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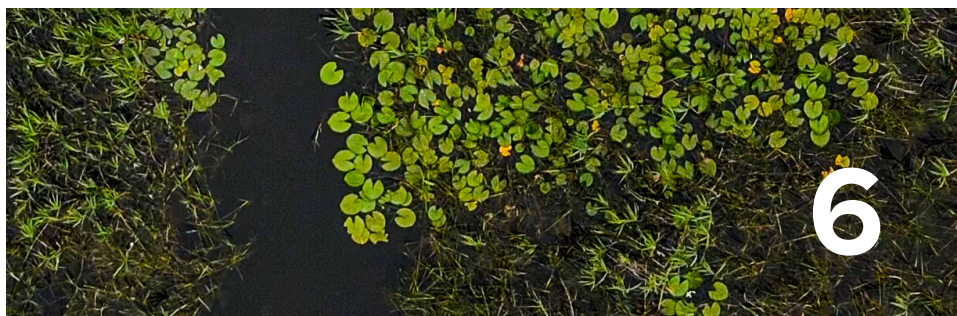
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the POARCH CREEK INDIANS

# creek corner

THE  
*Creek*  
*New Year*

**FARM-TO-TABLE BEEF STARTED  
WITH A QUEST FOR FOOD SECURITY**

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### CREDITS

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## FROM THE EDITOR

# HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND WHOLE

By Megan Zamora, Editor, Creek Corner

A

s we welcome the start of a new year, I find myself reflecting on a simple yet profound lesson I learned throughout 2024: “This wasn’t the day I planned, but it was the day I needed.”

This phrase, repeated countless times in my life over the past year, has become a mantra that carries wisdom for navigating life’s curveballs. It’s taught me to relax my grip on rigid plans and embrace the unexpected with grace (or as much grace as I can muster).

Life, after all, rarely goes according to plan. It has a way of presenting us with challenges and surprises that demand flexibility and a redefinition of what success looks like. For me, success is no longer about perfectly checked-off to-do lists or flawless execution of plans. Instead, I now ask myself one essential question: Am I and my family happy, healthy, and whole?

This shift in perspective was necessary. Life is a never-ending list of tasks. There’s always one more dish to wash, another email to review, or a final errand to run. But focusing solely on the quantity of things we do often comes at the expense of what truly matters: the quality of those moments. A life well-lived isn’t measured by how much we accomplish but by the joy, meaning, and fulfillment we find in our actions.

December gave me a poignant reminder of this truth. I had the unique opportunity to provide public comments to the Alabama State Board of Education regarding revisions to the Alabama Social Studies Course of Study. This wasn’t something I planned for—in fact, I didn’t even know until late Tuesday afternoon that I’d be the one speaking. Yet there I was, standing in Montgomery at the Gordon Persons Building in a room filled with over a hundred people, including Governor Kay Ivey. Nervous but determined, I represented our Tribe and shared our unwavering support for including Native Americans and the Poarch Creek Indians in the state’s curriculum.

In my two minutes, I spoke from the heart:

“

*Good morning, members of the Alabama State Board of Education.*

*My name is Megan Zamora, and I serve as the Director of Internal Communications for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Today, I speak on behalf of the Tribe to express our support for the inclusion of Native Americans and the Poarch Creek Indians in the Alabama Social Studies Course of Study.*

*My great-grandmother was only able to attend school through the sixth grade, a limitation that was common in our community. However, this changed when Jack*

*Daughtry stood in front of an Escambia County school bus and demanded that his twin daughters be allowed to attend high school in town. His courage opened doors that had long been closed to our people. Because of his bravery, I—a Poarch Creek woman—stand before you today with a Master of Arts in Communication. In fact, as of 2020, more than 81% of our Tribal Citizens have earned a high school diploma, and 479 of those individuals have graduated from college. Among them is Dr. Will Martin, a Tribal Citizen who serves as an anesthesiologist with the Indian Health Service.*

*We are deeply grateful for the progress made and for the opportunity to contribute to Alabama’s curriculum. An authentic telling of our state’s history ensures future generations receive a well-rounded education and helps us avoid repeating mistakes of the past. This curriculum is an opportunity to teach lessons rooted in respect and recognizes the contributions of all people.*

*As the curriculum continues to evolve, I urge the Board to ensure Native voices remain present and engaged by providing the Tribe with a seat at the table. Authentic representation allows us to offer meaningful perspectives and resources that enrich education for all.*

*Mvto—thank you—for your time and thoughtful consideration. Our Tribe stands ready to support and collaborate as you continue this important work.*

”

Walking into that room, I felt overwhelmed and nervous. But in moments like these, when we are called to step out of our comfort zones, growth happens. We grow personally, professionally, and as a community. I left Montgomery that day feeling a deep sense of purpose. The Tribe’s presence was noted, our voice was heard, and our commitment to shaping the future was evident.

As we begin 2025, I invite you to join me in embracing a life that prioritizes happiness, health, and wholeness. Let us find joy and fulfillment in each day, nurture our relationships, and strive for balance in all aspects of our lives—whether physical, spiritual, financial, or mental. And as for being whole? To me, it means living in alignment with our values, embracing our strengths and vulnerabilities, and finding peace in the knowledge that we are enough as we are.

May 2025 bring you moments of unexpected joy, opportunities for growth, and a deeper connection to what matters most. Here’s to a year of being happy, healthy, and whole.



# 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:*  
Dewitt Carter  
Sandy Hollinger  
Keith Martin  
Arthur Mothershed  
Justin Stabler







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# BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION, NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE OVER \$122 MILLION FROM THE AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL CHALLENGE TO RESTORE LANDS AND WATERS

*From the U.S. Department of the Interior*

*President Biden's Investing in America agenda supports third round of grants to high-priority, locally led conservation projects across the United States*

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**T**he Biden-Harris administration joined the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and public-and private-sector partners today in announcing \$122.4 million in grants through the America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC). The 61 new grants announced today will support landscape-scale conservation projects across 42 states, 19 Tribal Nations, and 3 U.S. territories. The grants will generate at least \$8.7 million in matching contributions for a total conservation impact of \$131.1 million. Approximately 42 percent of all 2024 ATBC funding will support projects implemented by Indigenous communities and organizations, representing another year of record funding dedicated to Tribally led projects for a single grant program at NFWF.

America the Beautiful, launched by President Biden in 2021, set the nation's first-ever goal to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. The 10-year, locally led and nationally scaled initiative lifts up efforts to conserve, connect and restore the lands, waters and wildlife upon which we all depend. Over the past four years, the Biden-Harris Administration has conserved more than 45 million acres of our nation's lands and waters.

ATBC grants support projects that conserve, restore and connect wildlife habitats and ecosystems while improving community resilience and access to nature, which also advance President Biden's ambitious environmental justice goals. The competitive grant awards were made possible through President Biden's Investing in America agenda, with funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, other federal conservation programs, and private sources. The Biden-Harris Administration launched the Challenge in 2022 as a partnership with the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Defense, Native Americans in Philanthropy, and NFWF.

"President Biden's America the Beautiful initiative has been truly transformative. By working together across the federal family, and through private-public partnerships, we have built an enduring path to support hundreds of locally led collaborative conservation projects across the country," said Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. "The America the Beautiful Challenge has advanced engagement with Tribes, funding a record amount of Tribally led efforts and elevating the use of Indigenous Knowledge to benefit endangered species and treasured landscapes. These innovative investments will leave a lasting legacy on our nation's lands and waters."

"The America the Beautiful Challenge is advancing President Biden's ongoing commitment to conserve our lands and waters by supporting locally led conservation and restoration projects in communities across the country," said White House Council on Environmental



Quality Chair Brenda Mallory. “Thanks to historic investments from the President’s Investing in America agenda, these projects in communities across the nation will help ensure everyone can access the benefits nature has to offer for years to come.”

“Over the past three years, the America the Beautiful Challenge has served as a marker of the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to protecting our nation’s natural treasures for future generations,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “Through these awards, and in partnership with Tribes, NGOs, state partners, and others, USDA will continue to build on its critical work – from voluntary conservation efforts to safeguard our forests and grasslands to increasing access to climate-smart practices and mitigating the risk posed by dangerous wildfires.”

“The 18 designated sentinel landscapes are strategically important for the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and allow our DoD installations and ranges to safeguard key testing and training capabilities through mutually beneficial partnerships,” said Brendan Owens, Assistant Secretary of Defense, Energy, Installations and Environment. “By allocating over \$6 million in DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program funding to six projects across Sentinel Landscapes, this year’s America the Beautiful Challenge is strengthening military readiness by protecting capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region, reducing regulatory burdens, and decreasing catastrophic wildfire risk in order to sustain mission-essential activities.”

To streamline access to these funds, federal agencies established the ATBC to create a centralized and simplified competitive grant program for landscape-scale conservation and restoration projects that contribute to conservation plans across the nation. Now in its third year, the 2024 ATBC request for proposals received 331 pre-proposals requesting \$677 million for conservation efforts. Of those, NFWF and partners invited 133 applicants to submit full proposals. The grants announced today address about 18 percent of this overall level of demand, illustrating the highly competitive nature of the ATBC.

These projects will enable states, Tribal Nations, U.S. territories, nonprofits, academic institutions, and other grantees to develop and implement multijurisdictional, high-priority restoration projects on both public and private lands. The program is intended to encourage the development and implementation of voluntary, diverse and comprehensive landscape-level projects that:

- Address priority conservation and restoration needs
- Showcase cumulative benefits to fish and wildlife
- Enhance carbon sequestration and storage

- Engage with and benefit communities, including underserved communities
- Connect people with nature
- Advance existing conservation plans and/or are informed by Indigenous Knowledge
- Help safeguard ecosystems and communities through resilience-focused and nature-based solutions

The ATBC includes an emphasis on supporting Tribal Nations’ access to grant funding for restoration, conservation and capacity-building, and seeks projects that incorporate Indigenous Knowledge in planning and implementation. The number of proposals awarded to Tribal Nation applicants in 2024 far exceeded minimum funding and demonstrated the high demand and clear need for innovative funding approaches to Tribally led conservation efforts.

“Indigenous knowledge and leadership are at the heart of addressing the biodiversity and climate crisis,” said Erik Stegman, CEO of Native Americans in Philanthropy. “Our Collaborative with the Biodiversity Funders Group demonstrates the power of public-private solutions, leveraging \$1.6 million in private funding to unlock over \$51 million in public resources for groundbreaking Tribal conservation projects. We’re grateful to our partners in philanthropy and government for working together to remove barriers and develop new models for investment in Tribally-led environmental conservation.”

### DEVELOPING GIANT RIVERCANE RESTORATION FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

(AL, AR, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, VA, WV)

Grantee: The University of Alabama

Grant Amount: .....	\$3,425,900
Matching Funds: .....	\$381,000
Total Project Amount: .....	\$3,806,900

Develop giant rivercane seed stock with accompanying genetic information and public database to assist Tribal Nations and other stakeholders in implementing rivercane habitat restoration projects across the Southeast. Project will increase Tribal Nation capacity to manage and access a resource that is a cultural keystone species and part of many Southeastern Indigenous communities’ culture, heritage and lifeways.

**To learn more about the program, including applicant eligibility, funding priorities and submission requirements, visit [www.nfwf.org/programs/america-beautiful-challenge](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/america-beautiful-challenge).**



## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

# RECREATION

By Ashlee “Katie” Mothershed

*The Recreation Department is at the heart of community wellness and engagement, fostering a vibrant environment where Tribal Citizens of all ages can connect, stay active, and thrive. With a wide range of services and programs, the department continues to make a lasting impact on the well-being of the community.*

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

#### **24/7 Fitness Center**

Accessible anytime, the state-of-the-art fitness center supports individuals on their wellness journey with modern equipment and resources.

#### **Wellness Program**

Encouraging healthy lifestyles, this program provides education and tools to empower community members to prioritize their health.

#### **Fruit Program**

Promoting healthier eating habits, the Fruit Program ensures fresh, nutritious snacks are available for everyone.

#### **Youth and Adult Archery Program**

Rooted in cultural tradition, this program fosters skill-building and confidence while connecting participants to their heritage.

#### **Personal Training Options**

Personalized fitness guidance is available for individuals or groups, making health goals achievable and inclusive.

#### **Seasonal Water Aerobics**

Fun and low-impact, water aerobics is a popular activity that improves fitness while beating the heat.





### **Pickle Ball Court**

Combining fun and fitness, the pickleball court is a community favorite for friendly competition and recreation.

### **Playgrounds and Outdoor Amenities**

With two well-maintained playgrounds, an outdoor basketball court, and a pavilion for gatherings, the department provides spaces for families and friends to enjoy.

### **Two-Lane Batting Cage**

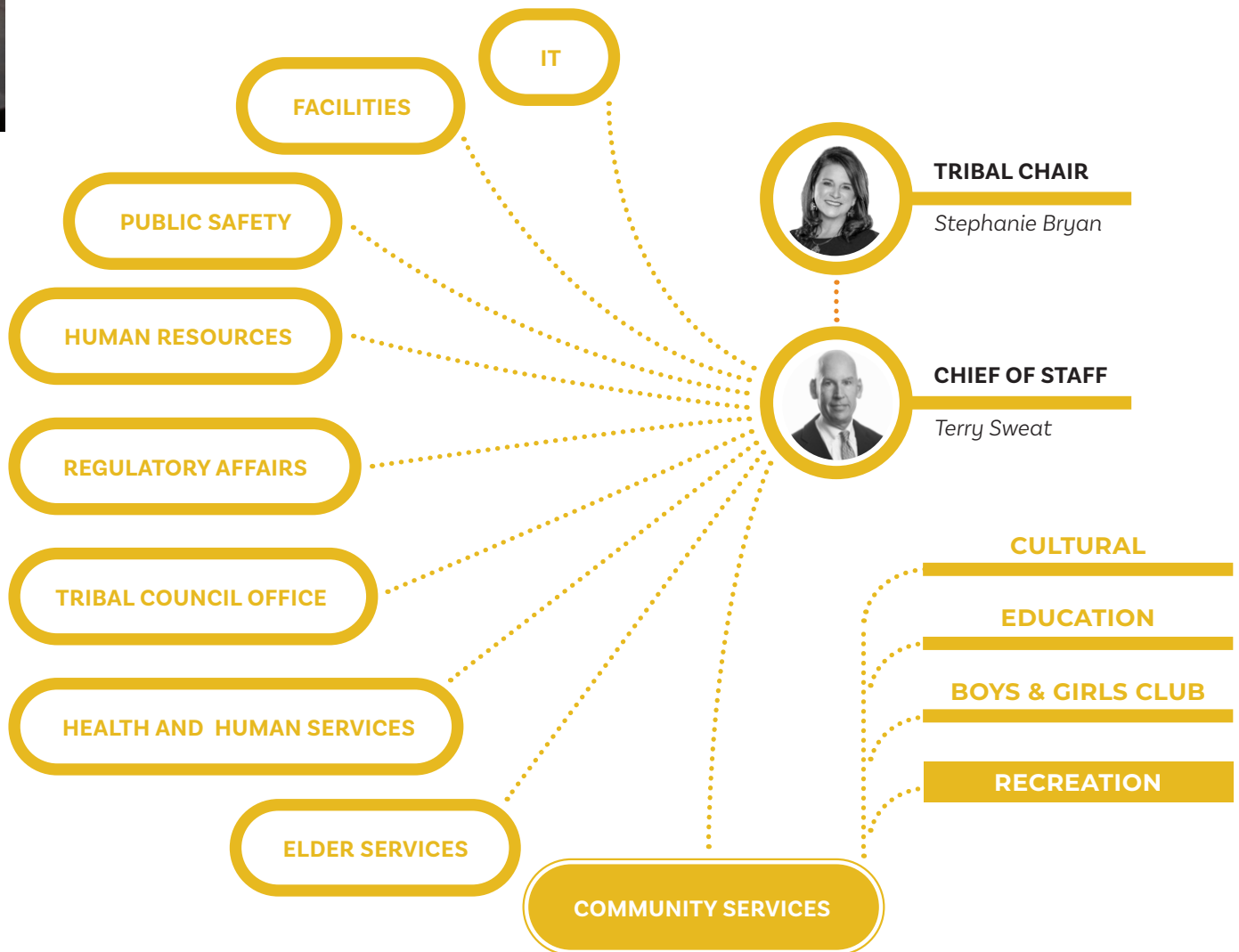
A perfect resource for aspiring athletes, the batting cage supports skill development for youth and adults alike.

### **Sports Leagues and Tournaments**

From youth to adult leagues, the department organizes exciting opportunities for teamwork, competition, and camaraderie.

The Recreation Department continues to enrich the community by offering diverse and accessible programs that promote physical, emotional, and social well-being. Its commitment to fostering connections and encouraging active lifestyles ensures that every Tribal Citizen can find joy and fulfillment through recreation.

**For more information or to get involved in upcoming activities, visit the Recreation Department or visit our website at [poarchcreekindians.org](http://poarchcreekindians.org).**





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*-Google Review*

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Mobile, AL 36609



Elizabeth Pickett, Au.D., CCC-A

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



# THE IMPORTANCE OF TRIBAL REPRESENTATION IN STATE AND FEDERAL POLITICS

By Ashlee “Katie” Mothershed

*Representation matters. For Native tribes, having a voice in state and federal politics isn't just important—it's necessary. Native Americans have lived on this land for thousands of years, but we've been left out of major political decisions for most of modern history. Having more Native representation in government is one way to start fixing that and to make sure our communities have a say in their own futures.*

## WHY REPRESENTATION MATTERS

Tribal governments take care of so many important parts of life for Native people, like healthcare, education, and protecting our natural resources. But state and federal policies often set the rules for how tribes can operate. If Native people aren't part of those conversations, decisions are made without understanding what's best for our communities.

Representation means having people in office who can stand up for tribal sovereignty, fight for funding for healthcare and education, and make sure our land and water are protected. Without Native voices, lawmakers might not even realize the impact of their decisions on tribes—or worse, they might not care.

## THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

Getting into those positions of power isn't easy for Native people. There are real barriers, like voter suppression, lack of campaign funding, and even just the isolation of many tribal communities. A lot of Native communities also get split up through redistricting, which weakens our voting power.

Even when Native leaders run for office, they often face a tough balancing act. They have to represent their tribes while also working within a political system that doesn't always value Native perspectives or traditions.

## SIGNS OF PROGRESS

Thankfully, we're seeing some progress. Leaders like Deb Haaland and Sharice Davids are paving the way, showing how powerful Native voices can be in government. Their work on climate change, tribal rights, and healthcare has brought Native issues into the spotlight, and they've inspired others to step up and lead.

At the state level, Native lawmakers are pushing for laws that directly benefit tribal communities, like protecting sacred sites or making it easier to vote on reservations. These wins show that change is possible when Native voices are at the table.

## WHAT WE CAN DO NEXT

If we want to see more Native representation, we need to focus on voting and leadership. Educating and registering voters in tribal communities is key, as is making sure polling places are accessible. We also need policies that make it easier for Native people to vote, like allowing tribal IDs as valid voter identification.

Another big part of the solution is supporting Native leaders from a young age. Mentorship and leadership programs can help build confidence and skills for those who want to run for office or take on leadership roles. At the same time, educating non-Native politicians about our issues can build understanding and create allies.

## IN CLOSING

Representation isn't just about filling seats in government—it's about making sure Native voices are heard when decisions are being made that affect us. It's about fairness, respect, and self-determination. Tribal communities deserve to have a say in their futures, and increasing Native representation is one of the most important ways to make that happen.

When Native people are at the table, we're not just advocating for our tribes—we're helping shape a better future for everyone. It's not just about the past; it's about moving forward together.





# FARM-TO-TABLE BEEF STARTED WITH A QUEST FOR FOOD SECURITY

By Jamie Sawyer

**I**n the midst of the pandemic, grocery shelves and coolers sat empty of essential foods, sparking concern for John English of the Poarch Creek Indians. Recognizing the risks of relying on a distant supply chain, John approached the Tribal Council with a vision to make the Tribe self-sufficient by vertically integrating their cattle operation with an on-site meat processing plant.

Perdido River Farms, the Tribe's cattle farm, had long been raising quality cattle, but the animals were sent off to the Midwest for processing. John proposed building a processing facility on the property to control production from start to finish, which would save on transportation, boost product quality, and create a local food source for the Tribe and surrounding communities. His idea wasn't just about the farm. It was about securing a food system close to home, should another crisis ever threaten the broader supply.

The proposal was ambitious. A full-scale meat processing facility requires thorough planning, and construction would take time. The Council supported the project, and while plans were drawn up, John set out to learn best practices. This journey led him to Temple Grandin, the foremost authority on humane cattle handling, whose research revealed that treating cattle gently leads to more efficient processing. Her insights shaped the plant's design to ensure smooth, ethical handling for quality beef.

John also connected with the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, gathering input on how the facility could serve not only the Tribe but also other local farmers. Once the plant is running at full capacity, it will be able to process a couple hundred head of cattle a day, along with hogs, which are not currently raised at Perdido River Farms. This setup will offer Alabama's ranchers a closer, more affordable option to process their livestock, sparing them the cost and hassle of shipping to distant plants.

The new facility, opening in early 2025, represents almost five years of planning and collaboration. As operations ramp up, John is preparing to expand the herd at Perdido River Farms and to buy additional cattle to meet the processing plant's initial demand. Built with room for expansion, the plant is designed to grow as demand for local, high-quality beef increases.

In the near future, Perdido River Farms beef could appear in specialty grocers and premium restaurants. For those eager to try it now, the farm offers fresh cuts and ground beef at its retail shop. Next time you're passing through on I-65, stop by for the freshest beef you've ever tasted—and you might even get the chance to meet John English, the man behind Poarch Creek's journey to food security.

*In the near future, Perdido River Farms beef could appear in specialty grocers and premium restaurants. For those eager to try it now, the farm offers fresh cuts and ground beef at its retail shop.*





## TRIBAL CITIZEN PROFILE: TRIBAL MEMBER

# KIMBERLY MCGHEE LONG

### *Excels in Hospitality Studies at Texas A&M*

By Sharon Delmar

**K**imberly McGhee Long, a dedicated Poarch Creek Tribal Citizen, has embarked on an inspiring journey in Hospitality, Hotel Management, and Tourism at Texas A&M University. Driven by her passion for “unreasonable hospitality,” Kimberly aims to elevate her skills beyond traditional event planning, setting her sights on creating extraordinary experiences. Kimberly was recently inducted into the Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity.

“

*Her focus on the impact of AI in the hospitality industry is set to make waves in academic circles, with presentations lined up at several high-profile conferences in 2025.*

#### OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AS A TRIBAL ELDER AND NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT

As a Tribal Elder and non-traditional student, Kimberly’s acceptance into Texas A&M’s prestigious hospitality program marks a significant milestone. Her determination is further bolstered by the financial support she receives through the Tribe’s McGhee-Tullis Scholarship program. Additionally, Kimberly’s academic prowess has earned her the esteemed Cobell Scholarship, named after Eloise Cobell, and the Native Forward Scholar Scholarship, which will fund her remaining undergraduate studies and graduate work.

#### GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Kimberly’s academic journey has taken an exciting turn as she delves into cutting-edge, groundbreaking research as an undergraduate research scholar. Her focus on the impact of AI in the hospitality industry, particularly in Tribal-owned casinos and resorts, is set to make waves in academic circles, with presentations lined up at several high-profile conferences in 2025. This opportunity is a game-changer, offering Kimberly a chance to earn prestigious honors distinction, gain hands-on experience beyond the classroom, and get a taste of grad school life. It’s not just about the accolades; she is also building a robust professional network and boosting her chances for future academic and career opportunities.

### SHOWCASING RESEARCH ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

In January 2025, Kimberly will present her findings at the 30th Annual Graduate Education and Graduate Student Research Conference in Houston, Texas. Hong Kong Polytechnic University sponsors this prestigious event, recognized as the world's top hospitality program. Her work will also be featured in February at the 2025 ICHRIE ESD Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of South Florida's Muma College of Business and the Texas A&M University Symposium in April.

### PUBLICATION AND FUTURE IMPACT

Kimberly's research is slated for publication in academic journals, ensuring her work will contribute to ongoing studies on artificial intelligence in the hospitality sector. These publications will provide a valuable resource for future researchers and industry professionals.

### INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

A Texas A&M University team of four hospitality students made the top 5 of 47 international teams to be announced as the "Professional Convention Management Association" Global Student Competition where the PCMA Global Student Competition aims to encourage innovative thinking and collaboration among students, worldwide, to explore fresh ideas that will expand the outlook of the business events industry while engaging their knowledge and understanding of the industry.

Capping off her remarkable academic year, Kimberly has been selected to join an elite group of TAMU Hospitality students on a trip to Switzerland. There, she will assist in coordinating the World of Hospitality event hosted by the Swiss Hotel Management School, ranked the second-best hospitality program globally. This hands-on experience will provide Kimberly with invaluable international exposure and networking opportunities. In addition, Kimberly has been selected to participate in a Study Abroad opportunity to Antarctica next December, after graduation.

Kimberly's journey exemplifies the power of determination, cultural heritage, and academic excellence while maintaining her 4.0 grade point average. Her contributions to hospitality management promise to shape the industry's future, particularly in artificial intelligence and its applications in Tribal-owned establishments. Kimberly is deeply grateful to the Tribe, Tribal Council, and Education Department for these incredible opportunities. The McGhee-Tullis Scholarship has been a game-changer, making these life-altering experiences possible.



“

*...Kimberly has been selected to join an elite group of TAMU Hospitality students on a trip to Switzerland. There, she will assist in coordinating the World of Hospitality event hosted by the Swiss Hotel Management School, ranked the second-best hospitality program globally.*

***Journey  
Safely Into  
the  
New Year!***



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# POARCH 101: THE Creek New Year

By Megan Zamora

**A**s we step into the new year of 2025, it's a fitting time to reflect on the traditions and teachings of our Creek people, particularly the Green Corn Ceremony, which marked the Creek new year. Held in the summertime, this sacred tradition was much more than a celebration; it was a time for renewal, reflection, and unity within the community.

The Green Corn Ceremony symbolized a fresh start. During this time, our people would break the tools and items they had used in the previous year, replacing them with new ones. This act of leaving behind the old and embracing the new was a profound way to honor the cycle of life and begin the year with a clean slate. Importantly, nothing from the

---

*The concept of releasing what no longer serves us—both physically and mentally—is a powerful way to start new.*

---

past year was carried into the new one. This physical practice was mirrored spiritually, as the ceremony also involved forgiveness, purification, and reconnection with cultural values and traditions.

The lessons taught to us through our Green Corn Ceremony remain timeless. The concept of releasing what no longer serves us—both physically and mentally—is a powerful way to start anew. As we leave 2024 behind, we can take inspiration from this tradition to let go of the “baggage” we’ve carried, whether it’s unresolved conflict, unproductive habits, or lingering doubts.

Embracing this mindset doesn’t mean forgetting the past; rather, it’s about learning from it and stepping into the future with clarity





and intention. By releasing ourselves from the weight of yesterday, we make room for the possibilities and opportunities that lie ahead. Just as the our people used the Green Corn Ceremony to purify their spirits and prepare for the new year, we too can start 2025 with a renewed mind and an open heart.

Let this be a year where we grasp all the lessons that the Green Corn Ceremony teaches us. Take a moment to reflect: What can you let go of from 2024? How can you step into 2025 with a lighter spirit and a clearer vision for the future? By carrying this wisdom forward, we continue to honor the traditions of our ancestors and ensure their relevance in our modern lives.

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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



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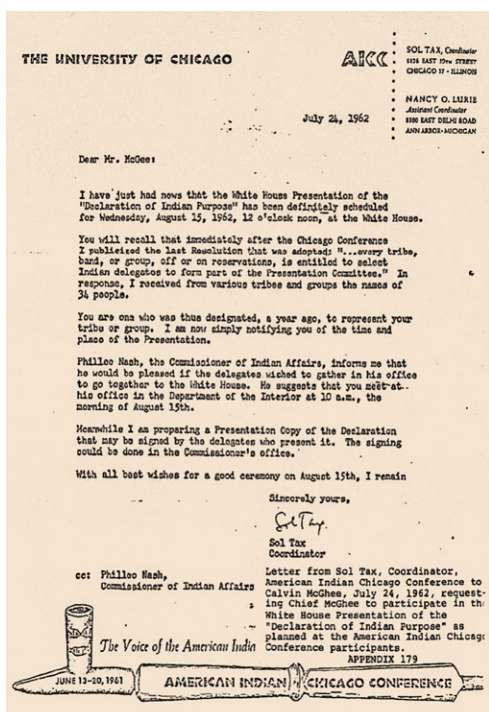


**PICTURED** Still frame from the Dewey and Olivette McGhee Collection  
Photo by Dewey McGhee

# CHIEF CALVIN MCGHEE RECORDS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

By Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ed.D.

*“ Until this find, up to that point, no one in our community had seen a picture in color of the meeting of Chief McGhee with President Kennedy —only black and white.*



Tribal Council Secretary Charlotte McGhee Meckel and Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees traveled to Chicago, Illinois in August of 2024 for research and training. They were seeking records on Chief Calvin McGhee and the Creek delegation to the famous American Indian Chicago Conference (AICC) of 1961, held at the University of Chicago.

This conference was a landmark event that brought together over 400 Native Americans from almost 100 different tribes. The purpose of the conference was for tribal delegates to express their concerns on Indian affairs and write the Declaration of Indian Purpose, the first major document outlining tribal self-determination.

Vice Chair Robbie McGhee said his great grandfather, Chief McGhee, helped write this document. It was delivered to President John F. Kennedy at the White House by Chief McGhee and other delegates the following year on August 5, 1962. We have Chief McGhee's personal copy of the document in the Office of Archives and Records Management, but there are many conference records we do not have.

A few years ago, Olivette McGhee, along with Ellen O'Barr, searched through old boxes in Olivette's closet and found some great treasures that had lain forgotten for many years. One of those forgotten treasures is the film of Chief McGhee and President Kennedy which Dewey McGhee had taken when they visited the White House.

Until this find, up to that point, no one in our community had seen a picture in color of the meeting of Chief McGhee with President Kennedy—only black and white. The Office of Archives and Records

Management staff had the film professionally digitized with outtakes of still frame images including the above image. This historic film could have been lost to time if McGhee and O'Barr had not taken the time to look through old boxes to see what they could find.

In that same spirit, Meckel and Dr. Dees looked through old boxes searching for related treasures. They diligently conducted research at the Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections at the University of Chicago. Their hard work paid off!

**“One document by Chief McGhee that stood out is his powerful open letter that was published in the AICC Progress Report. In this letter, he addressed the need for economic development at Creek Nation East of the Mississippi and offers ways to achieve economic relief.**

“It was close to the end of the day and I could not believe what I discovered!” said Meckel. “I discovered signatures of Chief Calvin McGhee, his wife Joyce, his son Dewey, and Dewey’s wife Olivette.” The document contained signatures of conference delegates who met with the President in 1962. “I was so excited—I felt like I had discovered a gold mine!”

They found a large life-size drawing of the hand-crafted peace pipe that the chiefs smoked at the commencement of the conference which later was printed on conference letterhead as seen on the letter to Chief McGhee pictured on page 18. They found a press release showing that President Kennedy was actually sent a

personal invitation to attend the conference, although he was unable to make it. They listened to audio recordings and took pictures of conference records on their cellular telephones.

One document by Chief McGhee that stood out is his powerful open letter that was published in the AICC Progress Report. In this letter, he addresses the need for economic development at Creek Nation East of the Mississippi and offers ways to achieve economic relief. He also addresses political concerns stating that politicians should not overlook the needs of Indigenous nations. In several places, he quotes Bible verses to support his points.

This is the first time that anyone from the Tribe has conducted research in the American Indian Chicago Conference papers. While many records were found, there were many other records that Meckel and Dr. Dees were forced to leave behind because they ran out of time. They hope to return in 2025 to continue their search for records on Chief Calvin McGhee and the Creek delegation. Who knows what other treasures are waiting to be found! **MVTO.**





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1998 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL WINNER

# SMOKE SIGNALS

By Ashlee "Katie" Mothershed

**S**moke Signals (1998), directed by Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho), is a landmark film in Native American cinema, celebrated for its authenticity and heartfelt storytelling. Based on Sherman Alexie's stories, it follows Victor and Thomas, two young men from the Coeur d'Alene Reservation, as they embark on a road trip to retrieve Victor's father's ashes. The film masterfully blends humor with themes of identity, family, and forgiveness, offering a nuanced portrayal of contemporary Native life. With an entirely Native American creative team and cast, Smoke Signals broke barriers in Hollywood, earning acclaim for its representation and cultural resonance. A must-watch classic!

**Watch *Smoke Signals* for free on Pluto TV.**

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 Katie Mothershed at  
[kmothershed@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:kmothershed@pci-nsn.gov).

# Throw your beads our way.

**Recycle your Mardi Gras beads at one of our bead bins to support The Arc Gateway!**

At The Arc Gateway's Pollak Industries, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities sort, sanitize and package beads that are donated after local parades. This provides vocational training and job opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but also supports our community's effort to recycle and reuse materials instead of generating waste.

#### **COLLECTION SITES**

Poarch Creek Community Center  
PCI Boys and Girls Club • PCI Recycling Center  
PCI Environmental Department  
Building 200 Main Entrance



The Arc Gateway provides life changing programs and services for more than 1,200 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Scan to learn more  
about The Arc Gateway

For more information, contact  
Kristi Weatherford at (251) 368-9136 ext 2680.





## POARCH CREEK INDIANS PARTNER WITH NATIONAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE TO HOLD INAUGURAL SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY EXPO

By Lauren Giddeons & Karen Rodriguez

**P**oarch Creek Indians recently partnered with the Intertribal Agriculture Council, Tall Timbers and the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to hold the first Agroforestry Expo at the Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve. The event brought together 90 participants from across the Southeast to explore innovative land management techniques and conservation practices.

Among the attendees, 70% were landowners, with the remaining 30% representing agency and organizational professionals. In addition to those attending from the Poarch Creek Indians, there were nine other Tribal Nations represented at the event, including members of the Cherokee, Choctaw, Dine', Houma, Lipan Apache, Mvskoke, Passamaquoddy, Yupik and Winnebago Tribes.

"This type of expo offers a great way for agencies to connect with landowners and share programs and opportunities that are available to them for land management, conservation, and policy efforts," said Jessica Ascott, Tribal Liaison for the Poarch Creek Indians. "It also is a great way for us as Agency employees to connect with each other and Tribal Nations to network and discuss opportunities."

The Tribe's willingness to host and participate in these types of events highlights the long-standing relationship between the Tribe and the NRCS, and provides an opportunity to showcase the conservation efforts of the Tribe and discuss future interests and opportunities with

Tribal Citizens who could benefit. The involvement of other partners also allows for Tribal networking in sharing programs and opportunities that could be beneficial to the goals of the Tribe in land management.

During the expo, the most popular topic covered was food forests, focusing on managing and foraging for native plants to be used for human consumption. The second topic of greatest interest was how to successfully manage a beehive for honey production. Other topics discussed included prescribed burning and opportunities for private landowners to participate in a prescribed burn association, as well as feral hog control, with demonstrations on hog traps and programs available for landowners needing help with control of this invasive species.

"We greatly appreciate the Tribe partnering with us on this event and allowing us to use facilities, equipment, and manpower to make these events successful. These are invaluable resources that we are grateful to be able to access," said Ascott.

“

*This type of expo offers a great way for agencies to connect with landowners and share programs and opportunities that are available to them for land management, conservation, and policy efforts.*

**JESSICA ASCOTT,  
TRIBAL LIAISON FOR THE  
POARCH CREEK INDIANS**



# OWA's Winter Wonderland

## JANUARY

EVERY FRIDAY	4 & 5	10	17	18	25	31
<b>Friday Deal Days</b>	<b>Bee Gees Now: The Premier Bee Gees Tribute</b> at OWA Theater	<b>The Outsiders Movie Screening</b> at OWA Theater	<b>Ray Howard Band: A Motown Tribute</b> at OWA Theater	<b>Chi-Town Transit Authority</b> at OWA Theater	<b>Arts &amp; Crafts Festival</b> in Downtown OWA	<b>WTRE 70's Brit Pop</b> at OWA Theater

**WINTER WONDERLAND** is happening now at OWA!  
Celebrate the season with a wide range of family-friendly events. Start planning now at [VisitOWA.com](http://VisitOWA.com).

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A WORLD CLASS  
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# POARCH CREEK INDIANS DONATE \$30,000 TO BIRMINGHAM ZOO, *Empowering Conservation Education*

By Lauren Giddeons & Karen Rodriguez

T

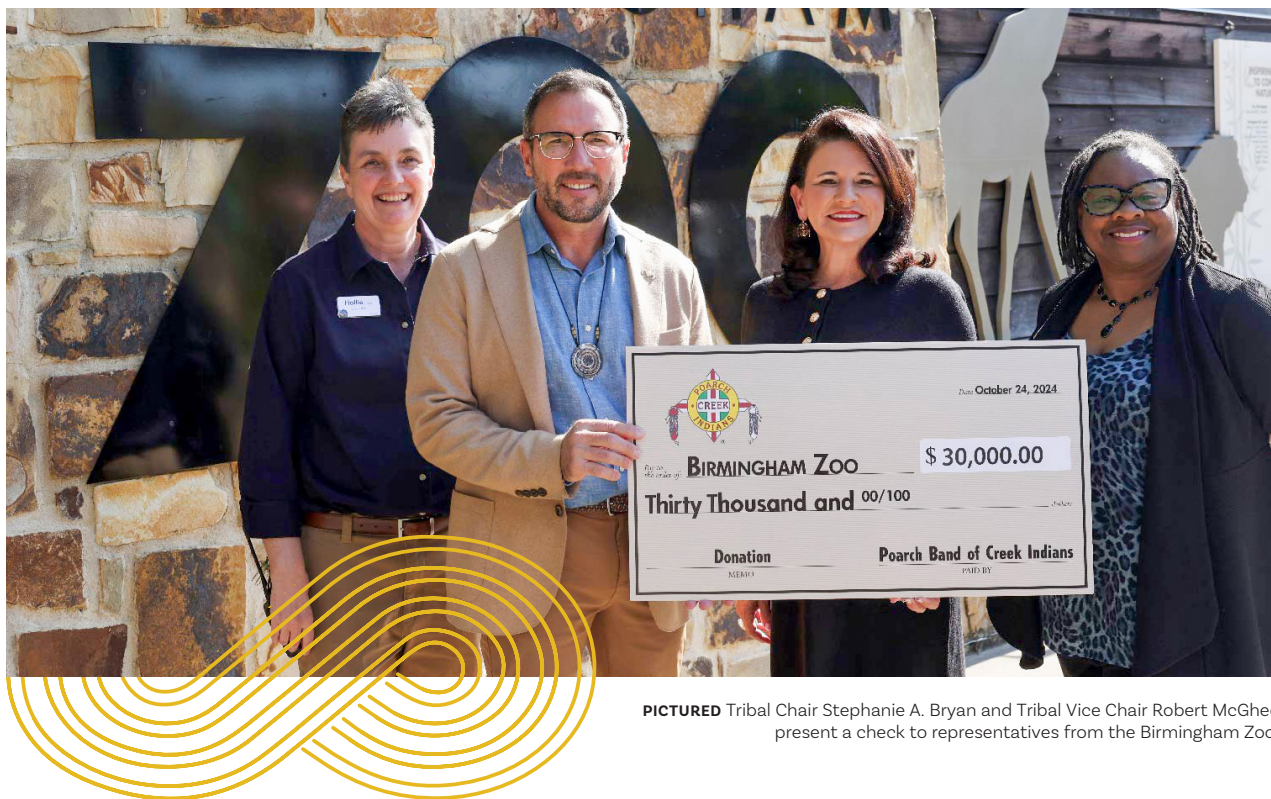
he Poarch Creek Indians have once again demonstrated their commitment to community support and environmental education with a \$30,000 donation to the Birmingham Zoo.

This generous contribution will fund up to 100 scholarships for individuals, families, and nonprofit organizations to participate in the Zoo's conservation-centered educational programs. These scholarships will open doors for children, teens, and adults who may not otherwise have access to these engaging, nature-focused experiences.

The donation enables participants to attend Birmingham Zoo camps throughout the year. Camp offerings are designed to inspire a love of nature and conservation. In winter, participants may delve into the wonders of the Ice Age or explore their creativity with "Wild About Art." Summer camps cater to various age groups, from K-5 students enjoying "Creature Feature" and "Zoo Ranger" programs to teens in grades 6-12 engaging in leadership activities through "Earth Force" and "Zoo Leader" camps. These programs aim to immerse participants in wildlife education, conservation principles, and community-building activities.

Tiffany McClendon, Director of Learning & Inclusion at the Birmingham Zoo, expressed her gratitude for the Tribe's support, emphasizing its impact on the Zoo's outreach efforts:





**PICTURED** Tribal Chair Stephanie A. Bryan and Tribal Vice Chair Robert McGhee present a check to representatives from the Birmingham Zoo.

**“**  
*This generous donation from Poarch Creek means that Birmingham Zoo is able to offer our fun and educational experiences to more students and families from around our state and region. It allows us to continue developing new programs and finding more ways to connect with our community...*

**TIFFANEY MCCLENDON,  
 DIRECTOR OF LEARNING &  
 INCLUSION AT THE  
 BIRMINGHAM ZOO**

“This generous donation from Poarch Creek means that Birmingham Zoo is able to offer our fun and educational experiences to more students and families from around our state and region. It allows us to continue developing new programs and finding more ways to connect with our community, even those who aren’t usually able to visit the Zoo in person. These funds give Birmingham Zoo more opportunities to help children and adults discover their passion to conserve the natural world and learn how to value wildlife and wild places.”

The partnership between the Poarch Creek Indians and the Birmingham Zoo underscores a shared mission of promoting environmental stewardship and conservation. McClendon added, “Birmingham Zoo is so grateful for our continuing partnership with the Poarch Creek Indians. Their support and dedication to our mission have allowed us to inspire, educate, and engage hundreds of children and adults who otherwise wouldn’t have been able to participate in our programs. The message of conservation is able to reach more people because of support from Poarch Creek Indians.”

The Poarch Creek Indians seek to foster learning opportunities, encourage community engagement, and support Alabama’s natural resources. Through this donation, they help ensure that the message of conservation will reach a broader audience, inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards across the region.

“Our support for the Birmingham Zoo reflects our Tribe’s commitment to fostering educational opportunities that connect people with the natural world,” said Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair & CEO of the Poarch Creek Indians. “By empowering individuals and families to engage in conservation education, we hope to inspire a deeper appreciation for wildlife and instill a sense of responsibility towards preserving Alabama’s natural resources. We are proud to partner with the Birmingham Zoo to make these enriching experiences accessible to more members of the Birmingham community.”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO,  
 VISIT [BIRMINGHAMZOO.COM](http://BIRMINGHAMZOO.COM).**



# CHRISTMAS MARKETS RIVER CRUISES



Merry Christmas 2026 - A Magical Christmas Markets Cruise  
An Experience to Be Remembered on AmaWaterways River Cruises.  
Travel Dates begin on 12/5/2026 and end on 12/16/2026

3 Days in Prague, Czech Republic on Land from 12/6/2026 -12/9/2026. Immerse yourself in the Czech Republic capital of Prague's Christmas markets.

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Terms & Conditions: All rates are per person in USD. Cruise fare is based on double occupancy in a Category E stateroom and includes port charges. HOLIDAY TRIPLE SAVINGS is applicable to cruise only; valid on select 2026 Europe sailings for new reservations only made by September 30, 2024; and is based on double occupancy. Complimentary Stateroom Upgrades applies to one category upgrade, must be like-for-like category, based on availability; not applicable to Suites, AA+, A+ categories. Offer varies for solo occupants; ask for details. Onboard Credit of \$100 per stateroom is based on double occupancy in USD and can be applied towards all onboard purchases; solo occupants receive half of the stated Onboard Credit. Offer is limited to availability, capacity controlled and subject to change/termination without notice. Must mention promo code HOLIDAYGIFT. Stateroom upgrades, airfares, optional land packages, visas and gratuities are additional. When applicable, land package rates are inclusive of intra-air flights for Europe. Other restrictions may apply. For complete details, general information and terms & conditions, please contact your Travel Advisor. AmaWaterways reserves the right to revise any errors on the flyer. Itinerary and shore excursions are subject to change at any time without notice. CST#2065452-20. V24AUG15SI. Big Blue Go is an independent affiliate of KHM Travel Group, CA Seller of Travel Registration #2089491-50. Florida Seller of Travel, Registration #ST37113. Hawaii Seller of Travel License #TAR 7231. Washington Seller of Travel UBI #602 775122



# WIND CREEK ATMORE'S COOKING STUDIO HOSTS JOY OF LIFE'S KING AND QUEEN DINNER

By Amelia Tognoli

**J**oy of Life on the Gulf Coast hosted their King and Queen dinner at Wind Creek Atmore's Cooking Studio. The King and Queen's family and friends had the opportunity to cook a fine dining meal with Chef Todd. The two families also had the chance to get to know each other and share their journey.

"I couldn't think of a better way to meet new family than around the dinner table, especially in our beautiful Wind Creek Atmore's Cooking Studio," said Cameron Murphy, Sponsorship and Events Supervisor. "I met with some new and old friends, even Royalty, for a beautiful evening of laughs and great eats. It was an honor to be a part of this occasion."

In February, the two will be crowned King and Queen at the Joy of Life Mardi Ball which benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The ball will feature great music, food, and a live and silent auction.

"It's always an honor to work alongside Joy of Life on the Gulf Coast. You get to meet such strong kids battling cancer and life-threatening diseases. I had the opportunity to meet the 2 special kids who will be crowned King and Queen at the Mardi Gras Ball in February," said Chimere Lambert, Sponsorship and Events Coordinator. "Listening to them tell their stories and the parents' journey, you will realize how strong they are. It made me smile when I saw all the happy smiles while they were cooking, and it was such a joy."

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital helps healthcare workers learn more, treat, and prevent childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Their doctors and researchers take new scientific findings and turn them into treatments that save kids' lives in the US and worldwide. Every year, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital sees more than 7,800 patients and gives doctors worldwide hundreds of free consultations. Wind Creek is proud to help research that is so important and much needed!

***"I met with some new and old friends, even Royalty, for a beautiful evening of laughs and great eats."***

**CAMERON MURPHY,  
WINDCREEK ATMORE SPONSORSHIP  
AND EVENTS SUPERVISOR**







# CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR AT OWA PARKS & RESORT

By Catherine Hasty

**T**he holidays may be over but the fun never ends at OWA! Ease into the new year with great events, live musical entertainment and more all coming up this January.

Mark your calendars for January 25th and join us for the 5th annual OWA Arts & Crafts Festival. Stroll the pedestrian-friendly streets of OWA's beautiful Downtown entertainment district at this family friendly event. Experience the charm of Downtown OWA and immerse yourself in a sensory delight as we bring together artists, craftsmen, and the community for a showcase of local art, handmade goods, live music, and kids activities all in Downtown OWA. This event is free and open to the public.

For more fun, join us every Thursday in January at Towne Tap in Downtown OWA for Bingo Thursdays. From noon to 2 pm enjoy a fun afternoon of bingo and a \$9.99 lunch special. Whether you're a seasoned bingo player or just looking for a relaxed way to enjoy great food, we've got you covered. Bring your friends, join in on the fun, and enjoy a delicious meal — all for under \$10!

For more great entertainment this January check out OWA Theater and its dynamic lineup of shows, offering a variety of musical performances that promise to captivate audiences of all ages. With a blend of musical styles and entertainment, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

## **BEE GEES NOW: THE PREMIER BEE GEES TRIBUTE**

**January 4th - 7:30 pm | January 5th - 3 pm**

Experience the magic of the disco era as Bee Gees Now: The Premier Bee Gees Tribute returns to the OWA Theater stage. This show is a celebration of the iconic music and timeless charisma of the legendary Bee Gees. From the soulful hits like How Deep Is Your Love to the dance floor anthems like Stayin' Alive and Night Fever, this tribute will

transport you back to the golden age of the 70s. Whether you're a longtime fan or looking for a memorable night out, this performance will have you singing along and grooving all night long. Don't miss your chance to experience this dazzling tribute of one of music's most legendary bands!

## **SONGS & STORIES: OPEN MIC NIGHT**

**January 11th at 6 PM**

Take center stage or enjoy a night of local talent at OWA Theater for Songs & Stories Open Mic Night. From new talent and hidden gems, all songwriters are welcome to share their artistic expression for a night of incredible performances! Whether strumming a guitar, tickling the ivories of a piano, or showcasing vocal prowess, each performer adds a unique flavor to the evening. It's not just an open mic night; it's a community of artists, a space where experimentation meets genuine expression.

Join us for this free event for an unforgettable experience. Doors will open at 5:30 pm and entrance is free. To be a part of Open Mic Night, register [HERE](#).

## **CHI-TOWN TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**January 18th at 7:30 PM**

Celebrate the legendary sounds of Chicago with Chi-Town Transit Authority: A Tribute to the Music of Chicago, returning to the OWA Theater. This incredible performance brings the magic of Chicago's greatest hits to life, with powerful brass sections, rich harmonies, and all the energy that made the band a classic. It's the perfect night out for anyone who loves timeless tunes and unforgettable live music.

For more information or to purchase tickets to the OWA Theater, visit [visitowa.com/entertainment/owa-theater/](http://visitowa.com/entertainment/owa-theater/) or call the OWA Theater Box Office at 251-369-6100.





For more great entertainment, Brandon Styles Theater at OWA continues to offer a line-up of ever-changing acts and shows. From family-friendly to date night, the quick-witted Brandon Styles will have you doubling over in your chair. Be sure and catch one of his variety or magic shows this season.

**BRANDON STYLES VARIETY SHOW**  
*Every Tuesday & Saturday at 7 pm*

Discover the many faces of Brandon Styles in this year-round Variety Show including impressions ranging from Frank Sinatra to Justin Bieber, with 60 additional impressions in between! Sprinkled with just the right amount of comedy and magic to make this a great entertainment hour for all ages.

**BRANDON STYLES MAGIC SHOW**  
*Select Wednesdays at 7 pm*

Brandon Styles has combined big magic, little magic and funny magic to amaze and astound you, make you laugh, and make you wonder. Audience interaction and props create a fun, upbeat amusement for the whole family.

For more event information on shows and tickets at the Brandon Styles Theater, visit [visitowa.com/entertainment/brandon-styles/](http://visitowa.com/entertainment/brandon-styles/) or call the box office at 251-237-3330.

*Keep up with the latest news on events, entertainment, and activities via our website at VisitOWA or by following us on social media @VisitOWA.*

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A man wearing a blue t-shirt, a dark blue baseball cap, and safety glasses is shown from the side, reaching up to clean a window. He is holding a squeegee with a blue brush head. The background shows a light-colored building facade and a clear sky.

“

*This distinguished recognition affirms the company's commitment to providing environmentally conscious janitorial cleaning services that meet the highest industry standards.*

## FORTIS NATIVE GROUP ACHIEVES PRESTIGIOUS CIMS-GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATION WITH HONORS

*By Lauren Giddeons & Karen Rodriguez*

F

ortis Native Group, a Tribally-owned business, is proud to announce that it has successfully passed the Cleaning Industry Management Standard-Green Building (CIMS-GB) assessment, earning CIMS-Green Building Certification with Honors. This distinguished recognition affirms the company's commitment to providing environmentally conscious janitorial cleaning services that meet the highest industry standards.

The CIMS-GB certification is the highest level of excellence in green cleaning, requiring organizations to undergo a rigorous assessment conducted by an independent, accredited assessor. This achievement highlights Fortis Native Group's ability to deliver services that align with customer needs while ensuring the use of green products and eco-friendly equipment.

"Fortis Native is proud to be awarded the CIMS certification and is one of the select few companies to achieve the CIMS-GB Honors designation," said Josh Hancock, Chief Executive Officer of Fortis Industries. "This designation achieved by fewer than 10% of companies is the equivalent of a summa cum laude for custodial based services. This certification shows our current client base as well as future potential clients Fortis Native's commitment to excellence in the field of custodial based services."

Fortis Native Group's adherence to the CIMS-GB principles not only underscores its capability to provide green cleaning services but also enables its clients to earn points under the LEED-Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance (LEED-EBOM) Green Building Rating System, further supporting sustainability goals.

This certification is highly regarded across both the private sector and government contracting industries, demonstrating Fortis Native Group's leadership in the field. The achievement reflects the organization's ability to meet the growing demand for environmentally preferable services while contributing to a greener future.

Congratulations to Fortis Native Group on this outstanding accomplishment!

**AL#2022005**



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**PICTURED** left to right: Louise Gaskey, Stephen Potts, Mary Alice Potts Murphy, Sylvia Hinton, and Regina Lynch

## POARCH CREEK INDIANS HONORED BY THE COTTON STREET GALLERY IN ANDALUSIA

By Lauren Giddeons & Karen Rodriguez

T

he Cotton Street Gallery, known for showcasing regional art and history, recently paid tribute to the Poarch Creek Indians efforts in supporting the arts and local communities. The Tribe was honored by the gallery, located in Andalusia, for their ongoing contributions to Alabama's cultural landscape. This recognition highlighted the Tribe's commitment to preserving their rich heritage.

The Poarch Creek Indians Regalia and Traditional Art Reproduction celebrated the rich history of handcrafted regalia and traditional art. Items displayed included Pow Wow and Princess regalia, basketry, quilts, reproduction pottery, and copper medallions, as well as arrowheads on loan from the Covington County Historical Museum. The Emmy Award-winning documentary *The Forgotten Creeks*, also aired continuously at the gallery during the exhibition.

"We were thrilled to showcase the Poarch Creek Indians and reinforce their importance to the state's history and future," said Sue Wiggins, owner of the Cotton Street Gallery. "We are grateful to those who took the opportunity to learn about the Tribe and their cultural preservation."

Sponsored events included a meeting of the Covington Historical Society at the Gallery to hear Stephen Potts speak on the history of the Poarch Creek Indians and a day for people to bring arrowheads and artifacts to be evaluated by local arrowhead expert Bobby Davis of Red Level, Ala. Other events such as making arrowheads (knapping) and atlatl (also known as a spear-thrower or throwing-stick) exhibition are in the works. The Andalusia Public Library also participated by featuring books on Native American history and specifically Alabama Native American history.

Cotton Street Gallery looks forward to working with the Poarch Creek Indians in the future to help share their heritage and rich history in Alabama and especially Covington County.

The Cotton Street Gallery is located at 104 North Cotton Street in Andalusia. For more information on the gallery, visit [cottonstreetgallery.com](http://cottonstreetgallery.com).

“

*We were thrilled to showcase the Poarch Creek Indians and reinforce their importance to the state's history and future.*

**SUE WIGGINS,  
OWNER OF THE COTTON  
STREET GALLERY**

ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

# 2025 SPAY & NEUTER PROGRAM

**JANUARY 20 –  
FEBRUARY 28\***

*Monday – Friday  
9am – 4pm*

Vouchers expire on  
June 30, 2025.

\*or until funding is depleted

The Environmental Department will be giving out spay/neuter vouchers for cats and dogs. Only one voucher per Tribal Citizens will be allowed. These are available on a first-serve basis for Tribal Citizens only. Tribal Citizens must present their Tribal ID to receive spay/neuter voucher and at their veterinary office to receive services. Tribal Citizens must pick a vet clinic that PCI has a signed agreement with. Please reach out to the Environmental Department for the list of approved vets.

**QUESTIONS?** Call (251) 368-9136 ext. 2316

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



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
DEPARTMENT**



# New Year, New You

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~~was \$1,795~~

**NOW \$998\***



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CIC**  
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~~was \$1,995~~

**NOW \$1,495\***



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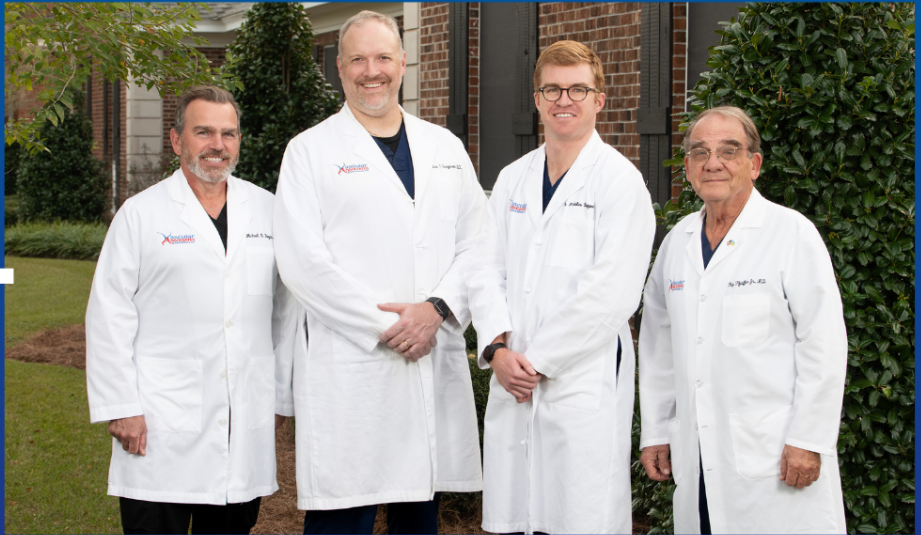
For more details and Alabama resources,  
visit [asbdc.org](http://asbdc.org). Or find your nearest SBDC at  
[americassbdc.org/find-your-sbdc-iframe/](http://americassbdc.org/find-your-sbdc-iframe/)



*Growing Alabama's Economy,  
One Small Business at a Time*

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# YOUR PATH TO OPTIMAL VASCULAR HEALTH



Pictured Left to Right

Michael Hogan, MD FACS, Lee Ferguson, DO FACS,  
Nicholas Clapper DO, Ralph Pfeiffer Jr. MD FACS

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- ◆ **Aortic Aneurysms**





Government Relations  
and Public Affairs Office

5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502

# CREEK CORNER

## JANUARY 2025 IMPORTANT DATES

- |       |   |         |
|-------|---|---------|
| 1.1   | <b>GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSED</b> New Year's Day |         |
| 1.2   | <b>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b> February Issue       |         |
| 1.2   | <b>TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING</b> TC Chambers       | 4:00 PM |
| 1.3   | <b>FAMILY COURT</b> Tribal Courtroom            | 9:30 AM |
| 1.6-7 | <b>MUSEUM GIFT SHOP CLOSED</b> Inventory        |         |
| 1.7   | <b>TRIBAL COURT</b> Tribal Courtroom            | 9:00 AM |
| 1.16  | <b>TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING</b> TC Chambers       | 4:00 PM |
| 1.17  | <b>FAMILY COURT</b> Tribal Courtroom            | 9:30 AM |
| 1.17  | <b>CULTURAL EXCHANGE APPLICATION DEADLINE</b>   | 5:00 PM |
| 1.21  | <b>TRIBAL COURT</b> Tribal Courtroom            | 9:00 AM |