## CTP's Diner now open 24/7

By Jen Peake CIEDA Marketing Specialist

The trucking industry is a 24/7 job, and it's one that often gets under appreciated. Truckers are in need of the basics, just like everyone else who is employed in any profession.

At Creek Travel Plaza (CTP), we recognize that and have expanded our diner hours to be open all day, every day. That's right, the diner is now a 24-hour restaurant.

Truckers come in to CTP at all hours — some arrive at 1 a.m., 2 a.m., 3 a.m. — and they are hungry. Until recently, if they stopped at our truck stop "after hours," their only food options were snacks from the convenience store side. Now they can sit down and have a good Southern cooked meal as they rest and refuel before getting back out on the road.

"We have been toying with this idea for quite some time," Diner Manager Candy Stuckey said. "Truckers and travelers of all kinds have told us they wished we stayed open all night, or at least later than 9 p.m. We did a small test run to see how it goes, and the response has been fantastic."

According to the 2015 Rise of Food Tourism Report, more than a third of tourist spending is on food alone. Night-time driving is increasing for those looking to get a jumpstart on vacations, and for a trucker, practically every meal comes from a truck stop restaurant, even if it's just fast food, such as Chester's Chicken. Chester's can be grabbed quick at Creek Travel Plaza for those in a hurry. But for the truckers who are on a layover, the diner is a more appealing option.

"It's nice to provide this service to our customers," Stuckey said. "They are already thanking us and spreading the word that we are open 24 hours. If we can help make their journey more comfortable, then I'll gladly stay open for them."

