

Keeping the family and friends of Poarch informed

# Poarch Creek News



New Princesses Crowned

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## Tribal Council Contact Information

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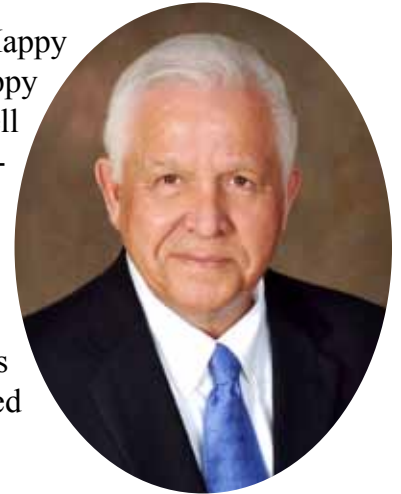
## ***Tribal Council Meeting Schedule Changes For 2010***

Submitted by Kelli Ramer

The Tribal Council Meetings for 2010 have been scheduled for the first and third **Thursday** of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the Tribal Council Chambers. These meetings are open to the public. Monthly schedules will appear on the calendar of each issue of the *Poarch Creek News*.

# Chairman's Corner

Happy New Year, Happy Valentine's Day, and Happy President's Day as well from this first ever bi-monthly issue of the Tribal Newsletter. I hope that each of you celebrated a very safe and wonderful Christmas holiday as well as ushered in a brand new year.



Beginning with this issue, you will receive the Tribal Newsletter once every two months. We have decided to do things a little differently with our publication and are in hopes that you will find this arrangement to your liking.

We have set a very high precedence for ourselves as a Tribal Council, as well as a Tribe, for this new year. Together we accomplished great goals during 2009 and are committed to achieving greater goals during 2010.

There is one upcoming change that I would like to make you aware of and that is the Tribal Council meetings will be held the first and third Thursday of each month.

If you have any exciting events or important news in your life that you would like to share please do so by contacting Gayle Johnson, Media Specialist. Her contact information appears on the back page of the newsletter. She would be more than happy to print your information in the Tribal Newsletter so that you may share it with each of your fellow Tribal members.

In closing, one last reminder is that all Tribal offices will be closed in observance of President's Day which will be February 15, 2010. I know this seems like early notice but due to the bi-monthly publication I wanted to remind you now because you will not receive another issue until March, 2010.

As always MVTO.



# Gubernatorial Candidate Visits Tribe



*l-r Keith Martin, Robbie McGhee, Stephanie Bryan, Congressman Davis, Berry Ross, and David W. Gehman.*

Gubernatorial candidate Artur Davis met with Tribal Council representatives on Monday, December 7, 2009. Davis, a Democrat who was reelected in 2008 to serve his fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, represents Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, a twelve county area that spans from Birmingham and Tuscaloosa to the Black Belt.

Congressman Davis, a Montgomery native, graduated with honors from both Harvard University and Harvard Law School and has a 15 year career in public service. As a law student, he worked for the Southern Poverty Law Center and U.S. Senator Howell Heflin. From 1994-1998, he compiled a near 100% trial conviction record as a federal prosecutor in Montgomery. From 1998-2002, Congressman Davis worked as a litigator in practice. Davis has won a variety of honors, including being selected by Esquire Magazine as one of the 10 best Congressmen in America. Davis' new, pragmatic style of politics has made him one of the most popular political figures

in Alabama.

When asked about his stance on the issue of gaming in the State of Alabama, he stated that he felt this was an issue that should be addressed by the voters of the state so that a legal definition of gaming can be established. He feels that the issue of gaming should be taken out of the hands of politicians and that a State Gaming Commission should be established. During his discussion of this issue with the Tribal Council, he stated that he is aware of the difference between Tribal Gaming and domestic commercial gaming and the need to set a base line for taxation on commercial gaming revenues. Congressman Davis also shared his concerns about education in the State of Alabama and the need for charter schools.

Members of the Council gave Congressman Davis a tour of the Reservation and Wind Creek Casino & Hotel before he had to leave for an engagement in Mobile. He stated that he was honored to have been invited to visit and that it is his hope to return to the Reservation again, especially after he is elected.

## Legal Update

Submitted by Venus McGhee Prince, Attorney General

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on several legal matters affecting your interests as tribal members. If you have any questions regarding any of these matters, please feel free to contact any of your Tribal Council members at (251) 446-1140 or me at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2525.

### RECENT TRIBAL LEGISLATION

#### Officer Run-Off Constitutional Amendment

In the June 2010 election, you will be voting for three positions—Secretary, Treasurer, and one At-large Council member. In June 2009, you passed a new Constitutional amendment that requires a run-off election to be held in the event that a candidate for an officer position, such as the Secretary or Treasurer in the upcoming 2010 election, does not receive a majority of the votes cast in the annual election. If necessary, the run-off election will be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes, or three candidates in the event there is a tie for the second candidate receiving the most votes, on the first Saturday in September. If we have two candidates that tie for the at-large position in the 2010 election, that run-off election for the at-large position would coincide with the officer run-off election.

The officer run-off amendment was needed because if you had 10 candidates for an officer position such as the Chairman and 1000 voters, it was possible that a candidate could be elected to the Chairman position with as few as 101 votes, which may not accurately reflect the will of a majority of the people. With the run-off election, you can be assured that whoever wins an officer position has at least a significant amount of support from you.

At the top of the next column are the two sample election results that I provided at the State of the Tribe meeting. These two sample election results assume there are 1000 voters in next year's election. To receive a majority vote in these hypothetical elections, a candidate would need at least 501.

### Two Sample Election Results if 1000 Voters

\* To receive a majority vote, candidate would need at least 501 votes

4 Candidates with a tie	4 Candidates with no tie
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candidate 1 receives 400</li><li>• Candidate 2 receives 250</li><li>• Candidate 3 receives 250</li><li>• Candidate 4 receives 100</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candidate 1 receives 550</li><li>• Candidate 2 receives 200</li><li>• Candidate 3 receives 150</li><li>• Candidate 4 receives 100</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candidates 1, 2 and 3 would participate in a run-off election</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candidate 1 wins the annual election without the need for a run-off election</li></ul>

A full copy of the Constitutional amendment is available upon request.

### SIGNIFICANT COURT CASES

#### Amy Bryan v. PBCI Election Board

As previously reported, Amy Bryan filed a Notice of Appeal from the Election Board's decision to overrule the grounds for her challenge to the 2009 election in Tribal Court. The Tribal Court held a status hearing on the Notice of Appeal on August 24, 2009. At the August 24 hearing, it was decided that the parties will be submitting briefs in support of their positions. The briefing was completed by September 18, 2009, and Ms. Bryan also filed a request for a jury trial on September 17, 2009. On October 16, 2009, the Election Board filed a motion to strike the request for a jury trial and a motion for sanctions against Ms. Bryan's attorney John D. Rivers. Tribal Court has set a hearing on the merits of the appeal as well as the Election Board's motions on December 18, 2009, at 9 a.m.

## WIC - Who Is Eligible?

To be eligible for WIC, you must be one of the following: a pregnant woman, a breastfeeding woman, a woman who just had a baby, or an infant or child under 5 years old. For more information and income guidelines, view the flyer posted on the Tribe's web site or call Jill Lee, Nutrition Specialist, at the Poarch Creek WIC Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2372



# Tribe Hosts Fire House From Alabama Fire College

Article and photos by Ryan Carter  
News Staff Reporter for Atmore News

Firefighters in this area were offered a great learning opportunity the week of November 9-13, 2009. The new Poarch Creek Indian Fire Station Number 2 located on Highway 14 just across the interstate hosted a “fire house.” The fire house was purchased by the Alabama Fire College and serves as a training tool for fire fighters around the state. “You usually have to have an abandoned house to perform these types of drills,” Poarch Fire Department Training Officer Chris McGhee said. Chris is one of 12 firefighters around the state trained to operate the fire house.

Inside the fire house, career firefighters and volunteer firefighters fight real fire and perform search and rescue operations. Although the fire is real McGhee said it is very safe. The fire can be extinguished by simply pushing a button in the case of an emergency. With an abandoned home, that level of safety is not possible. Inside the fire house, the walls can be removed making search and rescue operations close to what firefighters actually encounter.



There is a forcible entry door and a roof simulator which allows firefighters to practice techniques for entering a structure and cutting into a roof for ventilation. The roof simulator is adjustable creating a different roof pitch. McGhee said all they have to do is purchase a section of plywood and it's just like cutting into to the roof of an actual home.

The fire inside the fire house can occur in the front part of the “home” and in the back. There is also an upstairs section, which adds to the realism of the structure. McGhee said the flames inside the teaching unit are



real and the fire creates the “rolling” effect an actual fire produces when gases inside a home get very hot.

The fire house is an excellent teaching tool for rookie firefighters and firefighters from low call volume fire stations. Although the fire house is a controlled environment, McGhee said that for a new firefighter, the training can be “very real.” If a firefighter is going to “freeze up” while fighting a fire, McGhee said it's much better that it happen during a training exercise than during an actual fire. “If someone freezes up, then you have to fight the fire and help get them to safety,” McGhee said. “That puts everyone's life in danger.”

Fire stations across Escambia County had the opportunity to train using the fire house. McGhee said firefighters from Atmore, Nokomis, Robertsedale, Appleton, Pineview and Dixonville took advantage of the teaching tool.



*Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish an article about the Fire Department's training on rope rescue. Please visit [www.northescambia.com](http://www.northescambia.com) for an article and photos relating to this training. The title of the article is “17 Story Drop; Repelling off the top of Wind Creek Casino.”*

\*\*\*\*\*NOTICE TO TRIBAL MEMBERS\*\*\*\*\*

**WINTER LIHEAP PROGRAM**

The Family Services Department will take priority applications from tribal member households for the **WINTER** Low Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) on the following days: **January 18 – 20, 2010.** Applications will be accepted at the Family Services Department located at 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, Alabama for payment of your current unpaid energy bill. The maximum amount payable will be \$300.00. Please refer to the priority application schedule below.

If you cannot apply during the dates provided, follow-up applications will be accepted Monday through Thursday of each week during office hours until March 15, 2010. After March 15, 2010, the Winter LIHEAP Program will end and all funds will be transferred into the **SUMMER and CRISIS** LIHEAP Program. The Summer LIHEAP Program will be announced at a later date, depending upon availability of funds.

NOTE: Priority assistance for the Winter LIHEAP Program will be given, as always, to the following applicants. Also, these priority applicants will be provided opportunity to be served first. i.e. **Seniors Citizens (Age 55 or older); Families with legal custody of children 5 and under; and Households currently receiving food stamps or TANF benefits.**

**Please adhere to the following schedule to make your LIHEAP application.** All applications will be accepted on a ***FIRST COME FIRST SERVE*** basis according to the following priority schedule (no appointment required). If eligible, you will be given time to bring in your **January** or **February** bill. NOTE: LIHEAP funds do not cover late charges on energy bills or outside lights.

**WINTER LIHEAP APPLICATION WEEK**  
**(JANUARY 2010 ENERGY BILLS)**

DAY	DATE	HOURS	PRIORITY CATEGORY
Monday	January 18, 2010	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Tribal Seniors Citizens (Age 55 or older)
Tuesday	January 19, 2010	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Tribal families with legal custody of children under 5 and families currently receiving food stamps or TANF benefits.
Wednesday	January 20, 2010	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Tribal households who wish to apply without an appointment.
Thursday	January 21, 2010	None	No applications taken.
Friday	January 22, 2010	None	No applications taken.

**FOLLOW-UP WINTER LIHEAP APPLICATIONS**

January 25, 2010 through March 15, 2010 After LIHEAP Application Week, Winter LIHEAP applications will be accepted by appointment only Monday through Thursday of each week. Please call the Family Services Department for an appointment.

To receive assistance from the Tribal LIHEAP Program:

- you must be a tribal member household,
- meet the income guideline of 60% of the State Median Income,
- and be responsible for payment of some type of heating or cooling bill.

Eligibility for the LIHEAP Program is based on the criteria of tribal membership, income, and need for heating services. All applicants should bring to the interview: 1) *verification of identity*; 2) *verification of tribal membership*; 3) *verification of monthly income and non-income for adults 18 years of age or older [Verification of non-income should be in the form of a statement signed by three people with telephone numbers who are not living in the household who can verify the situation];* and 4) *the current unpaid electricity or heating bill.* If the utility bill is not listed in the name of the applicant, a signed statement from the person listed on the bill is necessary to establish resident's responsibility for paying the monthly utility expense.

If you have any questions or need additional information about the priority schedule or LIHEAP program requirements, please contact the Family Services Department (251) 368-9136 Extension 2600.

--Carolyn M. White, LCSW, Executive Director  
PCI Family Services Department  
November 19, 2009

# Support Siblings Rights To Visitation

*Submitted by Ginger Gulsby*

I would like to take this opportunity to speak out on an issue that should be of growing concern to all nationwide. Because family dynamics have changed drastically in the last 20 years due to high divorce rates and the increase of blended families, no longer are half-siblings or step-siblings, for that matter, an unusual circumstance. It is time that state laws give voice to the children of broken homes- children who have been separated through no fault of their own.

My daughter Shana was killed by a drunk driver almost 3 years ago. She left behind half-siblings 3 months old and 3 years old at the time of her death. One father is adamant about these sisters growing up knowing one another while the other father has cut off most all contact between them. These babies have not shared one day together, one mealtime, bath time or one bedtime, or any "normal" experiences sisters should since their mother was taken from them. They have suffered the greatest loss a child can by losing their mother so tragically and at such a young age. Now they are suffering the next greatest loss a child could in losing one another. Siblings possess a fundamental constitutional right to maintain relationships with one another, and the right of siblings to associate with one another is equal to the right of parents to rear their children.

What right could be more basic, more precious than that of sharing life experiences with one's own brother or sister? Surely, nothing can equal or replace either the emotional and biological bonds which exist between siblings, or the memories or trials and tribulations endured together, or the sharing of secrets,

fears, and dreams. To be able to establish and nurture such a relationship is, without question, a natural, inalienable right which is bestowed upon one merely by virtue of birth into the same family.

Since their mother's death, visitation for my Granddaughters has been very limited and very difficult



*Shana with Taylor, age 3, and Allyssa at birth*



*Taylor and Allyssa shortly before their Mom's passing.*

to arrange. After five months of no contact whatsoever, I felt it was time to take action. We were told by attorneys that we could not even bring a case to court seeking set visitation without some statute in place first. So, I started an online petition to bring awareness to this issue in hopes that legislators will take note and write such a statute. So far, we have had some positive results. Area legislators as well as legislators nationwide are expressing interest. Still, we need to keep attention on the issue. I hope that you will visit the petition website and sign if you agree that each case needs to be heard individually and considered in the best interest of the children.

Whether separated because of state intervention as in foster care situations, divorce or, as in this case, the death of a parent, no one should have the power to take this natural human birth right away from any child! Sibling bonds are the closest one can know besides that of their Mother and Father. Shana grew up in a very extended family, never restricted from her half-siblings or step-siblings. Sadly enough, I guess her situation was rare.

We are only asking for the opportunity to present such cases in a court of law. We want the psychological well-being of these children put first. Give families this



chance to be heard. Give these children a voice. Let's put statutes in place that will allow them just that! Our petition is online at

[http://www.change.org/actions/view/support\\_sibling\\_rights\\_to\\_visitation](http://www.change.org/actions/view/support_sibling_rights_to_visitation).

I am Tribal Member Ginger (Wilson) Gulsby, daughter of Lizzie Pearl (Wilson) Jackson, Granddaughter of Viola Jackson. I thank you in advance if you choose to sign my petition in support of this cause. No matter the feelings of the adults in any marriage, separation or divorce, the well-being of the children should be put first. That is all we are asking.

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## **MBWR To Issue Free Annual Family Member Pass To Tribal Members**

*Submitted by Bridget Wasdin*

For the upcoming park season at Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve, Tribal Members will be eligible to receive a free annual family member pass which will include their immediate family and children under the age of 18 in their household to enter the park free of charge. More details will soon follow in the March newsletter that will provide more information on how passes can be obtained as well as the proper paperwork that must be completed in order to receive a pass. The current anticipated date to start distributing passes will be April 1, 2010.

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## **Discounted Hunting Permits**

*Submitted by Paula Smith*

A discounted permit rate has been established for disabled Tribal Members who wish to hunt at Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve.

Please contact Paula Smith, Recording Secretary for Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority, for more detailed information concerning the guidelines and criteria that must be met prior to a disabled hunting permit being sold. Ms. Smith can be reached at 251-368-0819.

## **Weight Watchers Program**

Come join Weight Watchers! What a great way to start the New Year! If you want to get rid of the extra weight for good, come join us on Tuesday nights. Weigh in starts at 5:00 and class usually begins at 5:30.

Weight Watchers is a 10-12 week weight loss program that teaches participants to eat a healthy and well balanced diet. If you are not sure about joining, feel free to visit a class on a Tuesday night.

All classes are held at the PBCI Wellness and Activities Center (gym). For additional information contact Kay Thomas at 251-368-8630.

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## **Reminder of Changes to Newsletter**

To help offset publication costs, the *Poarch Creek News* will soon begin accepting advertising and establishing annual subscription fees to be charged to non-Tribal Members wanting to receive the *Poarch Creek News*. Widows/widowers of Tribal Members wanting to continue to receive the newsletter will not be charged an annual subscription fee.

The appropriate advertising and subscriptions rates are being developed and will be published in the next issue of the *Poarch Creek News*. Subscription notices to those non-Tribal Members currently receiving the *Poarch Creek News* will be forwarded as soon as the subscription rate has been established.

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## **First Generation Descent Scholarships**

The Education Advisory Committee is currently scheduling the opening and closing dates for the First Generation Descent Scholarships. Please visit the web site for updates as the opening and closing dates for scholarship applications will be posted as soon as the dates have been set.

# As a Tribal Member, You Are Eligible For...

As a Tribal Member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, you are eligible for the following services through various programs/departments:

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Section 33-3-3 of the TERO Ordinance required the Tribe to give the following Indian Preference:

### *I. Hiring*

(a) In the event that more than one applicant meets the qualifications, as stated in a job description, for a position that is funded by a Tribal Employer, preference shall be given in the following order:

- a. Tribal Member
- b. First Generation descendant of Tribal Member
- c. Indian
- d. Spouse of Tribal Member
- e. Non-Indian

(b) In the event that more than one applicant meets the qualifications, as stated in a job description, for a position of employment that is funded in whole or in part by any federal grant and/or contract or other public funding, preference shall be given in the following order:

- a. Indian
- b. Non-Indian

### *II. Promotions and Transfers*

Performance - Based Employment Actions. For all performance - based employment actions, including promotions, transfers, shifts, etc., preference shall be given in accordance with section (a) above, only if two or more Employees are equally qualified for, or deserving of, the employment action based on performance.

## **TRIBAL MEMBER BENEFITS DEPARTMENT**

The Tribal Member Benefits Department coordinates the following benefits.

*I. Elder Benefit.* The Elder Benefit is a \$200 monthly benefit payable to all Tribal Elders age 65 and older. This benefit is a direct deposit into the individual's banking or money market account. The Tribal Member may choose to receive the benefit monthly, once a year in December, or elect to establish a trust fund.

*II. Death Benefit.* Each Tribal Member is eligible for a one time Burial Assistance payment of \$5,000. Upon the Tribal Member's death, disbursement of this benefit may be made directly to a funeral director or to

a designated beneficiary. A completed Burial Assistance Enrollment form must be on file with the Tribal Member Benefits Department before disbursement of this benefit.

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

*IV. Minor's Trust.* It is illegal to disburse gaming revenue to minors; therefore, the Tribal Council established the Minor's Trust Fund, an interest bearing account, to manage and maintain the annual birthday checks paid to Tribal Members under the age of 18. The birthday check for minors is established annually by the Tribal Council. When a minor turns 18, funds will be disbursed as established in the Revenue Allocation Plan, which requires the minors to meet the following criteria: proof of age, possession of high school diploma, GED, or Certificate of Completion, and successful completion of the financial literacy course.

*V. Health Insurance Coverage.* The Tribe provides health insurance coverage for uninsured Tribal Members from the age 18-64. Tribal Members who have no other coverage whatsoever can find the necessary enrollment documentation on the Health Department page of the Tribe's official web site at [www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov). Tribal Members without Internet access can contact the Tribal Member Benefits Department and request the appropriate paperwork be forwarded to them via U.S. Mail. The applicant must complete the acknowledgment form and application and return it to the Tribal Member Benefits Office to complete the enrollment process. If the Tribal Member is a minor without health insurance, they must first try for state-funded coverage such as AllKids. If they are denied, they will then need to send copies of the denial forms to start the enrollment process.

*VI. Tribal ID's.* The Tribal ID machine has been relocated to the Tribal Member Benefits Department. Upgrades are now complete and anyone interested in scheduling an appointment for a new ID can call 251-368-9136 extension 2209. Please note that ID's are limited to Tribal Members who are ages 18 and older. For those Tribal Members living out of town, a copy of a state-issued ID along with a color photo such as a



I. passport photo can be either emailed to mmcnairstn@pci-nsn.gov or mailed to the following address

PCI Tribal Member Benefits  
5811 Jack Springs Rd  
Atmore, AL 36502

*Adults being added to the roll must wait a period of one year from the time they are put on roll to be eligible for these benefits; minors are not bound by this criterion, they are eligible from the day they are put on roll.*

### **TRIBAL COURT**

Tribal Court is the judiciary arm of the Tribe and offers the following services:

*I. Drug Court.* The Tribal Drug Court Program is an approximate twelve month, four-phase approach to substance abuse. It includes vocational, educational, and spiritual components in conjunction with providing substance abuse treatment. Phase I includes assessment and intensive inpatient/outpatient treatment. Phase II provides moderate outpatient assistance including follow-up to any inpatient care from Phase I. Phase III is a less intensive follow-up and emphasizes a drug free lifestyle and attempts to develop the mechanisms for coping with stressful situations which the offender might encounter. Phase IV provides continuing care, that is substance abuse support through available community resources on and off the reservation. All phases of the program include regular, random drug/alcohol testing, individual counseling sessions, group sessions, and probation supervision. This program provides not only treatment for the offender but also the opportunity for alternative resolution or sentencing regarding legal problems. To be considered a candidate for participation in the Tribal Drug Court a non-violent Tribal Member or first generation descendant offender must be charged with a drug related crime.

*II. Addiction Counseling Services.* The Tribe employs a full time Addictions Counselor who is essentially utilized for counseling Drug Court participants and individuals sentenced through the Tribal Court but can be utilized by Tribal Members referred by other agencies. To participate in counseling services including Anger Management Counseling, Domestic Violence Counseling, Addictions Counseling, etc., a Tribal Member must receive a referral from a Family Services Department (DHR, HRS, etc.), a Health

Department or physician, or a court referral.

*III. After Care Counseling Program.* The After Care Counseling Program assists individuals who have graduated from a Drug Court Program or other intensive treatment program by providing counseling services including group meetings and individual sessions with the Addictions Counselor as needed.

*IV. Public Defender Program.* The Tribe contracts with a local attorney to provide Public Defender representation in Tribal Court for Tribal Members that have been charged with a criminal offense. If you are in need of Public Defender representation, please contact Tribal Court for an application.

*V. Notary Services.* Tribal Court has four staff members that are certified Notaries for the State of Alabama. All Tribal Members are offered notary services free of charge.

### **EDUCATION**

As a Tribal Member, you are eligible for the following services through the Tribe's Education Department:

#### *I. Programs fully funded by the Poarch Creek Indians*

a. Tuition Assistance Program – this program is open to enrolled Tribal Members age 10 and up, and may be used for private school tuition, community college, vocational school, or college. This program is capped with a lifetime benefit of \$30,000.00. Applications are accepted year round.

b. Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center - this is a 4 year old school readiness program, open to Tribal members, first and second generation descent, children of Tribal employees, and community children. Space is limited to 20 students, and slots are filled in the above order. Applications are accepted in the early spring of each year.

c. First Generation Indian Descent Scholarships – this program is limited to first generation descent students attending college or vocational school. There is no set amount for these awards, which are competitive. Applications are available only when advertised.

d. 4-H Club – open to Tribal Members, descendants, and community children ages 9 – 19. The Club meets the second Monday of each month at 6:00 in the Education Department.

*Continued on page 18*

# Who's Having A Birthday??

## ***Audrey Coushatta Jay, November 3, 2009***

Audrey Coushatta Jay, daughter of Teresa and Roger Jay, celebrated her 10th birthday on November 3, 2009. Audrey is the granddaughter of Rose McGhee and the late Otis McGhee. Happy Birthday, Audrey, we love you!!



## ***Ashton White, November 9, 2009***

Ashton White, daughter of Teresa Jay and Lee White, celebrated her 14th birthday on November 9, 2009. She is the granddaughter of Rose McGhee and the late Otis McGhee and Clara Gray.



## ***Deldon McGhee, November 25, 2009***

Deldon McGhee celebrated his 47th birthday on November 25th, 2009. Happy Belated Birthday, we love you! Mom, Dad, Janet, Troy, and all your niece and nephews.

## ***Marlie Jayden McGhee, December 17, 2009***

Marlie Jayden McGhee turned one year old on December 17, 2009. Marlie is the daughter of Cruz and Celeste McGhee. She is the granddaughter of Janet and Randall Ward and the great granddaughter of Betty Peacock and Kent McGhee. Happy Birthday Marlie, we love you!



## ***Ruthie Adams Shelby, January 4, 2010***



Happy 65th birthday to Ruthie Adams Shelby on January 4, 2010. Mom, we love you and wish you a Happy Birthday. You are a special part of our lives and have touched our lives in many ways. We love you, your kids David, Wesley, Becky, Leslie, and Jamie.

## ***Megan Young, January 2, 2010 (left) Mallory Young, January 22, 2010 (right)***



Happy Birthday Megan and Mallory! Many birthday wishes from all of your family.

## ***Dollie McClellan, February 20, 2010***



Ms. Dollie McClellan will celebrate her 99th birthday in February of this year. Dollie was born to George Washington Murphy and Leacy Williams Murphy of Jerico, AL on February 20, 1911. She is married to Rex McClellan and they celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on November 26, 2009. Happy Birthday, we love you, Rex, Don and Denise.



# Welcome To The World

## ***Kenneth Douglas Manning, III***

Kenneth and Sara Manning proudly announce the birth of their son, Kenneth Douglas Manning, III "Trace", on October 27, 2009. He weighed 8 pounds and 7 ounces, and was 20 1/4 inches long. He is the grandson of Doug and Tami Manning and Dick and Diane Hahner. He is the great grandson of Gilbert and Mary McGhee and the late Floyd and Evelyn Manning. He is the great great grandson of Carl "Buster" McGhee and the late Atrbe McGhee.



## ***Rylie Nikiha Rolin***

Justin Corey Rolin and Chelsie Elizabeth Moore announce the birth of their daughter Rylie Nikiha Rolin, at 4:21 p.m. on November 16, 2009. At birth Rylie weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.



## ***Mya Va'Daiziah Pettway***

Brittany Rodriguez and Ronnie Pettway announce the birth of their daughter, Mya Va'Daiziah Pettway at 2:45 a.m. on November 20, 2009. At birth Mya weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20 inches long.



# Farewell To Loved Ones

## **Brittanie Nicole McGhee**

*December 21, 1990 - September 2, 2009*



A memorial for Brittanie Nicole McGhee, 18, of Killeen was held at 10 a.m. Tuesday September 8, 2009 in Killeen, Texas with the Rev. James Gosnell officiating. Cremation followed. She died in a traffic accident in rural Bell County Sept. 2, 2009.

She was born and raised in Killeen, Texas and graduated from Killeen High School in 2009.

Brittanie was the daughter of Patrick and Nancy McGhee, the brother of Patrick Jr., the niece of Frankie, John and Lisa McGhee, the Granddaughter of the late Julius (Frank) and Betty McGhee and the Great Granddaughter of Chief Calvin McGhee and Joyce McGhee.

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## ***Lonia Rebecca Norman***



The family of Lonie Rebecca Norman (Becky) would like to send out a heart felt thank you to everyone that brought food, sent flowers and even said a prayer for us and also for the phone calls and the friendly visits during the passing of our beloved sister and family member. She will be

sadly missed by all of us. Thank you and God Bless. The family of Lonie Rebecca Norman

*For Becky: The Broken Chain*

*We little knew that morning that God was going to call your name. In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you; you did not go alone, for part of us went with you when God called you home. You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide, and though we cannot see you; you are always at our side. Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same. But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.*

# President Obama Reaffirms Tribal Sovereignty

On November 5, 2009, President Barack Obama kept his promise to sit down and talk with tribal leaders from across the nation. President Obama delivered the opening and closing remarks at the White House Tribal Nations Conference that focused on challenges facing American Indians such as economic development, education, health care and housing matters. Obama spoke with officials from nearly all the nation's 564 federally recognized tribes. Below is the transcript of President Obama's opening speech.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Please, everybody have a seat. Thank you to Jefferson Keel, thanks for the wonderful introduction; to Clarence Jackson for the invocation. Good morning to all of you. I am honored to be with you today at this unique and historic event, the largest and most widely attended gathering of tribal leaders in our history. (Applause.) And I am so grateful to many members of Congress who could join us today, along with several members of my Cabinet who will be participating in this conference today.

You know, a couple of summers ago, I had the opportunity to visit the Crow Nation in Montana. And while I was there, I was adopted into the nation by a wonderful couple, Hartford and Mary Black Eagle. I know what they're saying now: "Kids grow up so fast." (Laughter.) Only in America could the adoptive son of Crow Indians grow up to become President of the United States. (Applause.)

It's now been a year since the American people went to the polls and gave me this extraordinary privilege and responsibility. And part of what accounts for the hope people felt on that day, I think, was a sense that we had an opportunity to change the way Washington worked; a chance to make our federal government the servant not of special interests, but of the American people. It

was a sense that we had an opportunity to bring about meaningful change for those who had for too long been excluded from the American Dream.

And few have been more marginalized and ignored by Washington for as long as Native Americans -- our First Americans.

We know the history that we share. It's a history marked by violence and disease and deprivation. Treaties were

violated. Promises were broken. You were told your lands, your religion, your cultures, your languages were not yours to keep. And that's a history that we've got to acknowledge if we are to move forward.

We also know our more recent history; one in which too often, Washington thought it knew what was best for you. There was too little consultation between governments. And that's a major reason why things are the way they are today. Some of your reservations face unemployment rates of up to 80 percent. Roughly a quarter of all Native Americans live in

poverty. More than 14 percent of all reservation homes don't have electricity; and 12 percent don't have access to a safe water supply. In some reservations as many as 20 people live together just to get by. Without real communication and consultation, we're stuck year after year with policies that don't work on issues specific to you and on broader issues that affect all of us. And you deserve to have a voice in both.

I know that you may be skeptical that this time will be any different. You have every right to be and nobody would have blamed you if you didn't come today. But you did. And I know what an extraordinary leap of faith that is on your part.

And that's why I want you to know that I'm absolutely



*Photo Credit: Cerissa Hontiveros*



committed to moving forward with you and forging a new and better future together. It's a commitment that's deeper than our unique nation-to-nation relationship. It's a commitment to getting this relationship right, so that you can be full partners in the American economy, and so your children and your grandchildren can have a equal shot at pursuing the American Dream. And that begins by fulfilling the promises I made to you during my campaign.

I promised you a voice on my senior staff in the White House so that you'd have a seat at the table when important decisions are being made about your lives, your nations, and your people. And that's why I appointed Kimberly Teehee of the Cherokee Nation as my Native American policy advisor; and Jodi Gillette of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to work directly with all of you. (Applause.) That's why Secretary Salazar and I selected Larry Echo Hawk of the Pawnee Nation to serve as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs here at Interior. And they are doing great work so far.

I also told you that we'd shake up the bureaucracy and get policymakers out of Washington so they could hear directly from you about your hopes, your dreams, and the obstacles that keep you from pursuing them. Secretary Salazar in particular has helped lead a comprehensive outreach to tribal communities; and Attorney General Eric Holder, Energy Secretary Steven Chu, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, along with several members of my staff, have held listening sessions on American Indian and Alaska Native issues around the country and at the White House.

I promised you we'd host this conference to develop an agenda that works for your communities because I believe Washington can't -- and shouldn't -- dictate a policy agenda for Indian Country. Tribal nations do

better when they make their own decisions. That's why we're here today.

And I want to be clear about this: Today's summit is not lip service. We're not going to go through the motions and pay tribute to one another, and then furl up the flags and go our separate ways. Today's sessions are part of a lasting conversation that's crucial to our shared future.

Now, Secretary Salazar and Assistant Secretary Echo



*Tribal leaders with Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Larry EchoHawk (left to right) Stacy Dixon, Chairman Susanville Indian Rancheria; Buford Rolin Chairman Poarch Band of Creek Indians and Chairman of the National Indian Health Board; EchoHawk; and Alonzo Coby, Chairman Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.*

Hawk are among the best advocates you could have in Washington, and this department is doing fantastic work under their leadership. But being good partners with tribal nations is a responsibility we've all got to take on. And that's why representatives of multiple agencies are here today -- because if we're going to address the needs of Native Americans in a comprehensive way, then we've got to mount a comprehensive response.

A major step toward living up to that responsibility is the presidential memorandum that I'll be signing at this desk in just a few moments. In the final years of his administration, President Clinton issued an executive order establishing regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration between your nations and the federal government. But over the past nine years, only a few agencies have made an effort to implement that executive order -- and it's time for that to change. (Applause.)

The memorandum I'll sign directs every Cabinet agency to give me a detailed plan within 90 days of how -- the full implementation of that executive order and how we're going to improve tribal consultation. (Applause.) After all, there are challenges we can only solve by working together, and we face a serious set of issues right now.

We face our economic crisis, in which we took bold and swift action, including in your communities. We allocated more than \$3 billion of the Recovery Act to help with some of your most pressing needs, like rebuilding and

renovating schools on reservations across the country. We provided more than \$100 million in loans to spur job creation in tribal economies. And we made sure my budget included significant increases in funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service, and other agencies that have critical roles to play in your communities. (Applause.)

But if we're going to bring real and lasting change for Native Americans, we need a comprehensive strategy, as I said before. Part of that strategy is health care. We know that as long as Native Americans die of illnesses like tuberculosis, alcoholism, diabetes, pneumonia, and influenza at far higher rates than the rest of the population, then we're going to have to do more to address disparities in health care delivery.

More than half of all Native Americans and Alaska Natives, especially those in remote areas with limited access to care, rely on the Indian Health Service for their most basic needs. And that's why we invested \$500 million under the Recovery Act in strengthening and modernizing the IHS, and that's why my budget proposes a increase of 13 percent in IHS funding. (Applause.)

We're also closer than ever to passing health insurance reform that will finally make quality insurance affordable to all Americans who don't have coverage, and finally offer stability and security to Americans who do -- and that includes our First Americans. (Applause.)

When it comes to creating jobs, closing the opportunity gap, and leaving something better for our future generations, few areas hold as much promise as clean energy. Up to 15 percent of our potential wind energy resources are on Native American land, and the potential for solar energy is even higher. But too often, you face unique hurdles to developing these renewable resources. That's why I'm very proud, under Secretary Salazar's leadership, we're looking for new opportunities to ensure that you have a say in planning for access to the transmission grid. We're

streamlining and expediting the permit process for energy development and transmission across tribal lands. We are securing tribal access to financing and investments for new energy projects. And thanks to the Recovery Act, we've established an Energy Auditor Training Program that could prepare Native Americans for the green jobs of the future. And that's going to be absolutely important. (Applause.)

But the future of Indian Country rests on something more: the education we provide our children. (Applause.) We know that Native Americans face some of the lowest matriculation rates and highest high school and college dropout rates. That's why the Recovery Act also included \$170 million for Indian education -- (applause) -- and \$277 million for Indian school construction. And that's why my budget provided \$50 million in advanced funding for

tribal colleges that are often economic lifelines for a community. (Applause.) Students who study at a tribal college are eight times less likely to drop out of higher education, they continue on to a four-year institution at a higher rate than students in community colleges, and nearly 80 percent end up in careers that help their tribal nation.

And none of our efforts will take root if we can't even guarantee that our communities are safe -- safe places to learn, safe places to grow, safe places to thrive. And on some reservations, violent crime is more than 20 times the national average. The shocking and contemptible fact that one in three Native American women will be raped in their lifetimes is an assault on our national conscience that we can no longer ignore. (Applause.)

So tribes need support in strengthening their law enforcement capability. They need better resources and more training. And my administration fully appreciates the complexity and challenges you face when it comes to the criminal justice system on tribal lands. But we need to have a serious conversation with regard to all aspects of your public safety, and that's a conversation my administration is committed to doing. (Applause.)

*"It was an honor to be part of this historic moment when President Obama reaffirmed the sovereignty of Tribal Nations."*

*Buford L. Rolin, Tribal Chairman*



So this is a challenge we take very seriously. The Department of Justice, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Health and Human Services are all working on ways to empower tribal governments to ensure greater safety in their own communities, and I want to particularly commend Attorney General Eric Holder for his efforts on this so far. I also strongly support the Tribal Law and Order Act, and I thank Chairman Dorgan and Representative Herseth-Sandlin for their leadership on this issue. And I look forward to Congress passing it so I can sign it into law. (Applause.)

So there's a lot of work to be done today. But before we get at it, I want to close with this. I know you've heard this song from Washington before. I know you've often heard grand promises that sound good but rarely materialize. And each time, you're told this time will be different. But over the last few years, I've had a chance to speak with Native American leaders across the country about the challenges you face, and those conversations have been deeply important to me.

I get it. I'm on your side. I understand what it means to be an outsider. I was born to a teenage mother. My father left when I was two years old, leaving her -- my mother and my grandparents to raise me. We didn't have much. We moved around a lot. So even though our experiences are different, I understand what it means to be on the outside looking in. I know what it means to feel ignored and forgotten, and what it means to struggle. So you will not be forgotten as long as I'm in this White House. (Applause.) All right. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Together, working together, we're going to make sure that the First Americans, along with all Americans, get the opportunities they deserve. So with that, if I'm not mistaken, I am in a position now to start signing this memorandum, and then we're going to do a little Q&A. So get everything set up -- how many pens do you want me to use? Eight pens. (Laughter.) I don't know who's getting the pens, but -- (The memorandum is signed.)

THE PRESIDENT: This is harder than it looks. (Laughter.) There you go. (Applause.)

*Note: You can visit [www.falmouth-air.blogspot.com](http://www.falmouth-air.blogspot.com) to*

*view the transcript of the question and answer session that was held after the memorandum was signed.*

*Information and transcript provided by Ietan Consulting, LLC*

## **Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 Signed by President Obama**

In June, President Barack Obama signed the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009, sponsored by Congressman Joe Baca, which officially established the Friday immediately following Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day.

*For Immediate Release November 25, 2009*

*[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)*

Statement by the President on Native American Heritage Day

"Tomorrow, Americans everywhere will observe our National Day of Thanksgiving. It will be a time of celebration and reflection as we gather with family and friends to count our blessings and remember those less fortunate. But it will also be a time to remember how this holiday began--as a harvest celebration between European settlers and the American Indians who had been living and thriving on the continent for thousands of years."

"That is why on Friday, I encourage every American to join me in observing Native American Heritage Day. My Administration is committed to strengthening the nation to nation relationship with tribal governments. But it is also important for all of us to understand the rich culture, tradition and history of Native Americans and their status today- and to appreciate the contributions that First Americans have made, and will continue to make to our Nation."

*Note: Visit [www.potawatomi.org](http://www.potawatomi.org) to view the complete text of Public Law 111-33 111th Congress Joint Resolution establishing the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009.*

# As A Tribal Member, You Are Eligible For...Continued

*Continued from page 11*

Students may join at any time.

e. Summer Reading Program – this program is held during the summer months to encourage students to continue reading even when school is out. The program includes story time, crafts, and snacks. The program is open to Tribal Member and first generation students, as well as any student enrolled with the Wellness and Activity Department's Summer Youth Program.

f. Senior Citizens Program – open to all Tribal Member seniors, as well as those attending the SAIL Center program. The goal of this program is to help seniors gain new interests and attend various functions at the Library. A variety of activities are offered, such as flower arranging, book bingo, and trips to local museums.

## II. Programs funded by Federal Grants and/or Contracts

a. Adult Education – open to Tribal Members. This program offers basic adult education and GED classes year round. Other services offered include resume development assistance, job search training, assistance with financial aid search, etc. (This program is subsidized with Tribal funds.)

b. Johnson O'Malley – open to school age Tribal Member students with a "C" or lower on their report card. Parents must complete an application and the student must be accepted into this program due to staffing limitations. This program provides after-school tutoring to assist struggling students in improving their grades. The "Homework Club" is also an extension of this program. Homework Club meets Monday through Thursday night from 6:00 – 8:00. Students may use this time to perform research, use computers, or to get help with homework. Homework Club is open to all Tribal Member and first generation descent students and there is no application process to join. (This program is subsidized with Tribal funds.)

c. Title VII - open to students in the following public schools—Huxford Elementary, Escambia County Middle School and Escambia County High School. This program is available to Tribal Members, as well as first and second generation students in need of academic assistance. Aides are placed in each of these schools

and are available for in-class and one-on-one assistance to students. (This program is subsidized with Tribal funds.)

d. Basic Library – this program provides a small amount of funding to purchase books and periodicals for the Tribal Library. The Library is available to all Tribal Members and those residing in Tribal Member homes. There is a significant collection of books for children and adults, a variety of magazines and newspapers, and some videos which are available for checkout. There is also an adult and children's computer lab area which may be used for school, work or job search. (This program is subsidized with Tribal funds.)

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The Poarch Creek Indians Health Department, owned and operated by the Tribe, is a full service, outpatient clinic funded through the Indian Health Service (IHS). The clinic is available to members of a Federally Recognized American Indian Tribe; a tribal member must be able to show documented proof of enrollment. Services are also provided to first generation Indian descendants up to age 19. Through a combination of direct care and contract services, a comprehensive program of health, medical, dental, laboratory, and pharmacy services are provided. (This program is subsidized with Tribal funds.)

*I. Payer of Last Resort* As a payer of last resort, IHS will pay only after all other resources have been accessed. If you are covered by Medicare and/or Medicaid, private insurance, or Veteran's Administration benefits, you must use these resources before IHS can provide contract health services for you. If you do not currently have alternate resources, you will be referred to the Alternate Resource Clerk for assistance in applying for any health care assistance programs for which you qualify.

*II. Emergency Room Visits* All emergency room visits or emergency hospitalizations must be reported to the Business Office within seventy-two (72) hours. The patient is responsible for notification to the Health Department regarding all types of emergency care. IHS defines an emergency as *urgent and emergent hospital care, care that must be provided within twenty-four (24) hours or less to preserve life, limb, or organ*. Each patient is responsible for bringing claims and explanations of benefits from their insurance company or the medical



I. provider for each medical visit. No payment will be issued until all forms are received and all alternate resources have paid.

*II. Dental Services* Dental services include routine cleanings, x-rays and examinations, education, basic dental and extensive care and treatment, and limited referral services (cosmetic and optional treatments are not covered by referral).

*III. Environmental Health* Environmental Health Services assists in obtaining and maintaining a healthy and safe community. Services include, but are not limited to, water testing for fluoride and/or harmful agents, rabies clinics, food services safety inspections, and community safety and injury prevention.

*IV. Community Health* The Community Health Nursing program assists individuals and families in obtaining and maintaining a maximum level of health and to encourage and assist patients toward self-sufficiency and personal empowerment in health maintenance. Medical and ambulatory nursing services available through the Health Department include, but are not limited to, services related to cancer, diabetes, family planning, hypertension, immunizations, laboratory services, limited maternity care, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculin skin testing, vision and hearing, and well child clinic. The Health Department also provides nutritional services through the WIC program or through consultation with a Registered Dietician, Certified Diabetes Educator, and a Health Educator.

*V. SDPI (Diabetes Grant)* Tribal Members are eligible to receive additional assistance if they are active in Diabetes clinic. The diabetes team considers an active participant to be someone who has had a least 2 visits to diabetes clinic each year. The money received for the additional services all depends on the care provided to patients. It also helps keep a closer check on patients with Diabetes. With the SDPI funds the Tribe is able to provide dentures, annual eye exams, and nephrology and nutrition services. For additional information please contact Donna Johnson, Diabetes Case Manager or Kay Thomas, Health Educator at 251-368-8630.

*VI. CDC Grant* Pap Smear Appointments are scheduled through the Health Clinic with our Nurse Practitioner or in Pensacola with our consultant gynecologist. Mammogram appointments are scheduled through the Tribal Health Clinic and the Women's Health Case Nurse for West Florida Hospital or the mobile van, which visits three times a year. Services are available to Tribal

Members, First Generation Descendants, or members of other Federally recognized Tribes. Special permission has been granted to all descendants to continue pap care through the Tribal Clinic after all other eligibility has ended at age 19 if they continue to meet CDC guidelines. Women age 16 to 64, or the start of Medicare, are for eligible for services. Annual screening is recommended for women 50-64, but services are available for women age 40-49 who may be high risk. Women must be uninsured or underinsured (can't afford co-pays or deductibles) and must meet an income guideline which is based on national poverty guidelines. Women who develop breast problems may be eligible for diagnostic services regardless of age. They have to be evaluated by a Tribal provider to verify need for these tests. The grant is for screening and diagnostic services only. No treatment dollars are attached; this care is provided through other resources. For those women not eligible for the CDC grant, the clinic will still provide paps at no charge. Mammograms are covered on case by case basis by our providers.

*VII. Human Services* The Human Services Program provides confidential counseling and education for a variety of mental health and lifestyle questions/concerns. Depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and relationship issues are some of the areas in which Human Services can offer assistance.

*VIII. Clinic Hours* General clinic hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Diabetic Clinic is scheduled for every Tuesday morning. Walk-in appointments may be made by calling first thing in the morning on a first come first served basis. If you need to access the services offered by the Tribal Health Clinic, you should call (251) 368-9136 ext. 2300 or ext. 2306 or (251) 368-8630 to schedule your appointment.

## ***FAMILY SERVICES***

The Family Services Department offers the following services to Tribal Members.

*I. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)* assists in providing regular and crisis energy assistance for heating or cooling to Tribal Members as funds are made available by the federal government.

*II. Community Services Block Grant* assists qualified Tribal Member families in obtaining emergency food, housing, employment, medical supplies, and other needs.

*Continued on page 20*

# As a Tribal Member, You Are Eligible For...Continued

*Continued from page 19*

*I. Tribal Emergency Fund* assists qualified Tribal Members with limited financial resources to help during natural or personal disasters or during an individual crisis.

*II. Child Care Development Block Grant* assists qualified Tribal Member families with day care expenses. This program is for Tribal Member children and Tribal Member parents with First Generation Indian Descent children.

*III. The Child Welfare Program*, which is the first program managed through the Tribe with BIA funds, provides case management for all child protective and preventative services for Tribal Member children located on the reservation, and off reservation if the Indian Child Welfare Act applies to involuntary custody proceedings. Services are available from the Tribe's 638 Contract through the Bureau of Indian Affairs which provides funding for child welfare services provided to Tribal Member children. The Family Services Department's close coordination of protective services with law enforcement and Tribal Court allows the Department, under Tribal Code, to conduct independent investigations on all reported child welfare concerns on the reservation. If the child/children involved are non-Tribal, the State will assume the leadership position with the Tribe working closely with them in the second position. The Foster Care and Adoption Service Program is also part of the Child Welfare Program and provide tribal children in custody with services as needed. The IV-E Fostering Connection to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 was signed by the President on October 7, 2008. This legislation, which is part of the Social Security Act, will provide funding to assist those children living in foster homes. The Child Welfare Program also assists families with custody issues that are not related to child abuse or neglect. The program also assists with DNA testing, which is used to determine paternity, because a child should always know who they are and where their family is. Lately it has been used in efforts to provide additional documentation that will help with Tribal enrollment.

*IV. Domestic Violence Program* The Tribe's Domestic

Violence Program is one of the few programs in the Southeast for Indian Tribes. Unlike most Tribes and some counties, we do have a domestic violence shelter that can be used for emergency shelter as well as providing a place for the domestic violence victims to seek a safe place out of harm's way. Creek Safe Haven is a short term solution for situations involving domestic violence, but an immediate and first step toward giving victims some options for relief from abuse.

*V. Adult Services Program* Through the Adult Services Program, the department is able to assist Tribal Members with meeting the varied needs elders and their families have and is responsible for all adult protective and preventive services for Tribal Member adults living on the reservation. Other voluntary services are provided to elders living within the five county service areas through the application process.

*VI. Homemaker Aide Services*, The Homemaker Aide Service is a Tribally funded service provided for qualified Tribal Member elders and disabled Tribal Members.. Homemaker Aides are scheduled to provide in-home services on a temporary, short-term, or long-term basis to help elders and disabled adults, depending upon the individual needs of the elder/disabled person. Supportive services are provided for those recovering from surgery or an accident, until they are able to become more independent. This program also provides assistance for those applying for Social Security and/or Veteran's benefits.

The Family Services Department has also developed and administers smaller programs that are building a foundation to meet the basic needs of the community. The Tribal "Angel Food" Distribution Program has been active for one year and has been very successful. The department also provides services through the Early Literacy Fun Day Event held for the last two years, which is held annually for day care children and day care providers. Through such events as Strengthening Families, Halloween Day Care, Pow Wow activities, Christmas Share, and the Kid's Community Christmas Party. The department has established ongoing community services, which also capture memories of the community through photos.



## Wellness & Activities Center Important Events/Dates to Remember

Gym Hours Monday – Friday 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The front lobby and restroom area will be closed for remodeling the month of January. During that time, the side door will be used as the entrance into the facility.

Sports Banquet

Friday, January 29, 2010 (Tentatively)

All NAYO participants as well as all Tribal Member and First Generation athletes who play sports in grades 9-12 are invited. RSVP Trina Rackard at (251) 368-9136 x 2248 or via email at [trackard@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:trackard@pci-nsn.gov)

Baseball and Softball Leagues

Anyone interested in playing baseball or softball in the 2010 league should contact Eddie Jackson or Mallory Martin at (251) 368-9136 x 2256 or via email at [edjackson@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:edjackson@pci-nsn.gov) or [mmartin@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:mmartin@pci-nsn.gov).

Softball\* Ages 7-18

Registration January 6, 2010 – February 5, 2010

Applications are available at the Wellness & Activities Center

Fee: \$35.00 Fee must be paid at registration

League begins in March

T-Ball\* Ages 5-6

Registration January 6, 2010 – February 5, 2010

Applications are available at the Wellness & Activities Center

Fee: \$25.00 Fee must be paid at registration

Wee-Ball\* Ages 3-4

Registration January 6, 2010 – February 5, 2010

Applications are available at the Wellness & Activities Center

Fee: \$20.00 Fee must be paid at registration

*\* Registration deadlines may change due to lack of participation*

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The Tribal Council will be voting on the following Resolution for a Constitutional Amendment that would enlarge the size of the Election Board from three (3) members to five (5) members:

**WHEREAS**, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is a federally recognized Tribe organized pursuant to 25 CFR Part 83;

**WHEREAS**, Article VII, Section 2 of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Constitution states that the election ordinance shall include provisions for a three (3) member Election Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council desires that the Election Board shall be composed of five (5) members.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT SOLVED** that the Tribal Council authorizes

## 2009-2010 Princesses Crowned

*Submitted by Amber Lisenby, Community Outreach Coordinator*



*Shown l-r are Hannah Gibson, First Alternate-Junior; Mallory Gibson, First Alternate-Elementary; Breiah Adams, Junior Princess; Lexi Daughtry, Elementary Princess; Cortney Morris, Senior Princess, and Tori Rodriguez, First Alternate-Senior.*

One of the main events of the annual Pow Wow is the crowning of the Poarch Creek Princesses. Each year this is a challenging contest and this year was no different.

Senior Princess – Cortney Morris daughter of Tina & David Morris; Alternate – Tori Rodriguez daughter of Janet & Chris Rodriguez. Remaining Contestants – Connie Colbert daughter of Deana Coker and Johnny Colbert, Jr., and Kimberly Rolin daughter of Norma & Ray Rolin

Junior Princess – Breiah Adams daughter of Marissa & David Adams; Alternate – Hannah Gibson daughter of Kristy & Steve Gibson. No other contestants

Elementary Princess – Lexi Daughtry daughter of Crystal & Trenton Daughtry; Alternate – Mallory Gibson daughter of Kristy & Steve Gibson. Remaining Contestants – Cierra McGhee daughter of Stephanie Ledkins and the late Fred L. McGhee, Daya Nobles daughter of Cecilia & Warren Nobles Jr., and Kiah Parker daughter of Natalie Parker.

*the following proposed Constitutional amendment to appear on the ballot for the June 5, 2010 election:*

### **Section 2. Election Ordinance**

The Tribal Council shall enact an election ordinance to govern any elections. The ordinance shall include provisions for appointment of a five (5) member Election Board, the time, place, and manner of voting, absentee and walk-in voting, ties, and settlement of election disputes, including the right to appeal to the tribal judiciary.

*If you have any comments or questions, please contact one of your Tribal Council members at (251) 446-1140 or the Legal Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2525 by Thursday, February 4, 2010.*

## Tribe Develops Master Plan

*Submitted by Frances Chandler-Marino*

**JOIN US IN CRAFTING THE POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS MASTER PLAN.** The Tribal Council and the Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority are initiating an exciting planning process for Tribal Members to create a practical and achievable Master Plan that will include the approximately 7,600 acres currently held by the Tribe in and around the area of Atmore and Poarch, Alabama. The final product of this Master Plan that will include specific tasks and guidance to help the Tribe and Tribal leadership address the key issues facing the community today and tomorrow, including clear step by step direction on how to achieve your vision for land development and preservation, economic development, infrastructure and community services

**YOUR PARTICIPATION IS KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS PLAN!** We will have many opportunities over the next several months for you to provide your comments, thoughts, and ideas to help shape the future of your community. But you don't have to wait to participate. Start now at [www.glatting.com/Poarch](http://www.glatting.com/Poarch) and click on **CONNECT**. Please log-on and provide your thoughts. We will continue to update the website with new information and new opportunities for you to provide input.



*Trip to the museum! l-r Cornelia Miller, Margaret Baggett, Robert Thrower, Gwen Manning, and Carolyn Peterson*

## H1N1 Information Podcast

*Carolyn White, Family Services Executive Director*

According to Jeanne Anderson, M.Ed., Manager of Early Education and Child Care Initiatives with the Division of Developmental Pediatrics and Preventive Services of the American Academy of Pediatrics, from April – November 2009, approximately 200 children under the age of 18 have died in the US from the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus. To increase awareness and educate parents, the CDC developed a podcast titled, 2009 H1N1 Information for Parents who have Children with High-Risk Medical Conditions.

This 8 minute podcast serves as a great tool to share with parents who have children in this high risk category! It may be accessed at the following link: <http://www2.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=393367>

Please review the podcast and other information about H1N1 influenza virus. Parents are important as the first line of defense for protecting children against infections and diseases. If you have other questions, please consult your family physician.

## Tribal Basket Weavers Display Art

On November 20, 2009, a team of Tribal basket makers attended Gallery Night at the Pensacola Museum of Art. Robert Thrower, Carolyn Peterson, Gwen Manning, Margaret Baggett, and Cornelia Miller set up a display on the second floor to share the art of basket making with those in attendance.

The team set up displays of baskets and other presentation materials and talked with visitors as they came through and actually demonstrated the art of basket making. They shared the varieties and vast diversity of southeastern basketry traditions and told of how the Tribe has reclaimed the lost art of basket weaving through classes, dedication, and hard work by young and old alike. They discussed how the baskets were originally made out of rivercane (Robert Thrower had a few to show), but now they currently use commercial "binder" cane to make the baskets today due to the shortage of rivercane. Over 500 people came through the museum, and the Poarch Creek basket makers have been invited to return.

# 2010 Census-Identify Yourself as Poarch Creek!

How will the 2010 Census actually happen? Many operations, people and activities must come together to produce a successful census. Here are five key steps every U.S. resident should know.

Step 1. Census is under way. Census workers canvassed the country between April and July 2009 to update addresses and maps from the previous census. This process is important because buildings that existed in the last census may no longer be standing, or a community may have new construction that needs to be recorded.

Step 2. The form arrives. More than 130 million addresses throughout the nation will receive a census form in March 2010, either by mail or in person from a census worker. Households should complete and return their forms upon receipt. ***Note: When completing your Questionnaire, the Tribal Council has requested that each Tribal Member identify themselves as Person 1 on Question #5 and mark American Indian and print Poarch Creek Indians as the enrolled or principal tribe on Question #9.*** If you need assistance completing your form, please feel free to contact the Tribal Member Benefits Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2501 or 2209 for assistance.

Step 3. Census Day is April 1, 2010. Responses to the census form should include everyone living at your address. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's personal information with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

Step 4. Follow-up because every person matters. Addresses that still have not responded are visited in person by a census worker beginning in late April through July. (Census workers can be identified by a census badge and bag.)

Step 5. The results are in! The Census Bureau will provide the 2010 apportionment counts to the President by December 31, 2010, which include the total population counts and the number of representatives for each state.

The U.S. Census Bureau has temporary, part-time jobs that offer good pay, flexible hours, and are close

to home. If you are interested, please call 1-866-861-2010 to schedule a test. (The Tribal Member Benefits Department has practice tests available for any interested Tribal Member.)

The 2010 Census will be a snapshot of our nation's population-capturing our changing and diverse America in a fleeting moment in time. But this historic event will do more than tell us who we are as a nation today. It will affect your community's future, your country's future, and your future.

To learn more, visit [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov) or call the Tribal Member Benefits Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2501 or 2209.

## A Personal Thank You

I wanted to take this time to personally "Thank You" for your vote and support during the 2009 Tribal election. It was an honor to be a part of such a historical event. I will always cherish and appreciate the faith and confidence you all have placed in my leadership abilities. Thank you once again for your vote and support. You can reach me at [sbryan@pci-tgc.org](mailto:sbryan@pci-tgc.org) or (251) 446-1140 or (251) 253-5961. I hope you and your family had a blessed and happy holiday season.

From my family to yours, may you have a happy and blessed year in 2010.



Stephanie Bryan, Vice-Chair and Family



## Poarch Creek's Fifth Annual State of the Tribe

by SHARON DELMAR, Public Relations Tribal Liaison

The Fifth Annual State of the Tribe was held on Saturday, November 7, 2009, at the Wellness and Activities Gym on the Poarch Creek Reservation. Participating in the event were Tribal Council, Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA), PCI Gaming Authority (PCIGA), and the Legal Department.

Stephanie Bryan, Tribal Council Vice Chair gave opening comments. Bryan said, "This is the fifth time that we have gathered for a State of the Tribe presentation. Much has changed in that short time. We have grown as a nation, and our economic enterprises are stronger and better." She also went on to say that one of things she is most proud of is the open government that is now the hallmark of our Tribe. That was made evident with the new annual report that has been made available to all Tribal Members this year. Bryan then went on to highlight the Tribal Government section of the Annual Report. This included all departments, authorities, and commissions that fall within Tribal Government. Financial information for the Tribe was discussed in detail by Tribal Council Treasurer, Arthur Mothershed.

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA) was highlighted next by their President/CEO, James T. Martin. CIEDA's purpose is to create employment, business ownership and economic growth opportunities for the Tribe. They have been successful doing this with its diversity in business operations that include entertainment, recreation, hospitality, service, manufacturing, farming, and healthcare industries. Martin gave an overview of all the businesses that are under the direction of CIEDA. They include: Muskogee Metalworks, Perdido River Farms, Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve, Premier Family Eyecare, River Oaks Apartments, Creek Family Restaurant, Weatherfords Sports Grill, Tallapoosa Lakes Golf Course & Lakeside Sports Grill, Creek Smokeshop, and Riverside Smokeshop.

The final business enterprise presented was PCI Gaming Authority (PCIGA), by their President/CEO, James Dorris. PCIGA serves as the principle gaming and hospitality entity for the Tribe, and was developed to generate a sustainable revenue stream to support governmental

services. These services contribute to the health and well being of all Tribal Members. Dorris discussed all gaming properties which include: Wind Creek Casino & Hotel, Riverside Casino, and Tallapoosa Casino. Dorris also discussed PCI Gaming's recently acquired controlling interest in the Mobile Greyhound Park and the Pensacola Greyhound Track. This is the Tribe's first venture into non-Indian gaming.

Tribal Attorney General, Venus McGhee Prince then discussed the constitutional amendment that was voted into effect during the 2009 election. The amendment provides that in the event that a candidate for an officer position, such as the Secretary or Treasurer, does not receive a majority of the votes cast in the annual election, a run-off election will be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes, or three candidates in the event there is a tie for the second candidate receiving the most votes.

Chairman Buford L. Rolin closed the State of the Tribe by reflecting on the previous year's performance of the Tribe. Rolin said, "I believe that 2009 will be remembered as one of the more important years in our nation's history. It was a year when the promise of success was actually



fulfilled." The Chairman went on to emphasize that even though the nation and our State were impacted by the recession, the Tribe created jobs and helped families weather the downturn and stay together. He also talked about how the Tribe has provided an economic bright spot for the counties where we do business, for the State, and for the region. The Chairman also wanted Tribal Members to

know that we have developed new relationships within the State and maintained existing ones. "Let me assure you here today, that we will continue to communicate the important role we play in the State's history and in its current economic well-being," said Rolin.

Note: All Tribal Members, head of household, that were in attendance at the State of the Tribe were given copy of the Annual Report and asked to complete a survey that will help the Tribe better serve you when we are planning future State of the Tribe events and in preparing annual reports. For those of you who have returned your survey, Thank You. If you have not completed and returned a survey, one is included in the newsletter for your convenience. Your input is very important to us!

# STATE of the Tribe 2009

## Evaluation Survey for the 2008 Annual Report



Thank you for taking time to complete this survey for the 2008 Annual Report that was presented at the State of the Tribe on November 7, 2009. This information will be used to plan future Annual Reports.

Please rate your overall satisfaction with the Annual Report:

1. Do you like the overall content of the Annual Report? YES NO

COMMENTS:

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2. Does the Annual Report meet your expectations? YES NO

COMMENTS:

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3. Please provide your suggestions for improving the Annual Report?

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4. Would you prefer to have the "State of the Tribe":

1) The afternoon before Annual Celebration 2) on Election Day 3) Leave "as is" in November

COMMENTS:

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Additional Suggestions / Feedback are appreciated:

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Please return your survey by one of the following methods:

**Mail:** Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Attn: Sharon Delmar, 5811 Jack Springs Rd., Atmore, AL 36502

**E-Mail:** [sdelmar@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:sdelmar@pci-nsn.gov)

**Fax:** 251-368-1026



The Family Services staff and volunteers are now famous for our enthusiasm and dancing-- not for having a winning float in the parade. The task of getting the float finished was frazzled at most and there were many times it appeared we would not make the deadline; however as we always do-- we made it! At the 4:00 p.m. line-up parade schedule we were ready to go in our dancer outfits, music blaring, candy bags full, and necklaces in place for the throw. We enjoyed ourselves and hope those present at the Poarch Christmas parade enjoyed the fun and our "FAME" float.

The staff of the Family Services Department (Carolyn White, Kathy Ledkins, Martha Gookin, Wanda Fowler, Amanda Montgomery, Sandy Hollinger, Carolyn Rackard, Stella Rutherford, Juanita Slate, Deanna Harris, And Carolyn Moye) wish you a happy and prosperous new year! *Carolyn M. White – Family Services Executive Director*



Five Generations. Carl "Buster" McGhee is pictured with his great great grandson Kenneth Manning, III, together with his son Gilbert McGhee, his daughter Tami Manning, and her son Kenneth Manning, Jr.

## Tribal Child Care Program

Space limitations did not allow us to publish the Family Services flyer on the new guidelines for the Tribal Child Care Program. Applications will be accepted beginning January 1, 2010 by appointment only. ***Under the new guidelines, Tribal Member children and First Generation Indian Descent children are eligible.***

To qualify, the household must live within the five county service area and meet income guidelines. The child must be a Tribal Member or PCI First Generation Indian Descent and adults of household must be employed or attending job training or an educational program at least 20 hours a week.

Verification will be required for residency, income, age of child, Tribal Membership, First Generation Indian Descent status, work schedule and school enrollment.

For more information or an appointment, call the Family Services Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2600.



## Turkey Apples!

After the regular business meeting in November, the 4-H members made Turkey Apples! When the activity concluded, the kids ate supper together. Pizza spaghetti and garlic toast was served! They ended the night by assembling the Christmas tree in the children's section of the Tribal Library. Kids pictured in the photos above with Christyn Sells are: Lydia Stacey, Alia Snow, Sara Milliken, Bailey Spann, Cheyenne McGhee, Courtney Owens, Caitlyn Barnhill, Bethany Crook and Hailey Clark.





*Riding The Fire Truck To School! Chris McGhee buckles Lea into safety seat.*

**Top Reader:** Leah Odom was Top Reader for the month of October at the Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center. In conjunction with October being Fire Safety Month, she was given a ride to school in the fire truck. Leah is shown above with Chris McGhee. Leah is the daughter of Chad and Leslie Odom.



## ***Big Bass!***

Jack McGhee is shown above with the 9 lb. 11 oz. bass he caught on November 23, 2009 at Arbuckle Lake in Polk County, Florida.

## **Dienes Nominated for Student Ambassador of the Year**

*Submitted by Ellen O'Barr*

People to People International recently recognized Erica Dienes for her outstanding achievements as a Student Ambassador and subsequent nomination for the 2009 National Student Ambassador of the Year Award.



Erica is the daughter of Anita and JP Dienes of Riverview, FL. She is the granddaughter of Emily and AD Owens of Monroeville, AL and the late Adam and Inez Daughtry.

## **Meredith McGhee Selected as Little Miss EA**

*Submitted by Tracy McGhee*

Meredith McKinley McGhee was selected by her first grade class to serve as Little Miss EA. Meredith presented the Homecoming Court with their flowers and the Homecoming Queen with her crown. Meredith is pictured with Little Mr. EA, Hector McMillian.



2009 has been an eventful year for Meredith. She graduated from the K-5 program at Escambia Academy on May 16, 2009 and celebrated her 6th birthday with a pool party at the Atmore City Pool on July 24, 2009.

Meredith is the daughter of Kent and Tracy McGhee and the sister of Janet Ward and Deldon and Troy McGhee. She is the granddaughter of Rentha and the late Willis McGhee and John and Dottie (Colbert) Padgett.

# January

2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Be good to your heart. Leading a healthy lifestyle will not eliminate your risk of serious health problems like cancer, but it can help reduce your risk.</i> <i>Cancer Care <a href="http://www.cancercare.org">www.cancercare.org</a></i>					1 New Year's Day Tribal Offices Closed	2
3	4 Tribal Court 9:00 a.m. First day to accept applications for 2010 Child Care Program	5 Weight Watchers Weigh In 5:00 Class @ 5:30	6 Housing Authority Meeting 3:00 Softball, T-Ball & Wee-Ball Registration Begins	7 Tribal Council Meeting 4:00	8	9
10	11 Tribal Court 9:00 a.m. W&A Authority Meeting 4:00 p.m. 4-H Club Meeting 6:00 p.m.	12 Weight Watchers Weigh In 5:00 Class @ 5:30	13	14	15	16
17	18 <i>Priority Winter LIHEAP Applications Accepted. 9:00 - 4:00 First Come First Serve</i>	19 Weight Watchers Weigh In 5:00 Class @ 5:30	20 Housing Authority Meeting 3:00	21 Tribal Council Meeting 4:00	22	23
24	25 W&A Authority Meeting 4:00 p.m.	26 Weight Watchers Weigh In 5:00 Class @ 5:30	27	28	29 Sports Banquet	30
31	Homework Club Monday-Thursday 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  Visit the Tribe's official website at <a href="http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov">www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov</a> for updated information as it becomes available.					

*Follow-Up Winter LIHEAP Appointments January 25, 2010-March 15, 2010.*

# February

2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Tribal Court 9:00 a.m.	2 Weight Watchers Weigh In 5:00 Class @ 5:30	3 Housing Authority Meeting 3:00	4 Tribal Council Meeting 4:00	5 Softball, T-Ball & Wee-Ball Registration Ends	6
7	8 W&A Authority Meeting 4:00 p.m. 4-H Club Meeting 6:00 p.m.	9 Weight Watchers Weigh In 5:00 Class @ 5:30	10 <i>Deadline to submit info for March/April Newsletter</i>	11	12	13
14	15 President's Day Tribal Offices Closed	16 Weight Watchers Weigh In 5:00 Class @ 5:30	17 Housing Authority Meeting 3:00	18 Tribal Council Meeting 4:00	19	20
21	22 W&A Authority Meeting 4:00 p.m.	23 Weight Watchers Weigh In 5:00 Class @ 5:30	24	25	26	27
28	Notes: _____ _____ _____					
_____ _____ _____ _____						

## Newsletter Contact Information

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

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