

CREEK CORNER

ISSUE 10

The official magazine of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians



4TH ANNUAL LONG TABLE EVENT
HOSTED BY WIND CREEK ARUBA

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

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ELDERS VISIT THE LEGACY MUSEUM



“No Coloreds Served Here,” jumped from the sign into the consciousness of our elders who toured the Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama on August 26.

This tour was part of the field trip taken by our elders in our Senior Reading Program, led by Archives Assistant, Ms. Leasha Martin. Ms. Martin was assisted by Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees, Director of Office of Archives and Records Management, and our new Records Specialist, Ms. Emily Fayard Escobedo. They traveled to the museum by Colonial Trailways chartered bus.

Elders were amazed at the graphic depictions of enslaved people in America which helped them better understand the oppression of those who were brought from Africa as cargo to work on ancestral Muscogee land.

One wall exhibit showcased many derogatory, blatantly racist signs that used to be commonplace in our region. One sign stated “Absolutely no beer sold to Indians” along with many other signs labelled “Whites Only” and “No Coloreds or Dogs.” These gripping signs revealed some of the hardships that brown-skinned people faced (including our ancestors) before the 1960s Civil Rights Movement spotlighted the injustice to the world.

Upon learning about the research conducted on “Lynching in America” (<https://lynchinginamerica.eji.org/report/>), Senior Reading Program member, Ms. Shirley “Pug” Roberson, commented, “I don’t understand how the employees can work there.... It has such a heavy feeling in there.”

Vice Chair Robbie McGhee attended the grand opening of the Legacy Museum on April 26–28, 2018. Describing the significance of Tribal sponsorship, he said, “It was an honor for the Poarch Creek Indians to participate in the Equal Justice Initiative. This national memorial will allow people from across the United States to have a better understanding of the atrocities against African Americans in the South.”

He paralleled the Native American experience with the African American experience saying, “Unfortunately, we are all too aware of the atrocities that impacted our existence as a people throughout history.”



Elders visited the moving Legacy Museum that documents “Enslavement to Incarceration”

<https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/visit>

At the grand opening in 2018, Dr. Dees gave a presentation on reclaiming justice in our land claims cases. She utilized archival documents from the Chief Calvin McGhee Collection to tell our story to an intellectually-thirsty audience. She participated with other panelists who made a comparative analysis of land displacement among Native Americans, African Americans, and Palestinians. In this presentation, Chief Calvin McGhee was honored among nations of the world at the grand opening.

Four years later, our elders were able to see slavery through a new lens in the exhibit that showed many Africans sinking below the waves after dying on the ships that were bound for America. Another moving exhibit depicted Africans gasping to survive their chains, and a chained mother trying to protect her newborn.

Touring the museum and memorial was an extremely powerful and moving experience. Elders appreciated learning accurate history and left with enriched knowledge of the treatment of slaves in early America to present day mass incarceration. They came to understand the striking parallels between the Black population in America and our Indigenous ancestors.

Dr. Dees remembered what Robbie McGhee said, and requoted him to the elders. “I can only hope that one day Alabama will be home to a national memorial telling the story of what happened to our people here in Alabama.” Mvto.

Continued next page...



Elders found it difficult to view the disturbing sculpture of enslaved Africans trying to break their chains, a part of the outdoor museum which is the first Memorial in America dedicated to Blacks who were terrorized by enslavement and lynching.

<https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/memorial>



At left, Ms. Leasha Martin captured a photo of the outdoor exhibit of Africans sinking into the oblivion of the slave trade at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

Despite the heavy summer heat, elders, led by Ms. Leasha Martin, trudged forward to experience the six acre outdoor exhibit on racial terror lynching which happens to be set on six acres of ancestral Muscogee land.



*L to R:
Ms. Leasha Martin, Unknown Guest, Ms. Pamela Etheridge*

SUBMITTED BY DEIDRA SUWANEE DEES, ED.D. & EMILY ESCOBEDO



L to R:
Ester Price, Beverly Holcomb,
Emily Fayard Escobedo



L to R:
Unknown Guest, Eldnar McGhee and her great niece Emily Fayard
Escobedo who helped oversee the field trip

A very powerful installation at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice is this tribute to enslaved Africans who were victims of racial terror lynching. Elders who required the use of walkers did not let that stop them from touring the moving exhibit of hanging coffins, each representing an enslaved African who was lynched—some with unknown names as lynchings were recorded but not their names. This exhibit was very hard to bear, as evidenced by our attendees' somber expressions.



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National Indian
Health Board



COVID RECLASSIFIED BY CDC

The CDC has reclassified COVID from an epidemic to an endemic disease.

Epidemic diseases are severe, usually sudden, outbreaks of diseases that quickly affect many people within a community or region at one time.

Endemic diseases are diseases constantly present, to a greater or lesser degree, in a particular geographic location.

CDC Officials have now affirmed COVID will be recurring and some variant of the disease will be present from now on.

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4TH ANNUAL LONG TABLE EVENT HOSTED BY WIND CREEK ARUBA



The 4th Annual Long Table Event, hosted by Wind Creek Aruba, returned on the last Sunday of August for a one-night, white-hot dinner—billed as “The only meal worth \$40,000 for Aruba.”

Featuring the beloved 1,000-foot-long table setting fit for 1,000 guests, the event was hosted at the Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort in downtown Oranjestad. Since its inception in 2017, the ticketed event has raised more than \$75,000 for Aruba-based charities and is the marquee giving event for Wind Creek operations in Aruba.

The event also marked the fifth anniversary of the Wind Creek Hospitality acquisition of Renaissance Aruba. To celebrate the milestone, Wind Creek Hospitality awarded a combined total of \$90,000 to six organizations. This year’s grand prize recipient, Animal Welfare Alliance Aruba—a nonprofit organization dedicated to spaying, neutering, and the adoption of cats and dogs on the island—received a \$40,000 community impact donation. The runner-up, Aruba Animal Shelter, was also awarded—receiving a \$10,000 donation.



“Our properties across the globe are committed to weaving ourselves into the fabric of the communities where we live and operate,” said Wind Creek Aruba General Manager Paul Gielen. “Events like Long Table Aruba offer hospitality in the best sense—a chance for community members to engage and embrace each other, all while encouraging the supportive spirit of what makes this island more than home to many of us.”

Submitted by Amelia Tognoli,
Corporate Communications Manager

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Awareness + Action = Social Change

What's Your #1Thing?

The [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](#) is committed to promoting proactive efforts to shift the cultural rules, norms, and constructs that support gender-based violence and support the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities, and institutions.

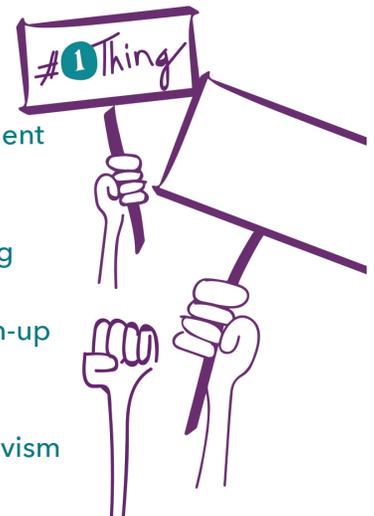
Moving People to Action

The *action* component of **Awareness + Action = Social Change** is a natural extension of the awareness and education opportunities that individuals and communities are engaged in during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and throughout the year. By integrating action steps, no matter how small, we can build our communities' capacity to take the lead in changing social and cultural norms that support gender-based violence.

#1Thing is about harnessing the momentum of our movements - especially at their critical points of intersection - by calling people to specific and direct collective action that are informed by the communities most directly impacted.

Examples of collective actions

- Community organizing: Human rights demonstrations, gatherings, or protests
- Healing together: Community healing circles and spaces
- Learning through storytelling and the arts
- Supporting women- and people of color-owned businesses
- Discussion groups
- Volunteer drives/recruitment
- Fundraising events
- Lobbying for legislation
- Neighborhood canvassing
- Voter registration drives
- Building restoration/clean-up
- Greening spaces
- Youth mentoring
- Youth organizing and activism



Starting with #1Thing

Domestic violence impacts millions of people each year, but it can be prevented. It requires the collective voice and power of individuals, families, institutions, and systems - each whose "one thing" adds a valuable and powerful component to transforming our communities.



Examples of “one things”

- Be a caring and consistent adult in the life of a child
- Talk to my loved ones about violence and oppression
- Create a culture of consent in my home
- Speak out when I notice microaggressions
- Write to my legislator and/or newspaper
- Use social media to raise awareness among my peers
- Host a “lunch and learn” at my office on topics related to violence and oppression



- Reach out to women- and people of color-led organizations to establish new partnerships
 - Learn more about how my workplace policies impact survivors of abuse
 - Reach out to my local domestic violence program to learn how I can help
- Ask about anti-violence policies and programs at local schools
 - Organize an informational meeting at church and invite my local domestic violence program
 - Learn how to foster the pets of survivors staying in shelter
 - Consume and share media created by historically oppressed people
 - Model self-care at work and home
 - Tell someone they matter
 - Listen to and validate a survivor of trauma
 - Hold my loved ones accountable when they tell a racist/sexist joke
 - Share my story (publicly or just with a single trusted loved one)
 - Donate money or time to a community-based nonprofit
 - Support women- and people of color-owned businesses in my community



Advancing Social Change

Each of our “one things” and collective actions are critical to the story of our movement. While each may be unique and personal, when woven together, they create a strong foundation for the world we imagine. And when our “one things” are put into action, they become concrete steps on the pathway to social change. Building that pathway is an investment we make together.

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Department of Health and Human Services.





#1 Thing

Action Guide

Inspiring Action Through
a Unified Message



DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS
PROJECT

A project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence



IT'S ALL
Treat
ALL
MONTH
LONG!



Celebrate Halloween and Oktoberfest with us—in fact, join us in celebrating all through October! We'll kick it off with Oktoberfest on 10/1. Then, Trick-or-treating is every Saturday and Sunday, 5-7 pm beginning 10/8. Catch All You Can Play Mondays at Clash eSports, plus great entertainment live on stage at Brandon Styles Theater—magic & variety shows on select nights. Come back Saturday 10/22 for the Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Contest and 10/29 for the Monster Bash Costume Contest. For updates on our haunted house and all October events, go to VisitOWA.com!

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WHAT'S NEW AT OWA

Help us welcome Autumn's return to OWA Parks & Resort this October with a schedule of events designed to entertain all ages. From German food and beer games to trick-or-treating, we've got you covered this fall at OWA.

Join us in OWA's entertainment district for **Oktoberfest** on Saturday, October 1 from 2–8:30pm. Oktoberfest is open to spectators and competitors looking to participate in some German-inspired fun. Catch traditional Oktoberfest-themed live music, dancing, and entertainment beginning at 3:30pm and continuing throughout the night. Want to compete for cash? Get your team of 4 together and register for the Oktoberfest Gauntlet featuring German-inspired beer gamed in Downtown OWA! We're giving away a total of \$1,600 in prize money for first, second, and third place teams. Pre-register your team today at VisitOWA.com.

Spooky season returns to Downtown OWA with **Nightmare Chambers: The Horrific Return** available weekends only from September 30–October 30. Kid-friendly entertainment kicks off October 7, with **Trick-or-Treating** through Downtown OWA and complimentary kid's activities. Bring your pooch in their spookiest outfit for our **2nd Annual Howl-o-ween Costume Contest** beginning at 4pm. Cash prizes will be available for OWA Choice, Mr. & Mrs. Howl-o-ween, Most Creative, Best Team Costume,



OKTOBERFEST
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***Must be 21+ to consume alcohol, purchase alcohol and participate in beer games.**



Spookiest Costume, and Funniest Costume. Pre-register your pup today at VisitOWA.com. Everyone's favorite costume contest returns on October 29 with the 3rd annual Monster Bash. All ages are welcome to compete for cash prizes with \$100 going to the winner in each category.

Come out for **All You Can Play** console & **PC Mondays** at Clash eSports & VR Experience! Every Monday through May 2, 2023, players can take advantage of this \$20 special offer. VIP Players receive 20% off! That's one flat rate for all you can play on a calendar day.

Make room on your schedule to stop by the **Brandon Styles Theater** and experience one of his magic and variety shows, weekly in Downtown OWA.

Have you had the chance to visit our new indoor water park yet? 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 RoundHouse.



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.

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Submitted by:
Courtney Coutinho
Marketing Coordinator





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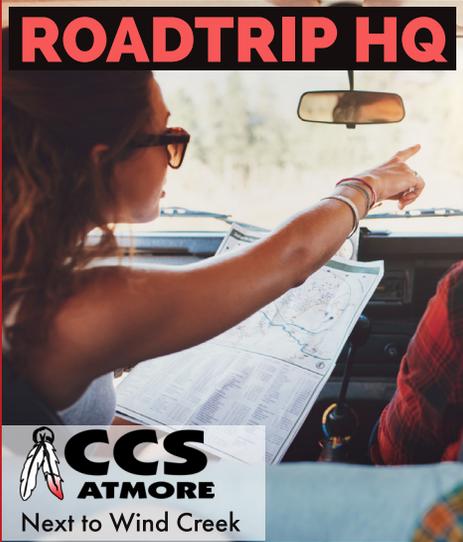
July SAFETY AWARD



Tabitha Hetrick



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¹Hearing Loss Association of America. (n.d.). Hearing Loss Facts and Statistics. https://www.hearingloss.org/wp-content/uploads/HLAA_HearingLoss_Facts_Statistics.pdf?pdf=FactStats

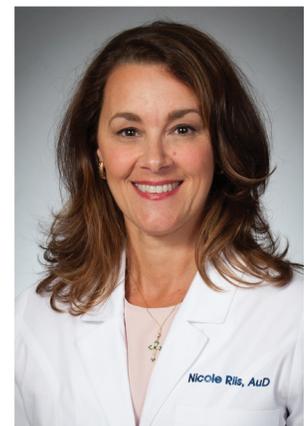
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CREEK CORNER

OCTOBER 2022

10/1/2022	Submission Deadline	November Issue	5:00 pm
10/3/2022 - 10/4/2022	Museum Gift Shop Closed	Inventory	
10/4/2022	Tribal Court	Tribal Court Room	9:00 am
10/6/2022	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm
10/7/2022	Family Court	Tribal Court Room	10:00 am
10/18/2022	Tribal Court	Tribal Court Room	9:00 am
10/20/2022	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm
10/21/2022	Family Court	Tribal Court Room	10:00 am

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