

Keeping the Family and Friends of Poarch Informed

POARCH CREEK NEWS

VOLUME 26 • ISSUE 2

February 2009



Wind Creek Hotel & Casino Front Entrance



Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin welcomes visitors to Tribal Member opening of new Wind Creek Casino



Medicine Tail performs an honor song during opening ceremonies



Tribal Princesses, Tribal Council, and other dignitaries applaud as the Tribal Chairman cuts the ribbon to open new facility



Keith Martin, Council Member, Gaming Board Chairperson, speaks during the opening ceremony



Over 3000 Tribal Members and guests attended the Tribal Member Preview Party



1,600 new electronic bingo machines

Wind Creek Casino Tribal Member Preview

December 30, 2008

Casino Opened to Public January 6, 2009

Poarch Creek News

www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

Deadline for submission

The first working day of each month

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Tribal Council Hosts Community Meetings

Three amendments to the Tribal Constitution were voted on by the General Council as part of the 2008 Tribal Elections; all three amendments passed. One amendment closed the Tribal Roll as of December 31, 2008, except for a limited group of eligible persons; one amendment allows for a run-off election rather than flipping a coin; and the third amendment addressed the direct election of the Executive Committee (Officers) of the Tribal Council. Since the election the Tribal Council has been working to implement the necessary changes as a result of this vote.

In an effort to better understand the desires of the General Council, two Committee Meetings were held to address the issue of the direct election of the Executive Committee. During these two meetings, one held on December 29, 2008 with the other held on January 5, 2009, the Tribal Council met with members of the General Council to seek their guidance and input in this matter. The Tribe currently has an enrollment of over 2,700; less than 100 attended the scheduled community meetings combined, with several attending both meetings.

There was much discussion between the Tribal Council Members and the General Council as to the intent and expectations of the direct election of the Executive Committee. Some of the comments were positive, some were negative. A letter and questionnaire was sent to each Tribal Member age 18 and above that included a questionnaire requesting their input. If you have not received your letter and questionnaire, please contact the Tribal Member Benefits Department to make sure the Census Office has your correct mailing address. If you have received your letter and questionnaire and have not responded, please do so as soon as possible so that the Tribal Council will have your input in this issue.

At the end of the night of both meetings, the Tribal Council told those in attendance that they would take their comments under consideration and would move forward in the way that they think is best for the Tribe.

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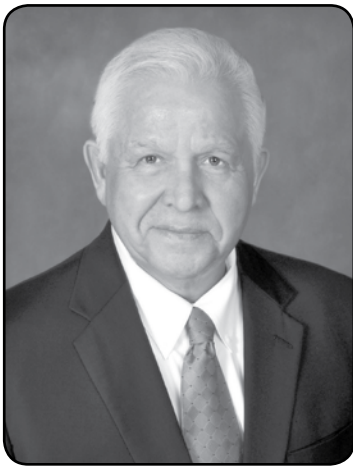
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Chairman's Corner February, 2009

We are into our second month of 2009 already. Time really does fly when you are busy. I hope each of you in attendance at the Wind Creek Tribal Member preview party enjoyed yourselves. And I hope that you are as proud of our accomplishments as I am.

As we ushered in a new year we also inaugurated a new President. Myself along with several Tribal Council members were able to participate in this history making event. May we all look forward to prosperity with the new administration.

I, as Vice Chairman of the National Indian Health Board(NIHB), along with the NIHB staff, met with members of the Obama Transition Team regarding health care for Native Americans. We had a good meeting and are hopeful that tribes at long last will begin to receive the benefits we are entitled to.

The Tribal Council conducted two Community Meetings regarding the direct election amendment which allows the General Council to directly elect the Executive Committee of the Tribal Council. We made these meetings possible in order to hear from each of you. Sadly, the attendance of these meetings was somewhat less than I had hoped for. Please know that we as your Tribal Council do what we can to make this information available to each of you and want your input.

In my next article I will be reporting on activities taking place after the publishing of this newsletter. Some of those activities include the USET Impact Week held in Washington, DC and our annual Legislative Event held in Montgomery, AL. Until then please stay safe.

***As of January 13, 2009
There Are 2,752
PBCI Tribal Members***

Wind Creek Casino Opens

By Gayle Johnson

PCI Gaming Authority hosted the Tribal Member preview of the new Wind Creek Casino on Tuesday, December 30, 2008. This event was a way for PCI Gaming to showcase their new facility as well as test out the new amenities such as the gaming machines, restaurants and bars, shops, and entertainment venues. Although not everyone was pleased with the results, the overall opinion of Tribal Members was "Great job!"

As Buford L. Rolin, Tribal Chairman stated in his welcoming speech, "I think that now, more than any other time in our history, it is important for us to stop for a few minutes and take stock of where we are and how far we have come. We are a nation that lived for many years in relative poverty. But good fortune has shone on us, and today the casino and hotel that have risen up in the middle of what was once share-cropped fields is nothing short of remarkable.

It is symbolic, I think, that you can see these buildings from the highway. They are testaments to perseverance, hope and to believing in ourselves and each other. How many years did we live here unnoticed and literally, passed by? No more. ...

It is hard for me, some days, to really grasp what all of that means. After all, I remember when we were just a handful of the hopeful almost 40 years ago working in a small office at the school, doing the tedious work it took to get federal recognition. To say we worked in close quarters was an understatement! We warmed our lunches on the space heaters and worked elbow to elbow. It was both hard and wonderful. I look at those of us who fought that fight and won and I think these victories are yours.

These new beautiful buildings are meaningful monuments to all of us. Because just as we have raised the roofs of this casino and hotel, we have torn down the last vestiges of prejudice and poverty. *We are no longer second class citizens, we are first class entrepreneurs.* Supporting all this new brick and mortar, is the foundation of our tribe... to those of you who have left here because there was no opportunity, I would ask you to look home with fresh eyes. The best part of us has not changed, even as our circumstances have gotten considerably better. And I would ask all of you here today to remember that no matter what comes in the years ahead, we are bound by blood, by history, and by the battle for respect and recognition. Success, after all, should never be enjoyed alone. Please, let us pause to celebrate this important victory -- together."

The new casino is a 225,000 square foot facility, with 57,000 square feet of gaming floor, 1,600 electronic gaming machines and features beautiful high ceilings in a spacious oval setting and a stylish "Center Bar" which offers an entertainment lounge and the best in beverage services.

Wind Creek also offers four diverse dining options to fit any palate and schedule:

Brew

6am-10pm daily

Coffee shop with seating for 20; offers freshly brewed coffee, espresso and pastries

Grill

Open 24/7

Casual dining featuring contemporary menu dishes and old fashioned southern favorites

continued on page 6

Ethics Corner

Submitted by Carrie Martin, Ethics Committee Chairperson



Carrie Martin

Greetings from the Ethics Board. We wish each and every one of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

In the early 1990's I worked in the Intensive Care Unit of Springhill Hospital in Mobile. There was a young gentlemen by the name of Michael who would give you a hug whenever you met him; that was Michael's way of saying hello. He never went any further with it, he just gave you a hug. Everyone in

the unit knew that was how Michael was and never thought anything else about it. But, there was this one young lady who did not like Michael hugging her. Instead of letting Michael know that she felt uncomfortable with him hugging her and asking him not to do it anymore, she went directly to Human Resources and filed a Sexual Harassment complaint against Michael.

Sexual Harassment is one of the standards of conduct within the Ethics Code: No Tribal Official shall engage in sexual harassment of any fellow Tribal Official or employee.

I want to be very clear on this subject. Because the Ethics Board deals only with Tribal Officials in regards to sexual harassment, please do not think they are the only ones who are held accountable for this type of conduct. Whether you work for Tribal Government, CIE, or PCI Gaming, everyone is subject to sexual harassment standards. It is addressed in your Policy and Procedure booklet, and I encourage each and every one of you to review that policy.

Sexual Harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Sexual Harassment at work occurs when there is unwelcome conduct which affects a person's job. It is not just related to women, but men as well have been sexually harassed. It is defined as *unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of sexual nature.*

The most important thing to remember is that no touching has to be involved for it to be considered as sexual harassment. Calling someone by names other than their surname, (Honey, Baby etc) is a violation if the person feels offended by the name calling. Even if the person who is called by another name is not offended by the act, other co-workers may be offended and if it affects their job performance it could be considered a violation.

We live in a diverse population. The United States is the melting pot of the world and because of this we have people from all different cultures, societies, religions, and beliefs working beside us each and everyday. Something that may not be offensive to you and your friends may be very offensive to another individual or group of co-workers.

For this reason, when you go to work, you are expected to act

and behave in a professional matter. No offensive jokes (dirty, racial, religious, gender, disability, etc); no touching of you co-workers in an inappropriate matter; no verbal comments about a person's physical attributes. No offensive pictures. No discussion about sexual activities; no crude and offensive language; and no threats of reprimand, demotion, or firing if a person refuses sexual request. I could go on, but I am sure by now you get the picture.

Treat each and every one of your co-workers with respect. A group of women who work together may like discussing their newest boyfriends, but the lonely gentlemen who works with them may find it offensive; one of the ladies in the group may find it offensive as well. Remember, in order for it to be sexual harassment, it does not have to be one gender offending the other gender.

We all as employees have a responsibility to each other to make sure that we work in an environment in which each and everyone one of us feels welcomed. A job that you look forward to going to each day without fear of what the day may hold in form of ridicule, of who you are, your gender, your belief, your appearance, or your sexual preference.

I'm sure every one of us remembers one person from our childhood which was taunted by all of the other children at school because they were different in some way. Because they were different, things were done and said to that person that was very offensive to them. I wonder if they were able to overcome it and become a productive person in society.

My last thought, office romance. We would have to be deaf, dumb and blind to say that office romance does not occur. When two people are involved, whether they are two single individuals or married with families at home, the way in which they handle the situation at work affects not only them, but all of their co-workers. First and foremost, romance at work is not considered acting in a professional matter. Each and every one of us is expected to come to work, perform our jobs to the best of our abilities and leave our personal lives out of it. I know for a fact how uncomfortable it can be to work with others who are having an office romance. It affects their quality of work, because they are busy trying to date on the job. It affects the other co-workers, because they have to pick up their slack and their actions can be offensive to co-workers as well as the public

In closing, remember that we must all act in a professional matter while in the workplace. Our behavior is how we are judged by others. If you want respect, you must give respect. If you feel that one of your co-worker's actions is offensive to you, tell them how you feel. We do not know how others feel unless we are told. Sometimes all it takes is for someone to say "I really do not feel comfortable when you act or say those types of things and would appreciate it if you did not do it anymore" Always confront the person first, let them know that their behavior is offensive to someone else. Remember, Michael, would have not hugged the young lady, if she had told him directly how she felt.

An Introduction to the Tribal Emergency Management Department

The Tribal Emergency Management Department (TEM) was established by the Tribal Council in 2005 to address all emergency situations that may occur on the Reservation and the surrounding community. Most people may think TEM addresses only issues related to hurricanes, but it addresses much, much more, including all natural and manmade disasters such as suspicious packages, bombings and terrorist attacks. The Poarch Volunteer Fire Department and the forthcoming full-time Poarch Fire Department has been incorporated into

the TEM, and falls under the supervision of April Sells, TEM Director.

April says that she is gearing up for preparation for the 2009 hurricane and tornado seasons. She is also working on closing all documentation on Hurricane Dennis, which hit the Reservation and surrounding community in 2005. "It takes 3 to 4 years to close out all the documentation relating to

a hurricane disaster." April stated. "We have completed all documentation on Hurricane Ivan in 2004, but we are still closing out on Hurricane Dennis."

"We have been working closely with management of the Wind Creek development project to make sure that the Wind Creek facility meets all necessary life safety criteria for operation. The new fire station, which will house career firefighters, will be built just 350 yards north of the new water tower on Poarch Road. This station will not only be responsible for responding to any incidents that occur at the Wind Creek Casino and Hotel, but the Tribal Community as well."

In conjunction with the Tribe's Health Department and the State of Alabama's Public Health Department, TEM is also responsible for maintaining preparedness for medical distribution through the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak or terrorist attack on the Reservation and/or the surrounding community. April says that TEM also maintains current data on the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which is the system that is required to respond and set up a temporary command post to secure continued communication in time of a crisis, along with other incident command functions. "We must maintain our NIMS data and training to continue to receive federal funding. We have also been working with security at PCI Gaming and when Wind Creek comes on line, their security staff will be initially trained in the area of incident command and able to respond as needed."

Many of you have asked about the trailers located behind the fire department. April states that these trailers are part of the equipment that will be used to respond to any emergency

situation. "We have two portable medical units, one for adults, one for juveniles; with these units we will be better prepared to respond to the medical needs of our community during a critical incident. We also have a trailer that can be used to perform mass decontamination if we have an incident that is the result of hazardous materials spill. This will enable us to handle the situation as needed until the appropriate transportation becomes available. Our equipment will also allow us to respond to

our northern properties in Wetumpka and Tallapoosa if an incident should occur there as well as respond to other USET tribes in need of assistance. We are often asked about the motor home that is parked behind the station. It will be retro fitted with the appropriate equipment and will be used as a mobile command center. The mobile home that is set up on back side of the station will house the career firefighters until the new fire station is built."

In closing April would like to say that the TEM Department was very busy in 2008 and 2009 looks to be even more so. "We are currently in the process of hiring career firefighters and appropriate staff for the new fire station. By the time this newsletter comes out we hope to have the hiring process completed and have those individuals on board. The two new trucks needed for the new fire station have been delivered. Pumper 704 is on site and is currently being used to respond to fires; the new Bronco ladder truck has been also been delivered and outfitted with the necessary equipment. Although a community day is not yet on the schedule, we hope that it can be included in the grand opening of the new fire station which may be in August or September of this year. Watch your newsletter and mailboxes for more information on these events later on this year."



Fire

Reservations recommended
5pm-10pm Sunday through Thursday
5pm-11pm Friday & Saturday
Upscale dining with seating for 84 option specializing in prime steaks and seafood

Taste

10:30am-10pm Sunday through Thursday
10:00am-11pm on Friday & Saturday
Closes daily from 3:00 pm-4:00pm to prepare for the dinner menu
Buffet dining with seating for 300 featuring international offerings such as Mexican, Asian, Italian, as well as American favorites, a large salad bar and numerous specialty desserts

Wind Creek Casino also offers top entertainment at the **Sound** entertainment lounge and bar. Hours of operation are 2:00 pm-12 midnight Sunday through Thursday, and 2pm-2am on Friday & Saturday

The gaming machines were set on *Test* mode for the Tribal Member Preview party and guests were allowed to play with "play money" on a player's card, but the payout vouchers had no cash value. At the end of the night there were prizes awarded for biggest jackpot, most points earned on player's card, etc. These winners included Kim Snow, Jessica Tillery, Jessica Chestnut, Val Connelly, Lorane Rolin, Brad Orso, Mary Jane Tullis, and Rosemary Fish. Raffle drawings were also held throughout the event. Many of those in attendance stated that the machines were playing so well that they got tired of playing; one Tribal Member stated that when she got to the casino at 11:00 am she picked out a machine, put in \$50 of the money on her player card and was still playing off that \$50 when she left at 10:00 pm.

PCI Gaming estimates that over 3,000 people attended the event; some came for the food, some for the gaming, and some came just to see the new facility and marvel at the progress made by the Tribe.

The doors to Creek Entertainment Center were closed and locked for the last time at 7:00 am on Monday, January 5, 2009. This is the first time there will be no gaming activity at the Atmore site since the Bingo Palace opened its doors in August of 1984 with the exception of downtime due to damage received during a storm.

Wind Creek Casino hosted an event for local media on Monday, January 5th in which they showcased the new facility, gave them a tour, and served hors d'oeuvres prepared by award winning Chef Stafford DeCambra. The media event was a success with local and county dignitaries including Atmore Mayor Howard Shell, Escambia County Sheriff Grover Smith, and State Representatives Alan Baker and Harry Shiver, just to name a few. News media from Mobile, Pensacola, Dothan, and Montgomery as well as the local newspapers were also present and were very impressed by the facility.

The doors to the Wind Creek Casino opened to the public at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 6, 2009 to a crowd of approximately 100 people, all eager to get into the new facility. Although the crowd was small when the doors opened, the parking lot was full and visitors were being forwarded to employee parking area to park by 11:00 a.m. and visitors were soon being forwarded to the Best Western and bused to the casino.

In closing I would like to say that I think the Tribe has something to be proud of. I know that it has been a team effort to get this project to its final stages and everyone involved has done a great job and can be proud of the work they have done.



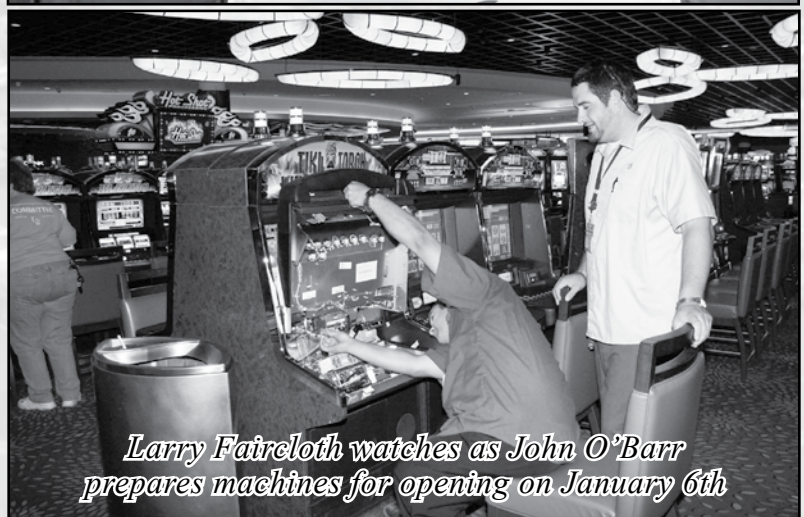
The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council hosted the Escambia County Alabama Commission to a tour of the new Wind Creek Casino & Resort. Attending the tour l-r were Commissioners Raymond Wiggins, Wiley Tate, Jim Angus, CIEDA Construction Project Controls Manager, Brandon Smith, Tribal Councilman David Gehman, Commissioner David Stokes and Tribal Councilman Garvis Sells. Tribal Councilman Keith Martin also attended, but is not pictured.
Photo and caption submitted by Sharon Delmar



January 6th, opening day.
Players visit The Club for player cards, rewards, etc.



January 5th Media Event,
press conference updates media on facility



Larry Faircloth watches as John O'Barr
prepares machines for opening on January 6th

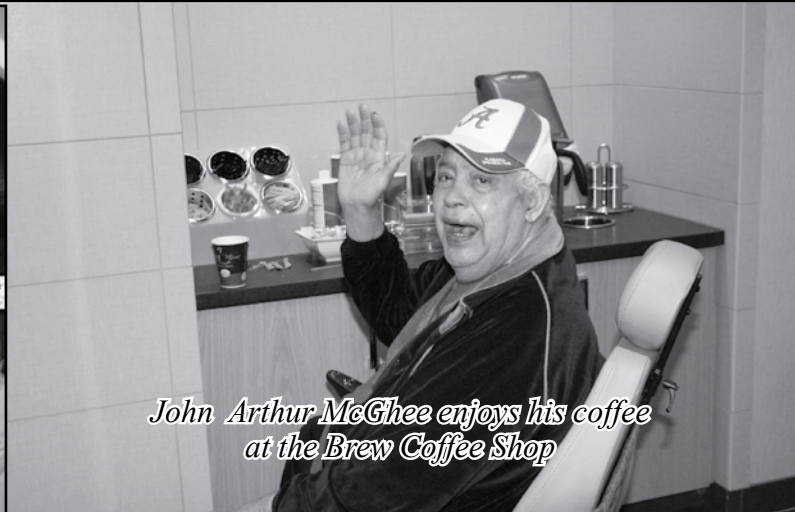
Service with a smile awaits visitors to the Taste Buffet and other restaurants at the Wind Creek Casino & Hotel



January 6th, the Crowd gathers at the doors, ready to play and enjoy the new facility



John Arthur McGhee enjoys his coffee at the Brew Coffee Shop



January 5th, getting ready for opening to the public on the 6th! Some workers came in on their day off to help get things ready!



Don't forget to take time to stop by Essentials Sundry Shoppe!



January 6th, Wind Creek Casino opens to the public. It didn't take long for the parking lots to fill up!



Diners enjoy the variety of food offered at the Taste Buffet



BIRTHDAY WISHES

Jayden Alexia Johnson



Jayden Alexis Johnson, daughter of DJ and Blair Johnson, will celebrate her 3rd birthday on January 31st. Jayden is the great-granddaughter of Tribal Member Jannice Philpot, and the granddaughter of Tribal Member Dickey Johnson.

Obelee Jackson

Obelee Jackson will celebrate his 75th birthday on February 1, 2009 with his family & friends. Happy Birthday Paw Paw!

We Love You! David, Joy, Trevor, Roger, Sarah & Gary

Casey Jackson

Casey Jackson, son of Edie & Eddie Jackson, will celebrate his 13th birthday on February 16, 2009. Happy Birthday Casey!

We Love You!

Mom, Dad, & Chance



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CIEDA Hosts Bi-Monthly SHRM Meeting

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA) hosted the December meeting of the Escambia County Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM) in the Employee Center of the Poarch Creek Indians Business Center in Atmore on Monday, December 15, 2008.

Special guest speaker for the event was Patty Vanderpool, LPC, CEAP, SAP, and owner of EAP Lifestyle Management LLC, who spoke on humor in the workplace. "Humor is a necessary part of our daily lives, even in the workplace. Your job is not who you are, it is something you do; you are much, much more."

If you have utilized the mental health services provided through the Tribal Clinic, you are well acquainted with Patty as she has worked with the Tribe for many years. CIEDA Human Resources Director Paula Miller and her staff, Ginger Stabler, Amanda McGhee, and Judi McElhaney, were instrumental in making this event a success.

The current HR team at CIEDA has been a member of the Esc. Co. SHRM chapter since 2007. As members of the local SHRM chapter, CIEDA is able to network on the local level with other HR professionals. One of more than 500 affiliated chapter throughout the United States, the Escambia County chapter offers training and provides a local forum for personal and professional development and provides a focus for legislative attention to local, state, and national human resource management issues.



Notice to Bidders

Sealed bids will be taken on several used items.

Bids will be taken beginning February 2, 2009 and ending March 2, 2009 at the close of business, 5:00 p.m. Bids will be opened by the CFO. For general information, contact Betty Caraway, Property Control Coordinator, at 368-9136 ext. 2654.



Poarch Creek Education Department's

GED Prep Class Schedule

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday

Starting Date: January 13, 2009

We are taking applications now and we will keep the enrollment open for the addition of new students.

- **GED Prep Classes are available to Tribal members and first generation descendants. Adult family members are welcome to attend the classes.**
- **GED Prep students receive individualized tutoring assistance.**
- **GED study materials provided to enrolled students.**
- **GED Prep software is now available for students who want to come to the Education Department and work on their own.**
- **GED students can receive one-on-one assistance during the work day as needed.**
- *GED testing fee is covered for the enrolled tribal students and first generation descendants.*

New job opportunities are coming to the Poarch area. If you need to take the GED Test, now is the time to prepare for the test.

Contact Mrs. Billie McGhee at (251) 368-9136, ext. 2243 to register for the class.



Homeownership Program Questionnaire

Submitted by Wendy Davis

The following questionnaire was completed by Shannon Peavy.

How many people are in your family? Please list first and last names.

Two: Shannon and Memori Peavy

What community do you live in?

Walnut Hill, Florida

What do you like about being a homeowner?

We like the fact that our money goes towards our own property.

How do you feel being a homeowner will impact your family?

Being a military family, the impact of being a homeowner for our family is a true sense of stability.



PCI Drug Court Cleans Up!

Submitted by Keesha O'Barr and Sandra Hiebert

The Poarch Creek Indians Drug Court provides a vital service to those in our community who are struggling with addictions. Everyone has been touched at some time by this disease through knowing a friend or a family member who has had a problem with the misuse of substances. The Drug Court works daily to help these individuals take the necessary steps to change their lives. Changed lives lead to changed communities, and who doesn't want that?

While in the year long drug court program, clients undergo many hours of counseling, random drug testing, and face the drug court judge several times per month. They are also assigned community service hours. Participants can fulfill their community service obligation through a variety of methods, but recently several undertook the challenge of cleaning up the roadside trash throughout the reservation. As you can see from the photo, they had plenty to keep them busy! In one day they picked up 20 bags of trash.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jerry Sanchez, Ian Smedley, Bo Slate and Whitney Warden for all of the hard work they put into this project. Now we'd like to ask you to help them by doing your part. PLEASE DON'T LITTER ON THE RESERVATION! If you are caught littering, you can be fined by Tribal Court. Let's put these guys and girls out of a job and help keep our reservation beautiful!

Right: Drug Court participants Jerry Sanchez and Ian Smedley clean up along Martin Road



2008 Tribal Member Deceased List

The following Tribal Members passed away in 2008; we send our prayers and condolences to their families.

January

Elma Nelson	04-22-1920
Melba Lovitt	12-23-1934
Henry David Nellums	11-22-1944

March

Willie Margaret Martin	03-29-1907
Charlotte Cranford	08-18-1946

June

Verna L. Pittman	07-11-1923
James A. Selzer, Jr.	01-21-1965

September

C.Y. Rolin	08-26-1922
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October

Steven D. Foster	02-20-1965
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November

Clara Gonzalez	05-23-1926
Annie Lee Bos	07-09-1931

December

Gary Joe McGhee, Jr.	07-28-1992
Franklin Jackson	04-09-1939
John V. Steadham	10-06-1910

Upcoming Events

Tribal Newsletter Deadlines

The deadline to submit information for the March 2009 newsletter is Monday, February 2, 2009. The deadline to submit information for the April 2009 newsletter is Monday, March 2, 2009.

Tribal Council Meetings

Regularly scheduled Tribal Council meetings will be held in the Tribal Council Chambers in Building 100 at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 and Tuesday, February 17, 2009. These meetings will be open to the public.

Housing Authority Meetings

Regularly scheduled Housing Authority meetings are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in the Building 400 Conference Room on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 and Wednesday, February 18, 2009. These meetings are open to the public.

Wellness & Activities Authority Meetings

Regularly scheduled Wellness & Activities Authority meetings will be held at the Wellness & Activities Center (Gym) at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2009 and Thursday, February 26, 2009. These meetings are open to the public.

Wind Creek Atmore

Grand opening of the new Wind Creek Hotel & Casino, Saturday, January 31, 2009.

Wind Creek Casino & Hotel will be opening a spa in July 2009. If you are interested in pursuing a career as a massage therapist, esthetician, or nail tech, please contact Jenna Whipkey at (251) 446-4361 or via email at jwhipkey@pcigaming.com for detailed information.

Winter LIHEAP Program January 19 – March 13, 2009

Follow-up Winter LIHEAP Applications will be accepted by appointment only Monday through Thursday of each week. Please call the Family Services Department for an appointment.

Our Hearts. Our Choice

February is National Heart Month. National Wear Red Day is Friday, February 6, 2009. Visit www.GoRedForWomen.org for more information. Learn more about the American Heart Association's efforts to reduce death caused by cardiovascular disease at www.americanheart.org.

2008 Sports Banquet

The 2008 Sports Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wellness & Activities Center (Gym).

STD/HIV Training for Health Care Workers

Rick Meriwether, Program Manager II of UAB AIDS Training & Education Center will be guest instructor of the STD/HIV Training for Health Care Workers hosted by the Poarch Creek Indians Health Department on February 20, 2009. Please contact Sandra Day, Community Health Nurse at (251) 368-9136 x 2315 for more information if you are interested in attending this training.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Have you been unemployed and getting ready to start a new job; are you finishing college, technical school, etc. and need assistance with getting in the workforce; do you need assistance with uniforms, licenses, tools, etc? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, the WIA program may be your answer. For more information, contact Clara Jones, WIA Coordinator, at (251) 368-9136 x 2266.

College Fair

The Poarch Education Department is planning a College Fair for Tuesday April 7, 2009. Additional details for the College Fair will be placed on the Tribal web page in the near future.

Miscellaneous Information

Other information relating to Tribal services is located on our Tribal web page at www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov.

Tribal Wellness & Activities Authority

The Wellness & Activities Authority is a seven person board that is responsible for managing and maintaining the programs and activities that are coordinated through the Activities Center (Gym). The current board consists of Ronnie Jackson, Chairperson, Edie Jackson, Jake Carlton, Kevin Snow, Ryan Exum, Josh Thomas, and Tribal Council Representative Arthur Mothershed. This board supervises the Wellness & Activities staff of 17, which includes administrative staff, custodian, maintenance, and lifeguards. The Wellness & Activities Authority meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m.; these meetings are open to the public.

Melvin "Coach" Middleton, Wellness & Activities Executive Director, stated that the programs offered at the Activities Center are vital to the Tribe and that they are having continued success in all areas of services provided. "Our t-ball, softball, basketball, and Pee wee football programs are very successful. We have always had great participation. If we can keep our youth active and participating in these developmental programs, they will be off the street and out of trouble. We always offer our programs to Tribal Members and first generation Indian descent before opening them to the community."

Programs offered through Wellness & Activities consist of the Summer Youth Program; baton; t-ball, softball, basketball, pee wee football, and volley ball leagues. Coach stated that they have recently hosted a baseball clinic with fifty kids participating. "Our sports programs are managed by Eddie Jackson, Sports Coordinator. He did an excellent job coordinating the baseball clinic. We hope to have a March softball clinic, as well as a basketball and football clinic. These clinics are still in the developmental stage; it will all depend on who we can get lined up to help with the clinics. We are working with the Seniors to help prepare them for the Senior Olympics. It is our plan to become more involved and offer more assistance to the Seniors. We would like to put in a shuffleboard area and set up a horseshoe pit so that they can train more in these areas."



The Wellness programs of the Wellness & Activities Center are managed by Dana Jones, Wellness Coordinator, and include programs such as Walk Across America and the new Nike tennis shoe program, which will be beneficial to those with diabetes. "We work closely with Family Services and Housing to help provide activities to the youth and adults of our community that will be instrumental in their positive development." Coach also stated that when you visit the Activities Center you will see a lot of remodeling and construction going on. "We are trying to tie everything together, to make our facility more 'user friendly'. We hope to add more offices to the lobby area. We have already moved the concession stand to the back and hope to enclose the pool area in the future."

As you drive down Lynn McGhee Drive, you can see the construction of the Sports Complex is nearing completion. "We hope to have everything completed by the end of February. The weather has caused some delays, but we are moving forward. When the complex is completed, it will include 2 t-ball fields, 2 softball fields, 1 baseball field and one regulation size football field surrounded by an asphalt track. Our football field is regulation size, if one of the local high schools needed a field to play on, ours is there for them. The softball fields are also regulation size and can be used to play Cal Ripkin and Babe Ruth leagues if needed. We will be hosting the 2009 NASA tournaments this year; our fields will be ready."

The tentative schedule of activities for 2009 are reflected below. If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, please contact the Activities Center at (251) 368-9136 ext 2256 for more information.

February

Youth Basketball League
T-Ball League
Sports Banquet
Scale Back Alabama

March

T-Ball League continues
Softball & Baseball Registration
NAYO Basketball Registration
Scale Back Alabama continues

April

NAYO Basketball Tournament (Seminole)
Softball & Baseball Leagues

May

Softball & Baseball Leagues continued
Summer Youth Program

June

Summer Youth Program continues
Swimming Lessons
NAYO & NASA Registration

July

Summer Youth Program continues
Football Registration
NAYO (New York)

August

Football continues
NASA Softball (Poarch)

September

Football continues

October

Youth Basketball Registration

November/December

Events have not been scheduled at this time.

In closing, the Activities Center will begin opening on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Lack of utilization of the facilities necessitated the closing of the Center on Saturdays but Coach hopes that reopening the Center on Saturdays will generate renewed interest. The current operating hours are 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The pool will re-open in May.



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