

*Cokv-Tulvme/Newspaper (joh-guh duh-luh-mee)*

# *Poarch Creek News*

## *April 2016*



Creek Indian Enterprises  
Development Authority



*Volume 34, Issue 4 | Tasahce-Rakko (April)*

*Keeping the friends & family of Poarch informed*

# A Moment With The Tribal Chair

April 2016

Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair [sbryan@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:sbryan@pci-nsn.gov)

I hope all of you had a wonderful Easter and were able to celebrate our risen Savior. I know He has truly blessed me and there is so much I owe to Him. I am so thankful for all He has done in my life and in the lives of those around me.

As I reflect on the life of Christ, I am constantly reminded that He was a loving servant in all that He did. From birth to crucifixion, He always sought to love and to serve so that we “may have life and have it more abundantly” John 10:10. Because Christ is the perfect example for us to follow, I asked myself how I might be the servant to my people that He was for all of us. I believe the answer is “to lovingly serve.”

I was thankful to have another birthday this past March, and as I grow older, I realize that love is

much more than a word or an emotion – love is an action. Sometimes, love means disciplining those you love – like your children. At other times, love might mean telling someone no – like a loved one who is struggling with addiction. Love isn’t always easy, but love is always worth it.

Similarly, serving others isn’t always easy, but I have found that it is certainly more blessed to give than to receive. As such, I have asked the Tribal Government departments to focus more on the customer service they provide. While we can’t always give you the answer you’d like to hear, I hope you’ve noticed an increased quality of service provided to you. If not, I ask for your patience as we instill this valuable approach into all of our departments.



As always, thank you for all of your support and your continued prayers for your leaders, your Tribe, the community, and our Country. I truly love each and every one of you. May God continue to bless you and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

In love,

Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair/  
CEO

---

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

*Joseph Marshall, Lakota Sioux*

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

*Chief Seattle, 1854*

*Listen to the wind, it talks. Listen to the silence, it speaks. Listen to your heart, it knows.*

*Native American Proverb*



## CONTACT NUMBER FOR POARCH CREEK INDIANS

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The main contact number for Tribal offices of the Poarch Creek Indians is (251) 368-9136; all Tribal Government departments/programs can be reached by dialing this number.

If you choose not to use the animated system, please dial 0 and you will be connected with Thelma Williamson, Receptionist. Thelma will be happy to assist in connecting you with the appropriate person, department or program.

The official contact number for the Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic is (251) 368-8632. This number is for Health Department calls only.



## Tribal Council Values

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

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



## Tribal Council's Purpose

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

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



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



## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- **Submission Criteria**

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

- **Copyright Materials**

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

- **Birthday & Anniversary Wishes:**

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

- **Obituaries:**

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

- **In Memoriam:**

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

- **Birth Announcements:**

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

- **Engagement/Wedding Announcements:**

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

- **Photo Submissions:**

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

- **Corrections:**

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



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31 DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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 to update your information.



53 CIEDA/ NRCS UPDATES

# A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Please note that the word limit for Tribal Member Submissions has increased to 300 words or less.*

## 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	300 words or less
Birth/Wedding	200 words or less
Graduation	200 words or less
Achievements	200 words or less
In Memoriam	250 words or less
Obituary	250 words or less
News Article	400 words or less

## DEADLINES

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

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

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

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

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





# TRIBAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES BOARD VACANCIES

The Tribal Council has announced vacancies on the Ethics Board. The Tribal Council will be taking applications for two (2) vacancies on the Ethics Board and one (1) vacancy for an Ethics Board alternate through 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 29, 2016.


If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, an application is available on the Tribal Council page of the Tribe's official web site, [www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov); the application may be completed and submitted directly from the web site.

You may also pick up an application at the Tribal Chair's Office in the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility located at the Tribal Complex, 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore AL or contact Kelli Ramer, Tribal Council Office Director, at (251) 368-9136 x 2110.

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

Once the April 29, 2016 deadline has passed, a list of all applicants will be published for your review. Please review to ensure that your name is listed if you applied for any of these vacancies. If your name is not listed, please contact the Tribal Chair's office immediately at (251) 368-9136 x 2110.

For your convenience, the list will be posted on the outside bulletin board in front of Building 100, the Receptionist/Front Desk in the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility, the Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic, and the Tribal Council page of the web site, [www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov).




**MICHAEL KORS**


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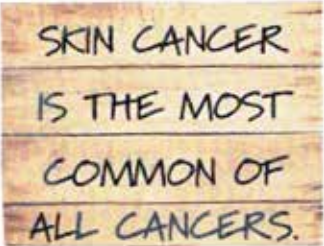

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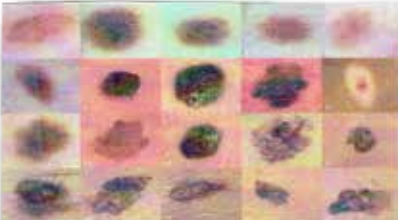
**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

APRIL 19, 2016 @ 6PM

WIND CREEK BALLROOM

TOPIC: SKIN CANCER

Refreshments will be served



# Y<sub>OUR</sub> 2015-2016 T<sub>RIBAL</sub> C<sub>OUNCIL</sub>



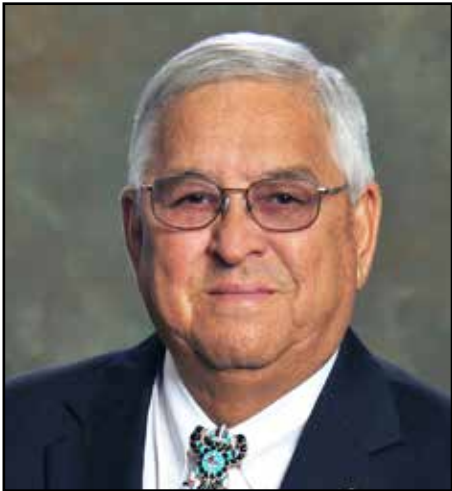
*Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair*  
[sbryan@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:sbryan@pci-nsn.gov)



*Robert R. McGhee, Vice Chair*  
[rmcghee@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:rmcghee@pci-nsn.gov)



*David W. Gehman, Secretary*  
[dgehman@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:dgehman@pci-nsn.gov)



*Eddie L. Tullis, Treasurer*  
[etullis@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:etullis@pci-nsn.gov)



*Sandy Hollinger, At-Large*  
[shollinger@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:shollinger@pci-nsn.gov)



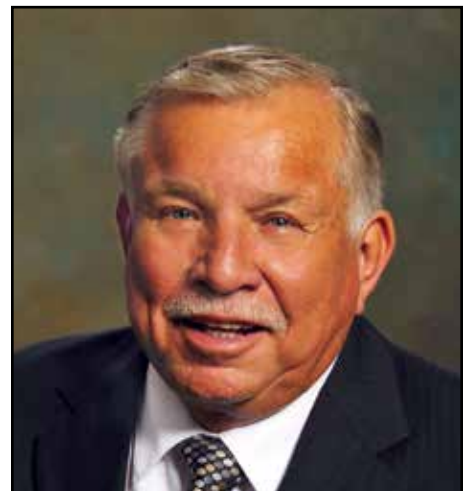
*Keith Martin, At-Large*  
[kmartin@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:kmartin@pci-nsn.gov)



*Kevin McGhee, At-Large*  
[kdmcghee@windcreekatmore.com](mailto:kdmcghee@windcreekatmore.com)



*Arthur Mothershed, At-Large*  
[amothershed@windcreekhospitality.com](mailto:amothershed@windcreekhospitality.com)



*Garvis Sells, At-Large*  
[gsells@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:gsells@pci-nsn.gov)



# Tribal Council Update

April 2016

Arthur Mothershed, At-Large

[amothershed@windcreekhospitality.com](mailto:amothershed@windcreekhospitality.com)

Fellow Tribal Members,

As a Tribe we have faced many challenges. This coming August, the General Council will have the opportunity to vote on one of the most important issues we have ever faced as a Tribe. To Ratify or Not is the burning question. There is a lot of confusion and questions surrounding this amendment. What does ratify mean? Will the proposal amend our current constitution? Will it add members? Will it add documents? Does the amendment fix the enrollment issue? Does it open the roll? Does it eliminate first generation?

To ratify means to sign or give formal consent. If the General Council votes to ratify the Tribal Member roll as of August 6th, 2016 it is accepting the roll as it is. No changes to the Membership Roll. It does amend the membership criteria of our constitution.

## Current Requirement

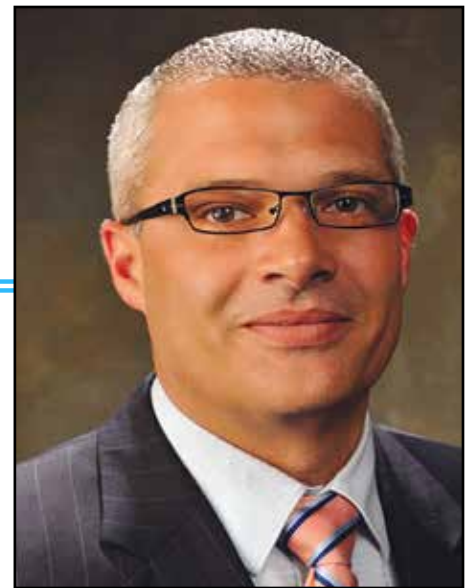
“Only living relatives of those on the Constitutional censuses and who have a blood quantum of  $\frac{1}{4}$  are eligible.”

## Revised Requirement if passed

- “All individuals on the roll as of August 6th, 2016 are eligible even if the individual is not a relative of someone on the Constitutional census or have  $\frac{1}{4}$  blood quantum”

In simple terms, if you are on the roll as of the date of passage you are reaffirmed as a member of this Tribe by the ultimate authority, the General Council. If passed, only the General Council can overturn that action. The current amendment will not add members nor will it add documents. It does not open the roll and first generation designation remains.

As you might expect, some Tribal Members support this amendment while other do not. This issue has touched each of us in some way. It has evoked a level of passion that I have not seen in our Tribe before. We must all do what we believe in our heart to best for our Tribe. Regardless of your position, make it known in a respectful manner. As we make our decision, try to think of others instead of ourselves. Instead of asking how the amendment



affects me, ask first how it affects the Tribe. Reach out to others for advice and clarification. Seek other opinions but do not become angry when their position is different.

On August 6th, you will have the power to determine whether the amendment passes or fails. It is not a power to take lightly. You will either vote to amend the membership criteria of our constitution and ratify the roll or inform the Tribal Council the proposed amendment is not the will of the people. In closing, I ask that you please vote. If you do not, the true voice of the people may go unheard and that would be the biggest travesty of all.

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

Vince Lombardi

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

Margaret Chase Smith

# Congressional Update

April, 2016

Representative Bradley Byrne (251) 690-2811 [Byrne.House.Gov](http://Byrne.House.Gov)

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In Southwest Alabama, we have a proud tradition of hunting and fishing. As a kid, some of the favorite time I spent with my family was at our hunting camp near Stockton. I also have so many fond memories of fishing on the Gulf with my dad. I've carried these same traditions on with my kids.

Sadly, federal policies and rules sometimes make it harder for Americans to enjoy our natural resources. For some reason, federal bureaucrats believe the water and woods belong to the government and not the people. Whether it is closing off federal land to hunting or giving us an extremely short Red Snapper season, the government keeps getting in the way.

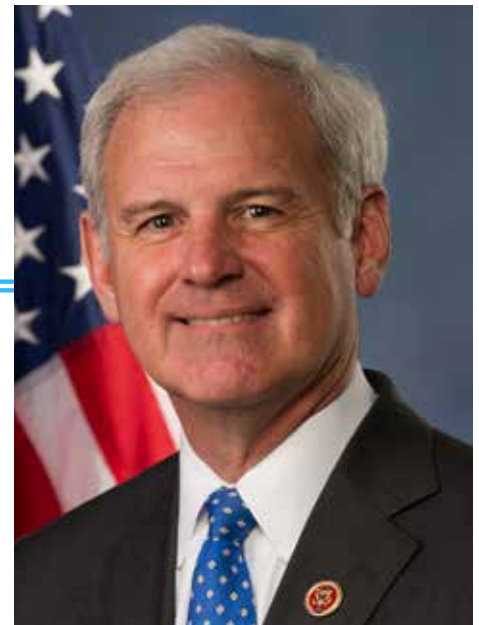
Recently, I voted for a bill that will make life a little easier for our nation's sportsmen. The bill, known as the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act, does not solve every problem facing our hunters and fishermen, but it is a big step in the right direction.

For example, the bill opens up more federal lands for hunting and fishing by requiring the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service to open federal lands for hunting, fishing, and shooting. If they decide to close off land, they must notify Congress and explain the reason for the closure.

Another issue impacting our sportsmen is efforts to push through new gun laws. As a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, I have always fought back against attempts to make it harder for law-abiding Americans to get a gun.

The SHARE Act helps protect the Second Amendment by allowing lawful possession of firearms on Army Corps of Engineers lands, such as campgrounds. This will ensure that every American has the right to protect themselves while at Army Corps facilities.

Even more, the SHARE Act encourages federal land management agencies to partner with state and local governments to



operate shooting ranges. Shooting ranges are important tools to help promote gun safety procedures.

Supporting hunters and fishermen shouldn't be a Republican or Democrat issues. It should be an area where we can find common ground. That's why I was pleased to see the SHARE Act pass the House with bipartisan support by a vote of 242 to 161.

Let's work together to make life easier for sportsmen all across the country and ensure that family traditions of hunting and fishing can continue for decades to come.

---

*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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I AM ALABAMA.

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# Paradise found



## Holiday Inn Resort a great investment for CIEDA

Build it and they will come. It might sound cliché, but the words ring true for the Holiday Inn Resort on Okaloosa Island, Fla.

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA) partnered with Innisfree Hotels to develop the resort back in 2012, but the project was in the planning stages as early as 2009.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians retain 80 percent ownership in the resort.

Because the hotel sits on Air Force land in Florida, many details had to be worked out before construction could begin. But once started, the project took shape quickly and opened in May 2014.

The resort features 152 beach front rooms, and amenities include a seasonally heated beachfront lazy river pool, indoor heated pool, hot tub, beachfront tiki bar, game room, dive-in movies, kids activities (seasonal) and kid's club area. There also is a full-service restaurant that offers breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The resort offers 2,500 square feet of meeting space and is directly across the street from the Emerald Coast Convention Center's 24,000 square feet of space.

With the property doing so

well, CIEDA is now planning Phase 2 of the project, building a second, larger hotel adjacent to the resort.

"We are working on finalizing plans for a Hilton Garden Inn that will be next to the Holiday Inn Resort," Director of Development Rich Chism, for Innisfree Hotels, said. Chism said the new hotel will be Gulf front and feature 178 rooms, a lazy river, a dune walkover to the beach and an indoor pool. The hotel will open in Spring 2017.

### In the beginning

As CIEDA was rolling out its efforts to dip into outside investments, Innisfree Hotels was searching for investors for new hotel developments. Through a chain of events and a few relationship contacts, CIEDA began talking with Innisfree about future projects.

CIEDA President and CEO James T.

Martin had worked with Innisfree CEO and Founder Julian Macqueen in the past on the construction of the Calumet Office Building in Nashville for Indian Health Services.

After a few discussions, Martin and other CIEDA officials decided investing in hotel development with Innisfree would be a profitable and rewarding joint venture for the Tribe's portfolio and a sound investment in the long run. And they were right.

"The relationship CIEDA has with Innisfree is a close one," Martin said. "Julian and I work well together and have the same vision for the future. **We are honored to be partnered with such a reputable group of people and be good neighbors to the state of Florida.**"

### Seeing results

Innisfree CFO Brooks Moore said the resort is yielding fantastic returns for CIEDA.

"In 2015, cash distributions paid to CIEDA yield a 20.5 percent return on equity (ROE). We anticipate paying a distribution to CIEDA in 2016 that will yield an ROE of 40 percent," he said.

Chism noted that Tribal members also reap the

By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist





**Tribal Members get a 20 percent discount at Holiday Inn Resort on Okaloosa Island, the new Hilton Garden Inn and The Hyatt Place in Pensacola.**



benefits of Tribally owned hotels.

**“The Poarch Band of Creek Indian Tribal members receive a 20 percent discount off the Best Rate Available for all three Innisfree hotels in which the Tribe has invested,”** Chism said. “The Holiday Inn Resort here on Okaloosa Island, The Hyatt Place in Pensacola at the airport, and once it’s built, the Hilton Garden Inn. Each hotel honors the Tribal member discount.”

**Tribal members should present their Tribal Member Card at the time of check-in and reference the discount when booking a reservation.**

In 2013, CIEDA partnered with Innisfree to open the 127-room Hyatt Place hotel at Pensacola International Airport. This hotel is convenient for travelers because it has a covered walkway from the airport and airport shuttles to the hotel entrance. No taxis required. The property features a 24-hour fitness center, a covered outdoor patio with fire pit, indoor lap pool, free breakfast bar, deli, digital flight board and much more.

### **Hidden surprises that benefit all**

To most tourists, and locals alike, the beach ball on the roof of the Holiday Inn Resort is just a decorative way of tying in the beach atmosphere and to the property. However, the large sphere is not just any beach ball. It’s actually a military

radio signal receiver.

To the military, the hotel is known as Eglin Air Force Range Test Site A5, which includes 724 square miles of land ranges and more than 86,500 square miles of water ranges in the Gulf of Mexico.

Innisfree was allowed to build on Air Force land in exchange for allowing the military to construct a rooftop receiver station and having a secure control room for classified meetings.

**“There is also optical tracking equipment on the roof,”** Chism said. **“The testing agency uses the facility to track the planes and missiles that are tested over the Gulf of Mexico.”**

And the general public is none the wiser. When vacationers were asked what they thought about the dual-purpose beach ball, many were delighted to know it helped the military and its training efforts. Local residents of Fort Walton Beach and neighboring cities also were in favor of the hidden surprise. Many cited that the hotel was a win-win for civilians and military personnel because it allows additional beachfront property to be utilized and brought in more tourism to stimulate the economy.

“When the (federal) government has underutilized land that it still needs for its

missions, it places the land in a program called the Enhanced Use Lease program,” Chism said. “Private developers are asked to make proposals for the development of the project and pay the government a lease fee. In our case, we paid the government an initial lease fee and now pay a percentage of our gross revenue every month, so it benefits the government to support the operations of the hotel.”

### **The beach effect**

The Holiday Inn Resort isn’t just another hotel lined along a street vying for guests. This property truly sits in paradise.

From every direction you can see nothing but beach, sand, surf, palm trees, a pier ... you name it. “Resort” definitely encompasses the feel of this vacation destination.

Innisfree General Manager Jennifer Crook said the hotel’s occupancy rate has grown each year since opening and has exceeded expectations.

“The conference room is utilized primarily by government officials — international and domestic — Department of Defense contractors, local government agencies. It is also used for weddings, usually in October, March, April and May.”

# 2016 Tribal Council Election Notice

**When:** June 4, 2016

**Location:** PCI Community Resource Building (Old SAIL Center)

**Time:** 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Purpose:** The purpose is to elect a Tribal Secretary, a Tribal Treasurer and one(1) at-large councilman for three(3) year terms.

**Deadline to Declare Candidacy:** A written statement of candidacy must be filed with the Election Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 in order for the name to appear on the official ballot and to have a biography published in the May newsletter. The biography is limited to 500 words and includes a photograph. It shall only include biographical information and not any political platform or views.

A written statement of candidacy must be filed with the Election Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 5, 2016. However, any written statements of candidacy filed after April 5, 2016, but before May 5, 2016 will be a write in on the ballot and will not be published in the newsletter.

**Walk-In voting:** Monday, May 23-Friday, June 3, 2016 as listed:

\*Monday, May 23-Saturday, May 28 daily from 9 a.m.-6p.m.

\*Closed on Sunday and Monday, May 29 and May 30.

\*Tuesday, May 31-Friday, June 3 daily from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Request for Absentee Ballot** must be received by the Election Board no later than close of business on Tuesday, May 24, 2016.

Absentee Ballots must be received by the Election Board no later than close of business (5 p.m. CST) on Friday, June 3, 2016.

**Results of 2016 Tribal Election** will be posted at the PCI Community Resource Building (Old SAIL Center back door), at the Tribal Center on the Community Bulletin Board, and will be printed in the July PCI Newsletter.



# ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

## 2016 POARCH CREEK INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION

### SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016



I, \_\_\_\_\_, am an enrolled member of the Poarch Creek Indians, and will be at least eighteen (18) years of age on or before June 4, 2016.

When requesting a ballot one will be mailed to you for the following elections: June 4, 2016 and Run-off election if applicable.

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

FIRST MIDDLE MAIDEN LAST

STREET ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP CODE

( )  
TELEPHONE NUMBER DATE OF BIRTH TRIBAL ROLL NO.

Each person requesting an absentee ballot "MUST" fill out this form completely and sign his/her own request.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

RETURN THIS FORM BY MAIL TO: POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS  
TRIBAL ELECTION BOARD  
5811 JACK SPRINGS ROAD  
ATMORE, AL 36502  
BY FAX: (251) 368-5079  
OR EMAIL: [ELECTION@PCI-NSN.GOV](mailto:ELECTION@PCI-NSN.GOV)

**Requests for Absentee Ballots must be received by the Election Board no later than the close of business (5 p.m. CST) on Tuesday, May 24, 2016. Requests received after the deadline will not be honored.**

Should you have any questions pertaining to the 2016 Tribal Council Elections, please feel free to contact Edie Jackson at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2231 or Gwen Manning at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2281.



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## AMTRAK INSPECTION TRAIN ROLLS THROUGH ATMORE!

Crowds from Poarch, Atmore, and the surrounding communities gathered at the Atmore Train Depot on Thursday, February 18, 2016 to welcome the Amtrak Inspection Train. The goal of the trip was to examine the existing infrastructure and better understand the economic, cultural and mobility opportunities that intercity passenger rail provides in hopes of returning passenger train services to the Gulf Coast. The trip included elected officials, industry representatives, Tribal and community leaders, and federal stakeholders.







## TRIBAL CHAIR MEETS WITH NRCS

*Tribal Chair Stephanie A. Bryan receives framed Native American print from Ben Malone, NRCS State Conservationist*

On February 17, 2016 Tribal Chair Stephanie A. Bryan, meet with representatives from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). Many of the representatives she already knew, but it was her first official meeting with the new State Conservationist, Ben Malone.

The meeting was an informal meet and greet session to allow everyone to introduce themselves and discuss the long

term partnership between the Tribe and NRCS.

During the meeting Mr. Malone presented Stephanie a beautifully framed copy of Water, Life's Flow Soil, Provider of Generations, the 2015 American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month Poster. The poster's artist is Dakota Duncan, of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe who is now living in Fayetteville, TN. If you would like a copy of the poster, it can

be acquired through the NRCS Distribution Center.

Attending the meeting representing the Tribe were Stephanie Bryan, Keith Martin, Kevin McGhee, Sandy Hollinger, Billy Smith, John English, Kent McGhee, Tim Manning, and Tim Martin. Representing NRCS were Ben Malone, Charlie Ramsey, David Elliott, Steve Lloyd, Dr. William (Bill) Puckett, and Katy Sulhoff.



## CLOSE UP 2016

*Sitting left to right: Kimberly McClellan, Jude Parham, Kennedy McGhee, and Alia Snow. Standing to the left, left to right: Halle Rae Peebles, Anna Kathryn Rolin, Xan McGhee, and Breanna Hall. Standing to the right, left to right front to back are, Trista Hill, Hannah Martin, Reese McNairn, Quinn Liddy, and Blake Crook. Not shown are Kamryn Mothershed and Madelyn Boatwright.*

What a great experience we all had in Washington DC! Those who attended were: Xan McGhee, Anna Kathryn Rolin, Jude Parham, Reece McNairn, Breanna Hall, Alia Snow, Halle Ra Peebles, Kennedy McGhee, Quinn Liddy, Madelyn Boatwright, Kimberly McClellan, Trista Hill, Hannah Martin, Blake Crook, and Kamryn Mothershed.

The non-stop adventure began with an early Saturday morning departure from the Education parking lot at 3:15 a.m. en route to the Mobile airport. On our connecting flight in Atlanta we were joined by Quinn Liddy, who arrived on a flight from Memphis. Our group arrived in Baltimore at 11:00 a.m., where we next took a short shuttle ride into DC. Once there, we were greeted by the Close Up team with a relentless, yet exciting, schedule that ensured we all had THE ultimate DC experience.

The following are descriptions of their experiences from these young adults in their own words:

“My favorite experience was meeting with our Tribal leaders and discussing issues within our Tribe.” Quinn Liddy.

“I would say my favorite part about Close Up was hanging out with all my friends, and making new friends from other tribes. We made lots of memories.” Madelyn Boatwright.

“One of my favorite places that we visited was the Ford’s theatre. It is historical because that is where President Lincoln was shot. We also watched an amazing play.” Jude Parham.

“I really enjoyed going to Washington, D.C. and representing the Tribe. I’m very grateful the Council gave us a chance to go, as well as taking time to meet with us while up there.” Breanna Hall.

*Submitted by Bryan Fayard*

# AN EDUCATION SUCCESS STORY

## ALLISON RODRIGUEZ, A DETERMINED STUDENT

Allison Rodriguez is extremely thankful to the Tribe for providing funds from the McGhee-Tullis Tuition Assistance Program that allowed her to obtain her Doctor of Philosophy in Education with a Specialization in Leadership Administration from Capella University. She maintained a grade point average of 3.96, which allowed her to graduate with the honors designation of Graduation with Distinction.

Allison is the daughter of Charlotte & Martin Meckel of Atmore, AL and Ronnie & Zeila Salter of Cusseta, Georgia. She is the granddaughter of Ernestine and the late DC Daughtry of Atmore, AL and Ella and the late Obie Lee Salter of Robertsedale, AL.

Allison graduated from Giessen High School in Germany in 1994. From there she went to the University of Alabama and Columbus State University in Columbus, GA, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Education. She received her Master's Degree from Troy State University.

"I received my Master's degree fifteen years ago and began researching universities where

I could earn my Doctorate, but the choices were limited due to my spouse serving in the military and having to relocate every three years," said Allison. The cost of online universities held her back from obtaining another degree. According to Allison, "the McGhee-Tullis Tuition Assistance Program allowed me to pursue my dream of reaching the highest honor in my career field by returning to school to earn a PhD."

Time management was the biggest challenge that Allison faced, "It was overwhelming at times to balance work, family, and education." The rigorous doctoral program tested her determination and perseverance. Obtaining this degree was a personal goal of Allison's and she knew that it would help her to grow professionally as an educator.

Allison is currently a high school Geometry teacher and has been an educator for seventeen years. "I love being in the classroom, although I am excited about my future career prospects," Allison added. She would love to be an administrator with duties that center on curriculum, allowing



*Allison Rodriguez*

her to continue working closely with students and teachers.

The Tuition Assistance program was not available when Allison earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She did not want to let the opportunity that the funding allowed to go to waste.

Allison is especially thankful to the Education Department and Sheila Fisher, specifically, who has been a tremendous help along the way by managing available funding.

Congratulations Allison!

*By: Annie Nowak*

*The family. We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together.*

Erma Bombeck





*Jonathan Gingerich  
Electrician's Mate  
Nuclear Power First Class (SS)  
United States Navy*

Electrician's Mate, Nuclear Power, First Class (SS) Jonathan Gingerich was born in Iowa City, IA in 1984 to Ryan Gingerich and Anna Lisa (Tullis) Spivey. He is the brother of Heather Montgomery, Derek Gingerich, and Travis Gingerich. His grandparents are Eldon and Judy Gingerich of Kalona, IA and Eddie and Mary Jane Tullis of Poarch, AL. His great-grandparents are Bolt and Florence (Walker) Tullis and Willis and Arentha (Highnote) McGhee.

He moved to the Atmore area around the age of 3 where his family lived until he was 15. He then moved back to the Kalona, IA area where he graduated from Mid-Prairie High School. He attended the University of Iowa studying Microbiology for 2 years until joining the United States Navy in November 2006. He attended

Basic Training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois. Following his initial training, he was stationed in Charleston, South Carolina at the Navy Nuclear Power Training Command where he achieved the rank of E-4 and the Electrician's Mate specialty. He was then transferred to Nuclear Power Training Unit, Ballston Spa in Saratoga Springs, New York where he qualified as a Nuclear Propulsion Plant Operator. During his transfer, he married his beautiful wife Laurel Lea (Garrett) Gingerich of Broken Bow, Nebraska on March 17, 2008.

Following his training, he was assigned to the fast attack submarine USS Pasadena (SSN-752) based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Jonathan's son, Ian Scott Gingerich, was born in Hawaii in April, 2010. During his time onboard, the USS Pasadena completed 2 western Pacific deployments supporting Commander, U.S.

## VETERAN'S SALUTE

7th Fleet. During Jonathan's first deployment, he was initiated into the Royal Order of the Deep and became an Honorable Shellback in King Neptune's Court, an indication that he had crossed the equator while underway. Jonathan also advanced to E-5 during this time.

Following its 2 deployments, the USS Pasadena changed homeports to Portsmouth, New Hampshire to undergo an 18 month-long overhaul. Here, Jonathan achieved the rank of First Class Petty Officer (E-6) and qualified as an Engineering Watch Supervisor, the senior enlisted nuclear operator on the submarine watchteam.

Jonathan left the USS Pasadena in April of 2013 to become an instructor at Navy Nuclear



*Jonathan is shown with his son Ian Gingerich; his great grandmother Arentha McGhee, his mother Lisa Spivey, and his grandmother Mary Jane Tullis. Five generations, a testimony of family love and support.*

Power Training Unit, Charleston, South Carolina. While at this command, he qualified as Engineering Officer of the Watch, a qualification normally reserved for commissioned officers. He also completed approximately 110 semester hours towards his Bachelors of Science Degree in Nuclear Engineering Technologies. He plans to finish this degree by the end of August.

Jonathan has recently accepted orders to the ballistic missile submarine USS Alabama (SSBN-731) homeported in Bangor, Washington where he will serve as the Electrical Division Leading Petty Officer in support of strategic nuclear missile deterrence missions.

Jonathan's awards include: Navy and Marine Corps Achievement



*Jonathan and Ian Gingerich.*

Medal (3), Meritorious Unit Commendation (2), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Navy Good Conduct Medal (3), Navy Expeditionary Medal, National

Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Ribbon, Navy Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon, and Navy Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon

His favorite memories of his time in the Navy have been the port calls in foreign countries. By far his favorite place to visit was Japan. He enjoyed seeing the sights and partaking of the local food. His hobbies include playing board games, watching TV and movies, and spending time with his amazing, loving family.


Jonathan Gingerich, 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.

## HONORING OUR VETERANS

You may submit a veteran's information via email to [gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov](mailto: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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## MARY KAY

# William E. Smith. Jr., MD



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The privilege of practicing orthopaedic surgery for 33 years has been extremely rewarding beyond words. The good news is that it continues to be rewarding and I pursue it vigorously four days per week.

My passions for difficult surgeries, such as the spine and joint replacement, are too physically demanding for my back. These positions of lifting, leaning, and prolonged standing pose a risk of further spine injury. My spine surgery in March 2015 exceeded my expectations and leaves me with a painless spine for the first time in 30 years.

My practice at this point is very busy including outpatient surgeries, injective therapy of the spine and joints. Surgeries include rotator cuff, carpal tunnel, hand surgeries, fracture surgery, and multiple joints. Being a spine surgeon as well as a spine patient has given me a unique perspective in the treatment of spine pain. I continue to perform spine injections under x-ray and perform epidural injections on a daily basis.

I also extensively manage presurgical conditions such as degenerative arthritis of the knee and the spine and multiple areas of the body. When surgery is necessary beyond my self-imposed physical parameters I have a broad collection of trusted colleagues to perform the indicated procedures.

Who would give up this blessing of a life? The privilege and ability to relieve pain and improve lives makes each day an exciting unknown.

I DO NOT PLAN TO RETIRE AT ANY TIME. Fortunately I continue to enjoy a busy orthopaedic surgery practice.



**Adam McGhee**  
**February 3, 2016**

Happy birthday to the sweetest and best husband and daddy!!!

Thank you for the wonderful man you are! We are so blessed by you and thankful for you! We love and adore you!

Jennifer, Madilyn, Samuel, and Abigail.

*Erroneously omitted from March newsletter.*



**Karen Pierce Dossett**  
**March 10, 2016**

Happy 67<sup>th</sup> birthday Karen!

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

Karen is the daughter of the late Girlie McGhee Henson and Carey Henson.

From your family.



**Marie Martin**  
**March 21, 2016**

Happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Thank you for everything you have taught us and done for us.

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

Love, your kids, grandkids, great-grandkids, sisters, and family.



**Pam Williamson**  
**March 21, 2016**

Happy birthday Pam!

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

Pam is the daughter of the late Evon McGhee Menzel and resides in Fairfield, CA.

With love from your family in Alabama!



**Brooks Madden**  
**March 22, 2016**

Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, Brooks!

You have brought so much joy to our lives! We thank God for you daily!

We love you!

Mama, Daddy, Sissy, & family.



**Michelle Leyva**  
**March 24, 2016**

Happy birthday Mommy!

We all love you and wish you a wonderful day!

May God bless you with many more!

Love, Skylynn, Granny Henson, Bubba, Garrett, Nana and Papa, Zaniyah, Aimee, and Lilly.



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

**Betty Caraway**  
March 24, 2016

Happy birthday Betty!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Betty is the daughter of the late Mace and Coot McGhee.

Love, your family.



**Mace McGhee**  
March 27, 2016

Happy birthday, Mace!

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

Mace lives in Bow, WA and is the son of the late Mace & Coot McGhee.

Your family in Alabama and Washington loves you!



**Denise L. Lister**  
March 28, 2016

Happy 54<sup>th</sup> birthday!

We love you and are wishing you a fantastic day!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, family & friends.



**Braylee Ann Stephens**  
April 2, 2016

Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday Braylee!

You have brought so much joy and love to our family.

We are beyond blessed to have you in our lives. We love you to the moon and back!

Mom, Dad, and family.



**Tyee Rolin**  
April 2, 2016

Happy birthday Tyee!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Mamma & Daddy.



**Emma Cobb**  
April 7, 2016

Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday Emma!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Mommy, Daddy, and Abby.



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



**Mary-Ashlynn Williams**  
April 7, 2016

Happy 8<sup>th</sup> birthday Mary-Ashlynn!

We love you.

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Mom, Dad, Gabby, and family.



**Thursa Griffey**  
April 7, 2016

Happy birthday Thursa!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

From your family and friends.



**Harold Rolin**  
April 8, 2016

Happy birthday Harold!

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

From your family and friends.



**Stacie O'Barr**  
April 8, 2016

Happy 30<sup>th</sup> birthday Stacie!

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

Love, John, Kennedy-Reese, and family.



**Ruth Bailey**  
April 8, 2016

Happy 79<sup>th</sup> birthday!

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

Love, Randy, Sandy, and grandchildren.



**Slayton Valinsky**  
April 10, 2016

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> birthday Slayon!

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

Love, Nana Angela and Mommy Rhea.



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



**Tori Ledkins**  
**April 12, 2016**

Happy 16<sup>th</sup> birthday Tori!

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

Love, your family.



**Jalia Lassister**  
**April 14, 2016**

Happy 12<sup>th</sup> birthday Jalia!

We love you and are extremely proud of you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, your family.



**Mandy Peebles**  
**April 15, 2016**

Because it's your birthday, it's a very special day.

Be sure to celebrate in every special way!

Because it's your birthday, be sure to wish upon a star

And think of all of us who know how wonderful you are.



**Frankie "Boochie" Jones**  
**April 18, 2016**

Happy birthday Boochie!

We love you and hope you have an awesome day.

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Mom, Dad, Bailey, Macey, and Addi.



**Derrek & Dillon McGhee**  
**April 28, 2016**

Happy 7<sup>th</sup> birthday Derrek & Dillon!

We love you and are truly blessed to have both of you in our lives.

Love, Daddy, Mama, Collin, Makala, GG, and DD.



**Robert Hubbird**  
**April 30, 2016**

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> birthday Robert!

We wish you many blessings! We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

We love you.

Your wife Joanna and family.

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

# In loving Memory of SHANA SANDERS

ON HER BIRTHDAY: MARCH 8, 2016

Thinking of you, my daughter, on this day we celebrate your birth!

Though it has been nine years since you were taken, we celebrate having had you with us.

Praying your girls will be reunited soon so we can all be family once again.

*Shana Sanders  
Deeply loved and missed by  
Family & Friends*



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## OBITUARIES

To better serve Tribal Members during their time of grief at the loss of a loved one, the *Poarch Creek News* is asking Tribal Members to add our contact information to the media list when completing the appropriate paperwork or planning the funeral of a loved one. The obituary will be published in the next issue of the newsletter after it has been received from the funeral home. Contact information: *Poarch Creek News*, 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL 36502 or via email to [gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov).

The family of the deceased may continue to submit family thanks/memoriams for publication in the *Poarch Creek News* at the time of their loved one's passing. The information will be published as long as information is submitted by the last business day of the second month immediately following the death. These submissions are limited to 250 words or less. Photos will be cropped to reflect deceased only.

In Memoriams may also be published the month before, the month of, or the month after the birthday of the deceased or the anniversary of the death of the deceased. These submissions are limited to 250 words or less. Photos will be cropped to reflect deceased only. Limit one In Memoriam submission per deceased individual per issue.



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[www.facebook.com/groups/  
PoarchCreekSpecialNeedsAutismAndLDGroup/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/PoarchCreekSpecialNeedsAutismAndLDGroup/)  
[www.autismspeaks.org/](http://www.autismspeaks.org/)

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Follow *Poarch Creek Special Needs Autism & LD Support Group* on Facebook for information about autism and its effects on individuals, families, society, and our Tribal Community.



Visit *Autism Speaks* at [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org) for more information on autism.





## Engagement Announcement

**RUSSELL JARRATT & SHELBY JARMAN**

Russell Jarratt and Shelby Jarman profess their commitment to one another with plans to be married in September, 2016.

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

Franz Schubert

---

Celebrating an Anniversary

**JOSH & JENNIFER THOMAS**  
**APRIL 9, 2016**

Happy anniversary to my wife Jennifer. All my dreams are about making yours come true!

Happy anniversary, I love you with all my heart.





Celebrating an Anniversary

# KEVIN & TRINA RACKARD

APRIL 12, 2016

Kevin and Trina Rackard will be celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 12, 2016.

Wishing you many, many more years to come.

Happy anniversary, we love you!



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# HONORING OUR GRADUATES AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Due to varying high school and/or college graduation dates, graduation or educational achievement information for the 2015-2016 academic year may be published through the September issue of the *Poarch Creek News*.

Graduation and or achievement award dates outside of this period may be published if information is received by the last business day of the month immediately following graduation or award. Please keep monthly submission deadlines in mind when submitting information for publication.



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## RETURNED NEWSLETTERS

Approximately 20-25 newsletters are returned by the Post Office each month undeliverable due to incorrect addresses, incomplete addresses, etc. Sadly, these individuals seldom call and ask about their newsletter. The returned newsletters are customarily kept for two months and then recycled.

From this point forward, if an individual's newsletter is returned by the Post Office for two consecutive months their name will be removed from the mailing list prior to mailing the next issue of the newsletter until the address has been updated.

Be sure to update your addresses with Tribal Member Benefits at (251) 368-9136 x 2209 to assure that your newsletter, as well as other Tribal correspondence, is being sent to the correct address.

Names removed from April variable data, please update your contact information:

Johnny Castleberry, Ft. Worth, TX  
Danny Colbert, Ocklawaha, FL  
George Colbert, Cottondale, AL  
Kyle Lage, Freeport, FL  
Justin McGhee, Pensacola, FL

Mack Morris, (PO Box) Atmore, AL  
Johnny Steadham, Atmore, AL  
Rance Walker, Pensacola, FL  
Joanna Ward, Pensacola, FL

Don't miss out on important news and information because you did not update your information.

# TRIBAL MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

From the Tribal Chair, February 4, 2016

Good afternoon, PCI Team,

I hope everyone has had a fantastic week so far. I want to personally say "Thank you" to everyone who has lifted me up in prayer and encouraged me. I'm so happy to say that I am feeling much better and am a living testament to the power of fervent prayer.

I can't fully express just how much I appreciate all that you do to make the Poarch Band of Creek Indians a better organization. It is through your efforts that lives are truly touched and enriched each and every day. Oftentimes, departments and individuals crucial to our success as an organization do not receive the recognition they deserve. However, I believe that we should all take the time to encourage each other and promote positivity within our organization whenever we can.

As such, I cannot pass up the opportunity to give a special shout out to ELAINE SHEETS from the Tribal Member Benefits Department. On several occasions, my office has received emails, phone calls, and other communication regarding the outstanding efforts of Elaine. Always professional, courteous, and kind, she

constantly goes above and beyond to assist whomever comes through the door of Tribal Member Benefits and is willing to go the extra mile time after time.

Elaine - Thank you for all that you do to help our Tribal Members. The efforts of you and your department have not gone unnoticed!

Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair





# COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

*Karla Martin, Division Director*

## REQUEST FOR PHOTOS

In 2017, a new building will be built that will house the Boys & Girls Club, Education, and Cultural Departments. We are collecting photos of Tribal Members participating in school or educational programs with the Tribe, cultural arts, and music to use as artwork throughout this building.

Please contact Mallory Martin if you have any questions or have any pictures you would like to submit. Mallory can be reached at (251) 368-9136 extension 2930 or by email at [mmartin@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:mmartin@pci-nsn.gov).

## BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



### ARCHERY TEAM HITS BULLSEYE!

The Poarch Boys & Girls Club Archery Team B traveled to Pensacola on March 5, 2016 to compete in the Panhandle Archery Tournament.

All of the children on the team did exceptionally well and we had three to come home with ribbons.

First place was Gage Gades, second place was Tanna Spence, and third place was Reagan King.

The next archery tournament will be on April 9, 2016 at Little River State Park.

*Shown left to right above are Reagan King, third place; Tanna Spence, second place; Gage Gades, first place; and Blakelee Hendrix, Archery Instructor.*

## SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Boys & Girls Club will be participating in the Alabama State Department of Education/USDA's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Meals will be provided to all children without charge. Acceptance and participation requirements for the program and all SFSP activities are the same for all regardless of race, color national origin, sex, age, or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

Breakfast and lunch will be served beginning Wednesday, June 1, 2016 until July 29, 2016, Monday through Friday. No program on July 4, 2016 due to national holiday.

- Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. -9:00 a.m.
- Lunch will be served from 10:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Location: Boys & Girls Club,  
444 Lynn McGhee Drive  
Atmore, AL

Contact Samantha White at (251) 368 9136 x 2242 for additional information.

## SOUTHEASTERN INDIAN FESTIVAL SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 7-9, 2016

FREE ADMISSION

Thursday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (Schools only)  
Friday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (Schools only)  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm (Public)  
Saturday 10:00 am – 8:00 pm (Public)

Learn about Southeastern Indian Culture through

- Song & Dance
- Storytelling
- Living History
- Arts/Crafts Demonstrations
- Authentic Indian Foods
- Stickball Game
- Hands on Activities for Kids

Kerretv Cuko ~ Poarch Band of Creek Indians Museum will also be open for tours Thursday and Friday during of the festival.

For more information, contact Chris Blackburn, Planning & Events Coordinator, 251-368-9136 ext. 2052 or [cblackburn@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:cblackburn@pci-nsn.gov).

Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 3650

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## CULTURAL DEPARTMENT PRESENTS: FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT-EDGE OF AMERICA

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FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016  
FREE ADMISSION

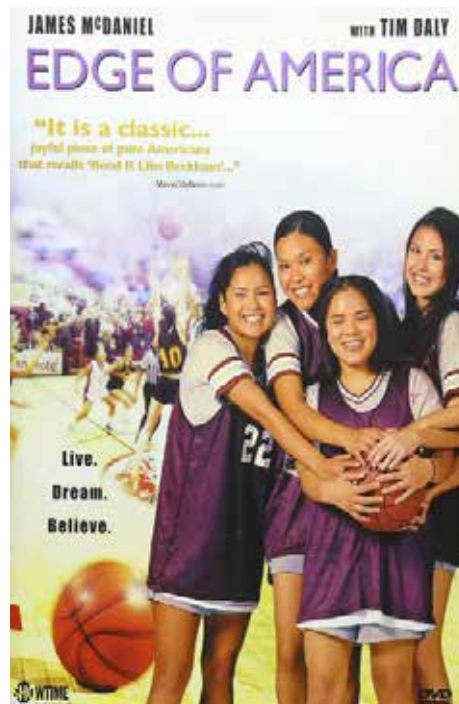
Stickball Game  
6:00 p.m.

Movie-Edge of America  
8:00 pm

Free drinks, popcorn & candy.  
Bring your lawn chairs or blankets.

For Tribal Members &  
Tribal Families

No drugs, alcohol, or pets allowed.



For more information, contact Chris Blackburn, Planning & Events Coordinator, 251-368-9136 ext. 2052 or [cblackburn@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:cblackburn@pci-nsn.gov).

*Based on a true story, a black educator takes a job teaching high-school English at the Three Nations Reservation, and is coaxed into coaching the girls basketball team.*



## THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT INVITES YOU TO COME QUILT

We invite all Tribal Members, 1<sup>st</sup> Generation descendants, Tribal Employees, and anyone living in a Tribal Member household to come join us.

We have a quilt in a frame and will be teaching quilting to those interested in learning or anyone wanting to join us.

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays

1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

All quilting sessions will be held at the Cultural Department located on Hwy 21.

For information; contact Margaret Baggett, Traditional Arts Demonstrator at 251-368-9136 ext. 2648/ [mbaggett@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:mbaggett@pci-nsn.gov), or Jonathan Martin, Traditional Arts Assistant at 251-368-9136 ext. 2537/ [jmartin@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:jmartin@pci-nsn.gov).

## THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT PROUDLY ADVANCED SHELL CARVING CLASSES

Classes are free and open to Tribal Members, 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Indian Descent, Tribal Member households & Tribal Employees.

You must pre-register for this class. If you have not taken the Shell Carving Class, you cannot take this class.

APRIL 11, 2016 - MAY 6, 2016

Monday -Friday

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Only 10 slots are available for this class.

All classes will be held in the Pavilion located on the Pow Wow Grounds

**YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS!**

To sign up, or for more information, contact: Margaret Baggett, Traditional Arts Demonstrator at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2648/[mbaggett@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:mbaggett@pci-nsn.gov), or Jonathan Martin ext. 2537/[jmartin@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:jmartin@pci-nsn.gov).







**ATMORE VISION CENTER**  
166 LINDBERG AVENUE  
ATMORE, AL 36502  
(251)368-8767

**MONROEVILLE EYE CARE**  
3016 S. ALABAMA AVENUE  
MONROEVILLE, AL 36460  
(251)743-3305

**Dr. Stephen M. Gross**  
*Optometrist*

**Dr. David J. Helton**  
*Optometrist*

**Dr. Alan Franklin**  
*Retina Specialist*

**Dr. Rollins Tindell**  
*Cataract Specialist*

**Dr. Ryan Tarantola**  
*Retina Specialist*

*We have convenient appointments and friendly staff.  
Schedule your appointment today.*

*Ask About*  
**The  
Native American Indian Program  
(184 Program)\***

- No minimum credit score requirement
- 2.25% down payment
- Low monthly MI insurance
- One time construction loan available
- Primary Residence Only



**United Bank**  
*Mortgage Services*  
**251-965-5315**  
[www.unitedbank.com/mortgage](http://www.unitedbank.com/mortgage)

\*All loans subject to credit approval, verification and collateral evaluation. 184 Program is only offered to members on active tribal roll and in designated geographic areas. See a United Bank representative for complete details. United Bank NMLS# 494759

**Member  
FDIC**  
  
**EQUAL HOUSING  
LENDER**



Calvin McGhee Cultural Department  
2016 Poarch Creek Adult Pow Wow Club Application  
(Open to all Tribal Members and 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Descendants ages 19 & older)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Male or Female (circle one)

Tribal Member or 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Descendant? (circle one) Roll # \_\_\_\_\_

If 1<sup>st</sup> generation descendant, list parent who is on roll and his/her roll number: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your Tribal parent(s)'s family. 4 generations if possible. (Grandmother, Grandfather, Great-grandmother, Great-grandfather, Great-great grandmother, Great-great grandfather)

Previous pow wow dance experience: (Style and how long you have danced)

Explain your involvement in your community and/or Tribe.

### Essay Questions

Please answer in as much detail as possible. Essay questions will be taken into consideration during the selection process. Attach your answers to the following questions:

1. Explain your knowledge of your Creek Indian heritage.
2. List what you would like to learn about your culture. (language, dance, song, etc.)
3. Why do you want to be a member of the Poarch Creek Adult Pow Wow Club?

To be a member of the Poarch Creek Adult PowWow Club, it takes much dedication and time, so please keep this in mind while applying. Membership will be based upon your continued and consistent attendance and participation. If you cannot be consistently involved for the year, you will be asked to resign your membership.

The Adult Pow Wow Club will also be involved with the Youth Pow Wow Club, and could therefore be subject to random background and drug screening. Please keep this in mind while applying also.

This is a competitive process. There is limited space so not all applicants are guaranteed to be selected. Applicants will be selected based on application completeness, Tribal

membership, essay question answers, and previous dance experience. All applications must be turned in by April 1st, 2016 at 5pm. They may be turned in at the Calvin McGhee Cultural Authority, or mailed to:

Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
Attn: Chris Blackburn  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore AL 36502

For further information, please contact Planning and Events Coordinator, Chris Blackburn @ (251)-368-9136 ext 2052 or by email: cblackburn@pci-nsn.gov, or Planning and Events Assistant, Mallory Young @ (251)-368-9136 ext 2538, (251)-359-1948, or by email: mcyoung@pci-nsn.gov.



# HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



PCI Tribal Members or 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Indian Descent Graduates who are graduating High School and would like for their Tuition Assistance funds announced at their award ceremony must fill out the information below and return it by **APRIL 8, 2016.**

**All information must be complete!**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please check one: Tribal Member \_\_\_\_\_ First Generation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date and Time of Awards/ Honor's Day: \_\_\_\_\_  
Person in charge of Event (Name and Contact Info): \_\_\_\_\_

**A letter and certificate will be mailed to your guidance counselor or principal at the address you listed above, your guidance counselor or principal will present you with your certificate.** In order to utilize the tuition programs you must fill out an application before you start college. Applications for the tuition programs can be obtained from the Tribe's website at [www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov).

For questions please call Magen Weaver at (251) 368-9136 extension 2021.  
Address: Magen Weaver, 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL 36502  
Fax: (251) 368-0809 or Email: [mweaver@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:mweaver@pci-nsn.gov)

## FLORIDA INDIAN YOUTH PROGRAM JULY 9-23, 2016

- Tribal Member and First Generation youth ages 14-17.
- 2 Week program at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL
- Students receive stipend for participation and learn valuable skills

Application deadline: June 10, 2016

Mail application to:

Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs  
1341 Cross Creek Circle  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Applications and more information can be obtained from the PCI Education Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2021 or online at [www.fgcia.com](http://www.fgcia.com).

## Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center Schedules 2016-2017 Registration

### PRE-K REGISTRATION April 11 – 15, 2016

Child must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2016.

Applications will be available on the Tribal website, [www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov) or may be picked up at the Early Learning Center or the Education Department beginning April 1, 2016. Completed applications should be returned to the Education Department. We will only accept applications for Poarch Creek Indians Tribal Members and first and second generation Indian descent students.

Complete application MUST include:

- Certified Birth Certificate
- Shot Record (Alabama Blue Card)
- Social Security Card
- Proof of Tribal Enrollment or Indian descent letter for the child

If you have questions about registration you may contact Fran Southard at (251) 446-4885 or Magen Weaver at (251)368-9136 ext. 2021.

### NOTICE TO PARENTS OF FIRST & SECOND GENERATION INDIAN DESCENT STUDENTS

If your child does not have a first or second generation Indian descent letter you must contact Tribal Member Benefits at 251-368-9136 ext. 2281 as soon as possible.

Your child will be required to undergo DNA testing, which is scheduled two times per month on a first come first served basis.

We cannot accept students who do not have a letter at the time of registration.





# Honoring ALL Graduates



## Graduation Banquet



PCI Tribal Members or 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Indian Descent Graduates who have obtained their High School Diploma, GED, or College Degree are invited to attend the 2016 Graduation Banquet!

You must be a 2015-2016 graduate to attend.

Date: Friday, June 3, 2016     ♦     Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Place: Wind Creek Casino Coosawada Ballroom

**Graduates must RSVP by May 20<sup>th</sup> to attend.**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one: Tribal Member \_\_\_\_\_ First Generation: \_\_\_\_\_

School Graduated From: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Received: \_\_\_\_\_

**You DO NOT have to attend the banquet to get your graduation gift but you must submit this form by the deadline.**

Please indicate if you will be attending the banquet? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how many guest you will be bringing, not including yourself. This is a celebration for you and your immediate family. **You are allowed to bring a maximum of 4 guest with you to the banquet.** Number of Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

For questions please call Magen Weaver at (251) 368-9136 extension 2021.

**Form must be returned by May 20, 2016 to Magen Weaver.**

Address: Magen Weaver, 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL 36502

Fax: (251) 368-0809 ~ Email: mweaver@pci-nsn.gov



# CULTURAL EXCHANGE ABROAD

**2015-2016 TRIBAL MEMBER HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATING SENIORS OR FIRST GENERATION  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING SENIORS**

This trip is for graduating seniors who are interested in learning about Native peoples in Alaska and Canada. Applications must be turned in on **April 15th by 5:00pm** to the Education Department.

This is an all expense paid trip. Graduating Seniors must complete an application, community service project, and 2 day course on Poarch Creek history and culture in order to attend.

**VISIT ALASKA AND  
CANADA**

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**10 DAY TRIP  
JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> – July 1<sup>ST</sup>**

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**APPLICATIONS  
AVAILABLE ONLINE  
AND AT THE  
CULTURAL AND  
EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENTS**

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**APPLICATIONS MUST  
BE TURNED IN BY  
5:00PM APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> TO  
THE EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS  
JOIN US FOR AN  
INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> 5:30PM AT  
BUILDING 500**

**CONTACT:**

**MAGEN WEAVER**  
mweaver@pci-nsn.gov  
251-368-9136 ext 2021  
FAX NUMBER: 368-0809



# Joint Announcement from the Cultural & Education Departments

## Regarding the Gifting of Eagle Feathers

Over the past several years, the Cultural and Education Departments have worked together to celebrate our Tribal Member high school graduates by gifting them an eagle feather. Beginning this year, we will no longer be continuing that practice. It will now be the responsibility of Tribal Member student to get their own eagle feather. It is important to know that there are many Federal laws and regulations regarding the possession of eagle feathers, and they may only be obtained by an enrolled Tribal Member of a Federally-recognized Tribe who has a permit. Permits to obtain eagles or eagle parts are issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The permit authorizes the recipient to receive and possess eagle feathers. The following must be presented when applying for an eagle possession permit:

- A completed application found at [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)
- Certification of tribal enrollment form completed by a certifying tribal official

Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Currently there are over 4,000 people on a waiting list for approximately 900 eagles that the repository receives each year. Applicants can expect to wait up to approximately 2 ½ years for an order to be filled depending on their request.

For more information, or to obtain the appropriate forms to apply for a permit, visit [www://forms.fws.gov/3-200-15b.pdf](http://www://forms.fws.gov/3-200-15b.pdf)

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## 2016 Summer Internship Program for Ages: 16-18

The Summer Internship Program is an opportunity for Tribal Member or First Generation youth age 16-18 to gain work experience through on-the-job training that will provide the participant with the skills, experience, and insights to allow for enhanced and gainful employment.

June 6, 2016 - July 15, 2016

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Participants will earn \$7.25 per hour

Application Deadline:

5:00 P.m. Friday, May 27, 2016

A mandatory meeting with selected Interns, their parents, and Education staff will be held on Monday, June 6, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in the Education Library.

Applications are posted on Education's page of the Tribal web site, [www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov), or can be picked up in the Education Department.

Completed applications due by 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 27, 2016.

- Tribal Member, First Generation, or living in a Tribal Household
- 16-18 by June 6, 2016
- Currently attending high school or recent high school or GED graduate
- Must submit application by May 27, 2016
- Must successfully pass drug test

Contact Billie McGhee at (251) 368-9136 x 2243 or [bmcghee@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:bmcghee@pci-nsn.gov) if you have any questions or need more information.

## 2016 Summer Camp Reimbursement Program

Tribal Members and First Generation students in PreK thru 12th grade are eligible to attend up to 2 summer camps per summer on a reimbursement only basis.

- Tribal Members students are eligible for \$500.00
- First Generation students are eligible for \$250.00

Parents are responsible for making all arrangements and paying all fees. Travel expenses are eligible to be reimbursed if receipts and mileage is submitted with the application and is within the student's allotted amount.

Applications can only be submitted after student has attended camp. No reimbursements will be issued prior to the student attending camp.

The deadline to submit applications for reimbursement is October 31, 2016 !

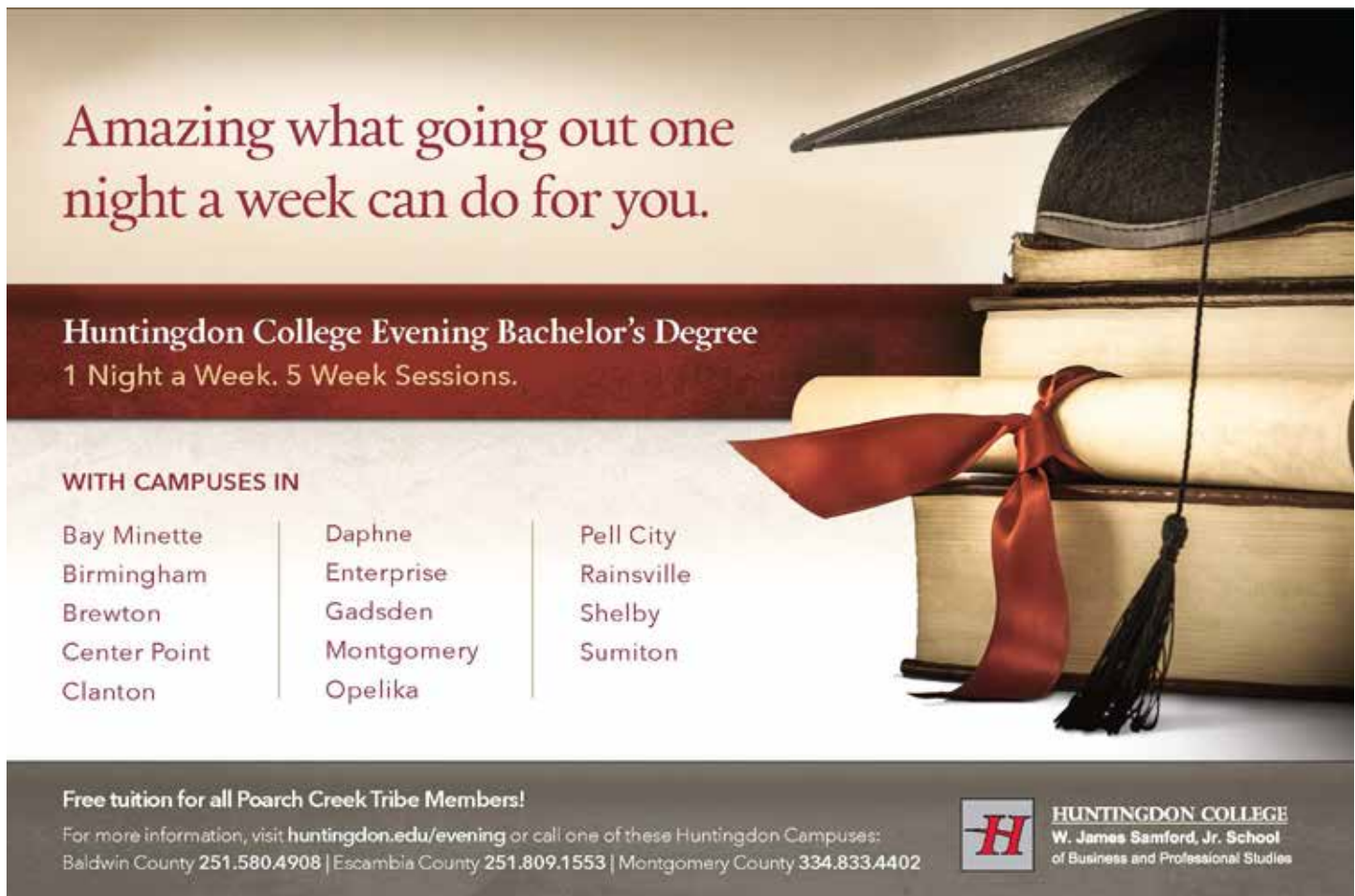
Applications can be obtained from the Tribe's website ([www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov)) or from the Education Department.

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

Henry Ford

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Amazing what going out one night a week can do for you.

**Huntingdon College Evening Bachelor's Degree**  
1 Night a Week. 5 Week Sessions.

**WITH CAMPUSES IN**

Bay Minette	Daphne	Pell City
Birmingham	Enterprise	Rainsville
Brewton	Gadsden	Shelby
Center Point	Montgomery	Sumiton
Clanton	Opelika	

**Free tuition for all Poarch Creek Tribe Members!**  
For more information, visit [huntingdon.edu/evening](http://huntingdon.edu/evening) or call one of these Huntingdon Campuses:  
Baldwin County 251.580.4908 | Escambia County 251.809.1553 | Montgomery County 334.833.4402

 **HUNTINGDON COLLEGE**  
W. James Samford, Jr. School  
of Business and Professional Studies



# 2016 Summer Camp Application

May 1, 2016 - Oct. 31, 2016

Applicant Information					
Full Name:			Date of Birth:		
Parent/Guardian Name:					
Address:					
City:		State:	Zip Code:		
Phone:		Email:			
Please indicate your Tribal Affiliation:		Tribal Member Roll #: <input type="checkbox"/>		First Generation (Letter must be submitted) <input type="checkbox"/>	

Education			
Are you currently attending school?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Last Grade Completed:
Name of School Attending:			

Camp 1 Information			
Name of Camp:			
Camp Address:			
How will the student get to camp?	Personal Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Bus <input type="checkbox"/>	Airplane <input type="checkbox"/>
Total Camp Cost: (Must Provide Documents)	Mileage to Camp: (Must Provide Documents)		

Camp 2 Information			
Name of Camp:			
Camp Address:			
How will the student get to camp?	Personal Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Bus <input type="checkbox"/>	Airplane <input type="checkbox"/>
Total Camp Cost: (Must Provide Documents)	Mileage to Camp: (Must Provide Documents)		

## Information and Signature

Please complete this application entirely and make sure all information is correct. Failure to supply correct and necessary information may result in delays. This program is for reimbursement only. You must provide receipts detailing the cost of each camp. If requesting mileage you must submit proof of mileage from mapquest.com. Please map quest round trip from your home address. You may attend up to two camps per year and request reimbursement within the following limits \$500 for Tribal Members and \$250 for First Generation. Application should not be submitted for reimbursement until after camp. If application is submitted prior to camp all information will be returned to the address above.

Parent/Guardian

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Complete Applications consist of:

- ◇ Indian Descent Letter (if applicable)
- ◇ Copy of Report Card (Students who are not enrolled in school are not eligible for this program.)
- ◇ Camp Information (brochure, advertisement, etc.)
- ◇ Receipts and mileage information for reimbursement

Applications can be submitted to the following locations:

Fax: (251) 368-0809 ~ Address: Kim McGhee, 5811 Jack Springs Rd, Atmore, AL 36502 ~ Email: ksmcghee@pci-nsn.gov  
For questions and inquiries call **Kim McGhee** at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2662



## 2016 Summer Leadership Program for Ages: 13-15

The Summer Leadership Program is an opportunity for young adults age 13 to 15 to learn to rise above the challenges of today and make a positive impact in their community.

A month of inspiring activities and lessons to encourage youth to shatter social boundaries and gain abilities to resolve conflicts. It prepares them for the future by teaching job skills, career development, teamwork, leadership skills, and cultural education.

Program will be Monday thru Thursday from 8-5.  
Participants will earn \$5.00 per hour.

Session 1: June 6, 2016 – June 30, 2016

Session 2: July 5, 2016 - July 28, 2016

Applications can be obtained from Tribe's web site, [www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov), or from the Education Department. Applications are due by 5:00 pm May 27, 2016.

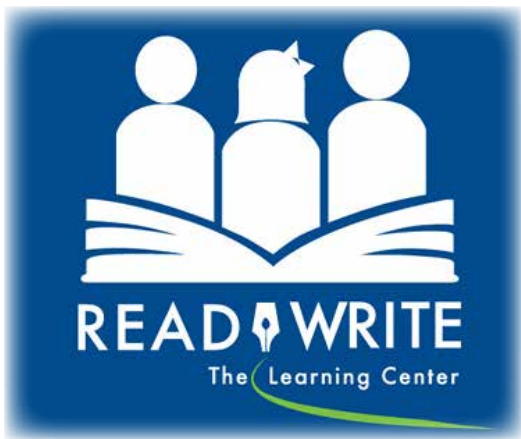
All of the following requirements must be met:

- Age 13-15 by June 1, 2016
- Enrolled in 2016-2017 school year
- Tribal Member, first generation or reside in a Tribal Member household
- Submit a completed application by 5:00 pm May 27, 2016
- Successfully Pass Drug Test

Contact Tawana Parham at (251)253-3456 or [tparham@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:tparham@pci-nsn.gov) if you have any questions or need more information.

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## Free Dyslexia Presentation -Open to Public



*Dyslexia Warning Signs:*

- Delayed speech
- Terrible spelling
- Poor handwriting
- Confusing letters & words that look similar
- Mispronouncing words

The Education Department will be hosting a free Dyslexia Presentation featuring Dyslexia Specialist Hunter Oswalt on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

The presentation will be presented in the Tribal Courtroom.

Anyone interested in learning more about dyslexia is welcome to attend.

What will be covered?

- Dyslexia fact & fiction
- Signs & Symptoms of dyslexia
- How to help
- Question & Answer session

Refreshments will be served.

Contact the Education Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2240 if you have any questions or need more information.



## 2016 Leadership Program 13-15 years old

### Applicant Information

Full Name:					Date:			
Address:								
City:			State:			Zip Code:		
Phone:				Email:				
Date of Birth:			Age:			Social Sec. Number :		
Please indicate your Tribal Affiliation?			Tribal Member Roll #: <input type="checkbox"/>	First Generation (Letter must be submitted) <input type="checkbox"/>		Reside in TM Household (Must submit proof of resident) <input type="checkbox"/>		
Have you participated in this program in the past?			YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
Do you have relatives that work for the Tribe? (Includes PCI, CIE, Gaming, Etc.)					YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, please list their name and department:								

### Education

Are you currently attending school?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Last Grade Completed:		
Name of School Attending:					
Career areas are you interested in (List at least 3):					

### Parent/ Guardian Information

Parent/ Guardian Name:			
Home Phone:			Cell Phone:
Please list any information pertaining to your child that we should be aware of such as allergies, etc.			
Does your child have any health problems that should be taken in consideration when placing them in a work situation?		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a signed doctor's statement listing what types of work your child can perform.			

### Notification and Signature

*All applicants will be drug tested. A positive result excludes participation in this program. This application must be returned to the Poarch Creek Indians Education Department no later than 5:00 pm on May 27, 2016. This program is for students 13-15 years old. Participant must be 13 years of age by June 1, 2016. Applicant must be enrolled in school. If you have any questions, please call Tawana Parham at (251) 253-3456 or Magen Weaver at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2021.*

Participant

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## New Minors Trust Financial Literacy Requirements

Tribal Members who are eligible to receive their Minors Trust will now be offered an exciting, in depth, and comprehensive course covering important personal finance concepts.

Undertaking the responsibility of having access to significant funds, fiscal responsibility is strongly encouraged through teachings of this course. Proven strategies for a successful financial future will be provided, as well as assistance with life planning skills that include how to manage money.

In this new improved financial literacy class, Chris Smith's book: Securing Your Financial Future will be read and analyzed. This book was written especially for young adults just starting their financial journey. Some chapters include buying a car, buying a home, investing, insurance, etc. – the entire personal financial picture will be discussed. By making this opportunity and book available for Tribal Members about to receive their trust funds, parents and Tribal Leaders can be confident that pertinent financial education and advice has been provided to build a solid foundation of fiscal responsibility.

Since the class will take two days (or perhaps 2 ½ days), several classes will be scheduled throughout the summer months when minors will be out of school. Specific dates will be determined and published as soon as scheduled.

### DISTANCE MINORS

For Tribal minors not able to attend classes on the Reservation, the book: *Securing Your Financial Future* will be mailed to them. Candidates will be required to watch several videos by the author, emphasizing important topics covered in the book. When the book has been completed and the videos have been viewed, an online exam must be taken, of which a passing score of 75% must be obtained before you can be issued your Minor's Trust funds.

### SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Participants who have special needs may request a meeting with the Financial Educator, Bryan Fayard, and the Education Director, Sandra Hiebert. Special needs must be documented and verified through an accredited educational system or a physician. Mr. Fayard may be contacted at [bfayard@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:bfayard@pci-nsn.gov) or (251)368-9136, ext. 2504.

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## COMPUTER LAB

The Education Department offers an adult computer lab and a children's computer lab; both are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All children must be accompanied by an adult while using the computer lab. For more information, contact Leasha Martin at (251) 368-91136 x 2240 or [emartain@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:emartain@pci-nsn.gov).

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**BRIAN ROLIN**  
(850) 777-8696  
[BRIANRWH1504@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BRIANRWH1504@GMAIL.COM)

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Anything you want to protect!  
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[crystal.m.marcum@gmail.com](mailto:crystal.m.marcum@gmail.com)  
[www.mythirtyone.com/crystalmarcum](http://www.mythirtyone.com/crystalmarcum)



# YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Small Decisions Make Big Things Happen

## Visceral Fat

aka Belly Fat

### UNHEALTHY BODY

#### SUBCUTANEOUS FAT

Subcutaneous fat is the fat just under your skin—the fat you can pinch. Reducing the amount of subcutaneous fat you have will lower your Percent Body Fat (PBF).

*Subcutaneous Fat*

#### VISCERAL FAT

Visceral fat wraps around your organs, creating inflammation & interfering with organ function. This fat causes a big belly.

#### DISEASE

Higher PBF is associated with type 2 diabetes, stroke, heart disease, & some cancers.

*Visceral Fat*

### HEALTHY BODY

#### LOWER BODY FAT

When you lose visceral fat & subcutaneous fat, your waistline gets smaller & your Percent Body Fat (PBF) goes down. You can't eliminate all the fat on your body—nor would you want to! Having some body fat is necessary for your body to function properly.

#### HEALTH

Lower PBF is associated with lower cholesterol, better insulin sensitivity & lower risk of disease.

#### ENERGY

When you lower your PBF you will experience increased energy, brain function, & stamina.





# YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

## Small Decisions Make Big Things Happen

### The Big Fat Dilemma

**Fat has become a dirty word.** We're afraid to eat it, confused about how much we need, and especially don't want to *be* it. Yet we need fat to live. In fact, how much fat you have and where you store it on your body plays a huge part in how long you live and how happy those extra years will be—much more so than body weight alone.

We have two main types of fat in our bodies:

1. **Visceral fat**, the kind that builds up around your organs. This is nasty stuff and one of the hallmarks of metabolic syndrome, a proven precursor to diabetes and heart disease.
2. **Subcutaneous fat**, the stuff you not-so-lovingly pinch on your hips and thighs. This type of fat does not seem to have the same health risks as visceral fat. Since this fat stores energy, it is often more easily reduced with exercise. Studies on fat loss show that people who exercise three to four times a week tend to have greater subcutaneous fat weight loss.

The trick is finding the sweet spot between too much and too little body fat. No one wants to carry extra fat or even be "skinny fat" (thin but with little muscle) with good reason. Muscle tissue, which weighs more than the same volume of fatty tissue thanks to its higher density, not only makes you stronger, but research shows that increasing your lean muscle mass can help rev up your metabolism

and boost bone mass. So while you may gain some weight as you put on more muscle, it's a good trade off, and a great reason to ditch the scale as our primary measure of health.

If you're interested in knowing how much visceral fat you have, you're in luck! At Poarch Recreation there's a great tool to not only identify visceral fat, but also the amount of muscle and total percent body fat (PBF) your body has. The machine is called the InBody and it only takes about three minutes to complete. You'll get some great personal health information that will give you a better view of your lifestyle habits, and help you identify the steps you are taking to manage your health. I suggest completing this analysis every four weeks so you can let your numbers be your personal guide, and most importantly you'll start to view the word "fat" more meaningfully.

Enjoy the month of April and reach out to your support team if you have any questions. Me included.

Win the day!  
Spencer

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

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



# Elect Dewitt Carter Tribal Council At-Large

A portrait of Dewitt Carter, a middle-aged man with short dark hair, wearing a light-colored suit jacket over a white shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a blurred wooden bookshelf.

**Proven Fighter  
For Our People  
(251) 753-7538**



## FIRST AID/CPR COURSE

**April 22, 2016**

**4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Cost: \$30 Tribal Member  
\$40 Non-Tribal and Community

Class minimal of 3 with limit of 10

Advanced registration by April 21, 2016 is required

Employees of the Tribe interested in the course should check with their department/program for payment process!

Certified American Red Cross Instructor  
Sarah Allen / [sallen@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:sallen@pci-nsn.gov)

For more information please contact the Recreation Department at 251-368-9136 ext. 2256

## 2016 Summer Swim Team Registration

March 14, 2016 - May 13, 2016

*No applications will be accepted after May 13, 2016*

*No exceptions*

Tribal Member & first generation  
Boys & Girls

Registration Fee \$30.00

Early Bird Practice May 16<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>

Monday - Friday 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Recreation Department

Season is June 6th - August 1st

Practice /Recreation Department

Monday - Friday 10:00 am -11:30 am

Contact the Recreation Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2256 for more information or to pick up an application. Application are also available on Recreation's page of the Tribal web site, [www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov).

## 2016 Adult Softball League

### Registration

April 25, 2016 – May 20, 2016

Registration Fee: \$200.00 per team

Ages: 16 & Up

(Leagues are open to the Public)

Team roster/registration will not be accepted without entry fee paid in full

Schedule TBA

*Depending on the number of applications will determine if co-ed, men, and women teams/leagues.*

For more information contact the Recreation Department at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2256.

## 2016 Memorial Bricks

The Recreation Department will be selling Memorial Bricks April 1-30, 2016.

8" x 4"	1-3 lines of engraving <i>18 -20 spaces per line</i>	\$22.00
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8" x 8"	1-6 lines of engraving <i>18-20 spaces per line</i>	\$31.00
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12" x 12"	1-8 lines of engraving <i>18-20 spaces per line</i>	\$52.00
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Adding a Clipart Symbol		\$ 1.00
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For more information, contact Chad Parker, at the Recreation Department at (251) 368-9136 extension 2256.

# FACILITIES DIVISION

*Wesley Woodruff, Division Director*

## FACILITIES DEPARTMENT



They say that behind every good man is a good woman, well behind the maintenance of the buildings of the Tribal Complex are the members of the Facilities Department. Shown left to right are Rowdy Boyte, Facilities Director, Dustin Hall, Facilities, Charles "Bubba" O'Barr, Temporary General Help, Lawrence "Bunk" Peebles, Facilities, Stephanie Kendrick, Custodian, Randall Bray, Facilities, Cassie Jackson, Construction Assistant, Josh Burkett, Construction Supervisor, Betty Peacock, Custodian, Donnie Cox, Construction Assistant, Malorie Cox, Custodian, Dezmond Nguyen, Custodian, Wanda Stabler, Administrative Assistant, Kim Rolin, Custodian, Tina Schweiger, Custodian, Cathy Hill, Custodian, Kaitlin Roin, Custodian, and Westly Woodruff, Facilities Division Director. Not pictured are Linda Weaver, Custodian Supervisor, Randall Rolin, Custodian, Chassidy McGhee, Custodian, Bethany Crook, Custodian, and Cecelia Nobles, Custodian.

Every sunrise is a present,  
A gift from God above,  
Gift-wrapped with scarlet ribbons,  
Tied with bows of love.

Each day's a new beginning,  
A time to start anew,  
While all the stars are sleeping,  
The rose is fresh with dew.

Each day's a new creation,  
Too lonely to ignore,  
We may find a blessing,  
Just outside our door.

We cannot keep the past,  
Like fireflies in a jar;  
Nor journey to the future,  
By wishing on a star.

Every sunrise is a blessing,  
A gift for just today,  
Rejoice my friend,  
Embrace it before it fades away!

*Author Unknown*



# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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Public Works, what can we say other than "They do it all!" Shown left to right are Margie Rolin, Administrative Assistant; Chase Amerson, Automotive Mechanic; Ian Smedley, General Help; Kevin Bethea, Diesel/Heavy Equipment Mechanic; John Fuller, Groundskeeper; Toney Sells, Equipment Operator/Bus Driver; Addie McGhee, Transportation Assistant; Allen Dorman, Mechanic Assistant; Billy Joe Gibson, Groundskeeper; Raymond Pellergrini, General Help; Terry McGhee, Equipment Operator; Jason Davis, Grounds Coordinator; Michael McGhee, Equipment Operator; Kent McGhee, Public Works Director, Burl "Hollywood" Wiggins, Landscaper; Teresa "Shada" Thomas, Transportation Programs Coordinator; Johnathan Bryars, Groundskeeper; Gary Gibson, Mechanic Shop Foreman; Felecia White, Bus Driver, Dillon McGhee, General Help; and Westly Woodruff, Facilities Division Director.

---



The beauty of the trees,  
The softness of the air,  
The fragrance of the grass speaks to me.

The summit of the mountain,  
The thunder of the sky,  
The rhythm of the sea, speaks to me.

The faintness of the stars,  
The freshness of the morning,  
The dewdrop on the flower, speaks to me.

The strength of the fire,  
The taste of salmon,  
The trail of the sun,  
And the life that never goes away,  
They speak to me and my heart soars.

Chief Dan George



# HEALTH & ELDER SERVICES DIVISION

*Edie Jackson, Division Director*

## ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY



The staff from the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility offer services to those Tribal Members who are still strong and independent, but need just a little assistance with their daily care. Shown seated left to right are Rhonda Linam, Nurse Manager and Michelle Shiver, ALF Administrator. Standing left to right are Peggy Williams, Custodian; Frankie Morris, General Help/Custodian; Tammy Graham, Kitchen Manager; James Roberson, Activities Coordinator; Melanie Owens, Executive Assistant; and Stephanie Raines, Resident Assistant. . Not shown are Alyssic McGee, Cook, and Resident Assistants Wanda Brazwell, Holly Carnley, Angie English, Deidra Lyons, and Amanda Scott.

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Cell: 251-359-3283

Owner/Operator  
Web: [diggindeepconst.com](http://diggindeepconst.com)

**Diggin' Deep Construction LLC**

P.O. Box 533  
Atmore AL, 36504

A Native American  
minority owned business

## NEW REFERRAL POLICY

In an effort to stay within the budget allocated for the Health Clinic for this year, we have placed some limitations on services for 2016. Referrals from the Health Clinic will follow the Indians Health Service Priority Level Assignment. You may review these and find examples by visiting [www.IHS.gov](http://www.IHS.gov) and searching IHS medical priority levels. They are as follows:

- Level 1-Emergent or Acutely Urgent Care Services
- Level 2-Preventive Care Services
- Level 3-Primary and Secondary Care Services
- Level 4-Chronic Tertiary Care Services
- Level 5-Excluded Services

As of January 1, 2016, Priority Levels 1 and 2 referrals will trigger co-payment of a deductible for CHS and direct members.

The Priority levels 3, 4 and 5 can receive a written referral for medical purposes only but NO payment will be rendered from the Tribe or IHS. In short, you must use your flex card or pay for the co-pay for level 3-5 services received.

## NEED HELP WITH INSURANCE EXCHANGE TRANSITION?

We will have individuals available to assist Tribal Members who are currently on the Tribal Funded Insurance transitioning to the Healthcare Marketplace.

There will be dates and times established and appointments can be scheduled by calling 251-368-9136 extension 2539. Please schedule an appointment and allow at least an hour to be able to thoroughly complete the application. A list of items needed to have with you at the appointment can also be found on the Tribe's website.

## REMINDERS TO ALL OUR PATIENTS

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

## LACE UP AND GO!

We're celebrating Nation Walking Day! Join us at the Health Department on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 and walk during your lunch break! Contact Jill Lee at (251) 368-9136 x 2372 for more information.

## FREE SCREENING FOR CERVICAL MYELOPATHY

Dr. Amber Gordon will be conducting free screening for cervical myelopathy (acute paralysis) on April 12, 2016 from 9:30 - 2:00.

If you are over the age of 45, and have any of these symptoms, you are eligible for free screening:

- Neck and arm pain
- Back and leg pain
- Weakness in arms or hands
- Difficulty with balance and walking
- Urinary or bowel incontinence

Dr. Gordon is an Atmore native who completed her training in Neurosurgery at the University of Alabama School of Medicine and University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Gordon is excited to bring her knowledge of minimally invasive treatment options back to her home and community.

Screening is open to male and female Tribal Members and Tribal Government employees. To schedule an appointment, please call Jessica Dortch at 251-368-9136 extension 2030.

All screening appointments will be at the SAIL Center.

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

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

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



# Pharmacy & Premier Family Eye Clinic Moving To Temporary Location

## PHARMACY:

The Poarch Tribal Pharmacy will be relocating to a temporary building next to the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility on Thursday, May 26, 2016. We hope to be fully operational in the new location on Tuesday, May 31st. The new location will have a drive-through window for your continued convenience.

In order to minimize inconvenience and prevent running out of medications, we suggest that you plan accordingly and order your refills about 1 week prior to running out. Some wait times may be prolonged due to our regular prescription refill process that week.

Please pardon our progress, and we thank you for your patience during our transition.

**Dr. Selina Chee, Chief Pharmacist**  
Call (251) 368-9136 x 2304 for questions or more information.

## PREMIER FAMILY EYE CARE:

Premier Family Eye Care will be relocating to a temporary building next to the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility on Thursday, May 19, 2016.

We will make every effort to reopen in our new location on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

For eye related emergencies during this time, please contact the Tribal Primary Care Clinic for evaluation. We can come to the clinic to evaluate any severe eye emergency needs you might have during the move.

We thank you for your patience and understanding while we make this transition.

**Dr. Amanda Cobb, Optometrist**  
Call (251) 446-3937 for questions or more information.

**A NATIVE AMERICAN BLESSING**     *Should your blankets be torn, may your breezes be warm. May your treasures be what you find. May the burdens you bear, like your bounties, be shared. May you leave something good behind. Would the sky and the land rise to your command. May your senses come as the night. Live in peace with earth, as in death as in birth. May you prosper and have a good life.*



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## HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF-HERE FOR YOUR HEALTH CARE NEEDS



**Health Administration staff.** Seated Edie Jackson, Health & Elder Services Division Director. Standing left to right: Lisa Parker, Executive Assistant, Jarrell Hollinger, Valet/ Front Services Runner; and Brittany Pettway, Receptionist.



**Health Information staff.** Left to right: Shelia Odom, Senior Health Information Systems Manager and Stephanie Franklin, Clinical Applications Coordinator.



**Primary Care staff.** Front row left to right are Deanna Macks, Patient Registration Specialist; Jean Ardis, Patient Registration Clerk; and Kay Gattis, Patient Registration Specialist. Middle row left to right are Shannon Skaggs, Patient Registration; Shelly White, Medical Assistant; Haley Rolin, LPN; Linda Jones, LPN; Sarena Helton, Medical Assistant; Marsha Fendley, Registered Dietician; Dr. Daren Flanagan; and Nancy Smith, Director of Nursing. Last row left to right are Donna Johnson, Diabetes Case Manager; Nioma Till, Clinic Case Manager; Kendi Kirby, Physician Assistant; Dr. James McKinley, Chief Physician/Chief Medical Officer; Juanita Fears, Referral Specialist; Paula Daniel, LPN; Kevin Davis, LPN; and Dr. Theodore Woods, Staff Physician. Not shown is Julia Gordon, Nurse Practitioner.



## HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF-HERE FOR YOUR HEALTH CARE NEEDS



**Laboratory staff.** Left to right: Virgie Provencher, Lab Director and LeAnn Fitzgerald, Medical Technologist.



**Medical Records staff.** Left to right: Brandi Rutherford, Medical Records Assistant; Kim Flowers, Medical Records Manager; and Lannette Tuberville, Medical Records Scanner.



**Radiology staff.** Left to right: Melissa Boatwright, X-Ray Technologist and Tina McGhee, Patient Registration Specialist.



**Behavioral Health staff.** Left to right are George Hamilton, Licensed Therapist; Kim Snow, Behavioral Health Manager; and Tori Madden, Behavioral Health Coordinator.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF-HERE FOR YOUR HEALTH CARE NEEDS

**Physical Therapy staff.** Left to right: Connie Lambeth, Patient Registration Specialist; Dr. Brittany Martin, Physical Therapist; Ashley Edwards, Physical Therapist Assistant.



**Community Health staff.** Seated, Sandra Day, Community Health Director. Standing left to right are Kay Thomas, Health Educator; Carrie Martin, CHR; Jill Lee, Nutrition Specialist/WIC Coordinator; Randy Adams, Transportation Provider; Juanita Slate, Transportation Provider; and Jessica Dortch, Community Health Nurse. Not shown is Jeri Cisneros, LPN/CHR.



**Dental staff.** Left to right are Selina Steele, Dental Hygienist; June Fulmer, Dental Assistant; Dr. Paul Dirkes, Dentist; Janet Rodriguez, Patient Registration Specialist; Linda Martin, Dental Hygienist; Dr. Gus Bahos, Chief Dentist; and Kristin James, Dental Assistant. Not shown is Michelle Fitzhugh, Dental Assistant.





## HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF-HERE FOR YOUR HEALTH CARE NEEDS



**Revenue Cycle.** Seated left to right: Linda Gibbs, Revenue Cycle Director, and Teresa Smith, Purchase Preferred Care Director. Standing left to right first row: Kathy Meyer, Billing Specialist; Althea Bell, Patient Accounts Specialist; and Christine Ward, Coder. Standing left to right back row: Tonya Jordan, Charge Entry Specialist; Chastity Peebles, Insurance Verification Specialist; Brooke Rolin, Purchased Preferred Care Clerk; Suzanna Coleman, Patient Accounts Specialist; Linda Selzer, Patient Accounts Specialist; and Wanda Clark, Certified Coder. Not shown is Kelly Dirting, Certified Coder.



**Pharmacy staff.** Seated left to right: Susan Hayes, Pharmacist; Selina Chee, Chief Pharmacist; and Jimmy Lynn, Pharmacist. Standing left to right: Lori Johnson, Pharmacy Technician; Kate Sanders, Pharmacy Technician; Ashley Williams, Pharmacy Technician; Deidre Bratcher, Pharmacy Technician; and Amber Alvarez, Pharmacy Clerk.



**Premier Family Eye Care staff.** Seated is Dr. Amanda Cobb, Optometrist. Standing left to right: Heather Rolin, Optical Assistant; Megan Rackard, Receptionist; Jessica Rogers, Paraoptometric Technician; and Rosie Boyte, Office Manager.

# SAIL/SENIOR SERVICES DEPARTMENT



We all know that the Tribe would not be where it is today without the Tribal Elders. The staff of the Senior Services Department is dedicated to showing our Elders how much they are loved and appreciated. Shown seated left to right are Harold Rolin, Kitchen Helper; Cameron Murphy, Kitchen Helper; and James Green, Cook. Standing left to right are Casey Walker, Administrative Assistant; Vicky Byrd, Transportation Provider; Velma Crocker, Causal Help; Willie Faye Thomas, Casual Help; Cynthia Wright, Transportation Coordinator; and Carolyn Dortch, Senior Services Director.

## FREE SMART PHONE THROUGH NORTH AMERICAN LOCAL

All Creek Tribal Members can now receive a free smart phone. Benefits include a smart phone, which provides access to WiFi and up to 1000 minutes of Talk/Text minutes monthly.

In order to receive a phone:

- You must qualify under the Federal Lifeline Assistance program, and
- Be at least 18 years old and live on Federally Recognized Tribal Lands in the Creek Nation.

Offer limited to one phone per household.

To apply for a smart phone, come to the Tribal Museum and ask for Hilary Cruz. Hilary will be available Monday - Friday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Please have your Tribal ID ready as proof of Tribal Membership.

For more information call (251) 321-1508 or contact North American Local at 877-403-517.

*Federal Lifeline Assistance is a government program supported by the federal universal service fund. North American Local LLC is working in conjunction with the Creek Nation to provide this service. NAL is an ETC authorized by the Federal and State government to provide FREE MOBILE PHONE service to all members of the Creek Tribal Nation. Lifeline assistance program is only available for one wireless, wire line, or internet account per household. Offer limited to new eligible customers who are approved for Lifeline service. Minutes do not roll over each month. You must provide proof of tribal membership for program participation.*

*North American Local LLC  
38 South Blue Angel Pkwy Suite 401  
Pensacola FL 32506 877-403-8171*



## National Indian Council On Aging, Inc. (NICOA)

*Advocating for American Indian And Alaska Native Elders*

**Niagara Falls, NY     September 13-15, 2016**



The Poarch Creek Indians Tribal Elders will be taking their annual trip this year to attend the National Indian Council on Aging's (NICOA) Indian Elders Conference in Niagara Falls, NY. The trip will be from September 9-19, 2016.

The NICOA Conference serves as a national forum where American Indian and Alaska Native Elders from across the Continental United States and Alaska convene for biennial meetings. These meetings benefit over 300,000 Elders as well as the entire American Indian and Alaska Native population from all 565 tribes.

The conference consists of educational presentations from tribal, state, federal and a diverse network of aging service partners that provide information and updates on aging services, health care, civic engagement and economic development in Indian Country.

### REGISTRATION

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (CST)

**May 31, 2016 - June 4, 2016**

**Tribal Members**

**Age 55 and older**

*(Non-Tribal spouse may accompany Tribal Member spouse.)*

No registrations accepted prior to or after established registration dates.

***Registration deadlines will be strictly enforced.***

Application will be published in the May issue of the newsletter as well as posted on the Senior Services page of the Tribal web site [www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov). Completed applications can be faxed, emailed, or hand delivered to the Senior Services Department.

Information required at registration:

- Name
- Tribal Roll Number
- Date of Birth
- Address
- Telephone Number

For more information contact:

Casey Walker (251) 368-936 x 2289 or [cwalker@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:cwalker@pci-nsn.gov).

Carolyn Dortch (251) 368-9136 x 2288, (251) 253-5885, or [cdortch@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:cdortch@pci-nsn.gov).

Cynthia Wright (251) 368-9136 x 2803 or (251) 253-8772.

Transportation will be by Tribal buses only. All buses will depart and return to the SAIL Center; there will be no other pick-up/drop-off locations



# PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

*Bruce Lee, Division Director*

## TRIBAL COURT



The staff from Tribal Court are always ready to help you with judicial issues such as traffic tickets, child support, and Drug Court. Shown seated left to right are Gina Harbinson, Judicial Assistant; Keesha O'Barr, Tribal Court Administrator; and Angela Boatwright, Clerk of Court. Standing left to right are Paul Thomas, Tribal Probation Officer; Charity Miller, Tribal Court Assistant; Caitlyn Corey, Case Manager; and Wes Hayles, Addictions Counselor.



### A NATIVE AMERICAN BLESSING

May you have the strength of eagles' wings,  
The faith and courage to fly to new heights,  
And the wisdom of the universe to carry you there.

## SUCCESSFUL ELEMENTS OF RECOVERY

---

The question remains how can an addict get clean but can't stay clean? Those with success in long term sobriety have 4 particular things in common:

1. They are able to maintain their motivation to stay clean
2. They have effectively learned how to cope with urges and craving.
3. They have found ways to manage their thoughts, feelings and behaviors in an appropriate manner without use of drugs.
4. They live a balanced life.

Learning how to balance short term and long term pleasures and satisfactions in life. As long as an addict keeps suppressing the long term and focus on the short term, they keep their addiction going. Almost all the benefits of drug use are short term and the detriments are long term.

The Law of Human Gravity states that a person will gravitate from a condition that "appears" to be one of

greater distress to one that "appears" to be one of lesser distress, and never in the reverse direction. Any attempt to reverse this would be like trying to make water flow uphill.

Drugs provide some measure of relief from discomfort and abstinence, at least initially, causes distress. While the Law of Human Gravity direction can never change, it is possible for people to change their perceptions. All people will always move in the direction of what they "perceive" will bring them the most happiness. Thus, much of addiction is based faulty perceptions and thinking patterns.

Remember, thus recovery is more than abstinence. It means letting go of the addictive thought process/belief system and adopting a new one. Many times people seek treatment in order not to lose something as much as they do to gain something. They must understand that what drives the human race is not fear of consequences, but the pursuit of happiness. Fear will push people to make changes, but effort is almost always temporary. Keep moving forward!

---

## TRIBAL COURT HOSTS BANQUET FOR NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH

In honor of National Drug Court Month, the Poarch Creek Indians Tribal Court will be sponsoring a banquet at Wind Creek Hotel and Casino featuring nationally known speaker Chis Herren.

Chris is a former NBA player that struggled with substance abuse for much of his basketball career. He is also well known for the Emmy nominated ESPN Films documentary about his life/basketball career, *Unguarded*.

Drug and alcohol free since August 2008, Chris has refocused his life to put sobriety and family above all else. He often speaks before groups trying to overcome addiction to share his experiences and road to sobriety. Chris is the founder of the Herren Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing treatment navigation and mentoring programs to those touched by addiction, and to educating people of all ages on the dangers of substance abuse.

Please join us by attending this event on May 3, 2016 at 6 pm. and enjoying our special speaker present his motivational story.



# TRIBAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Tribal Fire Department rolls out for all types of calls from a call for medical assistance to a house fire; I don't know if the Fire Department has ever responded to a call to get a cat out of a tree, but I am sure they would if they did!

Tribal Emergency Management and fire department staff shown are:

1. Administrative staff, left to right are Mindy Jackson, Office Manager; April Sells, TEM Director; Chris McGhee, Training Officer/Inspector/Paramedic; Ronnie Jackson, Fire Chief; and Mike Respress, Assistant Fire Chief/EMTB.
2. Station #1 A-Shift shown left to right are Andy Hammonds, Driver/EMTB; Chris Cain, Firefighter/AEMT; and Brian Woods; Firefighter/Paramedic.
3. Station #1 B-Shift shown left to right are Kevin Baggett, Firefighter/Paramedic; Paul Garner, Firefighter/AEMT; and Cade Langham, Driver/First Responder.
4. Station #1 C-Shift shown left to right are Colby Langham, Driver/AEMT; Spencer Williamson, Driver/AEMT; and Sterling Smith, Firefighter/AEMT.







Fire Department staff shown from Station #2 are:

1. Station #2 A-Shift shown left to right are Trent Lambert, Firefighter/Paramedic; Dylan Byrd, Captain/AEMT; and Justin Pablo, Firefighter/AEMT.
2. Station #2 B-Shift shown left to right are Brice Agerton, Firefighter/EMTB; Michael Wood, Driver/EMTB; and Robbie Johnson, Captain/Paramedic.
3. Station #2 C-Shift shown left to right are Chris Lee, Firefighter/First Responder; William Ervin, Captain/Paramedic; Lance Latham, Firefighter/EMTB; and Cole Stewart, Firefighter/AEMT.

*EMTB-EMT Basic*

*AEMT-Advanced EMT*



## THE AMERICAN FLAG

The American Flag, is red, white, and blue.  
To you, I salute, this is what I do.

The American Flag, you stand so free  
To you, I salute, with love from me.

The American Flag, nicknamed "Old Glory".  
To you, I salute, a flag with a story.

The American Flag, you've changed over the years.  
To you, I salute, with a song and music in our ears.

The American Flag, we display you with pride.  
To you, I salute, your true colors we do not hide.

The American Flag, what can I say.  
To you, I salute, each and every day.

The American Flag, raised by a rope.  
To you I salute, you give us hope.



# TRIBAL POLICE



Dispatchers, the calm voices that lead in time of crisis: Seated left to right are Melinda McCurdy, Dispatcher and Susan Rolin, Lead Dispatcher. Standing left to right are Melissa Kendrick, Dispatcher; Cory Chavers, Dispatcher; and Chassidy Shoumake, Dispatcher.

---

## 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*

## ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

April 23, 2016  
8:00 am—12:00 pm

Poarch Creek Indians  
Fire Station #1  
(Jack Springs Road)

### OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS OF THE SURROUNDING AREA.

Accepting paints, automobile batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, household chemicals, pesticides, flammables, corrosives, other hazardous household products, fluorescent bulbs, and electronic wastes (computers, monitors, printers,

scanners, Palm accessories, power supplies, battery backups, rechargeable batteries, cables, toner/ink cartridges, hard drives, CD roms, speakers, VCRs, DVD players, stereo equipment, TVs, game consoles, digital cameras, any audio or video equipment, networking equipment, tape drives, test equipment, fax machines, keyboards, voice/tape recorders, radios, Walkman products, calculators, cellular phones, and phone accessories).

THIS COLLECTION IS FOR HOUSEHOLDS ONLY. Large quantities from businesses, farms, or commercial operations will not be accepted.

PROHIBITED: infectious and medical wastes, medications, biological and radioactive materials, compressed gas cylinders, ammunition, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and explosives.

For more information: Contact the Poarch Creek Indians Environmental Department at 251-368-9136.

THIS IS A FREE SERVICE! Please utilize this opportunity to keep these hazards out of our waterways and natural environment.



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# TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION

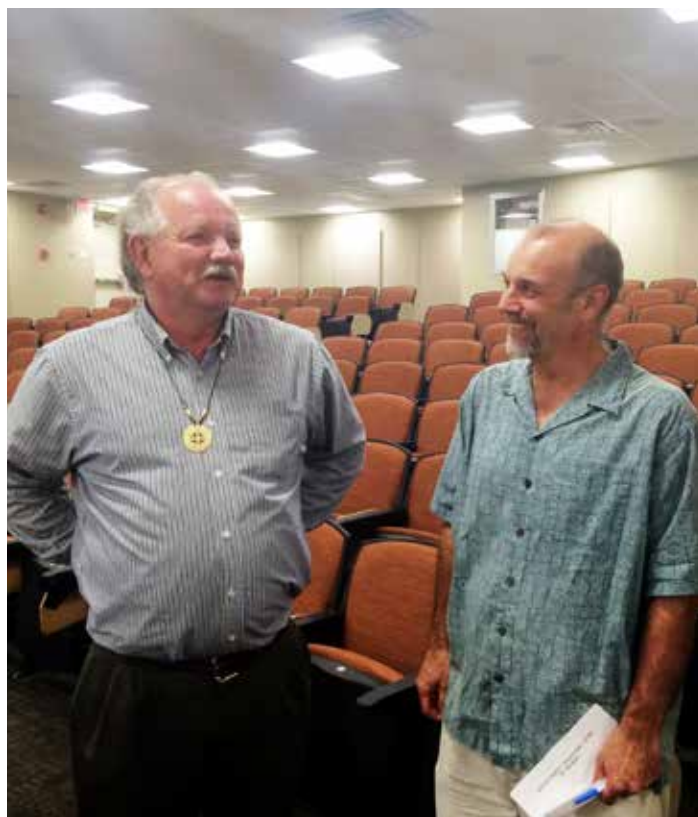
COMING SOON IN 2016:

## A NEW SOUTHEASTERN INDIAN COURSE

COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA'S NATIVE STUDIES PROGRAM AND THE POARCH CREEK INDIANS TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

A college level course is presently being designed to be taught by both University of South Alabama Professor Phillip Carr and co-taught by Poarch Creek Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), Robert Thrower (as his schedule permits). The class is multi-disciplinary in nature, open to both undergraduate and graduate level students. Those who would like to take the course for training only (with no college credit) can opt to audit course; however, it is recommended that if you are going to both pay for and attend this class, you should go ahead and do so for college credit. The course will be offered at the USA Campus in Mobile, Alabama.

Title & Details TBA: This course will deal with the cosmology and daily life of the Southeastern Indians, from early to historic times. There will be heavy emphasis on the way that our early Creek ancestors lived. To date, the class will be taught only one night per week on Tuesday evenings during the Fall Semester of 2016 (projected class duration: August 16<sup>th</sup> – December 2<sup>nd</sup>).



THPO Robert Thrower, left, with Dr. Phillip Carr

Stay tuned to the next issue of the *Poarch Creek News* for more details. It is sincerely hoped that many of you will take the opportunity to learn more about our ancestors and Creek culture, both yesterday and today. This is also a wonderful opportunity for you to become directly involved with the Native Studies Program at the University of South Alabama.

## GMcGhee Construction

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[www.artbycher.50webs.com](http://www.artbycher.50webs.com)

Cher  
Christensen  
(505) 296-7723

- \* Sculptures
- \* Portraits From Photos
- \* Oil & Watercolor Paintings
- \* Custom Jewelry Design

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

# TRIBAL REGULATORY COMMISSION



*Pictured bottom row, right to left: Cornelia Miller, Chair; Linda Brooks, Treasurer; Wayne Colbert, Vice-Chair. Pictured back row, right to left: Sherell Hendrickson; William "Joey" Selzer; Charlotte Meckel, Secretary, and Patrick Strickland.*

The Tribal Employment Rights Commission (commonly referred to as the TERO Commission) was established by the Tribal Council in 2007. Wayne Colbert is the only original Commissioner still serving on the Commission. Linda Brooks has been a TERO Commissioner since 2010. Thank you Wayne and Linda for your service on the TERO Commission and now on new Tribal Regulatory Commission. Welcome to the five new Tribal Regulatory Commissioners appointed during 2015 and 2016.

On May 7, 2015, the Tribal Regulatory Commission was enacted by Tribal Council Ordinance 2015-12 as a part of restructuring and to implement the new Tribal Government structure. The purpose of the Tribal Regulatory Commission is to “promulgate [announce] and enforce rules and regulations for the environment

on Tribal lands, employment rights issues, the historic and cultural resources of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and sporting events conducted on the Reservation for commercial gain”, and to “manage and monitor” based on Tribal laws the Tribe’s Environmental Program, the activities of the Tribal Employment Rights Office and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and all sporting events conducted on the reservation.

Since its creation, the Tribal Regulatory Commission announced proposed TERO Regulations, held a hearing, and recommended TERO Regulations in September 2015 for approval by Tribal Council. The Commission is also involved in hearing matters to ensure compliance with Tribal laws.



# TRIBAL MEMBER SERVICES DIVISION

*Martha Gookin, Division Director*

## FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

*ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF TRIBAL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.*



The love and care of Tribal Members and their families is always at the forefront for the staff of the Family Services Department. Seated left to right are Michealine Deese, Child & Family Welfare Coordinator; Lena White, Child Care Coordinator; Shirley "Pug" Roberson, Homemaker Case Aide; and Amanda Montgomery, Family Services Director. Standing left to right are Stephanie Gatlin, Crisis Intervention Coordinator; Crystal Hadley, Community Services Coordinator; Michelle Barron, Homemaker Case Aid; Jennifer Reynolds, Family Services Clerk; Wanda Fowler, Adult Services Coordinator; Rebecca Presley, Homemaker Case Aide; Shelly Boyington, Homemaker Case Aide; Thursa Griffey, Family Services Clerk; and Frank McCloskey, Abuse Prevention Coordinator. Not pictured are Kathy Ledkins, Special Assistant and Stella Rutherford, Family Services Clerk.

### ONE

One tree can start a forest;  
One smile can begin a friendship;  
One hand can lift a soul;  
One word can frame the goal;  
One candle can wipe out darkness;  
One laugh can conquer gloom;  
One hope can raise your spirits;  
One touch can show your care;  
One life can make a difference,  
BE that ONE TODAY!



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# Family Services Department

## Summer LIHEAP

### \*General Information\*

- **Distribution Dates: May 2, 2016 -July 29, 2016**
- If you previously participated in the 2016 Winter LIHEAP program, you do not need an appointment for Summer LIHEAP. You will need to fill out a one page application and present your current energy bill and current income to Family Services Department. You will not be allowed to turn in your application without this information attached.
- If you did not participate in Winter LIHEAP, you will be required to fill out a full application and will be required to complete the interview process and submit all required documentation.
- ALL 2016 PER CAPITA WILL BE COUNTED AS INCOME.
- Priority is given to Senior Households, clients receiving Disability Income, Households with children under the age of 5, and Households receiving Food Stamps or TANF benefits.
- LIHEAP does NOT pay for any additional fees or services such as late fees, connection fees, outside lights, etc.
- Approval amounts range from \$250-\$325. You will be responsible for any charges that are not covered by LIHEAP. If your bill is less than the awarded amount, only the total amount of the bill will be paid.

### \*Required Documentation\*

- 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 home over 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.
- Verification if household is receiving Food Stamps.
- CURRENT Social Security or Disability Income Verification. We must have current income verification on file for all 2016 applications and services.

### L.I.H.E.A.P. Financial Guidelines

LIHEAP ( 60% of Estimated State Median Income)

State	Estimated State Median Income for a 4-person household	1-person household	2-person household	3-person household	4-person household	5-person household	6-person household	7-person household
Alabama	\$66,253	\$20,671	\$27,031	\$33,392	\$39,752	\$46,112	\$52,473	\$53,665
Florida	\$65,764	\$20,518	\$26,831	\$33,145	\$39,458	\$45,771	\$52,085	\$53,268

\* Please be aware of household income adjustments \*\*

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



The dedicated staff of the Housing Department are here to help you with your housing needs. Front row left to right: Susan M. Wicker, Housing Director; Wendy Davis, Programs Manager; Krystal Langford, Maintenance Receptionist/Custodian; and Jason Griffey Maintenance Manager. Middle row left to right are Theresa Rutherford, Programs Specialist; Charlotte Parham, Programs Specialist; Lori Waters, Secretary; Regina Brown, Clerk; and Ray Ward, Construction Manager. Back row left to right are Ricky Parham, Inspector; Jeremy Odom, Grounds Supervisor; Bryan Ledkins, Groundskeeper; Michael Rolin, Groundskeeper; and Bryan Gregson, Maintenance Worker. Not pictured are Jason Madden, Inspector; Shannon Peavy, Counselor; Wayne Rutherford, Maintenance Supervisor; John Colbert, Maintenance Worker; Bill McGhee, Maintenance Worker; and Felicia Ardis, Administrative Assistant.

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## TRIBE PARTICIPATES IN SECTION 184 INDIAN LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians participates in the Section 184 Indian Loan Guarantee Program for the following counties in the state of Alabama: Baldwin, Elmore, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, Montgomery, and Washington. Participating Lenders for local counties are:

- United Bank (251) 446-6025 or 800-423-7026  
[www.unitedbank.com](http://www.unitedbank.com) or  
[amber.stokes@unitedbank.com](mailto:amber.stokes@unitedbank.com)
- First National Bank & Trust (FNB & Trust)  
(251) 368-0469  
[www.FNBandT.com](http://www.FNBandT.com) or [lee@FNBandT.com](mailto:lee@FNBandT.com)

- Southwest Funding (251) 216-4112  
[www.southwestfunding.com](http://www.southwestfunding.com) or  
[pbarham@southwestfunding.com](mailto:pbarham@southwestfunding.com)

Outside the local area? Nationally known lenders 1st Tribal Lending (605-610-0961) and Green Point (1-800-700-0753) may be able to assist tribal members outside of the local areas. For those Tribal Members who live outside of these counties, we are still working to get this program approved state wide.

For additional information on the Section 184 program, participating tribes and lenders you can visit [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov).

# SENIOR EMERGENCY REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Tribe's Senior Emergency Rehabilitation Program is designed to assist elderly or disabled Tribal Members with emergency situations in regards to threat of health and/or safety of the residence.

It is administered by the Housing Department with Tribal discretionary funds and in accordance with the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) and in coordination with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). If approved the Housing Director shall have the authority to grant approval for rehabilitation services up to but not to exceed a total of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to correct the existing threat to health and safety.

Eligibility requirements:

1. Must be a Tribal Member
2. Must meet the definition of Tribal Senior, elderly person, or person with disabilities, or have a dependent living in the household who meets the definition of person with disabilities.

3. Must own or have a long-term (at least 5 years) lease on the home, or if a manufactured home is being rehabilitated, a copy of the title or other proof of ownership or long term lease.

4. Must not have participated in the Emergency Rehabilitation Program within the last five (5) years preceding the application, unless the applicant received less than \$10,000 in services during his/her previous involvement, in which case the applicant is eligible for an amount to be determined by subtracting the cost of the previous services from \$10,000; and

5. Must not have any delinquent accounts with the Tribe, its departments, authorities, commissions, or other entities.

Contact the Housing Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2251 for further questions concerning this program or other programs of the Housing Department.

Fire In The Field, A Crusade for All

Monroeville, AL

Gerald Simmons and worship team 6:00 pm

Frank Shelton will bring the message at 7:00 pm

Come and see!

Hear what God is doing!

Don't miss out!

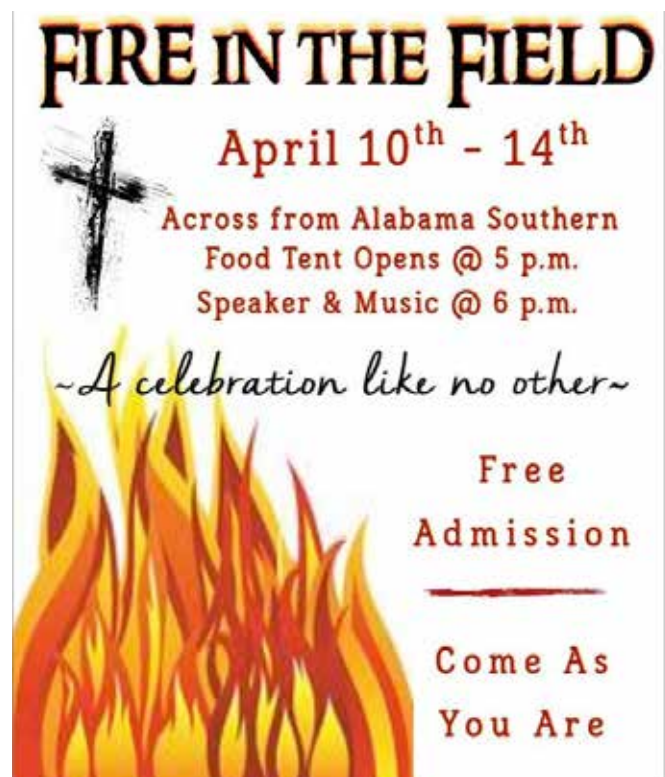
*"Holy Fire burn away,*

*My desire for anything*

*That is not of you and is of me.*

*I want more of you and less of me."*

*Jeremy Camp*





# TRIBAL MEMBER BENEFITS DEPARTMENT



We feel most of you are familiar with the staff of the Tribal Member Benefits Department. If you have only spoken to them by phone, let's put a face to the name! Front row left to right: Denise Young, Data Specialist; Carolyn Rackard, Elder Benefits Assistant; and Marlene McNairn, Tribal Member Benefits Manager. Back row left to right: Anna Wilson, Tribal Benefits Special Assistant; Elaine Sheets, Tribal Benefits Liaison; and Tabatha Davis, Benefits Information Clerk. Not shown is Kenny Shivers, Tribal Member Benefits Director.

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## **Town Hall Meeting To Address Tribal Health Insurance Exchange Transition Tuesday, May 3, 2016 6:00 p.m. In Building 500 Auditorium**

This meeting is being held to clarify and explain why the Tribe is discontinuing the Tribal Member Self Insured Insurance Program. There will be a question and answer session after the meeting. However, if you live outside of the service area you may email your questions and/or concerns prior to the meeting to [ejackson@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:ejackson@pci-nsn.gov), [esheets@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:esheets@pci-nsn.gov) or [mmcnairn@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:mmcnairn@pci-nsn.gov).

This meeting will be available for viewing on the Tribal Member Portal. (TMOP)

For more information, please contact Edie Jackson, Health & Elder Services Division Director at 251-368-9136 ext. 2231; Elaine Sheets, Tribal Benefits Liaison at 251-368-9136 ext. 2215, or Marlene McNairn, Tribal Benefits Manager at 251-368-9136 ext. 2207.

Light refreshments will be served.

# Non-Divisional DEPARTMENTS

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT



The Governmental Relations Department is responsible for conducting lobbying efforts and ensuring that the Tribe's best interest is properly represented, coordinated and monitored at local, state and federal government levels. Staff is also responsible for public relations, designed to create and maintain a favorable image of the Tribe, as well as maintaining the Tribe's website, social media, and development and publication of the newsletter. Shown seated left to right are Gayle Johnson, Editor, *Poarch Creek News*; and Robbie McGhee, Chief Government Affairs Officer. Standing left to right are Stephanie Slate, Secretary/Receptionist, Sharon Delmar, Public Relations Tribal Liaison, and Hannah Flowers, Administrative Assistant.

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### HAVE YOU STOPPED BY THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP LATELY?

Assorted sizes, colors, and styles of hats, T-shirts, and other merchandize is available.

Tribal Members get a 15% discount unless noted otherwise.

Stop by to check out what is in stock!

Gift Shop hours: Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Call the Gift Shop at (251) 368-9136 x 2050/2053 if you have any questions.



# HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT



If you want a job with the Tribe, whether it be a temporary position through the WIA program or full time employment, the staff of Human Resources are there to assist. Human Resources staff seated left to right are Clara Jones, WIA Coordinator; Jason Rackard, Human Resources Director; and Vera Ramer Benefits Coordinator. Standing left to right are Roxanne Murphy, Safety Officer; Susan Spruill, Human Resources Assistant; Megan Daughtry, Human Resources Clerk; and Sehoy Spence, Employment Specialist.

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## TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

*Monday, May 25, 2016* Government offices, including Boys & Girls Club, gym, and Museum, will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

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

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## TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (TEP) SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR TEMPORARY JOBS THROUGH SUMMER SEASON

The Temporary Employment Program (TEP) will be working with the WIND CREEK Casino and Hotel to provide some temporary jobs. These jobs will be with the Grounds Department and will start April, 2016.

- Applicants must be able to pass background check and/or obtain temporary Gaming License
- Jobs will be outside (April-September)

- Applicants must complete an application: HR Department, Building 600, 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore, AL 36502
- Pays \$10.00 per hour

If you would like more information, contact Clara Jones, WIA Coordinator, at 251-368-9136, extension 2266.



# LEGAL DEPARTMENT



The Legal Department works closely with the Tribal Council on Tribal legal issues. Shown on front row left to right are Marilyn Lyles, Assistant Attorney General; Gia Langham, Executive Assistant, Debra Coon, Litigation Assistant; and Lori Stinson, Attorney General. Back row left to right are Jeff Trattner, Assistant Attorney General; Erica Klinger, Assistant Attorney General; Brad Stinson, Assistant Attorney General, and Link Loegler, Assistant Attorney General.

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## LEGAL UPDATE

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 x 2110 or the Legal Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2525.

### TRIBAL LITIGATION

#### *Poarch Band of Creek Indians v. Moore (Federal Court)*

On May 26, 2015, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians (“Tribe”) filed a complaint against Escambia County, Alabama Tax Assessor Jim Hildreth in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama. The Tribe’s complaint requests that the court declare that the lands are not within the Escambia County Tax Assessor’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 April 12, 2016.

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 United States 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](http://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.

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## VIETNAM VETERAN MEMORIAL, THE WALL THAT HEALS

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The Vietnam Veteran Memorial  
The Wall That Heals

USS Alabama Battleship  
Memorial Park

2703 Battleship Parkway  
Mobile, AL 36603

Open to the Public  
From

8:00 a.m. Thursday, May 19, 2016  
through

5:00 pm Sunday, May 22, 2016

For more information contact  
Robert Glenn Nivens  
Blue Star Salute Foundation  
[Rnivens2887@charter.net](mailto:Rnivens2887@charter.net)

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*Hosted by Blue Star Salute Foundation; South Alabama Veterans Council, Battleship Memorial Park, and the City of Mobile.*

# OFFICE OF ARCHIVES & RECORDS MANAGEMENT

## PUBLIC RECORD: BUYING YOUR LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT APPLICATION THAT WAS SUBMITTED DURING THE CHIEF CALVIN MCGHEE FEDERAL LAWSUIT

*Submitted by Deidra Suwanee Dees, Ed. D.*

*[This article was initially published in the Poarch Creek News in February of 2012; reprinting with updated information.]*

How would you like to see your land claims settlement application that your grandmother filled out in the 1960s, '70s or '80s? Did you know you can buy a copy of it at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Fort Worth, Texas? The land claims applications are considered public record, therefore, you can purchase copies of your own application or anyone else's.

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

How do you know if your family members filled out an application? The Office of Archives and Records Management acquired the "Bureau of Indian Affairs Index of Eastern Creeks Land Claims Settlement Applications" which identifies the applicants'



*Senior Services Director Ms. Carolyn Dortch directs interested elders to the Office of Archives and Records Management.*

names. In 2011, Tribal Archivist Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees went through the process of ordering her family records to help Tribal Members purchase their own records and it cost only seventy-five cents per page. One week later, she received the records in the mail!

"How exciting it was to hold pieces of history in my hands!" she exclaimed. She read through the applications of her father, Otis Dees (1917—1984, from Jeddo/Uriah), and her aunts Ruby, Berdie, and Eunice, all of whom have now passed away. "Maybe they're all watching me work in the Archives from heaven!" she thought.

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

A BIA eligibility letter says Otis Dees' application was approved for Docket 275 on March 29, 1983. Dr. Dees remembers her father's face of triumph and solemnity as he passed out the checks to his five children. Less than a year later, unfortunately, he passed away. Dr. Dees said she was thankful her father received his land claims check just in time!

What about your family's land claims applications? You may contact NARA at 817-551-2051 or by e-mail at [ftworth.archives@nara.gov](mailto:ftworth.archives@nara.gov) or you could search the website at <http://www.facebook.com/nationalarchivesfortworth>. Call us at 446-4942 or come into our Office at 100 Brookwood/CIEDA and our professional staff will assist you. You might be surprised to find the names of family members you have not seen in a very long time.

Mvto.





Pictured to the right are the lovely ladies from the Tribal Enrollment Department! Seated left to right: Megan Stabler, Administrative Assistant and Lisa Barnhill, Tribal Enrollment Specialist (Tribal Members). Standing left to right: Rebecca Mills, Tribal Enrollment Specialist (Indian Descent) and Gwen Manning, Tribal Enrollment Director.

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## SALUTE YOU SCHOLARSHIPS

Many people join the military because they want to do something that matters. They want to serve their country and do their part to protect people. Deployments, temporary homes, and time away from family are all sacrifices needed to achieve that sense of purpose.

That overarching sense of duty does not go unnoticed. Soldiers, Marines, sailors, airmen and Coast Guard are praised by the public, and as a result, they know they are contributing to something real. They know they are making a difference.

When military service ends, the American Council on Exercise (ACE) can help veterans continue to lead. Their quality, accredited Personal Trainer

Certification will give veterans the tools they need to help people change their lives through fitness.

ACE is now offering a limited number of full scholarships to help veterans launch a new career and serve in a whole new way.

To apply for ACE Personal Trainer Certification study materials, an exam registration voucher and one-on-one study assistance at no cost\*, you must submit a DD Form 214 (Member 4 copy) showing you either will be honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard up to 6 months after your application date or you have been honorably discharged within the past 24 months.

Please visit [www.acefitness.org](http://www.acefitness.org) for complete information.

## TRIBAL FINANCE DEPARTMENT



Tim Speegle and the Tribal Finance Department coordinate Tribal finances. If you have only spoken to them by phone, let's put a face to the name! Seated left to right are Angela DeVilbiss, Executive Assistant, and Betty Caraway, Property Control Coordinator. Standing left to right are Tim Speegle, Chief Financial Officer, Jessica Daily, Treasury Analyst, Jennifer Thomas, Budget and Financial Supervisor, Courtney Jackson, Tribal Accounting Clerk, and Deborah Hammons, Financial Analyst. Not shown are Tracy Bottjer, Procurement Officer, and Candice Byrd, Housing Accounting Director.

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

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

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



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

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





Tribal Utilities staff....our super heroes in all matters related to drinking water and solid waste! Standing on front row left to right are Jamie Ramer, Maintenance Supervisor; Bo Slate, Utilities Assistant, Dempsey Rolin, Utilities Operator Supervisor; Ashley Lowe, Office Manager; and Trent McGhee, Maintenance Technician. Back row left to right are Bill Holmes, Chief Utilities Operator; Nathan Dortch, Maintenance Foreman; Josh Thomas, Utilities Executive Director; Larry Bailey, Jr., Operations Technician; Shawn Livermore, Operations Manager; and Trent Flowers, Utilities Assistant.

## APPLICATIONS 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](http://www.pci-nsn.gov).

Application 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.





## APRIL 2016 MONTHLY UPDATE

With the struggles that so many communities are enduring to attain suitable drinking water, Poarch Creek Utilities is grateful to be able to serve our customers with a quality product.

The Poarch Creek Utilities Authority has recently completed multiple projects as we work toward the continuous improvement of our systems. The new Canoe Water Well Treatment Plant upgrade included the installation of new treatment equipment, upgrading the electrical service and panels, and the installation of remote monitoring hardware and software. All of these modernizations enable the Canoe Water Well to better serve our customers by having reliable and consistent water treatment as well as providing us the ability to improve our response time for any system failures or infrastructure breakdowns.

Another imperative Utility project that we are very pleased to have completed is the implementation and installation of the Ultra-Violet (UV) disinfection system at the East Water Well. The UV process ensures adequate disinfection of water for customers in the immediate area of the East Well by not requiring an extended amount of chlorine contact time to meet those same disinfection requirements for water quality. We look forward to converting tribal homes in that area over to the PCI Utilities water distribution system.

In addition to these two completed projects, our Expanded Metal Project is also complete. This project consisted of the construction of a new metal building enclosing our Centrifuge located at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The building will protect vital equipment to our waste water treatment process and extend the life cycle of those assets.

As one project ends in Utilities, another is always on the horizon. Since we self-perform and administer our own projects in-house, the management of these projects are an immense undertaking that we

appreciatively welcome in an effort to cut cost to the Tribe.

Some of our upcoming projects that we will be launching soon include:

- Meter and Backflow Prevention Replacement - the installation and conversion of radio-read meters and new backflow prevention devices on the ECU system in the Canoe community to an automated software program that will decrease the field time required to read meters monthly and provide a more accurate water usage for reporting, tracking, and billing.
- The Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Project – this grant assisted development will include additional and adequate office space for staff, customer parking, renovations to our existing lab, and a heavy loading/unloading delivery area.
- Escambia Community Utilities Infrastructure Improvements – this project will consist of the replacement and/or rehabilitation of numerous water mains in the Canoe community including the areas of Nichols Avenue, Tumbling Lane, and Highway 31 from the existing well to the Airport Road area.
- Waste Water Treatment Plant UV Project – this assignment will implement UV for disinfection of our waste water effluent to reduce chemical cost, improve reliability, and produce a more ecological approach for disinfection.

These are just some of the planned improvements for FY2016. As always, we strive to enhance the water, sewer, and garbage collection services that we provide to the many communities that trust us with these needs.

Please let us know how we can better serve you or if you are a customer and experience a utilities related issue please call our office at 251-446-1617 between the hours of 7am-4pm Monday through Friday.

Mvto!



*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).

**CREEK**  
 Travel Plaza  
 Interstate 65, exit 54

**Breakfast, lunch or dessert ... get it here!**

Inside Creek Travel Plaza  
 251-368-0085

Call 251-446-3423

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 muskogeeinn.com

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 It's family reunion season! Reserve your rooms now at Muskogee Inn.



# Economic Development

## How CIEDA got its start



Looking back on the history of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, many will appreciate what a long, hard road the Tribe has traveled to become who they are today.

Elders soon began to plan for future generations and paved a path for today's young people to advance and not rely on others to provide a way of living.

Thus, in the mid-1980s, Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA) was born. **CIEDA's purpose is to secure our Tribe's future beyond gaming by optimizing returns on funds and natural resources entrusted to us by the Council. CIEDA empowers talented leaders to focus their energy and build profitable organizations by adding value with our capital and management expertise to high-potential business ventures. This creates opportunities for our Tribe and generates wealth, leaving a lasting legacy.**

*This is the first part of a series on the history of CIEDA and why the Tribe branched out into economic development.*

### The boom of economic development

Economies ebb and flow, and generations have a responsibility to leave legacies for their offspring. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians have been doing this for centuries.

But it wasn't until the '80s that a few tribal leaders began to consider new ways to live and become successful. There began the movement into diversification for our Tribe.

From 1984 to 1988, leaders studied economic development. When the Tribe regained

federal recognition, it began to look at ways to further prosper as a people and give back to its neighbors in Alabama and the country as a whole. Other Indian organizations also started concentrating on economic development.

Tribal Member Mal McGhee was on the board of directors for Tribal Government when investments began to take root. When CIEDA was formed, McGhee was on the board of directors there, too.

"Because I had a background in both government and economic development, I was put on both boards," McGhee said. "The businesses under CIEDA were the Best Western (now Muskogee Inn), Muskogee Metalworks (now Muskogee Technology), Creek Family Restaurant, Creek Bingo Palace and a couple others."

### Going beyond gaming

Many Indian tribes across the country have long operated gaming facilities on tribal lands as a source of income. Through trial and error, some have succeeded, and others have not.

Poarch Creek gaming began with Creek Bingo Palace. Although this was highly profitable, leaders considered its future sustainability and began to explore other business areas. With that came a learning curve.

"Gaming blossomed around Indian country and those of us on the national scene realized not only the challenge to sustain that industry, but **how to use that resource to try to create a continuity of income for the Tribe,**" current Tribal Council Treasurer Eddie Tullis

said. "Certain people early on realized the value of keeping government and economic development separate but balanced."

McGhee, Tullis and other leaders attended an economic conference at Harvard University, where they were taught to follow a structure to

have the businesses be separated from government completely.

"Indian tribes are unique in that we are a sovereign government," Tullis said. "Here at Poarch Creek, we understood that as a Tribe, we couldn't successfully run a government and do economic development in tandem. So we created CIEDA as our economic development branch. We then appointed tribal leaders who understood economics to diversify our portfolio. By separating government from economic development, we got ahead of the curve and began to learn how to sustain and provide service to our people."

"Gaming gave us a financial entity that was totally outside the realm of economics," he said. With gaming, the Tribe really has no competition in the market. But with each enterprise, competitors are everywhere. Looking at all economic factors is important when considering certain industries. Price gaps, fluctuating profits and costs all decide how well an industry does at any given time.

"We knew we didn't want to rely on the luxury of gaming forever, so we chose our ventures wisely and it's paid off."

*Look for part two in this series next month.*

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**CIEDA focuses on building profitable businesses to create opportunities for Tribal members.**

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# Ready for Spring Break?

Take a look at your calendar: what do you see? Is there a blocked off space with the big words “SPRING BREAK”?

March and April months have become synonymous with spring break for students of all ages. The most high-profile vacations in the news deal with college students, but the fact remains — more families are planning spring break trips these days, and it’s starting a trend. Many will pack up the car and head toward the beaches of Alabama, Florida and Mississippi, and along the way, there will be pit stops for food, gas and snacks. Others will choose to stay in the local area and use the time off from school to help out others in the community.

Whatever your pleasure, at Creek Travel Plaza (CTP), we have all your spring break essentials. So what makes us so special over another place you could stop? Here are a few reasons to break from driving on your way to your spring break destination:



Creek Travel Plaza  
4.5 ★★★★★ 8 reviews  
Gas Station

## Location

Creek Travel Plaza is in a convenient location on Interstate 65 in Atmore, Ala. The plaza is right off exit 54 and recently just had new parking lot lights installed, so even at night, you can see us from a distance. The lights also provide extra safety at night, when traveling can be a little more dangerous.



## Onsite restaurant

The Diner at Creek Travel Plaza is a full-service, eat-in restaurant. Take a break from the fast-food joints and relax in our 1950s-style diner. Our menus have a little something for everyone, and our full menu, including breakfast, is served all day, every day. There are daily specials and a soup of the day to choose from as well. And don’t forget dessert!

## One-stop shopping

Spring break provides many opportunities to be outside and on the go. So ready-made snacks and drinks are a must for any beach day or community service opportunity. Purchase an insulated cooler at CTP instead of lugging a huge heavy one around. Fill it up with ice, drinks and snacks so you will be ready to go once you hit your destination. If you will be participating in the community, we sell building items, such as screwdrivers, pliers, duct tape and other materials. If you need oil or gas additives, pick up a bottle or two. And in case you get lost on your trip, we sell GPS devices to keep you on track. For food on the go, grab some Chesters chicken for the cooler.



## A place to relax and regroup

At CTP, not only do we have what other places offer in terms of gas and convenience items, but what sets us apart is our other amenities — we have a lounge area with a TV for truckers and those who just need a few minutes to themselves to relax. Free Wi-Fi is available, and there are booths and tables inside the store for those who might need a mobile office for a while. In addition to relaxing inside, we offer huge, clean showers and restrooms in case you need to freshen up. We also offer a picnic area for outdoor dining, and there is even a place to walk your dog — can’t forget your four-legged family members. Just be sure to pick up after your pets and keep our facilities pristine.

So take a look at that calendar again and write “Stop at Creek Travel Plaza in Atmore.” You will be glad you did.



# UNDERSTANDING GAS PRICES

Save at CCSA, CCSW, even when prices are high

Economics is a funny thing. Remember studying in high school about supply and demand, about how production, distribution and consumption of goods and services worked and how what happens across the globe affects every person on the planet?

Sometimes it's difficult to wrap our minds around. But often it's a pretty simple concept. So why do we grumble when prices of goods and services fluctuate? Sure, we all want to buy things for the lowest price possible, but is that always a good idea? The cause-and-effect relationship between supply and demand is a

tricky one.

Take gasoline prices for example. Right now in the United States, Americans are enjoying relatively low gas prices for the first time since the recession in 2008. According to the auto club AAA, the average price of regular grade gasoline in Alabama for March was about \$1.60. That's 56 cents cheaper than at this time last year.

Springtime is here, and summer soon will follow, and that means more drivers will be packing their cars and heading out on vacations or taking more business trips. Everyone will be looking at gas prices and

calculating budgets for the driving season.

As people drive more, the demand for fuel will go up. The switch to a summer blend of gas will cause production to slow, resulting in a lower supply, which also will cause prices to rise. The more demand there is for gas, the harder production companies have to work to supply it, which results in more labor costs, more production costs, more transportation costs, etc.

However, forecasters predict fuel will stay relatively low throughout the summer, with prices creeping up ever so slightly past the \$2 mark.



# Horse trails open

## Western or English: Which riding style is right for you?

Horseback riding is an American pleasure that gives one great pause when riding through nature trails. Leisure trips provide riders the ability to see the depth of their surroundings and to contemplate the joys of Mother Earth, hearing the sounds of birds, leaves and even stillness. Many campgrounds, such as Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve, offer hiking and horse trails so guests can explore the outdoors at their own pace.

On horseback, you can seek out remote regions of Magnolia Branch by following our 10-mile trail that has water crossings and rugged terrain. The park also has a stable with 10 stalls for equestrians to camp with their

### Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve

horse and enjoy viewing wildlife and other activities of the park.

When starting out and learning about horses and trail riding, it's important to know the difference in the styles of riding, whether for sport or just for fun.

The two main styles are named after the type of saddle that is used for various equestrian interests: they are Western saddles and English saddles. Let's take a look at each of these styles and how they benefit both rider and horse.

#### Western riding

Western saddles originally were made for cowboys. These saddles sit longer and wider across the horse's back, giving the rider a more comfortable fit for all-day riding. Many riders of horse trails prefer Western riding because of the longevity of the trips. Riders also seem to have more control over the horse during Western riding because they use the shifting of their weight and neck reins to guide the horse. The primary purpose of the horn on Western saddles is for the rider to use when working cattle, not for balance, which is a common misperception.

There are different types of Western saddles suited for different activities and sports, such as barrel racing, western pleasure, roping and cutting, reining and competitive trail classes. Enthusiasts

can use any type of saddle no matter the purpose, but some do give the rider an advantage or more comfort in a particular area of sport.

Horses performing in the equestrian show class of western pleasure benefit from this type of saddle because the rider's weight distribution tells the animal how to present and move a certain way.

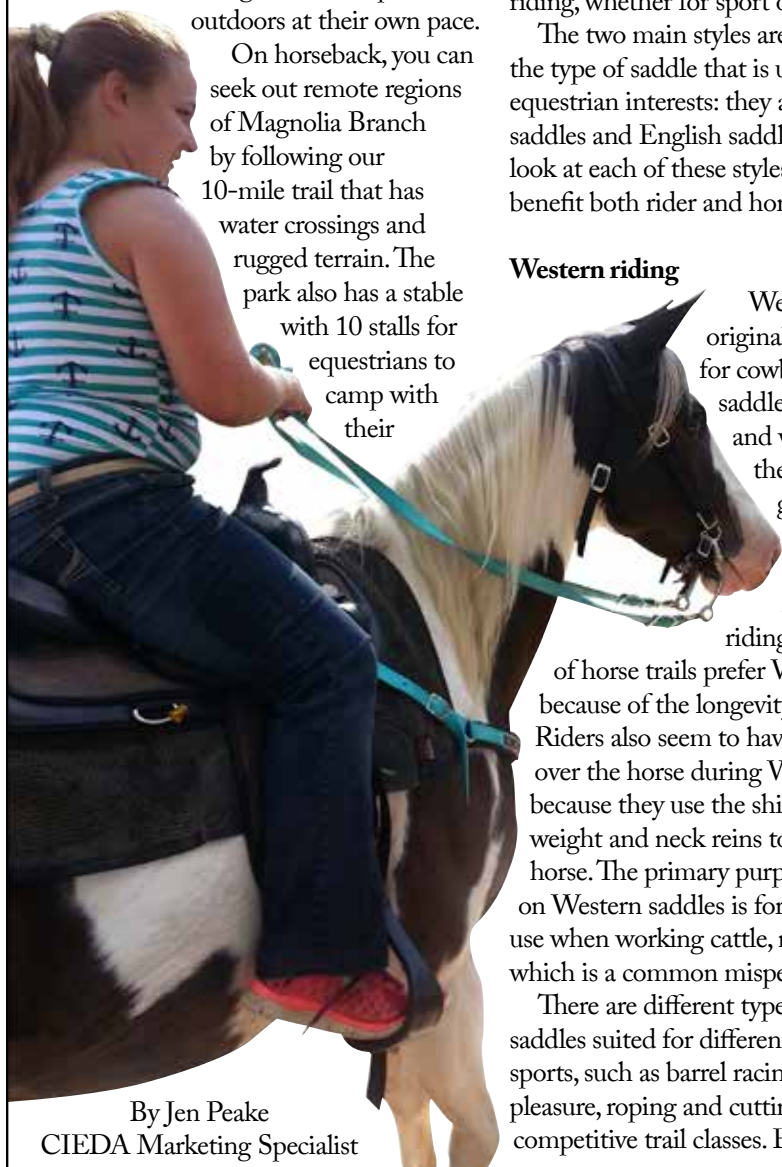
#### English riding

On the flip side, English riding saddles are much smaller and lighter and give the rider closer contact with the horse's back. Because of this, English riders must learn to control the horse with balance, using the legs and reins to keep steady. Like Western saddles, English saddles are made specifically for certain types of activities, which include eventing, dressage, hunter and jumper sports.

In dressage competition, the horse follows a pattern of movements, changing pace and direction, and therefore receives better direction with a rider using the English saddle. Likewise, when jumping fences or trotting across streams or creeks, English saddles offer the close fit for the rider and horse to know what the other is thinking.

However, with both styles of riding, the position of the rider remains the same. The rider should sit upright, with back straight and legs naturally at the horse's side. Riders should not lean forward or backward and should keep arms relaxed against their side, not flailing about loosely.

So keep this in mind next time you go riding. Choose the saddle and style that is appropriate for your activities. Maintaining proper care for you and your horse will ensure an enjoyable time for all.



By Jen Peake  
CIEDA Marketing Specialist





# Muskogee Inn grade-A performance



Here at Muskogee Inn (MI), we take pride in giving you exactly what you want in a hotel experience. Our rooms are clean and our staff goes out of their way to make you feel comfortable. That's why over the past few years, Muskogee Inn has been the recipient of numerous awards from a variety of top-notch reviewers, both locally and nationally.

For example, MI has been selected for five consecutive years as the **Best of Atmore hotels** (2012-2016) and will now be inducted into the **2016 Atmore Business Hall of Fame**.

And just last year, Muskogee Inn won the **Booking.com Award of Excellence**. This is achieved by the voting of guests who stayed at our hotel. The international online hotel site then awarded Muskogee Inn the honor rating of excellence with an average 8.7 rating.

According to reviews.com/travelsites/hotels, Booking.com is ranked No. 1 for online hotel reservations, and customers who use Booking.com report a high degree of satisfaction with the service, citing ease of booking process as the top reason they choose the site.

Another award Muskogee Inn has earned is the **Talk of the Town Award**. For three consecutive years, Muskogee Inn has earned this award for excellence in customer satisfaction. Muskogee Inn also earned a five-star rating from the national company, Talk of the Town News. Researchers talk to real customers who stay at hotels and gage the likeability of that hotel by how well the customers view their stay there.

These accolades not only boost morale of hotel staff, but they also prove that guests are extremely satisfied and enjoy their time here.

By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

## *Alabama Power gets insight into Muskogee Technology*

When it comes to power and energy, Alabama Power Co. knows a thing or two about the subject. So when the opportunity to tour a major manufacturing facility in Atmore came up, the leadership of Alabama Power jumped at the chance.

Representatives from Alabama Power recently got a first-hand experience to see what goes on at Muskogee Technology (MT).

"Alabama Power has worked with Muskogee Technology in the past



and currently to supply equipment as needed at our Plant Berry

Generating Facility in Bucks, Ala.," local Alabama Power Manager Ricky Martin said.

"By meeting with Muskogee Tech officials, we were able to get a better grasp on what they are working on now and what they are pursuing in the future. With that understanding, we would be able to assist them on a regional, state or global stage when the opportunity presents itself."



The group began the day with a presentation by MT Marketing Director Mal McGhee. McGhee presented PowerPoint slides and discussed in detail the various things MT does day in and day out, as well as what they have accomplished in the past and what they seek to do in the near future.

"Our goal was to meet with Muskogee Tech officials to discuss our strengths in economic development and our global

business efforts. We wanted to offer our partnership when appropriate with MT and other Creek Indian endeavors," Martin said.

"We work with Muskogee Technology to meet their power requirements in the most affordable, efficient and effective manner," he said. "We will continue to look for opportunities to serve MT as they look to expand and venture into new areas as well."



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

# Farm reaps NRCS benefits

Perdido River Farms (PRF) is a cow-calf operation with more than 1,000 head of cattle. PRF manages 3,200 acres of Tribal lands, which includes pastureland, hay land and cropland fields planted to summer/winter grazing.

PRF currently employs seven staff members; two are Tribal members and one is first-generation. The staff is committed to being good stewards of the Tribe's agricultural lands and managing the enterprise.

For more than 15 years, Perdido River Farms has been working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in developing conservation stewardship plans to address resource concerns and utilize good stewardship practices. The NRCS is an agency under the United States Department of Agriculture

(USDA) that provides technical and financial assistance to land owners.

Two programs that PRF participates in are the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). These two programs provide financial assistance in reimbursement payments when conservation practices have been installed to NRCS standard and specifications.

To date, PRF installed 260,545 feet of fencing; 14 livestock water wells; 78,702 feet of pipeline; 700 feet of cattle crossings and 57 livestock shade structures, just to name a few. There are many more things the farm does to keep conservation practices at the highest standards.

PRF shares its success story with NRCS to Tribal members

and others in the community by hosting educational meetings, providing onsite tours and opening the enterprise to youth opportunities.

**Through the good stewardship methods and management of PRF and partnership with NRCS, the Tribe has received the highest environmental stewardship award in Alabama.**

"We are very proud of this accomplishment and look forward to a continued strong relationship with NRCS for future generations," PRF General Manager John English said.

If you have any questions concerning USDA NRCS programs or activities, feel free to call NRCS Tribal Liaison David Elliott at 251-368-0826.



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist



## PERDIDO RIVER FARMS



Compared to the past few years, that's still a bargain for the average motorist.

Independent stations, such as Creek Convenience Store Atmore (CCSA) and Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka (CCSW), watch the trends in prices very closely. Managers at both stores set the prices comparable to the market while still trying to save their customers some money. Oftentimes CCSA and CCSW are the lowest on gas prices in their respective local areas. And sometimes they are not. It's an ebb and flow industry caused by economics.

Director of Retail Operations Leo Hammons said other merchandise, such as snacks, drinks and souvenir items, also are a big draw for customers.

"Everyone has a craving now and then for something," Hammons

said. "A soda, a candy bar, some chips or maybe beer — a good bit of our clientele come here for more than just a tank of gas. But then again, everyone who drives needs gas for their cars."

The next time you need to fill up, consider the economics of why the price is what it is. Take advantage of rewards programs, such as the Fuel Rewards Network. CCSA and CCSW accept fuel rewards, so use them.

And remember, the cost per gallon is relative to the demand in the market. Show your favorite station some love and come in to say hi, purchase a cup of coffee and play a key role in your local economy.



# CCS

## WETUMPKA



## What affects prices

*Cause and effect* ..... more drivers equals higher production costs

*Supply vs demand* ..... if supply is low but demand is high, prices surge

*Economic logistics* ..... stock markets, currency rates



*Taxes* ..... federal, state, local and global

*Labor costs* ..... production of goods needs adequate employment

*Convenience costs* ..... credit/debit card transactions

*Political conflicts/war* ..... unease in the Middle East



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist



Mission: Helping people help the land

Vision: Productive soil, healthy land

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the USDA agency which works at the local level to help people conserve all natural resources on private lands.

Visit the NRCS web site [www.al.nrcs.usda.gov](http://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](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

[www.fsa.usda.gov/al](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/al)

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill)

USDA Rural Development

[www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov)

[www.rurdev.usa.gov/al](http://www.rurdev.usa.gov/al)

Alabama Forestry Commission

[www.forestry.state.al.us](http://www.forestry.state.al.us)

For more information contact:

David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison

5535 Poarch Road, Atmore, AL 36502

(251) 368-0826

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

Aldo Leopold

Try to leave the Earth a better place than when you arrived.

Sidney Sheldon

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## Donut Delite & Bakery

**Monday - Saturday  
6:00 am - until we run out!**

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

Text *Donut1* to 51660 to join our text club for updated donut specials!

**Donut Delite**  
305 St. Joseph Ave.  
Brewton, AL 36426  
(251) 867-3300  
(251) 321-0008

The Office of Archives and Records Management houses rare books about Creek Indians and one-of-a-kind records that are found nowhere else in the world. These rare and one-of-a-kind records include:

- A 1937 Muskogee Hymn book that provides words to worship hymns in the Creek language.
- Handwritten Tribal Council Minutes by Ms. Roberta McGhee Sells who served as the Tribal Council Secretary from 1950 to 1977.
- The Federal Recognition Petition that was developed under the tutelage of Chairman Eddie Tullis who retired from the Tribal Council after serving this Tribe for over 45 years.
- The only known film of Chief Calvin McGhee delivering the groundbreaking Declaration of Indian Purpose to President John F. Kennedy, along with other tribal chiefs at the White House in 1962.

Tribal Members can access treasures like these when visiting the Office of Archives and Records Management located at 100 Brookwood Road, Atmore, AL 36502. Contact (251) 446-2941 for more information.





# DAVID GEHMAN SECRETARY

Hello, I'm David Gehman asking for your Vote and support to re-elect me as Secretary. It has been a great honor serving tribal members and I am proud of my record of leadership, honesty and integrity. During my years of service, our Tribe has experienced the most incredible growth of any Tribe in America.



Vernie Barnhill Gehman  
My Mother

Our Elders worked hard in years past, with nothing but a dream - envisioning a better quality of life for their families and future generations. We are blessed beyond our Tribal Elders wildest dreams. We all have so much to thank God for every day.

However, our success is not without challenges and anger expressed thru outsiders seeking to undermine the Sovereignty we struggled to obtain. Re-electing an experienced leader as Secretary is important now more than ever. Please Vote to re-elect me based on my record of successfully engaging one-on-one with Federal, State and Local governments - so that I will be able to continue working to secure legislation that will fully protect our Sovereignty.



Ruby McGhee Barnhill  
My Grandmother

Therefore I am stating for the record: Protecting our Tribal Sovereignty and pressing on with the vision cast by our Tribal Elders, has been and will continue to be my full-time focus as I continue to serve you as Secretary of the Tribe. With the help of God and Tribal Members, I pledge to continue to build "A Better Tribe"; a place we can all call home.

**VOTE** DAVID GEHMAN SECRETARY

Email: [flyguy@frontiernet.net](mailto:flyguy@frontiernet.net)

"I BELIEVE" JOHN 3:16



# April (Tasahce-Rakko) 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

## **Summer Camp Reimbursement Program**

Ongoing through October 31, 2016

## **Summer Swim Team Registration**

Ongoing through May 13, 2016

## **April 1-30, 2016**

2016 Memorial Bricks  
Recreation

## **April 4-5, 2016**

Monday & Tuesday,  
Museum gift shop closed for  
monthly inventory

## **Monday, April 4, 2016**

Information meeting for Cultural Exchange  
Abroad Program  
Building 500 Auditorium 5:30 pm

## **Tuesday, April 5, 2016**

**5:00 pm (CST)**

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

## **Tuesday, April 5, 2016**

- Deadline to submit Letter of Candidacy to Election Board for name to be included on official ballot
- Deadline to submit biography and photo for publication in May 2016 issue of newsletter.

## **Tuesday, April 5, 2016**

Free Dyslexia Presentation  
Tribal Courtroom

## **April 11-15, 2016**

Fred L. McGhee Learning Center  
Pre-K Registration  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

## **Tuesday, April 12, 2016**

Free Cervical Myelopathy Screening  
SAIL Center  
9:30 am - 2:00 pm

## **Friday, April 15, 2016**

List of candidates and any proposed  
constitutional amendments, ordinances,  
and/or resolutions will be posted.

## **Friday, April 15, 2016**

Last day for graduating seniors to submit  
application for Cultural Exchange Abroad

## **Tuesday, April 19, 2016**

Cancer Support Group Meeting  
Wind Creek Hospitality Ballroom  
6:00 pm

## **Friday, April 22, 2016**

First Aid/CPR Course  
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Wellness Center

## **Saturday, April 23, 2016**

Household Hazardous Waste  
Collection Day  
Fire Station#1 (Jack Springs Road)  
8:00am - 12:00pm

## **Adult Softball League Registration**

April 25, 2016 - May 20, 2016  
Recreation

## **Tribal Council Meetings**

Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>  
Building 500 Auditorium 4:00 pm

## **Tribal Court Sessions**

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>  
Tribal Courtroom 9:00 am

## **Tribal Regulatory Commission Meetings**

Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>  
Building 500 Auditorium 9:00 am

## **Tribal Grievance Board**

Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>  
Building 500 Auditorium 1:00 pm

## **Calvin McGhee Cultural Advisory Committee**

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm  
Cultural Building on Hwy 21

## **Education Advisory Committee**

Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 3:00 pm  
Family Services Conference Room  
Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic

## **Utility Authority Board Meeting**

Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 1:00 pm  
Utilities Office

## **4H Club**

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Education  
Department 6:00 pm

## **Summer LIEAP**

May 2, 2016 - July 29, 2016

## **Tuesday, May 3, 2016**

Town Hall Meeting  
To address Tribal Health Insurance  
6:00 pm Building 500 Auditorium

## **Elders Annual Trip**

NICOA/Niagara Falls, NY  
Registration  
May 31, 2016 - June 4, 2016

## 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

(251) 368-9136 x 2210

Direct Dial # 251 446-5210

[gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov) [www.pci-nsn.gov](http://www.pci-nsn.gov)



**Poarch Creek Indians**  
**5811 Jack Springs Road**  
**Atmore, AL 36502**

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