

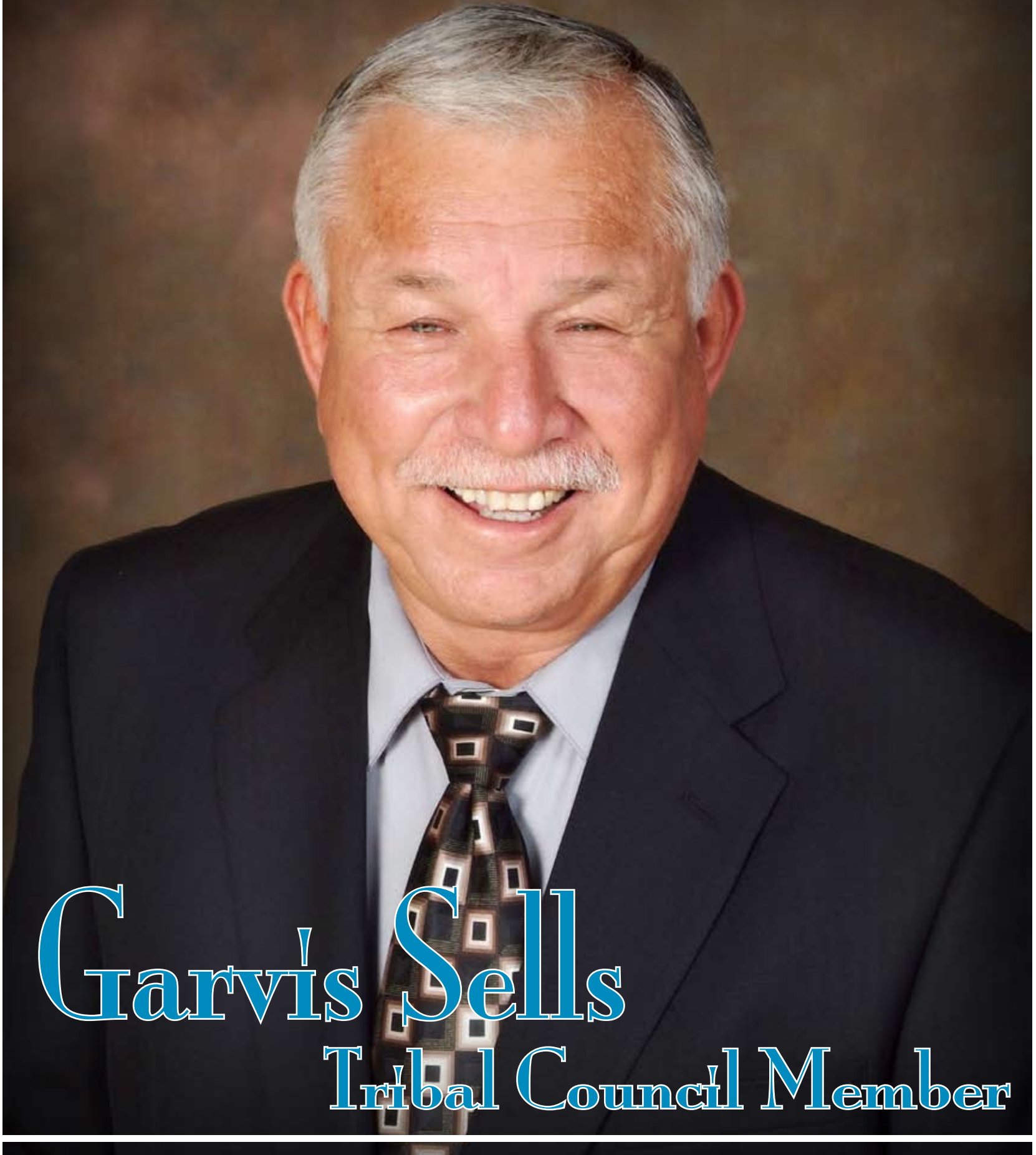
Keeping the Family and Friends of Poarch Informed

September 2008

www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

VOLUME 25 • ISSUE 9

POARCH CREEK NEWS



Garvis Sells
Tribal Council Member

POARCH CREEK NEWS CONTENTS

- 3 Chairman's Corner**
Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Board/Committee Vacancies
- 4 A Blast from the Past/Housing Update Notice**
Use of Rodeo Arena
- 5 Family Services Information**
Water Tank and Well On-Line
- 6 Education News**
- 7 NAYO/Tribal Business Review/Tribal Member Discount**
- 8 Garvis Sells**
- 10 Environmental Department**
- 12 Annual Celebration/Birthday Wishes**
- 13 Tribal Youth Council**
Cultural Education Full Throttle
- 14 Employee Of The Month/Ethics Corner**
- 15 Schedule of Events**
- 16 Premier Family EyeCare**

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Poarch Creek News
www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

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Tribe Mourns Allison

Kathy Allison Jowers, Economic Development Director for Creek Indian Enterprise Management Authority (CIE), passed away suddenly on Sunday, August 3, 2008. The Tribal community was shocked by her unexpected passing. As Economic Development Director for CIE and a graduate of the 2007 Leadership Atmore class, Kathy had many dealings with the Tribe and local community.



"Kathy was a warm, caring and devoted employee," says CIE CFO Arthur Mothershed. "She worked closely with many of our Tribal Members' businesses in her role as Economic Development Director. She played an instrumental role in assisting those members with start up and existing businesses as well as assisting CIE in recruiting new businesses. She will be sorely missed as an employee of our Tribe, but more importantly as someone who could always be depended on both professionally and personally. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her family and friends in their time of need. They are in our hearts and prayers and we are available to assist in anyway possible."

Kathy began her employment with the Tribe as Economic Development Director in January of 2006. In late 2007 the Economic Development Department became part of CIE and recently made the move into the new CIE Business Center in Atmore.

Ms. Allison is survived by one son, Donald Ray Jowers; two daughters, Nadia Coker and April Dorriety; two brothers, Wayne Allison and Del Allison; one sister, Barbara Hastings; and five grandchildren, Cassie Jowers, Michael Coker, Noah Coker, Abby Coker and Gracie Dorriety.

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
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

September, 2008

Greetings from the Chairman's office. I hope you all are enjoying your summer and being careful not to get too hot. You know if you

do get a little warm you can always visit Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve and cool off on a tube, in a canoe or just sitting in the creek. A record crowd of people enjoyed themselves at Magnolia Branch doing those very same things on August 2, 2008 for our 4th Annual Celebration. This commemorated our 24th year of federal recognition. As always we are proud of our accomplishments and the ability to get together and provide food, fun and fellowship for our Tribal members. We welcome your suggestions on how to improve our celebration and are hoping to have a survey go out to each one of you in the coming months.

This month I, along with Tribal Council members and employees, attended a Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) seminar which was very informative and enlightening. Our TERO Executive Director, Misty Manac, is available to meet with you and answer questions that you may have regarding your rights as Tribal members in relation to employment issues. I encourage each and every Tribal member in need of employment to take advantage of this service and to contact the Human Resource offices at CIE, PCI Gaming or Tribal Administration or visit our websites for job announcements.

Our men's and women's teams traveled to Philadelphia, MS to participate in this year's Native American Sports Association tournament, (NASA).

I, along with some of our Tribal Council members, traveled to Denver, CO to attend the Democratic National Convention. This was both a privilege and an honor to be able to participate in this event. We continue to strive to put the Poarch Band of Creek Indian name out on a national level in order to have Congressmen and Senators familiar with our Tribe so that we can call on them in a time of need.

I promised an update on our Tribal Council retreat but because we have a press deadline for the newsletter I am unable to expound on our accomplishments. Hopefully, I will have more to report to each of you in next month's column. I hope you have had a safe and happy summer.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

September 20, 2008

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Location: Behind Fire Station

Tribal Members & Community
Must Show Proof of Residency

Household Waste Only

For More Information Call
Poarch Creek Indians
Environmental Department
(251) 368-9136 x 2681

Committee/Board Vacancy

The Tribal Council is currently accepting applications for one position on the Ethics Board and one position on the Environmental Board. Applications are available at the Chairman's Office and online at www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov.

Applications will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 2, 2008 to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 1, 2008. Applications received after the official closing date and time for submission will not be considered.

The Chairman's Office does not maintain a pool of applications for board/committee vacancies; a new application must be submitted every time a new vacancy is announced.

Blast From The Past

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 2

February, 1994

WIC's Health Services Available For You

Do you know a pregnant or breastfeeding woman?...An infant?...Or a child, less than five years old? They might be eligible for health services at WIC....WIC is a health-oriented food intervention program available to pregnant women, infants, and children up to five years of age...



(L-R) Jaime Brice, WIC Clerk; and Yvonne Crenshaw, WIC Coordinator; provide excellent service for all WIC participants.

Save Your Child's Life

National Child Passenger Safety Month

Car accidents are the leading cause of death for children under the age of five. ...A car seat loan program is offered through the Poarch Creek Indian Health Department for Tribal Members and their children.



Shawna Montgomery and Tori Rodriquez know the only way to go... in a car seat.

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

IT'S TIME TO UPDATE

ANY TRIBAL MEMBER
21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER
INTERESTED IN A NEW HOUSE,
MUST COME INTO THE
POARCH CREEK INDIAN HOUSING DEPT.
TO SUBMIT A NEW APPLICATION OR
UPDATE YOUR CURRENT APPLICATION.

MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF 2007 TAX
RETURNS AND SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS
OF ALL PERSONS ON THE
APPLICATION **PLUS REQUIRED**
DOCUMENTS.

**LAST DAY TO UPDATE:
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2008**

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

Important Notice Use of Rodeo Arena

Anyone wishing to use the Rodeo Arena for personal use ***must*** complete a waiver release. Waivers are available at the Perdido River Farms Office Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Appropriate signage has been posted. The Tribal Police Department patrols the area on a regular basis. Anyone found to be using the Rodeo Arena without the proper waiver will be considered to be trespassing and will be arrested.

Please contact Tasha McGhee at (251) 368-0826 for more information.

Grant Managers from Office of Violence Against Women Visit PCI

On July 10, 2008, Grant Managers Kimberly Woodard and Beverly Fletcher, from the U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Indian Women, visited the Family Services Department to review the Domestic Violence Program.

An entrance conference meeting was conducted with Buford L. Rolin, Tribal Chairman, Edie Jackson, Tribal Administrator, and other employees that administer grant services, to discuss the purpose of the visit and the needs of our tribal community.

Later Ms. Woodard and Ms. Fletcher met with the Domestic Violence Task Force Team members, Chairman Rolin, Mrs. Jackson, Family Services staff, and two Tribal Council members, David Gehman and Garvis Sells, during a luncheon Task Force meeting.



Pictured from the left to the right are Wanda Fowler, Buford L. Rolin, Carolyn White, Edie Jackson, Beverly Fletcher and Kimberly Woodard



Pictured from the left to the right are Buford L. Rolin, Martha Gookin, Lisa Milliken, Carolyn White, Edie Jackson, Jerry Sommers, David Gehman, Roxanne Murphy, Wanda Fowler, Doyle Lee, Garvis Sells, Debra Coon, Kimberly Woodard, Beverly Fletcher, Terri A. Morris, Chuck Johns, and Wayne Rutherford.



2008 Christmas Share Program

The Poarch Creek Indians Family Services Department, in partnership with CIE, PCI Gaming, and Tribal Government, announces the 2008 Christmas Share Program.

The Christmas Share Program is designed to assist low-income tribal member families brighten their Christmas celebration through a shared spirit of giving!

Eligibility Criteria Includes:

Must be a Tribal member household.

Must provide documentation verifying established household income.

Must provide documentation of all household members.

Applications will be taken from October 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008. Please make an appointment at the Family Services Department to complete an application to enroll in this program. You may contact the Family Services Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2600 for an appointment time. Limited slots are available.

Please contact the Family Services Department if you would like to help sponsor a tribal member family in need.

Tribal Water Tank and Well On-Line

Submitted by Josh Thomas

On Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at 7:30 am, the Poarch Creek Indians took a large step forward in becoming self sufficient by putting its first water tank and well online. Utilities would like to take this opportunity to thank Indian Health Services, Environmental Protection Agency, Lane Christensen, EMR, CSI, Tribal Council, Tribal Administration, Federal Accounting, Tribal Government, Public Works, and all other departments and organizations that played an instrumental part in the development and completion of this project.

Congratulations to the Tribe



The Utilities Department has moved. They are now located at 165 Vickery Street (Old Red Eagle Paint Bldg.). Utilities can be reached at 446-1617.

Education News

Unlock Your Career Potential!

The Poarch Creek Indians Education Department has partnered with University Alliance to bring top notch, on-line education directly to you!

Through this partnership, tribal members and employees can receive discounts on tuition, and obtain degrees or certificates from some of the top ranked schools in the United States such as Villanova University, University of Notre Dame, Tulane University, Thunderbird School of Global Management and others.

Programs include traditional Associates, Bachelors and Masters Degrees as well as certificate programs in Six Sigma, Human Resources, Business Management, International Marketing, and Project Management, just to name a few.

For more information, visit the website at www.universityalliance.com/pbcitm/

There is also a dedicated tribal representative available to answer your questions. His names Radames Cardenales and he can be reached at 1-800-571-4938 extension 4567.

Additional Assistance Offered in the Education Department

Due to limited space, the Poarch Creek News is not able to publish all information submitted by the Education Department; additional information is available on the Tribe's website at www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov. Please check out the Education page on the website for additional information on such subjects as:

Fall GED Prep Classes **Aug. 12, 2008-Oct. 29, 2008**
Applications are now being accepted

Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute's Free
Welding Classes

Reid State's Early College Enrollment Program

Special Education Overview, **Tuesday, September 9, 2008 from 5:30 - 8:30** for parents and/or loved ones of a child with "special needs" and anyone interested in learning more about special education in Alabama.

Homework Club begins **Monday, August 18, 2008** and will be held every **Monday-Thursday** throughout the school year.

Gehman Receives First Fred L. McGhee Memorial Scholarship

Kayla is the winner of the first ever Fred L. McGhee Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is in the amount of \$5,000.00, and is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills along with great academic success.



"Words cannot express how grateful I am for this scholarship. Without this aid, going to the University of Alabama would've been an extreme burden on my family. My prayers, along with those of my parents were answered when we heard the news. Like I said, words really cannot express my gratitude; this scholarship is an honor, privilege, and opportunity that I will take very seriously.

"And in honor of Fred L. McGhee, ROLL TIDE!"

Kayla Gehman

Pelham, Alabama

First Generation Indian Descent Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Education Department and Education Advisory Committee selected the following winners of the "First Generation Indian Descent Scholarships."

Ashley Mosley-\$3,000.00
Jessica Martin-\$3,000.00
Amy Jay-\$3,000.00
Joshua Turner-\$3,000.00
Leslie Presley-\$2,000.00
Tracey Smith-\$2,000.00
Trevor Lambert-\$1,000.00
Austin Coleman-\$1,000.00
Alex Baggett-\$1,000.00
Tara McGhee-\$500.00
Madison Thompson-\$500.00

These are competitive scholarships, and they will be awarded annually as long as funds are available. Please give the Education Department a call at (251) 368-9136 x 2021 for more information.

NAYO Hollywood, FL July 18 & 19, 2008



1st Place 16-18 Boys



3rd Place 13-15 Boys



2nd Place 9-12 Girls



2nd Place 9-12 Boys

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRIBAL BUSINESS REVIEW

This month's featured business...
Wes Woodruff Welding Service.....



Wes Woodruff Welding Service is located at 131 Arnold Drive, Boaz, AL 35957 and is owned by Tribal Member Wesley Woodruff. Wes is married to Sallie and they have one child, Madeline.

Wes started the business in 2003. He started the business as a second source of income with the hopes of the business turning into a full time job. He has done jobs ranging from decking an 80' cabin yacht to building homeland security gates. Now he mostly does custom ornamental for the public on custom built homes. To see a glimpse of his railing go to www.stabiltfence.com under the heading wrought iron.

Wes Woodruff Welding Service offers any type of metal fabrication or ornamental iron railing. He can offer just about anything the large scale companies can and usually without the large scale company pricing. Most companies focus more on quantity and less on quality to achieve larger profits. He focuses only on quality because quantity is not a factor. For more information you can reach Wes at (256) 506-8873.

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.

Tribal Member Discount

When staying at the Best Western of Atmore, Tribal Members are eligible for a Tribal Member discount. All Tribal Members must be prepared to show Tribal ID card in order to receive this special offer.



For more detailed information please contact the Best Western of Atmore at 251-368-8182.



Garvis Eugene Sells is the son of the late Eugene and Roberta McGhee Sells, and the grandson of the late Will and Bessie Rolin McGhee. He is married to Catherine Jackson Sells and is the father of two, April Sells and the late Alton Eugene Sells. Garvis has six brothers, Dewitt, Toney, Harold, Julius, Jerry, and the late Jason Sells, and two sisters, Gloria Kraftka and the late Annabel Ellison.

Garvis was born, raised, and still resides in the Poarch



Garvis, Catherine, Alton, and April Sells

Community, where his family still resides on the original grant land that was awarded by Andrew Jackson. He states that he had a happy and memorable childhood. Garvis attended Poarch Consolidated School and remembers picking cotton and cucumbers with his brothers and sister every summer so that they could buy school clothes. His favorite subject in school was history. He remembers starting each

day with chores, bringing in wood, toting water, and milking cows before heading through the 'thicket' to school. He and his friends would usually sneak down to the creek to cool off during their lunch break and would often pick wild muscadines to eat on their way home in the afternoon, where a repeat of the morning chores was waiting on him.

He remembers sitting around the fireplace at night listening to his Uncle John Rolin tell stories of his childhood. Some of Garvis' favorite memories revolve around community activities. He can remember Easter dinners at St. Anna's and hunting eggs in knee high grass, the annual Bible School classes taught by Ms. Bradshaw from Birmingham, and the annual Christmas play. One year they were invited to a church in Nokomis to share their Christmas play. The community would often gather for no reason other than to get together with family and friends; there would be ice cream and watermelons. The adults would sit around and talk while the children played nearby; Levan Martin often acted as the

leader of the children and had them marching everywhere they went. It was always great to get together and just enjoy each other's company.

Garvis considers his marriage to Catherine Jackson, obtaining his GED, and serving on the Tribal Council as three of the major accomplishments of his life. Catherine is the love of his life and gave him his greatest gifts, his children and a lifetime of support. Garvis quit school in the eleventh grade to help his family with the financial hardships faced by the community during this time. After his children were born and were in high school he decided that he would see if he could get his GED. He took the test and received his GED at the ripe old age of 39. "I feel it is never too late for anyone to obtain their GED, or any other educational goals they set their mind to. My mama obtained her GED at age 63. Being elected to the Tribal Council was also a huge accomplishment for me. I've been a candidate for the Tribal Council more than a few times, so being elected meant a great deal to me. I really feel I have something to offer this Tribe, and can be a strong voice for the people, so the opportunity to serve has truly been a dream fulfilled. My mama and daddy would be really proud of me today."

Garvis states that the most influential people in his life were his parents. "My daddy farmed and later went into the pulp wood business. He was a hard worker and instilled a strong



Julius Sells, Gloria Kraftka, Jerry Sells, Harold Sells, Toney Sells, Dewitt Sells, & Garvis Sells

work ethic in his children. Mama was the disciplinarian and the strong force in our family. She was an Indian advocate her entire life and worked hard to ensure members of this Tribe would receive the benefits they were entitled to as Indian people. Mama served as Recording Secretary for the Tribal Council for thirty years. She was actively involved in the Tribe's fight for the Indian Lands Claim Act and she served as a valuable resource to tribal leadership in their efforts to research and prepare the petition for federal recognition. Today our people are still enjoying the benefits she fought so hard for us to receive."

When asked what he is the most proud of as being a member of the Poarch Creek Indians, he said that it is the growth and determination of his people. "At the age of 81, on

Thanksgiving Day, 1998, my mama, Roberta Sells, received the first Lifetime Achievement Award presented by our Tribe. She was one of the only two surviving members of the Tribal Council elected in 1949. My daughter, April Sells, attended the University of Alabama, and in 1987 she received a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Marketing. April was the first member of my family to receive a college education.”

Although he has been around Tribal politics his entire life, his mama and wife served on the Tribal Council for many years, Garvis was elected to serve his first term on June 7, 2008; he was sworn in on June 12th. “I feel absolutely blessed to be elected and filled with the spirit of representing this Tribe and being a voice of the people and will gladly run for Council again in the future. I have always admired Mama’s and Catherine’s dedication to our people and I am proud to follow in their footsteps and hope that I can live up to their examples.”

Garvis feels that the issues of today are much more complex than before. “The world around us has changed dramatically, including the economy and technology, which has had an impact on our community. In early times it seemed we were working hard to achieve recognition, tribal rights, and federal assistance; whereas today we are working equally hard to protect our resources, and successfully manage all of our Creek Indian Enterprises while preserving our community and family values. The Tribal Council today needs to be aggressive on all avenues of business, administration, and commerce, but make decisions that are in the best interest of our Tribe as a whole. The Tribal Council must maintain a constant focus on advancing our enterprises while preserving our culture.”

Garvis serves as Vice Chairman of the TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Office) Commission, which is dedicated to regulating Indian preference in employment and contracting. He also serves on the Education/Labor and Cultural/Natural



Chairman Eddie L. Tullis presents Lifetime Achievement Award to Mrs. Roberta Sells

Resources
Legislative
Committees.

Garvis states that he is most passionate about fulfilling his duties and campaign promises to Tribal Members, which includes

being available for all Tribal Members to ensure their issues are heard and resolved in everyone’s best interest.



Bessie & Will McGhee

He is dedicated to building an assisted living facility for our seniors, a school for our children, maximizing per capita payments, and ensuring Tribal Member advancement in employment, contracting, and training. He believes that it is important to empower Tribal Members to achieve self-

determination and success.

“What would I be doing if I were not serving on the Tribal Council? I would still be working in the trucking industry. Where do I see the Tribe in 10 years? I see our children reaching new heights in education and careers due to our scholarship programs. I see a strong Indian Community, thankful for the opportunities afforded to us, united in faith, and divided by none.”

In closing Garvis would like to say that the hardest times he has every had to face was the death of his parents, leaving his daughter at college, the car accident that left his brother Harold paralyzed, and the death of his beloved son,



Roberta & Eugene Sells on their wedding day

Alton. He states that he feels Alton with him every day. He says that he gets strength from the support of his family, his strong faith in the Lord, and being surrounded by his people.

“These are the things that keep my feet on the ground and my head held high. I am very proud to be a Poarch Creek Indian and more proud to be a representative of my people, and will do everything in my power to protect and serve this Tribe.”

An Introduction To The Environmental Department

Submitted by Laura Cook, Environmental Director

At the present time, this department consists of Laura Lee Cook, Environmental Director, John English, Environmental Specialist, and Lena White, Administrative Assistant.

The department's primary responsibility is to ensure the entire environment on Tribal land is free of pollution. They are governed by the Tribe's Administrative policies and procedures but also are governed by the Tribal Environmental Code established by the Tribal Council in 1999. There is an Environmental Committee made up of five (5) members appointed by the Tribal Council and meet on a monthly basis. The Committee elected Mr. Billy Rolin as Chairman, Velma Crocker as Vice-Chairman, and James Agerton as Secretary for their time in office. This committee, along with the Environmental Director, is responsible for enforcing Environmental Laws on Reservation and Trust Land. If an infraction occurs, it is up to the Director to make certain it is corrected in an immediate and expedite manner. The Environmental Department has the full cooperation of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Law Enforcement Department who does their job in an exemplary manner.

The department performs routine bacterial and chemical water sampling from all streams in and around tribal properties, and keeps an active database on activities of the streams. If there is a large infraction found while doing a sampling event, we immediately have to post signs advising people not to go fishing or swimming. This is followed by three (3) successive sampling events and if everything is back to normal the signs are removed.

Recycling is done on a routine basis. Paper and cardboard are picked up each Friday, taken to the Recycling Center, baled and made ready for pick-up by the company we have procured. Large bins were bought for each building, and designated trash cans for each office. When the blue recycle trash cans are full, the office personnel will empty these into the large recycling bin in a designated part of that building. Linda Weaver and her excellent staff empty the regular trash cans into garbage bags for the garbage truck to pick up. We're anticipating one day to begin a recycling operation for aluminum cans but at this time we do not have enough personnel to do this. We are also hoping that in the near future we can pick up recyclables from the enterprises.

An attempt is made to have an electronic recycling event at least twice each year but here again with limited

personnel we are only able to do it once each year. At this time, community members can bring in their electronic items they wish to dispose of and we hire a company to come and take them away.

The Department has received help from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency to work in conjunction with NRCS in planting longleaf pines at Magnolia Branch, the beautiful Recreation Area the Tribe has acquired. We have assisted them in controlled burning to aid the wildlife habitat. The Environmental Department also rebuilt a dam at Magnolia Branch recently. Mr. Billy Smith has done a wonderful job in getting the Recreation area where it is today and works closely with this Department. We have just received a grant from Fish and Wildlife to establish a sanctuary for the almost extinct red cockeyed woodpecker and the gopher/tortoise at Magnolia Branch. A field trip is being planned by the Environmental Department, Mr. David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison, Mr. Randy Roach, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Officer, Mr. Billy Smith, Magnolia Branch Manager, and other CIE officials to visit one of the nearby forests either in Conecuh County, AL or Santa Rosa County, FL where these birds have established a habitat. In this way, we can see what work has to be done at Magnolia to attract the birds. We hope to have that project finished within two years and place signs at the entrance to the park, denoting Magnolia as a sanctuary. The Environmental Department partners with the Fish & Wildlife Office in Daphne, AL, under the direction of Mr. Randy Roach, Bob Hastings from the Alabama Heritage group out of Auburn, AL, along with other entities to make these events happen. A comprehensive Zoological and Natural Community Survey was made by the Alabama Heritage Group on fish, plant, animal and forest activity at Magnolia Branch with future recommendations included. A grant was received from Fish and Wildlife that purchased some property that will further enhance the Magnolia Branch Reserve, making it a safe haven for fish, red cockeyed woodpecker, the gopher/tortoise, as well as other animals and reptiles found by the survey.

The Department has purchased and started the first bio-diesel operation for the Tribe. The plant is located at the Recycling Center. If you desire to see this, please call and make an appointment with our Environmental Specialist, Mr. John English, who is the operator of the plant. We hope to make enough fuel to furnish all the Tribe's diesel trucks/equipment in their day-to-day operation. The first batch was computed to cost us \$1.08/gallon which is a

substantial savings with the price of regular diesel at this time. We are excited about this.

We have also installed our first air monitor which will help measure the particulate air emissions from gravel mining and ozone level. There will be two mounted but only one has been installed at this writing. They are located near the fire station.

We have been partnering this year with some of the schools on environmental projects. The one that we have just finished was Escambia County Middle School where we assisted Ms. Gloria Fowler in establishing a wetlands with an outdoor classroom nearby. This will enable the science teacher to take her class outside near the wetlands whereby the children can see the subject matter, insects and animals, first-hand that as she is teaching. John English of our department built a weir for her to put in the wetlands to control the water in the stream. She also established a butterfly garden nearby which is most attractive. This fall John will assist Ms. Fowler with another project at Huxford Elementary School.

Another interesting project we have been involved with is an "old" chemical clean-out at the schools in this area. A grant was written and there have been about six schools visited and some had a substantial amount of old chemicals that needed to be disposed. Some of these schools had a room that had been locked up or abandoned for years where the former science teacher had left these old chemicals and not aware of the hazard they were. We enlisted the help of Mr. Ken Nafe from the Department of Tennessee Environmental and Conservation, who is an expert on this subject, and he and one of his colleagues came down and assisted the department in cleaning out approximately 4,000 pounds thus far. We have found four more schools that need our assistance and are awaiting Mr. Nafe's schedule to come and assist in this endeavor. We buy new chemicals that are taken to replace the ones we take out so this helps the schools replenish their laboratories.

The Department is also working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on obtaining premise registrations from anyone having horses, cows, swine, buffalo, goats, and sheep. This entails speaking with the individuals who own the animals, telling them this registration is being done to track an animal that might contract a disease that could spread to others and in this way they would receive help in preventing the disease from spreading. We hope to be able to buy chips to insert in the animal to keep a track record of all animals in the very near future. John English uses a GPS system to identify premises and then

registers them on a national database. During this next year we are going to be conducting a neutering service for tribal members here on the reservation. We have submitted a proposal and have received word verbally this has been approved.

We just received word that we have received a grant to aid in establishing a safe place to take care of animals in case of an emergency situation. We are continually writing grants and have been most successful in getting most of them awarded.

We have also been assisting Wind Creek construction personnel with environmental permits and concern. They have some fine people in charge and it is a pleasure to work with them. They always keep us informed on the construction, not only at Wind Creek but all construction projects on the trust and reservation land. At the present time, we are working with them on the new Sports Complex that is being built, the new smoke shop/gas station, and all other projects at Wind Creek.

A great big "THANK YOU" is given to a Life Scientist who has been working in the Department for three years – that is DR. TROY PIERCE. Region IV, Environmental Protection Agency, loaned him to our department under a first-ever IPA Agreement. We have Mr. Jimmy Palmer, Region IV Administrator and Mr. Bill Patton, Region IV Indian Coordinator to thank for this generous effort on their part. Laura Cook, Environmental Director, was constantly asking for them to help her locate a person of Dr. Pierce caliber to come to work for Poarch. Laura had worked with Dr. Pierce when she had a pesticide grant and knew his credentials so when Bill Patton asked what she thought about Dr. Pierce, she quickly told him this would be the perfect person and that is how Dr. Pierce was loaned to Poarch and now that he has left, it leaves a big void in the department.

So if you see the Environmental truck going by, we are not just driving around the reservation but you will now know this is a busy department. We constantly get calls to come and get snakes, gophers, turtles, etc. for placement in a safe environment.

If you would like to visit our department you will have to come to the back door (facing the Health Department), ring the doorbell and we will let you in. We do not have access to the other side very readily. Just one quick look and you will wonder how we do so much in such a small space.



**1750+ ATTEND 2008 ANNUAL CELEBRATION 875
TRIBAL MEMBERS REGISTER FOR COMPLMENTARY
GIFT & DOOR PRIZES**

Thank You

Submitted by Edie Jackson

Another Annual Celebration is behind us and I would like to say "Mvto!" to those who helped make this event successful.



A lot of preparation goes into putting on this event; some of it months in advance, but there are some things that cannot be done until the morning of. I want to thank everyone who helped plan and implement this huge accomplishment. The

words "Thank You" are not sufficient, but are heartfelt.

I won't name names because I might overlook someone who put their heart and soul into the occasion, but you know who you are. Thank you to those on the committee, to the staff whose responsibility it was to assist in the planning and coordination, to the cooks and cook's helpers, to those who stepped up and volunteered, some for the fourth time, some for the first time.



Thank you to those who attended to enjoy the day but stepped up and helped out as they saw a need arise, thank you to all those who stopped to pick up trash and put it in the trash cans, thank you to those who helped make sure the workers got a little something to eat, the thanks go on and on ...



We would like input from you the Tribal Member on how we can improve this annual event. Watch your newsletter and mailboxes for more information on this topic.



BIRTHDAY WISHES

Helen Hallman



Helen Hallman turned 70 on July 16th; her family took her on a river boat cruise aboard the General Jackson in Nashville, TN to celebrate. They enjoyed a fabulous meal of roast beef, chicken and all the fixin's.

Even more fabulous was the entertainment provided by Tina Turner, Sir Elton John, and Elvis!! (impersonators) Elvis even gave Helen a special birthday smooch on the cheek!!!

Family, friends, and staff gathered at Creek Family Restaurant the next week to celebrate Helen's birthday with her as well.



Thelma Williamson



Thelma Williamson celebrated her 50th birthday on July 23, 2008.



Velma Hollingsworth

Thelma's twin sister, Velma Hollingsworth, also celebrated her 50th birthday on the 23rd.



Amber Lisenby



Amber, we would all like to say:
"COROLOFAN AFVCKVA!"
Happy Birthday!
With all our love: Momma, Granny & Papa Daughtry, Denise, Megan & Mallory, Rosaline, Logan & Tyler, Sydney, Colby & Alex!

Bringing a positive change to our Community; The Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council

By: Alex Alvarez, Cultural Educator

This summer, the Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council passed its first-ever tribal resolution. The resolution adopted the Community Improvement Act of Summer 2008 and called to action a plan that would help bring about a positive change within our reservation. Earlier this summer, the youth council met each Monday and discussed problems occurring on the reservation, the top two being that our Tribal Elders don't receive enough interaction with young people nor the recognition they deserve, and that our young people fall victim to many adversities while in the school setting. Using Robert's Rules of Order, agendas, and meeting minutes, the tribal youth council planned two wonderful projects: the Tribal Elder Recognition Project and The Native Youth Issues Forum.

Throughout the Tribal Elder Recognition Project, youth council members met and interviewed several of our Tribal elders, from whom they learned a great deal. It was wonderful to hear them share their memories and hardships with us. We asked the elders what advice they would give the young people of the tribe. Many of the answers included: putting God first, stay away from drugs and alcohol, receive an education, and work hard to keep the community together. We will continue our interviews throughout the year. If you know of any tribal elder who would like to be interviewed, please feel free to contact me at anytime to set up a date & time. The week of recording was concluded by a breakfast prepared by the youth council for the senior citizens. All the food prepared was bought out of the kids' own pockets. Our tribal seniors spend a great amount of time cooking for others, and the youth council wanted to show their appreciation by cooking for them. We hope to create more opportunities within our community for our youth to learn from our elders. This is the Indian way.

The Native Youth Issues Forum was successful as well. The tribal youth council developed skits with the purpose to show tribal youngsters how to make the right decisions when confronted with issues such as: tobacco, alcohol, drugs, peer pressure, bullying, diversity, teen pregnancy, and many others. Each skit displayed what happens when the wrong choice was made, and when the right choice was made. The main purpose of the forum was to empower our youth to make the right decisions when put in a difficult situation, because as we all know, they will happen. At the end of the program, the youth council then divided up the audience into two teams: Team Fire and Team Apocolypto. Each team came up with their own skit combating one of the tuff issues that our tribal youth face throughout their lives. In the end, each attending child was a winner.

Our precious native heritage teaches many values and morals including: taking care of the elders, because they are the backbone of what you build your life upon, and the youth, because they are the leaders of tomorrow. The Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council will continue to complete community service projects in hopes of building a stronger community. I would like to thank the elders for their efforts, tribal children for attending, all the staff

and volunteers who helped out, and last but not least, the Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council. You all continue to amaze me with what you can accomplish. I am truly blessed to work beside you.



Cultural Education in Full Throttle!

By: Alex Alvarez, Cultural Educator

Greetings everyone! The summer time was busy for the Cultural Education Program. First, participants in Wellness & Activities' Summer Youth program became students of the Meske Emahakv Cuko, or summer academy. These classes were held in the very building which many of you received your education, the old school house, now named the Calvin McGhee Cultural Center. The children received a considerable amount of cultural-based instruction. Each week, participants met Tuesdays for Language & History, Wednesdays for Song, Dance, Music, & Games, and Thursdays for Arts & Crafts. Participating students can now speak sentences

in the Mvskoke Language, as well as tell about our precious history. Students also learned how to play such games as: stickball, Indian football, Hand-Game, Indian Dice, and a



favorite, Duck, Duck, Goose, Creek style! Students also created their own self-portraits labeling all the parts of the human face in the Creek language, and were able to make pottery out of clay. Students also learned many dances such as stomp dance and the ever-popular Indian two-step. Students also received outdoor education and learned about many medicinal plants found within our community on a nature walk.

Aside from teaching Summer Youth classes, the Cultural Education Program was able to provide quality Cultural presentations to many organizations. These organizations include: Jay Elementary, Mobile Alabama's LDS church, the 2008 Poarch Creek Work/Learn Program, Pensacola Navy Base's Corry Station Child Development Center, Monroe County Library, and ending with our very own Annual Celebration.

The Poarch Creek Cultural Education's main two goals are: 1. teaching our culture so that it may live on forever and 2. promoting a healthy image of the Poarch community as well as Native American Culture in general. I feel that with the progress made this summer, we are well on our way to reaching those goals! If you know of any organization or school who would like a Cultural Presentation/Performance, please contact me at: aalvarez@poarchcreekindiansnsn.gov or (251) 253-5904. I would like to send a big MVTO! to the Wellness & Activities staff who made the summer youth program successful and aided greatly in the success of the Cultural Education Program. Also, I would like to send my sincere appreciation to all those who thought that much of the Cultural Program to request us. It was truly an honor!



July Employee of the Month



The Employee Awards Committee has selected Kathy Ledkins, Special Assistant to the Family Services Executive Director, as the July 2008 Employee of the Month. As Special Assistant, Kathy is responsible for maintaining the bookkeeping and works closely with federal accounting to maintain accuracy of federal funds allocated to the FSD, supervision of Family Services Clerk and the Goodwill Easter Seals

Senior employees, assists the FSD director with the preparation of required reports to the appropriate federal and BIA program divisions, maintain the central file system for the Family Services Department, travel reports, coordinate meetings between staff/administration. This is Kathy's third time to receive the award since coming to work with the Tribe on September 27, 1992.

Kathy stated that her boss, Carolyn White, Family Services Executive Director, told the FSD staff that they were going to a meeting with Tribal Administration. Being an efficient employee, Kathy took her pen and paper with her to take notes but when she entered the conference room Edie Jackson, Tribal Administrator, told her to come and fix herself a plate because she had been chosen for EOM. Kathy states that she appreciates the Tribe for giving her a chance over sixteen years ago when she was fresh out of Business School and looking for employment. She says that she has seen lots of changes over the years some positive and some negative but all in all the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is a great place to work. "I'm blessed and thankful. I want to thank the EOM committee for this honor."

Her first thought after being told that she had been selected was total surprise. "I didn't figure I would ever get EOM for three times and getting this made me feel really special, I love my job and co-workers. I appreciate the nomination from whoever nominated me and I hope I continue to learn. My favorite part of this selection is all of it, the money, gifts, and my own parking spot for a month and the recognition that comes with the award." To whom does she attribute her success? "I have to give honor to my mother Verlie McGhee Bailey for raising me to be a good respectable person with good morals and have respect for my elders and fellow man, she taught me to work hard and not be lazy. I have tried to follow in her work ethic; I've seen her fingers bleed from working so hard in the fields. I'm happy that I decided to get some education and try and better myself so that I wouldn't have to see my own fingers bleed but regardless of what work we are doing whether in the field or behind a desk we still need to work as hard as we can and accomplish what we set out to do if at all possible. I believe in not being a 'quitter'." Kathy says that the greatest aspect of her job is getting to see the faces of Tribal members when they have just gotten out of a crisis situation because of not having enough money to make ends meet. She also enjoys the extra activities that the director plans for community involvement; the participation and comradery of staff as they help others with a true affectionate appeal is heartwarming. If she could change one thing about her job it would have to be working shorter hours so that she could spend more hours of the day with her family; she would also like to make her own flex hours on a daily basis (wishful thinking). Kathy is married to Joe Ledkins and has three children, Stephen, Stephanie, and Brian and five grandchildren, Cole Whatley, Cierra McGhee, Nevaeh Ledkins, Kelsey Ledkins, and Victoria Ledkins. In her spare time she enjoys writing poems, crocheting, making homemade things, cooking, and trying new recipes.

GREETINGS FROM THE ETHIC'S CORNER

BY: CARRIE MARTIN, ETHICS CHAIR



SUMMERTIME HAS BEEN UPON US FOR THE PAST MONTH AND I HOPE THAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING WELL IN KEEPING COOL, AND WELL HYDRATED. THIS MONTH I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT GIFTS AND KEY EMPLOYEES. IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ETHICS BOARD THAT MANY PHONE CALLS ARE MADE REGARDING GIFTS. UNDER THE

OLD ETHICS CODE, GIFTS WERE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE AS LONG AS THEY WERE DISCLOSED TO THE ETHICS BOARD. ACCORDING TO THE NEW ETHICS CODE. (I HOPE EVERYONE HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PICK ONE UP.)

THE RULE GOVERNING GIFTS IS:

NO TRIBAL OFFICIAL OR KEY EMPLOYEE SHALL SOLICIT OR ACCEPT ANY GIFT FROM ANY SINGLE SOURCE HAVING A MARKET VALUE OF MORE THAN \$150.00 AT ANY ONE TIME FROM:

1. A PERSON OR ORGANIZATION THAT IS SEEKING OFFICIAL OR PROFESSIONAL ACTION OR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FROM THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OR A KEY EMPLOYEE, OR
2. A PERSON OR ORGANIZATION THAT IS SEEKING A CONTRACT, FINANCIAL, OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF BUSINESS WITH THE TRIBE.

NOW, AS ALWAYS, THERE IS AN EXCEPTION TO ANY RULE, AS WE ALL KNOW SO WELL. IN REGARDS TO THE SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS RULE, **THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT GIFTS:**

1. GIFTS FOR SOCIAL OR TRADITIONAL EVENTS
2. COMPLIMENTARY GIFTS OFFERED TO MEMBERS OF PUBLIC AT LARGE, PROMOTIONAL ITEMS, GIFTS RELATED TO MASS ADVERTISING MAILING, OR ATTENDANCE AT A CONFERENCE OR A CONVENTION.
3. GIFTS A PERSON RECEIVES ON BEHALF OF THE TRIBE DURING COURSE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER TRIBAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS.
4. PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS OR HONORS
5. FOOD AND BEVERAGE AT BANQUETS, RECEPTIONS, BUSINESS DINNERS CONFERENCES OR SIMILAR EVENTS
6. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT ARE MADE ACCORDING TO ELECTION LAWS.

WHO IS A TRIBAL OFFICIAL? A TRIBAL OFFICIAL IS ANY CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR OFFICE, OR HAS BEEN ELECTED OR APPOINTED TO:

1. TRIBAL COUNCIL
2. COMMITTEE
3. COMMISSION
4. AUTHORITY
5. BOARD
6. ANY ORGANIZATION WHICH RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM THE TRIBE

Ethic's Corner Continued

WHO IS A KEY EMPLOYEE? A KEY EMPLOYEE IS DEFINED AS:

1. ANY ADMINISTRATOR
2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENT, AN AUTHORITY, OR A COMMISSION
3. TRIBAL ATTORNEY
4. PROCUREMENT OFFICER
5. PRESIDENT
6. VICE-PRESIDENT
7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
8. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
9. GENERAL MANAGER
10. ANY MEMBER OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF A TRIBAL ENTITY WHO HAS DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY REGARDING TRIBAL FUNDS OR PROPERTY

WHILE THE ETHICS BOARD IS WILLING TO ANSWER ANY QUESTION YOU MAY HAVE THROUGH AN ADVISORY OPINION, PLEASE REMEMBER THE ETHICS CODE IS SET UP TO DEAL WITH ISSUES OR CONCERNS OF KEY EMPLOYEES ONLY. ALL OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE EMPLOYED WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OR TRIBAL ENTITY SHOULD CONSULT THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ETHICAL ISSUES WITHIN THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT.

REMEMBER, YOU CAN GET A COPY OF THE NEW REVISED ETHICS CODE FROM THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, TRIBAL COURT, OR THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE. ALL ADVISORY OPINIONS OR COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE SENT TO MR. CHUCK JOHNS, ETHICS OFFICER VIA HAND DELIVERY OR MAIL TO THE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX, LOCATED ON JACK SPRINGS ROAD.

AS ALWAYS, ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE ETHICS BOARD, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEEK ADVISORY OPINIONS.

Schedule of Events for September 2008

Tuesday, September 2, 2008

NO Tribal Council Meeting – CANCELLED

Deadline for October Article Submission 5:00 p.m.

Opening date for Board/Committee Vacancies

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Special Education Overview 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Housing Authority Meeting 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Tribal Council Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 20, 2008

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Housing Authority Meeting 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

Closing Date for Board/Committee Vacancies

Opening Date for Christmas Share Program Applications

Reminders GED Classes August 12, 2008 - October 29, 2008 Tuesday & Wednesday
Homework Club Every Monday-Thursday
Update/Submit Housing Applications

Complete Eyecare Is More Than Just A Vision Exam

Premier Family EyeCare

Premier Family EyeCare was established as an extension of the Tribal Health Department in February of 2004 for vision care for Tribal Members. Premier was acquired by Creek Indian Enterprises in October of 2004, which allowed Premier to offer their services to Tribal Members and the public. The staff at Premier Family Eye Care is dedicated to providing treatment that will best meet patients' needs. Products offered are the latest in eye care technology to fit everyone's budget. Office hours at Premier are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for dispensing glasses, contacts, repair, etc. Eye exams are scheduled with Dr. Melissa Hoercher, Optometrist, Monday through Thursday.

Dr. Melissa Hoercher earned her degree in Optometry from the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) where she also served her one year residency. After eight years of private practice in Prattville, AL, Dr. Hoercher started seeing patients at Premier Family EyeCare on a part-time basis in 2006. The patient base and services provided has grown to the level that Dr. Hoercher now sees patients Monday through Thursday. Dr. Hoercher was the 2001 Optometrist of the Year and currently serves as President of the Alumni Association of the UAB School of Optometry.



Connie Lambeth serves as Office Manager and Optician for Premier Family EyeCare and has recently been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Alabama Society of Dispensing Opticians (ASDO). She has been employed with the company since it opened its doors in 2004. Not only does Connie perform standard office management duties, she also works closely with Dr. Hoercher to assist patients in the concept of eye health, and ensures that the eye care needs of patients have met Dr. Hoercher's specifications, which includes selection, fitting, assembling and repairing eyewear, etc. Rosie Anderson is the Receptionist for Premier Family EyeCare. She assists patients with scheduling, frame selection, and is the smiling face patients see as they come through the door.

Dr. Hoercher explained that Premier Family EyeCare is a Tribal Enterprise and not part of the Health Clinic and therefore does not operate under Indian Health Services (IHS) funding. She says that sometimes Tribal Members get upset because their exam, eyewear, etc. are not covered by IHS. Dr. Hoercher and her staff are quick to reassure them that they do file third party insurance and will assist them in any way they can to make sure their needs are met. If you are a Tribal employee with health insurance through BCBS, you have a vision rider that covers up to \$300 per year for vision care. Often times an eye exam will result in a medical diagnosis which will have the visit fall under your regular health insurance coverage. Premier works closely with the Tribal Health Clinic's diabetic program to ensure that Tribal Members receive the necessary eye care to prevent vision loss.



Premier uses the most advanced technology and advanced equipment to provide services to its patients. An ophthalmoscope is used to see inside your eye to check for cataracts, retinal problems, and evidence of systemic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure. The eye is the best way to look into the body without surgery to check for these conditions. A pressure test for glaucoma is done with the tonometer; other special procedures include visual fields and slit lamp biomicroscopy. Premier does not offer on-site lasik eye surgery, the latest in vision correction technique, but they do offer consultations, referrals to the authorized physicians who do perform the surgery,

and follow up care.

Premier has been fortunate to secure two grants that have helped them provide education and services to Tribal Members and the local community. The American Optometric Association's Healthy Eyes Healthy People program allowed Dr. Hoercher and her staff to provide education, health promotion, and disease prevention to our community through preschool vision screening, elementary school visits, radio station programs, health fairs, and local hospitals. If your child participated in any of these screenings, please know that this was not an eye exam. If problems were discovered during the screening, please contact Premier to schedule a complete eye exam. Through the Healthy Eyes Healthy People program it was discovered that there were a significant number of individuals in our community who could not afford to get eyeglasses. This lead Premier to the Eye Sight Foundation of Alabama and the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, a private charity organization that provided funding for the medically indigent who were unable to afford glasses. Limited funds through this program are still available. If you are interested in this program, please contact the Jill Lee in the WIC Department at (251) 368-9136 x2372.

In closing, Dr. Hoercher and her staff encourage you to give them a call and schedule an eye exam because eye health is more than just being able to see. Each eye exam is two pronged, the first is for vision assessment and then the eyes are dilated for health assessment. To schedule an appointment with Premier call (251) 446-3937.



Poarch Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

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