



JANUARY
2024

No. 25

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

creek corner

THE IMPORTANCE OF
*Preserving
Native Culture*

**MVSKOKE
GOLDEN RULES**
Page 8

**MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS:
BRAIDING SWEETGRASS**
Page 13

**Gail Thrower
Receives the
Prestigious
Whiting Award**

More info on page 22



11

CONTENTS

CREDITS

Ashlee “Katie” Mothershed
Staff Contributor

Jeanna Morgan
Designer

TO SUBSCRIBE, fill out the Creek Corner Subscription form. You can find this form on the Tribe’s main website or on PBCIRoundhouse.com.

TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE, please email your submission and any photos to akmothershed@pci-nsn.gov.

TO VIEW THE DIGITAL COPY or download the PDF, please visit the Creek Corner page on PBCIRoundhouse.com.

FOR ALL OTHER INQUIRIES, please email Katie Mothershed at akmothershed@pci-nsn.gov.

OUR MISSION	4
FROM OUR LEADERS	5
DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: TRIBAL ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT.	6
POARCH 101: MVSKEKE GOLDEN RULES	8
PODCAST: COLLABORATION WITH USET	11
MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS: BRAIDING SWEETGRASS	13
PRESERVING NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE	14
NEW YEAR AT OWA	16
WIND CREEK HOSPITALITY TAKES PART IN MAGICAL CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE AND TWELVE DAYS OF GIVING	18
RECORDS PRESERVATION: GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND	20
GAIL THROWER RECEIVES THE PRESTIGIOUS WHITING AWARD	22

FROM THE EDITOR



MEGAN ZAMORA
Editor, Creek Corner

“ I feel like every year as we say our good-byes in December and start looking towards January, I go through the same cycle of thoughts. It goes something like this:

1. How is it January already? Where did the year go? And then, I think about the toilet paper analogy...you know, the one that says life is like toilet paper; the closer you get to the end, the faster it goes. A little on the morbid side, but terribly accurate.

2. Then, the planning for the year goes into full force. Travel, goals and resolutions, finances, vacations, events, the whole nine. All my life, I've vehemently lived by the adage: Fail to plan, plan to fail. But, I've also painfully learned that it is equally important to be flexible and not too rigidly tied to a plan, because inevitably, life will happen and throw a kink in things.

3. Lately, I've also taken to practicing a more mindful approach to life in that I'm trying to make sure that I learn the lesson I'm being taught in each season I'm going through. This self-reflection forces me to acknowledge my weaknesses and work on improving. It's tough, raw, and requires an uncomfortable level of honesty with oneself. Though I should, I don't always engage in this mental exercise, but when I do, I find I'm more at peace with the situation and the outcome. And, on a larger scale as it relates to 2024, I think about what I'm carrying with me into the New Year and what I'm leaving behind.

4. Mostly though, I think about the joy, happiness, successes, and all the wonderful things that wait for me and those I love in the upcoming months. I know we'll have our bumps in the road too, but life is truly a beautiful thing and I'm thankful for every day that I have.

“As we settle into 2024, may each of us bring the good, leave the bad, learn from the mistakes, appreciate the present moment, and optimistically and joyfully anticipate the future.”



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: GROWTH, PROSPERITY, AND GRATITUDE: A MESSAGE FROM DEWITT CARTER

By Dewitt Carter



Our Tribe has made tremendous progress and growth this year through several key developments. These developments reflect our economic growth and cultural strength, showcasing a future filled with promise and prosperity.

A BOLD LEAP IN MIAMI

Wind Creek Hospitality has acquired Magic City Casino located in Miami, Florida. Wind Creek works hard to give its guests a fun escape with games and excitement. With a new location in Miami, they can bring this great experience to more people in an exciting area.

CHICAGO'S SOUTHLAND CASINO: A BEACON OF DEVELOPMENT

The Southland Chicago Casino is set to open its doors in late 2024. This development is not just a casino; it's a symbol of progress, promising employment opportunities and economic growth for the community.

WIND CREEK BETHLEHEM'S NEW CHAPTER

Wind Creek Bethlehem has undergone an impressive expansion, now boasting state-of-the-art hotel rooms. This expansion is

a testament to the Tribe's commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction, ensuring a great experience for all visitors.

OWA: BALANCING GROWTH AND COMMUNITY VALUES

The Tribe is thoughtfully considering the expansion of OWA, including new roller coaster rides and the expansion of a new resort hotel connected to the waterpark. This deliberation is evidence of the Council's dedication to sustainable growth, balancing economic development with the well-being of the community.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all Tribal Citizens for their unwavering trust and confidence in my abilities as a Tribal Council Member. As the Tribe moves forward, these developments mark milestones in a journey of collective ambition and shared success.

WE'RE HIRING

Find your next chapter

CIEJOBS.COM

ROADTRIP HQ

Next to Wind Creek

Diner

Club Sandwich

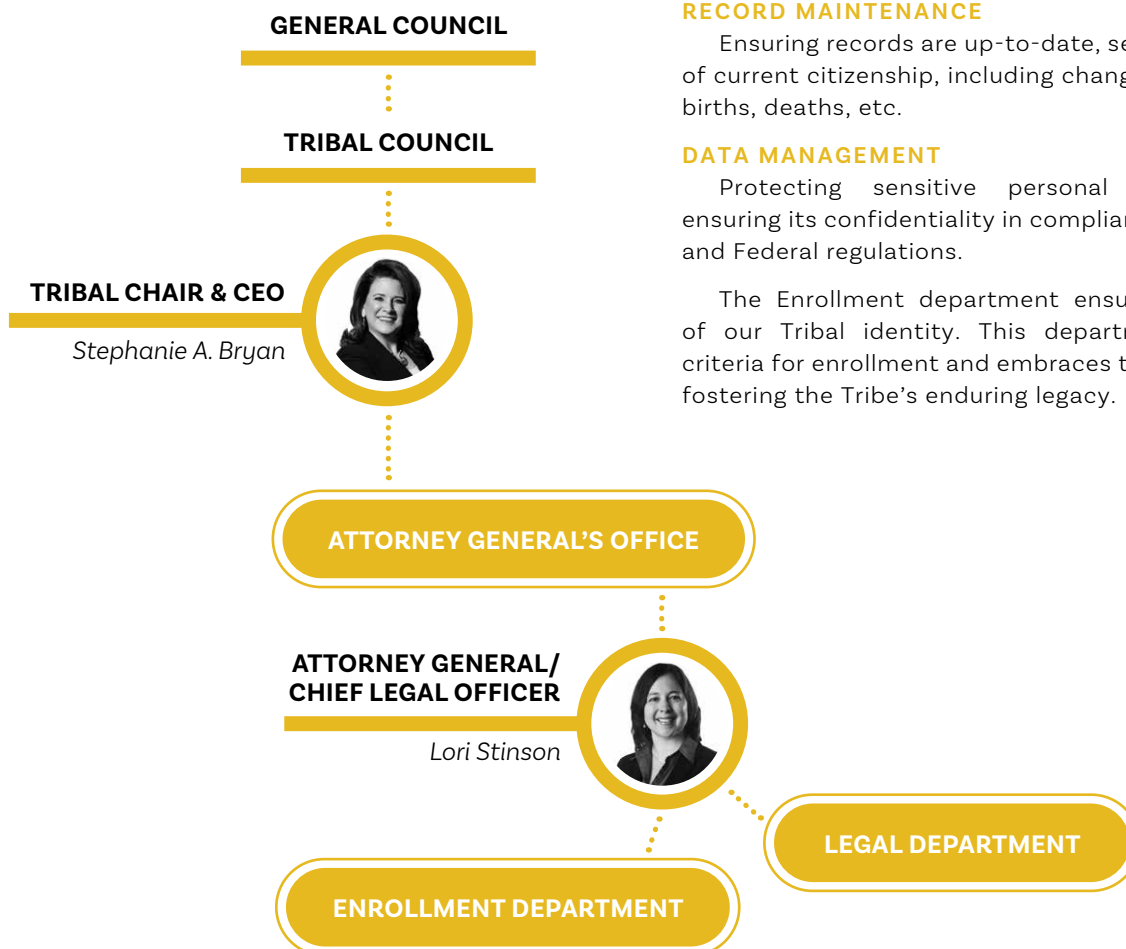
Made to Order

4740 Jack Springs Rd.

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

TRIBAL ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT

By Ashlee Mothershed



The Enrollment department is responsible for establishing and maintaining a comprehensive record of all current, past, and potential Tribal Citizens based on criteria set by our Tribal Constitution. This department encompasses several key responsibilities.

MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTATION

Collecting, verifying, and preserving documents such as birth certificates, lineage records, and applications for enrollment.

ENROLLMENT CRITERIA ENFORCEMENT

Upholding the Tribe's criteria for enrollment, which may include lineal descent, blood quantum, etc.

RECORD MAINTENANCE

Ensuring records are up-to-date, secure and reflective of current citizenship, including changes in status due to births, deaths, etc.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Protecting sensitive personal information and ensuring its confidentiality in compliance with Tribal laws and Federal regulations.

The Enrollment department ensures the continuity of our Tribal identity. This department upholds the criteria for enrollment and embraces the responsibility of fostering the Tribe's enduring legacy.

My New Year's Resolutions

- ☐ *Eat more vegetables.*
- ☐ *Take more walks.*
- ☐ *Reach out to a friend.*
- ☒ ***TREAT MY HEARING LOSS.***



***Our team can help
with that last one!***



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

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



Elizabeth Pickett, Au.D., CCC-A

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



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



POARCH 101

MVSKOKE GOLDEN RULES

Written by Megan Zamora

In traditional Mvskoke Creek teachings, there are some core values that are encouraged and taught. You might even think of these lessons in terms of “Mvskoke Creek Golden Rules.” I’ve been a student of our history and culture from a young age, just like many of you, and I’m always amazed at our people’s ways. It’s truly a beautiful way of life.

So, when I learned about these ideals, I thought it was so fascinating because it was easy to make the connection between these teachings and how our people conduct themselves and live their lives today. There were literally specific individuals, both past and present, who came to mind as I listened and read over this information. And as I absorbed these teachings, I couldn’t help but reflect on how I conduct myself and whether my actions reflect these important principles.

KVNCVPKETV

The first value is kvncvpketv [gun-jup-gee-duh]. This means to keep yourself low to the ground both figuratively and literally by being respectful of the planet, taking care of plants and animals, and staying grounded. In practice, this might look like recycling, using reusable grocery bags on your shopping trips, and making sure you aren’t throwing trash on the ground or in the water.

Staying grounded is a little more difficult to verbalize because I think it takes on many shapes and forms in our interactions. For me, it’s being mindful and aware of your attitude and actions and never becoming so “big” that you forget what it’s like to be small in a really big world.

VNOKECKV

Vnoeckv [uh-nuh-gick-guh] is unconditional love and respect towards all. It’s easy to say you love and respect everyone, but much harder to actually do. And, let’s be real, some folks are just easier to love and respect than others. But, this value is for “all”, not just the easy ones, and that’s where the hard work comes in.

EYASKETV

While it’s my understanding that there are many other values, the last core value is eyasketv [ee-yas-gee-duh] which means to be meek, mild-mannered, and humble. While confidence and assertiveness are worthwhile characteristics, so are the abilities to listen, learn something new, and acknowledge that we all get it wrong sometimes.

...it was easy to make the connection between these teachings and how our people conduct themselves and live their lives today.



A dear friend of mine recently shared a story with me about how they reacted to a situation in a hot-headed manner, rather than staying cool and collected. After the exchange, and some time had passed, they recognized the damage that might have been caused to the relationship and determined they would have to eat some crow. Though uncomfortable, it was a humbling experience, and as I commented back to them, "You'll think twice before you pop off again."

As we pivot into a new year, may we each find ways to incorporate and master the values of kvncvpketv, vnokeckv, and eyasketv.

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

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



Call me today

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



1ST TRIBAL LENDING

The Nation's Most Experienced
Section 184 Lending Team

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

1st Tribal Lending, a dba of Click n' Close, Inc., NMLS 150009 Arizona Lic BK 091759; licensed by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act Lic 4131103 and Finance Lenders Law Lic 6031732; Kansas Licensed Mortgage Company MC0025093; Massachusetts Lic ML150009; Oregon ML-5045; Washington Lic CL-150009.

United Bank



Mortgage Services



The Native American Indian Program (184 Program)*



No minimum credit score payment



2.25% down payment



Low monthly MI insurance



One time construction loan available



Primary residence only

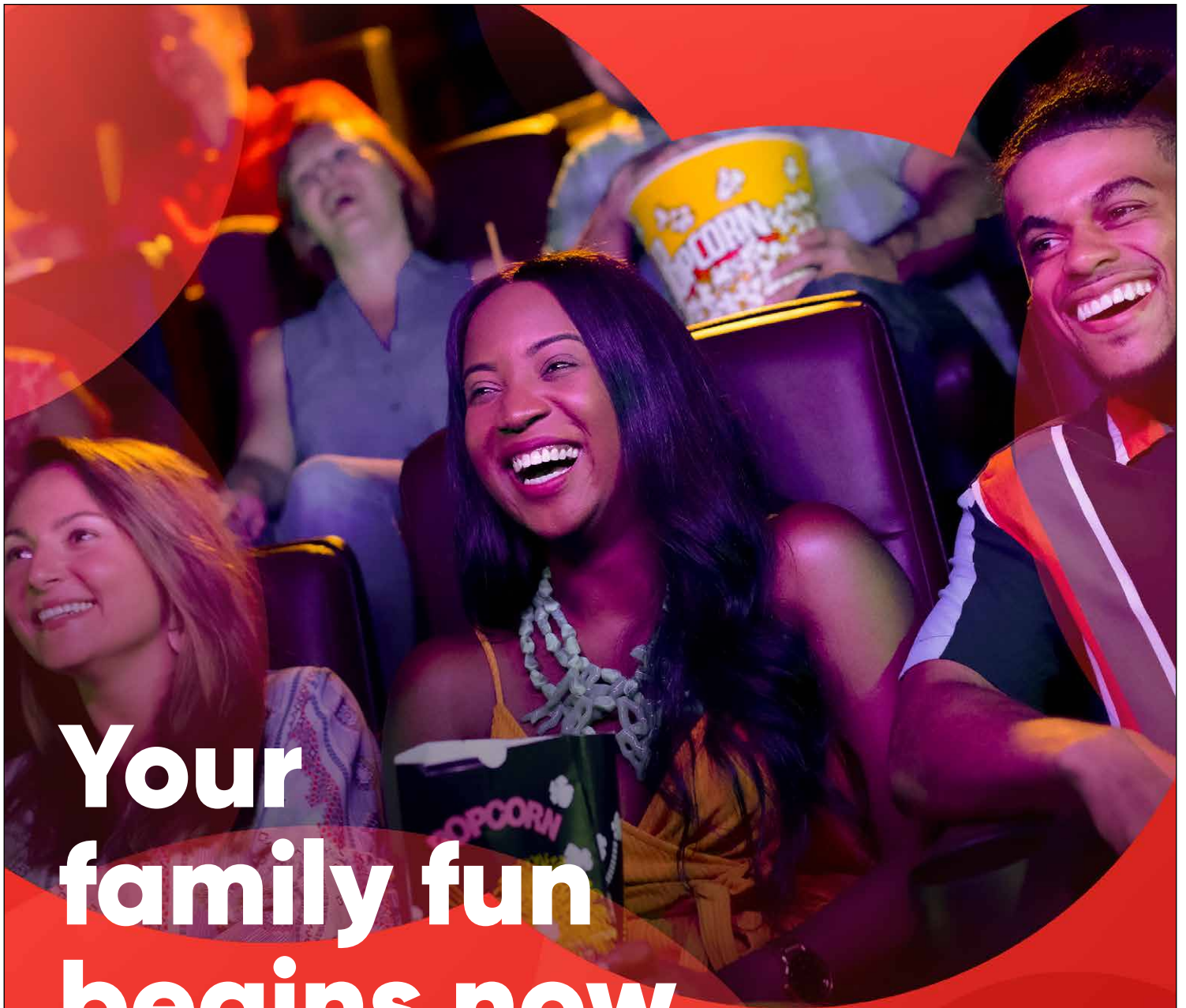


*All loans subject to credit approval, verification and collateral evaluation.
184 Program is only offered to members on active tribal roll and in designated geographic areas. See a United Bank representative for complete details. United Bank NMLS# 494759

www.unitedbank.com/mortgage



**Member
FDIC**



Your family fun begins now.

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

Escape every day at Wind Creek.



WIND CREEK®

(866) WIND-360

WindCreekAtmore.com

©2024 Wind Creek Hospitality. Management reserves all rights.



PODCAST

COLLABORATION WITH USET

F

or the fourth and final installment of our series about Tribal lands, we invited USET (United South and Eastern Tribes) guests Kitcki Carroll and Liz Malerba to join us. The conversation was insightful and raised my own awareness about the importance of the words we use and how we position ourselves at Tribal Nations.

Because of the work Kitcki and Liz do, they were able to provide a broader view of how land issues impact USET Tribes as well as Indian Country as a whole. This was an informative and candid conversation about the importance of our lands, how that impacts Tribal sovereignty, and what we can do to raise our own awareness about these critical issues.

► Available on Apple Podcast, Spotify,
or wherever you get podcasts. Scan the
QR Code to listen on our website now.





NEW YEAR— AND A *New* LINE-UP OF EVENTS!



Make it a year of fun at OWA! Check out our line-up of can't-miss performances at OWA Theater—like tributes to The Beatles (1/6), The Bee Gees (1/12-13) and our Songwriter Showcase (1/19) with Open Mic Night (1/20). Enjoy Friday Deal Days all month long with great special offers on food, drink, shopping and entertainment throughout Downtown OWA! For all the details on these events and January's Arts & Crafts Festival, go to VisitOWA.com!

OWA
Parks & Resort

THRILL, THEN CHILL.

A WORLD CLASS
DEVELOPMENT BY



FOLEY, AL | 7 MILES FROM THE BEACH | VISITOWA.COM | 251.923.2111 | [f](#) [x](#) [i](#) [v](#)

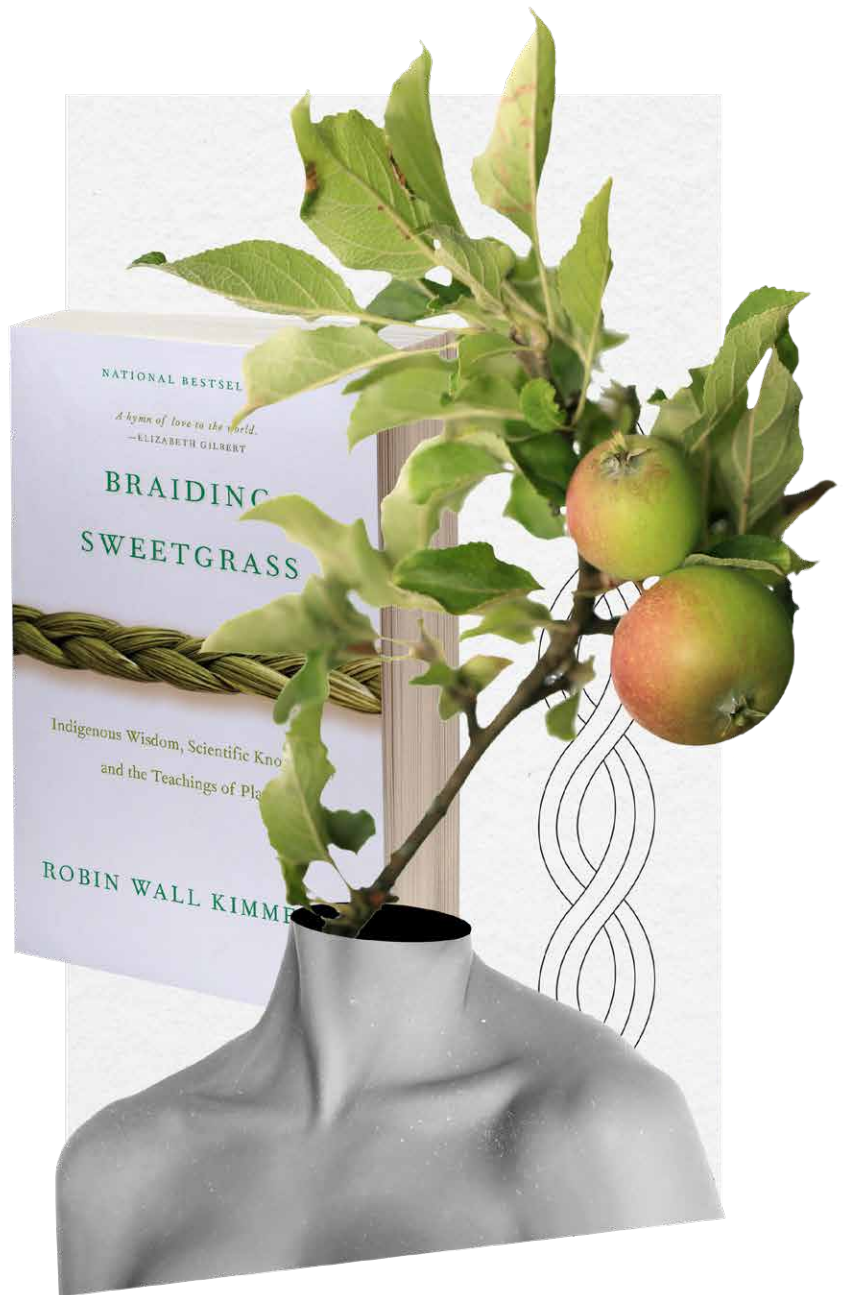
BRAIDING SWEETGRASS

Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants

BY ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on “a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise” (Elizabeth Gilbert).

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, a mother, and a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we’ve forgotten how to hear their voices. In a rich braid of reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.



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.



PRESERVING NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE

By Virginia McGhee

The preservation of Native American culture is a critical imperative that transcends time, encapsulating the essence of identity, heritage, and the very soul of a community that has endured centuries of challenges. Because Native culture is so significant it is important to preserve it to be taught for generations to come. In a world that is constantly evolving it can be difficult to preserve traditions from hundreds of years ago, and that is why it is absolutely crucial to continue to educate and continue culturally rich Native American Traditions.

Each art form is unique to Native culture and symbolizes significant cultural ideas. For instance, specifically bead work...[is] significant in representing Indigenous resiliency...

Tribes around the country are preserving Native Culture in myriad ways, the most popular being preservation through Native art. The most popular forms of Native Art are beadwork, painting, sculpture, and ledger art. Each art form is unique to Native culture and symbolizes significant cultural ideas. For instance, specifically bead work as explained by a scholarly journal from the University of Toronto is said to "... be significant in representing Indigenous resiliency as well as highlighting the distinct cultural value of Indigenous peoples..."

Every piece of Native art and traditions holds significance and is representative of core Native values that hold together tribes across the country, that as explained by the National Institute Health that states that Native cultures “... place value on the importance of the group rather than on the individual...” Understanding these core values helps to further understand cultural importance over Native Traditions. As explained by the First Nations Education and Cultural Center, Pow Wow is a way that Native American people, from all different tribal backgrounds, can join together and share their experiences. It’s an opportunity to reflect on time-honored traditions, while also helping to educate future generations and highlight the cultural value and importance of community.

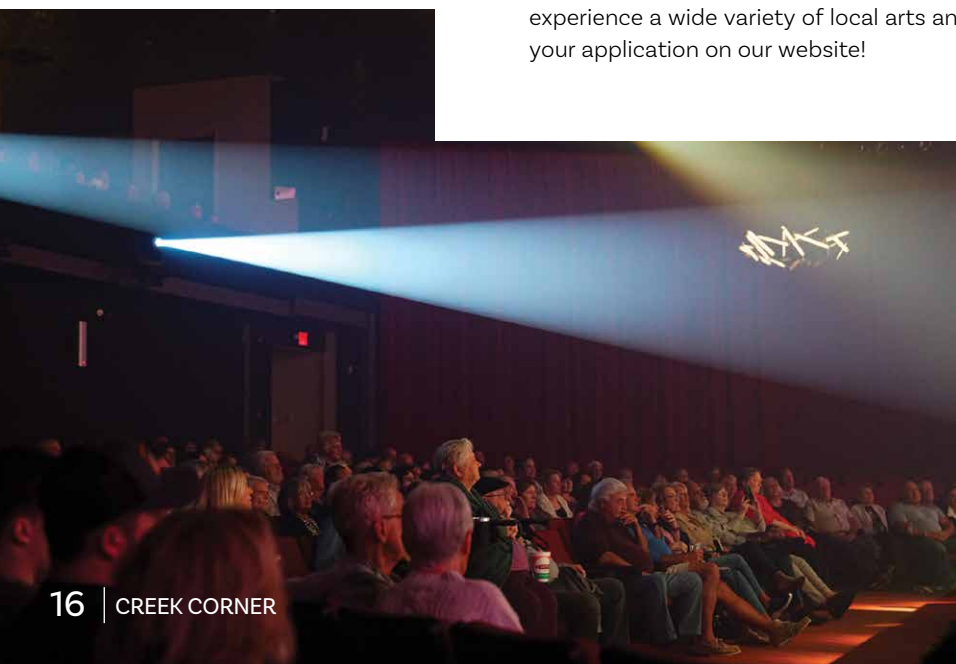
Preserving Native Culture for generations is a commitment to celebrate past and present generations, and to secure a future for generations years from now to keep the tradition strong.

*Every piece of
Native art and
traditions holds
significance and
is representative of
core Native values
that hold together
tribes across
the country...*



VIRGINIA MCGHEE
is a student at the University
of Southern Mississippi





NEW YEAR AT OWA

By Catherine Hasty

2024 has arrived, and we welcome the new year at OWA Parks & Resort with a host of fun for the whole family to enjoy. From thrilling rides to captivating shows, there is something for everyone to enjoy this new year!

Experience the excitement of Friday Deals Days in Downtown OWA throughout January and February! Join us every Friday to shop, dine, and uncover exclusive deals that will elevate your experience. It's the perfect opportunity to explore the vibrant offerings in Downtown and indulge in discounts available only on Fridays during this special event! Check out all the deals at VisitOWA.com.

Looking for a great family night out? Make plans to check out a 1920s Murder Mystery Dinner Show at Brandon Styles on January 11 & 12! Experience a delicious dinner with a close-up show in a 1920's speakeasy where an artifact has been brought in to be appraised from the excavation of King Tut's tomb, but does his curse follow? Grab tickets today because the show will sell out fast! Tickets can be purchased at VisitOWA.com.

Make plans to join OWA Theater in the new year. From tributes to comedy, check out their line-up of can't-miss performances in 2024! Starting January 6, step into a mesmerizing journey through the heart of the swinging '60s with "The Return: A Beatles Tributes!" Followed by the magic of the disco era with "Bee Gees Now - A Bee Gees Tribute" as they take the stage on January 12 & 13! Then, embark on a soul-stirring journey with "The Heart Behind the Music Songwriters' Showcase" featuring Mitch Rossell, John Ford Coley, and Lenny LeBlanc on January 19. Purchase your ticket today at VisitOWA.com.

The OWA Arts & Crafts Festival is back for the fourth year! This outdoor marketplace event will take place on January 27 throughout Downtown OWA! Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of local art, live music, and handcrafted goods. This is a family-friendly event that is entirely free to attend and enjoy. Stroll the streets of Downtown OWA and experience a wide variety of local arts and crafts for sale. Are you a vendor? Please submit your application on our website!

Keep up with the latest news on events, entertainment, and activities, plus new tenant openings in Downtown OWA, via our website at VisitOWA.com or by following us on social media [@VisitOWA](https://www.instagram.com/VisitOWA).



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

Stay Tuned - Location to be announced on the roundhouse.

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

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



WIND CREEK HOSPITALITY TAKES PART IN MAGICAL CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE AND TWELVE DAYS OF GIVING

By Amelia Tognoli



Last month, Team Members from Wind Creek Atmore, Wind Creek Montgomery, and Wind Creek Wetumpka took to the stores to help make this Christmas one that many children will never forget.

Each year, Wind Creek Hospitality takes part in the annual Magical Christmas Toy Drive and Twelve Days of Giving—hosted in partnership between WKRG/Salvation Army, Alabama News Network, and WSFA. The initiative aims to purchase and distribute presents to local children in the community. Team Members met at local stores including Walmart and Target, and were tasked with grabbing as many toys and holiday gifts as the shopping carts would hold. From there, the gifts were purchased by various event sponsors, including Wind Creek Hospitality.

“We make sure that the shopping carts are filled to the top,” said Trina Rackard, Director of Sponsorships and Events at Wind Creek Hospitality. “We want to ensure that these children have a memorable holiday experience.”

The events were a great opportunity for Wind Creek Hospitality Team Members to get together and make a difference. The gifts will all be donated to families in need, providing children all around the state of Alabama with toys and presents this holiday season!

“We want to ensure that these children have a memorable holiday experience.”



Happy
New Year



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


**Buy One, Get One 50%
Off on Beltone Rely™
and Achieve™***

*Discount based off of MSRP



**Friday, January 19, 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**.

Atmore Office

Pensacola Office

401 E Church Street 6024 N 9th Avenue
Atmore, AL Pensacola, FL

SCAN ME



- ✓ **FINAL MARKDOWNS**
- ✓ **ONE-OF-A-KINDS**
- ✓ **FLOOR MODELS**
- ✓ **DEMOS**
- ✓ **DISPLAYS**
- ✓ **MATTRESSES**

**RED TAG
CLEARANCE
SALE**

Financing & Delivery Available!*

**DON'T MISS
THIS EVENT!**

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



*w.a.c.



RECORDS PRESERVATION: GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

By Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ed.D.

“It is important to recognize those who go above and beyond,” said Tribal Council Secretary, Ms. Charlotte McGhee Meckel, at the Luncheon that recognized Digital Archivist Mr. Chad Parker, Records Coordinator Ms. Cheryl Thrower, and Housing Program Specialist Ms. Charlotte Parham. These valued employees are recipients of the Certificate of Recognition from the Office of Archives and Records Management who put on the Luncheon at Gather restaurant on November 9, 2023. It was also attended by recipients, staff, Regulatory Affairs Division Director/Records Committee Mr. Russell Martin, and a surprise guest—Mr. Jon Dean, former Records Officer who was in charge of the Certificate of Recognition Program until he took a position at Wind Creek Casino and Hotel in 2022.

“I was so surprised to hear about this. I couldn’t believe it!” Ms. Parham exclaimed when she found out about the announcement on the computer software program, Roundhouse, from her son, Mr. Ross Parham, who saw it when it first posted. “I feel so honored,” she said with a heartfelt smile.

The certificates, printed on archival grade paper and elegantly framed, were proudly awarded by Director/Tribal Archivist Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees to the deserving recipients who showed a spirit of gratitude for being recognized.

Ms. Emily Fayard, who took Mr. Dean’s former position, now oversees the Program including the processing of nominations, documentation of recipients, and publication of announcements. At the Luncheon, she reported individualized nomination criteria on reasons each recipient was nominated and deserving of the recognition.

She said that Mr. Parker was awarded the Certificate of Recognition for going above and beyond the call of duty for the digitization of records from his maternal grandparents, Tracy Rolin and Girlie Walker Rolin. She said, “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, then donated them to the Tribe—a real treasure for the Tribe!”

Ms. Fayard said that in the month of March 2022, the Office of Archives and Records Management recognized Ms. Thrower for our Certificate of Recognition Program because she went above and beyond the call of duty in the research, rediscovery, and donation of the Venus McGhee Prince Collection. Through her work, we were able to digitize these valuable interviews which preserves Tribal Member voices for the long haul and provides a backup to the analog audiocassette recordings on which they were initially recorded.

Ms. Fayard said that Ms. Parham developed detailed Inventories of Housing records under her custody. “Her records are clear, organized, and well documented. She takes pride in her work which is demonstrated in her thorough recordkeeping. Staff first learned of her great recordkeeping skills when we processed the Housing Pavilion Collection a few years ago. She and other Housing staff assisted our Team in identifying and processing Housing records. Some of the records went back to the early 1980s prior to federal recognition. Staff saw that she is a role model for others to follow because of her excellence in recordkeeping.”

Mr. Ed Clemens, Service Maintenance Technician for Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority, and Ms.

Haley Hornady, Tribal Member Benefits Specialist, were also recognized at an earlier Luncheon held on October 20, 2023 at the Market food hall inside Wind Creek Casino and Hotel. It was attended by the recipients, staff, and two Tribal Councilwomen—Ms. Meckel and Ms. Sandy

Hollinger—wonderful to have Councilwomen present!

Mr. Clemens went above and beyond in support of maintaining our building that houses our treasured records. He labored tirelessly in preparation for our Open House at the Leola McGhee Manac Special Collections Library that was held in April of 2023. He installed in our Office the

***This Program...
recognizes
employees who go
above and beyond
...in preserving
Tribal records.***



repurposed Tribal Council lettering from the original Tribal Council chambers which are beautifully displayed for all to see. A photograph of the lettering was used as the website backdrop of the Society of Alabama Archivists Conference that the Tribe hosted on October 6, 2023.

Ms. Hornady went above and beyond the call of duty in support of our Records Management Program last year when she was temporarily reassigned our Office. She was especially helpful with our requisitions which enabled us to make acquisition of materials of operational necessity that we did not have. With professionalism and ease, she helped with tasks that were both large and small as she worked with our Team.

The Certificate of Recognition Program was launched by our Team at the Office of Archives and Records Management in 2016. This Program, endorsed by the Tribal Records Committee—chaired by Secretary Meckel—recognizes employees who go above and beyond the call of duty in preserving Tribal records so they will be safeguarded for the long-term. The types of records are inclusive of paper, media, electronic, and three-dimensional records.

THE THREE OBJECTIVES OF THE CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION PROGRAM INCLUDE:

1. Identify preservation methodologies in which employees are engaging
2. Recognize employees for their preservation work in order to elevate them as role models for others to follow
3. Give recipients the opportunity to fellowship at the Luncheon with Tribal Council Secretary, staff, and other recipients for Professional Development

Each month, we recognize employees who are going above and beyond. If you see someone going above and beyond, we invite you to nominate them by January 31, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Share your nomination
with Emily Fayard at efayard@pci-nsn.gov.

Russell Helton
850-356-4521
Cash Jobs Welcome
LYNX
SERVICES

Free Windshield With Full Coverage Florida Insurance
Insurance Approved • Lifetime Warranty
Serving Escambia, Santa Rosa & Baldwin Counties
29+ Years Experience • Licensed & Insured
Email: outlawsautoglass5@gmail.com

LAND & CRUISE VACATIONS

CALL TODAY for the best land and cruise packages!

CRUISE PLANNERS
YOUR LAND AND CRUISE EXPERTS

JERRY REECE
POARCH CREEK TRIBAL MEMBER
707.407.3808
www.landahoycruising.com | greece@CruisePlanners.com

FL STA 20006
LA STA 20006
WA STA 601-899-504

Carol Cole
Independent Beauty Consultant

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

Call or Text me your order

MARY KAY

Going to Orlando to see a mouse or a wizard?

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

Clint Daughtrey
Travel Advisor

Key to the World Travel

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

Clint Daughtrey
Travel Advisor



GAIL THROWER RECEIVES THE PRESTIGIOUS WHITING AWARD

By Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ed.D.



“I am so thankful to accept this Award on behalf of my mother,” said Ms. Lori Sawyer, daughter of the late Gail Thrower (1948-2011), at the Society of Alabama Archivists Conference (SALA) on October 6, 2023 at Wind Creek. For the first time, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians hosted this Conference which was attended by archivists from around the State of Alabama.

As a part of the annual Conference, the SALA Awards Committee selects a recipient of the Marvin Yeomans Whiting Award which is named for Mr. Whiting who was the very first archivist at the Birmingham Public Library. Recipients are recognized for their commitment to archival development like Mr. Whiting who was “a pioneer in the professionalization of archives in Alabama,” the SALA website says (alarchivists.org/whitingaward).

It also says that the Whiting Award recognizes those who have made “a significant contribution to the preservation and dissemination of local history in Alabama. The award recognizes the preservation of historic documents and oral history...”

Understanding that former Tribal Archivist, Ms. Gail Thrower, fulfilled the precepts of the Whiting Award, staff at the Office of Archives and Records Management nominated her for this prestigious Award posthumously.

Ms. Gail Thrower served as our Tribal Archivist for more than thirty years. She conducted research and collected records on Creeks from around the State of Alabama and made them available to the Tribal community and the general public. She did tedious, groundbreaking work on

our Federal Recognition Petition. Her research laid the foundation for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians to become federally recognized in 1984.

Director/Tribal Archivist Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees said, “She is so deserving of this Award. I feel like I am trying to follow in her footsteps.”

Not only was Ms. Thrower a great Archivist, but she was also a great Alabama historian. She served as the President of the Escambia County Historical Society for over ten years. She was invited to be the keynote speaker at many schools, colleges, civic organizations, and political events. She planned the layout and development of our Kerretv en Cuko Museum which opened in 2012, although she did not live to see it come to fruition. She developed and oversaw

our Tribal library making books on Creeks available to all. She also was an award-winning artist who crafted Mvskoke basketry and pottery in the style of our ancestors.

While she had an amazing career, she was also a role model for her children and grandchildren. One of her grandchildren, Ms. Cheryl Thrower, who followed in her footsteps and is now our Records

*“She is so
deserving of
this Award.
I feel like I
am trying to
follow in her
footsteps.”*

Coordinator, recalled fond memories of her. She said her grandmother was a survivalist. She remembers going to her house at Wiggins Lake in Walnut Hill, Florida and going into the woods to learn about nature. She received training on

specific herbs that could be used for medicine and herbs that you should avoid. Ms. Cheryl Thrower said she had an unusual but “great childhood. I wouldn’t trade it.”

Retired school teacher, Ms. Pamela Etheridge, has worked two terms with the Office of Archives and Records Management under the Temporary Employment Program. She processed the Gail Thrower Collection and expressed how much she appreciates Ms. Thrower. The archival records bear witness to the substantial research Ms. Thrower did which supported our Federal Recognition.

Ms. Etheridge said, “Ms. Thrower discovered Minutes from the Escambia County Board of Education from 1939-1970. It was fascinating to read what happened at the meetings. It was especially meaningful since I had heard my Daddy [Mr. Harvey Lisenby] speak of so many of the people in attendance. It was a very eye-opening experience to see what lengths our people had to go through to attain basic rights.” Ms. Etheridge said Ms. Gail Thrower maintained “a perfect copy of the very first The Poarch Creek News, January 1986. Front page news included the upcoming Tribal Council Election, the Rewards of Federal Recognition, and the success of the 15th Annual Pow Wow.”

Our staff was particularly moved by the prayer Ms. Thrower wrote for the environment. “Help us protect our environment, so that our children and generations to come will know and enjoy the earth as we have known it.”

Our staff was delighted to see Ms. Gail Thrower recognized for the Whiting Award, an award so fitting for a woman of her stature. Mvto.



STRONGHEARTS
Native Helpline

Call or Text:
1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)

Chat online at:
strongheartshelpline.org

24/7 safe, confidential and anonymous domestic and sexual violence helpline for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, offering culturally-appropriate support and advocacy.

@strongheartsdv

QR code for strongheartshelpline.org

ROADTRIP HQ



Next to Wind Creek

CCS
ATMORE

DEAN'S Cake HOUSE
HOME OF THE FAMOUS SEVEN LAYER CAKE

Now available at Creek Travel by the slice or the entire cake!

CREEK
Travel Plaza

4740 JACK SPRING RD.

WE'RE HIRING



Celebrate a new career! Apply online

ciejobs.com

Creek Jobs
Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority



Government Relations
and Public Affairs Office

5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502



CREEK CORNER

JANUARY 2023 IMPORTANT DATES

1.1	TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSED	New Year's Day	
1.2	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	February Issue	
1.7	TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING	TC Chambers	4:00 PM
1.11-12	MUSEUM GIFT SHOP CLOSED	Inventory	
1.21	TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING	TC Chambers	4:00 PM