

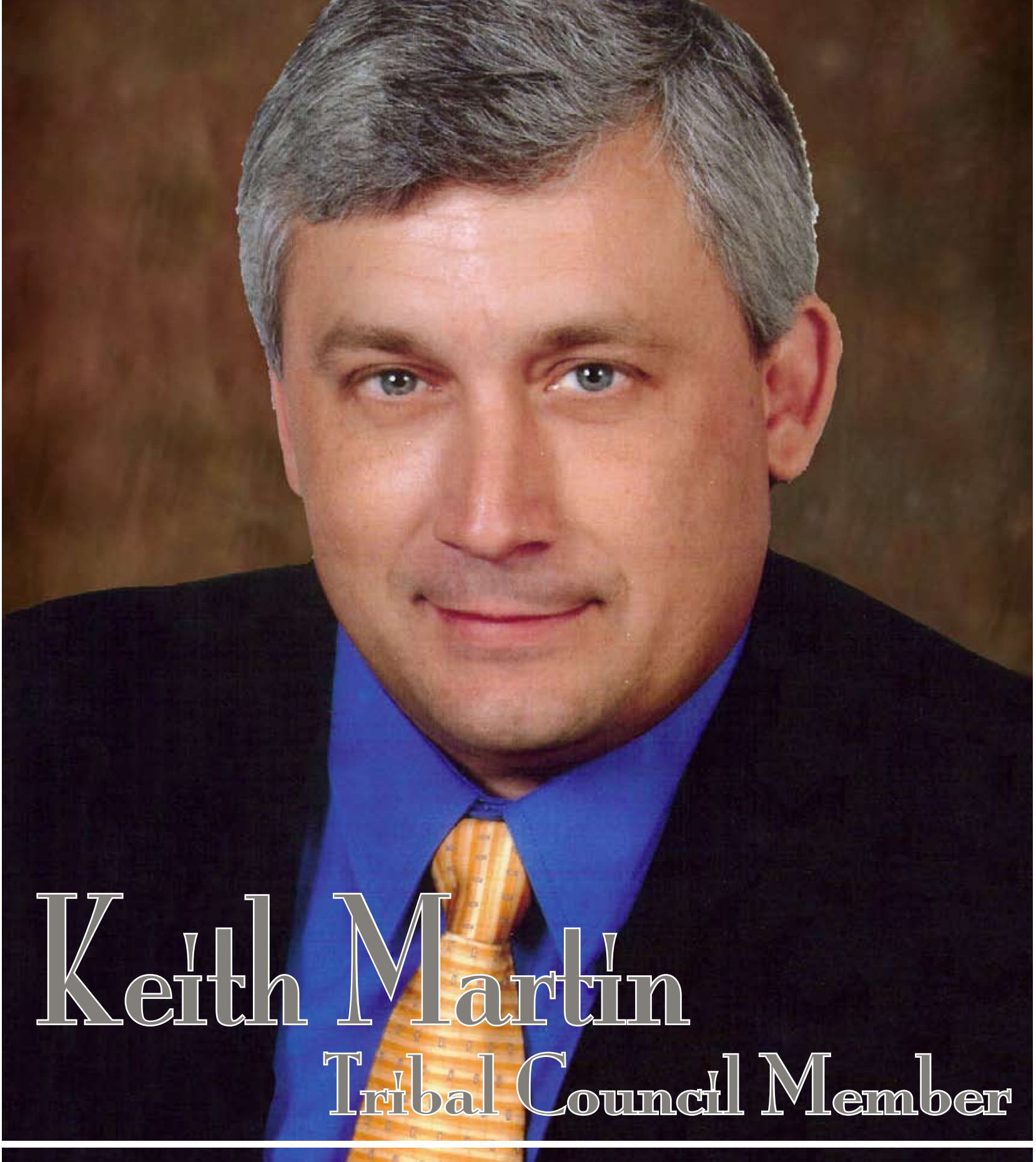
*Keeping the Family and Friends of Poarch Informed*

August 2008

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

VOLUME 25 • ISSUE 7

# POARCH CREEK NEWS



Keith Martin

Tribal Council Member

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## STAFF

Poarch Creek News  
www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

### TRIBAL COUNCIL

Buford L. Rolin, Tribal Chairman tlancaster@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov	368-9136 x 2200
Stephanie Bryan, Vice Chair sbryan@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov	446-1140 x 4502
Arthur Mothershed, Treasurer amothershed@creekindianenterprises.com	368-0819
Daniel McGhee, Secretary dkmcghee@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov	368-1811
Garvis Sells, Council Member gsells@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov	446-1140 x 4505
David Gehman, Council Member dgehman@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov	446-1140 x 4503
Robert McGhee, Council Member rmcgee@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov	368-9136 x 2204
Keith Martin, Council Member kmartin@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov	446-1140 x 4505
Helen Hallman, Council Member kramer@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov	446-1140 x 4501

### TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION

Edie Jackson, Tribal Administrator ejackson@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov	368-9136 x 2234
Gayle Johnson, Media Specialist gjohnson@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov	368-9136 x 2210
Mandy Peebles, Tribal Administrative Events Coordinator mpeebles@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov	368-9136 x 2205

### PUBLICATION/PRINTING SERVICES

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Poarch Creek Indians  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502  
(251) 368-9136 Main Office  
(251) 368-4502 Tribal Administration Fax



## Tribal Council Offices Relocated

Due to space limitations, the offices for the full-time Tribal Council members have been temporarily relocated to 3022 Highway 21, Atmore, AL, the old CIE Building, across the road from Dixie Catfish. The offices will be relocated back to the Reservation once scheduled renovations to Buildings 200 and 400 have been completed.

Kelli Ramer, Tribal Council Liaison, and Debra Strickland, Executive Sectary, have also moved to this location, along with full-time Tribal Council Members Stephanie Bryan, David Gehman, Helen Hallman, Keith Martin, and Garvis Sells. Extension numbers have been assigned and are listed to the left. You will be able to reach them at (251) 446-1140.

Buford L. Rolin, Tribal Chairman, and his immediate staff will remain at their current location in the Chairman's Office; their contact information remains the same.



## 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
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
February, 2009	January 2, 2009
March, 2009	February 2, 2009
April, 2009	March 2, 2009
May, 2009	April 1, 2009
June, 2009	May 1, 2009
July, 2009	June 1, 2009
August, 2009	July 1, 2009





## Chairman's Corner

### August, 2008

This month is shaping up to be a busy one. We had a wonderful Fourth of July fireworks display enjoyed by many in spite of a few rain showers. As of the next

newsletter, the Tribal Council will have completed their third Retreat and I will have plenty to update you on in my next article.

One major hurdle accomplished in July was a two year extension of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. This is great news for all of Indian Country. Tribal Leaders and Tribal Members across the country have dedicated countless hours to ensure that all Native Americans are represented.

On July 9, 2008 we had a dedication for the West Water Treatment Plant on Martin Road in the Poarch Community. We had a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by a reception in the Council Chambers. The dedication was attended by Tribal Council members, our Princesses, EPA employees, staff members and State Representatives Harry Shiver and Alan Baker. Ms. Susan McCracken, OEH&E Director, IHS, Nashville Area Office was in attendance for RADM Richie Grinnell, Nashville Area Director. This treatment plant has been an ongoing effort since 1999. We appreciate the contributions given to us for this effort from the IHS (Indian Health Service) and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency).

Our full-time Tribal Council members along with Kelli Ramer, Tribal Council Liaison and Debra Strickland, Executive Secretary, have recently relocated to the old CIE office building on Highway 21. Your Council members have their own offices now and are ready and willing to meet with you. Their new telephone number is 251-446-1140.

Ms. Kimberly Woodard, Program Specialist, US Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, was here from Washington, DC, for a site visit with our Family Services Department on July 10, 2008. Ms. Woodard was very interested in our needs and was very open to our suggestions and comments. Our staff treated her to a southern home cooked meal.

Our boys and girls teams traveled to Hollywood, FL to participate in the NAYO ball tournaments.

I along with Robbie McGhee, Government Relations Advisor, traveled to Massachusetts, to attend meetings with some of the country's most recognizable Senators. These individuals play integral roles in strengthening tribal sovereignty. They also are able to pique the awareness of fellow Senators on issues affecting Native Americans.

We hope to see you at this year's fourth Annual Celebration on Saturday, August 2th. We would like for everyone to be registered by or before noon in order for everyone to be eligible for the door prizes that will be given away at that time.

## TERO Commission Office Established

Submitted by Misty Manac, TERO Director

The TERO Commission Office has been established in Building 600 of the Tribal Administration Complex. TERO stands for Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance and was developed to enforce tribally enacted Indian preference laws to ensure that Indian/Alaska Native people gain their rightful share to employment, training, contracting, subcontracting, and business opportunities on and near reservations and native villages.

Our TERO Commission was formed in 2007 and consists of Wayne Colbert (Chairman), Garvis Sells (Vice-Chairman), Debra Strickland (Secretary), Lawrence "Bunk" Peebles (Treasurer), and Carolyn M. White. Most recently, Garvis was elected to serve on Tribal Council. Congratulations Garvis! On June 2, 2008, Misty Manac was hired as TERO Director and is the immediate contact for TERO related issues.

The TERO Commission is reviewing the current ordinance (88:001A) and will make recommendations to Tribal Council. We ask the community to be patient with us during this process. At this time, we request all Tribal Members to contact Mary Jane Tullis in the Census Office/Tribal Member Benefits Department to update your current occupation and education status. She can be reached at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2501 or [mtullis@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](mailto:mtullis@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov). Tribal Member business owners, please contact Misty to register your business as a Tribal Member owned business and to see if your firm qualifies as a Qualified Tribal Contractor. This information will be used in the analysis of our Tribe's current employment status and is a critical step in forming the TERO Commission Office.

Further information will be posted as this office develops. We welcome all suggestions and look forward to serving you.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

TERO Office

Attn: Misty Manac, TERO Director

5811 Jack Springs Road

Atmore, Alabama 36502

Telephone: (251) 368-9136 x 2267

Fax: (251) 368-0811

Email: [mmanac@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](mailto:mmanac@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov)

# ***Blast From The Past***

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 4

August 1993

## **National Indian Justice Center Holds Seminar**

In a December 1991 meeting between the Social Services Department, Tribal Police, and Tribal Council, a decision was made to hold two special on-site training sessions to educate employees about Domestic Violence and Indian Law. ... The National Indian Justice Center sent three of its best employees to instruct the training .....enlightened the group of avid listeners on the dynamics of Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Criminal Justice System's response to Domestic Violence, roles and responsibilities of the community, community action and needs, prevention, education and treatment needs... the week of June 21-25, 1993. ... Several people, after attending the Domestic Violence training, developed the idea to form a committee to make people aware of Domestic Violence; and whom to contact in these instances. It will be geared toward making people aware that there is help and where it can be found...

This week has been long  
But we have stood fast  
The end would come  
We knew it would not last  
Words have been spoken  
Pages have been turned  
Sleep has come close  
But it's been fun

The three speakers we have listened to  
They came from afar  
But they must go now  
In their little red car  
The knowledge we have learned  
We will behold for all time  
But things will get better  
When we get those damn stop signs

*By Larry Jackson*



*Tribal Members listen attentively to information concerning domestic violence and Indian Law.*

Update: The Tribe now has a model and award winning domestic violence program. The development and implementation of those original plans have far exceeded the hopes and expectations of those who attended these first meetings.

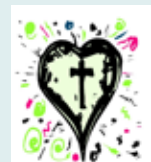
## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRIBAL BUSINESS REVIEW**

Submitted by: Michelle White, Economic Development Administrative Assistant

This month's featured business... **"Third Day Designs"**... offers a variety of different types of photo and video products and services, such as event videography, photography, photo restoration, montages, invitations and prints, and website development.

**"Third Day Designs"** is owned and operated by Tribal Member, Kim Smith and husband, Wade Smith. Kim and Wade have two children, Clay and Ashleigha. The Smiths started **"Third Day Designs"** in April 2008, not only because they saw the need for these services locally but because as a family they enjoy videography & photography. They felt that people were wanting these types of services done, but really could not afford it. **"Third Day Designs"** is a local, affordable, Christian based business. For a full description of the services offered by **"Third Day Designs"**, please visit their website at [www.thirddaydesigns.com](http://www.thirddaydesigns.com) or contact Kim at (251) 212-0458.

If you are interested in having your business featured in the Business Review, please contact Michelle White at (251) 446-4556 or [mwhite@creekindianenterprises.org](mailto:mwhite@creekindianenterprises.org).





# ANNUAL CELEBRATION

*Scheduled for Saturday, August 2, 2008*

This year's Annual Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, August 2, 2008 at Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve (Magnolia). Magnolia will be closed to the public on this day and only Tribal Members and their immediate families and event staff will be admitted. When making your plans to attend, remember that this event is for Tribal Members and their immediate family only. ***On Saturday, August 2, 2008, the Tribe will pay the entrance fee for all Tribal Members and immediate family members who attend.***

This year also brings changes to the schedule and menu. For your convenience, a tentative schedule and menu is listed below:

## **Tentative Schedule**

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon	Registration: To speed up registration, there will additional registration stations this year.
10:00 a.m.	Entertainment Begins: If you would be interested in performing as part of the entertainment throughout the day, please give Mandy Peebles a call at (251) 368-9136 x 2205; individual spots are limited to 30 minutes, groups/bands are limited to 1 hour. Available spots are limited so please call as early as possible.
10:45 a.m.	Welcome by Buford L. Rolin, Tribal Chairman & Blessing of Food
11:00 a.m.	Food Served – No food will be served until after the blessing.
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon	Entertainment Continues
12:00 Noon	Door Prizes – All door prizes will be given away at this time. You must be present to win.
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Entertainment Continues



## **Tentative Menu**

Catfish w/ Hushpuppies  
Chicken Nuggets  
French Fries & Sweet Potato Fries  
Hamburgers  
Sausage Dogs  
Lima beans, salt meat, & fry bread  
Indian Roasted Corn  
Watermelons  
Pepsi Products & Bottled Water



***This year's complimentary gift to Tribal Members in attendance is a mesh folding chair with carrying bag. Keep this in mind when you head out to the creek, this will be one less chair you have to bring with you! If you are unable to attend, any chairs remaining will be available for sale through Tribal Government shortly after the celebration.***

***Please make your plans to attend. We hope to see you there!***



# “Poarch Creek Gone Fishin’...Again!” 2nd Annual Poarch Creek Youth Fishing Rodeo

By: Alex Alvarez, Cultural Educator

May the 10th was a very special day for many tribal youngsters. It was time for the annual Poarch Creek Youth Fishing Rodeo. The event brought in over 140 registered participants to the

tribe’s own Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve. The event began on Friday evening with a camp out for all participants and their families. Saturday morning came early as volunteers gathered at 4:30am to prepare a wonderful breakfast for all participants. Then after everyone had their fill of all the bacon, sausage, eggs,

and grits, it was time to fish. Children and parents scattered everywhere around Magnolia, but focused around Big Lake, where 1000 lbs of catfish had been stocked. Many stringers were full of fish by 9am. Many participants abandoned the angler profession after 2 short hours and sought out the creek for some playful relaxation time in the water after some competitive intense action on the lake shore. While parents and children fished and/or swam, more volunteers, including Chris “Ding-Ding” Blackburn, Lawrence “Bunk” Peebles, and Kevin Watters, worked hard to prepare a nice lunch.

Shortly after lunch, it was time to “weigh-in” as participants brought in their score sheets. We had three age categories

and awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, in each. Participants were judged based on how many fish were caught. If there was a tie, the winner was determined by how large their biggest fish was. The winners of the 0-7 age category were: 3rd place:

Caleb Davis with 6 catfish, 2nd place: Shane Gregson with 7 catfish and our

champion: Cassidy Murphy with 12 bluegill and 2 turtles! In the 8-12 category, the winners were: 3rd place: Hannah

Arthur with 16 catfish, 2nd place: Melea McGhee with 16 catfish, and the 8-12 category champion and most fish caught overall:

Hunter Nobles with 20 catfish and 1 bass. In our last age division, 13-17, the

winners were: 3rd place: Elliot Ross with 6 catfish, 2nd place: Chelsey Ramer with 8 catfish, and our 13-17 Champion: Dakota Smith with 14 catfish.



Though the event awarded first, second, and third place, every child and parent who attended were winners. In this day and age, it’s hard to find an event where children and parents can equally have as much fun while spending quality time with each other. The purpose of the Youth Fishing Rodeo is to encourage that interaction

within our tribal community. A strong community is a strong tribe, and creates strong leaders. Our children are the future of this tribe and for every dollar spent on them, thousands will be returned.

92 tribal children participated in last year’s event, and this year, over 140. This event will grow in size and stature each year.

I sincerely want to thank each and every volunteer who helped out, whether it was to tie a hook or scramble eggs, each child who came and participated, and each parent who came with their child. Thank you for making the 2nd Annual Poarch Creek Youth Fishing Rodeo a success!



In the 8-12 category, the winners were: 3rd place: Hannah Arthur (right) with 16 catfish, 2nd place: Melea McGhee (left) with 16 catfish, and the 8-12 category champion and most fish caught overall: Hunter Nobles (center) with 20 catfish and 1 bass.



Winners for 0-7 year olds are Cassidy Murphy (top left) with 12 bluegill & 2 turtles, Shane Gregson (top right) with 7 catfish, and Caleb Davis (below) with 6 catfish.



In the last age division, 13-17, the winners were: 3rd place: Elliot Ross (left) with 6 catfish, 2nd place: Chelsey Ramer (right) with 8 catfish, and our 13-17 Champion: Dakota Smith (center) with 14 catfish.

Hunter Nobles caught the most fish overall; his catch included 20 catfish and 1 bass.





# "Weaving our past with our future, The Poarch Creek 'Hayvlke'...or Makers"

*Hocciv (Author): Alex Alvarez*

For two years now, the Poarch Creek community has been



blessed to have reclaimed a lost art: Basket Weaving. A citizen from the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma, Mary Smith, has visited the reservation 3 times since January of 2007. Every time she

has come, she has left more than her work and teachings behind, more importantly, incredible students and friends. Many Tribal Members have taken her class every time it has been offered and have become masters of basket weaving. They have become a "Svmpv-Hayv", a basket maker.

These individuals have become dedicated to preserving and promoting this cultural delicacy. They have become a club called the "Hayvlke" (pronounced High-yull-gee). This organization, along with the Poarch Creek Cultural Program, will focus on promoting our culture and sharing it with tourists who visit the reservation. They will begin creating an inventory of not only authentic baskets and pottery, but also sashes, moccasins, beadwork, and other traditional crafts to be sold in future gift shops.



These crafts are not only examples of Native American fine arts, but also links to our ancestors, who made these items regularly; therefore connecting the past to the present and future. These items carry much pride and each piece can tell a story. Not only have these arts been taught to adults, but our youth have been avid learners as well. Mary's teachings have been shared with the Poarch Creek after-school program, the Fred L. McGhee Learning Center students, the Poarch Creek Powwow Club, the Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council, and now, through various teachers, the Poarch Creek



Summer Youth Program.

As the Hayvlke club gets under way, we will need more Tribal Members to dedicate their time and efforts to learning. Please take advantage of the cultural classes we will offer in the very near future. I would like to thank Mary Smith, as well as all of the new members of the club to date: Mary Jane Tullis, Catherine Sells, Lois Amos, Lena Rackard, Anita Glass, Megan Young, Denise Young, Amber Lisenby, Rosalind Smith and Gloria Fowler. Please forgive me if I have left out any names. Mvto to you all! You are making a difference!



*Members of the Hayvlke Club l-r Lena Rackard, Lois Amos, Mary Smith (teacher) Catherine Sells, Megan Young, Pauline Parker, Denise Young, Mary Jane Tullis, Amber Lisenby with son Colby, and Rosalind Smith.*

## Notice From Wellness & Activities Authority

*Football & Cheerleading  
Registration Fee: \$35  
Applications Accepted July 28th – August 6th  
Tribal Members and 1st Generation Only  
Age 5 – 13  
Must be 5 by September 1st  
13 year olds cannot turn 14 by September 1st  
Football Teams limited to 30 players per team  
Cheerleader Teams limit to 15 per team  
Applications open to community August 7th & 8th  
to fill remaining available slots*

## After School Program Begins August 11, 2008

*Program limited to 50 participants  
\$25 per student per week  
Tribal Member Applications  
accepted August 5th at 7:00 a.m.*

*1st Generation Applications accepted August 6th at  
7:00 a.m. to fill remaining available slots  
First Come First Served*





**T**ribal Council Member Keith Martin is the son of Janette Beck and Henderson Roberson. He lived in the Poarch community until his mother married Kenneth Beck and they moved to Pensacola, Florida when he was five years old. My "Papa raised me as his own. He taught me right from wrong and I deeply love and respect him."

Although Keith and his family lived in Pensacola, they were back in Poarch every weekend and he spent every summer in Poarch at his Granny's house. He moved back to Poarch to finish school and graduated from Escambia County High School in 1984. Keith has one sister, Anita Martin Murphy, who lives in Pensacola, and one brother, Randall P. Martin, who died in 2002. Keith's great-grandparents were Robert



*Working for the Tribe at a young age. Keith and his "brother for life" Lathaniel McGhee*

Otis Martin and Alice Rolin Martin McGhee; his grandparents were Elsie Martin Holland and Willis McGhee, Sr. "My Granny Alice loved me and I was one of the last things she thought of before she died. I have been told that

the last thing she said was 'Get the money out of my purse and go buy Keith some britches.'"

When he was asked what his favorite childhood memory was, he said that he couldn't think of just one. He said that all of his memories of growing up in the Poarch community are special to him. "The elders used to tell of the two files that were stuck in the tree on Green Road and how the headless horseman threw them at someone. Mother told us these stories so that they would not have to hunt us when it got dark; it worked, you wouldn't catch one of us children on Green Road after dark. I remember how effective these stories were!" He also remembers how the kids all played in the big ditches down the road that his Granny lived on and the fields of peas as well as crops that his Uncle Otha and other families would plant and share with anyone who needed something to eat. Keith can remember going to Callie's store and getting a nickel or dime bag of candy and going over to play in the area that is now the Pow Wow grounds. "I don't think Callie made much of a profit from these transactions. Most of the time she would kick in a little extra if we had behaved in

church the week before." He also remembers playing under the porch or house during the summer time. There were no air conditioners and the children played outside all day, it was cooler under the house so they spent many hours playing underneath. The summer time also meant trips to the old swimming hole and playing in the swamps and thickets, but they were always home before it got dark. "My Aunt Marie broke me from smoking. She caught me and Calvin Lynn McGhee smoking in Uncle Otha's barn and sat there and made us smoke several in a row. I haven't touched a cigarette in my adult life." He looks back and remembers his Granny Alice teaching him to tie his shoes in front of the fireplace in her bedroom. "She dipped snuff, we got us a little pinch one day, and we had to lay under the house all day to get over it! I used to have to wake her up at 10:00 on Saturday night to watch wrestling. She rarely missed her wrestling! She loved Cowboy Bob Kelly".



*He can remember when Poarch started having their Pow Wow, it started as a homecoming. Keith says that his childhood in Poarch had a lasting impact on him. It was then that he saw that the community pulled together to get things done. That men like his Uncle Otha Martin, Alton Jackson, A.D. Martin, Eugene Sells, Willis McGhee, and Howard McGhee, would make sure that if someone needed anything they would help them out, from providing transportation to and from town or to making sure they got fresh produce from the garden. He stated that this is when he saw how an Indian man is supposed to be, how they stepped forward to help anyone in the community that needed help and how the people of the community trusted and respected them. None of these men were rich and they all had large families and loved and cared for each other. They would do without to make sure that their families and everyone in the community was fed and clothed. It is his hope that people see and think of him in those terms as well.*

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*Keith and Rochel Martin*

Keith stated that the first major accomplishment in his life was marrying Rochel Stewart. He and Rochel met each other when they in the 10th grade and have been together ever since. He is thankful to have met and married Rochel





*Janette Martin Beck*

for she has been with him and supported him through good times and bad. As the old saying goes, "behind every good man is a woman!" He feels that his second greatest accomplishment is becoming the father of four beautiful daughters, Samantha, Jessica, Rachel, and Scarlet. His daughter Samantha is married to Jonathan Rolin and they have one child, Lily Grace Rolin.

He feels that his third major accomplishment was being elected to the Tribal Council.

The people who have been the most influential in his life are those that taught him the value of life when he was young, the men like Alton Jackson, Otha Martin, and others who showed him what being an Indian man meant. His grandmother Elsie taught him how to love and care for every person in the community. His father instilled in him a work ethic with a size 13 brogan and his mother for showing him that he was loved, no matter what. His wife for sticking with him through all his "bad" years, and his Aunt Jean Ardis, who is a carbon copy of his grandmother, who helped raise him. He acknowledges the influence that Eddie Tullis has had on his life. He demonstrated how an Indian man should have dedication and be self sacrificing for the betterment of his people. His wife, Mary Jane McGhee Tullis, is the embodiment of a supportive wife, she and her four daughters also made sacrifices in support of Mr. Tullis; this is also a sign of dedication and love for the people of Poarch Creek. The church also had a major influence on Keith. David Weaver was the pastor of Poarch Community Church for many years and was instrumental in Keith's life. It took seven minutes for him to marry Keith and Rochel; a marriage that has lasted 24 years, and counting. He can remember Catherine Sells being his Sunday school teacher and making his class their first "Indian Outfit" with a breechcloth and pants. "She showed love to each one of us and taught us right from wrong."

When asked what it meant to him to be a Tribal Member of the Poarch Creek Indians, he said that he was proud to be a part of the close knit family that is Poarch Creek. He says that in our culture, the lineage runs through the women of the clan, that it is the women who pull the community together and keeps the family intact. Women like Roberta Sells, Willie Lee Martin, Bessie Rolin, Arentha McGhee, Clara Rolin, Liza Rolin, Lunie Mae McGhee, Marie Martin, Julia Ann Stacey, Hattie Mae McGhee, Peggy Couch, Mable Jackson, Catherine Sells, Callie Jackson, Olivette McGhee, Ida Weaver, and last but not least his mother Janette Beck. They worked hard to put their families before themselves or anything else. You were always welcome at their table and they made sure you never left hungry.

Keith first got involved in tribal politics when he started serving on the original Gaming Commission in 2003. He has served on the Gaming Board since 2004 and has been chairman since 2006 and feels that there is still so much to do that he is considering running for re-election to the Tribal Council in 2009. He initially decided to run for Tribal Council because he would lay awake at night and worry about issues facing the Tribe and he wanted to do what he could do to help. He says that Mr. Tullis has always said that the Tribe would not have big problems until there is big money; he feels that the Tribe is at that point. From the time of the first Tribal Council our leaders have addressed the same issues, just in a different scope. In the beginning there was no money for stipends and our early leaders put in many hours for no pay. He appreciates those who made that sacrifices and brought this Tribe forward by the sweat of their brow. John McGhee comes to mind, he served for 25 years because he loved his people, not for the money. He also thanks Buford Rolin and Billy Smith, who played a large role in showing him how committed you should be to your people. They hauled the young dancers around and taught us right from wrong on those trips. They showed us that there was a bigger world than just Poarch.

Keith currently serves on the Cultural and Natural Resources Legislative Committee, which shall aid and assist the Tribal Council in the area of cultural and natural resources and all related matters such as putting additional lands in trust and protecting the land and natural resources that the Tribe currently has. He feels that the Tribe can never have too much land and that we must protect the environment. He also serves on the Governmental Affairs and Rules Legislative Committee, which aids and assists the Tribal Council in the area of governmental affairs and rules and all related matters such as working with lobbyist and other appropriate individuals. They also work with agencies and organizations that will make sure the Tribe stays abreast with and involved with issues at a national level. Keith also serves on the Housing/Community Activities Legislative Committee, which aids and assists the Tribal Council in the area of housing and community activities and all related issues.



*There was always plenty of food, you never left the table hungry.*

*Continued on page 11*



# An Introduction To The Tribal Member Benefits Department

The Tribal Member Benefits Department was recently established by the Tribal Council to administer and track benefits such as the Elder's Benefit, Burial Assistance, Minors' Trust, and Birthday Checks as well as maintain the Tribal census, ensuring that Tribal data is kept as current as possible. Although this is a newly established department, the services have been available to Tribal Members for a number of years through various other departments. As Tribal Member Benefits Executive Director, Tim Manning is responsible for administering and tracking the Elder's Benefit, Burial Assistance, Minor's Trust, and Birthday Check programs. Mary Jane Tullis, Census Project Analyst, is responsible for the Tribal Census database and processing of birthday checks.

To help you the Tribal Member better understand the services offered, Tim and Mary Jane have provided the information below.

## Elder Benefits

Each Tribal Member age 65 and older is eligible for a monthly benefit of \$200. This benefit is a direct deposit into the individual's banking or money market account. The Tribal Member may choose to receive the benefit monthly, once a year in December, or elect to establish a trust fund.

## Burial Assistance

Each Tribal Member is eligible for a one time Burial Assistance payment of \$5,000. Upon the Tribal Member's death, disbursement of this benefit may be made directly to a funeral director or to a designated beneficiary. The Tribal Member Benefits Department must have your Burial Assistance Enrollment Form on file before disbursement of this benefit. If you have not completed your form, please contact the Tribal Member Benefits office to obtain your form.

## Birthday Checks

Each Tribal Member is eligible for an annual birthday check to be received during the month of his or her birthday. The amount of the birthday check is established by the Tribal Council each year and is payable through Tribal discretionary funds.

## Minor's Trust

It is illegal to disburse gaming revenue to minors; therefore, the Tribal Council established the Minor's Trust Fund, an interest bearing account, to manage and maintain the annual birthday checks paid to Tribal Members under the age of

18. The birthday check for minors is one half that of adults and is established annually by the Tribal Council. When a minor turns 18, funds will be disbursed as established in the Revenue Allocation Plan, which requires the minors to meet the following criteria: proof of age, possession of high school diploma, GED, or Certificate of Completion, and

successful completion of the financial literacy course provided by FS Advisors, executors of the Minor's Trust Fund. Tribal Census is the database used for all services provided by the Tribe. It is very important that all Tribal Members keep their census information current. Each time a new Tribal Member is added to the Tribal Roll, an interview is scheduled to gather their census information; the interview is followed up with mail outs that include all necessary forms and paperwork required by the Tribal Member Benefits office. Per the Revenue Allocation Plan, no newly added Tribal Member is eligible for monetary services, i.e. Elder Benefits payment, birthday check, until 60 days after being placed on the Tribal Roll. The census is updated on a daily basis.

It is very important that you notify Mary Jane or Tim of any address or phone number changes, change in marital status and/or name, birth or death of loved one, etc.

The following Tribal Members are unaccounted for in the Tribal Census records:

Jewel Gibson  
Kimber Jean Gibson  
Richard Wayne Gibson  
Kelly Jean Hubbird  
Shelby Ann Hubbird  
Barry Alan Reece  
Joyce Darlene Seamans  
Patricia Diane Seamans  
Ronald Garrett Walker

If you know any of these individuals, please contact Mary Jane.

In closing, Tim and Mary Jane are here to assist you in areas relating to Tribal Member Benefits. Please do not hesitate to give them a call if you have a question or need to update your census information. Tim can be reached Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2007. Mary Jane can be reached Monday and Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2501 or at 1-877-276-2724.



Tim Manning & Mary Jane Tullis



## 2008 Youth Diabetic Prevention and Education Camp

*Submitted by Candace Fayard*

An excited group of youngsters eagerly emerged from Tribal buses on Sunday, June 1st at Camp Alamisco in Dadeville, AL. Immediately, camp counselors came out to engage the youth in a variety of “ice-breaker” activities and games. Excitement filled the air with anticipation of what fun and learning the week ahead would hold for the campers.



Activities were plentiful and well organized. For some, their favorite activity involved the refreshing waters of beautiful Lake Martin. On the lake, campers enjoyed swimming, tubing, canoeing, knee boarding, and the all time favorite, “blobbing.” (Blobbing is a giant sized, air cushioned, bouncy device that swimmers can jump on and off.) Rock climbing, horseback riding, exploring nature, and enjoying arts and crafts were some of the other thrills the campers experienced.

Healthy eating played a major part of the Diabetic Camp experience. Youth were offered a variety of specialty foods that encouraged a healthy diet. After each meal, a class was provided to supply



information on diabetes and the toll that an unhealthy diet could have on a body.

The instructors then allowed time for questions from the kids, and—not surprisingly--there was a lot of participation from the campers. A couple

of delicious treats were shared, such as peanut butter balls and fruit smoothies. Those recipes are provided in this issue of the newsletter.

In closing each day, camp counselors entertained the children with various plays that taught strong moral values. A highlight during each of these assemblies was awarding a boys’ Honor Cabin and a girls’ Honor Cabin. These awards recognized the cleanest cabins (groups of 8 – 10 campers shared a cabin) and campers who had a great positive attitude. At the end of the week, an award was issued to the Best Camper of the Week, Rachel Presley.

The Health Department, chaperones, and campers send a big heartfelt THANK YOU to our Tribal Council and the Endowment Committee for providing the opportunity to participate in this experience. Along with getting plenty of exercise and education, precious memories were made during Diabetic Camp 2008.



### Strawberry-Banana Smoothies

#### Ingredients

1 banana  
6 strawberries  
1 cup vanilla yogurt  
½ cup of milk

#### Directions

*Put all ingredients into a blender and blend until smooth*

### Peanut Butter Balls

#### Ingredients

1/3 cup crunchy peanut butter  
1/2 cup nonfat dry milk  
2 tablespoon of wheat germ  
1 tablespoon honey

#### Directions

*Place ingredients in blender in order listed above. Turn on and blend until mixture is evenly mixed and crumbly looking. Use a small scoop to make the peanut butter balls in so they're nice and compact. Put on plate or in container and put in fridge.*

*ENJOY!!!*

### Keith Martin – Continued from page 9

Keith states that if he were not on the Tribal Council, he would serve on as many boards or committees as possible, he hopes to be involved for many years.

Keith states that he is most passionate about stopping the expansion of gaming in the state of Alabama. When he says that he wants to stop the expansion of gaming in the state of Alabama, he is talking about non-Indian, non-regulatory gaming. Indian Gaming is regulated by the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) but other gaming operations in the State of Alabama have no regulatory authorities. Just a few years ago there were only four gaming sites in the state, three of which were Poarch Creek, now there are over 21 additional sites, all of them un-regulated. He is also passionate about other issues as well, we need more houses built for Tribal Members, a larger health clinic, additional medical staff such as another doctor, nurse practitioner and pediatrician.

Where does Keith see the Tribe in ten years? He put a lot of thought into his answer, “You can’t tell where you may go in the future if you don’t remember where you came from. You have to remember the values that you learned from your parents, your community leaders, and ancestors. Without our past there is no future.” Poarch Creek is one of the last Indian Tribes in the Southeast not to have Class III gaming and the future of the Tribe’s gaming requires the Tribe to continue to work toward forming a compact with the State. He feels that the Tribe must pursue other venues of economic development to protect the revenue stream and not depend solely on gaming. “We need major industry; we should pursue the development and use of wind or solar power, the development of biodiesel or ethanol fuel.” The future is limitless, tethered only by our own limitations.

In closing, Keith would like to thank Gayle Johnson for her assistance in generating this article. “She was very understanding and patient with me. She is an asset to this Tribe.”



# BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Aviya Mae LaBue



Misty Rolin and Paul LaBue are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Aviya Mae LaBue on March 22, 2008. At birth Aviya weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz. and was 21 inches long. Aviya was welcomed home by her big brother Dillon Edward Lowery, who is very proud of his new baby sister. Aviya is the granddaughter of Tonya and Sam Rayborn and Denise James and Joe LaBue. She is the great granddaughter of Bessie Mae Rolin and the late Eugene (Buster) Rolin. Aviya is also the niece of Trenton Dewayne Rayborn and the great niece of Virginia Bell Godwin.

Aviya is blessed with a large family who all love her and welcome her to their world with all their love and kisses.



## Ava Grace McVey



Jeffery and Alicia (Kennedy) McVey are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Ava Grace McVey. Ava was born December 17, 2007 at 10:15 a.m. at North Mississippi Medical Center Women's Hospital in Tupelo, MS. At birth she weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 18 inches long. Ava is the granddaughter of Betty and the late Don McVey and Claude and Linda Kennedy. Her great-grandparents are the late Norvie Lee and Gladys Presley McGhee and the late Mac and Beulah Goodwin. She is welcomed home by brother Jacob and sister Jayli.



# BIRTHDAY WISHES

## Barbara Pawling



Barbara Pawling turned 77 on June 11, 2008. She and her family, send their thanks for the fabulous birthday gifts from the Tribe. Thank you from Debra Hunter, Al Pawling and Phil Pawling in Snohomish and Seattle, Washington.

## Wedding Announcement

Mr and Mrs. Kenneth W. Breier of Atlanta, GA; along with Frederick and Carol McGhee of Pensacola, FL, have the honor of announcing the engagement and up coming marriage of their son, Frederick Lawrence McGhee (Indian Name: Laughing Eyes) to Jennifer Lynn Hart, daughter of Rich (Go Cubs) and Lynn Hart of Chicago, IL on Saturday, the twenty-third day of August, 2008.



The groom is the grandson of Joe Francis and Letha McGhee of Poarch, AL and the great-grandson of the late Tribal Chief Calvin W. McGhee. He is also the grandson of David and Christine Hinton of Carrabelle, FL, and the late Thomas A. Crook of Brewton, AL.

The bride is the granddaughter of Ursula and the late Thomas Hart as well as the late Richard and Betty Nutto all of Chicago, IL.

The ceremony will take place at the Reunion Golf Club in Hoschton, GA with a reception immediately following the ceremony. Following their honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico, the couple will reside in Dacula, GA.



## I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took God's hand when I heard the call;  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Task left undone must stay that way,  
I found that place at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shard, a laugh, a kiss.  
Ah, yes, these things, I too, will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I've savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all to brief;  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me –  
God wanted me now, God set me free.*



We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, phone calls, food, and the gift of love that was so graciously given in the time of our loss. We will forever miss Punkin's beautiful smile and laughter; but your being there for us has helped us in ways that words cannot express.

Thank you and God Bless you all  
The James A. (Punkin') Selzer Family  
January 21, 1965 – June 16, 2008

*(The poem above, author unknown, was shared with Linda during her time of mourning. It helped her so much that she wanted to share it with her family and friends.)*



## CATCHING THE DREAM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The deadline for the spring semester scholarships is September 15, 2008 to begin working on your application before the 2008-2009 college year starts. The scholarships can be used for college level to postdoctoral study. The scholarships are competitive and are awarded on merit and how much they feel the applicant will be able to contribute to the Native American community. Their scholarships include:

- MESBEC scholarships are intended for studies in math, science, engineering, and computers. The science scholarships will include fields in medicine.
- NALE (Native American Leaders Education) scholarships are for paraprofessionals to help them earn their degrees education, counseling, or school administration.
- TBM (Tribal Business Management) the scholarship is for students studying business, finance, economics, management, and hotel management and related fields.
- The First Sergeant Douglas and Charlotte DeHorse Scholarship was created for Native American students who have completed one year of any Army Navy, or Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Program; or they are currently enrolled in a Army, Navy, or Air Force Reserve Officer Training program; or they are a veteran of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Merchant Marine, or Coast Guard; and are enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program of study.

The main requirements for the scholarship program are that applicants have  $\frac{1}{4}$  or more degree Native American blood quota, an enrolled member of a state recognized, federally recognized, or terminated tribe. Applicants must plan to be enrolled or be currently enrolled as full-time students in a college or university located within the United States. Applicants are expected to have excellent grades, high ACT scores or SAT scores, work experience, leadership experience or community service experience, and a strong commitment to their tribal community. Students are expected to provide proof that they have applied for other funding.

Applicants are required to supply documentation of their tribal membership, completion of high school or GED, a copy of the admission letter to college. The applicants are also required to write an essay about themselves and their goals; the goals should relate to the betterment of their tribe. They are required to provide documentation of their progress toward their goal. The documentation can include letters of recommendation for leadership roles, community service, internships, summer programs that are geared toward your goal.

## *The Federal TEACH (Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education) Grant Program*

The grant provides up to \$4000 per year to students that plan to teach in public or private elementary or secondary schools that serve low-income students. Students who want to apply for the grant should contact their financial aid office at the school they will be attending during the 2008-2009 school year. Applicants must complete the (FAFSA), they do not have to show financial need or qualify for the Pell in order to be eligible for the grant. They must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, be enrolled as an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate student in a postsecondary education institution that has chosen to participate in the TEACH Grant program. The student must be enrolled in course work that is necessary to begin a career in teaching or plan to complete such course work. Students should meet the academic requirements of scoring at least on the 75th percentile on the college admissions test or have maintained a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25.

The High-Need Fields of study that are usually covered by the grant are Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Reading Specialist, Science, or Special Education. Information on other teacher shortage areas is listed at [www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc).

## Strickland Attends ASMS

*Submitted by Debra Strickland*

Clint Strickland recently completed his junior year of high school at the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science (ASMS) in Mobile, Alabama. ASMS, established in 1989 by the Alabama State Legislature to identify, challenge and train Alabama's future leaders, is a residential public high school for sophomore, junior, and senior students pursuing advanced studies in mathematics, science, and humanities. ASMS is truly a center for excellence, graduates have an average ACT score of 27.2 and over 50 percent of the faculty hold a doctorate or terminal degree; in excess of 90 percent of graduating seniors receive scholarships that enable them to pursue higher education. Clint plans to return to ASMS in the fall to complete his senior year. After graduation he hopes to pursue a career in the medical field. He strongly recommends ASMS to any high school student looking for academic challenges and a chance to be a part of a great student body.

Clint's family is proud of his achievements in education. He was previously homeschooled and to do so well at ASMS is evidence of his dedication to his education and future.



## Thank You For Your Vote and Support



I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support during the 2008 Tribal Council Election. I am overwhelmed with gratitude to my fellow Tribal Members for electing me as your representative during the next three year term.

Since induction I have been working hard to become

familiar with all tribal policies and procedures, and attending all board and committee meetings. I have also made a point to visit all tribal departments and am planning visits to Riverside and Tallapoosa sites in the next week to see their operations first hand.

I want you to know I stand by my campaign promises to actively support all efforts to improve per-capita payments, acquire funding for an assisted living facility, as well as, a school and to ensure that tribal member preference in employment and contracting are at the forefront of the agenda.

I encourage you to contact me on any issues that you feel need the council's attention. My office will be located in the old CIE Building located on Highway 21, across from Dixie Catfish.

While I am only one vote, I promise to dedicate myself over the next three years to ensuring that your concerns are brought forth and your issues addressed and resolved.

Thank you again,

Garvis Sells

Tribal Council Member and  
Vice Chairman TERO Commission  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians

## Thank You

You always hear the negative comments, but it is good share the good comments and know that someone feels that the Tribe is helping you during your time of need.

Donald Gibson and family would like to say a special "Thank You" to Tribal Council Member David Gehman, Susan Wicker, Housing Executive Director, Jonathan Owens, Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator, and others that recently worked with them to meet their need. Cora Peters spoke during Public Comments at a Tribal Council meeting in January and thanked the Council for the load of dirt she received and the help she got with her septic tank. Ann Brooks attends Tribal Council meetings and recently thanked the Council and all Tribal Members for their prayers during her recent illness.

Not everything is bad, there is good in the world.

## Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority And The Small Business Administration Present "Small Business Success Seminar"

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority and the Small Business Administration will present the "Small Business Success Seminar" on August 14, 2008 at the Creek Indian Enterprise Business Center located at 100 Brookwood Road in Atmore, Alabama. This free seminar will be conducted at the following times: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Employee Center Building located on the Business Center Campus.

While poor management is cited most frequently as the reason businesses fail, inadequate or ill timed financing is a close second. Whether you're starting a business or expanding one, sufficient ready capital is essential. Attend a live presentation where you can ask questions about SBA's loan programs. Information will be presented that makes the SBA Small Loan Program understandable & attractive to borrowers. You will also receive information regarding federal contracting, marketing, bookkeeping, and business counseling services that are available to the public.

Call Michelle White at 251-446-4556 to sign up today or email Michelle at [mwhite@creekindianenterprises.org](mailto:mwhite@creekindianenterprises.org).

## 38th Annual Thanksgiving Pow Wow

Poarch Creek Indians 38th Annual Thanksgiving Pow Wow is scheduled for November 27 & 28, 2008. As usual, Pow Wow head staff will be lodging at the Best Western of Atmore. There are rooms still available if you need to book rooms for the Thanksgiving holiday. There are no special Pow Wow rates this year, but Tribal Members do receive a 21% discount (rate will be \$71.10) when booking rooms at the motel. You must have a valid Tribal ID to secure this rate.

For those Tribal Member girls interested in participating in the Princess Contest, the first practice has been scheduled for Sunday, August 31, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the Tribal Auditorium. For your convenience, a copy of the Princess Application has been included in this issue and is available at the front reception desk of the Tribal Complex and on-line on the Tribal website at [www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov).

Tribal Members will be admitted free with valid Tribal ID. Vendor spaces are also available; if you are interested in a vendor space, please give Mandy Peebles a call at (251) 368-9136 x 2205.

Please watch future issues of Poarch Creek News for more information on the Pow Wow.



# Indian World 2007-2008

Hocciv (Author): Alex Alvarez



Just one short year ago, tribal member Megan Young was crowned Miss Indian World, the equivalent to Miss U.S.A, and embarked on an incredible journey serving as an ambassador of not only the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, but also Native America as a whole-representing over 500 sovereign tribal nations. Her travels took her to Los Angeles, North Dakota, Hawaii, Canada, the Everglades in Florida, and Chicago, just to name a few. Everywhere she went, she represented her people from southwest Alabama extremely well and enriched the lives of hundreds of individuals. This year, at the Gathering of Nations Powwow, North America's largest, her journey was brought to

a bitter-sweet end. It was time to pass the title of Miss Indian World onto the next extraordinary individual.

To celebrate and support Megan, there were many individuals who came and helped her deliver her closing ceremonies. From the tribal council, Chairman Buford Rolin, Secretary Daniel McGhee, and member-at-large Eddie Tullis all came and danced with Megan as she closed her reign with a stomp dance. From the Tribal Youth Council, Curtis Hayes, Chief and Secretary (Megan's sister and the 2007/2008 Senior Princess) Mallory Young, supported Megan with their singing and dancing talents. Brice McGhee, a member of the Poarch Creek Powwow Club, and tribal member Chris "Ding-Ding" Blackburn also gave their support. Megan was joined by some of her loving family as well: grandmother, Jackie Smith and father, Phillip Young cheered the entourage on, while mother, Denise Young; aunt, Amber Lisenby; and cousins, Colby and Sydney Lisenby showed their love by participating in the final dance.



What makes this journey so incredible is that no Southeastern Native Woman, let alone a young woman from a small-town tribe in Alabama, had ever won Miss Indian World before. This year was truly a milestone not only for Megan, but for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians as well. Not only did it bring international status and recognition to the tribe, but paved a path for all young Native women from the community and state a clear message: "Strive to be the best you can be".



Megan, you have made all of us so proud. Mvto for representing your people well all year long. We sincerely wish you the best. Mvto to all of those individuals named above as well as the unnamed who assisted in making Megan's closing ceremonies a huge success.

# Schedule of Events

## AUGUST, 2008

Friday, August 1, 2008  
Deadline to submit information  
for September Newsletter

Saturday, August 2, 2008  
Annual Celebration  
Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve

Tuesday, August 5, 2008  
Tribal Council Meeting  
4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 13, 2008  
Housing Authority Meeting  
1:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 14, 2008  
Small Business Success Seminar

Tuesday, August 19, 2008  
Tribal Council Meeting  
4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 27, 2008  
Housing Authority Meeting  
1:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 31, 2008  
First Princess Practice  
2:00 p.m.



# NEW CREEK SMOKE SHOP OPENS SOON



*Kitty Stuart*

Creek Smoke Shop, which offers discounted tobacco products to the public, opened in 1994 inside the Creek Bingo Palace and remained at that location until it moved into its present location in a modular building located in the parking lot of Creek Entertainment Center. Riverside Smoke Shop, located in a module building in the parking lot of Riverside Entertainment Center, opened in Wetumpka in February of 2003. Both facilities offer services through drive through windows, and have been very successful. Riverside Smoke Shop has a larger market due to being close to Montgomery, but the Creek Smoke Shop has regular

customers who travel from Mobile and Pensacola to purchase their discounted tobacco products.



*Creek Smoke Shop*

Creek Smoke Shop is currently undergoing expansion and will soon move into the new facility located on County Road 14, just across the road from Creek Entertainment Center. When the construction is complete, Creek Smoke Shop and Poarch Road Service Center (PRSC) will merge and become one entity, Creek Smoke Shop, which will offer discounted tobacco products, gasoline, and convenience store items. Although the Creek Smoke Shop will not be affiliated with the Wind Creek Casino and Hotel, it will compliment that facility by use of the same architectural design. Kitty Stuart, General Manager, states that the new facility will be much more than just a convenience store, it will be a welcoming and pleasant place for Tribal Members and the public to visit and purchase their discounted tobacco products, convenience store items, and gasoline. Future plans for the existing PRSC are unknown at this time; this decision will be made by the Creek Indian Enterprise Development Authority. A soft opening is scheduled for the last week in August, with the grand opening scheduled for Labor Day.



*Construction of new Creek Smoke Shop nearing completion.*

With the expansion of the gaming facilities in Wetumpka and Tallapoosa, the Tribe purchased the River Oaks Apartment Complex (ROA) in Wetumpka, which also falls under the management of Mrs. Stuart. This purchase was made in phases and is now complete. Although two-thirds of the complex was demolished to provide space for the casino parking garage, ROA remains one of the nicest apartment complexes in the city; there are 70 units and the complex runs at about 99% capacity. In an effort to entice Tribal Members to relocate to the northern gaming facilities for employment, the Tribe offers apartments at a discounted rate to Tribal Members who are employed with the gaming facilities.



*Architect's drawing on new Creek Smoke Shop*

Tribe's gaming facilities in the city of Wetumpka has decreased, due largely to the Tribe working closely with the city and community and participating in the local chamber of commerce and other community activities such as March of Dimes and Relay for Life.

Mrs. Stuart stated that through the years the opposition of the



*River Oaks Apartment Complex*



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

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