

VOLUME 30 • ISSUE 6 Keeping the friends & family of Poarch informed

June 2012

Poarch Creek News

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Escambia County Commission Challenges Tribal Sovereignty

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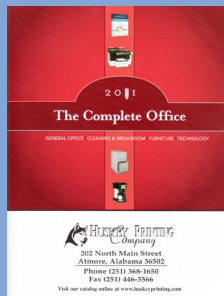


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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER JUNE 2012

As you may have heard, the Escambia County Commission has challenged the Tribe's Sovereignty; you will see more information on this challenge and the Tribe's response in an article on page 6. We will keep you all informed of any new developments that may arise in the future. Once a response is provided by the Department of the Interior to the Escambia County Commission regarding the status of our Trust lands we will provide an update. Also included in this month's issue is a letter of support from County Commissioner Brandon Smith.

The response from Commissioner Smith is an excellent example of the importance of developing relationships between the Tribe and local, state, and national leaders. Without such positive and productive relationships, the Tribe would not have been able to flourish as it has.

If you receive this issue prior to the Tribal Elections scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2012, I encourage each of you to participate in the voting process during this election season.

If you receive this issue after Election Day, I hope that you participated in the election process



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

whether it be via Absentee Ballot, Walk-In voting prior to Election Day, or voting on Election Day. Our election process is how we select our leaders and everyone's voice should be heard.

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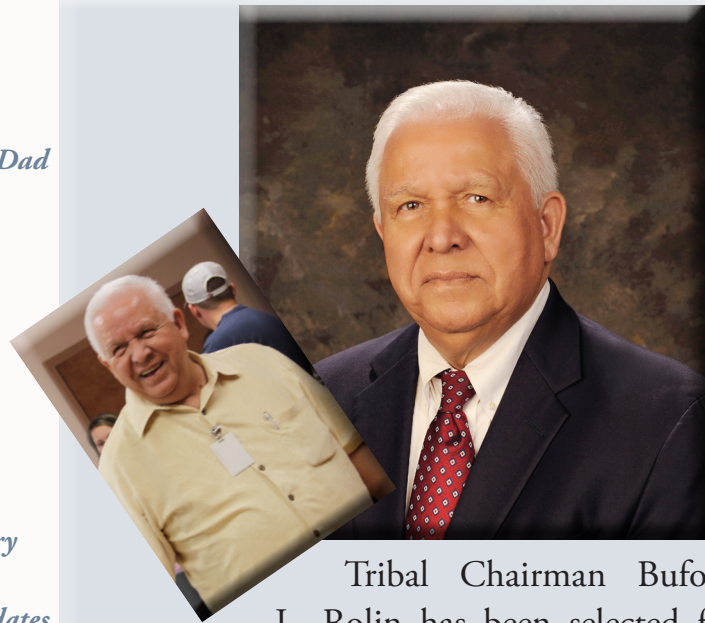
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Once the newsletter has been posted on-line, you can use the embedded hyperlinks to take you directly to articles/pages, web sites, email forms, etc.

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 Recreation Leagues, Activities, & Programs and The Reality Project. This information is not included in the newsletters received by those on the subscription mailing list.

ON THE COVER



Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin has been selected for induction into the Atmore Hall of Fame this fall.

See page 8 for more information.

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.

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Submitted by Carol Cole, TERO Director

The Tribal Council has assigned the **Temporary Employment Program (TEP)** to the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO). The TEP is for **Tribal Members only**. This program has been developed to assist those Tribal Members living in the five county service area who are unemployed and are in need of work.

TEP applicants must meet the qualifications for the position being filled. TEP positions are limited and often become available without advance notice. TEP positions are filled by qualified applicants on a first come, first served basis.

TEP positions are one time employment opportunities which are limited to six (6) months or less, depending on the needs and duties and responsibilities of the position being filled.

If you are unemployed and need a job, or if you know of a Tribal Member who is unemployed and needs a job, contact the TERO Department located at 3480 Hwy 21, Atmore, AL to complete an application for immediate processing. Office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Cole or Valerie Taylor at 215-368-0606 or email them at ccole@pci-nsn.gov or vbttaylor@pci-nsn.gov.

Update

We currently have 35 Tribal Members working through the TEP program.

Tribal Member Jeremy McGhee is working at the TERO Office. Carol Cole, TERO Director, asked Jeremy to give her his thoughts on the TEP Program, "Recently I became employed with



Jeremy McGhee

the TERO Department through TEP where I have seen numerous Tribal Members become gainfully employed. My job consists of landscaping, keeping the office building clean, answering and screening calls, and keeping the TERO car clean.

The program has truly been a blessing to me and many other Tribal Members. People that could not find a job anywhere else are now working. This is a program that gives any Tribal Member a chance to work that is willing to. The most exciting part is being employed by your own people."

Be sure to give us a call if you have any questions or if you are interested in participating in the Temporary Employment Program.

Community Meeting Regarding Membership Eligibility Requirements

*Saturday, June 2, 2012
1:00 p.m.*

Family Services Auditorium

State of the Tribe

*Saturday
July 28, 2012
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon*

*Family Services Auditorium
(Building 500)
Lunch will be provided.*

ESCAMBIA COUNTY COMMISSION CHALLENGES TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

On Friday, April 13, 2012, a press conference was held by the Escambia County Commission. Four out of five of the county commissioners decided to take action to challenge the Tribe's Federal Recognition status and whether or not the Tribe's current lands that are held in Trust by the Federal Government should be taken out of Trust by the Secretary of the Interior so that they "can collect taxes from the Tribe". If successful (they will not succeed), they will give opponents of gaming an opening to close our three gaming facilities. This will also have an impact on our other business enterprises throughout the state of Alabama. As word of this action spreads, the Tribal Council wants you to know what is happening.

We do not think that this effort is legal nor will it succeed. The Tribe has in its service lawyers and advisors who are well versed in Indian Gaming Law and they are very knowledgeable of the Supreme Court decision referenced by the County. All agree the Commission's position will not withstand a competent legal review, and the response from the Department of the Interior will be in our favor.

As most of us know, the Tribe has been very generous in its support of county schools, charities, law enforcement, and other

organizations within the county and in other counties throughout the state. Since 2008 we have donated over \$400,000 directly to the County Commission, through an agreed upon memorandum of agreement with the County to spend as they see fit, another \$360,000 to the Escambia County Drug Task Force, and most importantly the \$1.3 million that was contributed last year to help educate all of our children in Escambia County. The commission has made no such effort to sit down to talk about their concerns and instead chose to align itself with a known opponent of gaming with total disregard as to whether or not such action would eliminate almost 1,000 jobs in Escambia County and an additional 1,000 jobs at our two northern properties. If such action was successful by the Commission the Tribe would no longer be able to provide financial assistance to the charities, schools, disaster relief and organizations mentioned earlier and to the many programs and services that are provided to each of you.

Commissioner David Stokes referenced a lack of payment by the Tribe of "taxes" as justification for the Commission to try this action. They hired an attorney by the name of Brian Taylor who has worked previously in Governor Riley's administration to eliminate gaming in Alabama. Relying on the Supreme Court Decision (Carcieri

vs. Salazar), the Commission is saying that the Poarch Band of Creek Indians should not have had the ability to have land taken into trust. The reality is that if the Tribe's land is not held in trust in accordance with Federal law, then our gaming facilities would no longer be operating on Federal lands. They would become subject to the state of Alabama jurisdiction and gaming laws.

So you know, Commissioner Brandon Smith from Atmore strongly objected to this effort by the other four Commissioners. He noted the thousands of jobs that are at stake, the generosity of the Tribe, and the large and positive economic impact that Wind Creek has on the County's economic wellbeing, particularly in "the worst economic times our country has seen since the great depression. This addition of the newsletter also contains a letter from Commissioner Smith offering his gratitude to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and our employees for the support we have provided him.

There is action that we as citizens of Escambia, Elmore and Montgomery County can take to overturn this action and assure that attacks of this type never occur again. Everyone living in Alabama needs to be registered to vote. If you live in Alabama and are not registered, you need to go register

at your first opportunity. We can each make sure that we support candidates who will support the Tribe and our economic development ventures.

The four commissioners may try to say that they are only trying to “look out for all county residents” by collecting taxes from

the Tribe. By action, they have aligned themselves with a person whose demonstrated history is not to collect taxes from gaming but to eliminate it all together. This action will also have a butterfly effect on the other recent developments and jobs that have come to Escambia County that are not owned by the Poarch Band

of Creek Indians.

We will keep you all informed of any new developments that may arise in the future. Once a response is provided by the Department of the Interior to the Escambia County Commission regarding the status of our Trust lands we will provide an update.

Letter Of Support From County Commissioner Brandon Smith

Dear Members and Employees of The Poarch Creek Indians,

Over the past few weeks, I have received many e-mails and letters supporting my stand against the recent decision of the Escambia County Commission. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the support you have given me concerning this matter and explain to you my reason for standing with the Tribe.

It has been an uphill battle for me, but a battle that's worth every ounce of my energy. The decision I made came from a long history of friendships I have enjoyed with many members of the tribal community and the people who have been fortunate enough to find employment with Pcr. For me, this is not just an attack on PCI Gaming, but an attack on people that have been close to my heart my entire life.

When I look at other counties and communities our size and see the despair in those areas, it makes me feel very blessed to see the positive changes in our community because of the sacrifice, hard work and determination of PCI. This action by the Commission has left a scar that will take time to heal, but I am committed to bridging the gap between the Commission and PCI.

The success of PCI, your job security, and the economic impact the casino has had are three very vital parts of our future. For those of you who are not Tribal members or old enough to remember the days before The Creek Bingo Palace, let me leave you with this thought: When I was growing up, I played

ball with many of the kids from Poarch. My father coached, and many days after practice or a game, we would take some of those kids home. I remember riding through the Poarch Community and seeing a couple of Tribal offices and a few houses scattered throughout. Over the years, the Tribe worked and saved to provide for its members. All this was accomplished without any help from neighboring communities. Despite the fact that prior generations suffered from many years of discrimination, they always treated me like one of their own. Many years later, you have the same Tribe donating to the same school system that at one time would not even acknowledge them as equals.

The jobs that have been created for people in our community, as well as the donations to both county and civic organizations, have all been a tremendous help during economic times that have otherwise not been favorable for our county. The Poarch Creek Indians have put forth the effort to be a good neighbor to the very same people who at one time would not lift a finger to help them.

To me, this speaks volumes for the character of The Poarch Creek Indians. This is the reason I took the stand I did. When you know in your heart that the decisions you make are right, nothing else matters.

Again, I want to thank you for the positive comments and if I can help you or answer any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Brandon Smith
Escambia County Commission District 4

TRIBAL CHAIRMAN TO BE INDUCTED INTO ATMORE HALL OF FAME

*Portion of article by
Sherry Digmon, Atmore News*

Four men will be inducted into the Atmore Area Hall of Fame this fall. The Hall of Fame committee chairman released the names following a vote by the committee on Thursday, April 26. The inductees are Bill Corman, Buster Joyner, Buford L. Rolin and G. R. Swift, Jr. The induction ceremony will be held in November.

Buford L. Rolin is a member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. He has served as Secretary for the Tribe and has served as the Vice-Chairman from 1991-2006. As of June 12, 2006 he was elected Chairman of the Tribe and is now serving his second term as Chairman.

In 1989, Rolin received a service award from the Indian Health Service for improving the Health of Indian People. In 1993, he was awarded the Director's Award for Excellence by



Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin

the Indian Health Service. In 1996, he also received the Area Director's Special Commendation Award from the Indian Health Service.

Rolin has served on many national organizations including the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the Atmore Area Partnership for Youth Board of Directors, and the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs. He has held various positions pertaining to the Northwest Florida Creek Indian Council, the National Committee on Indian Work, the Episcopal Church, the Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors, Creek Indians Arts Council, Creek Indian Heritage Memorial Association, and the United South & Eastern Tribes (USET) and currently as vice-chairman for the National Indian Health Board (NIHB). He also served on the State of Alabama Public Health Advisory Board.

Rolin was appointed in 1998 by Dr. Michael Trujillo, director, Indian Health Service, as Tribal Co-Chair National Steering Committee (NSC), for Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). He was also appointed in 1999 Tribal Co-Chair to the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee by Dr. Michael Trujillo.

During 2000, Rolin was appointed to the White House Commission on Complimentary and Alternative Medicine Policy by President Bill Clinton.

He was appointed to NCAI Tribal Leaders Health Information Technology Task Force in 2001, by NCAI President Tex Hall, and was elected chairman of that committee.

Rolin was the co-chair for the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Planning Committee. The last meeting was held in August 2006 in Edmonton Alberta, Canada.

Rolin is the co-chair of the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee as well as a member of the IHS Strategic Planning Committee. In October, 2010, Rolin was appointed to serve as a board member of NARF, Native American Rights Fund. In November 2010, he was appointed to the HHS Secretary's Advisory Committee for Region IV.

*Visit atmorenews.com
to read the entire article.*

Staff Honors Chairman On His Birthday



Tribal staff joined Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin for an impromptu reception of punch and cake in honor of his birthday.

Culinary Studio Special

\$4.9 for the month of *June*
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JUNE



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CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



Aiden Rolin
May 5, 2012

Happy 2nd birthday Aiden! We love you!

Papa, Meemee, Mom, Destinee, Leah, & family.



Jaycob Luke
May 6, 2012

Jaycob celebrated his 7th birthday May 6th. Happy birthday Jaycob!

We love you! From all your family.



Alexa Pruitt
May 20, 2012

Happy 4th birthday! Alexa celebrated her 4th birthday on May 20, 2012.

She is the daughter of Gary & Michelle Pruitt Jr. We love you!



Clara Jones
May 29, 2012

Clara Jones celebrated her birthday on May 29, 2012. We hope you had a great day.

Happy birthday from your family. We love you.



Sydney Lisenby
June 2, 2012

Happy 9th birthday Sydney! We love you!

Love, Mama, Alex, Colby, and Yanasa.



Melvin McGhee
June 3, 2012

Melvin McGhee will celebrate his birthday on June 3, 2012.

Happy birthday Melvin!



Barbara J. Pawling
June 11, 2012

Happy 81st birthday!

Much love from daughter Deb Hunter, sons Phil and Al Pawling, & cousin Lola Beltram & family.



Collin Martin
June 15, 2012

Happy 13th birthday Collin! We love you and are so proud of the young man you are growing into.

Love, Daddy, Mama, Natalie, & Chloe.



Chance Jackson
June 15, 2012

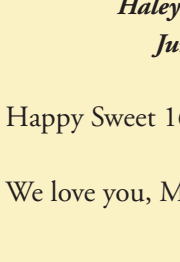
Chance Jackson will celebrate his "18th" birthday June 15th. We are proud of the "Man" you have become. Happy birthday from Mom, Dad, Casey, Granny Mable, Granny and PawPaw Tullis!!!



Joe & Kathy Ledkins
June 16 & 18, 2012

Happy birthday to Joe Ledkins on June 16, 2012, and Kathy Ledkins on June 18, 2012.

We love you, your family.



Haley Marie Wallace
June 18, 2012

Happy Sweet 16th birthday Haley!

We love you, Mom, Dad, & Tori!



Chloe Martin
June 18, 2012

Happy 9th birthday Chloe! We love you and are so proud of the sweet little lady you are becoming.

Love, Daddy, Mama, Collin, & Natalie.

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.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Jack Colbert
June 18, 2012



Happy 83rd birthday Jack Colbert! A special husband, father & grandfather!

We love you very much! From your entire family!!!!

Ricky Gonzalez, Jr.
June 20, 2012



Ricky Gonzalez, Jr. will be 10 on June 20th.

He is the son of Rick & Katherine Gonzalez and the grandson of Clara Gibson Gonzalez. Happy birthday Ricky!

Candice Luke
June 22, 2012



Candice will celebrate her 30th birthday June 22, 2012. Happy birthday Candy!

We love you; from your family.

Megan Rackard
June 23, 2012



Megan Rackard will celebrate her 18th Birthday June 23rd.

Happy birthday Megan!

We love you!! Mom, Dad, Jacob, Kimberly & family.

Stacy Lin Gregg, Jr.
June 24, 2012



Stacy Lin Gregg Jr. will celebrate his 29th birthday on June 24, 2012.

Happy birthday Stacy, from your children and family.

Elaine Colbert Hoffman
June 26, 2012



May this day be just as special to you as you are to us! Happy birthday Elaine! Wishing you a day filled with smiles, laughter & love.

From your family.

Stephanie & Steven Ledkins
June 29, 2012



Happy 37th birthday to my precious twins, Stephanie & Steven.

Love Mom, Kathy Ledkins.

Christine McGhee Parker
July 2, 2012



Happy birthday!

Love from your sisters Betty & Angie.

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.

Thanks So Much For Being So Thoughtful

The following thank you note was received by the Tribal Police Department. The department receives such notes on a regular basis and is always happy to share the positive feedback we get from the community and those passing through on the interstate.

Officer McGhee (Valon McGhee)

Thanks so much for your help! Remember me, I am the old lady that ran out of gas trying to go to Bay Minette for graduation! I finally made it!

*Thanks!
Monica Buckhault*

:)

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Slayton Joseph Cade Valinsky
April 10, 2012

Rhea DeVilbiss announces the birth of her son, Slayton Joseph Cade Valinsky, on April 10, 2012.

At birth Slayton weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20 inches long. He is welcomed home by his mother and grandmother, Angela Devilbiss.



Yanasa Tasahce Alvarez
April 20, 2012

Alex and Amber (Smith) Alvarez proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Yanasa Tasahce Alvarez. Yanasa was born on April 20, 2012 at 1:15 p.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 21 inches long. She is welcomed home by her big sister, Sydney and big brother, Colby.

Yanasa is the granddaughter of Jackie Smith of Poarch, Shelby and Cindy Smith of Flomaton, Alabama, and Mary McElvain of Fort Walton Beach, Florida. She is the great-granddaughter of Ernestine and the late D.C. Daughtry of Poarch, Willie and the late Hosea Smith of Flomaton, Alabama, Dimple Davis of Monroeville, Alabama, and James and the late Margie McElvain of Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

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.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT



Natasha McGhee & Tinker Rolin to Wed

Natasha Yvette McGhee and Aubrey "Tinker" Rolin cordially invite you to join them in their celebration of marriage on June 23, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey McGhee located at 1675 Poarch, Road Atmore, AL 36502.

Casual attire suggested.

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

Bennie & Carolyn Presley Celebrate 41 Years



Bennie & Carolyn Presley will celebrate 41 years of marriage on June 29, 2012. They have five children, Ronda Woods, Regina Driskill, Melissa Sims, Bennie Presley, Jr., and Chastity McGillivray, fourteen 14 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

"God has truly blessed us!"

Ralph & Eurline Pearson Celebrate 60 Years



Ralph Pearson and Eurline Gibson were married on June 14, 1952. This year they will celebrate 60 years together.

Happy anniversary, we love you!

Your son Paul and grandson Justin.

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.

Health Camp 2012 Camp Alamisco

June 24th – 29th

Boys & Girls Age 7-12

Deadline to register: June 15, 2012

Please contact Sheila Odom or Kay Thomas at the PCI Health Department at (251) 368-8630.

For your convenience, a copy of the application for Health Camp and items to bring to Health Camp is included on the next page. This information is also posted on the Health Department page and in the Pressroom page of the Tribe's web site at www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov.

What To Bring

Leave Gym: June 24th at 1:00

Return to Gym: June 29th at 1:00

- A snack will be provided on the trip up/back from camp.
- Please label medications (including over the counter) in a plastic bag.
- All children attending camp will be checked for head lice the week prior to camp.
- Children not being checked prior to camp departure will not be allowed to attend camp.

Items needed for camp:

- Bed linens or sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Towel and wash cloth: any toiletry item your child may need/use.
- Towel for swimming activities: *Girls must wear one piece suit!*
- Play clothes for 5 days. Please include pair of jeans for horseback riding.
- Sunscreen/bug spray
- Optional- Money to purchase item(s) from camp store.

Head Lice checks will be done the week of June 18th We will notify you of the time and location.

Health Camp 2012 June 24 - 29, 2012

Camp Alamisco Age 8-12

Registration Deadline June 15, 2012

Application

Childs Name: _____

Address: _____

Age: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____

Date of Birth : _____ Phone number: _____

Shirt size (please specify youth or adult) _____

Medical History: Please list any medications, allergies or health conditions your child might have. Attach separate sheet if necessary.

Medical/Medication Authorization

I hereby give the staff of the PCI Health Camp authorization to give my child prescription medication that is clearly marked for him/her. I also give the camp staff permission to give my child over the counter medication that he/she may need.

I hereby give the staff of the PCI Health Camp permission to treat or transport my child for any medical condition that might arise while attending health camp.

I understand that if my child is not checked for head lice on designated days set by the Health Department, he/she will not be allowed to attend Health Camp.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

In case of emergency, please contact: _____

4-H CLUB VISITS B.E.E.F. U

Submitted by Christyn Sells

On April 14, 2012, the Poarch Creek 4-H Club attended Auburn University's B.E.E.F. U at the Stanley P. Wilson Beef Unit and the Lambert-Powell Meats Laboratory on the Auburn University campus. The nine 4-H'ers who attended were treated to an entire day of hands-on learning about the beef cattle industry!

The kids had a great time and got to learn all about feeding cattle, how to cook beef, and how to give antibiotic injections. They also got to see live cattle up close and learned that we, as humans, cannot go one day without coming into contact with some sort of beef by-product! Interestingly, the kids learned that beef by products are found in everything from toothpaste to asphalt!

If your child is interested in joining 4-H, please contact

Christyn Sells at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2244. The Club will be meeting throughout the summer and any interested child may join at any time!



"Awwwww! Ain't that sweet!" A calf 'fell in love' with 4-H Club members Canyon Hayles and Kaylee Gurley!

Riding Mowers Now In Stock!

**Poulan Pro
22hp, 54"
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**Poulan
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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



YOU ARE INVITED!



Who: PCI Tribal Members or 1st Generation PCI Descendents that are:

- Graduates with a High School, GED, or College Degree from August 2011-August 2012.
- High School Students in grades 9-12 that have made A or A-B Honor Roll for the entire 2011-2012 school year. You must attach your report card to this form for verification purposes.

What: Academic Achievement Banquet

When: July 20, 2012, 6 pm – 8 pm

Where: Wind Creek Casino & Hotel, Coosawada Ballroom

Why: To honor the academic success of our high school students and graduates

Hosted by: Tribal Council, PCI Education Department and Education Advisory Committee

RSVP's ARE REQUIRED! This form must be completed and turned in to **Cassandra Stallworth** in the PCI Education Department by **July 2, 2012 at 5:00pm**. A letter or email with additional details will be sent to the address you provide on this form.

Full Name: _____

Email or Mailing Address: _____

Degree Received and Major if Applicable: _____

Graduation Date: _____

School Graduated From: _____

Please check one: _____ I will be attending the banquet.

_____ I have graduated but am unable to attend the banquet.

You are allowed to bring 2 guests with you to the banquet. Please indicate how many guests you will be bringing, not including yourself.

Number of Guests: _____

Please direct any questions to Cassandra Stallworth at 251-368-9136 ext. 2021 or via email cstallworth@pci-nsn.gov in the PCI Education Department.

Please complete and return this information to: The Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Attn: Cassandra Stallworth, Education Department, 5811 Jack Springs Rd. Atmore, AL 36502

“Be Ready Camp 2012”



-Be Ready Camp is a five-day full immersion residential camp held during National Preparedness Month in September and is located at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Be Ready Camp curriculum includes: **emergency preparedness, introduction to survival and first aid, developing an emergency kit, creating a family disaster plan, water survival, light search and rescue, disaster Psychology, triage, career exploration, and terrorism awareness.**

Submission Guidelines

Submissions should be one of the following detailing:

“What does being part of a safe community mean to me?”

***Essay: 300-500 words in length.**

- Spelling, grammar, punctuation, and good paragraph structure apply.
- Typed or neatly written in ink.

***Poster: no larger than 11”x17”.**

- Good use of imagination, color, and design.
- Clearly answers the question.

***Video: 30 seconds to 1 minute in length.**

- Imaginative, interesting, and creative.

4 PCI Tribal Member/1st generation students going into the 6th grade will be selected.

All submissions are due by **Friday, June 08, 2012** to:

**PCI Education Department
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502**

For any questions, please call Christyn Sells-Children’s Services Coordinator @ (251)368-9136 ext. 2244



Dream Big READ!

Images are copyrighted. Contact the CSLP at 1-866-657-8556 or info@cslpreads.org for more information.

@ The PCI Library, on Wednesdays,
beginning June 6, 2012!

Activities include: story time, crafts, games, movie nights, special guests and much more!!

Note: The PCI Boys and Girls Club participation is automatic.

For more information, please contact Christyn Sells @ (251) 368-9136 ext. 2244

*Pardon our
progress...*

*The Museum will be closed
until further notice.*

*We will be expanding exhibits to provide an
enhanced atmosphere for Tribal Members
and visitors to learn about Poarch Creek
History.*

*Although the Museum is closed, the gift
shop will remain open Monday through
Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*



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Live Better.**

Do you snore? Does your sleep partner keep you awake with his or her restless leg syndrome or insomnia? The expert sleep medicine team at the **Atmore Community Hospital Sleep Disorders Center** is ready to help you and your loved ones sleep well and live better.

Don't wait another restless night. Talk to your doctor today and discover how a simple and painless sleep study can help you enjoy a happier, healthier life.

To learn more, call 251.368.6246
or visit AtmoreHospital.org.

Atmore Community Hospital
 BAPTIST HEALTH CARE

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.

Tribal Gaming Commission

The Tribal Gaming Commission (TGC) continues to receive recognition from distinguished outside entities including the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), Casino Enterprise Management, and NTGC/R (National Tribal Gaming Commissioners and Regulators).

As a result of Administrator Daniel McGhee's appointment to the NIGC Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC), discussion drafts of 543 and 547 regulations for technical standards and internal controls for Class II gaming have been released nationally for comment. These releases from NIGC have created quite a stir in Indian Country since it appears what was released is not in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. It's a waiting game to see which direction the NIGC takes in regard to the comments from Indian Country.

TGC recognition continued when the TGC Director of Audit, Billy Byrne, as well as Mr. McGhee were invited to speak on two different panels during the NTGC/R conference to fellow regulators and commissioners concerning regulatory auditing and forming sound regulations. Also, Casino Enterprise Management featured Linda McGhee, Director of Compliance in their April 2012 magazine focusing on her growth and strides in Indian Gaming.

The TGC continues to function daily to protect the Tribe's gaming assets and integrity.

Utilities Authority

The Poarch Creek Indians Utility Authority (PCI Utilities) has completed the maintenance and painting project for the Elevated Tank on Martin Road. Utilities has begun collecting data for the hydraulic model and GIS mapping system for the water and wastewater system. PCI Utilities is also lining manholes, installing valve markers, and painting exposed infrastructure. The Utility Authority has nearly completed Phase I of the SCADA upgrade and will soon begin the Asset Management Phase of the project.

Fourth Of July Fireworks To Be Held At Wind Creek Casino

The Tribe will not be hosting a separate fireworks show this year. Although the time of the fireworks show at Wind Creek has not been set prior to publication of this issue of the newsletter, it is customarily held around 9:30-9:45 p.m.





VOTE TO ELECT
CAROLYN
MCGHEE WHITE
 TRIBAL COUNCIL
 MEMBER-AT-LARGE

☒ Qualified
 ☒ Experienced
 ☒ Hardworking

I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT IN THE 2012 TRIBAL ELECTION!

My resume was provided as application for the full time position of Tribal Council. I wish to work for you to provide a secure future for our Tribe through improved communication, transparency of operations, wise management of your funds, and a review of constitutional laws and regulations, which safeguard and protect our sovereignty.

Tribal Scale Back Alabama Winners

This year the Recreation Department participated in the state wide program *Scale Back Alabama*, a 10- week program designed to encourage Alabamians to lose weight and increase exercise regimen. The Tribe had 22 teams participating this year. Over the 10- week program, teams/participants gained points by weighing in biweekly, attending biweekly meetings, and participating in exercise events. At the end of the program the team that earned the most points were the 2012 Tribal Scale Back Alabama winners. We had a VERY close competition this year!!



First place team left to right are:
 Judy McGhee, Sandra Day, Velma Crocker, and Beverly Holcomb.



Second place team left to right are:
 Christine Williams, Sheila Odom, Julie Gordon, and Christine Ward.



Third place team left to right are:
 Judy Camden, Melissa Durden, Martha Gookin, and Michealine Deese.

TRIBAL ELDERS PARTICIPATE IN COURTROOM DRAMA

Submitted by Lori Stinson

On April 26th, some of our Elders had the opportunity to view the Monroe County Heritage Museum's annual theatrical production of the American literature classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The 1960 Pulitzer Prize winning book was written by Monroeville native, Harper Lee, and tells the story of Atticus Finch, a lawyer in the Depression-era South, who defends a black man against an undeserved rape charge. The theatrical adaptation of the story unfolds outside the old Monroe County Courthouse and concludes in the actual courtroom that served as the set for the courtroom scenes in 1962 movie starring Gregory Peck.

This event was sponsored by the Legal Department as a way to show appreciation to our Elders and to celebrate Law Day, a Congressionally-designated day that encourages attorneys to participate in and sponsor activities that enhance the public's appreciation and understanding of the role of attorneys and courts in our society. Several of our Elders not only had the opportunity to witness a courtroom drama but played a role. Please congratulate Roy Baggett and Charles Agee for their brilliant portrayal of jurors. They were subpoenaed to Court for the trial of Tom Robinson and did a splendid job of assisting veteran actors in providing a great show.

RAPE AGGRESSION DEFENSE SYSTEM TRAINING

The Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) System is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women. The R.A.D System is not a martial arts program, it is a comprehensive women-only course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training.

On Friday, April 27, 2012, the Family Services Department hosted two R.A.D training session as part of their Sexual Assault Awareness month program. Tribal Police Officers Valon McGhee, a nationally

certified R.A.D. instructor, and Craig Helton, were the instructors. Between the two sessions, there was a total of 19 attendees. We hope our ladies never have to use their new defensive skills, but they will be prepared if the situation ever arises.



Instructor Valon McGhee shows Shirley "Pug" Roberson how to protect herself.



Instructor Craig Helton leads the ladies through self defense steps.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Submitted by Donna Johnson

More than eighty people were greeted by Ms. Helen Hallman at the quarterly Cancer Support Group meeting held April 24, 2012. Ms. Hallman started the support group meetings after seeing a need in her community and also having been a cancer survivor herself.

Each meeting has proven to be an uplifting event where people affected by cancer come and fellowship in a positive atmosphere. The next quarterly support meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 in the S.A.I.L. Center on Lynn McGhee Drive. The meeting will start at

5:30 p.m.; dinner will be provided by the Wind Creek Casino. All are welcome to attend.

The Poarch Creek Indian Health Department Diabetes Team would like to invite you to a Diabetes Support Group Meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the S.A.I.L. Center on Lynn McGhee Drive. This meeting is open to all members of the community and anyone affected by diabetes is welcome to attend. Heavy appetizers will be served.

REMEMBERING OUR DAD, THE GREATEST MAN WE EVER KNEW

The greatest man we ever knew, Earl McGhee, was laid to rest a year ago on June 20, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

On that day, through all the tears and heartache, we said our good-byes and let him take his place in Heaven, where all the angels belong.



Now, a year later the pain is still real but the memories of our Daddy makes us smile and helps us through the day!

We love and miss you Daddy!

Christie, Sherry, Brandi, and Aaron

Got an Old Bicycle?



The Mentoring Program at the Boys & Girls Club began a program where the Mentors and Mentees checked out bikes and rode together around the Reservation.

We are in need of more bikes; we only have 3 bikes and this has been an enormous success with the children.

If you have a bike (any size) that is in very good condition and would like to donate it to the Boys & Girls Club, we would greatly appreciate it. All of our age groups from 1st – 11th grade have enjoyed this activity and we'd like to see them enjoying the outside activity a lot more.

If you have a bike you would like to donate, please give us a call at (2510 368-9136 x 2282. Thank you for all you do for our children!!

Gulf Coast RC&D Outreach Meeting Scheduled

A hands-on community outreach workshop, sponsored by the Gulf Coast Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), is planned for agricultural producers to explain programs that can benefit your farming operation for 2012. This workshop will be conducted by Gulf Coast RC&D and Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS).

What: Outreach Meeting
When: Saturday, June 23, 2012
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Where: The Club
1927 Hwy 21
Atmore, Alabama 36502
Lunch: Lunch will be provided

Representatives from RC&D, NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), Rural Development (RD), Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC), Tuskegee University, and the University of South

Alabama will be on hand to let you know what is available for you in 2012.

This is an opportunity for new farmers, people with limited income, and community members to learn about programs that can help you manage your pasture land, vegetable crops, woodland, honey bees and other natural resources. You can get questions answered concerning your land and community and get help in applying for programs that are available.

If you are currently participating in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to find out how to complete your current EQIP contract and learn about other programs that can benefit you and your farming operation.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

*** This meeting will include a bus tour of the Poarch Creek Indian Reservation***

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.al.nrcs.usda.gov to see updated news and information about services that may be helpful to you and your family.

THE REALITY PROJECT

Submitted by Annie Nowak, Prevention Coordinator

The Tribe has received funding from the Department of Health & Human Services Department for Children and Families to address the problem of teen pregnancy; this grant will allow the Tribe's Education Department to focus on this effort for the next 3 years. The program will be geared toward Tribal youth ages 11-19 and will include programs on Preventing Teen Pregnancy/Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Healthy Relationships, Financial Literacy and Healthy Lifestyle Choices.

The Reality Project will reach out to tribal youth ages 10-19, and up to 21 in some instances, by conducting teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection classes, including information about abstinence and contraceptive use while educating Tribal youth about life skills to include topics such as healthy relationships, financial literacy, education and career success.

The need for The Reality Project is demonstrated by the facts. In 2010 Escambia County's teen birth rate was 77.9 per 1,000 females aged 15-19. The City of Atmore's birth rate for females aged 15-19 was 80.6

per 1,000. The teen birth rate for females aged 15-19 for the United States was 34.3 per 1,000. This data puts Escambia County/Atmore as one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in Alabama and is more than double the national teen pregnancy rate.

The program that we will be using is an Evidence Based Program called "Making Proud Choices." These classes will be held both on the Reservation and at local partnering schools.

Evidence Based Programs have been scientifically replicated and are shown to be effective with the youth who participate in the program.

The goal of "Making Proud Choices!" is to reduce the risk for STD/HIV and pregnancy risk related behaviors. Young adolescents not only need knowledge and perception of personal vulnerability, but also positive attitudes towards condom use, skills and confidence in their ability to use condoms. The *Making Proud Choices!* curriculum is designed to meet those needs.

Making Proud Choices! A Safer Sex Approach to STDs, Teen Pregnancy, and HIV prevention curriculum, is

an eight module curriculum that provides young adolescents with the knowledge, confidence and skills necessary to reduce their risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV, and pregnancy by abstaining from sex or using condoms if they choose to have sex. It is based on cognitive-behavioral theories, focus groups and the authors' extensive experience working with youth.

Making Proud Choices! is an adaptation and extension of the original *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* curriculum in that it integrates teen pregnancy prevention along with HIV/STD prevention.

We are kicking off the program with a Launch Meeting on June 5, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Family Services Auditorium. Guest speakers will include Jamie Keith, Executive Director of the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and State Representative Alan Baker.

For more information about the Reality Project, please contact Prevention Coordinators Brenda Wilcox or Annie Nowak at (251) 368-9136 x 2022.

What did you say?



A new service is being offered through the Health Department! Assistance with Hearing Aids is available for patients who suffer from chronic hearing loss. Please contact the Health Department at 251.368.9136 ext. 2300 for more information.

2012 Tribal Law Enforcement Dates to Remember



DON'T SHATTER THE DREAM -
NATIVE AMERICAN HOLIDAY DWI CRACKDOWN
December 14, 2012 - January 1, 2013



New Home Cemetery Upkeep Meeting Scheduled

Submitted by Clara Jones

A meeting on the New Home Cemetery of Poarch will be held Tuesday, June 19, 2012. The meeting will be held at the Poarch S.A.I.L. Center @ 7:00 p.m.

If you have a loved one buried there or special interest in the upkeep of the cemetery, you are urged to attend this meeting.

If you have any questions, please call Clara Jones @ 251-368-1564 after 5:00 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICES REACHES OUT TO COMMUNITY DURING SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

Submitted by Melissa Durden

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Family Services Department combined these two events into a door-to-door awareness campaign.

We distributed bags with goodies and pertinent information to the Tribal Housing subdivisions. We felt that the campaign was successful.

If individuals were not home, a bag was left on their door knob. If any Tribal Members did not receive the information, we will be happy to get it for them if they will contact Family Services at (251) 368-9136 x 2212 or 2603.

We want to thank the Housing Authority and Tribal Court for providing us with items to include in our bags.



Michealine and Melissa are shown above with volunteers who assisted in the door-to-door campaign. Left to right are Kameron Byrd, Michealine Deese, Chris Byrd, Melissa Durben, and Cheylsea Byrd.

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.

Family Services Department Updates for June, 2012



****Introducing the Community Services Program****



The Family Services Department Community Services program is committed to meeting the Tribe's mission of "Prosperity and Self Determination" by providing comprehensive services to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of tribal member children and families. The Community Services program works to meet the Tribe's mission by providing financial assistance to tribal members in need through various federal grants and tribally-funded programs.

The federal grant programs managed through the Community Services staff includes the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the Child Care Development Funds (CCDF), and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Each of these programs follows mean-tested criteria for eligibility to offer assistance for various needs such as child care, emergency food, employment, energy bills, housing, and medical supplies. The grant programs are restricted to tribal members living within the identified tribal service area.

There are two tribally funded programs and these are the Tribal Assistance Program and the Tribal Crisis Fund. These funds are intended for emergency food, housing, employment, medical needs, medical travel needs, death & funeral travels, extreme medical conditions and other various emergency situations. These funds are available to all tribal members regardless of where they reside.

The Community Services staff collaborates with local power companies, local utility providers, tribal entities, landlords, and various local vendors to provide as many services as possible to our tribal members. If you need to apply for any of the services offered through our Community Services Programs, please feel free to contact the Family Services front desk and make an appointment. Clients are seen by appointment only. The Community Services staff will do our best to assess the needs of each tribal member that applies for services and help in any way we can. Please remember that our programs do have guidelines and applicants must meet guidelines to be approved for any of our programs. If we cannot assist with Community Services Programs, we will assist in referring clients to another department or agency that may be able to assist them.



Lena White, Community Services Specialist
Amanda Montgomery, Community Services

Family Services Staff

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

Family Services Department

Updates Continued for June, 2012

2012 Summer LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

The Summer LIHEAP program will run from May 1, 2012 through July 31, 2012.

****Summer LIHEAP may only be used ONCE per household during these months.**

****You determine which month you choose to access this service.**

The Summer LIHEAP program will be disbursed as follows:

- If you participated in the **2012 Winter LIHEAP** program and have **NO** changes to your household constitution or in your household income you will need to do the following:
 1. Fill out a one page application which will be available in the Family Services waiting room.
 2. Attach your household's current energy bill to the application.
 3. Leave your application at the Family Services Department front desk.
 4. Your application will be reviewed and you will be notified of whether your application is approved or denied through an Awards Letter that will be mailed to your address.

***Note:** If you participated in the **2012 Winter LIHEAP** program and have had changes in your household constitution or changes in your household income, **you will need to schedule an appointment for Summer LIHEAP.**

- If you **DID NOT** participate in the 2012 Winter LIHEAP program, you will need to make an appointment for Summer LIHEAP.

****All Summer LIHEAP appointments will be made daily, (Monday through Friday), from 8 a. m. until noon during the designated months of May, June, and July. Please contact the Family Services Department at 368-9136, extension 2600 to schedule an appointment.**

LIHEAP information continued on next page.

PCI Gaming Accepting Sealed Bids For Two Vehicles

PCI Gaming will be accepting sealed bids for two vehicles beginning 8:00 a.m. June 11, 2012; bids will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. June 25, 2012.

- 07 Trail Blazer, 107,700 miles. Power locks, window, and seats. Good Condition. Burgundy in color. Reserve bid starts at \$4,000.
- 07 Chevy Impala. 91,883 miles. Power locks, windows and seats. Good Condition. Tan in color. Reserve bid starting at \$4,500.



2007
Trail Blazer

All bids should be sent to:

PCI Gaming
Attention: Michelle Smith
303 Poarch Road
Atmore, AL 36502

Please feel free to give Michelle a call at (251) 446-4407 if you have questions or want more information.

2007
Chevy Impala



Family Services Department

Updates Continued for June, 2012

SUMMER LIHEAP 2012 INFORMATION CONTINUED:

Approval amounts for Summer LIHEAP 2012 range from \$250-\$325 based upon eligibility. You will be responsible for any charges that are not covered by LIHEAP such as late fees, lights, etc. 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.
- 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 that 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, food stamps, TANF.
- CURRENT 2012 Social Security or Disability Income Verification. We must have current income verification on file for all 2012 applications and services.
- If your power bill is your name and is listed in another name such as a family member, , landlord, roommate, etc., you must bring a written statement from that person verifying that they do allow you to have power bill and service in their name.

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

** LIHEAP applicants must meet the listed income guidelines below to qualify. **

			Sixty Percent of Estimated State Median Income					
State	Est. State median income for four-person family	60% of Est. State median income for four-person family	One-Person Family	Two-Person Family	Three-person Family	Four-Person Family	Five-Person Family	Six-Person Family
AL	\$63,888	\$38,333	\$19,333	\$26,066	\$32,300	\$38,333	\$44,466	\$50,600
FL	\$67,705	\$40,623	\$21,124	\$27,624	\$34,123	\$40,623	\$47,123	\$53,622

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.

The Potential Impact of the Growing Mobile Society on Tribal Identity

By Venus McGhee Prince

The following is a condensed version of an article by Venus McGhee Prince that was published in the April issue of the Federal Lawyer Magazine.

Most Americans recognize that tribes in the United States enjoy a “special status”. They might not understand whether this special status is based on history, race, politics or the law, but they assume that tribes have their “own” lands and that they have different language, customs and traditions. Tribes also take great pride in this special status, which has entitled tribes to pursue many federal programs and benefits and unique economic ventures, such as gaming. But what continues to make tribes different from other racial, ethnic, or political groups in modern society?

The concept of tribal identity first fascinated me when I chose my college thesis topic in 1995 and focused on the construction and evolution of identity among my tribe, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. At the time, Poarch Creek identity was based on two critical aspects—extended kinship ties and the existence of the reservation and tribal administrative services.

The world around us has changed dramatically since that time. The world has become increasingly mobile—both technologically and physically. Over 5 billion cell phones are in use worldwide. The number of mobile phones in use in the United States exceeds our total population. More and more people relocate for job opportunities and commute significant distances for jobs, including me as I travel two hours to and from work daily crossing from the state of Florida to the state of Alabama.

We no longer live in an isolated world.

We also cannot ignore the increase in the urban Indian population and its potential impact on how tribes may reconstruct their identity. According to the U.S. Census, in 1970, only 38 percent of those people who identified as American Indian and Alaska Native did not reside on reservations. By 2000, that percentage had risen to 61%. In the most recent 2010 census, that percentage increased again to 78%. These statistics suggest a dramatic change in where and how most tribal members live in this modern society.

Will this growing mobile society impact tribal identity? If so, how?

Does the Physical Tie to the Tribe's Lands Matter Anymore?

Throughout history, tribes have identified closely with their homelands. These homelands may have been “stolen” or legally confiscated, but the federal government ultimately placed most tribes on reservations. The reservation then became a fundamental basis of their respective tribal identities. The growing numbers of tribal members relocating away from the reservation, however, could undermine this perception of the meaning and significance of the reservation in federal and tribal law.

Many federal laws—including the Indian Reorganization Act, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and the Indian Child Welfare Act—that have shaped and continue to shape, at least in part, the identity of tribes perpetuate the

assumption that most Indians reside on the reservation or other Indian lands. The only federal law that appears to accommodate the physical mobility of today's Native population and to acknowledge the existence of the urban Indian population is the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act. With the migration of three-quarters of the 5.2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives away from the reservation, there appears to be a growing disconnect between the fundamental assumption in federal and tribal laws that most Indians live on the reservation and the daily lives of modern Indians.

Still, a modern Indian's connection to the reservation might remain as a foundation to his or her identity because of mobile technology. Most tribes have appropriated modern technology, including sophisticated websites and newsletters, as a means of improving communications with their respective tribal members. They may also allow tribal members to participate in political activities, even if the tribal member does not reside on or near the reservation. For example, the Poarch Creeks allowed a tribal member to serve on the Ethics Board while living in Germany through e-mail correspondence and conference calls.

Any statistical figures with respect to the migration of tribal members from reservations to urban areas may also be a bit deceptive. In fact, the statistics for the Poarch Creeks suggest that the U.S. Census statistics do not accurately portray the situation. The Poarch Creeks certainly are experiencing

increased physical mobility, but they are not locating far from the reservation. Only 155 of the 3095 members of the Poarch Creeks live on the reservation or other Indian lands. Yet, the majority of tribal members remain close to the reservation. 1940 of the 3095 tribal members (63%) still live within the Tribe's six-county service area.

In short, the emphasis on the reservation is so firmly embedded in federal and tribal law that it has become a part of the self-identification of many tribes. While the increased physical mobility and move away from the reservation could prompt revisions to the legal definitions of "Indian" and "tribe", the technological mobility of modern society may counter some of these impacts by sustaining the political, legal, and perhaps cultural elements of tribal identity.

Will Definitions of Tribal Membership Need to Evolve?

For many organized tribes, the cornerstone of tribal identity is tribal membership, whether being determined by the federal government or the Tribe itself. The federal government has required either some level of blood quantum or membership in a federally-recognized tribe for access to federally-funded services. In turn, 70% of tribes now require that an individual have a certain amount of blood quantum, often at least one-quarter, to be eligible for tribal membership.

Many tribes have demonstrated an innovative spirit, however, by refashioning the federal Indian blood concept into a tribal blood concept. But will this type of innovation backfire against a tribe in this growing mobile society where technological and physical mobility may lessen the opportunity for and frequency of

intermarriage with members of the same tribe?

The Poarch Creeks now use tribal blood quantum, rather than Indian blood quantum, as the basis for tribal membership, but this change was a recent development. The original Tribal Constitution allowed persons of "at least one fourth (1/4) degree Indian blood" to become members "provided they are not enrolled as members of any other tribe, group or band of Indians". The tribal membership approved an amendment in 2010, however, that tightened the eligibility requirements in two significant ways: (1) a person must be "one fourth (1/4) *Poarch Creek* Indian blood"; and (2) a person cannot be enrolled as a member of "any other *federally recognized* tribe, group or band of Indians". With this amendment, the Poarch Creeks have shown a clear preference to identify as their own tribe, as distinct from any other federally-recognized tribe.

This approach, however, could create an identity crisis in upcoming generations. In my 1995 thesis, I noted that not only were a majority of the tribal members already intermarried, but most of the younger members of the core study group were not concerned about "marrying Indian" or other Poarch Creeks. Given that only 289 of our 3095 tribal members are under the age of 18 and that all of them are growing up in an extremely mobile society, marriage to other Poarch Creeks is extremely unlikely. Moreover, half of the 289 minor tribal members have only one-fourth blood quantum, so even if one of our minor tribal members married a descendant of a tribal member, the probability that their child would have the one-fourth blood quantum necessary for tribal membership is also unlikely. Thus, the

Poarch Creeks' seemingly innovative approach to defining tribal identity could be quite short-lived.

As noted in a recent New York Times article, tribes must turn away from the "fixation on blood" and look "beyond generics alone" in identifying themselves as "Indian". Tribes could base tribal membership on several factors, such as the possession of fluency in their native language, the passage of a basic civics test, residency or some period of naturalization inside the treaty or service area, or a year of community service. This approach may avoid the biological and geographic barriers caused by the current Indian and tribal blood quantum approaches to tribal membership and exacerbated by the new mobile age.

While the move away from blood quantum may make sense conceptually, tribes may encounter practical obstacles in doing so, such as:

- Will tribal members who have known no other eligibility requirement but blood quantum be willing to pass an amendment to a tribal constitution that adopts these other factors in determining tribal membership? Many tribes have experienced massive assimilation and have lost fluency in their native languages and cultural ties. So, many tribal members may not understand or appreciate the significance of the non-racial ties to the tribe. It is should also be considered that it is difficult for anyone to adopt an identity construct that may call into question his or her own identity.
- If a tribal constitutional amendment is passed, how would

Continued on next page.

the leadership determine whether an individual satisfies the non-racial elements of tribal identity? Blood quantum has the advantage of being objective and simple to administer. Perhaps this is why most tribes who consider amendments to membership requirements focus only on lowering the blood quantum requirement or pursuing lineal descendancy, rather than embracing other non-racial factors.

To effect any real changes in tribal membership, though, a tribe's governing body would need to launch a well-coordinated and creative campaign to educate its tribal membership on the need for action.

The Future

How long will the larger society recognize a separate identity for tribes or support their special status under the law? As tribal members become more mobile, technologically and physically, they are arguably being assimilated into the larger surrounding society. If tribes require no connection to the tribe other than lineal descent, the authenticity of a tribe

and the need for acknowledgement of separate sovereignty will certainly be challenged. Although tribes experienced a unique history with the federal government that resulted in their special status under the law, tribes may appear no different from closely-held corporations or other state or local polities. If they are to survive, tribes must continue to reshape their tribal identity to accommodate the impacts of a growing mobile society on their tribal membership requirements.

I remain concerned about the future of tribal identity in light of this growing mobile society, but my conclusion for all tribes is the same today as it was for my tribe many years ago: "As long as th[e] emotional tie and the feelings of *closeness* and *pride* in who they are remain, the Poarch Creek community will survive. . . . [T]his community has proved its resilience in the past and will continue to do so in the future."

Boys & Girls Club Plant Spring Garden



Spring has sprung and the participants of the Boys & Girls Club have taken to gardening. It will be a first time learning experience for many of these children as they tend the garden through harvest time!

The Boys & Girls Club will also offer a summer feeding program from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for children under the age of 18. If you are 18 or under, drop by and join us for lunch!

Summer Hours:

May 29, 2012 - August 3, 2012

7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

- The Boys & Girls Club will close at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, June 1, 2012 for Employee Appreciation Day.
- The Boys & Girls Club will be closed Wednesday, July 4, 2012 in observance of Independence Day.

Contact Stephanie Agerton or Connie Crews at (251) 368-9136 x 2282 for information.

TRIBAL MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Five Generations Come Together At Easter

Five generations of the Ruthie Mae Rackard family attended Easter services together at New Home Holiness Church.

Pictured to the right are Ruthie Mae Rackard, her daughter Hazel Rolin; Hazel's daughter Rhonda Linam; and Rhonda's son Caleb Linam with his daughter Taryn Mae Linam.



We would also like to extend our congratulations to Taryn Mae Linam who was selected as the Most Beautiful Baby at Mayfest on Saturday, May 5, 2012, which was also her first birthday!.

Happy Mother's Day Granny Bessie



You always give us unconditional love, humor, lessons in life, and most importantly, the truth. You are, without a doubt, the glue that hold us together and we love you for it.

Happy Mother's Day from your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, and everyone else you have always been 'Granny Bessie' to.

We love you!

NINTH ANNUAL WILL & BESS MCGHEE FAMILY REUNION

All descendants of the Will and Bessie McGhee family are invited to join in the fun, fellowship, and activities at the Pow Wow grounds on Saturday, June 2, 2012.

Gathering and Fellowship will be 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

LUNCH IS PLANNED FOR 2:00 P.M.

Family representatives have planned to make this a great reunion event. Come and join in to make this year's reunion bigger and better.

As always, each family is asked to bring lawn chairs, beverages, and a covered dish.

Fried chicken, ham, bread, and paper products will be provided. For more information, please contact Marie Martin at (251) 368-5474.



Gospel Light Chapel is hosting the
38th Annual Homecoming for the
Len McGhee descendants
Date: Sunday, June 3, 2012
Time: 10:00 a. m. until . . .

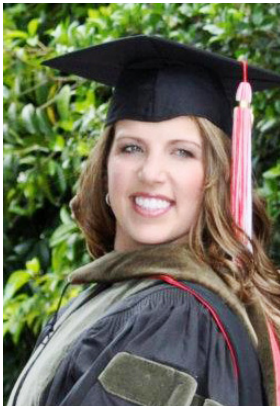
Homecoming Service will feature:

- * The Mississippi Ramblers!
- * Special testimonies of God's enduring faithfulness.
- * Lunch will be served!
- * Bring your favorite dish to help feed the crowd!
- * Fellowship for all. Bring pictures to share!

Gospel Light Chapel
501 N. Trammell St.
Atmore, AL 36502

Pastor: Martin Gehman
Assistant Pastor: Clarence Rolin
Phone: (251)-368-3353

HONORING GRADUATES &



Johnson Graduates With Doctor of Pharmacy Degree

Submitted by Brenda Johnson

Olivia Johnson graduated from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree on May 5, 2012 in Athens, Georgia.

Olivia is a first generation Native American descendent of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. She is the daughter of Mike and Brenda Johnson of Douglasville, Georgia and the granddaughter of John and Bernice McGhee of Atmore, Alabama and Wilma Johnson and the late Willard Johnson formerly of Atmore, Alabama.

While in pharmacy school, Olivia was a member of the Academy of Student Pharmacy Association, Georgia Pharmacy Association, Lambda Kappa Sigma, Phi Lambda Sigma and Atlanta Academy of Institutional Pharmacy. She was Vice-President of the Class of 2012, Women Pharmacist of the Year and a Presidential Scholar at the University of Georgia. She gave the invocation at the graduation ceremony and graduated with honors as Magna Cum Laude.

Olivia is entering a two year residency program at Grady Health System of Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia.



Crystal Brown Graduates From Huntingdon College

We would like to say congratulations to Crystal Brown for her hard work and dedication. She graduated from Huntingdon College on May 5, 2012. She received her Bachelor of Science with a major in Business Management.

Congratulations Crystal! We are so proud of you!

Love Jeremy, your Mom, Brittany, John, and Nahla!

Morris and Daughtry Graduate Faulkner University



Terri Albritton Morris and Crystal McGhee Daughtry graduated from Faulkner University, in Montgomery, AL on May 4, 2012 with Bachelor's Degrees in Business Administration. Both are employed with PCI Gaming in Human Resources.

Congratulations Terri and Crystal.



Couple Graduate From Huntingdon College

Submitted by Kimberly Rolin

Jeremy and Rilyn Rolin graduated from Huntingdon College on May 5, 2012 with Bachelor's Degrees in Business Management. Congratulations Jeremy and Rilyn!!

We are so proud of you both for your hard work and dedication!

We love you, Mom, Dad, Kimberly, Justin, Krystal, Gabby, Destinee, Leah, Aiden, and the rest of your family.

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Reaves Graduates From Washington High School

Submitted by Candace Walker Reaves



We would like to announce the graduation of our daughter, Caitlyn Reaves, from Washington High School on June 5, 2012. She has also completed a year at Pensacola State College and will be attending University of South Alabama in the fall.

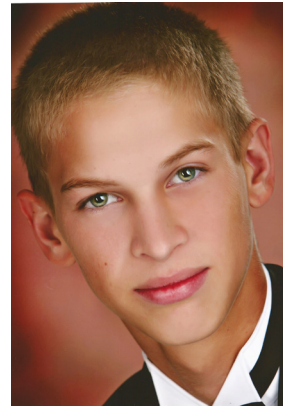
We are so proud of your goals and accomplishments. Keep GOD first in everything you do. Your beauty is from the inside out. We are proud parents, Marshall and Candace (Walker) Reaves, grandparents William W. and Karen Walker! We love you Caitlyn and you will always be our baby girl!!

She is also the great granddaughter of the late William L. and Ruth Walker, great-great granddaughter of Bud and Matilda (McGhee) Walker, great-great-great granddaughter of Jay C. and Lutreacy (McGhee) Walker

Always our love and prayers, Mom and Dad

Chance Jackson Graduates From Escambia Academy

Submitted by Edie Jackson

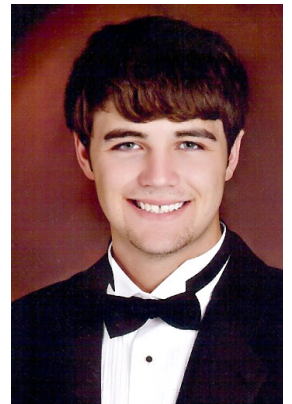


Congratulations to Chance Jackson who graduated from Escambia Academy on Thursday, May 24, 2012. Chance was awarded the Top Academic Achievement Award for Physics and A-B honor roll for the year.

He will be attending Faulkner State Junior College. We are so proud of your accomplishments!

Logan Boatwright Graduates From Atmore Christian School

Submitted by Myrtis Kinman



Logan Dewayne Kinman graduated from Atmore Christian School on May 18, 2012.

We are proud of you and love you very much!

Mom, Dad, Madelyn, Connor, Sissy, Uncle Dave & Jessica, and Nana & Paw Paw, Myrtis & David Kinman.

EA student Wins Top Reading Honor

Submitted by Tracy McGhee

Meredith McGhee was honored by the Alabama Independent School Association as its top reader in the state for its third through fifth grade division. Meredith is a third grader at Escambia Academy in Atmore, Alabama. She received the award for reading 21,780 pages since the first of the school year. Meredith is pictured to the right with her teacher Mrs. Martha Walker.

Meredith is the daughter of Kent and Tracy McGhee, the granddaughter of Arentha and the late Willis McGhee, and John and the late Dottie Colbert Padgett.



HONORING GRADUATES & EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Megan Rachard



Class of 2012

To Our Daughter
No words could ever tell you or
show the full extent
Of what a special Daughter you
are and what you've always meant
And so these special thoughts
bring you a world of love
With wishes for the happiness
you're so deserving of!

Congratulations Megan!
We love you!

Mom, Dad, Jacob, Kimberly,
Paw Paw, Maw Maw, Granny,
Grandpa, Aunt Tab, Uncle Tony,
Brooke, and Allie Anna

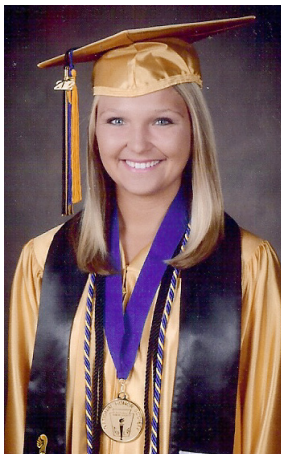
Rondeau Graduates From High School

Submitted by Betty Caraway



Katelyn Olivia Rondeau
will graduate from Bountiful
High School in North Salt
Lake, Utah on June 1, 2012.
Congratulations Katie!

We love you, from your
sisters Cierra and Dallas
Caraway and from your
family in Atmore.



Ledkins Graduates With Honors

Submitted by Jackie Ledkins

Kelsey Nicole Ledkins graduated
with honors from Excel High
School. Kelsey plans to attend
Alabama Southern in the fall
where she has received a full
athletic scholarship to play
softball.

Kelsey is the daughter of Steven and Jackie Ledkins and
the granddaughter of Joe and Kathy Ledkins of Poarch
and Ann Luker of Excel, AL.

Congratulations Kelsey, we are so proud of you!



Victoria Ledkins Graduates Sixth Grade

Submitted by Jackie Ledkins

Victoria Faith Ledkins has
graduated from the sixth
grade at Excel Elementary
School.

Victoria is the daughter of
Steven and Jackie Ledkins and the granddaughter of
Joe and Kathy Ledkins of Poarch and Ann Luker of
Excel, AL.

Congratulations Victoria, we are so proud of you!



Third Grade Class Visits The Planetarium

Submitted by Tracy McGhee

The third grade at Escambia Academy recently went to the Planetarium
at Pensacola Junior College. The students learned about the Solar
System and the constellations in the night sky. Pictured with the third
grade class and their teacher Mrs. Martha Walker is Mr. Billy Jackson
from the Planetarium. Class members included Tribal Member
Meredith McGhee, and Indian Descendants Bailey Jones and Rylee
Huskey.

Art by Cher

- *Sculpture
- *Potraits
- *Oil
- *Landscape
- *Watercolor
- *Charcoal



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School's out for the summer!

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free time;
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time can lead to
trouble...



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Contact Cassie O'Brien (251) 368-9136 x 2282

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Created by Sara & Gayle

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JUNE 2012

Tribal Council Meetings

Thursday, June 7th @ 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 21st @ 4:00 p.m.
Tribal Council Chambers

Tribal Court Sessions

Monday, June 4th & 18th 9:00 a.m.
Tribal Courtroom

NA Meetings

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

CIEDA Meetings

Friday, June 1st & 15th 7:30 a.m.
CIEDA Offices

Community Meeting Regarding Membership Eligibility Requirements

Saturday, June 2nd 1:00 p.m.
Family Services Auditorium

Historic Preservation Board

Monday, June 4th & 18th 5:00 p.m.
Welcome Center

Housing Authority Meetings

Thursday, May 10th & 24th 4:00 p.m.
Building 400 Conference Room

Recreation Authority Meetings

Tuesday, June 11th & 25th 11:00 a.m.
Recreation Center (Gym)

TERO Commission Meetings

Tuesday, June 11th & 25th 3:00 p.m.
TERO Offices

Education Classes/Club Meetings

4-H Club

Monday, June 11th & 25th 6:00 p.m.
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

Recreation Programs

Gym Hours

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

***Dance Classes every Thursday
Contact the Recreation 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 10:30 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!

Election Deadlines to Remember for June

***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 Election Day.
Voting from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.***

Voting for Vice Chair, two At-Large Seats

& Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Other Dates To Remember This Month

***Boys & Girls Club Community Wide
Summer Feeding Program
May 29, 2012 - August 3, 2012***

Friday, June 1, 2012

***Boys & Girls Club will be closed.
No Summer Feeding Program.***

Employee Appreciation Day

Friday, June 1, 2012

Tribal offices will close at 11:30 a.m.

***Deadline to submit information to
be published in the July newsletter is
5:00 p.m. (CST) Monday, June 11,
2012.***

The Reality Project Launch

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Family Services Auditorium

***Health Camp Registration Deadline
5:00 p.m. June 15, 2012***

Diabetes Support Group

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

5:30 p.m.

SAIL Center

Health Camp

June 24-29, 2012

Newsletter Contact Information

Poarch Creek News

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(251) 368-9136 x 2210 gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov
5811 Jack Spring Road, Atmore, AL 36502
www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov
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Atmore, AL 36502

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