

Sizemore Creek a fountain of business success

Nancy Lowrey has done more than get her feet wet in the business world — she dove in and started swimming.

Founded in 2009, Sizemore Creek Beverage Co. is a wholesale beverage business that provides coffee, private-label water and tea to all Wind Creek Casino locations, as well as to the Mobile Bay Bears and Pensacola Blue Wahoos baseball teams.

After a few years, Lowrey said upgrades were needed to existing equipment so she sought help from the Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority Small Business Loan Program, which is available to all Tribal members.

“We needed to purchase a box truck to replace the one we had, which is used to deliver our products,” Lowrey said. “We also purchased a forklift to use at the warehouse.”

Getting this loan was easier than dealing with a bank, Lowrey said, because the interest rate and terms were better. She said CIEDA staff helped by addressing cash flow and getting the necessary documents in order to justify the 20-year loan, which helped retain the two employees she had.

“(Because of this loan), we now have four employees. My husband, Ed Lowrey, is the company manager. We also have a part time bookkeeper and two warehouse employees, of which two are Tribal members and one is a spouse of Tribal member. Also, we have expanded by purchasing our own warehouse for our products,” she said.

“Most recently we have created our own water called Native Pure,” Lowrey said. “We are working to get that into some of the convenience stores and other PCI locations.”

This is not Lowrey’s first go-around with the loan program. Her first loan was for FS Advisors, started in 2005, for expansion of employees and upgrading office equipment. Lowrey got the loan in 2008 and paid it off in 2013.

Lowrey has advice for Tribal members considering a startup business loan: “Be sure you put together a thorough business plan and that the business you are going into is something you have experience in. Owning a business is not what some think it is. It’s a lot of hard work, and it’s not for everybody. You really should know what you’re doing — have a passion for it.”

If you are a loan recipient and would like your business featured in upcoming articles, call Jen Peake at 251-359-4340.

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