deal with the past; you have to deal with the present—history happens every day. So we try to do a good job of documenting it as it happens," he said. "It takes teamwork."

This oral history interview documents the history of the Office of Archives and Records Management pursuant to the Records Management Ordinance (TCO 2010-004; 1.2.1.F) which states, "All departments shall document their administrative history."

It is Dr. Dees' responsibility under the Records Management Ordinance to manage Tribal records "to ensure their proper preservation" (TCO 2010-004; 2.1). Conducting and recording this oral history interview is one way we can insure the proper preservation of historical data that comes from the vantage point of a Tribal employee.

Mr. Parker said he first started working fulltime for the Tribe in the Recreation Department in 2012, after working part-time for a few years at Creek Indians Enterprises Development Authority. "I managed all the sports programs," he said. "Anything with a ball—we did it!"

Mr. Parker began working in the Office of Archives and Records Management in November of 2019. "I've always had an interest in the history of the Tribe. I did not feel I knew everything that I maybe should have known, so this gave me an opportunity to venture into that side—the history of the Tribe—learning as much as I could," he said.





Photograph by Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees Ms. Cheryl Thrower video records Mr. Chad Parker's oral history interview for our Oral History Program

Photo credit: Jon Klosinski



Before becoming the Tribe's first and only Digital Archivist, Mr. Parker said he grew up in Mississippi, being raised by his parents, Mike Parker and Linda Gayle Rolin Parker. Throughout his childhood, he said he visited relatives in the Poarch community including his uncle, former Chairman Buford L. Rolin, and his maternal grandparents Tracy Rolin and Girlie Walker Rolin.

He said his grandparents were caretakers of Saint Anna's Episcopal Church which included maintenance of the building. "My grandad rung the bell every Sunday morning for church," he said. "Everybody that you talk to from back in those times remember that bell ringing—on Sunday morning it would ring. My grandmother played the organ for the church for years."

Mr. Parker spoke fondly about his grandparents whose collection he digitized and donated to the Tribe. "I was going through my mother's attic. I found his [grandfather's] old pipe that he used to smoke." He said he found medicine bottles and over 350 pictures. "He loved his pictures."

Mr. Parker was awarded the Certificate of Recognition for going above and beyond the

call of duty. In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic when Tribal employees had to work from home, he took his digitization equipment home and digitized his grandfather's pictures—a real treasure for the Tribe.

What exactly does digitization mean? It turns images on paper into digital images through an electronic document imaging system which provides standards for accuracy and durability of Tribal records pursuant to the Records Management Ordinance (TCO 2010-004; 9.2). Mr. Parker utilizes imaging equipment of different sized scanners for standard-sized photographs and for oversized documents. He uses a Germanmade machine called the Zeutschel Picture Machine to make digital images of books such as old bibles and large newsprint.

He explained that this imaging system provides higher definition and higher resolution. "You get a better quality of pictures," he said.

He uses facial recognition computer software which is "a fast research method for us," he said. He has placed over 150 thousand photographs into the software program. "I tag the person who is in the



photo. It searches every photo that I have ever put in there." He provides this data to Patrons.

Our Team likes making acquisitions of pictures we have never seen before. "I believe there are pictures out there of Calvin and Joyce McGhee that we have never seen," he said.

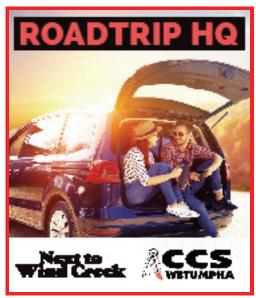
Mr. Parker encourages donors to schedule an appointment to bring in their photographs, and he will digitize them. "The donor retains originals," he said. "I try to give them back in a timely manner."

He removes pictures from sticky backing in photo albums from the 1970s and rehouses them. "They leave in a better condition than when we received them," he said proudly.

Would you like to watch the full recording of Mr. Parker's interview? Tribal Members can obtain a copy of the recording at no charge by calling us at (251) 446-4942. Mr. Chad Parker is a man you should know. Mvto.



Submitted by Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ed.D.





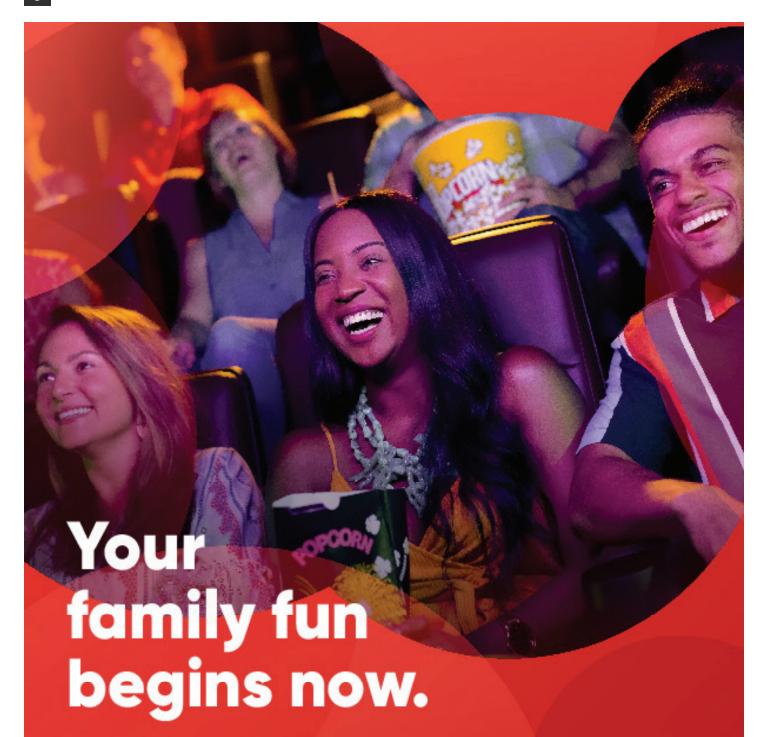












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## **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS WASTE COLLECTION DAY**

WHEN:

WHERE: **April 22, 2023** 

8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Poarch Creek Fire Station #1 **Jack Springs Road** 

#### THIS COLLECTION EVENT IS FOR HOUSEHOLDS ONLY

Large Quantities from businesses, farms, or commercial operations will not be accepted.

#### THIS IS A FREE SERVICE

Please use this opportunity to keep these hazards out of our waterways and natural environment!

#### Sponsored by the Poarch Creek Indians Environmental Department

5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL 36502 (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2683

#### **ACCEPTED HOUSEHOLD WASTE ITEMS**

- **Paints**
- » Household Cleaners
- **Pesticides**
- **Automobile Batteries**
- » Household Chemical
- » Flammables
- » Motor Oil
- » Fluorescent Bulbs

- » Corrosives
- » Antifreeze
- » Alkaline Batteries

#### **ACCEPTED ELECTRONIC ITEMS**

- » Computers
- » CD Rom Drives
- » Radios
- » Monitors
- **Networking Equipment**
- » Walkman Products
- » Printers
- » Fax Machines
- » Calculators
- » Hard Drives

- » Digital Cameras
- » DVD/Blu-ray Players
- » Scanners
- » Audio or Video Equipment
- » TVs
- » Power Supplies
- » Video/ Tape Recorders
- » Game Consoles
- » Battery Backups
- » Tape Drives

- » Stereo Equipment
- » Rechargeable Batteries
- » Speakers
- » Cellular Phones
- » Toner/Ink Cartridges
- » VCRs
- » Phone Accessories
- » Keyboards
- » Cables

#### **PROHIBITED ITEMS**

- » Infectious & Medical Waste
- Radioactive Materials
- Fire Extinguishers
- » Medications
- » Compressed Gas Cylinders
- » Smoke Detectors
- **Biological Materials**
- » Ammunition
- **Explosives**





## WELCOME KOOPER WAYNE COLBERT!

Born on December 2, 2022 with Colbert blood in his veins, Kooper was born free spirited ready to take life head-on! 52 Centimeters 3.57 Kilos

Father: Kameron Wyatt Colbert
Grandfather: Keith Wayne Colbert
Great Grandfather: Leon Colbert
Great Great Grandfather Willis Colbert

Great Great Grandfather: Walter Lee Colbert

Great Great Great Grandfather: William Colbert Jr.

Great Great Great Great Grandfather: William Colbert

Submitted by Keith Colbert



## **POW WOW CLUB PERFORMANCE**

Left to right below stage:

Demonstrating jingle dress dancing are Maggie Gordan, daughter of Tribal Member Megan Gordan; Tribal Member Regina Lynch; Poarcha Bailey, daughter of Tribal Member Jake Bailey; Leianna Bray, daughter of Tribal Member Randy Bray; Tribal Member RheaShea DeVilbliss, and Kadence Bailey, daughter of Tribal Member Jake Bailey.

On stage, both singing and drumming are Tribal Member Greg McGhee and Tribal Member Chris "DingDing" Blackburn.





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## TRIBAL MEMBER'S DREAM PAVES THE WAY IN DIVERSIFYING TRIBAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

A special overview of PCI Federal Services for Creek Corner.

January 26, 2023

Seven years ago, Mal McGhee had a dream to expand the Tribe's reach into the Federal Government Contracting business arena. Mal convinced Chad Klinck, CFO of Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA), that being a federal government contractor would be a great way to diversify the Poarch Band of Creek Indians' businesses. The Tribe was already involved in gaming and commercial activities such as OWA, hotels, and convenience stores; so, the two of them set out on a journey to develop what is now known as PCI Federal Services (PCIFS), the federal government contracting entity for the Poarch Creek Indians.

Some may ask, what exactly does a federal government contractor do? The answer is: a federal government contractor is a person or company who enters into a contract with any agency or department of the United States government and is paid for services, material, equipment, supplies, land or buildings with funds appropriated by Congress.

Being a government contractor is much different than any other venture CIEDA or Tribal administration has been involved in. Government contractors must comply with federal procurement regulations which are much different than the regulations that govern Tribal administration and the Tribe's other business activities.

Mal and Chad's first venture into the contracting world was PCI Aviation (PCIA) which is located on Highway 21 in Atmore and Mal served as the company's first president. PCIA has expanded over the past 7 years to include a satellite office in San Antonio, Texas. PCIA offers engineering services, manufacturing, cyber security, program management and logistic support to the Department of Defense.

Since the initial development of PCIA, PCIFS has expanded through acquisition of existing companies and by developing and establishing other companies. PCIFS's current portfolio of businesses include:



- Engineering Services
- · Manufacturing,
- Cyber Security
- · Program Management
- Logistic Support
- Aviation Maintenance



- · Depot Operations Support
- · Directorate Of Logistics Support
- Directorate Of Plans, Training, Mobilization, Security
- · Directorate Of Public Works Support



- Facility Support
- · Program Management
- Logistics & Warehousing
- Operations & Maintenance
- Administrative Services & Support

(continued next page...)



- Construction
- · Design-Build/Renovation
- · Logistics & Warehousing
- Modular Unit
- Landscaping
- Janitorial



- Strategic Communications & Public Affairs
- Business Support
- · Multimedia & Graphic Production
- · Facilities Management
- Exhibit Management
- Program & Resource Management



- Strategic Communications
- · Public Relations & Protocol
- Communication Media Production
- · Photography & Videography
- Multimedia Production
- Writing & Editing
- Web Development
- · Exhibits & Outreach
- Administrative Services
- Business Support Services



- Metal Fabrication & Forming Process
- Welding
- · CNC Precision Machining
- Logistics Services



- Metal Fabrication
- Welding
- CNC Precision Machining
- Composites Kitting/Cutting
- ·Cold Storage Inventory Management
- Electronic Component Kitting
   & Assembly



- · Acquisition Management
- · Project Management
- Professional Services
- Data Analytics



- Acquisition Management
- · Project Management
- Professional Services
- · Data Analytics



- Enterprise IT Cybersecurity
- ·Data Analytics
- DevSecOps
- Systems Engineering



- Aviation Maintenance
- Engineering
- Facilities/Construction
- · Business/Professional
- Manufacturing
- Media/ Communications
- IT

Today, the PCIFS group has corporate offices in Alabama and Virginia, and project offices in Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Texas, and Nevada. PCIFS currently employs over 700 people in over 28 states in the U.S.

PCIFS is always looking for candidates who have federal government contracting expertise. Future employment opportunities include contracts management, program management, finance and accounting, human resources, proposal management, business development and many more.

For more information about PCI Federal Services contact: Mal McGhee Executive Vice President of Strategic Relations 251-294-1590

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Vickey Sellers PCI Federal Services 251.359.2027 vsellers@pcifs.com





WIND CREEK®

Wind Creek Hospitality sponsored its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Joy of Life" Mardi Gras Ball.

Last month, Wind Creek Hospitality sponsored its 9th Annual "Joy of Life" Mardi Gras Ball. Each year, proceeds from the gala benefit St. Jude's Research Hospital—one of the country's leading children's hospitals that, most notably, do not charge for treatment.

Over 100 representatives from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Wind Creek Hospitality, and the local community attended this year's event. The event benefits those affected by cancer, including Denver Shuttlesworth, a previous St. Jude's King who passed away in 2018.

This year's event included a live and silent auction, entertainment provided by Zack Stone Band, a chef and restaurant showcase, and the crowning of St. Jude's King and Queen. Colin Davis and Ali Hyland were crowned this year's King and Queen—both joined by a 2023 Royal Court that included Ana-Lois Mercer, Ava Smith, Brooklyn Jarrell, Charlie Glass, Colt Ramer, Easton Carraway, Ella Boutwell, Griffin Hershberger, Isabell Warren, Starla Chapman, and Xander Foy.

"It's a beautiful gala with an incredible purpose," said Trina Rackard, Director of Sponsorships and Events at Wind Creek Hospitality. "The proceeds assist with chemotherapy and radiation treatment, allowing families to focus on getting better, not a financial burden."



At present, this year's gala raised over \$100,000.





### WHAT'S NEW at OWA

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

Spring at OWA is for everyone, not just Spring Breakers, and March is just the beginning!

If you think Halloween is scary, check out "Slaughter Gras," where Mardi Gras turns... sinister! Presented by Nightmare Chambers and running Fridays through Sundays, 6-9pm, February 10-March 5 in Downtown OWA, you'll journey into the haunted house on your way to the Mardi Gras Ball. Try to survive four horrifying scare zones, each more bone-chilling than the next. Purchase tickets now at VisitOWA.com if vou dare!

For those who missed Murder Mystery Dinner Show in February or loved it and want more, you can't miss the Western Murder Mystery Dinner Show! The year is 1889, the audience is the townsfolk, and there is a low-down snake who will murder someone. It'll be up to YOU and Marshall Gunn to solve the crime! This family entertainment with live actors is an interactive and comedic experience. The show is Thursday, March 2, and Friday, March 3, at 6:30pm in Downtown OWA's Brandon Styles Theater. Visit BrandonStyles.com or call (251)237-3330 to purchase tickets.

Dogs are welcome at the annual **St. Pawtty's Day** celebration on Saturday, March 11 from 1-5pm! So bring them along to enjoy the fun of this familyfriendly event, featuring music, a dog-kissing







photo booth, a pet parade, and a costume contest. Pre-register online at VisitOWA.com/PAWS for only \$10. Wear your green come early for the parade on OWA Island. We hope no one gets pinched who doesn't wear green!

VROOM VROOM! The **Mustang Car Show** is coming to Downtown OWA on March 18 for the whole family to enjoy, and it's FREE for guests! Car registrants pay a fee to participate. Judging takes place in the morning and the awards presentation at 4pm on the Island Stage. Check VisitOWA.com for more details.

Make your OWA Parks & Resort experience a vacation! Stay at Marriott TownePlace Suites

onsite. Dine at one of the many restaurants and sweet shops, take the kids to the arcades or virtual reality experience, see a show at **OWA Theater**, check out the variety of shops, and enjoy a creative painting party! If you need an adult weekend, enjoy **Murder Creek Distillery** and **C'est Le Vin Wine Bar**, where whiskey and wine are not all that's served! After all that, how about a night visit to **Tropic Falls**? Book now, as the hotel fills up fast. You will not need to drive once you arrive, nor even leave the premises!

Bookmark VisitOWA.com and follow OWA on social media at @VisitOWA for all the latest details!



Start the month off with a scream at our seasonal haunted house, Slaughter Gras (ends 3/5)! Come back for fun with your four-legged friend at St. Pawtty's Day, 3/11—and for some serious horsepower at the Mustang Car Show, 3/18. There's always something big coming to OWA Theater, like the Christian Comedy Fest and a spectacular Journey Tribute! If you like murder-mystery westerns, check out Wild Wild Death at Brandon Styles Theater. Get all the dates and details at VisitOWA.com!







Questions regarding your Poarch Creek hearing aid benefit?

Contact Nioma Till, Case Manager, 251-368-9136, Ext. 2386.



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## March is National Kidney Month

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Regulate fluid levels

Activate: Vitamin D for healthy bones

Filter wastes from the blood

Directs production of red blood cells

Regulate blood pressure

Keep blood minerals in balance

PROBLEMS KIDNEY DISEASE CAN CAUSE







blood pressure









RISK FACTORS

Diabetes.

High blood pressure

Age 60+

SYMPTOMS



Swelling: face, hands, abdomen. ankles. feet

Blood in urine Foamy urine

Puffy eyes

Family history

Difficult. painful urination Increased thirst

Fatigue

TESTS YOU CAN TAKE (BLOOD AND URINE)



Urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio estimates the amount of a type of protein, albumin, that you excrete in your urine.

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## CREEK CORNER

**MARCH 2023** 

3/1/2023	Submission Deadline	April Issue	5:00 pm
3/2/2023	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm
3/6/2023 - 3/7/2023	Museum Gift Shop Closed	Inventory	
3/15/2023 - 3/17/2023	Southeastern Indian Festival	Pow Wow Grounds	
3/16/2023	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm