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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the POARCH CREEK INDIANS

# creek corner

*Alexander  
McGillivray*  
AND THE FIGHT FOR  
CREEK SOVEREIGNTY

**PCI GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND SEEKR PARTNER TO  
DEPLOY SECURE, COST-EFFECTIVE AI FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES**

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Poarch Creek Indians  
donate \$50,000 to  
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pediatric monitors  
More info on page 19



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### CREDITS

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**MEGAN ZAMORA**  
Editor, Creek Corner

**VNOKECKVT OFVN  
[WITH LOVE]**

*In the Mvskoke language, love is more than a feeling—it is how we care for one another, honor responsibility, and remain connected as a community. As we reflect on love this February, may this reminder carry us forward in our families, in our work, and in the everyday ways we show up for one another.*

**Scan the QR code to  
hear the pronunciation.**



# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

“

**F**

ebruary has a way of putting love front and center—wrapped in roses, cards, and all the obvious symbols. But as I’ve been thinking about this month, I keep coming back to a quieter understanding of love. One that isn’t performative or polished, but practiced—daily, imperfectly, and with intention.

I’m no expert, but here are a few things I’ve learned along the way.

---

## **FIRST: LOVE DOESN’T ALWAYS MEAN CLOSENESS.**

I’ve seen relationships—romantic, familial, even professional—where love exists, but being too close brings out the worst in both people. Sometimes the most loving choice is distance. Not as punishment or failure, but as respect—for yourself and for the other person. Loving from afar can still be love.

## **SECOND: LOVE LIVES IN THE ORDINARY.**

Not long ago, I was eating at a small Colombian restaurant near Orlando, and after the first bite of a guava and cheese pastry, I remember thinking, someone really cared when they made this. It wasn’t romance—it was intention. From food, to the way we care for our homes, tend a garden, show up at work, or raise our children, love shows itself in small, steady ways. It’s something you can feel, even when no one is trying to impress you.

## **THIRD: LOVE LOOKS FORWARD.**

Especially in moments of conflict. Loving well means telling the truth—but telling it in a way that preserves the relationship rather than scorches it. It means apology that’s sincere, behavior that actually changes, and compromise that honors everyone involved. It’s hard work, but it’s how trust is built and repaired.

---

And when I need a reminder of what love really asks of us, I return to words that have endured because they still ring true:

“Love is patient. Love is kind. It doesn’t envy or boast. It isn’t proud. It doesn’t dishonor others, it isn’t self-seeking, it isn’t easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.”  
— 1 Corinthians 13:4–7

This February, love doesn’t need glitter or grand gestures. It shows up in how we care for one another—quietly, consistently, and with intention.





# 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 Citizens 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:*  
Christina Flint-Lowe  
Sandy Hollinger  
Keith Martin  
Arthur Mothershed  
Justin Stabler







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FEBRUARY

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Street Party**

**Mardi Gras  
Night Parade**

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## DIVISION SPOTLIGHT

# BUFORD L. ROLIN HEALTH CLINIC

*By Kelly Dirting*

**T**he Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic stands as a cornerstone of healthcare for the Poarch Creek Indian community, representing both a commitment to wellness and an investment in the future of Tribal health. Built in 2014 and spanning an impressive 68,000 square feet, it holds a wide range of healthcare services under one roof, ensuring accessible, comprehensive care for eligible patients.

The Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic is a hub of healing, prevention, and support. Its size reflects the breadth of services available, allowing patients to receive coordinated care in a single, welcoming location. This integrated approach reduces barriers to care and supports better health outcomes by making it easier for patients to access the services they need when they need them.

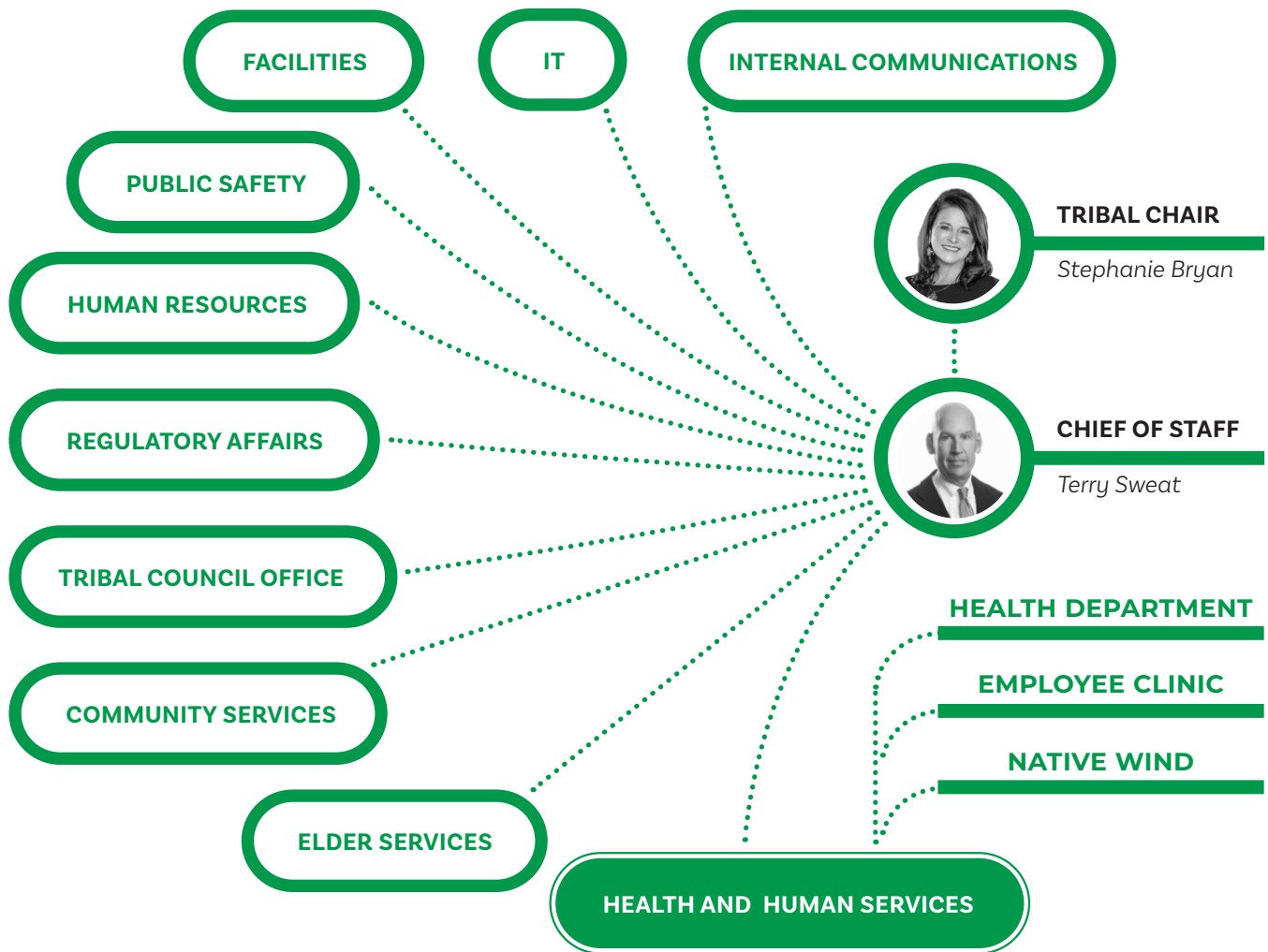
Our mission is to always be your health care clinic of choice through excellence in leadership, quality and innovation. The clinic is entering phase two of a thoughtfully designed renovation. The clinic's new footprint allows for efficient workflows, modern treatment spaces, and room for both clinical and support services to operate effectively. Patients benefit from a facility that prioritizes comfort, privacy, and efficiency, while staff are supported by a work environment designed to promote collaboration and high-quality care delivery. Together, these elements contribute to a healthcare experience that is patient-centered and respectful of the community it serves. Achieving meaningful transformation within a comprehensive health system serving a distinct population requires intentional planning, Tribal government support, staff engagement, and community trust. Drawing from proven national models, including elements of the Veterans Health Administration's Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) framework, the Buford L. Rolin Health Department is developing a customized care model tailored specifically to the needs of the Poarch Creek Indians.

Serving eligible Poarch Creek Indian patients, the Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic plays a vital role in addressing both immediate healthcare needs and long-term wellness goals. The services housed within the clinic support a continuum of care, emphasizing not only treatment, but also prevention, education, and overall well-being. This holistic philosophy reflects a deep understanding that health extends beyond illness alone and is shaped by access, trust, and consistency of care.

The clinic also represents the Tribe's dedication to sovereignty in healthcare and self-determination. By offering a wide array of services in a single, well-equipped facility, the Poarch Creek Indians demonstrates its commitment to strengthening community health and ensuring that members have access to quality care close to home. As healthcare needs evolve, the Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic is well positioned to grow and adapt. Its size, design, and comprehensive service model provide a strong foundation for innovation and continued excellence in care. Whether patients are seeking routine services or more specialized support, the clinic remains a trusted and vital resource.

The Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic is more than a big building full of clinical space—it is a symbol of care, commitment, and community. Through its services and mission, it continues to enhance the health and quality of life for the Poarch Creek Indian people, today and for generations to come.





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POARCH 101

# Alexander McGillivray

## AND THE FIGHT FOR CREEK SOVEREIGNTY

By Billy Bailey, Clayton Coon, Brandy Chunn, and Sehoy Barnett

*Alexander McGillivray came of age during one of the most turbulent periods in Creek history. The American Revolution shattered old balances of power among European empires competing for control of the Southeast. British influence collapsed, Spanish promises proved unreliable, and the newly formed United States expanded aggressively into indigenous homelands. Creek towns found themselves caught in the middle of shifting empires, uncertain treaties, and relentless settler pressure. McGillivray understood early on that survival would require navigating multiple worlds at once, and he became uniquely capable in this arena.*

---

**B**orn in 1750, Alexander was the son of a Scottish trader, Lachlan McGillivray, and Sehoy McGillivray, a woman of the powerful Wind Clan. His childhood was spent at the Upper Creek town called Little Tallassee, among his mother's people. Lachlan McGillivray's ability to establish a home there was possible only through the permission and protection of Sehoy's family and clan, whose authority in the region was deep and longstanding. In turn, they benefited from having a trader living among them, making Little Tallassee an important hub in the deerskin trade.

Sehoy and Lachlan had three children together: Sophia, Jeanette, and Alexander. After Lachlan returned to Scotland, Sehoy later had additional children, including another daughter named Sehoy and a son named Malcolm. Today, most Poarch Creek citizens descend from Alexander's sister Sehoy Weatherford, making Alexander a great-uncle to much of the modern community.

Usually, children of Creek mothers would stay with their mother's family until adulthood. Lachlan McGillivray made an unusual decision for the time by sending his son away for formal schooling in Charleston, South Carolina, around the age of twelve. Alexander as a student loved history, but he was bored by bookkeeping and commerce. Unlike many young Creek men, McGillivray had

little interest in warfare or hunting, and he was later known to laugh at himself about his lack of battle skills. But his sharp intellect, strong literacy, and Wind Clan status marked him as someone with good diplomacy skills in changing times.

After an apprenticeship in Savannah, Georgia, Alexander returned home to Little Tallassee around the age of seventeen. As he matured, McGillivray emerged as a central political figure at a time when Creek society was increasingly divided. His education, cultural grounding, and ability to move between societies made him indispensable for negotiation with European and American governments.

Meanwhile, Georgia settlers pressed forward with little regard for Creek sovereignty. Even as negotiations dragged on, settlers crossed the Oconee River in growing numbers, cutting timber, building cabins, and occupying land that remained firmly Creek territory. To McGillivray, these actions were not isolated acts of trespass but part of a deliberate strategy to force Creeks to surrender to the colony. Georgia officials routinely denied responsibility, but Creek leaders recognized that unauthorized settlers were rarely punished. In 1787, delegations from several confederated Ohio River Valley nations—including the Shawnee, Wendat, Mohawk, and Oneida—traveled south to Little Tallassee. Their visit renewed wartime



alliances formed during the American Revolution, when Creeks and northern tribes had both resisted American settlers. The Shawnee in particular were closely affiliated with Creeks, since they had their own town established within the Upper Creek Nation among the Alibamu people. The visiting delegation emphasized that they faced the same pressures of encroachment and were prepared to join the Creeks in a coordinated defense of Indigenous territory. They also reported that resistance was already underway, including attacks on American surveying parties, and urged a broader, united response.

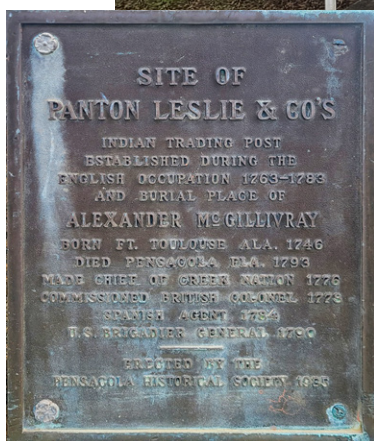
Creek leaders agreed that these northern nations could convey a firm position to the United States: the Creeks were prepared to align themselves with a larger confederation linking northern and southern tribes. Such an alliance would oppose further American expansion, reject additional land cessions, and prevent surveyors from operating in Native lands. Alexander McGillivray believed that Creek survival depended on building the southern half of this alliance. He envisioned a unified confederacy of Creeks, Cherokees, Chickasaws, and Choctaws—modeled on the Ohio Valley Confederacy—that could stand together against American encroachment.

McGillivray also used an old Creek diplomatic strategy by balancing rival colonial powers against one another. He turned first to Spain, securing formal recognition of Creek sovereignty and access to trade goods and supplies for his own people and other allied tribes. He virtually became a silent partner with the trading company, Panton, Leslie, & Company, which was headquartered in Pensacola, Florida and held a monopoly on trade with tribes in the southeast. The Creek lifestyle had changed, and people were now completely dependent on trade goods, especially ammunition for defense. He successfully managed the crisis of maintaining the flow of trade goods, while also upholding Creek sovereignty above all else in diplomatic relations.



**THE MEN SHOWN HERE  
ARE NOT ALEXANDER  
MCGILLIVRAY.**

Both of these portraits have been frequently and incorrectly labelled as his. Above is an unknown Scottish man, possibly his father Lachlan, but this is unconfirmed so far. Below is a drawing of Hopothle Mico by John Trumbull, drawn during meetings for the 1790 Treaty of New York. Unfortunately, there is no known surviving portrait of Alexander McGillivray.



**PICTURED**

At the corner of Spring St. and W. Main St. in downtown Pensacola, you can see a miniature replica of the historic Panton Leslie & Co. Trading Warehouse, near its original site. The historic marker is correct that Alexander's initial resting place was there, since he died in Pensacola, but this was not his final resting place, since his remains were taken to Choctaw Bluff (Holsifa) in Alabama.

...continued on next page

Towns, regions, and factions disagreed over how to respond to American expansion. Other Creek leaders such as Hopothle Mico and Eneah Mico were more closely aligned with the nearby American colony, Georgia. They viewed this rising young leader McGillivray with suspicion, not trusting his ties to Spain and seeing his diplomacy as self-serving or dangerous. These leaders favored accommodation with Georgia rather than resistance, placing them at odds with McGillivray's efforts to preserve Creek autonomy through international leverage against Georgians. Their opposition reflected real internal divisions within the Creek Confederacy, not a unified front.

Violence along the Georgia and Carolina frontiers continued. Creek warriors took their revenge and raided isolated settlements trespassing on their hunting lands, reclaiming livestock and captives and retaliating for earlier attacks. Georgians would take vengeance right back, and they were known for their brutality, often violently targeting native women and children. In a never-ending cycle of retaliation, infuriated Creeks began kidnapping settler families for ransom, with captives trafficked through networks extending into Spanish Florida and beyond.

McGillivray continued to pursue diplomacy while also encouraging Creeks to fight back against the violent settlers trespassing onto their hunting lands. Recognizing that the United States was emerging as the dominant colonial power, he became more open to negotiations with federal leaders. In 1790, he traveled to New York, then the U.S. capital, accompanied by many other Creek representatives. The sight of Indigenous diplomats arriving as political equals astonished many Americans.

The 1790 Treaty of New York was signed, recognizing Creek boundaries and promising federal enforcement against illegal Anglo-American settlers. In return, the Creeks acknowledged U.S. authority, and McGillivray accepted a commission as a brigadier general in the U.S. Army. For Georgia settlers, this treaty was an infuriating obstacle that they found unacceptable. But on the ground, little changed. Georgia settlers continued to pour in, and Georgia officials ignored federal authority. Creek frustration mounted, and McGillivray himself grew increasingly weary, worn down by years of maneuvering that produced few lasting protections.

By the early 1780s, McGillivray referred to his residence interchangeably as Little Tallassee and Hickory Ground in his correspondence. Alexander and his sister Sophia McGillivray Durant also seasonally resided along the Little River tributary of the Alabama River to help secure Creek boundaries downriver that were important to their people. Alexander McGillivray had his winter residence in Little River, where he lived with one wife, and each year he traveled 180 miles up to Hickory Ground, where he spent his summers with his second wife.

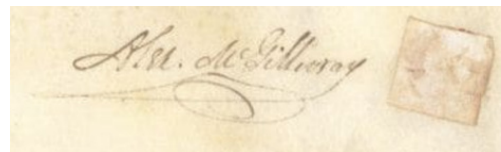
Families tied to the lineage of Alexander's mother, Sehoy, such as the Durants, Weatherfords, Moniacs, McPhersons, and others, all together formed a growing community down the Alabama River. They extended the Hickory Ground network down to ancestral Alibamu homelands, closer to the mouth of Little River at the southern edge of Creek Nation. The Anglo-American settlement referred to as Tensaw was approximately ten miles south of the Creek border.

At Hickory Ground, Alexander's sister Sophia McGillivray Durant exercised extraordinary power on behalf of their Wind Clan family. In 1790, when Alexander was away in New York, tensions were rising and certain Creeks threatened violence against the Tensaw settlers. Sophia, while eight months pregnant, rode on horseback from Little River to Hickory Ground, convened the chiefs, and threatened them with her brother's vengeance upon his return. The ringleaders were arrested, and the violence stopped. Two weeks later, she gave birth to twins at Hickory Ground.

It was recalled by Albert Pickett's informants that among Creek leadership, "Sophia Durant had an air of authority about her, equal, if not superior, to that of her brother, Alexander... When he held councils in the vicinity of her residence, she was accustomed to deliver his sentiments in a set speech, to which the Chiefs listened with delight."

Later misunderstandings have sometimes interpreted Alexander's use of translators (or gifted orators like Sophia) as evidence that he lacked fluency beyond English. Such claims ignore both his upbringing and the linguistic realities of the Creek Confederacy, which was full of many different native languages, even just at the heart of the Coosa-Tallapoosa River confluence.

*The 1790 Treaty of New York was signed...But on the ground, little changed. Georgia settlers continued to pour in, and Georgia officials ignored federal authority.*

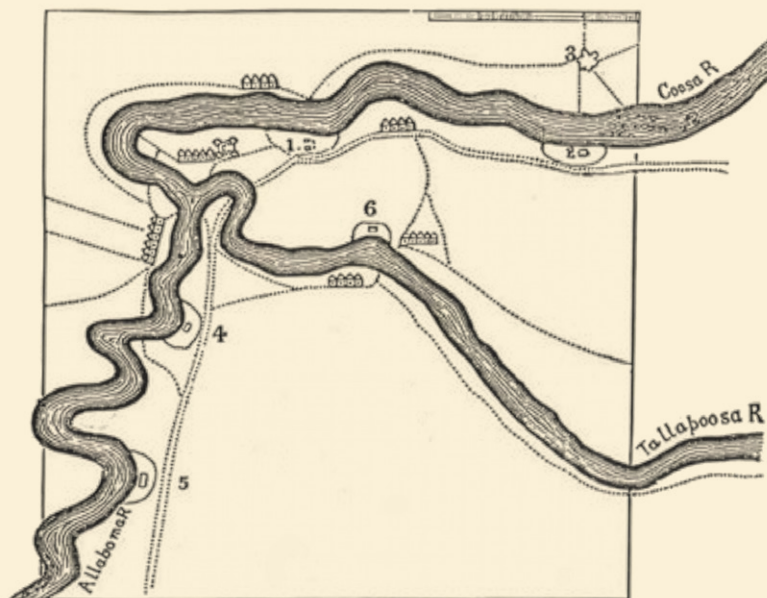


**PICTURED** Alexander McGillivray's signature on the 1790 Treaty of New York





## SKETCH OF LITTLE TALLASSIE, OR THE HICKORY GROUND.


Scale three miles to an inch.





*Caleb Swan's Journal,  
in  
Schoolcraft.*


 Indian towns.

 Old French fort Alabama.


 Indian paths.


 1. M'Gillivray's plantation.

 2. M'Gillivray's apple-grove.

 3. M'Gillivray's cow-pen.

 4. Chs. Weatherford's place.

 5. M'Gillivray's sister's place.

 6. Melford's place.

**PICTURED** By 1783, Alexander McGillivray referred to his residence interchangeably as "Little Tallassee" and "Hickory Ground" in many letters, confirmed by Caleb Swan's drawn 1791 map shown above. Colonel Marinus Willett described McGillivray's two nearby residences when he visited in 1790, one at Hickory Ground and another at Little Tallassee, which he called "Apple Grove".


Raised in the heart of Creek country and returning home as a teenager, Alexander McGillivray likely never lost fluency of his mother tongue (Alibamu) or the main language shared among the towns (Mvskoke). Rather, his strategic use of interpreters reflected the need for precision across multiple dialects and political audiences. Contemporary accounts, such as John Pope's record of McGillivray organizing a stickball game, show him fully engaged and at ease in everyday Creek life.

McGillivray's leadership depended on uniting diverse towns and dialects into a single diplomatic voice, as one Creek Nation. His deliberate use of interpreters reflected caution and precision, not ignorance. When McGillivray signed the Treaty of New York in 1790, alongside leaders such as Opay Mico and Sam Moniac of Little Tallassee, his name appeared not with these Little Tallassee leaders but at the top of the list—not tied to a single town, but representing a broader political vision. His leadership depended on uniting diverse Creek towns with diverse languages and presenting a single united voice to foreign governments.

In 1793, Alexander McGillivray died in Pensacola. He had long struggled with poor health—gout, rheumatism, and chronic pain—and rumors of poisoning circulated, fueled by prior assassination attempts. Since he was a non-Catholic "mestizo", Spanish authorities denied him burial in the Catholic cemetery, but his friends honored him with Masonic rites in a burial in the trader William Panton's garden. Creek mourners reportedly followed him to the grave, loudly wailing and grieving.

Sophia Durant refused her father's wish to have Alexander's remains sent to Scotland. Instead, she ensured that her brother was laid to rest in their ancestral Alibamu lands near Holsifa (Choctaw Bluff), close to where they and relatives lived at the mouth of Little River. It was this same area that her maternal grandson, Ward Coachman, would later recount their deep origins as Alibamu people on record. There, William Panton erected a monument at Alexander's grave, now long since washed away. A tracing of its inscription survives today, part of which reads:

...continued on next page



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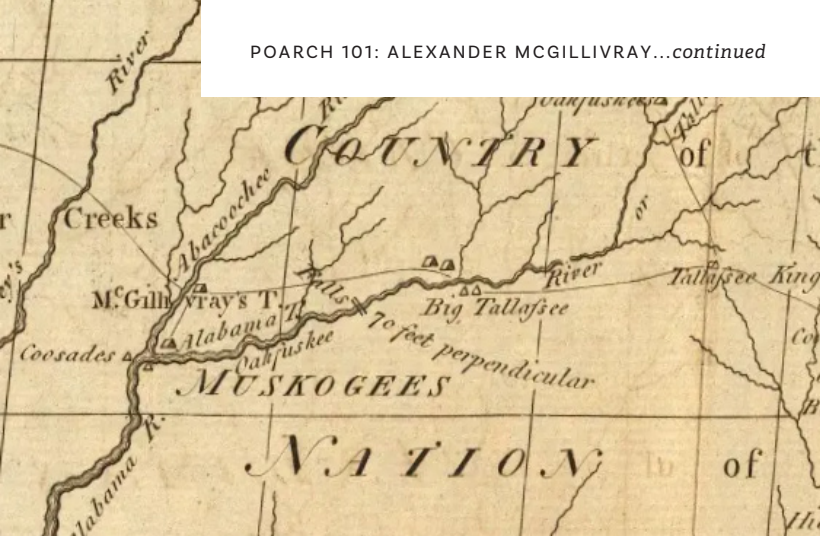
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**PICTURED** Two years after Alexander McGillivray died, he was still very much associated with the Little Tallassee/Hickory Ground area as shown by this 1795 map by Barker, Carey, and Guthrie, "Georgia, from the Latest Authorities", showing "McGillivray's Town" on the Coosa River, north of "Alabama Town" at the Coosa-Tallapoosa confluence

---

He afforded  
the rare Example of an aboriginal American  
acquainted with the Learning of Ancient and Modern  
Europe,  
and eager in the Attainment of Knowledge.  
In Private Life,  
Hospitable, Generous, Kind, and Benevolent;  
he was beloved by his Friends,  
respected and esteemed by his acquaintances.  
In his Public Character,  
influenced by no other Views than those suggested by  
the purest and most disinterested Patriotism,  
he was revered by his own People,  
and held in the highest Estimation by Foreign Powers,  
Reader!  
whosoever thou art  
disdain not to mingle thy tears with those of the  
untutored natives of these wilds;  
but pay thy sad tribute  
to the Memory of  
an Honest Man, and Patriot Chief.

---

McGillivray's death left a void no one could fill. Creek leadership fractured further, and younger warriors lost faith in diplomacy after years of violence. American settlers seized the moment, pressing harder than ever into Creek lands. Raids and attacks intensified, and treasured hunting lands all around Creek Nation were in permanent states of conflict. Alexander McGillivray had spent his life trying to prevent unchecked settlement, internal division, and endless frontier war, but these conditions worsened after his untimely death. His life captures the depth, complexity, and enduring determination with which the Creek Nation struggled to survive and remain sovereign in a rapidly changing world.



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# WARRIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM



*The Warrior Outreach Program serves our relatives who are currently incarcerated or in rehabilitation centers by providing cultural, educational materials, resources and encouragement. We are committed to supporting your journey through connection to your Indigenous identity, healing, and or community reintegration.*

*If you know someone who meets these qualifications who would like to participate, please contact Rhea DeVilbiss at 251.281.8775.*

## PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS

*To participate in the Warrior Outreach Program, individuals must meet the following criteria:*

### TRIBAL AFFILIATION:

- Be a PCI (Poarch Creek Indians) tribal citizen.
- Be a first-generation descendant of a PCI tribal citizen.

## INCARCERATION/TREATMENT STATUS

Currently serving a sentence in an incarceration facility or enrolled in a substance abuse rehabilitation program with a duration of a year or more.

## LOCATION

Incarcerated or in treatment anywhere on Turtle Island, provided the facility has the ability to receive mail and correspondence programs.

## PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Participation is completely voluntary. Must complete and return the program application, granting permission for correspondence with the Warrior Outreach Program. The Warrior Outreach Program does not offer legal advice.



## EMPOWER. EDUCATE. SUPPORT.

Still Standing Because I Am a Warrior is dedicated to raising awareness about opioid and substance abuse. Understanding what opioids are and the risks they pose is crucial in combating this epidemic.



BEST  
DOCUMENTARY  
FEATURE WINNER AT  
THE 2014 AMERICAN  
INDIAN FILM  
FESTIVAL

# THIS MAY BE THE LAST TIME

BY STERLIN HARJO

This May Be The Last Time Sundance Film Still - H 2014

By Sharon Delmar

**T**his *May Be the Last Time* is a deeply personal and culturally resonant documentary by Native American filmmaker **Sterlin Harjo**. When Harjo's grandfather, Pete Harjo, mysteriously disappears after a car crash in rural Sasakwa, Oklahoma in 1962, his Seminole and Muscogee (Creek) community sings traditional hymns of faith and hope during the search. Built around this family mystery, the film explores the powerful musical traditions of Muscogee Creek and Seminole hymns—which blend Native, African American, and Scottish congregational influences—and how these songs have carried cultural memory, resilience, and spiritual strength across generations. Harjo combines interviews, archival material, and community storytelling to reveal music's role as both personal and collective history. (Wikipedia)

Critics and viewers generally respond positively, calling the film artful, illuminating, and heartfelt. Reviewers praised Harjo's poetic intertwining of his family's story with broader cultural history, noting that the film celebrates Native American oral and musical traditions in a way that feels uplifting and universally resonant despite its specific subject matter. Some critiques mention its meditative pace and focus on song traditions may be slower or more niche than mainstream docs, but many find the emotive storytelling and historical exploration rewarding. (Rotten Tomatoes)

## WHERE TO WATCH | Available to Digitally Rent or Buy

• Amazon Prime Video • Google Play • Apple TV • Youtube

The Tribe is committed to doing its part to further Native arts through books, media, movies, fashion, and similar artistic outlets.

**Share your recommendation**  
with Sharon Delmar at  
[sdelmar@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:sdelmar@pci-nsn.gov).







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- EveryDollar Budgeting
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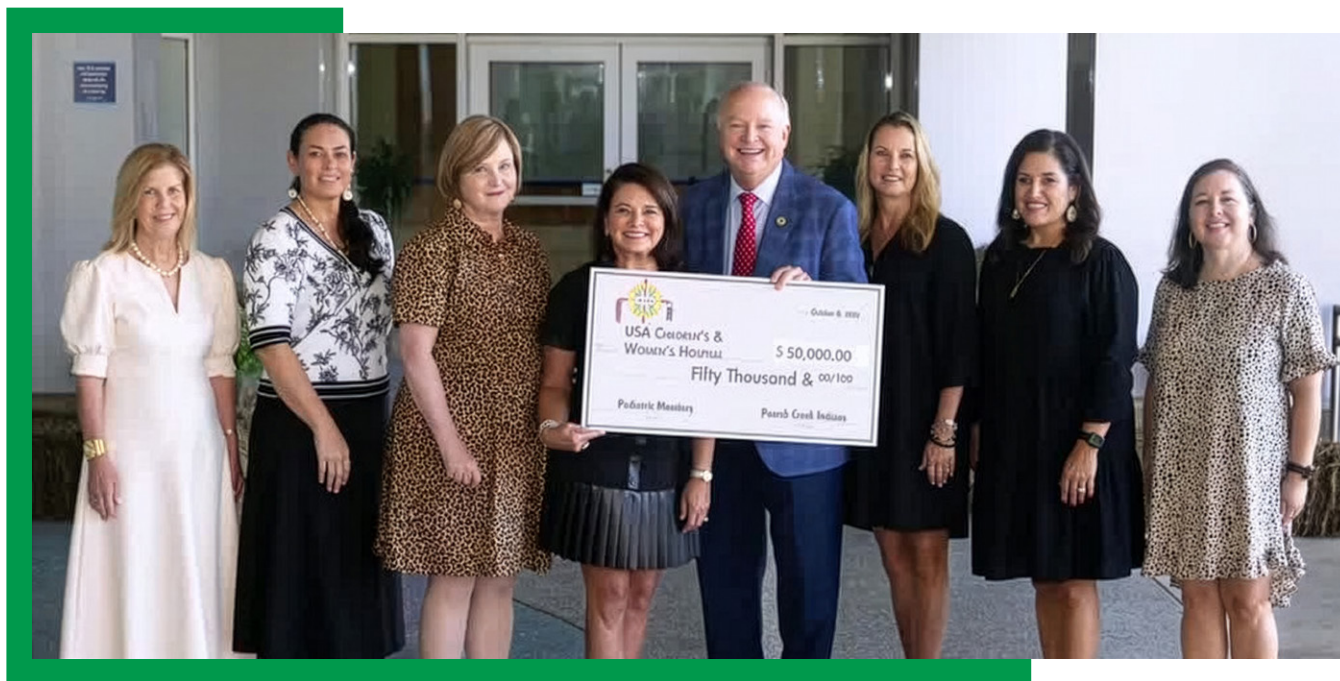
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## POARCH CREEK INDIANS DONATE \$50,000 TO CHILDREN'S & WOMEN'S HOSPITAL FOR NEW PEDIATRIC MONITORS

By Lauren Giddeons & Karen Rodriguez

**“ [The Poarch Creek Indians’ support allows us to continue investing in technology that strengthens patient safety and enhances the quality of care we provide...**

**DEBORAH BROWNING,  
MSN, R.N., CENP,  
CEO OF USA HEALTH  
CHILDREN'S &  
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL**



USA Health Children's & Women's Hospital has received a \$50,000 donation from the Poarch Creek Indians to fund two pediatric monitors for operating rooms at the hospital.

The gift, presented by Tribal Chair and CEO Stephanie Bryan, will help enhance patient safety by providing surgeons with more advanced tools to care for children who require operations and other procedures.

“Our children are our greatest gifts, and as a Tribe, we are blessed to be able to help USA Health Children's & Women's Hospital provide their medical teams with the most up-to-date technology and tools needed to care for young patients,” said Stephanie Bryan, Tribal Chair and CEO of the Poarch Creek Indians. “Families across the Gulf Coast depend on this wonderful medical facility, and we are proud to support it.”

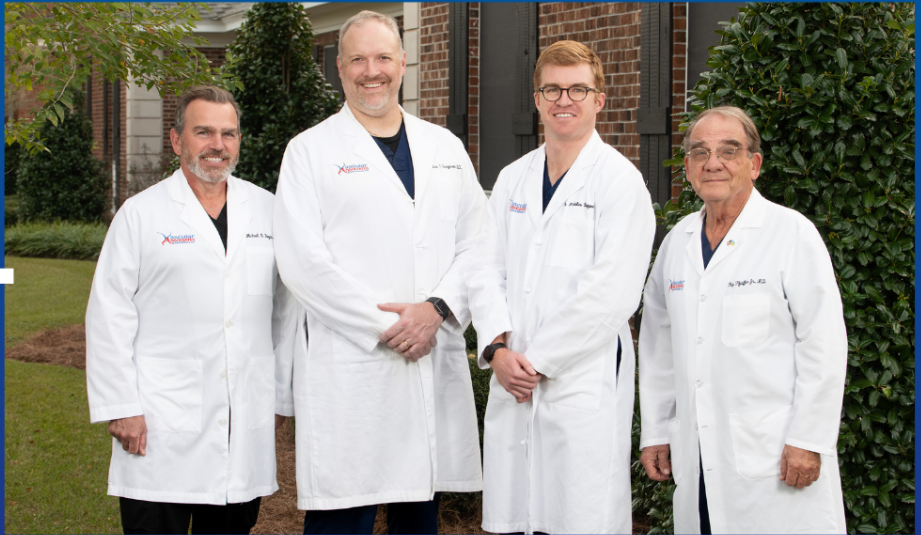
The new monitors will provide physicians and surgical teams with more enhanced imaging capabilities, supporting improved clinical outcomes and USA Health's mission of delivering the most advanced care in the region.

Deborah Browning, MSN, R.N., CENP, chief executive officer at USA Health Children's & Women's Hospital, expressed her deep appreciation for the tribe's continued support and commitment to improving healthcare for families throughout the Gulf Coast region.

“We are incredibly grateful to Stephanie Bryan and the Poarch Creek Indians for their generous contribution,” Browning said. “Their support allows us to continue investing in technology that strengthens patient safety and enhances the quality of care we provide to all of our patients.”

The Poarch Creek Indians have a long-standing relationship with USA Health Children's & Women's Hospital, demonstrating their enduring commitment to the health and well-being of children and families across the region.

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# PCI GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND SEEKR PARTNER TO DEPLOY SECURE, COST-EFFECTIVE AI FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES

By Lauren Giddeons & Karen Rodriguez

*The partnership advances federal government agencies' adoption and use of purpose-built AI for business and mission operation.*

**P**CI Government Services (PCI-GS), a technology and mission solutions company owned by the Poarch Creek Indians, today announced a strategic partnership with Seekr, a leader in generative and agentic AI for mission-critical decisions.

This collaboration accelerates the adoption of transparent commercial AI across the Department of War and federal agencies, delivering a force multiplier that transforms operational speed and decision quality. By grounding advanced generative models in robust data readiness protocols, the partnership empowers commanders and agency leaders with automated Course of Action (COA) generation and trusted, actionable intelligence.

PCI-GS's team will jump-start targeted AI projects to help agencies gain momentum as they focus on doing more with less, under tightened timelines. This partnership improves Agency workforce efficiency by deploying Seekr's AI solutions to power PCI-GS's mission-focused data readiness, advanced analytics, and program effectiveness solutions. The team will provide a portfolio of AI-enabled capabilities to the government, including:

- AI data readiness assessments and preparation
- Fraud detection and investigations
- C4ISR modernization for SHIELD
- Supply chain vetting, optimization, and resilience
- Acquisition strategy development
- System vulnerability identification and mitigation
- Workforce development and training
- Intelligence analytics

"This partnership gives federal leaders the best of both worlds: Seekr's commercial AI innovation at scale and PCI's deep expertise in data, analytics, modernization, and cybersecurity. Together, we are bringing trusted and transparent AI solutions to federal missions with greater speed, clarity, and impact," said Nick Dunn, President and CEO of PCI Government Services.

"We are thrilled to advance PCI's work to elevate and empower the federal workforce," said Rob Clark, President of Seekr. "Seekr's AI acts as a true force multiplier—accelerating performance, driving mission efficiency, and enabling trusted decisions at scale. Together with PCI, we're helping agencies set a new benchmark for what an AI-empowered workforce can achieve."

Seekr's AI platform, SeekrFlow™, is currently deployed across the Army, Navy, and Special Operations Command and has been pre-competed and is available in the Department of War's (DoW) Tradewinds Solutions Marketplace. Learn more about Seekr AI for Government Solutions and contact PCI Government Services to discuss pathways for procurement.

***"Together, we are bringing trusted and transparent AI solutions to federal missions with greater speed, clarity, and impact."***

**NICK DUNN, PRESIDENT & CEO OF  
PCI GOVERNMENT SERVICES**





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## WIND CREEK ATMORE TEAM MEMBERS BRING HOLIDAY CHEER THROUGH TOY DRIVE

By Amelia Tognoli

**“I look forward to seeing the relief and joy on parents’ and children’s faces, knowing families don’t have to worry and that their children will be taken care of.”**

**RICHARD WATTS,  
CAPTAIN AND AREA  
COMMANDER OF THE  
SALVATION ARMY OF  
COASTAL ALABAMA**



Wind Creek Atmore proudly partnered once again with local news station WKRG News 5 and the Salvation Army of Coastal Alabama for the annual Magical Christmas Toy Drive. As part of this meaningful initiative, several of Wind Creek Atmore’s Best of the Best Team Member nominees were selected to represent the property during a special holiday shopping spree at Walmart in Daphne, Alabama, alongside WKRG’s Rose Ann Haven. Together, they filled carts with toys, games, and gifts to help ensure children and families in need experience a brighter Christmas season.

“Being able to participate in the WKRG and Salvation Army’s Magical Christmas Toy Drive was a powerful reminder of how much good can be done when organizations and communities come together,” said Trey Lambert, Wind Creek Hospitality’s Sponsorships & Events Coordinator.

Thanks to the generosity of the community and partners like Wind Creek Atmore, this year’s toy drive supported approximately 900 families and more than 2,100 children, representing a 40% increase over previous years.

“I look forward to seeing the relief and joy on parents’ and children’s faces, knowing families don’t have to worry and that their children will be taken care of,” said Richard Watts, Captain and Area Commander of the Salvation Army of Coastal Alabama.

Rooted in the values of the Poarch Creek Indian Tribe, Wind Creek Atmore remains committed to strengthening local communities through meaningful partnerships and purposeful giving. The property extends its appreciation to WKRG, the Salvation Army, and all who contributed to making this year’s Magical Christmas Toy Drive a rewarding and impactful experience for families across the Gulf Coast.

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# CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS AT OWA

By Lauren Giddeons & Karen Rodriguez

**F**ebruary is bursting with excitement at OWA Parks & Resort, where winter fun meets festive flair! This month, OWA comes alive with live music, seasonal entertainment, and special events perfect for all ages. Enjoy a lively Mardi Gras celebration filled with vibrant colors, festive music, and family-friendly fun that brings the spirit of the season straight to the Gulf Coast.

Whether you're chasing thrills, planning a weekend getaway, or just looking for something new to do, February at OWA is the perfect reason to get out and celebrate. Check out all the fun coming to OWA this month!

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## MARDI GRAS AT OWA

Get ready to let the good times roll at OWA Parks & Resort with a spectacular lineup of Mardi Gras events for the whole family! From a kid-friendly masquerade party to a lively Mardi Gras parade and more, OWA is the ultimate destination for Mardi Gras fun on the Gulf Coast. Be sure and check out our Calendar of Events on our website for updated events, dates and times.

- **Krewe de Kids Masquerade Street Party**
- **OWA's Mardi Gras Parade**

---

Continue to enjoy year-round fun at **Tropic Falls** this month. Visit Tropic Falls Theme & Water Park every Saturday & Sunday starting at 10 am for rides, slides, and endless fun.

The entertainment continues at the **Brandon Styles Theater** with a full lineup of comedy and magic. Check out Brandon Styles Magic Show on select Fridays at 7 pm, and the Brandon Styles Variety Show every Tuesday & Saturday at 7 pm.

**OWA Theater** in Downtown OWA continues their new lineup of live music and entertainment this month, with great performances including:

- **February 3** OWA Theater Presents Vanessa Collier
- **February 7** 1980's tribute band the M-80's
- **February 25** OWA Theater Presents Ana Popovic
- **February 27 & 28** White Tie Rock Ensemble:  
American Rock Odyssey

---

**For more information and a complete listing of events checkout [visitowa.com](http://visitowa.com)**



## STORM SAFETY LOAN PROGRAM

### *Home Generators & Storm Shelters*

#### APPLICATION PERIOD

Starts: February 2, 2026  
Deadline: February 27, 2026

#### WHO CAN APPLY?

Any Tribal Citizen  
19 years of age or older

#### HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants may visit the [Poarch Creek Indians Housing Department](#) or call **(251) 368-9136 ext. 2251** to receive an application.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This policy is available on [Roundhouse](#) under [Housing Policies](#) and includes a list of all required documents.

## MAKE A TAX CREDIT DONATION

### *Support Atmore Community Hospital*

Alabamians have the opportunity to decide how some of their tax dollars are spent and support their local hospital at the same time. Through the Rural Hospital Investment Program, taxpayers can donate directly to eligible rural hospitals (like Atmore Community Hospital) and receive a **dollar-for-dollar state tax credit**.

This tax credit can be applied to:

- INCOME TAXES**
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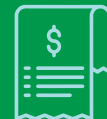
You will need a *My Alabama Taxes* account to make a donation.



Make a reservation in *My Alabama Taxes* online portal.



Make a monetary donation directly to Atmore Community Hospital within 30 days of the reservation date.



Atmore Community Hospital verifies receipt of donation in *My Alabama Taxes*.

*In all cases, please consult your accountant or tax advisor.*



# FREE MONEY

By Bryan Fayard

*“Most employers offer a retirement plan such as 401k, 403b, TSP, or a similar plan which will give you free money but, you must participate in the plan to get this free money.”*

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Bryan Fayard  
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I know where to get free money. I got some free money a few weeks ago and I'll continue to get free money every other week until I retire. Do you want to get in on this free money deal? It's available in your retirement plan where you're employed. Most employers offer a retirement plan such as 401k, 403b, TSP, or a similar plan which will give you free money **but**, you must participate in the plan to get this free money. These plans typically offer a matching contribution, up to a certain percentage, i.e., for every dollar you contribute, your employer contributes a dollar—free money. If you're not participating in your employer's retirement plan, you won't receive this free money. I implore each of you, if you're not participating in a retirement plan, start contributing today. Talk with your Human Resources department to determine how much your employer matches your contributions. Your employer's matching percentage is the **minimum** amount you should contribute. Strive to contribute as much as possible. Most financial experts recommend contributing 10% – 15%.

There are maximum annual limits that you can contribute to your retirement plan. The limits for 2026 are: \$24,500 but individuals over 50 can make 'catch up' contributions of \$8,000, so a total of \$32,500 can be contributed to most retirement plans. These limits typically increase each year so look up at IRS.gov to determine current annual limits. You might ask, why should I contribute more than my employer's matching portion? Remember, each dollar you contribute to your retirement account is tax deferred, meaning it won't currently be taxed, and it will grow tax deferred until you withdraw it years later. For example, suppose you earn a \$50,000 annual salary. If you don't contribute to a tax deferred retirement plan, you'll be taxed on your entire \$50,000. If you contribute 10% to your retirement account, you'll be taxed on \$45,000 and the \$5,000 you contribute won't be taxed and will grow tax deferred until you retire.





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# CREEK CORNER

## FEBRUARY 2026 IMPORTANT DATES

<b>2.2</b>	<b>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b> March Issue	
<b>2.5</b>	<b>TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING</b> TC Chambers	
<b>2.10</b>	<b>TRIBAL COURT</b> Tribal Courtroom	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>2.13</b>	<b>FAMILY COURT</b> Tribal Courtroom	
<b>2.16</b>	<b>GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSED</b> Presidents' Day	
<b>2.19</b>	<b>TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING</b> TC Chambers	
<b>2.24</b>	<b>TRIBAL COURT</b> Tribal Courtroom	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>2.27</b>	<b>FAMILY COURT</b> Tribal Courtroom	

### OUR MISSION

Creek Corner is a monthly magazine produced by the Internal Communications Team of the Poarch Creek Indians. Our mission is to celebrate our community by sharing stories of culture, people, and achievements, while also providing meaningful updates for Tribal Citizens.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions for Creek Corner may be edited or declined at the discretion of the editorial team. Content is finalized one month prior to publication. The deadline for submissions is the first Monday of the month before the issue date.