

# Poarch Creek News

*Keeping the family and friends of Poarch informed* May 2010



T-BALL SEASON BEGINS!  
KEVIN SNOW GIVES BROOKE SCHACHLE  
LAST MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS AS SHE  
PREPARES TO MAKE THE FIRST HIT OF  
THE SEASON. GO BROOKE!!



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# Members of the Tribal Council



**Buford L. Rolin**  
**Tribal Chairman**  
tlancaster@pci-nsn.gov

## Chairman's Corner

May 2010

By now you all know that both the House and Senate voted for a health care reform package. One provision in the bill that has gone largely unnoticed by the nation as a whole but positively affects Indian Country is the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. As Co-Chair of the National Steering Committee on the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Act, I know this passage was the result of years of hard work and dedication by the steering committee and others who have worked to get the reauthorization approved.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the children of the Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center for their dual first place performances at the Native Youth Language Fair held at the University of Oklahoma's Sam Noble Museum of Natural History. The children, in full costumes, acted out the story of *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* All parts were spoken in the Creek language. After placing first in this category, they returned to the stage and sang 'Jesus Loves Me' entirely in the Creek language and placed first in that category as well. I extend congratulations to all those who were involved in this event, especially the children.



**Stephanie Bryan**  
**Vice Chair**  
sbryan@pci-tgc.org



**Arthur Mothershed**  
**Treasurer**  
amothershed@pcigaming.com



**David W. Gehman**  
**Secretary**  
dgehman@pci-nsn.gov

The 'Bingo Bill' is prominent in the Alabama State legislature right now. We have been watching the situation and are hopeful that good legislation will be passed that will be beneficial for both the Tribe and the State. *The legislative session ended with no vote on the "Bingo Bill".*

It is Tribal Election time again; this year you will be voting to directly elect the Tribal Council Treasurer, Secretary, and one at-large Council position. I encourage each of you to exercise your right to vote for the candidates of your choice either by Absentee Ballot, Walk-In Voting, or voting on Tribal Election Day, Saturday, June 5, 2010.



**Helen Hallman**  
**Council Member**  
kramer@pci-nsn.gov



**Keith Martin**  
**Council Member**  
kmartin@pci-nsn.gov



**Robert McGhee**  
**Council Member**  
rmcghee@pci-nsn.gov

## Attention Tribal Members Age 55 and Older

Do you want to attend the Tribal Elder Conference in Acme, Michigan the last week of September?

Registration begins Saturday, June 5, 2010 beginning at 8:00 a.m. and will continue through 12:00 noon Friday, June 18, 2010. If interested, please contact Carolyn Dortch, Senior Services Director at (251) 368-9136 x 2615 or (251) 253-5885 or Cyndi Williams, Transportation Services Coordinator at (251) 368-9136 x 2615 or (251) 253-8772.

**Seats are limited.**



**Berry L. Ross**  
**Council Member**  
bross@pci-nsn.gov



**Garvis Sells**  
**Council Member**  
gsells@pci-nsn.gov



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## Deadlines

The deadline for submission of information to be published in the *Poarch Creek News* is the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication. If the 10th falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline will be extended to the next working day.

Specific Deadlines:

Birthday/Anniversary Wishes: Birthday/Anniversary Wishes can be published the month before, the month of, or the month after the birthday/anniversary as long as established deadlines have been met.

Birth/Wedding Announcements: Birth/Wedding Announcements will be published as long as the birth/wedding announcement is received by the last working day of the month immediately following the birth/wedding.

Obituaries: Obituaries/Family Thanks will be published as long as the information is received by the last working day of the month immediately following the death.

Photos: Due to space limitations photos may be limited to one photo per article.



# Early Childhood Literacy Fun Event



Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2010



Ages: 2 to 5 Years

## Highlights

- Fun and Games
- Story Time
- Group Activities
- Lunch Provided



Time: 9:00 am until 12:00 noon

Hosted by: The Early Childhood Directions (GRCMA),  
and The Poarch Creek Indians Education and Family Services Departments.

Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2010 Time: 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon  
Location: PCI Family Services Resource Auditorium , Building 500

Register by Friday, April 30, 2010 for the event. Complete the registration information below and return it to your child's daycare provider. Community children are also welcomed to attend. Please drop off your registration form at the Family Services Department, building 500, or mail it to the Family Services Department 5811 Jack Springs Rd., Atmore, AL 36502. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

Child's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # attending including parent or authorized caretaker

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent / Guardian Signature)

Name of authorized caretaker if the parent is not attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

# Family Services Department Celebrates Older Americans Month

In keeping with the May 2010 celebration of Older Americans Month and honoring our elder Tribal Members, the Family Services Department's Adult Service Program would like to highlight our program staff and its homemaker services. The management and supervision of the Homemaker Services fall under the Adult Services Program, which was developed in 2006. We encourage any Tribal Member that needs assistance through this program to contact Wanda Fowler, Adult Services Coordinator, at (251) 368-9136 x 2373.



There are three Homemaker Aides that work with the Homemaker Services program, they are:

*Juanita Slate*



Homemaker Services, which has been in existence since 2004, assists with basic housekeeping chores to enable our Tribal Members to remain safe and secure in their own homes for as long as possible. These services are provided upon referral or application request for Tribal Members living within the five county service area who are elderly or disabled (age 19 and older). Applicants must show a need for basic non-medical in-home services to recuperate from surgery, any debilitating illness, or have medical needs as a result of life long challenges.

Homemaker Services assists Tribal Members with light housekeeping chores such as sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, changing bed linens, laundry, cleaning kitchen and bathrooms, dusting, ironing, and assisting with running errands. All services are assigned through an Adult Service Care Plan which is developed between the client, their family, and the Family Services Department.

Requests for any adult services are made by contacting the Family Services Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2600 or x 2373 (Wanda Fowler), or by coming into the Family Services Department in Building 500 of the Tribal Complex located at 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL. We ask that you call first and make an appointment so that a date and time is set aside specifically for you to present your individual and family needs.

*Angela McGhee*



*Deanna Harris*



## **\*\* PUBLIC NOTICE \*\***

*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 24-28, 2010. A public hearing is scheduled for June 5, 2010 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 proposed services.*

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

*Carolyn M. White, LCSW  
Family Services Director*



*Carolyn White  
Family Services Director*



*Wanda Fowler  
Adult Services Coordinator*



The PCI Family Services Department, which operates a Tribal Child Care Program, would like to join with NACCRRRA to celebrate Provider Appreciation Day on Friday, May 7, 2010. Please extend a special thank you to your child care provider, teacher, and other educators of young children on this day!

NACCRRRA - The National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies is our nation's leading voice for child care. They work with more than 700 state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies nationwide. These agencies help ensure that families in 99 percent of all populated ZIP codes in the United States have access to high-quality, affordable child care. Their mission leads to projects that increase the quality and availability of child care professionals, undertakes research, and advocates for child care policies that positively impact the lives of children and families.

Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers, and other educators of young children everywhere. Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers in New Jersey, Provider Appreciation Day is appropriately celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. The founding organizers saw the need to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who care for children of working parents. Momentum and support for this event have grown each year and recognition presently includes individuals and government organizations throughout the United States.

Carolyn M. White, LCSW  
Family Services Director  
PCI Family Services Department

A poster for Provider Appreciation Day 2010. At the top, there is a silhouette of a woman and two children playing. Below this, the word "Provider" is written in large red letters, and "Appreciation Day™" is in smaller blue letters. A blue banner across the middle contains the date "MAY 7, 2010" in large white letters, with the subtitle "A YEARLY EVENT TO CELEBRATE CHILD CARE PROVIDERS" in smaller white letters below it. The bottom section is white and contains contact information: "VISIT US AT: PROVIDERAPPRECIATIONDAY.ORG" and "OR CONTACT US: (888) 334-7781 info@providerappreciationday.org". To the right of this text, it says "AN EVENT HOSTED BY:" followed by the NACCRRRA logo (National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies). Below that, it says "CO SPONSORED BY:" followed by logos for NAFCC, Place for Kids, and The Niles.

## 2010 LIHEAP SUMMER COOLING APPLICATIONS May 3, 2010 – September 15, 2010

The PCI Family Services Department's Community Services Program will operate the SUMMER Cooling Low Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) again this year. We will begin taking applications Monday, May 3, 2010, and continue until Wednesday, September 15, 2010.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You must have an appointment to make an application within the established time frame. Appointments will be made on a first come, first served basis. Please call to get an appointment when you know that you will have a current unpaid electric bill to provide the day of your appointment. Make an appointment when you know there is plenty of time to get the paperwork completed to pay your bill timely. It takes approximately 5 working days to process an application, if we have all the verification.

Priority appointments will be given to the following applicants during specified months as follows:

**May 3, 2010 – September 15, 2010**

Seniors Citizens (Age 55 or older)

**June 1, 2010 – September 15, 2010**

Families with legal custody of children under age 5

**July 1, 2010 – September 15, 2010**

Households currently receiving food stamps or TANF benefits.

Eligibility for the LIHEAP Program is based on the criteria of tribal membership and income. All applicants should bring to the interview:

- 1) verification of identity,
- 2) verification of monthly income, and
- 3) the current unpaid electricity (cooling) bill. If the utility bill is not 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 appointment schedule or LIHEAP program requirements, please contact the Family Services Department at (251) 368-9136 Extension 2600.

--Carolyn M. White, Director  
PCI Family Services Department

# Who's Having A Birthday??

*Birthday Wishes can be published the month before the birthday, the month of the birthday, or as a belated Birthday Wish the month after the birthday as long as the established deadline has been met. Please remember the established deadlines when submitting your Birthday Wish.*

## **Julia Renee Sells**

Happy 8th Birthday, April 2, 2010- Julia Renee Sells. Toot Toot we hope you loved your party, cake and company... On your special day... As much as we all love you. You are a very special girl to everyone who is lucky enough to know you! Happy Birthday from your entire family and all of your friends. XOXOXO



## **Sue Dortch**

Sue Dortch celebrated her birthday on April 7, 2010. Happy Birthday Aunt Sue; you have always been a BIG part of my life and always will be. I love you, Jennifer



## **Catherine Sells**

Catherine Sells celebrated her birthday on April 3, 2010. You are a very inspiring Indian woman. Keep up the hard work, it is paying off! Happy Birthday, we hope this was the best birthday ever!



## **Sahara Stephens**

Sahara Ashley Stephens turned 10 on April 7th. Sahara is the daughter of Jason and Crystal Stephens, living in Ky. Jason & Crystal surprised her with concert tickets and back stage passes to see TAYLOR SWIFT. Sahara has a baby sister, Paityn 23 months old and is the granddaughter of Dave & Barbara (McGhee) Stephens.



Love, your family & friends

## **Kaelyn Emma Montgomery**

Kaelyn Emma Montgomery will turn 4 years old on April 27.

Kaelyn is the daughter of Mike and Kristie Montgomery of Milton, FL. Her MiMi and Paw Paw are Larue and Sandra (McGhee) Chunn of Theodore, AL. She is the great granddaughter of Carl (Buster) McGhee of Walnut Hill, FL. Happy Birthday from Mom, Dad, Haylee

Brooke, MiMi, PawPaw and all the family. We love you !



## **Martha Wilson**

Martha Wilson celebrated her 75th birthday on April 4, 2010.

Happy Birthday, we love you; all your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family and friends



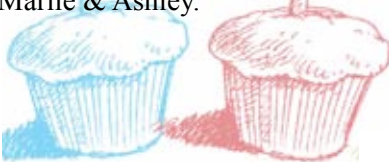
## **Larry Gibson**

Larry Gibson celebrated his birthday on April 6, 2010. Happy Birthday Dad & Papa. We love you so very much. Jennifer, Trent, Brannon, Chasen, Cruz, Celeste, Marlie & Ashley.



## **Jamie Hobbs**

Jamie Hobbs, pictured with her daughter Kiera, will celebrate her 30th birthday on April 30, 2010. Happy belated birthday Jamie. We love you! Mom, Dad, Kiera, & J.C.





**Chasen Freeman**

Chasen Freeman (Cheese) will turn 13 on April 30, 2010. Happy 13th birthday little man! We love you and we are so proud of you! We love you, Mom, Trent, Brannon, Nanny & Papa!!



**Carson Wilson**

Carson David Wilson will turn 4 on May 12th. Carson is the son of Brad and Anna Wilson of Atmore, AL and the grandson of Frankie & Tera Coon and Norman & Francine Wilson of Atmore, AL. Happy Birthday Carson! We love you, Daddy and Momma



**Becky Katona**

Becky Katona turns "51" on May 1, 2010. Sis, your life has just started so don't slow down now! Always remember you're a very special part of my life and I love you dearly.

Happy Birthday from your brother David



**Joseph "Jacob" Thomas**

Joseph "Jacob" Thomas will celebrate another birthday on May 12, 2010! His Mom, Dad, and #1 'man' Blaize would like to wish him a happy birthday.

We love you! Choo, Choo, Choo!!!



**Melodie McGhee Amerson**

Melodie McGhee Amerson will celebrate her 46th birthday on May 3, 2010. Happy 46th birthday! We love you! From your family and friends. Melody is the daughter of the late Luther McGhee and granddaughter of Littles McGhee; and niece of Thelma Henson.



**Scottie Lane Macks**

Scottie Lane Macks, son of Deanna Rolin Harris and Donnie Macks will celebrate his 5th birthday on May 12, 2010. Happy 5th Birthday! We love you Lane! Momma, Daddy, your sister and your brothers.



**Brionna Slate**

Brionna Slate, daughter of Bo and Stephanie Slate will celebrate her 5th birthday on May 9, 2010. Happy Birthday Brionna, we love you! Nana, Mom, Dad, Daygen, Tragen, Aunt Magen, Uncle Duck, Ashkia, Lucas, Paw Paw Timothy Slate, Granny Joyce & Granny Sherry



**Lizzie Morton**

Lizzie Morton will celebrate her 15th birthday May 12th. Look out drivers! Lizzie is the daughter of Barry and Melissa Morton; the granddaughter of Polly and the late James Carter; and the great-granddaughter of the Late Eliza Rolin Lowery Walker. Happy 15th Birthday Lizzie!!



Birthday Wishes continued on next page

# Who Else Is Having A Birthday??

## **Bobby Lawrence McGhee**

Lordy, Lordy!  
Look who thinks he's 40!  
Bobby Lawrence McGhee will  
celebrate his 63rd birthday on  
May 13, 2010.

We love you lots, your sisters!



## **Paige Findley**

Paige Findley will be 12 years old  
on May 26, 2010. Happy birthday  
Paige! We love you, your family  
& friends.



## **Julia Ann Stacey**

Julia Ann Stacey will celebrate her  
68th birthday May 14, 2010. We  
want to wish her a very special  
Happy Birthday!

We love you, your kids, grand  
kids, great-grand kids, nieces, and  
nephews



## **Melburn Malone**

Melburn Malone will celebrate his  
70th birthday on May 28, 2010.  
He is the son of the late George  
Ernest Malone and Myrtle Colbert  
Malone. He is the grandson of the  
late Mack Colbert and Addie Adams  
Colbert and the late Mannie Malone  
and the late Seola Roach Malone.  
Happy Birthday! We love you always  
and forever, your family & friends.



## **Paityn Stephens**

Paityn Marie Stephens turned 2  
years old on May 21st. Paityn is  
the daughter of Jason & Crystal  
Stephens and granddaughter  
of Dave & Barbara (McGhee)  
Stephens. She has a big sister,  
Sahara. Happy Birthday little "P".



## **Jessica Shelby**

Jessica Shelby turns 17 on May 28,  
2010. Your Uncle David wants to  
wish you a special Happy Birthday.  
I love you and miss you very much!  
Happy birthday, love Uncle David



## **Bailey Jones**

Bailey Jones will celebrate her 7th  
birthday on May 24, 2010. Bailey  
is the daughter of Frankie Jones  
and Natalie Singleton and grand-  
daughter of Kenny and Clara  
Jones and Melanie and Thomas  
Guy. Bailey's family would like  
to wish her a great big HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY. We love you!



## Welcome to the World Little One!!

### **Adalynn Rae Southard**

Francheska Gregson and Samuel  
Southard, Jr., are proud to announce  
the birth of their daughter,  
Adalynn Rae Southard, born  
February 22, 2010. Adalynn  
is the granddaughter of Robin  
Gregson and Larry Barlow of  
Atmore, AL and Samuel and  
Norma Southard of Pensacola,  
FL. Welcome to the world little  
one, we love you very much!!





# Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority Incubator Vacancies

*Submitted by Bridget Wasdin*

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA) is now seeking incubator applications for participants who would be interested in leasing the following properties located at 116 Davis Street, Atmore, Alabama. and 3028 Hwy 21, Atmore, Alabama.

## 116 Davis Street, Atmore, AL

The subject property includes office/warehouse space and may be subdivided into two leased properties.



## 3028 Hwy 21, Atmore, AL

The subject property includes office/conference room space.

Interested individuals need to contact Bridget Wasdin at the office of Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority at 251-368-0819 in order to obtain an application. All applications must be submitted to the CIEDA office location, 100 Brookwood Road Atmore, Alabama 36502 no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, May 31, 2010. Also please indicate on your application the subject property that you are interested in leasing.

## Entry Criteria for Incubator Companies

- Business must be in startup mode
- Company must submit a business plan
- Product/Service must fit the specifications of the building
- Personnel should have technical knowledge of product/service
- Company must show promising economic development potential
- Company must have 51% Tribal Member Ownership

## Business Criteria

- Sufficient resources to sustain company through incubation period
- Show growth potential for the company
- Personnel must be knowledgeable of business practices related to product/service
- Show potential to graduate in 5 years

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION:  
MONDAY, MAY 31, 2010 AT 5:00 P.M.**

*Also, the subject property located at 3480 Hwy 21, Atmore, Alabama formerly leased by Martin Construction is no longer in the "Incubator Program." CIEDA will be utilizing that property and facility for internal business needs.*

# Ruthie Mae Rackard, I Celebrate You!

*Submitted by Helen Hallman*

I regret that I was unable to attend your birthday celebration when you turned 90 in February. You are a lot to celebrate! I would like take this opportunity to share with you just what you mean to me

Whenever I see or think of you, my heart is filled with so many sweet wonderful memories. One of the first things that come to mind is getting to drive you and others around in your truck mostly to church events and revivals. I gained a lot of confidence doing that. I had so much fun being your "chauffeur".

My mother loved you dearly. We used to hang out on mama's porch a lot in the in the summers. It was always fun to hear the rumble of a car topping the hill at Aunt Alberta's house to see who was coming to see us. Mama, along with the rest of us, was always happy to see your car "top the hill". We always enjoyed your visits. But, let me tell you just a little bit about why I loved to see you come to visit... Even as a young child, I could sense your love and strength. You always had that aura of peace and beauty. You always had ready a welcoming smile on your face, a big hug and a kind word for us. Who wouldn't want to be around you??

I am just one of many whose life you have touched. I have to get very serious now and tell you something. Uh, oh, here come the tears... but they are tears of joy, love and thankfulness that God placed you in our lives. Your love and your walk with God touched more people than you will ever, ever know. We know, my sweet lady, that you are the one who lead my mother to the truth in Jesus Christ. Without your witness and endurance so many years ago, our lives and many other lives would have been very different today. You shared your knowledge of the full gospel of Jesus, our Lord and Savior with my mother and it has been passed on to the rest of us. You are a true blessing. I know God smiles down on you.

Just what do you mean to me? If I had to choose one word, it would have to be "inspiration". Looking back, I now know why I was always happy to see you. Because you had that "something extra" and that sense of beauty and peace that could only come from the spirit of the Lord.

What more can I say, except, I love you .

# McGHEE'S TERM AS N.I.G.C. ADVISOR ENDS

*Submitted by Chris Gibson*

Every few years the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), enacted through Congress to regulate all Indian Tribes who operate gaming Facilities on Tribal Trust lands, invites tribes to offer their input via a Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC primarily consists of tribal regulators or gaming specialists from various tribes in the United States. NIGC invites tribes to make nominations of individuals to serve on the TAC who can provide advice and expertise when writing new or amended gaming regulations and laws that will affect Indian Gaming on a national level.

Linda McGhee was nominated by the Tribal Council in early 2008 for this honor. She was later selected as one of the ten advisors (out of over 350 other nominees) to serve on the committee by the NIGC. Linda McGhee is a Tribal Member and 14 year employee of the Poarch Creek Indians. While employed, Linda served seven years as a Tribal Police Officer and the last seven years with the Tribal Gaming Commission, most recently in the capacity of Director of Regulatory Compliance.

As TAC member, she has acted as a representative of the Poarch Creek Indians, as well as all other Indian tribes from the South Eastern district, since March of 2008. Her term is tentatively scheduled to expire around July 2010. The process of rewriting the *Minimum Internal Controls Standards* for both Class II and Class III in Indian Gaming has taken Linda on several trips to numerous Indian tribes who are currently operating gaming establishments. Each trip usually consists of a week-long meeting of debate, study, research, and productivity. The experience has been beneficial to Linda, as well as other fellow tribes, and the NIGC as they shared mutual experiences in the field of regulating gaming.

Linda wishes to express her gratitude to the NIGC, Poarch Creek Tribal Council, and Tribal Gaming Commission for the 100% confidence and support they showed while she undertook this monumental task. "This has been a very productive two years and I have been proud to be a part of making changes in regulations that affect our Tribe and others in the Southeast. I want to thank the Council for giving me the opportunity to serve and hope that when the next committee is formed in five or six months the Tribal Council will again submit a



*Pictured in photo: 2008 – 2010 NIGC MICS Advisory Committee Members:  
Back Row: Patrick Talcott - Pascua Yaqui Tribes; Andrea Matheny - Yakama Nation; Lorna Skenandore - Oneida; Mark Fox - 4 Bears; Tim McLaughlin - United Auburn Indian Community; Richard Chisoe - Osage Nation; Front Row: John Clemons - Tulalip Tribe; Linda McGhee - Poarch Creek; George Henningsen -Mashantucket Pequot; Joe Carlini - Aqua Caliente*

representative from our tribe to be a part of the process. It's important for Poarch Creek to continue to have a voice in the rules and regulations that we, as a gaming tribe, have to follow," stated Linda.

Although, Linda's TAC commission has come to an end, her dedication and hard-work will live on in the proposed *Minimum Internal Controls Standards* to be proposed by NIGC and promulgated by tribes all over the United States later this year.

## ***Warrior Society Sets Meeting Schedule***

At the last meeting of the Warrior Society the time and date for their regular monthly meetings was discussed and set. The Warrior Society will meet the second Monday of every month at the Fellowship Hall of St. Anna's Episcopal Church on Lynn McGhee Drive, Atmore, AL at 6:00 p.m.

The Poarch Creek Warrior Society's purpose is to organize Tribal Veterans and give recognition and assistance to those involved. It is open to all Tribal Member Veterans who have served in any branch of the military, peace or wartime

If you have any questions about the Warrior Society, please contact Alex Alvarez at (251) 368-9136 x 2655 or via email at [aalvarez@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:aalvarez@pci-nsn.gov)



# ***2010 Election Notice***

Pursuant to **Section 22-1-10** of the Tribal Election Code, notice is hereby given that the 2010 Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council Election shall be held on **Saturday, June 5, 2010** 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. Thursday, May 6, 2010.

In the 2010 election, the General Council will directly elect two Tribal Council Officer positions, Tribal Council Treasurer and Tribal Council Secretary, and one at-large Tribal Council Member position. 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 6, 2010. Candidates for the two officer positions must pay the required \$250.00 fee upon submission of their Letter of Candidacy; candidates for the at-large seat must pay the required \$100.00 fee upon submission of their Letter of Candidacy.

## **Election Calendar**

**Tuesday, April 6, 2010** ..... 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 16, 2010** ..... Names of Candidates and any proposed Constitutional Amendments, Ordinances, and/or Resolutions will be posted. ?????

**Saturday, May 1, 2010** ..... Tribally sponsored debate for all candidates. Debate will take place at 4:00 p.m. in the Wellness & Activities Center (Gym). If you would like to submit questions for the candidates, email them to Gia Rodriguez at [grodriquez@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:grodriquez@pci-nsn.gov), Kevin McGhee at [kdmcghee@pcigaming.com](mailto:kdmcghee@pcigaming.com) or Melanie Boatwright at [mkboatwright@pcigaming.com](mailto:mkboatwright@pcigaming.com) or be dropping them off at the front desk of the Tribal Complex, a secure box has been provided for this option.

**Thursday, May 6, 2010** ..... 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. at the Community Services Building (SAIL Center). Walk-In Voting hours 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, May 25, 2010** .... Last day to request that an Absentee Ballot be mailed out.

**Tuesday June 1, 2010** ..... Walk-In voting ends at 5:00 p.m.

**Friday, June 4, 2010** ..... Deadline to receive Absentee Ballots at 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, June 5, 2010** ..... 2010 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 Rodriguez, Election Board Chairperson, at telephone number (251) 368-9136 x 2525.**



# ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

2010 POARCH CREEK INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2010



I, \_\_\_\_\_, am an enrolled member of the Poarch Creek Indians, and will be at least eighteen (18) years of age on or before June 5, 2010. I am hereby requesting an Absentee Ballot because: **(please check all that apply to you)**

- ☐ I live outside of the five county Tribal service area;
- ☐ I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents me from voting in person on election day or participating in walk-in voting;
- ☐ I work a shift that has at least 10 hours which prevents me from voting in person on election day or participating in walk-in voting; or
- ☐ I am enrolled as a student at an educational institution located outside the Tribal service area which prevents me from voting in person on election day or participating in walk-in voting.

I am requesting a ballot for the following elections. Please check all that apply:

☐ June 5, 2010                      ☐ Run off election if applicable.

Please send an Absentee Ballot to me at the address listed below:

FIRST	MIDDLE	MAIDEN	LAST
_____			
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
_____			

(_____)_____	_____	_____
TELEPHONE NUMBER	DATE OF BIRTH	TRIBAL ROLL NO.

Each person requesting an absentee ballot **"MUST"** sign his/her own request.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(This must be the signature of the Tribal Member to whom the ballot will be mailed)

RETURN THIS FORM TO:      POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS  
   TRIBAL ELECTION BOARD  
   5811 JACK SPRINGS ROAD  
   ATMORE, AL 36502

Requests for Absentee Ballots that are to be mailed must be received by the Election Board no later than the close of business on Tuesday, May 25, 2010. Requests received after the deadline will not be honored. Should you have any questions pertaining to the 2010 Tribal Council Elections, please feel free to contact Gia Rodriguez at (251) 368-9136 ext 2525.



# Nineteen Tribal Members Declare Candidacy for 2010 Election

Nineteen candidates have submitted their Letter of Candidacy for the 2010 Tribal Elections. This year you, the General Council, will directly elect the Tribal Council Treasurer and the Tribal Council Secretary as well as one at-large seat. If you are interested in running for any of the positions on the Council and have not yet submitted your Letter of Candidacy, you may still do so until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2010. Your name will appear as a write in on the ballot.

The candidates running for Tribal Council Treasurer are:

Amy Bryan  
Edie Jackson  
Robert "Robbie" McGhee  
William L. Vickery

The candidates running for Tribal Council Secretary are:

William Lawrence Bailey  
Dewitt Carter  
David Gehman  
Kelli Ramer  
Sandra Lee (Shelton) Smith  
Carolyn M. White

The candidates running for the At-Large seat are:

James "Gil" Caudle, Jr.  
Helen Hallman  
Douglas Kelley  
Carrie Martin  
Debra Rolin Strickland  
Eddie Tullis  
Robert G. Thrower  
Valerie Barnhill Walker  
W.V. Williams

There are also three proposed Constitutional Amendments that will appear on the ballot. The proposed Constitutional Amendments address General Council review and submission of proposed Constitutional Amendments, amending the Election Code, and blood quota.

For your convenience, we have included the proposed Constitutional Amendments-with the same wording that will be on the ballot- as well as the bio and photos of the candidates for this year's election.

If you have any question about the election, please contact Gia Rodriguez, Election Board Chairperson at (251) 368-9136 x 2525 Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



## PROPOSED AMENDMENT #1

Proposing an amendment to Article IX of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Constitution, (i) to give the General Council at least thirty (30) days notice of any proposed Constitutional amendment prior to the Tribal Council authorizing placement of a Constitutional amendment on the ballot and (ii) to provide that the notice specifies the purpose and draft language of the proposed Constitutional amendment.

If approved, Article IX would be amended as follows:

## ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

### Section 1. Resolution of Tribal Council

Election to vote on proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be authorized by resolution of the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council shall provide the General Council notice of such proposed amendment at least thirty (30) days prior to the Tribal Council's vote on the authorizing resolution. The notice shall specify the purpose and draft language of the proposed amendment.

### Section 2. Petition by General Council

The General Council shall have the right to initiate proposals to amend this Constitution by submitting to the Tribal Council a petition signed by at least thirty (30) percent of the General Council. If the petition is determined to be valid pursuant to the petitioning provisions of the tribe's Election Ordinance, the Tribal Council shall then consent to the proposal by an appropriate resolution for authorization of an election to vote upon adoption of the proposed amendment.

### Section 3. Voting Requirements

If adopted by a majority of the qualified voters voting on the amendment in an election authorized by a Tribal Council Resolution at which election at least thirty (30) percent of those qualified to vote cast their ballots, the amendment shall become effective.

Yes ( )      No ( )





# Candidates for Tribal Council Treasurer

## Amy Bryan

Do you know how much money this Tribe generates on an annual basis? I don't, but I should, and so should every member of this Tribe.



My name is Amy Bryan and I am a candidate for Treasurer of the Tribal Council. I would like to introduce myself to any tribal member who may not know me. I am the daughter of Gloria Sells Krafka and Rick Nelson, the granddaughter of the "late" Eugene Sells, the "late" Roberta Sells and the "late" Marlon Nelson and Mary Nelson. I am the niece of Garvis Sells, Toney Sells, Harold Sells, Dewitt Sells, Julius Sells, Jerry Sells and Donny Nelson.

If elected I promise accountability and transparency of all Tribal Funds including funds generated by Creek Indian Enterprises and PCI Gaming. As Treasurer I could accomplish this by providing every General Council Member audited financials on an annual basis. In addition, I would be accountable to you, the general council, for every dollar spent and earned.

If you are an enrolled member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians you are a shareholder of the Tribe's assets. Currently there are 3011 tribal members. Each tribal member has one share...nothing more, nothing less. As a shareholder, you are entitled to complete transparency in tribal activities, spending and decisions where tribal member's lives are directly impacted. The best run government is the most informed government.

Each shareholder should receive a copy of the Tribe's audited financials from a third party CPA firm. These financials should include the government branch, and more importantly the gaming and economic development branch of our Tribe. Otherwise there is no way you can determine whether the tribal leadership you have elected is making responsible business decisions on your behalf and in the best interest of the people.

The Tribe is now generating hundreds of millions of dollars and the benefit to provide audited financials to every General Council Member would far out weigh any associated cost. Let

me use the "real world" as an example. In any multi-million dollar corporation, shareholders receive annual financial statements on its revenue and expenses. There is an annual shareholders meeting and voting by proxy is the norm.

If elected as Treasurer, I will ensure Tribal members be given a copy of proposed budgets each year from each of its enterprises, prior to them being approved, and a public hearing be held to go over each budget. Our Tribe has members all over the world with their own unique situation which should be considered prior to budgets being approved.

I also support:

- Reducing the senior benefit plan to 55. (This is promised every year by the candidates running, but I assure you I will fight to make sure this is implemented.) As treasurer I would have access to the financials to ensure this is feasible and will vote in favor of making this happen.
- Adding enforcement provisions to the Ethics Procedures, including separation of powers between executive, legislative and judicial branches.
- Building an assisted living facility on the reservation for our elders. While we are investing in many "for profit" projects on the reservation, we also need to invest in projects, where the return on investment is not always a financial gain, but in the human interest. An assisted living facility will give all tribal members the opportunity to return to the reservation with a peace of mind knowing they will be taken care of for the rest of their lives, regardless of their income.
- The construction of a middle and high school for our tribal member and Indian descent students living on the reservation.
- Tribal Member preference in employment and contracting for tribal members, Indian descent and tribal-member spouses.
- Employment advancement when opportunities exist for tribal members when experience is equivalent to the required education. As a sovereign nation, we have an inherent right to protect our own, and a special consideration to make decisions based on the individual needs of ALL our people;

One of the reasons I love political campaigning so much is that it is republican democracy in its purest form. Candidates make their case over several months and the people they will ultimately represent get to decide which one of them gets the opportunity to actually do so. It's why I am strongly opposed to any and all restrictions that are unconstitutional for our people. Please contact me at 251-583-0071 if you would like to discuss any tribal issues.

If you believe in these same issues elect me, AMY BRYAN,  
AS TRIBAL TREASURER.

Please elect Amy Bryan to serve as Treasurer of the Tribal  
Council for the 2010 Annual Election

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## **Edie Jackson**

I, Edie Jackson, am pleased to announce my candidacy for the office of Tribal Council Treasurer. I am the daughter of Eddie and Mary Jane Tullis. I am the granddaughter of the late Volt and Florence Walker Tullis and the late Willis McGhee, Sr. and Arentha McGhee. I am married to Eddie Jackson, son of the late Alton Jackson and Mable Jackson and we have two sons, Chance (15) and Casey (14). I live in the Poarch Community.



I have chosen to run for the office of Treasurer because I feel that with the growth of our tribe and the multi-million dollars of operations going on within the Tribe, the individual in this office should have a vast knowledge of Finance and Accounting. I received my Bachelors Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from Auburn University in 1989 before coming to work with the Tribe in 1991. I am currently employed with Tribal Administration and have been for some 19 years. I have served in the capacity of Federal Accounting Director, Comptroller, Gaming Commission Administrator and currently am the Tribal Administrator. With each of the jobs I have held, I have worked with the various budgets of the Tribe and made sure that the programs administered through those budgets met the goals and objectives which were set out to be met.

If elected as your Treasurer, I will do my best to represent you with all my strength, ability, and dedication needed to continue to make our tribe prosper.

Everyone has a right to vote, please make Saturday, June 5th a day to make your vote count. Thank you in advance for your support.

## **Robert "Robbie" McGhee**



**Vote Robert "Robbie" McGhee  
for Tribal Council Treasurer on  
June 05, 2010**

First, I would like to say THANK YOU for allowing me to serve as your council member over the last six years. I can honestly say it has been the most challenging, yet rewarding experience and opportunity provided to me thus far. During the past six years, we have seen many improvements – both in our community and in terms of benefits provided to our Tribal members. I would like to have the opportunity to not only continue, but expand the work I have done for you.

Many of you may know me already. However, for those of you who may not, let me introduce myself. My name is Robert "Robbie" McGhee. My parents are Bobby Lawrence and the late Doris Daughtry McGhee. My grandparents were the late Roy Lee and Opal McGhee and the late Adam and Inez Daughtry. I am also the great-grandson of our late Chief Calvin McGhee and Joyce McGhee.

Like the generations who came before me, I believe it is crucially important that our Members have access to good education. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to earn a Bachelor's degree from the University of South Alabama, a Bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama, and a Master's Degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Before coming back home, to work for the Tribe, I held several positions in federal government which included working on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. That experience, combined with my service on the Tribal Council, has allowed me to become involved in the local, state and national concerns that affect our Tribe at all levels of government. Each of these positions has allowed me opportunities to educate myself on all issues that could possibly impact our Tribe and to advocate for Poarch in local, state, and national forums.

Currently, I am serving my second term as your representative to the Poarch Band of Creek Indian's Tribal Council. I also have the honor of representing the Tribe on the Executive Board of the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) and as the Eastern Regional Director of the National Indian Gaming Association. In addition, I serve as the Council representative to the Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority, (the economic development and management entity of the Tribe)



and as the Chairman of the Budget and Finance Legislative Committee.

In my role as Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, I am responsible for reviewing, modifying, and offering recommendations to Tribal Council for all Tribal Government, Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority, and PCI Gaming Authority budgets. Once these budgets are approved and or modified by the Legislative Committee, our recommendations are provided to the Tribal Council for the appropriate action.

I believe that serving in these capacities, coupled with my experience as President and CEO of Creek Indian Enterprises and Tribal Administrator, makes me uniquely qualified to hold the office of Treasurer for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians – a position that is crucially important to our Tribe’s financial health and well-being.

In the past six years I have served on the Tribal Council, there have been many changes to the Tribe, and I am proud of the increased services that we have been able to extend to Tribal Members. For example, every Tribal member now has the opportunity to receive a college/vocational education. Recently, we increased, by 100%, Tribal scholarships that are available to Indian-descent children. Universal Health Care is now accessible to all Tribal members who don’t have existing health coverage. And we also approved funding for a financial health supplement to Tribal members who have their own insurance to assist them with offsetting their current medical costs. While the Tribal Member is the main beneficiary, they can use this benefit for themselves or anyone living in their household. Even with these added benefits the Tribal Member Birthday Check has increased by over 600%!

These definitely have been exciting times for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. However, these opportunities exist only because you have entrusted the Council with making the tough decisions to financially plan for the future of our Tribe, Tribal members and other members of your household. I remain determined and committed to making a real difference in the lives of fellow Tribal members and I would ask you to once again give me the opportunity to work for you. I want to contribute to the overall welfare and continued success of the Tribe by serving you again as your Council member.

When I look back over the last two elections and my campaign platform, I am happy to see many of those things that I ran on have been accomplished and I was able to list previously. However, much more needs to be done.

We still need to continue to focus on the diversification of our financial resources so we continue to provide education and health care without relying solely on our Gaming revenues. With that said, we have begun to develop, with your input, the

Master Plan for the Tribe.

Once completed, the Master Plan will provide a framework for the Tribal Council as it considers various opportunities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for our Tribal members such as providing assisted living, and building a grocery store and Tribal school. It will allow the Council to explore various diverse economic opportunities. On a personal note, I will continue to search for the financing to build a nursing home facility for our Tribal elders in need of care. We have begun the process to determine the feasibility and sustainability of a Tribal School that will educate all our children without having to send them to area schools that are not focused on the well-being of our children.

With your support and continuous guidance, we, as a people, can continue to accomplish great things for our Tribe. I have always been told that every effective leader is ever-mindful of two important truths; you are chosen by the people and you must always strive to serve the best interest of those people. I pledge to continue to do both for you.

I ask respectfully that you entrust your vote to me, Robert “Robbie” McGhee, on June 5, 2010. Give me an opportunity to work with you and the Tribal Council to grow and protect the financial assets of the Tribe as your Tribal Treasurer.

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### **William L. Vickery**



I, William L. Vickery do hereby announce my candidacy for the Tribal Council of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. I am running for the position of Treasurer.

I am the son of the late William W. and Larcnile McGhee Vickery. I am the grandson of the late Lillie McGhee on my father’s side, and Lawrence and Mamie Rolin McGhee on my mother’s side. I have five

(5) brothers-Ernest, Dennis, Arnold, Bruce and Mike, and one (1) sister Connie.

I have been married to my wife Leslie Charlene Roberts Vickery of Troy, TX for 36 years. We attend New Home Church on Poarch Road. We have two children Randal Vickery and Jennifer Vickery Kelley. We have four (4) grandchildren-two (2) boys and two (2) girls.

I was raised in the Hog Fork Community. I attended Poarch

Consolated Grammar School and graduated from Escambia County High School (Blue Devils) in 1969. I joined the U.S. Army in February, 1970 (this period of time was in the Vietnam era). The draft was still being used to place people in different branches of the military. I joined to keep from being drafted, to get a better chance at what I wanted to do in the military. In the early 1970's they ended the draft. In my opinion the United States made a mistake when they ended the draft, because I believe every young man or woman should spend at least two (2) years in the military. If the draft was still in effect I think society in the United States would not be in the shape it is in now.

I served one (1) tour in Vietnam and three (3) tours in Germany. I was stationed in numerous bases in the United States, (Fort Hood, TX, Fort Leonard Wood, MO, Fort Belvoir, VA, and Fort Knox, KY.) I was a National Guard advisor in Grand Rapids Michigan.

I started out as a private and through hard work and dedication I retired with the rank of 1st Sergeant. I attended many schools in the military on leadership management, and supervision. I was a squad leader in charge of 7-10 men, Platoon Sergeant over 40-70 men and 1st Sergeant over 250-300 men. I was a Drill Sergeant in charge of training new recruits in the military to be soldiers.

I moved back to Alabama in 1994. I now live at 215 Old Uriah Road, about 100 yards from where I spent the first 18 years of my life (Hog Fork Community). I worked at Creative Cabinets in Bay Minette for 15 years until the economy got bad and was laid off due to lack of work. I am now employed as a security guard at Wind Creek Casino and Hotel.

When I left Atmore, Alabama in 1970 for the military that was the year they had the 1st Thanksgiving Day Pow Wow. Since that time (40 years ago) the Tribe has grown a lot. While in the military my mother would write and tell me things that was happening. When I was a child, I remember the old people talking about the INDIAN MONEY. The first check that we as TRIBAL MEMBERS received, I gave mine to my mother.

I realized that many things have improved over the years, but there are still things that need to be done. I hear people talking about things for the younger generation, yes these things are good, but my concern is taking care of the older generation first, because they are the ones that paved the way for the young. Today you see lots of young people wanting things handed to them without having to work for it, like we had to do in the old days.

Some people are getting richer while others are striving to make ends meet. In this economy these days everything is costing a lots more to live on, and making a living is getting harder to do. A good paying job these days is hard to find and

keep.

As a TRIBE we face challenges every day. We as TRIBAL MEMBERS should work together with the TRIBAL COUNCIL, to see that the things that we the people need are taken care of. I will work hard to move forward a plan to increase disbursements of the people's money and stop spending where it is not necessary. I will make known to all TRIBAL MEMBERS as to the TRIBES' assets and where the money is going.

In closing I would like to thank you for your time and consideration in voting for me on June 5, 2010. I will do my best to be a positive voice for the TRIBAL MEMBERS of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

So as TRIBAL MEMBER please exercise you right to vote and may GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU.

Sincerely,  
William L. Vickery  
Poarch Creek Indian Tribal Member

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## Candidates for Tribal Council Secretary

### William L. Bailey



I ask for a little of your time to ask for your support by voting for me in the upcoming Tribal Council Election. I am William Lawrence Bailey, son of Verlie (McGhee) Bailey, grandson of Lawrence McGhee and Mammie (Rolin) McGhee. My wife Cheryl Lynn (Blackwelder) Bailey and I have been married for 32 years. We have two sons, Billy and Jake Bailey, and a lot of grand-children.

I believe in truth, honesty, and equality. These words, words to live by, can keep us as tribal members close to each other as a community. We have strayed from being a close-knit community and we need to get back to it!

I have had the honor of serving on the council before, but needed to resign for medical reasons. Currently, I actively



preserve our culture and traditions, by being a member of the ceremonial grounds. Our separation from aspects of our culture has divided us and our tribe from other tribes. We are Creek people; I hope we all remember who we are in the future. We, as Creek people, believe in truth—always remember this if nothing else.

I would greatly appreciate your vote and support for myself and our Creek Community. Thank you, William Bailey.

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### **DeWitt Carter**

No photo or bio submitted.

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### **David Gehman**

My name is David Gehman, candidate for Secretary of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. I am the son of Martin & Vernie Lee Barnhill Gehman; Grandson of P.R. and Ruby McGhee Barnhill; Great Grandson of Len and Hettie Colbert McGhee. My wife is Shyrell; our children are Stephanie, Emily, Kristen and Stephen. Visit [www.abettertribe.com](http://www.abettertribe.com)



Thank you so much for the trust you placed in me three years ago when tribal voters elected me to represent them and their families on the Tribal Council. Now I am asking for your vote and active support so that I may continue serving you as Secretary of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Having the opportunity to serve the members of our tribal family has truly been one of the highest honors of my life, a privilege that I have never taken for granted. There has never been a time in the history of our tribe where the future looks brighter, but we must always remember that our strength lies in our faith, our families and our traditions.

Improving and increasing services to our tribal members has been and will continue to be my focus for serving you. Consider the remarkable progress that has been accomplished:

- Health Insurance is now available for all uninsured tribal members ...no matter where they live.
- The Health Department will soon have an additional physician on staff providing more appointment opportunities.

- Tribal Health Reimbursement Cards are coming. Tribal Members not currently participating in the Tribal Health Insurance Plan will soon receive a Tribal Health Reimbursement Card that can be used to pay doctor visits, co-pays, pharmacy co-pays and qualified medical supplies. This is a \$50 per month benefit that will be accepted at locations across the U.S.
- The first Annual Tribal Report including the Tribal Financial Report was sent to you this year.
- Tribal debt is being paid down faster than expected due to strong revenues from PCI Gaming. Hopefully if the present success continues, we can eliminate the entire debt and once again be debt free.
- Birthday checks have grown and everyone also received a Christmas check.
- Housing opportunities are expanding with the purchase of land in Monroe County, Alabama and in Escambia County, Florida.
- Tribal Employment Rights Organization (TERO) is now available to protect Tribal Member employment and business contracting rights within the Tribe and its enterprises.
- Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve has been significantly improved. There are many recreational opportunities now available while we protect our most basic natural resource.
- Direct election of tribal officers is now your privilege. Last year you elected the Vice-Chairman, this year you will elect the Secretary and Treasurer. Lord willing next year you will elect the Chairman. These are in addition to the at-large council seats.
- There will be a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot this year, that if Tribal Members vote to approve, will require Public notice and community meetings when the Tribal Council considers offering Constitutional Amendments. Knowledge is power and this is a step toward making Tribal Council actions more transparent.

With the amazing success we have enjoyed, it is more important now than ever for our Tribal Leaders to clearly define our future goals and actions that must be accomplished by our Tribal Leadership and our Tribal Members in order for those goals to be realized. Tribal Master planning will be completed soon. The results of your suggestions and input along with the work of our professional planners will create a new vision for a “place called Poarch”. As we grow our community we will have a plan that will guide us in our efforts to be one of the best communities in our State.

I am asking for your Vote and your active Support so that I can continue to work for you with a focus on:

#### **HEALTHCARE:**

- Conduct the feasibility study for a full-time nursing care center, an assisted living center, and provide Senior day care services.
- Home Health services for Seniors...no matter where they live.

- Health Benefits for all Tribal Members no matter where they live.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

When it comes to investing tribal moneys into economic development projects, I will continue to insist that any tribally funded developments either provide jobs for tribal members, or provide a needed service to tribal members or generate income that can be used to improve services for tribal members. We must continue to develop our gaming business but at the same time diversify our economic development to create more jobs and opportunity. Let us recruit the next car manufacturing plant and build it here on Tribal land. Let us return textile manufacturing that has been lost overseas and compete globally from Poarch, Alabama. Let the Poarch Creek Indians lead the way in generating clean power and create jobs and income.

#### GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

Over the past three years, I have supported more openness or transparency in the actions of the Tribal Council. I will lead support for A Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) policy that would require community meetings are held and proposed ordinances published within a 60 day period prior to Tribal Council voting an Ordinance into law. This is especially important when proposals involve significant debt, whether by Resolution or Ordinance.

#### TRIBAL CONTRACTING

We must insure that contracting opportunities for tribal member businesses are fair and the Request For Qualifications (RFQ's), Request For Proposals (RFP's), Bidding, Awarding, and Performance process is open and transparent.

#### EDUCATION:

Expanding educational opportunities for all Tribal Members and offering economic incentives for our citizens to return home will improve the quality of life for us all.

I support the ongoing educational feasibility study to determine if it is in the best interest of our children to have a tribal school system where we can encourage our children to be the best that they can be while learning about their proud heritage and unique culture. We must continue to support the scholarship trust fund and insure education benefits for all tribal members at all ages.

#### CULTURAL HERITAGE

We must always remember that we stand on the shoulders of all those brave Creek men and women who laid the foundation for our lives, but did not live to see their dreams come true. We must not forget their sacrifices and struggles through hard times. And while our journey will never be over, the pathway is made easier because of the brave Poarch Creeks who walked before us. God help us that future generations

will say the same of this generation.

We are a decent community of hard working men and women that love our country and our tribe. And with the right leadership we can grow stronger and more prosperous each year. I ask for your Vote and support to be part of that leadership, Please Vote David Gehman, Secretary of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Please visit [www.abettertribe.com](http://www.abettertribe.com)

You as a Tribal Member can play a special part in our future - take full advantage of the life God has given you and become involved! Freedom is not free, someone pays for it. Pray often for our military men and women. Help one another, trust in yourselves and never lose faith in God.

With the help of God and our people, we will build A Better Tribe, a place we can all call home, a place called "Poarch". "It is your birthright to be free and dream big dreams. It is up to us as a Tribe to rise up and reclaim our rightful place in the larger community as honest hardworking and decent Americans who love this country."

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### **Kelli Ramer**



I, Kelli Ramer, declare my candidacy for the 2010 Tribal Election as Tribal Council Secretary. I'm the daughter of Eddie Ramer and Janice Rollin Moye, both of Atmore. I'm the granddaughter of the late Bobbie Jo and D.C. Rollin of Atmore, and Eloise (McGhee) and the late Norman Ramer of Gadsden, AL. I'm the great-granddaughter of the late Emma and Gus Rollin and the late Gladys (Presley)

and Norvie Lee McGhee. I have one 13 year old son, Baccari and am currently a student at Jefferson Davis Community College. Also, I am proud to serve on the Housing Authority Board and the Endowment Committee.

I have been employed with the Tribe since 1998 and have worked in the Chairman's Office directly with the Tribal Council since 1999. In this capacity, I have worked under the leadership of Eddie L. Tullis, the late Fred L. McGhee and currently Buford L. Rolin. Having worked with these great leaders, I feel I have a great wealth of knowledge of the current on-going business within the Tribe. I currently hold the position of Tribal Council Liaison. One of my duties is to also serve as the Recording Secretary of the Tribal Council. As Recording Secretary, I'm responsible for preparing the minutes of the Tribal Council meetings and maintaining the

files and documents from each meeting.

If elected, I will work diligently to gain equality for all Tribal members by proposing equal services for all Members and providing some benefits, such as education, for first generation Indian descendents as well. As we know, increased revenues equals increased Tribal member benefits as well as increasing birthday checks as funds allow. Also, I would like to work with my fellow Council Members on a plan to lower the age requirement for our senior citizens and disabled member benefits. With that being said, I respectfully request your vote on June 5, 2010.

“A VOTE FOR ME IS A VOTE FOR YOU”

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### **Sandra Lee (Shelton) Smith**

I am Sandra Lee (Shelton) Smith. My Grandfather, Fred Walker (called “Chief”) was an early tribal leader. He was depended on for his wisdom and leadership to many church leaders as well the people who lived in and around the community of Poarch. Fred loved his people and wanted them to prosper in wealth and education. He would be very pleased to see the growth of our tribe today.



His belief was that by working hard and working together that our tribe would prosper. I feel he would be very pleased to see the strides that our tribe has taken toward that goal. It is important that we as tribal members continue this legacy toward reaching our goals and bringing unity to our tribe. I have acquired my grandfather’s love and passion for our people and wish to carry on his dreams for the tribe.

My mother is Fred Walker’s daughter, Gladys (Walker) Johnson. I was born and lived in Pensacola, FL until I married and moved to Michigan. While living in Michigan for many years, I raised my two children, April and Joseph. My daughter April went home to heaven ten years ago and my son and his family resides in Michigan.

During my childhood, I spent summers in Poarch with Aunt Gertrude Rolin and in Hog Fork with Aunt Treacy McGhee and my wonderful cousins. Those fond memories will always be with me and has created a true connection to my people and the land from which they came. Each time I visit the reservation, I feel the kindred spirit among our people like that of a child.

Since last July I have spent many hours gaining as much knowledge as I could about tribal history, tribal government and benefits available to all Tribal members. I have met with the Tribal Council members and General Council members and appreciate all the time they have given me.

I am very proud of my heritage and my Grandfather’s dream that we could become what we are today. I am grateful for the benefits available to us such as housing, medical care, medical insurance, education, and family services. I’m sure my grandfather did not envision the tribe generating revenue through gambling, but I appreciate the leaders that had the vision for that endeavor.

I am entering my name and my commitment in the upcoming election for the office of Tribal Council Secretary. I will be able to be a full time team player. I am single and only responsible for myself, so I am in a position to be available to the tribal members on a full time basis. I am prepared to overnight in Atmore at least half of each week. I will focus my energy to act as a connection between Tribal Council members and all General Council members. My goal is to build a healthy working relationship between those tribal members living on and off the reservation.

I have worked as an accountant the majority of my career. I have also owned a business and managed other businesses. I believe my knowledge of finance and the business world qualifies me as a worthy candidate. Accountability by the tribal council to the tribal members is the key to building trust and working toward a common goal. I want to join with the existing council members that support controlling unnecessary, excessive, and wasteful spending. Informed, thoughtful spending means a higher profit margin to be dispersed to you, the people.

I also have a big concern for the senior members of our tribe. I will fight for larger monthly checks and lowering the age to qualify for those payments to 62 years old. My belief is the seniors deserve to reap more benefits now. An assisted living facility has been talked about every year at election time, its time to act on those promises. We have an obligation to take care of the elders of our tribe.

I will work to have every tribal member that lives off the reservation to become pro-active in tribal affairs. I believe that communication is the key to resolving needs and concerns of the people. The governing body cannot provide solutions if they do not know what the needs are.

GOD BLESS YOU and GOD BLESS THE TRIBE.

VOTE FOR SANDRA SMITH for SECRETARY  
“Connecting the People to Tribal Government”



## **Carolyn M. White**

I, Carolyn M. White, declare my candidacy for Secretary of Tribe in the 2010 Tribal Council Election to be held on Saturday, June 5, 2010.



My tribal connections are through the families of Will and Bessie McGhee and Ed and Margie McGhee. I am the daughter of the late Mal McGhee (son of Will and Bessie McGhee) and Martha Jane McGhee Jackson (granddaughter of Ed and Margie McGhee), and step-daughter of Fay Jackson. I am married to Donald H. White and we live in Atmore, AL. Our daughter, Paula L. White, resides in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. I have lived in and near the Poarch Creek community all of my life.

I completed my Associate's Degree in 1970 at Jefferson Davis Junior College and later my Bachelor's Degree in 1989 in Human Relations Administration at the University of South Alabama (USA). I continued my education in 1997 at the University of Alabama and received my Master's Degree in Social Work in 1999 with concentration in Planning and Management.

After my graduation from University of Alabama, I had the opportunity to serve as Escambia County DHR Director for 4 years until my retirement in February 2005. My employment, over the past 30 years, with the Alabama Department of Human Resources was in various capacities as the County Welfare Office Assistant; as a certification worker with the Food Stamp Program establishing eligibility and conducting program integrity activities; as a senior level social worker for Quality Assurance and Child Protective services within the Escambia County Child Welfare Program and providing services to the citizens of Escambia County.

My resume includes four years experience as County Director of the Escambia County Department of Human Resources and the past 5 years of work with the Tribe as the Director for the Poarch Creek Indians' Family Services Department. Together these two positions highlight my 10 years of leadership in a service, management, and community development role. During the past five years, the Family Services Department was reorganized and new services developed to meet the growing needs of our Creek families. We have additional services under the Community Services Program and the Adult Services Program, which was developed in 2006. There have been many community events to strengthen our families and support our tribal community. I am proud of

the many accomplishments of the Department and would like the opportunity, with your vote, to expand my advocacy and community development activities to another level as Secretary for the Tribe.

Community service activities include participating on various committees and Boards. I served on the Gaming Board for 10 years and the Best Western Board for more than 20 years. I currently serve on the Commission for the Tribal Equal Rights Ordinance, which was established in 2008.

The issues I submitted last year in my bid for a Tribal Council seat has not changed. Again, I ask that you consider these issues during your evaluation of candidates, decision making, and vote on Election Day. My platform continues to be for increased communication between Tribal Council and General Council; focused emphasis on the rights of General Council; and expanded advocacy and development of comprehensive services for tribal members in need.

I will work diligently to improve communication and develop a system for ongoing consistent flow of meaningful information from tribal members to Tribal Council of what is needed and from the Council to the people of what is being planned and what actions are being taken in all areas of government. I continue to believe effective communication is the key to successfully meeting the needs of our community. You have to be open to listen and then to hear what is needed. This requires an open-ended style of communication to present, receive, review, and evaluate tribal business. Uninformed members leave tribal plans to the speculation and unreliability of the tribal grapevine which can jeopardize the success of projects if members are not included and informed about decisions.

Another issue will be focus on the rights of General Council, as written in the Poarch Creek Constitution; and to ensure that their rights are protected and their voices are heard.

If elected, I would continue my advocacy to resolve tribal member issues to the Tribal Council table for the development of additional services for needy tribal families, disabled tribal members, tribal elders and their caretakers; as well as being committed to securing funds to develop wraparound elder services and an assisted living facility.

I ask for your vote to elect me as your Tribal Secretary. I look forward to serving the Tribe in this new capacity. I believe my experience, education, commitment, honesty, and hard work will serve the tribal community well. I thank you in advance for your vote and support. Please contact me by phone or email, if you wish to discuss my platform or discuss the strengths and needs of our community.

Carolyn M. White  
(251) 368-8321  
cwhite14@frontiernet.net

# Candidates of Tribal Council At-Large Seat

## James "Gil" Caudle Jr.

I, James "Gil" Caudle, Jr. hereby declare my candidacy for 2010 Tribal Council Member position.

James "Gil" Caudle Jr. (born august 15, 1965)

Gil has served as Senior Pastor and President of Turning Point Inc. for 12 years.

He has served as Florida district S.S secretary; overseeing 142 pastors in yearly contributions to home and foreign missions, also directed two summer camps for 400 plus kids and lead the team of 120 volunteers.

Gil has served on many boards and committees.  
1996-2008: Served on over 20 boards and/or committees

### **Spotlight moments:**

2006: He was called upon by Sheriff Peal in a last ditch effort to negotiate a hostage situation that had evolved into a 5 hour standoff with two counties at the scene. Gil with spiritual and personal knowledge was able to disarm the situation with no one being harmed.

2002: He was called on by the Mayor of Washington County to chair a committee to bring churches together for a week long revival. The first year the event had 22 churches from all denominations coming together for 5 nights with hundreds in attendance each night.

### **Personal life:**

Gil is the Grandson of Fred and Lula Walker, the son of the late Ruth Walker Caudle.

He has been married 25 years with 2 children, Blake 18 and Sumer 14.

Gil has coached many sports with excellence: Softball; Baseball; Football and Soccer.

Voted coach of the year by parents and fellow coaches 2005 and 2007.

### **Education:**

High school: 10 grade (GED)

Working full time at 15 years old

Myers-Briggs leadership 16 psychological types:

The right placement for employees in the workplace.

Level 1-4

Reading and understand people who do not understand

May 2010



themselves. Level 5-10

School of leaders Richmond VA:

Four year study cooperate budgets, green sheets, counseling effectively, mentoring:

training people in the 20th century.

### **Final note:**

Our greatest days are ahead; our forefathers had a hard road to travel. They did not stop until it was smooth enough for you and me to walk upon. I am confident our tribe is in the best time ever, we have the opportunity to make lasting change for our elders, ourselves and our children. We can become a tribe that all tribes and may I say even government can look to for answers. We can and will lead our people into our destiny of greatness. I ask that you will give me a chance to serve.

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## Helen Hallman

### **PEOPLE FIRST**

Just two simple words. Yet, so much can be accomplished when these two words are put into action. Putting PEOPLE FIRST has been the motivation for Helen Hallman during her 13 years of service as a Tribal Council Member for the Poarch Creek Indians. She brings to you, the Tribal Member, experience, integrity, strength, understanding and compassion as you Tribal Council Representative. She



would like to continue to be your voice for the next three years with your vote in the upcoming election.

### **\*\*\*TREASURE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS, NOT YOUR POSSESSIONS\*\*\***

The most precious aspect of her life are the relationships that Helen enjoys with family and friends-especially the relationship with her children, Cindy Martin, Rodney Exum and Ryan Exum. She was born and raised in the Hog Fork Community of the Poarch Creek Indian Reservation. She is the daughter of the late Levi and Treacy Walker McGhee and the granddaughter of the late Fred and Lula Walker and Lee and Ida McGhee. Blessed with a very large family, she and seven of her sisters have survived the passing of five siblings. The late Carlie McGhee Dalrymple, Leo McGhee, Imogene Sheets, Donna McGhee White, and Fred Lee McGhee are survived by Helen and her sisters, Martha Wilson, Deloris Kelley, Velma Crocker, Eldnar McGhee, Myrtis Kinman, Judy McGhee, and Eva Burket. Helen's loving and generous nature has created wonderful and lasting memories with her five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren and her

many nieces and nephews. Along the pathways of life, her approachable and amiable personality has endeared her to as many friends as she has family.

Her mother, Treacy, remains an ongoing inspiration to her. She exemplifies her mother's characteristics in many ways. Treacy is fondly remembered by the people in the community as being a devout Christian lady and highly respected by those who knew her. She taught her children that a community must work together. This meant sharing food and taking care of the sick. It was a way of life then and continues to be a way of life now for Helen. Her actions prove time after time that providing for the needs of the people is of the essence, as did her mother before her.

### **\*\*\*DON'T FOLLOW THE BEATEN PATH-GO YOUR OWN WAY AND LEAVE A TRAIL\*\*\***

Helen's three major accomplishments of life include higher education, cancer survival and serving on the Council. Her formal education began at Poarch Creek Indian Consolidated School. She was one of the first tribal members to attend school at Escambia County High School in Atmore, Alabama. Due to the difficult economic situation of the family, Helen dropped out of school in the ninth grade and went to work. She refused to allow her education to end there. When she was fifty years old, she courageously triumphed over the GED exam and then continued on to college level courses. She completed the Business Management Program at Riley College in Dothan, Alabama in 1988 with honors. Convinced that education is an ongoing process, Helen adheres to the belief there is always something to learn no matter what your age. She is especially interested in geography and loves to travel and experience new places and cultures. Television game shows are one of her favorite past-times and she knows that it can be a great educational tool. If you don't agree with this philosophy, she challenges you to tune in to the show "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?"

Another significant milestone in her life has been the miraculous survival of cancer. In November of 1989, Helen went to the doctor for a checkup and was told that everything okay. But, she knew her own body and knew that something was not right. She went for a second opinion and was diagnosed with breast cancer. On January 26, 1990, Helen underwent a mastectomy to remove her left breast. In 1995, Helen's story was featured as part of an exclusive exhibit, "A Tribe of Warrior Women" at the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Comprehensive Cancer Center. The display was designed not only to inform and build awareness, but also to offer something all too rare: hope, inspiration, strength and courage. Today, she encourages everyone to know his/her own body and be persistent when you know something is not right.

An additional highlight of her life has been to serve her

fellow tribal members. It means a great deal to her to know that people trust and respect her enough to elect her as one of their leaders. Her duties as a Tribal Council member take the utmost priority in her daily life. No matter how she feels physically, nor the condition of the weather outside, affects her determination to fulfill her promise to make fair decisions for all tribal members and fight for the rights of the people.

### **\*\*\*DECISIONS MADE FROM HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND EXPERIENCE\*\*\***

Helen began working for the Tribe as a young lady. She worked closely with her uncle, Chief Calvin McGhee, and others as they began the pursuit of better education for children of the community, advocating for federal recognition, and developing an organized and official Tribal Council. Her love for her people has always been the motivating source behind her as she helped raise money to send representatives to Washington and Montgomery. This same passion continues to burn today as she strives for a better tomorrow for all tribal members.

After being elected to the Council, she served without significant compensation and rallied for an infrastructure that would meet the basic needs for Tribal members such as health care, educational opportunities and housing benefits. Although these basic needs still prove to be a priority for the Council, a myriad of complex issues challenge the current Council today. Helen has played a key role in the recent growth and development of the Tribe. She firmly believes that today's leaders should be experienced and well qualified to understand and comprehend the intricate decisions to be made as they lead and guide the Tribe into a bright and well established future.

Helen serves as Chairperson for the Housing and Community Activities Legislative Committee and as a member of the Health/Human Services Legislative Committee. These committees address issues that Helen is most passionate about: health, housing, and helping people with fairness and equity for all. As a team player on the legislative committees, she is responsible for bringing new legislation to the Council for official action after researching the subject matter. Public hearings are then held to allow tribal members to voice their comments and concerns before the Council takes any action.

The Health/Human Services Legislative Committee has initiated great improvements in the health department by approving funds for renovations. The renovations will make room for an additional primary care physician and a much more efficient pharmacy space with a separate entrance from the clinic. Another great benefit will be available May 1st for Tribal member who do not currently participate in the Tribal Health Insurance. As the second phase of the Tribal Member Benefit Health Plan, each eligible participant will receive a health card valued at \$50 per month. This card can assist with



medical co-pays, medicines (either prescription or over the counter) and any other health related need.

### **\*\*\*SUSTAINING THE QUALITY OF PCI WITH EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP\*\*\***

**The possibilities for the future of the** Tribe are endless. As a careful spender and cautious leader for the Tribe, Helen advocates taking baby steps as the ladder to the top is climbed. There is no need to race to the top by making rash and hasty decisions. Helen states, "We should always be more careful and deliberate in our decision making and focus more on generating a safety net."

As the Tribe continues to grow and prosper, here are a few concepts that Helen would like to explore to determine if the ideas are suitable and worthwhile for Tribal Members in their future needs:

- "Aging in Place" Program for Elder Care
- Home Health Care Services
- assisted living center
- increased birthday checks (per capita)
- lowered blood quota requirement
- educational funding passed to next generation

Helen's life has truly been enriched by serving her fellow tribal members. A vote from you, the Tribal Member, is greatly appreciated. When a friend was recently asked to describe Helen, he responded by saying, "Helen says what she means and means what she says!" If reelected, PEOPLE FIRST will continue to be the order of the day.

Please remember to exercise your right to vote as a member of the Poarch Creek Indians on Saturday, June 5, 2010.

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### **Douglas Kelley**

Henci (hello), I am tribal member Douglas Kelley, but you may know me by my nickname "Poncho." Here we are again at another election. I'm seeking your vote as a Tribal Council member to try to change things that we need to change as a Tribe. We have to stick together as one.



I represent the ordinary tribal member. I represent the person without a lot of money, the single parent who struggles to make ends meet, the parent who is concerned about the education of our children, the person who is tired of favoritism, the tribal

member whose voice has not been heard.

I am fifty-four years old and I grew up in Canoe, Alabama. I am the son of Lillie Mae Colbert and John O. Kelley of Pollard. I am the grandson of Hattie and Owen Colbert of Uriah (on my mother's side), and Ida and John Henry Kelley of Bratt, Florida (on my father's side). I was baptized when I was eighteen in Bethel Baptist Church in Flomaton. I follow the values that my parents taught me which include looking out for other people and not only for myself.

I am the father of three children, and proud grandfather of two children. I am the proud parent of a son who served in the US Army in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Four years ago, I united my family with Deidra Suwanee Dees' family when we got married in a traditional Muscogee wedding at our ceremonial stompdance grounds.

I have worked hard-labor jobs all my life, specializing in oilfield labor throughout the southeast, as well as offshore drilling rigs in the Persian Gulf. These jobs were often dangerous and instilled in me the importance of teamwork. I learned that when we work as a team, we produce a higher quality product which represents the whole group and not the individual. I learned that with strong teamwork, and we protect each other from harm while working toward the same goal.

For the past six years, I have worked for the Tribe as part of a ranch hand team at Perdido River Farms where I help take care of over 1,000 head of cattle. I have observed some positive and negative traits in the cows that our team takes care of. I have seen mothers that are very protective of their young, walking close beside them, providing them nourishment, never letting them out of their sight when the coyotes are around. But I have also seen greed in some of the bigger cows that push other ones aside, trying to get more than their fair share of food. Sometimes humans show these same positive and negative traits. With your vote, I will work as a team member with along with you, nurturing the positive traits of our community, keeping the fat cows from taking more than their fair share, so that our community can grow stronger and be protected from harm.

My family and I have shown our commitment to our Tribe by taking time to listen to our youth and our elders. We have participated in community events such as our community meetings, our stompdance gatherings and our education programs. Our youngest daughter plays sports and has served as a tutor in the after-school programs in Education and participated in the Tribal Youth Council. For the past twenty years I have demonstrated my leadership abilities in serving as Henehv (a Muscogee word meaning second chief) at our ceremonial stompdance grounds called Hvsossv Tallvhase. At the ceremonial grounds, our community members follow

the ways of those who came before us. In this leadership position, I am required to listen to everyone's concerns, to not be partial, and to make decisions for the good of the whole community and not the individual.

Many people have complained about favoritism in our Tribe which has harmed our community. I am not closely kin to any employees of our Tribe or any Council members, therefore, voters will not have to worry about me using favoritism to advance myself or my family. Instead, I will represent the voices of our community in a fair, honest and impartial manner. I will help improve this community by using the important lifelong lessons I have learned from my parents, from being a father and husband, from my jobs and from my leadership position at the ceremonial grounds.

Drugs and alcohol are enemies to Indians. They have stolen the lives of so many of our team members, robbing them of their rightful place in our society as productive members. If part of our community is sick, our whole community suffers. As a person who has been free of alcohol for over twenty years, I support drug and alcohol abuse programs to help members conquer these enemies. Then they could use their God-given talents to help heal our community as a whole and make our team stronger.

As a Tribal Council member, I will work to strengthen healthcare benefits for our elders, to expand education programs for our youth, to develop economic opportunities for our members and to examine the ways gaming profits are used in our community. Tribal members need to know how our money is being spent. You need control over what is happening to your money!

In the old days, our elders on the Council sat around the council fire making decisions that influenced the whole community. Back then it was a high honor to be given a place on the Council. I believe it is still a high honor today. I would be honored to serve you on our Tribal Council. I will represent you by listening to what you have to say. I will bring your ideas and your concerns before our Council and before our Tribe. I will give a voice to those who have not been heard. You have voted for assimilated Indians before and nothing has changed. Why not vote for a traditional Indian this time? "Poncho" Douglas Kelley is the candidate who represents YOU. Mvto (thank you) for your vote.

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## **Carrie Martin**



I, Carrie Martin hereby do declare my candidacy for Tribal Council. I am the granddaughter of the late Chief Calvin and Joyce McGhee. My parents are Pearline McGhee and the late Curtis McGhee. I have three daughters, Amber, Crystal and Courtney Holland. I am grandmother of three adorable grandchildren, Alyssa, Logan, and Bryden. I am married to Randy Martin, son of the late AD and Willie Lee Martin.

I have a Bachelor's Degree from the University of South Alabama. I have worked in the medical field as a registered nurse for the past 28 years; 10 of those years as a nursing instructor. I am currently employed with Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, FL as an emergency / trauma nurse. The majority of my career has been spent in a supervisory / management position. I have been on the Ethics Board for the past three years where I serve as the Chairperson. I have recently recused myself from the ethics board in order to declare myself a candidate.

I have a great respect and pride in being a member of the Poarch Creek Indians. I feel we have accomplished many milestones from the actual acknowledgement that there were Native Americans still in the Poarch area to Federal Recognition of our Tribe.

We have seen many changes in regards to our self preservation over the years and I feel we will be even more successful in the coming years as a tribe. I would like to be a part of the future endeavors that the Tribal Council will undertake to preserve our past as well as faithful stewards of our resources.

I am personally asking you for your vote and support for Tribal Council on June 5, 2010. I do not plan on making any campaign promises. First of all we know that those promises are usually broken and it takes more than one person to make changes within our organization. I will however, assure you that if you elect me to the Tribal Council I will work to make this community and organization a better place for all, as well as future generations to come. A place we will be proud to call Poarch.

Thank you,  
Carrie Martin

## **Debra Rolin Strickland**

I, Debra Rolin Strickland, do hereby officially announce my candidacy for the at large seat position on the Tribal Council. I am the daughter of the late J.B. and Dorothy "McGhee" Rolin. I am the youngest of 12 brothers and sisters and have lived in Atmore all my life. My grandparents were the late Len and Hettie McGhee, and Cleve and Rhetta Rolin. I have 2 sons. My oldest son Patrick and his wife Amber and my youngest son Clint. Patrick works in the Public Works department for our Tribe and is currently attending college to get his degree in business. Clint is a full time student at UAB and is planning to go to medical school. I have worked for our Tribe for the past 5 ½ years. I worked in the Public Works department as an administrative assistant for 2 years and I currently have held the position of Executive Secretary to the Tribal Council for the past 3 ½ years. I also am currently a commissioner for the Tribal Employment Rights Office and also hold a position on the Muskogee Metalwork board. For many years now I have had the desire to be of service to our Tribe and have wanted to serve as a member of the Tribal Council. I have always believed that a good candidate for the Tribal Council would be one that has a good understanding of all current issues that are facing our Tribe, and one that could be fair, honest and unbiased when it comes to these issues and how they relate to our Tribal members and to our Tribe as a whole. Some of the areas that I would like to see changes in are: to allow Tribal members who are not using their education money to be able to pass it down to their children to help with their education, a nice assistant living facility for our seniors, more programs within the Tribe to help our youth with summer jobs and after school activities, just to name a few. Having worked directly with the Tribal Council on a daily basis for the past 3 ½ years, I feel that I now have that experience and I can see first hand the issues that most affect our lives. It has been an honor to be able to work in this position and to work closely with the current Council on all the issues that surround our Tribe. I truly believe that they have the best interest of the Tribal members in mind when it's time to make tough decisions and believe me there are many tough decisions that are having to be made. I feel that I am ready to step up and take on the role of leadership if you will allow me and would be proud to serve you in that capacity. I ask that you consider me for the 'at large' seat on the Tribal Council, and I will do my best to serve you with dignity, honesty, and fairness for "all" Tribal Members. Thank You.



## **Valerie Barnhill Taylor**



My name is Valerie Barnhill Taylor. I am the proud granddaughter of the late Ruby McGhee Barnhill and my father is James Edward Barnhill. I am running for the at large position that is open on the Tribal Council. I am running for this position because I know that I will represent each and every Tribal Member, not just a select few. My grandmother fought with the Great Chief

Calvin McGhee to make sure that we would get the recognition and the benefits that came with it so that we and our future generations would not have to struggle and wonder how we would get medical attention, education and food to put on our tables.

The Tribe has come a long way but there are still so many of us that are living from Day to day. We now have insurance, but do you have the co-pays to get to see a doctor? The Gaming Operations are generating a great amount of revenue and I'm not saying that continuing to build other businesses' to generate more income isn't a good thing but I think that we should receive a dividend at least on a quarterly basis. The employee's of the Casino Receive a quarterly bonus so why shouldn't we, THE OWNER'S? I'm not sure how much they receive but I have heard that some of the bonuses that the upper management Positions receive could buy at least one of us a new house per quarter. IN WHAT SOCIETY IS THAT FAIR. Also, the last report that I could get my hands on to see how many Tribal Members are in employed with the Casino's is as follows, there are over 1400 employees, with LESS THAN 150 TRIBAL MEMBERS. I hope that you all find this as upsetting as I do... It is my opinion that by now that any and all of the upper management and supervisory positions should have been filled by Tribal Members. If we're not qualified, then TRAIN US.

If I am elected I will ask that we have reports posting showing how many Tribal members have applied for jobs, been hired, fired, promoted etc. I will ask that Reports be posted on the on all the Tribally owned businesses. We have the right to this information.

I will make this promise to you..... I WILL NOT BACK DOWN. I WILL FIGHT FOR YOU WITH EVERY BREATH THAT I HAVE.....



## **Robert G. Thrower**

I, Robert G. Thrower, do hereby declare my candidacy for the at-large seat on the Tribal Council of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. My family consists of my devoted wife, Dana Thrower, and two precious step-children, Caymond and Ozzy. I also have three beautiful daughters: Rachael, Cheryl, and Sehoy. My family is a blessing and a source of strength for me and I am



grateful for their love and unconditional support. I am further blessed to be the son of Glenn and Gale Thrower. My mother served the Poarch Creek Tribe for over thirty years and contributed to our Tribe getting federal recognition in 1984. My parents gave me the foundation of a loving family and instilled in me the love of history and heritage, which have followed me throughout my career. I have one sister, Lori Sawyer, who has served the Tribe for many years and follows the example of loyal service and dedication as set forth by my mother. I am equally blessed to be a member of a much larger family, the Poarch Creek family. My Creek heritage traces back through my mother's line to my grandmother, Charlene Gibson Joiner, and my great-grandmother, Zeffie Rolin Gibson. As we trace back the generations of our past, we discover that all Poarch Creeks are related to each other in some way. We can be proud that we are not only an American Indian Tribe, but more importantly, that we are all family.

My adult career has been devoted entirely to serving the Poarch Creek Community. Over twenty-five years ago, I was hired by the Indian Education Parent Committee and the Escambia County Board of Education (Alabama) to serve as an instructional tutor and cultural educator for the Title IX Indian Education Program. In this capacity I worked for seven years with a large segment of our Tribal youth in grades K-6 at Huxford Elementary School. During this time, I also reached out to many of the local schools throughout the Tribe's service area to provide teaching and demonstrations of our Creek Indian heritage. In July of 1991, I was hired by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians as a Continuing Education Specialist and Acting Education Director. I immediately began working with our adult population, teaching GED preparatory classes, adult literacy, and adult basic education classes. Soon I was promoted to Education Director. During this time I helped design our new Education Department, started on-site job training and employment skills classes for our people, and expanded cultural education services. My staff and I received two national awards in this time period: for our work with

elementary, secondary, and high school students in the Johnson O'Malley Indian Education Program, and for our accomplishments in American Indian job training through the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Program. I completed my Bachelor's Degree in Education, Psychology, and Social Work at the University of West Florida, and received a minor in Substance Abuse Education. Our ancestors struggled so hard for us to have the benefit of a good education. I am a firm believer in education and hope that every Tribal member will utilize the education benefits available to each of us. As we move forward to the possibilities of a future Tribal school, I offer my education service and experience as we plan this important step in our Tribe's future.

In my last three years in Education, I also worked with the Poarch Creek Tribal Drug Court Program as a Cultural Educator and Advisor for our Drug Court participants. I have maintained personal contact with many of the graduates from the time period and I am a firm supporter of this program. I have witnessed the power of changed and transformed lives which were assisted through the opportunities provided through this wonderful program. I have learned that mistakes and failures can be valuable lessons and that we can learn from them and rise above them to better our lives. Many of our families have been impacted in some way by substance abuse. I remain committed to supporting additional ways to help our Tribal families overcome the negative effects of substance abuse and addiction.

Following my education service, I served the Tribe for two years as Environmental Director and the Natural Resources Coordinator. Through this experience, I learned the importance of protecting our environment and of being good stewards of our Tribal lands. I assisted the Tribal Chairman's office in the purchasing a large portion of the present day Magnolia Branch Wildlife Preserve. During this time period, I was appointed by the Poarch Creek Tribal Council to serve as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). I would soon serve the Tribe as full-time THPO. Currently, I serve as both the Tribe's THPO and as the Cultural Director for the Calvin McGhee Cultural Management Authority. It is indeed a privilege to currently serve with the Cultural Authority in making our dream of a Tribal museum become a reality.

Throughout my career at Poarch Creek, I have been a member of United South and Eastern Tribes (USET). I have served on the Education Committee, Natural Resources Committee, and currently serve on the Culture & Heritage Committee. I currently serve as the Chairman of USET's Culture & Heritage Committee, where I have the privilege of representing the Poarch Creek Indians and of leading another twenty-four federally recognized Tribes in matters pertaining to historic preservation and cultural preservation. My service through USET has provided me a greater view of the issues and concerns that affect all of Indian Country. The motto of USET

is "There is strength in Unity". I firmly believe this to be true, not only for the USET organization, but for our Tribal family, as well. We need to work diligently to restore and build up the unity within our Tribal community. We are a Tribal family, and the more united we become, the more powerful we become as agents for positive change. It is true, as the old saying goes, that "A house divided against itself cannot stand". On the other hand, I believe that a unified people can work together and accomplish things beyond our present imaginations. The Poarch Creek Nation has proven to be such a people, but there is much more to be done. We all have to work together and remember, "To whom much is given, much more is required".

I am an ordained minister of sixteen years with pastoral experience and have been studying Creek Indian medicine for the past nine years. These areas of service have provided me even greater opportunities to assist and serve our tribal community in times of personal, family, and community need. Our ancestors believed that it was important for each member of the tribal family to maintain a healthy body, mind, and spirit. I believe that each of these three areas is of equal importance and we should not neglect any one of them.

Many of the decisions that we make today will not only affect us now, but will continue to affect many of our generations to come. As we move forward into the future, let us remember the words of Sitting Bull, a Lakota Indian Chief, who said, "Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children." As a leader, a Tribal Council member must be the voice and representative of all the people. However, leaders can only be effective when their people stand with them and support them in the work to be done. I look forward to meeting each of you and to hearing your concerns and ideas for our future. Let us put our minds together, and work together for the betterment of our future. I strongly encourage each and every one of you to thoughtfully cast your vote for your candidates of choice in the upcoming election. Thank you.

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### **Eddie Tullis**

I, Eddie Tullis do hereby declare my candidacy for the at large seat in the 2010 tribal election.

As the tribe becomes more successful, the decisions of the tribal council become more complex and important for the life of every Tribal Member.



Nine Council Members working full time should be prepared to hold full and open discussions on each agenda item at each tribal council meeting. There should be a limit to executive sessions and workshops held away from the eyes of Tribal Members, many of whom would like to be aware of what is going on.

Several items need to be discussed by the members of the tribe in regular open community meetings including: the establishment of a comprehensive senior service center, which would include an assisted living unit, lowering the age to receive elder's benefits, a job training program, as well as expanded benefits (both monetary and tangible) for all Tribal Members wherever they reside. If elected, my experience and dedication, I will work to make these discussions happen.

Please vote on June 5, 2010 for Eddie L. Tullis

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### **W.V. Williams**



I hereby declare my candidacy for the at-large seat on the Poarch Creek Indian Tribal Council. My name is W.V. Williams, Grandson of Rosa Dees Peacock, one of the five core families that established the Poarch Tribe. Born in Uriah, Al., son of Moisselle Peacock and Arthur Williams in Uriah, Al. Married to Nell Bunn Williams for 59 years

and we have been blessed with three successful sons, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild. I reside in Pensacola, Florida. World War II veteran, Retired from Federal Civil Service as Aircraft Examiner and Evaluator (Electronics). Owned and operated Williams and Sons T.V. and Appliance business. Owned and farmed 60 acres of row crop farming.

Civic activities are:

Member of the Pine Summit Baptist Church (Deacon), active member of Gideon's International. In 2006, as a recipient of the "Legion of Honor" award from De-Molay International, (highest honor placed on anyone) I was humbled that staff recognized me with such an award. Drafted legislation in 1975 to support creation of the Creek Indian Council in the state of Florida, through which we were able to achieve many benefits for our people. Served on all elected positions of that council until 1993, when asked to resign and accept a Governors appointment to establish Community Health Purchasing Alliance by the honorable Lawton Childs, Governor of FL.,

[illegible]

I am extremely proud of my Heritage and believe that I have some new idea's that will support and improve our existing benefits while creating new ones. In discussion with tribe members, I feel that long term elderly care is critical, without our seniors, you and I would not be here. I also feel I can work with all elected council members to improve affordable housing; continuing education for youth and adults. Beneficial short and long term planning, and discretionary funds. This is a short list of the things that I will address when I am elected by you, to represent you on the council. I will appreciate your Support and Vote on June 5, 2010. Please give me a chance to serve YOU by electing me to the at-large seat on the tribal council. Vote W.V. Williams a proven leader for the at-large seat on The Poarch Creek Council. A leader that pledges to serve with Integrity, Honesty, Wisdom, Courage, and Commitment with 24/7 dependability. I am retired and will be available to you, our people doing your business. Please vote and support W.V. WILLIAMS, I need YOUR HELP so we can be a greater tribe with more benefits in the future.

W.V. Williams  
Home Phone: 850-944-1662      Cell Phone 850-982-1035  
e-mail vpeeco@gmail.com

*Notes:*



# TGC Staff attends NTGCR Spring Conference

*Submitted by Chris Gibson*

On March 14-18, 2010, staff members of the PCI TGC traveled to Cabazon, CA, to attend the Spring Conference of the National Tribal Gaming Commissioners and Regulators (NTGCR) organization. The event was hosted by the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Employees attending NTGCR were TGC Chair, Stephanie Bryan, Administrator Daniel McGhee, Investigations Director Doug Murphy, Investigator Cotrena Andrews, Information Technology Systems Specialist Nick Hill, and Regulatory Relations Liaison Chris Gibson. Brad Stinson, staff attorney with the Tribe's Legal department, also attended the conference.

NTGCR was originally formed in the early 1990's but did not adopt formal by-laws until May 1999. The PCI TGC has been attending NTGCR for many years but were not official voting members until February 2008. Currently TGC Chair Stephanie Bryan serves as the voting delegate on behalf of Poarch Creek and Daniel McGhee serves as the alternate. McGhee also serves as the Eastern Region delegate on the NTGCR Board. The purpose of NTGCR is to:

- Promote cooperative relationships among the commissioners/regulators of tribal gaming enterprises and other organizations;
- Promote exchange of thoughts, information and ideas which foster regulatory standards and enforcement that lead to consistent regulatory practices and methods or operations among the NTGCR members;
- Promote educational seminars, which include commissioner/regulatory training, and other related activities; and
- Act as a gaming regulatory advisory group to tribal gaming organizations and others.

The Spring session of NTGCR began with opening remarks from NTGCR Chairman Jaime Hummingbird. Chairman Hummingbird began by thanking the Morongo Band of Mission Indians for their hospitality in hosting the event. Chairman Hummingbird then asked all attendees to introduce themselves, give their job titles, and which tribe they were representing. After introductions and a tribute to our men and women that serve in the United States military, Chairman Hummingbird asked that the group break into their respective regional groups. The purpose of this was to share relevant information on what is going on in each region and then nominate a representative from the region to update the conference on the happenings in each region. The PCI TGC was the only group represented from our region- the Eastern Region.

Brad Stinson, Assistant Attorney General with the Tribe's Legal Department, delivered the update from the Eastern

Region. Brad reported that Indian gaming in the State of Alabama is thriving and that the Poarch Band of Creek Indians gaming facilities continue to grow. Brad also commented on the state of gaming in Alabama outside the reservation and described the activities of the Governor's task force as they continue to combat gaming facilities that operate under the "for charity" guise. Brad further explained how the Governor and the Attorney General are at odds on the legality of electronic bingo. Brad also shared with the assembly information on how other tribes in the region are performing. Those tribes include the Mississippi Band of Choctaws and the Seminole Tribe in Florida.

After each region gave their respective updates, NTGCR then held a business meeting recapping the previous meeting that was held during the September 2009 fall conference. After review of the minutes and various issues from the previous meeting, NTGCR then began new business which included the amending of the existing NTGCR by-laws. Both TGC Chair Stephanie Bryan and Administrator Daniel McGhee made various suggestions on how the by-laws should be amended. Before the business meeting was adjourned, PCI TGC Chair Stephanie Bryan asked NTGCR Chairman Jaime Hummingbird if the NTGCR members could be polled regarding whether or not their Surveillance Departments fell under the Commission or Operations. Mr. Hummingbird agreed to poll the NTGCR members at her request.

After the business meeting, the Conference was then broken down into various round-table discussions and certification tracts which included Commissioners, Information Technology, Surveillance, Auditing, and Investigations. Each discussion was led by various speakers in their respective fields. Day 2 and 3 of the Spring NTGCR conference included the continuation of roundtable discussions and certification tracts.

Administrator Daniel McGhee attended an NTGCR board meeting at the conclusion of the conference. During the meeting board members discussed budgets, executive director position, NTGCR Scholarships, and new appointments to several sub-committees of NTGCR to help with conference planning and membership. Daniel was asked to serve on the Membership Committee in order to help encourage tribes to join from the eastern area.

The TGC staff members that attended the spring session of NTGCR all agreed that this conference was one of the best and most relevant sessions of NTGCR that they have attended. The ability to network, gain, and share information with other tribal regulators from around the nation on the issues that affect the daily operations of the TGC proved invaluable.

## Lowering Of Tribal Flag

*Submitted by Garvis Sells, Tribal Council Member*

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians has an established and time honored tradition of lowering the Tribal flag located at the Tribal Annex (5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL 36502) to honor Tribal Members upon their passing. Upon notification by a family member, the Tribal flag will be lowered the day of the burial of the deceased Tribal Member.

To ensure that all our Tribal Members are honored in this fashion, we are requesting that a member of the family of the deceased notify Tribal Administration at (251) 368-9136 x 2234 of the funeral arrangements so that arrangements to lower the Tribal flag can be made.

The Tribal Police Department can also provide funeral escort in the local area as long as notice is received in enough time to schedule the escort. Please let Tribal Administration know if an escort is wanted when you call to make your request for the lowering of the Tribal flag.



## BayFest Looking for Poster Artist

BayFest is proud to offer area artists an incredible opportunity — the chance to design the official BayFest poster! The winning design should incorporate all or some of the elements that made BayFest the 2009 Alabama Event of the Year! They include: life in and around the bay, multiple stages, downtown Mobile, crowds of fans, big starring acts, family fun and bright, energetic colors. The winning artist will receive a \$500 honorarium and see their work all over downtown Mobile and beyond!

The deadline to submit artwork for this year's design contest is 3 p.m. on Friday, May 14, 2010. Please visit [www.bayfest.com](http://www.bayfest.com) for all rules and information. Examples of artwork from previous years are available for viewing at [www.bayfest.com](http://www.bayfest.com) under Photo Gallery.

## Unknown Soldiers' Memorial Day Tribute

They answered their country's call to arms,  
Into battle they did go,  
Where their final destination was,  
No one will ever know.  
May their final resting place,  
Under some unknown sod,  
Be forever hallowed,  
For it is known only unto God.

Author Unknown

*Submitted by Arelene Mack*

# Turning Point

*Submitted by Keesha O'Barr, Tribal Court Administrator*

The Drug Court Program is proud to announce the opening of Turning Point, our new sober living environment, located on Martin Road\*. Turning Point is dedicated to assisting those with drug or alcohol addictions as they try to rebuild their lives. Over the past several years, the Drug Court Team noticed a growing need for a transitional living home, and to help meet that need, a grant was written and submitted to the Department of Justice. This grant was awarded to the Tribe in September 2009.



Turning Point is a facility to be used by recovering addicts. Often times, when someone returns from treatment, their previous living situation may not be the best place for them. They may not be able to afford a place of their own, and with a variety of stressors pushing down on them, they may be prime candidates for relapse. Turning Point is meant to fill this gap. While not a long term solution, those in recovery may stay here until they are able to get back on their feet and find suitable housing of their own. Turning Point will provide a safe and supportive place for people to live while they are in recovery. While the facility is primarily meant to provide housing for people who have just come out of rehab, it is not necessary that someone go to treatment in order to utilize the facility. Turning Point will accept referrals from Drug Court, Tribal Court, Family Services or the Human Services Department.

There are many rules that the residents of Turning Point must obey, but the main rule is no resident shall use any mind altering substances. Some other requirements that must be met in order to reside at Turning Point are mandatory attendance at support and treatment meetings, random drug tests, and paying rent on time. Rent requirements for residents are based on a sliding fee scale and range from \$25.00 to \$200.00 a month.

## Live Test of Emergency Sirens

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

Quiet test every  
Monday, Friday, and Sunday  
2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

***These are tests only  
Do not contact Tribal Dispatch!!***



Paul Thomas, Probation Officer, and Wes Hayles, Addiction Counselor, are shown on the front steps of Turning Point. Paul and Wes will work closely with the residents of the facility.

If you would like further information regarding the Turning Point Facility, please contact Tribal Court Administration at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2660.

*\*The mobile home that houses the program is one of the mobile homes donated to the Tribe by FEMA. This is another example of one program benefiting and helping another.*



# USDA Announces Water Conservation Project Assistance

Submitted by David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Dave White today announced the availability of \$61.2 million in financial assistance funding for Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) projects. This funding will help producers conserve surface and ground water and improve water quality on agricultural land.

“By working with our partners, we will see more water conservation on working lands and more opportunities to improve water quality,” said White.

AWEP projects are implemented by NRCS entering into partnership agreements with eligible entities. NRCS works with these partners to help landowners plan and implement conservation practices in project areas established through the agreements.

Of the \$61.2 million, approximately \$40.4 million will be made available to AWEP partners whose projects were approved during last fiscal year and approximately \$20.7 million will be available for new project proposals.

The following partnership entities are eligible to submit proposals for funding: federally recognized Indian Tribes, States, units of local government, agricultural associations, and other groups of producers--such as irrigation associations, agricultural land trusts, or other nongovernmental organizations--that have experience working with agricultural producers. When an AWEP project area has been approved and announced, individual producers may apply for program benefits through their local NRCS office.

Types of water enhancement activities intended with this request for proposal are:

- Water quality or water conservation plan development;
- Water conservation restoration or enhancement projects;
- Water quality or quantity restoration or enhancement projects;
- Irrigation system improvement and irrigation efficiency enhancements;
- Activities designed to mitigate the effects of drought; and
- Related activities determined to help achieve water quality or water conservation benefits on agricultural land.

Deadline for partner organizations to submit a proposal is 3:00 May 17, 2010. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) established AWEP. To view the full

request for proposal, for additional AWEP information, or to apply visit: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AWEP/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AWEP/).

For additional information about NRCS and conservation programs that may be available for you, visit: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov), or visit the NRCS Tribal Office located at 5535 Poarch Road, Atmore, Alabama 36502 or call David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison, at 251-368-0826. 2010 represents the 75th year of NRCS helping people help the land. Since its inception in 1935, the NRCS conservation delivery system has advanced a unique partnership with state and local governments and private landowners delivering conservation based on specific, local conservation needs, while accommodating state and national interests.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

## Play Ball!

*Scenes from Wee-Ball/T-Ball's Opening Day*



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# LEGAL UPDATE

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*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.

## State Bingo Bills

As many of you may have read in the news, the Alabama Legislature has been considering various versions of “bingo bills” for the people of Alabama to vote on in November’s elections. The Tribal Council, Governmental Relations Department, and the Legal Department have been monitoring these bills closely and offering different versions in an effort to minimize any negative economic impact on the Tribe’s gaming operations. The Alabama Legislature will be out of session on April 22, 2010. If the Alabama Legislature passes any “bingo bill” this session, it will be placed on the November election ballot for a statewide vote. The Tribal Council will keep you posted as to the Tribe’s position on any statewide gaming referendum.

## Significant Court Cases

### *Community Recovery Services, Inc. v. PCI Gaming v. Eddie L. Tullis*

As you know, in March 2006 Community Recovery Services, Inc. (“CRS”) sued PCI Gaming in Tribal Court for over \$2.1 million claiming unpaid invoices for the performance of work on the Riverside project. For the past four years, PCI Gaming has defended itself against CRS’ claims and maintained its counterclaim against CRS for over \$2.5 million in excessive overcharges in the performance of the same work. As part of its defense, PCI Gaming filed a third party complaint against Eddie L. Tullis, so that PCI Gaming’s assets would be fully protected against the payment of any further claims by CRS. The trial was held the week of June 22, 2009. PCI Gaming filed a post-trial evidentiary motion on October 1, 2009, and the parties completed post-trial briefing on November 3, 2009. The Tribal Court recently granted PCI Gaming’s post-trial evidentiary motion on April 5, 2010. The Tribal Judge also recently indicated that he is still in the process of reviewing the evidence, so the parties are awaiting a ruling from Tribal Court.

### *T.J. Johnson Holdings, Inc. v. Poarch Band of Creek Indians, PCI Gaming, and CIE*

In April 2009, T.J. Johnson Holdings, Inc. (“Johnson”) sued

the Tribe, PCI Gaming and CIE in federal court, claiming that the parking deck in Wetumpka that serves Riverside Entertainment Center encroaches onto Johnson’s portion of River Oaks Drive, which runs in front of the parking garage. On September 17, 2009, the federal court granted the Tribe’s motion to dismiss based on sovereign immunity. On October 22, 2009, the plaintiff filed a similar complaint in state court. On January 5, 2010, the state court granted the Tribe’s motion to dismiss one of the three claims. The parties have now been ordered to mediation on May 5, 2010.

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## Gubernatorial Candidate Visits Poarch



Bill Johnson, Republican gubernatorial candidate, and his wife Kathy visited Poarch on Thursday, March 18, 2010 for an impromptu meeting with members of the Tribal Council and a tour of the Reservation.

Johnson served on the Birmingham City Council from 1997-2001 and was one of the city’s strongest business advocates. He has been a member of Governor Riley’s cabinet since 2005 and was recognized as the “2008 Public Official of the Year” by Alabama’s Habitat for Humanity. He has served as both assistant director and director for the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) from January 2003 to June 26, 2009. Johnson has worked with state and local-level economic and workforce development efforts for over a decade; was instrumental in launching the Black Belt Action Commission, of which he was director, during the program’s initial two-years, and was active in launching the Rural Action Commission. He has been actively involved in community development, disaster assistance and recovery and was the impetus behind ADECA’s existing partnership with faith and community-based organizations. He has developed and managed the Community Prison Re-entry (CPR) Network and continued the Mentor Alabama program once managed by the Office of the Attorney General.

You can find out more about Bill Johnson and his campaign for governor at [www.billjohnson.org](http://www.billjohnson.org)



# Tribal Member Submissions



## Mammie & Lawrence McGhee Reunion

Saturday, May 29, 2010 at Magnolia Branch; come early, stay late. Potluck bring what you like to eat plus a dessert & something to drink. Bring your lawn chairs! We will have entertainment. Bring your old pictures and the ones you took last year.

We are looking for pictures of Grandma Mammie's mother, Sally (Lal) Rolin, and any of Grandpa Lawrence's mother and father, Louisa Polly Gibson & John France McGhee.

*An offering will be collected to cover cost of pavilion, paper products & supplies.*



## First Tribal Football Team Suits Up

*Submitted by Berry Ross*

Pictured above is one of the first-if not the first- Tribal football teams to suit up. All the boys were attending Huxford Elementary School. Do you recognize any of these young players? The coaches (not shown) for this team were Ronnie Ray Jackson, Tim Martin, and Don Whatley.

## Johnson Graduates

*Submitted by ReneeFrazier*



Sam and Renee Frazier of Brewton, Alabama and Alfred Johnson of Hartselle, Alabama announce the upcoming graduation of their son, Kevin Thomas Johnson. Kevin will be graduating from Hartselle High School.

Kevin is the grandson of Dorothy McGhee of Brewton and the late Otis McGhee of Atmore. He is the great grandson of the late Lawrence and Mamie McGhee of Atmore.

Congratulations Kevin, we are very proud of all your hard work.

## Family Keepsake

*Submitted by Tony Gibson*

Tony Gibson brought by a photo from an old newspaper that shows his father, Elbert Gibson, with the money paid to his family in 1972 for land taken from the Creeks in 1832. The caption for the photo to the left reads:



### **CREEK INDIAN DESCENDENT**

Elbert Gibson of Rock Creek Road, Atmore, displays some of the 11 checks he found in his post office box Monday morning paying members of his family for land taken from the Creeks in 1832. The checks, each for \$112.32, were for six of his children and five grandchildren. He is still looking for two more, one for himself and one for his youngest son. Some 30,000 Creeks share in the U.S. Government's settlement.

*-Staff photo by Harvey Cooks*

*A special thanks to Tribal Member B.B. Gilbert for the donation of two Easter Baskets. One little boy and one little girl were treated with a basketful of fun and surprises they otherwise would not have received. Mvto Mr. Gilbert!*



# Wedding Bells Are Ringing!



## Thunder McGhee & Amy Lucy Wed

*Submitted by Patsy McGhee*

Thunder Lynn McGhee, son of Calvin and Patsy McGhee, and Amy Gail Lucy, daughter of Larry Lucy and Jonnie Gail Sanders, exchanged wedding vows at the Quail Walk Country Club in Wetumpka, AL on April 10, 2010. After a honeymoon in Las Vegas, the couple will reside in Wetumpka.



## Danielle Martin & Heath Ikner to Marry

*Submitted by Cassie O'Brien*

Danielle Martin and Heath Ikner will be married on Saturday May 8, 2010 at McCullough Christian Center, at 4pm. Friends and family are invited to attend.

Danielle is the daughter of Jimmy and Cassie O'Brien and the late Bobby Martin. She is the granddaughter of Ronnie and Eileen Lehman, the late A.D. and Willie Lee Martin, and Roy and Jean O'Brien.

Heath is the son of Chris and Dana Ikner and is the grandson of Ben and Marie Smith, Edward & Mary Ann Stewart, and Larry and Patricia Ikner.

## Hipa To Play In International Sports Festival

*Submitted by Ellen O'Barr*

Michael Hipa, son of Shannon and Jason Griffey, plays basketball for Escambia Academy. He recently competed in the USA Junior Nationals Basketball Tournament at Huntington College. Based on outstanding performance at the state level, he was invited to play in the International Sports Festival in Columbus, Ohio in July. Select college coaches from across the country will serve as coaches for the teams playing in the festival. This will give the players college level playing experience in addition to their abilities being shown to college scouts that could lead to scholarships to play basketball at some of the most prominent colleges in the nation.

Congratulations Michael, we hope your performance at the national level is as successful as that at state level. We love you and are very proud of you. Mom, Dad, Jason, Me-Maw & Papa O'Barr, Me-Maw & Papa Griffey, your sisters, and all your aunts, uncles, and cousins.



*Michael Hipa, center, is shown with his uncles John O'Barr (left) and Charles 'Bubba' O'Barr (right) at USA Junior Nationals at Huntington College.*

## MACHINE TOOL TECHNOLOGY



Machine Tool Technology provides students skills with theory and hands-on projects to prepare for employment as machinists, millwrights, Computer Numerical Control (CNC) operators and CNC programmers. Students may pursue a certificate or associate degree. Certificate classes are two semesters.

Classes include:

- Machinist Math
- Measurement Tools
- Blueprint Reading
- Milling Operations
- Precision Grinding Machines
- Shop Safety
- Saw Operation
- Lathe Operations
- Power Tools: Drills & Saws
- Drilling Machines

Classes will be taught  
Friday  
8:00 to 4:30  
at Muskogee Technology in  
Atmore.

Class size limited

Contact Lynda Davis  
251 578 1462 or  
[ldavis@rstc.edu](mailto:ldavis@rstc.edu).

It is the policy of REID STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE not to discriminate against any persons on the basis of sex, disability, race, age, color, religion, or national or ethnic origin. The college is in compliance with Section 504 and the American Disability Act (ADA) Regulations.

## Machine Tool Technology Cost & Schedule Information

Tuition \$1,200  
Books & Supplies \$ 250 per Session  
Tuition and books and supplies must be paid in advance.

Length of Program 24 Weeks  
6 sections @ 4 weeks each

Instructors Gordon Morris Sections 1-4 & 6  
Gene Tindle Section 5

Minimum Class 9  
Classes without the minimum number of students will be cancelled.

Tentative schedule:

Section 1	April 23, 2010 - May 14, 2010
Section 2	May 28, 2010 - June 18, 2010
Section 3	July 2, 2010 - July 23, 2010
Section 4	August 6, 2010 - August 27, 2010
Section 5	September 10, 2010 - October 1, 2010
Section 6	October 15, 2010 - November 5, 2010

## 4-H Club Participants Make Pizza & Kabobs

*Submitted by Christyn Sells*

During the March Chef 4-H meeting, 4-Hers learned how to make mini Pizza Mia pizza pockets and fruit kabobs! Each 4-Her got to "learn by doing", as they learned how to read and follow a recipe and experience the joy of preparing their own food. Messes were made, but good times were had by all who participated. The May Chef 4-H meeting will be held on May 24, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m. Don't forget, meetings are open to Youth ages 9-18 of the Poarch Community, and any interested child may join at any time! Please contact Christyn Sells @ (251)368-9136 ext. 2244 for more information.

Children who participated: Alia Snow, Halle Ra Peebles, Cheyenne and Shawnee McGee, Caitlyn Barnhill, Caymond Hodge, Sara Milliken, Dalton Walker, Paul Rolin Jr., Blakeland Crook, Lydia Stacey, Breanna Hall and Mikayla Spruill.





# Poarch Creek Sweeps Native Youth Language Fair

Hocciv (Author): Alex Alvarez, Cultural Educator

Each April, hundreds of Native American students from across the United States gather in Norman, Oklahoma for the annual Native Youth Language Fair. There, students showcase their native language through competitions featuring song, dance, posters, videos, and much more. This year, over 650 students were registered for group and individual competitions.

For the third year in a row, students from the Fred L McGhee Early Learning Center showcased their Muscogee Creek language skills. They competed first, in the large group spoken language competition by acting out the book: "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" all in the Creek language! The audience smiled and laughed softly as each student acted out their respective animal (wearing costumes to match) and said their individual part. Shortly after the competition was over, winners were announced, and the students from Poarch, Alabama had won their first ever 1st place award at the language fair!

After pictures, tears, and general chaos when coordinating activities of 4 and 5 year olds, it was time to change the kids and get them dressed for their next competition-all in ten minutes. Ready and confident, the even-starters took the stage once more for their final competition: language presentation through song & dance. They sang "Jesus Loves Me" entirely in the Creek language. Their pronunciation was perfect and their volume rang throughout the Great Hall of the University of Oklahoma's Sam Noble Museum of Natural History. When it was all said and done, again, the students from over 800 miles away had taken first place and let the world know that their culture is very much alive and thriving in their little corner of southwest Alabama.

Participants in the language fair this year were: Adyn Barrow, Anthony Jordan, Austin Kendrick, Braeden McGhee, Brionna Slate, Colbie English, Gracie Buckhault, Harley Sells, Joshua Burkett, Kennedy Long, Lea Odom, Levi Presley, Macie Chunn, Mykal Rolin, and Tiffany Gookin. The trip was not strictly business either; the kids and attending family got to see a wonderful passion play while in the company of wild elk, buffalo, and prairie dogs at a wildlife refuge. Easter Sunday was celebrated by attending the annual Easter egg hunt at the Oklahoma City Zoo. Students and family also toured the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum.

Though the participants took home medals, two first-place trophies, and t-shirts, what was earned is much more important than that. The language fair offers no enormous title, fancy champion jackets, or cash prizes. The language gives Native Americans a reason to celebrate their own identity as original inhabitants of this great land. Right now, all across America, there are tribes trying to clench on to their language and culture

before it is gone forever. As for the Creek Language, there are about 5,000 speakers left in the entire world, 90% of that number is over the age of 60. It is the primary responsibility of the Poarch Creek Cultural Education Program to increase that number and give our precious heritage and culture a fighting chance for survival in the generations to come.

Mvto! to all the students, parents, supporting families, Ms. Jennifer Lucas and Mrs. Mary Boyte for assisting in the kids' instruction and Mrs. Felecia Waters for doing a wonderful job driving and keeping our kids safe!



*Prior to leaving for Oklahoma the kids gave a preview performance for those who would not be able to accompany them.*

*All who attended were not surprised to learn the kids had taken first place.*



*Jesus Loves Me..as beautiful in Creek as it is English.*



*After a long bus ride home the kids only had only one thing to say: "We are the champions! We are the champions, my friend!"..over and over again! Congratulations, you are the champions!*



## Poarch Creek Youth Place in County Art Competition with Cultural Art

*Hocciv (Author): Alex Alvarez, Cultural Educator*

On Saturday March 27th, The Brewton Council on the Arts held their annual Escambia County Youth Art Competition awards ceremony at the YMCA in Brewton, AL. Almost thirty schools entered their students' art for the competition. Hundreds of entries were judged in many different age divisions. Among the awardees were two tribal members.

Gracie Coon, age 11 and a 5th grade student at Huxford Elementary, won an award in the 3D art category for her hand-woven Creek basket. Sydney Lisenby, age 6 and a 1st grade student at Huxford, won an award for her painting entitled "Powwow Girl Sunset".

Art was, and still is, a very important part of our tribal identity. Our youth, who are actively-engaged in traditional crafting and other cultural classes, have the ability to be known for their work on the local, state, and national level. Native American art is not just art; it is a way preserve, learn, and promote our precious culture and show the world the beauty of our heritage.

Great job girls! Keep up the good work! Your family and tribe are proud of you!



Above left is Gracie's basket; above right is Sydney and her painting.



Sydney and Gracie are all smiles after receiving their awards.



Calvin McGhee Cultural Management Authority is Proud to Present:

## CREEK BEADWORK CLASS

**Beginning Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm**

*Come learn how to make works of art, Creek style!*



**Tribal members and 1<sup>st</sup> generation descendants, ages 12 & up are welcome to attend.**

**Classes are free and all Supplies will be provided. Classes will be held at the cultural center (old school-house)**



For more info contact **Alex Alvarez, Cultural Educator**

Office: 251-368-9136 ext 2655

Email: aalvarez@pci-nsn.gov

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# May, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Visit the tribe's official web site  <a href="http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov">www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov</a>  for more information as it becomes available</i></p>						<p>1  <i>Tribal Sponsored  Debate  4:00 - GYM</i></p>
2	<p>3  Tribal Court  9:00 a.m.</p> <p>First Day  Summer LIHEAP  Applications</p>	<p>4  Weight Watchers  Weigh in 5 p.m.  Class @ 5:30  Gym</p> <p>Aerobics @ 5:45  Gym</p>	<p>5  Housing  Authority  Meeting 3 p.m.  Building 400  Conference Room</p>	<p>6  Tribal Council  Meeting 4 p.m.  Aerobics @ 5:45  Gym</p> <p><i>Last day to submit  Letter of Candidacy  Walk-In Voting  Begins</i></p>	<p>7  CIEDA Meeting  8:00 a.m.</p>	8
9	<p>10  <i>Submission  Deadline for June  newsletter 5 p.m.</i></p> <p>Tribal Court 9 a.m.  W&amp;A Authority  Meeting 4 p.m. in Gym  4-H Club Meeting  6 p.m. in Education  Warrior Society Meeting  6:00 p.m. St. Anna's</p>	<p>11  Weight  Watchers  Weigh in 5 p.m.  Class @ 5:30 in Gym  Aerobics @ 5:45</p> <p>TERO Meeting 3 p.m.  Building 200</p>	12	<p>13  Aerobics  5:45 p.m.  Gym</p>	14	15
16	17	<p>18  Weight Watchers  Weigh in 5 p.m.  Class @ 5:30 - Gym  Aerobics @ 5:45 - Gym</p>	<p>19  Housing  Authority  Meeting 3 p.m.  Building 400  Conference Room</p>	<p>20  Tribal Council  Meeting 4 p.m.  Aerobics  5:45 p.m. @ Gym</p>	<p>21  CIEDA Meeting  8:00 a.m.</p>	22
23	<p>24  Wellness &amp; Activities  Authority Meeting 4:00  p.m. in Gym  Chef 4-H Club  6:00 p.m./Education</p>	<p>25  Weight Watchers  Weigh in 5 p.m.  Class @ 5:30 in Gym  Aerobics @ 5:45</p> <p>TERO Meeting 3:00 p.m.  Building 200  <i>Last day to request  Absentee Ballot</i></p>	26	<p>27  Aerobics  5:45 p.m.  Gym</p>	28	29
30	<p>31  <i>Tribal Offices Closed  In Observance of  Memorial Day</i>  Deadline for CIEDA  Incubator Applications</p>	<p><i>June 1, 2010</i>  <i>Walk-In Voting  Ends 5:00 p.m.</i></p>			<p><i>June 4, 2010</i>  <i>Deadline to receive  Absentee Ballots</i></p>	<p><i>June 5, 2010</i>  <i>Tribal Election Day  Voting @ SAIL Center  8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.</i></p>

## Newsletter Contact Information

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