

POARCH CREEK NEWS

VOLUME 26 • ISSUE 04

April 2009

In this issue...

2009 Tribal Council Election Notice

Pursuant to Section 22-1-10 of the Tribal Election Code, notice is hereby given that the 2009 Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council Election shall be held on Saturday, June 6, 2009 at the Community Services Building (SAIL Center). Voting will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Election results will be posted at the Tribal Center on the Community Bulletin Board and published in the July Tribal Newsletter. Anyone wishing to be a candidate for this year's election must submit a written statement of candidacy with the Election Board no later than 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

2009 Tribal Elections, page 2



Seaman Smith, page 3



Close Up, page 6

"I learned more in that one week than I have in a month of school. It was difficult (they had us working from seven in morning until ten at night) but I really felt like I was doing something. It was much more hands-on and the teachers really worked with you. They expected a lot of you, but in return we did things we thought we could never do. All and all I had a great time with the close-up program."

Cheryl Thrower

We Shall Remain, page 9





Chairman's Corner

April, 2009

I hope each of you enjoyed the March winds and are gearing up for the proverbial April showers. I, along with the Tribal Council, have been busy with day-to-day operations. We continue to advocate on your behalf both at the State and National level in order to provide the best for each of you. Travel this month has slowed for some of the Tribal Council and increased for others of us. Please know that we make these necessary trips in order to be a voice for the Tribe nationwide.

Our casino and hotel continues to be very successful and I encourage each of you to visit the facilities. The food is outstanding and the amenities are truly enjoyable. Please take advantage of the complimentary hotel stay given to each of you during our grand opening events.

I hope each of you have a very safe and happy Easter. Until next month's article, MVTO.

As of March 17, 2009, there are 2,889 Tribal Members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

2009 Tribal Council Election Notice

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In the 2009 election, the General Council will directly elect the Vice-Chair and two at-large Tribal Council Members. Anyone wishing to be a candidate for this year's election must submit a written statement of candidacy with the Election Board, no later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 7, 2009.

Walk-in voting will be held Thursday, May 7, 2009 through Tuesday, June 2, 2009 in the Tribal Auditorium of Building 200 of the Tribal Complex. Tribal Members may vote by absentee ballot if:

1. The Tribal Member lives outside the five county service area (Mobile, Baldwin, Monroe, and Escambia Counties in Alabama, and Escambia County, Florida); or
2. The Tribal Member has any physical illness or infirmity which prevents him or her from voting in person on Election Day or participating in walk-in voting; or
3. The Tribal Member works a shift that has at least 10 hours and prevents him or her from voting on Election Day or participating in walk-in voting; or
4. The Tribal Member is enrolled as a student at an educational institution located outside the Tribal service area.

Absentee ballot request forms will be posted on the Tribal Website and will be available at the Tribal Center. For your convenience, a copy of Request for Absentee Ballot and Letter of Candidacy has been incorporated in this issue.

Tribal Election Calendar

Tuesday, April 7, 2009 Deadline to submit Letter of Candidacy, biography, and picture for Tribal Council if name is to be printed on the Official Ballot, and **bio and picture** printed in the May newsletter.

Friday, April 17, 2009 Names of Candidates and any proposed Constitutional Amendments, Ordinances, and/or Resolutions will be posted.

Saturday, May 2, 2009 Tribally sponsored debate for all candidates. Time and location to be announced at later date.

Thursday, May 7, 2009 Last day to submit Letter of Candidacy for Tribal Council to be a Write-In on Ballot. Any additional Names of Candidates will be posted within ten days of submitting a Letter of Candidacy. Walk-In Voting begins at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 26, 2009 Last day to request that an Absentee Ballot be mailed out.

Tuesday June 2, 2009 Walk-In voting ends at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, June 5, 2009 Deadline to receive Absentee Ballots at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 6, 2009 2009 Tribal Election Day Community Services Building (SAIL Center) Voting from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Please direct any questions regarding Tribal Elections to Gia Johnson, Election Board Chairperson, at telephone number (251) 446-4263.

Poarch Creek News

www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

Deadline for submission

The first working day of each month

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United States Coast Guard Graduate Seaman Ashley R. Smith

Submitted by Paula Smith

Seaman Ashley R. Smith has just completed 8 weeks of intense training at the United States Coast Guard Training Center, Cape May, NJ. Seaman Smith was awarded the *Shipmate Award* by her company. She was also a member of the color guard. Seaman Smith will

be stationed in San Diego, CA, on a 378 foot cutter. While stationed in San Diego she will be patrolling the waters from Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico and Porte Rico.

Ashley is a 2006 graduate of the Escambia Academy and is the daughter of Paula Smith and brother of Nathan Smith of Atmore, AL and the granddaughter of the late Eva Pearl Hansen.

Engagement Announcement

Lonnie and Carolyn Rackard of Atmore, AL are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their son, Jeremy Rackard, to Jasmine Yates, the daughter of the late Blanche Dees Yates.



The groom is the grandson of Rutha Mae and the late Edgar Rackard of Atmore, AL.

The wedding ceremony and reception will be held at Brooks Memorial Church in the Atmore, AL on September 5, 2009.

All friends and family are invited to attend. Following the honeymoon in Mexico, the couple will reside in Nashville, TN.

Community Coalition, An Invitation to All Tribal Members

Submitted by Ann Brooks

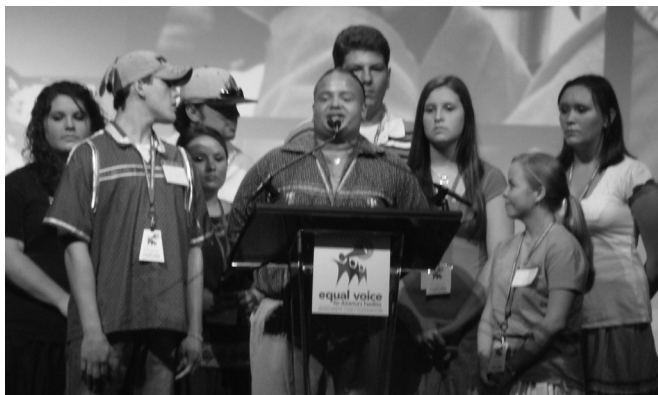
A "grassroots" community coalition is being developed for the purpose of representing you, the General Council, to our elected Tribal Council on issues of concern. The intent of the Community Coalition is to collaborate with the General Council through forums and enable you, the General Council, to have a strong representative voice to the Tribal Council.

The Community Coalition will also serve as a mode of timely delivery of important information for the benefit of the General Council. This coalition will not serve as a political endorsement committee. If you are interested in becoming a member of this coalition, or if you would like to be included for informational purposes only, please contact me by email at annrbrooks@hotmail.com or by phone at (251) 928-2622 or (334) 826-7810.

Working together we can enhance the growth of our Tribe for the benefit of all Tribal Members.

Calvin McGhee Cultural Authority Youth Programs Gain National Recognition

Hocciv: Alex Alvarez, Cultural Educator



In the early autumn of 2008, the Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council was asked to perform for, and participate in, the Strengthening Families Convention in Birmingham, AL. This event simultaneously occurred in Chicago, Illinois and Los Angeles, California, which linked over 15,000 people together in order to send a strong message to this Nation's leaders that minorities are America. The Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council was broadcast live across the globe for their performance which included a traditional Creek stomp dance and hymn. There, the Youth Council participated in surveys which were sent straight to Congress. They also got to hear from dignitaries such as Joe Garcia, President for the National Congress of the American Indian (NCAI), provide inspirational messages showing their support for Native American families.

Pow Wow Club Travels For Competition

Hocciv: Alex Alvarez, Cultural Educator



In January of this year the Poarch Creek Powwow Club made the long journey to Bartlesville, Oklahoma to compete in the annual Battle of the Plains competition, a contest powwow that is specifically designed for Native American youth powwow organizations. Here, our children received 4th place among some of the top youth dance troupes across the nation.

The powwow also awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in individual dance categories. Poarch Creek Powwow Club members who placed in their categories were: 8-10 Girl's fancy shawl: 1st place, Lexi Daughtry; 11-13 Girl's fancy shawl: 3rd place Taylor Hill; 11-13 Boy's Traditional: 3rd place Rickey Reed; 11-13 Boy's Grass 1st place Brice McGhee, 2nd place Bo Ramer, 3rd place Ty Hill; 11-13 Boy's Fancy: 1st place Chris Fay, 2nd place Josh Peebles, 3rd Hunter Nobles.

Congratulations to all participants of the Youth Council and Powwow Club! You continue to shine and make your community proud!

An Introduction to Human Resources

Tribal Administration's Human Resources Department oversees functions that support Tribal Administrative employees and promote a positive and safe work environment through developing, implementing, maintaining and monitoring compensation and benefits; addressing day to day personnel issues, and making sure that all Personnel Policies and Procedures are followed, which includes the tasks that no one enjoys; conflict resolution, grievances, and terminations. The Human Resources staff consists of Jason Rackard, Human Resources Executive Director, Susan Spruill, Human Resources Assistant, Vera Ramer, Benefits Coordinator, Roxanne Murphy, Safety Coordinator, Clara Jones, WIA Coordinator, and Tawana McGhee, Executive Secretary for Human Resources and Tribal Administration.



Human Resources staff: Seated, Jason Rackard. Standing (L-R) Vera Ramer, Clara Jones, Roxanne Murphy, Tawana McGhee, and Susan Spruill. (The Human Resources staff would like for everyone to know this photo was taken on Friday, which is casual day!)

"Our big project right now is salary ranges. We are working to ensure that our employees are fairly compensated for their work and that our pay scale is competitive with other employers in the area. We are working with salary information from the various sources such as the Alabama League of Municipalities and the State of Alabama to compile a salary base to present to the Tribal Council for approval. We want to offer a more competitive benefits package to our employees as well as future employees. When we are finished some ranges may change, some may stay the same, but the end result will be the best package we can offer to employees. We have to look at how compensation affects our long term employees as well as new hires." Jason stated during his interview for this article. "When we say benefits packages, it is more than just hourly compensation. We currently offer employer paid single coverage insurance through BCBS of Alabama, as well as paying a portion of the family coverage. We offer dental (employee paid), vision, and prescription coverage through BCBS. We are proud to say that in the past few years we have had a hold on, or reduction in, our BCBS premiums. We also have employer paid life insurance as well as optional life insurance for employees, and/or their family members that is employee paid. We also have long term disability, credit union, thirteen paid holidays and a 401K profit sharing retirement plan where the Tribe matches \$.50 per \$1.00 up to 4% of the employee's contributions. We also provide worker's compensation and all comprehensive liability insurance for Tribal buildings, equipment, and vehicles."

Jason also stated that since the WIA Program moved to Human Resources Tribal Members and first generation Indian Descendants have benefited from the services available. The WIA Program is funded through the U.S. Department of

Labor and administered by the Tribe. The goal of the WIA Program is to assist Tribal Members and first generation Indian Descendants in overcoming barriers that may prevent them from gaining employment. WIA clients also may be eligible to obtain the necessary tools, license, etc., needed for their employment with future employers.

Human Resources is also working on a Tribal Safety Plan that they hope to soon present to the Tribal Council for approval. In addition to working on the Safety Plan, the Safety Coordinator is responsible for enforcing the Vehicle Usage Policy, training various employees for CDL testing; driver's license management, etc. While Tawana performs Executive Secretary duties for Tribal Administration, she continues to post all job openings, conduct pre-employment testing, and other duties related to filling vacant

positions. When a position becomes vacant Jason and his staff will meet with the director to review the job description to make sure that the job description meets the duties and responsibilities of the position; it is at this time that changes are made to the job description, position title, salary range, etc. to make sure the position advertised meets the needs of the position/department.

In an effort to enhance morale and productivity, limit job turnover, and help improve and increase performance, Human Resources also assists with providing training and development opportunities to improve employees work skills, and increase employees' satisfaction with their jobs and working conditions. "We work closely with the Human Resources Departments at PCI Gaming, CIEDA, and the Authorities and Commissions. We share information such as job descriptions and employee benefits and compensation packages; we want to provide the best for our employees."

Jason would like to clarify to everyone that Human Resources and the TERO Commission, featured on page 12 of this issue, are two separate entities. "While TERO works with contractors and vendors, we are responsible for the direct hire and day to day staffing of employees working for Tribal Administration."

In closing Jason would like to acknowledge his staff and thank them for their hard work and dedication. "I feel that the Human Resources staff is one of the greatest that Tribal Administration has. We are a family, not just co-workers. I have complete confidence and trust in the abilities of my staff. I know of many occasions that one or all of them has gone above and beyond to make sure a task was completed and/or that an employees needs were addressed."

Close Up, The Experience of a Lifetime By Gayle Johnson

Students from throughout the South and Eastern United States gathered in Washington, DC to attend the 2009 Close UP program February 8th through the 14th. Poarch Creek took a group of eight to the event; they were Chase Amerson, Hunter Franklin, Crystal Kelley, Jennifer Nevin, Austin Strehl, Cheryl and Sehoy Thrower, and Taylor Wiggins. They were accompanied by myself and Christyn Sells, Children's Services Coordinator/Close Up Coordinator. We left Mobile on a 6:00 a.m. Northwestern flight; this flight was the first for several of the participants and they were very nervous

but they came through with flying colors!

We must work together, unity can accomplish great things...

"The Peacemaker, a Huron man by the name of Deganawida, who was considered to be the founder of the Iroquois Confederacy, used the symbol of bound arrows to point out the importance of

unity. The Peacemaker took one arrow and easily broke it. He then took two arrows, and with a little more effort he broke them. Three, then four, arrows were clustered and broken, but when five arrows were bound together, he could not break them. The cluster of arrows, then, symbolizes the strength that results from the joining together

Hunter (L) and Austin (R) didn't know each other when they left for Close Up, but they became roommates and great friends.



I really enjoyed myself. I got to meet a lot of new and really nice people. I have stayed in contact with several of the people I met, some on a daily basis. I have a new outlook on the way the Government is run and would love to experience this again.

Taylor Wiggins

of several nations."

These words were spoken by Brian Patterson, USET President, during his welcoming speech to Close Up participants during the Close Up welcoming reception on Sunday, February 8, 2009, the participant's first night in Washington, DC. He told those present that through unity great things can be accomplished. This reception was the first of many meetings and activities held throughout the week.

We will not do what people think we should do, we will address an issue that is close to our hearts... The first task assigned to the Close Up students was to address an issue of concern that affected their Tribe. Although the students were separated into six different workshop groups, they did gather as individual Tribes to discuss this issue and prepare for a presentation that would be made to the USET representatives at the annual USET Welcoming Reception on Monday night. I did sit in on part of this workshop and was completely amazed by the level of maturity of these students and

I enjoyed the Close Up 2009 trip very much. It was one of the best experiences of my life and that is no exaggeration. I met many new friends, toured many amazing monuments and memorials, and had interesting discussions about other Tribes government issues as well as the Poarch Band of Creek Indians governmental issues. I enjoyed every minute I was in Washington D.C. This is definitely a trip worth taking if you are wanting to better yourself and your tribe.

Chase Amerson

their logical discussion of the Tribal issues that concerned them. Although they discussed several issues of great importance to them, i.e. culture/traditions and drug and alcohol abuse, they chose to do their presentation on how the Tribe should address the issue of wasteful spending. This was a hot subject and the students had great input and discussion and the Tribe's display/booth was one of the most popular of the night, it seemed everyone had an opinion about this subject! The students will soon be giving their presentation to the Tribal Council and will appreciate your attendance and input.

While in Washington, the students took several "walking workshop" tours of monuments and memorials; during which the instructors educated the students on the history of the monuments/memorials. They visited Lafayette Square, the site of the Presidential Inauguration, the Lutheran Church for a legislative briefing, Capitol Hill, for the USET Impact Week Reception with legislative representatives such as Representatives Dale Kildee of Michigan, and Frank Pallone, Jr., of New Jersey. It was during this reception that Congressman Kildee told the students and USET representatives "As Tribes you have many valuable things, the most important is sovereignty; don't lose it." The message sank into the



Close Up participants are shown with other Tribal representatives attending the USET Impact Week Reception on Capitol Hill.

hearts of those present and I am sure that each silently vowed to do everything in their power to maintain their Tribal sovereignty. After their visit to Capitol Hill, the students attended the Campus Kitchens Project, which focuses on delivering food to seniors, and providing nutrition education to kids; and the DC Habitat for Humanity, the volunteer program whose goal is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness in the nation's capital by building affordable, energy- and resource-efficient homes for those ineligible for conventional financing. On Wednesday, February 11th the students had a study visit to the



Vice Chair Stephanie Bryan with participants in front of their Tribal Initiative booth at the USET Expo and Reception. Pictured are :front row (l-r) Sehoy Thrower, Jennifer Nevin, Stephanie Bryan, and Taylor Wiggins; back row (l-r) Cheryl Thrower, Chase Amerson, Austin Strehl, Crystal Kelley, and Hunter Franklin.

National Museum of the American Indian; afterwards they held a mock USET Board of Director's meeting with the students acting as representatives from their respective Tribe. The day ended with a trip to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Jefferson Memorials and an in-depth study of current issues such as 'Religion, Native Americans and the First Amendment, What does the Court say?'; 'To pee or

The close up trip opened my eyes to the reality of Indian nation and allowed me to absorb in depth knowledge about not only my tribe, but also 24 others! This was an amazing experience that provided me with friends, fun, and important information about my heritage!
Jenny Nevin

not to pee, Student drug testing and the Court'; and 'A Taxing Issue: Who decides who should pay?'.



Close Up participants traveled by buses. Jennifer, Chase, Hunter, Austin, Crystal and Taylor were assigned to Bus 1. Cheryl and Sehoy were assigned to Bus 2.

For many, Thursday, February 12th was their favorite day. The day began with "Breakfast with Tribal Leaders" followed by a trip to the Newseum and a taping of "Close UP on C-Span" which aired on C-Span on Friday, February 13th. After a seminar on the judiciary with Wilson Pipestem, co-founder of Ietan Consulting, the students traveled to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for the in prove theatrical production "Shear Madness". For many this production was the high light of the whole trip; many wanted to go back for a second showing! Friday was considered a "free day" and the students were allowed to accompany their chaperones into the city and spend the whole day schedule free and doing what they wanted to. The Tribe's students elected to tour the Holocaust Museum, the Museum of Natural History, and the Air and Space Museum with a final stop at the Pentagon City Mall. The night ended with a farewell dinner and dance.

I have a box; I give it to Austin, he gives it to Sehoy; Sehoy gives it to Hunter, who has the box? (I'll give you a hint, it is not Hunter!)



Cristyn Sells with participants and Tribal Council Member Robbie McGhee at "Breakfast with Tribal Leaders" on Thursday, February 12th.



Close Up participants Jennifer Nevin, Sehoy Thrower, Austin Sthrel, Chase Amerson, and Hunter Franklin are shown with Representative Dale Kilddee of Michigan, co-chair of the Native American Caucus.



Close Up participants visited many museums, memorials, and other historical sites. Pictured above are (L - R) Cheryl, Sehoy, Crystal, Chase, Austin, and Hunter at the National Museum of the American Indian.

In closing I wanted to say that although this was an educational experience, the kids had fun, made new friends and formed lasting friendships, and goofed off (just a little!). I strongly encourage anyone interested in the program to contact Christyn Sells and she will give you more information. The little riddle above is mind boggling, but once you figure it out you will laugh! If you can't figure it out, ask one of the kids to explain it to you!

ETHICS CORNER

By: Carrie Martin, Ethics Chair

Greetings from the Ethics Board. On behalf of the Ethics Board, I would like to take this opportunity to say how very proud we are of the enormous success of Wind Creek Casino. With the completion of Wind Creek, a new era for the Poarch Creek Indians has erupted.



I would like for each and everyone to take a few moments and reflect on your way of life 25 years ago and compare it to the way our lives are now. If you are not old enough to remember, ask your parents or grandparents about the way life use to be for our people. Think about the homes people lived in, vehicles they drove, jobs they performed, education they had, our level in society, as well as the amount of respect given to our people by the surrounding communities and towns.

As you reflect on the past, you must keep in mind that we are where we are today due in part to the hard work and perseverance of a group of individuals who rose up as leaders among us. Over the years this group of individuals have come to be known as our Tribal Council; nine men and women who are elected and given the responsibility of faithful stewards to lead, guide and protect the past and future of the Poarch Creek Indians.

Since these individuals are elected to the Tribal Council, the words "Campaign Activity" comes to mind. Campaign Activity is one of the standards of conduct within the Ethics Code. The standard is as follows:

No Tribal Official or key employee shall coerce or attempt to coerce any individual into making a political contribution or commitment in return for employment, favors, or other preferential treatment.

In coming months you will begin to see campaign signs and posters everywhere and read in the Tribal newsletter of those individuals who have declared their candidacy for Tribal Council. They will list their accomplishments, what they foresee as the future needs of the Tribe as well as their personal agenda for the Tribal Council should they be elected and yes, even promises will be made. All of these things are perfectly fine as long as the individual's promises and future endeavors for our Tribe is for all Tribal Members, not just a select few, or in some circles a special interest group. No person running for office should make an agreement with any person or group in order to be elected. When a person chooses to run for Tribal Council it should be to serve the people, not what the position can do for them personally. Therefore we as Tribal Members have a responsibility to elect the person who we feel will be a faithful steward who will lead, guide and protect the past and future of the Poarch Creek Indians.

Public Notice From Family Services Department

This article provides public notice to all Tribal Members that the following grants will be available for review and discussion during office hours at the Family Services Department, Building 500, during the week of May 23-27, 2009.

A Public Hearing is scheduled for June 6, 2009 on Tribal Election Day. Please drop by the Family Services Department's booth, which will be located in the Poarch Creek Indians Gymnasium. Staff will be available to record your comments in response to the grant applications and proposes services.

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Grant (LIHEAP)
Community Services Block Grant
Child Care Development Block Grant**

*Carolyn M. White, LCSW
Family Services Executive Director*

Attention Tribal Members 55 & Older

The Poarch Creek Indians Family Services Department is assisting the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging with the national campaign to help seniors (age 55+) with the digital TV conversion. The goal is to educate, provide outreach and make seniors aware of the conversion. Additional goals are to assess preparedness and to assist seniors in necessary steps to order convertor boxes, install & make sure the boxes are working in our elder's homes.

As a part of this conversion, the Federal Government is offering each U.S. household up to two \$40 coupons to assist in the cost of the convertor boxes. The convertor box allows analog signal TVs to continue to broadcast. The previous deadline of February 17, 2009 for full implementation has been postponed until June 12, 2009. This is your opportunity to get set up before the upcoming June deadline!



You may have delayed once, but don't delay any longer. The Family Services Department is here to help you with this conversion or any other help you may need. Call Amanda Montgomery @ (251) 368-9136 x 2600 for more information.

If you wish to proceed on your own; you can apply online for the convertor box coupons and to learn more about this program at www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-800-388-2009.

Fred L. McGhee Learning Center Pre-K Registration

The Fred L. McGhee Learning Center will have registration for the next class of students on Friday, April 24, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon at the Fred L. McGhee Learning Center, 44 Creek Drive, Atmore, AL. Children registering for the upcoming class must be 4 years old before September 1, 2009.

You must bring the following information when registering your child:

Child's Certified Birth Certificate
Child's Shot Record (Alabama Blue Card)
Child's Social Security Card
Proof of Family Income
Proof of Tribal Enrollment (if applicable)

The Three Musketeers

To all 7th-12th grade PCI Students.

The Education Department will be sponsoring a trip to Montgomery to attend the play "The Three Musketeers" at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival on April 22, 2009.



This trip is open to Tribal Members and First Generation Indian Descent students. The play begins at 10:00 a.m.; we will leave the Education Department at 7:00 a.m., and should return to the office at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Admission to the play, lunch, and transportation will be provided by the Education Department. Students must get approval/permission from their Principal to attend. Upon request, a letter requesting the student be excused can be provided to submit to your school.

We can only accept the first 20 students, so please call and register as soon as possible. If you are interested in attending, please call Magen Weaver at 368-9136 x 2021 to register and/or request additional information.

Homes For Sale Through Housing Authority

The Poarch Creek Housing Authority has the following homes for sale:

	Location With Minimum Purchasing Price	
1.	2434 Ross Road, Atmore, AL	\$54,000
2.	1208 Salter Lane, Monroeville, AL	\$45,000
3.	50 North Broad Street, Atmore, AL	\$51,000

The above price does not include closing cost. The buyer will be responsible for all closing cost. The homes are available for sale **AS IS, WITH NO WARRANTY.**

The homes will be for sale until close of business Monday, June 1, 2009. If you are interested in one of these homes, please contact:

Poarch Creek Indians Housing Authority:
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502
(251) 368-9136 x 2257

We Shall Remain

Submitted by Sandra Hiebert, Education Executive Director



April 13, 2009 marks the beginning of an amazing series entitled "We Shall Remain". This documentary series is the centerpiece of a far-reaching multimedia project and national outreach campaign which brings to life key events, people and stories that helped this nation; all from a Native American perspective. There are five episodes in this series, each will be aired on PBS each Monday night April 13th through May 11th. Episodes include *After the Mayflower*, *Tecumseh's Vision*, *Trail of Tears*, *Geronimo*, and *Wounded Knee (1973)*.

In an effort to make this series accessible to everyone, the Education Department will be showing each week's episode in the Library. Everyone is welcome to come to the Library and watch with us. Following the viewing, you will have discussion questions and follow up. If you are unable to join us, please make an effort to watch elsewhere. This truly is "must see" TV.

You can find out more about this series and other informational and educational programs by visiting the PBS web site at www.pbs.com.

Tribal Officers Cross-Deputized



Tribal Officers are cross-deputized by Sheriff Grover Smith of the Escambia County Sheriff's Office which is a huge benefit for Tribal Members, Tribal properties and surrounding communities. This allows Tribal Officers to make arrest on non-Indians when on Reservation. Also, benefits the persons living in surrounding communities by being able to respond most times before deputies due to lack of manpower and funding. Our Intergovernmental Law Enforcement Agreement with the Escambia County Sheriff's Department has been in place for 20 + years and in my opinion is a great success.

Chief Larry Hammonds
Poarch Creek Indians
Public Safety Department

April is

Child Abuse Prevention Month

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION ****BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION****

Child abuse evokes varied emotions and responses from each of us. Startling images of children who have been harmed or killed are readily available in daily news reports. Enter the terms "child abuse" on any Internet search engine and thousands of sites will pop up generally full of heart-rendering stories. The causes of child abuse, whether it is physical or emotional abuse, are hard for many people to understand. Numerous research efforts are made to evaluate the root causes of child abuse. Generally it seems research indicates common causes of child abuse are traced to either a care giver who is stressed out by life's circumstances, or are traced to care givers who find managing their own anger challenging, and who responses to children are often aggressive and forceful.

So what can we as a Tribe do to become part of a solution to preventing child abuse amongst our people? Historically, Indian peoples have placed a high value on family, and native tribes understood children to be their hope of both their physical survival and future posterity. We must return to our historical principals of making our children and families our collective priority. If we took the time to focus our priorities on our children and families, we will learn many of our other priorities have little long-lasting value or impact.

The next step in the process of becoming a part of the solution to child abuse is to begin to be concerned about the realm of influence on our children. In other words, we must become involved in the lives of our children and in our community. We can refuse to allow child abuse to be a part of our individual homes and in our community at large. We can and must take an active role in developing healthy relationships with each other and in guiding our children into healthy relationships with people around them. Become a mentor to a child or family who is having difficulty and work together to improve their life. Individually take an active part of preventing child abuse by becoming our "brother's keeper" and reporting any suspected abuse or neglect to the proper authorities.

If you have any concerns or suspicions about any child who may be being abused, please contact us at the Family Services Department at (251)-368-9136. We will be happy to help make appropriate referrals as needed. It is the hope of the Family Services Department that we all work to make our tribe a sanctuary for the future success of our children. As the generations before us understood, children who live in safe nurturing environments will develop into emotionally healthy adults who can prevent child abuse for their generation and who will bring long-term posterity to this Tribe!

Martha Gookin
Family Services Coordinator

Upcoming Events

Tribal Newsletter Deadlines

The deadline to submit information for the May 2009 newsletter is Wednesday, April 1, 2009. The deadline to submit information of the June 2009 newsletter is Friday, May 1, 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, April 7, 2009 and Tuesday, April 21, 2009. These meetings are 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, April 8, 2009 and Wednesday, April 22, 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, April 9, 2009 and Thursday, April 23, 2009. These meetings are open to the public.

4H Club Meeting

The 4H Club meets the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Education Department. The 4H Club is open to children of the Poarch community age 9 -19. Any interested child can join at any time. The April meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13th; the May meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11th.

2009 Easter Egg Hunt

The 2009 Easter Egg Hunt has been scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2009 at the Pow Wow Grounds from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Relay on the Rez

The Poarch Creek Indians Relay For Life Team is hosting Relay on the Rez on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at the Pow Wow Grounds after the Easter Egg Hunt.

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.

Third Annual Poarch Creek Youth Fishing Rodeo

Calvin McGhee Cultural Authority hosts the 3rd annual Youth



The 2008-2009 Princesses represent the Tribe at functions throughout the year. Shown above (L-R) Deidra Smith, Junior Princess, Kennedy McGhee, Elementary Princess, and Danielle Martin, Senior Princess during the Legislative Reception held in Montgomery, AL on February 4, 2009.

Fishing Rodeo on Saturday, May 9, 2009. All supplies, bait, and meals will be provided. Fun, games, food, and entertainment for everyone. Call Alex Alvarez, Cultural Educator, at (251) 253-5904 for more information.

NAYO Basketball Tournament

The 2009 NAYO Basketball Tournament will be held in Seminole, Florida April 10 & 11, 2009.

Baseball & Softball Leagues

Baseball & Softball Leagues begin in April.

Pow Wow Shirts for Sale

Excess 2009 Pow Wow long sleeve t-shirts and sweatshirts are for sale through Tribal Government. A limited quantity of sizes, colors, and shirts are available. Please contact Tracy Linam at (251) 368-9136 x 2213 if you are interested in purchasing any of these shirts or any of the other items Tribal Government may have for sale.

Miscellaneous Information

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

TERO COMMISSION

The TERO Commission was introduced in an article in the August 2008 issue of the Poarch Creek News. We would like to provide an update below and let you know that the TERO Commissioners remain the same and they are diligently working to provide employment right services to the Tribe. You can find a copy of the August article on the Tribe's website at www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov.

You may ask, 'Exactly what is the purpose of TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance)?' As the unemployment rate in Indian Country is high, Tribes took action to protect the employment rights of Native Americans by establishing TERO. TERO strives to advocate for access to more employment opportunities for Native Americans. While providing employment opportunities, TERO also protects Tribal governments' and Tribal business entities' right to choose individuals or businesses that are qualified and capable of performing the services or providing the products that meet and/or exceed the needs of the Tribe. Tribal members may be referred to service providers for employment opportunities.

Under TERO, tribal member owned businesses will need to apply to be certified as a "preference-eligible entity" once the new TERO Ordinance is approved. Tribal members will also need to register with TERO to be referred to service providers. No changes will be made to the process of applying for direct employment positions with any tribal entity or tribal government. Therefore, individuals do not have to be registered with TERO to apply for direct employment positions with a tribal entity or tribal government. TERO's goal is to achieve a balance between providing opportunity to qualified individuals and businesses while protecting the Tribe's economic interests. While preference to eligible businesses must meet the requisite qualifications, they must also offer commercially reasonable pricing.



TERO Commission members (L-R) Wayne Colbert, Chairman, Carolyn White, Lawrence "Bunk" Peebles, Treasurer, Debra Strickland, Secretary, and Garvis Sells, Vice Chair



TERO Commission staff members (L-R) Misty Manac and Carol Cole.

The Education & Labor Legislative Committee held a Public Hearing on December 18, 2008 with a community meeting held on January 29, 2009 on the Proposed TERO Ordinance. We were very pleased with the turnout of tribal members, contractors, vendors and employers that attended to voice their opinions and concerns. The TERO Commission and Education and Labor Legislative Committee considered all opinions and concerns when revising the TERO Ordinance.

The TERO Office has recently hired Carol Cole as the Compliance Officer. As Compliance Officer, Mrs. Cole will be responsible for assisting service providers, certified businesses and tribal entities in complying with the TERO Ordinance. Mrs. Cole joins Misty Manac, TERO Director, as full time staff for the TERO Commission. At the time this article was written, the TERO Office was advertising for an Administrative Assistant. The position should be filled by the time you receive this issue of the newsletter. If you have a business or are interested in being referred to a service provider, please contact the TERO Office.

Contact Information:

Misty Manac, TERO Director,
251-368-9136 ext. 2267; mmanac@pci-nsn.gov

OR

Carol Cole, Compliance Officer,
251-368-9136 ext. 2269; ccole@pci-nsn.gov



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