

Cokv-Tvlvme

(cho-ka-da-la-mi/newspaper)



A Moment With The Tribal Chair

Stephanie Bryan, Tribal Chair/CEO

What a whirlwind January was! It was an incredibly hectic month for many people, myself included. However, it was perhaps the most hectic for the Tribal Member Benefits Department. Throughout December and January, this team of individuals worked 12-16 hour days for several weeks to ensure that the proper paperwork was received, verified, entered, and processed. A very big, heartfelt "MVTO" goes out to this team and everyone who helped and assisted in this endeavor. They've worked extremely hard, long days to accommodate the requests of Tribal Council for the betterment of the Tribe, and their special efforts and dedication has not gone unnoticed. If you happen to talk to one of these individuals - Gwen Manning, Marlene McNairn, Denise Young, Tabatha Davis, Nikole Higdon, Taylor Wiggins, Elaine Sheets, Anna Wilson, or Carolyn Rackard - make sure you let them know how much we appreciate them and all that they do.

The month of February is a time when we bring special recognition to freedom

(National Freedom Day is February 1st), love (Valentine's Day is February 14th), and heart health (National Wear Red Day is February 3rd and the month of February is designated as American Heart Month). Although February is the shortest month of the year, it is nonetheless very important. This is the month when many of your Tribal leaders and key team members will be heading to Washington, D.C. for the annual USET (United South and Eastern Tribes) Impact Week Meeting.

The USET Impact Week Meeting is an important time for leaders to have dedicated conversation with legislators and fellow leaders about issues affecting Native Americans and our communities. Because of newly elected President Trump, these conversations carry an increased level of importance. It is imperative that we as Native leaders come together with experts and lobbyists that work on our behalf to discuss strategy and anticipated outcomes and challenges regarding this new administration. I am looking forward to engaging in productive conversations with key individuals. Opportunities



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

such as this to network and voice our opinions and concerns are critical to the things that we hold dear as Native American people: self-determination, sovereignty, and our inherent rights as Native Americans. I ask that you keep your leaders in your prayers during this time of travel and critical conversations.

In March, the management team from Tribal Government will be away from the office for several days for a strategic working session. This time together will be used to establish and prioritize goals, engage in discussion about ways to elevate the standard of service at Tribal Government, and ultimately determine the ways we can make 2017 the best it can possibly be for those that we serve. Some of my top

goals for 2017 are to implement better communication to and from Tribal Members as well as between divisions and departments, and to instill a culture of excellent customer service.

In closing, I hope everyone remembers to do a few things this month. First, I hope you all find a way to celebrate the freedom we have on February 1st, National Freedom Day. Second, I hope everyone will take time to assess your health and especially your heart health. Our clinic and wellness program

are wonderful resources to help you in your health goals. Don't forget to "Wear Red for Women" on February 3rd in recognition of raising cardiovascular awareness for women.

And finally, I hope everyone truly feels loved this Valentine's Day and all throughout the year. In my life, I've come to realize that one of my core values that influences every decision I make is love.

One verse from the Bible that really speaks to me and serves as a reminder of how I should

live is found in 1 Peter 4:8 (NIV), "*Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*" So, this year, I encourage you all to "love each other deeply", overlook one another's faults, help each, and be kind...life is truly too short to do otherwise.

In love,

Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair/CEO

Mainje's HOME FURNISHINGS

STRETCH YOUR TAX DOLLARS

BUY & FINANCE HERE

Make your tax return go further!

Prices shown: \$699.95, \$149.95, \$299.95, \$699.95, \$1399.95

Check Cashing that is fast, easy and affordable! *

How Much?

• No account required
• Immediate access to cash upon approval
• Government, handwritten, out-of-state and more!
• Check cashing fees apply.

United Bank

Your Hometown Advantage Member FDIC

251.446.6000
www.unitedbank.com



A Moment With The Tribal Chair



2017 Tribal Election Notice



Until Our Paths Cross Again



Veteran's Salute



Obituary/In Memory

Regular Features

2	<i>A Moment With The Tribal Chair</i>	18	<i>Veteran's Salute</i>
4	<i>Contents</i>	19	<i>Anniversaries</i>
6	<i>Submission Criteria</i>	20	<i>Obituaries/In Memory</i>
8	<i>2016-2017 Tribal Council</i>	22	<i>Tribal Member Submissions</i>
9	<i>Tribal Council Update</i>	52	<i>Monthly Calendar of Events</i>
11	<i>Congressional Update</i>		

News & Information

12	<i>Feature Article</i>
14	<i>2017 Elections Notice</i>
17	<i>Until Our Paths Cross Again</i>

Programs & Services

24	<i>Archives & Records Management</i>	33	<i>Housing Department</i>
25	<i>Assisted Living Facility</i>	35	<i>Human Resources Department</i>
26	<i>Boys & Girls Club</i>	36	<i>Legal Department</i>
27	<i>Cultural Department</i>	37	<i>Recreation Department</i>
28	<i>Education Department</i>	40	<i>TEM/Fire Department</i>
29	<i>Environmental Department</i>	41	<i>Tribal Police Department</i>
30	<i>Family Services Department</i>	42	<i>Tribal Utilities Authority</i>
32	<i>Health Department</i>		

Wind Creek & CIEDA

44	<i>Wind Creek Hospitality</i>
46	<i>CIEDA</i>

**On the cover: Nioma Till, Nancy Smith, and Sarena Helton*

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

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 www.pci-nsn.gov

(251) 368-9136 x 2210

Regular Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Direct Dial # 251 446-5210

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

Poarch Creek News, keeping the family and friends of Poarch informed

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	Fairhope	Shelby
Birmingham	Montgomery	Sumiton
Brewton	Opelika	
Center Point	Rainsville	

Free tuition for all Poarch Creek Tribe Members!

For more information, visit huntingdon.edu/evening or call one of these Huntingdon Campuses:
Baldwin County 251.580.4908 | Escambia County 251.809.1553 | Montgomery County 334.833.4518



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



Poarch Creek News Is Accessible On Tribal Web Site At No Cost

The *Poarch Creek News*, the official newsletter of the Poarch Creek Indians, is posted monthly in the Pressroom of the Tribe's official web site, www.pci-nsn.gov, and is accessible to Tribal Members and the public at large at no cost.

Going Green & Saving Trees! We strongly encourage Tribal Members, and other interested individuals, to access the newsletter online in lieu of receiving issues through the U.S. Postal Service.

If you are a Tribal Member Head of Household and prefer to access the newsletter online and not receive a monthly issue of the newsletter through the U.S. Postal Service, please notify Poarch Creek News at (251) 368-9136 x 2210 or gjohnson@pci-nsn.gov.

If you choose this option and change your mind, just notify us and your address will be added back to the mailing list.

Submission Criteria

Tribal Member submissions for publication in the *Poarch Creek News* are limited to Tribal Members & spouse, first generation, as submitted by a Tribal Member, and those living in Tribal Member households unless an 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.

Photo Submissions:

One per article submission; photos will be cropped to fit available space. High resolution .jpg or PDF format. **Head shots are preferred.** Individuals in the photos are to be appropriately dressed; for example, men must wear a shirt, no swim suits except for swim team photos, no photos with cigarettes or alcohol, etc. We will do our best to publish submitted photos, but we cannot fix blurred or distorted photos.

Birthday Wishes

Birthday Wishes will be accepted for the month before, the month of, or the month after the birthday. However, Birthday Wishes will no longer be published in the newsletter. A list of Tribal Member birthdays will be obtained from Tribal Enrollment each month; these birthdays will be posted on the Tribe's web site at pci-nsn.gov/birthdays and from a link on the Community Page. Birthday Wishes will also be posted on the Tribe's official social media pages.

Tribal Members may continue to submit individual birthday wishes as in the past for Tribal Members and spouses, First Generation Descendants, and those living in a Tribal Household. These wishes will also be posted on the web site and social media.

Anniversary Wishes:

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

Obituaries:

Tribal Members are asked to add *Poarch Creek News* 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.

Tribal Members may continue to submit obituaries/thanks, and other applicable submissions by the last business day of the second month immediately following the death. *Photos will be cropped to reflect deceased only.*

In Memory:

Can 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. *Photos will be cropped to reflect deceased only.* In Memory submissions are limited to one 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.

Corrections:

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. (CST) the first business day of the month prior to the month of publication.

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

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

WORD LIMITS

Birthdays	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/Weddings	300 words or less
Graduation	300 words or less
Achievements	300 words or less
In Memory	300 words or less
Obituary	300 words or less
News Article	400 words or less

The *Tribal Members Only Portal (TMOP)*, for Tribal Members age 18 and above, is located on the left sidebar of the website's home page, www.pci-nsn.gov. Information such as Tribal Council Minutes, Tribal surveys, proposed ordinances, and other confidential information will be posted in this area that is accessible to Tribal Members only.

The TMOP is not an automated site; it will be up to individual users to resolve

issues they have if they are unable to login to the TMOP. We are unable to provide assistance beyond confirming that you have the correct username and password to access this area of our website. Confirmation of correct username and password may take up to 24 hours.

You can receive updated news and information via the Tribe's social media pages at facebook.com/PoarchBandofCreekIndians; [twitter.com/](https://twitter.com/PoarchBandofCreekIndians)

[PoarchCreek](https://www.instagram.com/poarchbandofcreekindians/); and www.instagram.com/poarchbandofcreekindians/.

The Tribe's website and social media accounts are maintained by the Government Relations Department.

Please contact Kim Philyaw, Social Media Manager, at (251) 368-9136 x 2169 or kphilyaw@pci-nsn.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Why Birthday Wishes Are No Longer Published In The Poarch Creek News

Over the past few years the newsletter has grown from just a few pages to several issues that have exceeded 90 pages. As the newsletter has grown, so has the number of birthday wishes submitted, some issues having as many as four to six pages of birthday wishes.

We attempted to design the pages to accommodate the number of wishes received. To get the maximum number of wishes on a page, the space available for each birthday was minimum and the accompanying photos were sometimes difficult to see with clarity. To remedy this, we redesigned the birthday wish layout, allowing more photo space and increasing the word count. This change also contributed to the number of pages of birthday wishes.

In an effort to reduce the ever increasing cost of the newsletter, several changes were made beginning with the January 2017 issue. We changed the submission deadline from the 5th of the month to the first business day of the month; we have limited the total number of pages per issue, and we have removed the Birthday Wishes from the newsletter.

Although we no longer publish the birthday wishes in the newsletter, we wanted to continue the publication of birthday wishes. Our solution? Post them on the web site and official Tribal social media accounts.

Tribal Members may visit www.pci-nsn.gov/birthdays each month to see who is celebrating a birthday. The Birthday List will include the names of all Tribal Members who will be celebrating a birthday that month, not just those whose information has been submitted by family or friends.

The Birthday List will be posted on the web site at the same time the latest issue of the newsletter is posted, customarily on or around the 17th of the month prior to the month of publication.

If a birthday wish has been submitted, an icon will appear beside their name. If you click on the icon, it will take you to their Birthday Card. This Birthday Card may be printed, saved to your computer, or shared on social media.

If a birthday wish has been submitted for a Tribal Member spouse, First Generation, or someone living in a Tribal household, this submission has been included and a Birthday Card has been generated as well.

The birthday information is also posted on the official Tribal social media accounts: facebook.com/PoarchBandofCreekIndians; [twitter.com /PoarchCreek](https://twitter.com/PoarchCreek); and www.instagram.com/poarchbandofcreekindians.

Tribal Members are still encouraged to submit Birthday Wishes, they will simply be posted on the web site and social media instead of being published in the newsletter.

As always, Birthday Wishes may be submitted the month before the birthday, the month of the birthday, or the month after the birthday. Please keep established deadlines in mind when submitting your birthday wish.

Who's Celebrating A Birthday?



Terry Hall
December 12, 2016

My birthday wish is to thank my family, friends and Tribe for your love and support for 44 years.

My parents, Henry and Eloise Hall, in-laws Jeff and Rosie Agee, brothers Brian and Greg, and my wife, Angela Agee.

Love you all.

Tribal Member

First Birthday Card to be posted on web site and social media

TRIBAL COUNCIL



Robert R. McGhee, Vice Chairman
rmcghee@pci-nsn.gov



Charlotte M. Meckel, Secretary
cmeckel@pci-nsn.gov



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



Eddie L. Tullis, Treasurer
etullis@pci-nsn.gov



Dewitt Carter, At-Large
dcarter@pci-nsn.gov



Sandy Hollinger, At-Large
shollinger@pci-nsn.gov



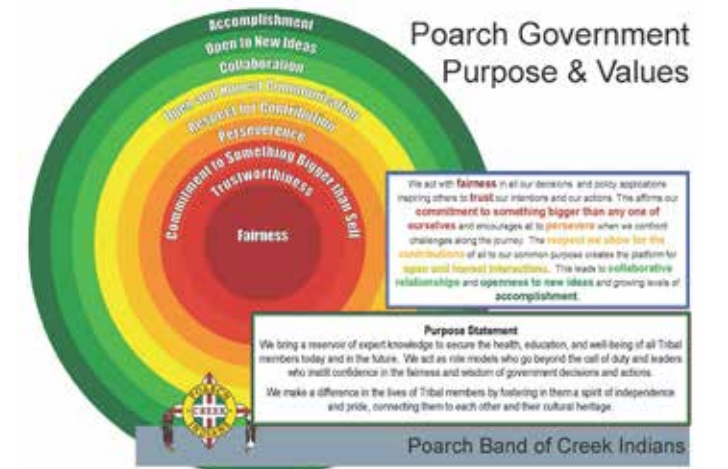
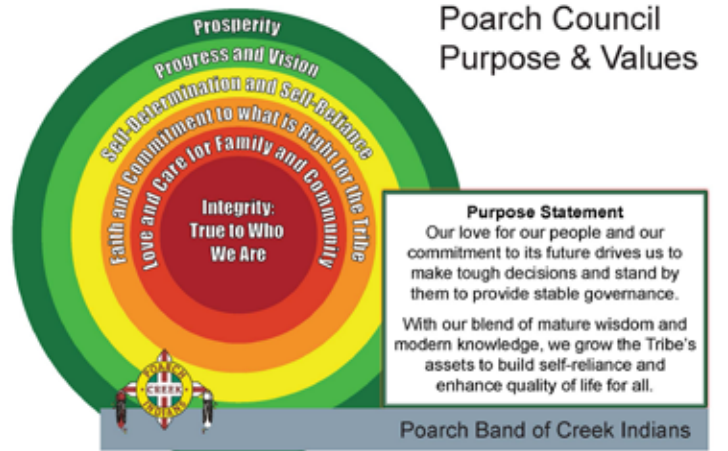
Keith Martin, At-Large
kmartin@pci-nsn.gov



Arthur Mothershead, At-Large
amothershead@windcreekhospitality.com



Garvis Sells, At-Large
gsells@pci-nsn.gov



Greetings Fellow Tribal Members,

Valentine's Day is upon us, so let me wish everyone a "Happy Valentine's Day". Let us all remember to show our loved ones how much we care and appreciate them, not only on Valentine's Day, but every day.

February marks six months since I started on this journey as your Tribal Council Secretary. First, let me say it is an honor and a privilege. The same day I was elected the "Ratification" amendment passed, therefore my first official day as a Tribal Council member was finalizing some enrollment issues.

September began with the senior trip to Native American Council On Aging (NACOA) in Niagara Falls, NY which was a huge success. A lot of valuable information was provided that was helpful to our seniors. After the conference ended we traveled to NYC to do some sightseeing and shopping. I left the seniors in NYC and traveled to Charlotte, NC, where I attended the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) conference. Again I gained valuable information concerning the General Welfare Exclusion Act (GWE). This program not only benefits our seniors, but Tribal Members, 18 and older.

I am proud to be a part of our nine-member council that fights everyday to improve the quality of life for our Tribal Members, to help our neighboring communities, and to be able to give back. I can



Charlotte Meckel, Secretary
cmeckel@pci-nsn.gov

honestly say that there is never a dull moment. Every day there are issues that need the Tribal Council's undivided attention.

We (the Tribal Council) are faced with issues at the local, State, and National level. Prime example, everyone remembers the Carcieri decision made back in 2009 after which the Escambia County Tax Assessor questioned the validity of our Trust Land. In December 2016, Judge Granade issued a permanent injunction, this was great news for the Tribe. The Tribal Council will continue to work diligently with members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate on bills that relate to our Sovereignty.

Since being elected to the Council, I have been appointed to serve on the Health & Elders Legislative Committee, the Budget & Finance Legislative Committee and the

Records & Archives Legislative Committee. Being on these committees has helped me to learn more about the inner working of the Tribe and our enterprises. The Tribal Council has directed our enterprises, PCI Gaming and CIEDA, to diversify. I have been involved in several business ventures; I assure you, a lot of thought and research goes into the process. The decision to build in other locations or to donate money to organizations is not made lightly. CIEDA invested in a project that we now know as OWA, which is one of the investments that was discussed at the State of the Tribe this past November. There are several projects in the works for our Tribal Elders, such as a fruit orchard, and a new SAIL Center building. You would be amazed at the hard work that takes place behind the scenes!

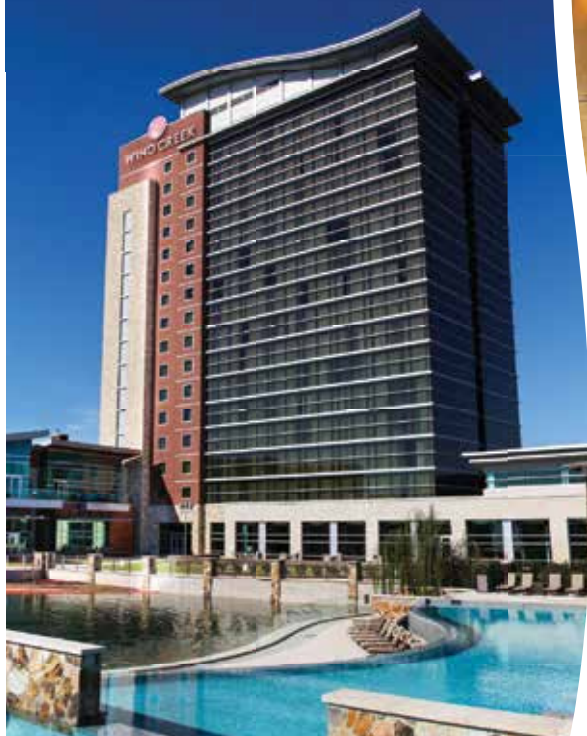
In closing, I ask that all of you continue to pray for the Tribal Council and for our Tribe. We are taking strides daily to be more transparent and to keep Tribal Members informed.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind each of you that if you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other Tribal Council Member. Communication is of vital importance and the key to our continued success.

Thank you.

Charlotte M. Meckle

where
GREAT TIMES
are waiting
ON YOU!



When it comes to great times, Wind Creek Atmore has everything you need and more! Catch a Hollywood blockbuster or hit Strikes for some real bowling competition. Video games sound good? Then Arcade is the place for you. Try Yo•Joe for a sweet treat. Or for big appetites, grab a burger at Grill or try TASTE Buffet where we take all-you-can-eat to a new level. So stop waiting and make Wind Creek Atmore your one stop destination for fun.



WIND CREEK®
ATMORE

FIND YOUR WINNING MOMENT.



303 Poarch Rd., Atmore, AL 36502
WindCreekAtmore.com

© 2017 Wind Creek Hospitality

FIVE TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2017

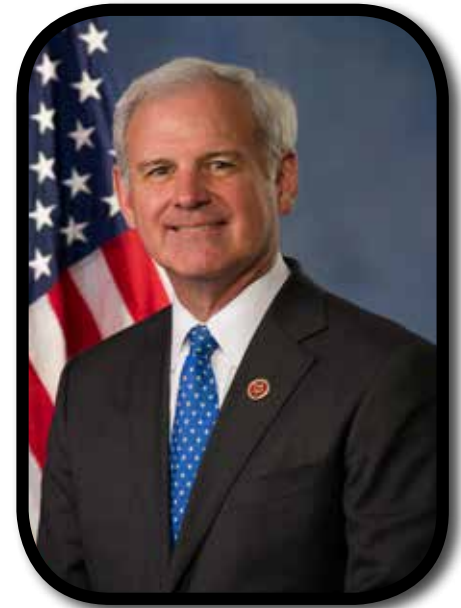
Under a unified Republican government, there is great potential for important reforms. Here are five areas where I hope to see progress in 2017:

1. Health Care Relief—Far too many American families are suffering under the ill-conceived Affordable Care Act. A top priority must be to repeal this disastrous law and begin moving forward with health care reforms that lower costs, boost competition, and spur innovation.
2. A Stronger Military—Under President Obama, our military has taken a hit and that trend must be reversed. Despite these funding cuts, we continue to ask our military men and women to do more and more. Under President-elect Trump, I am hopeful we will grow our military in a way that helps project peace through strength.
3. Regulatory Reform—Unnecessary and costly government regulations are making it harder for businesses to grow, resulting in higher costs for American consumers. These regulations

impact everything from energy to agriculture to labor laws. President-elect Trump has already suggested that he will remove two regulations for every one regulation introduced. This type of regulatory reform will go a long way toward boosting economic growth.

4. Immigration Enforcement—Over the last eight years, the Obama Administration has consistently turned a blind eye to our nation's immigration laws. Instead of enforcing the laws on the books, they have looked for ways around the law. Well, that will change come January 20th. We must also look at other parts of our immigration system to ensure American workers are being treated fairly.
5. A Simpler Tax Code—The current tax code is far too complicated and confusing, and I have long been an advocate for wholesale tax reform that lowers rates for American families. Tax reform should make completing your taxes as simple as filling out a postcard sized form.

Certainly, this is not an all-inclusive list and unified Republican government alone will not be



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

enough to achieve these reforms. Under the current Senate rules, most legislation requires 60 votes in order to pass, and Republicans only have 52 Senators. I hope Senate Democrats will agree to work across the aisle to find common ground and advance these reforms.

Our top priority should always be to focus on policies that benefit the American people. By doing that, I believe we can help restore faith in government and make life easier for all Americans.

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



Nurses, Then & Now - A Vital Part Of Your Healthcare Team

Top left: Nurses hard at work in the 1970s . Top right: Primary care nurses from the Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic. Shown left to right are Shelly Chavira, Nioma Till, Nancy Smith, and Sarena Helton.

This month we are highlighting the nurses and medical assistants who work in the Primary Care Department.

Our staff brings a caring and loving approach to healthcare on your behalf. The ladies and gentlemen that navigate your care do so out of a sense of pride for their profession and a genuine love of people.

In Primary Care, each physician has a nurse or medical assistant that is assigned as a partnership. These teams are considered your healthcare team.

Our teams are responsible for working with all of our services to ensure that we meet your needs on the day of your appointment and future care.

We are encouraged by the positive comments that we have received from our satisfaction surveys.

Please know that our goal is to help you stay safe and live a healthy life.



Nurses ... We Care For Your Heart! Left to right are Primary Care Nurses Paula Daniel, Kevin Davis, Haley Rolin, Nioma Till, Shelly Chavira, Nancy Smith, Linda Jones, and Sarena Helton.



Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year. That's approximately one woman every minute! This is the basis of the "GO RED" for women campaign. But heart disease does not affect all women alike, and the warning signs for women as to men aren't always the same. What's more, these facts only begin to scratch the surface. We look forward to sharing heart facts during the month of February.

The perfect gift this Valentine's Day is the gift of heart health. Along with Valentine's Day, February marks American Heart Month, a great time to commit to a healthy lifestyle and make small changes that can lead to a lifetime of heart health.

Schedule a visit with one of our doctors to talk about your heart's health.

We offer blood pressure screening each and every day: Come see us!

TIPS:

- Add exercise to your daily routine. Start off the month by walking 15 minutes, 3 times each week. By mid-month, increase your time to 30 minutes, 3 times each week.
- Increase healthy eating. Cook meals that are heart healthy at home at least 3 times each week and make your favorite recipes lower sodium. For example, swap out salt for fresh or dried herbs and spices.

- Take steps to quit smoking. If you currently smoke, quitting can cut your risk for heart disease and stroke.

- Take medication as prescribed.

- Our brains are wired to find things we're looking for – if you're always cynical or waiting for things to go wrong, then your life will reflect that. On the other hand, having a positive outlook on life will bring you joy and provide you with inspiration when you least expect it.



Heart Walk February 3, 2017 12:00 noon

Wear red and eat a heart healthy lunch at the Health Department and show support for heart health.

If you are interested in walking please contact Kay Thomas at kthomas@pci-nsn.gov or 251 368-9136 ext. 2328.

2017 Election Scheduled For Saturday, June 3, 2017

The 2017 Tribal Elections have been scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 2017. Voting will take place at the PCI Community Resource Building (Old SAIL Center). Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

After the polls close and all votes are tallied and verified results will be announced at the Calvin McGhee Memorial, which will be held on the Pow Wow grounds. Results will also 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 issue of the *Poarch Creek News*.

This year the General Council will elect a Tribal Chairman and two At-Large Council Members for the standard three (3) year terms. There are no proposed amendments to the Tribal Constitution on the ballot at this time. It is not known at this time if Tribal Chair Stephanie Bryan and At-Large Council Members Arthur Mothershed or Garvis Sells will seek re-election.

The deadline to submit the Candidate Fees and Letter of Candidacy to the Election Board for your name to be printed on the official ballot is 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, 2017. The Written Statement of Candidacy Form will be published in the March newsletter or may be obtained from the TMOP on or about February 3, 2017.



Candidates wishing to publish a biography and photo in the May newsletter must submit their biography and photo to the Election Board by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. Biographies are limited to 500 words or less and cannot contain political platforms or views. Digital copies of biographies and photos are preferred and may be submitted by email to Elections@pci-nsn.gov. Any portion of the biography which seems to contain political views, as determined by the Election Board, will be stricken from the biography. The last day to submit the Candidate Fee and Letter of Candidacy to the Election Board to be included as a Write-In Candidate is Thursday, May 4, 2017.

Request for Absentee Ballot will be published in the April and May issues of the *Poarch Creek News* and will be available through the Tribal Member portal and posted on the Tribe's official web site www.pci-nsn.gov. The last day to request for an Absentee Ballot to be mailed

out is Tuesday, May 23, 2017. All Absentee Ballots must be received by the Election Board no later than close of business (5:00 p.m. CST) on Friday, June 2, 2017.

Walk-in voting will begin on Monday, May 22, 2017 and run through Friday, June 2, 2017 except for Sunday and Monday, May 28-29, 2017. The polls will be open for walk-in voting daily from 9:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m.

We encourage all eligible Tribal Members to participate in the voting process. This is your chance to make your voice heard. Please vote either by Absentee Ballot, Walk-In Voting, or cast your vote on Election Day, Saturday, June 3, 2017.

Please contact Edie Jackson, Election Board Chairman, at (251) 368-9136 ex. 2231 or ejackson@pci-nsn.gov if you have any questions or need more information.

2017 Tribal Council Election

Notice

WHEN: June 3, 2017

LOCATION: PCI Community Resource Building (old SAIL Center)

TIME*: 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

PURPOSE: To elect the following:
Tribal Chairman (3 year term) and
2 At-Large Council Member (3 year term)

DEADLINE TO DECLARE CANDIDACY:

5:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, 2017
To have name printed on official ballot.

5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 4, 2017
To be included as a Write-in Candidate

DEADLINE TO PUBLISH BIO & PHOTO IN POARCH CREEK NEWS:

Candidates wishing to publish a biography and photo in the May newsletter must submit their biography and photo to the Election Board, by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, 2017.

Biographies are limited to 500 words or less and cannot contain political platform or views. Digital copies of biographies and photos are preferred and may be submitted by email to Elections@pci-nsn.gov. Any portion of the biography which seems to contain political views, as determined by the Election Board, will be stricken from the biography.

Contact Edie Jackson, Election Board Chairman, at (251) 368-9136 x 2231, (251) 446-5231 or ejackson@pci-nsn.gov if you have any questions or need more information.

2017 Tribal Council Election

Calendar

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017 – Deadline to submit Candidate Fee and Letter of Candidacy to Election Board for name to be included on official ballot.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017 – Deadline to submit biography and photo for publication in May 2017 issue of *Poarch Creek News*.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2017 – Names of candidates and any proposed constitutional amendments, ordinances and/or resolutions will be posted.

MAY 4, 2017 – Last day to submit Candidate Fee and Letter of Candidacy for Tribal Council to be a Write-in on Ballot. Any additional names of candidates will be posted within 10 days.

MONDAY, MAY 22, 2017 – Walk-in voting starts and continues through Friday, June 2, 2017. Open daily from 9:00* a.m. to 6:00 p.m. except for Sunday, May 28, 2017 and Monday, May 29, 2017.

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2017 – Last day to request Absentee Ballot be mailed out.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017 – Walk-in voting ends at 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017 – Deadline to receive Absentee Ballots at 5:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2017 – Tribal Election Day. Polls open 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at PCI Community Resource building (old SAIL Center). Results will be announced at the Pow Wow Grounds during the Calvin McGhee Memorial, and will be posted at the PCI Community Resource Building (Old SAIL Center) back door, on the Community Bulletin Board, and will be printed in the July issue of the *Poarch Creek News*.

** All times are Central Standard Time (CST)*



*For Your Valentine,
Call Manning Bros. Pools
For a Sweetheart
♥ Outdoor Living Space ♥*



*Let Manning Pools design a
Backyard Space your Valentine
will Love!*

850.479.9201

9465 Pensacola Blvd. Pensacola, FL

Your parents want
to stay in the place
they call home.
We can help.



Whether you are looking for someone to help an aging parent a few hours a week or need more comprehensive assistance, Home Instead can help.

Home Instead CAREGivers can provide a variety of services. Some include:

- Companionship Care
- Personal Care
- Meals & Nutrition
- Transportation
- Household Duties
- Respite Care

**Home
Instead**
SENIOR CARE®
To us, it's personal.

850.477.1947

HomeInstead.com/PensacolaFL

Each Home Instead Senior Care® franchise office is independently owned and operated.
© 2016 Home Instead, Inc.

TITLE LOANS

We loan
money on cars,
motorcycles,
ATV's, RVs,
Boats, trailers,
tractors, etc.

L.A. Cash

205 E. Church Street
Atmore, Alabama 36502
phone: (251) 368-0074
email: lacashllc@yahoo.com



Ask about our special rates for Tribal members

ROLLINS USED CARS

Serving You For Over 30yrs
251-368-8353

Owner
Billy Rollin
251-294-6081
Salesman
Shane Rollin
251-359-0895

www.rollinsusedcars.com
Family owned for over 35 years





Until Our Paths Cross Again

Shown left to right are Sandy Hollinger, Robbie McGhee, Charlotte Meckel, David Elliott, Joy Elliott, Keith Martin, Stephanie Bryan, Dewitt Carter, and Garvis Sells.

"In the Creek culture there is no word for goodbye, so until our paths cross again – may God bless you, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and thanks for the memories."

David Elloitt

David Elliott, long time NRCS Tribal Liaison with the Tribe, retired on December 2, 2016. He had worked with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) for 37.5 years. He has served as the Tribe's NRCS Tribal Liaison since 2002.

David said that his time with the Tribe and NRCS has been an incredible journey. He said that he has really been blessed to have worked with so many different landowners, agencies,

organizations, Tribes, and of course great people. "The friendships that I have made across the nation will last for a lifetime" he said.

He continued "I can truthfully say, I am going to miss my job because I love what I do. Helping people help the land, which is the NRCS mission, is what I believe was God's plan for my career.

We are all on a journey of life together, and we are painting a picture on the landscape that will last for generations to come. So let's paint a picture of hope, love, peace, and goodness.

My prayer is that I have painted such a picture, and have been a

stepping stone not a stumbling block to those I have worked alongside."

David shared the following quote that he always found helpful:

"This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good. What I do today is important as I am exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever. Leaving something in its place I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, not loss—good, not evil, success, not failure, in order that I shall not forget the price I paid for it."



*Ronnie G. Peacock
Specialist V E5
United States Army*

Ronnie G. Peacock was drafted into the U.S. Army on March 4, 1968. He attended basic training at Ft. Benning, Georgia followed by advanced training at Ft. McClellan in Alabama.

While at Ft. McClellan he received orders for Vietnam but his orders were waived to Ft. Carson, Colorado with the 5th Mechanical Infantry for armored personal training with the 2nd Division. The 2nd Division replaced the 1st Division Infantry Brigade in Vietnam in February of 1969.

After serving a short time with the 5th Infantry Division at Saigon during the Tet Offensive of 1969, Ronnie was transferred to the 34th Engineering Unit as a Small Arms Armorer and Munitions Specialist 5. He served

with this unit until he returned home in January of 1970 and was discharged. He was discharged at the rank of Specialist V.

In addition to the customary medals and badges received for military service, Ronnie was also presented with a Bronze Star.

After his discharge Ronnie worked several odd jobs before enrolling at Pensacola Junior College with the Electrical Apprenticeship program under the GI Bill.

Ronnie married Judy Ann Foster in October of 1971. They had gone to school together and started dating after his discharge. They have two children, Jennifer Peacock Sanders and Jodi Peacock Freeman.

Ronnie and Judy have four beautiful granddaughters, Brittani Peacock, Alexis Cook, Isabella Sanders, and Alli Freeman, and one great-granddaughter, Brea Rolin.

Ronnie and Judy currently reside in Bay Minette, Alabama where they enjoy the wonders and adventures of retirement life.

Ronnie Peacock, just one of many Tribal Members who have proudly served for their family, their Tribe, and their country.

Ronnie, we thank you for your service and the sacrifices you made so we can enjoy the freedoms we have today.



Ronnie Peacock with family. Shown left to right are Bryan Sanders, Jennifer Sanders, Alexis Cook, Ronnie Peacock, Isabella Sanders, Judy Peacock, Alli Freeman, Jodi Freeman, Brittani Peacock, Brea Rolin, and Michael Rolin

WHO IS CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY?

Birthday Wishes will no longer be published in the newsletter. They are now posted on the Tribal web site and will be featured on the Tribe's social media pages the day of their birthday. The birthday link is a new and exciting addition to the web site!

Please visit www.pci-nsn.gov/birthdays each month to see who is celebrating a birthday. Each month the Birthday List will include the names of all Tribal Members who will be celebrating a birthday that month.

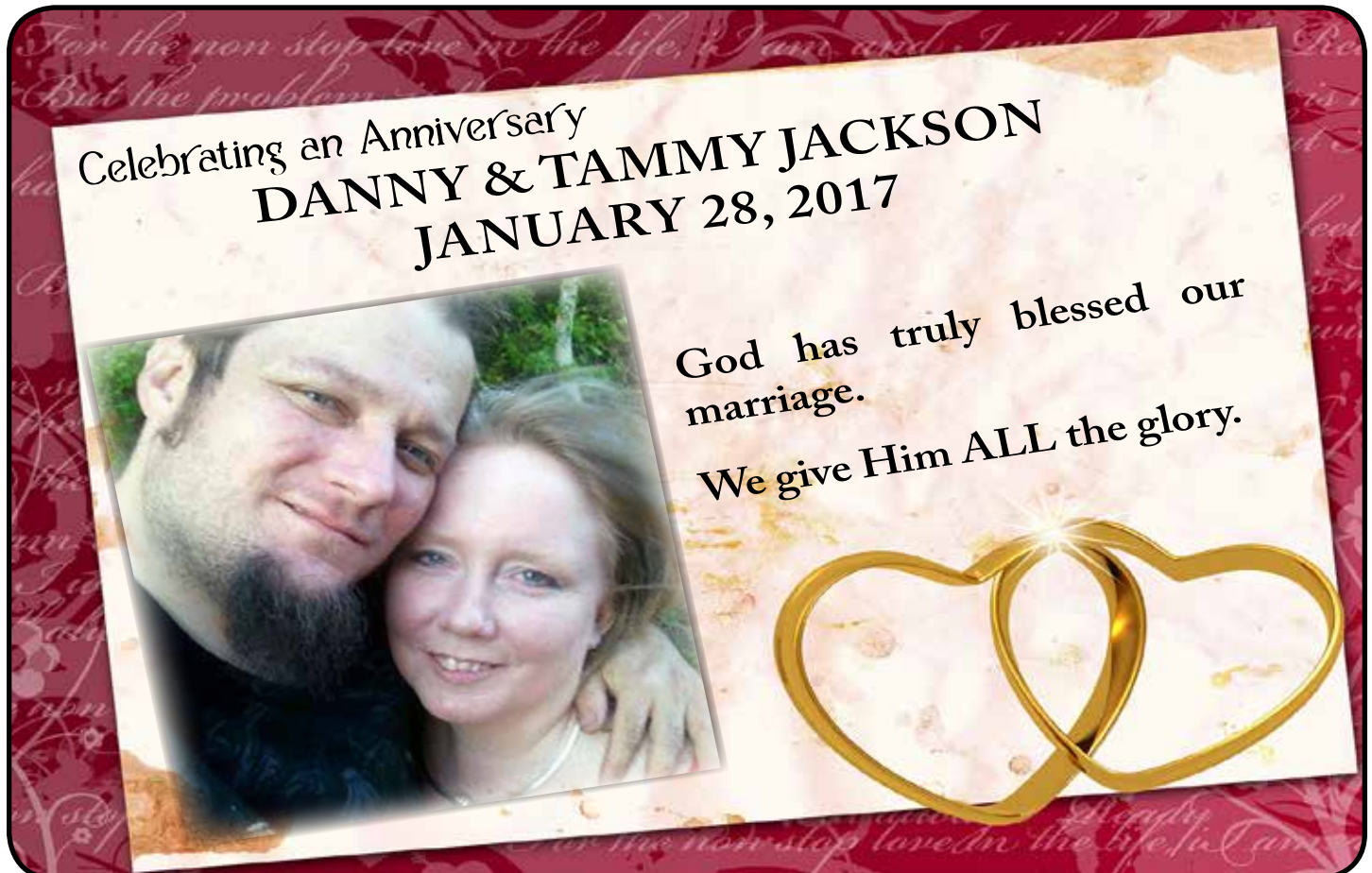
The Birthday List will be posted on the web site at the same time the latest issue of the newsletter is posted, customarily on or around the 17th of each month.



If a birthday wish has been submitted, an icon will appear beside their name. Click on the icon and it will take you to their Birthday Card. This Birthday Card may be printed, saved to your computer, or shared on social media.

If a birthday wish has been submitted for a Tribal Member spouse, First Generation, or someone living in a Tribal household, this submission has been included and a Birthday Card has been generated as well.

If you wish to submit a birthday wish, the criteria remains the same with the exception that submission deadlines are the first business day of the month prior to the month of publication.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROY GLENN STEADHAM

FEBRUARY 27, 1924- NOVEMBER 16, 2016



Roy Glenn Steadham, 92, Robertsdale (AL), died peacefully on November 16, 2016 in Fairhope. He was born in Robertsdale on February 27, 1924 to the late Edward Steadham and Callie Lorena Stafford Steadham. His beloved wife of 30 years, Eunice (Kellam) Steadham, predeceased him in 2003. Their lives intersected at the right time to raise and nurture three precious grandchildren.

Roy is survived by step-son M.A. "Tony" Ondracka, and wife, Sandra of Spanish Fort; step-daughter Patsy Raber of Robertsdale; granddaughters Traci Wheeler Parker of

Silverhill, Joye Wheeler Burkhardt, and husband Chris of Elberta; grandson Jeffrey Ondracka, and wife Shae of Fairhope; great granddaughters, Kaleigh (Lexi) Devine, Sara Kate Ondracka and Olivia Ondracka. Roy's brothers, Kenneth Steadham of Atmore, AL, and Robert Oliver Steadham, of Lakeland, FL, also survive him.

In addition to his parents he was predeceased by brothers John Victor Steadham, Edleigh Steadham, Ralph Steadham, Bertram Steadham, and James Clinton Steadham; and sisters Mary Loree Corte, Evelyn Lucille Gullede and Vivian Frizzell along with multi-generations of nieces and nephews.

He was an extraordinary welder for 45 years at the Alabama Drydock and Shipbuilding Company in Mobile, retiring as the longest tenured employee. He was a dedicated Mason of the Greeno Lodge #598 F&AM of Fairhope.

Roy was a member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and very proud of his Native American heritage. Part of his family ancestry traced back to Swedish immigrants who first settled in Delaware in 1638.

Papa Roy was dependable, trust worthy and often referred to as "Rock", the patriarchal leader. Others referred to him as a community-wide adored unofficial "Mayor of Robertsdale". A lifelong Robertsdale resident, he had a meticulous memory, and was unmatched in his knowledge of Baldwin County history, and famous for sharing humorous stories. Papa Roy loved spending time with his family and friends.

Funeral services were held Monday, November 21, 2016 at Mack Funeral Home Chapel in Robertsdale followed by burial at the Hail Memorial Cemetery.

Submitted by A.P. Steadham

IN LOVING MEMORY OF KENNETH EARLE STEADHAM, SR. JULY 7, 1927 - DECEMBER 11, 2016

Kenneth Earle Steadham, Sr., 89, of Atmore, AL, husband of the late Sarah Ann Phillips Steadham, died unexpectedly Sunday, December 11, 2016. He was born July 7, 1927 to the late Edward Steadham and Callie Lorena Stafford Steadham.

Mr. Steadham was a native and former resident of Robertsedale, AL and has resided in Atmore, AL for the past 13 months.

He was a proud member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, the American Legion, Swedish Colonial Society, and the Timen Stiddem Society of Wilmington, Delaware. Mr. Steadham was a member of Providence Presbyterian Church in Lowndesville, SC and Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church in Tampa, FL.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by a daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn Steadham Mulcahy

and Bob Mulcahy; six brothers, John Victor Steadham, Edleigh Steadham, Ralph Steadham, Bertram Steadham, James Clinton Steadham, and Roy Steadham; and three sisters, Mary Loree Corte, Evelyn Lucille Gullede, and Vivian Frizzell.

Mr. Steadham is survived by his two sons, Phillip Steadham and his wife, Donna of Lakeland, FL and Kenneth E. Steadham, Jr. of Pensacola, FL; one daughter, Leslie Deuser and her husband, Kurt of Suwanee, GA; one brother, Robert Oliver Steadham of Lakeland, FL; two granddaughters, Jennifer and Sarah, and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many friends.

Graveside services, with military honors, were held 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at the Providence Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Lowndesville, SC with Rev. Lee P. Kennerly officiating.



The Steadham family would like to thank the Poarch Band of Creek Indians for all the love and support shown to our father these last many years and especially his many friends and staff at the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility at Poarch.

Although our fathers stay was shorter than expected, it was a happy one and words can't begin to express our gratitude.

Submitted by Kenneth E. Steadham, Jr.

Priest Adds To Trophy Collection

Tyler Priest has another trophy to add to his collection, *6A Runner Of The Year*, as presented by the Mobile Optimist Club. This has been the first time a Baldwin County High School athlete has received this award.

Tyler, a senior at Baldwin County High School (BCHS), has received many awards throughout his cross country career. He received Runner of the Week in 2015 and 2016, becoming the first BCHS athlete to earn this award multiple times. He won the sectional qualifying meet in Mobile for 6A, came in third place overall at the Baldwin County Championship race, and first place at the Daphne Invitational.



Leading his team to state for three years in a row, Tyler placed 18th out of 196 runners with a time of 17:18:76. He is also the top ranking

runner for Baldwin County in 6A Division. Under his leadership his team has finished in the top ten in the state for the past two seasons.

Tyler finishes his cross country career at #18 in the state. He has been awarded Team Captain, Varsity Athlete, All-County, and Most Dedicated for the past three years. Tyler was even honored by Bay Minette's Mayor Bob Wills.

His hard work and dedication has truly provided a great athlete. Tyler is the son of Misty and Shannon Priest and the grandson of Joyce Kuhn. He is the great grandson of the late JB and Dorothy Rolin.

Submitted by Misty Priest



Amanda Marie Johnson Graduates Summa Cum Laude From Capstone College of Nursing

Amanda Marie Johnson, daughter of Tribal Member Judy Vance, graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing with a BS and 4.0 GPA on December 10, 2016.

Amanda, I am so very proud of you!

Love, Mom.

Submitted by Judy Vance

The Muskogee People

By Gladys Woods Trawick

When the white man first came to
the beautiful land,
It was already occupied by Indians
of different tribes and clans.

The friendly Indians were willing to
help in different ways,
They worked together raising food
for the first Thanksgiving Day.

The Indians worshipped the Great
Spirit, sun, and moon,
They farmed, hunted, and fished,
never realizing that most would be
doomed.

At first the foreigner only wanted
land for a home,
The more that came over, the farther
west they roamed.



The Creeks lived mostly by rivers or
streams,
They grew their crops, hunted, and
fished in the land of their dreams.

The government wanted the land
owned by the Five civilized tribes,
This led to the Trail of Tears where
thousands and thousands died.

When the government said to
Oklahoma you have to go,
Some refused. because they loved
their beautiful land so.

They hid out, living the best that
they could.
Some passed for blacks or whites,
while others hid in the woods.

Thousands of their descendants live
in the South East today.
We give thanks to the Great Spirit
for the Muskogee ways.

Submitted by Brenda Jackson

Thank You

This is the first Christmas since my wife, Atricebea
Presley Gibson, passed away. This holiday season has
been very hard for me.

There are times in our lives when we need someone;
someone to lean on, someone to talk to, someone who
will simply be there for you when you need a friend.

I would like to say "Thank You" to Dr. Luellen, his staff,
and Frank McCloskey from Family Services, for their
help and assistance and for being there for me during
this stressful time.

Donald Gibson

*America's future will be determined by the home and the school. The child becomes largely what he is taught; hence we
must watch what we teach, and how we live.*

Jane Addams



Digitized slide from Bradshaw Collection

ARCHIVAL IMAGE: CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE WITH CHIEF CALVIN MCGHEE?

Former Saint Anna's missionary Ms. Elloie Bradshaw collected slides and photographs of Creeks when she worked with the Tribe in the 1960s.

Her grandson Mr. Claburn Bradshaw inherited her collection and donated this slide, along with over 200 other slides, to the Office of Archives and Records Management

last year. Our Team had the slides professionally digitized at Havard's Film, Video and Audio, Inc. in downtown Mobile.

Our Team would like to gather information on this historic photograph of Chief Calvin McGhee and others in front of the bus.

Do you recognize any of the people? Do you know the context? Are they traveling on a mission trip?

Our Team would like to document data about this picture. If you have information about this picture, please contact Ms. Ellen O'Barr at (251) 446-4941 or (251) 446-4942.

If you would like a copy of the Bradshaw slides, they are now available to Tribal Members on CD. Stop by our Office at 100 Brookwood Road and our professional Team will be happy to assist you. Mvto.

Golden threads of imagination will always be found woven into the fabric of a human life, and it affords one of the sweetest pastimes to old age to sit down and slowly unravel them, recalling the hours when first they were spun.

James Lendall Basford (1845–1915), *Sparks from the Philosopher's Stone*, 1882



The holiday season at the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility was about making precious memories and having fun with our residents. We filled the month of December with a whirlwind of exciting activities!

Our residents were able to create exquisite Christmas crafts thanks to our creative staff members and volunteers from the Wind Creek Casino & Hotel.

Our residents love to stay busy! In addition to the craft activities,

our residents were on the go with trips to various restaurants and shops. We even had time to enjoy a fabulous Christmas party that included delicious treats and a game of Dirty Santa!!

We would like to thank J. Ross Railey for his help with our beautiful wreaths.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Atmore VFW Auxiliary, the Atmore Apostolic Church, and the Friendly Holiness Church for all the fruits

and goodies that were delivered to our residents. You all put a smile on our faces and made our holiday season bright!


If you are looking for peace of mind and want to embrace LIFE, join our family at the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility. You won't regret it!

You are welcome to contact Michelle Colbert Shiver, ALF Administrator, at 251-446-4899, for more information.



Congratulations to the Boys & Girls Club January Youth of the Month winners!

PK-2nd Grade division winner - Isabella Rolin, top left; 3rd-6th Grade division winner - Josh Burkett, top right; and Teen Center division winner - Phenix Crews, bottom right. These youth were nominated for their outstanding demonstration of good behaviors and leadership. Congratulations Isabella, Josh, and Phenix!




**DAVID'S
PAINT & BODY &
SERVICE CENTER**

Highway 31 East • Atmore Alabama

- Complete Auto Body Repair
- Damage Free Towing
- Insurance Claim Work

**DAVID GIBBS
251-368-8060**

**24 HR. WRECKER
Fax: 251-368-6096**



CRUISE PLANNERS
Your Cruise and Land Specialist

JERRY REECE
FRANCHISE OWNER



**YOUR TRAVEL SPECIALIST
707.407.3808**

Jerry@LandAhoyCruising.com
www.LandAhoyCruising.com
Cruise Planners Becky Reece

FST# ST39068 / CST#2034468-50

**BEST VALUES
ON ALL MAJOR
CRUISE LINES**

ROYAL CARIBBEAN
CARNIVAL CRUISE LINE
CELEBRITY CRUISES
HOLLAND AMERICA LINE
NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE
PRINCESS AND MORE

Southeastern Indian Festival

April 6th– 8th, 2017

Learn about Southeastern Indian Culture
through:

Song & Dance

Storytelling

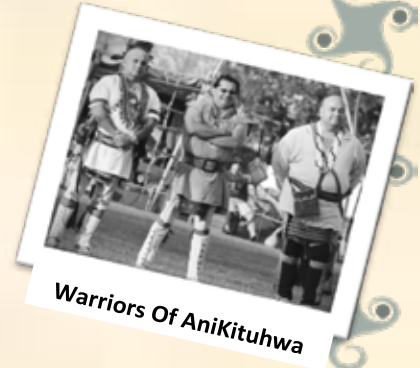
Living History

Stickball Game

Arts/Crafts Demonstrations

Authentic Indian Foods

Hands on Activities for Kids



- ♦ Thursday ~ 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (School Day)
- ♦ Friday ~ 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (School Hours)
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm (Open to the Public)
- ♦ Saturday ~ 10:00 am – 5:00 pm (Open to the Public)

FREE ADMISSION!

For more information, contact
Chris Blackburn at
251-368-9136 ext. 2052 or email at
eventsstaff@pci-nsn.gov



Schools will need to notify the Cultural
Department in advance if planning to attend.

*Guided tours will be available at the Kerretv Cuko ~ Poarch Band of Creek Indians Museum on Thursday & Friday,
but must be scheduled in advance. (Please contact Brandy Chunn, ext. 2413, for information concerning guided tours.)*

Poarch Band of Creek Indians ~ 5811 Jack Springs Road ~ Atmore, AL 36502



Shown above left to right are Carolyn Rackard, bike winner, Connie Gordon of Regions Bank, and Bryan Fayard, Financial Education Counselor

Carolyn Rackard Wins Bike From Regions Bank's Bike Brigade Program

The Regions Bike Brigade is a program from Regions Bank that presents seminars on money management strategies and techniques. As part of the program, Regions donates bikes to various nonprofit organizations. The bikes symbolize: 1. Stability 2. Control 3. Comfort and 4. Simplicity.

Regions Bank visited Poarch each month to present money management seminars to individual departments during their lunch period.

These meetings were hosted by the Education Department. All PBCI Government employees from the selected department were invited to these seminars.

All employees that attended in 2016 were entered into a drawing for a bike. The winning ticket was pulled on December 13, 2016; Carolyn Rackard was the lucky winner!

Congratulations Carolyn!



A1 Specialists, LLC
P. O. Box 1075, Atmore, AL 36504

*Landscape Design • Land Clearing & Development
Irrigation • Fencing • All types of Painting*

Owners
David Gibbs
Rosemary Gibbs Powell

(251) 368-8060

CINDY MARTIN
Independent Beauty Consultant

(251) 359-4813 (C)

cindymartin082458@gmail.com
cmartin47190@marykay.com
www.marykay.com/cmartin47190

Contact me for a complimentary makeover



MARY KAY



Celebrate Arbor Day By Planting A Tree!

The Environmental Department will be giving out bare-root tree seedlings February 21-24, 2017:

- Red Maple
- Stiffcornel Dogwood
- Wild Black Cherry
- White Oak

One of each type of seedling will be given out on a first come, first serve basis. Supplies are limited!! These are available for Tribal Members and Tribal Employees.

Location: Environmental Office Building 300

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(251) 368-9136 x 2683 for more information.

WOW! Prescription lenses for Costa and Maui !!




PRESCRIPTION SUNGLASSES! How Convenient is THAT?



< Is this you?

Get Sunglasses >
with Prescription >



Atmore Vision Center

(Between Verizon and Dirt Cheap)

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

Monroeville Eye Care
3016 S Alabama Avenue
Monroeville, Alabama 36460
251-743-3305

"We have glasses to fit your budget."

SANSFREE LAW FIRM, PC

**REPRESENTING THOSE INJURED
BY MEDICAL MAL-PRACTICE OR
HOSPITAL NEGLIGENCE
FOR OVER 16 YEARS**

334-262-1001

www.sansfreelaw.com

"No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."
 Rule 7.2(e) of the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct

2017

The Family Services Department

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF TRIBAL MEMBERS
AND THEIR FAMILIES.

The Family Services Department Announces 2017 WINTER LIHEAP INFORMATION (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

DISTRIBUTION DATES: February 21, 22, 23
March 7, 8, 9
March 21, 22, 23

****General Information****

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

****Required Documentation for All Applicants****

- Current energy or gas bill.
- Social Security cards for ALL members of the household. There will be no exceptions or approvals without SS cards. This is a federal requirement.
- Tribal ID for applicant/head of household.
- Current income verification for all household members that are over the age of 19, such as paystubs, paychecks, letters of salary verification, etc...
- If anyone in the home over 19 is unemployed, you must bring a statement verifying they are not working. The statement must be signed by three people who do not reside in your household and must include their phone numbers.
- Current verification if receiving state unemployment benefits.
- Current verification if your household is receiving Food Stamps benefits.
- CURRENT Social Security or Disability Income Verification. We must have current income verification on file for all 2017 applications and services.

*Please call the Family Services Department if you have any questions.

Family Services Department

2017 LIHEAP Information Continued

**ESTIMATED STATE MEDIAN INCOME, BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND BY STATE
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2017**

State	Estimated State Median Income (4 person Household)	60 % of the estimated SMI for 4 person household	1-Person Household	2-Person Household	3-Person Household	4-Person Household	5-Person Household	6-Person Household
Alabama	\$67,621	\$40,573	\$21,098	\$27,590	\$34,081	\$40,573	\$47,065	\$53,556
Florida	\$67,643	\$40,586	\$21,105	\$27,598	\$34,092	\$40,586	\$47,080	\$53,574

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

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

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

**** 2017 PER CAPITA TOTAL- \$3,500****

2017 Winter LIHEAP Dates and Times.***WINTER APPLICATION DATES***

DAY	DATE	TIME	PRIORITY SCHEDULE
Tuesday	February 21, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	SENIORS & DISABILITY INCOME ONLY
Wednesday	February 22, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Senior Households; Households with Children Under 5 years; and Households receiving Food Stamps and TANF benefits
Thursday	February 23, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Tuesday	March 7, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Wednesday	March 8, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Thursday	March 9, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Tuesday	March 21, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Wednesday	March 22, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households
Thursday	March 23, 2017	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	All Types of Households

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE DIABETES EVENTS IN FEBRUARY!

DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT

Two-Part Sessions*

- Tuesday, February 7, 2017
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic
- Wednesday, February 8, 2017
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic

*Attend both sessions and receive a foot care scale!

DIABETES COMMUNITY FORUM

- Thursday, February 16, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Friendly Holiness Church/Poarch Road

LUNCH & LEARN

- Wednesday, February 22, 2017
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Hyatt/Pensacola, Florida

HEART DISEASE 101 MINI CLASSES

- Tuesday, February 14, 2017
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Atrium of Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic

Please call Donna Johnson or Marsha Fendley for more information about any of these planned events.

- Donna Johnson (251) 368-9136 x 2332
djohnson@pci-nsn.gov
- Marsha Fendley (251) 368-9136 x 2354
mfendley@pci-nsn.gov



Health & Elder Services Purpose

Focusing on prevention and well-being through a variety of medical and educational programs, we guide our members to make choices that will enhance their quality of life and help them make healthy choices that are in their best interest.

We want all Tribal Members to feel their best so they can live life to its fullest.

Poarch Band of Creek Indians



The holidays were brighter for two Tribal Members families as they moved into their new TAHO homes in December. Rhonda Kendrick, shown above, and her family moved into their home in Atmore, Alabama on December 14, 2016. Sarena Helton and her family moved into their home in Walnut Hill, Florida on December 20, 2016. Don't worry kids, Santa knew just where to find them!

Candlelight Compassions, LLC
Home Health Care

Lighting Your Way to Better Living

We provide a variety of services to Baldwin & Escambia County areas

- Light Housekeeping
- Bathing and dressing
- Laundry
- 24 Hour Customer Service
- Activities
- Meal Preparation
- Transportation
- Medication Reminders
- Flexible Schedule
- Companionship

Office: 251-359-0562 / Cell: 251-504-0940

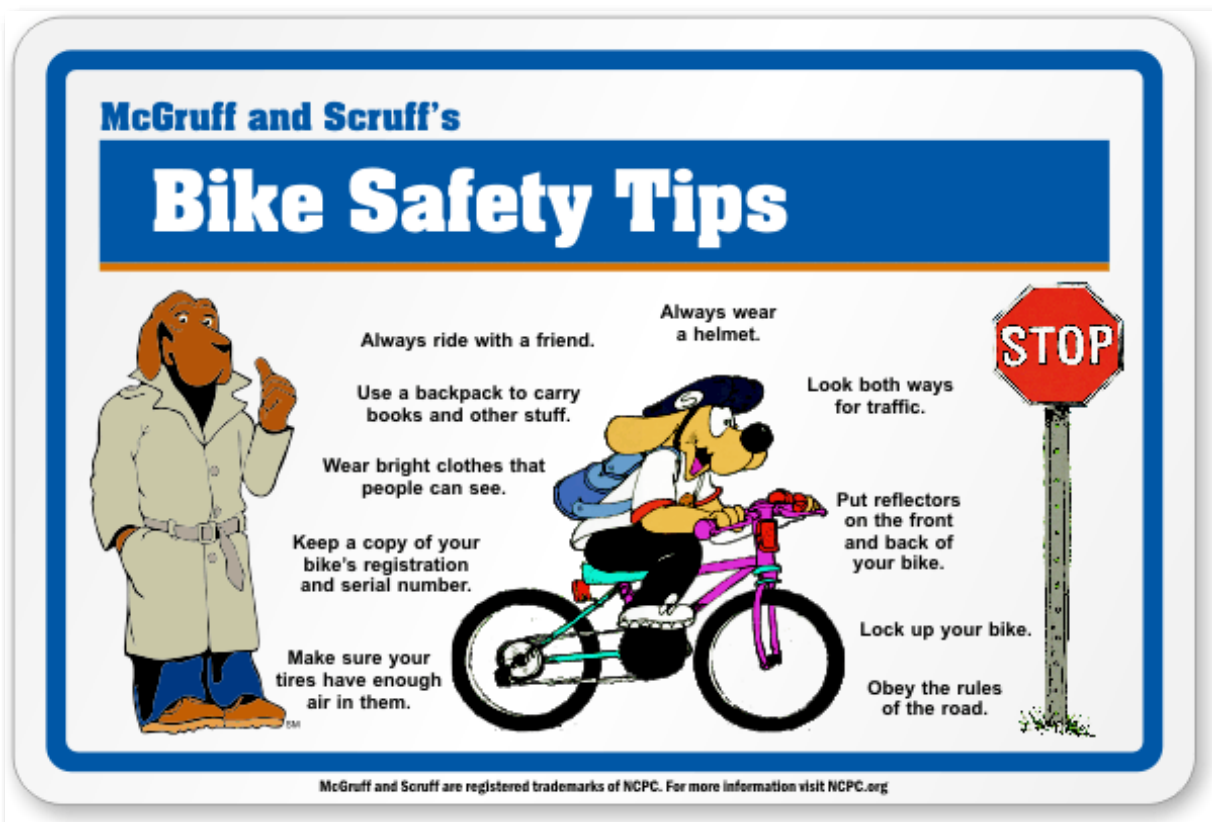
www.CandleLightCompassions.com

Edie Jackson
INDEPENDENT DESIGNER #22035
ORIGAMI OWL

251-253-5818
Jackson.edie@yahoo.com
Ediejackson.OrigamiOwl.com



The Housing Department had the opportunity to assist the Family Services Department with the 2016 Kid's Christmas Party. The Housing Department was able to help through the Crime Prevention and Safety Program by providing recreational and safety equipment for the children. Depending on their age, each child received either a wagon or bicycle along with bicycle helmets, reflectors, and safety information. The wagons and bicycles will help encourage the children to stay healthy and active. McGruff the Crime Dog was also present to help promote safety.





Vera Ramer with her Human Resources family. Shown left to right are Clara Jones, Jason Rackard, Magan Daughtry, Susan Spruill, Vera Ramer, Seboy Spence, Roxanne Murphy, Heather Rolin, and Tamaniek McGhee.

Human Resources Department Hosts Retirement Reception For Vera Ramer

Five years, ten years, fifteen years, twenty years, twenty-five years... time to retire!

Vera Ramer began her employment with the Tribe in 1991. On December 30, 2016 she worked her last day, choosing to retire after 25 years of employment with the Tribe.

Vera began her employment with the Tribe as Secretary with EPA (Environmental Department) on a part-time basis. She then moved on to full-time employment with Public Safety where she also served as Secretary. Due

to budget cuts in 1995 she was transferred from Public Safety to Personnel (Human Resources). Her first job in Personnel was that of Department Secretary.

She proved her value to the Tribe when she assumed the duties of the Insurance Clerk. This position evolved into the Benefits Manager position she held at her retirement.

Human Resources hosted an employee Retirement Reception for Vera on Friday afternoon, December 30, 2016. Staff from across the Tribal campus came

by to say their good-byes and to wish her the best of luck in the next chapter of her life.

Human Resources also hosted a more formal Retirement Reception Friday evening, inviting family, long term co-workers, Tribal Council Members, and others who have been positively impacted by Vera throughout her employment with the Tribe.

Good luck and best wishes on your retirement Vera, you will be missed.

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

Mark Twain

The Legal Department would like to provide Tribal Members with an update on 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) 446-1140 or the Legal Department at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2525.

TRIBAL LITIGATION

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

On December 6, 2016, Judge Granade issued a permanent injunction and the declaratory judgment requested by the Tribe when it initially filed its suit against the Escambia County, Alabama Tax Assessor in May of 2015. Judge Granade's order is consistent with other recent federal court decisions and confirms what the Tribe and the United States have always said: the Tribe's trust lands are validly held in trust by the United States, and are entitled to all of the rights and privileges associated with that status, including exemption from state and local taxes.

This case began on May 26, 2015, when the Tribe filed its complaint against Escambia County, Alabama Tax Assessor Jim Hildreth in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama. Hildreth retired from the office of Escambia County Tax Assessor on September 30, 2015, and his successor is Thad Moore, Jr.

The Tribe's complaint requested that the court declare that the lands are not within the Escambia County Tax Assessor's taxing jurisdiction and asked the court to issue a preliminary and permanent injunction to prevent him from taxing the Tribe's trust property in the future. The Court granted a preliminary injunction in favor of the Tribe on July 22, 2015.

When the Tax Assessor filed his answer to the Tribe's complaint in the District Court, he also asserted a counterclaim against the Tribe. In his counterclaim, the Tax Assessor asked 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, the Tax Assessor 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. Arguments on the motions to dismiss were heard in the United States District Court on December 22, 2015.

In the meantime, the Tax Assessor appealed the District Court's preliminary injunction order to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Oral argument was heard on April 12, 2016, and on July 11, 2016, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the preliminary injunction in favor of the Tribe.

With the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals affirming the Tribe's preliminary injunction, the Tribe moved for judgment based on the pleadings that were on file with the District Court. The Tax Assessor withdrew its opposition to the Tribe's request for a declaration that the Tribe's trust land is exempt from taxation and to the Tribe's request for a permanent injunction.

On December 6, 2016, Judge Granade issued her final order. Relative to the permanent injunction, Judge Granade said that in light of the Eleventh Circuit's decision, the Tribe's success on the merits "cannot be doubted," that irreparable harm "most certainly" occurs when a county or state official threatens the Tribe's sovereignty by attempting to levy taxes on its trust property, and that the balance of harms "weighs heavily" in favor of the Tribe. Furthermore, Judge Granade said it was "prudent" to enter a declaratory judgment and that the assessment and collection of local taxes on its trust land "constitutes an impermissible, unlawful interference with the [T]ribe's inherent sovereignty and right of self-governance."

With this issue finally and definitively resolved, the Tribe looks forward to continuing to work closely and amicably with surrounding governments and to continuing economic development efforts that benefit the Tribe and its neighbors.

Swim Team Participates in GPAC Gravy Bowl Invitational

The PCI Warriors attended the 2016 GPAC Gravy Bowl Invitational in Pensacola, Florida at the University of West Florida Aquatics Center in November. In attendance were Kadence Bailey, Seth Hammonds, Kamryn Langham, Kylee Langham, Maci McGhee, Marlie McGhee, Mason McGhee, Karaghan O'Barr, Jude Parham, and Mary-Ashlynn Williams.

They had another record breaking weekend with each swimmer receiving personal best times in their events and dropping time left

and right.

Kylee Langham finished top 3 in the 8 and Under Girls Division.

Kamryn Langham made it to the finals round in the 50 butterfly event and placed 8th overall in the 9-10 Girls Division.

The Girls 10 and Under 200 yard Freestyle relay team, which included Kamryn Langham, Kylee Langham, Kinsley Byrd, and Carlie Peach, finished in the top 10.

The Girls 10 and under 200 yard Medley relay team, which included

Kamryn Langham, Kinsley Byrd, Kylee Langham, and Callie Kent, finished in the top 10 as well.

Others who dropped time in their events included Mary-Ashlynn Williams, Macie McGhee, Mason McGhee, and Marlie McGhee.

Among the new faces on the team were Kadence Bailey, Seth Hammonds, Jude Parham and Karaghan O'Barr who had their first Winter League swim meet and did an amazing job with great times to build on.

2017 Baseball & Softball League

Registration: January 5, 2017 - February 25, 2017
 Open to Public Tribal & Non-Tribal Athletes
 Boys & Girls Age 7-12
 Registration Fee: \$50.00

2017 Wee Ball & T Ball League

Registration: January 5, 2017 - February 18, 2017
 Open to Public Tribal & Non Tribal Atheles

Wee Ball	Boys & Girls	Age 3 & 4	Fee \$20.00
Tee Ball	Boys & Girls	Age 5 & 6	Fee \$30.00

For more information, registration, or applications, contact the Recreation Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2256 or visit the Recreation page of the Tribe's official web site www.pci-nsn.gov.

Your Health Matters

GATHER TOGETHER IN HEALTH



THE SIMPLE TRUTH

BY ELISABETH WOLSTENHOLME
Advantage Training Nutritionist

Nothing makes me crazier than trying to make sense of the latest food trends. First it's pomegranate, now it's acai. Did you hear that Oprah's eating almonds? Fill the house with almonds!

Wait, now it's kale. Kale smoothies. Kale cobbler. Kale overload! There's nothing wrong with kale, acai, almonds or pomegranates, of course. In fact, they're terrific! But they were terrific the day before the trend broke, and they'll be terrific long after we move onto something else.

And then there's this advice: Cook at home, and eat more . . . well, everything. Everything that's not made

up of meat, sugar, or starch, that is: more green beans, garlic, bell peppers, eggplants, tomatoes, greens, squash, zucchini, green peas, broccoli, chard, kale, and lentils; more asparagus, beans, chickpeas, parsley, olives, buckwheat, salmon, clams, oysters, mussels, and miso; more cranberries, blueberries, and blackberries; more flaxseeds, sunflower seeds, and pumpkin seeds.

Ugh.

www.mypciwellness.com

My PCI WELLNESS

What did all our ancestors have in common? They all lived on diets we now recognize as organic, pesticide, and antibiotic-free. Why? The food they ate came directly from the ground. Farm to table.

We could do this all day! But let's break food thing down to the basics, shall we? After all, we're busy, hungry people. (I suppose one of the reasons we get so hooked on the latest and greatest food fads is that deep down, most of us, know that the truth just isn't that exciting.) So here it is. In fact, it's as mundane as it is simple. In his book *In Defense Of Food* author Michael Pollan instructed his readers to "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants." That's it folks! How does this look in real life? Let's get into it.

More and more of us start life downing diet sodas, microwavable dinners, and Lunchables, and then we get older we swap those things with Red Bull, vodka, frozen pizza, and fast food. It's no wonder we're getting sick. There's little nutrition in this food. And it's no wonder we're not taking the steps necessary to fix the problem. I mean, at this point, our brains are not functioning on high quality fuel. Speaking of brains: What did all our ancestors have in common? They all lived on diets we now recognize as organic, hormone, pesticide, and antibiotic-free. Why? The food they ate came directly from the ground. Farm to table.

The existence of vitamins D, B1, and K was not discovered until the 1920s. Whether antioxidants could prevent disease began to be seriously studied in the 1990s. All these years of research has found that vitamins and bioactive compounds in plants such as cabbage, broccoli, and radishes are found to be cancer fighters and heart-disease preventers. If you add these foods to your diet, you may find yourself to be less hungry in between meals. Our ancestors did not know it but they lived it - and they were healthier for it.

Even when you're not eating plants, drink liquids made from plants. Great news: wine aged in oak is such a concentration of plants. So the next time you're deciding between a glass of merlot and a rum-and-Coke, don't forget about the plants. Come to think of it, do that all the time. Red Bull or coffee? Choose coffee. It's made of plants. Diet drink or tea? Tea! Made of plants. Now, I know what some of you are thinking, "What do I do when forced to choose between a bag of potato chips and a bag of organic carrots? They're both made out of plants, after all." Well, industrial processing can really take the plant-ness out of plants. So, I'm guessing you know the answer. (Carrots!)

We must spend time taking care of ourselves, and that starts with feeding ourselves whole, unprocessed foods. That's easy to say, I know. But give it a whirl, it's worth every second and every bit of effort. Think about it: what could be more valuable and productive than standing in your kitchen, peeling carrots? It gives your brain a little downtime and the food you're preparing will help your body (and that beautiful brain of yours) thrive; not to mention you could be inspiring the folks around you to also take better care of themselves.

Let's work on our healthy habits together and make 2017 a year to remember.



SMALL DECISIONS MAKE BIG THINGS HAPPEN



GIVING BACK

Fire Rescue employees are very appreciative for what the community and Tribe does for them each year. In return, during the 2016 departmental Christmas party, employees and their families brought gifts to be donated to Toys for Tots sponsored by Wind Creek Atmore in conjunction with WKRG News 5. The toys were delivered to Wind Creek Atmore on December 14th by Fire Rescue personnel.



**FREE PLAY with
EVERY STAY**
251-368-8182



\$59.99

Plus tax

Complimentary Breakfast
Free WiFi Internet
Microwave, Fridge, HBO in all rooms
Casino 1 min. away with Free Shuttle
Large Outdoor Pool
No Pets Allowed

6141 Highway 21, Atmore, AL 36502
I-65, exit 57 | muskogeeginn.com



Inside Creek
Travel Plaza
I-65, exit 54



Hungry yet? Try these Loaded
Tater Tots to satisfy your craving




116 Poarch Road, Atmore, AL 36502



**Grab something
sweet to go with
your morning
coffee**

Next to Wind Creek Casino
and Hotel in Atmore

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)

SOLUTIONS FOR EVERYBODY
Dr. WILLIAM E. SMITH, Jr.
(866) 432.3293 or (850) 432.3293

- Bone and Joint injury/Surgery
- Spine Care • Arthroscopy

Locations:
Atmore Community Hospital
 Tuesday and Wednesday
Pensacola
 Monday and Thursday



DAVID MORRIS CONSTRUCTION



New Construction
 Additions • Remodeling
 Painting • Vinyl Siding
 Locally Owned
 Licensed & Insured
 Alabama Home Builders License



DAVID MORRIS
 Cell: (251) 680-6885

P.O. Box 287
 Perdido, AL 36562

TARIS D. WICKIZER
 Owner

o 850.637.1260
 f 850.637.1289
 c 850.512.3653

Taris@NALprint.com
 www.NALprint.com

apparel | promotional products | printing | design

NAL
 print solutions

Water Conservation: a careful preservation and protection of something; especially planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect. The Poarch Creek Utilities Authority strives to be good stewards to one of our most precious natural resources.

The Canoe Water Improvements Project is one of the many ways we are doing our part in water conservation. Ground disturbances near/around weakened old water lines will cause water pressure variances that the old lines cannot handle, leading to minor and major leaks. By replacing sections of the failing water lines we are saving thousands of gallons of water. A family of 4 can save about 300

gallons of water each month, by something as simple as turning the water off while brushing your teeth. Small changes can make big impacts over time. Water service disruption is an inconvenience. Please have patience, and know that after project completion you will have better service and you were part of an effort toward water conservation.

The Utilities Authority Board met and voted to implement 3 new policies for garbage disposal. A Solid Waste Disposal Policy, Unauthorized Utility Services Policy, and modification to the rate structure to implement a tampering fee. The purpose of these policies is to encourage solid waste customers to use the provided dumpsters in the

appropriate manner and to establish the method for PCIUA to enforce penalties.

A letter will be mailed out soon containing new policy guidelines and fees. Penalties are as follows and will be applied to the customer's utility bill:

- 1st time offender: \$100.00
- 2nd time offender: \$250.00
- 3rd time offender: Termination of services

Please contact our office, should you need assistance, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 251-446-1617. We are always here to answer any questions or concerns.







334-514-2700

**Shop with us. Quick,
easy, convenient!**

89 River Oaks Drive, Wetumpka, AL 36092
Directly across from Wind Creek Casino
and Hotel Wetumpka

Magnolia Branch
Wildlife Reserve



EXPERIENCE
THE WONDERS
OF CAMPING

Set up camp lakeside and take
in Mother Nature's beauty

facebook.com/MagnoliaBranch/
251-446-3423 | reservations@MagnoliaBranch.com





BEAR
HUGS
4 kids

HELPING LOCAL CHILDREN

Only
\$25

Buy 1, donate 1 ...
or donate both!

CREEK
Travel Plaza





New Year, New Look **SALE!**



**Lochian
Bisque
Sofa**
\$748

**Lenoris Leather \$1,898
Reclining Sofa**



HOME STYLE EXCLUSIVES!



**Luttrell 6 pc.
POWER
Sectional**
\$1,998

**NEW Exclusive Styles
Arriving Every Week!**

HOME
Style
FURNITURE

121 N. Main Street, Downtown Atmore, AL
Open Tues-Sat 10am-6pm 251-368-8389

It has been said, “The only time you should ever look back is to see how far you’ve come.” For Wind Creek Hospitality (PCIGA), 2016 was a testament to the growth, excellence, and innovation the organization strives for every day.

The year began with a spotlight on Montgomery. In December 2015, WCH held a successful grand opening for Wind Creek Casino & Hotel (formerly Creek Casino Montgomery). In January 2016 WCH continued to showcase property renovations with the grand opening of the hotel at Wind Creek Montgomery. The five story hotel boasts 123 rooms, including eight suites, an events center, and a full-service, high-end salon.

The grand openings continued on May 26, 2016 when PBCI and WCH partnered with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California to open the tribe’s first gaming center. Wa She Shu Casino is located in Gardnerville, Nevada amidst the scenic Sierra Mountains east of Lake Tahoe.



The 13,500 square foot facility has a gaming floor that spans 4,600 square feet. The restaurant and bar cover 1,500 square feet. An additional 4,000 square feet is designated for future expansion of the gaming floor. About 70 new jobs were created by casino operations in addition to the initial construction jobs that were created. The complete project investment totaled an estimated \$8 million.

WCH saw a different kind of grand opening come to life this year with the launch of its ‘fourth’ property –



the online gaming platform called WindCreekCasino.com. The site acts as an online casino where guests can play their favorite games for free on a computer or mobile device. The points they earn can be used to redeem hotel amenities such as restaurant vouchers, hotel stays and spa treatments!



In addition to grand openings, WCH also worked to create future opportunities for growth outside of the state. Most notable is the exploration of a purchase in Bossier City, Louisiana. Negotiations are still in process for the Margaritaville Resort Casino located there.



WCH also worked to update its property in Atmore. WCA's casual dining restaurant, The Grill, underwent complete renovation to update décor and add seating. The west and north hotel entries were both updated and beautiful, feather-inspired lighting fixtures were added above the gaming floor.

WCA welcomed B.B. King's World Famous Café to the family entertainment center. Construction began on a new administrative office for WCH team members located next to the multipurpose building in the back of WCA.

WCA also began construction on the RV Park at Wind Creek – the first venture of its kind for one of the gaming properties.

While business growth is of utmost importance, Wind Creek Hospitality is also dedicated to investing in surrounding communities. In 2016, WCH contributed over \$2.1 million to various organizations throughout the Southeast and Central Alabama.

Prominent recipients of cash donations or sponsorships from the company include:

- Boys & Girls Club of South Alabama
- Habitat for Humanity
- Sacred Heart Foundation
- Big Brother Big Sister of Northwest Florida
- Joy of Life benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- American Heart Association
- Penelope House
- Alabama Dance Theatre
- Make-A-Wish Alabama
- Alabama Shakespeare Festival,
- Alabama Bass Trail





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 an appointment by calling the CIEDA offices at 251-368-0819. Please ask for Ed Powell, Business Development Analyst (epowell@pcicie.com) or Chad Klinck, CIEDA CFO (cklinck@pcicie.com).

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

Getting your loan request approved depends on how well you represent:

- Yourself
- Your business
- 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.

Lending Guidelines

Are you or have you...

- At least 18 year of age?
- An enrolled member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians?
- Established a one year period of residency at your current address?
- Have a credit score of at least 650?
- Have had the same job or worked in the area of business in which the loan is being requested for atleast one year?
- Own atleast 51% of the business that the loan is being applied for?
- Providing real value for your stated ownership in the business?
- Receiving a percentage of all profits that are equal to your ownership stake in the business?

If so, you are a good match for the loan program!

Will I have to disclose personal information?

Yes, personal information, such as tax returns, credit score and a personal financial statement, are required.

How do the rates compare to banks and financial institutions?

Often the CIEDA loan program lending rates are more competitive than traditional banks.

How successful is the CIEDA loan program?

To date this program has a 95 percent success rate.

Young travelers will enjoy Muskogee Inn

These days, younger travelers are looking for hip places to stay while away from home. With new fads cropping up, such as Airbnb, keeping independent hotels at the top of the list is becoming challenging.

But here at Muskogee Inn, we know what the millennial generation is seeking in terms of a hotel stay. Whether it's just for the night or booking a room for a week or longer, younger travelers will find all the amenities they want at a fraction of the cost of other hotels. Millennials have a different set of values and expectations, and we aim to provide them here at Muskogee Inn.

For starters, just about everyone wants **free Wi-Fi Internet access** while on the road. Muskogee Inn offers free access with a code when you check in at the front desk. The Wi-fi extends to the entire property, so you can even take your electronic devices out to the pool.

Speaking of the pool, Muskogee Inn touts its **huge outdoor swimming pool and lounge area**. Being in the South, it gets hot pretty early in the year in Atmore,

so of course our hotel maintains a large pool and recreation area. Guests can cool off in the inviting blue water and also work on their tan while lying on the new lounge chairs beside the pool. Cabanas provide a shady area to get out of the sun and to host picnic lunches and the like. And for those in town for a reunion, we even have a **grill** set up so you can barbecue and entertain your friends and family.

Another great perk to staying at Muskogee Inn is the **in-room amenities** we offer. Most hotels across the country will provide free basic cable television in all the rooms, but here, we also throw in **HBO and extended cable channels**, giving you more viewing options to match what you might have at home. For those rainy days that might put a dent in your outdoor plans, you can rest and relax in your room and watch a movie or a few shows to pass the time.

Also in every room at Muskogee Inn you will find a

refrigerator, microwave, coffee pot with coffee packets and cups, a hair dryer, ironing board and ice bucket. All of these are standard at our hotel. You don't get that at other lodging establishments. Sure, some might offer a coffee pot but no fridge or



microwave. Others might have a fridge but no way to reheat your leftovers. And some don't even offer a coffee pot, let alone a hair dryer or ironing board and iron.

And the best thing young people will appreciate about staying at Muskogee Inn is the **price**. We offer low rates and understand that you are looking for a good deal without giving up commodities, safety and cleanliness. Our staff does an amazing job keeping our rooms clean and orderly, and they are happy to help keep you comfortable during your time here. Our Tribal Police Department also makes rounds on the property to ensure your safety. Why would we charge extra for all the perks we offer? We know you want bargain, and we gladly give you one.

We hear over and over how our customers are pleased with our budget friendly rates. And guests also receive a free play at Wind Creek Atmore with every stay at Muskogee Inn. You can't beat that. You might find you are having more fun and decide to extend your stay ... So the next time you millennials are coasting through town on the way to the beach or to go canoeing at Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve, stop here for the night and check out the scene in our quaint Southern town. We know you won't be disappointed.



4 ways to cut fuel costs



The cost of fuel dipped in 2014, but drivers are still looking for ways to spend less at the pump. For many drivers, that means driving less. This will save money, and doing so also reduces fuel consumption and contributes to fewer emissions entering the air, both of which can benefit the environment.

But many drivers are unable to drive less, as commitments to work and family require them to get behind the wheel more often than they might prefer. Such drivers might be looking for ways to reduce their fuel costs, and Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka (CCSW) has put together a few ways to do just that.

1. Reconsider your choice of fuel. Many of today's auto manufacturers now design their vehicles so they can run smoothly on regular unleaded gas, which is typically listed as "87 octane" at filling stations. That's important to know, as regular gas is often considerably less expensive than alternatives that are higher octanes. Many drivers who choose regular unleaded opt for premium gas every third trip to slightly increase performance of older engines. Read your vehicle's owner's manual to determine the best fuel for your car. When required, premium gas should always be used to sustain the life of your engine.

2. Buy when the time is right. Prices at filling stations fluctuate on a daily basis, and that's no exception here at CCSW. Unless your car is running on empty, avoid filling up when the prices seem especially high. Some patience might pay off with several dollars in savings, and those savings can add up to a significant amount of money over time. Check phone apps, such as Gas Buddy, for up-to-date prices at Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka. We update our prices every day.

3. Become a less aggressive driver. Drivers with hectic schedules tend to be more aggressive when behind the wheel. But driving aggressively is unsafe and potentially costly. When driven at speeds that exceed 55 miles per hour, vehicles lose fuel economy. According to the Consumer Energy Center, driving 55 miles per hour instead of 75 miles per hour can reduce fuel costs by as much as 75 percent.

4. Remove unnecessary weight. A car trunk might seem like a great place to keep your golf clubs, and it might be tempting to leave that roof rack on top of your car after a recent camping trip, but such unnecessary cargo in or on your car makes it more difficult for the car to get from point A to point B. That forces the car to consume more fuel. Unless your immediate plans include hitting the links or hunkering down at a nearby campsite, remove unnecessary weight from the car so your next trip to the gas station is less expensive.



CREEK

Travel Plaza

is in perfect spot to be destination stop



Targeting a separate demographic

And the Poarch Creek logo by itself holds a lot of respect and history so many vacationers will buy something with the logo on it just to have something that says "Poarch Creek Indians." Items that are popular at CTP are coffee travel mugs, T-shirts and sweatshirts, stuffed animals, hats and can koozies.

CTP also gives away a variety of promo items during special events and for contests. These items display both the Poarch Creek logo and the Creek Travel Plaza logo. By taking aim at a different customer base, CTP brings in traffic that national brand truck stops don't.

At Creek Travel Plaza (CTP) in Atmore, we do more than sell gasoline to travelers and truck drivers. We even have more than a restaurant to offer our customers who frequently stop here.

Shoppers who want something different are destined to find just that at Creek Travel Plaza, and its prime location has it positioned as a unique destination stop.

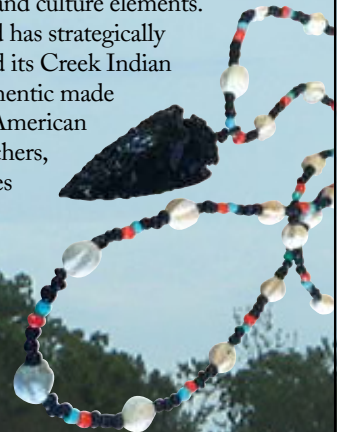
Not just a location, but a niche

Creek Travel Plaza sits directly off Interstate 65 at exit 54. Drivers going north or south have a clear view of our truck stop and rest area. But what sets CTP apart from national brands is its authentic niche — Native American souvenirs, and more importantly, Poarch Creek Indian merchandise.

As the only federally recognized Indian tribe in the state of Alabama, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians have seen a rise in public demand for Poarch Creek related items, such as logo merchandise and authentic Creek Indian-made pieces. And one of the only convenient places in Atmore to get such items is at Creek Travel Plaza.

Many tourists enjoy collecting souvenirs on their various travels to different areas. And many enjoy picking up unique items that can't be found in every other gift shop or travel center, such as ethnic and culture elements.

CTP recognizes this and has strategically displayed and advertised its Creek Indian merchandise. From authentic made jewelry to other Native American items, such as dream catchers, figurines, Indian dolls, purses and much more.



Making a difference and creating a good reputation

Another way Creek Travel Plaza is quickly becoming the place to stop is its reputation of being a clean and safe place for travelers of all kinds. Although CTP caters heavily to the trucking community, it also reaches out to families who are passing by. And the landscaping curb appeal at CTP creates an open and inviting atmosphere for people needing a break from driving long distances.

And not only that, Creek Travel Plaza was rated No. 1 in the state of Alabama and No. 24 in America by customers who travel all over the country. Cleanliness, safety and friendliness were among the ways people ranked travel centers and truck stops.

So putting emphasis on things others might not consider, such as catering to a different type of traveler, goes a long way in making Creek Travel Plaza the destination stop everyone wants to visit on their way to wherever they are headed. When travelers choose CTP over another travel center, we know we are doing something right.

Night Owls and Early Birds Rejoice!

Diner

Whether you are getting up early
or staying up late,
we'll be ready to serve you.



To Go Orders Call 251-368-0085

Located inside Creek Travel Plaza at 4740 Jack Springs Rd.

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. Please keep your information accurate and up to date.

Contact Tribal Member Benefits at (251) 368-9136 x 2209 to update your information.



Honoring Our Veterans

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

Please be sure to include return address and contact information.

*The Most
Trusted Name In
Home Care*



Ask about our \$50.00 CASH referral bonus

(251) 621-1900



**SYNERGY[®]
HomeCare**

www.synergyhomecare.com

- Companionship*
- Homemaking*
- Medication Reminders*
- Meal Preparation*
- Personal Care*
- Errands & Appointments*
- Trained & Insured*
- Background Checked*

***We accept Flex Card**

© 2015, SYNERGY HomeCare, All Rights Reserved

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY (Hotvlē-Hvse) 2017

Wednesday, February 1, 2017
5:00 pm (CST)

Deadline to submit information for publication in March 2017 issue of Poarch Creek News

February 6 & 7, 2017 Monday & Tuesday Museum gift shop Closed for monthly inventory	Winter LIHEAP February 21-23, 2017 Family Services Department	Calvin McGhee Cultural Advisory Committee Monday, February 13 th Cultural Building on Hwy 21 4:00 pm
February 18, 2017 Last day to register for Wee Ball & Tee Ball Leagues	Tribal Council Meetings Thursday, February 2 nd & 16 th Building 500 Auditorium 4:00 pm	Education Advisory Committee Monday, February 13 th Family Services Conference Room Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic 3:00 pm
Monday, February 20, 2016 Tribal Government Offices, Boys & Girls Club, Museum, and Gym will be closed in observance of Presidents Day.	Tribal Court Sessions Monday, February 13 th & 27 th Tribal Courtroom 9:00 am	Utilities Authority Board Meeting Thursday, February 16 th Utilities Office 1:00 pm
February 21-24, 2017 Arbor Day Tree Give-A-Way Environmental Department Tribal Members & Tribal Employees only/One tree per species per person	Tribal Regulatory Commission Meetings Tuesday, February 14 th & 28 th Building 500 Auditorium 8:00 am	4H Club Meeting Monday, February 13 th & 27 th Education Department 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
February 25, 2017 Last day to register for Baseball & Softball Leagues	Tribal Grievance Board Tuesday, February 14 th Building 500 Auditorium 1:00 pm	Winter LIHEAP March 7-, 2017 & March 21-23, 2017 Family Services Department

Wednesday, March 1, 2017
5:00 pm (CST)

Deadline to submit information for publication in April 2017 issue of Poarch Creek News

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 www.pci-nsn.gov



Poarch Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT First Class
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 2113
Atmore, AL