

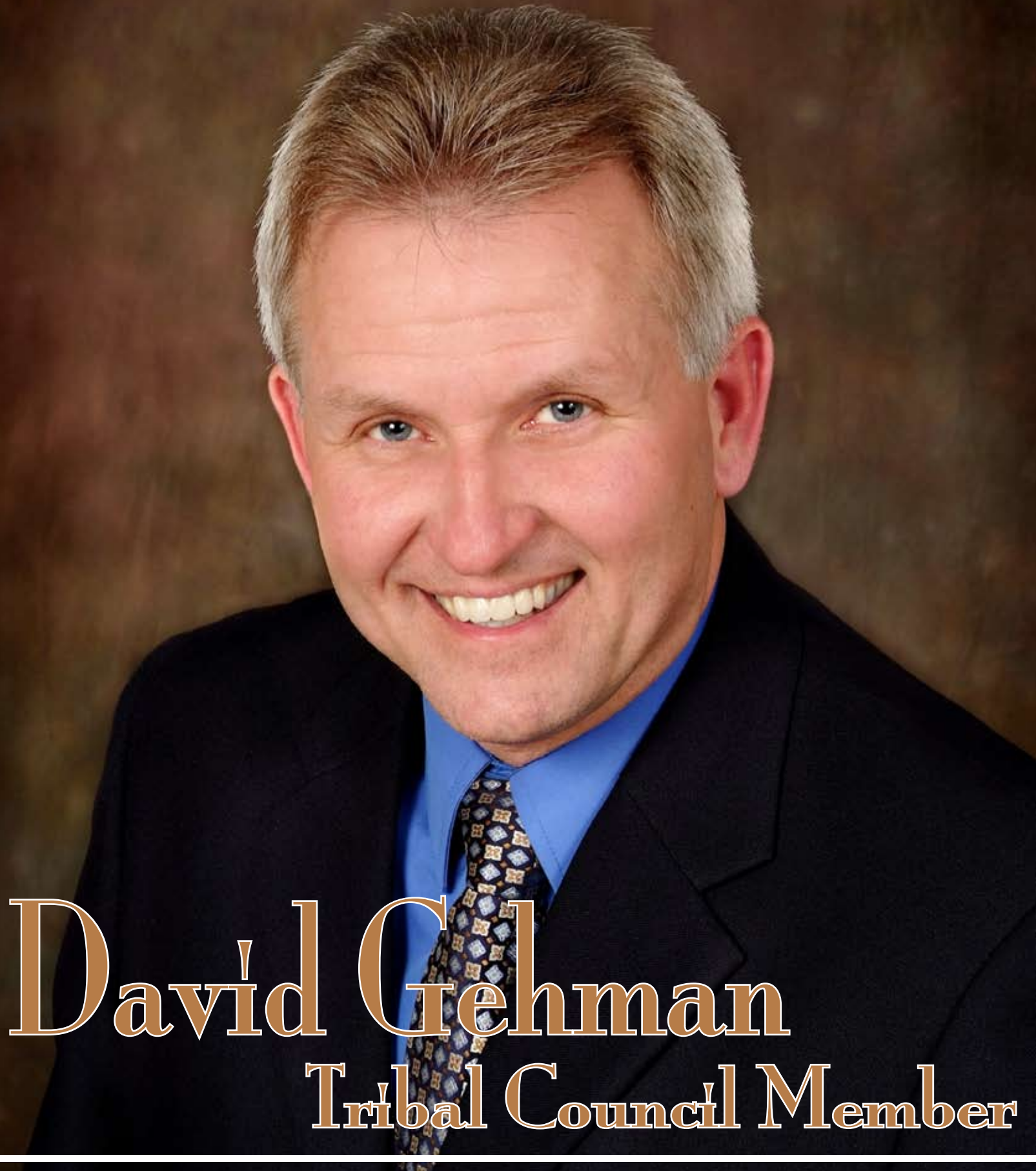
Keeping the Family and Friends of Poarch Informed

June 2008

www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

VOLUME 25 • ISSUE 5

POARCH CREEK NEWS



David Gehman
Tribal Council Member

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BOARD/COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Tribal Council is currently accepting applications for vacancies on the following boards/committees/authorities:

TERO Commission (1)	Gaming Commission (1)
CIE Development Authority (1)	Utility Authority (1)
Recreation Authority (1)	Environmental Committee (2)
PCI Gaming Authority (1)	Housing Authority (1)
Muskogee Metalworks Board (1)	Best Western Board (1)
Magnolia Branch Board (1)	Ethics Board (1)
Perdido River Farms Board (1)	Election Board (1)
Education Advisory Board (1)	Endowment Committee (1)
Investment Committee (1)	Enrollment Committee (1)
Calvin McGhee Cultural Authority (1)	

Applications are available from the Chairman's Office and online at www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov.

Applications will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. Monday, June 2, 2008 through 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 1, 2008.



PUBLIC NOTICE

This article provides public notice to all Tribal members that the following grants will be available for review and discussion during office hours at the Family Services Department, Building 500, during the week of June 2 - 6, 2008. A public hearing is scheduled for June 7, 2008 on Tribal Election Day. Please drop by the Family Services Department's booth, which will be located in the Poarch Creek Indians Gymnasium. Staff will be available to record your comments in response to the grant applications and proposed services.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Grant
Community Services Block Grant
Child Care Development Block Grant

Carolyn M. White, LCSW
Family Services Executive Director

"You throw away the outside, and cook the inside- Then, you eat the outside, and throw away the inside- What did you eat? Drop by the Family Services Booth on Election Day for the answer.

Deadlines for Tribal Newsletter

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
July, 2008	June 2, 2008
August, 2008	July 1, 2008
September, 2008	August 1, 2008
October, 2008	September 2, 2008
November, 2008	October 1, 2008
December, 2008	November 3, 2008
January, 2009	December 1, 2008



Chairman's Corner

June, 2008

I would like to begin this month's article by updating you on the progress the Tribal Council has made regarding health coverage for all

Tribal Members. This is a new venture, and as with any new venture there are many decisions to make, so please be patient with us while we work on this very important service to our Tribal Members. We have been meeting with the appropriate individuals and agencies, and hope to be able to offer health insurance coverage for all Tribal Members within the next few months.

The Reauthorization of Indian Health Care Improvement Act is now in the Budget and Finance Committee of the House of Representatives. I have met with the Honorable Nancy Pelosi (DCal), Speaker of the House, and she foresees a favorable vote on the bill before the summer session ends. You may remember that the Senate has approved the bill and it will go to the President for signature once it has been approved by the House of Representatives.

The spring session of the Alabama Legislature has concluded and HB 577, which sought to authorize high-stakes, fast-paced electronic "bingo for profit" only at the Birmingham and Mobile racetracks, was defeated.

Several Tribal Council Members and I traveled to Washington D.C. on May 1st to meet with the chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission and appropriate staff in regard to the status of our Secretarial Procedures. I also traveled to Green Bay, Wisconsin to attend the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Public Health Summit and budget meeting on May 21- 24 2008. The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) represents Tribal Governments operating their own health care delivery systems through contracting and compacting, as well as those receiving health care directly from the Indian Health Service (IHS). The NIHB, a non-profit organization, conducts research, policy analysis, program assessment and development, national and regional meeting planning, training and technical assistance programs, and project management. These services are provided to tribes, Area Health Boards, tribal organizations, federal agencies, and private foundations. The NIHB presents the tribal perspective while monitoring federal legislation and opens opportunities to network with other national health care organizations to engage their support on Indian health care issues.

The Exit 57 project is progressing well. If you travel County Road 14 or Highway 21 on a regular basis, you can clearly see the advancement and development of the new hotel and casino.

In closing, don't forget to vote in the Tribal elections on June 7, 2008 and remember that the national elections are on November 4, 2008. One vote can make a difference.

REVISED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

On May 2, 2008, the Tribal Council voted to amend the language of the Constitutional amendment regarding the closure of the Tribal roll. Please note that the language that follows is different from the language that was previously posted and that appeared in the May newsletter. The following language will appear as the second Constitutional amendment on the June 7, 2008 ballot:

DO YOU SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT?

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

Membership of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians shall consist of:

(A) All persons enumerated or recognized by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council as Indian on the following official documents:

- (1) 1870 U.S. Census of Escambia County, Alabama;
- (2) 1900 U.S. Census of Escambia County, Alabama; and
- (3) 1900 U.S. Special Indian Census of Monroe County, Alabama.

NOTE: For the purpose of computing blood quantum of their descendants, for tribal membership, all Indians eligible under Section 1(A) are hereby declared as full blood (4/4) Creek Indians and shall constitute the base roll of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

(B) All living descendants of those eligible under Section 1(A) of at least one fourth (1/4) degree Indian blood, provided they are not enrolled as members of any other federally recognized tribe, group or band of Indians.

(C) All children of at least one fourth (1/4) degree of Indian blood born to an enrolled member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Provided, however, that no person whose name does not appear on the official tribal roll of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians as of December 31, 2008, shall be eligible for membership, unless (i) the person has submitted a completed application by December 31, 2008; (ii) the person is eighteen (18) years of age or younger on December 31, 2008 and a completed application for his or her membership is submitted by his or her twenty-first birthday (iii) the person is born on or after December 31, 2008 and a completed application for his or her membership is submitted by his or her twenty-first birthday; or (iv) the person becomes eligible for membership because of a correction in an enrolled tribal member's blood quantum.

YES _____

NO _____

A Blast From the Past

Submitted by Gayle Johnson

Volume IX, Number V

July/September, 1990

1990 IHS Health Camp

Submitted by Johnnie T. Turner

This year, the Poarch Creek Indians hosted the 1990 Indian Health Service Health Camp.... Campers attending from our Tribe were Christopher Rolin, Jeremy Odom, Jamie Williamson, Jerry Faircloth, Randall Rolin, Jeremy McGhee, Chad Godwin, Larry Faircloth, Joseph Hupp, Justin Norman, Morning Star Rolin, Christie Balaban, Crystal McGhee, Elaine Sells, Lindsey Manac, Tabatha Daughtry, Amber Smith, Kimberly Philyaw, Misty Dawn Rolin, and Kasey Lynn Rolin....



...After cleanup up, Mr. William Bailey, Grounds Manager for the Poarch Creek Indians, along with Eddie Jackson and Chris Adams, instructed the campers in building wooden stools. Each camper was given their own building set, and each completed a stool to be taken home with them. (Update: Eddie Jackson, Kim Philyaw Smith and many of these campers still have their stools today.)

Girl's Softball Team Number 1

Poarch Creek girls softball team participated in the 4th Annual Native American Softball Tournament hosted this year by the Seminole Recreation Department. Although the girls did not place in the 1990 tournament I feel they will do better next year.

I appreciate their great spirit, dedication, and good sportsmanship.... Your Coach, Martha Jackson.

Front row: left to right: Erica Thomas, Tawana Wicker, Tracy Jackson, Taris McGhee, Shavon King, Ashley Lowe. **Back Row Left to Right:** Amanda Faircloth, Sheila McGhee, Ginger Ramer, Carla McGhee, Tasha McGhee, Nioma Jackson, Becky Thomas, and Paula White.



Commemorative Coins From Flintco Available

Flintco purchased commemorative coins to distribute to Tribal Members as a keepsake at the Wind Creek Casino and Hotel Topping Out Ceremony on April 10, 2008. For those Tribal Members who were unable to attend, coins are available for pickup in the Tribal Member Benefits Department. Please know that these are commemorative coins only and do not have any monetary value.



For more information, please call Tim Manning at 251-368-9136 extension 2007 or Mary Jane Tullis at extension 2501.

Logo Items for Sale

If you are interested in purchasing merchandise with the Tribal Logo on it, hats, shirts (limited sizes) beach towels, 20th anniversary coins, backpacks, etc. are available through Tribal Government. Please give Tracy Linam a call at (251) 368-9136 x 2213 if you would like to purchase a logo item.



Notice to Bidders

Sealed bids will be taken on several used items. Bids will be taken beginning June 2, 2008 and ending June 30, 2008 at the close of business, 5:00 p.m. Bids will be opened by the CFO. For general information, contact Betty Caraway, Property Control Coordinator, at 368-9136 extension 2654.

I Didn't Know That!

- A **Ostrich's Eye** is bigger than its brain.
- **Babies** are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.
- **February 1865** is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.



Thank You

The Poarch Creek Indians Relay For Life Team would like to say "Thank You" to everyone for their continued support of the American Cancer Society.

This year's event was held on Saturday, April 26th. The Tribe's Relay team won awards for the most money raised (\$12,000+), best campsite decorations (Japan), Look Good Lucy, and two of the three theme laps (Crazy Hat and Sports).



Team Photo on Saturday, April 26, 2006. Most team members were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts.



Above: The theme for this year's Relay was "Cancer has no Borders, Searching the World for a Cure"; each campsite was a different country. Our country was Japan

Right: Our campsite was set up as a Japanese tea house. The tea set on display in the back corner was donated by Jennifer Hutto. The tea set was purchased by her father-in-law during WWII for his young bride back home in Alabama and is one of the few personal items he was able to save when his ship sank.



Walk Across Atmore on Saturday, April 19th was a success. Shown left to right are Lauren Camp, Deborah Camp, Becky Ganey, Stephanie Camp, Marty Rolin, Susan Odom, Gayle Johnson, Eddie L. Tullis, Jennifer Hutto, Carolyn Posey, Michelle White, Shirley "Pug" Roberson, Reece McNairn, David McNairne and Drake McGhee. Not pictured is Author Odom.



Employee of the Year

Submitted by Ellen O' Barr



I wanted to thank everyone for your prayers during the time I had my open heart surgery.

The day I was awarded Employee of the Year I was honored. I have been a Tribal employee for a long time - 22 years I think. I am sorry that it has taken me so long to put something in our newsletter, but I just returned to work and I still have a long way to go. I have loved this Tribe all my life. Sometimes I get a little upset, but as always you know the Tribe.

I went to work in 1986 at the Health Clinic. I worked in the Clinic for one year and then I went to work in Planning under Cielo Gibson as a secretary. Gloria Fowler joined Planning as a grant writer during this time and Joel Lambert and I were working together with the Tribal real estate. After Cielo left Gloria Fowler became Planning Director. Gloria wrote a Grant for Stop Violence, which required hiring a Victims Advocate. That is when Linda Gail Parker came aboard. When Gloria left Joel Lambert become the Planning Director. During this time I became the Administrative Assistant, and worked more with Joel and Donnie Jackson with the land, and Linda Gail became the Community Development Planner. Joel moved to Creek Indian Enterprises, and Linda Gail Parker became our Planning Director and hired Kenny Shivers as the Community Development Planner. After Linda passed I was Acting Planning Director for several months until Kenny Shivers became the Planning Director. Since that time I have worked in Planning as the Land and Real Estate Coordinator.

Now for my personal life, it has been a few hard years and I think everyone knows Joe got sick, I lost my sister Doris and then my brother Houston. I have had some problems myself but my sister Emily has made sure that I do everything the Doctor said. I have five children and thirteen grandchildren that are my heart. I love them all, and also my brothers and sisters.

I want to thank everyone for your prayers and thoughts during the time of my sickness and to thank the Employee Awards Committee for choosing me for the Employee of the Year. It was a great honor.

Ethics Corner

Submitted by Carrie Martin, Chair Ethics Board

Greetings from the Ethics Board. Several changes have occurred that we would like to make everyone aware of. Sandra Smith resigned from the Ethics Board last year and April "Sue" Dortch has been selected by the Tribal Council to become our 5th member. Rayford Rolin was selected by the Council as well to serve as an alternate.

In March the Tribal Council revised the Ethics Code and made many changes. Copies of the new Ethics Code can be obtained from the Chairman's Office, Tribal Court, and Legal Department. One of the changes implemented is the position of an Ethics Officer. Charles Johns, an attorney from Brewton, AL, has been given the position. Mr. Johns will receive all advisory opinions and ethics complaints. You may obtain copies of advisory opinions and ethics complaint forms from the Chairman's Office, Tribal Court, and the Legal Department. Mr. Johns requests that all opinions and complaints be delivered to the Tribal Center either by mail or hand delivery.

Last year was very busy for the Board. We had 9 advisory opinions and 3 ethics complaints. On behalf of the Ethics Board we encourage each and every one of you to ask questions and request opinions as necessary. As an introduction to the newest additions to the Ethics Board, we have included their photos and short biographies.



April "Sue" Dortch

My name is April "Sue" Dortch. I grew up in Bay Springs, FL, graduated from Ernest Ward High School in Walnut Hill, FL and attended Jefferson Davis Community College. I have been employed at Frontier Communications in Atmore, AL for 22 years.

My husband, Randy and I live in Bratt, FL. We have two children and five grandchildren. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, deep sea fishing, NASCAR racing, reading and going to the beach. I look forward to being an active participant of the Tribe by serving on the Ethics Board.

Rayford "Ray" Rolin

Hello, I am Ray Rolin. I am the son of the late J.B. Rolin and Dorothy McGhee Rolin. I am married and have four (4) children and two (2) grandchildren. I currently reside in Martinville and work for the City of Atmore Police Department.



I have served on the Tribal Council and Alabama Indian Affairs commission in past years. I was appointed as an alternate to the Ethics Board by the Tribal Council in December of 2007. I look forward to serving on the Ethics Board and will try to do a great job for the Tribe.



David was born and raised in Atmore, AL. He is the son of Martin and Vernie Lee (Barnhill) Gehman, and the grandson of P.R. and Ruby Barnhill of Atmore, and Harry and Sarah Gehman of Pennsylvania. He is the third child of five including two older brothers Dale and Jerry, and a younger brother – Joe, and sister – Martha. David began 1st grade at the original Rachel Patterson Elementary

school and graduated from Escambia County High School in 1979. He earned his Associate's Degree in Business at Jefferson Davis Community College and attended Auburn University Montgomery where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Management.

As a child David always wanted to stay at his grandma Ruby Barnhill's house. She and grandpa would take him with them as they worked in the fields or barns. He particularly remembers when they would spend the day in a barn cutting up seed potatoes, while the children would play around on the big pile of burlap sacks of potatoes. Many memories of his childhood resulted from living in town. "We were able to ride bicycles and get around to places easily, like the cucumber shed, cotton gins, cattle auctions, fire department and parks. Dale, Jerry, and I used to ride the local Frisco trains as the crews would move box cars to or from local produce sheds. It was great fun when the engineer, Mr. Robert Martin, would allow us to ride in the engine, blow the horn, cross over the trestle downtown, or ride high in the observation seats at the top of the caboose with the conductor, Mr. Frank. It was also fun to operate the large vacuum sucking cotton from the buggies at Currie's gin. Who could forget buying a cold coke for a dime, along with a bag of boiled or parched peanuts at the cattle auction on Tuesdays? Once, Jerry and I bought a goat there for \$8 and walked it home... much to the surprise of mom and dad. We may have been considered poor by some, but we always had what we needed. Our family shared great times together. From an early age, Jerry and I would clean the parking lot at Lowery's drive-in for a hamburger, fries, and shake. I will never forget the "cold" water at the old city park pool. We all used to think it was coming from



P.R. & Ruby Barnhill

the People's Ice Company across the railroad tracks. Dad often took us on very special trips, including one to Kennedy Space Center in December of 1972 to watch the last Apollo (17) mission to the moon blast off."

When asked about three major accomplishments in his life, David stated the most significant accomplishment in his life was when he recognized

that he was a sinner, lost and guilty before God. David asked Jesus



Martin & Vernie Gehman with their young sons Dale, Jerry & David (in his father's arms).

Christ to forgive and save him. "I want to live my life to be ready to meet God at any time. Are you ready to meet Him?" He also states that his marriage to Shyrell Burkett on October 9th, 1982, was a great accomplishment for

him. "We have three daughters and one son. Stephanie, Emily, Kristen, and Stephen. Stephanie is finishing her nursing degree; Emily, a senior, is Valedictorian this year at Escambia County High School; Kristen is finishing 9th grade, and is very talented playing clarinet, piano, and learning violin; Stephen is completing 3rd grade at Atmore Christian School, plays piano, and loves sports and flying." He also stated it was an honor being able to attend college and complete associate and bachelor programs. "My dream career was flying. I have been blessed to have earned several pilot licenses including: private, commercial, instrument, flight instructor instrument/ multi-engine aircraft, and the ultimate airline transport pilot license. I have to mention working closely with my family in establishing and operating WASG & WYDH radio stations for close to 12 years, which was an incredible experience. We accomplished a lot of good for the Atmore community, which has not been equaled!"

David's family has been very influential in his life. "Grandma Ruby Barnhill was very kind, and she loved being with people. I don't think she ever met a stranger that did not learn of her love for everyone, and especially her tribe. She would share stories of our tribe with any who would make her acquaintance. My parents, wife, children, brothers, and sister have all inspired and supported my endeavours."

David is pleased that the Tribe is able to help tribal members improve their quality of life in many ways with



"This is my Heritage" L-R Lindsey McGhee, Novie Lee McGhee, Ida McGhee Gibson, Hettie Colbert McGhee (seated) Dorothy McGhee Rolin

quality health services, housing, education and employment. "It is good that we can begin to 'share-the-wealth' generated by our tribal businesses to help our people."

David first ran for council thirteen years ago. He is currently serving his third term on the Tribal Council having served on the Council from 1995 to 2001 prior to his reelection in 2007. He will consider seeking another term in the future. "The opportunities to actually participate in our government this past year have far exceeded those of my previous two terms. It is an honor representing tribal members in this vital role.



Martin & Vernie McGhee Family

Front row l-r: Martin, Vernie & Martha Gehman Gookin. Back row l-r: David, Jerry, Dale & Joe

Today's Tribal Council addresses millions of dollars in spending, and significant legal issues. Just a few years ago we were struggling to gain federal recognition and sovereignty. Then the issue became building basic facilities and providing the most basic health, housing, and education services.

This year, we decided

how to allocate twenty-seven million dollars of discretionary funds alone. At one time the council was on a volunteer basis. Today, all council members are full time or are employed by a tribal enterprise. We are actively involved in legislative efforts in Washington, Montgomery, and Indian country. For years, it was a dream of our Tribe to have services and benefits like those we have today. Now, our challenge is managing resources wisely and improving services and opportunities. A big difference between my previous and present term on council, is that we now have better access to information to help make better decisions."

David believes that our Tribe will continue to be prosperous and ethical only if tribal leaders are held accountable, and if they adhere to an open system of check and balance controls. If no one



David Gehman Family

L-r: Shyrell, Emily, Stephen, Stephanie, Kristen & David

challenges our tribe's leadership, it can very easily become more like a dictatorship, than a republic; where the interests of a few are promoted and protected at the expense of others. It is his desire to help the Tribe be fair, balanced, and avoid a 'separation-

of-classes' - those that

have, and those that have not. "We must be fair with everyone, especially tribal members; greed has no place in our Tribe." David currently serves on the Health and Human Services Committee (HHS), and the Land and Natural Resources Committee (LNR). The HHS Committee is working on a proposed health insurance benefit plan for all Tribal Members. The LNR Committee is pursuing an application with the U.S. Department of Interior to place additional tribal land into trust.

When asked about what issue he is most passionate about, David stated, "Our Tribe's resources must be used cautiously and responsibly, and managed fairly. It is important that an annual financial disclosure be published and mailed to tribal members of legal age. Such a financial report should list payments made to anyone holding a position of leadership. This should include executive level positions in both tribal government and tribal enterprises. This degree of 'financial openness' is an important change that I believe will help bring accountability for tribal resources being used now, or debts obligated on future generations, and will help hold tribal leaders responsible for their decisions."

David feels that if he were not serving on the Tribal Council, he

would continue working in corporate aviation. "God has blessed me with a love of flying; it's a natural talent for me. The ability to fly direct from any local airport to local airports anywhere, on your time schedule not the airlines, and without all the hassles associated with airline travel, corporate flying a valuable asset. No other earth based form of travel can compare. It's exciting and challenging

to fly an aircraft with passengers, work with air traffic controllers, and navigate a course across the country into places like Atlanta, Boston, New York, Chicago, Miami or San Francisco. Especially in poor weather, flying an instrument approach to a safe landing at any airport, realizing that the lives of those on board absolutely depend on my ability, awards a great sense of accomplishment... I love it." Since his first solo flight in 1976, at the age of 16, David has safely flown over 6,400 hours in many different aircraft, domestically and internationally.

Where does David see the Tribe in ten years? "Our future appears bright assuming the economics of being over \$160 million in debt does not come back to haunt us. There are significant challenges ahead that we must respond to with a firm resolve. What impact will changing federal regulations have on gaming? What will be the outcome of legal battles with the State of Alabama, regarding a gaming compact? On the bright side, we now have the opportunity to develop better services and facilities such as: a new health complex; a greatly increased utility system; a completed recreation complex; expanded educational opportunities perhaps including a school, with courses offered to tribal members living anywhere using distance learning systems via internet technology; additional enterprise development, such as a travel service center at exit 54; a two or three story lodge and cabins at the Magnolia Branch Reserve, for family reunions or business retreats; a residential golf development near the Magnolia Branch Reserve or Windcreek. In 10 years we should be doing well financially. Nevertheless, without careful leadership decisions made now, we could end up struggling or flat broke. Without a doubt, some of us, whether young or old, will by then have passed on into eternity to face God, but Lord



While at a pilot's training meeting, David met Apollo 17 Commander Eugene Cernan (l) and Astronaut John Young, Commander of the first Space Shuttle and the last man to walk on the moon.



David with son Stephen in the cockpit of his plane.

willing, we will also have some new members. In any case, whatever time I may have left, I want to do all I can to try and help others along life's road. I hope we all grow closer to one another, and most importantly, our creator, God. If we do, I am confident that our tribe will flourish."

Poarch Creek Education Department Financial Aid News

Scholarships

Trail of Tears Remembrance Association Scholarship
The application and a description of the \$5000.00 scholarship program are available at http://www.trailoftears-remembrance.org/Scholarships/General_SCHOLARSHIPS_2006.html. The scholarship deadline is June 30, 2008.

Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars

The scholarship is open to enrolled Tribal members who plan to work on a reservation in Education or Social Service. Send your request for an application with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

CSDIW Governor General
Jean Belew
500 Mt. Pleasant Road, NE
Fairmount, GA 30139

2008-2009 Miss Indian Alabama Competition

The Alabama Indian Affairs Commission, The Alabama Intertribal Council, Southeast Cherokee Construction, Inc., Clement Contracting Group, Inc., and Hand Painted Cards & Blue Jean Journals, are sponsoring the 2008-2009 Miss Indian Alabama Competition. The applicant must be a member of a state or federally recognized Indian Tribe, an Alabama resident, a senior in High School or attending college and between the ages of 17 and 23. She must be single with no children (cannot be widowed or divorced) and have a 3.0 or higher overall GPA. The application is found by clicking on the Programs link at <http://aiac.alabama.gov>. The young woman selected for Miss Indian Alabama will receive a \$5,000.00 scholarship, the First Runner Up receives \$1,000.00, and the Second Runner Up receives \$500.00.

False Diploma Mills

If you are planning to earn your GED or High School Diploma online, go no further until you have checked with a local community college to see if they will accept your certificate or High School Diploma. You do not want to invest in a certificate or diplomas that will not help you land a job or be accepted for credit when you apply for additional training at a vocational/technical college or four-year college. The community colleges/technical colleges offer free High School Diploma classes or GED Certificate classes.

Attention

1st Generation Indian Descent Students

The Poarch Creek Indians Education Department will be awarding COMPETITIVE scholarships to deserving PCI 1st generation students. Award amounts will vary. Scholarship applications are not ready at this time, but will be available shortly. They will be due by July 1, 2008 and awards will be made no later than August 1, 2008. Applications will be available on the Tribe's website www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov, at the Tribal Education Department, or may be mailed or emailed to applicants. Once again these are competitive scholarships and not all applicants will receive an award. Please call the Education Department at 251-368-9136, extension 2021 for more information.

Coty Rolin Graduates From JDCC



Coty Rolin graduated from Jefferson Davis Community College (JDCC) with a welding diploma on May 12, 2008. Coty is the 18 year old son of Kim and Eric Rolin. He is the grandson of Hattie and Glenn Knowles and Lee Rolin, all of Atmore; Pete Hardy of Atmore, and Betty Wooten of Wallace and the great grandson of Lucille Sells of Atmore.

Congratulations on a job well done and good luck with your future. (Coty's family also wishes him a belated "Happy Birthday"; he turned 18 on March 2, 2008.)

Ward Passes Registry Exams

Kathryn Ward, daughter of Letha Gibson Patrick, would like to announce that she has passed her registry exams and is now a Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer. Kathryn works at Thomas Hospital in Fairhope, AL and would like to say "Thank You" to her family and friends for their prayers and support during these exams.

Ramer Inducted into National Junior Honor Society

Baccari Ramer, a sixth grade student at Escambia County Middle Preparatory School, was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society on April 24, 2008.

Baccari is the 12 year old son of Kelli Ramer and the grandson of Janice & Robert Moyer of Atmore, Eddie & Edna Ramer and Freddie & Lucille Timmons of Gadsden, AL.

Congratulations on your achievements and keep up the hard work.



ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT NEWS

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Environmental Department at Poarch Creek is engaged in a National Animal Identification Program with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 2008 and a grant for 2009 has been submitted. This program is to help identify equine, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, etc. in case there is a disease break-out that could affect these animals. This program is to prevent any disease from spreading so preventive measures could be implemented to save them. If you know anyone that has any of these animals, please have them contact John English in the Environmental Department for more information. John can be reached at (251) 368-9136, Ext. 2682.

BIO-DIESEL OPERATION

The department is preparing for the first-ever bio-diesel production at Poarch Creek. The chemicals used in this operation are difficult to get, however, we have a vendor and as soon as they are delivered we will make our first batch of diesel fuel. Any used cooking oil you have around your home, please consider saving it for this operation. We will procure some containers at a later date to distribute for the used cooking oil to be stored.

CONSTRUCTION AT WIND CREEK

We are continually working with Wind Creek on any environmental issues that surface and have developed a good relationship with Mr. Clay Gibson, Construction Site Manager. We are also working, as we are needed, with the Tribe and Wind Creek on the new water/sewer system as it is developed. With summer-time fast approaching, we will be monitoring more often the waters where swimming/fishing occurs and if it is found to be unsafe, we will be putting up signs to let you know it is unsafe to swim or fish. We will be working diligently to find out the source of contamination so hopefully, it will not take long before the signs are removed and swimming/fishing can be resumed.

ATMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL

We continue to work with Atmore Middle School in completing the wetlands project.

GRANTS

The Department is writing multiple grants to aid in the funding for 2009 at this time.

NOTICE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

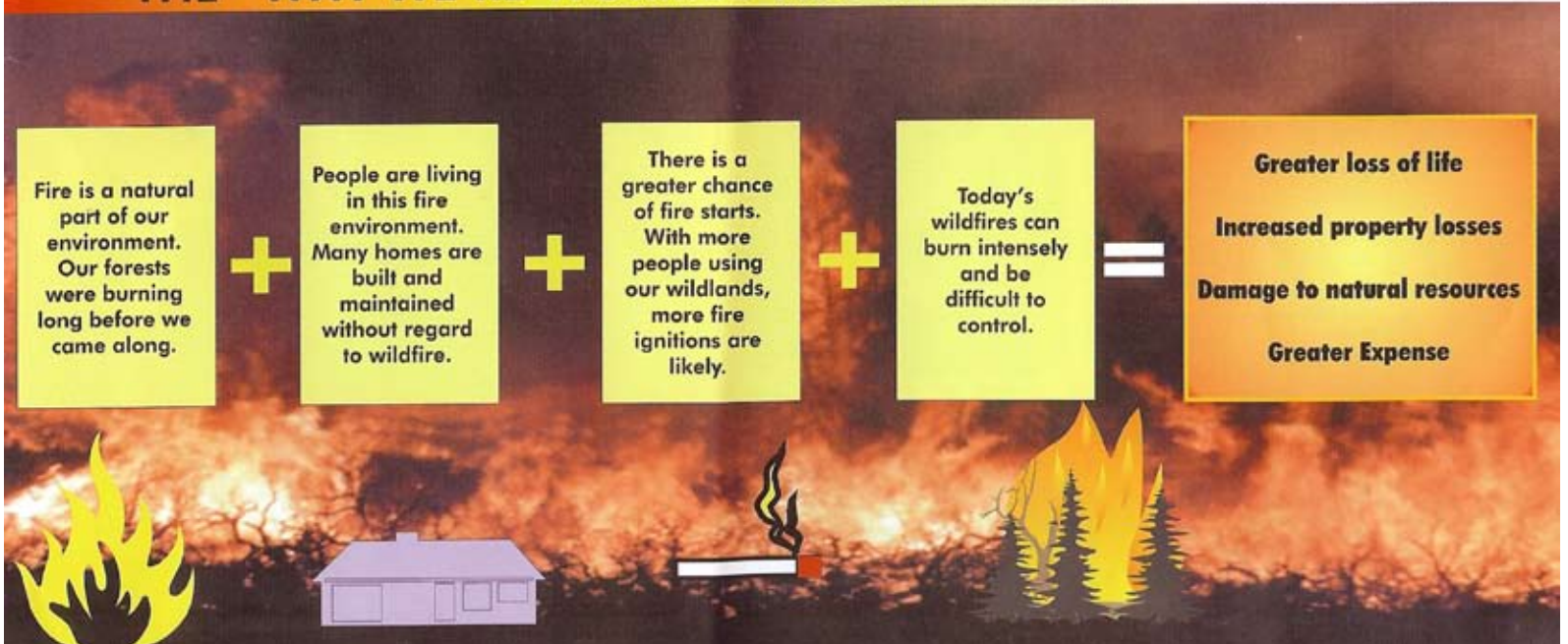
Region 5 has served FIFRA Section 13(a) Stop Sale Orders to the Scotts Miracle Gro Company and its affiliated business (Scotts Company LLC, Scotts Company, and Miracle Gro Lawn Products, Inc.) this morning. The Scotts Miracle Gro Company and its affiliates are all located in Marysville, Ohio. EPA ordered the companies, collectively an international producer and distributor of lawn care products, to immediately stop selling and distributing two products which can be identified by the invalid "EPA registration number" listed on the package. The invalid registration number 62355-4 is marketed under names including "Garden Weed Preventer + Plant Food" and "Miracle Gro Shake 'n' Feed All Purpose Plant Food Plus Weed Preventer." The invalid registration number 538-304 is marketed under names including "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer with .28% Halts," "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer 0-0-7 Plus .28% Halts Pro," "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer 14-2-5 Plus .28% Halts Pro" and "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer 22-0-8 Plus .28% Halts Pro."

The Scotts Miracle Gro Company and affiliates may be selling these products under other names. Whatever names these products are sold under, you can spot them by the following invalid EPA registration numbers appearing on the product container label 62355-4 & 538-304.

These are false EPA registration numbers. EPA has never issued these numbers to any pesticide product that Scotts has applied for FIFRA Section 3 registration. We want to reiterate that our evidence found to date suggests that the Scotts Miracle Gro Company and affiliates have been distributing or selling one or both of these following unregistered products: "Garden Weed Preventer + Plant Food" "SLS Fertilizer with .28 Halts"

Everything that is to be used effecting the environment, especially pesticides, has to be approved by EPA. This is a notice so that people will know this company is putting out an illegal product that may be harmful to human health. EPA makes certain no product bearing their registration number is harmful to human life. Before they approve something with their registration number it is tested and you know that it is O.K. That is why they have put a "STOP SALE ORDER" out and the companies involved will probably be fined considerably.-Laura Cook, Environmental Director

THE "WHY WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT WILDFIRE" EQUATION



An excerpt from "Living With Fire, A Guide for Protecting Homes from Wildfire". Reprinted with permission from the Alabama Forestry Commission.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lily Grace Rolin



Jonathon and Samantha (Martin) Rolin are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Lily Grace Rolin. Lily was born January 18, 2008 at 12:22 a.m. at North Baldwin Infirmary in Bay Minette, AL. At birth she weighed 7 lbs. 5oz. and was 20 inches long.

Lily is the granddaughter of Keith & Rochel Martin and Randy & Kathy Rolin. Her great grandparents are Billy & Joyce Etheridge, the late Frank Stewart, Jr., Ken & Janette Beck, the late Henderson & Alma Roberson, Linda Harrelson, the late Pete Harrelson, Wilbert & Joyce Rolin, and the late Voncille Rolin. She was welcomed home by loving aunts, uncles, and cousin Dawsen Martin.



ADOPTION

On Tuesday, March 25, 2008, Lola Overstreet Beltram became the parent of her biological grandson, Jerry Frank Alexander Moses Beltram II (he chose his adopted name). Jerry has one brother, Frank Pacheco-Beltram, and 1 sister, Brittney Adams. He is the biological son of Frank Beltram, Jr. and the great grandson of the late Lucille McGhee Hartshorn.

The event was held in Martinez, CA and attended by several family members and friends. The Honorable Lois Haight presided over the proceedings. After the ceremony, everyone returned home to a barbecue hosted by Jerry's Uncle Harry.



Jerry Beltram II (in black & white striped shirt with his mother Lola Beltram behind him) with family, social workers, lawyers and Judge Lois Haight (far right) at the adoption.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Daylon Jaycee Brooks



Daylon Jaycee Brooks turned two on April 18, 2008 and celebrated his birthday with his mother's family, grandmother Lillie Brooks and family and other family and friends on April 19th with a movie (Cars) and birthday party with a Cars theme. Daylon is the son of Douglas Brooks and Justina Contreras.



Jonah Tillery and Carson Wilson

Jonah David Tillery (left) turned 7 years old on May 11th. Carson David Wilson (right) turned 2 years old on May 12th. They are the children of David & Jessica Coon Tillery and Brad & Anna Coon Wilson of Atmore.



Eric Rolin



Eric Rolin celebrated his 38th birthday on May 13, 2008. This birthday was somewhat special this year; he has had health problems this year, including five surgeries and near death experiences. Thanks to the prayers of his family and friends he is doing better and is recovering nicely. Eric is the son of Hattie Knowles and Lee Rolin of Atmore and the grandson of Lucille Sells.



WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Mark and Vicki Johnson of Atmore, AL and Stacia L. Johnson of Star City, AR, are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their son Mark Stephen Johnson, Jr. to Carrie Beth Musick, daughter of Darwin and Mary Musick of Monticello, AR.



The groom is the grandson of Loran Douglas Johnson of Sparks, NV, the late Euline Walker Conners and the late Patricia Wise and Bubba Lavender of Star City, AR.

The bride is the granddaughter of Bernard Chatman and the late Martha Chatman of Monticello, AR and Bob and Bonita Musick of Lefores, TX.

The wedding is scheduled for June 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Trotter House in Monticello, AR with a reception immediately following. All family and friends are welcome to attend. After their wedding the couple will reside in Star City, AR.



!!!ATTENTION!!!

Poarch Creek Indians

Housing Improvement Program

Applications Are Being Accepted For Housing Rehabilitation Work.

To be included on the 2009 Priority List, Applications must be received by July 6th, 2008

In Order To Qualify For The Housing Improvement Program Assistance, Your Household Must Meet The Following Qualifications:

- You must be a Tribal Member.
- Applicants must live within the 5 county service area.
- Income must be equal to or less than 125% of the Department of Health & Human Services poverty income guidelines.
- Must be living in Substandard Housing.
- Applicants must meet ownership requirements: Must own the home, or lease with a leasehold of a minimum of 25 years from date of assistance.
- Must have Home Owners Insurance.
- Applicant has no other resource for housing assistance.
- Applicant's current housing was not funded by a federal government program.
- Applicant's current housing is not in a designated flood zone.

Number of Persons in Household	Income Guidelines	Number of Persons in Household	Income Guidelines
1	\$12,762.50	5	\$30,162.50
2	\$17,112.50	6	\$34,512.50
3	\$21,462.50	7	\$38,862.50
4	\$25,812.50	8	\$43,212.50

For each additional person, add \$4,350.00

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PICK UP AN APPLICATION CONTACT
THE POARCH CREEK INDIANS HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

Johnathan Owens, Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2259



!!ATTENTION CONTRACTORS!!

The Poarch Creek Indians

Housing Authority

needs qualified

General Contractors,

Subcontractors

&

Home Builders!!!

The PCI Housing Authority is responsible for General Rehabilitation to Tribal Member Homes, Maintenance of Tribal Rental Units, & Construction of New Homes for Tribal Members.

**If you are interested and would like to be included on
The Poarch Band Of Creek Indians Housing Contractor Bidding List
Contact:**

(251) 368-9136

Tom Sturdivant, New Construction Coordinator Ext. 2259

Johnathan Owens, Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator Ext. 2259

Wendy Davis, Housing Construction Assistant Ext. 2257

Contractor Requirements Are:

- Must Be a licensed General Contractor or Home Builder in the State of Alabama
- Must have General Liability and Workers Comp Insurance
- Must not be disbarred or have any Liens or Complaints with the AHBA

POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sharon Delmar

251-368-9136

sdelmar@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIAN RESERVATION, Poarch, Alabama – April 10, 2008 – The Poarch Band of Creek Indians today celebrated reaching the highest point of construction on their newest business venture, Wind Creek Casino and Hotel. Wind Creek is slated to be one of the premiere destination resorts located in South Alabama, Buford L. Rolin, Tribal Chairman commented, “This is the Tribe’s most ambitious endeavor to date, a tourist destination that will provide a positive economic impact to the entire area of Southwest Alabama and for the State of Alabama as a whole.”

The Resort is projected to provide over 900 hundred direct jobs for the people of Alabama and the surrounding areas, multiple jobs will be developed because of the creation of other industry due to the development. “We are committed to improving the standard of living for our Tribal Members, the surrounding communities, and the State of Alabama. The ripple effect from Wind Creek will be considerable.” stated Chairman Rolin.

The Chairman added, “Suppliers and vendors will employ many other Alabamians. These ancillary businesses will provide Wind Creek with both goods and services and the taxes from those will add millions of dollars to the tax base of our state and region. Wind Creek will increase the economic impact our Tribe already provides to the State.

The first portion of the \$250 million project to open will be the Casino, in December 2008. The Hotel will open in the spring of 2009.

Wind Creek patrons and clientele will experience the following:

The Casino and Hotel, a 17 floor (no 13th floor) 391,061 square-foot state of the art facility will be open seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

The Casino will offer 1600 electronic bingo games. It will be accessible from both inside and outside the Hotel.

236 Hotel rooms, including 4 villas and 72 above standard suites that offer upgraded amenities to Wind Creek guests.

State of the Art Entertainment area where live entertainment will be provided both indoor and outdoor. The outdoor amphitheatre will accommodate over 1,000 patrons.

Meeting facilities will encompass 8,000 sq. foot conference/ ballroom which will include 4 breakout rooms.

Brown Chambless served as project architect, and FlintCo/ Martin served as project contractor. The Wind Creek Casino and Hotel’s interior design is being handled by Cagley & Tanner Design, Las Vegas, NV.

AN INTRODUCTION TO TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION

The Tribal Administration Department, which consists of the Tribal Administrator and her immediate office staff, is responsible for monitoring the day-to-day operations of the Tribe; monitoring federal contracts, grants, and budgets to ensure compliance with the established goals and objectives; monitoring and ensuring compliance with the Personnel Policies and Procedures as well as Fiscal Policies and Procedures; initiating proposals for funding that are feasible and in the best interest of the Tribe; and maintaining high quality employee benefits. The Tribal Administrative Departments that report directly to the Tribal Administrator include Human Resources, Planning, Tribal Member Benefits, Family Services, Education, Tribal Court, Environmental, Wellness & Activities, Public Works, Tribal Police Department, and Tribal Enrollment.

The Tribal Administrator, Edie Jackson, is responsible for the daily operations of the Tribe including all contract and grants administration. Tribal Administration consists of approximately 250 regular employees and approximately twenty departments.

The Tribal Administrator's immediate office staff includes, Ross Parham, IT Director, Lisa Milliken, Special Assistant, Kim Smith, Executive Secretary, Thelma Williamson, Receptionist, Gwen Manning, Travel Coordinator, Mandy Peebles, Tribal Administrative Events Coordinator, Thelma Williamson, Receptionist, and Gayle Johnson, Media Specialist, Ross Parham, IT Director.

As Special Assistant Lisa is responsible for assisting the Tribal Administrator as needed to meet the needs of applicable programs, plans, researches and coordinates special projects, compiles reports and researches and analyzes specific operational procedures and problems; as Executive Secretary, Kim is responsible for providing clerical and administrative support to the Tribal Administrator's Office; as Receptionist, Thelma is responsible for maintaining and operating a centralized reception area and telephone system. As Travel Coordinator Gwen is responsible for coordinating all travel arrangements for Tribal Administration employees; as Tribal Administrative Events Coordinator, Mandy is responsible for assisting with the planning and coordination of Tribal and special events; as Media Specialist,

Attention Tribal Members Age 55 and Older

Do you want to attend the
Tribal Elder Conference in
Tacoma, Washington
the first two weeks of September?

Registration:
Saturday, June 7, 2008 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
through
Friday, June 20, 2008 ending at 12:00 noon

If interested
Please contact Carolyn Dortch
(251) 368-9136 ext 2615 or (251) 253-5885
or Cyndi Williams
(251) 368-9136 ext. 2615 or (251) 253-8772

Gayle is responsible for collecting and analyzing information about newsworthy events and publishes the Poarch Creek News and other Tribal publications. As IT Director Ross is responsible for performing complex problem determination and resolution of all matters involving information technology.



L-R Gayle Johnson, Ross Parham, Mandy Peebles, Edie Jackson, Gwen Manning, and Kim Smith. Not shown are Lisa Milliken and Thelma Williamson.

A Perfect Score

By RYAN CARTER, Atmore News
(Reprinted with permission of Atmore News)

They received a perfect score. The housekeeping staff at Best Western in Atmore received perfect scores on a recent evaluation. According to the hotel's manager, Bryan Fayard, the hotel is evaluated twice each year. The staff was given 24 hours notice that the evaluation was going to be conducted. Fayard said their performance on the evaluation reflects the quality of work the housekeeping staff performs on a routine basis.

"During the evaluation, they check for overall cleanliness, how well we dust, if the appliance work, if there are odors in the rooms, things like that," Fayard said. "We're very proud of the hard work and dedication our staff shows every day. We routinely receive compliments from our customers about the cleanliness of our rooms and the friendliness our staff exhibits."

Fayard said the standard at Best Western International is to provide superior customer service. He added that his staff hopes to lead the way in customer service as property near the Interstate 65 continues to develop.

Recently the staff at Best Western had a unique training experience. On April 1 and 2, the entire staff at the Atmore Best Western completed a company training course called "I Care Training." Fayard said this particular training is usually offered to managers, and they return to their respective locations and train other employees. He said having his entire staff go through the training first hand helps elevate the level of customer service offered by the Atmore Best Western. Kathi Schilling, Regional Service Manager for Best Western, said the staff at the Atmore Best Western is, "already doing most of this training" referring to the items taught in the class.

Strength of the housekeeping staff at Best Western is the low employee turnover. Fayard described his staff as very stable adding that several of his employees have been with the company for many years. Delois Hazley has been with the Atmore Best Western for 25 years, Gracie Barnes for 24 years, Betty Bridges 21 years, Clara Payne 14 years and Mavis McGhee has been there for 13 years.



The housekeeping staff received a framed certificate for their accomplishment, and they were treated to lunch in celebration of a job well done.

Schedule of Events

Monday, May 26, 2008

Memorial Day -Tribal Offices Closed

Monday, June 2, 2008

Deadline to submit article/information for
July newsletter

Applications accepted for
Board/Committee Vacancies
Property Control Coordinator begins
accepting sealed bids for used items

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Tribal Council Meeting 4:00 p.m.
Walk-In Voting Ends at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, June 6, 2008

Deadline to receive Absentee Ballots
at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 7, 2008

Tribal Election Day
Community Services Center (SAIL Center)
Voting from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tribal Job Fair
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
SAIL Center Dining Area

Health Fair
Wellness & Activities Center
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Last Day to Register for NAYO

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Housing Authority Meeting 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Tribal Council Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Housing Authority Meeting 1:00 p.m.

MORE COMPLIMENTS THAN COMPLAINTS

The Best Western of Atmore, owned by the Tribe since 1986, sits on the top of the hill at I-65 Exit 57/Highway 21 and has an excellent view of the ongoing Wind Creek and Rivercane construction sites and I-65 north and south bound traffic. The hotel is part of the Best Western franchise, which is the world's largest hotel franchise, with 4200 hotels worldwide; our local facility has been in good standing with the Best Western corporation for more than 25 years. Construction on the hotel began in 1981, with completion in 1982, hence the phone number 368-8182, which is still used today.

Often a favorite overnight stop for vacationers on their way east and west, the bulk of Best Western's clientele are construction workers and general travelers. "Some people think that gaming has brought a lot of business to the hotel" says General Manager Bryan Fayard, "but gaming has not had that much of an impact. Oddly enough, neither has the gas crisis. Of course we are just now coming to our peak season, so we will see if the gas crisis affects our clientele. We have actually had a year of record sales and we are booked at 88% occupancy. The national occupancy rate is 64%, so we have done exceptionally well."

The Best Western has 88 rooms; each has been remodeled after damages from Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and offers a microwave and refrigerator, wireless internet, satellite TV with 26 channels, including 4 HBO channels. The hotel also offers 2 suites, double and king size beds, smoking and non smoking rooms, a newly remodeled swimming pool, 24 hour security, and free shuttle service from the hotel to the Creek Entertainment Center. The hotel is open 24/7, 365 days a year, with check in at 1:00 p.m., and check out at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Fayard also stated that not only does the hotel offer the best in amenities, it has the best employees. The hotel currently employs thirty, half of which have been employed with the hotel for over 10 years. He states that he has confidence in all his employees, even those who have only been on board a short period of time. "We have a great group of employees. We have more compliments than complaints. Yes, we do get complaints, that is to be expected in this business; but we get far more compliments than complaints. Our staff does an excellent job, which is evident in the recent perfect score received by our housekeeping staff." (See an article re-printed from the Atmore News on page 15.) Delois Hazley, Housekeeping, has been employed at the Best Western for 25 years, and has been employed with the hotel longer than anyone else. Gracie Barnes, Housekeeping, has also been employed for 25 years, LeRoy Tullis, Chief Engineer, for 21 years, and Joann Rawls, Front Desk Clerk, for 20 years. Clara Payne, Laundry, Luverne Hadley, and Mavis McGhee, both from Housekeeping, have each been with Best Western for 14 years; Janette Beck, Front Desk Clerk, has been with the hotel for 11 years, and Angel Caraway, Administrative Assistant, for 10 years. John Arthur McGhee, another example of the dedication and loyalty of hotel employees, was employed with the hotel for over 25 years and still continues to serve on the Best Western Board. Next time you are having out of town guests don't forget to book them a room at the Best Western!



Front Desk Clerk Janette Beck and April Caraway



Long Term employees L-R Betty Bridges, Angel Caraway, Janette Beck, LeRoy Tullis, Delois Hazley, Mavis McGhee and Gracie Barnes. Not shown are Clara Payne, Joanne Rawls, and Luverne Hadley.



Poarch Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

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