

CREEK CORNER

ISSUE 09

The official magazine of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians



WCH VOUCHER PRESENTED TO ATMORE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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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Katie Mothershed
akmothershed@pci-nsn.gov

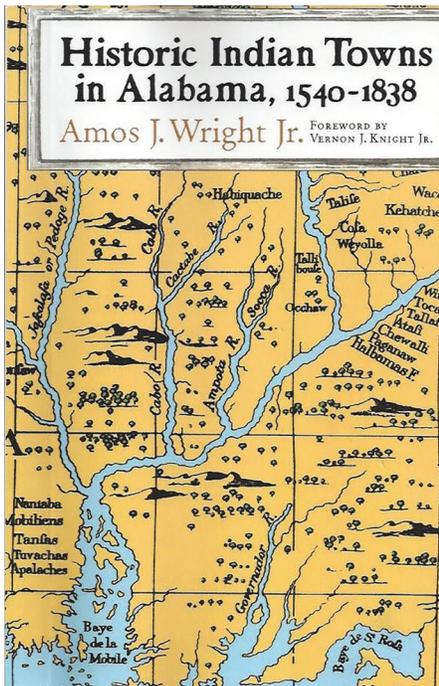


Gravity Island Watersports to host Wake Jam 2022
September 2-3, 2022. Find out more about this event
and more happening at OWA on page 16.

SENIOR READING PROGRAM: 1ST FIELD TRIP SINCE COVID BEGAN

“The 2022 Senior Reading Program has taken off with a huge success,” said Office of Archives and Records Management Archives Assistant Ms. Leasha Martin who oversees the Senior Reading Program which has served our elders since 2009. “Our attendance is up since we have been meeting in person again,” as evidenced in the attendance chart for June 2022.

On May 5, 2022, Ms. Martin held the first in-person class since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The class was held in the dining room of the SAIL Center at the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility which is now overseen by Ms. Amanda Montgomery. (The former Director, Ms. Michelle Shiver, transferred to the Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic.)



Elders were happy for Ms. Martin’s return after having been out for a period of time. “It has been so great to be back to work,” Ms. Martin said to the class. “I was able to jump right in with research projects and return to in-person Senior Reading Program classes.” The elders were excited to see her and gave her a lively standing ovation. “I was much honored to have been given a standing ovation by our elders,” she said. “That truly let me know that our Senior Reading Program is one of the most important programs we’ve developed over the years.”

Ms. Martin has been hard at work developing curricula for the classes, including readings from Amos J. Wright, Jr’s book *Historic Indian Towns in Alabama: 1540-1838*. This insightful book led Ms. Martin to plan field trips based on its information.

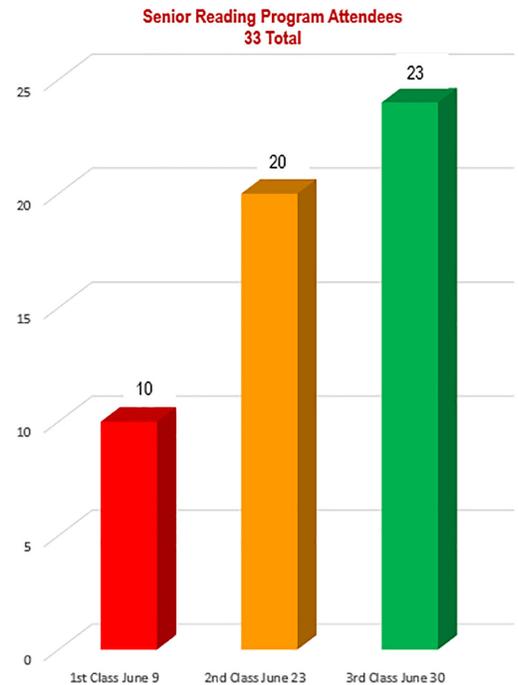




Photo by Dani Volt

Senior Reading Program participants visit the Tallapoossee Historical Museum in Dadeville, Alabama

“We had our first field trip [since the pandemic began] on July 13, 2022,” Ms. Martin. With 26 in attendance, “I picked a rural area of Alabama called Dadeville. We visited the Tallapoossee Historical Museum, not realizing we were in for a fantastic presentation by Mr. Dani Volt, and some fantastic history we had never heard before. You see, not only did the museum have wonderful antiques on display, but the museum also sat on land owned by one of our famous chiefs of the past, Menawa. Mr. Volt said Menawa was a very intelligent and wealthy Creek of those days, and owned the whole area which is known as the town of Dadeville today.”

“It is sometimes hard to express the seniors’ overwhelming joy and excitement they feel when they take these little adventures,” Ms. Martin said. Some elders expressed that they were glad to see one another. Others said that they were glad to quit looking at four walls and get out of the house! “The seniors had a blast and we experienced our Native history together on our ancestral land in present-day Alabama.”

If you would like to join the Senior Reading Program, please call Ms. Leasha Martin at (251) 446-4961. Mvto.



<https://www.nps.gov/people/menawa.htm>

Lithograph of Muscogee Red Stick leader, Menawa (c. 1765-1837?), made from painting by Charles Bird King



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NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Search **#HurricanePrep** on your favorite social media apps for suggestions and resources to help you and your family be ready.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HURRICANES:

- Know what to do before, during, and after a hurricane.
- Prepare before hurricane season starts. Pacific hurricane season starts May 15 and Atlantic hurricane season starts June 1.
- Create an **emergency communication plan with your family** before a hurricane.
- **Have emergency supplies in place** at home, at work and in the car. Find and print emergency kit lists online at www.ready.gov/kit
- **Check your insurance coverage.** Damages caused by flooding are not covered under normal homeowner's insurance policies.
- Know your community's **evacuation plan**, possible evacuation routes and how to sign up for local alerts.
- Hurricanes not only result in high winds, but floods, too. If you see a flooded path: **Turn Around, Don't Drown!**
- Always follow the instructions from local officials. **Evacuate if told to do so.**

KNOW YOUR HURRICANE RISK:

- **Live on the coast?** You are most at risk for extreme winds, flooding from rain and storm surges during a hurricane.
- **Live inland?** You are at risk for wind, thunderstorms, flooding, and power outages during a hurricane.
- **Hurricane watch** = conditions possible within the next 48 hrs.
- **Hurricane warning** = conditions are expected within 36 hrs.

LEARN HOW TO PREPARE:

www.ready.gov/hurricanes

10 Years of Travel Service

Creek Travel Plaza Celebrates 10th Anniversary



Storefront



Diner



C-Store



Heritage Wall

The official 10th Anniversary Celebration of Creek Travel Plaza (CTP) is planned for Friday, September 16th, from 10 am-4 pm. Festivities will include an appearance by the Shell-Pennzoil #22 NASCAR. Tribal Members and guests are invited to join the celebration beginning at 10 am with food and drink, including ice cream, BBQ tasting, giveaways, and an opportunity to get up-close and personal with a replica of NASCAR'S #22 Ford Mustang.

The Shell branded travel plaza, located just 3 miles south of Wind Creek Casino and Hotel, gives truckers a comfortable place to rest and access the entertainment options in and around Wind Creek Casino. Since opening on Labor Day 2012, CTP has provided the amenities today's traveler has come to expect from a top-notch travel plaza. Amenities include free overnight parking, showers, laundry, a driver's lounge, and many of the financial and business services truckers need to keep them working on the road.

During the past ten years, CTP staff has accomplished some pretty impressive

results: more than 4.5 million guests have been served, over 35 million gallons of fuel delivered, 100,000 fountain drinks dispensed, 20,000 showers provided, and more than 2 million meals prepared from the restaurant and deli.

Creek Indian Enterprises Economic Development Authority (CIEDA), which oversees multiple retail travel locations owned by the Tribe, established CTP as an economic stimulator for our local communities and as a revenue generator for the Tribe. Creek Travel Plaza serves hundreds of locals and passing travelers each and every day.

Tribal Member and CIEDA President/CEO Cody Williamson said, "CTP was created to bring jobs and economic growth to the Poarch community, and we have been successful in doing both. We employ over 40 team members at CTP and are always looking for talented people to join our team. Our team members do a fabulous job providing food, fuel, and other services in demand by both local residents and people traveling through Escambia County."

A Decade of Putting Drivers First

Because of the limited number of travel plazas along I-65 in this area that offer overnight truck parking, a quality overnight travel plaza serves the I-65 travelers well. The facility boasts a 10,000-square-foot full-service multi-use travel plaza and rest area. CTP provides services to guests 24/7/365. The location near the Tribal Museum makes it easy for visitors to stop by and learn more about Poarch Band of Creek Indian history and find a souvenir from the museum's gift shop.

Creek Travel Plaza has earned many awards since opening. The facility was voted one of the top five truck stops in the state of Alabama by Trucker Path mobile app users in 2020. Over 6000 truck stops nationwide are ranked based on feedback and reviews from over 500,000 truckers who use the Trucker Path app. CTP was named a top Alabama Truck Stop and Top Independent Truck Stop in 2017. In 2016, after only four years in operation, CTP already ranked #24 in the top 100 Truck Stops by Trucker Path.

Submitted by:
Jen Chism, CIEDA
Marketing Manager

But CTP isn't just for truckers. Many locals enjoy a tasty, hot meal and good conversation at the 1950's style-diner. Favorite menu items include tomato gravy and rice, bodacious burgers, fried chicken or shrimp baskets, milkshakes, and the House Specialty—Indian Tacos. Travelers and area residents enjoy the convenience of the Grab n Go hot bar while a fully stocked convenience store fills all types of motorists' needs. Cars, trucks, RVs, and motor coaches are all welcome!

Gerald Montalbano, CIEDA Director of Retail Operations, stated, "I hope everyone will join us to celebrate the success of CTP. The facility has become a social hub for Tribal Members where nearby neighbors gather to share a cup of coffee or a meal. We feel our business contributes to a sense of community for locals while driving travelers to our exit, benefiting the Tribe and adjacent businesses."

The 10th Anniversary Celebration begins Friday,

September 16th at 10am and is open to the public and Tribal Members. All are invited to participate in the festivities and join us in celebrating ten years of success in the travel industry.





**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.

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.

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Dumas Wesley Community Center Grant

Wind Creek Hospitality awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Dumas Wesley Community Center—a neighborhood-based nonprofit that aims to enrich the local community through collaborative programs. This includes providing basic human needs, strengthening leadership and encouraging personal responsibility. Located in Mobile, Alabama, the grant will support the community center's traditional housing program, the Sybil Smith Family Village. The village seeks to provide housing and support services for homeless women and children including individualized case management, life skills classes, and a comprehensive support system that transforms the lives of residents from homelessness to self-sufficiency and independence.

Tito Check

As part of an ongoing community relations initiative, Guests at Wind Creek Hospitality properties have the option to donate unused gaming vouchers into collection boxes after their visit. At the end of every month, the donations are collected and distributed to a designated recipient(s) in the property's local community. Over the summer, an \$8,000 check was presented to one of Wind Creek Atmore's voucher recipients, the Atmore Veterans of Foreign Wars.

School Supply Drive

Wind Creek Hospitality's Pennsylvania property, Wind Creek Bethlehem, hosted its annual school supply drive ahead of the upcoming academic year. Set to run until the second week of August, Team Members at Wind Creek Bethlehem have already donated over 35 boxes filled with pens, notebooks, folders, and other school supply necessities. The donations will be sent to a neighboring school, Donegan Elementary—providing students with a successful start to their school year.✂

Submitted by Amelia Tognoli, Corporate Communications Manager



ROADTRIP HQ

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TOP PERFORMER

June TOP PERFORMER

Landon Allen **PCI MANUFACTURING**

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CCS
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SUICIDE AWARENESS

PREPARING FOR A CRISIS

No one wants to worry about the possibility of a crisis, but they do happen. That doesn't mean you have to feel powerless. Many healthcare providers require patients to create a crisis plan, and may suggest that it be shared with friends and family. Ask your loved one if he has developed a plan.

A Wellness Recovery Action Plan can also be very helpful for your loved one to plan his overall care, and how to avoid a crisis. If he will not work with you on a plan, you can make one on your own. Be sure to include the following information:

- Phone numbers for your loved one's therapist, psychiatrist and other healthcare providers
- Family members and friends who would be helpful, and local crisis line number
- Phone numbers of family members or friends who would be helpful in a crisis
- Local crisis line number (you can usually find this by contacting your NAMI Affiliate, or by doing an internet search for "mental health crisis services" and the name of your county)
- Addresses of walk-in crisis centers or emergency rooms
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Your address and phone number(s)
- Your loved one's diagnosis and medications
- Previous psychosis or suicide attempts
- History of drug use
- Triggers
- Things that have helped in the past
- Mobile Crisis Unit phone number in the area (if there is one)
- Determine if police officers in the community have Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)

Go over the plan with your loved one, and if he is comfortable doing so, with his doctor. Keep copies in several places. Store a copy in a drawer in your kitchen, your glove compartment, on your smartphone, your bedside table, or in your wallet. Also, keep a copy in a room in your home that has a lock and a phone.☞

<https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Family-Members-and-Caregivers/Being-Prepared-for-a-Crisis>

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SUICIDE
AWARENESS

MONTH



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WHAT'S NEW AT OWA

School is back in session and OWA has a variety of activities planned to help your family unwind and celebrate the return of cooler temperatures.

SEP 02-03: WAKE JAM 2022 Join us at OWA for our first ever wakeboard competition at the Gravity Island Watersports Wake Park on Saturday, September 2-3! Cheer our riders on and watch the Wake Jam 2022 from the OWA Island for free or register to compete online at GravityIslandWatersports.com. \$45 entry fee for Groms and Beginners; \$65 entry fee for Open Divisions. Per-person entry fee includes a free swag bag and Wake Jam t-shirt. Plus, we have \$2,000+ in cash prizes up for grabs (excludes Beginner Divisions)!

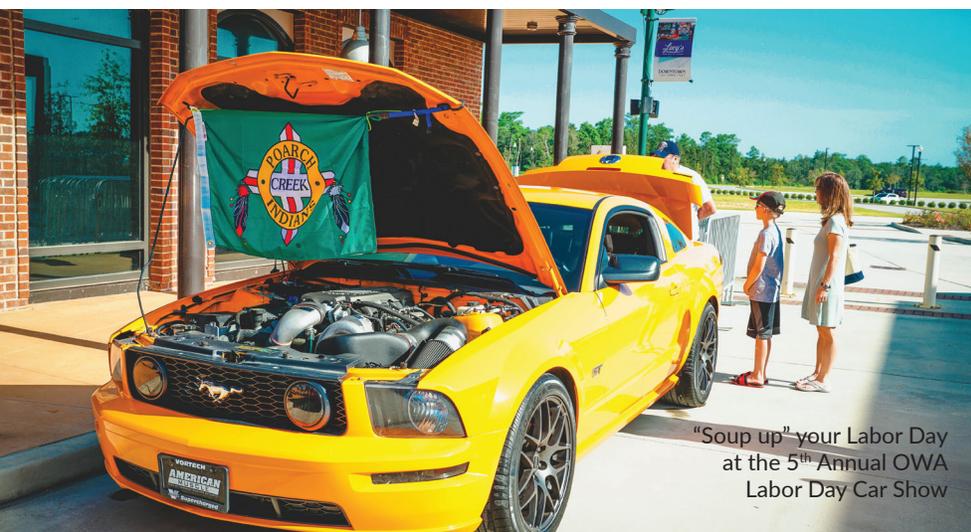
SEP 03: OWA LABOR DAY CAR SHOW Returning for its fifth year, the OWA Labor Day Car Show is back on Saturday, September 3, beginning at 9am. During this picturesque event, cars of all makes and models will be on display throughout the charming streets of Downtown OWA. With hot rods and custom builds lining the streets, this is one car show we recommend you don't miss.

SEP 03: OWA LABOR DAY FAMILY EVENTS Stick around for kid activities on Saturday, September 3, including a free patriotic t-shirt craft and scavenger hunt from 2-6pm, followed by a free outdoor concert from 6-9:30pm. Top it all off with OWA's patriotic firework spectacular to end the night at 8:50pm. From 2-6pm Sunday, enjoy some interactive fun with your little ones. We'll have a scavenger hunt to get you moving throughout Downtown. Plus, patriotic handprint t-shirt crafts at the alcove near Native Treasures. Be sure to pick up your scavenger hunt map from Paint Party Studios. Live music will be featured from 5-9:30pm, so stick around for even more fun once the sun goes down.

SEPTEMBER MOVIE NIGHTS Join us under the stars for a free movie night on the Island Amphitheater in Downtown OWA select Saturdays in September at 7:30pm. We'll be showing *The Secret Life of Pets (2016)* on Saturday, September 10. Plan to arrive early for a dog adoption event with the Mobile County Animal Shelter from 5-7pm! OWA will cover half of the adoption fee for the first 16 adoptions! And don't forget to bring your own pup to enjoy the fun! Saturday, September 17, will feature



Bring your family and meet up with your friends to celebrate Labor Day at OWA this year!



"Soup up" your Labor Day at the 5th Annual OWA Labor Day Car Show

OWA
Parks & Resort

Submitted by:
Courtney Coutinho
Marketing Coordinator



Encanto with a special-themed coloring activity from 5-7:30pm. **Saturday, September 24** we'll showcase the movie **Matilda** and we'll co-host a book drive with Friends of the Foley Library to recognize banned books week, September 18-24. Please drop book donations off at the OWA Island and Tropic Falls entrance.

SEP 23: GULF COAST COMEDY FEST It's time for another Gulf Coast Comedy Fest at the Brandon Styles Theater featuring Donnie Stopa & Friends on Saturday, September 23. The lineup features headliner Donnie Stopa who was awarded "Best Stand-Up Comedian (CLEAN)" at All The Laughs Comedy Awards, feature act Sean Harper from Tampa Bay, FL, and opening act Absar Siddiqui, one of Orlando, Florida's favorite Stand-Up Comedians. That's not all happening this September in the theater! Don't forget to check out the Magic and Variety Shows from Brandon Styles Live, with shows weekly in Downtown OWA.



Have you had the chance to visit our new indoor waterpark 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 Round House.

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.



Join us Saturday, September 2-3 for Wake Jam 2022 at Gravity Island Watersports. Register to compete online at GravityIslandWatersports.com. Watch this event free of charge from OWA Island.



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The Link Between Hearing And Balance



A 2012 study determined that having **MILD HEARING LOSS TRIPLES THE RISK OF FALLS.** However, results also suggested that treating hearing loss with hearing devices can help reduce the risk of falling.¹



Falls Prevention Awareness Week is September 18–24, making it a great time to schedule an appointment if you have untreated hearing loss or are experiencing imbalance.

¹Johns Hopkins University. (2012). Hearing loss linked to three-fold risk of falling. https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/media/releases/hearing_loss_linked_to_three_fold_risk_of_falling

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



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Elizabeth Pickett, Au.D., CCC-A

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



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CREEK CORNER

SEPTEMBER 2022

9/1/2022	Submission Deadline	October Issue	5:00 pm
9/1/2022	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm
9/5/2022	Tribal Government Closed	Labor Day	
9/6/2022	Tribal Court	Tribal Court Room	9:00 am
9/9/2022	Tribal Court	Tribal Council Chambers	10:00 am
9/12-9/13/2022	Museum Gift Shop Closed	Inventory	
9/15/2022	Tribal Council Meeting	Tribal Council Chambers	4:00 pm
9/20/2022	Tribal Court	Tribal Court Room	9:00 am
9/23/2022	Family Court	Tribal Court Room	10:00 am

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