

Native Pride News Flash



February 2020

UCAN Tribe has land!



December 31st 2019 is a day to remember. It is the day I was honored to sign the closing documents for the purchase of our land. Three years of hard work and fundraisers paid off. We found 5.8 acres of land that we believed would serve our tribes needs and made an offer. We were blessed with an offer from one of our tribal citizens of a loan large enough to cover the balance of the money we needed to purchase this land. We have entered into a mortgage agreement with our tribal citizen that will pay off in 15 years, less if we are diligent and pay extra whenever possible. With this loan we were left with enough funds in our land savings fund to help cover part of the cost that is going to be associated with the development needed to establish an office and get the PowWow area ready for our PowWow in 2021. After purchasing the land we were looking at moving a mobile home (trailer) onto the land to serve as a temporary office until we were able to afford the purchase of a building for a permanent office. We looked around and kept finding that even when we located a trailer that would serve our purpose and was at a decent price the cost of moving the trailer was going to be a large expense. Interested in helping the tribe and showing their support, another tribal citizen located a sale on a prefabricated metal building with a down payment

equal to what we were going to pay for a mobile home (temporary office). They have purchased a 40 x 50 prefabricated building that is being processed and should be delivered around April 2, 2020. This will allow us to set up a permanent office on our land instead of the temporary one. This is being offered at a low payment loan and will have the arrangements made once it is set up and we are able to see what the tribe will be able to pay on this loan without being over burdened.

The unusually high amount of rain we have been experiencing in our area has greatly affected our ability to work on developing the land or even get this project started. We have managed to get the land perc tested and hope to have the septic in soon. We have had many discussions about the desired layout of the land. It took a great deal of effort to reach a decision on where we would be placing the septic, office building and PowWow area. You would not believe how many hours were spent just discussing where to place the septic tank! Gees, what an adventure and learning experience this is turning out to be. We are now in the planning stage involving the floor plan for the building itself to determine where the plumbing and electrical will need to be placed before the foundation can be poured. I may be in need of a wig or really nice boggin for my head once this is over with. Once we agree on a floor plan we will need to locate someone with experience in drafting floor plans for the foundation to be put in. We are approaching the local colleges in pursuit of a student interested in earning extra credit for doing this.

We had hoped we would be able to hold our PowWow on our land this year but once the land was bush hogged it became apparent there is a large low area in the middle where we would be trying to have the PowWow. We have a tribal citizen that owns a bull dozer that has agreed to come in after it dries and do the work needed to get this leveled out and ready for PowWow in 2021.

Once we are able to get on the land and begin the development process a great deal is still going to be needed to complete this project. The funds we have left are not going

to be sufficient to cover all the expense. We are going to continue doing fundraisers and calling on all to help with the physical labor as well as helping with the material that will be needed. You might ask your local stores if they would donate building material, we are a nonprofit so these donations are tax deductible. We have copies of our 501(c)3 that we can provide to those willing to donate. Please be sure these are located close enough for us to have someone pick up the material being donated and deliver to our land in Gunterville. The septic tank will be purchased and installed. After we have a draft of the floor plan we will need to get the foundation prepped and ready for the concrete pour. The next step will be erecting the building. That is going to require a great many strong backs and able bodies. Once the building is up then begins the work on the interior: plumbing and electrical being run, walls put up to allow for an office area, store front, herb preparation room, file room, two bathrooms (one of which will be a handicapped) and a small kitchen area that will also serve as a concession for PowWow and of course our food pantry. If you cannot help with the physical labor then you can help by donating, taking part in our fundraisers and/or helping promote our fundraisers. We have a donate button on our website at www.ucantribe.com. That is also where we keep a calendar and all updates on what we are doing and any fundraisers we are hosting. We have two fundraisers that are constants: <https://smile.amazon.com/> and <https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=3188908.4ca76d>. The first one is through Amazon. If you sign in using smile.amazon.com whenever you shop amazon, any purchase you make that qualifies for the donations will allow for those donations to go to our tribe. We are listed as one of the charities with them. The other is through RADA knives. They have more products to offer besides knives and have accepted us as one of their charities. 40% of your purchase is donated to our tribe. There are links on our website for both of these fundraisers. I have been negligent about posting any silent auctions over the last several months, but will begin doing this again. I will make every effort to have at least one item posted every other month. All funds raised through the silent auctions will go into our land development fund (except any postage collected to mail the item to the winning bidder). If we can get established enough on our land to hold yard sales we will begin offering these again. There is a lot that is going to take place over the next several months so please check our Facebook page and website frequently.



Closing soon

Due to an increased problem with leaks in the roof of our current office we will be temporarily closing our offices until we are able to get our office set up on the new land. We have tried multiple patches but the roof is in such bad shape that to do the proper repairs would be an expense we cannot afford and continue working on the development needed on our land. We have tried to delay this as long as possible but the continued rain has degraded the condition of the roof and increased the amount leaking. The conditions in the office are becoming hazardous and unhealthy. We purchased a semi trailer after we purchased the land to be used for storage. We are making arrangements now to have it set up either on our land (if it stops raining long enough) or move it on someone else's property until we are able to move it onto our land. We will begin packing and preparing to close our office before the end of March or early April.

Our office will remain open long enough to hold our Fellowship Gathering in March. The Saturday before our Fellowship Gathering, Auburn University will be putting on a No Cost Pet Wellness Clinic in our office. They have new requirements for those wishing to have their pets receive this care. Anyone bringing their pets in for this free care must provide proof that they receive government assistance (ie. food stamps). We will be getting in touch with areas available for Fellowship in April and will post on our website and on our Facebook page where we will be hosting this event. We may try and set something up on our land if the weather permits. April's Fellowship Gathering will be held on the second Saturday since that Sunday is Easter. We had considered canceling this gathering but it is the one when we have the flyers available for everyone to hand out prior to PowWow. We do not have a Fellowship Gathering in May, leaving the next Fellowship Gathering in June. We have reserved a room at the Gunterville Recreation Center for both June and July's Fellowship Gathering.

We have a cell phone that will be used for contacting Patricia Seeley, our herbalist. Although we will not have an office for her to work out of, she has agreed to continue doing herbal consults, processing and filling herb orders as needed. For anyone wishing to place an herbal order and prefer not to have them mailed, she will make arrangements to meet her at a specific place and time to pick up any herb orders. Others can go online to our website and place an order to have mailed to you. The phone number to reach Patricia is (256) 486-5546.

Please keep in mind, even though she is working from home she will be on the same schedule as she would be if she were working in the office: Tuesday & Wednesday from 9 am until 2:45 pm. She has a family and two boys that are very active in school activities and sports, so please be considerate and work with her on any arrangements being made for filling orders.

The tribes business phone number, (256) 582-2333 is being transferred onto a cell phone. This phone will stay with me, so you can still reach me even though I will be working from home. Just as with Patricia I ask that you limit your calls to normal business hours. Before closing our office I worked in the office on Thursday and Friday and worked from home the remainder of the week. With our office closing my new business hours for phone purposes will be Tuesday—Friday 10 am until 4 pm. The phone will be turned off the remainder of the time, although you will still be able to leave a message. I will get in the habit of checking messages frequently in case an emergency comes up and you need to reach me. You also still have the option of contacting me through private messages on Facebook or through emails at either: ucanonline@bellsouth.net or my personal dixonzoo@aol.com.



Anyone needing assistance through our LIHEAP with a heating or cooling bill please do not wait until you are on a disconnect as these are going to be handled primarily through mail. An application will have to be mailed to you and returned with the required documents and bill being paid.

Emergencies will be handled in a manner necessary to overcome the emergency. We will continue to have heaters and air conditioners available for emergencies only. If your heating or cooling system breaks down let me know and I will arrange to meet you where these are at so you can pick one up. We can only offer one per household unless you have children or elderly in the household. These will be kept in the trailer and accessible when needed.

Weatherization requests will not be considered until mid-July unless it is an emergency. If an emergency situation arises that you need to have evaluated for possible help through weatherization funds, I will have someone go out and do an appraisal to determine if the problem is one that needs immediate attention or can wait until our normal schedule date for these requests.



We will continue to store our food pantry and accept requests for help with food. Anyone needing food from the pantry can call me and I will put together a box of food and arrange to meet you to deliver these at a location that will be convenient, preferably on the land where the trailer will be.

Fun for the Whole Family
American Indian
United Cherokee AniYunWiYa Nation's
POW WOW
3550 Creek Path Road
Gasterville, Alabama 35976
Directions: From US Hwy 431 in Gasterville
(at the W yard) take AL Hwy 79 South
1.4 miles to Cherokee Elem. School.
Turn right on Wilton Beach Rd., Turn Left on Creek Path Road
to Pow Wow on the right.

Saturday April 25th and Sunday April 26th
Gates Open at 9:00 Sat. and 11:00 Sun.
Free Activities: Make Your Own Necklace, Archery,
Tomahawk Throwing, Story Telling, Bonfire
Saturday Night, Demonstration of Flint Knapping
Guaranteed Win of a Rabbit Foot with our
Blow Gun/Dart Shooting
Guest Appearances by:

Chief Barden
Musician/singer/songwriter and
author.

Native American Drums and Dancing
Arts and Crafts Vendors
Concessions
Come enjoy the sounds of our Ancestors
Contact (256) 582-2333
No Drugs, Alcohol, Politics or Open Carry

United Cherokee AniYunWiYa Nation's 22nd Annual PowWow - April 25 - 26th, 2020

In spite of all the work and focus on the plans for our new land and the need to close our office we have managed to work on the plans and preparations for our PowWow in April. Everything seems to be going smoothly and falling in place. We had a great response to our request for items to be donated to cut our expense this year. A donation list was posted on our Facebook page and website with everything requested being donated except a few items. The only items that were not donated were: one pack of 56 gallon construction trash bags, 5 gallons of Crisco Canola oil and 3 large containers of salsa. We had two of the salsa donated but we use 5 at PowWow. Thank you all for your response and support. We look forward to seeing everyone in April.



I realize this is going to be awkward and a difficult way to do business, but the office we are in is no longer suitable to work in. I appreciate your patience with these difficulties and look forward to the time when we can gather again in our offices on our land! In the meantime we can all continue to join together on the work needed to set up our permanent offices at our permanent address on our tribal land.

Thank You, Chief Judy Dixon

United Cherokee 22nd Annual Festival & American Indian PowWow

Location: 3550 Creek Path Road, Guntersville, Alabama, 35976
Directions: From US Hwy 431 in Guntersville (at the Wyndham) take AL Hwy 79 South 1.4 miles to Cherokee Elem. School, Turn right on Willow Beach Rd., Turn Left on Creek Path Road to Pow Wow.

Contact: (256) 582-2333, ucanonline@bellsouth.net

Posting of the Colors: American Indian Warrior and Veteran's Alliance
Drum: Walking Thunder (formerly Thunderheart Singers)
Drums and Dancers Welcome

Demonstrations:

George Denmark - Archery

Joe Collins - Flint Knapping

**Pow Wow Princess Contest: Tiny Tot, Little Miss, Junior, Senior
-\$10.00 Entry Fee**

Guest Appearance:

Cabot Barden: native of Sylacauga, AL is a musician/singer/songwriter and author. Recently featured in The Advertiser Gleam as the guest speaker for the Sons of Confederate Veterans of Marshall County. He spoke about Cherokees who fought on the side of the Confederacy.



Come and enjoy the sounds of our ancestors!

Calendar of Events

**Drumming, Dancing, Singing, Demonstrators, Craft Vendors, Story Tellers
Flute Playing, Archery, Flint Knapping, Children's Activities**

Saturday, April 25th

**Gates Open 9:00 AM 'til 5:00 PM – PUBLIC WELCOME
Grand Entry - Noon, Bon Fire and Entertainment at Dark:30PM**

Sunday, April 26th

**Gates Open 10:00 AM til 5:00 PM – PUBLIC WELCOME
Grand Entry - 12:00 Noon**

NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS, POLITICS OR OPEN CARRY

**Grounds Security & EMT Service will be provided.
Concessions Available, Handicap Facilities**

***“The tall mountains and the valley floors, this is our church.
We worship there so our Indian way of life can exist.”***