

Keeping the Family and Friends of Poarch Informed

October 2008

www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

VOLUME 25 • ISSUE 9

POARCH CREEK NEWS



Stephanie Bryan
Vice-Chair

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www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

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PUBLICATION/PRINTING SERVICES

The Poarch Creek News is printed and published by Huskey Printing, a Tribal Member owned business. Huskey Printing is owned by Christy O'Barr Huskey.

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CELEBRATION BANQUET

If you or a loved one has been affected by Diabetes, please come out and fellowship with us. Enjoy good food, good friends, and listen to some fun and entertaining people.

Thursday, October 23, 2008

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Family Services Auditorium

5811 Jack Springs Road

Atmore, AL 36502

Please RSVP no later than

October 20, 2008 to:

Jennifer Coon – (251) 368-9136 x 2371

or

Donna Johnson – (251) 368-9136 x 2332

Committee/Board Vacancy

The Tribal Council is currently accepting applications for one position on the Perdido River Farms Board. Applications are available at the Chairman's Office and online at www.poarchcreekindiansnsn.gov.

Applications will be accepted from 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 1, 2008 to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 30, 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.

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. Articles are printed as submitted except for authorized editing. For your convenience, the deadlines for submissions are listed below:

Month of Publication	Deadline
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 October, 2008

Greetings from the Chairman's Office. We have begun our transition into the fall season and many of you are probably enjoying a great game of football. Hopefully soon the

weather will cool a little so we can also enjoy more outdoor activities. Just remember to be safe and protect yourselves from those pesky mosquitoes which can sometimes carry the West Nile virus.

We completed our Tribal Council Retreat and as promised I am able to give you a brief update on our progress. We completed several of our agenda items and also benefited from a very good Team Building exercise. We continue to stay focused on the betterment of you, our Tribal Members, and the Tribe as a whole. With that being said, in the next paragraphs I am happy to share with you some very exciting news regarding the new Health Insurance Plan.

The Tribal Council is pleased to announce that uninsured members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians will soon have access to health insurance. On August 5, 2008 after months of analysis, cost comparisons, and planning, the Tribal Council approved a health plan that will provide basic health benefits to all uninsured Tribal members ages 18 to 64. This plan will become effective January 1, 2009. All individuals 65 and over are eligible for Medicare.

This plan, which will be administered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Alabama, is a basic health plan that provides in-patient and out-patient hospital services, physician services, prescription drug benefits and certain preventive care services. Although, Blue Cross/Blue Shield will administer the plan, it is a self-funded program and will be fully funded by the Tribe. It is important to note that the plan provides only basic benefits. It is intended to help our clinic meet the needs of uninsured tribal members who rely solely on the Clinic and those uninsured members living so far away they cannot travel to the Clinic.

Services currently provided by the PCI Health Clinic will not change in any way. The Clinic delivers outstanding services and Tribal members are encouraged to continue using the Clinic for their medical needs. Services provided by the Clinic will continue to be free and no co-pays or deductibles will apply. If you participate in this health insurance plan and seek outside health care without a referral from the Clinic, you will be responsible for any co-pays or deductibles which will be more fully outlined in the Health Insurance Plan packet.

Tribal members who currently have health insurance should not terminate any existing coverage in exchange for this plan. If you feel the plan being offered by the Tribe is better than your current plan contact Tim Manning, Tribal Member Benefits Executive Director, at telephone number 251-368-9136 ext. 2007 for a

detailed analysis. Options are being explored to determine a benefit that may be offered to Tribal members who already have health insurance.

Community meetings on the plan will be conducted on the following dates at the indicated locations:

- Thursday, October 16th, 7:00 pm,
Building 500 -Family Services Auditorium
Poarch, Alabama.
- Thursday, October 23rd, 7:00 pm,
Fraternal Order of the Eagles
105 Kenmore Road , Pensacola, Florida

A package containing details of the plan and an enrollment form will be mailed to all Tribal members ages 18 to 64. This information and enrollment forms are available online at www.poarchcreekindians.org. The Tribal Member Benefits Department, directed by Mr. Tim Manning, is available to answer questions and provide assistance.

ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

As stated earlier the effective date of this plan is January 1, 2009. **All uninsured Tribal members must be enrolled by November 15, 2008.**

The Tribal Council is pleased to offer this service in order to help meet the health needs of all uninsured members. If you are reading this and have not received your packet please contact Mr. Tim Manning, Tribal Member Benefits Executive Director.

Tribal Member Participates in Historic Reenlistment Ceremony

Service members from all over Iraq gathered in the Al Faw Palace rotunda at Camp Victory, Baghdad, to reenlist and celebrate Independence Day. All 1,215 service members celebrated by raising their right hands and pledging to continue defending the "land of the free" in what is the largest reenlistment ceremony since the all-volunteer force began in 1973. "Volunteering to continue to serve our nation, while deployed - is both noble and inspiring," said Gen. David Petraeus, commanding general, Multi-National Forces - Iraq. "It is, as award citations often state, in keeping with the finest traditions of our military services."



Sgt. Kenneth McGhee, son of Glenn and Billie Jo McGhee, was a part of this reenlistment ceremony. Kenneth is an Army Medic/EMT and an ambulance driver at the military hospital in Balad, Iraq. He, like many of the other military personnel, volunteers his free time at the military hospital in Balad. This is his second tour in Iraq.

You can visit www.network54.com/Forum/211833/thread/1215229842July+4,+2008+-+Largest+Reenlistment+Ceremony+in+U-S-+History for additional photos and a video of this monumental occasion.

This article was generated from an e-mail from Mrs. Billie McGhee and the above referenced web site.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Submitted by Wanda Fowler, Victim's Advocacy Coordinator

As we have done in the past years, the Family Services is asking that you wear purple ribbon pins during the month of October. These pins can be a simple ribbon or you can come by the Family Services Department and pick up a pin.

Domestic Violence is a crime affecting people of all races, ages, income levels, and gender. It is not a private matter, a couple's problem, or just a domestic "squabble", or a "fight." It affects the whole family. Violence is a choice the abuser makes to control and hurt, and often, plans have to be made in order for the victim to leave safely. Poarch has our own Shelter, The Creek Safe Haven, which is available to tribal members. There are other shelters in each state and county, listed below, which provide help to victim's 24 hours a day. The Light House is the shelter that covers Escambia County or the Alabama Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-650-6522 for help. In case of immediate danger, call 911!

You have the right to be safe. When you keep yourself safe, you are teaching your children to be safe.

All emergencies, call 911

Domestic Violence, call 1-800-650-6522

Escambia County Southwest Mental Health Center: 251-368-1675

National Suicide Hotline: 1-800-784-2433

PCI Health Department Human Services: 251-253-0993

PCI Tribal Court Juvenile Probation: 251-752-0274

Baldwin Co. AL.

County wide Sheriff 251-937-0202

Department of Human Resources 251-580-2800

SAIL (Relocation/supportive services) 251-580-2810

The Lighthouse DV Shelter 1-800-543-5068

Escambia Co. AL.

Department of Human Resources 1-251-809-2000

DV Crime Unit 1-251-809-0647

SAIL (Relocation/supportive services) 1-251-809-2008

Sheriff 1-251-368-4779

The Lighthouse DV Shelter 1-800-543-5068

Escambia Co. FL.

County wide Sheriff 1-850-436-9598

Department of Children and Families 1-850-595-8200 or the Abuse Hotline 1-800-962-2873

Pensacola City Police 1-850-435-1987

Favor House DV Shelter 1-800-500-1119

Mobile Co. AL.

County wide Sheriff 1-251-574-8062

Department of Human Resources 1-251-450-1800 (for Adult Services) or 1-251-450-9100 (for Child Welfare)

Penelope House DV Shelter 1-251-342-3144 (Serves all victims in all courts)

SAIL (Relocation/supportive services) 1-251-450-1915

Monroe Co. AL.

County wide Sheriff 1-251-575-2963

Department of Human Resources 1-251-743-5900

Opportunity House DV Shelter 1-251-493-2320

SAIL (Relocation/supportive services) 1-251-743-5900

Poarch Band of Creek Indians

The Family Services

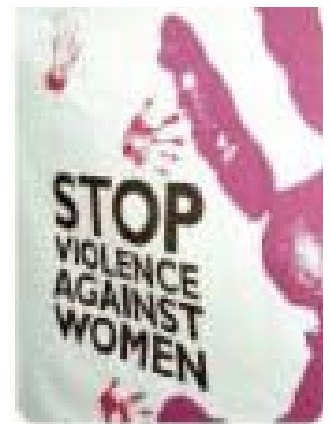
Department 1-251-368-9136
ext 2600

Public Safety 1-251-368-5011

(serves Escambia County, FL;

Baldwin, Escambia, Mobile

and Monroe Counties in AL)



Blast From The Past



Do you recognize any of the cast of characters from the first Health Fair?

Poarch Creek Indians
**38th Annual
Thanksgiving
Pow Wow**

November 27 & 28, 2008

\$32,000+ in Cash & Prizes

Opening Ceremonies – 12:00 noon

Grand Entry Thursday @ 1:00 pm
Friday @ 11:00 am

HEAD STAFF

Emcee	Neil Lawhead
Arena Director	Dude Blalock
Host Northern Drum	Tha Boyz
Host Southern Drum	Cozad
Host Local Drum	Medicine Tail

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

Crowning of Poarch Creek Princesses
Poarch Creek Pow Wow Club
Oklahoma Creek Stomp Dancers
Turkey Shoot, Pig Chase, and other
games for kids of all ages

ADMISSION

\$5 Adults (12 & Up)

\$3 Children (11-6)

Free: Children 5 & under

All PBCI Tribal Members
get in free with valid Tribal ID

Poarch Creek Indians



Haunted Forest

Pow Wow Grounds

Wednesday & Thursday

Oct 28th & 29th

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Friday October 31st

7:00 pm Until

(Trunk or Treat as well)

**See Ya There!
If you Dare!!**



Admission

\$3

**For more info call
368-9136
ext. 2256 or 2246**

The Ethic's Corner

By Carrie Martin, Chair

Greetings from the Ethic's Board. By the time this article is printed, I hope that the hurricane season is over with and everyone fared well. So far, we have been blessed. This month I would like to discuss another one of the Standard of Conduct in the Ethic Code which was established by the Tribal Council.

ABUSE OF AUTHORITY

1. No Tribal Official or key employee shall knowingly make any decisions or enter into promises of any kind that may be binding upon the Tribe unless he or she is properly authorized.

2. No Tribal Official or key employee shall use his or her authority or position to intimidate or improperly influence any fellow Tribal Officials or employees to act in a way that violates any applicable law, policies, or procedures.

SCENARIO: Penny Little is a board member who likes to frequent the local tribal establishments from time to time. Penny's board position is one in which she thinks she should be seen in the public eye as much as possible. Therefore, she is in and out of tribal government facilities and enterprises on a regular basis. Employees are well aware of Penny and her frequent visits to their departments or establishments. Some people feel uncomfortable with this, but because of Penny's board position feels that she could cause trouble for them with management if the issue was addressed.

One evening Penny was out doing her usual public image appearances and visited the local casino. While Penny was walking around talking with everyone, etc., she noticed an area of the casino which had several empty containers and chairs out of place. Penny saw a housekeeping employee and reported what she had seen. The employee told Penny they would get to it in a few minutes that they needed to finish the task at hand that they were doing.

Penny, became infuriated that the employee did not immediately respond to what she had asked. She immediately went to the manager on duty and informed them of what had happened. She even went so far to say that she felt the employee was disrespectful to her. The manager being aware of Penny's position took immediate action to correct the situation and the employee was reprimanded.

Did Penny abuse her authority according to the abuse of authority standard of conduct established by the Tribal Council? YOU DECIDE

A reminder that you can obtain a copy of the new Ethic Code either from the Legal Department, Tribal Court, or Chairman's Office. Any complaints or advisory opinions should be mailed or hand delivered to Chuck Johns, Ethic Officer, c/o PCI, 5811 Jacks Springs Rd, Atmore, AL 36502.

The Wood Shake and Shingle Roof Hazard

A house can be threatened by a wildfire in three ways: direct exposure to flames, radiated heat, and airborne embers. Of these, embers account for the majority of homes burned by wildfire. The most vulnerable part of a house to flying embers is the roof.

Because of its angle, the roof can catch and trap these embers. If the roof is constructed of combustible material such as untreated wood shakes and shingles, the house is in jeopardy of igniting and burning.

Not only are combustible roofing materials a hazard to the structure on which they are installed, but also to other houses in the vicinity. Embers from burning wood shakes can be carried blocks away and land on other flammable materials and combustible roofs. Unfortunately for homeowners with existing combustible roofs, there are no



One spark on this roof could be a disaster. Wooden shingles and leaf litter is a hazardous combination.

reliable long-term measures available to reduce vulnerability to wildfire other than re-roofing with fire resistant materials.

For the last few months we have shared information with you from "Living With Fire" a guide for protecting homes from wildfire published by the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) Per the AFC, this information is provided to help you (homeowners, firefighters, and the general public) identify numerous activities that will help you co-exist more safely with wildfire. This is the last of the information we will share with you. If you would like a copy of "Living with Fire: or additional information or assistance, contact the Alabama Forestry Commission or your local fire department.

WIC Assistance

Is your grocery bill getting you down?

WIC can help! WIC is a Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children from the Alabama Department of Public Health.

If you are pregnant, just given birth, breastfeeding or have an infant or a child less than 5 years of age, call today to see if you or your family will qualify for WIC.

Poarch Creek Indians WIC Dept. at
368-9136 ext 2371

An Introduction To The Endowment Committee

The Tribe, including Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIE) and its subsidiaries, are committed to the principles of “social responsibility” and “good citizenship”. The Tribe believes through mutually beneficial partnerships community relationships can be strengthened and overall quality of life can be enhanced. As a result, the Tribal Council created the Endowment Committee in 2007 to implement and maintain a Donations and Sponsorships program with the express purpose of demonstrating good corporate citizenship in the communities served by the Tribe. Through this program, the Tribe supports groups and organizations that operate in the broad community sectors of health and education, which encourages wellness; sports and recreation, to encourage exercising mind and body; arts and culture, which embraces our people’s culture and traditions; environment and community, which is sharing the land and natural resources. All such donations shall be made through the Endowment Committee. In January of each year each entity transfers to Tribal Government all monies allocated for donation for the fiscal year.

The Endowment Committee is made up of five (5) tribal members selected by the Tribal Council. Currently serving on the Committee are Linda Brooks, Chairman, Eldnar McGhee, Vice Chairman, Keesha O’Barr, Secretary, and members at large Lori Findley and Denise Young. The Endowment Committee would like to extend its thanks to former member Stevie McGhee, who served until August of 2008.



*Sitting, l-r Linda Brooks and Eldnar McGhee.
Standing l-r Lori Findley, Keesha O’Barr, and
Denise Young*

Requests for donation are to be submitted in writing to the Endowment Committee at the Tribe’s address or delivered in person to Keesha O’Barr or Lori Findley in Building 300. You can either submit your request in letter form or the committee has created a form that you can use. The Endowment Committee meets once a month, usually the first Tuesday of the month, to review all requests received. Each donation request is reviewed and discussed and preference is given to groups and organizations that:

- Are non-profit and can demonstrate community support and involvement.
- Are working for the benefit of a wide range of stakeholders, such as the youth or senior citizens within a community, particularly those including tribal members.
- Can demonstrate how the money or in-kind donation is to be spent and the expected outcome of the event.
- Commitment to acknowledge the Tribe’s contribution through the placement of various promotional banners, brochures, posters and the Tribe’s logo on promotional material.
- Commitment to acknowledging the Tribe’s contribution by sending letters to community and political leaders and reports on the event through local media.
- Commitment to providing the Tribe with a letter following the holding of the event that summarizes the outcomes and benefits.

The following are generally not considered eligible for donations:

- Individuals
- Advertising and promotions, including advertising solicited on behalf of another organization
- Professional fund raisers working on behalf of an organization
- Generic requests that may have been sent to various organizations – the “To whom it may concern” letter

Application Guidelines

- An outline of the project or event for which the donation is being requested
- The dates and duration of the sponsorship and the expected outcome
- The amount being requested, together with a total budget or projected event cost
- A list of all logos, copies and other support required from the Tribe
- A list of all project contributors or partners, particularly other companies
- A list of personnel, with contact information, involved in running the organization

There is no minimum on donations and applications or requests should be submitted at least one month prior to the scheduled project or event.

In 2007 the Committee made 61 donations totaling \$154,526.65. As of August 1st of this year, they have donated approximately \$277,930. Over the past two years donations have been made to local churches and schools, the National Indian Council on Aging, Native American Music Awards, National Indian Judges Association, Haskell Indian Nations University, Indian Nations Conservation Alliance-Intertribal Agri Council, and many more. Each donation reinforces the social responsibility and good citizenship of the Tribe.



Stephanie Bryan is the Tribal Council Vice-Chair. Stephanie Bryan, is the daughter of Julia Ann (McGhee) Stacey and Donald Ray Abney. She is the granddaughter of the late Doris (Buck) and Lunie Mae McGhee. Great grandparents are Will and Bessie McGhee.



Stephanie at age one.

Stephanie was born at Greenlawn Hospital in Atmore, Alabama and was raised in the Poarch community. She is married to Keith Bryan and has three astonishing children Keisha, Brannon, and Niki and one precious grandson, Taden Blaize Thomas. Stephanie has four siblings: Juliette Haikey, Rodney McGhee, Lathaniel McGhee, and Ruthie Wiggins.

A wonderful childhood memory would be the year she won Elementary Princess. This was a major childhood memory for her because, believe it or not, she was very shy. Another childhood memory was the love and unity her family and community shared. Everyone was just one big family. Everyone would gather on her mother's front porch to socialize and spend quality time together. The name of the street where she resided was called "Monkey Street" and her mom's porch was called



Front row, l-r Ruthie Wiggins, Lunie Mae McGhee, Stephanie Bryan. Middle row l-r Rodney McGhee, Juliette Haikey, Lathaniel McGhee. Back row Julia Ann McGhee Stacey

"Grand Central Station". "Words cannot explain how much I miss those days," Stephanie stated. "We did not have a lot of material

things, but there was always plenty of food to eat and a bundle of love to share. Children today have never experienced 90 degree weather and no air conditioner. Today children are inside an air conditioned home surfing the Internet or playing games such as X-box, Wii, and Play Station. Today cell phones are a necessity. Back during my childhood, cell phones didn't exist. We used a can and a loud mouth. Games played during my childhood were dodge ball, kickball, and softball, which were the type of games we played outside regardless of the heat. We were very lucky if we owned a TV. Wow, how modern technology has changed the future and our lives!"

The first school Stephanie attended was Poarch Community Head Start Program. Two wonderful women worked there and influenced her life at an early age, Mrs. Catherine Sells and Willie Lois Corey. She graduated from Escambia County High School in 1987. She remembers that every year during football season there

was a homecoming court which consisted of one Caucasian maid and one African American maid. In 1985, the homecoming court consisted of an all Indian and African American court. The court

consisted of Tribal Members Janet (McGhee) Ward, Freshman Maid; Stephanie (Abney) Bryan,

Sophomore Maid; Cynthia (Jackson) Alvarez, Junior Maid; and Ruthie (McGhee) Wiggins, Senior Queen. Stephanie attended Jefferson Davis Community College and Faulkner State College.



Stephanie feels that the first major accomplishment in her life was the day she accepted Jesus Christ. Her family has strong religious beliefs, and she was raised with strong religious morals. Stephanie attended Poarch Community Church most of her life and was baptized in the creek located in the "thicket" by David Weaver and Mr. Yoder. "Our church is well known throughout the country for great fellowship and wonderful food," Stephanie stated. Faye and Martha Jackson were the youth music ministry leaders when she was growing up. They instilled in the youth that music serves as a glorious message to the human ear. She stated that her family was a successful accomplishment and a wonderful blessing. Her most enjoyable days are spending quality time with her family and friends.

Her husband, children, and grandson are huge supporters and are a lot of help to her on stressful days. Stephanie stated, "There is no better cure for stress than a loving grandchild, thanks Blaize!" Stephanie said that her family has been very supportive during her life. Some endeavors



Fay Jackson on Guitar. L-r Ruthie Wiggins, Denise Young, Cynthia Alvarez, Althea Bell and Stephanie Bryan on a music ministry trip to Holman Prison

have been quite successful and then there are those that are not so successful, but her family has been there for her through good times and bad. "When life hands you lemons make lemonade." Last, but not least, being elected to Tribal Council, as well as being the first female Vice-Chair for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, was a major accomplishment for Stephanie. She would like to say "THANK YOU" to you, the Tribal Members, for being a part of this accomplishment. If it were not for you she would not be editing this article today, so once again she says "Thank You."

As for influential people in her life, there is not enough space in the newsletter to list them all. Julia Ann (McGhee) Stacey, a single parent to five children, worked two and sometime three jobs to provide for her family. Her mom's past hardships has instilled in Stephanie the motivation that "where there is a will there is a way". Her mother sacrificed a lot in order to provide the family with their needs and sometimes their wishes. Her grandmother, Lunie Mae McGhee, who Stephanie misses dearly,

played a vital role in their lives. Her grandmother taught her how to love unconditionally. She never turned anyone away from her door. She always welcomed anyone into our home, and if she had something to eat you had something to eat. These two wonderful ladies instilled in Stephanie work ethics, morality, and mannerism. Her older siblings were very influential in her life since she was the baby of five.

“There are numerous women who I miss dearly that influenced my life tremendously, and that is Aunt Hattie Mae McGhee, Aunt Willie Lee Martin, Aunt Bert Sells, Aunt Elsie Holland, Aunt Lizza, and Treacy McGhee. As for political influence, my Uncle John Arthur McGhee, better known as the “CORN MAN”, was the most political influence in my life. He sacrificed a lot of memories with his family in order to serve his Tribe. He served on the Tribal Council for 20 plus years. He loved the Tribe and was dedicated to making the best decision for the benefit of the people.”

Stephanie feels that issues faced by the past councils were just as challenging as they are today. “The more complex issues of today are making decisions that are going to positively affect the future and well being of our Tribe, as well as our Tribal Members.” Stephanie would like to thank the leaders of the past for their dedication and commitment to the Tribe. She appreciates the sacrifices they made for the betterment of the Tribe. She stated that she would always respect the nine member team no matter if she was re-elected or not. “Once you are elected and serve, you appreciate what leaders go through in order to govern. I would like to reiterate that it takes the council working together as a team to make things happen for you, the Tribal Member. As a leader of this Tribe I am very open minded and willing to work for the betterment of the Tribe realizing that I cannot conquer or implement anything alone. There is no better feeling as a leader to know that you have made a decision that will positively affect the lives of those you love so dearly.”

Stephanie says that serving on the Council the past two years has been a privilege, as well as an honor. Stephanie has attained knowledge at every level: tribal, state, and national. Title 20 Gaming Ordinance states that the Vice-Chair of the Tribe must

serve as the Chairman of the Tribal Gaming Commission. The ordinance also states that she must enforce regulations and protect all assets derived through Tribal gaming revenues. She plays a very active role in the regulation aspect of Indian Gaming with the National Indian Gaming Commission. She has spent countless hours in meetings assisting with proposed regulatory changes that would affect the Class II gaming industry in Indian Country. Gaming within the state of Alabama is not regulated. “Gaming operations have continued to grow like kudzu in the state of Alabama. When there is growth in the state that means more competition for the Tribe.”

She feels what is permissible within the state should be permissible for Tribal Gaming operations. The majority of revenues that are distributed to you,

whether it be through benefits such as health care, education, family services, or even per capita (birthday checks), are derived through gaming venues. She stated if she did not fight for equality the Tribe would be doomed for a phenomenal decrease in revenue.

Stephanie serves on the Budget & Finance Committee, Education & Labor Committee, and has recently been appointed to serve on the Utilities Authority. Stephanie is also the Chairman of the Tribal Gaming Commission and works extremely hard and dedicates a lot of time to any appointment assigned to her.

“The issues I am most passionate about would be health care, education, senior benefits, Indian Descent, Tribal Members outside the service area (we are all equal), as well as youth involvement.

The children of today hold the future of tomorrow. Instilling in children good work ethics, morals, and mannerism will make them better adults. If it were not for the



Stephanie's Grandmother, mother, and aunts and uncles that she has made a lot of memories with. Front row l-r Hattie Mae McGhee, Lunie Mae McGhee, Ellen Maxine Johnson, Francis Robbins, Julia Ann Stacey. Back row l-r Marie Martin, John A. McGhee, and Clifton McGhee.



Stephanie with her Grandmother, Lunnie Mae McGhee, who she misses dearly!



Stephanie with her siblings, their spouses and children along with the start of the family, Ms Julia Ann McGhee Stacey.



Stephanie with her family at an early Pow Wow. Front row l-r Stephanie, Ruthie and Rodney. Back row l-r Juliette and Julia Ann

Continued on page 15

Poarch Volunteer Fire Department

October is National Fire Prevention Month, a time when we should all be aware of ways to help learn fire safety and prevention. Most Americans underestimate their risk for fire, and many either lack emergency response plans or fail to practice them with fire drills. A press release from The National Fire Protection Association recently stated "... fires killed one person every two and half hours last year. Fire departments responded to 1.6 million fires, the lowest total since 2004. Although the number of fires declined, fire deaths and injuries increased. Home fire deaths accounted for more than eight in 10 of all fire deaths, yet even with an 11 percent increase from the previous year, the number of home fire deaths was the third lowest since 1977. In 2007, fires caused an estimated \$14 billion in property damage, nearly 30 percent increase from the previous year."

The Poarch Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD) stands ready to assist our community in fire protection, prevention, and education. In 1987 Tribal Chairman Eddie L. Tullis approached Ronnie Jackson about establishing the Poarch Volunteer Fire Department. At that time he was appointed Fire Chief and William Bailey was appointed as Assistant Fire Chief. Ronnie and William began their fire training at Whiting Field and later attended classes at the Alabama Fire College. The first recruitment class for PVFD was taught in Atmore with instructors Charlie Rutherford and Glenn Faircloth. From this class PVFD graduated eleven firefighters, Gary McGhee, Kent McGhee, David Kirby, Larry Jackson, Donna McGhee, Rita Tullis, Ray Reed, William Bailey, Ginger Fay, Anthony Kimmons, Gordon Fay, and John Dalrymple. Since this first class, PVFD has grown to the point that they now do their recruitment classes on site as well as attend classes at the Alabama Fire College, as well as Mobile, Monroeville, Atmore, Brewton, Flomaton, and Gulf Shores Fire Departments.

PVFD is made up of 29 volunteer firefighters and one full time Fire Chief, Ronnie Jackson. Ronnie is the only Tribal Member that is FFI Certified member within the fire department and has been Fire Chief since its implementation in 1987. Among the 29 members of PVFD, there are three Paramedics, Chris Rutherford, Judy Kirby, and Danny Lowrey; six EMTs, William Kirby, Chastity Peebles, Theresa Cox, Brandy Rutherford, Christine Ward, and Linda Jackson; six HazMat Technicians, Ronnie Jackson, April Sells, Carla Hammonds, Theresa Cox, William Kirby, Chastity Peebles, and Chris Rutherford, as well as two search and rescue divers, Chris Rutherford and Danny Lowrey. Atmore firefighters Andy Hammonds and Mike Respress also serve as volunteers with PVFD and are HazMat Technicians and quick to respond if they are not on duty at the Atmore Fire Department. PVFD currently has three pumpers, one tanker, one rescue truck, three gators and one equipment trailer used to transport generators and equipment. The Department also has two trailers that can be used for DeCon purposes; two other trailers that will be used in a mass casualty incident; and other trailers that would be used to respond if an incident should occur on or near the Reservation that would last longer than eight hours. As Fire Chief Ronnie has been very successful with securing the most current firefighting equipment and training for the department; training and equipment that has been put to good use and is often the envy of other local volunteer fire departments.

Over the past twenty years the PVFD has responded to calls assisting local fire departments and the prisons. They have responded to calls relating to structure fires, woods fires, airplane crashes, automobile accidents/fires, train derailments, bomb threats, suspicious mail, cave ins, search and rescue missions, gun shots, stabbings, and all types of other medial calls. PVFD has also assisted with securing landing zones for medical helicopters, at the fire station as well as incident sites on I-65. The future also looks promising for PVFD. With the development of the Wind Creek Hotel and Casino, plans for a new fire station is currently on the table. This new fire station will house the most current and effective equipment as well as a staff of full time firefighters. Ronnie states that the training required of these full time firefighters will be intense and he hopes he can fill those full time positions from within PVFD. The ultimate goal is to have three shifts of six firefighters on board around the clock. The new station will not only house firefighters but will also have an Office Manager, an Assistant Fire Chief, and a Training Officer/Inspector. Not only will this new station provide additional fire protection, it will help local homeowners with homeowners insurance because the local rating will go from 6/9 to a possible 4/9. In preparation for the new station, PVFD has purchased two new vehicles. Pumper 704 has been delivered and is on site. This new pumper has a CAFS Air System, which uses foam along with water. Ronnie has schedule training to ensure up to date training for PVFD on this pumper and its capabilities. A Bronto Platform Truck with a 134 foot platform has been ordered and is expected to be delivered by December of this year. When this truck is received, it will be one of five located in the state of Alabama; there is one located at the chemical plant north of Mobile and three in the Birmingham area.

In closing, remember the following:

- Install smoke detectors in all hallways and bedrooms.
- Check all smoke detectors annually to make sure they are functioning.
- Have an escape plan that includes two different ways out of your home/facility.
- Have someone designated to help those that need help getting out.
- Have someone designated to call 911.
- Have a designated meeting place for everyone once they get out of the house/facility.
- Remember-When you get out, don't go back in!



New Pumper

Muskogee Metalworks

Captures Dream By Attaining Quality Credentials

Attaining AS9100 quality certification has required a long term commitment from Muskogee Metalworks, but achieving this milestone in July brought with it the capture of another long term dream. The small, 26-employee manufacturing firm owned by the Poarch Creek Indian Enterprises in Atmore, Ala., also is now recognized by the Boeing Company as one of its certified preferred suppliers – a designation granted only to firms who have undergone the aerospace giant's rigorous evaluation and supplier mentoring/training program.

Muskogee Metalworks garnered the two milestone certifications working through the Alabama-Boeing Supplier Development Program and Alabama Technology Network's (ATN) Auburn University center. The Auburn Technical Assistance Center (ATAC), AU's ATN center, facilitated Muskogee's quality certification training initiative.

AS9100 is the quality measurement standard for the aerospace industry, said Chuck McPherson, ATAC's quality specialist who has guided Muskogee Metalworks through the project for more than a year. Criteria are based on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) requirements; however, the International Aerospace Standard (AS9100) includes some 80 certification measures over and above the ISO certification process for other types of manufacturing.

Attaining AS9100 certification involves an extremely detailed and rigorous process of developing, implementing and training that produces a highly detail-oriented quality system that a company operates within and is measured against, McPherson said. "AS9100 gave us a systematic way to know that we are doing things right," said Muskogee Metalworks General Manager Mal McGhee. "This system provides a way for us to very accurately measure the quality of our products and to have a baseline for our continuous improvement initiatives. We know it will help open doors to new business for us."

In its 90,000 square-foot manufacturing plant, Muskogee Metalworks produces machined parts for military and private enterprises and participates in the U.S. Air Force Manufacturing Technical Assistance Production Program. "We are excited that Muskogee Metalworks has achieved this certification, and we are honored that Boeing could support them as they went through the process," said Boeing Huntsville Supplier Management Director Robin McElyea. "We've worked with Muskogee Metalworks since 2006, and we look forward to continuing that relationship."

McGhee credits the assistance provided through ATAC and the ATN for more than just enabling the company to position itself

more competitively. He also credits specific financial impacts to ATAC-ATN. McGhee says ATAC-ATN training and assistance in developing Muskogee's quality system has directly helped the firm to be able to invest some \$500,000 in additional plant equipment; \$20,000 in information systems software; \$25,000 in workforce development; and some \$10,000 in other areas of the business. Additionally, McGhee says ATAC-ATN is credited

with job retention of at least three positions and the creation of five new ones and ATAC-ATN assistance has helped the company to increase sales some \$250,000 - \$500,000 annually and to retain an equivalent amount in annual product sales. Moreover, ATAC-ATN's assistance enabled Muskogee to reduce overhead by between \$250,000 and \$500,000 annually.

Presenting McGhee with a special banner commemorating Muskogee's AS9100 achievement, ATAC director Henry Burdug called the accomplishment the company's "passport to compete in the world market."



ATAC Director Henry Burdug, front row, left, and Muskogee Metalworks General Manager Mal McGhee, front row, right, are joined by Muskogee Metalworks employees to display the firm's newly attained AS9100 quality banner.

Poarch Creek's tribal council head echoed Burdug's statement adding that the achievement is the culmination of an economic dream for the tribe. "When our tribe originally established this operation, it was one of our goals to be involved in a mentorship program," said Tribal Chairman Buford Rolin. "These achievements are the culmination of a dream for us and the beginning of a strong and productive relationship."

The Alabama-Boeing Supplier Development Program was funded by Alabama's Office of Workforce Development – a grant providing matching funds to qualified Boeing suppliers for workforce development training in existing industries. As a pilot project to the aerospace industry sector, it provided a \$250,000 per year line of support for a three-year cycle through which Boeing partnered with state and local agencies to deliver continuous improvement and quality system training to its supplier base. ATAC-ATN has facilitated this training and assistance throughout the grant period.

Over its three-year cycle, the program has provided assistance to some 15 different firms through more than 18 separate training projects. More than 767 employees have been trained, and economic impacts reported by participating companies indicate that the state's initial investment multiplied 66 times through increased product sales, retained sales, job retention and creation, and the ability for participating companies to reduce costs and overhead.

This article was re-printed with the permission of the Auburn Technical Assistance Center. You can visit their web site at www.auburnworks.org

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Madelyn Hope Boatwright



Madelyn celebrated her 10th birthday on July 14. Her party on July 13th was attended by several family members including her parents, Dewayne & Melanie Boatwright, her brother Logan, Nana Myrtis, Paw-Paw David, Uncle Dave, Jessica and cousin Hayden Connor.

Gracie Buckhault



Gracie Buckhault, daughter of Lisa Barnhill, celebrated her third birthday on July 25, 2008. Happy Birthday Gracie!



Adaline Dortch

Adaline Dortch, daughter of Camile and Nathan Dortch, celebrated her second birthday July 27, 2008. Happy Birthday Adaline!



Ben Moye



Ben Moye, son of Jessica and Rob Moye, celebrated his first birthday on August 21, 2008. Happy Birthday Ben!

Alexis Barnhill

Alexis Barnhill, daughter of Casey and Bill Walker, celebrated her 4th birthday on August 22, 2008.



Cassidy Murphy



Cassidy Murphy, daughter of Ginger and Doug Murphy, celebrated her eighth birthday on August 22, 2008. Happy Birthday Cassidy.

Cindy Martin



Cindy Martin, daughter of Helen Hallman, celebrated her 50th birthday on August 24, 2008. Her co-workers treated her to breakfast to celebrate.

Linda Weaver



Linda Weaver celebrated her 46th birthday on August 28, 2008. She and her staff celebrated with a lunch of green salad with all the trimmings! Happy Birthday Linda!

Upcoming Birthdays

Sara Ruth Crenshaw

Sarah Ruth Crenshaw, daughter of Michael and Rebekah Crenshaw, will celebrate her first birthday on October 15, 2008. Sarah is the granddaughter of Yvonne and Pat Crenshaw and I.V. and Mary Ann McDaniel. She is the great granddaughter of Myrtie and the late Gillis Presley and Johnathan and Ruth Adams Crenshaw. Happy Birthday Sarah!



Love from Poppa & Meme

Tribal Child Care Program

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Family Services Department will be taking applications for the Tribal Child Care Program beginning October 1, 2008 for the new program year. To qualify for child care assistance to cover day care expenses for Tribal Member children. You must meet the following criteria:

- * The household must live in the five-county service area
- * The household must meet income guidelines
- * The child must be under 13 and an enrolled member of the Tribe, and
- * All adult members of the household must be employed or attending job training or an educational program at least 20 hours a week.

NOTE: Verification will be required for residency, income, Tribal membership, and school enrollment.

If you have any questions or wish to schedule an appointment, please contact the Family Services Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2600.

EDUCATION NEWS

ACE Warning against Online GED® Testing

Submitted by Billie McGhee

The American Council on Education's General Educational Development Testing Service™ has issued the following notice:

The General Educational Development Testing Service™ (GEDTS), a program of the American Council on Education® (ACE) and architect of the Tests of General Educational Development (GED Tests), is aware of various entities claiming to offer GED exams online.

Please be advised that the GED credential cannot be earned via the Internet nor through correspondence programs. The GED Tests, developed by GEDTS, require extensive preparation and the demonstration of a high level of high school knowledge and academic skills.

The GED Tests are administered in each U.S. state and insular area, Canadian provinces and territories, the U.S. military, and federal correctional institutions via Official GED Testing Centers ONLY. To identify an Official GED Testing Center, please visit <http://www.acenet.edu/programs/GEDTS> and link to "Locate a GED Testing Center."

Any services that purport to offer a GED credential through any other means are NOT affiliated with GEDTS or ACE, may be of dubious value, and may deliver a product that is not accepted by employers, colleges and universities, or the military.

Hiring personnel, college admissions officers, and military enlistment personnel: To verify the authenticity of an individual's GED credential, please contact the appropriate jurisdictional agency that administered the GED Tests. A complete listing of these agencies can be found at <http://www.gedtest.org> by linking to "Contact your Jurisdiction's GED Testing Program."

For more information on the Tribe's GED Program, please contact Mrs. McGhee at (251) 368-9136 x 2243. For more information on the General Educational Development Testing Service™ (GEDTS), please visit their web site at <http://gedtest.org>

CLOSE UP 2009

Attention Tribal Members & 1st Generation Indian Descent students in the 9th - 12th grade! The Tribe is now accepting applications for Close Up 2009.

What is Close Up?

The "Close Up" program is a week long look at political life in Washington, DC, where you will experience the beauty of the city, have a chance to visit its landmarks and attend cultural events! You will also have a chance to meet with teens from other USET tribes!

When is Close Up?

During the week of February 8th - February 14th, 2009, selected students in grades 9-12 will attend the "Close Up American Indian Youth Summit", which will be held in conjunction with USET's annual Impact Week Meeting.

How can you go to Close Up?

Contact the PCI Education Department for application requirements and information regarding our selection process. All applications must be received by the PCI Education Department no later than Friday, October 7, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

All applicants must be at least 15 years old.

If you or your parents have any questions about Close up 2009, contact:

Sandra Hiebert (251) 368-9136 x 2020
shiebert@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

or

Christyn Sells (251) 368-9136 x 2244
csells@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

Boards/Committees/Authorities

Chairperson and Term Limits As of August, 2008

* Indicates Chairperson

TC indicates Tribal Council Representative

Muskogee Metalworks

April Sells* 2
Timmy Ramer 5
Emmitt Dale 4
Debra Strickland 3
Corey Flowers 1

Best Western Board

Joe Frank McGhee 5
John A. McGhee 3
Pauline Wilson 2
Kay Archer 1
Jack Allen McGhee 4

CIE Development Authority

Ronnie Smith* 3
David Gibbs 5
Robert McGhee 2
Daniel Lambert 1
Connie Naragon 4

Magnolia Branch

Rodney McGhee 5
Charles Ward 2
Eddie Jackson 1
Bodie Tullis 3
Rowdy Boyte 4

Perdido River Farms

Kent McGhee* 3
John English 5
Phillip Martin 1
Dewey McGhee 4
Leroy Tullis 2

Calvin McGhee Cultural Authority

Megan Young 5
Jaime McGhee 1
Lori Sawyer 4
Gale Thrower 3
David Gehman TC

TERO Commission

Wayne Colbert* 4
Lawrence Peebles 5
Debra Strickland 2
Carolyn White 1
Garvis Sells TC

PCI Gaming Authority

Keith Martin* 1
Nancy Lowery 3
Bridget Wasdin 4
Billy Smith 2
Matthew Martin 5

Gaming Commission

Stephanie Bryan* 1
Candace Fayard 5
Vicky Burns 2
Sharon Smiley 3
Savilla McGhee 4

Election Board

Gia Johnson 3
Gilbert McGhee 1
Deloris Kelley 2
Melanie Boatwright/Alternate 3
Velma Crocker/Alternate 1

Utilities Authority

Eddie Tullis 5
Charles "Bo" Bray 3
Lonnie Rackard 2
Brenda Faircloth 1
Josh Martin 4
Ronald Marshall 1
Stephanie Bryan TC

Housing Authority

Lavan Martin* 3
Kevin Andrews 2
Lynn Woodcock 1
Kelli Ramer 5
Teresa Thomas 1
Kevin McGhee 4
Helen Hallman TC

Ethics Board

Carrie Martin* 1
Cornelia Miller 2
Tami Manning 3
Charlotte Meckel 4
Vacant 5
Rayford Rolin/Alternate
Vacant/Alternate

Endowment Committee

Linda Brooks* 1
Keesha O'Barr 2
Eldnar McGhee 3
Denise Young 5
Lori Findley 4

Investment Committee

Cody Williamson* 1
Ryan Exum 5
Ann Brooks 2
Joseph McGhee 3
Sharon Dlinck 4

Environmental Board

Billy Ray Rolin* 4
Vacant 3
James Agerton 2
Billy Smith 1
Daphne Sells 5

Recreation Authority

Ronnie Jackson* 1
Josh Thomas 4
Kevin Snow 3
Edie Jackson 2
Jacob Carlton 5
Ryan Exum 1
Arthur Mothershed TC

Education Advisory Committee

Mary Boyte* 3
Megan Young 5
Karla Martin 2
Jaime McGhee 4
Connie Naragon 1

Enrollment Committee

Nathan Martin* 4
Catherine Sells 3
Mary Jane Tullis 1
Gwen Manning 2
Georgia Griffey 5

elder's wisdom, as well as sacrifices, we would not be here today. So we must enhance and protect their benefits and allow them to enjoy their retirement years. I cannot wait for the day to come when I can participate in the activities and fellowship at the SAIL center.

This is a wonderful program for our senior citizens. The staff at the SAIL center exemplifies a passionate love and dedication to the program. I have never seen a group of people pull together and work well as a team as the staff and participants of the SAIL Center."

If she were not on the Tribal Council she would hope that maybe she would be considered for a board, committee, or authority. She stated she would play an active role in the community because, after all, your community tells the world that we are the "Poarch Band of Creek Indians". As for the future of the Tribe, she stated "The sky's the limit for the Tribe." Stephanie states that her ultimate goal for the future is to employ every Tribal Member that has a desire to work and be a part of the successes of the Tribe, either through direct employment or through Qualified Tribal Business Ownership and establish economic developments that will be revenue producing entities in the event gaming was to cease in the state of Alabama. We should improve our political relationships within the state, as well as educating them to the economic role the Tribe plays within the state. "The Tribe employs an enormous amount of people and hopefully one day we will be one of the largest employers in the state of Alabama. I would love to see more Tribal Members come back to the Poarch Community to enjoy wonderful fellowship, as well as our native culture. I feel there should be more General Council involvement

when deciding future goals of the Tribe. 'The best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time'

Abraham Lincoln."



Stephanie's loving family, l-r Niki, Keisha, Brannon, Stephanie, Keith, and Blaize.

This past year Stephanie's son, Brannon, joined the US Marines. This was such a mature and unexpected consideration in light of the world today that Stephanie could not speak to anyone without crying for weeks. She attended his Boot Camp Graduation in April, and the transformation from a young man to an honorable man was totally astonishing. Stephanie and the family are so proud that he is dedicated to serve his country and is willing to fight for our freedom. Please continue to pray for those who serve our country.

In closing, Stephanie stated she could not think of a higher honor than to serve and be your link to Tribal Politics. Thank you for the privilege of representing you, and do not hesitate to give her a call at (251) 446-1140 x 4502.

Schedule Of Events October 2008

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

Deadline for article submission for November newsletter

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Tribal Council Meeting

4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Housing Authority Meeting

1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Housing Authority Meeting

1:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 16, 2008

Community Meeting/Health Insurance

7:00 p.m.

Building 500/Family Services Auditorium

Poarch, Alabama

Monday, October 20, 2008

Deadline to RSVP for Celebration Banquet

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

Tribal Council Meeting

4:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 23, 2008

Celebration Banquet

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Community Meeting/Health Insurance

7:00 p.m.

Fraternal Order of the Eagles

105 Kenmore Road

Pensacola, Florida

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

Haunted Forest

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 30, 2008

Haunted Forest

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, October 31, 2008

Haunted Forest

Trunk & Treat

7:00 p.m. until

Saturday, November 1, 2008

State of Tribe

Wellness & Activities Center (Gym)

10:00 a.m. til 12:00 Noon

Lunch will be provided.

Live test of Emergency Sirens

Each Wednesday any time between 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Quite test every Monday, Friday, and Sunday

2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

This is a test only, do not contact Tribal Dispatch

PCI Gaming

Greetings to all tribal members from PCI Gaming. These are exciting times for our Company and over the last year there has been tremendous growth, many changes, and much effort made by all employees. In the Fall of 2007 and Spring of 2008 the Tribal Council, CIE Board, and PCI Gaming Board made a series of tough decisions to invest heavily in the future of gaming for Poarch Creek. We, the employees of PCI Gaming are pleased to report that the results of those decisions are yielding positive results and we thank all of you for having faith in us to deliver these results for you.



We are excited about our new facilities. On October 1, 2008 we will open our expansion at Riverside. Our game count will nearly double from 557 to 930 and we are adding a Buffet and Stage. In January, we plan to open our first Wind Creek Resort and Casino in Atmore.

For those of you in the local area, you see how impressive this new facility is. For those of you who live away, we hope you come home soon to see this magnificent facility. Around October and November, keep an eye on your mail for an invitation to a special event that we will hold at the Wind Creek Resort for tribal members and invited guests prior to opening the facility to the public.

Over the past year, we have grown from 467 employees to 888 today and when we open Wind Creek, we project that we will have nearly 1,500 employees. We are committed to providing employment to tribal members. In May of 2007, there were 34 tribal members working for PCI Gaming. Today, there are 85 tribal members working for PCI Gaming. It is our policy at PCI Gaming to provide employment opportunities to Tribal members that will result in workplace success for the employee and PCI Gaming business success for the Tribe. Tribal members are employed at all levels of our organization.

The changes at PCI have been dramatic. New people have joined with the long time PCI employees to create the most energized, capable, and enthusiastic team that I have ever had the privilege to work with. We have worked hard at all levels to develop a Purpose and Value system to guide our efforts going forward. We start with our Purpose, and provided we stay true to our Values, the results of our efforts will be Wealth Creation for the Tribe and opportunities for all team members.

We are pleased to report that the efforts of all employees are producing great financial results. Over the past year, revenues and profits have improved dramatically at all properties. For some months, PCI Gaming has doubled the results compared to the same month of last year. This year, our bottom line is up substantially and we will use these proceeds to fund the Tribal Government and its programs, to make our equity contribution to the Wind Creek project, to start repaying the debt that makes our Wind Creek facility a reality, and to continue to improve our other facilities.

We look forward to seeing you soon.
Jay Dorris, President/CEO, PCI Gaming

The PCI Gaming Value System



Our **enthusiastic commitment to our purpose** inspires and **empowers** us to **do everything right, have fun, and be the best**. We will be **recognized fairly**, elevating our levels of **personal accountability**, and **focus on our customer**. The resulting creation of wealth will grow opportunities for all.

PCI GAMING Value System



Poarch Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

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