

# Poarch Creek News

December 2010

Keeping the family and friends of Poarch informed



Cortney Morris  
Crowned 2011  
Miss Indian Alabama  
Page 5

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## Chairman's Corner

December 2010



**Buford L. Rolin**  
*Tribal Chairman*

This year has been a very busy year. As we are in the midst of celebrating all that has been accomplished this year, it is important for us to stay focused on the long and prosperous road ahead. We, your Tribal Council, have had the opportunity to have our voices heard at the state capitol, in Washington D.C., and throughout Indian Country in regard to various important issues affecting our Tribal endeavors. We are satisfied that we are making headway for our Tribe.

To recap our year, it started with record setting weather and a snow day that closed Tribal offices. We were honored with a visit from the 2010 Census Bus in March. We thank each Tribal Member for completing and returning their census form and notating that you are Poarch Creek Indian. This will ensure that we receive any and all monies that we are entitled to receive.

The Health Care Reform Act passed through Congress this year; one provision in the bill was the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. The 2009-2010 class of students of the Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center attended the Native Youth Language Fair held at the University of Oklahoma's Sam Noble Museum of Natural History. The children, in full costume, 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.

In June we had the honor and privilege of being the host Tribe for the semi-annual United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), meeting in Mobile, AL.

The results of the 2010 Tribal elections saw Eddie L. Tullis return to the Council and necessitated the first Tribal run-off election for the positions of Tribal Council Treasurer and Secretary. Robert McGhee and David Gehman, respectively, were elected to fill these positions after the run-off ballots were tallied.

We had 1,142 Tribal Members attend the Annual Celebration held on September 4th. We thank everyone for coming home to be a part of this event. I feel we had an excellent Celebration and could not have asked for better weather. With November came Pow Wow; it has grown immensely since our first homecoming 40 years ago. Just prior to Pow Wow our Senior Princess, Miss Cortney Morris, was crowned Miss Indian Alabama. I was honored to attend this pageant and was proud to see that she represented herself, her culture, traditions, and Tribe in such a mature fashion.

I wish each of you a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to what the new year brings. As always, remember the reason for the season.



**Stephanie Bryan**  
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**Robert McGhee**  
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**Eddie L. Tullis**  
*Council Member*  
etullis@pci-nsn.gov



### New Year's Countdown

December 31, 2010

11:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

*Pow Wow Grounds*

*Be There To Bring In The New Year  
and witness the first drop  
of Lighted Poarch Logo Ball!*

*No stage show or entertainment  
Refreshments will be provided*

# Contents

Poarch Creek News, Vol. 28 Issue 10  
December 2010



## News & Information

- 5 **Board/Committee Update**  
Revisions to Board/Committee list
- 5 **New Contact Information for TERO Office**  
New phone number for TERO Office (251) 368-0606
- 5 **2011 Miss Indian Alabama**  
Senior Princess, Cortney Morris, crowned 2011 Miss Indian Alabama
- 12 **Poarch Fire Department**  
Fire Department hosts Open House and teaches Fire Safety
- 13 **Lois Amos Presented with Proclamation**  
Lois Amos receives proclamation from Mayor Sam Jones of Mobile, AL declaring November as American Indian Heritage Month
- 14 **The Summer of '73, Houston McGhee & Me**  
J. Anthony Parades remembers one summer at Poarch with Houston McGhee
- 17 **Renovations Begin At Tribal Police Station**  
Renovations include four offices and a women's restroom
- 17 **Community Meeting Scheduled**  
Community meeting scheduled to discuss Tribal Museum

## Regular Features

- 3 **Chairman's Corner**
- 6 **Family Services News & Info**
- 8 **Who's Having A Birthday?**
- 10 **Welcome To The World Little One!**
- 18 **Tribal Member Submissions**
- 20 **Education News & Update**
- 21 **Ethic's Corner**
- 22 **Wellness & Activities News & Updates**
- 25 **The Hard Road to Federal Recognition**
- 27 **Advertise In Poarch Creek News**
- 28 **Monthly Calendar of Events**



- 17 **Small Business Loans**  
CIEDA offers valuable business assistance to Tribal Members seeking small business loans
- 24 **Teen Christmas Party Scheduled**  
Christmas party for Tribal Member & First Generation teens to be held at Wind Creek December 21, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.



***There are 3061 Tribal Members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians***

**DEADLINES TO REMEMBER.** The deadline for submission of information to be published in the Poarch Creek News is **5:00 p.m.** 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. To prevent misprints or misinformation, all submission MUST be in writing. No phone or oral submissions will be accepted.

**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. This may mean you will have to publish a birthday/anniversary wish prior to any party planned for the event. **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/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.



## Updated Board/Committee List

Submitted by Kelli Ramer

Since the publication of last month's newsletter, the following changes have been made to various boards/committees; all other boards/committees remain the same. Please visit the Tribe's official web site at [www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov) for the complete list of boards, committees, authorities, and commissions.

### **Endowment Committee** (5 year terms)

Eldnar McGhee	1
Lori Findley*	2 (Chair Person)
Denise Young	3
Kelli Ramer	4
April Sells	5

### **Ethics Board**

Carrie Martin*	4 (Chair Person)
Cornelia Miller	5
Tami Manning	1
Charlotte Meckel	2
April Sue Dortch	3
Rayford Rolin-Alt	
Vacant-Alt	

## TERO Phone Number

The TERO Office has moved and settled in at the new location located at 3480 Highway 21, Atmore, AL. The new phone number is (251) 368-0606. All other contact information remains the same.



TERO staff shown in front of their new office left to right are Carol Cole, Patricia Rolin, Valarie Taylor, and Jennifer Singleton.

## 2011 Miss Indian Alabama

*Press Release from Alabama Indian Affairs Commission*

The month of November was designated as American Indian Heritage month. Throughout the nation Indian events were held to commemorate the rich heritage of our Native peoples. In Alabama a series of events and activities were held by the Tribes and other Indian related organizations, in support of Alabama's Indian heritage. On Friday, November 5, 2010, the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission ([www.aiac.alabama.gov](http://www.aiac.alabama.gov)) hosted the fifth annual Miss Indian Alabama competition at the State Capitol. The Commission is the state government agency that is charged with representing the Indian people living in the state, as well as the nine recognized tribal governments. The state of Alabama is home to the following state-recognized tribal governments; Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama, Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama, MaChis Lower Creek Indian Tribe, Star Clan of Muscogee Creeks, Cher-O-Creek Intratribal Indians, MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians, Piqua Shawnee Tribe, the United Ani-Yun-Wiya Nation and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians who are also federally recognized.

There were three young Indian ladies who competed for the title of Miss Indian Alabama 2011. The 2011 Miss Indian Alabama is Cortney Morris. Cortney is the 20 year old daughter of David and Tina Morris of Perdido, Alabama. Cortney is a member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and is currently pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing at the University of South Alabama. Cortney has represented her Tribe in many events all over the country as their 2010 Senior Princess. As Miss Indian Alabama, Cortney will serve as a Goodwill Ambassador for all Indian people throughout the state.

For further information on Miss Indian Alabama or for any information regarding the American Indian population of Alabama, please call the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission at 334-242-2831 or email us at [aiac@att.net](mailto:aiac@att.net).

Cortney Morris, 2011 Miss Indian Alabama, with her parents Tina and David Morris



# Family Services Department Hosts 2010 Day Care “Safe” Halloween Event

*Submitted by Carolyn White*



*Sparky the Dog meets and greets the children.*

On October 29, 2010, the Family Services Department hosted the third annual “Day Care Halloween Event”; this year’s event included CCDF Kid’s Safety Training. Twenty children from the Fred L. McGhee Learning Center participated. The Family Services staff welcomed Sparky the Dog, the Poarch Creek Firefighters, and our own hilarious staff clown. All provided fun, education, and entertainment to the children and adults in attendance.

Safety literature and glow lights were passed out to the children and the firemen explained the do’s and don’ts of safe Trick-or-Treating. Family Services employees also engaged the kids in fun activities including chalk and crayon art time, game time, and face painting. The children were also able to explore one of the PCI fire trucks. The event ended with pizza and snacks for lunch. Everyone had a wonderful time!!! We are already looking forward to 2011 Day Care Halloween.

## Family Services Searching For Sponsors For 2010 Christmas Share Program

The Family Services Department is assisting families in need again this year for Christmas. We are in need of sponsors to meet these needs. If you, your place of business, or tribal department would like to sponsor a tribal individual or family in need; please contact the Family Services Department immediately or no later than December 3, 2010.

We need sponsorship for food items to provide a special Christmas dinner of ham or turkey and all the trimmings. We are also seeking sponsors for new toys for children of various ages and new clothing for families. Please contact the Family Services Department if you would like to help. We will provide you with an itemized list of items based on the age, gender, size, and individual needs of families to fit your level of sponsorship. We need your help to reach out to tribal families in need during this Christmas Season.

A special thank you to PCI Gaming, Wind Creek Casino, Calvin McGhee Cultural Management Authority, Fred L. McGhee Learning Center, Creek Indian Enterprises, Mary Ramey of Pensacola, FL., Officer Joey and Brandi Williams Family, and Mr. B.B. Gilbert for helping us with a successful 2009 Christmas Share Project by donating items.

***This is not a request for families that need assistance. This is a request for sponsors ONLY.***

If you have any questions or would like to help sponsor a family or donate items, please contact Amanda Montgomery at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2212 or [amontgomery@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:amontgomery@pci-nsn.gov).





## Poarch Creek Indians 2010 Children's Christmas Party

**2010 Children's Christmas Party**  
**Family Services Auditorium**  
**Thursday, December 9, 2010**  
**6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.**

**Children eligible to attend include:**  
**Tribal Members age birth to 12**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Generation Children age birth to 12**

**Children Must Be Pre-Registered To Attend**  
**(Registration Closed at 5:00 p.m. November 18, 2010)**



## Flip Flop To Stop

*Submitted by Amanda Montgomery*

I would like to thank everyone who participated and attended the October Domestic Violence Awareness Vigil on October 5, 2010. The Family Services Department sponsors this event each year to raise awareness in our community in efforts to stop domestic violence.

Our theme "Flip Flop to Stop" encouraged people to wear flip flops in support of domestic violence awareness. A special "Thank You" to all of our speakers at the vigil and our Pow Wow Club and Princesses for performing as well.

The Family Services Department hopes that this annual event acts as a reminder to help stop domestic violence. If you or anyone you know is experiencing domestic violence, please get help. May our flip flops also act as a reminder to "Flip Flop to Stop"! Stop the Silence. Stop the Violence.



## Foster or Adoptive Homes Needed

Please contact Martha Gookin in the Family Services Department if you or your family is interested in becoming a foster or adoptive home for Tribal Member children. You can contact Martha at (251) 368-9136 ext.2600.



### **Qualifications:** You must:

- \* Be interested in making a positive life-long impact on tribal foster children or tribal children placed for adoption;
- \* Be willing to attend training sessions offered by the Family Services Department;
- \* Be willing to complete a thorough home-study along with a thorough background check for all household members;
- \* Willing to join in a partnership between the Family Services Department, the child, and the child's birth family in an effort to do what is in the best interest of the child; and
- \* Be financially able to provide for an additional member to your household.

# 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.*

## **Blaize Thomas**

Blaize Thomas turned 4 years old on November 9, 2010. He celebrated his birthday at St. Anna's with a "Car" theme with family and friends.

Happy Birthday Blaize, we love you lots!! Daddy, Maw Maw, Paw Paw, Uncle Josh, Ashton, Brantlie, Major, Jen, Lindsay, and the entire family.



## **Lawrence "Bunk" Peebles**

Lawrence "Bunk" Peebles celebrated his birthday November 9, 2010. Happy be-lated birthday Bunk!

We love you, Chastity, Joshua, & Colton, Mom & Dad, "Amp", Kortlan, Halle Ra, and Braxton Peebles, Bell, Hawkeye & Chad Godwin.

## **Denise Young**

Denise Young celebrated her birthday on November 11, 2010.

Denise, you are a wonderful person with so many outstanding attributes. Your helping hand is always outstretched and you are a constant source of support and encouragement for those who know you. We wish you many more years full of marvelous experiences and wonderful birthdays!



We love you dearly - Granny Bernstein and Papa D.C; Mama; Phillip, Megan and Mallory; Rosalind, Jamie, Tyler, Logan, and Dalton; Amber, Alex, Sydney and Colby.

## **Kaiden McGhee**

Kaiden turned 7 on November 11, 2010. He is son of Mindy Jackson and Malcolm McGhee and the grandson of Don Jackson and Debbie Shanks and Mavis McGhee and Dewitt McGhee. We love you Kaiden, Happy Birthday!! Mom, Chris, Thunder, Aunt Shell, Drake, Tori, Dalton, Mavis, Aunt Lisa, Miranda, Samantha, and Uncle Jody Buck!



## **Rylie Nikiha Rolin**

Rylie Nikiha Rolin celebrated his first birthday on November 16, 2010. Nikiha is the son of Justin C. Rolin and Chelsie Rolin.

We love you Bug!! Happy Birthday! Love always, Mom & Dad.



## **Crystal McGhee Daughtry**

Crystal McGhee Daughtry turned the big "30" on November 20th!!!

We would like to wish her a very happy happy birthday and hope she has many more to come.

You are the best sister, Mama, daughter and wife! We love you, Trenton, Lexi, Jaylan, Josie, Mama, Ray, Trevor, Mae Mae, Gabby & Samuel.



## **Laurie Painter and Maggie Elyard**

Laurie Painter and Maggie Elyard, twin daughters of Autrey Gene Henson, celebrated their birthday on November 22, 2010. Laurie and Maggie are the granddaughters of the late Girlie and Carey Henson.

Happy Birthday from family and friends.

## **Tabatha Daughtry**

Tabatha Daughtry will celebrate her 29th birthday on December 4, 2010.

Happy birthday Mom, we love you!! Trista, Taya & Braylon.





***Yvonne Presley Crenshaw***

Yvonne Presley Crenshaw will celebrate her birthday on December 6, 2010. You've gone through a lot and you're still kicking! Happy Birthday Mom. I love you with all my heart, Nikole

***Andrew Daughtry***

Andrew Daughtry will celebrate his birthday on December 6, 2010.

Happy Birthday Andrew! We love you, your brothers, Uncle Joe, Aunt Ellen, and all your aunts, uncles, and cousins.



***Kevin McGhee***

Kevin McGhee will celebrate his birthday on December 7, 2010.

Happy Birthday Kevin, we love you! Tawana, Stacey, Courtney, Kennedy, and Kaiden.



***Erica Pruitt***

Erica Pruitt will celebrate her birthday on December 9, 2010. Happy birthday to my sister and best friend!

Hugs & Kisses, your sister Nikole.

***Jackie Malone***

Jackie Malone will celebrate her birthday on December 10, 2010. We hope you have a memorable day!

We love you, from your family & friends.



***Dalton Luke***



Dalton Luke will celebrate his birthday on December 18, 2010. He is the grandson of Brenda & Gary Pruitt, great grandson of Davis and Glenda Henson Ellis, and great great grandson of Thelma McGhee Henson.

Happy Birthday Dalton, we love you!

***Brandon Blake McGhee***

Brandon Blake McGhee will celebrate his birthday on December 19, 2010. Happy Birthday from Mom, Dad, David & family, Mike & Family, Andrew & family, and friends.

***Braylon Laike Snow***



Braylon Laike Snow will celebrate his first birthday on December 19, 2010. Our tiny little miracle has overcome so much and is celebrating his first birthday! Braylon, we love you and enjoy seeing you grow and change more and more every day!!

Happy Birthday from Mommy, Daddy, Trista, Taya, Alia & Gavin; Grandma, MeeMaw, Papa, and your many aunts and uncles!

***Dallas Caraway***



Dallas Caraway will be celebrating her 10th birthday on December 21, 2010.

Her family would like to wish her a very special happy birthday!

We love you!



# Who Else Is Having A Birthday??

## **Kelsey Nicole Ledkins**

Kelsey Nicole Ledkins will celebrate her birthday on December 23, 2010. Happy birthday, you are beautiful inside and out.

We love you, Stephen, & Jackie Ledkins, Victoria, Nanna & Pappa Ledkins (Kathy & Joe), Mama Ann Luker, Aunt Stephanie, Cole, Cierra, & Nevaeh, Uncle Brian, Daphne, Ashton, & Jayden.



## **Kaleigh Luke**

Kaleigh Luke will celebrate her birthday on December 24, 2010. She is the granddaughter of Brenda & Gary Pruitt, great granddaughter of Davis & Glenda Henson Ellis, and great great granddaughter of Thelma McGhee Henson.

Happy Birthday Kaleigh, we love you!



## **Michael Hutto**

Michael Hutto will celebrate his birthday on December 25, 2010. He is the son of Glenda Henson Ellis and the grandson of Thelma McGhee Henson.

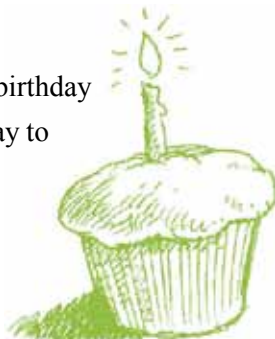
Happy Bithday Michael, from you family & friends!



## **Michael Crenshaw**

Michael Crenshaw will celebrate his birthday on December 28, 2010. Happy birthday to my favorite brother!

I love you lots, your sister Nikole.



## **Gary Overstreet**



Gary Overstreet will celebrate his 60th birthday on January 6, 2011. He is the son of the late Jesse Woodrow Overstreet and the grandson of Lola Colbert.

Happy birthday, we love you, Robin, Talon & Gracie

*Gary has spent many hours researching his family tree and has been in contact with some family in Alabama. He would love to hear for more. You can contact him at [overstreet4@yahoo.com](mailto:overstreet4@yahoo.com) or via US Mail at 11793 Ceramic Way, Redding, CA 96003. He recently spoke to the local 4th & 5th grade classes about the Public Charter, true Native American history. He spoke and showed various items such as his drum and grinding stone. He was well received and honored. – Robin Overstreet*

## Welcome to the World Little One!!

### **Eli Michael McGhee**

Michael & Jennifer McGhee of Atmore are proud to announce the birth of their son, Eli Michael McGhee.



Eli arrived at 3:18 p.m. on Monday, October 18, 2010, at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, FL. He weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 19 3/4 inches in length.

Paternal grandparents are Terry McGhee & Kitty Stuart of Atmore. Maternal grandparents are Frankie & Tera Coon of Atmore.



# If You Are a Native American Who Tried to Get a Farm Loan or Loan Servicing from the USDA,

## You Could Receive Benefits from a \$760 Million Class Action Settlement.

A class action Settlement with the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) has been reached. The lawsuit claimed the USDA discriminated against Native Americans who applied for or tried to apply for farm loans or loan servicing. The USDA denies it did anything wrong.

### Am I included?

The Class includes all Native American farmers and ranchers who:

- Farmed or ranched or attempted to farm or ranch between January 1, 1981 and November 24, 1999;
- Tried to get a farm loan or loan servicing from the USDA during that period; **and**
- Complained about discrimination to the USDA either on their own or through a representative during the time period.

You are not eligible for this Settlement if you filed a claim, or intend to file a claim, in another USDA discrimination case like Pigford I or Pigford II (Black farmers), Garcia (Hispanic farmers) or Love (Women farmers).

Because of a law passed by Congress, you are also not eligible for this Settlement if you **either**:

- Experienced discrimination only between January 1 and November 23, 1997; **or**
- Complained of discrimination only between July 1 and November 23, 1997.

### What does the Settlement provide?

The \$760 million Settlement will pay cash to Class Members for valid claims as well as attorneys’ fees (between 4% and 8%, subject to Court approval) and awards. The Settlement includes up to \$80 million in USDA loan forgiveness for Class Members who qualify. The USDA will pay an additional \$20 million to implement the Settlement and will make some changes to their farm loan programs. Any money left after all payments and expenses have been made will be donated to one or more organizations that help Native American farmers and ranchers.

### What can I get from the Settlement?

The amount of money you will receive will depend on whether you file a claim under Track A or Track B. It will also depend on the total number of claims that are filed and approved.

**Track A** – You can get a payment up to \$50,000 for your discrimination claim plus an additional 25% paid to the IRS to reduce any income tax you may owe.

**Track B** – You can get the amount of your actual damages up to \$250,000. Track B requires more proof than Track A.

**USDA Loan Forgiveness** – Under both Track A and Track B you can get forgiveness on part or all of your eligible USDA farm loans plus an additional 25% paid to the IRS to reduce any income tax you may owe.

### How do I get benefits?

You will need to file a claim by **December 24, 2011** to get benefits. After the Court approves the Settlement, meetings will be held across the country to help Class Members file claims. You can register for a Claims Package at the website or by calling the toll-free number.

### What are my other rights?

- If you want to keep your right to sue the USDA about the claims in this Settlement, you must exclude yourself by **February 28, 2011**. Unless you exclude yourself, you will be bound by the terms of this Settlement.
- If you stay in the Settlement, you can object to or comment on it by **February 28, 2011**.

The Court will hold a hearing on **April 28, 2011** to consider whether to approve the Settlement and the attorneys’ fees. The Court has appointed attorneys to represent the Class. You or your own lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense.

**For More Information: 1-888-233-5506 [www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com)**

*Do not contact Poarch Creek Indians about the Class Action Settlement. If you have any questions, please contact the number listed above or visit the web site listed above.*

# Spending The Day With The Fire Department

The students of the Fred L. McGhee Learning Center spent most of the day Friday, October 15, 2010 with the Poarch Creek Fire Department. It all began at 7:30 a.m. when the fire truck arrived at the home of monthly top reader Addie McGhee to give her a ride to school.

The students had been studying fire safety all week and took a little field trip to Fire Station #2 for some hands on fire safety training. The kids were all excited to go to the fire department and were apt students and learned how to stop, drop, and roll. They learned that if the door is hot to the touch not to open it because there may be fire on the other side of the door.



*Addie McGhee settles in for her ride to school.*

*Below: FLMLC students, teachers, parents, and Firefighters had a great time together.*



*Poarch Fire Department at Open House: Standing l-r Spencer Williamson, Dylan Byrd, Ronnie Jackson, the late Luther McRae, Robbie Johnson, David Kirby, Cade Langham, and Devin Baggett. Kneeling l-r Chris McGhee, Colby Langham, April Sells, Andy Hammonds, Chris Cain, Chris Lee, and Jeremy Welch.*

## October Was Fire Safety Month

October was National Fire Safety Month. As part of the celebration of this month, the Poarch Fire Department hosted an Open House at Fire Station Number 2 on Poarch Road on Sunday, October 3, 2010.

Visitors to the open house were introduced to the fire fighters, were given tours of the fire station, and watched as the firefighters demonstrated how to operate the Jaws of Life. There was food and fun for everyone who attended.

In addition to the Open House, the Fire Department visited several of the local schools and presented fire safety facts.



*Firefighters Paul Gardner and Chris Lee, and Capt. Robbie Johnson give Jaws of Life Demonstration during Open House*

## In Memory of Luther McRae, Firefighter

It was a shock to Tribal staff and the community to learn of the death of Poarch Firefighter Luther McRae in a one vehicle auto accident on Wednesday, October 20, 2010. He was not on duty at the time of the accident.

Poarch Creek continues to keep his wife, Brittany, and his family in their thoughts and prayers.



*Luther McRae*





*Sandra Rackard, left, Chairman of the American Indians/Needham Bryan Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), presents to Poarch Creek Indian Tribal Member Lois Amos (right), a proclamation signed by Mobile Mayor Sam Jones, declaring November as American Indian Heritage Month in Mobile.*

## Amos Receives Proclamation

*Submitted by Sandra Rackard, DAR*

Lois Rackard Amos, a Poarch Creek tribal member, is shown receiving a Proclamation signed by Mobile Mayor Samuel Jones declaring November as American Indian Heritage Month in Mobile. The proclamation was presented to Ms. Amos by Sandra Rackard, Chairperson of American Indians/ Needham Bryan Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), in appreciation for Ms. Amos's presentation to the Needham Bryan Chapter DAR entitled "Creek Indian Arts and Crafts" and recognizing her contribution to maintain the Creek Indians culture of artistry in the present and future, and as a representative for the Poarch Creek Indian tribe.

Ms. Amos provided examples of basket making, chinaberry jewelry, Indian patchwork sewing, clay pottery, beadwork and handmade moccasins. She gave an informal talk and explained how each item was made, length of time to complete, and where materials were obtained and prepared for use. An exhibit of Ms. Amos's handmade crafts was on display at the Mobile Public Library, Local History Branch, 753 Government Street throughout the month of November.

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# The Summer of '73, Houston McGhee and Me

By J. Anthony "Tony" Paredes, Retired Anthropology Professor, Florida State University

Seeing that picture of a young Houston McGhee in his war bonnet in the November 2010 *Poarch Creek News* (page 11) brought back fond memories of the summer of 1973. That was the second summer I lived at Poarch researching Poarch Creek history, culture, and community life.

It was a critical time for Poarch Creeks. The land claims era of Poarch history was coming to an end. Checks for the biggest claim had been distributed the previous December. Payments for another small claim were still to be distributed to all who "proved up" as descendants of the Creek Nation of 1814. But, the Council (not yet called the "Tribal Council") was turning its attention more and more to the needs and objectives of the Poarch community specifically. Houston was chairman of the Council then and popularly known as "Chief," the same title his revered father Calvin had held before him.

After Calvin's death in 1970 the Poarch council had a bit of a power struggle with Creek descendant groups in Georgia and Florida. This led to a unity conference organized by Poarch leaders in February 1973 where all acknowledged Houston McGhee as head chief and Poarch as the center of the Creek Nation East of the Mississippi, Inc. From that meeting came an agreement not to have competing powwows. Instead, a Fourth of July powwow would be held in Cairo, Georgia, and a Labor Day powwow in Pensacola, Florida, building to a grand finale with the Thanksgiving Day powwow at Poarch.

For all these powwows, Houston McGhee in his war bonnet was the public face of the Poarch Creeks. I tagged along with Houston for the powwows in Cairo and Pensacola. Another big powwow where I tagged along that summer was one in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, sponsored by an organization known as the Indian Angels. Chief Houston McGhee was the honored guest, presented the American flag, and gave the invocation. There were representatives of many tribes at the Baton Rouge powwow—Choctaw, Chitimacha, Houma, Coushatta, Tunica-Biloxi, Cherokee, Seminole, and others. A whole busload of Poarch folks went to that one.

Back then Billy Smith was troupe master for the young Hedapeada Indian dancers, with Odell McGhee as lead dancer. Houston and Fields McGhee had started Poarch Creek Indian youth dance groups in the early 1960s. The dancers performed at powwows and for various organizations in the region, earning a little money and lots of pride and good will for Poarch Creeks. Many of those dancers grew up to be Poarch leaders in many

fields—and at least one, Doug Daughtry, is still dancing. In 1973 Billy was already organizing trips to Oklahoma to begin learning Stomp Dancing and trying to bring back traditional Creek practices like stickball.

There was then a hard core of dedicated, young and enthusiastic Poarch council members and others (women as well as men—all about my age) working with Houston to advance the Poarch community on many fronts politically, economically, educationally, socially, medically, and culturally. Some of them—Kent McGhee, Eddie Tullis, and Buford Rolin—would eventually succeed Houston as "Chairman" (the late Fred McGhee wasn't involved yet), but Houston was the last who was called "Chief." Most all those Poarch leaders were around for one or another of the powwows of the summer of '73 (even if not always in a powwow outfit), but it is my powwow time with Houston that sticks most in my mind.

Houston and I traveled together to powwows that summer, and camped out on the grounds for the powwows in Pensacola and Cairo. It was pretty primitive camping. No air mattresses and no Coleman stoves. In Pensacola we mistakenly got locked in for the night and had to depend on some of the womenfolk to throw food and bedding over the fence for us. The travel was sometimes in the back of a pickup truck. And usually



*Representatives of several tribes at 1973 Baton Rouge, Louisiana, powwow. Poarch Creek Chief Houston McGhee and Evelyn McGhee [now Akins] are seated at far right.*



sizzling hot. But these were good times of long conversations with Houston about Poarch history and his aspirations (and frustrations) for the future.

Another event that summer where Houston turned out to “show the war bonnet” for Poarch was Atmore “Farm Day.” That was the first time that I know of when the Poarch Creeks offered for public consumption their now famous roasted corn in the husk. Lots of Poarch people were on hand that day to help cook the corn on a large grill improvised from an old metal shower stall, some kind of grating, and concrete blocks. The corn sold out as fast as it could be cooked.

Also that summer, New Home Pentecostal Church held an old-style brush arbor revival. One day during the revival there was an “old timers’ day” social event where folks came in old fashioned clothes. For that one, Houston showed up not in a war bonnet but in a 1920s style straw boater hat, a natty vest, and sporty two-tone shoes (if I’m remembering correctly).

There was another powwow that summer in Uriah that I attended, but I think Houston had to miss that one because he was working the night shift at the carpet factory. Back in 1973 being on the Council was strictly volunteer work, and there were no paid staff for taking care of Poarch business. Poarch tribal leaders had ordinary paying-jobs with private companies.

It was not all powwows that summer. The Council was busy already figuring out how to become a federally recognized Indian tribe, building good relations with groups like the Atmore Chamber of Commerce, negotiating with Escambia County for use of the old schoolhouse for Poarch community activities, working with the Alabama governor’s office to develop a Creek cultural center and tourist attraction, obtaining dental care for the community, and much more. I remember in particular one informal gathering that Houston called where Council members brainstormed ideas for ensuring that Poarch would retain its historical supremacy among eastern Creeks and ideas for setting up community services for the local community, especially “our old people.” Sadly, that summer the oldest living Poarch Creek, Isaac McGhee, passed away at nearly age 90. During the previous year, fortunately, I was able to tape record some of his memories back to the 1800s.

Not long after that brainstorming session, the Council called a mass meeting for July 22, 1973, in hopes of persuading people to pool their money from the still-pending second land claim into a fund for developing community programs. At that mass meeting in front of the old schoolhouse, Chief Houston McGhee gave a straight-talking, down-to-earth but eloquent speech calling upon people to honor their ancestors by creating programs and a cultural center at Poarch. When the vote was called, the proposal to pool the funds failed. Many who shared



*At 1973 Pensacola Labor Day Powwow, local news reporter interviewing (l-r) Houston McGhee (Poarch, Alabama), Wesley Thomley (Pensacola, FL), and Neal McCormick (Cairo, GA)*

in the land claim were Creek descendants who were not part of the historic Indian community of Escambia and Monroe counties Alabama. Defeat of their proposal only strengthened the resolve of the Council to work even harder. Change was in the air.

In the winter before the summer of '73 the American Indian Movement (AIM) seized the tiny village of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, to protest treatment of American Indians. A months-long standoff with federal law enforcement followed. It was heavily reported in the national news media. At least one of the Louisiana locals at the 1973 Baton Rouge powwow sported regalia with an “AIM” insignia.

In the spring of 1973 *The Montgomery Advertiser* (April 1, 1973, page 3A) did an article on Alabama’s own “Indian Movement” focusing on Poarch and Houston McGhee. When asked about the Wounded Knee activists, Houston was quoted as not necessarily approving of their methods but understanding their motives: “They simply want their treaties honored—it’s as simple as that.”

The *Advertiser* article ended by describing how “the chief,” Houston McGhee, envisioned a cultural center and museum for his people. Now, nearly forty years later it’s about to happen, thanks to all the economic and political achievements in between.

It is simply amazing for me to see how much the Poarch Band of Creeks has accomplished since those long ago conversations between Houston and me on the powwow trail in the summer of '73.

## Spa at WINDCREEK

### Spa Package

50% OFF a Spa Treatment for you and a companion when you book a Hotel Room at our Special Rate (\$49 weekdays, or \$99 Friday-Sunday). Based on double occupancy **Mention Offer: Spa50D**



### Culinary Package

Purchase a Cooking Studio Experience and receive a FREE Companion Offer when you book a Hotel Room at our Special Rate (\$49 weekdays, or \$99 Friday-Sunday). Based on double occupancy

**Mention Offer: BOGOCC**

When you sign up for THE Club card we'll match your loss up to \$500, plus a FREE gift!

Join THE Club and we'll reimburse your loss on your day of enrollment up to \$500 (minimum loss \$25 requested).

**Valid through June 30, 2011**

**All offers must be booked on the same day.**

**Atmore I-65 Exit 57**



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# Renovations Begin At Tribal Police Department

The Tribal Police Department is currently undergoing renovations. Included in the renovations are four new offices and a women's restroom. Renovations are being done by the Tribe's Public Works staff Josh Burkett, Facilities Construction Coordinator, and Paul Dortch, Facilities Construction Assistant.

*Above: The bay area, which used to house the PVFD Fire trucks, is going to become office space.*

*Right: The framework for the walls are up!*



## Community Meeting Scheduled

A Community Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the development of the Tribal Museum. Please join us at the Family Services Auditorium and share your thoughts and ideas of what you would like to see in your museum. Split Rock Studios from Arden Hills, MN has been chosen to design and build the exhibits for the museum and will be presenting some conceptual designs for community members to view and comment on at the community meeting. Refreshments will be served. Door prizes will be awarded. For more information, please contact Amber Smith, Community Outreach Coordinator at 251-368-9136 ext. 2649 or [asmith@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:asmith@pci-nsn.gov).

## Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA) Small Business Loan Program

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority offers valuable business assistance to Tribal Members seeking small business loans. Getting your loan request approved depends on how well you represent yourself, your business, and your financial needs. The lending limit may extend up to \$50,000.00 in aggregate to any Tribal Member. All loans exceeding these limits must be approved by the CIEDA Board of Directors. Additional credit criteria as well as loan collateralization requirements apply.

If you are a Tribal Member who owns a business or is thinking about starting a business and interested in obtaining a small business loan, please contact Donna Henry, Economic Development Coordinator at 251-368-0819, or by e-mail at [dhenry@pcicie.com](mailto:dhenry@pcicie.com) for additional information.

# Tribal Member Submissions



## Remembering Mama

*Submitted by Kathy Ledkins*

Mama (Verlie McGhee Bailey) would have been 81 on December 5, 2010. We love and miss you and we always celebrate your birthday. God took you 21 years ago on November 9, 1989. But still your heart remains beating inside each of your children. Your light of love is a beacon of safety when we feel lonely for your loving face and voice. Happy birthday Mama.

We love and miss you. Your children, Kathy Ledkins, Maxine Lassiter, William Bailey, Larry Bailey and Cecelia Sanspree; and a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## Thank You

Melvin McGhee would like to say "Thank you" to the Tribe for assisting with the repair to his home. He extends his thanks to the Housing Authority and its staff and the contractor (Legend Timber); everyone was very polite and helpful.

## Classmates Attend Class Reunion

*Submitted by Velma Crocker*

Three tribal members, Laura McGhee James, Ruby Rackard Flurnoy, and Velma McGhee Crocker recently attended the Escambia County High School Class of 1960 Reunion. The general consensus among the group was, "Can you believe we have been out of school for 50 years?!!" Although it has been 50 years since graduation, the ECHS Class of 1960 still feels a wonderful camaraderie and enjoyed a fun-packed weekend.

On Friday, October 22, 2010, class mates gathered for dinner at the home of James Barnett, their fellow classmate. Everyone was excited to see each other. They enjoyed sitting around and visiting, while reminiscing about old times—back in the "good ole' days." The next morning ushered in a gorgeous day for fellowship during Williams Station Day. That evening, the classmates connected again at the lovely Wisteria venue in Atmore. After a nice dinner, the evening continued with dancing.

On Sunday, Trinity Episcopal Church was the site for a memorial to the 17 class mates who have passed away. A beautiful and touching service was the perfect and solemn way to end the weekend. It served as a reminder to treasure each day.



*L-R: Laura McGhee James, Ruby Rackard Flurnoy, and Velma McGhee Crocker enjoy Class of 1960 reunion!*

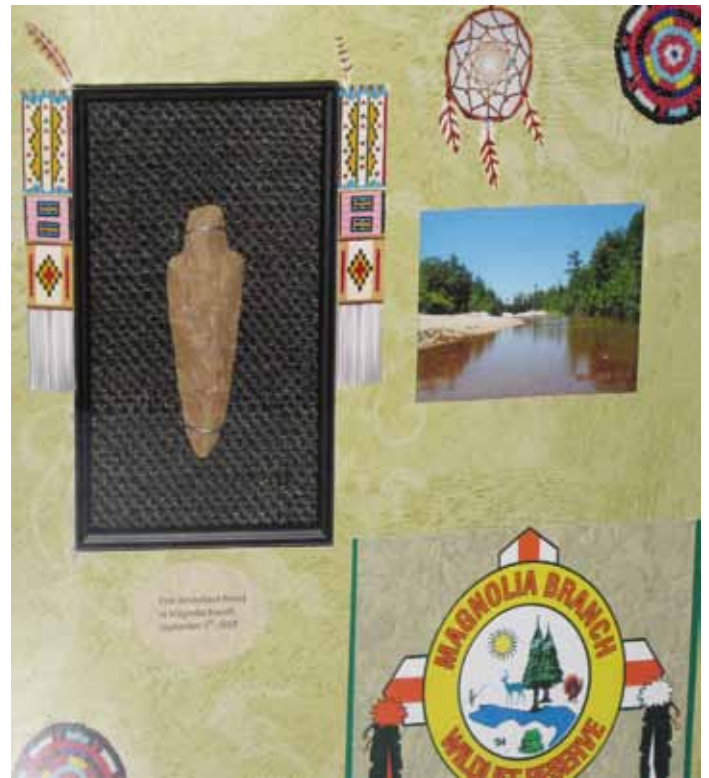


# First Arrowhead Found at Magnolia Branch

My name is Terry Lynn Wade. I am the daughter of Judy Smith Amos, the niece of Billy Smith, and the granddaughter of Nunnie McGee. I live in Cocoa, Florida and enjoy my heritage very much. I am proud to be a Poarch Creek Indian.

I have come to Alabama every year for our Sovereignty Day picnic at Magnolia Branch. I must say it is something I look forward to every year and it just keeps getting better. The renovations to Magnolia Branch are wonderful. I told my Uncle Bill that he had done a great job and I commend everyone who helped.

This year was one of the most special years of all to me. On September 5, 2010, the day after the picnic, I took my group of family back to Magnolia Branch to enjoy it some more while we were in town. I walked along the creek in the rocks near the swimming area and took a lot of pictures. Then I could not believe my eyes, I found an Indian arrowhead laying there on the ground! I was so excited I ran up and told everybody. My Uncle Bill was there with some people who did some of the work on the renovations. I went up and showed the arrowhead to him, and he could not believe his eyes. He told me that I had found the first arrowhead that has ever been found at Magnolia Branch. I am so proud of it that I have put it in a shadow box and decorated it.



## Thank You

We would like to thank each and everyone for the benefit for Gabby Lynn Williams and her family. The ones who donated or helped out in every way they could.

It meant so much to our family to know there are people that care. Also the ones that kept us in your prayers this is what brought her through this difficult time in her life. She is truly a walking miracle, so once again thank you everyone for making this happen. Please continue to pray for her and our family.

Gabrielle Lynn Williams Family

## General Council Voice Meeting Schedule

Due to the busy holiday season, the December 2010 meeting of the General Council Voice (GCV) has been cancelled.

The 2011 GCV's first quarter meeting schedule is planned as follows:

January 13, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.

February 15, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.

March 10, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.

All meetings will be held in the Family Services Auditorium.

## Tribal Artist Donates Painting To Tribal Council

Tribal Member Cher Christensen is one of many Tribal Members who are using the Tribe's Education Assistance Program to return to school. Ms. Christensen is currently a student at the Academy of Art at the University of San Francisco where she is majoring in Art.

She recently finished a painting of Red Eagle's Jump from Horseshoe Bend. To show her gratitude to the Tribe for its assistance, she donated the painting to the Tribal Council. The painting can be seen hanging in the Tribal Council Chambers.

Ms. Christensen has also started her own art business; you can see her ad "Art By Cher" on page 26.

Please contact the Education Department for more information on the Education Assistance Program.



*Tribal Council Members shown with painting of Red Eagles's Jump donated by artist Cher Christensen*

## Request for Assistance

Did you or someone you know attend the Poarch Creek Indian Consolidated School or one of the five "House Schools" (Poarch, Gibson, Rolin, McCullough, or McGhee)

The Education Department is trying to obtain historical school records and photos from the Escambia County Board of Education. The time frame for the records we are requesting is from 1939 or earlier through 1970. Records will be used for historical purposes only.

In order for the records to be released to us, Tribal Members who attended the schools must sign a Release of Information form. If your deceased family member attended one of the schools, the nearest living relative may sign the release form.

Please contact Leasha Martin, Library Clerk, at (251) 368-9136 x 2240 or via email at [emartin@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:emartin@pci-nsn.gov) for more information or to pick up/fill out a release form.



*4H Club members Halle Ra Peebles, Ashton Thomas and Toni Gibson enjoy working with crafts and learning new things.*

## 4H Club Meets Twice Monthly

Don't forget that the 4H Club meets in the Education Department at 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Each meeting is different and exciting and we learn lots of new things! Please join us!!



# Ethics Corner



By: *Carrie Martin, Ethics Chair*

The following is the final in a three part advisory opinion which the Ethics Board has addressed. The first two parts were addressed in the October and November newsletter.

#### ***4. If there is a complaint against Tribal Court Staff, should Tribal Officials or key employees get involved directly?***

No information is provided with respect to the nature of the complaint (ethics complaint, rude service complaint, sexual harassment complaint, tardiness complaint?), the position of the complainant, the position of the employee subject to the complaint or what the requesters mean by “involved”, a potentially very broad term. The Tribal Court Administrator is responsible for the “administration of all activities and all non-judicial staff members of the Tribal Judicial System,” Court Code 3-534, including hiring and supervising non-judicial Staff, Court Code 3-5-4(a), and receiving, reviewing, investigating, and resolving complaints regarding operation of Tribal Court Administration.” Court Code 3-5-4(p). Like all tribal employees, court employees have the right to grieve disciplinary action under Part VIII of the Tribe’s Personnel Policies and Procedures Tribal Administration Manual (hereafter “Personnel Policies”). None of these provisions of the Court Code and Personnel Policies prescribes any role for Tribal officials or key employees. A Tribal Official or key employee’s use of his or her position to cause court staff to violate rules governing the complaint process would therefore, violate Ethics code 28-1-5(h)(2).

It is also relevant that under the Court Code the Tribal Court Administrator “shall be supervised by and report to the Tribal Chairman.” Court Code 3-5-3. It is not appropriate for the Ethics Board to attempt to define here the scope of the Chairman’s supervisory authority over the Tribal Court Administrator. It is enough to point out that such authority plausibly contemplates some level of involvement by the Chairman in the Administrator’s activities, possibly including the Administrator’s handling of complaints against court staff.

#### ***5. Should Tribal Council members get involved in personnel matters?***

A comprehensive discussion of the Personnel Policies is

outside the scope of an advisory opinion. In the absence of facts, we are unable to go beyond the following general comments, which are not intended to address all situations:

- The Tribe’s Human Resources Department is generally responsible for personnel matters.
- The Personnel Policies give supervisors and directors, in consultation with Human Resources, the authority to discipline employees for failure to perform their duties consistent with the Tribe’s standards.
- In assessing an employee’s performance, a supervisor may consider all relevant information, including information from Tribal Officials, tribal members, and members of the public.
- Tribal Council members, as elected representatives of the Tribe and its members, have special interest in the effective delivery of services to tribal members in the Tribe’s government programs and to the general public in the Tribe’s enterprises.
- The Tribe’s Personnel Policies do not contemplate a role for Tribal Council in the disciplinary process or the grievance process.
- A member of the Tribal Council does not violate the Ethics Code by bringing employee performance issues to the attention of supervisors, provided (1) the Council member does not seek to use his or her position to pressure the supervisor to violate tribal law or policies, (2) the Council member does not seek to interfere in the disciplinary process prescribed by the Personnel Policies and (3) the Council member is not motivated by family, personal, or business ties.
- A member of the Tribal Council does not violate the Ethics Code by recommending somebody for employment consistent with the provisions of the previous paragraph.

#### ***6. Should Tribal Council get involved in influencing the Tribal Judicial system in any way?***

No, except through its legal authority to amend the Judicial Code and confirm or remove Judges.

You can obtain a copy of the Ethics Code, forms for advisory opinions, or ethics complaints from the Tribal Chairman’s Office, Legal Department, or Tribal Court.

# Boater Course Well Attended

*Submitted by Arelene Mack, participant*

The Poarch Creek Indians Wellness and Activities Department hosted an Operator Certification/License "Boaters Course" October 18 & 19, 2010 conducted by instructor Rick Miller, Officer of Education and Public Outreach with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Police Division. The free course was attended by 30 students who sat for the licensing exam to become certified and licensed boat operators. All students successfully passed the course with 6 achieving a perfect score of 100.

A detailed course book, class discussion, video and power point presentations provided students with detailed education for recreational boating and operation of personal watercraft. The course included vessel basics and maintenance, personal and passenger boater safety and waterway courtesy, safety and legal requirements. The 50-question multiple choice final exam required students to achieve a grade of 80 or higher to qualify as a certified and licensed boat operator. Students received their certificate by mail from the State of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources located in Montgomery, AL.

Officer Rick Miller presented a precise, rapid-fire course of study interspersed with often humorous, sometimes fatal, real life incidents he has witnessed as a Conservation Officer and first responder. Students were both encouraged to ask questions and respond to his presentation of test materials throughout the course. The Wellness and Activities Department staff provided refreshments which were greatly enjoyed by all participants. The Wellness & Activities Departments plans to host the Boaters Course again in the future, possibly spring and fall each year. For more information contact Trina Rackard, Wellness & Activities Department at 251-368-9136 extension 2248.

For more Alabama State boating information, or to request a 2011 Alabama Marine Information calendar, contact Alabama Marine Resources Division at 251-861-2882 or visit them on their website at [www.dcnr.state.al.us](http://www.dcnr.state.al.us).

*A crowd of about 30 attended Boater Course hosted by Wellness & Activities Authority*



# Sports Banquet Scheduled For January 28, 2011

The Poarch Creek Indians Wellness & Activities Authority and staff will be hosting the **2010 Sports Banquet** at Wind Creek Casino on Friday, January 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

In order to attend the Sports Banquet, eligible athletes must be:

- Enrolled in High School (9th - 12th grades) and participated in a sports program at the school he or she attends
- Athletes and coaches who participated in the 2010 NAYO Tournament hosted by Poarch Creek Indians Wellness & Activities Authority July 2010

All attendees must RSVP the Wellness & Activities Department at (251) 368-9136 extension 2248 or email [trackard@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:trackard@pci-nsn.gov) by January 20, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

If you are unable to reach a staff member at the gym, please leave a detailed message of the athlete's information. Information needs to include name, what sport he/she participates in and a telephone number at which he/she can be reached. Only the athletes that RSVP by the deadline will receive certificates. Athletes attending the Sports Banquet may bring two guests. If you RSVP to attend the banquet and you do not attend, you will be required to pay the cost of the meal for you and your guest.

## *Athlete of the Year*

Applications are available at the Wellness & Activities Department (Gym) and online at [www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov). Applications should be turned in to the Wellness & Activities Department Attention: Trina Rackard. Registration deadline for the "Athlete of the Year" is January 7, 2011 by 5:00 p.m.

For more information pertaining to the Sports Banquet or Athlete of the Year Award, please contact Trina Rackard, Wellness & Activities Department at (251) 368-9136 extension 2248.



**2010 Winter Baseball & Softball Clinic  
Poarch Sports Complex**

**Ages: 8-18 years old**

**Time: 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

(All participants should be at the gym by 7:30 a.m.  
& must be picked up by 5:00 p.m.)

**Fee: \$25.00 Per Clinic**

**December 21**

Instructors;

**Baseball**

Steve Peterson  
Ricky Patterson  
Larry Thomas  
Kyle Davis  
Nate Espy

**December 22**

**Softball**

Lunch will be provided

**\*\*T-Shirt will be given to each participant\*\***

Don't forget your glove and cleats!!!

Applications are available at the Gym.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact  
Eddie Jackson or Jacob McGhee at 368-9136  
Extension 2256.

## Notice Gym Closed for Repair

The Wellness & Activities Department front lobby and gym will be closed for renovations November 1, 2010 through December 15, 2010. The Youth Basketball program will begin after the N.A.S.A. Basketball Tournament in January.

The Weight Room remains open at its regular hours. The entrance for After School and Dance Class has moved to the double gate near the tennis courts. Please follow the signs for directions. Contact Melvin Middleton, Wellness & Activities Director at (251) 368-9136 x 2247 if you have any questions or concerns.

## The Pool Is Closed

## Poarch Creek Indians Will Be Hosting The 2011 N.A.S.A. Basketball Tournament

**January 7-8, 2011**

(Coaches Meeting January 6, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.)

**Poarch Creek Indians  
Wellness & Activities Department  
444 Lynn McGhee Drive  
Atmore, AL**

**Tribal Member &  
First Generation Descent  
Are Eligible To Play**

**To be eligible to play participant must be  
at least 18 years old on or before  
July 31, 2010**

**Entry Deadline  
December 10, 2010  
5:00 p.m. CST**

**Fax Entry Form To:  
Eddie Jackson  
(251) 368-6658**

**For more information contact  
Poarch Creek Indians  
Wellness & Activities Department  
(251) 368-9136 x 2256  
or  
Eddie Jackson (251) 253-2016  
Jake Carlton (251) 253-5967**

## Martial Arts Classes To Be Offered

Children ages 6 to 14 interested in taking Martial Arts Classes through Titan Martial Arts Academy should contact Trina Rackard, Wellness & Activities Department at (251) 368-9136 extension 2248 or Craig Helton with Titan Martial Arts Academy at (251) 253-9223.

# PCI Gaming Has Scariest Site

*Submitted by Trina Rackard*

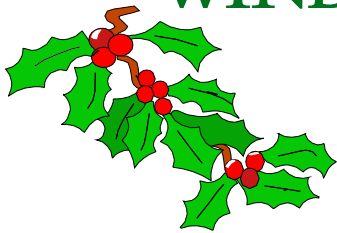
The Wellness & Activities Authority and staff would like to thank all staff and volunteers who worked and participated in the Haunted House Event October 28-30, 2010. We had approximately 1,208 guests to attend the event. The event was a huge success and exceptional compliments were given by many who toured the Haunted House. We had 9 scenes who set up to perform each night of the event to include; John & Travis Stephens, Reed Adams Bartlett and Family, Gaming Commission, PCI Fire Department, Wellness & Activities Department, Public Works Department, PCI Gaming, Family Services, Kevin Rackard and CIE staff.

Scenes compete for best scene of the year, this year's winner was "PCI Gaming". PCI Gaming has won this title five years in a row. Congratulations PCI Gaming! Reed Adams Bartlett & Family took second place and Kevin Rackard's scene took third. Guest complimented our event saying they had participated in Haunted House Events in Pensacola, Mobile, Baldwin County, Orlando FL, and California but the Poarch Creek Indians Haunted House was the best overall in scene set up and performance! Again thank you to all who worked hard to make this event a huge success! We are already looking forward to next year's event!



*You never know what or who may come out of the dark when you visit the Haunted House!*

## TEEN CHRISTMAS PARTY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2010 WIND CREEK HOTEL BALLROOM 7:00 P.M.— 10:00 P.M.



**TRIBAL MEMBER AND 1ST GENERATION TEENS  
AGES 13-17**

- *Attendee may bring one guest (Age 13-17 only)*
- *DJ*
- *Casual Dress*
- *Food And Door Prizes*

*Transportation provided from Education 7:00 p.m. and return at 10:00 p.m.  
(Must Be Signed Up For Transportation)*

*Contact the Education Department or Tribal Court for your free tickets at  
(251) 368-9136 ext. 2021 or 2660.*

*This event is sponsored by the Tribal Education Department, Calvin McGhee Cultural Management Authority, and the FUN Prevention Program.*





# The Hard Road to Federal Recognition

In March of 1815, Congress passed “An act to provide for ascertaining and surveying of the boundary lines fixed by the treaty with the Creek Indians [Ft. Jackson], and for other purposes.” This act further clarified the “Indian title was extinguished by the aforesaid treaty” and that “all such [now public] lands...shall be offered to the highest bidder.” This act was primarily responsible for setting off what has been described as “Alabama Fever” where white settlers and pioneers streamed out of the Atlantic seaboard in hopes of acquiring some of the new land ceded to and now held by the United States.

The half-bloods, who had sided with the Americans and had had their houses burned and their crops and livestock destroyed by the hostile Creeks just a year earlier, were now having the same done to them by white American land grabbers. The half-bloods were being cheated and run off by the whites. In describing the unique and intermediate status Benjamin Hawkins, U.S. Agent to the Creek Nation, wrote, “They are in consequence of the peculiarity of their situation divested of house and home and must fly their native soil [Tensaw/Little River] unless provided for by our government.” This situation precipitated a letter from the half-blooded community to then President Madison, which was to be a critical piece of historical evidence in the story of the Poarch Band of Creeks.

This letter, dated May 29, 1815 and signed by eleven half-bloods of the Tensaw/Little River Community, opened with the sentence “We the Natives of the Creek Nation, Relations of Alexander McGillivray most respectfully beg leave to present this our humble petition to the President of the United States for the redress of grievances of the most serious nature that can happen to us.” The next paragraph, which describes the usurpation of lands and most significantly places the half-bloods in a time and a place in which “the greater number” of them “were born and raised,” must be quoted in full.

*“After having shown an inviolable atachment [sic.] for the government of the United States through the whole of the late war in which our property has been destroyed, our lives threatened with indiscriminate carnage, not one of us but who lost Relatives both near and dear to us on the memorable day at Fort Mimms was taken by the dreadful massacre that the Hostile Indians made there; we have at all times evinced a willingness and readiness (as many of the Officers of the Army can testify) to cooperate and contribute to every measure that was calculated to prosecute the war with success on behalf of the United States – and we in common with every good citizen of the Government rejoiced at the fair prospects of peace but our prospects are darkened*

*and we are placed in a most critical situation. Many citizens of the Mississippi Territory have moved over the boundary line betwixt the United States and the Creek Indians on the Alabama River as high up as Fort Claiborne in which distance the greatest number of us who are called Halfbreeds were born and raised. They have taken forcible possession of our fields and houses and ordered us off at the risk of our lives. They have reproached us with our origins, insulted us with the most abusive language, and not content with that they have even proceeded to blows and committed private injury to our Stocks and property.”*

*They said further that General Jackson had given them to understand that all actual settlers “...who were natives and descendants of the Indian would be entitled to a lease of six hundred and forty acres of land – some think differently on this subject now, that females with families will not be entitled to any. ...We have been encouraged to remain on our farms which we have occupied for years before the war.”* The Petition was sent to President Madison and ultimately referred to Benjamin Hawkins for comment and suggestion. Hawkins clearly sides with the half-bloods and suggests that their claims be granted, including the request that women be entitled to land and indemnification.

Specific mentions and detailed lists in contemporaneous documents describing the ancestors of the Poarch Band of Creeks and their property begin to appear for the first time following the War. It is important to note, however, that generally such mentions regarding Creek land holdings meant that the half-blood Creeks and their families had settled and cultivated the land in question, not that they held title to it. Other lists taken of individuals, land, and property ownership show that the ancestors of the Porch Band of Creeks grouped together geographically in clusters. Of the list of this era which are most indicative of the fact that the half-blood residents of the region tended to live in hamlets or clusters within the greater geographical area, is that of Judge Harry Toulmin dated November 24, 1815. In Baldwin County Moses Steadham appears, and grouped together down the column appear the names of Ann Tarvin, Josiah Fletcher, Richard Travin, and James Earle. For Monroe County almost all the names are early relations and ancestors of the Poarch Band of Creeks: Mary Dryer, John Randon, Margaret Bailey, Dixon Bailey (deceased), James Bailey (deceased), Arthur Sizemore, George Stiggins, Semio McGhee, Lachlin Durant, John Adcock, and Peggy Summerlin.

By 1816, the effects of the wholesale destruction by the hostile Creeks during the war were felt less, while the effects of the terrorist tactics by the white land grabbers who poured

into the ceded territory were being felt more. This time was marked by residential shifting – the half-bloods being forced out of the more choice lands along the Alabama River banks had to take what was left. Significantly, the lands they chose were almost always as close to the Tensaw/Little River area and inland of the east bank of the Alabama as was possible. It appears that geographical proximity to their neighbors and relations was an important consideration for them, thus assuring a communal continuity. Within this period, a series of depositions and testimonials in pursuit of claims for land and depredations was taken, in addition to memorials to Congress and congressional “acts of relief.”

With the shifting demography and a new, large influx of settlers, and with territorial status for the new Alabama only a year away, the legislature of the Mississippi Territory decided to hold a special census in 1816. Parallel to the breakdown of Creek half-bloods in the claims list of Harry Toulmin just a year earlier, the census shows only two Hollingers in Baldwin County. The census for Monroe County shows McGillivrays, Moniacs, Wards, Rolins, McGirts, Moores, Durants, Striggins’, Tarvins, Weatherfords, Hollingers, Tates, Earles, Cornells’, Walkers and others of the half-blood ancestors of the Poarch Band of Creeks.

*Additional information will appear in next month’s issue.*

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## Tribal Member Releases New Album

Poarch Creek Tribal Member Roger Kuhn proudly announces the release of his new album **Every Year Around Xmas Time**. The album contains seven (7) original songs all written by Roger.

Roger will celebrate the release of the album with a concert in New York City on December 2, 2010. More information about the album and song clips can be found at <http://www.rogerkuhn.com>. The album is available for purchase at iTunes, Amazon.com and CDBaby.com.

*Roger is the son of Joyce Kuhn and the grandson of the late Dorothy Rolin. He thanks his family and Poarch community for continuing to inspire him to live his dream.*

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# December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Housing Authority Meeting Building 400 Conference Room 3:00 p.m.	2 Tribal Council Meeting Council Chambers 4:00 p.m.	3 CIEDA Meeting CIEDA Office 8:00 a.m.  Christmas Parade 5:00 Parade starts at Gym Christmas Tree Lighting in front of Tribal Council Chambers immediately following the parade	4 NA Meeting Turning Point 7:00 p.m.
5	6  Tribal Court Tribal Court Room 9:00 a.m.  CMCMA Meeting Welcome Center/Museum 5:00 p.m.	7 Weight Watchers Gym 5:00 p.m.  NA Meeting Turning Point 7:00 p.m.  Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.	8	9  Kids Christmas Party 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Family Services Auditorium (Must have registered by November 18th to attend)	10  5:00 p.m. Deadline To Submit Information For January 2011 Newsletter	11 NA Meeting Turning Point 7:00 p.m.
12	13 Wellness & Activities Authority Meeting Gym 4:00 p.m.  Warrior Society Meeting St. Anna's 6:00 p.m.  4-H Meeting Education Department 6:00 p.m.  Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.	14 Weight Watchers Gym 5:00 p.m. TERO Meeting 3:00 p.m. TERO Conf. Room NA Meeting Turning Point 7:00 p.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30/6:30 & 7:30 p.m. Community Meeting Tribal Museum 6:00 p.m. Family Services Auditorium	15 Housing Authority Meeting Building 400 Conference Room 3:00 p.m.	16 Tribal Council Meeting Council Chambers 4:00 p.m.	17 CIEDA Meeting CIEDA Office 8:00 a.m.  Tribal Offices Close At 12:00 Noon For Employee Christmas Party	18 NA Meeting Turning Point 7:00 p.m.
19	20 Tribal Court Tribal Court Room 9:00 a.m.  CMCMA Meeting Welcome Center/ Museum 5:00 p.m.  Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.	21 Winter Baseball Clinic 8:00 a.m. Weight Watchers Gym 5:00 p.m. NA Meeting Turning Point 7:00 p.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Teen Christmas Party Wind Creek 7:00 p.m.	22  Winter Softball Clinic 8:00 a.m.	23  Tribal Offices Closed In Observance of Christmas Eve	24  Tribal Offices Closed In Observance of Christmas Day	25 NA Meeting Turning Point 7:00 p.m.  Christmas Day
26	27 Wellness & Activities Authority Meeting Gym 4:00 p.m.  Education Department 6:00 p.m.  Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.	28 Weight Watchers Gym 5:00 p.m. TERO Meeting 3:00 p.m. TERO Conf. Room  NA Meeting Turning Point 7:00 p.m.  Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.	29	30	31 Tribal Offices Closed In Observance of New Year's Day  New Year's Countdown Pow Wow Grounds 11:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.	

The purple balloons in the picture behind the calendar were released in honor or in memory of domestic violence victims at the closing of the Domestic Violence Vigil held in October. One of those balloons could have been for you, your sister, your mother, an aunt, or another loved one or friend. Also remember that domestic violence victims are not always female. Break the silence and stop the violence.

## Newsletter Contact Information

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