



NOVEMBER
2024

No. 35

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the POARCH CREEK INDIANS

creek corner

THE NATIVE LEGACY

OF *Valor* AND *Sacrifice*

**SHELLY CHAVIRA APPOINTED TO GOVERNOR
IVEY'S NEW ALABAMA WORKFORCE BOARD**

Page 26



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 kmothershed@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 kmothershed@pci-nsn.gov.

OUR MISSION	4
NEXT DIRECTOR NAMED FOR BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. . .	6
THE ECONOMIC RIPPLE EFFECTS OF TRIBAL GAMING AND FEDERAL CONTRACTING	8
DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: CULTURAL DEPARTMENT	10
THE AUDACITY TO SURVIVE	14
HONORING NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS: A LEGACY OF VALOR AND SACRIFICE	16
POARCH 101: HOMER JACK DAUGHTRY, A FIGHT FOR EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS	20
MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS: THERE, THERE	22
LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: CODY WILLIAMSON, BLAZING NEW TRAILS FOR THE TRIBE	24
SHELLY CHAVIRA APPOINTED TO GOVERNOR IVEY'S NEW ALABAMA WORKFORCE BOARD	26
POARCH CREEK INDIANS HELPS RAISE MUCH NEEDED FUNDS FOR DUMAS WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER	27
POARCH CREEK INDIANS DONATES \$25,000 TO MAGIC MOMENTS HELPING SPREAD JOY TO CHILDREN ACROSS ALABAMA	28
WIND CREEK CELEBRATES BUCKMASTERS, SALVATION ARMY AT EXPO.	30
THE HOLIDAYS ARE LIGHTING UP AT OWA	32
BULLETIN	35



MEGAN ZAMORA
Editor, Creek Corner

“It’s important to acknowledge that...we aren’t born with all the knowledge about our culture and history. We must continually seek to learn and grow.”

FROM THE EDITOR: CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY YEAR-ROUND

“

A

s we enter the month of November, we are reminded of the many special observances that take place during this time—Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, and a variety of cultural events that celebrate our history as Native people. For the Poarch Creek Indians, these moments hold a deep significance. They remind us of the sacrifices our ancestors made and the strength that our community continues to embody today.

Veteran’s Day is especially meaningful, as many Tribal Citizens have served this country with honor. It’s an important time to reflect on their bravery and their contributions to our shared history. Thanksgiving, too, is a time for reflection, though we know that for Native peoples, this holiday carries a complex and sometimes painful history. Yet, it’s also an opportunity to educate and reshape the narrative around our culture and contributions, extending the story beyond this single month.

November may be designated as Native American Heritage Month, but we know that our history and culture are not confined to 30 days. Our legacy lives in the stories we tell, the traditions we uphold, and the education we share every day of the year. Native American history is American history, and it should be shared and celebrated 365 days a year.

One of the most powerful tools for ensuring that our stories are told is through education. I am proud to say that the Poarch Creek Indians provided valuable input on Alabama’s Social Studies Course of Study, ensuring that future generations of students learn the true history and contributions of the Tribe. This is especially significant because education has always been a cornerstone of our community’s progress.

One such story comes from Jack Daughtry, a Tribal Citizen who fought tirelessly for equal education opportunities for Tribal children. His dedication to securing a brighter future through education is a legacy we can all take pride in. Stories like his are a reminder that the fight for fair and accurate representation in education is ongoing—and it’s a fight worth continuing.

It’s important to acknowledge that while we are born into a particular race or nationality of people, we aren’t born with all the knowledge about our culture and history. We, too, must continually seek to learn and grow. In that spirit, I encourage all of us, whether we are Tribal Citizens or allies, to take advantage of resources like the Native Knowledge 360° (NK360) (<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360>) program. NK360 offers valuable insights into Native American history and culture, providing us with the knowledge to teach others and help ensure that our stories are told truthfully and respectfully.

As we move through this season of reflection, let us remember that sharing our history and culture is not just a November activity. It is a year-round commitment—a responsibility we all share to ensure that our legacy is not only preserved but celebrated every day.

Mvto (thank you) for being a part of this journey with us.



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 & CEO*
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





MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY MOMENT.

From bowling and movies to video games and frozen yogurt, you find lots of ways to play at Wind Creek Atmore. Discover all the fun at WindCreekAtmore.com.



WIND CREEK®

(866) WIND-360

©2024 Wind Creek Hospitality. Management reserves all rights.



NEXT DIRECTOR NAMED FOR BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

By the U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland today announced that Bryan Mercier has been selected to serve as the next director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior. Mercier, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, has served as the director of the BIA Northwest Regional Office since 2018.

“Bryan has demonstrated exceptional leadership ability, and I’m excited for what he brings to this role,” Newland said. “We held a comprehensive recruitment and selection process to identify the best candidate, and Bryan stood out for his vision of the future of BIA and skills to achieve that vision.”

Mercier has spent 20 years working in public service. His federal career started with the U.S. Forest Service, followed by a few years as a program manager at the Department of the Treasury’s Community Development Financial Institution Fund. Prior to the BIA, Bryan served as the Executive Manager of Fish and Wildlife for the Bonneville Power Administration’s Environment, Fish and Wildlife Program, which is the largest environmental mitigation program in the United States.

“I’ve had the privilege of serving in four federal agencies, Energy, Treasury, Agriculture and Interior, each with unique missions. None have a mission as important and fulfilling as BIA’s,” said Mercier. “I’m truly honored to be selected as the bureau’s next director and look forward to building on Darryl LaCounte’s sound leadership to support Tribal sovereignty,

strengthen Indian self-determination, and continue to improve our services by making the bureau an employer of choice for Native people.”

Mercier holds an undergraduate degree in business administration from the University of Oregon, a graduate certificate in economics from the Universitaet Freiburg in Germany, and a graduate degree in human rights and international law from the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid in Spain.

Mercier will be acting BIA director effective September 8, 2024, and will be formally appointed to the position when current BIA Director Darryl LaCounte retires later this year.

“Darryl taught me a lot about what it means to serve, in a way that respects those we serve,” Newland said. “I am incredibly grateful for the work we’ve done together and for the work he has accomplished for Indian people throughout his career.”

LaCounte, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians located in North Dakota, is retiring after 36 years of distinguished service to Indian Country. He was appointed as BIA director in 2019.

“It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve the bureau for almost four decades,” said LaCounte. “In my tenure, we have placed thousands of acres into the federal trust, streamlined administrative processes, and updated federal policy to make it easier and less burdensome for Tribal governments to practice self-governance. I’m proud of the diverse work our employees achieve every day to make Indian Country safer, more prosperous, and equitable for all. With Mercier’s guidance, the BIA will continue striving to provide innovative and critical services to the 574 federally recognized Tribes BIA serves.”

LaCounte began his federal career in 1988 at the BIA Wind River Agency in Fort Washakie, Wyoming, as an oil and gas specialist in the real estate services branch of the Office of Trust Services. He then served as director of the BIA Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Billings, Montana, which serves eight federally recognized Tribes in Montana and Wyoming. He went on to serve as the acting deputy bureau director for Trust Services at the BIA’s headquarters in Washington, D.C., before assuming leadership of the bureau. LaCounte received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern Montana College (now Montana State University).

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS

advises the Secretary of the Interior on Indian Affairs policy issues; communicates policy to and oversees the programs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration;

“
...Bryan stood
out for his vision
of the future
of BIA and skills
to achieve
that vision.”

**BRYAN NEWLAND,
ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FOR
INDIAN AFFAIRS**



provides leadership in consultations with Tribes; and serves as the DOI official for intra- and inter-departmental coordination and liaison within the Executive Branch on matters concerning American Indians and Alaska Natives and the federally recognized Tribes in the United States.

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

directly administers and funds Tribally operated infrastructure, law enforcement and justice, social services, Tribal governance, and trust land and natural and energy resources management programs for the Nation's federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes through four offices: Indian Services, Justice Services, Trust Services and Field Operations.



BRYAN MERCIER

Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
in the U.S. Department of the Interior

Photo from Facebook

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 603J732; 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**



THE ECONOMIC RIPPLE EFFECTS OF TRIBAL GAMING AND FEDERAL CONTRACTING

By Hue Nguyen and Jay Weiner for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

A Center for Indian Country Development webinar explored the symbiotic relationships between tribes and local and regional economies

W

hen Native economies thrive, their neighboring economies thrive. New work from the Center for Indian Country Development (CICD), presented at a July webinar on “Economic Impact Beyond Tribal Economies,” provides data about the deep and wide economic impact of the two largest and fastest-growing sources of revenue in Indian Country: tribal gaming and federal contracting. This research, said CICD Director and Minneapolis Fed Vice President Casey Lozar, demonstrates “the symbiotic relationship between tribally owned enterprises and local and regional economies.”

SPILLOVER EFFECTS

CICD Senior Research Assistant Elliot Charette presented on “Quantifying Gaming Spillovers,” based on a working paper, written with Alice Tianbo Zhang and Matthew Gregg, that quantifies the “agglomeration spillovers” created by tribal casinos. That is, the authors estimate how casinos not only bring in their own business but also attract visitors to nearby businesses, both on and off reservation.

The significant direct economic impact is known. In 2023, 527 tribally owned gaming operations nationally generated about \$42 billion in revenue. Charette and his colleagues dived deeper into how that massive impact spills over to other enterprises.

“

This [research] shows that when tribes do well, everyone around them does well.

TRALYNNA
SHERRILL SCOTT,
CHEROKEE NATION
BUSINESSES

They examined how consumer traffic to local businesses changed when nearby tribal casinos reopened after COVID-19 stay-at-home orders were lifted. Because tribes reopened casinos on a week-by-week basis, the research employed high-frequency data based on cell phone locations. For example, the researchers estimate that foot traffic to businesses within 0.5 miles of a casino increased by roughly 200 percent when a tribal casino reopened. In other words, nearby businesses saw three times as many visitors after reopenings because casinos act as anchors to surrounding businesses—that is, they are place-based investments that are large enough to have a systemic effect on the communities they inhabit. This spillover was substantial up to 1.5 miles away, with the largest effects among leisure and hospitality businesses located both on and off reservation.

In his presentation, Charette pointed to the policy implications of the research findings that show the inextricable connections between tribal economic activity and its surrounding region. For one, in Indian Country, tribal and state governments often have overlapping or double-taxing authority. Charette said that taxing the same business or economic activity twice likely impedes economic activity. He concluded that this “interconnectedness provides additional rationale and incentives for closer economic cooperation between tribal and state governments.”

TRIBES, SMALL BUSINESSES, AND SUBCONTRACTORS

Next, CICD Policy Analyst Jacqui Baldwin-LeClair presented on “Interconnection of Native-Entity Enterprises to Small Business Subcontractors,” based on analysis developed with CICD Research Assistant Ava LaPlante. Their findings mirror those that Charette presented.

Federal contracting is an expanding revenue source for Native entities, defined as tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations. CICD research shows that Native-entity enterprises regularly subcontract to small businesses, many of which are non-Native-owned.

In 2022, for example, 7.1 percent of the dollars earned from prime federal contracts awarded to Native-entity enterprises were, in turn, awarded to small business subcontractors. Moreover, 92.9 percent of the total small business subcontracts from Native-entity enterprises’ prime contracts go to non-Native-owned businesses. The research also examined small business subcontracts that were part of contracts awarded to Native-entity enterprises

for construction projects. It found that nearly 76 percent of these contracts included subcontracting to small businesses located within 250 miles of the project’s primary worksite. So, like the impact of casinos on local and regional economies, Native enterprise subcontracts affect regional small businesses, Native-owned and non-Native-owned.

IDENTIFYING OTHER AREAS FOR MEANINGFUL RESEARCH

The two pieces of CICD quantitative research teed up a conversation among UCLA Professor Randall Akee, Cherokee Nation Businesses Chief Economist Tralynna Sherrill Scott, and CICD Director Lozar.

“This [research] shows that when tribes do well, everyone around them does well,” said Scott, who pointed to the direct correlation between gaming and the proliferation of tribal engagement with federal contracting.

She said the Cherokee Nation leveraged cash flows from its gaming operations to support its federal contracting work. “Federal contracting can be a result of gaming spillover,” Scott said, thus linking the relevance of both CICD analyses.

Akee, Scott, and Lozar brainstormed about other research areas that could produce the kinds of insights triggered by the CICD’s gaming and subcontracting impacts work and, therefore, inform policymakers. “It’s a heavy lift to get the data, to do the analysis, to do it right, and to put it out there in a format that is also digestible and usable by the policy world, [and] the advocacy world, because it shouldn’t all be just academic speak,” said Akee.

Those other explorations could include the impact of health care facilities and services on surrounding Native-owned and non-Native-owned businesses, and the economic

effects of tribal housing, natural resources, unemployment, and even Native life expectancy. Akee urged tribal leaders to tell researchers “where the opportunities for research are.”

“States and tribes don’t always play nice together,” Scott said, “but when we have ... emotionless studies that show the true impact of tribes across the nation, those can be taken to the policymakers.”

Echoing the findings of the CICD research, Scott added: “States and tribes, if they worked together, could have such a greater impact than working against each other.”

“
The
interconnectedness
[between tribal
economic activity
and surrounding
regions] provides
additional rationale
and incentives for
closer economic
cooperation between
tribal and state
governments.

ELLIOT CHARETTE,
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF MINNEAPOLIS



DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT:

CULTURAL DEPARTMENT

By Ashlee “Katie” Mothershed

The Cultural Department of the Poarch Creek Indians stands as a beacon of cultural preservation and education, dedicated to fostering an understanding and appreciation of the Tribe’s rich heritage. Comprising a seven-member Calvin McGhee Cultural Advisory Board and a dedicated full-time staff, the department oversees an array of cultural initiatives, educational programs, and significant events that celebrate the Tribe’s traditions and history.

GOVERNANCE AND ACTIVITIES

The Cultural Department is entrusted with managing all cultural education initiatives, the use of the Pow Wow Grounds, and the execution of various cultural programs and events. These efforts are guided by the Board of Directors and Tribal Council, whose vision and leadership ensure that the Tribe’s cultural legacy is preserved and promoted for future generations.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

The Cultural Department hosts several unique and significant events each year, providing opportunities for community members and visitors to engage with Poarch Creek culture:

Creek Indian Art Show:

This event showcases the incredible talents of Tribal artists, offering a platform for them to display their work and for the community to appreciate the beauty of Creek art.

Southeastern Indian Festival:

A highlight of the department’s annual calendar, this festival invites the public, including many school groups, to experience the vibrant cultures of Southeastern tribes. Through demonstrations of traditional dances, storytelling, and living history exhibits, the festival educates attendees about the deep cultural roots of the region.

Calvin McGhee Memorial:

Named in honor of a pivotal figure in the Tribe’s history, this memorial event serves as a tribute to Calvin McGhee’s contributions and the lasting impact of his leadership on the Poarch Creek community.

Annual Thanksgiving Pow Wow:

Perhaps the most anticipated event of the year, this two-day celebration is a homecoming that brings together families, friends, and neighbors. Visitors to the Pow Wow can explore a marketplace of unique crafts and goods from local artisans, indulge in festival favorites like barbeque, oak wood fire-roasted corn, and buffalo burgers, and enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with turkey and dressing.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Beyond events, the Cultural Department is deeply committed to education. It offers a variety of classes, demonstrations, and learning opportunities designed to enrich the knowledge of local communities, schools, and other Tribal departments. These programs help to ensure that cultural knowledge is passed down through generations and shared widely with those outside the Tribe.

In an effort to adapt to modern times and expand its reach, the Cultural Department also leverages digital platforms to share its resources. By periodically posting educational videos online, the department broadens its outreach and provides accessible information to those interested in learning more about Poarch Creek culture.

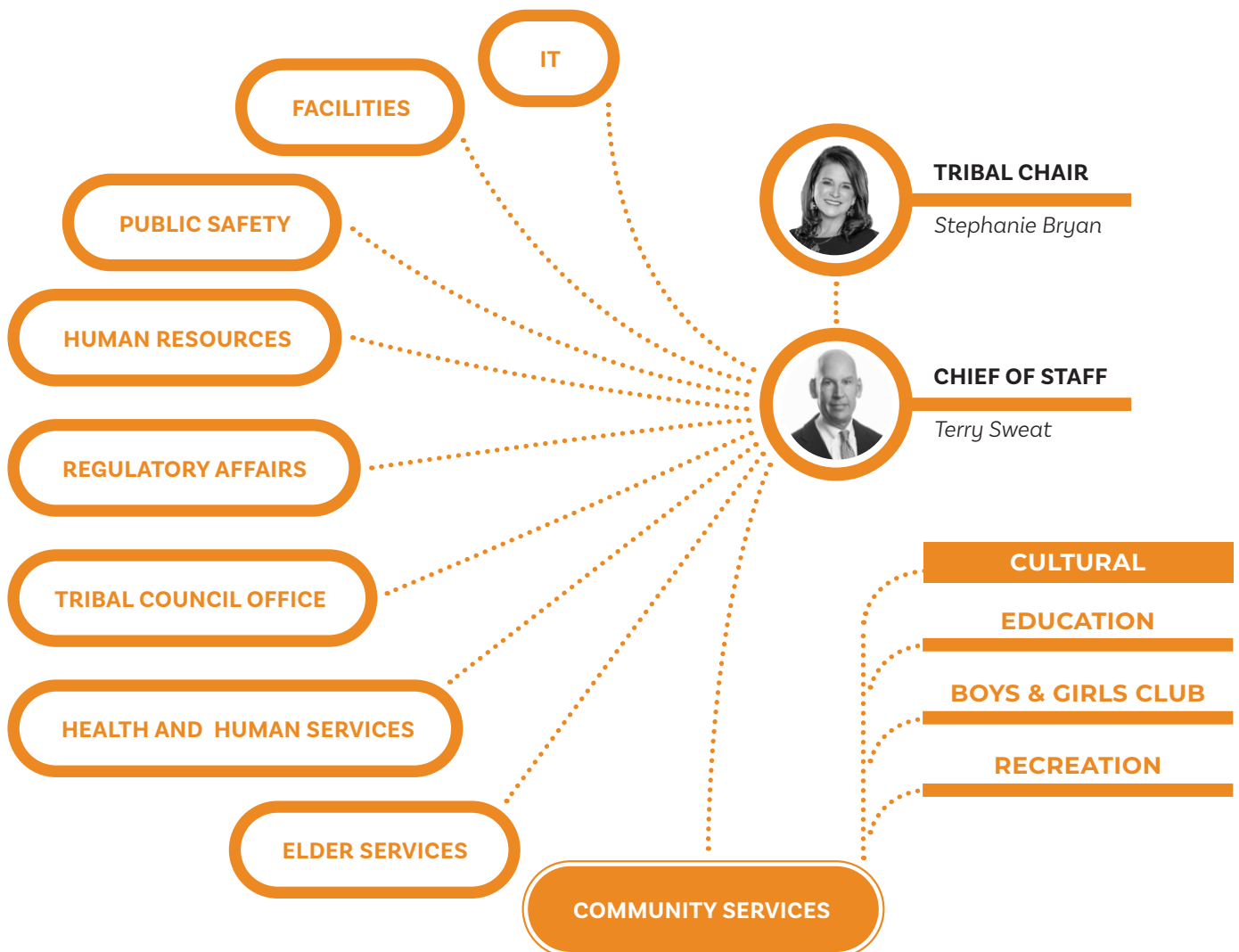


Scan the QR code to explore the educational opportunities the Poarch Creek Indians' Cultural Department's has to offer.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At the heart of the Cultural Department's mission is the celebration of cultural heritage with the broader community. Whether through the engaging experiences at the Southeastern Indian Festival or the warm, welcoming atmosphere of the Thanksgiving Pow Wow, the department ensures that the Tribe's traditions are not only preserved but also actively shared with others.

Through these efforts, the Cultural Department plays a crucial role in the Tribal Government, serving as both a steward of cultural history and a bridge to the future, where the rich traditions of the Poarch Creek Indians continue to thrive and inspire.





MANAGING Hearing Loss Near the Holidays

Holidays with hearing loss may feel isolating, but following these tips will help you hear your best.



Request that music be turned down at mealtime.



Pick a seat where you can see other guests' faces to help with lip-reading.



Have hearing aids? Wear them with confidence!



Schedule a hearing aid cleaning to ensure your aids are working their best.

Put Your Hearing to the Test!

Take our FREE 5-minute hearing screener.





OVER 1000 ONLINE REVIEWS

YOUR #1 TRUSTED TEAM OF HEARING PROFESSIONALS

Experience hearing care that comes highly recommended.

OUR TEAM OFFERS:

- Comprehensive hearing treatment plans
- Ear cleanings and evaluations by medical doctors
- A wide variety of hearing aids from popular manufacturers
- Evidence-based audiology best practices
- Ongoing follow-up care and support

“

*“You will leave
your appointment with
confidence that you
are well cared for.”*

-Google Review

”

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



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



Elizabeth Pickett, Au.D., CCC-A

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



THE AUDACITY TO SURVIVE

By Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ed.D.

“

W

e had the audacity to survive,” said Chief Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Cherokee Nation, to an audience of more than 200 at the unveiling of the wall mural at Collier Library at the University of North Alabama on September 12. The event, held in Florence, Alabama, was sponsored in part by the Alabama Trail of Tears Association in which the Poarch Creek Indians holds membership.

The wall mural interpreted routes taken on the Trail of Tears and is titled, “Tears and Triumphs: Honoring North Alabama’s First Peoples.” It was designed by University students, led by Professor Sean T. Jacobson, who serves on the Board of the Trail of Tears Association.

Chief Hoskin said history demonstrates they “endured forced removal. They resisted the great injustice by the government of the United States. They rebuilt, with grit and courage.”

He said he wants young people to know they endured by developing friendships “during our darkest moments, others lifted us up.”

Non-Natives saw what was happening and said, “That’s not right! They joined us. It filled us with strength so we could endure,” he said.

“The mural is part of the larger story,” he said. It carries “important lessons. We cannot change what happened but we can remember. We can speak truthfully about history.”

The Alabama Trail of Tears Association Board member, Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees, and her husband, Henehv Douglas Kelley, attended the event and spoke to students who worked on the mural. Students stated that, through making the mural, they gained expanded knowledge about the strength of Alabama’s Indigenous peoples who persevered under the Removal Act of 1830.

The following day, Dr. Dees and Kelley attended the Alabama Trail of Tears Association Annual Membership Meeting at the University. Association President, Judy Sizemore, shared information about the Board’s wide-ranging activities over the past year. The Association has been responsible for erecting historical markers around the State of Alabama that identify and interpret land and water routes that Indigenous people traveled during removal.

Chief Hoskin spoke at this event, as well, saying he appreciated the work the Association was doing. He thanked the Board for keeping Indigenous history alive while books are being banned from schools about the treatment of Indigenous people.

Members of the Poarch Creek Indians also gained knowledge about the treatment of Indigenous people at the Book Talk by Dr. Christopher D. Haveman at the Bradshaw Building on September 10. On the PowerPoint screen, he showed the routes Creeks traveled and shared documents that supported his research from his book, *Rivers of Sand*.

He said Creeks were loaded onto a keelboat at Tuscumbia Landing in 1827. He noted that the non-Natives saw their appalling treatment and made “liberal donations” to them, especially the elders and infants, thus marking the importance of non-Native allies that Chief Hoskin talked about.

Dr. Haveman described another route, in 1834-1835, where Creeks were loaded onto a steamboat and a keelboat in the icy winter to go across the swamps to the Mississippi River. He said the route was completely iced over and was nearly impassable. “All who traveled through it suffered,” he said.

Harsh conditions and broken treaties abounded. He said, “The 1832 Treaty of Washington completely and comprehensively destroyed the Creek Nation in the East,” but Creeks continued to resist in many ways.

He said he thought Creeks were practicing the Green Corn Ceremony while camped on one of the routes which he mapped on the screen. It demonstrated how important Creek cultural ceremonies were, he said, because Creeks practiced their religion in defiance of removal. They refused to give up.

The Book Talk was sponsored by the Regulatory Affairs Division and Auburn University Draughton Seminars in State and Local History.

Another event that focused on removal was The Walk of Life in Tuscumbia, Alabama, attended by Dr. Dees and Kelley on September 14, after the Trail of Tears Association events.

Despite the rain brought on by Hurricane Francine which cancelled the Oka Kapassa Festival scheduled for that weekend, attendees joined organizers Robert and Annie Perry to go the opposite way on the Trail of Tears, respectfully led by police escort.

Dr. Dees was asked by the Perrys to give the welcome at The Walk of Life. Standing beside Sheffield Mayor, Steve Stanley, who serves with Dr. Dees on the Board of the Alabama Chapter Trail of Tears Association, she said solemnly, “We commemorate those who walked the Trail of Tears, and those who did not make it.”

She spoke of the non-Native allies of the area who gave food and water to those being forced onto boats at Tuscumbia Landing. She restated what Chief Hoskin had said, that they endured by developing friendships “during our darkest moments. Others lifted us up.”

The first meeting on The Walk of Life was held in Tuscumbia and originated twenty-two years ago by Walter Hill, Perry said. She recounted that our Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Robert Thrower, Jr. (1961-2017), was in attendance that day. She said he stood up and said, “We will walk with you!” The Poarch Creek Indians has been walking with them ever since.

His daughter, Sehoy Thrower, who attended with him numerous times, said her father “felt that Tuscumbia was a special place because historically, its people were uniquely kind to Native people who were being forced to Oklahoma. They show that same hospitality to this day.”

“It’s a homecoming, taking the Trail the other way,” Perry said. “It reminds us of our ancestors that walked. We are walking in the steps of people who were removed. It honors those still here.”

In the spirit of Chief Hoskin, The Walk of Life honors those who had the audacity to survive. **MVTO.**

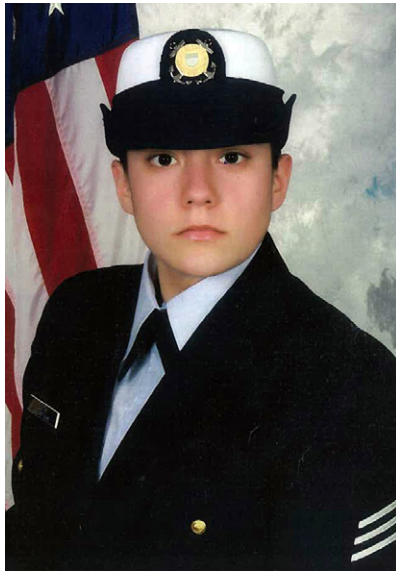


The wall mural interpreted routes taken on the Trail of Tears and is titled, “Tears and Triumphs: Honoring North Alabama’s First Peoples.”



HONORING NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS: A LEGACY OF VALOR AND SACRIFICE

By Ashlee "Katie" Mothershed



31,000

*Number of
Native Americans
on active duty*

Native American veterans have long played a significant role in the defense of the United States, demonstrating exceptional courage, skill, and dedication. Their contributions to the military span centuries, from the earliest days of the republic to contemporary conflicts. Yet, their experiences are often overlooked or underappreciated in the broader narrative of American military history. As we reflect on their service, it is crucial to recognize both their historical and ongoing sacrifices, as well as the unique challenges they face.


A LEGACY ROOTED IN TRADITION

Native Americans have a long tradition of warrior culture, deeply embedded in their societies. This tradition has seamlessly translated into their roles within the U.S. military. Historically, Native American warriors were integral to their communities, responsible not only for protection but also for upholding their people's values and way of life. This deep sense of duty and honor continues to drive Native Americans to serve in the armed forces at per capita rates higher than any other ethnic group in the United States.

During World War I, though many Native Americans were not yet U.S. citizens, they volunteered to fight in significant numbers. Over 12,000 Native Americans served in World War I, and their bravery on the battlefield earned them widespread respect and recognition. This trend continued in World War II, where over 44,000 Native Americans served, including the famous Navajo Code Talkers, whose unbreakable code played a critical role in the Pacific Theater.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

In modern times, Native American veterans have continued to serve with distinction. They have participated in every major conflict, from Korea and Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, there are more than 31,000 Native Americans on active duty, and tens of thousands more veterans. Their service is not just a continuation of their warrior tradition but also a profound expression of their commitment to protecting the land that is sacred to them and their ancestors.



*They serve a country that
has not always respected...
or acknowledged their rights.
Yet...they have remained
steadfast in their commitment
to service.*

Love you Always

However, contemporary Native American veterans often face unique challenges that stem from their dual identity as both citizens of sovereign nations and the United States. Issues such as access to adequate healthcare, particularly mental health services, housing, and employment opportunities are significant concerns for many Native veterans. The struggle to balance their cultural identity with their role as American servicemembers can also lead to feelings of isolation and a lack of understanding from the broader veteran community.

THE UNSEEN SACRIFICES

Native American veterans carry with them not only the burden of war but also the weight of their people's history. They serve a country that has not always respected their sovereignty, honored treaties, or acknowledged their rights. Yet, despite these injustices, they have remained steadfast in their commitment to service. This paradox is a testament to their resilience and a reminder of the complex history that Native Americans navigate as they serve in the military. The contributions of Native American veterans go beyond the battlefield. They bring a unique perspective and set of values to their service—values rooted in respect for the land, community, and tradition. Their leadership in the military often extends to leadership within their tribes, where they are revered not just as warriors but as protectors of their culture and way of life.

MOVING FORWARD: RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT

As a nation, we must do more to recognize and support Native American veterans. This means not only honoring their service with words but also ensuring that they have access to the resources they need to thrive after their military careers. It is vital to address the systemic issues that disproportionately affect Native veterans, from healthcare disparities to the preservation of their cultural identities within the military framework.

Additionally, their stories should be integrated into the broader narrative of American military history. Museums, educational institutions, and media must take greater steps to include the contributions and experiences of Native American veterans, ensuring that their legacy is preserved for future generations.

In conclusion, Native American veterans have made and continue to make profound contributions to the United States. Their service is a powerful testament to their strength, resilience, and unwavering commitment to their people and country. As we honor all veterans, we must pay special tribute to the unique legacy of Native American servicemembers—a legacy of valor, sacrifice, and unshakable spirit.



POARCH CREEK INDIANS PROVIDES VALUABLE INPUT ON ALABAMA'S K-12 SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

By Megan Zamora

The Poarch Creek Indians has taken a significant step forward in shaping the future of education in Alabama by providing input on the state's Course of Study for Social Studies for students in grades Kindergarten through 12th. This marks an important moment for the Tribe, allowing us to ensure that our history, culture, and perspectives are accurately represented in the classroom.

Stephanie A. Bryan, Poarch's Chair and CEO noted, "We are the only federally recognized Tribe in Alabama, and our unique and rich history is an important part of the story of this great state. By collaborating with the Alabama Department of Education on the standards for Social Studies, we can ensure that our unique story is not only historically accurate, but authentic. We are heartened that having this opportunity to provide counsel and context to this curriculum will make it possible for Alabama students to learn about our heritage through a lens of respect and understanding."

One of the most meaningful aspects of this collaboration is the opportunity to address and dispel long-standing stereotypes about Native Americans. Too often, Indigenous peoples have been portrayed through reductive or outdated narratives that fail to capture the complexity of our cultures. By contributing to the curriculum, the Poarch Creek Indians can offer a more nuanced and accurate portrayal of Native American history, challenging misconceptions and fostering a deeper understanding among students of all backgrounds.

This effort is also closely tied to the broader movement to include more voices and perspectives in education. Ensuring that the stories of Native peoples are told is a matter of equity—our history is American history, and it

deserves a rightful place in the classroom. By integrating accurate and respectful representations of Native American cultures into the curriculum, we are helping to build a more inclusive learning environment, where all students can see themselves reflected in what they study.

Blake Busbin with the Alabama State Department of Education shared, "The Alabama State Department of Education welcomes the voices of all Alabamians in the process of crafting the social studies course of study. In addition to the broader study of the United States of America and the world, our hope is that this course of study enables students to reflect on the rich history of our state, educate them about the Alabama of today, and, lastly, prepare them to be the leading citizens of tomorrow."

Our involvement in this process not only benefits Native American students, who will feel a sense of pride and belonging when they see their heritage recognized, but it also enriches the educational experience of non-Native students by exposing them to a wider range of perspectives. This is how we build understanding, empathy, and unity across cultures.

As we move forward in this process, the Poarch Creek Indians remains committed to working closely with educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders to ensure that the Social Studies standards are inclusive and representative of the diverse histories that make up Alabama's story. This collaboration is a testament to our Tribe's ongoing efforts to protect our culture and educate future generations in a way that honors the truth of who we are.

*Together, we can create a brighter,
more inclusive future for all students in Alabama.*



Blanket Drive

*Help Creek Travel Stores
collect blankets for the homeless
by donating a new or gently used blanket.*

**COLLECTION DATES:
OCTOBER 15- NOVEMBER 25, 2024**

**DROP OFF LOCATIONS:
4740 JACK SPRINGS RD. POARCH, AL
116 POARCH RD. ATMORE, AL
100 BROOKWOOD RD. ATMORE, AL**

POARCH 101:
Homer Jack
Daughtry
**A FIGHT
FOR EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS**

*Submitted by the Poarch Creek Indians
Tribal Historic Preservation Department*



PICTURED Jack Daughtry with twin daughters Earline and Pearline

Homer Jack Daughtry's fight for educational rights for a small group of Native Americans in South Alabama reflects the determination of the Poarch Creek community to ensure their children had access to education. Born in 1901, Daughtry grew up at a time when Native American children were often denied educational opportunities due to systemic discrimination.

EARLY LIFE AND STRUGGLES

Growing up in the Poarch Creek community, Daughtry experienced firsthand the difficulties of accessing education. His family, like many others, lived in poverty, and Indian schools were poorly funded, with inadequate one-room outbuildings. Daughtry himself attended school only through the third or fourth grade. His mother struggled to pay the \$1.25 per child monthly tuition, and like many Native children, he often had to walk a long distance to school.

For Poarch Creek families, the Indian Consolidated School was essential, yet it only provided education up to the sixth grade. When smaller Indian schools in surrounding hamlets closed, reaching the consolidated school became challenging for children in outlying areas. The educational prospects of Poarch Creek children were in jeopardy, prompting Daughtry and others in the community to take action.

THE CLOSING OF INDIAN SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY'S FIGHT

The closure of Indian schools made it increasingly challenging for Poarch Creek children to continue their education. The lack of nearby schools that would accept

Native students left families with few options. In response, Daughtry took a significant step by purchasing a bus to transport children from outlying areas to the Indian Consolidated School. Mr. Dan McGhee (Uncle Dan) drove the bus, and this collective effort ensured that Indian children from as far away as Huxford, approximately 14 miles, could attend classes.

Even when Native children were allowed by law to attend junior and senior high schools like McCullough and Huxford, many faced difficulties due to systemic discrimination and transportation issues. Bus drivers often refused to pick them up, leaving families to struggle with how to ensure their children's continued education. Daughtry's decision to provide transportation to the consolidated school was instrumental in overcoming these barriers, although challenges remained.

WORKING WITH CALVIN MCGHEE AND THE COMMUNITY

While Daughtry played an essential role in providing solutions, he worked alongside community leaders and Calvin McGhee, advocating for better educational opportunities for Poarch Creek children. The community came together to address the push for expanded educational access. Together, they worked to ensure that Native children could continue their education beyond the sixth grade. The Tribal community's combined efforts were a testament to the resilience of the Poarch Creek people, who knew that securing education was key to improving the future of their community.

DEFINING ACTIONS IN THE FIGHT FOR EDUCATION

One of the defining moments in Daughtry's involvement came in the fall of 1947, when a school bus refused to pick up his twin daughters. He took a bold stand, stepping into the road to stop the bus and ensuring that his daughters were allowed on board. This act of defiance reflected the larger struggle for educational rights in the community. Though the issue was far from resolved, Daughtry's actions helped highlight the injustices Native children faced daily.

Beyond his own family, Daughtry remained committed to improving access to education for all Poarch Creek children. When transportation continued to be a barrier, he took out a loan and arranged for his daughters to board in Atmore, ensuring they could continue their schooling. His efforts weren't about seeking recognition but about ensuring that future generations had the opportunities he and his peers were often denied.

LEGACY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Jack Daughtry's contributions, alongside those of leaders like Calvin McGhee, left a lasting impact on the Poarch Creek community. Their collective fight for educational rights helped pave the way for future generations to receive an education that was denied to their parents and grandparents. Daughtry understood that education was essential for breaking the cycle of poverty and improving the future of the Poarch Creek people.

Reflecting on his life, Daughtry was proud of the progress made in securing educational opportunities for Native children. While there was still much work to be done, he believed in the power of education to transform lives. The community's collective efforts ensured that their children had the tools to succeed in an ever-changing world.

CONCLUSION

Homer Jack Daughtry's story is one of determination and action. Working alongside Tribal leaders and the entire Poarch Creek community, Daughtry played a key role in securing educational opportunities for Native children. His actions—whether providing transportation or standing up to discrimination—helped ensure that future generations could access the education they deserved. The Poarch Creek community's fight for education was a collective effort, and Daughtry's legacy, like that of the community, serves as a reminder that every step taken can lead to lasting change.



PICTURED Original Caption from the article "Escambia KILROI Chapter Chartered" in the November 2, 1961 issue of The Atmore Advance: Chief Calvin McGhee, of Atmore, at left, president of the Alabama Chapter of KILROI, and organization of descendants of Indians, is shown presenting a charter to Jack Daughtry of Atmore, president of the newly-organized Escambia County Chapter of KILROI, at a meeting held at the Poarch Indian School Saturday night.

WORKS CITED

Paredes, J. Anthony. Interview of Jack Daughtry, January 15, 1972.
Paredes, J. Anthony. Interview of Joyce McGhee, March 24, 1972.
"Escambia KILROI Chapter Chartered," The Atmore Advance, Vol. ? No. 17 November 2, 1961.

WANDERERS WELCOME

Atmore - Poarch - Wetumpka

CREEK
Travel Stores

WE'RE HIRING

*Find a
new
career
path*

CIEJOBS.COM 



FRONT POARCH DINER

Indian Taco

Fresh-made fry bread layered with seasoned ground beef lettuce, tomatoes and cheese, topped with salsa and sour cream.



4740 Jack Springs Rd. Atmore, AL

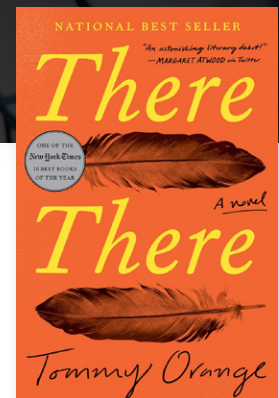


“Astonishing literary debut”

**MARGARET ATWOOD,
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
THE HANDMAID’S TALE**

There There

By Ashlee “Katie” Mothershed



T

here *There* is a powerful and multi-layered novel that follows the interconnected lives of twelve Native American characters living in Oakland, California. Each character grapples with their own sense of identity, displacement, and belonging in an urban setting, leading up to a dramatic convergence at the Big Oakland Powwow.

Tommy Orange’s storytelling is both raw and poetic, offering a contemporary perspective on the complexities of modern Native American life while addressing themes such as historical trauma, cultural survival, and resilience. The novel has received widespread acclaim for its honest portrayal of the urban Native American experience and its ability to give voice to characters who are often marginalized in literature.

This book is an excellent choice for anyone looking to deepen their understanding of Native American issues through compelling, character-driven storytelling.

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.

Share your recommendation
with Katie Mothershed at kmothershed@pci-nsn.gov.

Winner of the National
Book Critics Circle
John Leonard Prize



Winner of the Center for
Fiction First Novel Prize



Winner of the
PEN/Hemingway Award



One of the New York Times
10 Best Books of the Year



ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS

7-night cruise from Nuremberg to Budapest
December 5-12, 2026 | AmaLea



Date	Destination	Activities
Dec 2	Prague	Hotel Check-In Welcome Reception
Dec 3	Prague	"Golden City of a Hundred Spires" Tour & Christmas Markets OR Prague Castle Hike
Dec 4	Prague	Czech Beer Tasting
Dec 5	Prague	Hotel Check-Out Prague to Nuremberg Transfer Nuremberg Christmas Markets
	Nuremberg	RIVER CRUISE EMBARKATION
Dec 6	Nuremberg	Nuremberg City Tour & Christmas Markets OR Nuremberg Christmas Markets OR Tastes of Franconia
Dec 7	Regensburg	Regensburg Walking Tour and Thurn & Taxis Christmas Markets OR Thurn & Taxis Christmas Markets OR Tastes of Bavaria and Thurn & Taxis Christmas Markets OR Regensburg Guided Bike Tour
Dec 8	Passau	Passau Walking Tour & Christmas Markets OR River Inn Bike Tour OR Salzburg Excursion & Christmas Markets
Dec 9	Melk	Benedictine Abbey Tour OR Danube Bike Tour
	Vienna	OR Evening Vienna Rathaus Christmas Market
Dec 10	Vienna	"Imperial Vienna" Tour & Christmas Markets OR Vienna City Tour by Bike Schönbrunn Christmas Markets
Dec 11	Budapest	"Queen of the Danube" Tour & Christmas Markets OR Castle Hill Hike
Dec 12	Budapest	RIVER CRUISE DISEMBARKATION



ONBOARD CRUISE INCLUSIONS:

- » 7-night river cruise in elegantly appointed accommodations
- » Fine dining on board in multiple venues
- » Unlimited hand-selected wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch/dinner
- » Small group guided shore excursions with a variety of choices, including exclusive Special Interest, hiking and biking tours
- » Professionally trained Wellness Host leading wellness activities
- » Live local entertainment
- » Unlimited complimentary Wi-Fi access

OPTIONAL LAND PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:

- » Hotel accommodations with daily breakfast and city tour
- » Transfers between hotel and ship

Reserve by September 30, 2024

HOLIDAY TRIPLE SAVINGS
Save \$1,000 per person on cruise fare
Complimentary stateroom upgrade
\$100 onboard credit per stateroom

BOOK NOW

Cruise fares from ~~\$4,444~~ **\$3,444** per person
(includes port charges)

Ask about air, travel insurance and prepaid gratuities

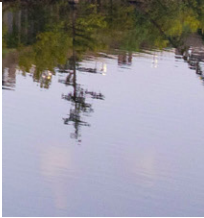
Optional Land Package
Pre-cruise 3 Nights Prague from \$975 per person

For more information, please contact:

Big Blue Go
Jerry Dienes
813-928-3423
JD@bigbluego.com
WWW.BigBlueGo.com

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

*Create a lifetime of cherished memories aboard our 2026
Iconic Christmas Market River Cruise on the Danube.
Immerse yourself in the enchanting glow of festive markets,
savor delectable cuisine, and experience the magic of
Europe's winter wonderland.*



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

CODY WILLIAMSON: BLAZING NEW TRAILS FOR THE TRIBE

By Jamie Sawyer



CODY WILLIAMSON
President and CEO, CIEDA

Growing up in a military family, Cody Williamson moved around as a young child. He didn't really understand his heritage until he moved back to his Tribal home in the fifth grade. He quickly realized he had more Creek relatives than he could have imagined. The grandson of Jack McGhee, Cody began to learn more about Tribal culture and became more involved in the traditions that his extended Tribal family shared.

Cody did well in school and eventually graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in finance. He went on to get his law degree from the University as well. Both degrees would serve him well in the years to come. He started his career in Atlanta, working for a boutique accounting firm focusing on corporate tax structure. He went on to work with Cox Communications before returning home to Poarch.

This experience served him well and he took a position with the Tribe's legal department upon his return. It was clear to Tribal leadership that Cody represented a new generation that could help the Tribe grow and thrive after achieving federal recognition. After the Tribe opened its first casino, he directed procurement and compliance for PCI Gaming. When the Tribe was developing Wind Creek Wetumpka, he was the ideal choice to manage the property. For the next seven years, Cody grew the property into a successful, sustainable operation.

While he was growing the gaming operation, he also served on the Board of Directors for Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority. This practical experience gave him unique insight into how the Tribe could reinvest gaming revenues to diversify its economic base. He saw how businesses in other industries could provide opportunities for Tribal



Citizens to develop careers outside of gaming. As he became more involved with CIEDA, he worked to grow existing Tribal businesses in manufacturing and other industries and used his legal and financial expertise to help identify investments in PCI Federal Services. He also put his hospitality experience to work growing CIEDA's portfolio of hotel properties.

In 2018, CIEDA named Williamson President and CEO. Under his leadership, the Tribe has seen phenomenal growth in its non-gaming enterprises. Poarch Creek Indians Federal Services has grown exponentially, expanding to more than a dozen business units through acquisition and organic growth opportunities. He has also overseen the successful development of OWA, building a record-setting indoor water park, wave pool, and surf simulator into the Tropic Falls theme. This is in addition to a new RV park as well as expanded retail properties onsite. CIEDA has also partnered with other real estate investment groups to develop hotel properties nationwide.

Anyone who has worked with Cody will recognize his no-nonsense approach to business. This has served him well in assessing

He is a hands-on leader who has had to learn to delegate as the organization has grown. This has made him a mentor to many in the Tribe, in the businesses he manages, and among the communities he serves.

investment opportunities and managing the investments CIEDA has made in new acquisitions and projects. The success and growth speak for themselves. He is a hands-on leader who has had to learn to delegate as the organization has grown. This has made him a mentor to many in the Tribe, in the businesses he manages, and among the communities he serves.

If you ask him to reflect on how he arrived in his current position, he will tell you that his Tribal heritage has played a key role in his professional development. When he returned to his Tribal home as a youngster, none of the businesses he oversees or has worked with even existed. As he looks back, he takes pride in the growth of the Tribe's businesses, but he never forgets where he came from. He looks at the opportunities presented to the next generation of Tribal leaders and hopes they don't take generations of perseverance for granted. His Tribal values guide him in his personal and professional life, and he credits that for both his success and the self-determination of the Tribe as a whole.



SHELLY CHAVIRA APPOINTED TO GOVERNOR IVEY'S NEW ALABAMA WORKFORCE BOARD

By Kristin Hellmich

Poarch Creek Indians proudly announce the appointment of Shelly Chavira to the newly established Alabama Workforce Board created by Governor Kay Ivey. The merging of the Alabama Workforce Council and the State Workforce Development Board into the Alabama Workforce Board is part of Governor Ivey's efforts to overhaul the state's workforce development initiatives, and better allow business and industry leaders to guide critical decisions impacting the state's public workforce.

Chavira's appointment to this board brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership experience, particularly in advancing the interests of Tribal communities. She has been a dedicated employee of the Tribe since 2009, initially serving in the Health Department as a medical assistant. In 2019, she assumed a position within the Tribe's Education Department and became the coordinator of the WIOA Grant in 2022. Her passion for helping people has always been evident. During this time her diligence and unwavering effort played a pivotal role in facilitating career guidance for adolescents, young adults, and other Tribal citizens. Chavira's endeavors over the years have been instrumental in dismantling employment barriers and enhancing employability for those within the community.

"As Shelly's direct supervisor, I'm very proud of her for being appointed by the Governor for this new initiative,"

said Magen Weaver, Senior Manager Education Department, Poarch Creek Indians. "I know that Shelly will add a unique perspective to the board that will be valuable to Tribal Citizens and the people of Alabama," she added.

"The appointment to the board came as a complete surprise," said Chavira, Workforce Development Manager, Poarch Creek Indians. "I have gained valuable insight from my experiences serving on the SWAPTE (Southwest Alabama Partnership for Training and Employment) Board, as well as the sub-committee for the SWAPTE Youth Grants and Programs. I intend to use that knowledge and experience in serving on the Alabama Workforce Board to help not only our Tribal citizens but the citizens of the state of Alabama in improving and revitalizing the Alabama workforce for the future."

"We are extremely proud and gratified that Shelly Chavira has been selected to serve on the Alabama Workforce Board," noted the Poarch Band of Creek Indians' Chairwoman and CEO, Stephanie Bryan. "Shelly has a deep understanding of the challenges of developing a workforce in rural America, and she is deeply committed to ensuring that Alabamians — no matter where they live and work in our great state — have opportunities to acquire the training they need for high-skill, high-wage jobs that will support families, attract and grow businesses and move our economy forward."

POARCH CREEK INDIANS

HELPS RAISE MUCH NEEDED FUNDS FOR DUMAS WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

By Kristin Hellmich

The Poarch Creek Indians proudly offer continued support to Dumas Wesley Community Center, established in 1903 as a beacon of light for the community. Located in the Crichton neighborhood, the Center has touched countless lives, offering solace, support, and a chance for a better future.

Dumas Wesley was originally tasked with providing childcare to the disadvantaged families working in the cotton mills of Crichton. Today, the Center offers over a dozen programs and services for the working poor and the homeless in the Mobile and Baldwin County communities. Dumas Wesley has grown into a cornerstone of these communities providing programs that nurture the youth, care for the elderly, and uplift families facing hard times.

According to Kate Carver, executive director for DWCC, "The Center relies on the support of community partners like the Poarch Creek Indians. We can't thank the Tribe enough for their generosity in helping us provide people of all ages

with programs like the Senior Activities for Independent Living Program, the Sybil Smith Family Village, and the After School Achievement Program."

For years, the Poarch Creek Indians have stood alongside Dumas Wesley helping fund programs that change lives. Last week, the partnership reached a new milestone. During an inaugural telethon held in collaboration with WKRG News 5, the Tribe agreed to match, dollar to dollar, up to \$30,000. The telethon raised a total of \$60,000, and funds will be used to expand the Center's services, ensuring that more families, seniors, and children receive the help they need.

Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair & CEO of the Poarch Creek Indians, spoke to the heart of the partnership, "This is a testament to the power of community coming together for a common cause. We are honored to partner with the Dumas Wesley Community Center to help make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need."

For more information on the Dumas Wesley Community Center and its services, visit dumaswesley.org.



“*The Center relies on the support of community partners like the Poarch Creek Indians. We can't thank the Tribe enough for their generosity...*

**KATE CARVER,
DWCC EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**



POARCH CREEK INDIANS DONATES \$25,000 TO MAGIC MOMENTS HELPING SPREAD JOY TO CHILDREN ACROSS ALABAMA

By Kristin Hellmich

The Poarch Creek Indians has once again demonstrated its commitment to supporting Alabama communities by donating \$25,000 to Magic Moments, a nonprofit organization dedicated to granting wishes for children with chronic, life-threatening illnesses. In addition to the generous financial contribution by the Poarch Creek Indians, OWA Parks & Resort hosted the nonprofit's annual "Beyond the Moment" event for the sixth year at the Park this past June.

Magic Moments "Beyond the Moment" event offers families the opportunity to reconnect and make new memories long after their initial wishes have been granted. Families enjoyed the various attractions at OWA Parks & Resort during a special day designed to celebrate their journey and create lasting bonds.

Courtney Carson, Central Alabama Regional Director for Magic Moments, emphasized the importance of the Tribe's ongoing support. "The relationship we've built with the Poarch Creek Indians over the years has been invaluable," said Carson. "Their generous donation will go directly toward fulfilling the dreams of children across Alabama, and their commitment to hosting our 'Beyond the Moment' event at OWA allows us to create even more lasting memories for our families. We are deeply thankful for their continued partnership, and the hope they help bring to these children."

The partnership between Magic Moments and the Poarch Creek Indians has grown over the years, reflecting a shared goal of bringing hope and joy to children and families facing unimaginable challenges. By hosting events like "Beyond the Moment," the Tribe not only provides financial support but also a unique space for families to come together in a positive, uplifting environment.

Thanks to the support of the Poarch Creek Indians, Magic Moments can continue fulfilling its mission of bringing light to Alabama children in need. To date, Magic Moments has provided over 5,000 magic moments for children in all 67 counties of Alabama.

For more information on Magic Moments, visit magicmoments.org.

The partnership between Magic Moments and the Poarch Creek Indians has grown over the years, reflecting a shared goal of bringing hope and joy to children and families facing unimaginable challenges.



CHRISTMAS AT OWA

NOVEMBER

2	9	13	14 & 15	23	23
The Invaders: A Musical Tribute to the British Invasion at OWA Theater	Slippery When Wet: The Ultimate Bon Jovi Tribute at OWA Theater	Songs & Stories Songwriter Showcase: Frank Brown Festival at OWA Theater	Songs & Stories Open Mic Night at OWA Theater	A Blue Elvis Christmas at OWA Theater	Tree Lighting & Fireworks

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS is happening now at OWA!
Experience holiday wonder with a wide range of family-
friendly events throughout the season. Start planning
your trip at VisitOWA.com.

OWA
Parks & Resort

FOLEY BEACH EXPRESS | VISITOWA.COM | 251-923-2111 |

A WORLD CLASS
DESTINATION BY



WIND CREEK CELEBRATES BUCKMASTERS, SALVATION ARMY AT EXPO

By Amelia Tognoli



“
Knowing how hard times are for many in our communities, helping provide food, and working to end homelessness is humbling and rewarding.

**LANEKA TOLBERT,
WIND CREEK
HOSPITALITY
SPONSORSHIP
AND EVENTS
COORDINATOR**

Last month, Wind Creek proudly supported the Buckmasters Expo and the Salvation Army at the Montgomery Convention Center in Montgomery, AL.

The Buckmasters Expo is one of Alabama's biggest outdoor shows, including bull riding, racing pigs, a Top Bow Archery competition, and more. Team Members were excited to showcase Wind Creek's Gaming Truck, where they interacted with Guests from all over the Southeast who attended the Expo.

Trey Lambert, Wind Creek Hospitality Sponsorship and Events Coordinator said partnering and celebrating traditions with Buckmaster was an honor.

"Partnering with Buckmasters for their annual Expo is an incredible opportunity to connect with the outdoor community meaningfully. The event brings families together with exciting activities and entertainment. It also supports important causes like the Salvation Army and Friendship Mission," Lambert said.

Attendees donated \$1 or one non-perishable can of food to enter the Buckmasters Expo. Monetary and food donations benefited the Salvation Army and Friendship Mission in continuing their efforts to support homelessness and hunger in Montgomery, AL.

Laneka Tolbert, Wind Creek Hospitality Sponsorship and Events Coordinator said helping families make long-lasting memories has been very rewarding for her.

"During the holiday season, we volunteer on the frontlines and the back end of many programs provided. Knowing how hard times are for many in our communities, helping provide food, and working to end homelessness is humbling and rewarding," Tolbert said.

The Buckmasters Expo featured 300+ vendors, an indoor archery tournament, and entertainment for all ages, including the Bulls and Buckmasters bull riding event. Guests who stopped by Wind Creek's trailer received great prizes and an opportunity to win a raffle basket of goodies.

Fall Into Our Best Savings All Year!



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

Friday, November 15, 2024

from 9:00am - 3:00pm

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



Atmore Office

401 E Church Street

Atmore, AL

Pensacola Office

6024 N 9th Avenue

Pensacola, FL



**Veteran and Family Owned & Operated.
Provider of VA and most Insurances**



Introducing Our Best Yet
Beltone Serene™

\$1,000 OFF*

Health Clinic



**BELTONE RELY™
ITC**
(In The Canal)

~~was \$1,795~~

NOW \$998*



**BELTONE RELY™
CIC**
(Completely-In-Canal)

~~was \$1,995~~

NOW \$1,495*

Beltone™

WWW.BELTONENORTHWESTFLORIDA.COM

*Towards the purchase of the Beltone Serene™ hearing system, based on two instruments. \$500 off of a single instrument. Discount taken off MSRP.
Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Not valid on prior purchases.

AMERICA'S
SBDC
ALABAMA

Starting a Business?

THE SBDC PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU AT NO COST.

For more details and Alabama resources,
visit asbdc.org. Or find your nearest SBDC at
americassbdc.org/find-your-sbdc-iframe/

POWERED BY
SBA
U.S. Small Business
Administration

A Culverhouse
College of Business
Alabama SBDC Network
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA*

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

Funded in part by a cooperative agreement with SBA.



THE HOLIDAYS ARE LIGHTING UP AT OWA

By Catherine Hasty

A

s the holidays approach, OWA Parks & Resort has an exciting November lineup packed with entertainment to make every moment magical!

The holidays take center stage at our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 23rd! This remarkable holiday experience is filled with ceremonious live entertainment followed by fireworks and an epic lighting of OWA's giant, 36-foot-tall Christmas Tree. This year's show features a performance by Taylor Hicks, American Idol winner. So, gather your loved ones and be swept away by the magic as the brilliant holiday lights dance in perfect harmony with your favorite festive tunes. It's the ultimate way to kick off the Christmas season and spark the holiday spirit in everyone!

Start your Christmas shopping early and stop by some of the incredible spots for gift-giving like Native Treasures, The Spice & Tea Exchange, Fairhope Soap Company, Somethin' Sassy, and Vacay Everyday Boutique. For those that prefer experiences over things, grab a gift certificate before you catch a live show from Brandon Styles and OWA Theater!

Clear your calendar and head over to the Brandon Styles Theater for a show-stopping experience you won't want to miss! Whether you're looking for jaw-dropping magic, a nostalgic trip down memory lane with our dinner show, non-stop laughs at the comedy show, they got it all - and it's happening weekly right in Downtown OWA. Grab your friends, bring the family, and get ready for an unforgettable time, because at Brandon Styles Theater, the entertainment never stops! Tickets can be purchased online at BrandonStyles.com.

Looking for top-notch entertainment this season? OWA Theater has an incredible lineup of live shows to keep you rocking and reminiscing! Relive the golden era of British rock with The Invaders: A British Invasion Tribute on November 2nd or sing along to the hits with Slippery When Wet: The Ultimate Bon Jovi Tribute on November 9th. For a more intimate vibe, don't miss Songs & Stories, our Songwriters Showcase on November 13th, giving you an inside look at the creative process, or join the fun at Songs & Stories Open Mic on November 14th. And for Elvis fans, join us on November 23rd for an unforgettable performance at the A Blue Elvis Christmas Show! With something for everyone, OWA Theater is your destination for unbeatable live entertainment.

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



Russell Helton
850-356-4521

Cash Jobs Welcome



Free Windshield With Full Coverage Florida Insurance
Insurance Approved • Lifetime Warranty
Serving Escambia, Santa Rosa & Baldwin Counties
29+ Years Experience • Licensed & Insured
Email: outlawautoglass5@gmail.com

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.

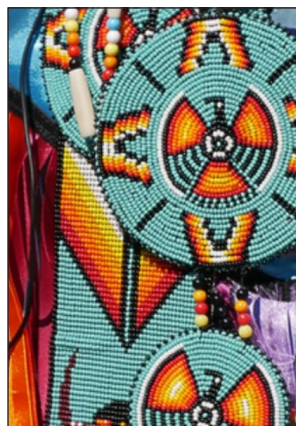


f KTTWClint

(334) 377-1939

Clint.Daughtrey@keytotheworldtravel.com

Clint Daughtrey
Travel Advisor



Thinking of buying or
selling a home?
Let's Connect!

RheaShea DeVilbiss
REALTOR®
251.281.7449



Assisting Tribal Members
Escambia &
Baldwin County, AL

kw ALABAMA
GULF COAST
KELLERWILLIAMS



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



D DOORS
BY DESIGN

Jenna Whipkey

850.207.3236

Owner

sales@doorsbydesign.net

Customdoordesigns.com

AL#2022005



WYNN CREEK AC

Our Services Include:

- ✦ Air Conditioning Repair & Installation
- ✦ Heating System Maintenance & Repair
- ✦ HVAC System Tune-Ups
- ✦ Emergency Services
- ✦ Duct Cleaning and Repair

Why Choose Us?

- ✓ Experienced and Certified Technicians
- ✓ Prompt and Reliable Service
- ✓ Competitive Pricing
- ✓ Customer Satisfaction Guaranteed

Your comfort is our top priority! Let us help you maintain the perfect indoor environment.

☎ (251)359-6401

✉ WynnCreekHVAC@Gmail.com



IT'S TIME TO UPDATE FOR THE TAHO PROGRAM

Tribal Members 19 years of age or older, interested in a new house, must come into the PCI Housing Department and submit a new application even if you already have an application on file.

Listed are some of the items you will need to provide: a copy of 2023 tax returns; social security card(s) of all persons listed on the application; tribal ID card(s); Driver's License; letter of First Generation Indian Descendant; custody verification; homeless verification; substandard living verification; must have a credit score of 550 or higher; must live in the Tribe's service area; must not have participated in any homeownership program for five (5) years; must qualify for low income, or over income; must not have withdrawn for the TAHO Program or declined in the past twelve (12) months; plus other required documents.

We will start accepting applications on Monday, October 7, 2024, and the last day to update will be Friday, December 14, 2024.



OTIS DEES POETRY AWARD

The Alabama State Poetry Society posted their fall contests at alpoets.org.

There are ten contests you could enter, one of which is the Otis Dees Poetry Award, sponsored by Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees. "I sponsored this contest to encourage others to write poetry," Dr. Dees said. "I named it after Daddy because he inspired me to become a writer."

The theme of the poem is anything about Native Americans. The deadline is October 11, 2024. Visit alpoets.org for rules and guidelines. Tribal Members at the Poarch Band of Creek Indians are serving as contest judges.

Questions? Call Dr. Dees at (251) 253-9181. We look forward to seeing your poetic work soon! **MVTO.**



Government Relations
and Public Affairs Office

5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502



CREEK CORNER

NOVEMBER 2024 IMPORTANT DATES

11.1	SUBMISSION DEADLINE December Issue	
11.4-11.5	MUSEUM CLOSED Inventory	
11.7	TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING TC Chambers	4:00 PM
11.11	GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSED Veterans Day	
11.21	TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING TC Chambers	4:00 PM
11.28-11.29	GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSED Thanksgiving	