

June 2011

Poarch Creek News

Keeping the family and friends of Poarch informed



Wee-Ball/T-Ball Wraps Another Season

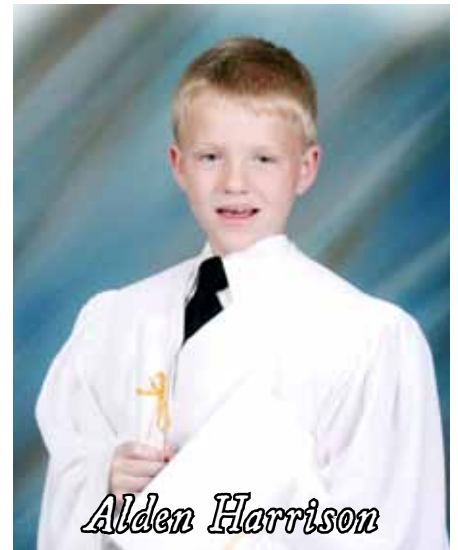
VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 6



New Beginnings

HUSKEY PRINTING Company

Congratulations Graduates!



Alden Harrison



Kayla Bynum



*My time has come...
Graduation is here!
One EA journey is over
but a new cougar appears.
Use your head little sister
and always trust your heart
from one Huskey to another
we are never far apart.*



Chairman's Corner

June 2011



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

I would like to start this month's column with mention of the Tribe's response to the disaster relief effort following the historical outbreak of tornados that swept through the state of Alabama on April 27th leaving behind mass destruction and loss of life. Immediately after the tornados struck, the Tribe's emergency management response teams from the Tribal Police Department and Fire Department were dispatched to help in the relief effort. Our first responders are well trained in providing this type of assistance and were able to provide immediate assistance once arriving at their destination. Several members of the Tribal Council have toured the affected areas and witnessed first-hand the needs of Tribal Members affected by this unprecedented disaster.

As part of its Planned Giving Campaign, the Tribe donated \$500,000 to the disaster relief effort; donations were made to the Tuscaloosa and Birmingham Chapters of the American Red Cross as well as Governor Bentley's Emergency Relief Fund. The Poarch Creek Indians Disaster Relief Fund has also made donations to various agencies providing assistance in the disaster relief effort. *

The month of May generally means graduation time. The Tribe extends congratulations to all graduating seniors and wishes them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

If you receive this issue of the newsletter prior to June 4, 2011, be sure to exercise your right to vote in the Tribal Elections scheduled for June 4, 2011. If you receive this issue after that date, thank you for your participation in the election process.

**Read more about this donation on page 7.*



Stephanie Bryan
Vice Chair
sbryan@pci-nsn.gov



Robert McGhee
Treasurer
rmcghee@pci-nsn.gov



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



Helen Hallman
Council Member
kramer@pci-nsn.gov



Keith Martin
Council Member
kmartin@pci-nsn.gov



Arthur Mothershed
Council Member
amothershed@pcigaming.com



Helen Hallman Takes Oath Of Office

Helen Hallman, shown above taking her Oath Of Office, will fill the seat vacated by former Tribal Council Member Berry Ross. Per the Tribal Constitution Ms. Hallman will serve in this position until the June 2011 election, at which time the members of the General Council will elect a candidate to serve the remainder of Mr. Ross' term.

***There are 3056 Tribal Members of the Poarch
Band of Creek Indians.***



Garvis Sells
Council Member
gsells@pci-nsn.gov



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



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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. Birthday wishes are limited to no more than four (4) sentences. 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.

**POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS
DONATE \$500,000 TO HELP WITH RELIEF
EFFORTS IN AFTERMATH OF HISTORIC
TORNADO OUTBREAK**

Submitted by Sharon Delmar

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribe is joining in the efforts to help tornado victims by donating a half million dollars to relief efforts.

In announcing the donation, Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin noted, "I think everyone who has seen the pictures of the destruction caused by the tornadoes that struck our State wants to help any way that they can. We hope this donation will help begin to ease some of the suffering of our neighbors. This is the first of what we want to do to help, and we look forward to continue to work with relief agencies on the ground in the affected areas."

Members of the Poarch Creek Tribal Council voted to make the donation after members of the Council toured the destruction last week. The donation, which is part of the Tribe's ongoing Planned Giving Campaign, will be distributed to several organizations. Both the Birmingham and Tuscaloosa Chapters of the American Red Cross will receive \$50,000. The Tribe will donate \$100,000 to Governor Bentley's Emergency Relief Fund. The remaining

\$300,000 will go to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Disaster Relief Fund to assist in additional disaster relief efforts that will be distributed according to local needs throughout the affected areas.

"All of us at Poarch Creek still remember how relief organizations like the Red Cross helped us after Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis hit our area," noted April Sells, Tribal Emergency Management Director for the Poarch Creeks. "We had so many people in the area without food, water, electricity, or ice. Thanks to the Red Cross, we were able to feed everyone in the community twice a day after the storm and take care of their basic needs. We are thrilled to be able to give back to that organization and others who are helping families who have lost so much," she said.

"We feel for the victims of this disaster and want to do anything we can to help," said Robert McGhee, Tribal Council Treasurer and Governmental Relations Advisor. "Immediately after the tornadoes hit, the Tribe's emergency management response teams were dispatched to the area to

help with disaster relief. The Tribal Council hopes this donation will be another way the Tribe can continue to assist Alabamians weather this disaster. And as efforts to rebuild begin, we will continue to do what we can to aid families as they start anew."

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**PHARMACY CHANGES
REGARDING BUY RITE DRUGS**

As of May 1, 2011, new prescriptions for non-formulary drugs (those not carried by the Tribal pharmacy) are no longer automatically paid for by the Tribe at Buy Rite Drugs.

Patients should contact their doctor or medical provider to have the new prescription changed to a product carried by the pharmacy. A list of the drugs carried (the formulary) is available at the pharmacy and a doctor's office may also contact the pharmacy with any questions about formulary medications.

In certain circumstances, some non-formulary medications may be approved if your doctor completes a "Non-Formulary Drug Request" form also available at the pharmacy. If the non-formulary drug request is approved, the Tribal pharmacy will stamp the medication in order to have the cost paid by the Tribe.

Patients who have non-formulary medications being refilled at Buy Rite, will continue to have their prescriptions paid for until all refills expire and a new prescription is needed.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this change, you may contact pharmacy staff, Jaime McGhee, Clinic Director, or Candace Fayard, Health Administrator.



Spa
at
WINDCREEK

Spa Package

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



Culinary Package

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

Mention Offer: BOGOCC

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

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

Valid through June 30, 2011
All offers must be booked on the same day.

Atmore I-65 Exit 57



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Housing Rehabilitation Program

Submitted by Susan Wicker

There have been some recent questions about the services available through the Housing Authority's Rehabilitation Program. To better help you the Tribal Member understand the program, I have provided a breakdown below.

REHABILITATION The rehabilitation program allows low income Tribal Members to receive necessary home repairs when there is a danger to their health or safety and to improve their overall living conditions. Twelve (12) families received home repairs in 2010.

SENIOR/HEALTH EMERGENCY This program is provided for Tribal Members sixty-two (62) years of age or older, disabled Tribal Member families, or elder families who have health related issues. There is a total of \$5,000 available for eligible Tribal Member families for this program. Twenty-five (25) Tribal Member families received assistance through this program in 2010.

RENOVATION The renovation loan program was created to help Tribal Members on a Tribal wide level to renovate their homes. Participants must meet the 40% percent median income limits and have a minimum credit score of 550; Tribal Members who are over income are also eligible for this program. Tribal Members meeting the guidelines may borrow up to 50% of their income, not to exceed \$30,000. The payback term is from 5 to 20 years at 3% interest. We will begin accepting applications for the 2011 renovation loan program on June 1, 2011.

I hope this breakdown has answered any questions you may have relating to the Housing Authority's renovation loan program. If you have any questions or need assistance through one of these programs, please contact Charlotte Parham, Rehabilitation Assistant, at (251) 368-9136 x 2058 or via email at cparham@pci-nsn.gov.

**Remember
when having
a Bachelor's
degree was...
optional?**





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- Classes are one night a week
- Sessions are five weeks
- Campuses in Daphne & Bay Minette
- Health Management concentration available
- Financial aid available
- SACS accredited

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Buy the new album from Medicine Tail!

Recorded live at the 38th annual Poarch Creek Powwow



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

*Recorded live at the 38th Annual
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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!*

*Buy it on the web:
www.cdbaby.com/cd/medicinetail2
Or call (850) 582-9844*

Celebrating Birthdays

Brionna Slate

Brionna Slate celebrated her 6th birthday on May 26th; she celebrated with her family and friends at Jaliscos. Happy 6th Birthday Brionna!! We love you!!

Dad, Mom, and brothers.



Josie Daughtry

Josie Daughtry celebrated her 4th birthday on May 10th. Josie is the daughter of Trenton and Crystal Daughtry and the granddaughter of Ray and Christine Ward, the late Gary Joe McGhee, Sr., Sue Wiggins, and Douglas Daughtry. Happy Belated Birthday Josie!

We Love You, Mom, Dad, Lexi and Jaylan.



Paige Findley

Paige Findley celebrated her 13th birthday on May 16th with her family and friends. She is the daughter of Greg & Lori (Crocker) Findley, granddaughter of Velma (McGhee) Crocker and Dale & Elvennia Findley and the sister of Peyton Findley. We love you, Dad, Mom and Sister.



Brea Haven Rolin

Happy 1st birthday to Brea Haven Rolin; she celebrated her first birthday on May 25, 2011. Brea is the daughter of Michael Rolin and Jessica Albritton; she is the granddaughter of Melvin and Marty Rolin and Steve and Debbie Albritton.



Denise Johnson

Denise Johnson celebrated her June 6th birthday by visiting Atmore to vote in the tribal election. *"Love yourself, for who and what you are; protect your dream and develop your talent to the fullest extent."* -Joan Benoit Samuelson. Happy Birthday! Steve and family



Joshua and Colton Peebles



Chastity and Lawrence (Bunk) Peebles would like to wish their two sons a happy birthday. Happy sweet 16 to Josh on June 11th and happy 11th to Colton on June 23rd. Happy birthday boys, we love you! Mom, Dad, Tenleigh, Nana Bell and Paw Paw Hawk, Uncle Chad, Granny Sharon and Uncle Lester, Uncle Anthony (Amp), and all your cousins and friends.

Olivia Seals



Olivia Seals will celebrate her 10th birthday on June 11, 2011. She is the daughter of Crystal and Shane Seals and the granddaughter of Tony Walker.

Happy Birthday, we love you! Mom, Dad, Hayden, PawPaw Tony, Mat, Aunt Sharon and Uncle Lester.

Sandra McGhee Chunn



On June 12th I will celebrate my 60th birthday. As I celebrate this milestone in my life I thank God for a great family (both immediate and extended) and lots of friends whom have made life truly a blessing.

Lois McGhee Fore



Lois McGhee Fore will celebrate her birthday on June 12, 2011. Happy birthday to my friend!

From Catherine Sells.

Gloria Sells Krafka

Gloria Sells Krafka will celebrate her birthday on June 12, 2011. Happy birthday to my sister-in-law!

From Catherine Sells.



Gravis Sells

Gravis Sells will celebrate his birthday on June 12, 2011. Happy birthday to my husband!

From your wife Catherine.



Halle Ra Peebles

Halle Ra Peebles will turn 11 on June 16, 2011. She is the daughter of Anthony and Mandy Peebles. Happy Birthday and best wishes! We love you, Mamma, Daddy, Granny Sharon, PawPaw Lester, Kortlan, Braxton, Josh, Colton, Tenleigh, PawPaw Ricky, MawMaw Brenda, Nana Bell, and Kee Kee.



Keenan McGhee

Keenan McGhee, son of Angela McGhee and Travis Daughtry, will celebrate his 4th birthday on June 28, 2011. You are the greatest gift that God could have ever blessed me with. Happy birthday Keenan, we love you very much. Mom, MeMe, Paw Paw Terry, Aunt Pam, Uncle Duck, Aunt Emily and JuJu, and Bentley.



Trey Sheets

Trey Sheets, son of Daniel and Elaine Sheets, will turn 10 on July 10, 2011.

Happy Birthday Trey, we love you!

Mom, Dad, & Seth.



Important Notice Regarding the First Generation Indian Descent Scholarship

This notice is to inform you effective January 1, 2012, ALL persons applying for and utilizing the First Generation Indian Descent Scholarship will be REQUIRED to file a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and submit the results to the Education Department of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Students should begin preparations for the FAFSA as soon as possible. Those who apply early have the best chance of obtaining funds. If you are awarded any Pell grants, your per semester Tribal award shall be offset by any Pell grant received.

Information about the FAFSA as well as the application can be found at www.fafsa.gov. The document may be completed on-line or it can be printed and completed by hand. Any questions regarding the FAFSA application may be directed to Mrs. Billie McGhee at 251-368-9136, ext. 2243.

Please feel free to contact the Education Department at 251-368-9136, extension 2021 with questions.



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Celebrating An Anniversary

Daniel & Elaine Sheets Celebrate 13th Anniversary

Submitted by Elaine Sheets

Daniel & Elaine Sheets will celebrate their 13th wedding anniversary on June 6, 2011. Lucky 13!!

Elaine would also like to wish Daniel a happy birthday; he will turn 32 on June 3, 2011.

"I love you Big Daddy!"



Your Eye Health is Our Number ONE Priority.



Atmore Vision Center & Monroeville Eye Care

We are excited to announce we accept flex cards and your BCBS along with other major medical insurances. We are open Mon-Fri for your convenience, fast turn-around time on glasses, same/next day appointments available. We consider our patient's health our number ONE priority, therefore, we offer thorough eye exams, eye disease prevention education and DNA testing. We have a variety of name brand frames to choose from Kate Spade, Nine West, Juicy, Coach and name brand sunglasses from Maui Jim and Costa Del Mar.

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Wedding Announcements

Smith & Alvarez Announce Wedding



Amber Smith and Alex Alvarez will be united in marriage on Saturday, June 11, 2011.

Amber is the daughter of Jackie Smith of Poarch and Shelby and Cindy Smith of Flomaton, AL. She is the granddaughter of Ernestine and DC Daughtry of Poarch, the late Julius "Jack" McGhee of Fort Wayne, IN and Willie Smith and the late Hosie Smith of Flomaton, AL.

Alex is the son of Mary McElvain of Fort Walton Beach, FL. He is the grandson of the late Margie McElvain of Bullskin, IL and James McElvain of Altha, FL and the late Sonny Brading of Paris, IL.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Flomaton High School and Jefferson Davis Community College where she received her Associates Degree in Office Administration. She is employed with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians as the Community Outreach Coordinator.

The groom-elect is a graduate of Choctawhatchee High School and The University of West Florida where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. He is also employed with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians as the Cultural Educator. He is from Yufalv Tribal Town and of the Bird Clan.

The wedding will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the courtyard at Creek Indian Enterprises. A reception and social stomp dance will follow. Family and friends are invited to attend.



THANK YOU FOR VOTE AND SUPPORT DURING THE 2011 POARCH CREEK INDIANS TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION!

Carolyn M. White

Education News & Updates

Indian Health Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program

The news concerning the increasing costs for a college education is a concern for everyone. The cost of tuition, books, fees, and living expenses (dorms, apartments, gas, electricity, food, insurance, and other items necessary for survival) for an education have increased and are likely to continue to increase. Many scholarship programs are facing cutbacks are not currently funding scholarships. Unless, the student applies for and receives other funding (scholarships or grants), the increase in costs will have to be covered out-of-pocket by the student or the student's parents.

The Indian Health Service Scholarships

The Health Professions Preparatory Scholarship and the Health Profession Pre-Graduate scholarships are open to Tribal descendants and members of federally or state recognized Tribes for undergraduate studies. The Health Professions Scholarship covers allied health professions, which may include Pre-Clinical Psychology, Pre-Dietetics, Pre-Medical Technology, Pre-Nursing, Pre-Occupational Therapy, Pre-Pharmacy, and Pre-Social Work. The Health Professions Pre-Graduate is used for studies in Pre-Dentistry, Pre-Medicine, Pre-Optometry, and Pre-Podiatry. The scholarship award covers the cost of tuition, required books, fees, and a tutorial fee. Additional information is available at <http://www.ihs.gov/JobsCareerDevelop/DHPS/Scholarships/faqs.cfm#benefits>.

We recommend that you download and read Indian Health Service Scholarship Handbook and familiarize yourself with the application requirements. The application for 2011-2012 is closed; but it will reopen for the 2012-2013 The Health Professions Scholarship for undergraduates and graduate

students is open to members of federally recognized Tribes. The Health Professions Scholarship Program recipients do incur a service obligation of 1 year for each year of scholarship support they receive. The service time obligation must be full-time clinical practice in the profession funded.

Indian Health Service Extern Experience

The IHS Scholarship recipients can be employed to work in an Extern position from 30 to 120 days at an IHS program. The students will gain hands on experience in their field of study. The website for additional information is http://www.ihs.gov/JobsCareerDevelop/DHPS/Scholarships/extern_program.cfm.

Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program

The types of college loans that the Indian Health Service will repay are limited to government (federal, state, local) and commercial loans (bank) used to pay for health profession training and related expenses, which include tuition, fees, books, lab expenses and reasonable living expenses. The Indian Health Service provides a site for Frequently Asked Questions concerning the loan repayment program. The website is www.ihs.gov/JobsCareerDevelop/DHPS/LRP/faq.cfm.

The following loan programs meet the loan repayment program statutory requirements:

- Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL) Programs
- Guaranteed Student Loan Program (GSL)
- Perkins Loan or National Direct Student Loan (NDSL) Program
- Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS)
- Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

Art by Cher

- *Sculpture
- *Portraits
- *Oil
- *Landscape
- *Watercolor
- *Charcoal



Cher Christensen
(505) 296-7723

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Andrea McGhee-Bowen
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Volunteers Make Escambia County Great!

By Cynthia Knowlton

Among the things that make Escambia County, AL great are the many volunteers serving 4-H Clubs, FFA, churches, civic clubs, fire departments, United Way, Boy and Girl Scouts, Red Cross and so many more. It is likely these volunteers will be honored for their service during the annual National Volunteer Week and at other times during the year, as well they should be!

Every one of our 4-H volunteers is very special to us. When I witness the 4-H volunteers serving children and youth in the Escambia County 4-H clubs, I am amazed at their inspiration and dedication.

All of these exceptional volunteers have their own stories as to why they volunteer. Each one is inspiring. Let me tell you about one – Christyn Sells of Atmore.

Christyn is the Volunteer Leader of Poarch Creek 4-H Club. The club meets twice a month, the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. and there are 35 members from ages 9 – 19. Christyn is the Children's Services Coordinator for the Poarch Creek Indian Education Department and has served in that position the past seven years.

Occasionally, one meets someone who really has a passion for 4-H work and Christyn more than meets that qualification. "My passion is absolute love of working with children," says Christyn, "when a child learns something for the first time and I see their eyes light up – that is really great. For me, working with 4-H'ers is a great privilege."

"I am motivated by young people sharing their experiences and learning new things. It is priceless for me to see them grow and evolve into who they will become," explains Christyn, "4-H has really allowed me to do this and be a part of the lives of this next generation."

When she was age ten and in the fifth grade, she learned from her mother about 4-H, explained Christyn. "I got involved and right off I entered a speech project and won first place and that got me started," said Christyn.

The Poarch Creek 4-H Club is doing a wide range of projects – art and crafts, learning about chickens and horses, gardening. They participate in contests and take field trips, go camping and have been involved in the Great American Bake sale. They are learning about the process of electing officers and doing community service. They go to Auburn University football and basketball games. As Christyn says, "We do a little of everything!"



Christyn Sells

When someone asks Christyn why they should consider being a 4-H volunteer, she says, "It is an experience like no other- being a role model for kids- this is priceless."

"Anyone, considering being a future 4-H leader," says Christyn, "should know there are many clubs to choose from. Some leaders focus on showing and raising livestock, performing arts, gardening, sewing, cooking, archery, and some clubs participate in many different projects and activities. There is something for everyone in 4-H!"

"When I see a young person win their first blue ribbon in competition and see the difference it makes in their life, it is one of my most fulfilling moments," explains Christyn.

Christyn graduated from Faulkner State Community College in agribusiness and took additional study in forestry at Alabama Southern Community College.

Cynthia G. Knowlton is the Regional Extension Agent for 4-H and Youth Development serving Baldwin and Escambia Counties. For more information about the nearest 4-H Club and volunteer opportunities call (251) 709-8749. Office (251) 937-7176. Please visit www.alabama4h.com. For more information about the Tribe's 4-H program, contact Christyn at (251) 368-9136 x 2244 or via at csells@pci-nsn.gov.



Students Attend Shakespeare Festival

Submitted by Christyn Sells

On April 13, 2011, The PCI Education Department sponsored a trip to Montgomery to attend the play "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival for students in the 7th-12th grade. The students attended the play and then went out to eat at CiCi's pizza! The students are pictured here in the Alabama Shakespeare Festival Theater under the Shakespeare statue.

Tribe Donates To Iron Men Outdoor Ministries

The Tribe recently made a \$50,000 donation to Iron Men Outdoor Ministries (IMOM), whose purpose is to assist and provide services to disabled children, children without parents, children whose parents are incarcerated, mentally and physically disabled adults, and the elderly.

This donation assisted them in moving forward with their goal to manage and operate Little River State Park located on Highway 21 in Monroe County, AL. Little River State Park is now jointly managed by the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Iron Men Outdoor Ministries. Members of IMOM have worked diligently to restore the park to its pre-storm ravished condition. Although a tremendous amount of restoration has been completed there is still much to accomplish.

Thomas Miller has been hired as Park Manager and can be reached at (251) 253-3205; Monica Buckhault serves as the park's Office Manager and can be reached at (251) 253-3818. Give one of them a call if you have questions about the park, or if you would like to volunteer with upcoming activities or assist in the park restoration.

You can find out more about IMOM by visiting their web site www.ironmenoutdoorministries.com or by contacting Rick Murphy, IMOM Executive Director at (334) 284-6253.



Tribal Council Members Eddie L. Tullis (l) and Garvis Sells (r), present \$50,000 check to Rick Murphy of IMOM at annual Wild Game Banquet.

Important Notice Regarding the McGhee-Tullis Scholarship

This notice is to inform you effective January 1, 2012, ALL persons applying for and utilizing the McGhee-Tullis Scholarship Program will be REQUIRED to file a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and submit the results to the Education Department of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Students should begin preparations for the FAFSA as soon as possible. Those who apply early have the best chance of obtaining funds.

Information about the FAFSA as well as the application can be found at www.fafsa.gov. The document may be completed on-line or it can be printed and completed by hand. Any questions regarding the FAFSA application may be directed to Mrs. Billie McGhee at 251-368-9136, ext. 2243.

Please feel free to contact the Education Department at 251-368-9136, extension 2021 with questions.

Little River State Park/IMOM Fees

GATE FEE

\$2 adults
\$1 youth 6 to 16
Free ages 0 to 5
\$1 Senior Citizen (65+)

CAMPING

Primitive tent camping is \$10 per night
Water & electric hook ups \$20 per night
Water, electric & sewer hook ups \$22 per night
15% Senior Citizen (65+) discounts

Monthly Gospel Singing

Last Friday Each Month
6 to 9 p.m.
Local Talent
Alvin Brown, Coordinator (251) 655-6692

Park information submitted by Arelene Mack

Wind Creek Brings Diamonds & Gold To Alabama

Two of the most prestigious institutions in the hospitality and restaurant industries have awarded the Wind Creek Hotel and Casino top honors.

AAA's Diamond Rating System announced that Wind Creek Hotel and Casino earned its coveted Four Diamond rating. In North America, there are only 58,000 AAA-approved Diamond-rated properties and of those, just 3.5 percent receive the Four Diamond Rating.

Jay Dorris, President of PCI Gaming noted, "It is a thrill for all of us here to know that our hard work, attention to detail, and focus on the customer experience has been recognized by AAA."

AAA is one of only two rating systems that conducts on-site evaluations and it is the only one that covers all of North America. A Four Diamond rating means that Wind Creek was found to offer a luxury experience, paired with a high level of service, amenities and extraordinary surroundings. Its ranking now puts it among the premier properties in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico.

The resort's recognition has a global reach, as well. Culinary Judges in Luxembourg recently awarded Wind Creek's top



Shown l-r are Jay Dorris, PCI Gaming President, Al Gibbs, AAA Representative, Roger Kuehn, Director of Hotel Operations, and Keith Martin, Tribal Council Member/PCI Gaming Board Chair.

chefs Stafford DeCambra, Louis Chatham and Culinary Artist Donnah Baptist for their culinary skills and talents garnering World Cup Gold Medals. The Wind Creek chefs competed alongside America and 53 nations' best chefs to earn the gold. Chef Stafford DeCambra, Wind Creek's corporate executive chef, received four individual gold medals in the artistic centerpiece category for his beautiful Native American chocolate sculptures.

"When we opened Wind Creek, one of our goals was to set a gold standard for culinary excellence," said Dorris. "Today, judges in Europe arrived at the same conclusion that

our customers do every day; that our Wind Creek chefs are world class. I am proud to see their extraordinary talents recognized on an international level."

Chef Stafford, said, "We are so proud of what we achieved, and most importantly that we were recognized as a team representing Wind Creek, Alabama and the United States. We had an incredible experience in Luxembourg, but there is no place like Alabama and our customers at Wind Creek.

Chef Stafford, as he is known in the culinary world, is no stranger to world-class competitions. He is a gold medal winner in what is perhaps the most prestigious of all the culinary competitions; the Culinary Olympics held in Erfurt, Germany. A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Poughkeepsie, NY, Chef Stafford is a native of Oahu, Hawaii with more than 30 years of experience as a professional chef.

Poarch Creek Indians Hosting N.A.Y.O Softball/Baseball Tournament

Girl's Fast Pitch & Boy's Baseball

July 22-23, 2011

Arrowhead Park 

447 Lynn McGhee Dr. Atmore, AL 36502

Eligibility requirements: Must be 9 years of age by the first day of tournament (July 22, 2011) and may not turn 19 years of age before August 1, 2011 in order to participate. Age categories 9-12, 13-15, & 16-18 years age as of 8-1-11.

Must be Tribal Member or First Generation Descent!

Applications will be accepted Monday, May 9th through Monday, June 6th, 2011. The Wellness & Activities Department (Gym) business hours are Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

For more information contact Trina Rackard at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2248 or Eddie Jackson (251) 368-9136 ext. 2256 Wellness & Activities Center (Gym)



Shown l-r are Culinary Artist Donnah Baptist, Chef Stafford DeCambra, and Chef Louis Chatham



The Family Service Department

Staff Members: Amanda Montgomery, Angela Bartley, Betty Jo Bexley, Carolyn Moye, Carolyn Rackard, Carolyn White, Juanita Slate, Judy Camden, Kathy Ledkins, Martha Gookin, Sandy Hollinger, Stella Rutherford, Wanda Fowler

April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month & Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Child Abuse Prevention Information

Pick up a newspaper, look on the internet, or simply watch the evening news and it becomes apparent child abuse and neglect can be found in every race and within every income level in our world. The impact of child maltreatment is profound and has life-long effects on the physical, psychological, and behavioral development of children. The good news is child maltreatment is preventable! We can honor our native heritage by building strong and supportive families who nurture and love our children.

Child abuse and neglect often takes place in the home and generally falls into four categories.

Neglect is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs, such as food and clothing.

Physical Abuse is causing physical harm to a child, such as hitting, kicking, shaking, or burning them. **Sexual Abuse** is any situation where a child is used for sexual gratification.

Emotional Abuse is any matter of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth, such as constant criticism, threats, and rejection.

Being a parent is a 24-hour-a-day job and it is normal for parents to feel overwhelmed at times. Parents can feel angry, lonely, and depressed while simply attempting to make ends meet. Don't let these feelings affect how you treat your children. You can: **Talk to someone; Reach out to other parents; Call a help line (1-800-4-A-CHILD); Get babysitting help when you need a break; or Take a parenting class.**

Prevention of child maltreatment includes five protective factors. First of all, **establishing a nurturing bond** between a parent and child will help the parent better understand, respond

to, and communicate with their children throughout life. Second, **increasing parental knowledge of child and youth development** will help parents know what to expect as their children grow. Third, **parental resilience**, or the parent's ability to cope with stressors, is essential for parents to recognize about themselves, and to manage appropriately. Fourth, **establishing positive social connections** will enable parents to build support for themselves in times of need. And last, **having community support** is essential for parents to meet and better attend to their role as parents.

All children need to have strong parents who will love them and who will do what is in their best interest. Babies who have a loving bond with their parent will have a better chance to grow up to be adults who trust others and know how to return affection. As young children grow and develop, they need parents who will establish loving boundaries helping them to become independent and yet, safe. Teenagers need parental guidance and loving boundaries to guide them in their decision-making processes, their relationship choices, and their tendency to be risk-takers.

Children are a gift from God. They are the future hope of our tribe and of our nation. Take time to love them.. Treat them with dignity and respect. They will return your love and they will grow to respect you!

Martha Gookin
Family Services Coordinator



Child Abuse casts a shadow the length of a lifetime.—Herbert Ward

Ways to Help Prevent Child Abuse

- ☺ Be a nurturing parent.
- ☺ Love your children.
- ☺ Help yourself by dealing with your own issues.
- ☺ Take parenting classes.
- ☺ Ask for help if you are overwhelmed.
- ☺ Get involved in the community and learn from other parents.

10 Alternatives to Lashing out at Your Child.

- Take a deep breath . . . And another. **You** are the adult.
- Close your eyes and image you're hearing what your child is about to hear.
- Put your child in time-out.
- Put yourself in time-out.
- Phone a friend.
- Take a hot bath or splash cold water on your face.
- Hug a pillow.
- Turn on some music.
- Pick up a pencil and write it out.
- Call 1-800-CHILDREN.



Poarch Creek Indians Represented by One of Our Own in Washington, D.C.

“We are excited and encouraged to have an administration that is following through on its commitment to work closely with Indian country,” Venus McGhee-Prince said to an audience of legal professionals in Washington, D.C. on March 3rd. The audience had convened for the Solicitor’s Office Indian Law Practitioner’s Conference to address issues intersecting tribal governments and the United States government. The date was historic in that the Department of the Interior was established by Congress one hundred and sixty-two years ago on March 3, 1849.



Venus McGhee-Prince

McGhee-Prince was invited to speak at the conference by Hilary Tompkins (Navajo), Office of the Solicitor in Washington, D.C. Tompkins said she was pleased to host the conference and described it as “an important opportunity for open and informative discussions between federal and tribal attorneys.” Tompkins is the head of the Solicitor’s Office at the United States Department of the Interior and the first Native American woman to serve in this role.

What does the Solicitor’s Office do and what role does it play in tribal affairs? Attorney Bill Perry of Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry Law Firm in Washington, D.C. attended the conference. He said the Solicitor is the Lawyer who serves as the Chief General Counsel for the Department of the Interior. She counsels and gives legal representation to the Secretary of the Interior.

The Solicitor provides legal advice on a wide range of issues to the Department of the Interior, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs. For example, the Solicitor gives counsel on land in trust decisions, leasing of trust lands and other issues critical to tribes. In relation to our specific community, the Solicitor’s Office could help “the Poarch Creek Indians by trying to restore trust land assets,” Perry said.

Solicitor Tompkins invited McGhee-Prince to join her in speaking on a panel with Patrice Kunesh, the newly appointed Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs, and Kurt Blue Dog, a private practitioner who works with tribes, about President Obama’s accomplishments and how he might prioritize his agenda in dealing with tribes in the future. In her presentation, McGhee-Prince pointed out that under past Presidents, there was the “lack of knowledge and understanding of the internal policies and procedures as well as the standards being used by the Department [of the Interior] in its decisions.” She praised Obama for setting forth “a goal of transparency” that could help tribal governments have a better understanding and working relationship with his administration. McGhee-Prince encouraged the Solicitor’s Office to make concrete

steps toward the “goal of transparency” in its communication with tribal governments and to broaden its legal analysis in reviewing trust land applications for tribes.

“McGhee-Prince’s insightful observations from her unique perspective working in Indian Country helped frame a productive discussion,” Tompkins said.

In addition to McGhee-Prince, Secretary Ken Salazar of the United States Department of the Interior, representing the Obama administration, was invited by Solicitor Tompkins to speak earlier that day at the conference. Salazar, a former Senator from Colorado, elaborated on his efforts thus far to improve the Department of the Interior’s relationship with tribes across the country and commended Solicitor Tompkins and her Office for its accomplishments. Such accomplishments include the establishment of the new Deputy Solicitor of Indian Affairs position within her Office, the settlement of the Cobell litigation and the continued progress on certain land decisions.

Bill Perry said Salazar’s presentation demonstrated that he was well informed on the common interests of tribes and that he is moving forward in support of tribal nations.

Tompkins’ invitation to have Salazar and McGhee-Prince speak at the same conference shows the manner in which tribal connections reverberate in high offices of this land. Poarch Creek Indians former Chief Calvin McGhee (1903-1970) developed connections in high offices as well. The letter to Chief McGhee from Mr. Sol Tax in the Poarch Creek Indians Office of Archives and Records Management testifies to this fact. (Mr. Tax was the Coordinator of the American Indian Chicago Conference, which Chief McGhee attended in 1961): “I have just had news that the White House Presentation of the ‘Declaration of Indian Purpose’ has been definitely scheduled

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The words, "You are the one who was thus designated to represent your tribe," speak boldly of Chief McGhee's prominence in representing the Eastern Creeks before the President of the United States.

Now, we have a new generation representing us in Washington, D.C. embodied in an array of tribal leaders such as Venus McGhee Prince. Her invitation to present "is a reflection of her stature in the legal community," Perry said.

"We were lucky to have someone of her caliber and experience join us in this event," Tompkins asserted. Tompkins said she is looking forward to hosting the Solicitor's conference every year so that the attorneys involved can build "stronger partnerships with the Indian law community."

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Utilities Summit participants gathered at the Pow Wow Grounds enjoy an afternoon of southern home cooking and entertainment.

Tribe Hosts Utilities Summit

Submitted by Utilities Authority

The Tribe hosted the 2011 Tribal Utility Summit which is held annually by Indian Health Service (IHS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and United South Eastern Tribe (USET). This year's event, which offered many educational classes affiliated with water, waste water, and solid waste, was a huge success. The Utilities Authority has received an enormous amount of positive feedback. Seventeen different tribes attended this year's fantastic event. The tribes in attendance were:

1. Eastern Band of Cherokee
2. Narragansett
3. Miccosukee
4. Alabama Coushatta
5. Saint Regis Mohawk
6. Catawba
7. Passamaquodda
8. Mashantucket Pequot
9. Mississippi Band of Choctaw
10. Mohegan
11. Seneca
12. Cayuga
13. Seminole
14. Poarch Band of Creek Indians
15. Penobscot
16. Mashee Wampanoag
17. Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

There were 7 agencies in attendance for the summit which include:

1. Indian Health Service
2. United South Eastern Tribe
3. Environmental Protection Agency
4. Association of Board Certification
5. North Carolina Rural Water Association
6. Florida Rural Water Association
7. United States Department of Agriculture

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Utility Authority staff prepared and served a southern style dinner for the summit attendees. The dinner had a great turnout with overwhelming gratitude and positive responses. This would not have been possible without the help and support of many tribal and community volunteers. Special thanks goes out to Roxanne Murphy, Shada Thomas, Paul Pearson, Clayton Coon, Bo Bray, Alex Alveraz and drumming group, the youth Pow Wow club, Eddie Tullis, Flossie Holmes, Jennifer Martin, Kristen Hall, Mallory Martin, Debra Ramer, Danielle Mosley, Bo Ramer, and the Public Works Department. We would also like to thank David Adams (Pepsi) and Nathan Martin with the corn crew.

COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR HIRED

Ms. Amanda Montgomery has been hired as the new Community Services Coordinator for the Family Services Department. She assumed responsibility for the day-to-day supervision over the processing of financial assistance applications. Ms. Sandy Hollinger, as the Community Services Specialist, continues to interview tribal members requesting assistance for a variety of needs. Ms. Montgomery supervises all Community Services activities and oversees the operations for all the grants and tribal government funding which falls under this program. Currently, financial assistance to tribal household is provided from the following funding: Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), and Tribal Emergency Funding (TEF) from PCI Tribal Government.



The process for applying for assistance has not changed. If any tribal member household has a need, they should contact the Family Services Department at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2600 for an appointment to discuss their need. Eligibility and what fund is utilized to assist is based on a variety of factors such as; income, household size, tribal membership household, residency, type of assistance, and needs of the household. All grants and TEF funding have different regulations and criteria for eligibility, but each fund is evaluated to determine if it can be used and amounts available to meet the needs of the household.

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.

M&G Auto Detailing
301 E Ridgley St.
Atmore, AL
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Call for an appointment & Pricing
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or
(251) 370-4475

NOTICE OF 2011 CHANGES TO THE TRIBAL LIHEAP PROGRAM

Tribal LIHEAP Program for 2011:

1. ***No individual appointments will be given to apply for the SUMMER LIHEAP Program.*** If you wish to apply for Summer LIHEAP assistance, you can plan to come into the **Family Services Department** during one of the dates and times listed on the next page. ***All applicants must live in the five county service area: Baldwin, Mobile, Monroe, and Escambia County Alabama and Escambia County Florida.***

2. As always, priority is given to Senior Households, Households with Children under 5 years, and Households receiving Food Stamps or TANF benefits. See the schedule on the next page.

3. The maximum approved amount has been increased to \$325; however there is still a Matrix System which determines the specific amount than can be approved per household.

4. According to the new program guidelines, all households must provide verification of their identity, tribal membership, ***SSN for all household members, the household income, and the household's unpaid energy bill.*** ***Please bring in valid driver's license(s), Poarch Creek membership cards, SSN cards, and verification of all household income*** for the interview. *****Under Summer LIHEAP program guidelines, you will fill out a one page application and present your energy bill if you previously participated in the Winter LIHEAP program. However, if you did NOT participate in Winter LIHEAP program, you will be required to fill out a full application and will be required to complete the interview process.** Please be sure ALL documentation is in your file from Winter LIHEAP or you will have to provide required documentation.*** Any application without all required documentation will be given a notice of continuance to bring back forms. NO application will be approved without ALL of the required documents per LIHEAP guidelines.

5. The Department will be using the Maximum Income Eligibility Guideline of 60% of the Estimated State Median Income for Alabama and Florida counties. Please refer to the chart on the next page to review your annual household income and make your decision regarding applying for the LIHEAP program. If you are unsure, please apply so that we can determine your eligibility.

6. LIHEAP assistance will be given on a first come, first serve basis.

***** Please note income guidelines have changed since Winter LIHEAP due to changes in federal guidelines. Please be aware of household income adjustments. LIHEAP applicants must meet the listed income guidelines reflected below to qualify. *****

***ESTIMATED STATE MEDIAN INCOME,
BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND BY STATE, FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2011***

			<i>60 Percent of Estimated State Median Income <u>1</u></i>					
<i>State</i>	<i>Estimated State Median Income for 4 -person family</i>	<i>60% of Estimated State Median Income for 4 -person family</i>	<i>1-person Family</i>	<i>2-person Family</i>	<i>3-person Family</i>	<i>4-person Family</i>	<i>5-person Family</i>	<i>6-person Family</i>
<i>Alabama</i>	<i>\$64,613</i>	<i>\$38,768</i>	<i>\$20,159</i>	<i>\$26,362</i>	<i>\$32,565</i>	<i>\$38,768</i>	<i>\$44,971</i>	<i>\$51,173</i>
<i>Florida</i>	<i>\$69,801</i>	<i>\$41,881</i>	<i>\$21,778</i>	<i>\$28,479</i>	<i>\$35,180</i>	<i>\$41,881</i>	<i>\$48,581</i>	<i>\$55,282</i>

Summer LIHEAP Application Dates and Times

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Priority Schedule</u>
Tuesday	June 28, 2011	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Seniors Only
Wednesday	June 29, 2011	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Senior Household; Disabled Households; Households with children under 5 years old; and Households receiving food stamps and TANF benefits
Thursday	June 30, 2011	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	All households
Tuesday	July 5, 2011	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	All households
Wednesday	July 6, 2011	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	All households
Thursday	July 7, 2011	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	All households
Tuesday	July 12, 2011	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	All households
Wednesday	July 13, 2011	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	All households
Thursday	July 14, 2011	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	All households

Tribal offices will be closed July 4, 2011

Correction

In the May issue of the *Poarch Creek News* the photo of Leasha Martin, candidate for an At-Large position on the Tribal Council, was inadvertently omitted from the Election section of the newsletter. In her published bio, her name was also erroneously misspelled; the correct spelling of her name is Eia Leasha Elizabeth Martin, not Ela Leasha Elizabeth Martin as published.



We apologize for any inconvenience these oversights may have caused.

Scuba Classes To Be Offered

The Wellness & Activities Authority will be starting Scuba classes in the near future.

Details have not been finalized but if you are interested, please contact Trina Rackard, Activities Coordinator, at (251) 368-9136 x 2248 or via email at trackard@pci-nsn.gov.

News from the Environmental Department

Submitted by Laura Cook

The Environmental Department casts a long shadow; you will see our staff out and about in the community doing all sorts of things. We have scheduled an Electronics Recycling Event for Saturday, June 4, 2011 at Fire Station #1 (Jack Springs Road) from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. This is a one day only event. We will be accepting electronic equipment such as computers (CPUs & laptops), monitors, telephones, cell phones, fax machines, printers, copiers, other small office equipment, TVs, medical equipment, rechargeable batteries, stereos, electronic games (computer and video), PDAs, car batteries, refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, microwaves, washer/dryer, etc.

Our department is responsible for a wide variety of things around the Reservation and surrounding community. Just to name a few, we; conduct food inspections at all facilities owned by the Tribe, coordinate the Child Safety/Seatbelt program, work on the Gopher/Tortoise project at Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve, coordinate spay/neuter clinics, coordinate and maintain the Tribe's recycling program, conduct water sampling of local waterway, and maintain the local Picture Plant bogs.

We would also like to thank everyone for participating in the Arbor Day "Plant A Tree" program and for participating in the Spay/Neuter program.

Give us a call at 251-368-9136 ext. 2683 if you have any questions about the services we provide or if you need any assistance with the upcoming electronic recycling.



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Submitted by Elvis Presley

Hi friends, this is Elvis Presley. On April 22, 2011, My life changed. My sister, Myra King, gave me a part of her life to help me save my life. She donated her kidney I write this from the UAB Townhouse where I am doing well.



I would like to thank all the doctor's here and at home. Dr. Deierhot and the kidney transplant team at UAB; Dr.

Meyers, and the Dialysis workers in Atmore. Dr. Estvold and the Poarch Health Department, and all the doctors and caregivers to many to name. I would also like to say a special thanks to Sandy Hollinger, Carolyn Rackard, and Family Services, to Pastor Luker and all the members of Poarch Baptist Church.

I extend thanks to the Tribal Council for their support; to Ronnie, Margie, and Heather Rolin for all their help and for babysitting my kids. Thanks to my brother Donald and his son Darin for being there for me. Thanks to Kenny, Rachel, and the kids for taking care of my house.

Thanks to my sister (Myra) and her husband Danny King. How could I live without you Sis!! My wife, Katie, for putting up with me. A very special thank you to the one up-above- Thank You God. Thanks everyone, Elvis Presley; proud member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

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 collateralizing 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.



REMEMBERING DAD ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Submitted by Keith Colbert

My Father, Leon (Buddy) Colbert

My Father, perhaps many of you feel the same as I do, when you hear this simple word, is it the great Creator, our Lord Father, God or our higher power, yes these could be all in the same if you feel as I do, but this is for my hero and for the relief of the sorrow in my heart, caused by the loss of a part my life, my father!

I wonder to myself, as I see no words written, no hint of memory or courtesy shown, perhaps he was nothing to you nor do you even know he is gone.

I left him behind many years ago, as I ran from my life turning my back in fear to all the ones I hold dear, I went to a place where there were no family or friends nor anyone who really cared, a prison without walls, no bars to retain or locks to pick, for this place I chose was a prison of loneliness, which held me, as I cried with no one to hear, I want all to know it was him that I held dear, my father I missed so deep in my heart.

So I write these words to say my last good bye...

You never said I'm leaving
You never said goodbye
You were gone before I knew it,
And only God knew why
A million times I needed you,
A million times I cried
If Love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died
In Life I loved you dearly
In death I love you still
In my heart you hold a place,
That no one could ever fill
It broke my heart to lose you,
But you didn't go alone
For part of me went with you,
The day God took you home.

To my Pop from your loving son Keith, please rest in peace!

(Leon (Buddy) Colbert would have celebrated his birthday in June.)

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Housing Authority To Accept Applications for Renovation Loan Program Beginning June 1, 2011

The Poarch Creek Indian Housing Authority will begin accepting Renovation Loan Applications at 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at the Housing office in Building #400.

This is a pay back program that was created to help tribal members renovate their homes. Applicants must meet a minimum credit score of 550 and meet the 40% median income guideline.

For further information please contact the housing office and speak with Charlotte Parham at (251) 368-9136, extension #2058.

Tribal Member Submissions

Manning Graduates

Submitted by Cornelia Miller

Gwendolyn Manning graduated from Jefferson Davis Community College on May 9, 2011, with an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Office Administration. She graduated Summa Cum Laude (4.0 GPA) and was also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.



While she was earning her degree, she continued to work full-time. We are so proud of her hard work and determination. Many would have given up their dreams when faced with devastating situations such as those Gwen encountered. But with much encouragement and perseverance Gwen pressed forward and accomplished her goal. Momma would have been so proud, because she stood by Gwen many nights while she worked on school work into the wee hours of the night. We know that Momma was with you in spirit beaming with pride while you walked across the stage to receive your degree!

Gwen is the daughter of the late Martha Wilson and Melvin Manning. Congratulations, we love you and are very proud of your accomplishments! Your sisters and brothers Cornelia, Margaret, Pug, Mike, Chris and Jr.



Championship Memories

Submitted by Ronnie Jackson

While going through some old files, Ronnie Jackson found a clipping of an article titled "Poarch Wins Tourney" from the September 10, 1998 issue of the TriCity Ledger. The find brought back many great memories! The men's team from Poarch Creek Indians traveled to Cass Lake, Minnesota to play in the 30th annual Labor Day Tournament. The Tribe went 5-0 to win the 16 team tournament.

Gospel Light Church Homecoming

Gospel Light Church in Atmore, AL will have Homecoming on Sunday, June 5 at 10 am. Rev. Marty Gehman and congregation invite everyone to come and hear the Gospel and enjoy the music ministry of Alan Sibley and The Magnolia Ramblers, the Gloryland Singers and other local talent. Food and fellowship will follow the morning service. For more information, contact Brother Marty and Sister Vernie Gehman at 251-368-3353.

Weaver Graduates JDCC

Submitted by Juanita Slate

Congratulations to Magen Slate Weaver upon her graduation from Jefferson Davis Community College with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration on Monday, May 9, 2011.

We are so proud of you!! We love you!! Mama, Melton, Ashkia, Lucas, Bo, Stephanie, Dad, and Penny



Snow Graduates Sixth Grade

Submitted by Kim Snow

Alia Snow graduated from sixth grade at Huxford Elementary School on May 24, 2011. She will be attending Escambia Academy next year.

Congratulations! You are the best daughter any mother could ask for. We love you so very much.

Congrats again, Momma and Gavin.

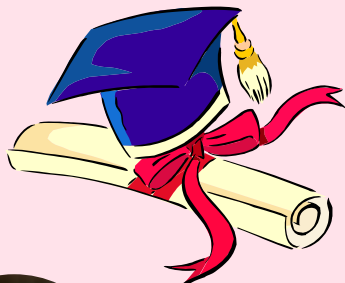


Rodriguez & Montgomery Graduate

Submitted by Their Family

Congratulations to Tori Rodriguez and Shawna Montgomery on graduating high school. Girls, this is a big accomplishment and you both should be proud of yourselves.

Tori (right) graduated from Escambia Academy on May 19th.



Shawna (left) will graduate from Northview High School on June 4, 2011. Shawna will celebrate her 18th birthday on June 25th; her family wishes her a Happy Birthday!

Love, all your family.

Marshall Rolin Graduates ECHS

Submitted by Marty Rolin

Congratulations to Marshall Justin Rolin son of Melvin and Marty Rolin on his graduation on May 27, 2011 from Escambia County High School. He is a National Honor Society Student with a 3.5 GPA.



Honoring Our Graduating Seniors & Recognizing Student Accomplishments

As the school year ends and summer begins, there are graduation ceremonies and academic achievement award ceremonies. The *Poarch Creek News* will be happy to publish graduation announcements/congratulations, student accomplishments and awards, etc.

**May/June Graduations in the
June/July/August Newsletters**

**July/August Graduation in the
July/August/September Newsletters**

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Homeland Security, Paralegal**

Bachelor's Degree

**Accounting, Business, Computer Information
Science, Criminal Justice, Homeland Security,
Paralegal**

Master's Degree

Accounting, Business, Criminal Justice

Meet with the Tribe's Corporate Liaison, Darryl Robinson on June 8th from 11am-2pm, and June 9th from 4pm-7pm at the Poarch Creek Education Department on Jack Springs Road. Darryl will be on site both days to discuss these educational opportunities with you. He will demonstrate the user friendliness of the online platform, and answer questions at that time.

The Hard Road To Federal Recognition

The Tribe was incorporated as a non-profit corporation under laws of the State of Alabama under the administrative and legal name of the tribal council, i.e., Creek Nation East of the Mississippi (CNEM) on August 27, 1971. The incorporation provided a vehicle for grants and a process of election of members of the council as a board of directors. The stated aims in the articles of incorporation are provision of assistance in preserving culture, furtherance of education and, in connection with this, to develop a central meeting place all for the Creek Indians East of the Mississippi. The council gradually came to be seen in the community as a governing organization. Calvin McGhee had clearly and emotionally been the Tribe's leader; gradually after his death, the council as an organization took on that roll.

The CNEM leadership, which was dominated by Poarch individuals, was to provide services to Creeks, no clear demarcation being made between providing services to the many Poarch families in Pensacola and other nearby areas. Some kinds of grants and programs did not make such a distinction possible. Strains from the dual constituency, and some differences of opinion among members of the council, became evident as the council's functions and programs expanded. The problems of dual constituency were strongly underlined to council leaders from Poarch in a 1973 meeting to decide the disposition of money from a second Creek claim, Docket 275. The conflict was over pooling the money for education and other group projects or making per capita payment as had been done with Docket 21. Buford Rolin and other council leaders were pushing for its use in such community projects. Rolin said the funds should be set aside for "educational, social and other things we need in this area here in the community, and for Creeks all over..." Houston McGhee, then Chief, said "this community right here in this school house has made suppers up for the money [the effort to win the claims] but I don't see too many of these faces [individuals from locations outside of the Poarch community] out when supper was made to fight the case."

In the end, the vote was for individual payments, but the experience reportedly caused a shift in the thinking of the Poarch leaders. Council composition had always had a majority from Poarch and apparently a larger effective majority because they were more geographically concentrated. The CNEM council gradually and consciously narrowed itself down to the

Poarch community and non-resident members derived from those families. It was not until 1979 that specific membership criteria were established and a roll created which defined who was eligible to vote.

Around 1978 the council began to use the dual names, Poarch Band of Creeks for the community and Creek Nation East of the Mississippi for the corporation, which was viewed as the administrative arm of the Tribe. In 1982 bylaws were adopted that established a blood degree requirement and identified source documents for membership: the 1870 U.S. Census of Escambia County, Alabama, the 1900 U.S. Census of Escambia County, Alabama, and the 1900 U.S. Special Indian Census of Monroe County, Alabama. Persons identified as Indian on any one of the three source documents were declared to be full-bloods. Living descendants of these individuals must be $\frac{1}{4}$ or more Creek Indian blood to be eligible for membership. The by-laws also prohibited dual enrollment, i.e. concurrent membership in more than one tribe. The Tribe continues to operate and govern under these bylaws.

The memorandum of recommendation and summary of evidence for proposed finding for Federal acknowledgment of the Poarch Band of Creeks of Alabama pursuant to 25 Code of Federal Recognition (CFR) 83 was approved on December 29, 1983. The recommendation read "We recommend that the Poarch Band of Creeks be acknowledged as an Indian tribe with a government-to-government relationship with the United States and be entitled to the same privileges and immunities available to other federally recognized tribes by virtue of their status as Indian Tribes." In August of 1984, after the 180 day waiting period required by the CFR for comments, the Tribe became, and remains, the only Federally recognized Indian Tribe in the State of Alabama.

The struggles of the Tribe did not end with Federal recognition, but that my friend is another story.

This month's article concludes this series of articles. We hope that you have enjoyed this series and have learned something new about your ancestors and the hardships and sacrifices they had to make to bring our Tribe to the place it is today.

The Tribal Council has asked that all Tribal Members complete the following survey. Surveys should be returned to the Tribal Member Benefits Office at 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL 36502 by **August 1, 2011**. If you wish to return the survey in person, the Tribal Member Benefits Office is located in Building 200. Thank you in advance for your willingness to participate!

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY/SSI SURVEY

How old are you? (circle one) 18-34 35-54 55-64 65 or older

Do you currently receive a Social Security Disability? Yes No

Do you currently receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)? Yes No

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Do any other members in your household receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)? Yes No

How many others in the household receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)? _____

Including yourself, how many household members receiving Social Security Disability are Tribal Members?

Including yourself, how many household members receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are Tribal Members?

If your household receives Social Security Disability, approximately how much do you receive each month?

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If your household receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI), approximately how much do you receive each month?

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INSTRUCTOR:
Ashley Krasinski
www.zumbaatlmore.com
PH 850-696-1450

LOCATION: Poarch Creek Indians, Wellness & Activities Department (GYM)
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June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Housing Authority begins accepting Renovation Loan Applications</i>	2 <i>Tribal Council Meeting Council Chambers 4:00 p.m.</i>	3 <i>CIEDA Meeting CIEDA Office 7:30 a.m.</i> <i>Walk In Voting Ends 5:00 p.m.</i> <i>Last Day To Receive Absentee Ballots</i>	4 <i>Tribal Election Day Polls Open 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. SAIL Center</i> <i>Health Fair Gym 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.</i>
5	6 <i>First Day/First Session of Summer Career & Leadership Academy & Lights, Camera, Action Program 8:00 a.m. Education Department Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Tribal Court Tribal Courtroom 9:00 a.m.</i>	7 <i>NA Meeting Turning Point 7:00 p.m.</i> <i>Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.</i>	8 <i>Everest University Corporate Liaison On Site Education Department 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.</i>	9 <i>Everest University Corporate Liaison On Site Education Department 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</i> <i>Housing Authority Meeting Building 400 Conference Room 4:00 p.m.</i>	10 <i>Deadline to submit information to be published in July newsletter</i>	11
12	13 <i>4-H Meeting Education Department 6:00 p.m.</i> <i>Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.</i>	14 <i>Wellness & Activities Authority Meeting Gym 11:00 a.m.</i> <i>Dance Class @ Gym 5:30/6:30 & 7:30 p.m. NA Meeting Turning Point 7:00 p.m.</i> <i>TERO Meeting 3:00 p.m. TERO Office</i>	15	16 <i>Tribal Council Meeting Council Chambers 4:00 p.m.</i>	17 <i>CIEDA Meeting CIEDA Office 7:30 p.m.</i> <i>Academic Achievement Banquet 6:00 p.m. Wind Creek Ballroom RSVP Required RSVP Deadline was 5:00 p.m. May 16th</i>	18
19	20 <i>Tribal Court Tribal Courtroom 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.</i>	21 <i>NA Meeting Turning Point 7:00 p.m.</i> <i>Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 pm/6:30 pm & 7:30 pm</i>	22	23 <i>Housing Authority Meeting Building 400 Conference Room 4:00 p.m.</i>	24	25
26	27 <i>Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.</i> <i>4-H Club Meeting Education Department 6:00 p.m.</i>	28 <i>Summer LIHEAP Seniors Only 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wellness & Activities Authority Meeting Gym 11:00 a.m. Dance Class @ Gym 5:30 pm/6:30 pm & 7:30 pm</i> <i>NA Meeting Turning Point 7:00 p.m. TERO Meeting 3:00 p.m. TERO Office</i>	29 <i>Summer LIHEAP Senior Households Disabled Households Households w/children under 5 yrs; Households receiving food stamps and TANF benefits 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.</i>	30 <i>Summer LIHEAP All Households 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.</i> <i>Last Day/First Session Summer Career & Leadership Academy 8:00 a.m. Education Department</i>		

Newsletter Contact Information

Poarch Creek News

Gayle Johnson, Media Specialist

(251) 368-9136 x 2210 gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov

5811 Jack Spring Road, Atmore, AL 36502

www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

Publication/Printing Information

The Poarch Creek News is printed and published by Huskey Printing, a 100% Tribal Member owned business. Please do not contact Huskey Printing with questions or concerns about the newsletter. **All questions and concerns should be addressed to the Media Specialist.**



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