

Poarch Creek News

Coku-Tuhme (job-guh dub-luh-mee /newspaper)



FEATURES:

- ***Proposed Constitutional Amendment***
- ***Legal Services Reimbursement Program***
- ***McGhee-Tullis Scholarship Notice***
- ***Tribal Disaster Donation Comes Full Circle***
- ***Native American Women Scholars Helping to Shape Their Fields***

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER APRIL 2012

I begin this month's article by sharing with you how touched I was when I traveled to Shoal Creek, AL and visited with Gloria Layton and family. Gloria's daughter Denise Bell, who is first generation Indian Descent, lost her home during the April 2011 tornadoes. With help from Volunteers of America (VOA), Denise was able to have her home rebuilt. The Tribe donated disaster relief monies to VOA and it was great to see the kind of assistance the organization is able to give to disaster victims. It was great to

visit with the family and tour the new home. This family had nothing but kind words for the Tribe and VOA; it is great to see that people truly appreciate the help the Tribe is able to offer through so many different avenues.

The Tribe recently hosted the annual Legislative Reception in Montgomery, AL. This is a chance for Tribal leaders to meet with our local and state representatives. There were some familiar and some new faces at this year's event. We



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

look forward to working with legislators during this year's legislative session.

In closing I would like to wish you all a Happy Easter.

Tribal Council Executive Officers



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sbryan@pci-nsn.gov



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Secretary
dgehman@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 Boys & Girls Club Summer Program. This information is not included in the newsletters received by those on the subscription mailing list.



For the first time, the Poarch Creek Indians Senior Services Program has a Valentine King with two Queens! Charles "Bo" Bray was selected as Valentine King by raising \$609.40. Debbie Bray and Ethel Walker were both crowned Queen since they raised \$609.40 each. Johnny Johnson raised \$241.00 in his fund raising campaign for King. Great job everyone!

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 second month immediately following the death.

All other deadlines remain the same and are published in the appropriate sections of the newsletter.

TRIBAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 3, 2012 Deadline to submit Letter of Candidacy, Biography, and picture for tribal council if name to be printed on official ballot, and bio and picture printed in May newsletter.

Friday, April 13, 2012 Names of candidates and any proposed constitutional amendments, ordinances, and/or resolutions will be posted.

Thursday, May 3, 2012 Last day to submit Letter of Candidacy for Tribal Council to be a Write-In on Ballot. All Names of Candidates will be posted within 10 days.

Saturday, May 12, 2012 Tribally sponsored meet-and-greet for all candidates.

Monday, May 21, 2012 Walk-In voting begins 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22, 2012 Last day to request that an Absentee Ballot be mailed out.

Saturday, May 26, 2012 Walk-In voting opens 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday, June 1, 2012 Walk-In voting ends at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, June 1, 2012 Deadline to receive Absentee Ballots at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 2, 2012 2012 Tribal Election Day. Voting from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions pertaining to the 2012 Tribal Council Elections, please feel free to contact Edie Jackson at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2231.

For your convenience, a copy of the Request for Absentee Ballot and Written Statement of Candidacy has been included on the next two pages.

SIGN-UP TO ATTEND ELDER CONFERENCE!

The Poarch Creek Indians Senior Citizens will be taking their annual trip to Albuquerque, NM this year September 12-20, 2012. They will be attending the 19th Biennial National Indian Council on Aging Conference being held September 15-18, 2012.

Buses will depart from the SAIL Center on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 and will return to the SAIL Center on Thursday, September 20, 2012. Anyone going on the trip must be on the buses when they pull out from the SAIL Center on the 12th and return on the 20th; no other pick-up/drop off sites will be allowed.

Any Tribal Member age 55 and older who is interested in going on this trip should call or come

by the SAIL Center to sign-up.

Sign up Schedule:

May 1-11, 2012
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Please note that 5:00 p.m. on May 11th is the deadline for signing up for this trip. ***This deadline will be strictly enforced.***

For more information or to sign up for the trip, contact Carolyn Dortch or Cyndi Wright at (251) 368-9136 x 2615. Carolyn and Cyndi may also be reached via cell phone, (251) 253-5885 (Carolyn) or (251) 253-8772 (Cyndi).



ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

2012 POARCH CREEK INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2012



I, _____, am an enrolled member of the Poarch Creek Indians, and will be at least eighteen (18) years of age on or before June 2, 2012.

I am requesting a ballot for the following elections. Please check all that apply:

☐ June 2, 2012

☐ Run off election if applicable.

Please send an Absentee Ballot to me at the address listed below:

FIRST MIDDLE MAIDEN LAST

STREET ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP CODE

()
TELEPHONE NUMBER DATE OF BIRTH TRIBAL ROLL NO.

Each person requesting an absentee ballot "**MUST**" sign his/her own request.

SIGNATURE: _____

(This must be the signature of the Tribal Member to whom the ballot will be mailed)

**RETURN THIS FORM TO: POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS
TRIBAL ELECTION BOARD
5811 JACK SPRINGS ROAD
ATMORE, AL 36502
FAX (251) 368-4502**

Requests for Absentee Ballots that are to be mailed must be received by the Election Board no later than the close of business (5pm CST) on Tuesday, May 22, 2012. Requests received after the deadline will not be honored.

Should you have any questions pertaining to the 2012 Tribal Council Elections, please feel free to contact Edie Jackson at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2231 or Gwen Manning at ext. 2502.



POARCH CREEK INDIANS

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

For the Tribal Election of the Poarch Creek Indians to be held Saturday, June 2, 2012, I, _____, declare my candidacy for [☐] Vice-Chairman of the Tribal Council, or [☐] an at large Tribal Council position. I am enclosing my fees of [☐] \$250 for the Officer position or [☐] \$100 for an at large position.

Name as you desire it to be listed on the official Election Ballot: Must be legal name or nickname. **No Slogans.**

Please Print

Consent for Background Verification

I authorize the Tribal Election Board of the Poarch Creek Indians to investigate and verify my eligibility, as established in the Tribal Election Procedures, to be a candidate for a position on the Tribal Council, in the Tribal Election of the Poarch Creek Indians to be held on Saturday, June 2, 2012.

Tribal Roll No: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Social Security No: _____

I will be at least twenty-one (21) years of age on the date of the Election and have never been convicted of a felony. I agree to make public, in writing to the Election Board, any contributions to my campaign in accordance with the Election Code.

Signature

Date

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Home

Work

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Before me personally appeared _____ and known to me to be the individual described by said name, has signed the above statement.

Given under my hand and seal this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Notary

My Commission Expires: _____

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

RESOLUTION FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO CLARIFY VACANCIES PROVISION

WHEREAS, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is a federally recognized Tribe organized pursuant to 25 CFR Part 83;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Constitution under Article IX, Amendments, Section 1., authorizes the Tribal Council to approve resolutions to submit proposed amendments to the Constitution for a General Council vote at a regular or special election;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council seeks to clarify the Tribal Constitution's provisions relating to the filling of vacancies for the officers and at-large positions of the Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council desires that a short description of the proposed constitutional amendment appear on the ballot in addition to the exact language of the amendment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Council authorizes the following proposed amendment to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Constitution, which shall become effective when approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting on the amendment in the June 2, 2012 election, provided that at least thirty percent (30%) of those qualified to vote cast their ballots in the election:

ARTICLE VI – POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1. Chairman

The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, shall preside at the Poarch Creek Tribal Council meetings, and shall exercise any lawful authority delegated by the Tribal Council.

Section 2. Vice-Chairman

The Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman in the exercise of any delegated authority, duties, and responsibilities and shall preside at any meeting in the absence of the Chairman.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS

Section 4. Vacancies

- (A) In the event of the Chairman's death, resignation, or removal, the Vice-Chairman shall be duly sworn in as Tribal Chairman at a special-called Tribal Council meeting within three (3) days of the position becoming vacant. The Vice-Chairman shall temporarily serve as Chairman until the next election at which time the members of the General Council shall elect a Chairman to serve the balance of the three-year term of office. After the swearing-in of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall return to his or her seat for the remainder of his or her original term.
- (B) In the event that the Vice-Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer position becomes vacant between elections, the Tribal Council shall appoint from its membership a person to fill the vacancy. Such appointed Tribal Council member shall assume office and temporarily serve until the next election at which time the members of the General Council shall elect a person to serve the balance of the three-year term of office that became vacant. The Tribal Council Member appointed to serve in the Officer position shall return to the seat to which he or she was elected after the swearing-in of the newly elected Officer.
- (C) In the event that any At-Large Position becomes vacant between elections, the position shall remain vacant until the next election. The person elected to the vacant At-Large position in the next election shall serve the balance of the three-year term of office that became vacant.
- (D) The General Council shall elect a person to fill any vacant Officer or At-Large position at the next annual Tribal Council election as long as

the annual election is scheduled to be held within one hundred eighty (180) days. If there is no annual election scheduled within the next one hundred eighty (180) days, a special election shall be held to fill the vacancy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tribal Council directs the Election Board to assign a ballot number for the proposed constitutional amendment on the election ballot for June 2, 2012 and set forth on the ballot the following:

Proposing an amendment to Article VI and VII of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Constitution to clarify how the Tribal Council will handle the filling of any vacancies for Officer and at-large positions.

If approved, Article VI and VII would be amended as follows:

ARTICLE VI – POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1. Chairman

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(C) In the event that any At-Large Position becomes vacant between elections, the position shall remain vacant until the next election. The person elected to the vacant At-Large position in the next election shall serve the balance of the three-year term of office that became vacant.

(D) The General Council shall elect a person to fill any vacant Officer or At-Large position at the next annual Tribal Council election as long as the annual election is scheduled to be held within one hundred eighty (180) days. If there is no annual election scheduled within the next one hundred eighty (180) days, a special election shall be held to fill the vacancy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this description shall be followed by the following language:

“Yes () No ().”

LEGAL UPDATE

Submitted by Venus McGhee Prince, Attorney General

The Tribal Council approved the new Legal Services Program on March 1, 2012. The program is scheduled to be effective May 1, 2012. For your convenience, the program guidelines are listed below. If you have any questions regarding this program, please feel free to contact any of your Tribal Council members at (251) 446-1140 or me at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2525.

Poarch Band of Creek Indians Legal Services Reimbursement Program Guidelines for Participation

I. Introduction

The Tribal Council recognizes that its tribal member population is in need of certain types of legal services. This Program is available to all tribal members ages 18 and over and will allow reimbursement for certain areas of legal services.

The Legal Services Program shall be effective as of May 1, 2012 and shall remain open to tribal members as long as funding allows. The Program and its guidelines may be amended from time to time to reflect changes in the legal needs of tribal members.

II. Authorized Areas of Legal Services

The Legal Services Program will cover the following areas of legal services:

- A. Estate planning, including the drafting of wills and trusts, advance directives, durable and specific power of attorneys, and similar documents
- B. Simple property issues, including the preparation of deeds
- C. Probate issues, including representation for adoptions, will probates, guardianships, conservatorships, civil commitments, and similar proceedings

The Program will also cover a subscription to a pre-paid legal services program that provides one or more of these types of legal services within its program, provided that the subscription does not exceed the annual amount allocated for each tribal member who participates in the Program.

Any questions regarding the coverage of the Program should be directed to the Tribal Member Benefits Coordinator Carolyn Rackard at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2501. Also, additional information and forms will be available on the tribal website under the Tribal Member Benefits Department's link as of May 1.

III. Payment for Legal Services

The Legal Services Program will reimburse a tribal member for expenses incurred on or after May 1, 2012 for legal services provided by an attorney for the benefit of the tribal member household in an authorized area(s) in an amount up to \$250 per year, provided that the tribal member submits the invoice within thirty (30) days of receipt from the provider and that funding is still available.

Alabama SAF-T-NET

Alabama SAF-T-NET is a severe weather alerting service. It uses website-based enrollment, which allows residents to select up to four locations (home, work, school, and 'other') of personal importance, and receive alerts for those locations anytime severe weather approaches them.

Residents can receive alerts via phone, email, or text messaging for up to four (4) user-defined locations.

There will be no cost for this service, beyond your normal cell carrier charges for text or data. Visit the official SAF-T-NET page (www.alabamasafnet.com) to sign up.

2012 SUMMER LAW INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Legal Department is establishing a summer internship program for law students with an interest in learning about the legal issues that face a federally recognized tribe. This internship will offer the opportunity to obtain practical knowledge and experience regarding both tribal and federal Indian law.

Under this Program, a law student will assist the Attorney General, or any designated supervising attorney, in providing legal services and representation to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, its Tribal Council, its Tribal boards/committees, its Tribal Government, and its Tribal authorities, commissions, enterprises, and other entities in a broad variety of matters, including, but not limited to, contracts, employment issues, administrative matters, real estate matters, Indian gaming, taxation, tribal jurisdiction, environmental law, cultural resource preservation, criminal matters, child welfare, and legislation. The internship will last six weeks during the summer of 2012. A stipend will be paid to the selected

candidate.

Applications are due by close of business on May 1, 2012. The selected candidate will be informed by May 11, 2012.

To apply, please submit the following to the Legal Department by personal delivery, e-mail to lfindley@pci-nsn.gov, or fax to (251) 368-1610, by the deadline:

- (1) A cover letter;
- (2) A current resume; and
- (3) A copy of your transcript.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible for selection and participation, an applicant must meet the following requirements at the time the internship begins and for the duration of the internship:

- (1) Must be currently enrolled at an accredited law school and submit an official transcript for the 2011-12 academic year prior to the start of the internship.
- (2) Must provide legal proof of authorization to work in the United States.
- (3) Must not currently be subject to any disciplinary action by any institution or entity, including, but not limited to, any education or law enforcement agency.
- (4) Must possess a high level of maturity with the ability to work with and maintain confidential information.
- (5) Must possess a valid state driver's license.

Please call or e-mail any questions to Lori Findley, Legal Coordinator, at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2530 or lfindley@pci-nsn.gov.

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CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



Laurie Jarman

March 12, 2012

Happy birthday Laurie "Lou"! We hope you had a wonderful day!

We love you, Mom, Shelby, Leeann, Big Steve, Steven, Trevor, Jim, Jay, and Lana Jane.



Eva Nell Burkett

March 13 2012

Happy birthday Eva Nell!! Eva Nell celebrated her birthday on March 13, 2012 with family & friends.

We love you! Joshua, Kahne, and Vicky.



Karahgan Rayne O'Barr

March 23 2012

Karahgan Rayne O'Barr, (daughter of Charles "Bubba" and Sylina O'Barr) celebrated her FIRST birthday March 23, 2012. Happy Birthday ladybug! We Love you, Mom, Dad, Dakota, Shyla, Camryn & family!



Linda McGhee

March 28, 2012

Goodness Gracious, Sakes Alive, Linda McGhee is 65!

Your sisters and brother love you very much! Kay, Bobby, Rose, and Barb are looking forward to the many years ahead with you!



Denise Lister

March 28, 2012

Happy 50th birthday Denise! Denise celebrated her birthday with family and friends. Denise may have turned 50, but she is still looking just as young as she did years ago!



Ruth Bailey

April 8, 2012

Our loving mother and Maw Maw, Ruth Bailey, will celebrate her 75th birthday on April 8th. Love, Sherry, Henry, Randy, Daphne, Sandy, Darrell, & all of your grandchildren.

ANNIVERSARY WISHES



Troy & Sarah Kinsey

April 5, 2012

Happy anniversary Honey!

Thank you for being the best husband, soulmate, partner, and friend anyone could ever ask for! I love you to the moon & back, and look forward to many more happy years ahead.

Love always, your wife Sarah!

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. Wedding /Engagement Announcements are limited to Tribal Members, First Generation Indian Descent, or those living in Tribal Member households.

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. Anniversary Wishes are limited to Tribal Members, First Generation Indian Descent, or those living in Tribal Member households.

Birthday Wishes may be submitted for Tribal Members, spouses, First Generation Indian Descent, and those living in Tribal Member households and 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.

LANDMARK COURT RULING ON TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

Press Release from Blue Earth Marketing
blueearthmarketing.com

Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP has successfully garnered a landmark ruling in suits brought by the State of Colorado against two tribally-owned online businesses. Those suits threatened tribal sovereignty and the ability of the tribes to operate businesses for the purpose of economic development. The two businesses are separately owned and operated by the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and by the Santee Sioux Nation, both federally-recognized Indian tribes. The Denver District Court ruling, captioned *State of Colorado v. Cash Advance*, is expected to have a major impact on the ability of other tribes and their economic development entities to do business both in Indian Country and over the internet.

The ruling also outlawed state-issued subpoenas that would have required the two tribal companies to provide documents and other proprietary information, which the Tribes claimed that the State had no right to demand. Contempt citations and bench warrants aimed at the tribal entities and their officers for failing to comply with the subpoenas were also discharged under the ruling.

Lead attorneys for Fredericks Peebles & Morgan were Conly Schulte and Shilee Mullin. Firm attorneys argued that the suits brought by the State of Colorado had no merit because the companies are wholly-owned arms of

federally-recognized Indian tribes, and they are therefore immune from the subpoenas and enforcement orders under the doctrine of tribal sovereign immunity. The Colorado Attorney General had argued that the tribally-owned businesses were not immune from suit on the ground that they engaged non-tribal members in some of their operations. The Denver District Court disagreed, holding, "The Miami and Santee people are the ones we must trust . . . to know what kinds of business relationships are in their best interests. They do not need the guidance of the State of Colorado, through either its law enforcement officials or its courts."

"The Court's decision is groundbreaking for its application of the principles of tribal sovereignty to modern day tribal economic development activities," said Conly Schulte, an attorney with Fredericks Peebles & Morgan, who argued the cases before the Colorado courts. "It stands for the proposition that State officials have no right to impose their paternalistic values upon Tribes' business decisions."

The original suit brought by the State suggested that the two businesses were in violation of Colorado law for doing business with Colorado consumers over the internet without having a license from the State. After several years of wrangling over whether the tribal entities could be forced to comply with the State's subpoenas, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that tribal immunity applies to

businesses that are arms of their respective Indian tribes, regardless of whether the activities are commercial or governmental in nature, or whether the activities take place on or off tribal lands. The Supreme Court sent the case back to the District Court for a determination of whether the tribal businesses were arms of their respective Tribes, and the District Court ruled in favor of the Tribes.

"This decision will have a monumental positive effect in Indian Country and on tribes who are trying to build their economies and improve the lives of their people through many diverse business opportunities," said Shilee Mullin, an attorney with Fredericks Peebles and Morgan. "The firm is pleased to have had an important role in securing this ruling that helps protect and preserve tribal sovereign immunity which has been threatened by a variety of organizations."

###

Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP is dedicated to the representation of American Indian tribes and Native American organizations throughout the United States. Legal services provided by Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP include a wide spectrum of services related to Indian concerns in the areas of business transactions, litigation, and governmental affairs. Visit our website at www.ndnlaw.com

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. Birth Announcements are limited to Tribal Members, First Generation Indian Descent, or those living in Tribal Member households.



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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FOLLOW US ON:



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.

Utilities Authority (PCIUA)

The Poarch Creek Indians Utility Authority is currently working on the second phase of the SCADA upgrade, and is beginning to develop a more comprehensive asset management plan. PCIUA has issued RFP's for the development of a hydraulic model and GIS mapping for

the water and wastewater system to better understand its capabilities of handling future developments and better operational procedures. PCI Utilities is working with Allied Waste to address excessive water in the screenings from the headworks at the Wastewater Treatment Plant while continuing to assist with day-to-day operations that include installing water and sewer lines, and persists with closing out pre-existing water line projects.

No other updates were submitted this month.



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**ANDREWS INSTITUTE
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EDUCATION NEWS & INFORMATION

Notice Regarding the McGhee-Tullis Scholarship

This notice is to inform you that 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 the 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 x 2243.

Please feel free to contact the Education Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2021 with questions.

Tribal 4-H Member Selected To Serve on Region 4-H Council

Submitted by Christyn Sells



Cheyenne McGee, Poarch Creek's 4-H Club Secretary, and has been selected to serve on the 2012 Regional 4-H State Council.

This is a big honor, as she is the first Tribal Member 4-H'er from Escambia County to be selected to serve on the Alabama State 4-H Council.

Cheyenne will represent all of 4-H in our region, Baldwin, Escambia, and Monroe Counties, at the State level.

Great job Cheyenne, we are proud of you!!!!

What is 4-H?

4-H is for youth and 4-H is fun! Through 4-H and the opportunities it provides, members have the ability to participate in many events and activities, as well as travel the country, and meet new friends. It doesn't matter where you live, 4-H has an opportunity for you! Regardless of your interest, 4-H provides many different projects for young people in our community.

Tribal and community children are encouraged to attend!

Education's Summer Programs

Six Week paid Internship Program

Who is Eligible: Tribal Members &
First Generation Indian Descent
Ages 16-18
Deadline to Apply: 5:00 P.m. (CST) May 25, 2012
Program Start Date: June 4, 2012

Applications will be posted on-line and on the Tribe's web site & Facebook page by April 2, 2012. The interns will work 8 hour workdays under the supervision of a Tribal Departmental staff member, Tribal Authority staff member, or a Tribal Enterprise staff member. Each Intern must have his/her own transportation for work.

Summer Youth Leadership and Career Program (Two Sessions)

Who is Eligible: Tribal Members &
First Generation Indian Descent
Ages 13-15
Deadline to Apply: 5:00 P.m. (CST) May 25, 2012
Start Date: First Session June 4-29, 2012
Second Session July 2-29, 2012

Applications will be posted online and on the Tribe's web site and Facebook page by April 2, 2012. Program participants will receive a stipend and participate in travel, fun activities, job preparation training, and work on their math, reading, writing, and science skills.

Please contact Mrs. Billie McGhee at (251) 368-9136 x 2243 if you have any questions about either program.

Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center Pre-K Registration

You must bring:

- Certified Birth Certificate
- Shot Record (Alabama Blue Card)
- Social Security Card
- Proof of Tribal Enrollment (if applies)

When: Friday, April 13, 2012

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: The Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center
44 Creek Drive
Atmore, AL

Child/Children must be 4 years old before September 1, 2012.

Please be sure to have all of the information needed above by 3:00 p.m.

PACKAGE DEALS!

Living Room Package:
Sofa, Loveseat, Coffee Table, 2 End Tables, Media Center AND 32" TV!

- OR -

Bedroom Package:
Headboard, Dresser, Mirror, Chest, Night Stand Mattress Set, Frame AND 32" TV!

YOUR CHOICE \$1,799!

**BRING IN THIS AD FOR
\$100 IN FREE ACCESSORIES
WITH PACKAGE PURCHASE!**

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Open 8am-5pm, Mon.-Sat.

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.

Dr. Stephen M. Gross
Optometrist

Dr. Valerie Vick
Ocular Plastics

Dr. David Helton
Optometrist

Dr. Alan Franklin
Retina Specialist

Dr. Rollins Tindell
Cataract Specialist

Dr. Sunil Gupta
Retina Specialist

Atmore Vision Center
166 Lindberg Avenue
Atmore, Alabama 36502
251-368-8767

Monroeville Eye Care
3016 S Alabama Avenue
Monroeville, Alabama 36460
251-743-3384

TRIBAL DISASTER DONATION COMES FULL CIRCLE

*Submitted by Gloria Layton
Edited by Gayle Johnson*

"We are thankful to be alive!" On April 27, 2011, our lives changed forever, but we are very thankful to be alive. I am sure most of you have heard about the massive damage caused by tornadoes in north Alabama in April of 2011. We live in Shoal Creek, AL and that night we were watching the weather because we knew that it might get bad in our area. We had no idea of what the night would bring!

My daughter and granddaughter, as well as my son and his family, joined us at our home to ride out the storm. We watched the weather closely and as it approached our area, bringing high winds and hail stones the size of dimes, we went downstairs to the basement. The house started to make creaking noises, the power went out, and our ears started popping. Although it seemed to last forever, it was all over in less than a minute and all was calm. We came out of the basement and went out on the porch to look around; all we saw was destruction. We have always heard that when a tornado comes it sounds like a train; well we never heard the train sound, but our community had definitely been hit by a tornado! We would find out later that in just the short time we were in the basement 13 people from our community died and many others lost everything they had.

We could hear our neighbors across the street crying and calling for help. My husband and son had to work their way through downed trees, power lines, and debris to get to them. Eighteen people had taken shelter in the brick home that 'used' to be there. After the storm, there was nothing but rubble and 17 of those people had been slung all across the yard; they were wet, cold, muddy, and some were suffering from life threatening injuries. The 18th

person had been sucked out of the home and dropped in a nearby lake; we thank God that he was alive. We were able to move about eight of them over to our house; we used flashlights to find food and dry clothes for everyone and provided what medical assistance we could. We used bottled water to flush their eyes out so they would be better able to see what was happening around them; this simple act made them feel better, just knowing that they could see what was going on. It started raining; everyone was scared and afraid another tornado was coming. We started covering the injured with plastic sheets to try to keep them dry. Among all the chaos, I heard the prayers of my husband and his assurances to our friends and family that things would be alright; even in this tragedy our faith was strong! We soon heard the sirens of the first responders, but it would be over four hours before the storm debris was cleared away enough for them to get down to us. The last ambulance left my house at about 1:00 a.m.

My daughter Denise lost her home to the tornado; debris from her home was scattered all along the hillside. Her husband was at work when the tornado hit; she called him and told him that they had lost everything. He tried to come home immediately, but the debris kept him from getting down the road to our house. He left his truck parked on the highway and walked on foot through fallen timber and other storm debris to reach his family. When we went down to their home site, there was nothing salvageable, everything was destroyed. We were all devastated but we were thankful that we were all alive.

I remember everyone was trying to help each other; there was one man, the father of a 4 year old boy, who was walking around in just one shoe but he was trying to help everyone else once he had given his son to me for safe keeping. My son and some of his friends walked down

ORGANIZATION RECEIVING DISASTER DONATIONS ASSISTS TRIBAL MEMBER'S FAMILY

the road to help others in need; they were gone all night, returning tired and dirty and were back out helping again after a short rest. Neighbors helped neighbors.

When our daughter first started the recovery process, it seemed that nothing was going our way. She filled out the required paperwork and forms and called all the relief agencies; she was promised aide and assistance but nothing seemed to pan out. We were on an emotional roller coaster; we felt like we were all alone. We saw on the television that the Tribe had made a donation to the disaster relief fund. My daughter asked me to call the Tribe to see if there was any assistance available or if they could tell us who to contact for help. I made the call and talked to Councilman David Gehman. Finally, someone listened to us and actually seemed concerned about us! David later contacted Rick Owsley of Volunteers

of America (VOA). Rick came out to talk to us and we finally had hope for the help we needed! Rick and VOA began the process of rebuilding and my daughter and her family were able to spend Christmas in their new home. Part of the rebuilding included a storm shelter which we have already had to use this year! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for sending Rick and VOA to us; they were wonderful to work with.

It has been almost a year since the tornado; some of our neighbors have rebuilt, some are still in the process of rebuilding, others have moved on, choosing not to rebuild in our community. If it were not for the Tribe, Rick, and VOA, we would not be where we are now; thank you so very much. I am proud to be Poarch Creek; I am proud of my heritage and proud to be a Native American where tribal people take care of their people.



Top left: Front row l-r are Diane Sloan, Gloria Layton, and Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin. Back row l-r are homeowners Denise and John Bell, Tony Layton, Melea Bell, Rick Owsley, David Gehman, and Paul McLendon.

Top right: Home of Denise and John Bell, rebuilt by Volunteers of America.

Bottom left: Buford L. Rolin, Diane Sloan, Gloria Layton, and David Gehman.*

**Gloria Layton's sister, Diane Sloan, lived seven miles away and did not receive any damage from the storm.*



DID YOU HEAR?

LegalShield is offering peace of mind
for members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians!

For an exclusive rate of less than \$200 PER YEAR, you can access legal advice, no matter how traumatic or trivial your issue. Under the protection of LegalShield you and your family can live your life worry-free.

Our law firms receive over 2 million requests annually for advice on these types of issues:

Real Estate

Purchase, Refinance, Foreclosure
Landlord / Tenant

Estate Planning

Will, Living Will,
Power of Attorney

Traffic Issues

Moving Violations, Accidents

Consumer Finance

Collections, Warranties, Guarantees,
and Other Contracts

Family Law

Divorce, Child Support, Child
Custody, Guardianships

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jimmyparrish@legalshield.com

* Review the membership brochure for your selected plan and state of residence for full details on benefits, limitations and exclusions of the membership.

Farewell To Loved Ones

SINCERE THANKS

D.C. Daughtry

February 15, 2012

D.C., husband of Ernestine McGhee Daughtry, passed away February 15, 2012 at his home. Mr. Daughtry was a life-long resident of the Poarch and Hog Fork communities and was well known and loved by his family and friends.



The outpouring of love and support from the community has been overwhelming. We would like to thank everyone for all the food, flowers and thoughtfulness shown during this very

With much love and appreciation,

Ernestine Daughtry and family.

Bertie Gibson Miller

February 28, 2012

My sweet Mama, Bertie Gibson Miller ascended on February 28, 2012. She was born July 9, 1938, the last child of Jesse and Clara Gibson.

Sweet, sweet Mama.

Words cannot truly express the loss we feel. Our hearts are heavy and the tears are never ending. You were our glue, our rock to hold on to; our anchor in every storm.

Your life on Mother Earth was troubled and filled with pain. Now you are with God and the angels; it's their gain. When I close my eyes, I feel your love and hear your beautiful voice singing "Glory Hallelujah, I am free and I am happy."



I saw your light and felt your pure joy on the day we laid you to rest. You came to me not once but three times during your service to comfort me; to show me your pure joy and happiness.

That made me smile and I thank you for that.

Knowing you are filled with peace and happiness is worth all the riches in the world.

You wanted to win big so you could leave us something. Mama, you gave us SO MUCH in our lifetimes....everything you had and more; it was enough for us. We are rich for knowing you and for having your unconditional love. We are rich Mama, we are rich. We are blessed by your love and eternal light.

Namaste (I honor the Divine/God in you).

Submitted by Sharon Miller

Obituaries/Family Thanks will be published if submitted by the last working day of the second month immediately following the death.



Family Services Department Updates for April 2012

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

My name is Michealine Deese and I am your Family Services Coordinator. April is the National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize that we each can play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in our community. I look forward to our “Prevent Abuse Campaign” in which Melissa Durden (Victim’s Advocacy Coordinator) and I will be going door to door on Saturday, April 14, 2012, in the PBCI housing neighborhoods to distribute prevention materials. My primary goal is to ensure that we have a strong community that will continue to support families and keep children safe.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

My name is Melissa Durden and I am the Victim’s Advocacy Coordinator. My office is located in the Family Services Department building. If you need assistance or resources please feel free to contact me at (251)-368-9136, ext. 2212 or mdurden@pci-nsn.gov.

The goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to increase public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

- ◆ 44% of victims are under age 18
- ◆ 80% are under age 30
- ◆ Every 2 minutes, someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted.
- ◆ There is an averages of 207,754 victims (age 12 or older) of sexual assault each year.
- ◆ 60% of sexual assaults are not reported to police
- ◆ Approximately 2/3 of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim

PUBLIC NOTICE

This article provides public notice to all Tribal Members that the following grants will be available for review and discussion during office hours at the Family Services Department, Building 500, during the week of May 21—May 25, 2012:

- ◆ Low Income Energy Assistance Grant (LIHEAP)
- ◆ Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- ◆ Child Care Development Funds (CCDF)

A public hearing is scheduled for June 2, 2012 on Tribal Election Day. Please Stop by the available booth with any questions or comments to the grant applications and proposed services.

Family Services Staff

Martha Gookin, Director	Melissa Durden, Victim’s Advocacy Coord.
Amanda Montgomery, Community Services Coord	Michealine Deese, Family Services Coord.
Angela Bartlery, Homemaker Aide	Shirley Roberson, Homemaker Aide
Jaunita Slate, Homemaker Aide	Stella Rutherford, Clerk
Judy Camden, Clerk	Tiffany Jones, Clerk
Kathy Ledkins, Special Assistant	Wanda Fowler, Adult Services Coord.
Lena White, Community Services Specialist	



The Family Services Department 5811 Jack Springs Rd. Atmore, AL 36502 Phone: (251)-368-9136, ext. 2600 Fax: (251)-368-0828

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*

NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN SCHOLARS HELPING TO SHAPE THEIR FIELDS

The following is a portion of the article "Native American Women Scholars Helping to Shape Their Fields" posted on www.bowdoin.edu

The Native American Women in Academia symposium, sponsored by the Wabanaki-Bates-Bowdoin-Colby Collaborative, featured a panel discussion with two historians, an anthropologist and a health policy expert.

One purpose of the symposium, said co-organizer Leslie Shaw, an anthropologist who is Bowdoin's Liaison for Native American Affairs, was to "bring a variety of perspectives to what it means to be a woman in the Academy." Another, she said, was to encourage Bowdoin's Native students to "understand the value of furthering their education and in so doing to bring Native issues more fully into college curriculum and research."

Bowdoin Assistant Professor of Anthropology Kelly Fayard, an enrolled member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Alabama, described the evolution of her academic career as an undergraduate at Duke University through graduate studies at University of Michigan, where she began examining issues of recognition of Southeastern tribes - including her own - as well as tribal membership and Native identity.

"Part of the reason for my entering anthropology was to be able to answer those who dismiss the Poarch Creek or whose reporting on the tribe was flawed," said Fayard.

She described a pivotal public talk she attended in graduate school in which a leading anthropologist was asked

whether there were still any Creek Indians left in Alabama. "She said, 'No,' " recalled Fayard. "I interrupted and raised my hand and said there is a federally recognized tribe, the Poarch Creek Band."

Fayard's tribal membership and knowledge give her access to a deep trove of history, ethnography and personal connections that enrich the quality of work she is able to do as an anthropologist studying the Poarch Creek.

"My work is meant to be more collaborative and end the paternalism associated with old school anthropology," she said. "I know who I need to contact about any topic and if I don't know, I just ask my grandmother to go with me."

There are impediments as well, she noted. Writing about sensitive topics is something that all anthropologists have to deal with, but when writing about sensitive topics in one's own community, the stakes are even higher. For example, while a scandal in Poarch might be interesting to think about anthropologically, as someone who wants to erase the power imbalance between anthropologists and Native communities, I feel it necessary to consider the long term effects of writing about those types of issues.

"I think it is important to do the research that I am doing in order to combat a lot of stereotypes about Native Americans: namely that all Natives were removed from the Southeast," added Fayard. "I also hope to give a different perspective of current scholarship about Native



Bowdoin Assistant Professor of Anthropology Kelly Fayard, discusses her academic pathways and research. www.bowdoin.edu

Americans since I am from the community that I am writing about."

Among the audience at the symposium were several of Bowdoin's Native students, including members of the Native American Student Association.

Fayard said she hoped her experience, and the stories of the other presenters at the symposium, would encourage them to possibly advance their studies, even if the path is unclear.

"If you are on a particular trajectory in college and decide it's not for you, there are other academic paths to pursue," she added. "I started as a chemistry major and that didn't work out, but I found something I believed in and wanted to work towards. If I can convey anything, it's my hope that students may find their own passion as I was able to do."

Visit www.bowdoin.edu to read the complete article.

INPUT AND COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR GRANT PURPOSES

Input and comments sought for road incidents and road hazards for:

- Atmosphere Road (from Poarch Rd (Co Rd 14) to where it joins with Jack Springs Rd north of I-65)
- Bell Fork Road (from Hwy 21 east/southeast to where it joins with Robinsonville/Sardis Church Rd (Co Rd 12))

Do you live on these roads?

Do you drive on these roads?

How often do you travel these roads?

Describe accidents, injuries, near-misses, concerns, issues; anything that would indicate a need for improving road conditions.

Goal: to apply for federal road improvement funds

Thank you for your thoughts and help. Share this information with everyone. We are just in the pre-planning and fact-finding stages of grant development. If someone does not want to write or wishes to remain anonymous, we will also accept phone calls and/or visits and will type comments as they are relayed to us.

Please contact Arelene Mack, Special Health Projects Coordinator, at (251) 368-9136 x 2308 or via email at amack@pci-nsn.gov for further discussion/information; feel free to stop by her office in the Planning Department, located in Building 600 at the Tribal Complex.

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.

Natural Resources Conservation Services

Mission: Helping People Help the Land

Vision: Productive soil, healthy land

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is

the USDA agency which works at the local level to help people conserve all natural resources on private lands.

Visit the NRCS web site www.nrcs.usda.gov to see updated news and information about services that may be helpful to you and your family.

MAY 3, 2012 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Since the first call to prayer in 1775, the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation. The call to prayer has continued through our history including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year the President signs a proclamation encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. The National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans. Come and participate in the 61st National Day of Prayer activities at the Tom Byrne Park (*ECHS gym if rain*) on May 3, 2012. This year's theme is One Nation Under God; this year's scripture is Psalms 33:12 "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.*"

The schedule for the event is as follows:

Walk & Pray

Available all day

The walking path will be marked with the names of public officials and prayer topics written in chalk as a reminder of those to pray as we walk.

Early Prayer

6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Prayer Service

5:30 p.m.

Bible Reading

6:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The entire Bible will be read as a prayer and there will be a blessing over our community. (Last year over 200 people participated in the Bible reading. If you do not have information or have not been approached about how you and/or your church can be involved, please contact Sharon Keesler 850-982-0804; Nancy Helton 251-655-6358, e-mail: nan.helton@gmail.com; Jo Ann Martin 368-5659; Sandra Johnson 368-8551; Pastor Ted Bridges 850-380-3814.)

Children's Prayer Event

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Sharon Keesler at sharonkeesler@hotmail.com or Nancy Helton at (251) 655-6358. If you do not live in the Atmore area, please check your local churches for the National Day of Prayer event in your area.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

May 5, 2012 8:00AM—12:00PM
Poarch Creek Indians Fire Station #1 (Jack Springs Rd)

OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS OF THE SURROUNDING AREA. THIS IS A FREE SERVICE! Please utilize this opportunity to keep these hazards out of our waterways and natural environment.

Accepting paints, automobile batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, household chemicals, pesticides, flammables, corrosives, other hazardous household products, old medicine, fluorescent bulbs, and electronic wastes (computers, monitors, printers, scanners, Palm accessories, power supplies, battery backups, rechargeable batteries, cables, toner/ink cartridges, hard drives, CD roms, speakers, VCRs, DVD players, stereo equipment, TVs, game consoles, digital cameras, any audio

or video equipment, networking equipment, tape drives, test equipment, fax machines, keyboards, voice/tape recorders, radios, Walkman products, calculators, cellular phones, and phone accessories).

THIS COLLECTION IS FOR HOUSEHOLDS ONLY. Large quantities from businesses, farms, or commercial operations will not be accepted. PROHIBITED: infectious and medical wastes, biological and radioactive materials, compressed gas cylinders, ammunition, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and explosives.

For more information: Contact the Poarch Creek Indians Environmental Department at (251-368-9136) x 2680 or 2683.

TRIBAL POLICE UPDATE

It is the goal of the Tribe to have the best in Tribal law enforcement. It is with this goal in mind that the Tribal Police Department is always in search of training methods that will ensure the Tribe has the best there is to offer.

The Tribe often partners with other agencies to bring training to our area. An example is the recent Regional Collaboration To Embrace, Engage, and Sustain Tribal Community Policing Partnerships (RCTPS) training held on the Reservation. This course, developed by the Western Community Policing Institute (WCP) and the national Native American Law Enforcement Association (NNALEA), was designed to provide initial awareness-level training to create, expand, and sustain community policing initiatives in our community and across the country.



RCTPS Training

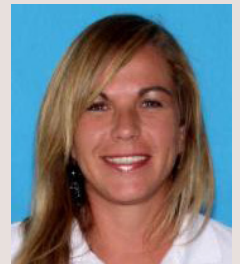
Representatives from the Tribe and the Alabama Bureau of Investigation, Alabama National Guard, Alabama Department of Public Health, United South & Eastern Tribes (USET), Wetumpka Police Department, Tunica Biloxi Indians, Mississippi Choctaw Indians, and the Melville Police Department attended this two day training event.

Tribal Police Officer Valon McGhee, assigned to the Investigations Division, recently attended training in Nashville, TN entitled "Elements For A Successful Interview." McGhee

states that this was an outstanding and very resourceful class that expanded her knowledge in interviewing and interrogation. "I feel that through this training I have gained, or updated, skills needed for my position on the investigation team" she stated.

If you ever have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call Valon or another officer. All information will be kept confidential. Let us work together to make our community a better and safer place for our children, our families and ourselves.

*Tribal Police Officer
Valon McGhee*



Cancer Awareness Support Group Meeting

Submitted by Donna Johnson

I wanted to take a minute to say how impressed I was by the last Cancer Support Group meeting that Ms. Helen Hallman started.

We enjoyed a wonderful meal and the atmosphere and fellowship with others, whom have dealt with this devastating disease, was so positive and uplifting. Through tears and laughter, we listened as others shared their own

special experiences and when the evening was over, we were left with a sense of hope and triumph.

These meetings are open to anyone whom has been affected by cancer in anyway. So mark your calendar for April 24, 2012 @ 5:30pm in the S.A.I.L Center. You won't want to miss it.

For more information please call Helen Hallman at (251) 368-1029.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

*Submitted by Donna Johnson,
RN/Diabetes Case Manager*

I want to encourage each of you if you have diabetes and you have not had your annual eye exam, there is no time like the present. Complications of diabetes can include several eye diseases. These may include cataracts, glaucoma or diabetic retinopathy. Any of these can cause vision loss or blindness. Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause for new cases of blindness in American adults. It is caused by changes to the small blood vessels that are located in the retina of the eye. The retina is located in the back part of the eye and receives images from the front part of the eye called the lens and sends pictures of what you are seeing to your brain. These changes in the small vessels can happen when high blood sugar and high blood pressure have been present for long periods of time. Unfortunately a person's vision can be at risk by the time symptoms are noticed.

There are four different stages of diabetic retinopathy. Each stage is more progressed than the previous

one. Proliferative retinopathy is the fourth and most advanced stage. This stage can be present without any symptoms. Treatment for proliferative retinopathy is done by laser surgery. This is where multiple tiny laser burns in areas of the retina cause the abnormal blood vessels to shrink. Laser treatment may take several sessions to complete. Laser treatment may save the rest of your sight. Early detection and early treatment by your eye care professional can help prevent vision loss.

Currently the American Diabetes Association (ADA) recommends that people with Type 1 Diabetes have an exam within five years after they are diagnosed with diabetes. People with Type 2 Diabetes should have theirs done soon after they are diagnosed. The ADA also recommends that women who have diabetes and are planning to become pregnant or are pregnant should have a comprehensive exam and close follow up for at least one year after the baby is born.

A comprehensive eye exam includes using an eye chart to test your visual



acuity or how well you can see at different distances. Your eye care professional may also put drops in your eyes to dilate them so they can see the inside of your eye more completely. An instrument designed to measure the pressure inside your eye may also be used. Your eye care professional will decide what is needed for your individual comprehensive exam and will guide you in the steps needed to maintain your sight. Allow about an hour for the exam and maybe some time to pick out glasses if they are needed.

Until next month,

Donna

NEW PHYSICIANS ON BOARD

Submitted by Donna Johnson

You may have also noticed a couple of new faces here in the clinic.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Angelo Chavez Guerrero and Dr. Julio DeJardens to our clinic team; with their assistance we will now have more appointments available to serve the tribal population.

If you have not had the opportunity to meet our new providers, we would like to invite you to come and join us for light refreshments on Thursday, April 19, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in Health Administration located in Building 100.

TRIBE DONATES \$2 MILLION TO SCHOOLS

Press Release by Sharon Delmar, Public Relations Tribal Liaison

Public schools in Elmore and Montgomery Counties received a much needed infusion of capital today when the Poarch Band of Creek Indians donated \$2 million dollars to be divided equally between the two school systems.

Elmore County School Superintendent Dr. Jeffery E. Langham and Montgomery County School Superintendent Barbara W. Thompson were presented checks for their respective school districts by members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council during an early afternoon ceremony at the Montgomery Public School offices. The Superintendents have full discretion on how the funds will be used.

“Certainly, we can’t fix the whole problem,” said Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin, “But if we can at least lessen the effects that the economic downturn has on some of our young people’s education, we feel blessed to be able to help.”

The Tribe decided to make the donation in January as part of its 2012 discretionary budget. The state’s public schools have faced three consecutive years of across the board budget cuts, and currently, Alabama lawmakers are in discussions about how to best deal with this year’s projected budget shortfalls.

“These funds are an unexpected and very welcome gift to all of us connected with the Elmore County Schools,” said

Superintendent Langham. “We are extremely grateful to the Tribe for recognizing a need and trying to help.”

Montgomery County School Superintendent Barbara W. Thompson noted, “This financial climate has made it difficult to provide the resources that our students and teachers need.” “It’s wonderful to have committed partners like the Poarch Creek Indians who care about public education and want to invest in our children. Their support will help us meet those needs.”

Several of the Poarch Creek Tribal Council traveled to Montgomery to personally make the award to the Superintendents. “Clearly, our leaders --like families across Alabama-- are having to make hard decisions and make do with less,” remarked the Tribe’s Treasurer, Robbie McGhee. McGhee, who is also head of the Tribe’s Government Affairs office continued, “So many of our employees live in Elmore and Montgomery Counties, and we know how important good schools are to them and their quality of life. We are always willing to try to help our neighbors and work with legislators to solve Alabama’s problems.”

Last year, the Tribe donated more than \$1 million dollars to schools in and around Atmore, Alabama, where its reservation is located.

******VIDEO of the check donation ceremony suitable for broadcast (H264 format) is available at: www.poarchsupport.com*



Tribal Council presents \$1,000,000 to the Elmore County School Board to help support Elmore County public schools.



Tribal Council presents \$1,000,000 to the Montgomery County School Board to help support Montgomery County public schools.

WHY VOTE? BECAUSE EVEN IMPERFECT ELECTIONS STILL MATTER

By Mark Trahant
www.marktrahant.com

We know democracy's slogan: "Elections matter." Or if that doesn't work, draw on so many other oft-repeated phrases that make up the melodies in our politics. "Vote for change," "stay the course," or these days, "we are the 99 percent," and the result, as [George Orwell once observed](#), is "political" language. Such phrases Orwell wrote are designed to make "lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

We want that solid wind -- and a solid win. Victory feels good, especially when it's "our" side that's the "we."

But the wind is never solid. The same storm that carried Barack Obama to the White House in 2008 also blew strongly for Republicans in the congressional elections of 2010. Both sides -- two very different ways of looking at the world -- claim the people's approval for their course of action.

There are structural reasons for that. First, the U.S. Constitution is not a mechanism for solving complicated problems when the nation is this divided. It's too easy for those out of power to just say no.

Consider the political math: Two houses of Congress must agree. One of those chambers, the U.S. Senate, essentially requires a supermajority of 60 votes before an idea can take hold.

The truth is neither house of Congress actually represents the will of the people (whatever that is).

The House reflects 435 congressional

districts designed for the most part to be ideological islands where the majority is determined every decade through the redistricting process. Only a few house seats, just enough to decide who runs things, are actually competitive.

The Senate is even less democratic. A Senator from Wyoming has an upper chamber vote that represents 544,000 people, while a Senator from California has the same single vote on behalf of 37 million citizens. Why is it more fair for one state's residents to have two votes in the Senate than, say, [5 million American Indians and Alaska Natives](#) represented by some 500 nations, villages and tribal governments?

So why bother? Why vote? It's easy to dismiss the process as unfair and irrelevant. But that's not true either. The fact is imperfect elections do matter. (Hardly a slogan, I know.)

Four years ago there was strong support for Obama from Indian Country, unprecedented excitement actually. Many thought that election would bring about a new kind of government one that would solve many of the problems that had been lingering for decades. And, as [I wrote before the last elections](#), by any objective measure Obama has been an engaged and effective president. There's a long list of successes: the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, solid budget requests, key appointments, and soon to be a [third annual meeting with tribal leaders and the White House](#).

Yet somehow that doesn't seem to be enough. There's not nearly the



Mark Trahant

enthusiasm across Indian Country for the upcoming election, let alone the president's re-election campaign.

But the Republican alternative is significant reason to vote. All of the Republican candidates for president are advocating deep budget cuts. The frontrunner,

Mitt Romney, has a plan to cut a [\\$100 billion from Medicaid](#) and then shift the remaining funds to state governments through block grants. This action would, at least if Romney was successful, mean less money for an already underfunded Indian health system. Other Republican candidates would consider that generous. They'd return government to its place, at funding levels that might have been appropriate during the 1950s.

A year from this week we will once again go to the polls. Sure, there will be promises that meet all of our expectations. And, for some, that's probably enough (though disappointment will follow).

But for the rest of us, this election ought to be about real alternatives in flawed democracy. On one hand, we need to keep pressing for reforms that would help this country live up to its ideals. At the same time, we need to elect candidates that do their best while seeing the landscape for what it is. No matter how hard the wind blows.

Mark Trahant is a writer, speaker and Twitter poet. He is a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and lives in Fort Hall, Idaho. Trahant's recent book, ["The Last Great Battle of the Indian Wars,"](#) is the story of Sen. Henry Jackson and Forrest Gerard.

TRIBAL MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Martin Earns High Point Trophy

Submitted by Christine Martin

Tribal Member Maxwell “Max” Martin, a year round swimmer who swims on three teams throughout the year, competed in the PNY Polar Bear Classic in early February on the team TNT.

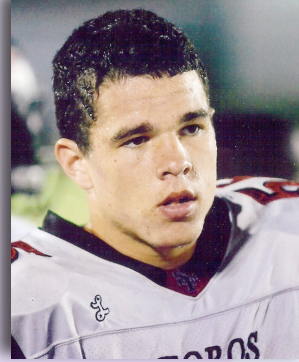


Max is shown above with three other members of Team TNT.

Max received the “high point trophy” for boys in the 13-14 age group. Max swam the 100 yard back stroke, placing 1st; the 200 back stroke placing 1st; the 100 free placing 2nd; the 500 yard freestyle placing 2nd; the 100 breast stroke placing 2nd; the 200 freestyle placing 2nd, and the 50 yard freestyle.

Max also plays percussion and was selected for the All-Star Middle School Band; he tried out for the State band in March.

Max is the son of James T. and Christine Martin and the brother of James, Brice, and Will Martin.



Will Martin

Martin Selected for 2011 All County Varsity Football Team

Submitted by Christine Martin

Tribal Member Will Martin, a senior at Spanish Fort High School, was selected for the 2011 All-County Varsity Football Team.

All-County Varsity players are seniors chosen from high schools throughout the county; they are selected by votes cast by the coaches from other high schools in the county.

For the second year in a row, Will also received the Athletic Academic Achievement Award, with a GPA of 4.2.

We are very proud of Will and his numerous accomplishments!

Will is the son of James T. and Christine Martin and the brother of James, Brice, and Maxwell Martin.

In Memory Of My Sister, Letha McGhee, On Her Birthday, March 20, 2012

THE BROKEN CHAIN

We little knew the day that
God was going to call your name,
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you,
But in God we put our trust,
In times as difficult as this,
Faith is such a must.

You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

--Ron Tranmer

*Happy Birthday in Heaven.
I still miss you ever day.
Your brother, Fields McGhee*

TRIBAL MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Arrowhead Park

Submitted by Tony Sullivan

The name of the ball fields at the Poarch Sports Complex is Arrowhead Park. Have you ever wondered where the name came from?

Back in 1997 I was working at the gym. During this time the Recreation Committee was trying to come up with a name for the ball fields. It was May and I was out preparing the fields for the softball leagues. I was raking field number one just behind home plate and was just about through when I saw something in the rubble at my feet. At first I thought it was just a big rock that I had raked up but the color and size was distinct. I reached down and picked the object up. I was very surprised to see that it was an arrowhead!

“Wow,” I thought to myself, “this is the first arrowhead I have seen out here!”

I later took the arrowhead and showed it to some of the members of the Recreation Committee. “Wouldn’t it be great if we called our ball fields Arrowhead Park?” I asked. The rest, as they say, is history! Anthony Peebles was employed at the gym at that time and he drew the arrowhead on the wooden sign that was used until the ball fields were redone and the new sign was erected.

I have kept the arrowhead since that time although it did get misplaced for a few years. I have it back again and it is my plan in the near future to frame it in a shadowbox and present it to the Wellness and Activities Authority for display in the gym.



The arrowhead found by Tony Sullivan

Mammie & Lawrence McGhee Family Reunion

When: May 26, 2012
Where: Magnolia Branch
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Lunch: Pot Luck Lunch @ 12:30 P.M.

If you play an instrument bring it and help with the music. If you sing contact Sandy Hollinger; she is in charge of the singing. Bring your tents (to get out of the sun), chairs, bathing suits and beach wear (you are responsible for your children at the creek).

We plan to have games and let’s not forget our “auction”, we raised over \$500.00 last year but this is not enough to fix Grandma and Grandpa’s graves yet. So if you have anything that you can auction off please bring it!

For more information contact Kathy Ledkins at 251-655-6632 or you can log on to facebook.com; under Kathy Ledkins there is a page set up just for the “Mammie and Lawrence McGhee” Family Reunion.

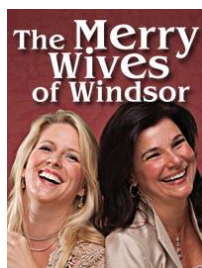


This photo was made at a family reunion at Aunt Larnicle’s sometime in the 1960s. Wonder if you can guess who they are?

We will take up an offering to pay for the pavilion cost and paper products purchased. See you there on May 26, 2012.

Attention: **PCI Tribal Member** and
1st generation youth in the 7th-12th grade

The PCI Education Department will be sponsoring a trip to
Montgomery to attend the play "The Merry Wives of
Windsor" at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival on April 26th.



Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2012

Time: 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Location: Montgomery, AL

Admission to the play, lunch and transportation will be provided.
Students must get approval from their Principal to attend. School
permission letters will be made available upon request.

**WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT THE FIRST 20 STUDENTS, SO PLEASE CALL AND REGISTER
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

Call Christyn Sells @ 368-9136 ext. 2244 or Cassandra Stallworth ext. 2021 for
registration or more information.

N.A.Y.O Basketball Tournament

April 6-7, 2012

Hosted by Poarch Creek Indians
Wellness & Activities Authority

58 teams to compete!

Games start at 8:00 a.m. both days.

Games will be played at the Wellness &
Activities and other local gyms.

Contact the Wellness
& Activities Center for
schedules and locations.

(251) 368-9136 x 2256



Poarch Creek Dance Classes

Class Schedule

Monday

5:30 - 6:30	Creative Movement	Ages 3 & 4
6:30 - 7:30	Ballet I	Grades 1-5
7:30 - 8:30	Ballet II	Grade 6 & Up

Thursday

5:30 - 6:30	Pre-Ballet/Tap/Jazz	Ages 5-6
6:30 - 7:30	Tap/Jazz Combo	Grades 1-5
7:30 - 8:30	Jazz/Lyrical Combo	Grades 6 & Up

Tuition* Tuition fees are due the first class of each
month. A \$10 late charge will be added for late
payments.

1 hour per week	\$40 per month
2 hours per week	\$65 per month
3 hours per week	\$85 per month
4 hours per week	\$100 per month
5 hours per week	\$120 per month

Dress Code

Creative Movement/Pre-Ballet/Tap: Pink leotards,
pink tights, pink ballet shoes, black tap shoes.

Ballet: Black leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes
required. Long hair must be worn in a bun.

Tap: Black tap shoes required.

Jazz: Black jazz oxfords required.

***Recital fees are separate and are required for
participation; information concerning recital fees will
be sent home in April.**



Art by Cher

- *Sculpture
- *Potraits
- *Oil
- *Landscape
- *Watercolor
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a child's life!*

Strengthening Our Tribal Community Through Mentoring

*The Mentor program is part of the Poarch Creek Boys & Girls Club
Created by Sara & Gayle*

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7.75 x 10.25

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Quarter Page Ad \$ 75 per issue
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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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APRIL 2012

Tribal Council Meetings

Thursday, April 5th & 19th 4:00 p.m.
Tribal Council Chambers

Tribal Court Sessions

Monday, April 2nd & 23rd 9:00 a.m.
Tribal Courtroom

NA Meetings

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

CIEDA Meetings

Friday, April 6th & 20th 7:30 a.m.
CIEDA Offices

CMCMA

Monday, April 2nd & 16th 5:00 p.m.
Welcome Center

Housing Authority Meetings

Thursday, April 12th & 26th 5:00 p.m.
Building 400 Conference Room

Wellness & Activities Authority Meetings

Tuesday, April 10th & 24th 11:00 a.m.
Wellness & Activities Center (Gym)

TERO Commission Meetings

Tuesday, April 10th & 24th 3:00 p.m.
TERO Offices

Education Classes/Club Meetings

4-H Club

Monday, April 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.
Education Department

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 & 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.

Pool Hours

March 1, 2012 - November 1, 2012
Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lifeguards are required to be on duty while
guests are swimming. No Exceptions!

NAYO Basketball -Poarch
April 6-7, 2012

April Election Deadlines to Remember

Tuesday, April 3, 2012 - Deadline to submit
Letter of Candidacy, bio, & picture for name
to be on official ballot and published in
newsletter.

Friday, April 13, 2012 - Names of
candidates and any proposed constitutional
amendments, ordinances, and/or resolutions
will be posted.

Other Dates To Remember This Month

***Tribal Offices and Boys & Girls Club will be
closed Friday, April 6, 2012 in observance of
Good Friday.***

***Deadline to submit information to be
published in the May newsletter is 5:00 p.m.
(CST) Tuesday, April 10, 2012.***

***Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center
Registration Friday, April 13, 2012 8:00
a.m. - 3:00 p.m.***

***Meet & Greet New Physicians
Health Administration - Building 100
3:00 p.m.***

***Boys & Girls Club will be open 7:30 a.m. -
5:30 p.m. April 23 - 27, 2012. (Escambia
County, AL - Spring Break.)***

***Cancer Awareness Support Group Meeting
April 24, 2012 @ 5:30 p.m. at SAIL Center.***

***Family Services' "Prevent Abuse" Door to
Door Campaign, Saturday, April 24, 2012.***

***Shakespeare Festival- "The Merry Wives of
Windsor" Wednesday, April 26, 2012
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.***

***Atmore Relay For Life
April 27, 2012 6:00 p.m.
Tom Byrne Park***

Newsletter Contact Information

Poarch Creek News

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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
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