

March 2011

Poarch Creek News

Keeping the family and friends of Poarch Informed



*Tribe participates in Governor Bentley's
Inaugural Parade*

VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 3

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Tribal Council Page

Chairman's Corner

March 2011



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

My goodness but time does fly! It seems like I just sat down with Gayle to do the February Chairman's Corner and here it is time to do another one. I'm sure time has flown by just as fast for you.

The month of February was a busy month for the Tribal Council. As referenced in last month's article, the Tribal Council and other Tribal representatives attended Impact Week in Washington DC the week of February 7th. It was a very good week for us; we were able to meet with all of our Congressional representatives, those in the House as well as the Senate. This new Congress is facing many challenges, and after our meetings we feel confident that the concerns of the Tribe and Indian Country will be among the top of their priorities.

At the State of the Tribe meeting in November we stated that we would hold the next State of the Tribe meeting in March so that we could include all 2010 financial information. We are working diligently on this project but we have not set a date yet; we will keep you updated so that you can plan to attend.



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Robert McGhee
Treasurer
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David W. Gehman
Secretary
dgehman@pci-nsn.gov

The annual Legislative Reception in Montgomery has been scheduled for March 29, 2011. This is a venue in which the Tribal Council and other Tribal dignitaries can meet with our state legislators and keep the Tribe's issues among their top priorities as well as those who serve on the national level.

Last, but certainly not least, the Tribal Council is proud to announce that the Wind Creek Casino and Hotel is now debt free. PCI Gaming is planning a Mortgage Burning Ceremony on March 18, 2011 so watch your mailbox for more information and invitations. This is a major milestone for the Tribe and we are happy to share this with our fellow Tribal Members.



Keith Martin
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kmartin@pci-nsn.gov



Arthur Mothershed
Council Member
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Berry Ross
Council Member
bross@pci-nsn.gov

Contact Information For Vice Chair Has Changed

In a move to better communicate and work with Tribal Members and other Tribal representatives, Tribal Council Vice Chair Stephanie Bryan has relocated her office to Building 400 located on the Tribal Administrative Complex at 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL.

She can now be reached at (251) 368-9136 x 2204 or via e-mail at sbryan@pci-nsn.gov.



Garvis Sells
Council Member
gsells@pci-nsn.gov



Eddie L. Tullis
Council Member
etullis@pci-nsn.gov



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 are limited to Tribal Members, spouses, first generation descent, and those living in the Tribal Member's immediate household. These requirements apply to Birth and Wedding announcements as well. 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.

PCI Diabetes Education Program Receives ADA Recognition

Submitted by Kay Thomas, Health Educator

The diabetes self-management education program at the PCI Health Department has been awarded Recognition status from the American Diabetes Association (ADA). This program offers high-quality education services to the patients it serves.

The ADA Education Recognition effort, which began in the fall of 1986, is a voluntary process which assures that approved education programs have met the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education Programs. Programs that achieve Recognition status have a staff of knowledgeable health professionals who can provide state of the art information about diabetes management for participants.

Self Management education is an essential component of diabetes treatment. One benefit of compliance with the National Standards is the greater consistency in the quality and quantity of education offered to people with diabetes. The participant in an ADA Recognized program will be taught, as needed, self care skills that will promote better management of his or her diabetes treatment regimen. All approved education programs cover the following topics as needed: diabetes disease process; nutritional management; physical activity; medications; monitoring; preventing, detecting and treating acute complication; preventing, detecting, and treating chronic complication through risk reduction; goal setting and problem solving; psychological adjustment; and preconception care, management during pregnancy and gestational management.

Assuring high quality education for patient self care is one of the primary goals of the Education Recognition program. Through the support of the health care team and increased knowledge and awareness of diabetes, the patient can assume a major part of the responsibility for his/her diabetes management. Unnecessary hospital admissions and some of the acute and chronic complications of diabetes may be prevented through self management education.

“The process gives professionals a national standard by which to measure the quality of the services they provide”, commented Donna Johnson, Diabetes Case Manager. “And of course, it helps patients to identify these quality programs.”

For more information, contact Kay Thomas or Donna Johnson at the PCI Health Department.

Criteria Established For Birthday Wishes

Due to the ever increasing number of birthday wishes submitted, birthday wishes are limited to Tribal Members, spouses, first generation descendent, and those living in the Tribal Member's immediate household. This criteria applies to anniversary wishes and birth and wedding announcements as well.

All submissions must be submitted in writing. Birthday wishes should be limited to no more than four (4) sentences.

For verification purposes, the submission must include the Tribal Member's roll number or Tribal affiliation in the case of Tribal Member spouse, first generation descent, or those living in the Tribal Member's immediate household.



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

All individuals who have served on the Tribal Council for a period of two terms or more are entitled to a monthly honorarium for their services.

Tribal Council records document those who have served since federal recognition. The Tribal Council is asking Tribal Members to submit the name(s) of any individual 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 for two terms or more, please contact Kelli Ramer, Tribal Council Liaison at (251) 446-1140.

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CERVICAL CANCER

What is it? Who gets it? What can I do about it?

Submitted by Shyrell Gehman

Cervical cancer is an out of control growth of abnormal tissue cells of the cervix. Although all women are at risk, it is more common in women over 30. Each year approximately 12,000 women in the U.S. are diagnosed with cervical cancer. From 1998 to 2007, 10 cases from Escambia County, Alabama were reported to the Alabama Cancer Registry.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is the most common cause of cervical cancer. It is a virus that is transmitted during sex. There may not be symptoms until the advanced stages of the cancer. A Pap test can identify cervical cancer early if done on a regular basis. An HPV test can be done at the time of the pap if you are at risk or suspect something is wrong. Women should begin yearly pap tests at age 21 or when they become sexually active. Start the habit at an early age and it will stick with you for a lifetime.

Women who begin having sex at an early age and have many partners place themselves at greater risk of cervical cancer. Abstinence is the only sure way to protect you from cervical cancer caused by HPV; but there are some things that will lower your risk or make early diagnosis easier. If you choose otherwise, practice these tips:

1. Always use condoms
2. Limit number of partners
3. Get yearly pap tests
4. Do not smoke

There is an HPV vaccine available now to girls and women age 11-26. Contact Sandra Day, Community Health Nurse, at (251) 368-9136 x 2315 for more information or to schedule an appointment for the vaccine shot. Shots can be given by or through most state health departments, if you are not eligible for tribal care.

For more information on Cervical Cancer and HPV, you can contact any of the organizations below:

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
1-800-CDC-INFO or www.cdc.gov/cancer

National Cancer Institute (NCI)
1-800-4cancer or www.cancer.gov

WebMD www.WebMD.com

Celebrating Birthdays

Jacob McGhee

Jacob McGhee, son of Johnny and Sandy McGhee, celebrated his birthday on February 4, 2011. Happy belated birthday; best wishes from your Mom, Dad, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Shelia Odom

Sheila Odom celebrated her birthday on February 9, 2011. Happy belated birthday Sheila, we love you! From the staff of the Health Department.

Natalie Nicole Rolin

Natalie Nicole Rolin celebrated her 26th birthday on February 20, 2011. Natalie is the daughter of Don Wayne and Helen Rolin. We hope you had a happy birthday.



We love you! Mama & Daddy.

Mallory Hannah Kinsey

Mallory Kinsey celebrated her 15th birthday on February 24, 2011. Happy belated birthday Mallory! We love you and miss you so very much!

Love always, Dad & Sarah.

Douglas Mitchell

Douglas Mitchell celebrated his birthday February 25, 2011.

Happy belated birthday, we love you! Mama Jean & Elizabeth



Regina Brown

Regina Brown celebrated her birthday on February 26, 2011. Happy belated birthday, we love you! Mama & family.

Cruz McGhee



Cruz McGhee will celebrate his birthday on March 1, 2011. Happy birthday Cruz, We love you! Mom, Dad, and Nana Bug.

Joan Gibson

Joan Gibson will celebrate her birthday on March 3, 2011. Happy birthday Joan, we love you! You family.

Cole Whatley



Cole Whatley celebrates his 17th birthday on March 1, 2011. Cole is the son of Stephanie Ledkins and the late William Whatley and the grandson of Kathy and Joe Ledkins. You are a blessing from God!!

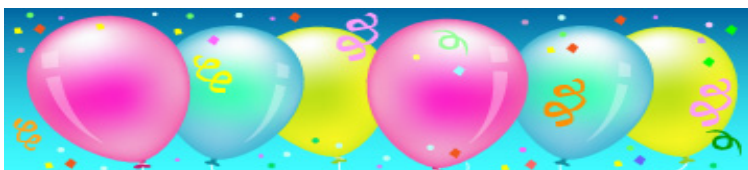
Happy birthday, we love you! Mom, Doug, Cierra, Nevaeh, Nana, Paw Paw and the rest of the family!!

Coty Rolin



Coty Rolin will celebrate his 21st Birthday March 2, 2011. We are so grateful that God blessed us with such a wonderful son. Thank you for all you've done, we love you. Happy Birthday! Love, Mom, Dad & Grandparents

I have a special place in my heart just for people who are too wonderful to forget. You're one of them. Happy Birthday! With Love, Brooke Hope you have a Happy 21st Birthday! Love, The Bell Family



Cierra McGhee

Cierra McGhee celebrates her 12th birthday on March 16, 2011. Cierra is the daughter of Stephanie Ledkins and the late Tribal Chairman Fred Lee McGhee. She is the granddaughter of Kathy and Joe Ledkins and the late Levi and Treacy McGhee.



God has blessed us with you for another year. Happy birthday, we love you very much! Mom, Doug, Cole, Nevaeh, Nana, Paw Paw and the rest of the family!!

Laurie Alison Jarman

We speak with forked-tongue
to girl with Chap-Stick.
Many words will be sung
for the Birthday Indian chick!

The White Woman does tell
that "you were no trouble",
and your Creek sisters yell
"HA! That's just rubble!"

Our ancestors live long,
for you that is great.
Cuz it means you'll be strong
Way past forty-eight!

You are part of the framework
of a family bond so close
Your birthday is just a perk
to a love that's grandiose!

Happy birthday March 18, 2011!
Mom, Leeann and Shelby.



April Sells

April Sells, daughter of Garvis and Catherine Sells, will celebrate her birthday on March 19, 2011.

Happy birthday from Julia "Tootie" and all her friends.



Troy McGhee

Troy McGhee will celebrate his birthday on March 21, 2011.

Happy birthday! We love you! T.J., Gage, Ian, Mom and Dad.



Zachery McGhee

Zachery McGhee, son of Johnny and Sandy McGhee, will celebrate his birthday on March 24, 2011. Happy birthday; best wishes from your Mom, Dad, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Taylor McGillivray



Taylor McGillivray daughter of Robert and Chasity McGillivray will celebrate her 13th birthday on March 26th. Taylor is a 7th grader at Grand Valley Middle School in Parachute, Colorado. She is the granddaughter of Bennie and Carolyn Presley of McCullough, Alabama and Mary and the late William McGillivray of Chapin, South Carolina. Taylor will celebrate her birthday with bowling, dinner and a movie with family and friends. Happy birthday Taylor! We love you Mom, Dad and Will.

Fields McGhee

Fields McGhee, will celebrate his 72nd birthday on March 30, 2011. Happy birthday Fields!!

Mortgage Burning Ceremony
Wind Creek is Paid OFF
Come help us celebrate!
March 18, 2011
Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m.
Food will be served
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mortgage Burning at 6:30 p.m.
followed by special concert
by Miss Patti LaBelle
Watch your mailbox for your
invitation and admission passes!

Birth Announcements

Tenleigh Brooke Peebles

Mallory Martin and Lawrence (Bunk) Peebles would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Tenleigh Brooke Peebles. Tenleigh was born on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 8:21 p.m. At birth she was 7 lbs., 1oz., and was 20 inches long. Tenleigh has two older brothers, Josh and Colton Peebles.



Maternal grandparents are Phillip Martin and Pam Coker Martin of Atmore; paternal grandparents are Lester and Sharon Peebles of Lottie, AL.

Tenleigh was welcomed home by many friends and family.

Myra Katherine Odom



Chad and Leslie Odom of Poarch happily announce the birth of their daughter, Myra Katherine Odom, on Tuesday, January 18, 2011. At birth Myra Katherine weighed 6 lbs. 7 ozs. and was 19 inches long.

Myra Katherine is the granddaughter of Jackey and Sheila Odom and Ann Stallworth, all of Atmore, AL. She is the great granddaughter of Jim and Jeanette Odom of Bay Minette, AL and Robert and Gwen Brantley of Atmore, AL.

She is welcomed home by her very proud and happy big sister Lea Odom and a great many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Art by Cher

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- *Portraits
- *Oil
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Cher Christensen
(505) 296-7723

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Creek Shell Carving Class

March 28 - April 1, 2011



Even before European arrival to North America, Southeastern Indians were creating works of art carving unique designs and stories into saltwater and freshwater shells. Instructor Dan Townsend, world-renowned Creek-Cherokee Artist and Instructor, will lead us in reclaiming another lost art of our ancestors.

All Tribal Members, 1st Generation Descendants, and Tribal Administrative Employees are welcome.

To help offset the cost of equipment and supplies needed, there will be a non-refundable, \$ 40.00 fee for the class. Payments are due Wednesday, March 23rd. Only 20 slots are available, registration will be a first-come, first-basis.
YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS!



To sign up, or for more info, contact:
Alex Alvarez, Cultural Educator
(251) 368-9136 ext 2655
Email: aalvarez@pci-nsn.gov



Andrea Loves Color



Andrea McGhee-Bowen
andrealovescolor.etsy.com

Education News & Updates

Tuition Assistance Program Success Story

Submitted by Wes Woodruff

Tribal Member Westly Lamar Woodruff, "Wes", is a participant of the Tullis/McGhee Tuition Assistance Program. He is a recent graduate of Snead State Community College and has been named to "Who's Who Among Students In American College and Universities."



Wes Woodruff

He graduated from Snead with a 3.53 GPA and an Associate's Degree in Human Resources. He is currently enrolled as a student at Athens State University College of Business working towards his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management.

Wes states *"It is with great honor that I have been given the opportunity to be a steward as a member of PBCI while at Snead State. It is imperative that "we" as Tribal Members educate ourselves to be socially/economically productive in our society. Both globally and nationally, there is a certain stigma associated with Native Americans that unfortunately, encompasses poverty, lack of education, abuse, and social deprivation. It is up to "us" as Tribal Members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians to preserve the enriched traditional spirit of our heritage, and in the same process, educate society in the powerful vision of betterment for our people."*

Wes is the son of Darlene Walker Hitchcock, the grandson of the late Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Walker, and the great grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Fred Walker.

4-H Day at Auburn

Submitted by Christyn Sells

On January 30, 2011 the Poarch Creek 4-H Club attended 4-H Day at Auburn University; as part of the day's events, participants were part of the audience at the Auburn vs. South Carolina Women's Basketball Game in Auburn's new Basketball Arena. The game was very close, but Auburn was victorious in the end! After the game, the students got to meet with the players and coaches and got autographs and pictures!

As you can tell, 4-H Club members have a lot of fun, if you would like to be part of the 4-H experience, join us on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month! Come prepared for fun and excitement and to learn something new.



4-H Club members have fun at Auburn! Back row l-r are Caitlyn Barnhill, Cheyenne McGee, Breanna Hall, Alex Ross, and Hailey Clark, Middle row l-r are Adam Barnhill, Hailey Lewis, and Sara Milliken. Front row l-r are Jude Parham and Charleigh Parham.

College Fair March 15, 2011 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Tribal Courtroom
Representatives from area colleges will be in attendance

Thanks For Care Package

In the October 2010 issue of the *Poarch Creek News* we published the article "Cupcakes for Soldiers" which told the story of five young men who participated in the Summer Youth Career Academy and created the project "Cupcakes For Soldiers" to raise funds to buy items for Tribal Members or Tribal First Generation descendants who are stationed in Afghanistan. Additional funding was secured for this project and the care packages were mailed in January of this year. Below you will find the response from one of the soldiers who received a care package.

Thanks very much, for the care package sent me on Jan. 20 to Herat Afghanistan, and please thank all who assisted in rounding up the items. I received it today to my surprise. It means a lot to get mail from back home. Everything will be put to good use. I'm very proud and honored that our Tribe helps out so much. When I look at the newsletter, I get to enjoy numerous stories of the Tribe's support. Thank you!

Very Thankful Randy McClellan, DCMA QAR FOB Stone, Afghanistan

Wellness & Activities Department

Memorial Bricks & Tiles

The Wellness & Activities Department is selling Memorial Bricks and Tiles April 1st through April 29, 2011. Memorial Bricks and Tiles will be placed at the Wellness & Activities Arrowhead Park. For more information, contact Trina Rackard or Brooke Bell at 251-368-9136 ext. 2248 or by email at trackard@pci-nsn.gov or bbell@pci-nsn.gov.

Engraved Brick Sizes	Engraving	Price
8" by 4" Brick clay or concrete	1-3 lines of engraving (18 to 20 spaces/lines)	\$22.00
8" by 8" Brick clay or concrete	1-6 lines of engraving (18 to 20 spaces/lines)	\$31.00
9" by 6" Brick clay or concrete	1-3 lines of engraving (18 to 20 spaces/lines)	\$31.00
12" by 12" Brick clay or concrete	1-8 lines of engraving (18 to 20 spaces/lines)	\$52.00
Adding a Clipart Symbol	Unit (1 per symbol)	\$6.00



Tribal Member Demographics

I am always open to suggestions for information that you would like to see published in the newsletter, I recently got an email from a Tribal Member who lives in North Carolina. She stated that she often wonders if there are any other Tribal Members living in North Carolina. Well, to answer that question, there are 32 Tribal Members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians living in North Carolina. Listed below is a breakdown provided by the Tribal Member Benefits Department that shows how many Tribal Members live in each state of the United States; if a state is not listed, there are no Tribal Members on record as living in that state.

AE*	1	Massachusetts	1
Alaska	1	Maryland	4
Alabama	1718	Michigan	24
AP*	1	Minnesota	8
Arkansas	10	Missouri	13
Arizona	8	Mississippi	53
California	48	Montana	1
Colorado	8	North Carolina	32
Connecticut	5	Nebraska	3
DC	1	New Jersey	3
Florida	625	New Mexico	2
Georgia	101	Nevada	4
Germany*	1	New York	2
Hawaii	1	Ohio	10
Iowa	4	Oklahoma	12
Idaho	6	Oregon	3
Illinois	20	Pennsylvania	2
Indiana	26	Philippines*	1
Kansas	3	South Carolina	14
Kentucky	7	South Dakota	1
Louisiana	68	Tennessee	36
		Texas	110
		Utah	3
		Virginia	3
		Washington	13
		Wisconsin	15
		West Virginia	1
		Wyoming	1

* Indicates military locations for those serving outside the United States

Local Band Students Give Outstanding Performances in Southeast U.S. Honor Bands

Submitted by David Gehman

Two Tribal students were honored by the S.E.U.S. (Southeast U.S.) Honor Bands and Troy University, Saturday evening February 5, 2011. S.E.U.S. recognizes outstanding high school band students from Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. Kristen Anne Gehman, a Senior at Escambia County High School, and Connie Colbert, a Senior at Escambia Academy, were chosen to participate in the three day event hosted by the Music Department of Troy University.

Each student participating must audition for placement in one of three bands, the Gold, Silver or Cardinal Band. Kristen plays clarinet and achieved the Principal (1st Chair) position in the Cardinal Band. Connie plays flute and achieved the fourteenth seat in the Gold Band. The audition included playing scales by memory, playing a prepared selection of music as well as sight reading and playing an unknown musical selection. The girls also played for a chance to receive a scholarship from Troy University; both girls were awarded scholarship offers from Troy University.

Congratulations to both Connie and Kristen...job well done!



Connie Colbert (l) and Kristen Gehman (r) proudly display their scholarship award letters from Troy University

Goodwill Easter Seals' Free Tax Preparation Services

***Thursday & Friday by Appointment (251) 867-2295
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Please call to schedule an appointment. Taxpayer must present a photo I.D. and Social Security cards for everyone on the return.

Tribe Participates In Governor's Inaugural Parade

Republican Robert Bentley was sworn in as the 53rd Governor of Alabama at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 17, 2011. Prior to the swearing in ceremonies, the governor elect was honored with an inaugural parade up Dexter Avenue. The parade was made up of over 90 participants, which included elected officials, local dignitaries, marching bands, beauty queens, FFA & 4H, and the Poarch Creek Indians.

Tribal representatives rode a colorful float designed by Shaw Parades of Swanton, MD., a family owned company that constructs and customizes unique floats. The float featured the phrase "Alabama Natives, Alabama Neighbors" with a larger than life rendering of Chief Calvin McGhee in his infamous war bonnet.

After the parade the float was dismantled by staff from Shaw Parades and returned to Maryland.

Connie Colbert, Senior Princess, Megan Flurnoy, Junior Princess, and Cortney Morris, Miss Indian Alabama, rode the float along with Amber Smith, Tawana Parham, Melissa Baggett, Kendal Reed, Douglas Daughtry, and Tribal Council Treasurer Robert McGhee.

The Tribe looks forward to working with Governor Bentley on issues facing the Tribe as well as issues facing Native Americans throughout the state of Alabama. This is a new page in history, a page yet to be written. It is the hope of the Tribe that this page will be filled with joint efforts that result in great works between the State and the Tribe.



Montgomery & Rolin Named Athletes Of The Year



Robert McGhee, at podium, introduces Athletes of the Year Shawna Montgomery and Marshall Rolin

Shawna Montgomery, the 17 year old daughter of Michael and Amanda Montgomery and Carla and Andy Hammonds, was selected as the Female Athlete of the Year by the Wellness & Activities Authority.

Shawna is a Senior at Northview High School in Walnut Hill, FL and maintains a 3.7 GPA. Shawna is the 2010-2011 President of the Student Government Association (SGA), President of the Spanish Club, and was voted as "Most Athletic" by her Senior Classmates.

Shawna lettered in Volleyball where she was a varsity starter all four years of high school. She is a three time winner of the Effort Award and a one time winner of the Offensive and Defensive Player Awards. She was chosen by the Pensacola News Journal as one of the Top Five Players to Watch in 2010 and was selected to play in the all Senior Northwest Florida Volleyball All-Star Game. Shawna also lettered in Softball where she was a four year varsity starter. She was ranked in the Top Three Highest Batting Average in the Florida Panhandle for 2009. She is a two time winner of Season MVP, a two time team leader in highest batting average and most number of triples and doubles.

I am a student first, then an athlete. Being a student athlete has taught me teamwork, competitiveness, and a good work ethic. All of which are necessary to succeed in life whether in a classroom, or in a profession.

Shawna Montgomery

Marshall Rolin, the 18 year old son of Melvin and Marty Rolin, was selected as the Male Athlete of the Year by the Wellness & Activities Authority. Marshall is a Senior at Escambia County High School in Atmore, AL and maintains a 3.5 GPA; Marshall is also a member of the National Honor Society.

Marshall has played on the Tribe's PeeWee Football team for one year and the Tribe's NAYO Baseball team for eight years. During his time at Escambia County High School he has played baseball and football for four years and has played on the basketball team for one year.

I am thankful for the God given talents I have, on and off the field. I am keeping my grades up so that I can attend college to finish my education.

Marshall Rolin

The announcement of the Athlete of the Year Award at the Sports Banquet was the culmination of the night's events. The event was held at Wind Creek Casino & Hotel and kudos go out to the management and staff for a job well done, from the decorations, the table settings, to the food, everything was excellent. Members of the Tribe's NAYO teams and other local high school athletes were recognized as part of the night's agenda. D.D. Lewis, former player from Mississippi State and the Dallas Cowboys, was the guest speaker. Mr. Lewis

was a very delightful speaker and had many words of encouragement for the youth of today, those who participate in athletics and those who do not. "You cannot do it alone," he said; "you must have support. If you see someone who is struggling with life, put your arm around them and give them support. I would not be who I am today if someone had not taken the time to show me that I mattered not just once, but several times throughout my life."



Guest Speaker D.D. Lewis, left, who played with Mississippi State and the Dallas Cowboys, is shown with Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin.

TRIBAL MEMBER DESCENDENT AMONGST TOP 5 FASTEST TEXTERS IN THE WORLD

**Update to the article in the November 2010, PCI Newsletter
entitled "Who Would Have Thought".*

Submitted by Rose Conlon

First-Generation Poarch Creek Indian Angel Rose Conlon, with teammate Brianna Hendrickson, represented the USA on January 26, 2011, in the LG Text Mobile World Cup Championship held at the legendary Gotham Hall in New York City.

Teams of two, from 13 countries, came together to compete for the ultimate prize of \$100,000. Angel and her teammate made it to the final rounds of the World Championship earning the USA fifth place honors out of the 13 countries; leaving the title of Champion for two sisters from Panama, ages 15 and 20.

During the competition, Angel used the numeric keypad, while her teammate used the QWERTY keypad. The numeric keypad requires more strokes per letter than a QWERTY keypad which resembles a standard computer keyboard.

Other teams came from Korea, Australia, South Africa, Brazil, Indonesia, Portugal, Guatemala, Indonesia, Morocco, Thailand, Argentina, and Chile. According to other contestants, the USA was feared as one of the most powerful competitors along with last year's champion, Korea.

Texters in the championship ranged from ages 13 to 26. Each team was allowed to text in their own native language. Also, a special software program and game was written for the competition so that each contestant would have the same amount of keystrokes, regardless of language, for their particular phone.

History was made during the competition by a 14 year-old boy from Australia, when a new record was set for the fastest texter in the world, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. He completed a paragraph consisting of 264 characters in one minute and seventeen seconds!

"I really believe the USA could've won this one, or had a better chance of winning, if it hadn't been for the fact that Angel had been sick in bed for the entire week prior to the competition!" stated Angel's mom Rose. "Her first day out of bed was the day we left Orlando heading for the blizzard in New York City. She had been more ill than any other time previously that I can remember!"

"All in all, it was a wonderful experience and I have made

new friends from all over the world - not to mention the 'all expenses paid' trip, a first class hotel room, in the heart of Times Square, and appearing on The Today Show!" Angel commented. "In addition, LG was very generous and gracious to me during my entire trip."

In the previous 12 months prior to the world competition, over 6 million people from 16 different countries, participated in national competitions in response to over 1,200 articles published globally looking for "the 26 fastest texters on the planet". Angel grasped the opportunity, competed, and ultimately won one of the top two spots eligible to represent the USA in the LG TEXT MOBILE WORLD CUP.

So, all you speed texters out there..... get ready for the 2012 competitions that will be starting very soon. For more information go to www.lgmobileworldcup.com.



Angel Conlon (l) on the Today Show with Hoda (r).

Board/Committee Vacancies

The Tribal Council is currently accepting applications for vacancies on the following boards/committees:

Investment Committee	1 position
Ethics Board	1 Alternate position

Applications are available from the Chairman's Office and online at www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov.

Applications will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 1, 2011 until 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, 2011.

Let Color Be Your Guide to Nutritious Meals and Eat Right with Color During National Nutrition Month

While the trees may be bare in March, there are still plenty of colorful and nutritious foods to fill your plate. During the 2011 National Nutrition Month®, the American Dietetic Association encourages everyone to add color and nutrients to your meals through this year's theme: ***"Eat Right with Color."***

"Adding a splash of colorful seasonal foods to your plate makes for more than just a festive meal. A rainbow of foods creates a palette of nutrients, each with a different bundle of potential benefits for a healthful eating plan," says registered dietitian and ADA Spokesperson Karen Ansel. "Healthy eating includes more than counting calories alone. In fact, most children don't get enough of all the essential nutrients critical to normal growth and development," says Ansel. "Food variety supplies different nutrients, so to maximize the nutritional value of your meal, include healthful choices in a variety of colors."

Ansel offers ways to brighten up your plate in every season with this quick color guide.

Green produce indicates antioxidant potential and may help promote healthy vision and reduce cancer risks.

- Fruits: avocado, apples, grapes, honeydew, kiwi and lime
- Vegetables: artichoke, asparagus, broccoli, green beans, green peppers and leafy greens such as spinach

Orange and deep yellow fruits and vegetables contain nutrients that promote healthy vision and immunity, and reduce the risk of some cancers.

- Fruits: apricot, cantaloupe, grapefruit, mango, papaya, peach and pineapple
- Vegetables: carrots, yellow pepper, yellow corn and sweet potatoes

Purple and blue options may have antioxidant and anti-aging benefits and may help with memory, urinary tract health and reduced cancer risks.

- Fruits: blackberries, blueberries, plums, raisins
- Vegetables: eggplant, purple cabbage, purple-fleshed potato

Red indicates produce that may help maintain a healthy heart, vision, immunity and may reduce cancer risks.

- Fruits: cherries, cranberries, pomegranate, red/pink grape fruit, red grapes and watermelon
- Vegetables: beets, red onions, red peppers, red potatoes, rhubarb and tomatoes

White, tan and brown foods sometimes contain nutrients that may promote heart health and reduce cancer risks.

- Fruits: banana, brown pear, dates and white peaches
- Vegetables: cauliflower, mushrooms, onions, parsnips, turnips, white-fleshed potato and white corn

Ansel recommends choosing a variety of colors when shopping for seasonal fruits and vegetables. "And for additional options in the color palette, choose frozen or dried fruits and vegetables available throughout the year," she says.

"Instead of grilled chicken and mashed potatoes, consider painting a more colorful plate, such as grilled chicken topped with salsa, mashed sweet potato, asparagus and spinach salad with orange slices. A colorful meal is not only visually appealing, but it also contains a variety of nutrients and is quite flavorful," Ansel says.



Ryan O'Malley, Allison MacMunn
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Blanket Give-A-Way

During February and March 2011, fleece blankets will be issued to approved LIHEAP households! Households eligible to receive the 2011 Winter LIHEAP assistance program will also be eligible to receive one 80"x90" fleece blanket per household. A voucher will be given for the blanket when the household receives their award notice for the LIHEAP program. The household will need to bring their blanket voucher to the Family Services Department Resource Auditorium to pick up their blanket. There is a limited supply of 277 blankets, therefore the blankets will be issued on a first come, first served basis for as long as the supply lasts.

Carolyn M. White, LCSW
Family Services Director

Public Notice

This article provides public notice to all Tribal Members that the following grants will be available for review and discussion during office hours at the Family Services Department, Building 500, during the week of May 23 -27, 2011.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Grant (LIHEAP)

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

A public hearing is scheduled for June 4, 2011 on Tribal Election Day. Please drop by the Family Services Department's booth, which will be located in the Poarch Creek Indians Gymnasium. Staff will be available to record your comments in response to the grant applications and proposed services.

Carolyn M. White, LCSW
Family Services Director

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR TRIBAL MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS

RELOCATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI, AND VA ASSISTANCE FROM THE FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO THE PCI HEALTH DEPARTMENT

To help meet the financial needs of Tribal Member families, the Family Services Department provided assistance to Tribal Members applying for financial benefits or help with the appeal process regarding SSA, SSI, and VA disability issues over the past 3 years as a part of the development of the Adult Services Program. During this time staff was able to assist 86 Tribal Members with various Social Security, SSI and VA issues ranging from applying for assistance, appeals, hearings, name changes, and acting on behalf of the Tribal Member as a designated representative. Of the 86 cases, we were able to help at least 28 Tribal Members with obtaining social security benefits. We have been very fortunate to have had this opportunity to assist our Tribal Members in this area, however, effective January 1, 2011 Health Administration assumed responsibility for providing these services. Family Services has transferred all active and inactive files to Health Administration.

In the future, if you have questions about Social Security, SSI, or VA benefits; or need help to apply or work through the denial or appeal process, please contact Cindy Martin, Health Administration Administrative Assistant, at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2302 for assistance.

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.

Youth Council's Continued Efforts Result in Large Grant Award

Submitted by Alex Alvarez



Tribal Youth Council Members with Rivercane: left to right: CJ Linam-Green, Brad Rolin, Quentin Smedley, Winston Barron, Derrek Gibson, Haliey Clark, Hunter Clark, Marilee Bell, and Tori Gibson

In August 2009, The Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council planted a very important plant-Rivercane. Nearly 100 specimens donated by NRCS and the Jamie L Whitten Planting Materials Site were planted in the wetland area of the reservation. Now, a year and a half later, the tribal teens are working harder than ever to bring back a plant that was vital to our survival as Creek people. Understanding the importance of Rivercane culturally and environmentally, the tribe applied for service-based learning grant under "America's Youth Learn and Serve" to further the youth council's efforts to restore the plant. In September 2010, along with twenty other tribes from all across North America, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians received a two-year grant for the project totaling \$90,000, which includes tribal match.

This year, the youth council will be getting their hands dirty on numerous occasions-transplanting small cane patches and propagating new growth to what will become a large cane break. They will also be hosting events within their local schools as well as the tribe to present their work and educate others on the importance of Rivercane. In October of 2010, members of the youth council traveled to Coffeeville, Mississippi to collect another donation by the Jamie L Whitten Planting Materials Center as well as learned about careers in Agricultural Sciences. These plants were then transplanted to a secluded site within Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve and are doing great!

The youth council would like to show their gratitude to the following individuals for their assistance in obtaining this grant and believing in their cause: Denise Young, Kenny Shivers, the Jamie L Whitten Staff, Billy Smith, Barnie White, John English, Amber Smith, and David Elliot.

If you or someone you know would like to become a member of the Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council, please let us know! Must be at least 14 years of age, Tribal Member or 1st Generation Descent, and be enrolled in school. For more info, contact Alex Alvarez @ 251-368-9136 ext 2655 or email: aalvarez@pci-nsn.gov.

Powwow Club participates in Alabama-Coushatta Children's Powwow

Submitted by Alex Alvarez

On January 29th, 2011, members of the Poarch Creek Powwow Club visited the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation near Livingston, Texas for their 9th annual Children's powwow. The Alabama-Coushatta tribe, or Albamu-Koasati, were once residents from central Alabama and were a part of the original Creek confederacy. Fearing the expansion of settlers into their homelands, a portion of the Alabamas, and the Coushattas moved west to find a new, undisturbed home. The Coushattas of Louisiana settled in western Louisiana near present-day Kinder, and the Alabamas, along with a few Coushatta families settled in eastern Texas near present-day Livingston. Alabama, which also became the name for our state, means "This is where we will stay"; Coushatta comes from Koosa-ati or people from the Coosa River.

The powwow club enjoyed dancing, singing, and visiting with their relatives from long ago. The powwow committee selected powwow club members Lexi Daughtry and Chris Fay to serve as head junior dancers for the powwow. Winners from the powwow club were: Collin Martin, 3rd place in little boys 7-11 combined; Cortney Owens, 3rd place in Jr. Girls 12-15 combined; and Tom Rolin, 2nd place in Jr. Boys 12-15 combined. We would like to thank our wonderful bus driver, Felecia Waters, for getting us there and bringing us home safely! Thank you also to everyone who supports the powwow club fundraisers, your contributions make these trips happen. Mvto!



Cellular South Supports the Lifeline Assistance Program

Through the Federal Lifeline Assistance Program, Cellular South offers wireless phone services at a reduced rate to individuals living on tribal lands in Alabama who participate in one of the following programs:

- Medicaid/Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP)/Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- BIA General Assistance
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Head Start Programs (Under Income Qualifying Eligibility Provision Only)
- National School Lunch Program/Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Income at or below 135% of the federally Recognized Poverty Guidelines

Cellular South offers a monthly credit up to \$38.50 for wireless service through the Lifeline Assistance Program. For more information, visit cellularsouth.com, call 1-877-927-6884 or stop by a Cellular South location near you.

After contacting Cellular South you may contact the Family Services Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2600 if you need assistance with verification of benefits provided through the Tribe.

*Mobile Press Register February 4, 2011
Submitted by Arelene Mack*

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 for additional information.

Tribal Member Family Pass

Tribal Members are admitted free to Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve with proper identification, i.e. Tribal Member ID Card, Tribal Member Youth ID Card, or Tribal Member Family Pass. When presented at the front gate entrance a Family Pass allows a Tribal Member, a Tribal Member's spouse, and all children under the age of 18 who are living in the household, to enter the park free of charge. All applicable fees apply for all additional park amenities. Tribal Member families that had a Family Pass made last year will not be required to get a new pass this year unless there has been a change to the family makeup, i.e. divorce, marriage, birth of child, child reaching age 18, etc. or if they have lost their Pass. A maximum of two (2) Family Member passes will be issued per household per year.

Effective March 1, 2011, the Tribal Member Benefits Office will issue Family Passes on Fridays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Be sure to bring all required documentation to your appointment; Passes will not be issued without proper documentation. Documentation required includes Tribal ID, birth certificates for all children under the age of 18 living in the household, and marriage certificate, if applicable. Please contact the Tribal Member Benefits office at (251) 368-9136 X 2209 if you have any questions or to schedule your appointment.

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Farewell To Loved Ones

Mattie Andersen

Mrs. Mattie as she was known, was a member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Atmore, AL. Seventy-six years ago she became a charter member and founder of Greenwood Community Covenant Church, and most importantly, Mrs. Mattie was a child of God. She was loved by all to whom she came in contact with and will be greatly missed.



She is preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Andersen, Sr., her parents, Joe and Bettie McGhee Daughtry; her foster parents, Hattie and A.J. "Bud" Steadham; four brothers, Jack, Savannah, John, and Adam Daughtry; two sisters, Lola D. Presley and Mary Pickern, all of Atmore, AL and one great granddaughter, Brooke Lee Harris Buscaino.

She is survived by one daughter, Deloris Porter and her husband Darrell; two sons, Raymond "Jr" Andersen, Jr. and his wife Liz, and Arthur Andersen and his wife Pat; four granddaughters; one grandson; eleven great grandchildren; five great great grandchildren; and multitudes of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

The family would like to say "Thank You " to everyone for their thoughts and prayers during this time of loss.

In Loving Memory of Our Mother Ruthie Mae Caudle

February 20, 2011 will be a year when GOD called you home. Mom, not a day goes by when you are not in our thoughts and will forever be in our hearts. We love and miss you Mom today and forever.

Love Denise, Gil, Deborah, grandchildren, and sisters



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Correction

In the February 2011 issue of the *Poarch Creek News* we published the obituary of Toney Ray Gibson Sr., who passed away on December 23, 2010. In error we listed his children incorrectly and omitted the name of his son Christian Gibson.

The children of the late Toney Ray Gibson, Sr. are Gavin Bourgeois, Antonio Walls, Toney Ray Gibson, Jr., Daniel James Otis Gibson, Christian Gibson, Toni Marie Gibson and Makala Perry.

We apologize to the family for any confusion this omission may have caused.

***"One does not sell the land
people walk on." ...***

Crazy Horse, Sept. 23, 1875

Tribal Member Submissions

How would you like to make a little extra money?

Did I get your attention? I have noticed over the years that people have come more and more interested in Native American history. It could be that Indian gaming is one of the most profitable businesses in the USA today, just a word of thought.

Back to my subject, in my opinion the POARCH BAND OF CREEKS have the best opportunity to be one of the greatest tribes in the world. In our community I think we have not only the future leaders of our Tribe but the state of ALABAMA and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA as well.

History of the Poarch Band Of Creeks in the 1940-50's till present day is living in our community. If enough Tribal Members would sit down and write an event that happened to them while they were growing up I bet we would have a best selling book. I know a lot of you think that you can't write well enough but forget the grammar, punctuation or spelling, just write from the heart.

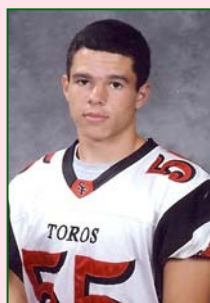
We do not need anybody to tell the history of the POARCH BAND OF CREEKS in the 1940-50 till the present. You and I lived it. If interested, you can contact me at poarchcreek2006@yahoo.com or by phone 304-813-2060

TRIBAL MEMBER
Danny W. McGhee

Will Aaron Martin Receives Academic Excellence Award

Submitted by Christine Martin

Tribal Member Will Aaron Martin, the 16 year old son of Christine and James "Tim" Martin, was awarded the "Academic Excellence Award" at the recent Football Athletic banquet for the 2010-2011 Spanish Fort High School Football Program. Will played defensive end for the Toros' 2010-2011 Class 5A Championship football team.



Will is a Junior at Spanish Fort High School with an accumulated grade point average of 4.26.

Martin Selected for Honor Band

Submitted by Christine Martin



Tribal Member Maxwell Martin, was named to the Baldwin County Middle School All County Honor Band. Max was chosen to play percussion; there were only 10 percussionist chosen throughout the county for this honor.

Max recently performed in an all county Middle School and High School Concert and will travel periodically throughout the school year to play concerts and complete at a statewide competition in Tuscaloosa, AL in May.

Max is the 12 year old son of Christine and James T. Martin.



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Remembering the Trail of Tears

Submitted by Wes Woodruff



One survivor of the Indians' forced march in 1838-1839 on the "Trail of Tears" to Indian Territory, farther west, remembered;

"One each day, and all are gone. Looks like maybe all dead before we get to new Indian country, but always we keep marching on. Women cry and made sad wails. Children cry, and many men cry, and all look sad when friends die, but they say nothing and just put heads down and keep on toward west... She (his mother) speak no more; we bury her and go on."

Source: The American Pageant "A History of the American People" Fourteenth Edition (Kennedy, Cohen, Bailey)

Bray Bags Eight Point

Submitted by Debbie Bray



On January 29, 2011 Bo Bray, a member of the 3 Mile Hunting Club, took down an eight point buck with just one shot. Bo shot the deer and tied him to the bumper of his truck until fellow club members arrived to help him dress the deer. "You can't find a better hunting club to be a member of." Bo said. "I would like to thank my fellow club members for helping me with the deer. They were just as excited as I was! We do have openings in the club. If you are interested in joining us; give Ronnie (Rolin) a call at (251) 239-0644.

Special Thanks

Submitted by Jean Ardis



Jean Ardis with her grandchildren Logan & Sidra Brown, display one of the wood carved plaques donated by June Fulmar

Thanks so much to all the employees, all the patients at the Health Department, all my friends, and all my family that have stood by me in the past year with my health problems. I want you all to know that all the prayers, phone calls, pats on the back, words of encouragements, and donations are greatly appreciated and did not go unnoticed.

An update on mine and Bubba's health: I have finished all my chemo and radiation treatments. I have a doctor's appointment the last of February; I pray that everything will be OK. Bubba is now taking chemo

and he will be going back to Texas the first of this month (March) to be retested to see if the chemo is helping him. Please continue to keep me and him in your prayers.

I would like to say a special thank you to June Fulmar for the beautiful plaques she made and donated for a fundraising raffle; congratulations to the winners!

In God's hands, love Jean Ardis

USA Day

The University of South Alabama (USA) is hosting **USA Day** on Saturday, April 2, 2011 for prospective undergraduate students. The Education Department will provide transportation to USA for currently enrolled 11 & 12th grade students and currently enrolled community college students.

Please contact Billie McGhee at (251) 368-9136 x 2243 or via email at bmcghee@pci-nsn.gov for more information or if you would like to attend.

*Poarch Creek Indians
2011 Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 9, 2011
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
At the Pow Wow Grounds*

*Four Age Divisions
1-2 * 3-5 * 6-8 * 9-10
1st - 2nd & Prize Egg
In each division*

*Refreshments will be available after the hunt
Be prompt or you might miss out on the fun!!*

Contact Nandy Peebles, Events Coordinator, or Tawana McGhee, Executive Assistant,
at (251) 368-9136 ext 2205 or 2234 if you have any questions

Lose 25 lbs. in 8 wks!

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*** No Shots!**

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The Hard Road

As the Civil War dragged on, the economy of the South began to suffer under the strain, and the state and municipal coffers were eventually drained of their assets. In February of 1862, the Record of the Commissioner's Court for Baldwin County shows the creation of a "Fund for the aid of Indigent Families of Volunteers" with \$75 being disbursed for the wife and two children of David Moniac and \$30 for the sister of William and Alex Hollinger. The following November a greater number is added to the list: the wife and five children of Richard Rolin received \$400, the wife and three children of William Colbert received \$300, the child of Adam Hollinger received \$150, the two sisters and one brother of Carmon McGhee received \$250, the wife and child of Mike Moniac received \$225, the wife and two children of David Moniac received \$225, and the sister of William and Alex Hollinger received \$150. This list recurs five more times in the record of the Commissioner's Court on December 22, 1862, January 3, 1863, March 9, 1863, and June 22, 1863. The final list, which appears on October 22, 1863, has a disbursement of \$6.69 for the wife of Martin Gibson and \$17.86 for the parents and four brothers and sisters of William Gibson. Two facts are strongly indicative of conditions in the South at this time: first, the radical decline in disbursements to indigent families is obvious, to the point where pennies are counted and, second, every able-bodied man was needed to fight, even those with whole families dependent on them.

General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at the Appomattox Courthouse in Central Virginia on April 9, 1865, thus ending the war. Confederate soldiers were mustered out and on the Muster Roll of Company "C" 15th Regiment of the Confederate

Cavalry approximately 12 men can be identified as relations and ancestors of the Poarch Band of Creeks. All over the South, and the North as well, veterans were returning home. The entire South was a depressed area, and it was more than a decade before conditions improved substantively. The Poarch community was thus a depressed area within a depressed area. The simple preoccupation of survival just after the war resulted in three major developments affecting the history of the Poarch Creeks. First, local records were not kept as meticulously as they had been before the war. Second, the relevance and/or significance of their Indian heritage paled by the enormity of the events during and after the war. Their "Indianness" was not often mentioned in those records that were kept. Third, the difficulties of survival after the war renewed and strengthened the community or tribal cohesion of the Poarch Creeks.

In order to "take stock" of who had returned from the war and who had left, the State of Alabama conducted a census in 1866. Just over 50 members of the Poarch Band of Creeks were listed in the returns for Baldwin County though they were listed as "Colored". Their color was of Indian derivation, not of Negro derivation. The enumerators only had a choice of two, white and colored, so the Indians, with their darker complexions, were counted as "Colored".

Escambia County was created in 1868 from areas of Baldwin and Conecuh counties. Jack Springs, the McGhee reserve, and the majority of the Creek Indian land owners were now situated in extreme northwest Escambia County. In 1869 the commissioners of the new county began the process of keeping minutes of their proceedings; while no "Indians" are ever mentioned in the Minutes of the Commissioner's Court of Escambia County, certain prominent

individual and community members are mentioned.

Notwithstanding the establishment of governmental, religious, and educational entities during the reconstruction area, economic and social conditions in the South were not improving greatly, and in the Escambia County area, specifically, things did not improve markedly until the pine lumber and turpentine industries regained momentum in the mid 1880s. With little money to purchase land, members of the Poarch Band of Creeks, who were in the same situation as the rest of Alabama, were forced to homestead available properties in the Jack Springs vicinity. In July of 1873 Richard McGhee filed for a homestead in Township 3 near the Poarch community. McGhee's application was filed at the land office in Mobile and was the first homestead application among the Poarch Creeks since the war.

The years of 1874 and 1875 were ones of some historical significance for the Poarch Band of Creeks for at this point they may be distinctly and specifically referred to as the Poarch Band of Creeks. Early in 1874 John D. Driesbach of the Creek community produced a 31 page manuscript on the history and particularly the genealogy of the early half-blood Creek community and the intricate intermarriage between all the Weatherfords, Tates, Moniacs, Hollingers, Tarvins, McGhees, etc. At approximately the same time Joseph N. Stiggins sent a manuscript written by his father, George Stiggins, a half-blood who was born and raised in Tensaw, to Lyman Draper. The manuscript is entitled "A Historical narration of the Genealogy traditions and downfall of the Isocage or Creek tribe of Indians, written by one of the tribe". The manuscript was a rich source of ethnography and history about both the aboriginal customs of the Creeks

To Federal Recognition

and about the half-blood community and events up to and just past the Creek War of 1814.

A single entry in the November 30, 1875 Alabama Baptist proved to be a significant one for the Creek community around Poarch. It was an obituary written by John D. Beck, pastor of the Mars Hill Baptist Church in Jack Springs, about Peggy McGhee, Lynn McGhee's daughter. It is also the first recorded mention of "Head of Perdido," one of the hamlets in which the Poarch Band of Creeks grouped in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Beck wrote:

Peggy McGhee departed this life on the morning of November the 14th. She was in the 73rd year of her age, and had the testimony of many brethren and friends that she walked according to her Christian profession. She was baptized by either Brother A.J. Lambert or James Boyles in his early ministry, and has been faithful to her profession as many tears testified; they wept not as those who had no hope, but as those who had lost one of infinite value from their midst. She was interred at her homestead, Head of Pedido, a donation to her family in the Red Jacket Treaty.

The last statement is, of course, a reference to the reserve of Lynn McGhee which he obtained under the Treaty of Ft. Jackson. "Red Jacket Treaty" is one which recurs in Poarch Creek history, and its derivation is unclear. One possibility is that it might have gotten confused with the renown Seneca chief Red Jacket, but it is more likely that it was a corruption of "Red Stick" and "Ft. Jackson".

The historical record for the remainder of the 1870s and the early part of the 1880s consists primarily of land acquisitions, domestic events, censuses, and occurrences in local affairs. In 1879,

the courthouse in Pollard burned down. It is estimated that 90% of the records to that date were lost in the fire. The significance of that loss for the history of the Poarch Band of Creeks can never be known. In 1881 an entry in the marriage records of Escambia County shows the marriage of Henry Colbert and Annie Taylor. This is the first marriage recorded after the loss of records in 1879.

By 1885 the economy and lifestyle of the citizens of Alabama, and of the Poarch Band of Creeks, had somewhat stabilized. Twenty years had elapsed since the end of the war. A new generation, and an influx of new settlers to the region, served in prolonging the eclipse of Indian identity which the Poarch Creeks suffered. This loss of identity was relative only to the county, state, and settlers; the Creek heritage was never lost among the members of the Poarch Band of Creeks or their close neighbors. Their kinsmen, and in some cases their immediate relatives, of the Creek Nation West in Indian Territory were also stabilizing socially and politically and under new leadership were gaining strength. It was during this period that applications for citizenship in the Creek Nation began arriving from Creeks residing in Alabama and other southern states. This process provides much useful historical information for this period and establishes a connection between the Creeks of Indian Territory (Oklahoma) and the Creeks of Southwestern Alabama in the 1880s. In an action which would affect all future application for Creek citizenship, the Muscogee Nation I.T. passed an Act of the Council on October 26, 1889 which debarred all those current and future applicants due to their having been born "beyond the limits of I.T. ... who have continuously resided beyond or outside of the jurisdictional limits" for more than 21 years.

The U.S. Decennial Census for 1890 was lost for the state of Alabama, destroyed by a fire in the Commerce Building in 1921, so there is no way to determine the exact demography or degree of Indian identity of the Poarch Creek community at the time by use of this census alone. To help fill the historical gap created by the loss of the census there were two items. The first is a letter by Charles Weatherford, Jr., to Mr. T.H. Ball dated October 17, 1890. He writes about the exploits of his grandfather Billy Weatherford and the events of the Creek War of 1813-1814. He mentions his aunt Susan Stiggins, who later married Absalom Sizemore. The second and more significant item is the oral history taken by Professor J. Anthony Parades in 1972 from elders in the Poarch Creek community dating back with fair reliability to roughly 1890. This oral history is invaluable in terms of filling the historical spaces between the documented, recorded events pertaining to the Poarch Creeks.

From 1890 to 1893 a rash of homestead applications are filed by members of the Poarch Creek community. The spatial concentration of the Poarch Creek community reached a high level by the end of the nineteenth century. The very first settlement area was centered around the north parcel of land which the heirs of Lynn McGhee chose near what is now Huxford. This area was known within the community as "Red Hill" and has since died out. The Indian families grouped themselves into four hamlets, three of which are still in existence today. The hamlets are Head of Perdido (Hedapeada), begun around 1860; Bell Creek, begun around 1877 but vanishing around 1940; Hog Fork, begun around 1885; and Poarch Switch, begun in the 1920s. ■

Additional information will be published in next month's issue.

Tribal Officer Valon McGhee Completes RAD Instructor Class

Tribal Police Officer Valon McGhee recently attended Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training in Baldwin County and is now a certified RAD Instructor. The Rape Aggression Defense System is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women. The RAD System is a comprehensive, women-only course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. RAD is not a Martial Arts program. RAD's goal is to develop and enhance the options of self-defense, so they may become viable considerations to the woman who is attacked. Valon will develop and teach this program to the women of the Poarch community in the near future. "There were only ten participants selected across the state; I am honored to have been selected to participate in this program. We are currently working on getting all the proper materials to set up our own RAD program. It takes more than one person to teach the class, so my nine classmates and I will work out a schedule that will be best suited for our community."

If you live on or near the Reservation or travel through the community on a regular basis, you have seen Valon out on patrol. Valon began her employment with the Tribe in December of 2009. She graduated from the Montgomery Police Academy in April of 2010; while at the Police Academy she served as class Secretary/Treasurer. Since that time Valon has been busy patrolling the Reservation, attending specialized training such as the RAD program; obtaining her Active Shooter certification, securing the appropriate re-certification needed to maintain her position, and working with local schools on safety issues. She and Sergeant Jeffrey Weaver worked closely with the students at the Fred L. McGhee Learning Center during their Community Helpers study program. They participated in classroom activities and gave the children a tour of the Tribal Police Station and let them have a ride in a police car. Valon also taught a safety class to the 68 students at the Freemanville Headstart Program. "We talked about bike safety, gun safety, 911 emergencies, and other general safety rules. Children should be exposed to safety rules at an early age so that they can always be aware of what to do in certain situations."

Valon stated that she has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Faulkner Community College in Bay Minette, AL. "I have always been interested in criminal justice, it is my goal to become an Investigator." In addition to the training provided by the Tribe, Valon has taken several on-line criminal justice classes such as Arson Investigation and

Search and Seizure that will help her in her goal.

Valon is the daughter of Buddy and Janice McGhee of Brewton, AL. She has one daughter, seven year old Alexis McGhee. She graduated from WS Neal High School and became, and continues to be, a member of Phi Theta Kappa while at Faulkner.



Aroza Contemporary Ballet Company To Perform At Poarch

The Aroza Contemporary Ballet Company is coming to perform for the Poarch Creek School of Dance Program at the Wellness and Activities Department (Gym).

Although the exact date has not been set, the performance will be in March and will be open to the public.

For more information, please contact Trina Rackard or Brooke Bell at 251-368-9136 ext. 2248 or email at trackard@pci-nsn.gov.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Weight Watchers 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. CMCMA Meeting Welcome Center/Museum 5:00 p.m.	2	3 Tribal Council Meeting Council Chambers 4:00 p.m.	4 CIEDA Meeting CIEDA Office 7:30 a.m.	5
6	7 Tribal Court Tribal Court Room 9:00 a.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.	8 Weight Watchers 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. TERO Meeting 3:00 p.m. TERO Conf. Room	9	10 Housing Authority Meeting Building 400 Conference Room 4:00 p.m. Deadline to submit info to be published in April 2011 Poarch Creek News 5:00 p.m. General Council Voice Family Services Auditorium 5:30 p.m.	11	12
13	14 Wellness & Activities Authority Meeting Gym 4:00 p.m. 4-H Meeting Education Department 6:00 p.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.	15 Weight Watchers Gym 5:00 p.m. <i>NA Meeting</i> Turning Point 7:00 p.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30/6:30 & 7:30 p.m. CMCMA Meeting Welcome Center/Museum 5:00 p.m. College Fair 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Tribal Courtroom	16	17 Tribal Council Meeting Council Chambers 4:00 p.m.	18 CIEDA Meeting CIEDA Office 7:30 a.m.	19
20	21	22 Weight Watchers 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. TERO Meeting 3:00 p.m. TERO Conf. Room	23	24 Housing Authority Meeting Building 400 Conference Room 4:00 p.m.	25	26
27	28 Tribal Court Tribal Court Room 9:00 a.m. Wellness & Activities Authority Meeting Gym 4:00 p.m. 4-H Club Meeting Education Department 6:00 p.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.	29 Weight Watchers 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.	30	31	<div> Creek Sewing Classes Ribbon Shirts & Skirts Decorating Items with Patchwork February 28th - March 11th March 14th - 25th Contact Alex Alvarez at (251) 368-9136 x 2655 or via email at aalvarez@pci-nsn.gov for more information </div>	

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