







Poarch 101: Honoring the **Animal Through Complete Use** More info on page 12

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CREDITS

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OUR MISSION
DIVISION SPOTLIGHT: FACILITIES
PRESERVING OUR VOICE: THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIVE LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION
TEACHING TRIBAL YOUTH TO BECOME STORYTELLERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES
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CONGRATULATIONS LAUREN COLBERT

BUILDING HEALTHY FUTURES TOGETHER



MEGAN ZAMORA Editor, Creek Corner

"By prioritizing our own health—whether that's committing to regular exercise, choosing nutrient-rich foods, or managing stress—we send a powerful message to our youth about the importance of self-care."

s we turn the calendar to February, we embrace two important themes that resonate deeply with our Poarch Creek Indian community: Youth Leadership Month and American Heart Month. Both serve as reminders of the responsibility we share to nurture the next generation and to protect our health—not only for ourselves but for those who look to us

as role models.

Youth Leadership Month is a time dedicated to recognizing and encouraging the potential of young people to lead and make a positive impact in their communities. It's an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of young leaders while also fostering the skills, values, and confidence they need to shape the future. For our Tribe, this means empowering our youth to carry forward the legacy of the Poarch Creek Indians while ensuring they have the tools to thrive in all aspects of their lives.

Meanwhile, heart health is critical to our overall well-being. It impacts how we live, work, and care for our families. Unfortunately, Native American communities, including ours, face a higher risk of heart disease due to factors such as limited access to healthcare, genetic predispositions, and lifestyle challenges. But this reality also underscores an opportunity: with prevention, education, and a commitment to healthy habits, we can turn the tide and create a healthier future for our people.

Youth Leadership Month reminds us that young people often learn not from what we say, but from what we do. By prioritizing our own health—whether that's committing to regular exercise, choosing nutrient-rich foods, or managing stress—we send a powerful message to our youth about the importance of self-care. This is something I'm keenly aware of as the mother of two young children.

As adults, parents, and leaders, we must show the next generation that caring for one's body and mind isn't a chore but a celebration of life. Something as simple as taking a walk with your children, preparing a healthy meal together, or encouraging them to join a community activity can plant the seeds of lifelong wellness.

Health has always been integral to our culture. In traditional Creek values, caring for the whole self—mind, body, and spirit—is a way to honor the Creator and maintain balance in life. Today, combining this wisdom with modern healthcare practices can empower us to stay strong and resilient. Preventative care, such as regular checkups and health screenings, is one way we can blend these approaches.

Within our community, programs focused on wellness, fitness, and education continue to grow, offering resources that support heart health and overall wellbeing. These initiatives are opportunities not only to improve our individual health but also to gather as a community and reinforce the bonds that keep us strong.

As we celebrate Youth Leadership Month and American Heart Month, let us commit to leading with heart—literally and figuratively. Let us show our youth that health is a gift we give ourselves and one another, and that by caring for our bodies, we honor our ancestors and secure a stronger future for generations to come.

This month, I encourage each of you to take one small step toward better health. Whether it's scheduling a check-up, joining a fitness class, or simply sharing a healthy habit with a young person, your actions matter. Together, we can inspire healthier lives and build a thriving Poarch Creek Indian community that leads with heart in every way.



TRIBAL LEADERS

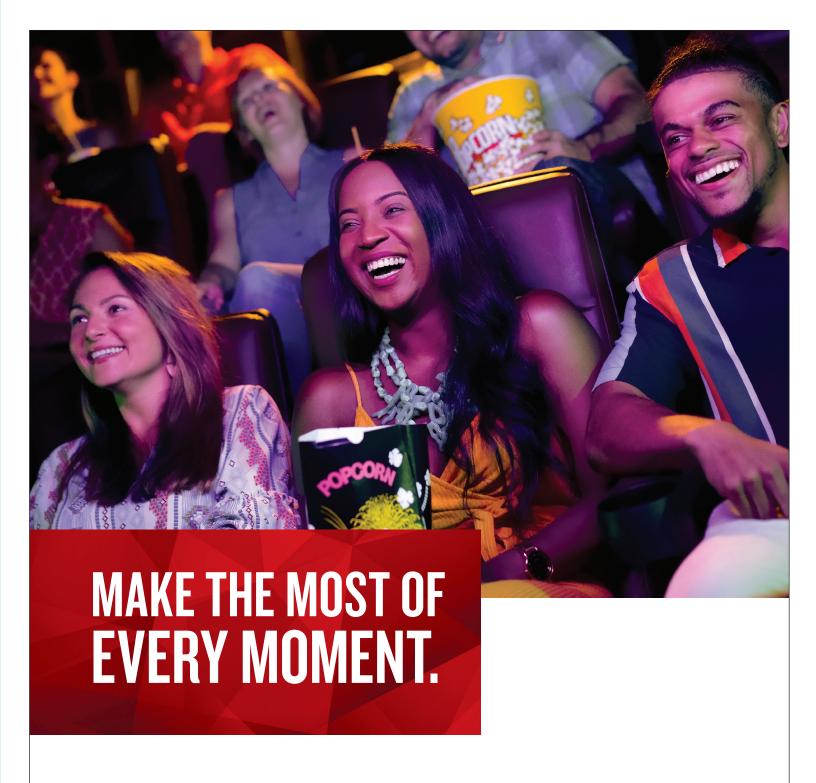
The mission of the Poarch Creek Indians is to protect our inherent rights as a sovereign American Indian Tribe, promote our culture and beliefs, to help our Tribal Citizens achieve their highest potential, maintain good relations with other Indian tribes and units of government, acquire, develop and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

TOP ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT) Stephanie Bryan, Tribal Chair Robert McGhee, Vice Chair Charlotte Meckel, Secretary Amy Gantt, Treasurer

BOTTOM ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)
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By Ashlee "Katie" Mothershed

The Facilities Divisions is a cornerstone of community operations, ensuring that essential infrastructure, landscaping, and agriculture services are expertly managed. Comprising several specialized departments, this division plays a pivotal role in maintaining, constructing, and enhancing Tribal Government facilities while offering valuable services to the broader Poarch Creek Community. Here's an in-depth look at the division's departments and their vital contributions.

FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

The Facilities Department ensures that all Tribal Government buildings are safe, functional, and well-maintained. This team oversees general maintenance, internal construction, and remodeling projects for all government-owned properties. From routine repairs to large-scale construction initiatives, the department supports the seamless operation of Tribal facilities while meeting the growing needs of the community.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to essential infrastructure services, the Public Works Department manages road maintenance, mechanic services, and community programs. Key initiatives include:

Road and Bridge Construction: Developing and maintaining the roads and bridges within the Bureau of Indian Affairs' roads inventory on the Poarch Creek Reservation.

Tribal Citizen Programs: Providing services like dirt hauling and elder assistance, ensuring that community members' practical needs are met with efficiency and care.

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The Horticulture Department brings life to the Reservation with its expertise in plant cultivation, food production, and landscape design. Their specialized services include:

- · Growing vegetables, fruits, and ornamental trees.
- · Soil science, irrigation systems, and pesticide management.
- Designing landscapes that beautify and sustain the Reservation.

This department plays a vital role in maintaining green spaces while supporting the Tribe's commitment to sustainability.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden is a cherished resource that provides fresh, free produce to Tribal Citizens and the broader Poarch Creek community. By offering healthy, homegrown vegetables and fruits, this initiative addresses food security and fosters community well-being. Tribal Citizens receive first access to the produce, followed by community members and Tribal employees.

LFPA GRANT FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Through the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Grant, the Facilities Division coordinates food distribution to those in need. Each month, fresh, locally sourced produce and agricultural goods are provided to Poarch Creek community members, prioritizing access for those facing food insecurity. Distributions occur on the last Wednesday of most months, with special schedules for November and December to accommodate holiday needs.

POARCH CREEK FARMERS MARKET

The Poarch Creek Farmers Market bridges local farmers with the community, offering a space to sell agricultural products. Held on the first payday Friday of each month, and occasionally on additional paydays, the market promotes local agriculture and provides convenient access to fresh, high-quality goods for the Tribe and community members.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DEPARTMENT

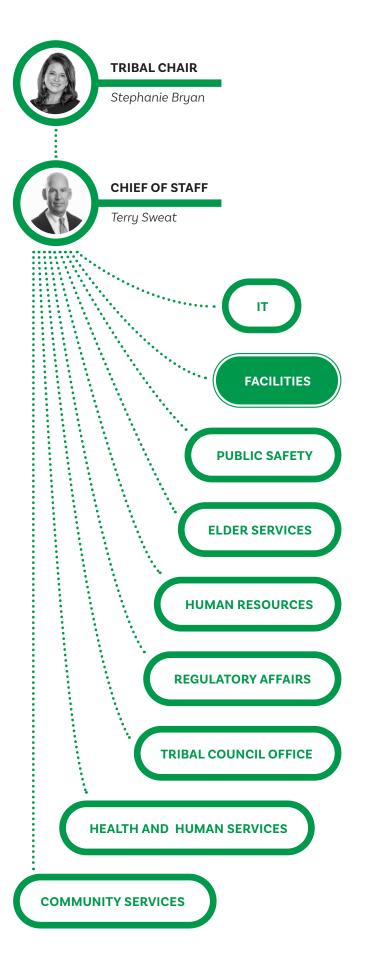
Maintaining clean and visually appealing Tribal Government properties is the focus of the Buildings and Grounds Department. Their responsibilities include:

Custodial Services: Cleaning, sanitizing, and maintaining the interiors of Tribal buildings to ensure safe and hygienic spaces for employees and visitors.

Grounds Maintenance: Landscaping, lawn care, and general upkeep of exterior areas, creating an inviting and professional appearance for all Tribal properties.

A DIVISION ROOTED IN SERVICE

From maintaining roads to cultivating gardens, the Tribal Government Facilities Division embodies the Poarch Creek Indians' commitment to progress and community care. By managing essential infrastructure, promoting sustainable agriculture, and supporting Tribal programs, the division strengthens the fabric of the community while honoring its values of service and stewardship.





Language is the heart of culture, identity, and connection. For Native communities, language is more than just a means of communication; it carries the wisdom of ancestors, the stories of resilience, and the worldview of Indigenous peoples. Yet, due to the devastating effects of colonization, forced assimilation, and systemic erasure, many Native languages are endangered, with some on the brink of extinction. Revitalizing Native languages is not just about preserving words—it's about reclaiming sovereignty, strengthening identity, and ensuring cultural survival for generations to come.

THE CRISIS OF LANGUAGE LOSS

Native languages across the United States have faced centuries of suppression. Policies like the Indian Removal Act, boarding schools, and the outlawing of traditional practices sought to sever Native peoples from their cultural roots. Boarding schools, in particular, played a significant role in language loss, as Native children were forbidden to speak their languages and often faced severe punishment for doing so.

According to UNESCO, over half of the world's languages are at risk of disappearing, and the crisis is particularly severe in Native communities. In the U.S., only 20 of the approximately 300 Native languages spoken at the time of European contact are still being passed down to children. Without immediate action, these languages—and the unique cultural knowledge they embody—could be lost forever.

WHY LANGUAGE MATTERS

Cultural Identity and Continuity

Language is a cornerstone of identity. It encapsulates traditional knowledge, spiritual beliefs, and cultural practices. Without it, many Native communities risk losing the essence of who they are. Revitalizing languages ensures that future generations can connect to their heritage and take pride in their roots.

Worldview and Knowledge Systems

Native languages reflect unique ways of understanding the world. They hold ecological knowledge, ethical frameworks, and histories that are often absent in mainstream narratives. For example, many Native languages are deeply tied to the land, with words and phrases that describe natural cycles, animal behaviors, and environmental stewardship.

Healing from Historical Trauma

Reviving Native languages is an act of healing. It confronts the historical trauma caused by assimilation policies and reaffirms a community's resilience and sovereignty. Speaking the language of one's ancestors can be a powerful way to reconnect with history and reclaim cultural dignity.

Community Strength and Unity

Language revitalization fosters intergenerational connection. Elders pass their knowledge to younger generations, strengthening community ties and ensuring that the wisdom of the past is carried forward.

EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE NATIVE LANGUAGES

Across the country, Native communities are leading inspiring initiatives to preserve and revitalize their languages. We endeavor to keep our Mvskoke language alive through language programs and classes.

Mvskoke Language Classes for Children and Adults

The Poarch Creek Indians have taken proactive steps to preserve and revitalize the Mvskoke language by offering structured language classes for children and adults (Tribal Citizens, First & Second Generation Descendants). These classes provide a safe and welcoming environment for learners of all ages to immerse themselves in their ancestral tongue. By teaching Mvskoke vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills, the program ensures that the language is accessible to both younger generations and adults who may be rediscovering their roots.

Language learning is also paired with cultural education, incorporating traditional songs and stories to give learners a holistic understanding of the importance of Mvskoke. These efforts create an intergenerational bridge, connecting youth with elders who serve as cultural and linguistic guides.

In addition to classes, the Tribe promotes the language through community events, signage, and digital resources, making Mvskoke a visible and integral part of daily life. By integrating language learning into cultural practices, Poarch Creek is not only preserving words but also reinforcing the traditions and values that define their community.

OTHER NATIVE LANGUAGE EFFORTS NATIONWIDE

Language Immersion Schools

Schools like the Cherokee Nation's Cherokee Language Immersion School and the Hawaiian 'Aha Pūnana Leoprograms immerse students in their Native language from a young age. These programs not only teach the language but also reinforce cultural values and traditions.

Technology and Digital Tools

Many tribes are leveraging technology to keep their languages alive. Language learning apps, online dictionaries, and virtual classes are making Native languages accessible to a broader audience. For example, the Lakota Language Consortium has developed mobile apps and interactive tools for learners.

Media and Arts

Native artists, filmmakers, and writers are incorporating their languages into their work, bringing them to the forefront of modern culture. Movies like Moana have even been translated into Native languages like Hawaiian, providing a fun and engaging way to promote language use.

Federal and Tribal Support

Initiatives like the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act provide federal funding for language programs. Tribal governments and organizations are also creating policies and dedicating resources to language preservation.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Revitalizing Native languages is not without challenges. Many communities face a shortage of fluent speakers, particularly among younger generations. Funding for programs is often limited, and the time required to rebuild linguistic fluency can be daunting. However, every effort counts.

For Poarch Creek, the Mvskoke language classes are a vital step forward. They demonstrate how dedication, community collaboration, and cultural pride can drive meaningful change. The commitment to revitalizing Mvskoke ensures that the language remains a living, breathing part of the Poarch Creek identity.

A CALL TO ACTION

Preserving Native languages is a collective responsibility. For non-Native allies, supporting language revitalization can mean advocating for increased funding, respecting Native naming practices, and learning about the languages spoken in their region. For Native communities, it's a call to continue the tireless work of teaching, speaking, and celebrating their languages.

Every word spoken in a Native language is an act of defiance against erasure and a step toward cultural sovereignty. By revitalizing Native languages like Mvskoke, we ensure that the stories, values, and wisdom of our ancestors will continue to guide us into the future. As long as the language lives, so too does the spirit of the people.





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1 The Hearing Review. (2012). Hear the world study: people with good hearing have better relationships. https://hearingreview.com/inside-hearing/people/hear-the-world-study-people-with-good-hearing-have-better-relationships

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Elizabeth Pickett, Au.D., CCC-A

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



or the Poarch Creek Indian people, respect for nature and resourcefulness go hand in hand. Every part of an animal serves a purpose, ensuring nothing goes to waste. This philosophy, deeply rooted in tradition, not only sustained life but also demonstrated a profound connection to the natural world.

Take the deer, for example, an animal that played a vital role in daily life. The hide was especially valuable, used during the fur trade and tanned to create essential items such as moccasins, leggings, and other clothing. Beyond garments, the hide could be fashioned into rawhide, which had its own purposes, like crafting durable shields for battle or making drums, integral to ceremonies and gatherings.

Interestingly, the importance of deer hides extended beyond their functional use. During the fur trade, deer hides were commonly used as a form of currency. This practice gave rise to the term "buck" as a reference to money—an enduring legacy of the trade practices of Indigenous peoples and early settlers.

The bones of the deer were also versatile. A specific toe bone could be split to create fishhooks, vital for sustenance. Other bones were shaped into tools or worn as jewelry, blending practicality with artistry. Even the antlers found new life, becoming tools, knife handles, or arrow points.

This philosophy, deeply rooted in tradition, not only sustained life but also demonstrated a profound connection to the natural world.



The animal's stomach didn't go unused either. It could be repurposed into water pouches, showcasing ingenious methods of utilizing every available resource. Even the deer's brain had a function-it was used in the tanning process for hides, further demonstrating the community's commitment to sustainability.

This philosophy of complete utilization extended beyond deer. It reflected a broader cultural principle: honoring the gift of life by ensuring no part of an animal was wasted. This approach fostered a deeper respect for the land and its resources, a lesson as relevant today as it was centuries ago.

By embracing these traditional practices, the Poarch Creek Indian people exemplify a sustainable and respectful relationship with nature-an enduring legacy that continues to inspire.





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By Lauren Giddeons & Karen Rodriguez

For Deborah Raksany, producing documentaries has always been about more than capturing beautiful landscapes and telling compelling stories. As Senior Vice President and Producer with Giant Screen Films, her mission is to educate, inspire, and provoke meaningful conversations about the natural world. As the name of her company implies, her medium has been giant-screen theaters. Ice Worlds, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), has been her latest endeavor.

An ambitious project, Ice Worlds follows the NSFfunded THOR (Thwaites Heliophysical Observation and Reconnaissance) expedition to the Thwaites Glacier in Antarctica, often called the "Doomsday Glacier" due to its critical role in global sea-level rise. The expedition aims to understand how the glacier is responding to climate change, particularly through melting from below due to warm ocean currents. But that's just the giant-screen documentary.

Ice Worlds is also a collaboration between tribal youth and their elders, with a goal of fostering intergenerational storytelling and community-based environmental action. The series features teenagers from four Native American Tribes, including the Poarch Creek Indians. Under the guidance of mentors like Raksany and her co-Principal Investigator (PI), Dr. Patty Loew, the teens use filmmaking to explore their communities' connections to the environment and their efforts to preserve natural resources for future generations.

Raksany notes that the youth-led format is a crucial aspect of the project. The project connects a new generation of tribal youth to the ancestral wisdom that has made Indigenous tribes respectful stewards of their lands for generations.

"This project is deeply personal for me," says Raksany. "It's about giving a platform to the next generation of Native storytellers. These young people bring a unique and important perspective to environmental change, one grounded in tradition, culture, and a profound respect for the Earth."

One of Poarch Creek's standout participants is 15-yearold Alex Bowen. In his documentary segment, Alex takes viewers on a journey through the LongLeaf Pine Forest-a vital ecosystem that his Tribe is working to restore. The Poarch Creek Indians, as Alex explains, are deeply committed to reviving the LongLeaf Pine, a tree that once covered vast areas of the southeastern United States but has been diminished due to logging and land development.

Dr. Patty Loew, a citizen of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe and Professor Emerita at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, has long been a champion of Native American storytelling. As a renowned documentary producer, journalist, and author, she has spent her career amplifying Indigenous voices through media. Her role as co-PI on Ice Worlds is an extension of her lifelong dedication to training the next generation of Native American storytellers.

Raksany is quick to point out that Ice Worlds isn't just a documentary series-it's a movement. The teens involved in the project aren't just capturing stories on film, they're learning how to become stewards of their communities' natural resources. By engaging with elders, tribal leaders, and environmental experts, these young filmmakers are gaining valuable insights into the challenges of environmental conservation and the importance of cultural preservation.

The choice to focus on Indigenous perspectives in a project about environmental change is intentional and, according to Raksany, long overdue. "Indigenous communities have always been at the forefront of environmental stewardship, but their voices are often left out of mainstream environmental discussions," she says. "We hope Ice Worlds will help shift that narrative, showing that traditional knowledge and modern science can and should work together."

With support from the National Science Foundation, Raksany and her team at Giant Screen Films (GSF) are ensuring that Ice Worlds not only reaches large audiences through IMAX and specialty theaters but also serves as an educational tool. Partnering with museums, science centers, and schools, GSF is working to create educational materials that complement the films, ensuring that stories from the Poarch community and others will inspire students far beyond their own tribes.

As the series continues to unfold, both Raksany and Loew hope that it will encourage a new generation of Native youth to see themselves as storytellers, filmmakers, and advocates for their land. "These young people are the future," says Loew. "And through projects like Ice Worlds, they're showing the world that Indigenous voices are not only vital in the fight against environmental change—they're essential."

In a time when environmental disasters are accelerating, the wisdom of Indigenous communities and their deep connection to the land offer powerful lessons for us all. Ice Worlds is more than just a documentary; it's a call to action, reminding us that the most profound solutions to environmental challenges may come from the voices we've too often ignored.





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By Ashlee "Katie" Mothershed

ouise Erdrich's The Night Watchman is a masterful novel that blends history, activism, and deeply personal storytelling to highlight Native rights and cultural survival. Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction, the book is inspired by the life of Erdrich's grandfather, who worked tirelessly to protect his people's (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians) sovereignty as a night watchman and tribal leader.

Set in 1953 on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota, the story follows Thomas Wazhashk, a dedicated night watchman and tribal chairman, as he rallies his community against a U.S. congressional bill that threatens to terminate their tribal status and seize their land. Alongside Thomas's fight, the novel weaves the journey of Patrice "Pixie" Paranteau, a young woman searching for her missing sister while navigating the challenges of reservation life.

Erdrich's writing beautifully captures the resilience, humor, and interconnectedness of Native communities. The novel not only sheds light on the historical termination policies faced by many tribes in the mid-20th century but also explores themes of identity, family, and the enduring power of community.

For readers interested in Native American history, cultural preservation, and heartfelt storytelling, The Night Watchman is an essential and unforgettable read.

The Tribe is committed to doing its part to further Native arts through books, media, movies, fashion, and similar artistic outlets. We'd love to include your recommendation in one of our future issues. Please feel free to share those with me. Mvto!

LOUISE ERDRICH

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

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WIND CREEK WETUMPKA GIVES BACK WITH WSFA

By Amelia Tognoli

ind Creek Montgomery and Wind Creek Wetumpka proudly participated as sponsors of WSFA 12's Day of Giving on December 12th and 13th, 2024. 12's Day of Giving is an annual charitable event organized by WSFA, providing an opportunity for communities to come together to support local families in need during the holiday season.

As part of their involvement, Team Members from Wind Creek Montgomery showcased their community spirit by taking part in the Renfroe's Market Grocery Run. This high-energy activity saw the team filling five shopping carts to the brim with essential non-perishable grocery items. From canned goods and bottled water to bags of flour, and a variety of pantry staples, the shopping spree was a heartfelt effort to meet the needs of families in the community.

Meanwhile, Wind Creek Wetumpka also joined the event with a heartwarming initiative of their own. Team Members headed to Target to shop for toys for children in the area who might not otherwise experience the joy of Christmas. They filled five shopping carts with a wide array of toys, including board games, dolls, and more, ensuring smiles and holiday cheer for many young ones.

In addition, both properties offered Guests a chance to give back through toy donations at stations placed throughout each facility. Guests were offered \$10 in FREE Play or a \$10 Resort Credit for donated toys. Team Members were also able to donate toys for ten Wind Dollars.

The collected items were donated as part of the larger 12's Day of Giving initiative, which aims to stock local food banks and provide relief for families facing hardships. Wind Creek Montgomery and Wind Creek Wetumpka's contributions underscore their dedication to community outreach and helping others during the holiday season.





ENJOY A NEW MONTH OF FUN EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT THIS FEBRUARY AT OWA PARKS & RESORT

By Catherine Hasty



he fun never ends at OWA! This month brings a lineup of new events and activities for all to enjoy. Catch a show at the OWA Theater or let the good times roll with some Mardi Gras fun. At OWA Parks & Resort there's something for everyone!

Kick off the month with a great lineup of live performances at the OWA Theater with a variety of musical acts from rock to pop and everything in between!

February 1st

OWA Theater presents WHITE TIE ROCK ENSEMBLE: 70'S BRIT POP. Experience 70s Brit Pop like never before as The White Tie Rock Ensemble returns to the OWA Theater for two incredible nights, January 31st and February 1st, to present an unforgettable tribute to the legends of 70s Brit pop. Experience the timeless hits of David Bowie, Queen, Elton John, and Rod Stewart performed with symphonic artistry. It's a dynamic performance you don't want to miss.

February 7th & 8th

LIVERPOOL LEGENDS: THE PREMIERE BEATLES TRIBUTE. Experience Beatlemania like never before! OWA Theater proudly presents the Grammy-nominated and internationally acclaimed Liverpool Legends: The Premier Beatles Tribute. Handpicked by George Harrison's sister, Louise Harrison, this tribute band brings the unforgettable music of The Beatles to life. From the early hits of "She Loves You" and "I Want to Hold Your Hand" to the iconic classics like "Let It Be" and "Hey Jude," Liverpool Legends recreate the magic of the Fab Four with unmatched authenticity.

February 6th and 13th

OWA Theater brings back classic and iconic films to the big screen with \$10 Matinee Movies! Enjoy the magic of these cinematic gems on the big screen at an affordable price - a perfect afternoon escape into the golden era of film. Celebrate The Beatles on February 6th with Help! (1965 | G), a musical adventure starring The Beatles and on February 13th, enjoy the charm of Elvis Presley in Girls! Girls! Girls! (1962 | PG). Don't miss the chance to experience these beloved classics' charm, music, and intrigue, all for just \$10 per ticket!

February 21st, 22nd and 23rd

HERO TAKES A FALL: AN ORIGINAL 80'S MUSICAL FEATURING HITS OF THE BANGLES!

Get ready to be swept away by the music, heart, and drama of the 80s! Produced by Michael Seward of Seward Studios and written by OWA Theater Manager, Ashlyn Sizemore, this rom-com musical brings the iconic hits of The Bangles to life in a fresh, original story of friendship, love, and self-discovery. Follow four young women - Valeri, Vicki, Micki, and Debbi - as they juggle work, their band, and the highs and lows of chasing their dreams. When aspiring singer Val meets her longtime idol, seasoned performer James C. Kobalt, it feels like a dream come true. But as her hero reveals his flaws, Val embarks on a heartfelt journey of self-discovery, learning to embrace her own strength and talent. Packed with iconic Bangles songs, from "Manic Monday" to "Eternal Flame," this musical will have you laughing, crying, and singing along. Don't miss this fun and inspiring celebration of friendship, love, and finding your voice!

February 26th at 1 PM

Join us for a special screening of "Echo in the Canyon" at OWA Theater. Experience this captivating documentary that explores the influential music scene of Laurel Canyon, where artists like The Byrds, The Beach Boys, Buffalo Springfield, and The Mamas & the Papas created a sound that defined a generation. Don't miss this chance to relive the magic of the 60s California sound on the big screen!

For a full listing of events at the OWA Theater, visit their website at https://visitowa.com/ entertainment/owa-theater/

LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULER!

On February 22nd, celebrate the magic of Mardi Gras at the Krewe du Kidz Masquerade. From Moon Pie Bingo to a Bubble Dance Party and mask decorating, every corner of this carnival will be full of family friendly activities for young revelers.

Kick off the festivities and let the kids unleash their creativity by crafting a one-of-a-kind Mardi Gras feather mask to wear and show off during the celebration, or design their own unique Mardi Gras necklaces, perfect for celebrating in style! There will also be a Bubble Dance Party, as well as a Shoebox Float decorating contest. Decorate your own shoebox float at home and bring it with you to Krewe du Kids for a chance to win a prize! There will also be balloon and caricature artists, face painting and Moon Pie Bingo, all leading up to the crowning of the Krewe du Kidz King and Queen! Come to Krewe du Kidz dressed in your finest Mardi Gras regalia to be in the running for Krewe du Kidz King or Queen! (King and Queen will be crowned at 3:30 pm and you must be present to win.) The fun begins at noon and continues until 4 pm.

PUPPY GRAS PARADE Saturday, March 1st

No holiday celebration would be complete without our furry friends, and we invite you to bring them to the Puppy Gras Pet Parade and costume contest in Downtown OWA.

MARDI GRAS PARADE & AFTER PARTY Sunday, March 2nd

Are you ready to let the good times roll? Grab your masks and beads because we're celebrating in style with a fully decked-out float parade and party in Downtown OWA.

Visit the website for updated Mardi Gras event information and times at https://visitowa.com/winterwonderland/#event-schedule

Also, you won't want to miss OWA's Friday Deal Days every Friday in February with some great offers

throughout the restaurants in Downtown OWA. Below is just a sample of what's available this month. But be sure to check back for additional offers available!

- · Vacay Everyday Free gift with purchase of \$50
- Waffles R Wild BOGO free chicken sandwich (excluding the jackpot), Dine In Only
- Towne Tap lunch specials every week
- · Murder Creek Distillery \$5 cocktails
- Gussie's \$13 lunch special every week including soda or tea

For more fun all month long, be sure and visit Towne Tap in Downtown OWA for BINGO THURSDAYS every Thursday in February. From noon to 2 pm enjoy a fun afternoon of bingo and a \$9.99 lunch special. Whether you're a seasoned bingo player or just looking for a relaxed way to enjoy great food, we've got you covered. Bring your friends, join in on the fun, and enjoy a delicious meal – all for under \$10!

And for more great entertainment, **BRANDON STYLES** THEATER at OWA continues to offer a line-up of everchanging acts and shows. From family-friendly to date night, the quick-witted Brandon Styles will have you doubling over in your chair. Be sure and catch one of his variety or magic shows this season.

BRANDON STYLES VARIETY SHOW Every Tuesday & Saturday at 7 pm

Discover the many faces of Brandon Styles in this yearround Variety Show including impressions ranging from Frank Sinatra to Justin Bieber, with 60 additional impressions in between! Sprinkled with just the right amount of comedy and magic to make this a great entertainment hour for all ages.

For more event information on shows and tickets at the Brandon Styles Theater, visit https://visitowa.com/ entertainment/brandon-styles/ or call the box office at 251-237-3330.





2025 SPAY & NEUTER PROGRAM



Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm

Vouchers expire on June 30, 2025.

'or until funding is depleted

The Environmental Department will be giving out spay/neuter vouchers for cats and dogs. Only one voucher per Tribal Citizens will be allowed. These are available on a first-serve basis for Tribal Citizens only. Tribal Citizens must present their Tribal ID to receive spay/neuter voucher and at their veterinary office to receive services. Tribal Citizens must pick a vet clinic that PCI has a signed agreement with. Please reach out to the Environmental Department for the list of approved vets.

QUESTIONS? Call (251) 368-9136 ext. 2316

957 Martin Road, Atmore, AL (Down the road from PCCC)



ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT





Our Services Include:

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

Why Choose Us?

- Experienced and Certified Technicians
 - Prompt and Reliable Service
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Your comfort is our top priority! Let us help you maintain the perfect indoor environment.



















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

Friday, February 21, 2025 from 9:00am - 3:00pm

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

Introducing Our Best Yet Beltone Serene™

Atmore Office

401 E Church Street Atmore, AL **Pensacola Office** 6024 N 9th Avenue Pensacola, FL



























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



Starting a Business?

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

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





THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

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

CONGRATULATIONS LAUREN COLBERT

On Dec. 13, 2024, Lauren Colbert graduated CUM LAUDE with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Economics from Florida State University. She has applied for her master's degree in finance and plans to continue her career with Florida Fish and Wildlife, where she is currently working as a business consultant.

Lauren is the daughter of Jack D. and Noreen Colbert. Granddaughter of Jack and Helen Colbert.

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Lauren, you hear this all the time from us but one more is not going to hurt.
We are so proud of you!

LOVE, MOM & DAD











Government Relations and Public Affairs Office

5811 Jack Springs Road Atmore, AL 36502



2.3	SUBMISSION DEADLINE March Issue	
2.3-4	MUSEUM GIFT SHOP CLOSED Inventory	
2.6	TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING TC Chambers	4:00 PM
2.7	FAMILY COURT Tribal Courtroom	
2.11	TRIBAL COURT Tribal Courtroom	
2.20	TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING TC Chambers	4:00 PM
2.21	FAMILY COURT Tribal Courtroom	
2.25	TRIBAL COURT Tribal Courtroom	