



Artfully Yours

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A necklace, above, and a carved coconut, at right, were carved by Tribal Member Lisa Thompson.

Creek Travel Plaza showcases Tribal Member artwork, jewelry

Imagine this: You are traveling on vacation or for business and decide to stop for a break. You are tired of fast food, but you probably should get gas while you regroup and stretch your legs. Plus, you promised someone in your family or circle of friends you would bring back a unique memento from your trip.

You see a travel plaza at the next exit and get off the interstate, turning into the station and filling up the tank before you go in. After all, travel plazas are known for having souvenirs and great food right?

However what most travel plazas don't have is a little piece of history for sale. At Creek Travel Plaza, authentic, handmade Native American artwork, jewelry and accessories can be found as you peruse the store looking for the perfect gift.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians are very proud to showcase their work, taking great pride in creating the finest quality of ceramics and pottery, baskets, jewelry and beadwork, clothing, carvings and much more.

Beautifully handcrafted, each piece is carefully thought out and planned.



"I make several different kinds of jewelry," Tribal Member Lisa Thompson said. "My favorite jewelry to make is using copper foil and mother of pearl shells."

Thompson said she has been crafting since she was in first grade.

"My teacher taught several of us to crochet and by fourth grade, I was well into embroidery work." But it was in the copper tooling classes at Poarch offered by the PCI Cultural Authority that Thompson said she learned "there is no limit to what we can do. I have to give credit to instructor Dan Townsend for sharing his talents ...

To be able to carve a design into a shell piece gives me a feeling that I can't even describe."

Each piece takes "an hour and a lifetime," Thompson said with a smile. "I also use the Poarch Creek emblem as a copper design. I call them 'Paw Paw's Copper Poarch Penny' in honor of my grandfather, who had to 'watch his pennies' all his life."

Thompson's jewelry can be found at Creek Travel Plaza and at the Cultural Kiosk at Wind Creek Casino in Atmore. Tribal Member Margaret Baggett's artisan baskets also are sold at both locations.



Lisa Thompson's copper pennies