

# CREEK CORNER

ISSUE 08

The official magazine of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians



## CHIEF CALVIN'S ORIGINAL HEADDRESS

Photo provided by Blake Crook

# TRIBAL LEADERS

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

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



*Top Row (left to right):*

*Stephanie Bryan (Tribal Chair), Robert McGhee (Vice Chair), Charlotte Meckel (Secretary), Amy Gantt (Treasurer)*

*Bottom Row (left to right):*

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

# CONTENTS

<b>BRINGING CALVIN'S HEADDRESS HOME.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NAS 101 .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>WIND CREEK HOSPITALITY SPONSORS US SENIOR OPEN .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>PRESS RELEASE: SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>CEO CORNER: JAY DORRIS, WCH .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL PEACE MONTH .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>WHAT'S NEW AT OWA .....</b>	<b>16</b>

Editor:  
Katie Mothershed  
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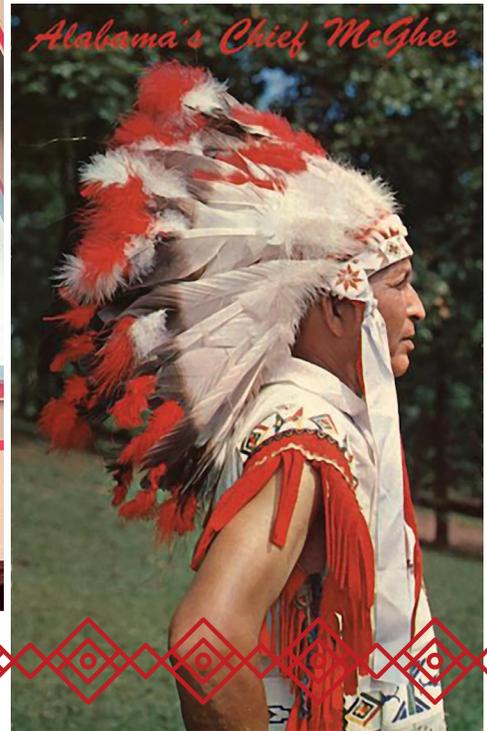
# BRINGING CALVIN'S HEADDRESS HOME



Chief Calvin McGhee was the first elected Chief of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, a dedicated public servant to his people. After being elected in 1950, Chief Calvin began meeting with officials on the state and federal levels. While attending these meetings Calvin would dawn Plains Indian clothing and regalia such as a feathered headdress and beadwork. Calvin knew historically Creek Indians did not wear this type of regalia, however, during the 1950s and 60s the media and Hollywood created a narrative and stereotype that all Indians looked this way. So Calvin would dress this way while meeting with the public and government officials to get their attention. We here at the Museum understand the impact that the headdress had on Calvin's legacy, and that is why we expressly wanted to have Chief Calvin's headdress on display for the Chief Calvin McGhee exhibit. Only one problem stood in our way, we had no idea where this headdress was. While in a planning meeting for this exhibit between Museum Staff and THPD (Tribal Historic Preservation Department) we expressed the desire to house a headdress that Chief Calvin wore. One person remembered a story of Calvin at one time giving his headdress away. Another skimmed through documents and came across a transcript of a speech that Chief Calvin had given at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend National Military Park dedication ceremony in March 1964. During this speech, Chief Calvin gave away the headdress that he wore to a man named C.J Coley, another member of the team quickly researched Coley and we found out that he was president of the Alabama Historical Society with ties to the Alabama Department of Archives. After finding all of this information we gave a call to the Alabama Department of Archives to see if by chance the headdress could have been donated. Within a few hours, we received a call back from archives with wonderful news, we had located Chief McGhee's original headdress. We are beyond excited that we could bring home a piece of Poarch history that hasn't been seen in this community in over 50 years! The headdress is now on display at the Poarch Creek Indians Museum. ☘

WRITTEN BY BLAKE CROOK, MUSEUM GIFT SHOP CLERK





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Chief Calvin McGhee on Vintage Postcard

USA student Billy Bailey took the course and said, "I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in learning a great deal about the history of Native Americans and their true relationship with the U.S. government which is not taught in K-12 schools." Education Director Ms. Sandra Hiebert said, "The Education Department is proud to endorse this course and will cover the cost of tuition, books, and mandatory fees for Tribal Members and First Generation Indian Descent students." You can earn college credit without ever leaving your home. This course is offered as part of the USA Native American Studies Program which was initiated by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in 2014. Mvto.



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH ALABAMA

USA is offering an on-line course this fall titled **NAS 101 Introduction to Native American Studies** team-taught by Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees and Dr. Philip J. Carr

The course features American Indian topics including Chief Calvin McGhee

Register by August 15, 2022

Class runs from August 16 to December 8, 2022

Questions? Call Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees at (251) 446-4940

# NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES AT HOME

**University of South Alabama (USA) course  
co-taught by Dr. Deidre S. Dees and Dr. Philip J. Carr  
AUGUST 16–DECEMBER 8, 2022**

While most universities have returned to in-person classrooms because of lower COVID-19 cases, you can still take courses online at home. One such course is taught at the University of South Alabama by Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees and Dr. Philip J. Carr, titled "Introduction to Native American Studies." The course examines Indigenous history, culture, and politics, and is part of the Native American Studies Program at the University, a Program that was sponsored by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in 2014.

The course begins on August 16 and ends on December 8, 2022. The last day to register is August 15, 2022. If you have questions about registration at USA, Ms. Kim Brown could answer your questions over the telephone at (251) 460-7753 (or e-mail: [kbrown@southalabama.edu](mailto:kbrown@southalabama.edu)). Her backup is Ms. Sangela King at telephone (251) 460-7733 (or e-mail: [sbellking@southalabama.edu](mailto:sbellking@southalabama.edu)). These knowledgeable University employees are happy to assist you.

Our Education Director Ms. Sandra Hiebert said, "The Education Department is proud to endorse this course and will cover the cost of tuition, books, and mandatory fees for Tribal Members and First Generation Indian Descent students." You can earn college credit from home without having to drive to campus for each class.

Tribal Member Mr. Billy Bailey, a star student, took the course and encourages others to take the course. He said he learned "a great deal about the history of Native Americans and their true relationship with the United States government which is not taught in K-12 schools."

Tribal Member Ms. Catherine Rogers, another star student, also took the course. She said, "Ever since this course was first offered, I wanted to take it. It was not possible for me until it was in a distance learning format. I was able to attend on funding through our Tribe's Roberta McGhee Sells Education Department. Taking the NAS 101 course was a great chance for me to learn more about the little-told Indigenous perspective as it relates to U.S. history and policy, both past and present. This course will help anyone consider more broadly how the legal policies of the U.S. government impact Indian country."

"I thoroughly enjoyed this class and its challenge to be a better student of our history," Ms. Rogers added.

Do you want to take this course? Please contact Dr. Dees at (251) 446-4940 and she will be happy to help you. Mvto. ☘

**REGISTER AT USA BY AUGUST 15**

For registration questions, contact Ms. Kim Brown at (251) 460-7753 or e-mail [kbrown@southalabama.edu](mailto:kbrown@southalabama.edu)

**WRITTEN BY DEIDRA SUWANEE DEES, ED.D.**

# WIND CREEK® HOSPITALITY

Wind Creek Hospitality sponsored the 42<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Senior Open Championship, played at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Several Team Members were stationed at Wind Creek's Player's Lounge located at the U.S. Senior Open's 19th hole—a new, festival-like atmosphere that provided guests an opportunity to retreat and win prizes.

In addition to the Player's Lounge, Wind Creek Hospitality partnered with Atlanta-based company, FanBeat, to host a social gaming experience—allowing guests to predict real-time stats including longest drives, closest to the pin, and most birdies. Not unlike fantasy sports games, the game encouraged guests to engage directly with the action. Inspired by other Wind Creek free-to-play social games, winners received prizes including spa credits, steak dinners, hotel stays, and more. 🌿





**RED,  
WHITE AND  
CARIBBEAN  
BLUE—JULY'S  
YOUR  
PASSPORT  
TO THE  
*Tropics!***

Celebrate Independence Day and Caribbean Day (July 16) with us at OWA! Chill out in our island vibe indoors and out—the all-new Tropic Falls Indoor Water Park is now open (reserve your tickets online!), and Dash for the Cash comes to Gravity Island Watersports (July 16)! From 4th of July Weekend events to Thirsty Thursday drink specials and live music on Saturdays, this is summer at its best—get all the event details online at [VisitOWA.com](http://VisitOWA.com)!

**OWA**  
*Parks & Resort*

**THRILL, THEN CHILL.**

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# SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM



# PRESS RELEASE

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all Boys & Girls club members without charge. Acceptance and participation requirements for the program and all SFSP activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at all sites listed on the attached form showing the specified start and end times for meals. ☞

May 27—August 5

Monday—Friday

Breakfast 7:30 – 9:00 AM

Lunch 11:00– 1:00 PM

Location of service is  
517 Martin Road, Atmore.



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*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*



**THERE'S  
MORE  
*Summer*  
FUN TO  
COME!**



August is full of summer fun, beginning with our OWA Live free music series on 8/6! Join us on 8/13 for the End of Summer Bash—but there's still more fun to come, like Community Safety Day, 8/20, Brandon Styles variety & magic shows on select nights and the opening of Tropic Falls Indoor Water Park & Wave Pool! See details at [VisitOWA.com](http://VisitOWA.com).

Poarch Band of Creek Indian Tribal members are eligible for a free combo season pass to Tropic Falls Indoor Water Park & Tropic Falls Theme Park with valid PCI ID or enrollment letter—get more info by visiting the Round House.

**OWA**  
*Parks & Resort*

**THRILL, THEN CHILL.**

A WORLD CLASS  
DEVELOPMENT BY



# JAY DORRIS

## WIND CREEK HOSPITALITY

# CEO CORNER

It has been a busy year for Wind Creek Hospitality. We remain on pace to have a better year this year compared to last year. And last year was our best year ever. Why we are beating last year is interesting. Our Alabama properties are down slightly compared to last year. No one should panic, they are having a great year but compared to last year they are down slightly. Since we're talking about Alabama, I have told people that our Alabama properties will make the playoffs but I do not expect them to win a championship. Making the playoffs is still a very good year.

Our properties in Bethlehem and the Caribbean are way ahead of last year. Their success, combined with the very good year we are having in Alabama, can lead us to our best year ever. Our diversification strategy is literally paying off—negative impacts like inflation and high gas prices affect different regions of our country and the world differently. Since we operate in different areas, when one region is down, there is opportunity for a different region to be better and combined, we collectively do well. At some point, I am not sure we will always be able to beat the prior year but I do not think that it occurs this year.

Speaking of headwinds, New York City is close to allowing three full casinos to operate in the city. By full casino, I mean that they will offer table games and this, when it occurs, will impact some of our table game play in Bethlehem. We are working now to build our local play to offset the loss of New York City play. We may not be able to offset all this play but we can offset some of it. We have another effort underway that will help us. In the 2023–2024 timeframe that we expect full casinos to open in New York City, we will be opening Wind Creek Chicago Southlands and offering our Wind Creek Hospitality (pun intended) to a new market in Illinois. So Bethlehem may see a drop in revenues, but we can offset this drop with new revenues from our soon to be Chicago property.

Whether it is figuring out how to address the headwinds of today or the challenges we expect to encounter in the future, we appreciate the privilege that the Tribe provides us to work on your behalf and we take pride in always trying to provide more. Thank you. 🍀



# WIND CREEK® HOSPITALITY



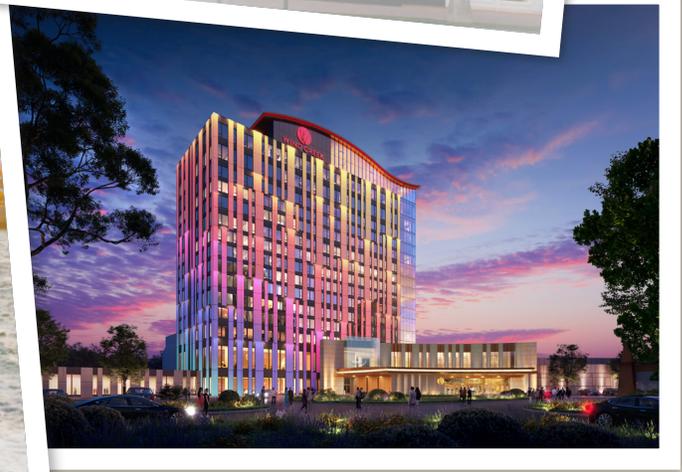
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Pictured clockwise from top left:  
Wind Creek–Bethlehem, Wind Creek–Aruba, Wind Creek–  
Chicago Southland, and Wind Creek–Curaçao



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# INTERNATIONAL PEACE MONTH

## 2022: END RACISM. BUILD PEACE.

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

But achieving true peace entails much more than laying down arms. It requires the building of societies where all members feel that they can flourish. It involves creating a world in which people are treated equally, regardless of their race.

As Secretary-General António Guterres has said:

*Racism continues to poison institutions, social structures, and everyday life in every society. It continues to be a driver of persistent inequality. And it continues to deny people their fundamental human rights. It destabilizes societies, undermines democracies, erodes the legitimacy of governments, and... the linkages between racism and gender inequality are unmistakable.*

As conflicts continue to erupt across the globe, causing people to flee, we have seen race-based discrimination at borders. As COVID-19 keeps attacking our communities, we have seen how certain racial groups have been hit much harder than others. As economies suffer, we have seen hate speech and violence directed at racial minorities.

We all have a role to play in fostering peace. And tackling racism is a crucial way to contribute. We can work to dismantle the structures that entrench racism in our midst. We can support movements for equality and human rights everywhere. We can speak out against hate speech – both offline and online. We can promote anti-racism through education and reparatory justice.

The 2022 theme for the International Day of Peace is “End racism. Build peace.” We invite you to join the efforts of the United Nations as we work towards a world free of racism and racial discrimination. A world where compassion and empathy overcome suspicion and hatred. A world that we can truly be proud of. ☸

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>



The Peace Bell was donated by the United Nations Association of Japan in 1954. It has become tradition to ring the bell twice a year: on the first day of spring, at the Vernal Equinox, and on 21 September to celebrate the International Day for Peace.

PHOTO:UN Photo/Manuel Elías



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## WHAT'S NEW AT OWA

Summer is in full swing this August at OWA Parks & Resort with a jam-packed schedule of activities sure to entertain your family all summer long!

Good news for you music lovers! OWA Live continues Saturday, August 6 with Yeah You Right performing on OWA Island at 5:30pm and Flow Tribe at 7:30pm. Grab a cold beverage to go from one of your favorite Downtown OWA restaurants and meet us on the Island!

Come dance the night away at our End of Summer Bash on Saturday, August 13. Nashville South kicks off the party at 5:30pm with Boukou Groove continuing the fun at 7:30pm. This brand-new family-friendly street party features lawn games, inflatables, crafts, and live music.

Community Safety Day returns to Downtown OWA on Saturday, August 20. This complimentary event showcases interactive demonstrations from first responders, public safety officers, and local non-profit groups that contribute to our community. Bring your family and help us celebrate those who work hard to keep our community safe!

Have you heard the news? Our newest addition to Tropic Falls, the indoor waterpark, has opened! OWA is proud to extend a complimentary Tropic Falls combination season pass to Poarch Band of Creek Indian Tribal members with a valid PCI Tribal ID. Tribal members will also receive additional benefits, including one birthday gift added to their pass during their birthday month, 25% off theme park passes, 50% off standard birthday party packages, and periodic promotions. For full details, please visit the Round House.



**OWA**  
Parks & Resort

Submitted by:  
Courtney Coutinho  
Marketing Coordinator



That's not all that's happening this August! Don't forget to check out the Magic and Variety Shows from Brandon Styles Live, with shows weekly in Downtown OWA. Plus, try out our new virtual reality escape rooms at Clash eSports & VR Experience!

Keep up with the latest news on events, entertainment, and activities via our website at [VisitOWA.com](http://VisitOWA.com) or by following us on social media [@VisitOWA](https://www.instagram.com/VisitOWA). 🍷





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# CREEK CORNER

AUGUST 2022

8/1/2022	Newsletter Deadline	September Issue	5:00 pm
8/1/2022 - 8/2/2022	Museum Gift Shop Closed	Inventory	
8/4/2022	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm
8/5/2022	Family Court	Tribal Court Room	10:00 am
8/6/2022	Strategic Leadership Meeting	PCCC Multipurpose Room	10:00 am - 12:00 noon
8/6/2022	Annual Celebration	Pow Wow Grounds	1:00 - 6:00 pm
8/9/2022	Tribal Court	Tribal Court Office	9:00 am
8/18/2022	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm
8/19/2022	Family Court	Tribal Court Office	10:00 am
8/23/2022	Tribal Court	Tribal Court Office	9:00 am

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