



Poarch Creek News

Keeping the Family and Friends of Poarch Informed

Volume 23, Number 6

Atmore, Alabama

June 2006

Tribe Mourns For A Great Leader

On Thursday, May 18, 2006, Fred L. McGhee, Tribal Chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and a great visionary, passed away this morning at a local hospital. Mr. McGhee was a lifetime resident of Poarch, AL. He served 5 years on the Tribal Council and 2 terms as Tribal Chairman. Mr. McGhee summarized his sentiments about his time served with the Tribe during a recent State of the Tribe address:

Executive Biography:

Fred L. McGhee, Tribal Chairman

Fred McGhee served as the leader of the nine-member Tribal Council for the federally recognized Poarch Band of Creek Indians. As Tribal Chairman, McGhee oversaw all aspects of tribal government operations and administration. This responsibility covered twenty tribal service departments, including Health, Housing, Education, Senior Services, Public Safety, Family Services, Public Works, Tribal Court, Economic Development and Cultural Archives.

Fred McGhee was first elected Tribal Chairman from 2000-2001. He was particularly interested in Indian culture and historic preservation, and during his first term the Poarch Creeks hosted the Atlanta History Center's award-winning traveling exhibit "Native Lands: Indians and Georgia". Chairman McGhee participated in Section 106 Tribal Consultations under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), resulting in the establishment of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) with the U.S. Army, Army Corps of Engineers, and National Guard. These MOU's represent formal declarations of tribal sovereignty, and establish government-to-government relationships between the Tribe and federal entities.

Chairman McGhee also represented the Tribe as part of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). NCAI is the old-



Tribal Council Chairman, Fred L. McGhee

"As I look out at you I am thinking what an honor it is to serve as your Chairman. I love this community and I want to do right by you. I may not be perfect but I do try to do what is right. And sometimes doing right is the hard thing to do. But I believe it is worth it to make our lives and our children's lives better."

Funeral services were held at Atmore Memorial.

est and largest tribal government organization serving as a forum for consensus-based policy development among over 250 tribal governments. He was also involved in developing roads and transportation infrastructure on tribal reservations through T-21 Transportation grants. Following his first term, Fred McGhee remained involved in Tribal Government. He served on the Tribal Council three of the four years until his re-election as Tribal Chairman in June 2005.

Born on September 8, 1949, Fred McGhee grew up in the rural Indian community of Poarch, Alabama, and attended the Poarch

Consolidated Indian School. His family lineage includes a long line of Poarch Creek leadership, including his paternal uncle "Chief" Calvin McGhee and his maternal grandfather "Chief" Fred Walker. His family history and early experiences taught him the importance of education, equal opportunity, job development, and compassionate leadership.

Chairman McGhee was driven by a desire to improve the quality of life for all tribal members. He also understood the importance of being a good neighbor within the state. Through dedicated resources and astute diplomacy, Chairman Fred McGhee invested in "win-win" partnerships with surrounding communities, state governments and federal agencies. He believed mutually benefi

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PCI Gaming Employee A

By Lori Sawyer, Marketing & Public Relations Manager, PCI Gaming

Each year, the Site Managers and management staff of PCI Gaming sponsor an Employee Picnic for each of our respective Entertainment Centers. A great deal of work is involved in the planning and preparation of these picnics, from selecting caterers, scheduling locations, to coordinating events.

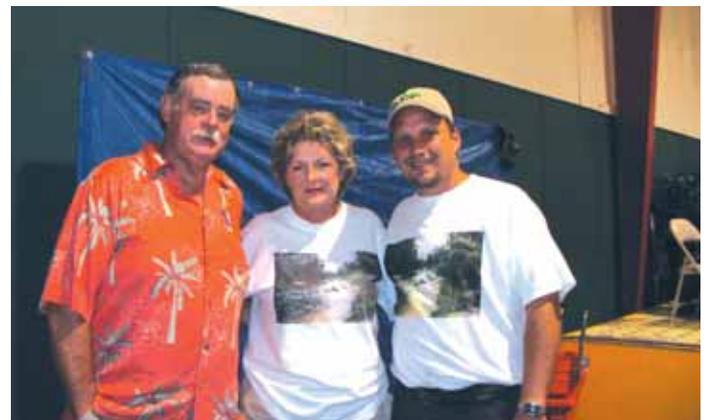
“Each year PCI Gaming sponsors a Christmas Party and a Spring Employee Picnic to show our appreciation for our employees and their families,” explains Kitty Stuart, General Manager of PCI Gaming. “We like to have an opportunity for the families of our employees to meet one another. In addition to the good company, the good food and door prizes

just add to the experience.” The Spring picnics feature catered food and adult and children’s games such as water balloon toss, egg toss, egg on a spoon, and sack races. The Hoola Hoop competition often results in the biggest laughs, especially when there is management participation.

The Riverside Entertainment Center’s picnic was held April 23 at Fort Toulouse in Wetumpka. The weather was gorgeous and nearly 250 employees and family members attended. “Hog Rock”, a local BBQ favorite in Wetumpka, catered Riverside’s picnic. According to Site Manager Melanie Boatwright, “Good food, good company, a good time was had by all. It doesn’t get much better than this!”

The Creek Entertainment Center’s picnic was held April 30th. It was originally scheduled to be held at Magnolia Branch, but rain forced management to move it to the Gym on the Poarch Reservation. Despite the weather, nearly 300 employees and family attended and were able to play a few games both inside and outside the gym. “What’s Cookin’ “ did an excellent job catering the food. Site Manager Daniel McGhee pointed out, “It just goes to show you, if you have a positive attitude and like the people you work with, it doesn’t matter where you hold your picnic.” Daniel adds, “The management of Creek Entertainment Center would like to thank our employees for giving 100%, not just at the picnic, but all of the time.”

The Tallapoosa Entertainment Center’s picnic was held May 7. It was originally scheduled to be held at the National



Appreciation

Guard Armory in Montgomery, but National Guard weekend drills moved it to Fort Toulouse in Wetumpka. However, the food from “Boomer T” out of Montgomery was excellent, as was the door prizes. Site Manager Marsha Allman said, “We have a great group of employees that put a lot of hard work and effort into our picnic. I’m glad we can have these picnics, it is just one way of showing our employees how much we appreciate them.”



Fund-raiser for Martha Breceda a Success

By Teresa Smith, Modern Woodmen of America’s Atmore Camp Secretary

With the help of Modern Woodmen of America’s Matching Fund Program, local members of the fraternal financial services organization helped raise funds for Martha Breceda through a gospel singing and selling raffle ticket. The event, held on April 1, 2006, raised \$10,800.00, including \$1,500 matched by Modern Woodmen’s home office. The money will be used to help with medical bills.

Modern Woodmen members for Atmore are part of a nationwide network of camps (chapters) that help their communities through social, educational, and volunteer activities.

“With the Matching Fund Program, we help carry out Modern Woodmen’s mission to improve quality of life for members and their communities,” says Teresa Smith, Modern Woodmen camp secretary. “And thanks to the hard work of members nationwide, Modern Woodmen makes donations totaling more than \$5 million annually,” Smith adds.

Founded in 1883 as a fraternal benefit society, today Modern Woodmen of America offers financial services and fraternal member benefits to individuals and families throughout the United States. The organization’s Atmore camp provides a number of volunteer service and social activities for local members.



Modern Woodmen Atmore Camp Secretary, Teresa Smith, presents check to Martha Breceda

Thanks CRS

Submitted by Michelle Bowen

Two local cowboys, Mitchell Rolin and Austin Coleman, traveled to Memphis, TN in March to compete in the 14th Annual Challenge Rodeo held at the Shelby Showplace Arena. They would like to give a special thanks to Community Recovery Services for the donation to help with their travel expenses. The boys are members of the Alabama High School Rodeo Association. AHSRA members competed against rodeo teams from three other states, Arkansas, Illinois and Kentucky. Mitchell and Austin compete together in the team roping event. Mitchell also competes in calf roping. He is a sophomore at Escambia County High School and the son of Marty and Melvin Rolin. Austin is a sophomore at Blacksher High School and the son of Michelle Bowen and Doyle Coleman.



Mitch and Austin

Former Employee Pleads Guilty To Stealing Funds From Local Indian Casino

Press release submitted by Tribal Gaming Commission

On May 4, 2006, Frederick J. Burrell, age 26, of Montgomery, Alabama, pled guilty in U.S. District Court before United States Magistrate Judge Charles S. Coody to a one-count felony information charging him with theft of funds from an Indian casino, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1167(b).

According to the plea agreement and information, between July and November 2004, Burrell was an employee at the Tallapoosa Entertainment Center (TEC) in Montgomery, AL, which is owned and operated by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. In July 2004, Burrell developed a scheme whereby he could take money from TEC and make false entries on TEC records to conceal the thefts. After committing 2-3 thefts on his own, Burrell enlisted another TEC employee in the scheme. Over all, Burrell stole approximately \$5000.00 on his own and

\$128,000.00 jointly with his fellow employee. The employee that assisted him is not being named at this time.

When he is sentenced later this year by United States District Judge William H. Albritton, Burrell faces a statutory maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, an order of restitution, and a fine of up to \$250,000.00.

This case was investigated by the Tribal Gaming Commission's Investigator, Joseph Busby, with assistance from the United States Department of Interior, Office of the Inspector General. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew O. Schiff.

The Tribal Gaming Commission is the Regulatory Authority established by the Tribal Council in accordance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and is responsible for regulating all gaming activities associated with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Hurricane Hunter Visits Poarch

The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, a component of the 403rd Wing located at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., is a one-of-a-kind organization. It is the only unit in the world flying into hurricanes on a routine basis.

During hurricane season, June 1st to November 30th, hurricane hunters provide surveillance of tropical disturbances and hurricanes in the Atlantic (west of 55W), Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico for the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. They also may fly storms for the Central Pacific Hurricane Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. It all started as a barroom dare, when two Army Air Corps pilots challenged each other to fly through a tropical storm. On July 27, 1943, Maj. Joe Duckworth flew a propeller-driven, single-engine North American AT-6 "Texan" trainer into the eye of a tropical storm. Duckworth flew into the eye of that storm twice that day, once with a navigator and again with a weather officer. These were generally considered to be the first airborne attempts to obtain data for use in plotting the position of a tropical cyclone as it approached land. Duckworth's pioneering efforts paved the way for further flights into tropical cyclones.

Master Sergeant Tony Hlavac, Dropsonde Systems Operator, one of the crewmembers of a WC 130J, recently visited Poarch with a presentation on the Anatomy of a Hurricane. As the Dropsonde Systems Operator, Tony is responsible for operating the

vertical weather system, which includes dropping the GPS dropsonde cylinders into the incoming eye wall, center or eye, and the outgoing eye wall of a hurricane to gather meteorological information about the storm system.

He was very informative and gave everyone in attendance a new respect for hurricane hunters as well as making us all realize how important the information is that they gather. When he was asked what advice he could give us in relation to hurricane preparedness, he said "Follow all advisories." These are words that will be taken to heart because we will never forget Ivan, Dennis, or Katrina.

When he is not flying into hurricanes, Tony works as a Federal Firefighter at NAS Pensacola. Tony and his family lives in the Navarre/Fort Walton area.



Hurricane Hunter Master Sergeant Tony Hlavac, Dropsonde Systems Operator visits Poarch

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cial growth and positive economic impact allows communities to grow together and ensures the success of future generations.

Under Chairman McGhee's leadership, the Poarch Creek Indians made significant donations to schools, youth athletics, senior centers, and charitable organizations such as the March of Dimes. The Tribe's Emergency Management department had coordinated disaster relief and recovery with FEMA, the American Red Cross, and other Indian Tribes following recent hurricanes impacting the Gulf Coast.

As Chairman of the Creek Indian Enterprises Board of Directors, Chairman McGhee was involved with all the Tribe's economic enterprises. He supported environmentally-sensitive development of the Tribe's recently acquired 4,000-acre

Magnolia Branch Wildlife Preserve. He was also a member of the Tribal Gaming Board, and as an advocate of tribal self-reliance, led gaming expansion within the tribal community. He recognized tribal gaming as one of the most significant sources of revenue used by tribal governments to support essential services such education, healthcare, elder care and housing.

Chairman Fred McGhee held an optimistic vision of the future of the Poarch Creek Indians, and was proud to help make this vision a reality. He was a patient man who found strength in doing the right thing. When facing adversity, he was calm and resolute. Tribal leadership involves many challenges, and Fred McGhee understood that within our greatest challenges, we often discover our greatest opportunities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT

Project Goal

The goal of the Tribe's FY'2007 Community Development Block Grant project is to enhance the Tribe's capacity to provide community resources to low and moderate-income members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians through the construction of a Community Cultural Education Center. The proposed project meets an essential community development need to increase knowledge of the Creek culture in the community for the historical preservation of the culture and traditions of the Tribe.

Project Need

Since the Poarch Band of Creek Indians received federal recognition in 1985, the Tribe has developed a variety of services for its members. Some of these services include Health, Social Services, and Housing. Each of these departments has experienced tremendous growth. With the increase in available housing, many Tribal members have relocated into the Tribal community putting a strain on available existing resources.

Currently, there exists a need for a larger Community Cultural Education Center. Youth are taught Alabama and U.S. history in school but very little Native American history and culture. They have low self esteem from lack of pride in their heritage leading to substance abuse and truancy. Tribal members who had moved away and have relocated back to the reservation have forgotten or have never known Creek traditions and culture. Cultural education will assist them to integrate back into the community. The Community Cultural Education Center will meet the community needs by providing adequate space to increase the use of the Cultural/Archives Department and the Community Relations Department.

This application is in request of \$600,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the

construction of this facility. The Tribal Council has committed Tribal in-kind services and other resources valued at \$200,000 to be used as leveraging funds. All project goals will be completed within a 24-month period.

Maintenance Plan

The Tribal Council has adopted a Maintenance and Operation Plan for the Community Cultural Education Center. The Poarch Creek Indian Public Works Department will provide maintenance for the facility. The operation of the Community Cultural Education Center will be conducted by the staff of the Cultural/Archives Department and the Community Relations Department.

Building Design

Preliminary plans for the project are to construct an 8,400 square foot facility on Tribal Land Parcel #7 to be utilized as the Community Cultural Education Center. Due to the Tribe's location in close proximity to coast of the Gulf of Mexico, and the imminent threat of Hurricanes and other Tropical systems, the facility will be constructed to withstand Category Four (4) Hurricane winds.

Benefits Anticipated

The construction of the Community Cultural Education Center will provide adequate space for low and moderate-income Tribal community members to experience Creek culture and traditions through educational activities. Tribal youth will have increased self esteem from knowing their heritage thereby reducing juvenile substance abuse and truancy. The community's increased knowledge of the Creek culture will assist with the historical preservation of the culture and traditions of the Tribe.

Small Business Administration Committed to Native American Indians Owning Their Own Businesses

The SBA is committed to ensuring that American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians have full and open access to business development and other tools necessary to start and expand small businesses.

In 1997, there were 197,300 American Indian and Alaska Native-owned businesses in the United States, employing 298,700 people which generated \$34.3 billion in revenues. The number of Native American businesses increased 84 percent from 1992 to 1997. The SBA is particularly interested in assisting small business and economic development in disadvantaged tribal areas.

For more information please contact Kathy Jowers, Economic Development Director at 368-9136, Ext. 2288.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Submitted by Betty Caraway, Property Control Coordinator

Sealed bids will be taken on several vehicles and assorted equipment. This equipment is currently at the Old Hall House (Perdido River Farms) and the Property Control Coordinator's Office.

Bids will be taken beginning May 26, 2006 and ending June 30, 2006, at the close of business, 5:00 p.m. Bids will be opened by the Comptroller.

To pick up a list of bid items, or for general information, contact Betty Caraway, Property Control Coordinator, at 368-9136, ext 2654.

The Poarch Creek Indians reserve the right to reject any and all bids.

Hero of the Year

Submitted by Tracy Linam

Just in case you thought that heroism by Native Americans is overlooked, please read the story below about a Native American teen that was selected as Hero of the Year by Reader's Digest.

Reader's Digest has named 17-year-old Jeff May as its Hero of the Year. May was selected by thousands of readers who voted for him online at www.rd.com. Jeff May was a student at Red Lake Senior High School in northern Minnesota when another student, Jeff Weise, opened fire in the school on March 21, 2005.

May was responsible for tackling Weise and as a result was able to save many lives. He was hurt in the process when Weise shot him in the face. The bullet entered his right cheek, fractured his jaw and lodged in his neck, near his vertebrae.

The two had grappled for just enough time, witnesses estimate, to spare the lives of a dozen people. In total, Weise spent less than ten minutes at the high school but left eight people dead and another seven wounded in the deadliest school shooting since Columbine.

After the shooting stopped, Jeff May was airlifted to MeritCare Hospital, 105 miles away in Fargo, North Dakota. He suffered a stroke that immobilized his left side and required surgery to remove the bullet. Today Jeff is back in school although he still sees a physical therapist and speech therapist regularly.

Reader's Digest honored Jeff on April 7 at a special ceremony at the New York Stock Exchange, where he rang the closing bell with Thomas O. Ryder, Chairman and Eric W. Schrier, President and CEO of The Reader's Digest Association, Inc.

"Jeff is the quintessential hero," said Reader's Digest Editor-in-Chief, Jackie Leo. "He saved the lives of his fellow students by risking his own." Jeff lives in Redby, Minnesota with his three brothers. The family will be traveling to New York for the ceremony.

For more than 20 years, Reader's Digest has honored ordinary Americans who perform extraordinary acts at great personal risk or sacrifice. Featured in the "Everyday Heroes" section of the magazine, these people have spent their own money to aid worthy causes or risked their lives to save someone in peril, but most importantly they've exemplified the best of humanity and inspired everyone around them.

Creek Indian Enterprises Accepting Bids

Creek Indian Enterprises is currently accepting bids on the renovations of the Creek Indians Enterprise Office Building. Anyone interested in bidding on this project should contact Patricia Hodges, CIE Human Resources Director, at (251) 368-0823. Bids must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14, 2006. Please give Patricia a call for more information and compete details.

Poarch's "Business Resource Team" Ready, Willing, And Able

Submitted by Kathy Jowers, Economic Development Director

The Poarch Creek Indian Economic Development Department has a "Business Resource Team" ready, willing, and able to help you realize your dream of being a successful business owner.

Whether you already own your own business or have thought of starting a new business of your own, the Economic Development Department can help you. They offer a wide range of free services. These services include helping you devise a successful business plan; helping you with a Small Business Loan Application; providing you with licensing and insurance information; they can also assist you in setting up a bookkeeping system for your business; and obtaining a Federal Identification Number for your new or existing business.

These are just a few of the services offered by the Economic Development Department. For more information please contact Kathy Jowers, Economic Development Department Director, at 368-9136, Ext. 2288. Your "Business Resource Team" is ready to help you realize your dream of becoming a successful business owner.

Relay Idol

By the time this issue of the newsletter is received, Poarch Creek Indians Relay Idol will be named. This fund raiser for the American Cancer Society has been quite an experience for the PCI Relay Team, competition participants, voters, and those who have attended any of the shows. We never knew there was such great talent in our community.

Although all participants were very talented and could have placed first in an ordinary competition, the winner of the PCI Relay Idol will be determined by the number of votes paid in. There are three divisions, youth, adult, and senior, and one winner will be named from each division.

Eliminations began with the show on May 6, 2006. Prior to eliminations the participants were:

Youth:

Mason Audibert
Megan Flurnoy
Toni Gibson
Cierra McGhee
Gabiella McGhee
Sydney McGhee/
Brook McGhee/
Breann Rolin
Deanna Strehl

Adult:

Rex Baggett
Jackie Baker
Jacob Byrd
Cecil Corey
Danny King
Kathy Ledkins
Kimberly McGhee
Cornelia Miller
Judson Stabler
Velma Stabler

Senior:

Ray Archer & The Sundowners Band
Eddie Cook
Fields McGhee
Bernice Qualls
Hubert Rackard
Luverne Ward

ETHICS CODE ENACTED

Submitted by Venus McGhee Prince, Tribal Attorney

The Tribal Council is pleased to announce that it approved an Ethics Code at its May 2, 2006 meeting. The Ethics Code is intended to establish the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct for all elected and/or appointed tribal officials and all employees of tribal government and tribal enterprises and to provide a mechanism to hold such officials and employees accountable for their conduct.

The Ethics Code sets forth the appropriate standards of conduct for various situations. A few examples of situations covered by the Code are as follows:

- Conflict of Interest;
- Solicitations and Gifts;
- Misuse of Tribal Funds, Property, and Staff;
- Nepotism;
- Financial Disclosure; and
- Convictions

To enforce these standards of conduct, the Ethics Code provides for the formation of an Ethics Board, a five-member panel of tribal members to be appointed for ten-year terms. The qualifications for a member of the Ethics Board are as follows:

- (1) forty (40) years of age or older;
- (2) no felony convictions under tribal, state, or federal law;
- (3) not a current employee or Tribal Official (if serving as a Tribal Official, the Tribal Official may resign from that position in order to accept an Ethics Board position);
- (4) upstanding member of the community;
- (5) morally and ethically upright and conscientious person;
- (6) ability to perform all duties and responsibilities of the Ethics Board;
- (7) competency in the performance of all duties and responsibilities of the Ethics Board; and
- (8) no convictions of a misdemeanor under tribal, state, or federal law, unless disclosed by the Ethics Board member and waived by the Tribal Council during the appointment process.

Once appointed, the Ethics Board will issue advisory opinions and address any complaints.

The Ethics Board will receive administrative and legal support from the Ethics Office. The Ethics Office consists of an Ethics Advisor (the Tribal Attorney or a designated outside legal counsel) and such investigative, administrative, and clerical personnel as authorized by the Tribal Council. At this time, the Tribal Attorney and her assistant constitute the Ethics Office personnel.

In order to request an advisory opinion regarding any situation, any Tribal Official, employee, or tribal entity need only submit a request in writing for an advisory opinion, together with a description of the facts at issue, to the Ethics Advisor. If requested, the identity of the person or entity making the request will remain confidential to the extent possible.

In order to file a complaint, a person who, in good faith, believes or has reason to believe that a Tribal Official or employee has violated any provision of this Code may file an

ethics complaint with the Ethics Office by hand-delivering or mailing the complaint to the Ethics Office. All complaints should include the name of the person whose alleged violation is being reported, a statement of facts to support the allegations being made, including, but not limited to, the date, time, place, and the persons involved and/or who may have knowledge of the alleged violation, and a signed statement that the information the complainant has provided is true, accurate, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge. The name of the person filing the complaint will remain confidential.

After an investigation by the Ethics Advisor, the Ethics Board will decide whether to dismiss a complaint or hold a private administrative hearing. If the Ethics Board decides to hold a hearing, the person with the alleged violation will be properly notified. Within 14 days after the hearing, the Ethics Board will issue its final decision together with any sanctions and/or penalties.

If you would like to have a complete copy of the Ethics Code, please contact the Chairman's Office. The Tribal Council remains open to any of your suggestions and comments regarding the Ethics Code.

Also, the Tribal Council welcomes your recommendations for members of the Ethics Board. The Chairman's Office will be accepting nominations for members of the Ethics Board until close of business on June 15, 2006.

Please feel free to contact the Chairman's Office or any of your Tribal Council members if you have any other questions.

LEGAL UPDATE

Submitted by Venus McGhee Prince, Tribal Attorney

The lawsuit filed by Community Recovery Services, Inc. ("CRS") against PCI Gaming in Tribal Court is proceeding.

On May 11, 2006, PCI Gaming filed a third party complaint against Eddie L. Tullis, asserting that (i) if PCI Gaming is found to be liable by the Court to CRS on any of the claims asserted against PCI Gaming, then it is liable because of the actions and inactions of Mr. Tullis and (ii) if PCI Gaming is prevented from recovery of excessive payments already made to CRS, such is the result of wrongful conduct of Mr. Tullis.

If, as CRS alleges, its scope of work with PCI Gaming was significantly increased pursuant to an alleged contract negotiated with Eddie L. Tullis, allegedly on behalf of PCI Gaming, PCI Gaming contends that it was unaware of such alleged contract and that Eddie L. Tullis did not have authority from the PCI Gaming Board to enter into such alleged contract.

PCI Gaming asserts that Third-Party Defendant, Eddie L. Tullis, breached his fiduciary duty owed to the Tribe and PCI Gaming; fraudulently concealed material information from PCI Gaming; and negligently and/or wantonly approved and directed excessive and unreasonable payments to CRS.

PCI Gaming states that it will continue to defend against CRS's claim and will attempt to recover any and all damages suffered by PCI Gaming against the party or parties causing these damages.

Miss Indian Alabama Competition 2006

<http://aiac.state.al.us>

The Alabama Indian Affairs Commission, along with the Trail of Tears Motorcycle Ride Association, and the Alabama Intertribal Council have come together to host the Miss Indian Alabama competition to provide a showcase for Alabama's Indian community, and to help further the education of a deserving young person.

Alabama is the home to nine State-recognized Tribal governments, and the Poarch Creek Indians, the only federally recognized Tribe in the state. The Miss Indian Alabama competition will serve as a means of educating the public about our state's indigenous people and their values, culture and traditions as well as providing a \$5,000 college scholarship to the recipient to further her education.

There are many misconceptions regarding Indians and their ways. This competition will be used as a tool to correct those misconceptions and for Alabama to become more familiar with the indigenous people looked here.

The recipient of the Miss Indian Alabama title will serve as a Good Will Ambassador to events all over the state during her year of tenure.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a member of a state or federally recognized Indian Tribe
- Must be a resident of the state of Alabama
- Must be a senior in high school or attend college and be between the ages of 17 and 23
- Must be single, with no children (not widowed or divorced)
- Must have a 3.0 or higher overall GPA

Application Fee:

An application fee of \$150 must be attached to the application. The application fee must be made payable to the Miss Indian Alabama Competition and must be either a certified check or money order (no other form of payment will be accepted).

Miss Indian Alabama will be judged on the following:

Introduction:

Each contestant will wear an evening gown of their own choosing and will choose an escort to bring her out. She will then give a brief introduction (no more than 5 minutes) of herself.

Native Regalia:

Each contestant will wear their Native Regalia and describe the history and detail of her garb.

Talent:

Each contestant will perform a talent of their own choosing (Singing, musical instrument, dancing, storytelling, etc.)

Question:

Each contestant will randomly pick a question from a bowl presented to them and answer it.

Essay:

(In the event of a tie, the essay will serve as a tie breaker.) Each contestant will submit a written essay of not less than 500, but no more than 1,000, words stating "What It Means to Me to Be

Miss Indian Alabama". The essay must be typewritten and submitted by August 31, 2006 by 4:30 p.m. The essay will be scored on content, form, and grammatical correctness. The essay must contain a certification statement, signed by the contestant acknowledging that this is her own work.

Deadlines:

- Application must be received by the AIAC Office by 4:30 p.m. on August 31, 2006.
- The required application fee must be attached to application.
- The required essay must be received by the AIAC Office by 4:30 p.m. on August 31, 2006.

Contact Eloise Josey at (800) 242-2832 or (334) 242-2831 for an application. The Tribal Education Department has two copies of the official application; you may contact Billie McGhee at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2243 or come by and pick up an application if you are interested in the competition.

Do You Know ?

Submitted by Wanda Fowler, Victim's Advocacy Coordinator

Did you know that

- In Alabama in 2004, there were 26,599 domestic violence simple assaults, which was 34% of all simple assaults reported;
- In Florida in 2004, there were 119,772 cases of reported domestic violence; no one knows how many cases were not reported;
- A recent national study found that over three-fourths of domestic violence offenders used the workplace at least once to express remorse or anger, check up on, pressure, or threaten their victim; and forty-four percent (44%) of female domestic violence victims were left without transportation when the abuser disabled the car or hid the car keys?
- Domestic violence often begins very quietly.

If you are in abusive situation, please contact one of the numbers below for assistance:

Wanda Fowler, Domestic Violence Coordinator
(251) 368-9136 ext. 2212

Poarch Creek Indian Police Department
(251) 368-5011

Alabama Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-650-6522

Florida Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-500-1119

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799 SAFE

Poarch Education's June News

Submitted by Billie McGhee, Education Coordinator

AMERICAN INDIAN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SOCIETY (AISES)

June 15, 2006 is the deadline. The scholarship programs are to assist students studying engineering, science, and science related fields of study. The applications are available at <http://www.aises.org>

AMERICAN ASSEMBLY SCHOLARSHIP FOR MEN IN NURSING

The scholarships are for male students of all races and ethnicities who are seeking a pre-RN licensure or graduate degree in nursing. Applicants must be currently enrolled in an accredited educational institution. The program offers a \$500 essay contest scholarship open to both male and female pre-licensure nursing students.

Contact: Patti Phillips at (518) 782-9400, ext. 346, Email: aamn@aamn.org, or www.aamn.org/aamnfoundation.htm

ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

<http://www.indian-affairs.org> The deadline for their scholarship is July 17, 2006 except for their Emergency Aid scholarship. An applicant for the Emergency Aid scholarships must be experienc-

ing an unexpected problem that would prevent the student from continuing to attend classes. The purpose for the scholarship is to prevent a student from having to withdraw from classes.

BOOMER ESIASON FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship fund has been created to assist cystic fibrosis students who are pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. The scholarship grants range from \$500 to \$2000. The scholarships are awarded quarterly. The next deadline is June 30, 2006. You can download an application at <http://www.cfscholarships.com> or call (646) 344-3757 to request an application.

MINORITY NURSE SCHOLARSHIP

The deadline is June 15, 2006. The application is available at http://www.minoritynurse.com/features/financial/scholarship_ap_06.html

TYLENOL HEALTH CAREER 2006 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Tylenol Health Career scholarship applications will be available on line Mid-June 2006 at <http://www.tylenol.com/page.jhtml?id=tylenol/news/subp-tyschol.inc>.

Kids' Chance Scholarship

(www.alfinc.org/kidschance.cfm)

Kids' Chance scholarships provide technical school and college scholarships for young people who have had a parent killed or permanently and totally disabled in an on-the-job accident. Often, it is an opportunity they would not have without Kids' Chance.

The death or disabling injury of a parent in an on-the-job accident usually means that a family's standard of living is permanently lowered. Parents who have been planning to send their children to college may no longer have the means to pay for it.

The program was conceived by the Workers' Compensation Section of the Alabama State Bar in 1992 and is administered by the Alabama Law Foundation. The committee that awards the scholarships every year has five members, one each from the business, medical and vocational communities, organized labor, and attorneys representing both employers and employees. In 2004, 28 students were awarded Kids' Chance scholarships.

Kids' Chance scholarships are funded solely by contributions. More than 100 scholarships totaling over \$300,000 have been awarded since the program was established. More than 100 young lives have been given the opportunity to realize their potential. Kids' Chance scholarships give young students opportunities they may not have with out Kids' Chance and the Alabama Law Foundation.

Kids' Chance Scholarships are more than money—they are hope.

The Kids' Chance Scholarship fund is a program of the Alabama Law Foundation, Inc., which is a qualified charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and therefore, all contributions are tax deductible.

Cultural Class Update

Submitted by Sandra Hiebert, Education Executive Director

Everyone who attended the cultural classes with Jay McGirt learned so much. It was an honor to host him here on the Reservation, and we hope that he will be back with us in the near future.

The Education Department is working closely with Robert Thrower, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, to develop an upcoming schedule of cultural classes. Currently we are working to offer some type of Creek language classes. We have the full support of the Tribal Council, so we hope that within the next few months we will be ready to offer on-site language instruction as well as instruction on compact disc or tape. We will be able to send the cd's and tapes to Tribal members who are living too far away to be able to attend classes on the reservation.

We are also looking for people to help provide instruction in the following areas: quilt making, cake decorating, canning/preserving food, and digital photography. If you or someone you know is talented in one of these areas and would be interested in helping to pass these skills on to others, please call the Education Department at 251-368-9136 extension 2242.

We have recently hired Alex Alvarez, Cultural Education Coordinator. We look forward to working with him and expect to see great advancements in this area.

Tribal Council Minutes

Results of Tuition Program Survey

Submitted by Sandra Hiebert, Education Executive Director

The Education Department would like to thank everyone who participated in the Tuition Program surveys. Unfortunately, only 21 of the 89 program participants took the time to complete the survey. We received mostly positive ratings, but for those students who stated they had encountered problems, we would like to address them here.

Mandatory fees – One student was concerned about the definition of mandatory fees. There is actually no Tribal definition for this, as each school is different. What may be mandatory on one campus may not be considered mandatory at another. We simply utilize the invoice we receive from the school to make this determination. If it states something is “mandatory” then we pay it, if not, then we don’t pay it.

Bills not paid promptly - Invoices are paid within the course of one week from the time we receive them. This is due to the purchase order system, which is required by the Tribe. Additionally, bills sent in by students are not used to make payment. We have been instructed by the schools to pay based on their invoices. Oftentimes, we are not invoiced until long after the semester has begun. Third party billing sometimes does not seem to communicate with other departments, therefore some students receive bills which seem to be late or past due. Always check with us on this, but generally you can be assured if a bill has not been paid, we haven’t been invoiced by the school.

Staff can’t answer questions about the program – Honestly, there are a few reasons for this. Number one, we are still in the trial and error phase of the program. New questions and situations come up at least weekly, and instead of a staff person offering their opinion, we generally consult with each other to develop a consensus. Also, we now have an active Education Advisory Committee. This group is charged with ensuring policy is followed, updating policy, and yes—answering questions that the Department is unsure about. This is how the Tribal Council wanted it, so this is how it is. Imagine trying to answer a question for someone when you have about 15 different bosses with 15 different opinions!

Yearly caps should be lifted to allow a student to access as much money for tuition as he/she needs – This would be great if we had the money to do it. Many people don’t understand

that this program is not fully funded at this time. Yearly payments are being made into an investment account over the course of 5 years. This is to ensure that our money grows, and that the program will be available for as long as it’s needed. If we lifted the cap, we would go through the money in the investment account in no time. There wouldn’t be anything left for the future.

The program should be open to Tribal members of all ages- We agree, and we are working on this at this very moment. Even though economic revenues are good, Education only receives a portion of that money. This is an issue which can only be resolved at the Council level, so talk to your Tribal Council members!

Students should be made aware when payment is made on their account- This is easy enough. We will let the student know when payment leaves this office beginning with the upcoming school term.

Money should be available for dorms and living expenses- I agree it should be available for dorms, but we have no way to regulate other living expenses. Unfortunately, no one else agrees about the dorms, so for now it is still not an option.

Money should be available for child care and gas- Gas prices are out of control, and this is difficult for everyone. However, there is no way we can take care of every need of every student. This is just not feasible. The Education Advisory Committee and the Tribal Council feel strongly that this Tuition Program is meant to assist students, not to take full responsibility for providing all necessities. Each program participant has to take responsibility for their fair share.

I hope this helps to clear up any questions or concerns about the Tuition Program. There were a few changes added during this year’s policy revisions, so if you are a program participant, you will be receiving an updated policy. Please take your time and read it carefully. ***Current participants need to update their application prior to July 7th. New applications for prospective participants will be available from June 1st through July 7th.***

If you have any questions about the Tuition Program please call the Education Department at (251) 368-9136 extension 2240.

After Care Program

Submitted by Keesha O’Barr, Tribal Court Director

The Tribe’s Drug Court Program, established in 1997, is a successful program and has been used by other Tribes to develop their own Drug Court Program. In an effort to enhance the program, and to provide further services to Drug Court graduates, the Drug Court Program has implemented an after care program for drug court graduates. If you are a past graduate and are interested in attending the program, please contact Tribal Court at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2653.

May has also been designated as National Drug Court Month. The Tribe is very proud of the accomplishments that have been made in the past few years. Although we lost the heart of our program in October when we lost Donna White, we have stood strong and moved forward and tried to make

her proud. We are looking forward to new accomplishments in the years to come. The Tribal Drug Court Program has had 44 participants with 21 graduating, 14 terminated for violations of program procedures, and 9 current participants.

Drug Court Team Members include Kim Snow, Human Services Coordinator, Sandra Hiebert, Education Executive Director, Wes Hayles, Drug Court Counselor, Paul Thomas, Probation Officer, the late Fred L. McGhee, Tribal Chairman; Charles Johns, Tribal Prosecutor; Regina Stabler, Tribal Court Specialist; Keesha O’Barr, Tribal Court Director; Larry Hammonds, Tribal Police Chief; and Ernest White, Tribal Judge.

Tribal Member to Attend Arkansas School of Mathematics, Sciences, and Arts

Submitted by Doris McGhee Straitiff

Tribal member Lafayette Michelle-White Cloud Straitiff, has been invited to attend ASMSA for her junior and senior year of high school. The Arkansas School of Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts is a member of the University of Arkansas; it is a residential high school for academically advanced juniors and seniors. While attending ASMSA, White Cloud will participate in a rigorous academic program designed to educate tomorrow's leaders through instruction, laboratory experiences, and technology.

White Cloud is the daughter of Edward & Doris McGhee Straitiff. She is the granddaughter of the late Noah & Elsie Mae Deese McGhee and the late Lafayette & Sadie Straitiff of Fairchance, Pa.

While it will be hard to let her go at 16, as parents we are so very proud of her; coming from a home school environment to this. She wants to know, if her grandparents would have been proud of her? With a tear in our eye we reply "MOST DEFINATLY."

***NOTICE TO TRIBAL MEMBERS *** REGARDING LIHEAP PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians received additional funds during April 2006 to administer a small SUMMER cooling component of the Low Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program through the Family Services Department. The Family Services Department will begin making LIHEAP appointments by telephone or office visits on the following days, **Monday – Friday, 8:00 until 5:00 during the week of June 12 - 16, 2006. Appointments will be scheduled 15 minutes apart during June 19 – 23, 2006** for one week only. You must have an appointment to make application.

- **Priority appointments will be given to the following applicants. Also, priority applicants will be served first.**
- **Seniors Citizens (Age 55 or older),**
- **Families with legal custody of children 5 and under, and**
- **Households currently receiving food stamps or TANF benefits.**

Eligibility for the LIHEAP Program is based on the criteria of tribal membership, income and, need. All applicants should bring to the interview: 1) verification of identity, 2) verification of monthly income, and 3) the current unpaid electricity (cooling) bill. If the utility bill is not in the name of the applicant, a signed statement from the person listed on the bill is necessary to establish resident's responsibility for paying the monthly utility expense.

If you have any questions or need additional information about the appointment schedule or LIHEAP program requirements, please contact the Family Services Department at (251) 368-9136 Extension 2600.

—Carolyn M. White, Executive Director
PBCI Family Services Department

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the construction of Proposed Drainage Improvements, EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION, will be received by Poarch Band of Creek Indians, at the Public Works Office until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 14, 2006, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud.

This project will be divided into two separate contracts. Principal items of work in Contract No. 1 include site grading and placement of 5645 tons of stone riprap, 2640 Linear Feet of Fence Relocation, seeding and mulching, and other miscellaneous items. Principal items of work in Contract No. 2 include site grading and placement of 4525 tons of stone riprap, roadway culvert extensions, seeding and mulching and other miscellaneous items

The information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications, and form of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other Contract Documents may be examined at the Poarch Creek Indians Public Works Office, 704 Green Road, Atmore, Alabama and at the office of DMD Engineers, Inc., 226 Dunson Street, Adalusia, Alabama.

A non-mandatory Pre-bid inspection of the proposed project will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2006. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Works Office, 704 Green Road.

Copies of Contract Documents (Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Documents) may be obtained at the office of DMD Engineers, Inc., 226 Dunson Street, Andalusia, Alabama 36420, upon deposit of \$50.00 for each set. The deposit will be refunded provided the bid documents are returned in reusable condition within 15 days after bid opening.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities.

Each bidder must submit with his bid, security in the amount, form, and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders. The successful bidder will be required to submit 100% performance bond and 50% payment bond.

Each bidder must be licensed as a Contractor in the State of Alabama in accordance with provisions of Chapter 8 of Title 34 of the Code of Alabama, 1985, and must submit with this bid satisfactory evidence of such license. Bidders will not be required to prequalify.

Tribal Chairman
Poarch Band of Creek Indians

*****PUBLIC NOTICE*****

This article provides public notice to all Tribal Members. The following grants will be available for review and discussion at the Family Services Department' booth on June 3, 2006, Tribal Election Day. The booth will be located in the Poarch Creek Indian Gymnasium with staff available to answer questions between 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Grant
Community Services Block Grant
Child Care Development Block Grant
Family Violence and Services Grant**

All interested individuals are invited to attend to review last year grant and proposed plans for fiscal year 2007.

Carolyn M. White, Executive Director
PBCI Family Services Department

Prom Queen

Ashley Renee Smith was crowned 2006 Prom Queen at Escambia Academy on April 29, 2006. Ashley is the daughter of Paula Smith and the granddaughter of the late Eva Pearl Walker Hansen.

Ashley Smith, Prom Queen



Showing Our True Colors

The American flag is flying at the Poarch Creek Indians Tribal Complex again. No, the absence of the flag has not been any sort of political statement; it was a matter of pole repair. We thank Ronnie Jackson, Fire Chief, for making the necessary repairs to the pole so that we could once again fly our true colors.



Flying our true colors.

McGhee Follows in Father's Footsteps

Zachary Caleb McGhee, the 19 year old son of Johnnie and Sandy McGhee, graduated from Ft. Jackson, SC and will be attending AIT training at Ft. Seals, OK. He will graduate from there May 26, 2006. He will then go to Jump School in Ft. Benning, GA. He will then go to New York for further training.

McGhee is following in his father's footsteps; his father Johnny served in the Army's 82nd Airborne and 101 Airborne from 1967 to 1970.

Zachary Caleb McGhee with father Johnny McGhee



Happy 75th Birthday

Happy 75th birthday to Ms. Barbara Pawling, on June 11, 2006. She was born in Escambia County, moved west, married young and came to Seattle in 1968. Barbara and her family says hi to all their family back home.



Barbara Pawling



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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
JUNE 2006				1	2 Deadline to receive Absentee Ballots 5:00 p.m. PCI Relay Idol Finale 7 p.m.	3 Tribal Election Day Health Fair 2006 Blood Drive
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Tribal Council Meeting 4 p.m. Newly elected Council Members sworn in	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Tribal Council Meeting 2 p.m.						

We reserve the right to edit or refuse any item for publication.



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