

VOLUME 30 • ISSUE 2 Keeping the friends & family of Poarch informed

February 2012

Poarch Creek News

Cokv-Tuhme (job-guh duh-luh-mee /newspaper)



FEATURES:

- **Buying Your Lands Claims Application**
- **Board / Committee Updates**
- **Alcatraz Was Not An Island**
- **2012 Winter LIHEAP Information**
- **2012 Tribal Council Meetings**

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER JANUARY 2012

Although no official dates have been set at this time, the Tribal Council is working on two upcoming events that will be of importance to you the Tribal Member.

Plans for the annual State of the Tribe (SOT) are underway. The actual date of the presentation will be set once the official audits have been completed and the Annual Reports prepared. Please watch future issues of the newsletter for more information.

Plans are also underway for the annual legislative event to be held in Montgomery where Tribal Council Members and officials meet with our state legislators. This event is important to you the Tribal Member

as it is one of the ways that we meet with our state leaders and educate them on the Tribe and the impact the Tribe has on the State of Alabama.

What exciting times we are having here at the Tribe. We have had several important economic developments occur within the past couple of months. We have had two grand openings: Wind Creek Montgomery and Creek Entertainment Gretna. We also had the groundbreaking of a new project in January, Airport & 12th. This project is being built in partnership with Innisfree Hotels in Pensacola, FL at the Pensacola International Airport. It will include a Hyatt Place hotel as well as office and retail sites on twelve acres. When completed, the hotel will be



Buford L. Rolin, Tribal Chairman
tlanaster@pci-nsn.gov

connected to the airport.

As always, please know that my fellow Tribal Council Members and I are doing all we can to represent you the Tribal Member in all that we do.

Tribal Council Executive Officers



Stephanie Bryan
Vice Chair
sbryan@pci-nsn.gov



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



Robert McGhee
Treasurer
rmcghee@pci-nsn.gov



Sandy Hollinger
At Large
shollinger@pci-nsn.gov



Keith Martin
At Large
kmartin@pci-nsn.gov



Arthur Mothershed
At Large
amothershed@pcigaming.com

Tribal Council Members At Large

Eddie L. Tullis
At Large
etullis@pci-nsn.gov



Garvis Sells
At Large
gsells@pci-nsn.gov



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Once the newsletter has been posted on-line, you can use the embedded hyperlinks to take you directly to articles/ pages, web sites, email forms, etc.

We have incorporated the use of the Muskogee language as much as possible in the newsletter. You will see examples in the numbers of each page as well as on the front cover.

The Minute Insert also includes flyers about 2012 Graduating Seniors and Wellness & Activities' League & Gym Schedule. This information is not included in the newsletters received by those on the subscription mailing list.

ON THE COVER



X marks the spot!! On the cover is a picture of the site of the new Health Clinic and Assisted Living Facility, which will include a new SAIL Center, that is currently in the planning stages. Construction of these two very important and very needed facilities will proceed in phases. Although no official announcement has been made, phase one of the construction will most likely be the widening of Martin Road since the construction of these two new facilities will generate a enormous amount of traffic. We will keep you updated as these projects proceed.

Newsletter Deadlines

The Poarch Creek News is generated on a monthly basis by the Government Relations Department of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians at the direction/ discretion of the Tribal Council to provide important updates, news, and information to Tribal Members. We reserve the right to edit or refuse any item for publication.

The Poarch Creek News is generated one month prior to the month of publication. The deadline to submit information to be published in the newsletter is the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication. If the 10th falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is extended to the next working day.

Due to space limitations, submitted articles should be limited to 500 words or less. Obituaries/Family Thanks will be published if submitted by the last working day of the month immediately following the death. Other specific deadlines are published in the appropriate sections of the newsletter.

PUBLIC RECORD: BUYING YOUR LAND CLAIMS APPLICATION

Submitted by Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ed. D.

How would you like to see the land claims settlement application that your grandmother filled out in the 1970s or 80s? Did you know that you can buy a copy of it at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Fort Worth, Texas? The land claims applications are considered public record, therefore, you can purchase copies of your own application or anyone else's.

What are the benefits of these records? The applications have the applicant's genealogy written on the form as a part of the eligibility requirements, therefore, Creeks who are searching for missing links in their family tree can potentially find them in these applications. Some Creeks who possessed the family's genealogical knowledge passed away leaving only the land claims application as a record of the family's history.

How do you know if your family members filled out an application? The Office of Archives and Records Management at the Poarch Band of Creek Indians acquired an index of the names of land claims applicants from NARA which identifies those applicants who were eligible or rejected. On August 12, 2011, I looked on the index and found my family's names, wrote down the application numbers, and sent a request to purchase the records through

e-mail. It cost 75 cents per page. One week later, I received the copies in the mail at the Tribe!

How exciting it is to hold pieces of history in my hands! I read through the applications of Daddy, Aunt Ruby, Aunt Berdie and Aunt Eunice, all of whom have passed on (Otis Cullen Dees, Ruby Tensie Dees Sessions, Berdie Ola Dees Haynes, Ella Eunice Dees Griffin, respectively). I spontaneously thought, "Maybe they're all watching me work in the archives from heaven!"

In her application dated October 18, 1979, Aunt Ruby argues, "I am a registered member of the Creek Nation in Poarch, Alabama." In her writing I can feel the years of painful injustice that she has experienced as a Creek woman, an injustice that she hopes to rise above, at least in part, through the land claims settlement.

In a 1981 BIA letter, it states that Daddy had been rejected because he had not submitted official documents for my grandparents Charlie Suwanee Dees and Ella Hollinger Dees. Apparently, Daddy and his sisters had to file an appeal. A letter from Aunt Eunice asks for an extension but she was summarily denied. Another letter from Aunt Ruby says that she has had a hard time trying to collect census documentation. "I don't believe I'll have that information in 30

days, even if you grant me an extension."

Nevertheless, my family won their appeals for Docket 275. A BIA eligibility letter says Daddy's application was approved on March 29, 1983. Less than a year later, Daddy would be dead from an automobile collision. He received his land claims check just in time!

What about your family's land claims settlement? You may want to check out NARA's collections which are impressive—111,000 cubic feet of records including state census records from 1790 to 1930. You may contact them by calling 817-831-5620 or by e-mailing ftworth.archives@nara.gov. You may also write them at:

Director, Regional Archives
National Archives at Fort Worth
1400 John Burgess Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76140

For Internet users, you can find NARA here: <http://www.facebook.com/nationalarchivesfortworth>.

Come to the archives in Building 200 and check out the index. You might be surprised to find the names of family members you have not seen in a very long time.

TRIBE CHANGES CHECK FORMAT

Effective January 2012, the Tribe will begin using pressure sealed checks for vendor payments, payroll, per capita payments, and other all financial transactions.

Pressure sealed checks are one page, self-mailing documents with a limited amount of remittance detail. This is the same style check commonly used by

insurance companies, local and state governments, etc. The checks are sealed with removable perforated sides.

We would like to remind everyone to be careful when opening checks received from the Tribe; if you do not open them along the perforated sides, the check may be torn and may have to be replaced.

Submitted by Venus McGhee Prince,
Attorney General

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on legal matters affecting your interests as Tribal Members. If you have any questions regarding any of these matters, please feel free to contact any of your Tribal Council members at (251) 446-1140 or me at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2525.

Tribal Legislation

On December 15, 2011, the Tribal Council enacted Legislative Regulations to streamline the process by which tribal ordinances and resolutions are finalized and to centralize the location of these documents so that they would be more accessible to Tribal Members. Tribal members may now obtain copies of ordinances or resolutions through the Office of Archives and Records Management for a fee that reflects the actual costs to the Tribe. Please feel free to contact your Tribal Council members or Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees, Tribal Archivist, with any questions at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2531, or ddees@pci-nsn.gov.

Significant Court Cases

White v. PBCI et al. (Tribal Court)
White v. McGhee et al. (State Court)

On May 1, 2009, former Tribal Judge Ernie White filed suit in Tribal Court against the Tribe and six individual Tribal Council members that voted to remove him from judicial office, alleging violations of his constitutional rights and demanding damages exceeding \$3 million for each of his four claims, and in Escambia County circuit court against the six individual Tribal Council members who voted to remove him, alleging invasion of privacy and outrage claims and demanding damages exceeding \$2.5 million for each of his five claims.

Tribal Case

The Tribe filed a motion to dismiss all

claims based on sovereign immunity. In May 2010, the Tribal Court granted the Tribe's motion to dismiss. White moved for reconsideration of that ruling, and the Tribal Court denied that motion in December 2010.

On April 5, 2011, the Tribal Supreme Court entered a Decision affirming the dismissal of the claims against the Tribe and the named Tribal Council members in their individual capacities because there was no waiver of sovereign immunity. The Tribal Supreme Court, however, remanded the matter for consideration of the Tribe's motion to strike White's second amended complaint, which alleged claims against the individual Tribal Council members in their official capacities and was filed after the notice of appeal.

Per the Tribal Judge's May 2011 Order responding to the remand from the Tribal Supreme Court, the parties submitted briefs regarding the motion to strike the second amended complaint. On July 13, 2011, the Tribal Judge denied the motion to strike the second amended complaint. The individual Tribal Council member defendants then filed its answer on September 12, 2011.

On October 5, 2011, the individual Tribal Council member defendants filed a motion for summary judgment. The Tribal Court then set a briefing schedule for the summary judgment motion and a trial date of December 12, 2011. After briefing by all parties, the Tribal Court granted the individual Tribal Council member defendants' motion for summary judgment on December 7, 2011. As a result, the trial date is moot.

White filed a notice of appeal on December 15, 2011. The parties await a briefing schedule from the Tribal Supreme Court.

State Case

The individual Tribal Council member defendants also moved to dismiss the privacy and outrage claims based on sovereign immunity. In August 2009, the

State Court denied the Tribal defendants' motion to dismiss, concluding that the issue of sovereign immunity is more appropriately addressed at summary judgment. The Tribal defendants filed a petition for a writ of mandamus with the Alabama Supreme Court, requesting that the Supreme Court direct the trial court to dismiss this case based on sovereign immunity. The Alabama Supreme Court denied the petition for a writ of mandamus in October 2010. The parties engaged in discovery from that point until June 2011.

On June 15, 2011, the State Court set a status conference for June 27, 2011, and ordered that any dispositive motions be filed with the Court not later than June 20, 2011, and heard at the status conference. The individual Tribal Council member defendants and White filed motions for summary judgment and argued them at the June 27th status conference.

On August 17, 2011, the State Court granted the Tribe's motion for summary judgment. White filed a motion to alter, amend or vacate the order granting summary judgment but the motion was deemed denied as of December 15. White has forty-two days in which to file an appeal.

Rape v. Poarch Band of Creek Indians, PCI Gaming, Creek Indian Enterprises, Creek Casino Montgomery et al. (Tribal and State Courts)

In November 2011, Jerry Rape filed complaints against the Tribe in Tribal Court and Montgomery County Circuit Court. Rape alleges that he won a \$1.3 million jackpot at a gaming machine at Creek Casino Montgomery, but that the Tribe refused to pay the winnings because the machine had malfunctioned. The Tribe intends to file motions to dismiss in both cases based on, among other things, sovereign immunity.



TAKE ACTION!

Our mission at Escape is to inspire you to embrace a fun, healthy lifestyle. Located in the AAA Four Diamond Wind Creek resort, Escape offers an innovative wellness program designed to make you look, feel and live better. Enjoy our world class spa, healthy and great tasting cuisine, an array of fitness, discovery and adventure experiences, culinary demonstrations, a serene meditation garden, and level 15, a unique boutique hotel within a hotel.

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CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



Taylor Brent Hutto
January 5, 2012

Happy 11th birthday! Taylor is the son of Michael Hutto, grandson of Glenda Ellis, and the great-grandson of Thelma McGhee Henson. From your family. We love you.



Karen Findley
January 6, 2012

Karen Findley of Everett, WA celebrated her birthday January, 6, 2012.

Her family in Alabama would like to say Happy Birthday and we love you!



Sydney Raybon
January 9, 2012

Happy 15th birthday Sydney! Sydney is the daughter of Jeremy and Tammy Raybon and the granddaughter of Dewey and Peggy Fowler. We love you! Mama, Daddy, & Fuzz.



Joshua Burkett
January 9, 2012

Joshua Burkett celebrated his birthday on January 9th with family and friends!

Happy Birthday Big Daddy, we love you! Vicky and Little Josh.



Tenleigh Brooke Peebles
January 13, 2012

Happy belated birthday to Tenleigh Brooke Peebles!!

Tenleigh celebrated her 1st birthday on Friday, January 13, 2012. Happy Birthday!! We love you.



Bacarri Ramer
January 17, 2012

Bacarri Ramer celebrated his 16th birthday with family and friends on January 17, 2012.

Love Momma, Granny, Paw Paw Eddie and Harley!



Jakob Gibson
January 27, 2012

Happy 10th birthday!! We love you so much and are so proud of you!

Love, Daddy, Dee, Papa, Granna, Jeremy, and Cheyan.



Makayla Jane Rolin
January 30, 2012

Happy Belated Birthday to Makayla Jane Rolin who turned 2 on January 30, 2012. Love Mama,

Daddy, Maw Maw, Ninny, Paw Paw, Hunter, and Maw Maw Cooper.



Nelson "Bubba" Martin
January 30, 2012

Happy 50th Birthday! Roll Tide Roll!!

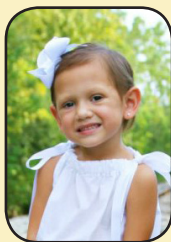
From BC and Family



Adam McGhee
February 3, 2012

Happy Birthday Adam! We love you so very, very much!

Love, Jennifer, Madilyn, Samuel & Bama.



Anna Grace Hollinger
February 12, 2012

Our little princess, Anna Grace Hollinger, is turning 3 on February 12, 2012! Happy Birthday!

Love, Daddy, Mommy, Austin, Bubby, Maw Maw, Paw, and Grandmaw.

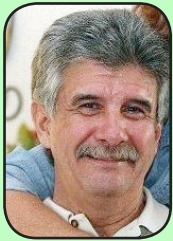


Bryan Hutto
February 14, 2012

Happy 38th Birthday! Bryan is the son of Glenda and Davis Ellis, great-grandson of Thelma McGhee Henson and the late Glenn Henson. Happy Birthday from your family, we love you.

Birthday Wishes are limited to 30 words or less. Birthday wishes may be submitted for publication in the newsletter the month before, the month of, or the month after the birthday as long as established deadlines have been met. This may mean you have to submit your wish prior to the actual birthday party that may be planned.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



Charles Colbert
February 15, 2012

Happy Birthday Dad!
We love you so much
and hope you have a very
special day.

Love, Amanda, Sean, Casey, Noah, and
Benjamin.



Josh Thomas
February 15, 2012

Happy Birthday Daddy!
We love you so much.

Roll Tide!! Ashton, Brantlie, and Major.



Zachary Hutto
February 17, 2012

Happy 9th birthday!
Zachary is the son of
Bryan Hutto, grandson
of Glenda and Davis
Ellis, and the great-
grandson of Thelma McGhee Henson.
Happy Birthday from your family.



Kenslee Chavira
February 19, 2012

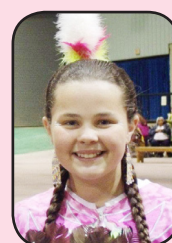
Happy 4th Birthday
Kenslee! We love you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Aron, Nani, Papa, Nae
Nae and Bubba James.



Hunter Connor Kinman
February 20, 2012

Happy 6th birthday
Connor! We hope you
have a great birthday!
Love from Mom, Dad,
your little sister Kendall,
Nana & Paw Paw, Aunt Melanie, Logan,
and Madley.



Natalie Bryn Martin
February 22, 2012

Happy 11th Birthday
Natalie! We love you
and are very proud of
the young lady you are
becoming.

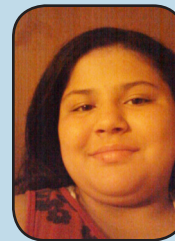
Love, Daddy, Mama, Collin, & Chloe.



Crimson McGhee
February 22, 2012

Happy 5th Birthday
Crimson!

I love you! Mama.



SkyLynn Leyva
February 22, 2012

Happy 12th birthday
SkyLynn!

SkyLynn is the daughter
of Michelle Henson
Leyva, granddaughter of Gary Henson,
and great-granddaughter of Thelma
McGhee Henson.



John O'Barr
February 24, 2012

Happy Birthday John!
We love you.

From your family and Stacie.

**Elizabeth Dawn Vickery
Alexander**
February 25, 2012

Happy 33rd Birthday Dawn!
I love you, Aunt Connie.



**Joyce Johnson &
Lori Woosley**
February 28, 2012

Happy birthday Mom &
Lori! Queens for another
day! Wishing you days
rich in brilliance & beauty.
Hugs & love from all of us.



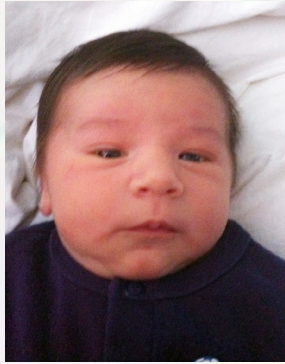
The Levi & Treacy McGhee Family
would like to say Happy Birthday to:

Darren McGhee, February 21, 2012
Velma Crocker, February 22, 2012 (The Big 70!)
David A Kinman, February 23, 2012
Deidre Smith, February 24, 2012

Happy birthday, we love you!!

Birthday Wishes are limited to 30 words or less. Birthday wishes may be submitted for publication in the newsletter the month before, the month of, or the month after the birthday as long as established deadlines have been met. This may mean you have to submit your wish prior to the actual birthday party that may be planned.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

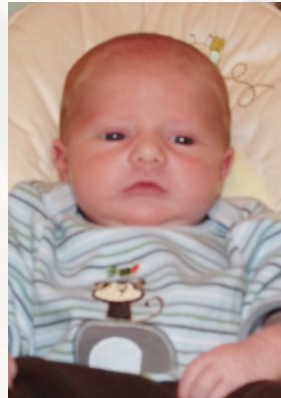


Clay Michael Daigle

Johnathon and Sarah Daigle would like to announce the birth of their son, Clay Michael Daigle.

Clay was born on December 28, 2011 at 12:10 p.m. He weighed 9 lbs. and was 20 1/2 inches long.

Clay is the little brother of Olivia Anne; the grandson of Anthony and Tanna (Colbert) Daigle; and the great-grandson of Houston and Charlotte Colbert.



Kaden Ray Hutto

Bryan Hutto and Denisha McKitrick announce the birth of their son Kaden Ray Hutto, born on December 29, 2011.

He weighed 6 lbs. 4 ozs. He joins a big brother, Zachary. He is the grandson of Glenda and Davis Ellis and the great-grandson of Thelma McGhee Henson.

Birth Announcements may be submitted for publication in the newsletter as long as the information is submitted by the last working day of the month immediately following the birth as long as established deadlines have been met.

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

Otha & Marie Martin ***January 23, 2012***

Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary to Otha and Marie Martin! We love you and God Bless,

Your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, family, and friends.



Anniversary Wishes may be submitted for publication in the newsletter the month before, the month of, or the month after the anniversary as long as established deadlines have been met.

Wedding/Engagement Announcements may be submitted for publication in the newsletter as long as the information is submitted by the last working day of the month immediately following the wedding/engagement as long as established deadlines have been met.

TRIBE RECEIVES GRANT TO CONTINUE RIVERCANE PROJECT

The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) recently awarded its 2011 grants to 28 American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian artists and organizations in 15 states. Grants were awarded in three categories: Support for Individual Artists: "2011 Artist Fellowships" (total allocation \$100,000); Mobilizing the Community Through the Arts: "2011 Artist Convenings Initiative" (total allocation \$110,000) and "2011 Artist and Community Collaboration Initiative" (total allocation \$100,000); and Support for the Field: "2011 Regional Collaboration Pilot Program" (total allocation \$200,000).

This year's recipients include the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, located in Atmore, AL. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians' \$10,000 grant will support a traditional rivercane basketry project. Community members will first assist in harvesting mature cane and then process it by splitting and several steps of peeling. The community members will work with local renowned weaver, Mary Smith. The efforts will culminate in a set of four baskets from harvested and processed rivercane for display at the Cultural Education Center so that future generations may embrace this art form.

The NACF is the first national 501(c)(3) charity committed to building a fund dedicated exclusively to foster the revitalization, appreciation and continuity of Native arts and cultures. This year's grant sizes ranged from \$10,000 to \$40,000, with a total allocation of \$510,000 which is up from \$394,319 in 2010. This is the NACF's second year of grantmaking.

"Support for this country's Native arts and cultures is critical to our Foundation's mission, which is to nurture the creativity of Native artists and organizations through our grantmaking program," says NACF President/CEO T. Lulani Arquette (Native Hawaiian). "The NACF congratulates all of our 2011 grantees for projects and work that have not only inspired us at the NACF but also raised the visibility of Native arts and cultures in the United States and globally."

To learn more about the NACF, visit www.nativeartsandcultures.org and sign up for the free e-newsletter. Become a fan of the organization on Facebook.

Summary of Press Release from Native Arts & Cultures Foundation

HONORING OUR LOST VETERANS

If you live in Atmore or the surrounding area, the local American Legion and VFW organizations hope that you have visited the Veteran's Memorial in front of Atmore's City Hall. If not, they strongly encourage you to visit and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and were killed in action serving their country.

On Memorial Day, May 28, 2012, a ceremony will be held at the Memorial to add new names to those currently on the Memorial.

If you know of anyone from Atmore and surrounding areas that was killed during any war from WWI to

the present and would like to honor them by having their name posted on the Veterans Memorial, please contact Jimmy Beck at (251) 368-5911. Proper documentation verifying services and death during a war will be required.

Mr. Beck asked that if you have contacted him after the Memorial was dedicated about adding someone, please contact him again so that he can make sure all veterans killed in action are recognized.

Please contact Mr. Beck by March 15, 2012 to ensure sufficient time to have nameplate made.

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Tribal Council has requested that the Chairman from each Board/Committee submit a monthly update to be published in the Poarch Creek News. Each month those submissions will be published in this area. Commissions & Authorities update the Council on a regularly scheduled basis; those updates will be included in the Tribal Council Minutes unless an update is submitted via this request.

Muskogee Inn

Jack Allen McGhee, Chairman

Some of you members might not be that familiar with the Muskogee Inn. So, I want to give you some facts and figures in the first few updates to get you up to speed. It is located at the intersection of I-65 and Hwy 21, not far from the Wind Creek Casino. When purchased in 1985 from Martin Weber it was the Best Western Hotel and it remained as such until the name was changed to The Muskogee Inn a couple of years ago (more about the name change in future updates). Being the first and oldest entity purchased by the Tribe after federal recognition gives it sentimental value along with monetary value. The entire complex is four buildings of which three buildings (A, B, & C) contain all of the hotel rooms (86 rooms and 2 suites) and the fourth building is the restaurant (The Wrangler Steakhouse). The Muskogee Inn board oversees the hotel while Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (C.I.E.D.A.) oversees the restaurant. The hotel has a staff of 18 employees who are doing a tremendous job and I will introduce you to them in the near future. A quick reminder, Tribal Members receive a 10% discount on rooms and all guests receive "FREE PLAY WITH EVERY STAY" which is five dollars free play that will be added to the club card at the casino when the guest shows the check-in folio.

Perdido River Farms ***Kent McGhee, Chairman***

The Perdido River Farms (PRF) Enterprise would like to inform Tribal Members of the personnel changes that have taken place recently. As most may know, John Flowers, General Manager of 19 years, lost his life to cancer; our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the Flowers family during their loss.

The current staff consists of:

General Manager	John English
Cattle Production Manager	James Agerton
Office Coordinator	Magan Daughtry
Full-Time Farm Worker I	Douglas Kelley
	Brent Bell
	Ben Turberville
Part Time Farmer Worker	William Bagget
Casual Help	Paul Bell

PRF Board of Directors:

Kent McGhee	Chairman
Dewey McGhee	Vice Chairman
Leroy Tullis	Treasurer
Ronald Rolin	Board Member
Josh Thomas	Board Member

Housing Authority

Lynn Woodcock, Chairman

The Housing Authority Board is currently working on Policy and Procedures to implement a new housing program for Over Income participants. We haven't determined a name for the program, but it will mirror the current TAHO policy (with admissions to the program).

Each month I will update each Tribal Member on the particulars of the program in this update.

EDUCATION NEWS & INFORMATION

Submitted by Christyn Sells

The PCI Education Department would like to thank everyone who participated and helped out with the Tribal Kids Christmas party 2011!

Everything went so smoothly and the kids had a great time! We would like to say an extra special Thank you, to the following people for helping out and for making sure that our Tribal youth had a great Christmas party:

Mike Wesaw, Kaci Martin, Mandy

Peebles, Melvin Middleton, Trina Rackard, Cody and Brooke Rolin, Jacob McGhee, Theresa Rutherford, Megan Crabtree, Ronald Rolin, Wind Creek Casino, Kimberly McGhee, Margie and Heather Rolin,

April Sells and the firefighters, the Tribal Police Officers, Cindy Martin, Donna Johnson, Jill Lee, Sandra Day, Amber Alvarez and the Princesses, Juanita Slate, Myrtis Kinman, Beverly Holcomb, Dustin Colbert, Ryan McGhee, Chance

and Casey Jackson, and Rachel Presley

I hope there was no one I have forgotten, but please let me know if I have left anyone out. The Education Department wants to make sure you all know how important that each of you were to the children!

Interesting to note - approximately 300 children and their parents/family members came to the party!

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ALCATRAZ WAS NOT AN ISLAND ...

*By Dean Chavers
IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com*

When 78 Indian college students took over the Alcatraz Island prison in San Francisco Bay on November 19, 1969 to protest the poor treatment of Indians in schools and the hated termination policy, none of us had any idea that our actions would have such a lasting impact on Indian policy in the U.S. But since that time, the federal government has clearly changed from anti-Indian to pro-Indian, at least according to some Indian people.

Termination of Indian treaties was the law of the land in 1969. President Richard Nixon reversed that policy and declared termination to be dead in 1970 as a direct result of the Alcatraz occupation. Since then, Congress has passed at least 16 laws that make life better for Indians.

Browning Pipestem, Otoe, was the lawyer for the occupiers of Alcatraz. He had gone to law school with a young attorney on the White House staff, and the two of them “back-channeled,” according to Browning, for months. (The occupation lasted until June 11, 1971, a total of 19 months.) Nixon constantly wanted to know what was happening with the occupation—he wanted to know when the Indian college students had occupied the island, why they had done it and what they wanted to happen because of what they were doing. Nothing official was written or declared, but whenever Nixon wanted to know what was going on with the occupation, Browning would call either me or Richard Oakes, the leader of the Alcatraz occupation, and then pass along whatever information he had gathered to his lawyer-friend in

the White House. Browning, who also pushed for the end of the destructive termination of Indian treaties and for the right of tribes to govern themselves, apparently told the president (through his conduit) almost everything that happened on the island.

Up to that time, Congress had passed some 5,000 laws dealing with Indians, and most of them were bad for Indians. Nixon was an early supporter of termination in the 1940s and 1950s, but he announced the most important change in Indian policy in 1970—the year of his “self-determination” speech, which was delivered on July 8, 1970. He said federal policy would no longer call for terminating the treaties between the U.S. and Indian tribes; instead, the federal policy would be self-determination. I see Browning’s input all over that Nixon declaration—he wrote this type of rhetoric in frequent messages to the White House. Congress supported Nixon’s policy a few years later and started passing laws that were positive for Indians.

They have tried to make life better for Indians, but they have a long way to go. A century of racist treatment and abuse will take another century to correct. And some things can never be corrected, including the physical and sexual abuse Indian children suffered in boarding schools, and the loss of two-thirds of Indian lands between 1888 and 1938. Some reservations such as Pine Ridge and Hoopa still have unemployment rates of 85 percent and Indian education is still substandard. Indian health care still has many gaps; Indians still die from heart disease, tuberculosis and diabetes at much higher rates than the general population.

Congress and the president had terminated 113 reservations between 1953 and 1966, including several that had many tribes forced onto them. The most important thing that has happened since 1970 is the restoration of federal recognition of tribes. Starting with the Menominee in 1973 and the Siletz and Klamath a few years later, Congress has restored most of the tribes that were terminated. But many are still terminated. The current statistics from my forthcoming book show the following:

- Number that have been recognized again by the federal government: 78
- Number that are still not recognized by the federal government: 35
- Number that have been recognized by state governments: 10
- Number that are landless: 31
- Number that are now extinct: 24
- Number that have casinos: 35

Congress has since passed a number of positive laws for Indians after passing thousands of negative laws from 1788 to 1953, and some other good things have been put in place as well. Here are the major ones, in chronological order:

- Congress passed the Indian Education Act (IEA) in 1972. Sen. Robert Kennedy had launched a national study of Indian education in 1968. When he was killed, his brother Teddy continued the study, which was published in 1969. He then introduced a bill to improve Indian education, which was passed in 1972. It provides supplemental funding to some 1,100 school districts. Despite that help, Indian education is still the worst in the nation, with a 50 percent

...the occupation lead to many surprising and lasting benefits

dropout rate, test scores that are almost always below the 20th percentile and the lowest rate of college attendance in the nation—17 percent, compared to more than 60 percent for the nation.

- The Indian Health Service (IHS) budget more than doubled between 1970 and 1975. The problem was that its budget had been anemic before 1970. The IHS, which operates or contracts for 180 Indian hospitals and clinics, still has a 35 percent vacancy rate for its professional positions. Indians were literally dying while they waited to be seen by a doctor at overcrowded Indian hospitals and clinics. God help urban Indians, because the hospitals wouldn't. If you were from South Dakota and got sick while in Albuquerque, chances were the hospital would tell you to go home to be treated.

- The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 began the process of bringing self-governance back to Indian country. Prior to the act, tribes had little power and authority—the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) determined where Indian children went to school, what leases on Indian land, timber, water and minerals were contracted, what payments were made to individual Indians of welfare and other monies and other important matters. After this act was passed, tribes could contract to operate these services themselves—everything from tribal government to tribal courts, jails, tribal enrollment, education, social services and other important functions.

- The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission was established in 1975 following the Boldt decision—by federal judge George Boldt in 1974—which ruled that the Indians of Washington were entitled to half the salmon and

steelhead in Washington state. The commission was the brainchild of Billy Frank Jr., Nisqually, who started fish-ins in the 1950s to protect Indian treaty rights. The state of Washington had been violating those rights, insisting that Indians could not fish off their reservations, ignoring the fact that the treaties the Indians of Washington signed with the federal government in the 1850s promised that if they agreed to relocate to reservations they could fish and hunt as they always had. The main job of the commission has been to limit fishing and let the fish stock be rebuilt. The tribes are now enforcing their laws in regard to fishing on their rivers.

- Nixon established the Office of Indian Water Rights to protect the most precious Indian resource in the dry West. Water is more precious than gold to Westerners. The Winters doctrine of 1908 reserved the right of an Indian reservation to have enough water for its uses. Indians have taken many beatings in the battles over water on reservations. Farmers, miners, ranchers, loggers, resort operators and developers had done all they could to extract every drop of water for their operations. The city of Los Angeles, for instance, drained a lake on an Indian reservation at Bishop, California and shipped that water to Los Angeles. The office represents tribes in water negotiations, basically enforcing the Winters doctrine, which guarantees Indian reservations first rights to waters flowing through the reservation. The doctrine had been ignored hundreds of times between 1908 and 1974.

- Congress passed the Indian Health Care Improvement Act in 1976 to improve the health-care system under IHS. It includes a program

of scholarships to Indians to study medicine, dentistry, psychiatry, nursing and pharmacy. This program has funded the education of more than 8,000 Indian students in health-care fields.

- The American Indian Religious Freedom Act was passed in 1978. After outlawing Indian religions for a century and punishing Indians who practiced their religion, the federal government stopped suppressing and prosecuting Indian people for practicing their religion. Among the specific things the government had outlawed were the sun dance, the bear dance, potlatches, giveaways, the use of peyote in religious ceremonies, the use of sweat lodges, the use of sacred sites and the use of eagle feathers in Indian religious ceremonies.

- The BIA created the Branch of Acknowledgement and Research (BAR) in 1978 in response to requests from tribes for reversal of the termination of their treaties and in response to tribes seeking federal recognition for the first time. Without congressional authorization, the BIA laid out the criteria for tribal recognition and had it published in the Congressional Record, making the process official if not legal. Over the next 20 years a total of 350 tribes and groups that claimed to be tribes applied for federal recognition. The BAR has never had federal authorization or approval, but it has assumed the power of life or death over recognizing Indian tribes.

- Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act in 1978, which let tribes have some input in the adoption of Indian children and the placement of orphan children. This was in response to the fact that 25 to 35 percent of Indian children were taken away from Indian

parents by non-Indians. They went to adoptive homes, foster homes and child-care institutions. The intention of the BIA and the missionaries was to destroy Indian tribes, languages and cultures by destroying Indian families.

- Congress also passed the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act in 1978. It authorized the operation of community colleges on Indian reservations. Within a decade there were a handful of tribal colleges, and today there are 36. They have made important contributions to Indian country, including an employment rate of graduates that ranges between 85 and 90 percent, compared to only 55 percent employment in Indian country overall.

- Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in 1988 at the request of Nevada and New Jersey gaming interests. They did not want the competition from Indian tribes that was emerging in southern California, New York, Florida and Connecticut. It established the federal National Indian Gaming Commission to regulate and monitor Indian gaming in the 300-plus tribal casinos that are now operating.

- Sen. Daniel I. Inouye, D-Hawaii, sponsored the legislation to found the National Museum of the American Indian in 1989. The museum is located in Washington, D.C. and is part of the Smithsonian. It has a special mission to preserve traditional Indian arts, relics, cultural objects, religious objects and other artifacts, many of them stolen from tribes and individuals over the past four centuries.

- The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act was passed in 1990. It requires the return of sacred objects to Indian tribes, mainly from museums that had acquired

them in the 1800s. These include human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony. Hundreds of thousands of Indian cultural objects were removed from reservations by curiosity seekers, museum curators, traders, university professors and others. More than 32,000 human remains have been returned to Indian tribes for proper burial since this was passed. Hundreds of thousands of other objects have been returned to Indian tribes from agencies and museums that receive federal funding.

- The Native American Languages Act passed in 1990, but Congress gave it no funding. This act reversed 121 years of federal policy intended to strip Indians of their identity. This became official policy in 1869, when President Ulysses S. Grant accepted the recommendations of a group of missionaries that called for (1) confining Indians to reservations; (2) forcing their children to attend school and learn English; (3) required them to stop hunting and learn to farm like white people and (4) eventually lose their Indian identity. Our occupation of Alcatraz made it clear to many people in the U.S. that most Indians had no desire to lose their languages or their identity. In 1991, Congress approved funding for the act, and it has been in effect ever since.

- Congress passed the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act in 1996. A major study by a national housing commission appointed by the White House found that 30 percent of Indians were living in inadequate housing. Many lacked adequate sanitary facilities, running water and electricity. Forty percent of Indian housing was overcrowded, compared to only six percent for the nation. More than 90,000 Indians were unhoused

or homeless. Phones were rare on rural reservations. Some 25 percent of Indian homes had no indoor plumbing, a rate that was 20 times the national rate. There was an immediate need for 200,000 units of housing in Indian country. The assumption that Indians would eventually leave reservations and assimilate into the mainstream was found a century later not to be happening. Congress finally realized that Indians were not going to die off or go away and authorized additional funding for Indian housing.

- Tribal departments of education are a recent development in Indian country, despite having been launched by Patricia Locke in the early 1970s. The funding from Congress has allowed only a small handful of tribes to start tackling the many problems facing Indian education.

These 16 federal laws and programs have started to improve life for Indians on reservations. But despite these sometimes massive efforts, the White House and Congress have bollixed up Indian affairs so badly that it will take several generations to make life significantly better for Indian people.

So while many people thought we were crazy for taking over an island prison in San Francisco Bay, the changes that protest set in motion have been positive and long-lasting. There were many occupations and sit-ins in Indian country in the two decades following Alcatraz, but Alcatraz was the first. The Mohawk leader of that occupation, Richard Oakes, was a true visionary.

Dr. Dean Chavers is director of Catching the Dream, a scholarship and school improvement organization in Albuquerque. His latest book is Racism in Indian Country from Peter Lang Publishing. His next book is Broken Promises: Termination of Indian Treaties and the Aftermath.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Submitted by Donna Johnson, RN/Diabetes Case Manager

February: Time for heart health

February is designated as American Heart Month. Chocolate and paper hearts will soon be making their rounds telling people how much they love and care about them. There couldn't be a better time to really look at our lifestyles and make changes to support heart health for ourselves and the ones we love.

Did you know the average heart weighs approximately 8 to 10 ounces? This is influenced by age, gender and other factors. The heart is truly an awesome muscle. No, it can't leap buildings in a single bound; but it can pump approximately five quarts of blood through miles of arteries, veins and capillaries in about twenty seconds and beat around 100,000 times per day!

We all know by now that diabetes increases the risk of heart disease. The Center for Disease Control reports that heart disease is the number one cause of death in the US and also a major cause of disability. So what changes can we make to promote better heart health? Reducing weight, high blood pressure, high blood sugar, cholesterol levels and stopping tobacco use, are a great start.



As the weather improves outdoor activities like walking and gardening are a good way to get moving. There is nothing like being outside on a beautiful day just getting ready to plant something. Exercise will help you to lose weight and improve blood sugar and blood pressure numbers. If it has been awhile since you have exercised, you should make sure you get clearance from your doctor first.

Reducing your salt intake, eating less processed foods and increasing fresh fruits and vegetables will help improve blood pressure. Eating low fat or fat free dairy products and choosing leaner meats can help lower cholesterol.

Let February be the month when you decide it's time to take care of your heart for yourself and the ones you love. Keep your heart healthy to ensure that the beat goes on.

Till next month,

Donna

NAYO BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

April 6-7-2012

Entry Deadline February 29, 2012
For PBCI Tribal Members
For all others deadline is
4:00 P.m. CST March 9, 2012

Must be of age by August 1, 2012.
Must be Tribal Member or First Generation Descent

A flyer with more information is posted on Tribal web site at www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov.

For more information, contact:

Trina Rackard (251) 368-9136 x 2256 / 253-3398
Theresa Rutherford (251) 368-9136 x 2256 / 253-5889
Melvin Middleton (251) 368-2256 x 2256 / 253-8791

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO FARMERS IN THE UPPER FISH RIVER AND ESCAMBIA RIVER WATERSHEDS

News Release From USDA NRCS

Submitted by David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison

Over 30 local, state, and federal partners gathered at the Weeks Bay Resource Center in Fairhope on December 16th to discuss the Gulf of Mexico Initiative. Dr. William Puckett, State Conservationist with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), provided an overview of the initiative which includes two watersheds in Alabama—Upper Fish River Watershed in the Weeks Bay (Fish River) River Basin and the Alabama/Florida Canoe Creek Watershed and Sandy Hollow-Pine Barren Creek Watershed in the Escambia River Basin.

USDA will work with a team of local, state, and federal partners to deliver this project. Through this effort, Gulf farmers and ranchers will invest in voluntary conservation to provide cleaner water and more abundant wildlife for their neighbors and communities. This initiative will focus up to \$50 million, over three years, in conservation assistance to farmers and

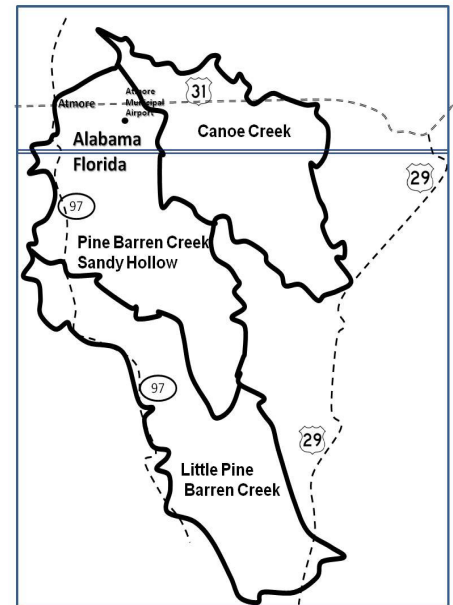
ranchers in priority areas along seven major rivers that drain to the Gulf. The effort includes all five states along the Gulf Coast—Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

NRCS and its conservation partners developed this initiative in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and President Obama's call to action to help restore the waters, shores, and wildlife populations along the Gulf Coast. This effort incorporates what the public and communities have requested through their input into the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Strategy to restore the Gulf Coast.

“We are excited to be a part of this locally-led effort to improve the health of the Gulf Coast region. Puckett said. “Alabama citizens will benefit by enjoying cleaner water, more abundant wildlife, and healthier fisheries produced by this project.”

Interested landowners should contact their local NRCS office for more information on the program. Offices

are listed in the telephone directory under U.S. Department of Agriculture or on-line at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov>.



Visit the NRCS web site to see additional news and services available.

<http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov/>

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

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority offers valuable business assistance to Tribal Members seeking small business loans.

Getting your loan request approved depends on how well you represent yourself, your business, and your financial needs. The lending limit

may extend up to \$50,000.00 in aggregate to any Tribal Member.

All loans exceeding these limits must be approved by the CIEDA Board of Directors. Additional credit criteria as well as loan 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.

NEWS & INFORMATION FROM THE FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT



Christmas Share was a success. Gifts and food were donated by PCI Gaming (top picture), the Even Start children (bottom picture), and numerous other individuals. The Family Services staff appreciates everyone that donated and helped make Christmas Share a success.

The Tribal Child Care Program

Families with Tribal Member or First Generation Indian Decent children of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians are eligible to participate in a new Tribal Child Care program. This program will provide financial assistance to pay for daycare services for children ages birth through thirteen years of age. The eligibility criteria for the Tribal Child Care Program is different from the current CCDF program within the Family Services Department. Please contact the Family Services Department at (251)-368-9136 for more information and to see if you may qualify for this assistance.

If you or a loved one is a victim of domestic violence please contact Melissa Durden, Victim's Advocacy Coordinator, for assistance or information at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2212 or via email at mdurden@pci-nsn.gov. You are not alone; we are here to help you.

Stop the Violence * Prevent the Abuse

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.

NEW ONLINE BUSINESS PRIMER TO HELP WITH JOB CREATION IN INDIAN COUNTRY

From Christopher James as cross-posted from [Open for Business](#), the blog of the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration yesterday launched a new online tool that helps Native American entrepreneurs prepare for business ownership. [The Native American Small Business Primer: Strategies for Success](#) is a free online business course developed for Native American entrepreneurs that gives an overview of basic business principles and of the SBA's programs and services that help business owners get started.

The new primer is an important tool for American Indians, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian business owners that can lend in our nation's overall economic health through business

ownership and creating new jobs. Our ultimate goal is to help spur job creation and to stimulate economic and business development in our Native American communities.

The new course is the ideal business development tool for the entrepreneur's toolbox that emphasizes business planning and market research as essential steps to take before going into business. The course gives useful first steps to take, and includes a section on how to estimate business start-up costs that help assess the financial needs of starting a business.

SBA's Office of Native American Affairs works to ensure that American Indian, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian communities have full access to all SBA programs and services. Each

year, more than 200,000 American Indian and Alaska Native and 29,000 Native Hawaiian-owned businesses add billions to the American economy. We stand at the ready to help even more Native American entrepreneurs with business ownership.

The course is available from the SBA's Online Small Business Training web page under Online Courses for Starting Your Business at <http://www.sba.gov/content/online-courses-starting-your-business>.

Christopher James is the Assistant Administrator Office of Native American Affairs at the U.S. Small Business Administration.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/01/05/new-online-business-primer-help-job-creation-indian-country>

The Family Services Department Announces 2012 WINTER LIHEAP INFORMATION

DISTRIBUTION DATES:

Week I **February 28th, 29th, March 1st**
Week II **March 13th, 14th, 15th**
Week III **March 27th, 28th, 29th**

****General Information****

- Applications will be accepted in the Family Services Auditorium.
- No appointments are necessary. Services are offered on a first come, first served basis.
- Note the various dates and come in according to your household composition.
- Priority is given to Senior Households, clients receiving Disability Income, Households with children under the age of 5, and Households receiving Food Stamps or TANF benefits.
- LIHEAP does NOT pay for any additional fees or services such as late fees, connection fees, outside lights, etc.
- Approval amounts range from \$250-\$325. You will be responsible for any charges that are not covered by LIHEAP. If your bill is less than the awarded amount, only the total amount of the bill will be paid.

****Required Documentation for All Applicants****

- Current energy or gas bill.
- Social Security cards for ALL members of the household. There will be no exceptions or approvals without SS cards. This is a federal requirement.
- Tribal ID for applicant/head of household.
- Current income verification for all household members that are over the age of 19, such as paystubs, paychecks, letters of salary verification, etc.
- If anyone in the home is over 19 and unemployed, you must bring a statement verifying they are not working. The statement must be signed by three people who do not reside in your household and must include their phone numbers.
- Current verification if receiving state unemployment benefits.
- CURRENT Social Security or Disability Income Verification. We must have current income verification on file for all 2012 applications and services.

PLEASE CALL THE FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT WITH ANY QUESTIONS @

251-368-916 Ext. 2600.

ESTIMATED STATE MEDIAN INCOME, BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND BY STATE, FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2012

State	Est. State median income for four- person family	Sixty Percent of Est. State median income for four- person family	Sixty Percent of Estimated State Median Income					
			One- Person Family	Two- Person Family	Three- Person Family	Four- Person Family	Five- Person Family	Six- Person Family
Ala.	\$63,888	\$38,333	\$19,333	\$26,066	\$32,200	\$38,333	\$44,466	\$50,600
Fla.	\$67,705	\$40,623	\$21,124	\$27,624	\$34,123	\$40,623	\$47,123	\$53,622

Please note income guidelines have changed due to changes in federal guidelines.

Please be aware of household income adjustments.

**** LIHEAP applicants must meet above listed income guidelines to qualify. ****

WINTER LIHEAP APPLICATION DATES AND TIMES

DAY	DATE	TIME	PRIORITY SCHEDULE
Tuesday	February 28, 2012	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	SENIORS & DISABILITY INCOME ONLY
Wednesday	February 29, 2012	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Senior Households; Households with Children Under 5 years; and Households receiving Food Stamps and TANF benefits
Thursday	March 1, 2012	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Tuesday	March 13, 2012	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Wednesday	March 14, 2012	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Thursday	March 15, 2012	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Tuesday	March 27, 2012	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Wednesday	March 28, 2012	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Thursday	March 29, 2012	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households

MENTOR/MENTEE DONATE TO ATMORE NURSING HOME

On Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2011, the Atmore Nursing Home hair care and salon program received a \$416 donation from Phenix Crews and Arelene Mack, a mentee/mentor pair with the Poarch Creek Indian Boys and Girls Club. Cindy Lee, Administrator for the nursing home, accepted the donation along with program coordinators Molly Norris and Patricia Cooper.

Crews and Mack started their Christmas Community Service project on Oct. 12 by rooting pothos cuttings in recycled bottles. Once cuttings grew roots, they decorated the bottles and sold them to raise funds for the hair care and salon program. They also wanted to raise community awareness about the Nursing Home program and encourage others to support the weekly hair care and salon program which is not covered by residential fees. For more information, contact the Atmore Nursing Care Center at 251-368-9121 or visit to see the hair and salon program in action each Tuesday from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The Tribal Boys and Girls Club is still looking for adult mentors to pair with mentee youth and children. Mentors and mentees visit and work together at the Boys



Pictured L-r are Arelene Mack, Phenix Crews, Molly Norris, Patricia Cooper, and Cindy Lee.

and Girls Club house at least 1 hour each week to share learning and life development activities. Group activities are also coordinated by program staff throughout the year. In support of the Tribe's greatest natural resource--our children--and for more information, contact Cassie O'Brien at 251-368-9136, extension 2049.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31, 2012 10:00 a.m.

Arrowhead Park on Lynn McGhee Drive

Age Categories:

1-2*

3 - 4

5 - 6

7 - 8

**Parents may help 1-2 age group find the eggs. All others hunt eggs without assistance.*

Prizes will be awarded in each age category for:

Prize Egg

**1st Place
Boy & Girl**

**2nd Place
Boy & Girl**

Refreshments will be available!

Don't be late, you will miss out on all the fun, fun, fun!!

Contact Mandy Peebles @ (251) 368-9136 x 2205 if you have any questions.

2012 TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE SET

The Tribal Council has approved the 2012 Tribal Council Meeting Schedule. Tribal Council meetings will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the Tribal Council Chambers on the first and third Thursday of each month unless notified differently. All meetings are open to the public; all visitors are asked to sign in.

The meeting on the first Thursday of each month will be a regular Tribal Council Meeting wherein the Council addresses the regular business and concerns of the Tribe; the meeting on the second Thursday of each month will be a business meeting wherein the Council receives updates as scheduled from PCI Gaming, CIEDA, Tribal Administration, Housing Authority, Tribal Gaming Commission, Wellness & Activities Authority, etc.; these meetings will also address other issues that must be addressed by the Council prior to the next regularly

scheduled Council meeting.

All who attend the Tribal Council Meetings are asked to turn off cell phones or place them on silent/vibrate. Drugs, alcohol, and/or weapons are not allowed at Tribal Council meetings.

Each Tribal Council Meeting offers time for Public Comments both at the beginning and the conclusion of the New Business session of the agenda. Tribal Members and other visitors may address the Council during these sessions; speakers are asked to sign the Speaker's Sign-in sheet upon arrival and submit a written summary of their presentation/concerns so the Council can respond appropriately. When addressing the Council, please remember these guidelines from *Robert's Rules of Order*:

- Speakers must be recognized by the Chairman before speaking.

- All remarks must be directed to the Chairman. Remarks must be courteous in language and behavior, never allude to others by name or to motives.

If you wish to address the Council in Executive Session, please submit your request to Kelli Ramer, Tribal Council Liaison, by Thursday of the week prior to the Tribal Council meeting so that you can be placed on the agenda under Executive Session.

Light refreshments are provided at each Tribal Council Meeting; two tables have been set up for these refreshments. The table to the front of the Tribal Council Chambers serves the Tribal Council Members. The table to the rear of the Tribal Council Chambers serves visitors and others in attendance. Please be courteous and respectful to others and serve yourself from the rear table.

"Lights, Camera, Action! Come Joining the Fun!"

To the readership of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians' newsletter, Ralph and Brenda Wilcox, along with their production team, wish each of you the best in the new year.

Ralph Wilcox is the director of movie camp, and he and his staff have been training Poarch Creek youth in the disciplines of the film and television industry since June 2011. The disciplines are many and include cameras, lights, sound, audio, acting and voice, hair, make-up, wardrobe, scriptwriting and editing. There are other disciplines such as set construction, set design, and graphic design.

What's happening now? Wilcox is ecstatic that the Tribal Council has approved a second extension of the program which resumed January 9, 2012. "Whether one is

interested in working in front of the camera as an actor or behind the camera in some other discipline, movie camp has something for everyone," said Wilcox. Since the film production classes began, the focus has been on teaching the fundamentals of the disciplines. Ms. Binai English is training the students on the basics in hair, make-up, and wardrobe. An editor is also working with the students and teaching them to edit using Final Cut Pro software. In addition, Wilcox continues to train students in the areas of acting and voice, cameras, lights, sound, and scriptwriting.

"Our students are extremely talented," said Wilcox, "and the camp provides them with a platform by which to develop their skills. There are students who should be doing commercials now." Wilcox shared the students' work with a renowned talent agent and Hollywood director--- both of whom have interacted with many of the movie camp students--- and they agree with

his talent assessment. With a continual commitment to training, discipline, and guidance, great opportunities lie ahead for these young people.

The students who participated in the fall after school session were honored during an awards program on Wednesday, December 14, 2011. They received trophies and certificates for their participation.

Wilcox says that the program is flexible and should be able to accommodate students who are really interested in attending movie camp but may only be able to attend classes a few days a week because of other after school obligations.

Any parent who is interested in enrolling his or her child in the film production classes should contact Ms. Sandra Hiebert, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Education Director, at (251) 368-9136, ext. 2021. Wilcox is also opened to conducting classes for Poarch Band of Creek Indians' adults if there is enough interest.

TRIBAL MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Tribal Members Begin New Year With Sadness

In Loving Memory of Penny Shivers

A new year often brings new hope and expectations, but my family begins this year in great sorrow. As many of you may know, I lost my wife Penny on November 28, 2011.

As we go forward from here I ask that you continue to keep our family in your thoughts and prayers. I have not had the opportunity to say thank you individually to all who have given us so much love and support, but I would like to do so now.

All the prayers, visits, calls, flowers, food, and financial donations have been greatly appreciated. The outpouring of love to our family from friends, acquaintances, and community has been overwhelming and words cannot begin to express our gratitude.

Kenny & Nicholas Shivers and family.

Tribal Flags For Sale

The Calvin McGhee Cultural Management Authority now has Tribal flags for sale in the Museum/Welcome Center gift shop.

There is a HUGE demand for these flags, so come by or call (251) 368-9136 x 2649 and place your order! Don't forget that Tribal Members get a 15% discount with their Tribal ID Card.

2' x 3' Porch Flag \$25.00

12" x 18" Garden Flag \$12.00

Supplies are limited.

In Loving Memory Of Our Mother

Mary Anna McGhee-Harp



As the new year begins, we have so much to be thankful for; but, with the happiness comes great sadness. Our world will never be the same knowing our mother won't be sharing with us all the wonderful things to come.

We will always love and miss you.

Fran, Marylan, Virgie, and Dave

FOR OUR SPECIAL ANGEL

ROSES ARE RED
VIOLETS WILL SWAY
TO OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL
WHOM WE'LL MISS ALWAYS
GOTTA LUV ME... MEDDIE

In Remembrance of David Landon White

Happy 1st Birthday Landon! We love you and miss you so much. We wish we could see your sweet little smiling face today, but we know that you and PawPaw are having a Big Party in Heaven.

Heaven is so much sweeter with an Angel like you to watch over us.

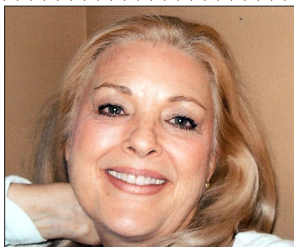


***David Landon White
February 7, 2011***

Love Mommy and Daddy, Grammy and PawPaw, Aunt Lindsay, and Aunt Stacey and Uncle Kevin

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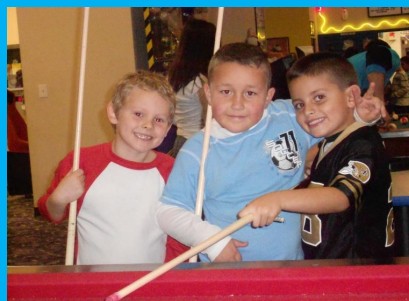
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Submit all ads in
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For further information contact
Gayle Johnson, Media Specialist
(251) 368-9136 x 2210 or
via email at gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov

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FEBRUARY 2012

Tribal Council Meetings

Thursday, February 2nd & 16th
4:00 p.m.
Tribal Council Chambers

Tribal Court Sessions

Monday, February 6th & 13th
9:00 a.m.
Tribal Courtroom

NA Meetings

Every Saturday
7:00 p.m.
Turning Point Facility

CIEDA Meetings

Friday, February 3rd & 17th
7:30 a.m.
CIEDA Offices

CMCMA

Monday, February 6th & 20th
5:00 p.m.
Welcome Center

Housing Authority Meetings

Thursday, February 9th & 23rd
5:00 p.m.
Building 400 Conference Room

Wellness & Activities Authority Meetings

Tuesday, February 14th & 28th
11:00 a.m.
Wellness & Activities Center (Gym)

TERO Commission Meetings

Tuesday, February 14th & 28th
3:00 p.m.
TERO Offices

Education Classes/Club Meetings

4-H Club

Monday, January 9th & 23rd
6:00 p.m.
Education Department

Homework Club

Monday-Thursday
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Grades 1-12
All through school year
Education Department

After School Tutoring

Monday - Thursday
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Grades 1-6
All through school year
Education Department

GED Classes-Day Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

GED Classes-Night Schedule

Tuesday & Wednesday
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Education Department

Wellness & Activities Programs

Gym Hours

Monday - Friday
6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
(Closed from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. for
Boys & Girls Club)
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

***Dance Classes every Monday, Tuesday,
and Thursday. Contact the Wellness
& Activities Department for more
information.***

Weight Room

Monday - Friday
6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Ladie's 30 Minute Circuit Workout

Monday & Wednesday
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

2011 Sports Banquet February 3, 2012

Tee Ball & Wee Ball Registration February 1st - 29th, 2012

Softball & Baseball Registration February 1st - 29th, 2012

NAYO Baseball & Softball Registration February 1 - March 30, 2012

Scale Back Alabama Walk/Run February 4th @ 9:00 a.m.

Other Dates To Remember This Month

***Tribal Offices Closed Monday,
February 20, 2012 in observance of
Presidents Day.***

***Deadline to submit information to
be published in the March newsletter
is Friday, February 10, 2012.***

***Arbor Day Tree Give Away
February 21st - 24th as supplies last.***

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
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**Poarch Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
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