

January 2011

# Poarch Creek News

*Keeping the family and friends of Poarch informed*



VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 1



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## ***Chairman's Corner***

***January 2011***



**Buford L. Rolin**  
**Tribal Chairman**  
[tlancaster@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:tlancaster@pci-nsn.gov)

I hope that everyone had a good Christmas and a happy holiday season.

I am truly honored to share with my fellow Tribal Members that both Robert "Robbie" McGhee and I have been selected by Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), to serve on the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC). Robbie was appointed to one of the five at-large positions and I was appointed to represent the Nashville area. It is an honor for both of us to be selected to serve our Tribe and Indian Country in this capacity. I am also honored to have been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Native American Rights Fund, the oldest and largest nonprofit law firm dedicated to asserting and defending the rights of Indian tribes, organizations, and individuals nationwide.



**Stephanie Bryan**  
**Vice Chair**  
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**Robert McGhee**  
**Treasurer**  
[rmcghee@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:rmcghee@pci-nsn.gov)



**David W. Gehman**  
**Secretary**  
[dgehman@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:dgehman@pci-nsn.gov)

It is through appointments such as STAC and NARF that we, your Tribal Leaders, are able to make a difference for our Tribe and throughout Indian Country. Leadership on the national level is not limited to Robbie and myself because several of our Tribal Council Members and other Tribal leaders serve on national boards and committees that seek to improve Indian Country today for a better tomorrow for those who follow.

The year 2011 looks promising. I will try to keep you posted each month on the advancements made not only here at the Tribe but throughout Indian Country as well. Poarch Creek is growing and is making an impact in Indian Country, in the state of Alabama, and across the nation.



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### ***Tribal Council Agenda to Reflect Two Public Comments Sessions At Regular Scheduled Tribal Council Meetings***

Beginning January 2011, the Tribal Council agenda will offer Public Comments twice per regular scheduled Tribal Council Meetings. The first Public Comment Session will be at the beginning of the Regular Business Session of each meeting. The second Public Comment Session will be at the end of the Regular Business Session, prior to any Executive Session.



**Garvis Sells**  
**Council Member**  
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**Eddie L. Tullis**  
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***Per the most recently approved Enrollment Report, there are 3061 Tribal Members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.***

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**DEADLINES TO REMEMBER.** The deadline for submission of information to be published in the Poarch Creek News is **5:00 p.m. CST** 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.



## ***Tribal Leaders Appointed to the HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC)***

On December 6, 2010, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the individuals who will serve on the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC), the first tribal advisory committee established to advise the Secretary in the history of HHS.

"I want to thank everyone who expressed an interest in serving on the STAC; an overwhelming number of nominations were received from a broad range of perspectives and experiences," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "I am excited to work with those who have been chosen, and look forward to their advice to HHS on our government-to-government relationship and delivery of services to Tribal communities".

The Committee is comprised of one primary representative from each of the twelve areas of the Indian Health Service (IHS), as well as five at-large national representatives. The first meeting of the STAC took place December 13-14, 2010. Poarch Creek's Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin was appointed as the representative for the Nashville area. Poarch Creek's Tribal Council Treasurer/Governmental Relations Advisor Robert R. McGhee, was appointed to one of the at large positions. It is an honor for both of them to be selected to serve on the committee.

The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee is one of several Tribal initiatives undertaken this year and will make significant progress towards reshaping the way that the Department works with Tribes. The establishment of the STAC will bring the work of HHS reform and improvement efforts to a new level.

The STAC's primary purpose is to seek consensus, exchange views, share information, and provide advice and/or recommendations; or facilitate any other interaction related to intergovernmental responsibilities or administration of HHS programs, including those that arise explicitly or implicitly under statute, regulation or executive order.

Learn more about the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) read the STAC charter at: <http://www.hhs.gov/intergovernmental/tribal/>.

*Summary of Press Release from HHS Press Office dated December 6, 2010*

## ***Tribal Council Approves Per Capita Payments To Tribal Members***

Per action of the Tribal Council, for fiscal year 2011 Tribal Members age 18 and above have the option of receiving their per capita payment in January or on their birthday. Tribal Member participants in the Tribal Elders Support Program may receive his or her birthday distribution on a prorated monthly basis in lieu of the semi-annual basis, if he or she has provided proper written notice to the Tribal Member Benefits Department. Tribal Members should have received a letter from the Tribal Member Benefits Department that explains the per capita (birthday checks) disbursement and appropriate options as well as changes to the flex card. You should have received your letter prior to receiving this issue of the *Poarch Creek News*. Please remember to respond to the letter by the established deadline of January 10, 2011.

Please contact Tim Manning, Tribal Member Benefits Director, at (251) 368-9136 x 2007 if you have any questions.

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## ***Tribal Council Seeking Names of All Individuals Who Have Served On Tribal Council***

Per a Resolution approved by the Tribal Council on December 2, 2010, all individuals who have served on the Tribal Council for a period of two terms or more is entitled to a monthly honorarium for their services.

Tribal Council records document those who have served since federal recognition. The Tribal Council is requesting Tribal Members submit the name of any individuals who served on the Council for a period of two terms or more prior to federal recognition.

Many individuals have served as leaders of the Tribe and the Tribal Council would like to make sure all receive proper recognition. If you know of an individual who has served as a leader of the Tribe, please contact Kelli Ramer, Tribal Council Liaison at (251) 446-1140.

The Alcohol License Hearing for Wind Creek Atmore, Wind Creek Wetumpka, Wind Creek Montgomery, and Creek Smoke Shop will be held in the Tribal Council Chambers at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 14, 2011.





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## National Glaucoma Awareness Month

*Submitted by Dr. Melissa Hoercher, Optometrist, Premier Family Eye Care*

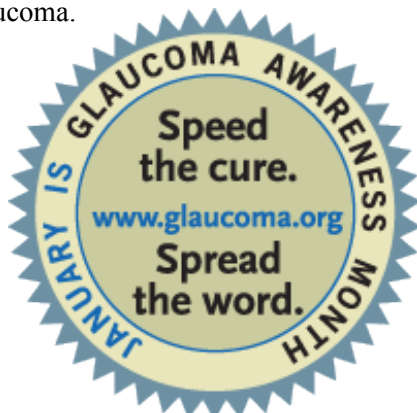
Glaucoma can gradually steal sight without warning. In fact, it is estimated that about half of the people affected by glaucoma may not know they have it. There is no cure for glaucoma- yet. Eye drops or surgery can slow or prevent further vision loss, so early detection is vital. At Premier Family Eye Care, I routinely look for signs that glaucoma may be present.

Glaucoma causes loss of sight by damaging a part of the eye called the optic nerve. This nerve acts like an electric cable with over a million wires that sends information from your eye to your brain. One of the main causes of damage to the optic nerve is high pressure in the eyeball. A person's eye pressure is not related to that person's blood pressure as many people think. Usually, no pain is associated with increased eye pressure. A check of eye pressure is a part of your comprehensive eye exam.

When glaucoma damages the optic nerve, you begin to lose patches of vision, usually side (peripheral) vision. Over time, glaucoma may also damage straight ahead (central) vision. You may not notice a loss of side vision until you have lost a great deal of sight. If I suspect that there has been damage to your optic nerve, I have a specialized piece of equipment that can test to see if you have lost any side vision.

These risk factors may increase your chance of having glaucoma:

- Age - The older you are, the greater your risk.
- Race - African-Americans have glaucoma four to five times more than others. African-Americans are also likely to have glaucoma at a younger age.
- Family history - If you have a parent, brother, or sister with glaucoma, you are more likely to get glaucoma too. If you have glaucoma, your family members should get complete eye exams.
- Medical history - Diabetes, previous eye injuries, eye surgery or long-term steroid use can increase your risk of glaucoma.



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# Celebrating Birthdays

## **Jett Lynden Tillery**

Jett Lynden Tillery celebrated his first birthday on Wednesday, November 24th at home with family & friends. Jett is the son of David & Jessica Tillery of Atmore. Happy Birthday Jett!!!



## **Gracie Ann Marie Bray**

Gracie Ann Marie Bray turned 9 on 12/3/2010. Gracie we love you very much! Paw Paw and Grannie Bray, Dad, Mom, Uncle Steve, Aunt Gina, Bri, Paul, Varon, Chayla, Gabe, and Leianna.



## **Betty McGhee Peacock**

Betty McGhee Peacock celebrated her birthday on December 5, 2010. Happy belated birthday Betty!!

Betty would like to wish a Happy Birthday to:

Josh McGhee who celebrated his birthday on December 4, 2010. Josh is son of Dale McGhee and the grandson of Kent McGhee & Betty Peacock.

Marlie Jayden McGhee, who turned two on December 17, 2010. Marlie is the granddaughter of Janet & Randal Ward and the great granddaughter of Betty Peacock & Kent McGhee.

Preston "Pete" McGhee, who also celebrated his birthday on December 17, 2010; and Johnny McGhee, who celebrated his birthday on December 30, 2010. Pete and Johnny are the brothers of Betty Peacock.

Deldon Roy McGhee, who celebrated his birthday on December 24, 2010. Dale is the son of Betty Peacock and Kent McGhee.

## **Toni Kinsey Carver**

Toni Kinsey Carver celebrated her 42nd birthday on December 5, 2010. Happy Belated Birthday Toni, we love you.



## **John & Frank Kinsey**

John Kinsey celebrated his 53rd birthday on December 6, 2010. He is pictured with his son Frank Kinsey who also celebrated his 31st birthday on December 6, 2010. Happy Belated Birthday John & Frank, we love you!



## **Bo Kinsey**

Bo Kinsey celebrated his 48th birthday on December 6, 2010. Happy Belated Birthday Bo, we love you!



## **Toby Kinsey**

Toby Kinsey celebrated his 35th birthday on December 8, 2010. Happy Belated Birthday Toby, we love you!



## **Valerie Walters**

Valerie Walters celebrated her birthday on December 11, 2010. Happy Birthday, we love you!



## **Dolan Jeffry Carver**

Dolan Jeffry Carver celebrated his birthday on December 12, 2010. Happy Birthday, we love you!



### ***Morgan Green***

Morgan Green, daughter of Christy Green, celebrated her 12th birthday on December 18, 2010. Morgan is pictured with her niece Jayda. Happy Belated Birthday Morgan! I love you, your big sis Englynn



### ***Christy Kinsey***

Christy Kinsey celebrated her 34th birthday on December 25, 2010. Happy Belated Birthday, we love you! I love you Mom-Englynn



### ***Logan Nelson***

Logan Nelson celebrated his birthday on December 13, 2010. Happy Birthday Logan, we love you, Dad, Great Grandma, Stacey, Aunt Dina & Uncle Ricky



### ***Bradley Kinsey***

Bradley Kinsey celebrated his 28th birthday on December 27, 2010. Happy Belated Birthday Bradley, we love you.



### ***Kendall Isabella Kinman***

Kendall Isabella Kinman celebrated her 2nd birthday on December 18, 2010. She is shown with her brother Connor and cousins Logan and Madelyn Boatwright. Kendall is the daughter of David and Jessica Kinman and the granddaughter of David and Myrtis Kinman. Happy Birthday Kendall, we love you!



### ***Myrtis Kinman***

Myrtis Kinman celebrated her 65th birthday on December 28, 2010. Happy Birthday, we love you from your husband, children, and grandchildren.



### ***Matthew Green***

Matthew Green will celebrate his 16th birthday on January 30, 2011. Happy Birthday Matthew, we love you, Mom, Grandma, Englynn, Treavor, Tyler, Morgan, Jayda, Aunt Dina & Uncle Ricky.



### ***Varon Randall "Bray" Raybon***

Varon Randall "Bray" Raybon turned 11 on 12/23/2010. Varon is the son of Regina Bray and soon to be step son of Steve Burgess. His grandparents are Charles (Bo) and Debbie Bray, Glenn and Linda Howard, and the great grandson of Willie Mae Bray (McGhee) and Louise Lowery (Johnson). Varon, we love you very much. Paw Paw and Grannie Bray, Mom and Steve, Uncle Randy and Aunt AnnieAnn, Bri, Paul, Chayla, Gracie, Gabe, and Leianna.



### ***Ashley Kinsey***

Ashley Kinsey will celebrate her birthday on December 30, 2010. Happy Birthday Ashley, we love you, Dad, Sarah, Grandma, Aunt Dina & Uncle Ricky.



### ***Kortlan Jo Peebles***

Kortlan Jo Peebles celebrated her birthday on December 23, 2010. Here is wishing you a very happy birthday. We love you, Mom & Daddy, PawPaw Lester, Granny Sharon, Halle Ra, Braxton, Josh, Colton, Bunk & Aunt Chastity, Nanna Bell, MeMaw Brenda and PawPaw Rickey.



### ***Trevor & Tyler Green***

Trevor (left) & Tyler (below right) Green will celebrate their 15th birthday on January 31, 2011. Happy Birthday Trevor & Tyler.



We love you, Mom, Grandma, Englynn. Matthew. Morgan, Jayda, Aunt Dina & Uncle Ricky





# More Birthdays

## **Justin Blake Sims**

Justin Blake Sims will celebrate his 24th birthday on January 2, 2011. Happy 24th Birthday Justin!!! Love, Aunt Connie, Your Mom, Sisters- Shelsi & Victoria, Your Dad & all of your aunts & uncles!!!



## **Ruthie Shelby**

Ruthie Shelby turns 66 on January 4, 2011. Wishing the greatest Mother in the world a happy 66th birthday. Happy birthday with lots of love, your son David.



## **Willis M. "Kent" McGhee, Jr.**

Kent McGhee will celebrate his birthday on January 6, 2011. Happy birthday from Dale, Troy, Janet, & Meredith!

## **Joshua Burkett**

Joshua Burkett will be celebrating his birthday on January 9, 2011. Happy Birthday "Big Daddy". We love you! Vicky and Little Josh.



## **Nolan Wiggins**

We would like to wish Nolan Wiggins a Happy Birthday on January 14, 2011. We love you! Deddy, Mamma, Heath, Taylor, Bree, MamMaw.

## **Brooke Schachle**

Brooke Schachle is turning 7 years old on January 17th! She will celebrate her birthday at the aquarium in New Orleans with family and friends. Happy Birthday! We love you! Mommy, Daddy, Allie Anna, Maw Maw, PawPaw, Aunt Trina, Uncle Kevin, Jacob, & Megan.



*In Loving Memory of Hannah Leah Schachle, We Love You and miss you dearly. Love, Mommy, Daddy, Brooke, Allie Anna, Maw Maw, PawPaw, Aunt Trina, Uncle Kevin, Jacob, & Megan.*

## **Christina Kinsey Fernandez & Solidad Fernandez**



Christina Kinsey Fernandez will celebrate her 30th birthday on January 21, 2011. Christina is shown with her stepdaughter Solidad Fernandez who celebrated her 13th birthday on December 16, 2010. Happy birthday Christina & Solidad, I love you both! From your husband and father, Ricky Fernandez

## **Taylor Wiggins**

Bree Wiggins would like to wish her mommy (Taylor Wiggins) a very Special Happy Birthday on January 26, 2011. Happy Birthday Taylor, we love you! Bree, Deddy, Mamma, Heath, Nolan, & MamMaw

## **Janet McGhee Ward**



Janet McGhee Ward will celebrate her birthday on January 29, 2011. Janet is shown with her granddaughter Marlie who celebrated her second birthday on December 17, 2010. Happy birthday Janet & Marlie!

## **Makayla Rolin**



Makayla Rolin will celebrate her first birthday on January 30, 2011. Her proud parents, Harold and Juana Rolin, along with her MawMaw Mary Jane, Nanny Velma, P-Pa Robert, Granny Faye, Bubba (Justin), Bessy, and MawMaw Cooper would like to wish her a Happy Birthday. We love you baby girl!!

## **Abbreviated Birthday Wishes**

*Space limitations required the abbreviation of several birthday wishes this month. We apologize to anyone whose wishes were abbreviated, but we had to reduce the original content from four pages to three pages to have space for other submitted information.*

# Birth Announcements

## ***Elam Jaxon Fayard***

Jason Fayard and Shannon Tharpe announce the birth of their son Elam Jaxon Fayard born November 2, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. At birth Elam weighed 4 lbs 9 ozs. and was 18 1/2 inches long.



Elam was welcomed home by his big brother Jason N. Fayard, his Aunt Kelly, Nana & PawPaw, Granddaddy Wayne, Granny Lucille and PawPaw Burkett.

## ***Arianna Elise Glass***

Michael and Heather Glass of Atmore, AL are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Arianna Elise Glass. Arianna arrived at 3:48 a.m. on Tuesday, November 30, 2010, at North Baldwin Infirmary in Bay Minette, AL. She weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 20 inches in length.



Paternal grandparents are David and Anita Glass of Flomaton, AL. Maternal grandparents are Wanda Stabler of Atmore, AL, and Ronald and Stacey Stabler of Pensacola, FL. Great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Autry Tucker and Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Rackard, all of Atmore, AL.

## ***First Generation Girl Cousins' Reunion***

*Submitted by Elizabeth Hebert*

Fred and Lula Walker had 12 children; Lonnie, Lawrence, J.C. James, W.D., Gertrude Walker Rolin, Treacy Walker McGhee, Ruby Walker Jackson, Ruth Walker Caudell, Gladys Walker Johnson, and Vallie Walker Self. All have passed away except for Gladys and Vallie, both of who live in Pensacola, FL. and are the "go-to" mama when we need guidance and advice. The family stayed close their whole life, especially the girls. After the girls were grown they would come together on a regular basis throughout the year and relied heavily on each other for advice and guidance.

There are approximately 37 first generation girl cousins and they have joined together to keep this tradition going. For the last five years the girl cousins have held a first generation girls cousins' reunion in November in Pensacola, FL at the home of Sandra Smith, daughter of Gladys Walker Johnson. The reunion has brought them all closer together. Cindy Martin, granddaughter of Treacy Walker McGhee and daughter of Helen Hallman, will be organizing a "Second Generation Girl Cousins' Reunion" next year so that the next generation can carry on the tradition.

According to history, Grandpa Fred was one of the first leaders of the Tribe. Through the years many of his descendants have served on the Tribal Council and in other leadership positions. We are proud of our heritage. There are over 600 descendants of the Fred Walker family. An annual reunion has been held in Pensacola, FL for the last 63 years; last year more than 250 family members attended. If you are a member of the Fred Walker family, we invite you to attend the annual reunion. If you are a first or second generation girl cousin, we invite you to attend the "girl cousins" reunions. You can contact Helen Hallman at (251) 368-1029, Elizabeth Hebert at (850) 393-7444, or Sandra Smith at (850) 478-2885 if you have any questions about the "girl cousins' reunion". We think Grandpa Fred and "Big Mama" Lula would be proud.



*First Generation Girl Cousins' of Fred Walker Family Back row: Judy, Myrtis, Wylene, Diane, Polly, Annie, Elizabeth, & Jeanette. Front row: Eva Nell, Eldnar, Helen, Ginger, Denise, Sandra, Lois, & Velma.*



# ***Pow Wow Success Despite Rain***

*By Gayle Johnson as condensed from Pow Wow Summary submitted by CMCMA*

According to the Calvin McGhee Cultural Management Authority (CMCMA) over 5,900 people attended the 2010 Pow Wow; approximately 272 of those attendees came out in the rain on Friday, November 26th. The visitors not only watched the Grand Entry and dance completion, but were able to shop the various goods offered by the 72 vendors present. Great food from local churches and the Wrangler Restaurant was also available at the Food Pavilion.

"We had a great turnout for the dance competition," stated Clayton Coon, CMCMA Planning & Events Coordinator. "We had 23 Tiny Tots and 218 dancers registered for the other categories for a total of 241 registered dancers. We also had 13 drums compete in the drum competition. I believe this is the biggest turn-out we have had in the history of our Pow Wow. This sets a high mark for next year."

There were at least 44 different tribes represented at the Pow Wow this year: Poarch Creek, Otoe, Pawnee, Cheyenne, Ponca, Iowa, Chickasaw, Seminole, Coushatta, Paiute, Anishinobe, Shoshone, Chippewa, Navajo, Osage, Arapaho, Shawnee, Sioux, Cherokee, Choctaw, Dine', Muskogee Creek, Crow, Hopi, Aztec, Cree, Lumbee, Nakoda, Lakota, Pottawatomie, Kickapoo, Dakota, Seneca, Comanche, Mohawk, Oneida, Ojibwe, Pueblo, Kiowa, Wampanoag, Blackfoot, Hochunk, Winnebago and Tuscaroro. Although some are Poarch Creek Pow Wow regulars, many were first time visitors to our Pow Wow.

One of the great successes of the Pow Wow was the Head to Head Warriors Special honoring former Chief Houston McGhee. There were 18 contestants who battled head to head in single elimination format over the two days of Pow Wow. Lonny Street, a Northern Traditional dancer from the Meskwaki Nation, successfully battled all comers for the \$3,000 prize money. Many of the dancers said that this was the first contest of its kind and that they would love to compete in this fashion again in the future. Who knows, we may have started a new tradition throughout Indian Country!

Opening ceremonies, which included performances by the Pow Wow Club, the Oklahoma Creek Stomp Dancers, students from the Fred L. McGhee Learning Center, and a moving presentation by special guest J. Anthony Parades, ended with the crowning of the

2010/2011 Poarch Creek Princesses. Miss Gabriella McGhee, daughter of Charlotte and Stephen McGhee, was crowned Elementary Princess; Miss Megan Flurnoy, daughter of Kim and Larry Flurnoy, was crowned Junior Princess; and Connie Colbert, daughter of Deana Coker and Johnny Colbert, Jr. was crowned Senior Princess. Congratulations to each of these beautiful young ladies. We are sure they will prove to be outstanding ambassadors for the Tribe.

Tribal Member Bridget Buckley placed third in the Adult Women's Southern Cloth Division; she was the only adult dancer from Poarch to place in the competition. The youth from Poarch did much better, with ten placing in the prize money. Chris Fay placed third in Teen Boys Fancy; Tom Rolin placed third in Teen Boys Traditional/Straight combined; Ricky Reed placed fourth in Teen Boys Traditional/Straight combined; Chelsey Ramer placed fourth in Teen Girls Fancy; Madison McGhee placed third in Teen Girls Jingle; Hunter Nobles placed first in Junior Boys Fancy; Antonio Walls placed second in Junior Boys Fancy; Kaiden McGhee placed third in Junior Boys Fancy; Alexis Daughtry placed third in Junior Girls Fancy; and Kennedy McGhee placed third in Junior Girls Jingle. Local drum Medicine Tail placed third in the Northern Drum competition. Congratulations to all who placed and to all who participated.

The Calvin McGhee Cultural Management Authority would like to express their thanks and gratitude to Neil Lawhead and Dude Blalock for the superb job they did at organizing the dancers, drummers and singers and especially the Warriors Special under such difficult conditions and in the short amount of time that they had to prepare. The CMCMA also extends their thanks and gratitude to all food vendors for participating in the 2010 Pow Wow. "We would especially like to thank you for sticking it out through the rain. We know that business was probably not tremendously good, but we do appreciate you staying with us."

The Calvin McGhee Cultural Management Authority would like to give a huge thank you to Wind Creek Casino and Hotel. "We would like to express our appreciation to Arthur Mothershed for allowing us to use the ballroom at Wind Creek on Friday, November 26, 2010 to finish the dance competitions and the Warrior Special. We would also like to thank the staff at Wind Creek for jumping right in and doing such a good job on such short notice. Mvto!!"

# Poarch Creek Continues To Make A Difference

By Sharon Delmar

In these challenging economic times, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians continues to make a difference in the local community by donating to local schools and the United Fund of Atmore.

Due to cutbacks in the state's education funding prompted the Poarch Band of Creek Indians to donate more than a million dollars to area schools. The Tribe's donation will ensure that teachers and students will not have to do without resources that are essential to providing a quality education.

"Part of being a good neighbor is helping out others in need. Education is the bedrock of productive successful lives for these youngsters, we are happy and proud to be able to make this contribution to their future today," said Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin.

The presentation was made by the Tribal Council Members, as a result of a Resolution from the Tribal Council, during a special ceremony held at the Escambia County High School in Atmore.

The donations were as follows: Escambia County High School/Escambia County Middle School \$687,360, Rachel Patterson Elementary \$78,000, A.C. Moore School \$112,547, Huxford Elementary \$337,000, Escambia Academy \$311,500, Atmore Christian School \$100,000. The remaining \$350,000 is in an education endowment;



other schools in the surrounding communities will have the opportunity to solicit these funds for various educational needs. These amounts are the product of several meetings with school personnel, where each school was asked to provide a list of needs. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians are happy that most of the requests were funded.

The presentation of \$10,000 to the United Fund of Atmore was also made by the Tribal Council Members during the ceremony held at the Escambia County High School in Atmore.

"Enhancing the way of life in our community has always been a priority for the Tribe. I am proud that we are able to enrich people's lives through the United Fund of Atmore, and that this donation will help them accomplish that," said Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin.



Atmore United Fund Vice President Lee Ann Allen said, "The United Fund of Atmore is so very thankful for the generosity of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Without the help of Poarch and other donors the agencies that United Fund supports would definitely suffer and in some cases not be able to function. The Tribe's \$10,000.00 donation is helping United Fund reach our \$50,000.00 goal for the 2011 drive. We are truly grateful."

According to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act 25 U.S.C it states; net revenues from any tribal gaming are not to be used for purposes other than--

- (i) to fund tribal government operations or programs;
- (ii) to provide for the general welfare of the Indian tribe and its members;
- (iii) to promote tribal economic development;
- (iv) to donate to charitable organizations; or
- (v) to help fund operations of local government agencies;

The Tribe also has a Revenue Allocation Plan that is approved by the Department of Interior that governs how gaming revenue's will be distributed. The categories within this document are; community development, land and improvement, community services support, education, Tribal Member services and capital reserve.

The donations were given to help our local community schools due to budget cuts this year. The Tribal Council supports quality education and the donations will make a positive affect in the lives of many school aged children within our community. The donations were made within the boundaries of these governing document's and the Tribal Council is proud to assist in building a better quality education as well as a better community for everyone to enjoy a better quality of life.



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES AND 72 HOUR NOTICES

### *Who is eligible for Contract Health Services through the Poarch Creek Indians Health Department?*

- Tribal Members and first generation descendants up to age 19 are eligible, if they reside in the designated 5 county service area. These counties are Escambia, Monroe, Baldwin, Mobile, Alabama and Escambia, Florida.
- In addition to the above requirement, you must be a current patient of the Health Department (have been seen within the last 6 months at the clinic) to request a referral.

### *I saw the Doctor last month at the clinic and was issued a referral to a cardiac specialist. The cardiologist now asks that I come back for further treatment. Can I just call you and get a referral so that my co-payment and/or deductible are covered?*

Requests for referrals must be submitted at least 10 days in advance for consideration. Last minute requests are often impossible to accommodate.

Please be sure you pick up your paper referral before your scheduled visit with the specialist. You are responsible for taking the necessary medical records to the specialist.

### *What should I do with the bill that I receive from the specialist that you sent me to?*

If you receive a referral from the Health Department, please be sure to turn in all bills associated with the referral to the Business Office.

### *I had a medical emergency and the clinic was not open. I went to my local ER. What should I do now?*

Emergency Room visits must be reported within 72 hours in order to be considered for payment. Reports must be submitted by the patient or the patient's family ONLY. The Business Office will not accept notices that are reported from the facility or ambulance service. Reporting the visit does NOT guarantee payment, but reporting the visit is required for consideration of payment.

### *Other important reminders . . . . .*

If you do not have insurance, please remember to apply for the Tribal insurance plan. First generation children without insurance are strongly encouraged to apply for state funded insurance plans, such as ALLKIDS or Medicaid.

Please present your current insurance coverage to the Patient Registration Clerk (front window) at each Health Department visit. For those with Medicare, it is especially important to let the Health Department know when you have chosen a supplemental coverage such as an HMO plan.

## Attention.....Attention.....Attention Winter LIHEAP Notice

The PCI Family Services Department's Community Services Program will conduct the WINTER Low Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) again this year. Eligibility for the LIHEAP Program is determined by tribal member-ship and household income.

All applicants should bring the following to the interview:

- 1.) Tribal ID for Head Of Household.
- 2.) Verification of the household's monthly income.
- 3.) Social Security Card(s) for ALL household members.
- 4.) The current unpaid power bill for the household.

### **Tuesday, February 1, 2011**

All Tribal Senior Citizens (Age 55 or older)

### **Wednesday, February 2, 2011**

All families with children under age 5 and families currently receiving food stamps or TANF benefits

### **Thursday, February 3, 2011**

All Tribal households who wish to apply

***If you miss the above dates then you may apply without an appointment on:***

***February 15, 16, & 17 from 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.***

***March 1, 2, & 3, from 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.***

***If you have any questions or need additional information about the Winter LIHEAP program, please contact the Family Services Department at (251)368-9136, Ext. 2600.***

***If you suspect fraud, waste, or abuse in any of the Community Services Programs (LIHEAP, Community Services Block Grant, Child Care, or Tribal Emergency Fund), please contact the Family Services Department at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2600.***

# ***IMPORTANT 2011 LIHEAP NOTICE***

This notice provides tribal member household with information about the new Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) requirement for Fiscal Year 2011. As a LIHEAP grantee, the Tribe was required to develop a LIHEAP Program Integrity Plan to show how the Tribe will comply with Federal LIHEAP policies and procedures in the following areas:

- Compliance Monitoring
- Fraud Reporting Mechanisms
- Verifying Applicant Identities
- Social Security Number Requests
- Cross-Checking Social Security Numbers Against Government Systems/Databases
- Verifying Applicant Income
- Privacy-Protection and Confidentiality
- LIHEAP Benefits Policy
- Procedures for Unregulated Energy Vendors
- Verifying the Authenticity of Energy Vendors
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Audits of Local Administering Agencies

## ***HOW DOES THESE NEW REQUIREMENTS AFFECT PCI LIHEAP APPLICANTS?***

It means that each LIHEAP applicant will need to provide additional information and adhere to new requirements when making LIHEAP applications in 2011.

1. Tribal households will need to provide their Poarch Creek membership card as a form of photo identification for the head of household or at least one household member to verify tribal membership. This will be required verification so be sure to bring your card along with you to the interview. Card(s) will be copied and kept as a permanent part of the case record.
2. Tribal household will need to provide Social Security numbers for all household members on the application. Social Security cards are also required verification so bring these along to the interview. Card(s) will be copied and become a permanent part of the case record.
3. Household should always call when an approved service has not been provided by unregulated vendors, such as a wood provider. If tribal members suspect LIHEAP fraud, waste or abuse, they should always contact the Family Services Department at (251) 368-9136 Ext 2600.

## ***Poarch Creek Boys and Girls Club to open February - March 2011***

On Thursday, December 2nd, The Tribal Council approved unanimously the final documents needed for the first-ever Poarch Creek Boys and Girls club. The club, which will offer after-school and summer youth programming for tribal and community children ages 6-18 will open in mid-February or early March of 2011. The club will be housed at the Calvin McGhee Cultural Center, also known as the "old school house" located within the powwow grounds. Renovations are currently being planned to give the building a brand new look and feel for its new program.

The Poarch Creek Boys and Girls club will offer quality after-school and summer youth programming for a very small annual membership fee. Members of the club will be able to partake in many wonderful youth services including, library time, 4H, tutoring and schoolwork, gym and pool time, cultural classes, crafts, and of course fun and games!

Membership applications will be available soon. We believe this will help make a difference in our tribal youth. You may inquire more about the club by reaching Alex Alvarez @ 251-368-9136 ext 2655, or email: aalvarez@pci-nsn.gov



## ***FLMLC Students Study Community Helpers***

The Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center has completed their study of Community Helpers by visiting Atmore City Hall and Police Department, Poarch Tribal Police, Poarch and Atmore Fire Departments, and Atmore First National Bank.



## Poarch Creek Gaming Supports the American Cancer Society through "Think Pink" Campaign

*As summarized from Press Release from PCI Gaming dated November 18, 2010*

As the nation marked the annual National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the PCI Gaming employees and patrons joined the American Cancer Society in encouraging women to choose to put their personal health first to stay well and reduce their risk of breast cancer.

The employees of Wind Creek Casino had the opportunity to join the *Think Pink* campaign by wearing a breast cancer awareness shirt while at work multiple days during October. Each participant contributed five dollars a day towards the breast cancer fund. The establishment offered casino and hotel patrons the opportunity to join their cause on the final day, October 31st. Guests made donations, supported by wearing t-shirts and flooding the area with pink. The total funds generated through the Think Pink campaign is over \$16,000.

"The American Cancer Society is appreciative of the support and partnership of PCI Gaming and these gracious dollars that have been raised by *Think Pink*," said Allison Faircloth, Southwest Alabama Area Director at the American Cancer Society. "They truly see the mission and want to be a part of saving lives



*Allison Faircloth, ACS's Southwest Alabama Area Director, center, is shown with Arthur Mothershed, Jay Dorris, and members of the Think Pink team.*

by helping people stay well, get well, find cures and fight back. It is wonderful to see how the associates embraced the campaign and the public joined them. Thank you to all who supported *Think Pink*."

"As the Official Sponsor of Birthdays, the American Cancer Society wants women to see the real tangible benefits of choosing to put their health first," said Faircloth. "Women can take action and put their personal breast health first to stay well, fight breast cancer and save lives. More than 2.5 million breast cancer survivors will celebrate a birthday this year thanks to early detection and improved treatment."

## 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.

## Spay/ Neuter Event

Starting February 1, 2010 the Environmental Department will begin giving out vouchers for spay/neuter services for cats and dogs. Vouchers will be given out from 9 am to 4 pm Monday thru Friday during the month of February. Only 2 vouchers per household will be allowed. These are available on a first come first serve basis. You must come in person to get your voucher; others will not be allowed to get one for you.





# Ethics Corner

## LEADERSHIP VALUES

Carrie Martin • Ethics Chair

### and ETHICS

Happy New Year to everyone. The Ethics Board hopes that each and every one of you had a wonderful Christmas and that the New Year will be a prosperous one. This past year the

Ethics Board received some advisory opinions that were actually ethics complaints. For this reason, I would like to discuss the difference between an advisory opinion and an ethics complaint.

#### ADVISORY OPINION:

An interpretation of the provisions of the Ethics Code to guide one's conduct on how the Ethics Board may rule on a matter should an ethics complaint be filed. Any Tribal Official, employee, or tribal entity may seek an advisory opinion from the Ethics Board regarding any situation that may potentially fall under the Ethics Code. The request for the advisory opinion, together with a description of the facts at issue, should be submitted in writing to the Ethics Officer.

An advisory opinion is asking a question what may happen should a certain event occurs. ***The event has not occurred; I repeat it has not occurred.*** If I had some property for sale along the beach that the Tribe might be interested in buying and also owned a condo at the beach and decided I wanted to invite the Tribal Council members and their families for a weekend to come and stay at my condo, then I would first request an advisory opinion to see if there would be an ethics violations by me doing this. I would also wait for a response from the Ethics Board prior to going ahead with my plans. This way, I would know if I could offer such an invitation and that there would be no violations due to my actions.

On the other hand, the Tribal Council members if they were approached with such an offer could also request an advisory opinion to make sure there would be no ethics violations on their part as well. ***We all must simply think before we act!!!*** The Ethics Code has been in place long enough now that all Tribal officials, employees and entities should be familiar with the contents of the Code

***Advisory opinions are not just limited to Tribal Officials and key employees. Anyone can seek an advisory opinion. You must remember the event has not yet occurred. What we are finding is that the event has occurred and then someone wants to seek an advisory opinion, maybe thinking the Ethics Board can file an ethics complaint. WE CAN NOT!!***

#### ETHICS COMPLAINTS:

All Tribal Officials and key employees shall endeavor to

avoid any action or situation in which there may exist the appearance of impropriety, and all Tribal Officials and key employees shall adhere to the following standards of ethical conduct:

- Conflict of Interest
- Misuse of Confidential Information
- Solicitations and Gifts
- Unauthorized Compensation
- Campaign Activity
- Sexual Harassment
- False Claims and Retaliation
- Abuse of Authority
- Preferential Treatment
- Nepotism
- Financial Disclosure

All other tribal employees shall adhere to the ethical standards of conduct as outlined in their Human Resources Policy and Procedures, but at a minimum shall include those listed above.

***An ethics complaint is one in which the event has already occurred, I repeat has already occurred.*** Any ***Tribal Official, tribal employee, or tribal member***, who, in good faith believes or has reason to believe that a Tribal Official or key employee has violated any provision of the Ethics Code, may file a report of an ethics violation with the Ethics Officer. All reports shall include the name of the person whose alleged violation is being reported, a statement of facts to support the allegations being made, including, but not limited to, the date, time, place, and the persons involved and/or who may have knowledge of the alleged violation, and a signed statement that the information the reporting party has provided is true, accurate, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge.

The Ethics Board is aware that there are ethical violations occurring. We also realize that the individuals aware of these violations are afraid of retaliation and losing their jobs. However, the Ethics Board can not address a violation without an ethics complaint being filed. Sometimes, you have to have the courage to stand alone for what you know is right. In the end, you will be the hero, not the villain.

You may obtain copies of the Ethics Code, as well as Advisory Opinions and Ethics Complaint forms from the Tribal Chairman's Office, Legal Department, and Tribal Court.



# Tribal Member Submissions



## Thanks To Pow Wow Parking & Clean Up Crew

*Stephanie Rolin, S Rolin, Inc.*

S. Rolin, Inc. would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Poarch Creek Indian Tribal Members and Tribal Youth who participated in the 2010 Pow-Wow Parking and Clean-up detail. Our company received several compliments for a Job Well Done, but all of the credit goes to you for your outstanding contribution. Thank you!

*Back Row- Cody Rolin , Randy Fretwell Jr., Quentin Smedley, Dalton Overstreet, Chris Knorr; Jason Taylor, Susan Dyess, and Eddie Wayne Gregson. Front Row- Patrick Perdue, Brad Rolin, Jamie Knorr, Aaron Smedley, Jami Andrews, and Derek Gibson Kneeling- Drake Hamilton and Thomas Owens.*

## Grandmother Mourns Granddaughter

Lisa Torres sadly announces the passing of her granddaughter Eva Lisa Hernandez. Eva, born September 10, 2010, was the daughter of Lola Torres and Adan Hernandez of Richland, Washington.



Eva was born with a heart defect and passed away on November 20, 2010 at Children's Hospital in Spokane, Washington. The family is very saddened by their loss and appreciates all the support



received. "We know you are in a better place now Eva. We all love you."

Lisa Torres is the daughter of the late Lola Tuley (Overstreet), niece of the late Jessie Overstreet, and first cousin of Lola Beltram (Overstreet).

## The Love of Family and Friends helping one another....

On Saturday, October 16, 2010, family and friends came together to have a fund raiser for two Tribal Members in our community who are suffering hardships because of medical bills. With the love and caring of family and friends, around \$8,000—with Modern Woodmen of America contributing \$2500--was raised by selling chicken plates and by hosting a turkey shoot. Throughout the day, there was singing, an auction, and good fellowship.



*Left: Gregg Findley, Modern Woodmen of America representative, presents check to Tribal Member Benny McGhee. Shown are: sitting Benny McGhee and Eldnar McGhee; standing left to right are Gregg Findley, Myrtis Kinman, Mary Bell McGhee holding grandson Seth Hammonds, and Velma Crocker.*

*To the right Gregg Findley, Modern Woodmen of America representative, presents check to Darrell Ardis. Shown left to right are Gregg Findley, Faye Thomas, Darrell Ardis, Carolyn Dortch, Glenda Ardis, and Myrtis Kinman.*



## Where I'm From

I come from a trail stomped down by hatred  
Covered with fear and pain  
Washed away by my tears  
Where once man could only see an indigent  
Now everyone wants part of the heritage  
We are proud of our warriors  
Yet humbled by their wisdoms  
My face paints faded away through time  
The bow is withered  
The arrow has been dulled  
But our strength is still alive  
Once I moved upon the back of a wild horse  
Now I am moved with compassion  
Once I yelled for awareness  
Now I yell for forgiveness  
My Tribe has long been gone  
But my pride continues on  
You may see a white man  
But beneath the ivory  
Stands the foundation of this nation  
Still fighting for the freedom  
Of heroes past  
Today I walk with my head held high  
Where once my forefathers hid from your sight  
Today I stand proud  
Crying out our battle cry  
Of my Indian Tribe  
Where one can only see a white man  
Look deeper and see my Heritage Pride  
Carmen L. Flowers 9-27-10

*Carmen attends church with Johnny Rolin. She gave him this poem and it touched him so that he wanted to share it with his fellow Tribal Members. "Carmen is not a Tribal Member. She is a member of a state recognized tribe but I felt that we could all relate to what she has to say in the poem above. I hope it touches you as it touched me."*

---

## Thank You

*Billy Joe and Nadine Gibson would like to say thank you to the Poarch Creek Indians and the local community for coming to their assistance after they lost everything in a house fire on November 8, 2010. Words cannot express our gratitude and appreciation. We truly appreciate all the love and support that has been shown to us during our time of great loss.*

## When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?

*By Mikayla Spruill*

Although there are days set aside to honor the military such as Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day, I feel they should be honored every day. After all, it takes a lot of courage and bravery to put their lives on the line and this is done every single day. They make many sacrifices to fight war on terrorism and to fight for our freedom. Those sacrifices are missing family holidays, ball games, parent/teacher night, birthdays and some even miss the birth of a child. They don't have to do this but they choose to do this. So as Americans, it is our responsibility to stand up and support them whenever we get a chance to.

Many people honor the military on those special holidays. I think of all those who have died for our freedom when I see the flag flying in my front yard. When stopped by a long train carrying military equipment, I think of the war heroes who are leaving for war and what they will be sacrificing. My dad says I am the hero for giving up so much and supporting. I disagree with him because he was the one getting shot at while I was safe in our home. I remember the stories my Papa Gene would tell about World War II. When I see my dad in his uniform or my brother playing soldier who just wanted to be like my dad, I honor the heroes by thinking of them.

You don't have to shoot fireworks, stand at a parade, fly a flag or take a day off work/school to honor our military heroes. You can honor them by never forgetting what they have sacrificed. You can take pride in saying the Pledge of Allegiance every morning at school. You can take time out to say a simple thank-you to someone in a uniform. Isn't that why we study history, to never forget. I know I will never forget. I will honor our Military heroes, they certainly deserve it.

To my dad and all our military heroes, thank you.

*MiKayla Spruill is the daughter of Mark and Susan Spruill of Atmore, AL. She was a sixth-grader at Huxford Elementary School when she wrote this essay which was published in the December 8, 2010 issue of the Atmore News as the second of a series of essays written for the Atmore VFW Patriot's Pen essay program.*



# The Hard Road

In the year 1817, center stage shifts from southern Alabama to Washington D.C. relative to events affecting the history of the Poarch Band of Creeks. In January of that year the claims of the friendly Creeks as a whole are considered by the Committee of Ways and Means; Mr. Lowndes of the Committee concludes that "...it will be best to appropriate a definite sum to be applied, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to indemnify the friendly Creek Indians for property destroyed by the Hostile Creeks, in fair proportion to their losses." While no remuneration was paid out at this time, this report preceded the later payments and set the responsibility for payment on the United States. On March 3, 1817, a bill was enacted which provided that fee simple patents would be issued to the heirs of land grant recipients under the Treaty of Ft. Jackson, a significant departure from the original plan under which rights of occupancy would inure to the heirs as long as they did not voluntarily abandon the land. The act also provided for the appointment of the claims agent, or special Commissioner, and in December President Monroe chose former Georgia Governor David B. Mitchell to this post. Mitchell's mandate was to ascertain the damages to the friendly Creeks to arrive at "a definite sum," and to take evidence "on the land occupied by such claimant" for those claiming a section of land under the Treaty of Ft. Jackson and modified by the act of March 3rd.

In January of 1819 Secretary of War John C. Calhoun submitted copies of all accounts and correspondence relating to the claim of the friendly Creeks. Much of the material and information submitted was gathered by David Mitchell and related to evidence pertaining to the losses of the half-bloods and other friendly Creeks. It showed a partial payment to the claimants by the United States, but still a debt of "a little upwards of \$100,000." The following month Congress passed an act authorizing the President of the United States to purchase the lands reserved by the act of the third of March, 1817, to certain chiefs, warriors, or other Indians, of the Creek nation." Thus the lands granted to the friendly Creeks under the Treaty of Ft. Jackson, originally inalienable, came to be issued to heirs in fee simple under the act of March 3, 1817, and were able to be purchased outright by the United States, thereby eliminating any protection to title which the United States offered under the treaty. On December 14, 1819, Alabama was admitted as a state to the Union, creating what would later become jurisdictional problems between the state and the United States regarding dealings with and treatment of the Creek Indians.

Much of the testimony and depositions taken by Mitchell in southern Alabama during 1818 and 1819 have survived,

these documents are revealing in several ways. First, they establish a pattern which was to continue in the history of the Poarch Band of Creeks to the present day; namely, the practice of testifying for each other in cases before authorities. One example in the Mitchell documents is the witness of David Tate, James Earle, and William Hollinger for Josiah Fletcher. Several years later, in testimony taken by John Crowell, David Tate, William Hollinger, James Earle, and John Westerford all testifying regarding the claim of Lynn McGhee. Second, these documents reveal that most of the half-bloods and Indian country men lived in close proximity to each other along the Alabama River in the period surrounding the Creek War and that they kept abreast of each other's agricultural efforts, property holdings, and families. Third, they bear witness to the fact that their lands were in effect stolen from them, even though the usurpation might have appeared legal.

The 1815 letter of Lachlan Durant to President Monroe described in general terms the problem of usurpation: "They [white intruders] have taken forcible possession of our fields and houses and ordered us off at the risk of our lives..." The depositions taken by Mitchell and later by John Crowell get specific on this matter and name one John Gayle and his father Matthew as chief offenders of this practice. Gayle moved to the region in 1813 and began reading law in Claiborne under A.S. Lipscomb. He was elected in 1818 as Solicitor of his circuit (Tensaw to Claiborne), was later representative of Monroe County in the state legislature, served on the Alabama Supreme Court, was re-elected to the state legislature where he became speaker of the house and was elected as Governor in 1831 and re-elected to that office in 1833. He was elected to Congress in 1847 where he served two terms after which he was appointed to serve as a Federal District Judge and served until his death in 1859. Clearly, non-literate half-bloods and Indian country men would have posed little problem for Gayle's apparently unscrupulous acquisition of their untitled lands.

John Gayle was not alone in this practice, but was named in testimony on several occasions. In a deposition taken by Mitchell, Charles Ehlert, a half-blood, said "And I further state on oath that Matthew Gayle has taken forcible possession of my improvements." At the same time, Lynn McGhee asserted that having been wounded in the Creek War, his land "...was under the control and management of my Brother Semoye after the war, until driven off by the White people and the said land has since been sold by the United States." While these particular depositions do not name Gayle, later ones do, including the sworn statements

# To Federal Recognition

for Congressional memorial in 1831 where Semoice goes into detail about Gayle. This assertion is corroborated by a white settler, a Captain William Waller, who also made a deposition to Mitchell the same day.

Records of the Probate Court for Baldwin County show that in April of 1820 John Gayle purchased \$300 worth of land contiguous to the land sold to him earlier by John Randon, so that by purchase, rental, and usurpation Gayle's land holdings grew. Later that month a major land act was passed by Congress which made Gayle's objective easier. "An act making further provision for the sale of public land," this act was in effect until the Civil War, and it was through this act that the United States sold the lands to which the half-blood Creeks of the Tensaw area had no legal title, even though they had cultivated it for years and in many cases claimed it under the Ft. Jackson treaty.



David B. Mitchell

In December of 1823 John Crowell, who had replaced David B. Mitchell as Special Agent for Indian Affairs for the Creek nation, took depositions from Lynn McGhee, Semoice, William Hollinger, and the heirs of Mary Dyer. This struggle for rightful claims under the Treaty of Ft. Jackson was a long and tedious one and did not end until the mid 1830s. In the meantime, the claims for losses and depredations committed by the hostile Creeks during the Red Stick War reached a conclusion on April 15, 1824. A House Resolution was passed to "inquire into the expediency" of paying the remainder of the claims. Mr. McLane of the Committee of Ways and Means reported that no more claims should be paid; that the \$85,000 appropriated in 1817 were sufficient.

On January 24, 1826 a treaty was made between the Creeks and the United States in which the Creeks ceded all their remaining lands in Georgia. The last and most devastating of the Creek land cessions occurred on March 24, 1832. This treaty ceded to the United States all Creek lands east of the Mississippi River except for individual sections. According to the provisions of the Treaty, 90 principal chiefs were to have a section of land each, and every head of family a half section. At the end of five years each Creek Indian would be given a deed to his land if he hadn't sold it. Twenty sections of land were to be selected and set aside for orphaned children and a census was to be taken.

Work on the Creek census began in late 1832. In May of 1833 the completed census was published and showed a total of 14,142 members of the Upper towns in the Creek nation with an additional 445 black slaves. Among this number were approximately 30 members of the half-blood

Creek community in the Tensaw region who had returned to the towns to which they felt linked in hopes of obtaining a half section of land from the government. Among those who returned to the towns of their parents, their siblings, or their spouses were McGillivrays, Cornells, Tarvins, Walkers, Elliots, Hales, Weatherfords, Stiggins', Moniacs, McGirths, Sizemores, and Durants. The fact of their being included in the census also shows a strong identification with Creeks; an identification which was passed to their immediate progeny and continued throughout the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century to the present. Others, like the McGhees, Tates, and Hollingers were conspicuous by their absence, but this may be explained by a letter written September 17, 1834 by five Creek Chiefs to the Secretary of War claiming that many were not counted in the census due to their being out hunting or their being absent for other reasons.

In the meantime, there was trouble in Creek country. It did not go unnoticed by greedy whites that potential profit was to be had in land speculations with thousands of non-literate Creek Indians gaining title to sections and half sections of prime Alabama farm land. Throughout the entire period from 1832 to 1837 an endless repertoire of frauds and tricks were used by whites and certain of their Creek conspirators to steal land from the Indians. The history of these speculations is told in two works by Mary E. Young: *Redskins, Ruffleshirts and Rednecks: Indian Allotments in Alabama and Mississippi* and "*The Creek Frauds: A Study in Conscience and Corruption*" in the *Journal of American History*. Other less sophisticated whites took another approach to the Indian lands, they simply moved in and took over without any regard for the Creek owner's title.

In early 1837, all the good land along the Alabama River in the Tensaw region had long been bought and little or no land of value was available as an entire section. The relief, therefore, was to be allowed to choose land in parcels, legal subdivisions, which cumulatively amounted to 640 acres. On January 12, 1837 Mr. Linn of the Committee on Private Land Claims reported on Samuel Smith and Others stating the essence of the problem and suggested a bill be enacted to rectify the situation. Congress then passed such a bill for the relief of Samuel Smith, Lynn McGhee, and Semoice, Creek Indians and later passed another bill for the relief of Susan Marlow. It was under this final amendment that Smith, McGhee, Semoice, and Marlow first chose lands in and around what is today the community of Poarch.





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## Buy the new album from Medicine Tail!

*Recorded live at the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Poarch Creek Powwow*



The Medicine Tail Singers are proud to bring you their 4<sup>th</sup> album entitled: **"Family"!**

Recorded live at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving powwow, Family features 13 original brand new tracks from the Medicine Tail Singers. Pop this CD in and find yourself right in the middle of the powwow! Come support your hometown drum group! MVTO!

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[www.cdbaby.com/cd/medicinetail2](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/medicinetail2)  
 Or call (850) 582-9844

**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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# January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 <i>Tribal Court</i> Tribal Court Room 9:00 a.m. <i>CMCMA Meeting</i> Welcome Center/Museum 4:00 p.m.	4 <i>Weight Watchers</i> Gym 5:00 p.m. <i>NA Meeting</i> Turning Point 7:00 p.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.	5 <i>Housing Authority</i> Meeting Building 400 Conference Room 3:00 p.m.	6 <i>Tribal Council Meeting</i> Council Chambers 4:00 p.m.	7 <i>CIEDA Meeting</i> CIEDA Office 8:00 a.m.  Deadline to submit nomination for Athlete of the Year	8
9 <i>Monday</i> January 10, 2011 Deadline to submit information for publication in February Issue of Newsletter	10 <i>Wellness &amp; Activities</i> Authority Meeting Gym 4:00 p.m.  <i>4-H Meeting</i> Education Department 6:00 p.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.	11 <i>Weight Watchers</i> Gym 5:00 p.m. <i>TERO Meeting</i> 3:00 p.m. TERO Conf. Room <i>NA Meeting</i> Turning Point 7:00 p.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m./6:30 & 7:30 p.m.	12	13	14 <i>Alcohol License</i> Hearing For all sites 4:00 p.m. <i>Tribal Council</i> Chambers	15
16	17 <i>Tribal Court</i> Tribal Court Room 9:00 a.m.  <i>CMCMA Meeting</i> Welcome Center/ Museum 4:00 p.m.  Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.	18 <i>Weight Watchers</i> Gym 5:00 p.m. <i>NA Meeting</i> Turning Point 7:00 p.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.	19 <i>Housing Authority</i> Meeting Building 400 Conference Room 3:00 p.m.	20 <i>Tribal Council Meeting</i> Council Chambers 4:00 p.m.  Deadline to RSVP To Attend Sports Banquet	21 <i>CIEDA Meeting</i> CIEDA Office 8:00 a.m.	22
23	24 <i>Wellness &amp; Activities</i> Authority Meeting Gym 4:00 p.m.  <i>4-H Club Meeting</i> Education Department 6:00 p.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.	25 <i>Weight Watchers</i> Gym 5:00 p.m. <i>TERO Meeting</i> 3:00 p.m. TERO Conf. Room  <i>NA Meeting</i> Turning Point 7:00 p.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.	26	27 <i>General Council Voice</i> Meeting 5:30 p.m. <i>Family Services</i> Auditorium	28 <i>Sports Banquet</i> Wind Creek Casino Ballroom 6:30 pm.	29
30	31	The theme for this year's Christmas parade was "Christmas on the Farm" with each float being a different farm animal. As usual, the competition was very stiff. Gaming Administration placed first with "Turkey"; Public Works placed second with "Pig" and Family Services placed third with "Cow" Wendy Davis of Housing is shown in her "Horse" costume. The Christmas parade is always a lot of fun!! If you missed this year's parade, we hope you make it next year's parade.				

## Newsletter Contact Information

Poarch Creek News

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