

Poarch Creek News

The official magazine of the Poarch Creek Indians



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December 2021

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EDITOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Katie Mothershed
(251) 368-9136
ext. 2004
(251) 359-0969 (cell)

akmothershed@pci-nsn.gov
Poarch Creek News
5811 Jack Springs Rd
Atmore, AL 36502

The Poarch Creek News is not the forum where individuals/groups can submit their views regarding matters of operations of Tribal Government or any decisions or policies enacted by Tribal Council, authorities and /or boards.

Nor is it the vehicle to submit policy issues or concerns of individuals or groups.

PRINTER	PUBLISHER	TRIBAL MEMBERS ON ROLL
PCI Printing	Poarch Creek Indians	2,823
Government & Public Affairs		

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Tribe's social media pages are maintained by the Government & Public Affairs Office.

facebook.com/PoarchBandofCreekIndians

twitter.com/PoarchCreek

instagram.com/poarchbandofcreekindians

Contact Kim Philyaw, Social Media Manager, with any questions or concerns.

kphilyaw@pci-nsn.gov

TMOP

Located on the Tribe's website,

poarchcreekindians.org

TMOP is for Tribal Members ages 18 & above.

Please contact Sharon Delmar if you need assistance with your username or password.

(251) 368-9136 ext. 2216 or

sdelmar@pci-nsn.gov

Submission Criteria

Copyright Materials

- » *Copyrighted materials will not be published without permission from the copyright holder.*
- » *The individual submitting the information is responsible for determining whether or not the material is copyrighted, and if it is, obtaining the applicable copyright license.*

Submission deadline: 5:00 pm (CST) the first business day of the month prior to the month of publication.

Photo Submissions

- » *One (1) photo per submission.*
- » *Photos will be cropped to fit available space.*
- » *High resolution jpeg or PDF format.*
- » *Individuals in the photo are to be appropriately dressed and exhibiting appropriate behavior.*
- » *We cannot fix blurred or distorted photos.*

Tribal Member Submissions

- » *Limited to Tribal Members (TM), TM Spouses & 1st Generation.*

- » *300 words or less.*
- » *One (1) photo per submission.*

Anniversary Wishes

- » *May be published the month before, month of or month after the anniversary.*
- » *Fifty (50) words or less.*

Announcements

- » *Information must be submitted by the last business day of the month immediately following the birth, engagement or wedding.*
- » *Fifty (50) words or less.*

In Memory

- » *May be published the month before, month of or month after the anniversary of the death of the deceased.*
- » *Limited to one submission per deceased individual per year.*
- » *300 words or less.*

Obituaries

- » *Please add Poarch Creek News contact information to the media list when completing the appropriate paperwork or planning the funeral of a loved one.*
- » *The obituary will be published in the next issue after it has been received from the funeral home.*
- » *You may submit your own obituary or thank you letter by the last business day of the second month immediately following the death.*
- » *300 words or less.*

Corrections

- » *Corrections will only occur if error/misprint is made by Poarch Creek News.*

THE POARCH CREEK NEWS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT OR REFUSE ANY ITEM SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION.

OUR TRIBAL LEADERS



Stephanie Bryan
Tribal Chair/CEO
sbryan@pci-nsn.gov

Robert McGhee
Vice Chair
rmcghee@pci-nsn.gov

Charlotte Meckel
Secretary
cmeckel@pci-nsn.gov

Amy Gantt
Treasurer
agantt@pci-nsn.gov

Dewitt Carter
At-Large
dcarter@pci-nsn.gov

Sandy Hollinger
At-Large
shollinger@pci-nsn.gov

Keith Martin
At-Large
kmartin@pci-nsn.gov

Arthur Mothershed
At-Large
amothershed@windcreek.com

Candace Fayard
At-Large
cfayard@pci-nsn.gov

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



From my family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!
May you experience all the health, happiness, and hope that this wondrous season brings.

With love,
Chairwoman Stephanie Bryan

BOARD VACANCIES

THE TRIBAL COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEY ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR POSITIONS ON ALL BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND AUTHORITIES.

*Application process time frame:
December 1 - 31, 2021*

Applications can be found on the Tribe's website, www.pci-nsn.gov, on the Tribal Council page. Applications can be emailed upon request. If you have any questions, please contact Debra Strickland, Legislative Coordinator at dstrickland@pci-nsn.gov or (251) 368-9136 ext. 2935.

OCTOBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations

Sehoy Thrower

Environmental Protection Specialist

"In addition to performing her job at an exemplary level, Sehoy demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to educating children as well as our community."

"She goes above and beyond her job duties and provides Tribal knowledge to our department."

"Sehoy was instrumental in our community Anti-Litter Campaign."

"She has been a wonderful asset to the Environmental department."

PCI'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST HONORED AT
RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE RECEPTION

Meredith McGhee

The Recognizing Excellence Reception was held on October 12th on campus at Pensacola State College. Meredith McGhee was one of five students that received a medal to wear at graduation and a pin from President Ed Meadows for being selected as a Presidential Scholarship recipient.

"There is nothing more important than recognizing good, successful and active students and all of you are certainly that," said PSC President Ed Meadows.

The scholarship recipients also are selected by Meadows from a list of applicants who "represent some of the most exemplary high school students" in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The Presidential Scholarship is a two-year, full-tuition and textbook award.

Submitted by Tracy Bottjer



In Loving Memory

Dorothy Watts	February 25, 1957 - October 3, 2021
Jacqueline Hadley	October 30, 1961 - October 12, 2021
Samuel Dees	February 18, 1960 - October 18, 2021
Natasha Couture	November 14, 1991 - October 18, 2021
Evelyn Overstreet	March 17, 1943 - October 18, 2021
Billy Lane	May 9, 1982 - October 26, 2021
Shirley Broadus	September 25, 1960 - October 27, 2021

October 2021

In loving memory of

SHIRLEY "POPS" MCGHEE

November 21, 1942 - January 28, 2020



Happy Heavenly Birthday "Pops" Shirley McGhee. We love and miss you so much.

Your Loving Family



Sign up today for the
2022 POW WOW CLUB

Open to all Tribal Members and 1st Generation
Descendants

Youth Pow Wow Club

Ages 8-18

(*Must be 8 years old by December 31, 2021 *)

Adult Pow Wow Club

Ages 19 & Older

Deadline to submit an application is **December 17, 2021 at 5 p.m.** Applications are available and must be returned to the Poarch Creek Community Center or mailed to:

Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Attn: Chris Blackburn

5811 Jack Springs Rd.

Atmore, AL 36502

For further information, please contact Chris Blackburn, Planning and Events Coordinator, at 251-368-9136 ext. 2052 or
Email: cblackburn@pci-nsn.gov or eventsstaff@pci-nsn.gov

A Little Friendly Competition Never Hurt Anyone, Right?

The Family Services Department has always been dead on with their internal fitness competitions. From steps, to minutes of exercise, to flights of stairs climbed, we always see the creativity come out with the challenges they do internally. We have some participants who are particularly proud of their achievements and their teammates' downfalls.

Way to go ladies! Keep up the inspirational challenges, we look forward to our 2022 Departmental Challenges with you all!



Congratulations!



RHONDA TILLMAN

Atmore, AL
Move In Date: October 1, 2021

HOUSING POLICY CHANGES

PER RESOLUTIONS DATED OCTOBER 21, 2021

Housing Rehabilitation Program

This is a loan program.

Summary of approved changes:

- Tribal Members living outside of the Tribe's designated services area can apply for the Housing Rehabilitation Program.
- TAHO participants are not eligible to participate in the Rehabilitation Program
- There is no penalty for an early payoff for the Housing Rehabilitation loan.
- An updated Grievance Procedure was added to this policy for those applicants wishing to grieve a denial of services through the Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Emergency Rehabilitation Program for Tribal Seniors and Disabled Persons

Commonly known as the Senior Emergency Program; This is a no-payback program.

Summary of approved changes:

- Participants who have a long-term lease in a house in need of rehabilitation services must:
 1. Submit a copy of their Lease Agreement to the Housing Department
 2. The Housing Department will determine if the rehabilitation work should be performed by the Landlord/Homeowner and will assist the Participant in submitting the Emergency Rehabilitation request to their Landlord/Homeowner.
 3. If the Emergency Rehabilitation work is determined to be approved through the Housing Department, a Rehabilitation Program Property Owner's Participation Agreement and a Lease Addendum must be completed by the Participant and the Landlord/Homeowner. Housing Department staff will assist the Participant in getting these forms signed.
- A total of \$15,000.00 per lifetime of Emergency Rehabilitation services are allowed per Tribal Member household regardless of how many eligible Tribal Members reside in the household.
- 4. The total funding of \$15,000.00 may be spread out over a period of time. For example, replacement of plumbing may cost \$10,000.00 for an approved household. That Tribal Member household would be eligible to utilize the remaining \$5,000.00 if approved for a different emergency rehabilitation service at a later time.
- An updated Grievance Procedure was added to this policy for those applicants wishing to grieve a denial of services through the Emergency Rehabilitation Program for Tribal Seniors and Disabled Persons Policies and Procedures

The Tribally-Assisted Home Ownership Program

Commonly known as the TAHO Program; This is a loan program.

Summary of approved changes:

- A person listed as the Successor for a TAHO home must be at least the age of 21.
- If a TAHO Participant fails to make payments on their TAHO loan, the balance owed will become a Tribal Obligation Default. The policy change in this section ensured that the language regarding Tribal Obligation Defaults was changed to be consistent with the current General Welfare Assistance Program Policies and Procedures.
- TAHO Participants may apply for a Renovation Loan after then have lived in their TAHO home at least 6 (six) months.
- TAHO Participants are required to recertify with the Housing Department annually. There are penalties implemented if the TAHO participant does not recertify annually. The policy was updated to increase the penalty of not recertification, and, after the 4th month of not recertifying, the TAHO Participants monthly payment will adjust to 30% of the last reported adjusted household income.
- An updated Grievance Procedure was added to this policy for those applicants wishing to grieve a denial of services through the Tribally Assisted Home Ownership Program.

The Heating and Cooling System Loan Program Policies and Procedures

Commonly known as the A/C Loan Program

Summary of approved changes:

- One (1) Heating and Cooling Loan is allowed per Tribal Member household every five (5) years.
- Participants in this program must complete a Promissory Note.
- Funds for this loan must be paid back within five (5) years, however, there is no penalty for paying the loan back early.
- There are Resale Restrictions in place should a Participant in this program decide to sell their home prior to paying off this loan program.
 1. The Participant must repay the Tribe any balance due on this loan at the time of sale, unless:
 2. The sale of or transfer of the home is to another Tribal Member who:
 - Is willing to fully assume payment of the loan and sign a Promissory Note, and
 - Is qualified for the Heating and Cooling Loan Program
- An updated Grievance Procedure was added to this policy for those applicants wishing to grieve a denial of services through the Heating and Cooling System Loan Program Policies and Procedures.

PCI HOUSING DEPARTMENT

TAHO PROGRAM

It's time to update your application!



TRIBAL MEMBERS 21 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

You must complete a new application, even if you already have one on file.

Required Documents for all persons listed on application:

- Copy of 2020 Tax Returns
- Social Security Card(s)
- Tribal ID Card and/or Letter of 1st Gen Descent
- Drivers License
- Custody, Homeless, and/or Substandard Living Verification
- Other documents as requested by the Housing Department

Other Requirements:

- Credit score of 550 or higher
 - Lives in Tribal Services Area
 - Haven't participated in any homeownership program in the last 5 years
 - Qualifies for Low, Very Low, or Over Income
 - Haven't withdrawn from or declined TAHO program in the last 12 months
-

2022 ARBOR DAY TREE GIVEAWAY!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

One day only! Pick up your trees around back of Environmental Department building, located at:

957 MARTIN RD

- 2 trees per person (first come, first served)
- For Tribal Members/Spouses and Tribal Employees only
- Bring note if picking up for someone else
- Trees will be pawpaw, sawtooth gobbler oaks, mayhaw, buttonbush, red maple, catalpa, dogwood, and red mulberry

For more info, contact Sehoj Thrower:
(251) 368-9136 ext. 2398 strower@pci-nsn.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT SPAY/NEUTER EVENT

The Environmental Department will be giving out spay/neuter vouchers for cats and dogs beginning:

January 10, 2022 – April 1, 2022 or until funding is depleted.
Vouchers will expire on July 29, 2022.



Only one voucher per Tribal Member will be allowed. These are available on a first-come first-serve basis for Tribal members only. Tribal members must present their Tribal ID to receive spay/neuter voucher and at Veterinary Office to receive services.

Vouchers will be given out from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday:

PCI Environmental
957 Martin Road
Atmore, AL 36502
*Down the road from PCCC

New
Location

The veterinary clinics accepting these vouchers include the following:

Atmore Animal Hospital	804 E Nashville Ave, Atmore, AL	251-368-9103
Bay Minette Animal Clinic	1900 Hand Ave, Bay Minette, AL	251-937-7540
Brewton Animal Hospital	102 E. Granberry St. Brewton, AL	251-867-4355
The Brentwood Animal Hospital	5101 N. Palafox St. Pensacola, FL	850-434-2646

**If you have any questions, please call
(251) 368-9136 Ext. 2387**

Submitted By: Kristi Weatherford, Environmental Director

SOCIETY OF ALABAMA ARCHIVISTS MEETS TRAIL OF TEARS FILM



First Search Party: Ellen O'Barr, Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees, Elvin Jenkins, Carolyn Peterson

“Exciting news! After over forty-two years of being lost, the ‘Trail of Tears’ film was found!” Director/Tribal Archivist Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees said to archivists at the virtual Society of Alabama Archivists Annual Meeting on October 22, 2021. She and Alabama A&M University Archivist Ms. Veronica Henderson shared their journey of rediscovery spanning more than eight years.

Ms. Henderson explained that James Buford Robison studied film at Alabama A&M University. After graduation, Robison worked in the University’s Telecommunications Center with Dr. Hayward Handy and Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Ragland, leading the research journey to produce a documentary for Alabama Public Television.

Ms. Henderson said, in 1978, Robison learned about the Tribe and contacted our Tribal Council. Working together, the Center began developing the documentary on the 1830 Indian Removal Act, known as the “Trail of Tears.”

Dr. Dees explained the Removal Act was intended to remove the five southeastern Indigenous nations to land west of the Mississippi to make room for the new Euro-American Nation. This life-shattering event disrupted the course of American history.

Creeks hand-sewed authentic 1800s clothing, and Robison/crew developed scripts and shot film of

Creeks reenacting the forced march west. These scenes of removal were enacted by Creeks who, ironically, are descendants of those who were not removed.

Before the film was televised, Robison left employment at the University and the film became lost. For almost forty-three years, the film remained lost except in the memory of participants.

As the number one requested item, our Team worked diligently with Ms. Henderson and Director Elvin Jenkins to find the film. The work paid off! In March of 2020, while COVID was intensifying, Mr. Jenkins announced they rediscovered this treasured jewel!

Joyfully, the film was digitized and shown to the Tribal community in the safe environment of the Internet. For the first time, we were able to view the Trail of Tears film of our family members.

Office of Archives and Records Management staff, Mr. Chad Parker and Ms. Cheryl Thrower, also attended the Annual Meeting. Networking with other archivists around the State is a great way to learn about Creek records, and perhaps could lead us to records showing whether the film was ever broadcast.

Staff showed a segment of the film and answered questions, hoping to use our successful journey as a model for others to follow. “It has been a distinct honor,” Dr. Dees said, “to make acquisition of this important film that tells the factual story of what really happened on the ‘Trail of Tears.’” Mvto.

Submitted by Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ed.D.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

WHEN'S THE MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD?

Every year from October 15 - December 7.

WHAT'S THE MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD?

Medicare health and drug plans can make changes each year—things like cost, coverage, and what providers and pharmacies are in their networks. October 15 to December 7 is when all people with Medicare can change their Medicare health plans and prescription drug coverage for the following year to better meet their needs.

HOW DO PEOPLE KNOW IF THEY NEED TO CHANGE PLANS?

People in a Medicare health or prescription drug plan should always review the materials their plans send them, like the “Evidence of Coverage” (EOC) and “Annual Notice of Change” (ANOC). If their plans are changing, they should make sure their plans will still meet their needs for the following year. If they’re satisfied that their current plans will meet their needs for next year and it’s still being offered, they don’t need to do anything.

If you need to make any changes, please contact Suzanna Coleman at 251-368-9136 ext. 2324. We are not seeing anyone face to face, any information or changes will be over the phone with verbal authorization.





MARKETPLACE & MEDICARE

2022 OPEN ENROLLMENT

Do you live in Alabama? Do you need health insurance? Do you know that you need to recertify through the Marketplace for the 2022 year?

**IF SO, PLEASE CALL
SUZANNA COLEMAN AT
(251) 368-9136 EXT. 2324**

As of now, all applications will be done over the phone with verbal authorization.

**Open Enrollment Period runs from:
November 01, 2021, through December 15, 2021.**

HEALTH CORNER



Dr. Selina Chee is originally from Louisiana and has been in the healthcare field for 16 years. Currently, she serves as the Chief Pharmacist for the Buford L Rolin Health Clinic. Before coming to work for Poarch, Dr. Chee worked at the Dispensary of Hope, Ascension Saint Thomas, and Reeves-Sain Drug Store. She decided to get into the medical field because of her overwhelming desire to serve her community. One of the things she loves most about her job is that there is never a dull moment. We asked Dr. Chee what she feels the most pressing medical issue facing our community is, and she replied that COVID-19 is the most pressing medical issue at this time. She also offered this general medical advice to the community, "It is important to keep a list of your current medications and allergies with you in case of emergencies."



Ray Young, PharmD is a Staff Pharmacist at the Buford L Rolin Health Clinic. He wanted to give something back to Native people in hopes of learning and preserving the heritage. Ray Young has been in the healthcare field for 13 years, and obtained his Doctorate of Pharmacy from the University of Mississippi. His favorite part of his job is the patient and staff interaction. In his spare time, he works with abandoned dogs that he's adopted. Ray believes the most pressing medical issue facing our community is diabetes. His general medical advice is, "Deny pleasures of foods, drink, and vices to preserve your longevity and teach young ones your rich heritage and inner strength. Seek to set an example, and always hold yourself to a high standard."

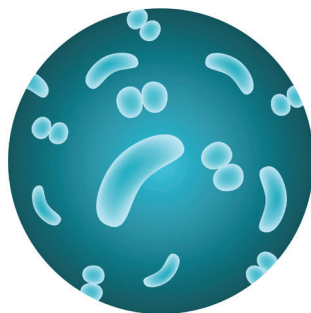


Susan Hayes obtained her Bachelor of Science - Pharmacology from the University of Arizona and has been in the medical field for 32 years. She has worked for several Native American tribes including the Shoshone-Paiute, the Fort Belknap reservation, and the Navajo. She started at the Buford L Rolin Health Clinic in a contract position and now serves as a full-time Staff Pharmacist. The close connection between clinic staff and the community is one of her favorite parts of the job. She also appreciates how supportive members of the Health department staff are. Susan believes the most pressing medical issue facing our community is COVID-19. Her general medical advice is, "Get vaccinated for COVID and don't smoke or vape."

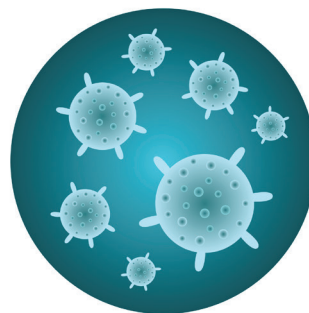
VIRUS VERSUS BACTERIA

- Less than 1% of bacteria cause disease. Most are beneficial for our good health and the health of The Earth's ecosystems. Most viruses cause disease.
- Bacteria have cell walls and all of the equipment needed to survive and reproduce. Viruses must invade a 'host' for reproduction and survival.
- Antibiotics may be used to treat some bacterial infections, but they do not work against viruses. Some severe bacterial infections may be prevented by vaccination. Antiviral medications are not effective against bacteria.
- The symptoms of infection from bacteria or viruses are similar. Your health professional will help you determine whether it is caused by virus or bacteria. Antibiotics will not treat viral infection, may cause side effects and contribute to bacterial resistance.
- If you have a virus, the treatment is rest, drink fluids and treat the symptoms.
- If you have a bacterial infection, follow your health provider's instructions.
- Please do not make this determination without your health provider's assistance.

Stay well
Stay safe
Keep moving forward



Bacteria



Viruses

Susan Hayes, Rph
Staff Pharmacist
Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic

BENEFIT TIMELINE TO COMMERCIAL TOBACCO CESSATION

We have all heard that smoking commercial tobacco has health consequences. There are 69 known carcinogens in commercial tobacco cigarette smoke, including things like arsenic, cyanide, ammonia, formaldehyde, and carbon monoxide. Smoking one cigarette can have a measurable increase in carbon monoxide levels and a decrease in oxygen levels.

In total, there are about 7,000 known chemicals in commercial cigarette tobacco smoke. Several hundred are harmful, and about 70 can be downright deadly. Smokeless tobacco has a similar risk profile, and vaping can cause acute, life-threatening pulmonary failure in even young, healthy individuals due to lipid emulsions used in some products. The good news is that quitting commercial tobacco has many short- and long-term benefits. For example:

At **20 minutes** after stopping, your blood pressure and body temperature return to normal.

At **8 hours** after quitting, your carbon monoxide levels drop and oxygen levels return to normal.

24 hours post-quitting your odds of a life-threatening cardiac event decreases.

At **48 hours**, your nerve ending fibers start to regenerate, and you can tell a noticeable improvement in taste and smell.

72 hours after quitting, lung function and energy increase.

At **14 days to 3 months**, your circulation and lung function improves more so that moving about becomes less tiring.

From **4 weeks to 9 months**, coughing, sinus congestion, feeling tired, and shortness of breath decrease.

At **1 year**, you have cut your heart disease risk in half compared to a current smoker.

5 years after quitting, your risk of cancers of the throat, mouth, and esophagus are cut in half vs. an active smoker.

10 years after quitting, your odds of lung cancer are half that of a regular smoker.

15 years after your quit date, you have no more risk of heart disease or death in general than someone who has never smoked.

The benefits of those around you are dramatic, as well. All this coupled with the cost savings you would realize over a relatively short time makes kicking the habit more attractive than ever. See your pharmacist or physician in the clinic for information on how we can help you achieve access to these benefits and more! With proper planning, all that is required is motivation and a desire to succeed.



Ray Young, PharmD
Staff Pharmacist
Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic

VACCINATIONS - ADDRESSING COMMON CONCERNS

Why vaccinate?

To prevent diseases and poor outcomes of infections. The immune system is the body's way of preventing diseases. Vaccines reduce our risk of infection by working with the body's natural defenses to help safely develop immunity to diseases.

What are antigens?

Antigens are parts of germs that cause the body's immune system to go to work. Vaccines use small amounts of antigens to help our immune systems to recognize and learn to fight the diseases.

Are vaccines safe?

Yes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) take many steps to make sure that all vaccines are safe and effective before and after the public begins using them.

Am I going to get sick from a vaccine?

Like any medicine, vaccines can cause side effects. Some side effects that can occur are low-grade fever, pain at injection site, and feeling tired. These will only last a few days. You can take acetaminophen and diphenhydramine if needed. Rest and fluids will also help.

What is a "breakthrough" case?

A "breakthrough" case is when a fully vaccinated person gets the disease that he/she was vaccinated against. No vaccine provides 100% protection against infection. The vaccine helps the body learn to fight the infection, so if you were to catch the infection then it will be less severe.

It is better to prevent a disease than to treat it after it occurs.

Vaccines are safe and effective. There are vaccination schedules for children and adults.

For more information and vaccination schedules, please visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ or contact your healthcare provider.



Dr. Selina Chee
Chief Pharmacist

Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic

Muskogee Technology Recognized by Business Council of Alabama

ALABAMA MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR

Muskogee Technology (MT) was honored as the 2021 Small Manufacturer of the Year by the Business Council of Alabama (BCA) in partnership with the Alabama Technology Institute at an October 1st luncheon.

"We offer our congratulations to Westly Woodruff, Allen Jay, and the team members of Muskogee Technology. It is great to see their 25 years of hard work recognized at this level!" Cody Williamson, President and CEO of CIEDA commented.

Stephanie A. Bryan, Chairwoman and CEO for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians said "I want to congratulate Muskogee Technology's CEO Wes Woodruff and the team at MT for their great work. The Tribe is always looking for ways to provide jobs to hardworking Alabamians and MT is a great example of that."



Westly L. Woodruff, Muskogee Technology President/CEO stated, "We are extremely excited about the Business Council of Alabama's 2021 Small Manufacturer of the Year Award as well as the Business Council's contributions to Alabama

The Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Awards program recognizes the state's top manufacturers. A BCA press release on the event stated that these awards are for "celebrating the hard work and dedication of each and every employee and promoting the many exemplary accomplishments of Alabama's best and brightest industry leaders. The awards honor Alabama's manufacturing enterprises that exhibit excellence in leadership, performance, profitability, and workforce relations. Winners are selected by an independent panel of judges based on superior performance in the areas of customer focus, employee commitment, operating excellence, continuous improvement, profitable growth, and investment in training and retraining."

manufacturing. To ensure matters are in order, we first want to recognize all prestigious nominees and honor their contributions to manufacturing within the State of Alabama.

Congratulations to their hard-working Teams who are equally deserving. For our Team Members at Muskogee Technology, we are extremely humbled by this recognition and attribute the award to their individual and collective dedication to excellence, fortitude, and perseverance throughout such a difficult time in our history while battling the COVID-19 pandemic. When our customers called, Muskogee Technology delivered, and with selflessness. What an honor it is to represent such a determined Team who heroically accomplish the mission whenever duty calls. Last but not least, we are able to do what we do at Muskogee Technology through the care and support of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority, and the efforts they collectively exhaust on our behalf while also acknowledging their holistic economic and workforce contributions made within the State of Alabama. What we do best at Muskogee Technology is serve our community by creating and sustaining head-of-household jobs thus advancing the standard of living and quality of life. We achieve that through the personal contributions of our Team Members by supporting our customers' mission, whether DoD, Aerospace, Agricultural, or Armature & Ordinance, to ensure they are well-equipped with critical infrastructure manufactured components on time and on point. We are honored for this recognition, and we look forward to a safe and productive 2022, within and for the State of Alabama's manufacturing sector."



Pictured (L-R): Westly L. Woodruff, G Allen Jay, Cody Williamson and Stephanie Bryan

By: Jennifer Chism, CIEDA Marketing Manager

In Rememberance
of our friend
Billy Lane



Dear Billy,

It is with a heavy heart that we, your work family, write you this letter. When you left this earthly realm to go back into the arms of Our Heavenly Father, you also left a bit of yourself here. Your spirit still lives inside these walls and in each of our hearts. For the last 13 years, we took for granted that we would see your face each day at work.

Though we know you are gone, we can still feel your presence. We at Muskogee Technology will miss you. We want you to know how much you meant to us, both individually and as an organization.

You have been an integral part of our growth throughout the years. It still feels so strange not to have you here with us. It's as if we might turn a corner in the plant and see you walking into the Clean Room or headed to go on break.

You once said that you most enjoyed working in Composites because you enjoyed building things. We hope that you are getting to do what you love. We will always cherish the time we spent with you and hope that we will get to see you again one day. Until then, we wish you eternal peace and happiness.

From your Muskogee Technology family, we bid you a fond farewell.

Sincerely,
Muskogee Technology Team and Management



The holiday season is here and OWA has all your classic Christmas favorites, plus some new additions. Make plans to come join us this December and celebrate the Christmas season with us! Dress up in your best elf costume, decorate your bike and come ride with the YMCA at OWA. Join us to help benefit the John McClure Snook Family and Bounds Family YMCA, a non-profit organization whose mission is to strengthen communities.

The Park at OWA has a very special holiday treat. Meet the jolly man himself and enjoy a special Santa Brunch at Shady Arbor in The Park! Season Passholders can also enjoy an exclusive brunch date just for them. Seating is limited, because Santa must hurry back to the North Pole, so grab your seats today!



Guests can snap a free picture with Santa Claus from 1pm-5pm that afternoon. While you're in Downtown OWA, make sure to work on that Christmas shopping list at some of OWA's favorite spots like: Native Treasures, The Spice & Tea Exchange, Paula Deen's Family Kitchen Gift Shop, Fairhope Soap Company, and Body Tune Plus. Stroll the magical streets of Downtown OWA and hear the beautiful sounds of the holiday season. From Christmas carolers to pop-up holiday entertainment, weekends at OWA will be filled with the sounds of Christmas!

Looking to hear some legendary Christmas music this holiday season? Legends in Concert has you covered! Kick off the season with tributes to your holiday favorites by Young Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley, Karen Carpenter and Celine Dion. Purchase your tickets today for shows taking place Wednesdays through Sundays until January 2, 2022.

After a day full of holiday magic at OWA, stick around for our Christmas light show in admission-free Downtown OWA. Our 36-foot-tall Christmas tree will put on a mesmerizing light show to holiday music nightly.

As we wrap up the holiday season, don't worry because we're having a New Year's Eve Celebration on December 31, 2021! Let's ring in the New Year with a firework show, live music, activities and more. Check out our website at VisitOWA.com for details on all these events, specials and more, and be sure to follow us on social media at [@VisitOWA](https://www.instagram.com/VisitOWA).



After meeting Santa and filling up your belly, catch Santa's jolly elves reading classic Christmas stories this December in Parkside Gift Shop. Bring those big smiles and wish list too because Santa Claus is coming to town to take a picture with you! This year, Santa will be a little closer to home as he sets up shop at the North Pole in Downtown OWA. Santa's personal paparazzi will be there to snap your picture. Santa even brought a few elves to help make sure you and your family have the most magically socially distanced experience. Make sure to snag tickets for our newest experience in the North Pole: Mrs. Claus' Crafty Christmas! Enjoy tea, hot cocoa and snacks with Mrs. Claus while she and her elves sing holiday favorites. Plus, take home your very own handmade Christmas ornament and make other fun crafts. Reserve your spot today!

Don't miss out on the Coca Cola Holiday Caravan, visiting Downtown OWA on Saturday, December 10.

Loren Powell

Social Media Coordinator

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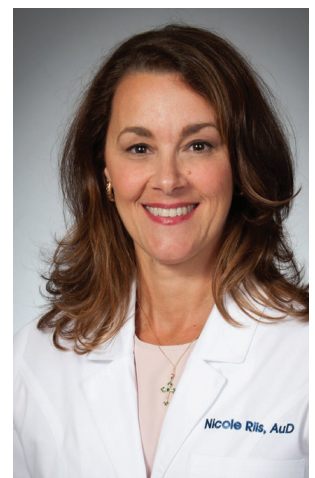
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610 Providence Park Dr., Bldg. 2, Suite 203
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Nicole Ritt, AuD



A CALENDAR FULL OF *Christmas* CLASSICS

We've loaded December like a sleigh full of gifts! Kick off the season with tributes to your holiday favorites by Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley, Karen Carpenter & Celine Dion—it's Classic Christmas at Legends in Concert, through Jan. 2nd! Speaking of classics, how about photos—and brunch!—with Santa? See dates, times & locations online. Looking for something a little different this year? Don't miss the holiday-themed murder mystery, Ho Ho Homicide Dinner Show, Dec. 9-10 at the Brandon Styles Theater in Downtown OWA. Check our calendar for all the latest holiday happenings at VisitOWA.com!

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Rufo-Rakko (December) 2021 Calendar of Events

12/1/2021	Newsletter Deadline	January 2022 Issue	5:00 pm
12/1/2021 - 12/31/2021	Tribal Board Vacancy Application Period	Debra Strickland Legislative Coordinator	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
12/2/2021	Tribal Council Meeting	Livestream Only	4:00 pm
12/7/2021	Medicare Open Enrollment Closes	Suzanna Coleman Health Department	5:00 pm
12/10/2021	Tribal Offices Close Early		12:00 noon
12/15/2021	Marketplace Open Enrollment Closes	Suzanna Coleman Health Department	5:00 pm
12/17/2021	2022 Pow Wow Club Application Deadline	Cultural Department	5:00 pm
12/20/2021 - 12/24/2021	Tribal Government Offices Closed	Christmas Holiday	
12/31/2021	TAHO Updated Application Deadline	Housing Department	5:00 pm
12/31/2021	Tribal Government Offices Closed	New Years	
1/3/2022	Newsletter Deadline	February 2022 Issue	5:00 pm
1/6/2022	Tribal Council Meeting	Livestream Only	4:00 pm
*All times and dates are subject to change			

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