

Cokv-Tvlvme/Newspaper (joh-guh duh-luh-mee)



Poarch Creek News

February 2016



Volume 34, Issue 2

Hotvlē Hvse (February)

Keeping the friends & family of Poarch informed

A Moment With The Tribal Chair

February 2016

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



Our elder population represents a precious group of individuals that are vital to the history, legacy, and future of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Currently, our Tribe has about 570 individuals that are 65 years of age or older. Each of these elders has a story to share with you if you are willing to take the time to sit and listen to them. I encourage you all to dedicate time this year to visit with our elders and learn all you can from them. They offer so much wisdom and perspective to us that is truly priceless.

This month, I am honored to share a beautiful story (as told to me by her children) about a loving elder who truly touched the hearts of many: “Sister” Ruthie Mae Rackard (February 27, 1920 – September 18, 2014).

Born on February 27, 1920, Sister Ruthie Mae was known as a Godly woman who loved her people and her Tribe very much. She took great pride not

only in the accomplishments of her family and grandchildren, but also in the families and individuals of those she knew.

In the weeks leading up to her death, Sister Ruthie Mae was excited about attending an upcoming wedding, and had even ordered a beautiful blue dress for the occasion. Although she wasn’t able to physically attend the wedding and wear her beautiful dress, members of her family believe that she was present just the same.

Attendees say the wedding ceremony, which took place at a lake, was a beautiful event. As is customary at most weddings, the matriarchs of the families were escorted down the aisle to their designated seats. Those present recall that, just at the moment when Sister Ruthie Mae would have been escorted down the aisle to be seated in her designated place as the grandmother, a swan fluttered by and caught the attention of the crowd.



While it may not have meant much to some there, Sister Ruthie Mae's children knew that their Mama had made it to the wedding that she had been so excited to attend after all.

As time passed, the children decided to get together for the first Mother's Day that they would spend without Sister Ruthie Mae. A few days before their get together, several of the children noticed none other than a beautiful swan swimming around in a pond just a short distance from her house. Amongst themselves, the

children knew that their Mama had not gone far from them, and that she still watched over them.

Death and grief are difficult things to overcome and accept, and it's a different experience for each person. However, we can often find comfort by recalling the happy memories that we've shared with our loved ones. And sometimes, comfort can be found in the appearance of an unexpected guest, such as a swan.

I want to thank the family of Sister Ruthie Mae for sharing this story with me. I hope it

touches your heart as it touched mine. And, may it serve as a reminder for us to take joy in the small things and cherish the moments we have with our loved ones while they are still with us.

As always, may God continue to bless you and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

In love,

Stephanie A. Bryan,
Tribal Chair/CEO

I will not leave you comfortless...

John 14:18






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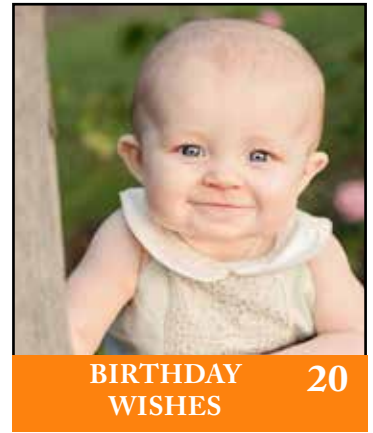
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Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4: 31-32

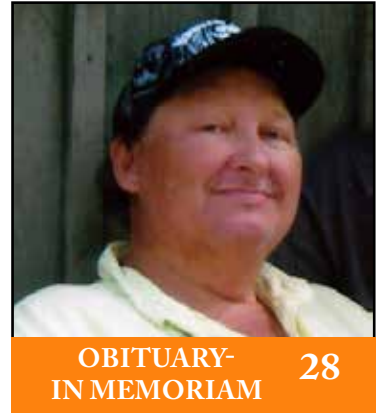
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- **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*.

In order for annual Tribal Member distributions and benefits to be processed accurately, Tribal Member Benefits must be informed of any changes you may have to your address, phone number, banking information, and/or other personal information. Numerous newsletters and other Tribal correspondences have been returned by the Post Office marked 'undeliverable as addressed', 'insufficient address', 'unable to forward', etc. Contact Tribal Member Benefits at (251) 368-9136 x 2209 if you need to update your information.



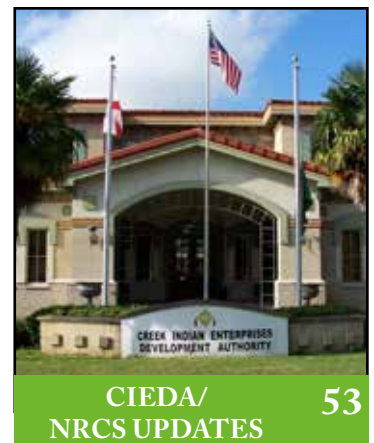
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A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

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:

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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

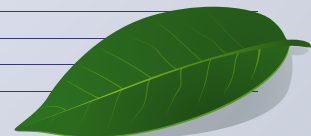
Poarch Creek News is generated one month prior to month of publication.

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.



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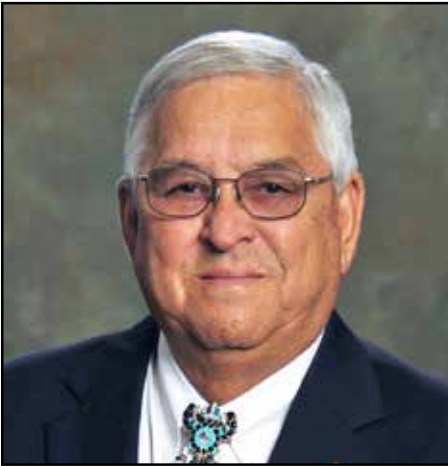
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Tribal Council Update

February 2016

Robbie McGhee, Vice Chair

rmcghees@pci-nsn.gov



I am confident that everyone is enjoying the New Year and has been able to stick to their 2016 New Year's resolutions. I hope that many of you took the opportunity in January to make fiscally responsible financial decisions. We are a blessed Tribe but I hope everyone knows and understands the financial blessings we receive during this time is an amazing benefit, not an entitlement nor a guarantee. I am optimistic that the decisions you and I make are financially sound and not dependent upon future returns.

By the time most of you get this newsletter myself along with the Tribal Council will have already been active advocating for our rights, protecting our benefits and safeguarding our lands at the state house in Montgomery or the United States Congressional offices in Washington DC. If it wasn't for the Tribal Council, Governmental Relations or our Legal Department, we as a nation would possibly not be able to enjoy the rights we have today. Every year, members of Congress, local officials and sometimes unfortunately other tribes have agendas that are not in alignment with our goals and objectives.

Every year the Tribe spends millions of dollars on various political races, events and campaigns for candidates and/or members who are republicans, democrats and sometimes independents. We contribute to State party political organizations such as the Alabama Republican and Alabama Democratic Parties. Every year we contribute the maximum allowed funds in accordance with Federal Campaign laws to the National Republican Congressional Committee, National Republican Senatorial Committee, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and other Super PACs, leadership campaigns and political affiliates. Our contributions to these political entities allows us to attend essential events/fundraisers across the United States throughout the year.

These events are the perfect opportunity for members of the Tribal Council and our Governmental Affairs staff to sit down face to face in intimate settings and surroundings with members or potential members of Congress: to talk about the benefits we provide to our members, to highlight the successes we have

experienced but most importantly these moments allow us to discuss the issues impacting our Tribe. It is during these times we are allowed to sit with the members over breakfast, lunch and dinner to tell our stories, and most importantly to tell them about each of you. It's our opportunity to ask them to continue to fight for and defend us.

Over the years many friendships have been made by our Council members with these important political figures. Friendships that we feel will last, friendships that are based upon honesty, and friendships that have been created when we tell Our Story about Our Tribe and Our People.

Robbie McGhee

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

Congressional Update

February, 2016

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

Here in the early months of 2016, I thought it would be appropriate to look at some of the major things to watch for in this new year.

Much of the attention will remain focused on the presidential election, and it is certainly an important one. It is critically important we elect a true conservative who will restore America's standing on the world stage and roll back the government overreach we experienced throughout the Obama presidency.

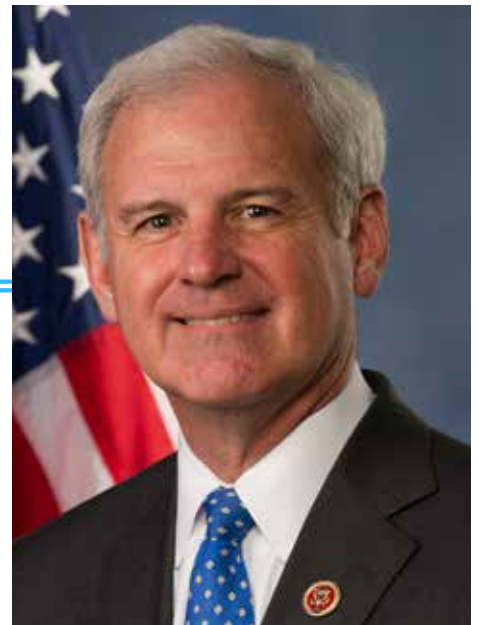
As the presidential election unfolds, our Republican majority in the House must put forward a clear and bold agenda focused on commonsense reforms. Instead of sitting back and watching the race unfold, we should use our majority to show what a Republican-led federal government would look like.

The top priority in 2016 must be on combating radical Islamic extremism and the terrorists who wish to bring harm to our

country. We must also continue pushing to make reforms to our broken immigration system, including the refugee resettlement program. We shouldn't stop with the refugee program though. We also need to strengthen the visa process, the asylum program, and our overall border security.

One of the first votes the House took in 2016 was on a bill to dismantle Obamacare and eliminate all federal funding for Planned Parenthood. Obamacare is fundamentally broken, and that is why I remain committed to a full repeal of this failed law. But let's not just stop at repealing the law. Let's also offer a health care alternative focused on patient-centered reforms that aren't mandated by the federal government.

It is also important that Congress do everything we can to support our local farmers and ensure the government stays out of our family farms. Agriculture is the top industry in Alabama,



and I am committed to making sure it stays that way.

This year will also be an important one for many of our local priorities like improving local infrastructure, protecting local jobs, and getting a longer Red Snapper season for our fishermen. A longer Red Snapper season means more tourism on the Gulf Coast, and that is certainly good news for everyone in Escambia County.

2016 will undoubtedly be a busy one in our nation's capital and right here in Southwest Alabama, so I hope you will stay in touch with my office and let me know if my staff or I can ever do anything for you.

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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BEAR HUGS 4 kids

Tribal Police have issued a BOLO alert (be-on-the-look-out) for the following Teddy bears: cream-colored and brown bears wearing a white T-shirt with the Creek Travel Plaza logo on the front. Some bears might have scarves. All should be considered harmless and friendly.

The Bear Hugs 4 Kids program has come to life again, and law enforcement needs your help to make a child feel safe in a stressful situation.

The bears program helps alleviate fear and anxiety in children during traumatic events,

such as car accidents, domestic



violence, house fires, etc.

For \$25, you can purchase two Teddy bears — one will go home with you to keep or give to a family member or friend, and the other bear will be donated to local first responders and law enforcement officers. Or you may choose to donate both bears. It's your choice.

Former Tribal Police Chief Butch Lee said all 16 patrol officers carry the bears in their cars. When responding to calls involving children, the officers use the stuffed animals as an ice breaker for frightened youngsters.

"Fortunately, we don't have some of the major crimes on the reservation as other places might have," Lee said. "But when we do, the bears give the officers an avenue with children to distract them and keep them calm."

Lee contributes the low-crime rate to the department's role in the community.

"We are proactive in what we do, and we are very visible," he said. "We have enough personnel to saturate the reservation land, and we also help out neighboring police departments when things happen close by."

Tribal Police officers are dual-deputized, meaning they have the same authority

as the Atmore Police Department and Escambia County Sheriff's Office in those jurisdictions. Lee said Tribal Police often assist in traffic accidents and sometimes collaborate with other agencies on a few major crimes.

Making a stressful situation better

In traumatic events, something as small as a Teddy bear to hug can make a child feel comfortable and safe. Children who are victims of a crime or who might be a witness to an accident or situation are often timid and scared to talk to police officers for various reasons. Even home-life situations can be troubling for impressionable children.

"I had a little girl, about 5 years old, come in with her mom recently," Lee said. "Had nothing to do with the girl, but just the idea of being in a police station made the girl uncomfortable, kind of intimidated by the surroundings. So I said to the girl, 'I have a favor to ask you.' I went to the back and got one of the bears and told her 'This friend of mine comes in here a lot but I don't have a place to put him. Would you take care of him for me?' She was excited then and said to me, 'Yes, I will.' That small gesture relieved her fears, and she concentrated on that," Lee said.

Firemen join policemen in participation

Since the program began in January 2015, more than 50 bears have been donated and on Dec. 28, 2015, CTP presented the fire department with 60 bears.



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist



"I have been a firefighter for 30-35 years," Fire Chief Ronnie Jackson said. "Each call is different. But when you get on a scene with children there, it becomes a whole new scenario, a whole new focus."

Tribal EMA Director April Sells agreed. "Our job is to assess each situation, but our job also is to keep people calm," Sells said. "Our firemen are good about that. If you want to see anyone move quick to get to a scene, just let that tone go off. And when it's learned children are involved, they jump into high gear."

"Having something like a stuffed animal to give to a child to focus on is one of the best tools to have."

Sells said the department previously participated in a similar program but hadn't had another opportunity until now.

"We are pleased to be able to participate with the Tribal Police Department in this program, and we thank Creek Travel Plaza for donating the bears to us so we can further help in our community," Fire Chief Jackson said.

Sells said the Poarch Fire Department receives about 800-900 calls per year. The department is responsible for a 49-mile fire district area, which includes Interstate 65. The department staffs two stations, one in Poarch near the police department and Tribal offices and one near Wind Creek Casino and Hotel and the interstate.

Nineteen firemen fill three shifts, which went from strictly volunteer to career (paid) positions in 2009, Sells said.

You can help by purchasing, donating

National statistics show about half of all American children have been exposed to at least one or more serious traumatic childhood experiences, according to a survey conducted by the National Survey of Children's Health.

Teddy bear programs are promoted all across the country in some form or fashion. Although each program has a different name, the goal remains the same: to alleviate stress and fear a child might have during traumatic events.

A quick online search shows Teddy bear programs involving law enforcement and first responders date back to the 1980s.

General Manager of Creek Travel Plaza Tammy Smith said the program has been well received in the area.

"I've heard a few people remark about the bears and even had some people (buy and) donate more than one," Smith said. "The bears are placed all around the store and when someone checks out and is told about the program, most are more than happy to participate. We love our community, our law enforcement, our first responders — so this is our way of showing our support and helping the children in Escambia County feel safe."

If you would like to help, call 251-368-0088 for more information or go by Creek Travel Plaza at 4740 Jack Springs Road in Atmore. and distributed by the Poarch Police Department. This year, the Poarch Fire Department is getting in on the action as well.

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Wishes do come true



For a 17-year-old, life should be about making memories and looking forward to the future. But for some, such as Denver Shuttlesworth, life is about staying alive.

Denver was diagnosed in 2014 with neuroblastoma, a cancer that develops from immature nerve cells of the sympathetic nervous system, according to the American Cancer Society.

But like every other teenager, Denver still has dreams and wishes. Recently, one of those wishes came true, when Denver was presented with a new Stinger 175 bass boat from the Alabama chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"The moment was surreal," Denver said. "It was shocking ... and very heart touching to me."

Tribal Council Member Sandy Hollinger, Denver's mother, said before he was diagnosed, they initially went to the ER for

back pain Denver was experiencing.

"When they did a CT scan, they saw a tumor resting on his spine," Hollinger said.

A week later, he was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer. Hollinger said her son spent a year and a half at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Tennessee but now is back home taking oral chemotherapy.

"He's doing very well and is responding to the treatments, but we have a very long way to go still," Hollinger said.

Thinking he was going to Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve for a photo shoot with his girlfriend, Denver was surprised with the gift of the boat and the big crowd that

showed up to watch him receive it. Hollinger said they picked Magnolia Branch as the venue for the surprise because of Denver's avid love for fishing. The lakes at Magnolia Branch have plenty of fish, stocked with blue gills, catfish and shell cracker.

"Fishing, to me, is so relaxing, and it takes me to a different place where I don't think of anything negative," Denver said. "To be sitting in a boat, casting a line and just enjoying nature is perfect. Being out here at Magnolia is peaceful. I'm very honored and thankful to Make-A-Wish for giving me a boat of my own." Hollinger said Denver was the first recipient of Alabama's Make-A-Wish in the area.

"We wanted to make this wish experience he and his family would always remember,"

Alabama Make-A-Wish President and CEO Pam Jones said.

"I'm very honored and thankful to Make-A-Wish for giving me a boat of my own."

DENVER SHUTTLESWORTH



By: Jen Peake/CIEDA Marketing Specialist

AN EDUCATION SUCCESS STORY

EYES ON EDUCATION: AMANDA J. COBB, O.D.

Amanda Cobb earned her Bachelors of Science Degree at the University of Alabama and then moved on to the University of Alabama, Birmingham to earn her Doctorate of Optometry. Dr. Cobb currently serves Tribal Members and the surrounding community as the Optometrist at Premier Family Eye Care, the eye health clinic on the reservation.

Dr. Cobb used the Tribal Educational Funding to assist with her education. The Tribal Educational Funds helped Dr. Cobb concentrate more on her studies, instead of worrying over debt. According to Dr. Cobb, "Being able to eliminate a portion of debt is a huge blessing. Even now, I continue to see the benefit of the Tribe's generosity and the positive impact on my life and the life of my 2 children."

Faith has also played a big part in Dr. Cobb's educational journey. She credits God as the true source of her strength. Her family was also a big support during her educational journey.

Dr. Cobb feels blessed to have met her husband while she was in



Dr. Cobb with her husband Patrick and daughters Emma Grace (center) and Abby.

school and since he is in the same field, they were able to help each other along the way. While Dr. Cobb came to Poarch to practice Optometry, her husband, Patrick practices in Foley at Terrezza and Associates.

Dr. Cobb faced a medical challenge during her 4 years at UAB. During that time, she was diagnosed with Otosclerosis, which is low frequency hearing loss and underwent 2 surgeries during that time. She was faced with juggling her school work with her medical challenges.

The advice that Dr. Cobb has for other students is, "never give up! Know that it will be challenging along the way, but that you can accomplish anything that you set your mind to. The end result will be worth it!"

Dr. Cobb plans to continue her education so that she can always provide the best care to her patients.

Come and meet Dr. Cobb and her wonderful staff at Premier Family Eye Care.


By: Annie Nowak

In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future.

Alex Haley

The children have been a wonderful gift to me, and I'm thankful to have once again seen our world through their eyes. They restore my faith in the family's future.

Jackie Kennedy



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*Jack Colbert
Msgt ET
United States Air Force*

Jack Colbert, son of Leroy and Stella Colbert, was born June 20, 1929. He is the grandson of James and Florence Walker Colbert.

He joined the Air Force on July 2, 1947 at the age of 18, ready to fight for his country in WWII. WWII ended two weeks after he enlisted but he went on to serve in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. He attended boot camp in San Antonio, TX. His duty stations included Japan; Korea; Vietnam; Spokane, Washington; San Antonio, TX; Warner Robbins, GA; Albany, GA; Tacoma, Washington; and Rontoul, IL.

He was a flight engineer on B-52 bombers. He and his crew flew in and out of Vietnam to bring in supplies. His most heartfelt missions were when he and his crew had to fly home the remains of the brave heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Jack is a quiet man, a man of few words, but he often tells of how he went to get a hair cut and was denied because he was Indian. He said that he was in his uniform yet the barber refused to cut his hair because he was an Indian. Jack got up and walked away, but not without saying "I can fight for you and your country but you can't cut my hair."

After the Vietnam War, he and his crew flew with NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) studying and tracking hurricanes; often flying into the eye of the hurricane to get the most accurate and up to date scientific information.

During his years of service, he received the American Campaign Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal with Japan Clasp, the Nation Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal w/2 bronze stars, the United Nations Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal as presented by the Vietnamese Government, the Air Force Commendation Medal, four (4) Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbons, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, a Presidential Unit Citation, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 5 Bronze loops, the Army Good Conduct Medal with 5 Bronze loops, the Oak Leaf Cluster, the USAF NCO Academy Ribbon, and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

VETERAN'S SALUTE

After retiring from the military on July 3, 1969 Jack went to air conditioning school and worked in the air conditioning shop of the Orlando Housing Authority until he retired from there in 1990.

Jack married his true love, Helen Ward Colbert, on December 18, 1947. They reside in Orlando, FL and recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. Jack and Helen have six children, Jackie, Elaine, Sheila, Danny, Patricia, and Jack.

He is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is also a member of The Enlisted Association.

In his spare time Jack enjoys spending time with his family and fishing.

Jack Colbert, 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.



Salmon fishing in Alaska



The Jack Colbert Family. Front row Jackie, Sheila, Helen, and Patricia. Back row Jack Duane, Danny, Jack, and Elaine.



Jack Colbert, fourth from right smiling at camera, and his flight crew.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

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.

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Taylor Hutto
January 5, 2016

Happy birthday Taylor!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

From your family.



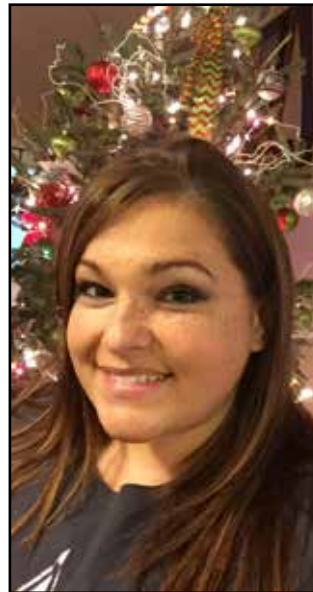
Shelley Villeret
January 6, 2016

We wish you a special happy birthday Mom!!

Thanks for being there when we need you!

We are sooooo lucky to have you as our mom, you're the best!!!!

Love, Landon & Carson.



Gage Lambert
January 11, 2016

Happy 10th birthday Gage!

Can't believe you are growing up so fast!

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

From all your family.



Dylan Boyington
January 11, 2016

Happy 9th birthday.

Mom and Dad love you very much!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Mom & Dad.



Kya O'Neal
January 8, 2016

Happy 8th birthday Kya!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Mamaw loves you very much and hopes you had a fantastic day.

Love, Mamaw.



Taylor Smith
January 14, 2016

Happy 8th birthday Tailor!

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

Love, Mom, Dad, and Tayla.



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

**Brittany Bowman &
Brandy Gregson
January 11, 2016**

Best wishes to the best twins ever!

Turning "26" and wishing you both many more to come.

Love, Brittany.



**Irene Bryant
January 17, 2016**

Happy birthday Irene!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

From your family and friends.



**Sam Frazier
January 20, 2016**

Happy birthday Sam!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

From your wife Ieesha and the rest of your family and friends.



**Craig Villeret
January 20, 2016**

We wish you a special happy birthday Dad!!

Thanks for being there when we need you!

We are sooo lucky to have you as our dad; you're the best!!!!

Love Landon & Carson.



**Thomas Berthelot
January 24, 2016**

Happy birthday Thomas!

We hope your day was as special as you are to us!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love you, Dad, Mom, Pops, Paw Paw, Maw Maw Sheila, & family.



**Elijah Bailey
January 25, 2016**

Happy birthday Bear!

We love you Elijah!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Daddy, Mommy, Poarcha, & Kadence.



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

Sheila Colbert Berthelot
January 29, 2016

Happy birthday to the best mother, maw maw, and best friend a family can ask for.

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

The Bivona family, the Villeret family, and the Berthelot family.



Jacob McGhee
February 4, 2016

Happy birthday Jacob!

We love you tremendously and are very proud of you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Daddy, Momma, and Zack.



Karsyn Wiggins
February 7, 2016

Happy 1st birthday Karsyn!

We love you so very much!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Mom, Sister, grandparents Ben and Ruthie, Great Grandmother Julia Stacey, and all of your family and friends.



Trinity McGhee
February 7, 2016

Happy birthday Trinity!!

We love you so very much!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Great Grandmother Julia Stacey, Grandmother Juliette, Dad, family, & friends.



Keegan McGhee
February 9, 2016

Happy 5th birthday Keegan Man!

We are all so very thankful that God blessed us with you!

You're one handsome, smart, fun-loving, little boy. We love you!

Love, Great Grandmother Julia Stacey, Paw Paw Rod, Daddy, Momma, Sissy, and family.



Emma Bivona
February 9, 2016

Happy birthday Emma!

Is's hard to believe that just 8 years ago God choose us to be your parents.

We love you babycakes!

Mom, Dad, Paisley, Maw Maw Sheila, and Pops.



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

Braxton Lee
February 10, 2016

Happy birthday Braxton!

We love you so much!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Great Grandmother Julia Stacey, Paw Paw Rod, Momma, Daddy, & Hannah Banana.



Bella Sanspree
February 12, 2016

Happy birthday Bella!

We love you sweet girl!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Great Grandmother Julia Stacey, Nana, Daddy, Danielle, and family.



Leverne Roden
February 12, 2016

Happy 71st birthday to the world's greatest mom and best friend a girl could have.

You are the glue that holds our family together.

I love you Mom, hope your day is all your heart desires.

Love, your family.



Anna Grace Hollinger
February 12, 2016

Happy 7th birthday Anna Grace!

Wishing you an amazing day!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Mommy, Daddy, Austin, & Denver.



Bryan Hutto
February 14, 2016

Happy birthday Bryan!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

From your family.



Tripp Lassiter
February 14, 2016

Happy birthday Tripp!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, your family.



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

Gary Pruitt, Sr.
February 16, 2016

Happy birthday Gary!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

From your family.



Josh Thomas
February 17, 2016

Happy birthday to the best
daddy and husband ever!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

Love, Jen, Major, Deacon,
Ashton, and Brantlie.



Maxine Lassister
February 17, 2016

Happy 73rd birthday
Maxine!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

From your family and
friends.



Zachary Hutto
February 17, 2016

Happy 13th birthday Zach!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

From your family.



Abby Cobb
February 18, 2016

Happy 1st birthday Abby!

Your smile is contagious!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

Love, Mom, Dad, and
Emma Grace.



Noah O'Neal
February 18, 2016

Happy birthday Noah!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

Mamaw loves you very
much and hope your day is
filled with lots of love and
presents.

Love, Mamaw.



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

Kenslee Savannah Chavira
February 19, 2016

Happy 8th Birthday
Kenslee!

You have brought so much
joy to our lives and we are
truly blessed to have you
in our lives.

We love you, Mom, Dad,
Aron, Crimson, Papa,
Nana, and the rest of your
family.



Tommy Smith
February 22, 2016

Happy birthday Tommy!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

Love, Kelly, Taylor, and
Tayla.



Skylynn Leyva
February 22, 2016

Happy birthday Skylynn!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

From your family.



John O'Barr
February 24, 2016

Happy birthday!

We love you and hope
your birthday is just as
amazing as you are.

Love, Stacie, Kennedy-
Reese & family.



Cash Sellers
February 24, 2016

Happy 2nd birthday Cash!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

From Nana B (Betty
Peacock) and the rest of
your family and friends.



Lea Odom
February 25, 2016

Happy 11th birthday Lea!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

From Mom, Dad, Myra,
Bryant, and the rest of
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.

Tabatha O'Neal
February 25, 2016

Happy birthday to my beautiful daughter Tabatha.

I love you very much and hope you have a wonderful day.

Dad and I are very proud of you and all of your accomplishments.

Love, Mom.



Clint Lassiter
February 26, 2016

Happy birthday Clint.

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives!

Love, your family.



Eddie L. Tullis celebrated his birthday on January 9, 2016. In the January issue of the newsletter his birthday is erroneously reflected as January 8, 2016. We apologize for the error and hope that Mr. Tullis had a great birthday!

There are two great days in a person's life - the day we are born and the day we discover why.

William Barclay

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Introducing

SAPPHIRA ROSE HENDERSON

December 18, 2015 🌟 5 lbs 13 oz 🌟 19.7 inches

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. *Psalms 139: 13-14.*

Welcomed with love. Mom. Sabra Henderson. Maw-Maw Carole Henderson. Aunt Sarah Henderson. & Uncle Kyle Ratliff.



Introducing

CHRISTIAN A.C. DAUGHTRY

December 20, 2015 🌟 7 lbs 🌟 21 inches

"For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him."

1 Samuel 1:27 KJV

Welcomed with love. Dad & Mom. Trevor & Megan Daughtry. big sister Gabby. and big brother Samuel.

Wedding Announcement

ROY F. DAVIS & CYNTHIA R. DEMALO
DECEMBER 3, 2015

Roy Farren Davis and Cynthia Rose DeMalo were married on Thursday, December 3, 2015.

I love you more than you will ever know! Today, tomorrow, and always. We are blessed to have each other and look forward to many years together to come.

Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Davis!



Happy is the man who finds a true friend, and far happier is he who finds that true friend in his wife.

Franz Schubert

In loving Memory of ELVIS PRESLEY

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS PASSING: FEBRUARY 8, 2015

Papa.

It's been a year since Papa left us.

It's been a year since I've heard the voice that lulled my heart into harmony.

A year since I've felt his loving arms around me; a year since I have walked in the living room and seen him in his recliner smiling at me.

It has been a year since I've seen his eyes smile from his cheeks; a year since we've had any quality time.

It's been a year since I've slept soundly instead of crying myself to sleep.

A year since I've done anything but miss that man, that man that I called Papa.

By Olivia Powell



Elvis Presley

August 20, 1961 - February 8, 2015

Sadly missed

Cloey, Olivia, Katie, & family.

Remembering You Time slips by and life goes on, but in our hearts you're never gone. We think about you always, we talk about you too. We have so many memories but we wish we still had you. Unknown

My Heartbeat Dad, your memories have become my heartbeats which means I am thinking of you all the time...I love and miss you. Unknown

DEEP APPRECIATION & THANKS

our community has stood together to help us. This has been such an incredible and blessed experience! There are really no words to describe how you have made me feel.

My wife and children often suffered from my eye problem. There have been times we could not go and enjoy the things we love. If it was windy or dry outside, my eyes hurt. I could not do anything but sit in the dark with my eyes closed. It often made me feel like there was no light at the end of the tunnel. We are a family that loves being outside, fishing, gardening, going on walks, and just spending time outside, but these are things that we have had to do less and less. We often had fears that this disease would progress and I would go blind before we were able to get the help we needed. You have all had a hand in taking that fear away.

I am employed with the Tribe as a Tribal Police Officer. My vision problems also threaten my ability to do my job. I take my roll as a police officer very seriously. I want to break the stereotype that officers are just there to either arrest you or pull you over. I want to prove that a police officer is a public servant that is there for his community. I want to be there to make everyone feel safe and secure. I want to continue to be someone that our children can look up to and come to in time of need. I love each and every one of these children, and the community. Our children are our future.

There are no words to describe how excited I am to have my vision corrected. You have given me the gift of knowing that I will not lose my sight, nor will I have to stop doing what I love!

Again, thank you to all who have helped in this journey. You have blessed me and my family beyond measure! All I can do is promise to pass it forward!

God bless you all!

Billy Bailey and family.



The Billy Bailey family. Sophia, in red, in front of Cheyanne, Kyiah, and Billy, with Carson on the back.

MVTO!

Dearest Tribal & Community Members,

On behalf of myself, my wife Cheyanne, and my children, I wanted to send to all of you the our deepest appreciation and thanks. You have all touched our lives in a way that you will never know. We are completely humbled by your prayers and generosity. It feels so good to know that I have Tribal and community members who have been so willing to help me and my family. I know that I will not be able to thank each of you individually, but we try.

For those of you that may not know, I have Keratoconus, a degenerative disorder of the eye and am scheduled for surgery. I have had this eye problem for many years.

I never dreamed of asking for help for the procedure I need, yet I prayed regularly asking God to give me the means. Asking for help is something that is so hard to do. I am supposed to be the one that helps others, not the other way around. Thanks to my mom, Cheryl Bailey, for shedding light on our situation. We were completely blown away at how

TRIBAL MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

TALON OVERSTREET WINS PUNT, KICK, & PASS COMPETITION

Congratulations to Talon Overstreet for winning two of the three events in the 15-18 age group of Tribal Court's recent Punt, Kick, and Pass competition. Talon won the event overall as well.

Congratulations Talon! We are proud of you!

Mom, Dad, and family.

Submitted by Robin Overstreet



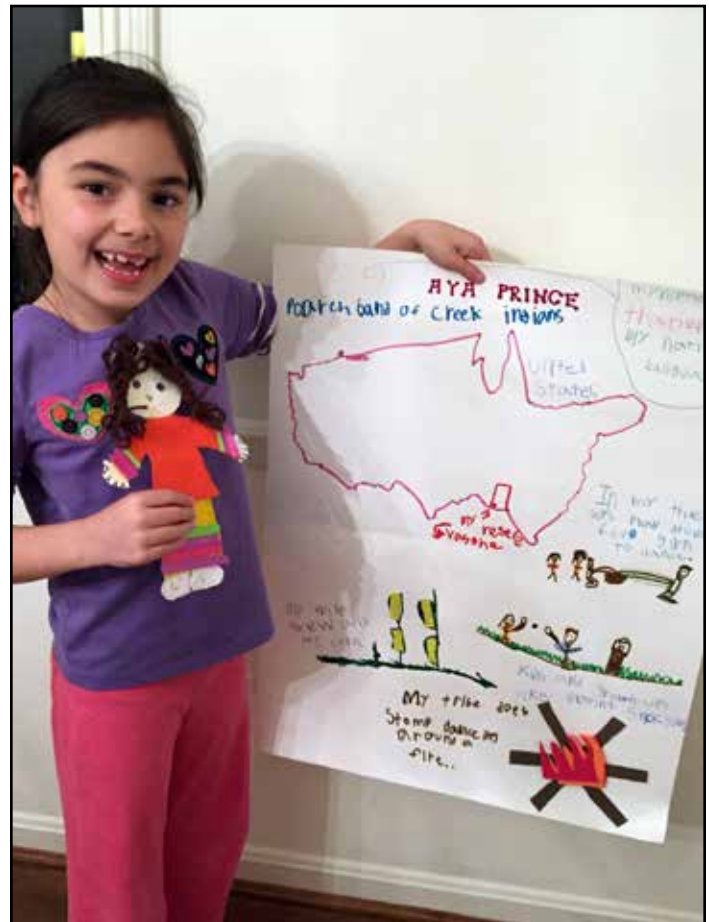
POARCH CREEK INDIANS AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF A FIRST GRADER

Aya Prince, daughter of Venus and Jim Prince, presented the poster "Poarch Band of Creek Indians" to her first grade class at Luxmanor Elementary in Rockville, MD.

Aya is the granddaughter of Jack Allen and Charlotte McGhee, and the great granddaughter of Ernestine Daughtry.

"When I received a copy of her drawing I was amazed at the mind of a 6 year old that does not live here; but has been taught her heritage from the time that she could comprehend her Poarch Creek culture. It is amazing what the mind of a child can come up with. These children are our future and we should make every effort to have them embrace where they come from." Charlotte Meckel.

Submitted by Charlotte Meckel



COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Karla Martin, Division Director

Dr. Karla Martin, a member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Alabama, and went on to receive her Master of Arts and PhD in Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During her academic tenure, she was chosen as a McNair scholar at UA and a Royster Scholar at UNC.

Ever a proponent of education, Karla served as a professor at UNC and Illinois State University where she taught history and multicultural education courses, an identity course, and graduate-level courses in Indigenous studies and educational sociology. In 2013, Karla was chosen to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at Arizona State University at the Center for Indian Education. In this position, she worked with scholars to do research on Native American



education and helped prepare fellow educators to work with Native students throughout many tribes. Most recently, Karla has served the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in her role as the Cultural Director since 2014.

While away gaining education and experience, Karla remained very involved with her Tribe as an active member of the Education

Advisory Committee, where she currently serves as the Chair, and the Education Endowment Committee. Though Karla has lived outside the Poarch community for many years, she has sacrificed time away from her family and friends with the intention of coming back home to contribute her knowledge and experience to those she loves most: the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Karla's expertise, experience, and vision regarding educational endeavors will serve her well in her new role as the Community Services Division Director. In this position, she will oversee and coordinate the efforts of the Education, Boys and Girls Club, Cultural and Museum, and Recreation departments.

*Background information
provided by Tribal Chair's Office*

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At the Anchor Desk! Tribal Princesses visited WKRG TV 5 during the Great Toy Drive. Shown left to right are Little Miss Tehya Rolin, Senior Princess Breanna Hall, Elder Princess Mary Murphy, and Elementary Princess Leah Rolin.

PCI PRINCESSES PARTICIPATE IN THE GREAT TOY DRIVE

On December 10, 2015 the Elder Princess, Mary Murphy, and Senior Princess, Breanna Hall, shopped with WKRG Channel 5 to purchase toys for the Great Toy Drive. On December 17, 2015 the Princesses went to the toy collection site at WKRG and Senior Princess Breanna Hall was interviewed for the live broadcast. The Princesses were able to assist in the collection and purchase of toys, and helped deliver toys to the collection location. The Great Toy Drive helped many children and families in need during the Christmas holiday. The toys were distributed across the Gulf Coast through the Salvation Army and Toys for Tots.

Our Tribal Princesses represented PCI well in helping with this event. The Poarch Creek Indians and Wind Creek Casino have been proud to help with this great cause over the past several years.

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



YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Small Decisions Make Big Things Happen

Make It Fancy

Sometimes I need a little food inspiration.

I started doing some research.

I wondered, *how do other countries serve healthy vegetables?*

Wow! I found so much to choose from. Does every country have a vegetable-based dish that North Americans have not been eating? Pretty much.

For example, in Northern Italy, it's *bagna cauda*, a warm dipping sauce made of olive oil, butter, garlic, and anchovies. All you do is combine those and serve with a heaping platter of vegetables. Think broccoli, red and yellow peppers, fennel, celery, carrots, radishes, zucchini and summer squash, radicchio, Belgian endive, any sort of snap bean, asparagus, scallions, sugar snap peas, and snow peas. If you want a more substantial meal, add cheeses or grilled meats.

Bagna Cauda

- ¾ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 tbs. butter
- 2 tsp. chopped garlic
- 8 to 10 anchovies, chopped

In a saucepan on low heat, combine olive oil and butter. Add garlic, and cook until it's soft but doesn't become crisp or take on any color. Add anchovies. Cook it all together, mashing with a wooden spoon until the anchovies become a paste. Transfer the mixture into a ceramic bean pot or fondue pot to keep it warm, and serve. Now that's how you make vegetables a party!

Cultural Influence

I often hear from clients the struggles they have to eat healthy while maintaining their cultural



traditions. One important element to remember is how our activities have changed from previous generations. As you study your own culture and look to the past, how similar is your current lifestyle compared to your ancestors? If they were to whisper guidance in your ear, what insights would they give you? Undoubtedly, we have to evolve with changing times while maintaining a healthy lifestyle and cultural traditions. Trying new ways to prepare foods we like will keep it fun and flavorful!

Feel free to reach out to me and enjoy your extra day this month to do something great!

- 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
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YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Small Decisions Make Big Things Happen

Not *What* But *How*

Question:

“What is the best exercise to control high blood pressure?”

Answer:

All of them! The best exercise to control high blood pressure is virtually any exercise, like walking or cycling or light weight training, especially if your workouts are spread throughout the day. Exercise lowers blood pressure by altering blood vessel stiffness so blood flows more freely. This effect occurs during and immediately after a workout, so the blood-pressure benefits from exercise are most pronounced right after you work out.

Glenn Gaesser, the director of the Healthy Lifestyles Research Center at Arizona State University was recently quoted in the New York Times saying, “Even standing might work.” He is an expert on exercise and hypertension. In a 2012 study by Dr. Gaesser, three 10-minute walks spread throughout the day were better at preventing subsequent spikes in blood pressure than one 30-minute walk. If a 10-minute walk sounds daunting, try standing more often.

In another study led by Dr. Gaesser, overweight volunteers with blood pressure problems were asked to sit continuously during an eight-hour workday while their blood pressure was monitored. The readings were, as expected, unhealthy. But when, during another workday, those volunteers stood up every hour for at least 10 minutes, their blood pressure readings improved substantially. The readings were even better when the volunteers strolled at a pokey 1-mile-per-hour pace for at least 10 minutes every hour. “Exercise intensity does not appear to play any significant role in helping people control blood pressure,” Dr. Gaesser said. So, it’s not about the exercise you choose, but how you use it: in small, bite-sized pieces.



The Thing to Remember Is:

Movement is what matters. The great news from this research is that small increments of movement make substantial changes in blood pressure. This is something in your control. Go for a stroll a few times during the day or simply stand up more often to develop healthier blood pressure. This applies to all of us, let’s try it together!

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)



FACILITIES DIVISION

Wesley Woodruff, Division Director

Westly L. Woodruff is a member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and has over eighteen years of professional experience with facilities maintenance, mechanical maintenance, continuous improvement, industrial sales, and management. Westly graduated from Snead State with an Associate Degree in Human Resources, and acquired his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management at Athens State University. Prior to working as the Procurement Officer at Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority, he served in various roles for Huhtamaki, a global company with over 16,000 employees and 36 facilities in sixteen countries. He also previously worked as Account Manager for Guntersville Steel & Mechanical. In 2013, Westly received his Certified Purchasing Professional certification from the American Purchasing Society.



Born in the South and raised locally in Bratt, Florida, Westly is a veteran of the United States Marine Corp and was stationed at NAS Pensacola, FL and Camp Lejeune, NC. He and his wife Sallie, a local business owner in Daphne, AL, have one daughter, Madeline Woodruff, who attends Daphne East Middle School.

Westly is the grandson of the late Lawrence Walker and Reva "Snooky" McGhee Walker.

Westly's extensive experience in the industrial field, accompanied with his passion for bringing vast improvements to the Tribe, make him the ideal candidate for his new role as Facilities Division Director. Within this position, he will oversee the Public Works, Facilities, and Transportation departments.

Westly and his family are truly excited about this opportunity with PCI, and he looks forward to becoming a key contributor to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Background information provided by Tribal Chair's Office



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Not to be combined with other offers. Blackout dates apply. Management reserves all rights.



251-368-8182
MuskogeeInn.com





Soup of the Day

 Sunday: Broccoli & Cheese	 Monday: Beef Stew	 Saturday: Chicken & Rice
 Tuesday: Chicken & Dumplings	 Wednesday: Chicken Noodle	<i>All soups are \$4.99 and come with a side salad</i>
 Thursday: Loaded Potato	 Friday: Chili	

HEALTH & ELDER SERVICES DIVISION

Edie Jackson, Division Director

Edie Tullis Jackson is a member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and has been employed with the Tribe for over 24 years. She holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Administration from Auburn University and an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration from Jefferson Davis Community College.

Edie began her employment with the Tribe in 1991 as the Federal Accounting Director. She was later promoted to Comptroller before becoming the Tribal Administrator for the Tribe. As Tribal Administrator, Edie has been actively involved in and responsible for programs offered to Tribal Members. Additionally, she provided supervision and direction to all departments falling within Tribal Government Administration including the Health Clinic, SAIL Center, and Assisted Living Facility.



Aside from her employment with the Tribe, Edie currently serves as the Chair of PCI's Election Board.

One of Edie's proudest accomplishments is being a mother. She has two sons, Chance and Casey, both of which are currently attending college. As an active member of the Atmore community, she has served on various organizations'

boards including the Chamber of Commerce and Relay for Life, and is a graduate of the Leadership Atmore program and Leadership Alabama program. Additionally, she attends the First Assembly of God Church in Atmore.

As the Health and Elder Services Division Director, Edie will oversee the Health Clinic, SAIL Center, and Assisted Living Facility. Her intimate knowledge of these departments and the programs they offer make her an invaluable asset to this division. Edie is excited about the opportunity to serve the Tribe in her new role. She looks forward to focusing her efforts on providing an elevated level of health and elder services to the members of her Tribe.

*Background information
provided by Tribal Chair's Office*

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ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

The friendly staff at the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility (ALF) is available to provide assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Residents are encouraged to be as independent as possible, but should a need arise; staff is available to offer help at any time of the day or night. Staff will provide assistance with daily living skills such as grooming, bathing, shaving and dressing as well as medication administration. We have a full time RN on staff that assists with managing residents healthcare needs. The facility offers three nutritious meals a day in a warm and comfortable environment with many additional amenities that foster a community atmosphere.

If you or a loved one find it burdensome to maintain a home and need assistance with medication, transportation, or personal care services, please contact us for additional information about our facility and the services we provide. The Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility offers one and two bedroom units to Tribal Members, First Generation and Tribal Spouses who need assistance.



Please stop by and let us take you on a tour of our state of the art facility. You can meet with our dedicated staff and 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 or your loved one is looking for peace of mind and want to make a move in 2016, please 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.

Free Tax Preparation and Counseling
By IRS Certified Tax Preparers
January through April 15, 2016

Locations:
Atmore/Brewton/Flomaton/and
Poarch Creek Reservation at
Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility

By Appointment Only
Call now to schedule an appointment
251-867-0255 or 251-867-0256

Free tax preparation is provided through a federal grant from the IRS for taxpayers age 60 and above with annual household income not exceeding \$51,000.

Tax returns will be electronically filed to the IRS and the Alabama Department of Revenue.

Ask about Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Education Credit through (American Opportunity Tax Credit & Lifetime Learning Credit)

US Savings Bonds available for purchase with a qualified refund.

Tax Counselors are available on site to assist you.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Valid Photo ID
- Social Security Card for all qualified taxpayers and dependents
- W2 Form
- SSA1099 for Social Security Beneficiaries
- Form 1099
- Form 1095
- And any other required tax documentation.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Take advantage of the Health Clinic and utilize its resources to the fullest!



The Lab Department can draw blood for doctors other than those here at the Health Clinic. Just provide the Clinic with a doctor's order for the lab procedure and a fax number to fax the results to. This can save you time going out of town, just to have lab work done.

Be sure to contact the Primary Care Patient Registration at (251) 368-9136 x 2306 or 2355 to schedule an appoint for you lab work!



The x-ray department can do all types of x-rays ordered by your doctor. We will need a doctor's order for the x-ray and a fax number to fax the results to. Save time and money, have your x-rays here at the Health Clinic.

Be sure to contact the Health Clinic at (251) 368-9136 x 2353 or 2352 to schedule an appointment for your x-ray!



Any ultrasound, except for an ultrasound of the heart, can also be done here at the Health Clinic. All we need is an order from your doctor and a fax number to send results to. Take advantage of your clinic and utilize its resources to the fullest.

Be sure to contact the Health Clinic at (251) 368-9136 x 2353 or 2352 to schedule an appointment for your ultrasound!

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PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

Bruce Lee, Division Director

Bruce Lee, a native of the Citronelle area, holds a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Emergency Management, a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, and a Bachelor's Degree in History. Additionally, he is a FBI National Academy Graduate (179th Session) and has completed the FEMA Professional Development Certification.

He brings over 30 years of experience in all areas of law enforcement and public safety to the Tribe including patrol, investigations, drug enforcement, special operations, administrative services, personnel management, and emergency management. He also serves as an adjunct instructor for Faulkner University and was a national level trainer for the Gulf States Regional Center for Policing Innovations. During Bruce's years of public service, he worked with the FBI in Washington, D.C. and has spent the past 27 years working with the Mobile County Sheriff's Office.

Bruce is an individual who brings compassion and integrity with him wherever he goes. Furthermore, he



has truly worked his way up to the top and fully understands what it takes to be a successful leader. His career began as a support employee and security police officer with the FBI in Washington, D.C. Before accepting his position at PCI, he served as Captain of the Mobile County Sheriff's Office with as many as 125 Deputies and supervisors, 60 support personnel, and more than 150 volunteers under his command at one time. From his experience, he developed a strong belief that it is important to train and develop talent from within your organization. As a result, the legacy you leave as a leader will be the people you've

helped support and develop, not the individual accomplishments you might have achieved.

On a more personal note, Bruce grew up outside of Citronelle, has lived in Saraland for the past 25 years, and attends church in Chickasaw. He met his wife at Faulkner State Community College in Bay Minette, and they are the proud parents of three adult children.

As the Public Safety Division Director, Bruce's extensive knowledge and broad experience bring a dynamic component to the Law Enforcement, Tribal Court Administration, and Fire/EMA departments that he will oversee. When asked about working for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Bruce replied, "I have built my life around protecting and serving others. With that being said, it will be my honor and privilege to protect and serve the members of the Poarch Creek Indians and their community."

*Background information
provided by Tribal Chair's Office*

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Henry Ford

TRIBAL COURT

Not exactly an exciting vacation destination, rock bottom refers to the very lowest level. Often used to describe a point in life of an addict when they are finally willing to seek help and things are so bad that it is impossible to deny their problem anymore. This may be a particular event or a slow decline over time. Rock bottom is different for each individual, as some addicts will be willing to suffer more than others.

A rock bottom could include: loss of a job/relationship breakup, legal/health/financial or social problems. Many addicts describe rock bottom as “finally becoming sick and tired of feeling sick and tired.” Some common ideas/myths I see daily concerning rock bottom and addictions:

1. There is a common myth that addicts need to lose everything before they will be willing to get help. The fact is there is no need for people to lose everything. Some will lose more than others, but it's up to the addict to decide they've had enough.
2. Rock bottom and denial: Many times addicts are prevented from hitting rock bottom because of denial. All humans use denial in some ways, but it is particularly strong in addicts. The addict uses



denial because they don't want to face the real reason their life is falling apart.

3. The addict *must not* be denied their rock bottom. Family members will cover for, make excuses for, repeatedly bail the addict out of trouble, etc. These enabling behaviors are problematic, as they prevent the addict from fully absorbing the consequences of their continued use. It is very important to make the addict accept responsibility for their behaviors. It is not the fault of the police, the court system, the probation officer, mama, dad, etc. The addict is responsible for their actions and the addict alone is totally responsible for their recovery.

There has been much talk of denial. My experience has been that many addicts are not only in denial that they have a problem, they are also in denial of the way they must live to remain clean and sober. There is no magical cure in any rehab no matter how expensive. Many times addicts will agree to attend rehab to satisfy the court, parents, spouses or employers. Very few are willing to put in the work required to stay clean after completion of rehab. The only easy path to recovery is to accept the hard path. Keep moving forward.

Wes Hayles, M.S. / Certified Addiction Counselor

Sometimes God lets you hit rock bottom so that you will discover that He is the Rock at the bottom.

Tony Evans

- ALERT FM emergency notifications for a user's current geo-specific location and a single bookmarked (saved) location are free!
- This allows GSS to list the app for free in the Apple and Android marketplaces.
- App includes the ability to bookmark 5 locations to monitor NOAA weather alerts and dynamic "follow-you" geo-targeted NOAA weather alerts when the user is on the move.
- Incredibly fast push notification technology for weather and emergency alerts.
- Users will be notified using the app's text-to-speech and vibrating alert capabilities. Both continue to function when the phone is inactive or locked. This is perfect for visually impaired citizens.
- Simple functionality. The user enters a "home" zip-code upon launching the app. This connects the user with state and local emergency managers on the GSS network.
- When an alert is received and the app is opened, the user can replay the voice alert and read the complete text of the alert.
- ALERT FM notifications are prioritized and enabled by default as a "critical alert type" within the app. The user cannot deactivate critical alert notifications.





FM radio-based Alert and Messaging System



ALERT FM RECEIVER

The ALERT FM Receiver is an inexpensive device which receives potentially lifesaving emergency alerts and messages. These alerts and messages could include NWS severe weather warnings, homeland security notices, hurricane evacuation instructions, Amber Alerts, or school closings. The emergency information is sent out by federal, state, or local government agencies or by companies wishing to distribute information. This receiver can be used in both fixed and mobile applications due to its size and ability to be powered by an A/C wall adaptor or battery.

FEATURES	BENEFITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No recurring subscription fees • Programmable for up to 30 addresses including zip codes, local or state government, or organizational groups • Powered by "AA" battery or A/C power adaptor • Automatically tunes itself to the strongest FM signal • Programmable for NWS severe weather warnings • Programmable for up to 30 additional messaging services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inexpensive device to own and operate • One receiver can be used for multiple geographic or organizational sending sources • Operational in either stationary or mobile mode • Excellent message receipt • Broad range of messaging content included • Additional message content will be available in the future

COST	SIZE	BATTERY LIFE	ACCESSORIES INCLUDED
\$39.99	3" x 3" x 1"	Up to 2 months	A/C Power Adaptor

TRIBAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Poarch Creek Emergency Management and Fire Department have partnered with Global Security Systems (“GSS”) to bring an emergency alert system to the Tribal community.

ALERT FM, an end-to-end notification platform based on FM radio broadcasts fed by satellite. ALERT FM does not only include FM-broadcast based messages but also CAP-EAS, and emergency notification smartphone applications. The ALERT FM only provides the end user of NOAA weather warnings for their area. ALERT FM does not activate for a NOAA weather watch.

The benefit on ALERT FM is the Tribal Emergency Management Department has the ability to send messages to the end user’s receiver or smartphone application via a secure portal. The end user will need to contact Poarch Creek Fire Department to have their receiver activated. Smartphone application users need to use code “69701” for their zip code when setting up app.

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)

REGULATORY, GRANTS, & COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Carolyn White, Division Director

Carolyn M. White, an enrolled member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, was born and raised in Escambia County, Alabama where she continues to live. She is a Licensed Certified Social Worker and received her Associate Degree from Jefferson Davis Junior College, Bachelor Degree from the University of South Alabama, and Masters of Social Work from the University of Alabama. She also graduated in 2013 from Faulkner State Community College's Paralegal Certification Program.

After almost 30 years of state service, Carolyn retired from the directorship of the Escambia County Department of Human Resources in 2005. Not content to let her valuable skills sit idle, she accepted the position as Director of the Department of Family Services for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. In October 2011, Carolyn began working within the Tribe's Legal Department as a Legislative



Assistant in order to expand her knowledge and experience.

In her role as Legislative Assistant, she has worked closely with many Tribal departments and has been focused on drafting, researching, and codifying Tribal laws, their history and other legislative activities. Under legal supervision, Carolyn has drafted laws, regulations, policies and procedures, revised Tribal programs, and established

guidelines for new service programs. During 2007, Ms. White was appointed to the inaugural Board of Directors for the Tribal Employment Rights Commission and is currently serving as Chairman of the newly formed Tribal Regulatory Commission.

Carolyn has an unprecedented thirst for knowledge and constantly seeks ways to improve the functionality of the Tribe. Her keen attention to detail and strong work ethic will serve her well in her new role as the Regulatory, Grants, and Compliance Division Director. In this position, she will oversee the administration of regulatory, grants, and compliance activities which are delegated to the TERO Office, Environmental Department, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and grant/contract managers.

*Background information provided by
Tribal Chair's Office*

Brandon McGhee
Cell: 251-359-3283

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TRIBAL MEMBER SERVICES DIVISION

Martha Gookin, Division Director

Martha Gookin is a proud member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and earned her Master's Degree in Counseling in 1996 from Denver Seminary. Committed to helping others in times of crisis and hardship, she worked as a therapist for ten years in various treatment settings before coming back home to work with her Tribe. Over the past nine years, she has worked for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in various positions including the Child and Family Welfare Coordinator and the Family Services Director.



for us. Martha loves the Lord and is thankful for the opportunity to continue her work for the Tribe.

Anyone who has interacted with Martha knows that she has a true passion to help her fellow Tribal Members. Within her role as the Tribal Member Services Division Director, Martha will oversee and coordinate the efforts of Family Services, Housing, and Tribal Member Benefits.

On a personal note, she and her husband Todd are blessed to have two wonderful children: Tiffany

Joy and Ryan Clark. She loves to spend time with her family and explore the world God has created

*Background information
provided by Tribal Chair's Office*

EYE CARE

When was your child's last eye exam?



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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.)

Application Received by
March 30th

Check will be mailed
April 30th

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

FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF TRIBAL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

The Family Services Department Announces
2016 WINTER LIHEAP INFORMATION
(Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

DISTRIBUTION DATES: Tuesday -Thursday February 2, 3, 4, & February 16, 17, 18
 Tuesday - Thursday March 1, 2, 3

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR ALL APPLICANTS

- Current energy or gas bill.
- Social Security cards for ALL members of the household. There will be no exceptions or approvals without SS cards. This is a federal requirement.
- Tribal ID for applicant/head of household.
- Current income verification for all household members that are over the age of 19, such as paystubs, paychecks, letters of salary verification, etc.
- If anyone in the home over the age of 19 is unemployed, you must bring a statement verifying they are not working. The statement must be signed by three people who do not reside in your household and must include their phone numbers.
- Current verification if receiving state unemployment benefits.
- CURRENT Social Security or Disability Income Verification. We must have current income verification on file for all 2016 applications and services.

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

Please be aware of household income adjustments.

LIHEAP applicants must meet listed income guidelines to qualify.

2016 PER CAPITA TOTAL = \$24,315.56

Family Services Department
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502
(251) 368-9136 x 2600(Office) / (251) 368-0828 (Fax)

**ESTIMATED STATE MEDIAN INCOME, BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND BY STATE
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2016**

State	Estimated State Median Income for 4 person family	60% of Estimated State Median Income for 4 person family	60% of Estimated State Median Income					
			1 Person Family	2 Person Family	3 Person Family	4 Person Family	5 Person Family	6 Person Family
Alabama	\$66,253.00	\$39,752.00	\$20,671.00	\$27,031.00	\$33,392.00	\$39,752.00	\$46,112.00	\$52,473.00
Florida	\$65,764.00	\$39,458.00	\$20,518.00	\$26,831.00	\$33,145.00	\$39,458.00	\$45,771.00	\$52,085.00

2016 Winter LIHEAP dates and times.

DAY	DATE	TIME	PRIORITY SCHEDULE
Tuesday	February 2, 2016	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Seniors & Disability Income Only
Wednesday	February 3, 2016	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Senior households; households with children under age 5; and households receiving food stamps and TANF benefits
Thursday	February 3, 2016	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	All types of households
Tuesday	February 16, 2016	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	All types of households
Wednesday	February 17, 2016	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	All types of households
Thursday	February 18, 2016	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	All types of households
Tuesday	March 1, 2016	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	All types of households
Wednesday	March 2, 2016	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	All types of households
Thursday	March 3, 2016	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	All types of households



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Non-Divisional DEPARTMENTS

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Monday, February 15, 2016

All Tribal Government offices, including Boys & Girls Club, gym, and Museum, will be closed in observance of Presidents Day.

Friday, March 25, 2016

All Tribal Government offices, including Boys & Girls Club, gym, and Museum will be closed in observance of Good Friday. *Happy Easter!*

Saturday, March 26, 2016

The gym will be closed in observance of Good Friday. *Happy Easter!*

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

We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining - they just shine.

Dwight L. Moody

Goodness is about character - integrity, honesty, kindness, generosity, moral courage, and the like. More than anything else, it is about how we treat other people.

Dennis Prager

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of Business and Professional Studies

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

The Legal Department would like to provide Tribal Members with an update to pending litigation affecting your interests as Tribal Members. If you have any questions regarding any of these matters, please feel free to contact your Tribal Council members at (251) 368-9136 or the Legal Department at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2525.

TRIBAL LITIGATION

Poarch Band of Creek Indians v. James H. Hildreth, Jr. (Federal Court)

The Tribe filed this complaint in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama on May 26, 2015, against Escambia County, Alabama Tax Assessor Jim Hildreth. The Tribe's Complaint requests that the Court declare that the lands are not within Hildreth's taxing jurisdiction and asks the Court to issue a preliminary and permanent injunction to prevent him from taxing the Tribe's trust property in the future. Hildreth filed his brief in opposition to the Motion for Preliminary Injunction on June 16, 2015.

The Court granted a preliminary injunction in favor of the Tribe on July 22, 2015. Hildreth appealed this order to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals on July 28th. The parties have submitted briefs on this issue. The United States filed a brief supporting the Tribe's position on October 28, 2015. Hildreth filed a reply brief on November 16th. The Eleventh Circuit will hear oral arguments on the appellate issues at a later date.

When Hildreth filed his answer to the Tribe's complaint in the District Court, Hildreth also asserted a counterclaim against the Tribe. In his counterclaim, Hildreth asks the Court to (a) declare the Tribe is not

an Indian tribe and not entitled to any of the rights and privileges, (b) declare that any federal trust established for the Tribe's benefit is void, (c) declare that the lands are not "Indian country", (d) declare that the Tribe does not have sovereign immunity, and (e) order the Tribe to pay his attorney fees. On or about August 4, 2015, Hildreth amended his answer and counterclaim to add the Tribal Council in their official capacity, the United States of America, and various federal officials, departments, and agencies as defendants. Both the Tribal defendants and federal defendants submitted Motions to Dismiss on November 2, 2015. Hildreth filed a response to the motion to dismiss on November 25th. Arguments on the Motions to Dismiss were heard in the District Court on December 22, 2015.

Hildreth retired from the office of Escambia County Tax Assessor on September 30, 2015, and his successor is Thad Moore, Jr.

TRIBAL LEGISLATION

As always, to promote dissemination and public access to Tribal laws, Tribal Member public viewing is available during office hours at the Tribal Chairman's Office, Tribal Council Office, Tribal Court, Education Department, and the Office of Archives and Records Management.

The Tribal Code is also available online, 24 hours a day, by clicking on the links found on the Tribe's website, www.pci-nsn.gov. Also full copies of any Titles or amended legislation may be obtained by contacting the Office of Archives and Records Management at (251) 446-4540.

Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.

Potter Stewart

A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.

Marcus Garvey

OFFICE OF ARCHIVES & RECORDS MANAGEMENT

ARCHIVAL TIME CAPSULE FOR 2016: BRING US YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS!

Would you like to be a part of our 2016 archival time capsule? The Office of Archives and Records Management is putting together a time capsule filled with copies of treasured photographs and records on Creek history to be placed in the American Indian Records Repository in an underground limestone cave administered by the Department of Interior (DOI) in Lenexa, Kansas—an ideal climate-controlled environment. Do not miss this exciting opportunity to preserve photographs of your loved ones in perpetuity.

How does it work? During the month of February, you may take your original photographs and records to the Office of Archives and Records Management at 100 Brookwood Rd., Atmore, AL, and our professional staff will make copies of them while you wait. Your originals will be returned to you to take back home. We will place the copies into our federally approved storage container which serves as our time capsule. We will seal and ship the container to the Repository where it will remain for as long as the cave exists.

What is the significance? The time capsule preserves our records on Tribal history for future generations by safeguarding them from natural



Photo by Department of Interior used with Permission

disasters in the hurricane zone of the Gulf of Mexico region. Director Dave Beeksma (DOI) said, "They (the American Indian Records Repository) work to preserve and safeguard trust, education, and other historic Indian Affairs records going back as far as the 1700s." Preserving these records helps "the government fulfill its trust obligations" to Tribes and ensures that our precious records will be saved.

We are following in the footsteps of our Creek ancestors by preserving our history, albeit by the modern method of this time capsule. Our ancestors preserved our history by passing down knowledge by word of mouth to the next generation called oral history. They also preserved our history through records in pottery, stone carvings, seashells, and copper,

one of which is represented in the Calendar of Creek Chiefs, mailed to Tribal Member households in December. The description says, "The Chief's copper image pre-dates writing in this region by a thousand years. ...He was a well-loved leader among the tribal towns of our ancestors who displayed his image from village to village."

To preserve your images in the 2016 archival time capsule, submit them by the deadline of February 29 at 5:00 p.m. If you have questions, please call us at (251) 446-4942 and our courteous staff will be happy to assist you. Mvto.

Submitted by Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ed.D.

TRIBAL ENROLLMENT

On January 1, 2015 there were 3,056 enrolled Tribal Members of the Poarch Creek Indians. During the year 37 new members were added to the roll, either as newborns or through corrected blood quantum. Sadly, 39 members passed away during 2015, leaving a total of 3,054 enrolled Tribal Members as of December 31, 2015.

To those who lost loved ones this year, you are in our thoughts and prayers and we pray for your strength and guidance.

Deceased Tribal Members:		Melvin McGee	June 21, 2015
Avery Oliver Cardwell	January 13, 2015	Betty Bridges	July 19, 2015
Danny Rolin	January 21, 2015	Dorren Colbert	July 26, 2015
Genese McCraney	January 23, 2015	Carolyn Reed	August 1, 2015
Glenda Castillow	January 28, 2015	Charlotte E. Turk	August 11, 2015
Laura Abbott	January 30, 2015	Linda Jones	August 25, 2015
Geneva Shivers	February 4, 2015	Mary Frances Arp	August 28, 2015
Annie Westbrook	February 4, 2015	Deborah A. Barnes	September 5, 2015
Chester E. Presley	February 8, 2015	James Gibson	September 13, 2015
Hollis Hicks	February 11, 2015	Sara N. Cumbie	October 2, 2015
Connie Ryals	February 17, 2015	Willie Lois Fore	October 7, 2015
Kathleen Gibson	March 7, 2015	Dewey L. McGhee	October 16, 2015
Aubrey A. Malone, Jr.	March 25, 2015	Bridgette Plemons	October 17, 2015
Alice Tolin	March 30, 2015	Ervin Woods	October 22, 2015
Ruthie Leigh Shelby	April 7, 2015	Kevin Shipps	November 8, 2015
Norma Arnette	April 7, 2015	Carey J. Henson	November 15, 2015
Cora Mable Everette	April 16, 2015	John A. McGhee	November 23, 2015
Carrie Jane Leonard	April 26, 2015	Earnestine Gunn	December 11, 2015
Arnold Vickery	May 6, 2015		
Frank Beltram	May 9, 2015		
Chester F. McGhee	May 15, 2015		
Velma S. Hollingsworth	May 28, 2015		

*Our earthly loss is always a heavenly gain
Although our hearts hurt and mourn in humanly pain
The fact still remains the same
That Heaven has gained more love
To sprinkle down from above*

– Antonio Talbert

*Perhaps they are not the stars, but rather openings in
Heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and
shines down upon us to let us know they are happy.”*

– Unknown

TRIBAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Utilities Authority continues to experience a tremendous amount of growth, particularly with the expansion of our subsidiary, Escambia Community Utilities, LLC. Our most recent growth can be attributed to taking over the Canoe Water System. As with most growth, this transition has required a diversity of additional responsibilities for our entire Utilities Team. Recent weeks have been consumed with verifying and cataloging account information as well as analyzing the infrastructure and the Canoe community to successfully locate utility lines, meters, and numerous underground utilities. We believe this transition will prove to be a great partnership for all parties involved and appreciate our customers in the Canoe area for being patient with us while we address some accounting matters and reconcile records and information.

PCI Utilities is always, seeking grant funding opportunities for needed improvements. We were successful in 2015 in obtaining federal funding to assist us with some major projects. Some of these projects have been completed while some are still underway but we always look forward to improving the conditions of our systems in an effort to exceed customer expectations and ensure longevity of the services that we provide.

PCI Utilities is very appreciative to have our 2016 operating budgets for our multiple systems approved as presented. We take great satisfaction in being a self-sustainable entity of the Tribe and each PCI Utilities team member works vigorously to ensure that we continue to become more and more prosperous while providing our customers with quality water and waste water needs. We hope our growth continues to be a success for the Tribe.

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.

APPLICATION FOR SERVICE

Applications for Service with the Utilities Authority are available at the Utilities Department and have been posted on the Utilities Authority page of the Tribal web site, www.pci-nsn.gov.

Applications must be downloaded, completed, signed, and returned to the Utilities Authority. Signed applications must be hand delivered or mailed to Poarch Creek Indians Utilities Authority at 263 Aplin Road, Atmore, AL 36502.





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 251-368-081. Please ask for Ed Powell, Business Development Analyst, (epowell@pcicie.com) or Chad Klinck, CIEDA CFO (cklinck@pcicie.com).






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Do the Right Thing

Rolin Construction reaps benefits of loan program

Rolin Construction's goal is excellence at every level. During the past 10 years, the company has grown from a small renovation and home builder to providing state-of-the-art developments for not only Poarch and Atmore communities, but in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Rolin Construction is owned and operated by Tribal Member Shawn Rolin, son of Eugene "Buster" and Bessie Rolin, and his wife, Stephanie. The company is a full-service construction company specializing in new commercial and multi-family construction and renovations. Of the 35 employees on staff, 68 percent are Poarch Creek Indian Tribal Members or Tribal stakeholders.

But like any growing contractor, Rolin Construction found itself in need of additional equipment to add to its fleet. That's when the Rolins decided to seek a loan through the Loan Program at Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA).

"Initially we bought a truck with the existing money we had on hand," Stephanie Rolin said. "However it ended up needing repairs that we couldn't cover, so the CIEDA Loan Program was our best option for getting a new vehicle." CIEDA ended up providing Rolin two separate loans over three years for the same vehicle, repairs and eventually replacement.

"The CIEDA Loan Program has been a blessing to our company and employees," Rolin said. "The staff made sure our paperwork was in order and was very supportive to us. They made the process so much easier and understood the importance of getting our main fleet vehicle back to work as quickly as possible. They kept us positive when we were uncertain and made the loan program process very smooth.

"The low interest rate offered through the loan program was more than competitive," she said. "The quick turnaround was another blessing. They processed the loan agreements

with ease, and we went and bought the truck. This loan program got us out of a bind, and for that, we will always be grateful."

Rolin Construction builds for the Tribe, the U.S. government, private and public industries. In 2015, they were very proud to lead the team on the construction of the Wind Creek Casino B.B. King Blues Club Hotel and Casino in Montgomery for PCI Gaming. They are also completing the NAREL project with the Environmental Protection Agency at Gunther Air Force Base in Montgomery.

"Both project owners are very pleased with the construction process and our team," Rolin said. "This is what it's all about — doing the right thing and bringing in our projects on time and within budget."

The company has also been involved in the construction of Creek Travel Plaza, Buford L Rolin Tribal Health Clinic, Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility and the Moniac Townhouse project.

Rolin's advice for other Tribal Members who are considering applying for a loan through the CIEDA Loan Program is to make sure your business plan is rock solid.

"CIEDA will guide you through the process of making a business plan, but you have to know what you want to do." Start small and make sure you build your credit, she said.

"We found these to be the most important factors during the first three to four years of growing our business. It's very important to have lenders available for support, and remember, they (lenders) are looking for businesses and individuals with proven records of payment and a solid business plan."

If you are a loan recipient and would like your business featured in upcoming articles, call Marketing Specialist Jen Peake at 251-359-4340.



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist



Lock your doors

You might not think this is important — I mean, if you pay at the pump, you spend maybe five to seven minutes getting gas — but what you might not realize is there are some people who are good at grabbing things from your car while your back is turned watching the pump numbers

tick off. These thieves crouch down low and ease your door open just enough to grab a purse on the front seat, a wallet that was thrown on the dashboard, the loose bills you placed in the cup holder for your fast food run. CCSA does have many surveillance cameras, but even in broad daylight, the swiftness of thieves often is so quick that management might not catch it. Locking your doors can prevent you from losing something valuable.



CCS
ATMORE



Inspect devices

Credit card skimmers have become increasingly popular in the past decade or so. Skimmers are devices that fit over the existing card slots on ATMs and gas pumps, and they capture your card number and PIN when you slide the card in and out to pay. To avoid becoming a victim, look

closely at the slot where your card goes and pull on it to see if it moves. If it gives ANY, don't insert your card and alert management immediately. Also, look for brochure holders on the station near the keypad. Small cameras can be hidden inside them to help thieves get your

Fill cans on ground

There are stickers all over pumping stations at CCSA reminding people of this, but some just do not heed the warnings. Portable cans are extremely unstable, and when you start adding fuel to them at a rapid pace, things can go wrong very quickly. Static electricity charges can ignite from the vapor, and spills can cause greater harm and, in some cases, explosions if the vapors are extreme. The ground is always the safest place. Also, keep the nozzle in constant contact with the container while filling it up.



Put out cigarettes

The vapors gasoline emits are highly flammable. Therefore, any spark from lighting a cigarette while you wait for your car to be fueled can cause a fire.

Find well-lit stations

Believe it or not, not all gas stations have adequate lighting. If the bulbs produce dim light and the only other light source is from the sign out front, choose a different station if possible or at least a pump closest to the door of the convenience store. And scan the area constantly for pickpockets and potential robbers. While shopping inside, keep your head up even when searching for items on the bottom shelf. You are more apt to see something from your peripheral vision if your head isn't lowered. CCSA often has Tribal Police officers on site, so if something looks suspicious, find an officer or management immediately to report it.



Tips for staying safe at the pump

When your car needs fuel, there's usually not much thought put in to the process.

You pull into a gas station, pay and pump, right? It's so simple and automatic that most people don't stop to consider there are dangers lurking at the pump.

At Creek Convenience Store Atmore (CCSA), safety of our customers and employees is our highest concern. Our manicured landscape keeps the area open and clean, our parking lot is well lit at night, and inside the store, the aisles are clear and bright. But what about the things we can't control, such as static electricity, fuel fires caused by cigarettes, credit card skimmers and thieves? To prevent these hazards, the consumer must be alert and aware at all times while doing such a mundane task as pumping gas.

That's why it is important to keep these five things in mind when you fill up.

Leadership Atmore tours MT

Our community will always need good leadership. One way to build new leaders is to teach people how to play to their individual strengths so they can get involved and make a difference.

Leadership Atmore does just that. Sponsored by the Atmore Chamber of Commerce, the program exposes participants to issues and resources on the local and state levels.

“Our goal is to establish a strong leadership base so when young professionals get back into their particular area of business, they take the skills they learned in the program and become involved at work and make this a better place to live,” said Susan Smith, Leadership Atmore Steering Committee Chair. “It’s just that simple.”

Recently, members of the current class took a tour of Muskogee Technology (MT). There, they learned about what the company does, how it bolsters the aerospace industry and how it stimulates the local economy

by creating jobs.

Smith said the program consists of eight to nine sessions involving all aspects of industries in Atmore and the state. Participants learn about the history of Atmore and how the town was started. They also get hands-on learning experience in real-life business.

“It’s a fantastic program,” Smith said. “It has been going on for about 30 years, and we have had members who grew up here, some who just moved here and others who have been involved in the community for years.”

With each new leadership class, discussions from the committee team on which businesses to feature often change up the direction the class takes.

Muskogee Technology was chosen because of its widespread growth in capabilities over the years. The recent freezer and cleanroom additions at MT allowed for further opportunity to showcase how the company has used its knowledge to its advantage.

The leadership class was able to view a presentation about MT and tour the facilities, seeing firsthand how investing in learning cutting edge manufacturing process, such as composites, can catapult the industry and exponentially increase job opportunities.

“Leadership Atmore creates a professional network of individuals who form bonding friendships and business relationships and learn how to support each other as well,” Smith said. Learning different business avenues and how they help sustain communities gives the program members insight to better their community.

But it’s not just locally, she said.

“We have an upcoming trip to Montgomery to learn about law and government and how things are done,” she said. “This program helps you learn about yourself, where you best fit with your talents and how you can make a difference not just locally, but across the state and the nation.”



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

Savory Soup



CHILI

Soup: It's what's for dinner. Or lunch. For when you are sick, or when winter hits and you need to take the chill off and warm up.

Soup is the ultimate comfort food for when it's cold outside. Heat up a bowl of chili, chicken noodle or potato soup and your day instantly gets better ... and warmer. Soup leftovers are also good for freezing to eat later.

Soups are popular during the winter months, but soup got its start as a quick, on-the-go type of meal and as an easy meal to serve invalids. In today's modern era, soup comes in a variety of forms, and its tastes are different in every region and culture.

At The Diner at Creek Travel Plaza, soup has become a staple on the menu, and the staff has recently started serving a Soup of the Day special. **For only \$4.99, each day offers a different soup with a side salad and bread.**

Sunday's soup is broccoli and cheese, Monday is beef stew, Tuesday is chicken and dumplings, Wednesday is chicken noodle, Thursday is loaded potato, Friday is chili and Saturday is chicken and rice.

"Our soups are made fresh from scratch daily," Diner Manager Candy Stuckey said. "Soups are always nice to have on the daily menu for people who might just want something light or are cutting back on their daily (calorie) intake."

Stuckey said the chicken and dumplings seems to be the most popular soup.

"But the bowl of chili is trailing close behind it," she said. About 30-35 bowls or cups of soup are sold each day.

Since the soups became a daily special, Stuckey said soup sales at The Diner range from 1 to 2 percent of daily intake.

"Someone might be feeling a little under the weather one day, and it's nice to have a warm cup of soup to make you feel better," Stuckey said.

Bon appétit!



POTATO



CHICKEN & DUMPLINS



BEEF STEW

By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist



Mission: Helping people help the land

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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

Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left.

Aldo Leopold

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Sidney Sheldon



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February (Hotvlē-Hvse) 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

February 1-2, 2016

Monday & Tuesday,
Museum gift shop closed for monthly inventory

Friday, February 5, 2016

5:00 pm (CST)

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

Monday, February 15, 2016

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

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

College & Career Fair
5:30 - 6:30 pm
Poarch Creek Tribal Court Room
Contact Education for more information

Winter LIHEAP

Tuesday-Thursday
February 2-3 & February 16-18
March 1-3

Tribal Council Meetings

Thursday, February 4th & 18th
Building 500 Auditorium 4:00 pm

Tribal Court Sessions

Monday, February 8th & 22nd
Tribal Courtroom 9:00 am

Tribal Regulatory Commission Meetings

Tuesday, February 9th & 23rd
Building 500 Auditorium 8:00 am

Calvin McGhee Cultural Advisory Committee

Monday, February 8th 4:00 pm
Cultural Building on Hwy 21

Education Advisory Committee

Wednesday, February 10th 3:00 pm
Family Services Conference Room
Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic

Utility Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, February 18th 1:00 pm
Utilities Office

Friday, March 25, 2016

Tribal Government Offices, Boys & Girls Club, Museum, and Gym will be closed in observance of the Good Friday

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Last day to submit Application for Quarterly Reimbursement through Tribal Utilities Assistance Program for reimbursement check to be mailed on April 30, 2016.

Did you get your 2016 Calendar of Creek Chiefs?

As a gift this winter season to Tribal Members, the Office of Archives and Records Management mailed the Calendar of Creek Chiefs to every Tribal Member household in

December, 2015, utilizing the same address labels used to mail out the *Poarch Creek News*. If you have not yet received your Calendar, please come by our Office at 100 Brookwood in Atmore in the complex of the Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority and pick up your

Calendar. Our Office is open from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have questions, please call us at (251) 446-4942 and our professional courteous Team is happy to assist you.

Mvto, Deidra Surwanee Dees, Ed.D.

Newsletter Contact Information

Poarch Creek News

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

Government Relations Department

Gayle Johnson, Editor

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