

*Keeping the Family and Friends of Poarch Informed*

*January/February 2008*

*[www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov)*

*VOLUME 25 • ISSUE 1*

# POARCH CREEK NEWS

A portrait of Buford Rolin, an older man with white hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red and blue striped tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

Buford Rolin  
Tribal Chairman

# POARCH CREEK NEWS

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## New Format and Deadlines for Tribal Newsletter

You can tell by this issue that the *Poarch Creek News* has undergone a format change. You will see several changes though out the next few months as we finalize our new look. This issue is a combination of January and February news; regular monthly newsletters will resume with the March issue. Not only has our format changed, but we are now using Huskey Printing, a Tribal Member owned business, for layout, printing, and distribution of the *Poarch Creek News*. Huskey Printing is owned by Christy O'Barr-Huskey and her husband Ronnie. This is a new venture for the Tribe and Huskey Printing; we all look forward to working together and seeing the end result.

The deadline for submission for articles, pictures, etc. for the newsletter will remain the same, the 10th of the month prior to month of publication. Please submit only one photo per birth announcement, birthday wish, engagement/wedding announcement, etc. Although we would like to include all pictures submitted, we are limited to space available for such submissions.

Remember, the *Poarch Creek News* is here to keep you, the Tribal Member, informed. It is very important to meet the established deadlines so that we can include the information in the newsletter.

For your convenience, the deadlines for submissions are listed below:

Month of Publication	Deadline
April, 2008	March 10, 2008
May, 2008	April 10, 2008
June, 2008	May 12, 2008*
(*Next working day after Saturday, May 10th)	
July, 2008	June 10, 2008
August, 2008	July 10, 2008
September, 2008	August 11, 2008*
(*Next working day after Sunday, August 10th)	
October, 2008	September 10, 2008
November, 2008	October 10, 2008
December, 2008	November 10, 2008
January, 2009	December 10, 2008



## Chairman's Corner

### January/February, 2008

We are entering a new year; a year full of hope and promise. I am glad to hear that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season; I hope that all continues to be well with you and hope that 2008 is a good and prosperous year for you and your family.

The Tribe has recently completed a DVD program in conjunction with the Committee for Citizen Awareness (CCA). The purpose of the CCA is to enhance the American public's understanding of the workings of our democracy, encourage good citizenship, and increase voter participation. The subject of the DVD project we worked on is "WE THE PEOPLE...The U.S. Constitution and You" featuring and narrated by Caroline Kennedy, author of *In Our Defense: The Bill of Rights in Action* and daughter of President John F. Kennedy. The CCA produces and distributes a series of educational civic DVDs, which has been seen by over 30 million people nationwide. These DVDs, which are custom-made for each congressional district, feature over 350 current members of Congress and hundreds of business and community leaders. It was a pleasure to work on this project and PRESENT information on our Tribe that will be shared with high schools all across our congressional district.

I traveled to Washington, DC on January 9, 2008 to meet with Phil Hogan, Chairman of National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) to discuss various issues relating to Indian gaming. Following this meeting, I traveled to New York City the next day to meet with investors involved in the financing for the Wind Creek Hotel/Casino. Both meetings were informative and beneficial to the Tribe.

During a recent conference call with Senator Byron Dorgan (D. ND), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, we were informed that the Indian Health Care Improvement Act is scheduled to go to the Senate floor for consideration on Tuesday, January 22. I have spoken with both Senator Sessions and Senator Shelby and they have assured me that they are in favor of the reauthorization of this bill.

At the January 8th Tribal Council meeting, all Tribal Discretionary Budgets were approved, including the allocation for annual birthday checks in the amount of \$1,600 for adults, age 18 and above, and \$800 for children under the age of 18, which will be placed in their trust fund until they reach the age of 18. During this meeting the Council selected Keith Harper to fill the remaining seat on the Tribal Supreme Court. Harper, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and a member of the Washington, DC law firm Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP, joins Tribal Members Teri Poust and Cody Williamson. The Council also named Cody Williamson as Tribal Supreme Court Chief Justice.

I hope that you have had the opportunity to drive past the Wind Creek construction site. We have seen extensive progress in the development of the new hotel/casino resort.

When completed, this facility will contain a 236 room hotel and 60,000 square feet of gaming space.

In closing I would like to say that it is a pleasure to serve as our Tribal Chairman. I look forward to continuing to serve you and be a major contributing factor in providing and meeting the needs of our people.

### Board/Committee Vacancies

The Tribal Council is currently accepting applications for vacancies on the Best Western Board, the Ethics Board and the Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve Board of Directors. Applications are available from the Chairman's Office and online at [www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov). Applications will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. Friday, February 1, 2008 through 5:00 p.m. Monday, March 3, 2008.

Best Western Board (1 position)  
1 board position

Ethics Board (2 positions)  
1 board position  
1 alternate position

Magnolia Branch Board (1 position)  
1 board position



## I Didn't Know That!

- Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand
- Lollipop is the longest word typed with your right hand.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
- Dreamt is the only English word that ends in the letters 'mt'.
- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
- The sentence: 'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog' uses every letter of the alphabet.
- The words racecar, kayak, and level are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).
- There are only four words in the English language which end in 'dous': tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

## Strategic Plan Approved

Submitted by Kenny Shivers, Planning Director

The Poarch Creek Indians Strategic Plan has been completed and adopted by the Tribal Council. For the past year, Tribal Members, staff and Council members have worked on the development of the plan under the guidance of the Auburn University Community & Economic Development Institute. Four focus groups were formed to concentrate on certain aspects of the plan – Infrastructure, Education, Economic Development and Community Services. The plan will now serve as a guide in the planning and development of community projects and services of the Tribe. An Implementation Committee has been formed consisting of one representative from each of the focus groups. The committee will work with the Tribal Council, Administration and appropriate staff in the implementation of the activities proposed in the plan. The plan is now available for review by any Tribal Member. A copy may be picked up from the Tribal Receptionist area in the Health Clinic, Community Relations and the Planning Department located in Building 200.

We would like to say Mvto to those who worked diligently on this project.

## TRIBAL BUSINESS REVIEW

Submitted by: Michelle White, Economic Development Administrative Assistant

### End of the Line Agency/G&H Systems

End of the Line/G&H Systems is located at 3532 Highway 31 South, Atmore, Alabama and is owned by Tribal Member Jerry Gehman and James Helton.

Jerry and James started the business in November 2005. They have 8 employees. Jerry has been in the low voltage business for 15 years. Jerry and James would occasionally be competitors, and were always running into each other. So one day they decided to put their talent to work together. So they formed G&H Systems.

G&H Systems offers a variety of different low voltage integrator: such as sound systems, surveillance systems, fire systems, data network systems, controlled access systems and telephone systems. They also offer a 10 percent discount to Tribal Members. For more information or to get an estimate you can reach G&H Systems (251) 446-3707.

### Rolin's Tire Service, Inc.

Rolin's Tire Service, Inc. is located at 107 North Carney Street, Atmore, Alabama and began doing business in 2003. Danny and his wife Pat have 3 children, Brandon, Nicholas, and Patrick. Danny started the business to better his life and the lives of his family.

Rolin's Tire has 9 employees, 2 of which are Tribal Members.



He is also proud to announce the newest member to Rolin's Team, Tribal Member Randy Rolin.

Rolin's Tire Service, Inc. offers a complete line of personal automotive and truck tires and they can also meet your commercial tire needs as well.

They also offer a 24 hour road-side assistance service. So, if you need something as simple as a bicycle tire or a tire for your skidder call Rolin's Tire Service, Inc. For more information or to get an estimate you can reach Danny at (251) 368-2405.

If you are interested in having your business featured in the newsletter's Tribal Business Review section, please contact Michelle White in the Economic Development Department at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2505.

# A YOUNG BEAUTY WITH DIABETES

By: Kathy Ledkins



Cierra McGhee is a beautiful eight-year-old girl with diabetes. She was diagnosed with this dreadful disease when

she was six years old and it's a terrible battle each and every day for her. But she is not alone in her battle, Cierra has an active family that supports her with a lot of love and guidance with her eating and exercise. The family does have a history of diabetes, but Cierra is the first child in the family to be diagnosed as a diabetic. We are extra careful with her life, educating her on the current diabetic information and being patience and kind as she learns how to take care of herself. The road is very hard for her at times but she is very strong and determined to beat this disease. I believe that in her lifetime a cure will be found to help children like Cierra.

A typical day in Cierra's life is like this; she gets up and the first thing she does is check her sugar, if it's high she gets her insulin, and extra, and then eats her breakfast. If it's low she eats or drinks something sweet to rush her sugar up, if it's just right then she takes her regular dose of medication and eats her breakfast, she takes a shot and oral medication in the morning and at her supper meal. She also checks in with the school nurse each day to check her sugar before lunch and if

it's high she has to have extra insulin (she is on a sliding scale, which means if it's high she get more insulin if not then she doesn't get any insulin for lunch). Cierra gets a menu sent home from school for the month and she and her mother look over the lunch menus and pick her choices of food with the appropriate protein, carbohydrate and vegetable count for each day. Cierra has emergency shots that the school and the bus driver keep in their possession at all times in case her sugar drops. You see a lot of people become involved if a child is stricken with diabetes. Cierra comes home and she does the same thing as in the morning before she eats her evening meal. Her dream is to not have this disease one day; in the mean time Cierra says she wants to try and help find a cure for diabetes by donating her time and efforts in supporting the "Diabetic Association" On Saturday, October 13, 2007 Cierra and her family were committed to an early morning diabetic walk. The day started with Cierra getting up at 5:00 am checking her sugar (which she does herself) before leaving for the walk in Mobile, Alabama. If her sugar is low she would eat before we left, but if not we would all eat at the morning diabetic registration, she was okay so we ate when we got to Mobile. We arrived around 7:00 a.m. to register and turn the money Cierra collected into the diabetic association staff. Cierra collected money for about two months and she wants to thank everyone that helped her by contributing money to give to her cause. She especially wants to thank members of "Lvmhvke", The Eagle Clan. Cierra and I (her grandmother, Kathy Ledkins), are Tribal Members and very proud to support this walk for her people. This article is dedicated to the memory of her dad, Fred L. McGhee, and grandmother, Verlie McGhee Bailey, who both suffered from diabetes and died from complications of this life crippling disease.



Lvmhvke, the Eagle Clan, at the finish line. Members of Lvmhvke are: Bottom row: Bryan "Boatleg" Ledkins, Neveah Ledkins, and Cierra McGhee. Top row: Kathy Ledkins, Cole Whatley, Stephanie Ledkins, and Joe Ledkins.

## Modern Woodman Presents Matching Check

On December 18, 2007, Modern Woodman Insurance representatives Teresa Smith and Greg Findley presented a check for \$5,000 to cancer patient Charlie McDuffie as their matching portion for a fund-raiser that raised over \$6,000. This matching fund program is one of the ways that Modern Woodman lends a helping hand to individuals and the community.



Teresa Smith is shown presenting \$5,000 to Charlie McDuffie. Standing are Greg Findley, Kevin McGhee, Tawana McGhee, Kay McDuffie, and Eldnar McGhee

## FREEMAN NAMED AS ALL STAR

Submitted by Jennifer Colbert



Trent Freeman, son of Tribal Member Jennifer Colbert, was selected to play in the Florida High School Athletic Association's (FHSAA) 4th annual PSA All Star football game in Pace, Florida on December 21, 2007. Trent was one of five seniors from Northview High School to be selected as All Stars by FHSAA. At the beginning of the 2007 football season Trent had been identified as "one of the top five players in the Pensacola Bay area to watch".



# BIRTHDAY WISHES



## Jayden Alexis Johnson

Jayden Alexis Johnson, daughter of DJ and Blair Johnson, will celebrate her 2nd birthday on January 31st. Jayden is the great-granddaughter of Tribal Member Janice Lane, and the granddaughter of Dickey Johnson.



Helen Hallman, a long time friend, wishes Mr. Tullis a happy birthday.

Tribal Council Member Eddie L. Tullis went to lunch at the Creek Family Restaurant with Helen Hallman on Wednesday, January 9, 2008. Much to his surprise, they were joined by his wife, Mary Jane Tullis, his daughter, Edie Jackson, and several Tribal staff members who had gathered to surprise him on his 70th birthday.

Happy birthday Mr. Tullis and thank you for your dedication to the Tribe.

## 2007 Tribal Member Deceased List

According to the Census records, the following Tribal Members passed away in 2007.

Month	Name	Roll Number	Date of Birth
January	Willis R. McGhee, Jr.	0771	06-17-1936
February	Gary Joe McGhee	0634	11-29-1959
	Michael Shane McGhee	1574	08-31-1973
	Garlie Woods	2137	07-26-1924
March	Lester L. Dalrymple	1349	11-29-1958
	George W. Rolin	0953	02-22-1928
	Phronie Hall	2697	05-10-1938
April	Evonne Menzel	0627	07-22-1943
June	Bernice Defoe	2540	12-31-1939
	Annie Pearl Thompson	0096	10-08-1941
	Jessie David Gibson	2941	10-29-1928
July	Lizzie Pearl Wilson	0403	06-25-1932
	Randy O'Keefe	2771	05-27-1958
August	Lamar Murry Stewart, Sr.	2122	06-04-1922
September	Jerry Williams	2050	09-23-1934
	Helen Drummond	2937	06-04-1943
	Frank Barlow	0037	03-29-1924
October	Stephanie Mayo	2371	05-19-1987
November	Archie Jackson	2679	03-20-1957
	Nannie Sue Phillips	3054	10-25-1932
	Mary Ann Fralick	3141	07-08-1934
December	John Gladden Gibson	1825	06-20-1933

*We extend our condolences to the family of each of these deceased Tribal Members.*

# BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Luciana Kathryn Rojas



Alica Overstreet announces the birth of her daughter Luciana Kathryn Rojas at 8:09 a.m. on November 26, 2007. At birth Luciana weighted 7 lbs. 12 ozs. and was 19 inches long. Luciana is welcomed home by her big brother Vincent, age 6.

Luciana is the granddaughter of Ralph Overstreet; great granddaughter of the late Lucille Hartshorn (McGhee), and great great granddaughter of the late Robert & Elizabeth (Colbert) McGhee, and the late Woodard & Lola ((Colbert) Overstreet.

## Renee Elena Ruiz-Pacheco

Tasha Ruiz and Frank Pacheco-Beltram announce the birth of their daughter Renee Elena Ruiz-Pacheco at 7:59 a.m. on December 12, 2007. At birth Renee weighted 7 lbs. 6 ozs. and was 21 inches long.

Renee is the granddaughter of Frank Beltram, Jr., great granddaughter of Lola (Overstreet) Beltram; and the great granddaughter of the late Lucille Hartshorn (McGhee), and great great great granddaughter of the late Robert & Elizabeth (Colbert) McGhee, and the late Woodard & Lola ((Colbert) Overstreet.



# WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Submitted by Patricia Beasley



Patricia Rolin Hodges and Douglas Beasley were united in holy matrimony on Friday, December 21, 2007 at the Church of the Living God in Atmore, AL. Family and friends joined Patricia and Douglas for this happiest of occasions and wish them the best of luck in their new life together. Patricia was given in marriage by her father Wilbert "Bud" Rolin. Members of the wedding party included Alaina Hodges, Cody and Hunter Edwards, Mandy Edwards, Christine McGhee, Valerie Robertson, Kerri Gilley, Lance Hodges, Dan Beasley, Bill Beasley, Robbie Beasley, Barry Nichols, and Kenny Shivers, Pianist.

## Obituary

Submitted by Sandra Brannon

Stephanie K. Mayo, a 20 year old student attending Capps College, passed away on October 30, 2007. She is survived by her mother, Sandra L. Brannon, and father, Thomas E. Mayo, one sister, Rachel Mayo, grandparents Donald and Oleen Mayo, five aunts and uncles and many cousins. She was much loved and will be greatly missed.

## Tribal Administration's Staff Christmas Party Held At Newly Renovated Creek Family Restaurant

One of the first special events held at the newly renovated Creek Family Restaurant was the Tribal Administration Staff Christmas Party. In order to host this event, the restaurant closed to the public after their breakfast schedule and reopened to the public for the dinner schedule. It was a TIGHT fit, but we squeezed in and enjoyed a great buffet of traditional holiday foods. The only negative feedback that was received was that it was too crowded; we were packed in there, you definitely had to like the person you were sitting beside, because you were intimately close! We are growing and it is difficult to find a facility that is large enough to house this event; we hope to secure a larger facility for 2008. We would like to thank the management and staff of Creek Family Restaurant for a job well done.

During the party, employees were recognized for their years of service and Ellen O'Barr was announced as the 2007 Employee of the Year. Ellen has been with the Tribe over 20 years and we congratulate her on her award and appreciate the good works she has done, and continues to do, for the Tribe.



L to R: John English, Lena White, Brenda Faircloth, Donnie Jackson, and Laura Cook chat at the Staff Christmas party at Creek Family Restaurant.



Ellen O'Barr (L), shown with Tawana McGhee (R), Employee Awards Committee Chairperson, was selected as the 2007 Employee of the Year



Stephanie Bryan, Vice Chair, closed the party with words of thanks and appreciation.



The twelve recipients of the Employee of the Month Award. Front row: Connie Vickery, Judy McGhee, and Shelia Fisher. Second row: Gwen Manning, Ellen O'Barr, Chastity Peebles, and Billie Jo McGhee. Third row: Sylvia Morgan, Alex Alvarez, John English, David Killough, and Rex Baggett.

## Rex Baggett, December 2007 Employee of the Month



**REX BAGGETT**

**T**he Employee Awards Committee selected Lieutenant Rex A. Baggett as the December 2007 Employee of the Month. As Lieutenant, Rex is second in command of the Tribal Police Department.

This is the first time Rex has received the Employee of the Month Award since coming on board with the

Tribe on June 2, 2003. He says that he was very shocked when Tawana McGhee told him that he had been selected as Employee of the Month. He thought that the Police Department was playing a joke on him. He says that it is rewarding to know that people appreciate the job that he does. He says that his most fulfillment comes from watching our young people grow up and make something out of themselves.

Rex gives credit for his success in life to God first and foremost for allowing him to be part of others lives. Secondly he gives credit to his parents, Roy and Evie Baggett, he feels that he could not have had better parents; although it took a lot of switches and a few belts, they always kept him on the right track to success. Thirdly, the other strength and turning point of his life is his wife Stephanie, who always supports him in the good times and bad, and his children Lindsey and Clay. When the job gets to the point when he just wants to quit, he thinks of them and it keeps him going. Finally, he has to credit part of his success to Woodrow "Woody" Stewart, a retired Alabama State Trooper, for taking him under his wing and teaching him the life of a police officer. Not only has he been a great friend, but an additional father figure as well.

Rex graduated from Escambia County High School and served in the U.S Marine Corps. In 1996 he was nominated by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers as officer of the year for the state of Alabama; he was recognized as the PCI Policeman of the Year by the local American Legion Post in 2006. In his spare time Rex enjoys hunting and raising goats.

In closing Rex would like for everyone to know that if they ever need anything he is just a phone call away; day or night he will be there to serve you.



*Beginning with the new year the Poarch Creek News will present a series of articles that will serve as the feature article each month. We will begin this series by highlighting each member of the Tribal Council, with the first article focusing on Buford L. Rolin, Tribal Chairman.*

Buford Lee Rolin is the son of the late Tracy and Girlie Walker Rolin. He is the grandson of the late Bill and Eliza Rolin and the late Richard and Emma Walker. Buford has two brothers, William Thomas Rolin, and the late Richard McGhee, and four sisters, Bessie O'Barr, Lottie Durerst, and the late Leola



Manac and Linda Gail Parker. Buford was raised in the Poarch community and lived here through his high school years. One of his favorite memories of growing up in the Poarch community is Christmas. Each year there would be a Christmas program at St. Anna's Episcopal Church which would include a play about the birth of Christ. His family and members from the community would

attend and share this time together. This always meant a lot to Buford and he stills looks forward to Christmas in the community and at St. Anna's. After attending college for one year Buford worked in the private sector in Pensacola, Florida until he joined the U.S. Army. He served two years active duty, with four years in the reserves. After his military service Buford lived in Pensacola, Florida and worked in the private sector until he was approached by Calvin McGhee, who enlisted him in the Tribe's fight for federal recognition. This eventually led to his return to Atmore, where he now lives.

When asked who is, or was, the most influential person in his life, Buford could not limit his answer to just one person. Buford stated that his father, Tracy Rolin, was an uneducated man but it was his goal that his children get a formal education. Tracy, along with Calvin McGhee and many others in the community, fought for this right for their children. It was a long and hard road, but they were successful in their endeavor, which allowed Indian children to attend local schools and get the same education as everyone else. His graduating class from Escambia County High School was one of the first to include Tribal Members. Miss Grace Kay Mays, his fifth grade teacher, also made a lasting impression on Buford and influenced his life in many ways. "I was afraid of her" Buford said. "Not afraid of being struck or disciplined, but afraid that I would not be able to live up to her expectations. She was the first to teach me that we must first look to ourselves to accomplish things in our lives." Father George C. Merkle, former Priest at St. Anna's and the teaching of his church have also influenced Buford's life in ways that have helped him become the man he is today. This association instilled in him the desire to set goals and standards to be who he wanted to be. He continues to remain active in the church and has served the church in various from acolyte to his current position as lay reader. He also says that he could not exclude J. Anthony Parades, the anthropologist who helped the Tribe in their fight for federal recognition.

When asked to name three major accomplishments in his life his answer, without hesitation, was;

- 1) Serving his people. When Calvin approached Buford in 1964 he told him "Son, we need your help. If we are going to grow, we need to get our young people involved." This statement is a true today as it was back then.
- 2) Serving on the Tribal Council with Calvin McGhee's Council and participating in the early vision of the Tribe.
- 3) Staying active in the community. Even when he lived out of town, he stayed involved in the community and the federal recognition process. This eventually led to him coming to work for the Tribe in 1984 and returning to live in the Atmore area.

We also asked Buford what it meant to him to be a member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. He says that he has a lot of pride in the accomplishments of the Tribe. He said that it is very rewarding to see the growth of our young nation; yes, we are a segment of the original Creek nation, but we are considered a young nation after federal recognition in 1984. It is rewarding to see that the Tribe has moved forward to provide services and meet the needs of Tribal Members. He is thankful for the leadership the Tribe has had that was able to provide for the needs of the community.

As mentioned earlier, Buford says that he became involved in Tribal politics in 1964 at the urging of Chief Calvin McGhee. He has served on the Council almost consecutively since that time. He sees the Tribal Council today addressing the same issues as the earlier Councils, health, education, housing, and providing other services to meet the needs of Tribal Members. These issues have been a continuing concern. It is the Tribe's goal to remain self sufficient and to maintain current services as well as provide additional services to our people. It is the Council's goal to make the quality of life better for all Tribal Members. When asked which issues he is the most passionate about his answers were " Tribal culture, health, and education."

Buford has served the Tribe as Tribal Chairman since 2006 following the passing of Chairman Fred L. McGhee. He says that he has now served in all positions of the Council, from Council Member to Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair, and now Tribal Chairman. He serves on the Health/Human Services Legislative Committee and the Governmental Affairs/Rules Legislative Committee. He says that if he were not working with the Tribe or serving on the Council he would probably still be working in the private sector.



Buford L. Rolin

William T. Rolin

In closing, we asked Buford where does he see the Tribe in ten years. He stated that in ten years he would hope that our youth, adults, and elders have obtained the level of education they desire and that major health issues have been addressed. Health is a personal issue that we have to address on a personal basis, but it is his hope that the Tribe has been able to address these concerns to the extent that each tribal member has been able to accept responsibility for their own health. He also hopes the issues of the needs of our Tribal Elders have been addressed. He doesn't necessarily see a nursing home in the future, but maybe an assisted living facility; where the necessary care needed is provided. He also hopes that the Tribe has found a way to provide the additional services needed by Tribal Members.



## Poarch Creek Education Department's News

Submitted by Billie McGhee, Education Coordinator

### National Institute of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship

Students can receive up to \$20,000 per academic year for tuition, educational expenses and reasonable living expenses. The program is available to Native American tribal members and descendants. The application deadline is February 29, 2008 and can be completed online at [www.ugsp.nih.gov](http://www.ugsp.nih.gov).

### Graduate School Application and Certification Fees

The Poarch Creek Education Discretionary Tuition Aid funding program can reimburse Tribal students for graduate school exam fees. Students may contact Mrs. Fisher at (251) 368-9136, ext. 2243 or [sfisher@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](mailto:sfisher@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov).

### Sovereign Nations Scholarship Fund Endowment

The American Indian College Fund has announced a new funding program, the "Sovereign Nations Scholarship Endowment Fund," to support the best and brightest American Indian students. The web site is located at [www.collegefund.org](http://www.collegefund.org).

### Amgen Scholars Summer Research Program in Science and Biotechnology

The purpose of the Amgen Scholars program is to provide learning and networking opportunities for students who are pursuing careers in the science and engineering fields and planning to pursue a Ph.D. or M.D. or M.D.PhD. The web site for additional information and participating universities is [www.amgenscholarsh.com](http://www.amgenscholarsh.com).

### Notice to Tribal Students Considering Graduate School

University of North Carolina is inviting Native American Indian college students to attend their recruitment weekend scheduled for March 7-8, 2008. The website for the conference and registration is located at [www.gradschool.unc.edu/NewDirections](http://www.gradschool.unc.edu/NewDirections).

### Internship Pensacola

The program is a joint creation of the Pensacola Young Professionals, the Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, and the University of West Florida is providing internship opportunities for undergraduate with training and exposure to job opportunities available in the Pensacola area. They will participate in the twelve-week internship, work full-time, earn a market-rate salary, gain invaluable experience and contacts, and they will learn from three to nine hours of college credit. The Internship is available to students from other states. The website is <http://www.internshippensacola.com>.

### Book Club

Submitted by Megan Slate

The Library is trying to get a book club started. The book club will decide on a book to read and will meet once a week to discuss the book. The meetings will be after working hours. This is a great way to get involved with the Library and to meet new people. Refreshments will be provided during the meeting.

If anyone is interested please contact Magen Slate at (251) 368-9136 extension 2240.

### Rackard Listed Among Honor Students

Rodney O'Neal Rackard was named to Reid State Technical College's President's List for the 2007 Fall Semester. Rodney is studying Industrial Electricity/Electronics and maintained a 4.0 grade point average for 12 credit hours. Congratulations Rodney, your family is proud of you and your efforts in furthering your education and making a better life for yourself and your family.

### Tribal Directional Signs Posted

Directional signs are now in place throughout the Tribal Complex.

Many Tribal Members and visitors to the Tribe are often confused about where



they need to go when visiting various departments at the Tribal Complex. The Tribal Council addressed this issue by budgeting money for directional signs for the Tribal Complex. Tribal Administration and Community Relations worked together to secure bids from three companies to handle this project. Just Do from Brewton, Alabama was awarded the bid and soon had the signs designed, developed, and put in

place. Visitors to the Tribal Complex can now easily locate the department/office they are looking for.

### Lindsay Gibbs Graduates From University of Alabama

Submitted by Rosemary Powell



Lindsay Gibbs, daughter of David and Patricia Gibbs, graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce & Business Administration on December 15, 2007. Lindsay is the granddaughter of Rev. Fred & Mary Stella Gibbs and Troy and Margaret Byrd. Congratulations Lindsay.



Despite cooler weather than anticipated, the 2007 Thanksgiving Pow Wow exceeded expectations. There were large crowds, games for kids of all ages, and a record number of vendors and competition dancers. Although the final numbers are not in yet, Pow Wow 2007 was another Pow Wow that will be referred to for years to come.

# 20 POW



Opening Ceremonies customarily with the singing of the National Anthem. This year the Pow Wow Committee asked Tribal Member Paul Pearson to perform an instrumental version on his steel guitar. He did an outstanding job.



Chairman Rolin introduced the Tribal Council. Shown left to right are Robert "Robbie" McGhee, Keith Martin, David Gehman, Eddie L. Tullis, Helen Hallman, Arthur Mothershed, Treasurer, Daniel McGhee, Secretary, and Stephanie Bryan, Vice Chair.



Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin, welcomes everyone to Pow Wow



Students and staff from the Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center performed Jesus Loves Me in Creek for the audience.



The Princess Contest is always a big draw on Thanksgiving Day. Mallory Gibson and Dariane Guy prepare to take the mound.



The sound of native drums resounded throughout both days of Pow Wow.





The Princess Committee with the 2007 Princess Contest participants prior to the interview process on Wednesday, November 21, 2007.



2006/2007 Senior Princess Heather White makes a tearful farewell speech. Heather represented the Tribe well this year. We wish her the best of luck in her future.

The Pow Wow Club made its debut appearance at this year's Pow Wow. Many of the club members went on to place in the top three of their category during the dance competition.



The 2007/2008 Princesses: Destiny Morris, Junior Princess, Mallory Young, Senior Princess, and Darlane Guy, Elementary Princess. Congratulations to each of these beautiful young girls.



An overhead view of the newly remodeled Pow Wow Arena. As you can see, we had quite a crowd in attendance.



The Pow Wow Dance competition begins with Grand Entry and the presentation of the American and Poarch Creek Tribal flags.



There were games for kids of all ages. The Turkey Shoot is always a big draw. Wayne Rutherford and April Garvin assist young archers.



# 2007 Christmas Parade

The Tribe's 2007 Christmas Parade, held on Friday, December 7th, was a success again this year. There were sixteen floats, three high school marching bands, four fire trucks, five antique cars, and one local twirling group. The route was the same as in year's past, but we may have to look at changing the route due to the size of the parade; it seems that as soon as Santa (the last vehicle in the parade) is pulling out from the staging area the first float is pulling up at the gym!

The theme for this year's parade was Christmas songs; the floats were all beautiful and the judges had a hard time picking the top three floats. The first, second, and third place floats selected were: 1) Hard Candy Christmas (CIE), 2) Rock Around the Christmas Tree (Tribal Gaming Commission/PCI Gaming), and 3) Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer (Building 200). These three floats also participated in the Atmore Christmas parade the next day and Rock Around the Christmas Tree placed first with Hard Candy Christmas placing second. This is the first year that the Tribe's floats have placed in the Atmore parade.

If you were unable to attend the parade, we gladly share these photos with you. We invite you to attend the 2008 parade, which is tentatively scheduled for the first Friday in December. We have a great time and would love to share the fun and merriment with you.



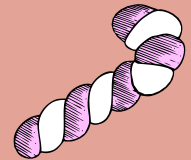
Public Works' float was "Twelve Days of Christmas"; they used the redneck version and the float was quite a sight to see. Pictured are the "8 table dancers!" (Augh!, Ain't they cute!!)



The Planning Department and staff from other departments in Building 200 joined together for "Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer". Shown are reindeer Ellen (O'Barr) and snowlady Cheryl (Fore). This float won third place.

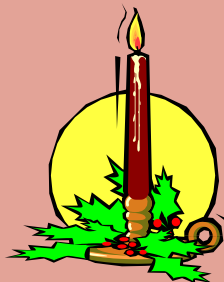


Byron Mosley adds "4 big mud tires" to Public Works' float



Bruce Springsteen (Robbie McGhee), Johnny & Sandy from Grease (Brad Pinkston & Keisha Lee), Stevie Nix (Lori Sawyer), and Elvis (Kevin McGhee) all rocked around the Christmas tree on the Tribal Gaming Commission/PCI Gaming float "Rock Around the Christmas Tree". This float placed second in the Poarch parade and first in the Atmore parade. Not shown, but rockin' were Madonna (Edie Jackson), Bon Jovia (Jake Carlton), Tina Turner (Kim Snow), Elton John (Daniel McGhee), Cher (Carla McGhee), Brittny Spears (Jennifer Colbert), and DJ Jingle Berry (Kevin Snow).

CIE's "Hard Candy Christmas" was the first place float for the Poarch parade and placed second in the Atmore Christmas parade. Great imagination will carry you far.



Teresa Smith, Bernie White, Linda Selzer, and Jaime McGhee work diligently on the Health Department's float, "Frosty the Snowman".



When Tribal Court and the Legal Department pulled the song "Blue Christmas" everyone thought it would be Elvis and lots of blue on their float, but they used their imagination and came up with a great and surprising version, Porky Pig with his best girl Petunia! Can you guess who is in the costumes?





## Follow-Up Winter LIHEAP Application

Submitted by Carolyn White,  
Family Services Executive Director

After the LIHEAP Application Week, January 21-28, 2008, Winter LIHEAP applications will be accepted by appointment on Monday through Thursday of each week. Please call the Family Services Department for an appointment.

To receive assistance from the Tribal LIHEAP Program:

- You must be a tribal member household,
- You must meet the income guideline of 60% of the State Median Income,
- And you must be responsible for payment of some type of heating or cooling bill.

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 tribal membership, 3) verification of monthly income, and 4) the current unpaid electricity or heating bill. If the utility bill is not listed 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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you are requesting gas assistance, you must have an established account with the gas company. Feaster Gas and South Alabama Gas companies in Atmore both require a gas tank check if you don't have an account with them. This is probably the standard procedure for all gas companies before they will put gas into your tank. When you apply LIHEAP funds and chose to have gas assistance, you will be required to furnish proof that your tank has been checked and/or the gas company will deliver gas to your home.

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

The Family Services Department

wishes to say a big . . .

# Thank you

To all the departmental staff and volunteers who helped to make the 2007 Kid's Community Christmas Party a success!

We served 238 children and their families during this fun event!

### Volunteers include:

Bo and Debbie Bray  
Connie Lambeth and  
Dr. Hoercher of Premier Family  
Eye Care  
Edna Parker  
Lonnie Rackard  
Martha Jackson  
Maxine Lassiter  
Teresa Franklin  
The I.M.N.A. Group

A huge Thank You  
to the following departments who made  
many contributions to assist with the  
Christmas Party:

Economic Development  
Education  
Family Services  
Health Department  
Public Safety  
Public Works  
Wellness and Activities

If you haven't picked up your child's picture with Santa, they  
are available for pick-up at the Family Services Department.

Santa thanks for coming to  
our party. We are honored  
to have you visit our tribe  
each year!

## Notices from the Wellness & Activities Center

Submitted by: Theresa Cox, Activities Coordinator

In the future, Art classes may be offered if  
enough interest is shown. Please contact  
Theresa Cox @ 368-9136 ext. 2256.

Players and Coaches interested in the 2008 NAYO  
Basketball Tournament on the 22nd and 23rd of  
March, please contact Eddie Jackson @ 368-9136 ext.  
2256 by February 15th.

### WELLNESS CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday through Friday, 6:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.  
**POOL CLOSED FOR THE WINTER!**

## JOIN THE FUN WITH YOUNG LIFE

A SPECIAL INVITATION is  
extended to each of you to attend the  
Atmore Young Life Fund Raising  
Banquet on Monday, February 18, 2008  
at 6 p.m. at the Atmore Community  
Center (YMCA). A catered dinner will  
be provided at no cost. If you would like  
to come, please call Linda Parsons at  
446-1610 or 368-3271 ASAP to reserve  
your place. There is limited seating so  
please call by the deadline February 5th.  
This is your chance to learn more about  
the ministry of Young Life to the kids of  
our community and meet the leaders.

Hurry, don't miss a great program  
and fun evening!

Thanks a lot,

Linda Parsons, Chairman  
Atmore Young Life

# FEMA URGES CAUTION WHEN USING PORTABLE GENERATORS

Submitted by Arelene Mack - Press Release from  
U.S. Fire Administration

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has joined with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in issuing a warning to consumers confronted by the recent winter weather. When there's a power outage, exercise caution when using portable generators.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible killer. You can't see or smell it. A generator's exhaust contains poisonous CO which can kill you in a matter of minutes.

Last year, at least 65 people died from generator-related CO poisoning. Many of the deaths occurred after winter storms knocked out power.

Follow these important generator safety tips:

Never use a portable generator inside a home, garage, shed or other partially enclosed space, even if doors and windows are open.

Place portable generators outside only, far away from the home. And keep the generator away from openings to the home, including doors, windows and

## Relay for Life Update

The Tribe's Relay for Life Team would like to say thanks for your support during the past year. The team set a goal to raise \$10,000 by April 26, 2008; we had fund-raisers in the last quarter of 2007 and raised \$1,048.50. We have the following events scheduled for this year and look forward to your continued support.

February 23, 2008

March 15, 2008

March 17-19, 2008

April 5, 2008

April 18, 2008

Relay Talent Show

Dinner & A Show

Deliver Daffodils

Fashion Show

Breakfast

vents.

Read the label on the generator and the owner's manual, and follow the instructions.

Install CO alarms with battery backup in the home outside each sleeping area.

Get to fresh air immediately if you start to feel sick, weak or dizzy. CO poisoning from exposure to generator exhaust can quickly lead to incapacitation and death.

Last year, CPSC mandated a new danger label on generators manufactured after May 14, 2007. The label states that, "Using a generator indoors CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES."

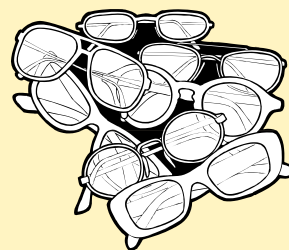
FEMA and CPSC also caution people to never use charcoal for cooking in the home. Every year individuals lose their lives attempting to cook with charcoal when power is out. Charcoal fires should only be used outside of the home.

*FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.*

## ASSISTANCE WITH EYE CARE

Dr. Melissa Hoercher and the staff at Premier Family Eye Care announce that the Eyesight Foundation of Alabama and the Community Foundation for Greater Birmingham has recently awarded the Tribe with funds to help Tribal Members as well as the surrounding community to obtain eye wear that may have not been affordable in the past. This program will only apply for eyeglasses from a select group of frames. There are many needs to be met, so help us spread the word! Applications can be obtained from and returned upon completion to:

Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
Attn: Jill Lee/WIC Department  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502



## Dr. McGhee Interns at Tribal Health Clinic as Part of Rotation Training

Submitted by Billie McGhee

During the month of November Dr. Julie McGhee, daughter of Harold and Lynna McGhee and granddaughter of Carl McGhee, visited the Poarch Creek Health Department for two weeks as a part of her rotation training. Julie specializes in pediatrics and enjoyed her rotation at the Tribe's Health Department and treating Tribal children. Julie is one of the first of our young Tribal Members to return to the Reservation as a part of their training in their chosen profession.

We wish her the best of luck in her chosen profession and look forward to hearing more of her success.



## 2008 TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

<i>January 8, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>January 22, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>February 5, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>February 19, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>March 4, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>March 18, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>April 1, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>April 15, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>May 6, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>May 20, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>June 3, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>June 17, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>July 1, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>July 15, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>August 5, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>August 19, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>September 2, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>September 16, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>October 7, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>October 21, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>November 4, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>November 18, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>December 2, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>
<i>December 16, 2008</i>	<i>4:00 pm</i>	<i>Tribal Council Chambers</i>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY, 2008

January 28, 2008 – March 14, 2008	Winter LIHEAP Application Accepted	
February 1, 2008	Begin Accepting Application for Board/Committee Vacancies	
February 5, 2008	Tribal Council Meeting	4:00 p.m.
February 6, 2008	Housing Advisory Board Meeting	1:00 p.m.
February 11, 2008	Deadline for submission for March Newsletter	
February 11-14, 2008	Impact Week, Washington DC	
February 18, 2008	Atmore Young Life Banquet	6:00 p.m.
February 19, 2008	Tribal Council Meeting	4:00 p.m.
February 23, 2008	Relay Talent Show	7:00 p.m.
February 27, 2008	Housing Advisory Board Meeting	1:00 p.m.
March 3, 2008	Closing date for applications for Board/Committee Vacancies	
March 15, 2008	Easter Egg Hunt	9:00 a.m.

### 2008 Housing Authority Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule of the Housing Advisory Board Meetings for 2008 which will be held in the Conference Room in Building #400.

#### January

January 9, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.  
January 23, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

#### March

March 12, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.  
March 26, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

#### May

May 14, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.  
May 28, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

#### July

July 9, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.  
July 23, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

#### September

September 10, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.  
September 24, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

#### November

November 5, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.  
November 19, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

#### February

February 6, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.  
February 27, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

#### April

April 9, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.  
April 23, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

#### June

June 11, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.  
June 25, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

#### August

August 13, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.  
August 27, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

#### October

October 8, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.  
October 15, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

#### December

December 3, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.  
December 17, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

# WIND CREEK UPDATE

Lori Sawyer, Director of Marketing & Public Relations



Hotel Tower With Forms Placed On Sixth Floor



Central Plant and Administration  
Offices Steel Frame

Jim Angus, the Construction Project Control Manager, reports that the construction of the new Wind Creek Casino and Hotel – Atmore project continues to progress steadily forward. The contractor, FlintCo began to set the steel structure for the Casino during the past 30 days and the “drum” is beginning to take shape. The slab-on-grade has progressed through the kitchen and buffet areas and placement of the floor of the Casino is scheduled to begin this month. The concrete floor for the administrative area on the second floor is scheduled to be placed within a few days. Masonry walls around the central plant will be completed within the next 30 days. Once the floor is placed and the masonry work is done, the exterior skin of the administration area will begin.

The fifth level of the concrete frame for the 17-story hotel has been placed and the sixth floor was placed January 5th. With the holidays behind us, and with weather permitting; FlintCo anticipates placing a floor every week. At that pace, the concrete tower should be “topped-out” by the end of March.



Steel Erection Around The Casino



**Poarch Creek Indians**  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502

**PRSRT STD**  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 113  
Atmore, AL