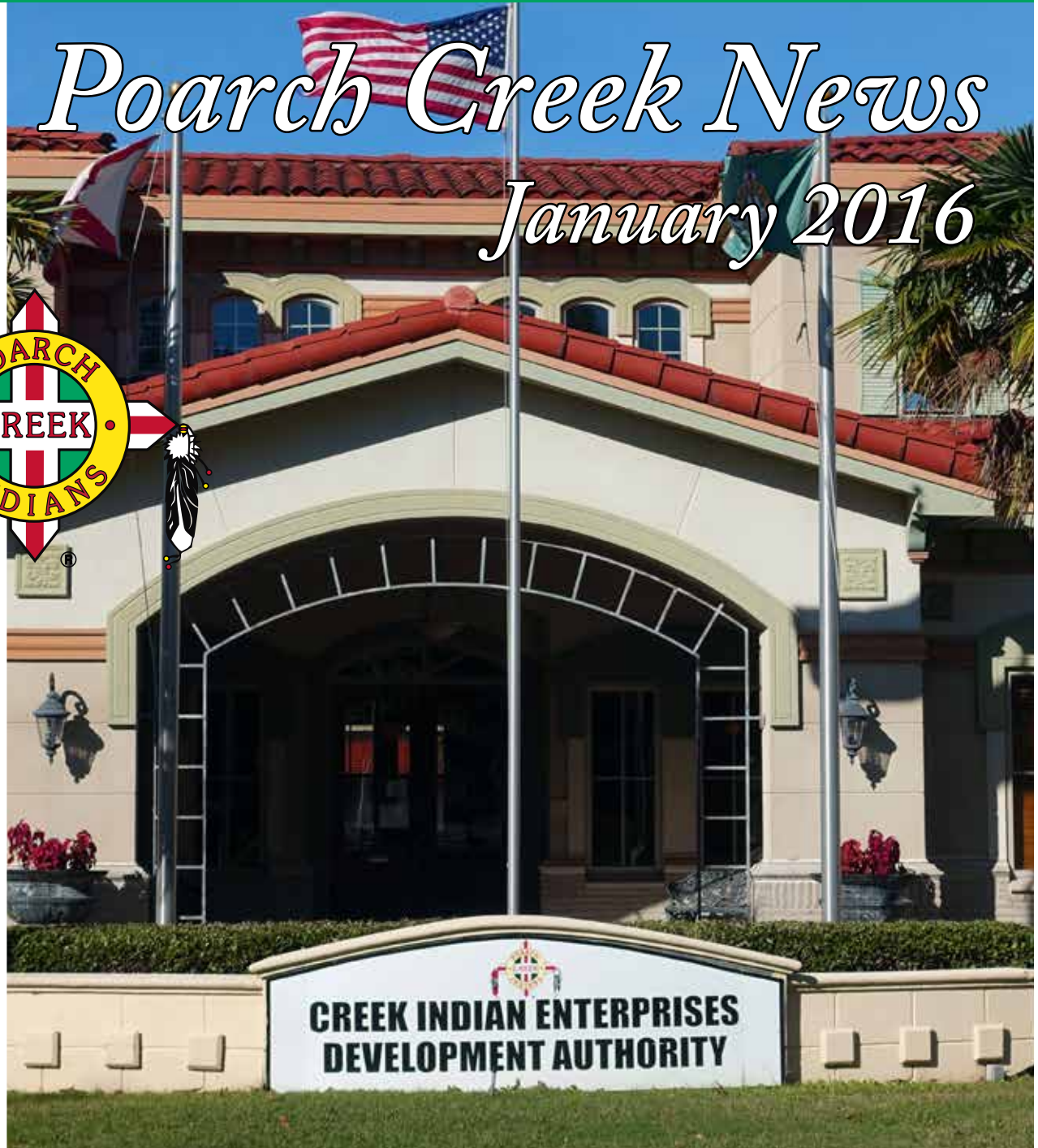


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Poarch Creek News

January 2016



Keeping the friends & family of Poarch informed

*Volume 34
Issue 1*

*Rvfo 'Cuse
(January)*



Creek Indian Enterprises
Development Authority

**Magnolia Branch
Wildlife Reserve**



A Moment With The Tribal Chair January 2016

Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair sbryan@pci-nsn.gov



It is surreal to think that 2015 is already behind us and 2016 has begun. 2015 was certainly a busy and memorable year for many of us, and I have no doubt that 2016 will be just as eventful. However, one thing that lingers in my mind as I think about years past, is all of the loved ones that are no longer with us.

Too often, I am guilty of putting too many things ahead of the precious time I could be spending with my family and friends. With the passing of my Uncle John Arthur "The Corn Man" McGhee, I have been reminded that our loved ones do not stay with us forever. We never know when our last moment on this earth will be.

So, we should strive to live fully in the moment and to cherish the time that we've been given.

As I have been thinking about my New Year's Resolutions for 2016, I've also been reflecting upon my 2015 and things I can do to further myself as a person. I never want to become stagnant, but instead want to continue this journey called life by filling my mind with knowledge, surrounding myself with positivity, and truly living in the moment.

I've worked very hard with a dedicated group of individuals this past year to bring the organization up to speed with the growth we have experienced, protect our tribal sovereignty, and implement

programs and benefits that will increase the quality of life for Tribal Members. However, in all things, there must be a balance. And, for 2016, it is my sincere hope that I can find that delicate balance between working hard for those I love, and taking time to enjoy this life I've been given.

With that said, I wish all of you a Happy New Year with nothing but the best! I pray that each of you will have a 2016 filled with love, joy, unexpected blessings, and good health.

In love,
Stephanie A. Bryan
Tribal Chair/CEO

We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon.


Franklin D. Roosevelt

True leadership is only possible when character is more important than authority.

Joseph Marshall, Lakota Sioux

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

Chief Seattle, 1854



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Tribal Council Values

As proud leaders of our Tribe, our integrity demands that we are true to who we are. Our integrity is the foundation of our love for family and community, which strengthens our faith and commitment to do what is right for the Tribe.

We will further the legacy of self-determination and self-reliance inherited from our elders by investing in the progress and driving a vision for the future that leads to our prosperity.



Tribal Council's Purpose

Our love for our people and our commitment to their future drives us to make tough decisions and stand by them to provide stable governance.

With our blend of mature wisdom and modern knowledge, we grow the Tribe's assets to build self-reliance and enhance quality of life for all.





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Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4: 31-32

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- **Submission Criteria**

Tribal Member submissions for publication in the *Poarch Creek News* are limited to Tribal Members & spouse, first generation, as submitted by Tribal Member, and those living in Tribal Member households unless exception is noted. When submitting information, please identify the person featured as a Tribal Member, Tribal Member spouse, first generation descendant, or individual living in a Tribal Member household.

- **Copyright Materials**

Copyrighted poems, graphics, etc. will not be published without permission from copyright holder. It is the responsibility of the individual submitting the information to determine if material is copyrighted and to obtain applicable copyright license.

- **Birthday & Anniversary Wishes:**

May be published the month before, the month of, or the month after, the birthday/anniversary.

- **Obituaries:**

Submit information by the last business day of the second month immediately following the death. *Photos will be cropped to reflect deceased only.*

- **In Memoriam:**

Published month before, the month of, or the month after the birthday of the deceased or the anniversary of the death of the deceased. *Photos will be cropped to reflect deceased only. Limit one In Memoriam submission per deceased individual per issue.*

- **Birth Announcements:**

Submit information by the last business day of the month immediately following the birth. A Tribal Member may submit the birth announcement of their grandchild, even if the child is not first generation.

- **Engagement/Wedding Announcements:**

Submit information by the last business day of the month immediately following the engagement/wedding.

- **Photo Submissions:**

One per article submission; photos will be cropped to fit available space. High resolution .jpg or PDF format. Poor quality/inappropriate photos will not be published.

- **Corrections:**

Corrections will occur only if error/misprint is made by *Poarch Creek News*.

We no longer offer live streaming of Tribal Council meetings due to lack of participation and technical issues. However, Community Meetings will continue to be streamed. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause. We encourage everyone, when possible and if your schedule permits, to attend the Tribal Council Meetings.



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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

The *Poarch Creek News* is the official newsletter of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and is published by the Government Relations Department at the direction/discretion of the Tribal Council.

The *Poarch Creek News* is not the forum where individuals/groups can submit their views regarding matters of operations of Tribal Government or any decisions or policies enacted by Tribal Council, Authorities and/or Boards. Nor is it the vehicle to submit policies issues/concerns of individuals/groups.

All questions or concerns about the *Poarch Creek News* should be addressed to:

Gayle Johnson, Editor
Poarch Creek News
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov
(251) 368-9136 x 2210
Direct Dial # 251 446-5210

Regular Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The *Poarch Creek News* office is located in Building 400 of the Tribal Complex.

The *Poarch Creek News* reserves the right to edit or refuse any item submitted for publication.

2016 WORD LIMITS

Birthday	40 words or less
Anniversary	50 words or less
Engagement	50 words or less
Reunions	50 words or less
TM Submissions	100 words or less
Birth/Wedding	200 words or less
Graduation	200 words or less
Achievements	200 words or less
In Memoriam	250 words or less
Obituary	250 words or less
News Article	400 words or less

DEADLINES

Poarch Creek News is generated one month prior to month of publication.

Submission Deadline: 5th of the month prior to the month of publication.

If 5th falls on weekend or holiday, the deadline is extended to the next business day.

Keep the established deadline in mind when submitting information for all sections of the newsletter.

Please submit information as soon as possible, delay may cause you to miss the established deadline.



TRIBAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES BOARD & COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Tribal Council has announced a vacancy on the Tribal Regulatory Committee and will be taking applications for the vacancy through 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 29, 2016.

If you are interested in applying for this position, an application is available on the Tribal Council page of the Tribe's official web site, www.pci-nsn.gov; the application may be completed and submitted directly from the web site.

You may also pick up an application at the Tribal Chair's Office in Building 600 of the Tribal Complex

located at 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore AL or contact Kelli Ramer, Tribal Council Office Director, at (251) 368-9136 x 2110.

All applications, and resumes if applicable, should be returned to the Tribal Chair's Office by close of business Friday, January 29, 2016. Applications may be submitted via online submission, U.S. Mail, hand delivery, or email to boards-committees@pci-nsn.gov.

Once the January 29, 2016 deadline has passed, a list of all applicants will be published for your review.

Please review to ensure that your name is listed if you applied for this vacancy. If your name is not listed, please contact the Tribal Chair's office immediately at (251) 368-9136 x 2110.

For your convenience, the list will be posted on the outside bulletin board in front of Building 100, the Receptionist/Front Desk in Building 500 of the Tribal Complex, the Health Department, and the Tribal Council page of the web site.

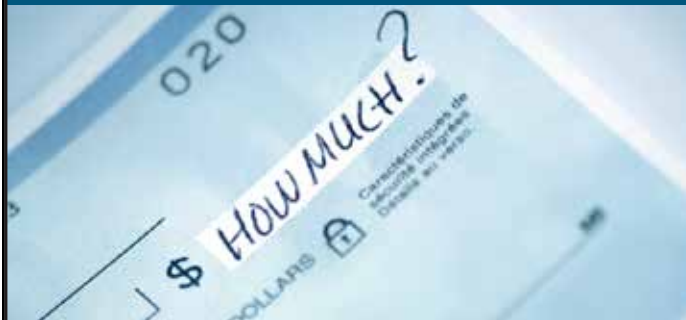
DISSEMINATION OF UPDATED INFORMATION

- Official Tribal Web site: www.pci-nsn.gov
- Tribal Members Only Portal (TMOP): On Tribal web site. For Tribal Members only, age 18 and older.
- Tribal Member Distribution Email (TMDE) List. For Tribal Members only, age 18 and older. If you would like to be included on this distribution list, please email your contact information and Tribal roll number to info@pci-nsn.gov.
- facebook.com/PoarchBandofCreekIndians
- twitter.com/PoarchCreek

The Tribe's website, Facebook, Twitter, and TMDE accounts are maintained by the Government Relations Department.

Please contact Hannah Flowers at (251) 368-9136 x 2003 if you have any questions or concerns.

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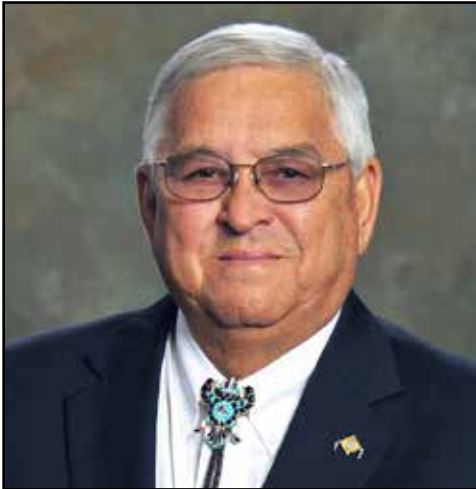
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Eddie L. Tullis, Treasurer
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Sandy Hollinger, At-Large
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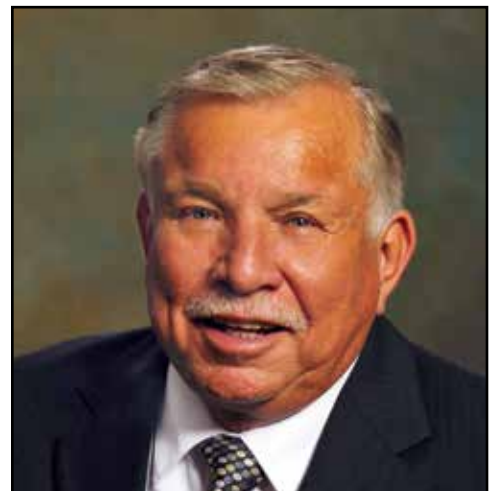
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Tribal Council Update

January 2016

Eddie L. Tullis, Treasurer

etullis@pci-nsn.gov

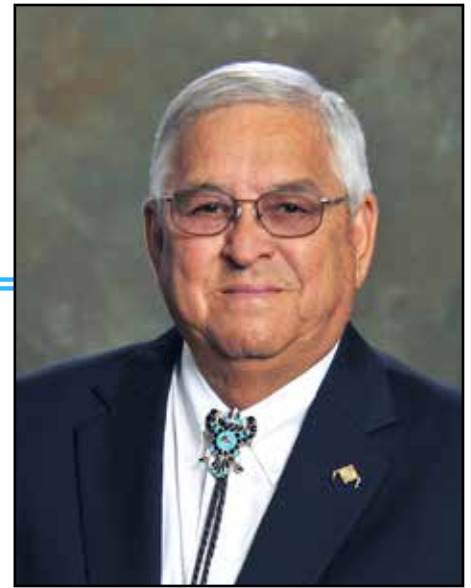
I hope everyone enjoyed their families during the holiday season and are ready for a brand new year.

I would like to reflect on Tribal Members that we lost during 2015. This certainly is not an inclusive list of the dedicated individuals that we have lost but it has weighed heavy on my heart to recognize the following people.

John Arthur McGhee, “The Corn Man”, is at peace now and not suffering anymore. During John’s time on the Tribal Council he lived in Gadsden for many years but never missed the first Tribal Council meeting and he never asked for any type of reimbursement for his travel expenses. John was most famous for his corn; I cannot tell you how many ears I personally have eaten in my life. He began his business at the Pow Wow but word quickly spread across the state and surrounding states keeping John very busy. For years he provided corn for City Stages in Birmingham. John’s passing is a great loss.

The next individual that I want to recognize is Chester Fields McGhee. Many of you may not know that Fields was one of Calvin McGhee’s most loyal supporters. At Calvin’s request, Fields would don his regalia and head out to support Calvin and the Tribe at meetings or public engagements. Because of his immense contributions, loyalty and dedication to this Tribe I felt like Fields needed to be recognized. Fields was truly one of a kind.

The third individual that I want to recognize is Dewey McGhee. Dewey always supported Calvin and Houston’s efforts on the land claims cases as well as putting the Tribe in the public eye. He was always one we could count on when there were business trips to Washington, DC. On one particular trip Dewey drove his own car, I drove Tom McGhee’s car and we used Buford L. Rolin’s credit card for gas. Dewey was blessed with great family support from his beloved wife, Olivette. She shared his love and dedication



to the Tribe. Many of you may not know but Olivette was chosen to travel with Governor George Wallace during his presidential campaign. Dewey is and will be truly missed.

My final recognition goes to Willie Lois McGhee Fore. Willie Lois dedicated her time selflessly anytime she was asked. She was the ultimate volunteer and always arrived with a smile on her face. She never hesitated to represent her Tribe and did so with love and compassion.

These great Tribal Members are gone but not forgotten. They will forever be in our hearts and be part of the great history and legacy of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.

Vince Lombardi

Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation.

Margaret Chase Smith

Congressional Update

January 2016

Representative Bradley Byrne (251) 690-2811 Byrne.House.Gov

As your Congressman in Washington, D.C., I wanted to update you on some of our major accomplishments over the past year.

In Congress, my top focus is to get the federal government out of the way and allow hardworking Americans to do their jobs. Whether it is by removing regulations on small businesses or restricting federal involvement on tribal land, I support a smaller, more efficient federal government.

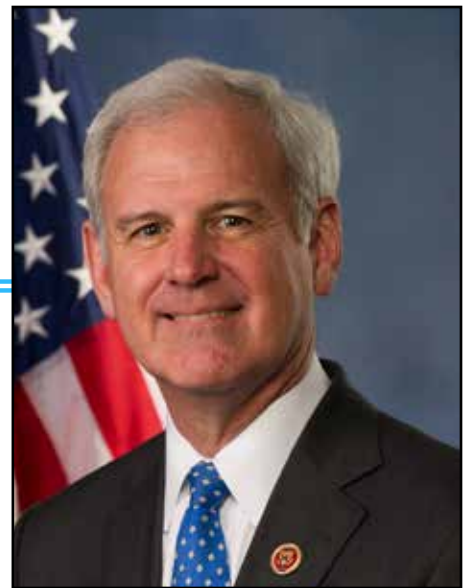
Last January, I introduced a bill to repeal Obamacare in its entirety and pave the way for a patient-centered health care alternative that isn't run by the federal government. I was pleased that my bill passed the House of Representatives on February 3 by a vote of 239 to 186.

Over the summer, I traveled overseas to the Paris Air Show to help bring new jobs to our area.

While in Paris, I spent time with the team from Muskogee Technology as they met with prospective clients. I believe we made great progress on the trip, and I remain very impressed by the work Muskogee is doing.

With the House out of session in August, I hit the road for a Conservative Solutions Town Hall Tour with over 15 stops throughout Southwest Alabama. The very first stop on the tour was actually in Atmore at the Tribal Council Chambers. During the town hall tour, I shared the importance of finding solutions instead of only focusing on the problems that face our nation.

Just last month, Congress finally passed a new, long-term highway bill. A long-term highway bill will allow us to move forward with large-scale highway projects, like a new I-10 bridge in Mobile and four-laning Highway 31



from Brewton to Bay Minette. This is the first highway bill lasting longer than two years since 2005, and I was proud to support it.

So as we head into another busy year, I want to make sure you know that I am committed to fighting for Southwest Alabama in Washington. If you, or anyone you know, has a question or needs help with a federal agency, I hope you will contact my office. I can be reached by phone at 251-690-2811 and online at Byrne.House.Gov.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your voice in Washington as we work to make Southwest Alabama a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

I think there's no higher calling in terms of a career than public service, which is a chance to make a difference in people's lives and improve the world.

Jack Lew

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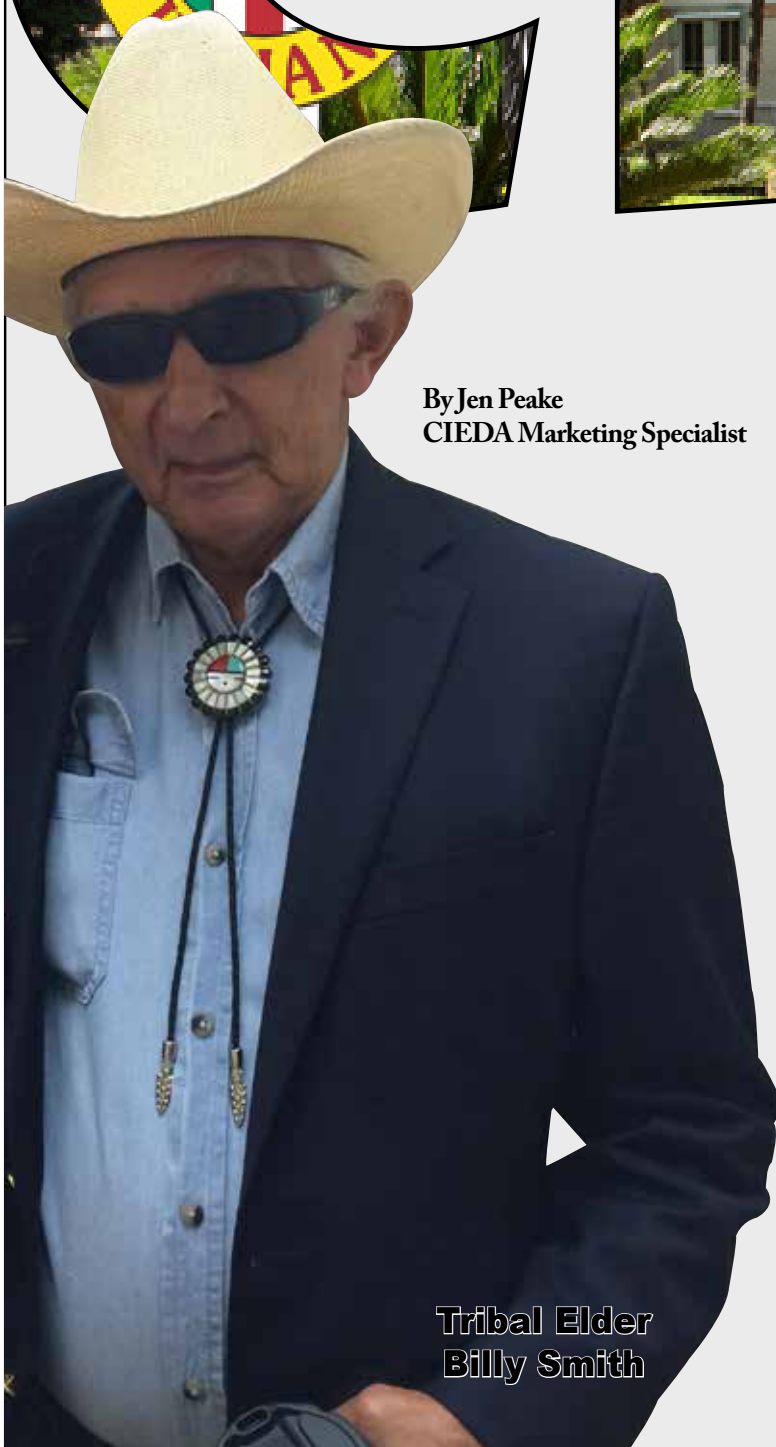
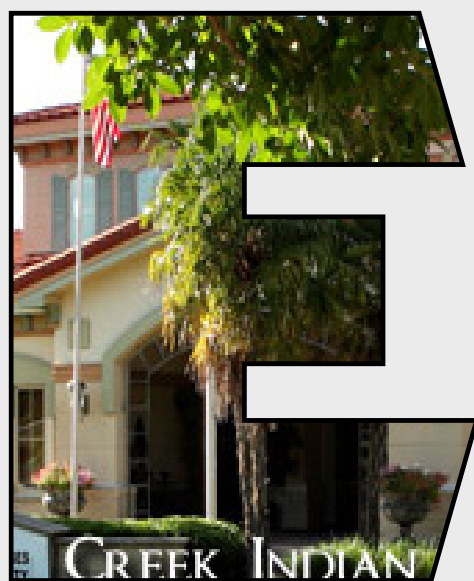
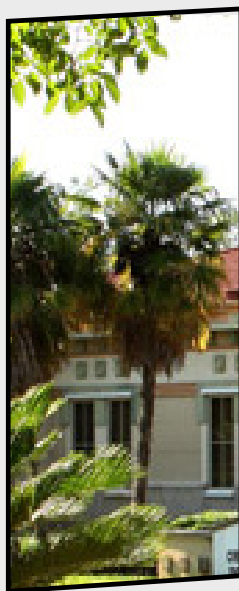
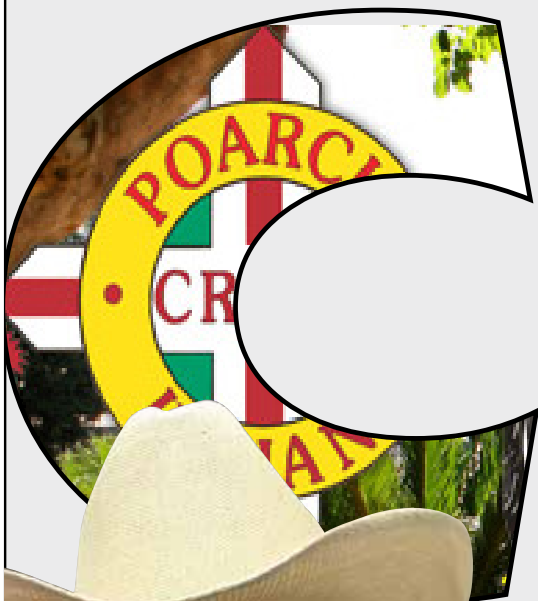
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By Jen Peake
CIEDA Marketing Specialist

Tribal Elder
Billy Smith

Everyone loves a good record-breaking, history-making moment — one such milestone for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians came in 1984 when it became the only federally recognized Indian tribe in the state of Alabama.





MAKING HISTORY

In 1985, Creek Bingo Palace opened and created 130 jobs in Atmore, Ala., and set the Tribe on a path to independency and improving socio-economic standards.

Many more successes happened along the way, but in 2015, for the first time since its inception in the late 1980s, Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA) has become self-sufficient.

CIEDA has been tasked with creating a diversified portfolio for the Tribe's future growth and continued stewardship of Tribal lands.

CIEDA employs 333 people as of September 2015. Of those, 52 are Tribal Members, 16 are First Generation, 9 are Tribal spouses and 256 are nontribal members.

Current Tribal Council Treasurer Eddie Tullis, who was the Tribal Chairman for 27 years and CIEDA's first president, said Tribal Government realized the need for diversifying the Tribe's income beyond the gaming

industry and began looking at economic development as a way to not only give back to the region and state, but to give back to its own people by providing jobs and stability for Tribal Members.

"We needed to make sure we used the resources we had in front of us (gaming) to create a continuity of income for the Tribe," Tullis said. "Our leadership was thinking long term and made an effort to plan for the future so we as a Tribe could prosper without relying on the gaming industry to hold our hand."

In September, CIEDA President and CEO Tim Martin told employees at the annual Employee Appreciation Day about the good news he shared with Tribal Council at the State of the Tribe Address earlier that month.

"This has been a historic year," Martin said. "For the first time in our history, CIEDA is self-sufficient." After a round of applause from employees, Martin explained why that

was a big deal.

"Until now, Council had to provide additional funding to CIEDA to run its operations. This year, they will not have to do that."

There were seven discretionary categories in calendar year 2015 to which Tribal Council gave funds:

- Community Development
- Community Service
- Tribal Member Services – Funds Police, Fire, Assisted Living, Health
- Land and Improvements
- Capital Reserve
- Education
- Strategic-Nongaming Development

"What needs to be understood is that economic development is an ongoing process. Nothing happens overnight," Tullis said. "The beginning of Indian prosperity was gaming. But gaming is not the be-all and end-all of our lifestyle. We, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, have done an outstanding job in maintaining the

See HISTORY, continued on next page

HISTORY, continued from previous page

continuity of those resources and using our knowledge to gain success in other areas outside of gaming. That is why we stand tall."

Assistant Financial Accounting Controller Beth Parmer touted the success that each business is carrying its own weight. The exception is Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve, which sits in an entirely different category of being considered a Tribal Member Service, she said.

"Magnolia Branch is the only not-for-profit operation managed by CIEDA," Parmer said. "We did not request funding during the operating budget process for any other enterprise (for fiscal year 2016). Land management, construction management and the operations budget for Magnolia Branch were the only funds we requested, and those funds do not operate CIEDA."

CIEDA COO Tim Manning clarified: "Each operation that is a for-profit business is now self-sustaining," he said. That includes CIEDA headquarters.

Manning also explained that although land management is housed at CIEDA, it oversees all maintenance and care of all Tribal lands.

"Tribal Government therefore gives CIEDA the necessary financial resources to do what they ask us to do on Tribal lands, but that is only for land management, not for the operation of the businesses or to help CIEDA function," he said. "The same goes for construction management. We (CIEDA) oversee all construction for the Tribe, whether it's building the B.B. King Blues Club or Wind Creek Atmore/Wetumpka or Creek Travel Plaza (CTP).

"There is a big cost savings by having that expertise in-house versus paying an outsider a percentage of the project

to management it."

Although CIEDA Construction Manager Jim Angus agreed the Tribe saves money by managing its own projects, he said that wasn't his main goal as a manager.

"What we concern ourselves with is making sure the money that is allocated gets used wisely and is maximized to its fullest amount," Angus said. "My goal is to get the highest quality, the best looking and the most functional facilities we can for the money that we set aside to develop these projects and to complete it on time within our budget."

Another accolade that warrants mentioning is Creek Travel Plaza, which had its best performance yet in fiscal year 2015.

"We are going forward greatly (at each business)," Martin said. "We look forward to bigger and better things for our enterprises. Muskogee Technology continues to expand, and Creek Travel Plaza generated \$1 million in revenue."

Financial Accounting Controller

Teresa McLaughlin echoed that sentiment.

"CTP well exceeded our expectations," McLaughlin said. "Perdido River Farms also had a great year and was able to sell high quality cattle at high quality prices."

Economic conditions factor in to how well certain businesses will perform in a given industry and within certain time periods, but "we have good teams in place who know to manage their overhead and margins and keep costs down to stay within budgets," Parmer said. "Our employees are invested in their enterprises and want to see them do well. The morale at each business is so high, and they take pride in them and enjoy coming to work to help that business succeed."

"Our future is bright," Manning said. "Our investments, current and planned, are where the light is going to shine the brightest. But our current enterprises are strong and excelling, and now they stand to grow even bigger."



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TRIBE MOURNS 'CORN MAN' TORCH PASSED TO MARTIN

Nathan Martin roasts corn in much the same way as the Corn Man himself did

John Arthur McGhee, known to many as the Corn Man for the many years he roasted corn at the Poarch Creek Indian Pow Wow, was celebrated and mourned Thursday, November 26, at the Thanksgiving gathering.

Mr. McGhee passed away Monday, November 23. His funeral was held Wednesday, November 25, the day before Pow Wow.

He was the last of the original corn roasters from the PCI Pow Wow. Along with Jack McGhee and Houston McGhee, he began roasting corn at the first Pow Wow, according to family member Nathan Martin. Although John Arthur had not been physically able to see to the corn roasting for several years, he was still the Corn Man to everyone who knew him.

“John loved to cook corn,” Martin said. “He would go all over Alabama and Florida, anywhere within 200 miles, to cook and sell corn. We had his funeral yesterday and the grandkids decided to work at the corn booth to honor him. He loved Pow Wow.”

Martin explained that it all began as a way to support themselves and raise money for others.

“The Elders did what they had to do to survive,” Martin said. “This became a fundraiser for everybody.”

The three McGhee men roasted corn at fairs, Pow Wows, and other gatherings whenever they could. Many have tried to duplicate the taste of their corn, but with little success. There is more to it than simply cooking it over an open fire. The secret to what made it so good is in the

preparation, a secret that Martin keeps and uses today to roast corn according to tradition.

In the Pow Wow arena, John Arthur McGhee's family danced in his memory. They were joined by supporters who loved and mourned him and what he meant to the PCI family. Many from other tribes came out of the stands to join with the family.

*Article and photo by Phil Johnson of Atmore News.
Publication date : December 2, 2015
Reprinted with permission.*



In the Pow Wow arena, John Arthur McGhee's family danced in his memory.

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.

Lao Tzu



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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL POW WOW

Shown above are the 2015-2016 Tribal Princesses & Alternates with Tribal Chair Stephanie Bryan. Back row left to right: Elementary Alternate Jaycee Parker; Junior Alternate Haley Fretwell; Junior Princess Makenzie Martin; Senior Alternate Kennedy McGhee; Tribal Chair Stephanie Bryan; Senior Princess Breanna Hall; Elder Alternate Ethel Walker; and Elder Princess Mary Murphy. Front row left to right: Elementary Princess Leah Rolin; Little Miss Alternate Ashlyn Parker; and Little Miss Princess Tehya Rolin.

I do not think you could have asked for better weather for the 2015 Pow Wow. There were large crowds both days with an estimated total of 15,781 in attendance. There was something of interest for everyone who attended. There were craft vendors, living exhibits and demonstrations, all sorts of games and activities for the children, and of course the great food available at the Food Pavilion. The drum and dance competitions were very competitive, with over 250 dancers in attendance.

Of course the big draw for Tribal Members and local community members was the Princess Contest. Each year it is increasingly difficult to select the young ladies who will serve as good will ambassadors for the Tribe.

Tehya Rolin, the 7 year old daughter of Shawn and Stephanie Rolin, was chosen to serve as the 2015-2016 Little Miss Princess.

Leah Faith Rolin, the 9 year old daughter of Tristan Daughtry and Krystal Rolin, was chosen to serve as the 2015-2016 Elementary Princess.

Makenzie Leigh Martin, the 14 year old daughter of Dusty and Jessica Martin, was chosen to serve as the 2015-2016 Junior Princess.

Breanna Rae Hall, the 17 year old daughter of Anthony and Rita Hall, was chosen to serve as the 2015-2016 Senior Princess.

Mary Alice Potts Murphy, the 63 year old daughter of Robert and Eula Mae Reid Potts, was chosen to serve as the 2015-2016 Elder Princess.

We congratulate each of these lovely ladies as well as the other contestants of the 2015 Princess Contest. Each contestant represented themselves, their family, and their Tribe with honor and dignity.

*By Gayle Johnson
Photo courtesy of the Calvin McGhee Cultural Department*

AN EDUCATION SUCCESS STORY

OLIVIA JOHNSON MORGAN, DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Olivia Morgan, Doctor of Pharmacy, is the daughter of Mike and Brenda Johnson of Douglasville, Georgia and the granddaughter of the late John Arthur McGhee and Bernice McGhee of Atmore, Alabama.

Olivia used the Tribal Educational Funding to achieve her educational goals. She is a First Generation Native American Descendant.

Graduating from the University Of Georgia School of Pharmacy in 2012, Olivia completed 2 years of pharmaceutical residency at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia.

Olivia is currently a Critical Care Clinical Pharmacist for the University of North Carolina Medical Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Olivia's husband, Tip, is a Critical Care Nurse at the University of North Carolina Medical Center in Chapel Hill.



Olivia and Tip Morgan. Olivia works in the Medical Intensive Care Unit of the University of North Carolina Medical Center as a Clinical Pharmacist helping medical doctors determine the best drug regimen for patients. Olivia's husband Tip is a Critical Care Nurse at the Medical Center.

Olivia's family is very proud of her accomplishments and thankful for the educational assistance the Tribe was able to provide.

By: Annie Nowak

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CHAIR ANNOUNCES ACQUISITION OF DR. J. ANTHONY PAREDES COLLECTION

Dr. Tom May, Tribal Chair Stephanie A. Bryan, and Ms. Alleen Deutsch Paredes

Submitted by Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ed.D.

"We are so thankful for the invaluable work that Dr. Anthony Paredes did that helped this Tribe achieve federal recognition," Tribal Chair Stephanie A. Bryan said to the enormous assembly of attendees surrounding the ceremonial mound at the Thanksgiving Pow Wow on November 26, 2015. "Words cannot express how thankful we are that his wife Ms. Alleen Deutsch Paredes made this donation of his papers to our Archives," she said as Tribal Members and guests looked on with faces of eagerness

and anticipation. Alleen Paredes traveled from her home in Atlanta, Georgia to be present for our Chair's historic announcement about her late husband's priceless archival donation.

Dr. Paredes (1939-2013), the quintessential researcher, worked with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians on a number of projects since 1971, including the Federal Recognition Petition and the interviewing of Tribal leaders which now comprises the voices in our legacy program, "Evening with the Elders."

Last fall, Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees and Mr. Robert Thrower drove to the home of Alleen and Anthony Paredes and boxed up records in his study to bring back to our Archives.

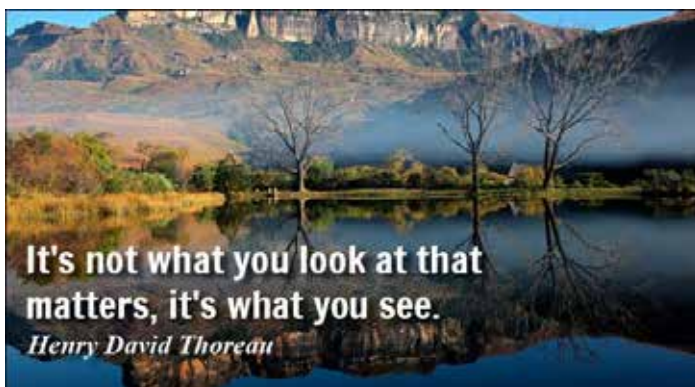
"I had the privilege of picking up the remainder of the Paredes Collection that Allen Paredes had inadvertently overlooked," Dr. Dees reported. "The Collection contains a number of slides, tapes and historical Creek documents."

These records will be made available through our Research Station at the Office of Archives and Records

Management which is located at 100 Brookwood Road, Monday to Friday, 8 to 5 (446-4942).

Executive Director of the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA), Dr. Tom May, joined our Chair and Alleen Paredes on the ceremonial mound to present a commemorative certificate for the Tribal Council's support of the SfAA, an academic society presided over by Dr. Paredes for many years. This support will enable scholars to build academic research on the foundation that he laid.

Our team gave Alleen Paredes a tour of the Archives inclusive of the showcased tape recorder, the interview picture of Paredes and Isaac McGhee, and the fireproof file cabinets. This was her first visit without her husband. Teary-eyed, she requested a personal picture of herself standing beside the fireproof cabinets that identified the papers inside: "Dr. J. Anthony Paredes Collection," which—through her heartfelt generosity—she had made possible.



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*Ronnie L. Salter, Jr.
E-4 Medic
United States Army*

Ronnie L. Salter Jr, was born in Foley, Alabama on December 16, 1970. His Dad joined the military in 1971 and retired after 20 years of service. One could say that Ron was a military brat since his Dad's assignments took his family all over the United States and Germany.

Ron attended elementary school in Anchorage, AK, Columbus, GA and Permasen, Germany. His high school freshman through senior years were spent in Anchorage, AK where he graduated in 1989 from Barlett High School. After graduation Ron returned to Alabama and pursued his education in Engineering at Troy State University.

In August 1991, Ron joined the Army. He completed his Basic and AIT training at Fort Knox, KY, where he received an award for high physical fitness during his basic training.

His first duty assignment took him to Germany where he served

three years as a medical specialist in the emergency room at the 97th General Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany. During his tenure at the 97th General Hospital Ron won his expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB), several Army Accommodation Medals, as well as receiving an award for Soldier of the Month, and Soldier of the Quarter for his unit. After finishing his tour in Germany, Ron was assigned to the 1/16 Armour Unit at Fort Knox, KY to finish out his four years.

After getting out of the Army in 1995, Ron spent two years in the Army Reserves. While serving in the Reserves Ron pursued a degree in Respiratory Therapy and received his degree from Columbus State University in Columbus, GA.

Always having a thirst for knowledge, he continued his education endeavors and earned a degree in Business Management through the University of Phoenix. Ron said that this would not have been possible without the GI-Bill and the Tribe's McGhee-Tullis Tuition Program.

VETERAN'S SALUTE

Ron has always enjoyed sports, he played baseball and was on the wrestling team throughout high school. He has coached his sons baseball and football teams, as well his daughter's softball team for 5 years. He currently coaches a 14-year old travel baseball team called the "Bartow Hitmen".

Ron can recall attending Thanksgiving Pow-Wows once he got married and settled in Georgia. Because of the distance his oldest daughter never got to participate in the Princess Contest but enjoyed watching the event. Ron fondly remembers his PaPa DC wearing his Indian headdress.

Ron currently resides in Cartersville, Ga with his wife Claudia and their children.

Ronnie L. Salter, Jr., just one of many Tribal Members who have proudly served for their family, their Tribe, and their country. Because of their sacrifices, we enjoy the freedoms we have today.



Ron Salter with his family. Sitting on the floor are Kyle, Kaylee, and Brandon. Sitting on the couch are David, Ariel, Ron, Claudia, and Harmony.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

The *Poarch Creek News* honors our Tribal Member veterans for their sacrifice, dedication, and service.

We are asking all Tribal Member families to send in information on any Tribal Member veterans you may know. We wish to honor all veterans: male and female, those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country, those who have passed, those who have served, and those who currently serve.

We would like the veteran's name, Tribal roll number, rank, branch of service, and any medals or awards received.

You may submit a veteran's information via email to gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov, via hand delivery to the Poarch Creek News, or via US Mail to Poarch Creek News, 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL 36502.

Please be sure to include return address and contact information. This month we recognize, honor, and add the following veterans to our veteran's list:

David Colbert, U.S. Navy

Charles Coley Madison, MSGT, U.S. Army

Joseph Charles Madison, MSGT, U.S. Air Force

William Joseph Madison, E-5, U.S. Navy

Ebb McGhee

James C. Peacock, Sergeant E-5, U.S. Army

N.L. Rackard

Charles Eugene Woods, Sgt., U.S. Army

We thank each of these veterans for their service. We will feature each of them in a Veteran's Salute article in future issues of the newsletter.

Autism is prevalent among our Tribal families. Andra McGhee-Bowen has started a support group that strives to raise public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society. 'We work to bring hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder.' A link to the web site Autism Speaks has been provided below as well as a link to the support group Facebook page.

Here are some autism warning signs.

- Not respond to their name (the child may appear deaf)
- Not point at objects or things of interest, or demonstrate interest
- Not play "pretend" games
- Avoid eye contact
- Want to be alone
- Have difficulty understanding, or showing understanding, or other people's feelings or their own
- Have no speech or delayed speech
- Repeat words or phrases over and over (echolalia)
- Give unrelated answers to questions

- Get upset by minor changes
- Have obsessive interests
- Flap their hands, rock their body, or spin in circles
- Have unusual reactions (over or under-sensitivity) to the way things sound, smell, taste, look, or feel
- Have low to no social skills
- Avoid or resist physical contact
- Demonstrate little safety or danger awareness
- Reverse pronouns (e.g., says "you" instead of "I")

People with autism may also:

- Have unusual interests and behaviors
- Have extreme anxiety and phobias, as well as unusual phobias
- Line up toys or other objects
- Play with toys the same way every time
- Like parts of objects (e.g., wheels)
- Become upset by minor changes
- Have obsessive interests

Other Symptoms:

- Hyperactivity (very active)
- Impulsivity (acting without thinking)
- Short attention span
- Aggression
- Causing self injury
- Meltdowns
- Unusual eating and sleeping habits
- Unusual mood or emotional reactions
- Lack of fear or more fear than expected
- Have unusual sleeping habits.



www.facebook.com/groups/PoarchCreekSpecialNeedsAutismAndLDGroup/
www.autismspeaks.org/

Becky Williams
December 8, 2015

Happy birthday Becky!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Jeff, Alexis, and Joshua.



Callie Alexis Williams
December 10, 2015

Happy 20th birthday Alexis!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives!

We love you, Mom, Dad, and Joshua.



Betty Peacock
December 5, 2015

Happy birthday Betty!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, your family & friends.

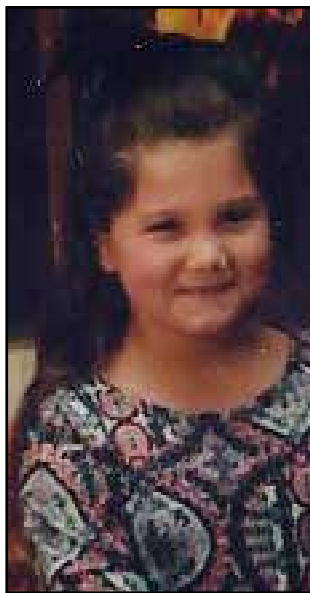


Marlie McGhee
December 17, 2015

Happy birthday Marlie!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives!

We love you, Nana Bug (Betty Peacock).



Eddie Woods
December 18, 2015

September 21, 2013, that special day when you stopped by to say hello. That day has been the difference between night and day. We have been together every since.

Happy birthday on your special day.

Your loving wife,
Amber Woods.



Hayden Weaver
December 26, 2015

Happy 13th birthday Hayden!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

We love you, your family & friends.



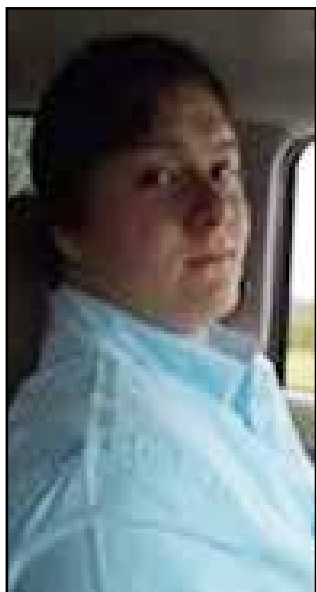
Wishing a happy birthday to all those celebrating a birthday this month! Someone is truly blessed to have you in their life.

Dakota Lambeth
December 27, 2015

Happy 19th birthday
Dakota!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives!

We love you, Mom,
Tim, Nanny, Dad, Laci,
Nicholas, and Tyler.



Jeff Williams
December 29, 2015

Happy birthday Jeff!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

We love you, Becky, Alexis,
and Joshua.

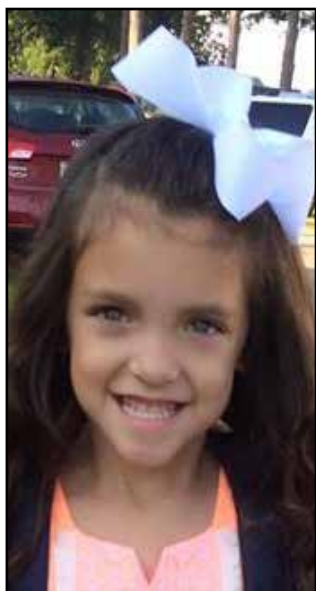


Aubrey Flowers
January 6, 2016

Happy 5th birthday
Aubrey!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

Love, Daddy, Mommy,
Alli, and the rest of your
family.



Karen Findley
January 6, 2016

A big happy birthday goes
to Karen Findley.

Karen lives in Everett,
WA and is the daughter
of the late Mace and Coot
McGhee.

Your Alabama family loves
you!



Gary Overstreet
January 6, 2016

Happy birthday sweetheart
and Dad! We love you!
First birthday here! Many
more to come in this
beautiful land of your
heritage! May you always
walk close to Jesus!

Love, Robin, Talon,
Gracie, and all your friends
and family.



Eddie L. Tullis
January 8, 2016

Happy birthday Eddie!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

Thanks for everything
you've done throughout
the years!

Love, your family and
friends.



Wishing a happy birthday to all those celebrating a birthday this month! Someone is truly blessed to have you in their life.

Alli Flowers
January 8, 2016

Happy 8th birthday Alli!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

We love you, Daddy, Hannah, Aubrey, and the rest of your family.



Laci Lambeth
January 9, 2016

Happy 10th birthday Laci!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

We love you, Mom, Tim, Nanny, Nicholas, Dakota, Tyler, and Daddy.



Hayla Weaver
January 13, 2016

Happy 11th birthday Hayla!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives!

We love you, your family & friends.



Tenleigh Brooke Peebles
January 13, 2016

Happy birthday Tenleigh Brooke!

You have brought so much joy to everyone you have encountered over the past 5 years!

We love you, your family & friends.



Marty Henson
January 15, 2016

Happy birthday Marty!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives. We love you!

From your family.



Bella Lynn Walker
January 17, 2016

Happy 4th birthday Bella! We love you wild child!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

From your family & friends.



Wishing a happy birthday to all those celebrating a birthday this month! Someone is truly blessed to have you in their life.

Jackey Odom
January 18, 2016

Happy birthday PawPaw!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives. We love you!

Lea, Jackson, Myra, Bryant, and the rest of your family and friends.



Myra Odom
January 18, 2016

Happy birthday MyMy!

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star!"

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives. We love you!!

Mom, Dad, Lea, Bryant, and the rest of your family and friends.



Janet Ward
January 29, 2016

Happy birthday Janet!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives. We love you!

From Mom, Troy, Deldon, Cruz, Ian, & Gage.



Alia Snow
January 29, 2016

Happy 17th birthday Alia!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives. We love you!

From your family and friends.



Dezmond Nguyen
January 30, 2016

Happy birthday
Dezmond!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

We love you, your family & friends.



Wishing a happy birthday to all those celebrating a birthday this month! Someone is truly blessed to have you in their life.



Introducing

HARRISON ALBERT McGHEE GLEBA

October 16, 2015 ✨ 8 lbs. 1 oz. ✨ 20.5 inches

Harrison Gleba was born at sunrise on October 16, 2015. He is the son of Jim Gleba and Carrie McGhee Gleba.

Harrison is the grandson of Huey and Terrie McGhee and Albert and Lee Gleba.

Welcomed with love.

Jim & Carrie McGhee Gleba and big brother Riley.



Introducing

ISRAEL BECKETT JOHNSON

November 25, 2015 ✨ 6 lbs 3 oz ✨ 19.5 inches

Chad and Monica Johnson are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Israel Beckett Johnson. Beckett was born November 25, 2015. He weighed 6 lbs. 3 oz. and weighed 19.5 inches long.

He was welcomed home by his big sisters, Hannah and Claire.

Welcomed with love.

Chad & Monica Johnson and big sisters Hannah and Claire.

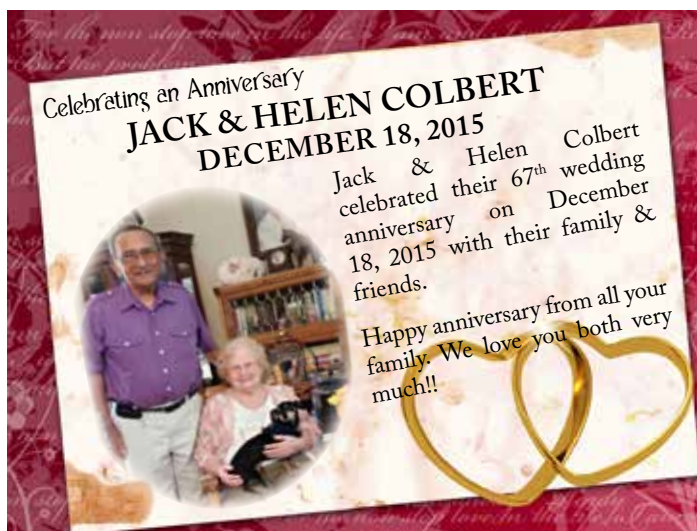
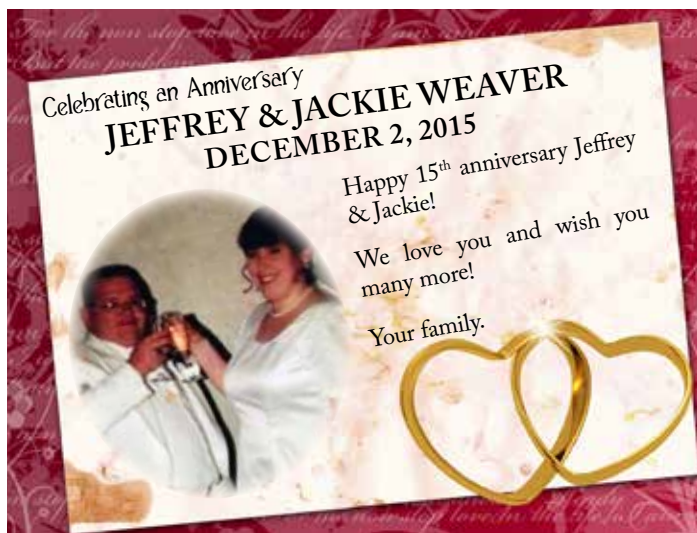
Wedding Announcement

MYKE SMITH & DEVINEY BROOKS

NOVEMBER 25, 2015

Michael Lee (Myke) Smith & Deviney Brooks were married November 25, 2015.

Congratulations to you both and here's to many years of happiness.



In Memory

CAREY JUAN “CJ” HENSON

MAY 6, 1993 - NOVEMBER 15, 2015

Carey Juan “CJ” Henson was born May 6, 1993 in Winter Haven, Florida to Autrey and Raquel Castillo Henson and he has been a lifelong resident of Frostproof. He was the owner/driver for Poarch Creek Inc., and was a member of the St. Catherine’s Catholic Church in Sebring.

He loved spending time with his family and their children, was a good business man, always motivated to grow his business and was a very giving and caring person. He loved truck driving;

one of his goals was to be a proud owner of a Peterbilt. He always spoke to us about the future. He always told us “We have to find something to live for” there was nothing too big for him to accomplish, the sky was the limit for him.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Raquel Henson in June of 2015. Survivors include his father, Autrey Gene Henson, Sr.; sisters, Rebecca Henson of Frostproof; half-sisters, Maggie Elyard of Frostproof; Rebecca

Williams of Avon Park; Laurie Painter of Avon Park; brother, Jessie Gene Henson of Frostproof; half-brothers, Autrey Henson, Jr. of Frostproof; and Marty Henson of Avon Park.



In Memory

JOHN ARTHUR MCGHEE

JUNE 21, 1939 - NOVEMBER 23, 2015

Daddy passed away peacefully in his sleep on November 23, 2015.

Daddy retired from Goodyear Tires & Rubber Factory. He was a proud member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians where he served on the Tribal Council for 22 years. Daddy helped the Tribe work towards Federal recognition.

Indian roasted corn will always hold many memories for our family. Daddy was a Goodwill ambassador for the Tribe while roasting corn all over the state of Alabama, while working at

Best Western (Muskogee Inn), socializing at Wind Creek, or traveling as a Tribal Council member advocating goodwill for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Daddy never met a stranger and loved to talk and share his Native American heritage with others.

Our family will continue to carry on Daddy’s legacy of caring, compassion, hard work, and dedication to family, friends, the Tribe, and all people.



The John Arthur McGhee family would like to thank the community for the outpouring of love and support given to us during the passing of our beloved father.

In Memory

JUSTIN BLAKE SIMS

ON HIS BIRTHDAY, JANUARY 2, 2016

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep
I am a thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glints of snow
I am the sunlight on ripened grain
I am the gentle autumn rain

When you awaken in the morning's
hush
I am the swift uplifting rush, of quiet
white doves in circled flight
I am the soft stars that shine at night
Do not stand at my grave and cry
I am not there, I did not die.

By: Mary E. Frye

Justin Blake Sims
January 2, 1987 - March 22, 2014

You are forever loved and missed.

Your Family



A Letter From Heaven

*When tomorrow starts without me,
and I'm not here to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes,
filled with tears for me.*

*I wish so much you wouldn't cry,
the ways you did today.*

*While thinking of the many things,
we didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me,
as much as I love you.*

*And each time you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too.*

*When tomorrow starts without me,
don't think we're far apart,
for every time you think of me,
I'm right there in your heart.*

Arthur Unknown



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Shown: Dancing Flower's Sterling Silver Spiny Oyster Ring & Bracelet designed and created by Cher Christensen

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Karla Martin, Division Director

FISCAL FITNESS IN 2016

New Years' resolutions. We all make them. Do we keep them? Whether they are to lose weight, quit smoking or learn something new, these are all good goals. Why not add getting fiscally fit to your 2016 resolutions?

A good start to becoming fiscally fit is to check your credit report. You can do this free, once per year, at annualcreditreport.com or call toll free 1-877-322-8228. To obtain your free credit report, log onto this site and you'll find that there are three credit agencies: Experian, Equifax and Transunion.

Although each of these reports can differ slightly, I recommend that you request your credit report from a different credit agency every four months. Doing so will allow you to check your credit report free throughout the year. This is a good way to keep abreast of your credit and detect identity theft or errors.

Once you have your credit report, review it carefully. The FTC conducted an eight year study and found as many as 25% of credit reports contain errors. Some of these errors could result in serious financial ramifications so again, be diligent on your review. If you find any errors, report them to the appropriate credit agency. Their contact info is:

- Experian -- www.experian.com or 1-888-397-3742
- Equifax – www.equifax.com or 1-800-685-1111
- TransUnion – www.transunion.com or 1-800-916-8800

Your credit report will not contain your FICO score. You can get your FICO score free from many sites such as creditkarma.com. FICO scores range from 300 – 850. They're open to some interpretation but in general, the following ranges will correlate to your credit health.

Excellent Credit	750+
Good Credit	700-749
Fair Credit	650-699
Poor Credit	600-649
Bad Credit	Below 600

It is absolutely vital to pay bills on time for a great credit score. A late payment will remain on your credit report for seven years! Also, it is important to pay down existing debt in order to lower your credit utilization ratio.

Here's how your credit utilization ratio is calculated: Suppose you have a \$1,000 credit limit. If you have \$500 in outstanding debt, your credit utilization ratio will be 50%. Keeping your credit card utilization low, preferably less than 30%, is an ideal goal.

Your FICO score is calculated based on these five categories:

1. Payment History accounts for 35% of your FICO score
2. Amounts Owed accounts for 30% of your FICO score
3. Length of Credit History accounts for 15% of your FICO score
4. New Credit accounts for 10% of your FICO score
5. Types of Credit accounts for 10% of your FICO score

All of these categories are taken into account in your overall score - no one area or incident determines your score. Notice though, that most of your score is derived from your payment history (35%) and amounts owed

(30%). These two categories combined represent 65% of your FICO score, so focus primarily on these areas to improve and maintain your credit health.

If you discover that you have negative items on your credit report or if your FICO is less than you would like it to be, resolve to improve your credit health this year. Although negative items will remain on your credit report for 7 years, (10 years for a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy), the good news is that this negative impact will diminish over time.

Just as there are no quick fixes to becoming physically fit, there are no quick fixes to becoming fiscally fit.

However, you can become aware of your credit situation and use this awareness as your first step to financial freedom.

If you need assistance with your credit and financial freedom, please feel free to contact Bryan Fayard, Financial Education Coordinator, at (251) 368-9136 x 2504 or bfayard@pci-nsn.gov.

Submitted Bryan Fayard, Financial Education Coordinator, as obtained from Regions Bank's Financial Education Series. All Regions' branches can educate on a wide range of topics for each individual's specific situation.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Maya Angelou

What you're supposed to do when you don't like a thing is change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it. Don't complain.

Maya Angelou

2016 EDUCATION SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

4-H Club

Community children age 9 - 18
2nd & 4th Monday of each month 6:00 p.m.

After School Tutoring

Tribal Member & 1st Generation Students
Grades 1 - 12
Monday - Thursday 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Homework Club

Tribal Member & 1st Generation Students
Grades 1-12
Monday - Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

GED Classes

Day Classes Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. &
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Evening Classes

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL PEACE CLASSES

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University kits are available free to Tribal Members, First Generation Indian Descendants, and Tribal Employees.

Contact Bryan Fayard at (251)368-9136 X 2504 or bfayard@pci-nsn.gov for more information.

MISSION STATEMENT: To inspire, empower and provide support to the Tribal Community to assist them in reaching their infinite potential through avenues of education. VISION STATEMENT: To implement programming and to provide services that assists the Tribal Community in attaining their educational dreams and goals, while embracing their unique cultural heritage.

SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE 2016 POW WOW CLUB!



Age 8*-18

Open to all Tribal Members &
1st Generation Descendants
(*Must be 8 years old by December 31, 2015)

Deadline to submit an application:
5:00 p.m. Friday, January 29, 2016.

Applications available on Cultural's page of the Tribal web site, www.pci-nsn.gov, and/or the Museum and must be returned to the Poarch Creek Indians Museum or mailed to:

Poarch Creek Indians
Attn: Christ Blackburn
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

For further information please contact Christ Blackburn, Planning & Events Coordinator at (251) 368-9136 x 2052 or cblackburn@pci-nsn.gov



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RECREATION

Gym & Weight Room Hours

Monday - Friday 6:00 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Weight Lifting Class Age 13-17

Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Gym/Weight Room

Batting Cages Open Weather Permitting

Monday - Friday 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Pool & Splash Pad Closed

November 1, 2015 - March 1, 2016

*Tribal Member/First Generation and one guest
Must sign in at Recreation Front Desk*

Playground by Splash Pad

*Tribal Member/First Generation and one guest
Must sign in at Recreation Front Desk*

Monday- Friday 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday Closed

Playground Pavilion located beside new Baseball Field No reservations needed

No set time for usage First come first serve

For more information please contact the Recreation Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2256



The second annual Santa Walk/Jingle Bell Run was held on Saturday, December 5, 2015. Everyone that participated had a great time and it did not matter if you came in first, last, or somewhere in the middle. However, there is some pride in being the top three!

The top three runners were:

First (left)	Dusty Adams
Second (center)	Ross Param
Third (right)	Talon Overstreet





YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Small Decisions Make Big Things Happen

Stop Drop and Plank

Sometimes the simplest of movements result in the greatest impact to your body.

This is certainly true with planks. To do a plank, you hold your body in a standard push-up position (the trunk portion off the ground) making sure to hold it in a straight line.

While getting into a plank is straightforward, holding the position takes strength and endurance. The plank is one of the best exercises for core (abdominals and back muscles) but it also works your glutes and hamstrings, supports proper posture, and improves balance.

3 Benefits of Doing Planks

1. A Toned Belly

Planking will help build your deep inner core muscles that lay the groundwork that will trim your waist. As your abdominal muscles become stronger, your mid-section will tighten. Stronger muscles are great for your metabolism as well.

2. Reduce Back Pain

Planks work for back pain because they strengthen your core, which builds support for your back, happily reducing back pain.

3. Improve Your Balance and Posture

To do a plank correctly, you must engage your abs to stay upright. Planks work all the muscles you need to maintain proper posture, like your back, chest, shoulders, abs, and neck. If you do planks regularly, you'll find you're able to sit or stand up straighter with ease.

Proper form is very important when performing planks and overdoing it could lead to injury. Be particularly careful doing planks if you have back pain or injury. And if you're just starting out, try holding the plank position for several seconds only, slowly working your way up to where you can hold it longer.



Be careful to avoid holding your breath or placing your hands too close together. Hands should be placed shoulder width apart. What I love about the plank exercise is that you can do them just about anywhere or anytime. You can work them into your morning routine or right before bed. Get your family involved too! Have a contest to see who can hold a plank the longest.

I'd love to hear how you've incorporated some planks into your life so I can share you wisdom with our healthy community.

Win the Day!

Spencer

Spencer Tatum is the National Training Director for Advantage Training. He has worked with all levels of fitness and currently oversees all of the program writing at Poarch Recreation. You can connect directly to Spencer by clicking on My Message Center/Talk to a Trainer inside the My PCI Wellness online portal.



www.mypciwellness.com
[facebook.mypciwellness.](https://facebook.mypciwellness)



YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Small Decisions Make Big Things Happen

Build a Healthy Kitchen

The scaffolding that supports better decisions must be erected long before you're faced with temptation. If you've been relying on your willpower to make you eat salad for lunch every day, you're banking on a mental resource that's bound to run out. Recent research shows that willpower comes in finite quantities. When you force yourself to adopt a new healthy behavior, you may have trouble summoning the energy to add in another one. That's because your stores of self-discipline have dwindled. What's stronger than willpower? Changing your physical environment in specific ways that will make healthy choices a "no-brainer".

Here is how you can create change from the outside in:

Hide the Bad Foods and Showcase the Good Ones

The only food you should see when you walk into your kitchen is fruit. If you keep a box of cereal in plain view, you'll weigh, on average, 20 pounds more than someone who stores the package behind closed doors, according to research at the Cornell Food and Brand Lab.

Take Care When You Shelve Food Items

You are three times as likely to eat the first food you see as you are to eat the fifth one, says Wansink, author of *Slim by Design*. So push the Nutella to the back of the cupboard and keep the whole grain crackers up front. In the refrigerator, move the produce from the crisper bin to a shelf that is at eye level.

Banish the Toaster

Every day it asks you, "Hey, do you want a piece of toast? Or how about an English muffin or a bagel?" People who keep their toasters on the counter weigh,



on average, seven pounds more than those who don't, according to research at Cornell. Hide yours in a cupboard or pantry so you'll need to drag it out to use it.

You can significantly boost your health and happiness by making these three small changes. The impact of your efforts is measurable and gratifying. Well done you!

I'd love to hear any feedback or success stories you have. Please reach out and share your thoughts. Remember, I'm always cheering for you.

- Ashley

Ashley Richards is a Health Coach and Nutritionist for Advantage Training. She believes that the key to creating healthy habits is to start by making small, sustainable changes. You can connect directly to Ashley by clicking on My Message Center/Talk to a Health Coach inside the My PCI Wellness online portal.



www.mypciwellness.com
facebook.mypciwellness.com

TRIBAL MEMBER SERVICES DIVISION

Martha Gookin, Division Director

FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM NOTICES

LIHEAP or CSBG Services: PBCI Tribal Per Capita monies will be included in the calculation of household income.

The following grants are available for public review:

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- Child Care Development (CSBG)
- Family Violence Prevention (FVPSA)
- Elder Abuse Prevention Initiative

If you wish to review these grants, please come by our office to view these documents.

To report Child Abuse or Neglect contact the Family Services Department between the hours of 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. To make reports after hours, call the Tribal Police Department at (251) 368-5011.

If you or a loved one is a victim of domestic violence, please contact Dr. Frank McCloskey, Abuse Prevention Coordinator, for assistance or information. You are not alone. We are here to help you.

You can reach Frank at (251) 368-9136, ext. 2212, or via e-mail at fmcloskey@pci-nsn.gov.

If you suspect fraud, waste, or abuse in any of the Community Services Programs please contact the Family Services Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2600.

Family Services Department
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

Office (251) 368-9136 x 2600 Fax (251) 368-0828

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF TRIBAL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Family Services Department 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. Individual and family assessments conducted by dedicated staff will be utilized to evaluate needs and approve appropriate services from many grant-funded programs.

The Department will also provide wrap-around services to meet the needs of Tribal Members from infancy through adulthood.

Pursuant to the Poarch Band of Creek Indian Tribal Code 8-6-11,

the Family Services Department keeps confidential all personal identifying information and records regarding any clients we serve. All information and records are kept strictly confidential and are not subject to public use or inspection.

The Family Services Department's core investments in the Tribal Care System include:

- A commitment to provide safe, sanitary, and healthy environments for Tribal Members
- A commitment to developing basic need resources and to providing resource advocacy

- A commitment to develop an internal infrastructure for efficient delivery of Tribal services
- Fostering Tribal and family connections
- Building quality adult and child welfare practices
- Focusing on Prevention and Family Preservation
- ICWA Compliance

Contact the Family Services Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2600 if you have any questions or need more information.

TRIBAL MEMBER BENEFITS

In order for annual Tribal Member distributions to be processed accurately, Tribal Member Benefits must be informed of any changes you may have to your address, phone number, and/or other personal information. Numerous correspondences have been returned by the Post Office marked 'undeliverable as addressed', 'insufficient address', 'unable to forward', etc.

Please contact the Tribal Member Benefits Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2209 or 2207 to update your contact information or to have a new Direct Deposit Form mailed to you to be completed and returned for

processing. The Direct Deposit Form may also be downloaded from the Tribal Member Benefits page accessible through the Tribal Members Only Portal (TMOP).

Banking information will not be taken over the phone.

Please contact TMB at (251) 368-9136 x 2209 for more information relating to Tribal Member benefits, services, ID requests, or resource development.

For further information, please contact Tribal Member Benefits at 251-368-9136 ext. 2209.

GLAUCOMA

NO PAIN. NO SYMPTOMS. NO WONDER IT'S CALLED
THE SILENT THIEF OF SIGHT



Glaucoma is a group of eye disorders that lead to damage of the optic nerve and result in vision loss and blindness. Because there are usually no symptoms or pain associated with the onset of Glaucoma, it's called the Silent Thief of Sight.

ONLY AN EYE EXAM CAN DETECT GLAUCOMA.

Glaucoma can only be diagnosed through a comprehensive eye health examination. The most efficient diagnosis is with dilation or retinal scan.

January is National Glaucoma Awareness month.

Contact our office today and schedule your eye examination .



Premier Family Eye Care

5811 Jack Springs Rd. Atmore, AL. 36502

251.446.3937

TRIBAL UTILITIES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT

If your Utility company does not accept the debit/ credit card, you may be eligible for reimbursement on a quarterly basis.

The following items are required:

1. Must first pay any and all other utility companies that will accept the Utility card
2. Rejection letter from the Utility Company
3. Detailed Utility Invoice showing service address
4. Proof of detailed receipt showing payment
(Payments must have been made after April 1, 2015.)

Quarterly Reimbursement Pay-Out Schedule:

<u>Application Received by</u>	<u>Check will be mailed</u>
March 30 th	April 30 th
June 30 th	July 30 th
September 30 th	October 30 th
December 30 th	January 30 th

For further information, please contact Tribal Member Benefits at 251-368-9136 ext. 2209.

HOUSING

Applications for the following Housing programs are available on a daily basis and will be processed as vacancies/funds become available:

- Emergency/Transitional Housing
- Rental - All Poarch Subdivisions
- Rental - Manac Townhouses
- Rental - Walker Subdivision, Pensacola, FL
- Rehabilitation Assistance
- Renovation Loan Program
- Heating & Cooling Loan Program
- Senior Emergency Program
- TAHO

Applicants are responsible for accurately completing, correcting, and updating all applications and must certify that all information is true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge. Failure to update an application for a period of twelve months is grounds for removing the application for consideration and the applicant will be ineligible for consideration until an updated application is on file.

For questions or concerns contact the Housing Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2251.

AVA DAVIS WINS NATIONAL AMERIND POSTER CONTEST IN 4TH-6TH GRADE CATEGORY



The Housing Department would like to congratulate Ava Davis for winning first place in the national level of the 2015 Amerind Poster Contest.

Ava placed first at the local level and the regional level before advancing to the national level. Ava was awarded \$1,000 on the national level for her first place poster.

Ava is the daughter of Jimmy and Tracy Davis of Robertsdale, AL.



2016 AMERIND SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

OFFICIAL RULES

- Entry form below must be filled out completely and attached to the poster using tape or glue.
- All posters must illustrate a "safety" theme.
- Children in Kindergarten through 8th Grade during the 2015-2016 school year are eligible to participate.
- Category grades:
 - K - 3rd grade
 - 4th - 6th grade
 - 7th - 8th grade
- All entries must be original and created by the child using crayons, markers, colored pencil, or paint. DO NOT USE LEAD PENCILS.
- Posters must be drawn horizontally on 8.5" x 11" paper.
- Limit one submission per child.
- Qualified participants are families living in Tribal rental units, TAHO homes, and Emergency Transitional trailers.
- Posters must be turned in to the Poarch Creek Indian Housing Department no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 29, 2016.
- Prizes will be awarded in each category.

For more information contact:

Regina Brown

(251) 368-9136 x 2254

rbrown@pci-nsn.gov

Poarch Creek Indians Housing Department
5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL 36502



AMERIND Risk 2016 NATIONAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Contestant Name

Age

Tribe

Grade

Parent/Legal Guardian

Phone Number

Housing Authority:

*****Print this form out and have the student draw their poster on the OPPOSITE SIDE of the form. This method reduces paper waste.***

THE PATH

As I made my way down the serene path, I paused to smell the most delicate flower I had ever seen. Its sweet fragrance lingered, intoxicating my whole body. I felt the soft sun soak into my skin as I looked around. The path was full of beauty.

I smiled and said to myself, Yes, I have chosen the perfect path for my life. It will be full of comfort and happiness. The leaves on the surrounding trees seemed to clap their approval as a gentle breeze danced through them.

I began to continue my journey when a voice called out to me. I turned and saw a man with a kind face emerge from the woods. Dear child. I need to you follow me. A different path has been chosen for you.

I stopped. Excuse me? A different path? Fear gripped me and I retorted, Kind sir, you must be mistaken. You see I have planned this path with great detail. It is perfect for me. It is all I have ever wanted. The path you are pointing to is rocky and full of uncertainty.

With patience the kind man answered back, It is true. At times the path will be very difficult. But do not fear, I will help you.

I began to cry. Hopelessness enveloped me, squeezing the breath from my lungs. Overcome by sadness, I fell to my knees and began to plead, No - not me. Please, not me. All I have ever wanted is a path like the one I have planned. I want to experience joy and love and peace.

Seeming to understand my pain, the kind man responded with tears in his eyes, Oh my dear child. Yes, the path I have chosen will take you through challenging times, but I will never leave or forsake you. I have walked this path before you. I know the way. I know where it will take you. The hardships you will face will produce the fullest joy, the purest love, and a peace beyond understanding. And, in time, you will see its beauty.

I looked deep into the kind man's eyes and saw a glimpse of the path laid-out for me. I saw a supportive family, friends holding my hands, and a Savior carrying me through the deep waters. I took the man's scarred hand and said, Yes, I will follow.

By Karen Mayes

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Although our Atmore location has closed, our hot & fresh donuts are still available at Creek Travel Plaza and Creek Convenience Store Atmore!

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HEALTH & ELDER SERVICES DIVISION

Edie Jackson, Division Director

READY FOR THE NEW YEAR? WE ARE READY FOR YOU!

Ready for the New Year? We are ready for you! Spend 2016 in the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility, a state of the art facility located in the Poarch community.

The residents at the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility (ALF) participated in many holiday activities. We would like to thank all of the church groups that brought gifts, goodies, and participated in caroling. The warmth, support and friendship shown by the community have been overwhelming and appreciated by our residents and staff. We would also like to thank the children from Fred L. McGhee as well as the Boys and Girls Club who have stopped by at various times to “trick or treat”, bring pies and spread holiday cheer. Every face lit up with a smile as these boys and girls visited.

If you or a loved one needs assistance with medication, transportation or personal care services, please stop by and let us take you on a tour of our state of the art facility. There is 24 hour staff to provide assistance to you or your loved one. You can meet with our dedicated staff to learn more about the services that we offer. We will be glad to discuss the admission process which can typically be completed within two weeks.

If you are looking for peace of mind and want to make a move in 2016, join our family at The Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility. You may obtain additional information by contacting the ALF Administrator, Michelle Colbert Shiver, at (251) 446-4899.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT REMINDERS

Please bring the following items on every visit to the Health Department:

1. Driver's License
2. Tribal ID
3. Insurance Card
4. Medication List

These items are needed so that we may keep all your information and medications updated.

One of our providers will continue to see patients during the traditional lunch hour. Visits are scheduled by appointment only. A limited number of visits each day are reserved for "work ins" so if you are sick and require a "work in" appointment, please call the clinic early in the morning and we will do our best to assign an appointment time that day.

The entrance to the Buford L. Rolin Tribal Health Clinic serves as a covered drive thru for elderly and physically challenged patients needing valet assistance. Patients who need someone to park their car for them should drive under the covered area and take their keys to the front desk. The valet will be glad to park your car for you.

Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic (251) 368-9136 x 2306

RECEPTION FOR NEW PROVIDERS JANUARY 7, 2016 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

These are exciting times for our future in serving your healthcare needs. Please join us in the lobby of the Health Department to meet and greet our new Primary Care Physicians, Physician Assistant, and all of our healthcare team. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you!

HEALTH STAFF RECEIVE AWARDS

Congratulations to three of our health department employees who were selected to receive awards on behalf of the Nashville Area Indian Health Service. Please help us congratulate these employees on a job well done!

- Julia Gordon, CRNP was selected as Employee of the Year-Medical Provider
- Brandi Rutherford was selected for Tribal/Urban Program Recognition Award
- Linda Selzer was also selected for Tribal/Urban Program Recognition Award

All three award recipients traveled to Nashville, TN for the Awards Ceremony held by IHS on December 4, 2015.

BEAT THE BUG, GET A FLU SHOT!

The time of the year when most cases of the flu are seen is in January and February. That is why the Center for Disease Control recommends that you get a flu shot in the fall of the year preferably before Thanksgiving. However, there are some individuals that choose to wait until the last minute to get a flu shot. If you are one of those individuals; please know that it takes TWO WEEKS for the vaccine to start working in your body.

Flu vaccines are still available at the Health Department. If you have not received your flu vaccine, stop by the Health Department and let the receptionist at Window C know that you want a flu shot. It's just that easy.

Parents: children between the ages of 6 months to 8 years need two doses of the vaccine. If your child has received their first dose of the flu vaccine, but not the second then it is important that they receive the second dose.

SAIL CENTER/SENIOR SERVICES

CONGREGATE MEALS

- Congregate meals are served Monday through Friday to seniors age 55 and older. Meet your friends and make new ones as you join us for a delicious and nutritious meal.
- The food is prepared and cooked at the Senior Center for all seniors over 55 years of age.
- If you are not a regular participant, reservations should be made up to 9:00 a.m. the day you plan to eat at the Center. Call (251) 368-9136 x 2802 to make reservations
- The Senior Center does **NOT** allow grandchildren to come visit for lunch. This program is for seniors 55 and older ONLY.

HOME-BOUND MEALS

- The Center provides home delivered meals to seniors age 55 and above who are home-bound.
- Home-bound seniors can have a well-balanced meal delivered five days a week.
- Home-bound meals are the same menu served at the Senior Center. Transportation drivers will carry the meal into your kitchen or hand it to you at the door, whichever you prefer.
- If you get a home-bound lunch and decide that you would like to visit the Senior Center for lunch on a particular day, please call and notify the Center by 9:00 a.m. so that a home-bound lunch will not be delivered that day. The Center does not allow home-bound participants to receive a lunch at home and at the Center on the same day.

The Poarch Creek Senior Center is open to senior citizens age 55 and over from Poarch and surrounding communities. The Poarch Creek Senior Center is dedicated to helping seniors in various ways. If you have any questions, or would like to know more about our services and programs, please feel free to stop by or contact us at (251) 368-9136 x 2289 or cwalker@pci-nsn.gov. The Center is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



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1 Corinthians 3:10-13

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Bro. Johnny Rolin
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Atmore, AL 36502
251-359-5236

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PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

Bruce Lee, Division Director

OUR DUTY TO PROTECT, AN HONOR TO SERVE

As I was listening to the news it seems that all we hear about is some type of school shooting or workplace violence. So much hatred is in this world today. I often reflect back on the years gone by when you didn't hear of this kind of hatred and violence which plagues our society. Truly, I think that was because God was an important aspect in most people's lives.

I often remember walking downtown in Atmore on Saturday's and smelling one of the merchants roasting peanuts out in front of their store. Usually I was on my way to the sandwich shop where Momma worked to get a burger or a grilled cheese. You never really had to fear anything because it seemed that all the adults living around you would watch out for you and of course we were all raised with respect during those days, especially for our elders.

Drug problems, domestic violence, murder are common place things we hear all the time now. When people make threats or accusations about

doing harm, you have to take this very seriously.

Our main goal as your Tribal Police Department is to protect our Reservation and the community. We have taken several steps towards accomplishing that goal and to expand the programs and services we are currently providing. We have focused a lot of resources on the drug problems, not just on the Reservation but the surrounding community as well. We have a collaborative effort with the Drug Enforcement Administration, 21st Judicial Circuit Task Force and the United States Attorney's Office who have assisted us in many drug cases.

The Poarch Creek Tribal Police Department Officers are commissioned with the Escambia County Sheriff's Office, Elmore County Sheriff's Office and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office as sworn deputies as well. Officers are also commissioned with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and are able to enforce federal law

on reservation land. We want our Reservation and community to be the safest place to live and work without the fears associated in other places.

If our department can be of service to you for any given reason please do not hesitate to call. I have listed our numbers below. Also the TIP line is available if you feel that you need to pass on information to our department that you would prefer to do so anonymously. No matter how minor it may seem to you, it is important to us to know what we can do to serve you better.

May God bless you and your family during this Holiday season, and I pray each of you have a blessed and happy new year to come.

Sincerely,
Doyle (Butch) Lee, Chief of Police
(251) 368-9136 x 2654

Connie Vickery, Ex. Assistant
(251) 368-9136 x 2621

Tribal Police 911 or (251) 368-4442

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crystal.m.marcum@gmail.com

www.mythirtyone.com/crystalmarcum

TRIBAL TIP LINE

Call (251) 446-ITIP (446-4847) to leave an anonymous tip about:

- Drug Activity
- Alcohol Activity
- Known Underage Drinking Parties
- Recent Crimes-Thefts, Vandalism, Drug Sales, etc.
- Bullying
- Concealed Weapons
- Other Safety or Community Concerns

As a partner with our Tribal Community, the Poarch Creek Tribal Police Department is pleased to provide this service.

We hope this service will be a great benefit to you as a citizen. Together we can make our community safer.

The Tip Line is not monitored; your name or phone number will never be required.

All information provided via the Tip Line will be investigated.



Tribal Tip Line * (251) 446-TIP * (446-4847)

TRIBAL COURT

The Poarch Creek Indians Tribal Court Administration would like to invite you to participate in our Community Aftercare Reinforcement Program. We have recently begun an incentive component which allows participants to receive vouchers for rewards for participation in the program.

Wes Hayles, Addictions Counselor for the Tribe, has worked diligently to provide a program that will assist participants that have graduated from our Drug Court Program or attended in-patient treatment facilities with their continued sobriety.

Please contact our office for more information or to schedule an appointment for the aftercare program.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Keesha O'Barr or Wes Hayles at (251) 368-9136 x 2653 or 2652.

SMART Recovery Meets every Monday night at 6:00 pm in the Tribal Court lobby. This meeting is open to anyone seeking to gain independence from addictive behaviors. Light snacks provided.

Parenting Skills Meets every Wednesday at 11:00 am in the Tribal Court activity Room. This is an open meeting to all Tribal Members and 1st Generation. (Please RSVP/Lunch is provided.)

To RSVP or schedule and aftercare appointment please call Charity Miller 251-368-9136 ext. 2660.

TRIBAL FIRE FIGHTERS COMPLETE PARAMEDIC SCHOOL

On December 2, 2015 a seemingly never ending journey came to an end for three Poarch Creek firefighters. Captain Robbie Johnson (B-shift), Firefighter Kevin Baggett (B-shift), and Firefighter Trent Lambert (A-shift) successfully completed Paramedic school. These three firefighters attended Faulkner State Community College for three semesters.

The journey began in January 2015 and came to an end on December 9, 2015, when these three took their National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) psychomotor exam. After successful completion of the psychomotor exam, each firefighter must take a written cognitive exam as well. Once both tests are passed successfully, the firefighter will obtain their NREMT license.

Once a NREMT license is obtained the firefighter can apply to receive their Alabama license. These three firefighters attended Faulkner



Left to right are Chris McGhee, Training Officer/Inspector, Kevin Baggett, Firefighter/Paramedic, Trent Lambert, Firefighter/Paramedic, Robbie Johnson, Captain/Paramedic, and April Sells, TEM Director.

State Community College (Gulf Shores campus). Each firefighter completed approximately 500 hours of classroom instruction and over 300 hours of clinical site rotations.

The Poarch Creek Fire Department staff will now consist of 6 Paramedics, 8 Advanced EMT,

5 Basic EMT, and 2 Emergency Medical Responders.

Poarch Creek Fire is extremely proud of these three for their hard work and endurance to finish this year long journey.

POARCH CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT TO BECOME A TRAINING SITE FOR ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

Alabama Fire College is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant in the amount of \$453,604 from the USDA's Rural Utilities Service program. These funds will establish a distance delivery network across Alabama to allow the delivery of training classes for first responders. The system will initially consist of 10 sites in underserved areas of the state, and it will be configured to add additional sites in the future.

The Poarch Creek Fire Department will be one of these ten sites. This new delivery will allow PCIFD staff along with other fire departments from the area to obtain valuable training at a fraction of the cost. The new delivery will allow for advance level fire courses and advance level emergency medical training to be taught at Poarch Creek Fire Station 2. This will be a huge cost saving for the PCIFD and other departments in the area.

REGULATORY, GRANTS, & COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Carolyn White, Division Director

TERO

The TERO Office can be reached at
(251) 368-6060.

Tribal Regulatory Commission (formerly TERO Commission) meetings will be held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the TERO Office on Highway 21, Atmore.








Support our Bear Hugs 4 Kids program


Bears donated to local law enforcement for children in crisis

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NON-DIVISIONAL DEPARTMENTS

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal Government offices will be closed in observance of established holidays during the upcoming year. A notice will be included in the newsletter as a reminder prior to the date of closure.

Friday, January 1, 2016	New Years Day
Monday, February 15, 2016	Presidents Day
Friday, March 25, 2016	Good Friday
Monday, May 30, 2016	Memorial Day
Monday, July 4, 2016	Independence Day

Monday, September 5, 2016	Labor Day
Friday, September 23, 2016	American Indian Day
Friday, November 11, 2016	Veterans Day
Thursday, November 24, 2016	Thanksgiving
Friday, November 25, 2016	Thanksgiving
Friday, December 23, 2016	Christmas Eve
Monday, December 26, 2016	Christmas Day

Please remember these closures when planning your visits to the Tribal Complex, Pharmacy, Health Clinic, or other Tribal Governmental offices.

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of Business and Professional Studies

RECORDS & ARCHIVES

'ROCK YOUR MOCS' WITH FORMER CHAIRMAN BUFORD L. ROLIN

"Rock Your Mocs is a worldwide Native American and Indigenous Peoples movement" in which we were invited to participate by the Calvin McGhee Cultural Authority. "We, as Indigenous people, wear our moccasins, standing together worldwide, while recognizing our Tribal individuality," says their announcement.

Our Team at the Office of Archives and Records Management joined the movement on November 9, 2015, honoring our ancestors by wearing our traditionally handcrafted moccasins of deer leather at the home of former Chairman Buford L. Rolin in Atmore. Before the horse, before the wagon, before the train, before the automobile, our feet were the major source for transportation. Creeks developed strong soles and robust legs by walking, playing, worshipping and dancing in our moccasins from Mother Earth's abundance.

This photographic image shows the turquoise beaded moccasins donned by the feet of Chairman Rolin who stands beside Ms. Carolyn Peterson, Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees, and Ms. Sarah Margaret Manac. "His moccasins were a gift from another tribe and are a part of the Rolin Collection he so generously donated to the Office of Archives and Records Management," Ms.



Peterson said. He donated this pair of moccasins along with his papers and other artifacts when he retired in June of 2014, with the stipulation that the artifacts must be displayed for Tribal Members to enjoy rather than being kept hidden in a closet.

Following this stipulation, our Team placed these priceless artifacts inside museum quality showcases with the help of student Interns from the PCI Education Department last summer.

Visitors are invited to view these artifacts in our Office located in the CIEDA building at 100 Brookwood Road, Monday to Friday, 8-5 (446-4942). You may feast your eyes on the intricate basketry, the well-built pottery bowls, and the brilliant Tribal dolls gifted from Tribal leaders across America.

Smiling warmly, Chairman Rolin posed for the photograph of our moccasins intersecting in a circle on his hardwood floor, appearing to be pleased that he was included in the movement. Photographs were taken for the archives as eight feet danced a few steps in our leather moccasins to celebrate "Rock Your Mocs."

Helping participants in the annual event, Team member Ms. Wendy Phillips-Cox posted this picture on #rockyourmocs as instructed by the Calvin McGhee Cultural Authority. "It was a heartfelt and memorable day," Ms. Peterson said.

Mvto.

TRIBAL ENROLLMENT

The Tribal Enrollment Department services our enrolled Tribal Members as well as first generation descendants. Enrollment maintains all Tribal Enrollment records, which includes securing and maintaining all records, providing all needed reports, such as eligible voter's lists for Tribal Elections, collecting data through surveys, mailing a monthly newsletter to the Head of the Household, and generating any report needed by departmental staff for communication purposes.

MEMBERSHIP:

August, 1984	1,300 Tribal Members
January 1, 2015	3,060 Tribal Members
December 31, 2015	3,055 Tribal Members

MALE/FEMALE RATIO:

1511	Male Tribal Members
1544	Female Tribal Members

The oldest male Tribal Member is Carl McGhee, Sr., age 98; the oldest female Tribal Member is Bernice Morgan, age 93.

AGE GROUPS

80 and older:	97 Tribal Members
65-79:	474 Tribal Members
50-64:	833 Tribal Members
30-49:	1026 Tribal Members
18-29:	362 Tribal Members
13-17:	103 Tribal Members
12 and under:	160 Tribal Members

FIVE COUNTY SERVICE AREA:

Total Tribal Members In Service Area:	1923
Baldwin County, AL:	294 Tribal Members
Escambia County, AL:	1084 Tribal Members
Escambia County, FL:	326 Tribal Members
Mobile County, AL:	101 Tribal Members
Monroe County, AL:	118 Tribal Members
TOTAL:	1923

OUTSIDE OF SERVICE AREA:

1132 Tribal Members live outside the service area.

TRIBAL FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Tribal Government Finance has established a Tribal Loan Portal accessible to Tribal Members Only through a link on the front page of the Tribe's web site at www.pci-nsn.gov.

The [Pay Tribal Bill Here](#) link is on the left sidebar of the homepage under the Tribal Member Portal heading. Tribal Finance will provide usernames and passwords for the Tribal Loan Portal to all Tribal Members with a current loan as well as future Tribal loan program participants.

Tribal Government now accepts Tribal loan payments via VISA and Master Card through the Tribal Loan Portal or on-site payments at Tribal Government.

VISA and Master Card payments are not accepted for other programs at this time.

Please remember to keep your contact information up to date. Numerous loan statements and other correspondences from the Tribal Finance Department have been returned by the Post Office marked 'undeliverable as addressed', 'insufficient address', 'unable to forward', etc.

If you have any questions please call Deborah Hammons at 251-368-9136 ext. 2007.

TRIBAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Utilities Authority hopes everyone had a safe and blessed holiday season. As the New Year brings many new expectations for individuals, it also brings changes for the Utilities Authority and Escambia Community Utilities, a subsidiary of the PCI Utilities Authority. As of November 25, 2015, we are the official owners of the Canoe Water making us responsible for vital water quality and needs to numerous communities. The initial timeframe for the Canoe Water system acquisition was set for December 1, 2015, but the Canoe representatives deferentially requested for us to take over the ownership on the earlier date. We have and will continue to strive at making the transition as efficient as possible for all of our valuable customers.

The Utilities Authority would like to welcome aboard a new tribal member employee to our Utilities Team, Timothy “Bo” Slate. Mr. Slate was previously employed with the PCI Public Works Department before being selected to fill our Utilities Assistant position. Bo brings to us several years of field experience and knowledge. We look forward to having him work with us towards the prosperous future of the Utilities Authority.

The 2016 Utilities budget process has been completed and finalized. It does include a diversity of innovative upcoming utility projects as well as the successful operations of 3 water systems, a waste water system, and solid waste collection system. We are currently working towards completing a few of our ongoing 2015 utility projects at this time.

- Our Expanded Metal Project has been awarded to the lowest bidding tribal contractor. This development will enclose the Centrifuge and other Waste Water Treatment Plant equipment located at our facility.
- The East Well UV Project has also been awarded to the lowest bidding tribal contractor. The project includes implementing UV treatment of the water we distribute from the East Well at the Tullis Manor

Subdivision with the objective being to connect the residences of Tullis Manor to our Tribal water system instead of the current Freemanville water supply.

- The Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Project is in the preliminary stages and is purposed to construct new and additional offices for utility staff adjacent to our current offices at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This plan will also include the rehabilitation to the existing lab, adding a loading dock, additional parking, and enlarge the reception area to optimize our customer service abilities. An RFP to retain professional A&E services has been issued and is under review.

If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding the Utilities Authority or the services that we provide, please feel free to contact our office during normal business hours of Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 251-446-1617 or 251-368-9136 ext. 2912. Should you need to report a utility emergency after our normal hours of operations, please call our after-hours hotline at 251-446-4920 to speak with an assigned Utilities professional. We hope that 2016 brings everyone a healthy and successful year.

If you ever have any utility questions or concerns please contact our office at 251-446-1617, Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., as we continue to strive at providing uninterrupted services to our customers.

If you are a customer of PCI Utilities or Escambia Community Utilities and have a utility related emergency call our After Hours Hotline number, 251-446-4920, and a qualified staff member will be notified and dispatched 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.





Working as the economic development arm of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA) oversees the non-gaming enterprises owned by the Tribe. CIEDA actively supports each business achieving their specific business goals and to grow and maintain economic sustainability as put forth by the CIEDA Board of Directors and Tribal Council. Additionally, CIEDA executes and oversees building, construction and development projects commissioned by the Tribe.

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 \$100,000 in aggregate to any Tribal Member.


All loans exceeding \$50,000 must be approved by the CIEDA Board of Directors. Additional credit criteria as well as loan collateralization requirements apply.

If you are a Tribal Member who owns a business or is considering starting a business and are interested in obtaining a small business loan, you may request additional information or schedule and appointment by calling or emailing the CIEDA offices at 251-368-0819; please ask for Ed Powell (epowell@pcicie.com) or Chad Klinck (cklinck@pcicie.com).









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CELEBRATING CUSTOMERS

CCSA event a success

Without customers, a business cannot exist. And in a tight-knit community such as Atmore, customers become almost like family.

With the holidays approaching, it was the perfect time for a party, so Creek Convenience Store Atmore (CCSA) threw a customer appreciation bash to honor its loyal patrons.

On a bright, brisk Friday, Nov. 13, 2015, about 200 customers showed up for the festivities at CCSA to enjoy free chili cheese hot dogs and drinks, win prizes and an opportunity to see the NASCAR No. 22 Shell race car driven by NASCAR driver Joey Logano.

A popular driver, Logano finished up the 2015 NASCAR season with a fourth-place finish at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Nov. 22. He won six races and captured the pole position once in 2015. To have his show car at the event was definitely a big draw.

There was a steady stream of people stopping in and hanging out at CCSA, catching up with the employees and enjoying the noticeably cooler temperatures of mid-November.

"What a success we have had with this event," Retail Operations Manager Leo Hammons said. "People seemed to enjoy the day, enjoy the food, and the prize wheel was a big hit, too. The customers really appreciated us doing something different, and the flow of traffic seemed almost nonstop."

Hammons said the Shell show car was quite popular.

"It's not every day you get to see a race car," he said. "Everyone was taking pictures and looking through the windows. It was just a wonderful day."

CCSA employee Anjaneice Martin, who was working the day of the event, said she saw a lot of regulars come in and congregate in the store.

"Many were coming in and looking around, checking out our new mural of archival photos on the walls," Martin said. "A lot of Tribal Members who showed up for the event were reminiscing and pointing out their families in the mural. That was a proud moment."

Martin also said she was glad to have worked during the event.

"It was a lot of fun and didn't seem like I was at work at all. Everyone here always has a good time, but the extra interaction with the public was pretty cool."

Another employee, Nicole Edwards, said the event was well received from customers.

"They all said the food was great, and they seemed excited about the prizes outside," Edwards said.



Anjaneice Martin



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist



Did you know ... ?

Trucking industry facts

Without trucks, America stops running efficiently. Have you ever considered how your produce and food, clothing, electronics and other items get to the stores? You can guarantee a trucker brought them from a warehouse or from an overseas ship. That's why we need truck stops like Creek Travel Plaza.

CTP offers truckers a place to rest with its plush trucker's lounge, 8 diesel lanes, 4 showers, bus lanes, a place to eat at its '50s style diner and a place to wash up with large, clean showers and washers and dryers. CTP celebrated truckers in November. Here are some interesting facts about the trucking industry:



It takes more than 37 billion gallons of diesel fuel to move freight each year

About 70 percent of all the freight tonnage moved in the U.S. goes on trucks

Sources: trucking.org



Creek Travel Plaza has 8 truck diesel lanes and 12 regular fuel lanes

The average age of truck drivers is 46.8 years old



There are more than 3.5 million truck drivers in the United States



According to Overdrive Magazine, 239,000 drivers will be needed by 2022



In 2012, the average driver made \$19 an hour

BREAKING THE CHAIN

Travel decisions generally begin with a choosing a hotel at or near a destination. That is why picking the best hotel is such an important, albeit stressful, decision to make.

Seasoned travelers always start with a budget in mind and what amenities they can and can't live without. But how do you choose whether to stay at a chain-branded hotel or at an independent, local lodging establishment, such as the Muskogee Inn (MI) in Atmore, Ala.?

Data compiled in June by STR.com shows 31 percent of the 4,957,714 total rooms in the U.S. hotel system fall into the independent segment of the market. Last year, independents saw its strongest gain in performance metrics, and Muskogee Inn was right in there, boasting of booked-out rooms for big events, such as concerts, Pow Wow, Williams Station Day and more.

Online reviews

According to a recent survey by PhoCusWright, customers turn to TripAdvisor or a relevant review website on a regular basis. The study says 80 percent base their hotel decisions on reviews from other customers.

Muskogee Inn has a high review rate on TripAdvisor, being rated a

four out of five. On Yelp.com, the hotel is rated 4.5 out of five. Seeing these types of reviews and reading the experiences from reviewers allows first-time customers to see what they are getting when they choose MI over a chain establishment. A friendly staff and a clean, updated room go a long way in making a guest feel comfortable and happy.

Location

Proximity is another reason travelers might choose an independent hotel over a chain hotel. The location of Muskogee Inn is perfect — immediately off Interstate 65 at exit 57, Muskogee Inn is only an eighth of a mile from the entertainment district at Wind Creek Atmore. There also are restaurants adjacent and across the street, so many can choose to walk instead of drive for food or fun.

The local feel

However, consumer preferences have changed with the economy. Many people are choosing independent hotels to get a local experience from their trip. According to innroad.com, by trading well recognized brands for local lodging, guests hope to enhance their stay with unique and memorable experiences that large chains cannot provide.

This is Muskogee Inn's niche. Owned and operated by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Muskogee Inn honors the Tribe's history at every turn. They chose the name Muskogee to reflect the original name of the Tribe.

The walls and hallways are adorned with historic photos provided by the Office of Archives and Records Management.

Budget conscious

Just about everyone is looking for a deal these days, especially when it comes to travel lodging. Some people do have brand loyalty when it comes to hotels because they know what to expect, but when it comes down to saving 50 percent or more on a hotel room, many might choose a lesser known hotel solely on the price.

Muskogee Inn has very competitive rates compared to its competitors, saving consumers on average 30 to 50 percent per night. That frees up the budget for people to have more to spend in the local destination of their choice.

By choosing an independent budget hotel over a budget hotel with a national brand, you might be able to afford that extra meal or outfit you wanted.

Keep these facts in mind next time you are deciding on which hotel to book.



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

The Division of Capital Investment (DCI), from the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED), Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (ASIA), recently held a conference at the Poarch Band of Creek Indians reservation. Representatives from DCI also were treated to a tour of the reservation by Muskogee Technology's Director of Marketing, Mal McGhee, and a presentation given by Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority President/CEO James T. Martin.

Martin explained how PBCI has used economic development to further diversity from the gaming industry and how the Tribe utilizes its businesses. The group visited the Cultural Museum as well as tribal housing and government, ball fields and recreation areas on the reservation, Judson Cemetery and other businesses managed by Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is the oldest bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Established in 1824, BIA provides services — directly or through contracts, grants or compacts — to almost 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians has received benefits from the BIA in many areas: when the Tribe purchased the Best Western hotel in 1988 and renamed it Muskogee Inn, BIA stepped in to help with funds and support. Roads, bridges and infrastructure on the reservation also were built and maintained through the BIA.

The difference with our Tribe is that we are a self-governing Tribe and do not let the U.S. government dictate where their support goes. The BIA provides grants for certain areas, such as health, education, economic development, etc., but the Poarch Band of Creek Indians uses those resources how it sees fit. Other tribes rely on the BIA for guidance, whereas PBCI does not.

The following is a question and answer session with a few of DCI's representatives:

Q: What is your main focus as an organization on behalf of Indian tribes?

A: David Johnson — We make sure tribes have the same economic development opportunities as everyone else. In our DCI office, we manage the Indian Loan Guaranty, Insurance and Interest Subsidy Program, which breaks through the conventional barriers to financing for tribes and individual Indians. The loan program helps facilitate loan financing for borrowers that would not be able to do so otherwise. The division helps secure reasonable interest rates and reduces risks for all parties involved. We bring lenders and borrowers together so that all may prosper.

Q: What are the most utilized programs under IA and how do they help tribes?

A: David Johnson — I would say our loan guarantee program is one of our best resources we offer. We also have various offices that help tribes with everything from computer problems to business development and planning, budgets, accounting and so forth.

Q: What is the IEED's role in the government-to-government relationship with the United States?

A: James West — The Division of Capital Investment is working hard to provide opportunities for economic development through the Insurance and Loan Guarantee program.

Michael Luger — Our responsibility is making sure tribes have access to capital. We protect their rights and improve their quality of life. We provide funding, support and training, land management opportunities for their trust land and even build roads, bridges and infrastructure to better help maintain tribal communities.

Q: What are the challenges you face as a government entity?

A: Cheryl King — I think the biggest frustration is getting people educated and informed about what is available to them. Many tribal communities don't realize that we are here to help and that no question or idea is too small for us to administer help in getting to the end result.

Martin reiterated the importance of this group's support: "While in my role as Former USET (United South and Eastern Tribes) Director, I saw firsthand how IEED has stimulated economic development in Indian country through its guaranteed loan program," he said. "They play a vital role in spring boarding Native American entrepreneurship across the country."

Back row: Mal McGhee, Jerry Ryburn, Michael Luger, Stephanie West, Michael Berryhill, James West and Cheryl King.
Front row: James T. Martin, Martin Nouri, David Johnson and Dawayne Robinson.



&
A
with Indian Affairs

By Jen Peake
CIEDA Marketing Specialist

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.

Other sites that may be of interest to Tribal Members include:

Farm Service Agencies

www.fsa.usda.gov

www.fsa.usda.gov/al

www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill

USDA Rural Development

www.rurdev.usda.gov

www.rurdev.usa.gov/al

Alabama Forestry Commission

www.forestry.state.al.us

For more information contact:

David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison
5535 Poarch Road, Atmore, AL 36502
(251) 368-0826

A NATIVE AMERICAN CHEROKEE STORY – TWO WOLVES

We have published this story in the past but the truth of the story remains as true today as the day it was first told. Consider your two wolves and feed the right one.



One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people.

He said, “My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all.”

“One is Evil – It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.”

“The other is Good – It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: “Which wolf wins?”

The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.”

NRCS TRIBAL LIAISON DAVID ELLIOTT AWARDED 2015's JERRY L. JOHNSON AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Alabama has announced that David Elliott has been named 2015's Jerry L. Johnson award winner. Elliott was recognized at the 73rd annual Alabama Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) conference in Orange Beach, Alabama on November 16, 2015.

This award is given to an Alabama NRCS employee for "Excellence in Public Service through One's Family, Employment, Profession and Community." The nominated employee who exhibits the characteristics of Jerry Johnson's spirit and concern for his family, fellow employees, the environment and his community will be recognized.

The award's 10th recipient was born in south Alabama in Escambia County and lives on his family's 120 year old farm with his wife. This background in agriculture gave Elliott the perfect foundation for what later became his life's work in conservation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Alabama. Elliott's life goal has been and continues to be working with people and to leave this a better place for our children and the next generations that will follow.

David currently serves as a Liaison for NRCS on the Poarch Band of Creek Indians reservation in Atmore, AL and has helped to build a very strong relationship with



Pictured left to right: Laslie Hall (AACD President), Shannon Weaver (NRCS ASTC-Technology), William Puckett (Alabama SWCC Executive Director), James Tillman (NRCS Regional Conservationist), Nell Wiggins (Escambia County SWCD Board Member), Joy Elliott (David Elliott's wife), David Elliott (Award Recipient), Tim Albritton (NRCS State Forester), Frank Nalty (Escambia County SWCD Board Member and SWCC Chairman & Area VI Representative) and Charlie Ramsey (NRCS ASTC-Field Operations)

those he represents. He helps them preserve, maintain, and enhance their natural resources for future generations.

"David Elliott has dedicated the past 36 years to conservation and serving his community. The selection committee was proud to present him with this year's award because he has without a doubt, positively impacted lives statewide," said Ben Malone, State Conservationist for NRCS Alabama.

For over 30 years, Jerry L. Johnson served conservation in Alabama. As NRCS State Staff Forester, he worked with the conservation partnership to assist landowners with natural resource concerns.

His work and dedication positively impacted the forest, wildlife, and water resources of our state. He passed away on December 31, 2003 after a lengthy battle with cancer, only a few months after retiring from the agency. Nominations for the Jerry L. Johnson award are accepted each year in August.

*NRCS Press Release dated November 24, 2015
Submitted by David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison*

The Tribe proudly extends its congratulations to David for a job well done!



Chuck Stevens Chevrolet of Atmore *Service Department*



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(Drawing will be held January 18th!)**

Contact Ethan Raines / (251) 253-3885

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January (Rvfo 'Cuse) 2016

SMART Recovery

Every Monday night @ 6:00 pm
Tribal Court Lobby

Parenting Skills

Every Wednesday @ 11:00 am
Tribal Court Activity Room
Open to TM & FG
RSVP/Lunch Provided

Friday, January 1, 2016

Tribal Government Offices,
Boys & Girls Club, Museum,
and Gym will be closed in
observance of the New Year
holiday.

Saturday, January 2, 2016

Gym closed in observance of
the New Year holiday.

January 4-5, 2016

Monday & Tuesday,
Museum gift shop closed for
monthly inventory

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

5:00 pm (CST)

***Deadline to submit information
for publication in February 2016
issue of Poarch Creek News***

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Reception for new healthcare
providers

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Buford L. Rolin Heath Clinic

Friday, January 29, 2016

Last day to submit application
for vacancy on Tribal Regulatory
Committee

Tribal Council Meetings

Thursday, January 7th & 21st
Building 500 Auditorium
4:00 pm

Tribal Court Sessions

Monday, January 11th & 25th
Tribal Courtroom
9:00 am

Tribal Regulatory Commission Meetings

Tuesday, January 12th & 26th
TERO Office on Hwy 21
8:00 am

Calvin McGhee Cultural

Advisory Committee

Monday, January 11th

4:00 pm

Cultural Building on Hwy 21

Education Advisory Committee

Wednesday, January 13th

3:00 pm

Family Services Conference
Room

Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic

Utility Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, January 21st

1:00 pm

Utilities Office

Monday, February 15, 2016

Tribal Government Offices,
Boys & Girls Club, Museum,
and Gym will be closed in
observance of Presidents Day.

Newsletter Contact Information

Poarch Creek News

*The Poarch Creek News is the official
newsletter of the Poarch Band of Creek
Indians.*

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