

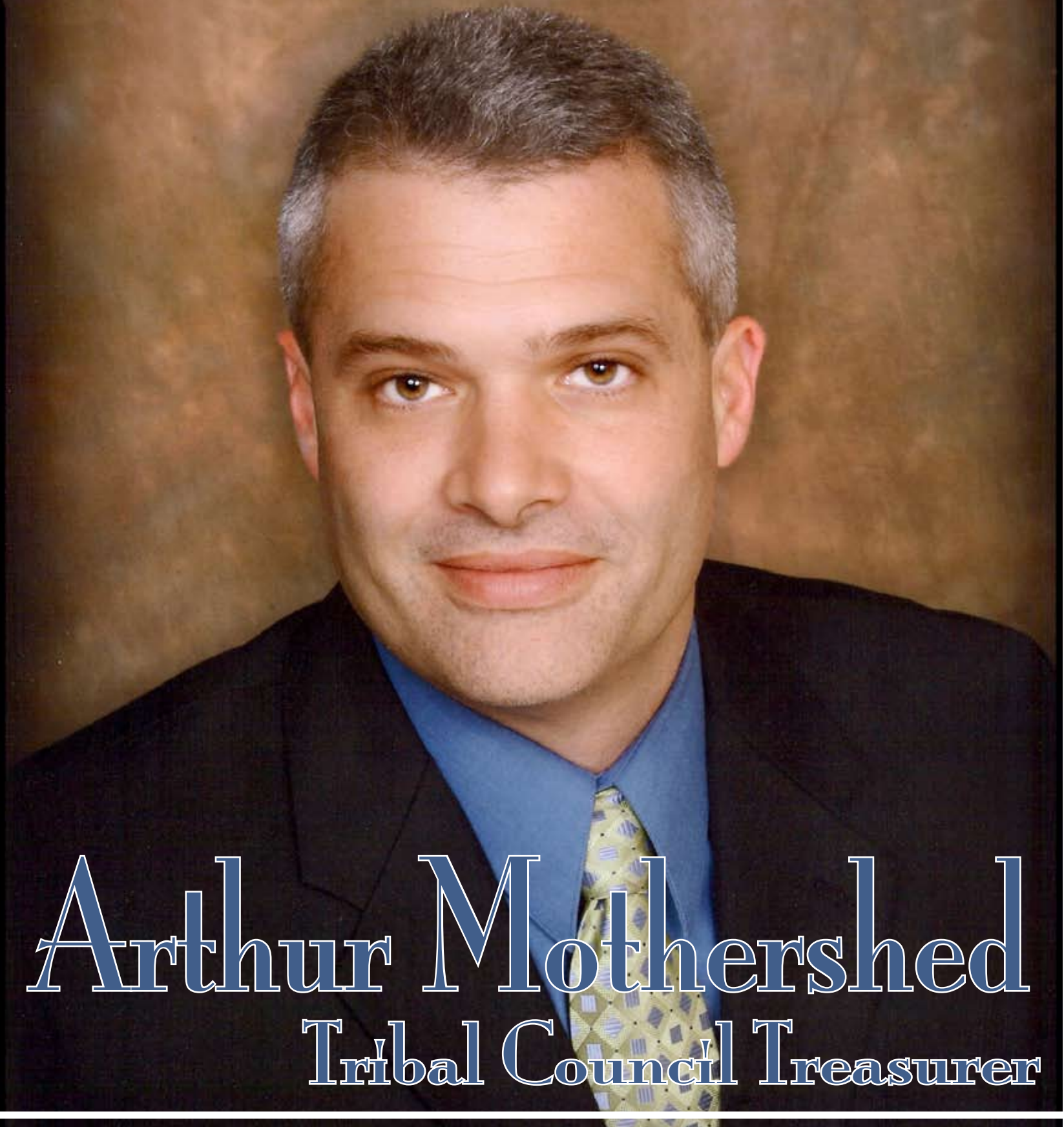
Keeping the Family and Friends of Poarch Informed

March 2008

www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

VOLUME 25 • ISSUE 2

POARCH CREEK NEWS



Arthur Mothershed
Tribal Council Treasurer

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Poarch Creek News
www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

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New Deadlines for Tribal Newsletter

Effective April 1, 2008, the deadline for submission of articles, pictures, etc. for the newsletter will change to the first working day of the month prior to month of publication. Please submit only one photo per birth announcement, birthday wish, engagement/wedding announcement, etc. Although we would like to include all pictures submitted, we are limited to space available for such submissions.

Remember, the *Poarch Creek News* is here to keep you, the Tribal Member, informed. It is very important to meet the established deadlines so that we can include the information in the newsletter.

For your convenience, the deadlines for submissions are listed below:

Month of Publication	Deadline
April, 2008	March 10, 2008
May, 2008	April 1, 2008
June, 2008	May 1, 2008
July, 2008	June 2, 2008
August, 2008	July 1, 2008
September, 2008	August 1, 2008
October, 2008	September 2, 2008
November, 2008	October 1, 2008
December, 2008	November 3, 2008
January, 2009	December 1, 2008

I Didn't Know That!

- There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: 'abstemious' and 'facetious.'
- **TYPEWRITER** is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.



Chairman's Corner March, 2008

It seems like it was just yesterday that I met with Gayle to do the article for last month. It is a new year and it's flying by already. We have had some cold weather lately but I am

glad to see that most people have been rather healthy, I myself look forward to an early spring.

I traveled to San Diego in February to meet with the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee where we discussed the reauthorization of special diabetes funding beyond the current funding that will expire in September this year. The Committee has been working with Senator Dorgan, Chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, and Senator Pete Dominici of New Mexico on this project. It is their hope to have this bill before Congress by spring. We are hoping for a five year reauthorization with funding of \$150 million dollars.

Tribal representatives traveled to Washington, DC, in February for the USET Impact Week meeting. While there, Tribal representatives met with delegates from Congress, including Congressman Jo Bonner and Senators Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions. These meetings were to update our Congressional representatives on Tribal issues such as health, housing, programs/services, and other issues that face the Tribe and Indian Country.

The Wind Creek Atmore project is well underway and all of the financial arrangements have been made. Construction on the framework of the hotel has been completed to the tenth floor. Interior work has begun in the gaming area which is expected to open in December of this year. We have an expected completion date for the hotel of Spring 2009.

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority is in negotiations with the owners of the Trinsic buildings in Atmore and hope to have this project finalized by the end of February. The construction of Building 600 is almost complete. Tribal Administration, Planning, TERO Commission, and Human Resources are scheduled to move to this location once the building is finished. Phase One construction and Phase Two planning of the Sports Complex is well underway. We look forward to further construction of the project in the near future.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that Tribal Elections are scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2008, there are three seats to be filled. We will also elect a new President of the United States this year. Primaries are currently being held across the country, with the nationwide Presidential election being held in November. We will be making history in November if a Democrat is elected. I encourage each of you to vote in Tribal Elections in June and national elections in November.

Tribal Elections Scheduled For Saturday, June 7, 2008

Submitted by Brenda Faircloth, Chairperson, Tribal Election Board

Each year Tribal Members vote to fill three seats on the Tribal Council. This year's Tribal Elections have been scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2008, the first Saturday in June. The three seats to be filled this year are currently being held by Buford L. Rolin, Tribal Chairman, Arthur Mothershed, Tribal Council Treasurer, and Tribal Council Member Eddie L. Tullis.

Pertinent information relevant to this year's election is listed below as well as being posted on the Tribe's website and community bulletin board. We encourage every Tribal Member who is eligible to vote to cast their vote in this year's election either by absentee ballot, walk-in voting, or voting at the polls on Saturday, June 7th.

2008 Tribal Council Election Notice

Pursuant to Section 22-1-17 of the Tribal Election Procedures, notice is hereby given that the 2008 Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council Election shall be held on **Saturday, June 7, 2008 at the Community Services Building (SAIL Center). Voting will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Election results will be posted at the Tribal Center on the Community Bulletin Board and published in the July Tribal Newsletter.

Tribal Election Calendar

The Tribal Council election will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2008. Anyone wishing to be a candidate for this year's election must submit a written statement of candidacy with the Election Board no later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 8, 2008. There are three positions open on the Tribal Council for the 2008 election.

FY 2008 Tribal Elections Calendar

Tuesday, April 8, 2008	Deadline to submit Letter of Candidacy, biography, and picture for Tribal Council if name is to be printed on the Official Ballot and printed in the May newsletter
Thursday, April 17, 2008	Names of Candidates and any proposed Constitutional Amendments, Ordinances, and/or Resolutions will be posted
Thursday, May 8, 2008	Last day to submit Letter of Candidacy for Tribal Council to be a Write-In on Ballot. Any additional Names of Candidates will be posted within ten days of submitting a Letter of Candidacy. Walk-In Voting begins at 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 27, 2008	Last day to request that an Absentee Ballot be mailed out.
Tuesday, June 3, 2008	Walk-In voting ends at 5:00 p.m.
Friday, June 6, 2008	Deadline to receive Absentee Ballots at 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 7, 2008	2008 Tribal Election Day Community Services Building (SAIL Center) Voting from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Tribal Census Update

Submitted by Mary Jane Tullis, Tribal Census Analyst

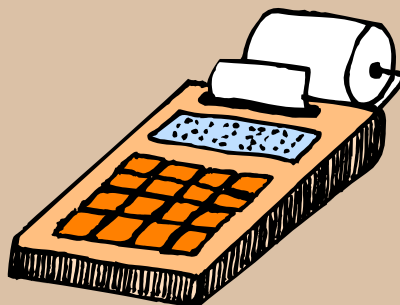
According to the Tribal Data Resources, as of January 1, 2008, total enrollment for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is 2521. In 2007, 145 new members were added to the roll and there were 21 deaths. Our oldest living Tribal Member is Margaret Madison Martin, born March 29, 1907. Other Tribal member statistics is listed below:

Tribal Members within the five county service area (Escambia County, Florida and Escambia, Mobile, Baldwin, and Monroe Counties in Alabama):

Females under the age of 18:	86
Males under the age of 18:	108
Females over the age of 18:	746
Males over the age of 18	745

Tribal Members outside the five county service area:

Females under the age of 18:	36
Males under the age of 18	31
Females over the age of 18	385
Males over the age of 18	374



Listed below are the ten Tribal members that the Tribal Census Office has not been able to contact. If you are a relative or friend of any of these individuals, please have them contact the Tribal Census Office at 1-877-276-2724 ext. 2501 on Monday or Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or on Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. If it is not convenient to call at these times, leave a short message on the answering machine. Please include your name, telephone number, and a time that would be convenient to return your call. Without this updated information they will not receive their birthday check or other benefits that they may be otherwise eligible for.

Gibson, Jewel
Gibson, Kimber Jean
Gibson, Richard Wayne

Hubbird, Kelly Jean
Hubbird, Ruby Anne
Hubbird, Shelly Ann

Reece, Barry Allen
Seamans, Joyce Darlene
Seamans, Patricia Diane
Walker, Ronald Garrett

Birthday Checks

Submitted by Tim Manning,
Tribal Member Benefits Executive Director

Many have expressed an interest in the Tribal Member birthday checks for 2008. Adult Tribal Members (ages 18 and older) will receive \$1,600.00 for their birthday this year. Minors will receive \$800.00 for their birthday, but this amount will be deposited into their trust accounts.

Previously, birthday checks have been mailed out bi-monthly. However, this year birthday checks will be mailed once each month. Our goal is to have the birthday checks in the mail by the 1st or 2nd of each month.

Please submit further inquiries to Tim Manning, Tribal Member Benefits Executive Director by phone at 251-368-9136 extension 2007 or via email at tmanning@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov.

TRIBAL BUSINESS REVIEW

Submitted by: Michelle White, Economic Development Administrative Assistant

D & J Plumbing, LLC

D & J Plumbing, LLC is located at 865 Leland Nall Road, Brewton, Alabama and is owned by Tribal Member Daniel Weaver and Jerry Casey.

Daniel and Jerry started the business in September 2007. They have 3 employees. They took up the plumbing business with the desire to better serve Atmore, Brewton and surrounding communities with dependable work at affordable prices. D & J Plumbing, LLC has more than 20 years combined plumbing experience.

D & J Plumbing, LLC offers a variety of different types of residential and commercial plumbing needs from cleaning sewer lines to working with gas lines. For more information or to get an estimate you can reach D & J Plumbing, LLC at (251)867-9367 or (251)253-8107.

If you are interested in having your business featured in the Business Review, please contact Michelle White at (251) 368-9136 ext 2505.



If you are interested in having your business featured in the newsletter's Tribal Business Review section, please contact Michelle White in the Economic Development Department at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2505.

Social Security Numbers Needed

To receive your birthday gift, or to have your gift placed in the Minor's Trust Fund, the Census Office **MUST** have your Social Security Number on file. It is your responsibility to keep your file updated.

Please contact the Census Office at
1-877-276-2724 ext. 2501

To make sure your information is up-to-date.

Census Office Hours:
Monday & Tuesday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

ROLIN RECEIVES "ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD"

By: Theresa Jackson

On January 26, 2008, the Fifth (5) Annual Sports Banquet was held at the Wellness & Activities Center (Gym) in Poarch. Many athletes were in attendance that participated in the NAYO Tournaments in 2007, and also students that participated in high school sports. The Guest Speaker for this year's event was Coach James "Gary" Tanner.



Guest Speaker James "Gary" Tanner

Coach Tanner is an Instructor for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, and serves as the head coach for the girls fast pitch Softball Team at the University.

Nominations were taken for the "Athlete of the Year" award, and the final three had to participate in an interview with the Poarch Recreation Committee. All of the committee can agree that their decision was very tough, as all three applicants had outstanding accomplishments throughout 2007. Mitchell Rolin received the "2007 Athlete of the Year" award. Mitchell is a senior at Escambia County High School where he is a member of the Blue Devil Varsity Baseball team, and a member of the

High School Rodeo Association. He has also played with the Poarch NAYO Baseball Team for 4 years, with the team winning the Championship in 2006. Mitchell has played on the Poarch Basketball Team, participated in the Atmore T-Ball, and Atmore Minor Leagues, Major League, and Atmore Babe Ruth League, and was selected as part of the All Star teams in all leagues. As a member of the Alabama Jr. Rodeo Association, Mitchell finished in the top 10 twice in Team Roping and last year finished top 5 winning a belt buckle, and a sportsmanship belt buckle. Mitchell is the son of Melvin and Marty Rolin, and the middle brother to older brother Michael, and younger brother Marshall, who both are also very sports oriented. Congratulations Mitchell on all of your hard work and dedication to your sporting career!!

The other two finalist who received interviews for this award with very outstanding accomplishments were Trenton Freeman, and Brooke Bell. Congratulations to them both, and keep up the good work!



Mitchell Rolin, 2007 Athlete of the Year pictured with his parents, Melvin and Marty Rolin.



Two teams from Poarch traveled to Philadelphia, MS to compete in the NASA Basketball Tournament January 11th and 12th. The 45 & over team (the Old Timers) won second place in their tournament Saturday. Congratulations to both teams.

Calendar of Events For March, 2008

Monday March 3 & 10 and Thursday, March 6 & 13, 2008
Winter LIHEAP Applications Accepted

March 3, 2008

T-Ball Registration – 5:30 p.m.
Wellness & Activities Center

Closing date for applications for
Board/Committee Vacancies

March 5, 2008

Housing Advisory Board Meeting
1:00 p.m. – Building 400

March 10, 2008

Deadline for Submission for
April Newsletter
Effective April 1, 2008, the submission
deadline will change to the first
working day of each month

March 11, 2008

Tribal Council Meeting – 4:00 p.m.
(Rescheduled from March 4, 2008)

March 15, 2008

Easter Egg Hunt – 9:00 a.m.
Pow Wow Grounds

March 15, 2008

Relay For Life Dinner & Show
7:00 p.m. – Wellness Activities Center

March 18, 2008

Tribal Council Meeting – 4:00 p.m.
Tribal Council Chambers

March 19, 2008

Housing Advisory Board Meeting
1:00 p.m. – Building 400

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Deadline for Submission for
May Newsletter



This month's article features Tribal Council Treasurer Arthur Mothershed. This is Arthur's first term in office, but he has been actively involved in Tribal politics for the past several years. He felt the need to get involved because of several issues that were becoming more and

more important for the Tribe. The Tribe's current economic success combined with a growing population, growing healthcare concerns and other social needs placed the Tribe at a crossroads. The Tribe, in his opinion, is headed in the right direction but there is still much work to be done.

Arthur is the son of Deloris Kelley and the late Carl Mothershed, and is the grandson of the late Levi and Treacy McGhee. He is married to Samatha Ann Canova Mothershed and is the father of three daughters, Ashley Kathryn "Katie", age 16, Shelley Brooke, age 12, and Kamryn McKenzie, age 8. Arthur was raised in the Poarch area (Hog Fork to be exact). When asked to share one of his favorite childhood memories Arthur told of the time his uncle, David Kinman, got a color TV. Saturday mornings took on a different meaning when the kids could all huddle at "Big Dave's" and his wife Myrtis's and watch the cartoons in color. (I remember the same sort of thing happening to me when I was young, seeing your first color TV was very exciting!)

When asked about major accomplishments in his life, he sort of laughed and said that he didn't know if you would consider it an accomplishment or luck, because it is his family. He feels that he has been very fortunate to have the family he has. He also indicated that he is proud of his accomplishments at Winn Dixie. He started working part time at Winn Dixie while in high school and within five years of graduation he had worked his way up to management. He also is very proud that after a long hiatus he was able to attend the University of Alabama and earn his Master's Degree in Business.

Arthur feels that the person who has been, and continues to be, the most influential in his life is his mother Deloris. As an adult he can recognize, acknowledge, and appreciate the sacrifices she made to take care of his father when he was sick and dying. He knows that there was a time when others would have put him in a nursing home, but his mother kept him at home and cared for him to the end. This instilled in him the importance of loyalty and the love of family.

When asked of how the issues of today's Council compares to those of previous Councils, he says they are the same. He says that the Council, past and present, has always worked on issues such as health, education, culture, elder support and youth involvement. We have more money now which

would lead you to think things would be easier but in fact the increase in funds has created a false sense of security in many cases. Even with more funds we still experience budget shortfalls. Issues still have to be prioritized and because of that the Council has to make difficult decisions. There have been many complicated decisions and not all of them have been met with a favorable reaction.

Arthur serves on the Budget & Finance Committee; budgets are the backbone of every good organization. Without a good budgeting process there can be no accountability. The Committee is working toward fine tuning the process and therefore making entities more financially accountable. This is the first year for the committee so there are still a lot "bugs" that need to be worked out but even so the process is already much better than before.

When asked about which issue he is most passionate about, Arthur answered without hesitation "Health care." He says that we have a great clinic, but there is still a lot of work that needs to be done in the area of health care. Surveys have shown that 30 to 50 percent of our Tribal Members are without healthcare. The Health and Human Services Committee is working on a health care assistance plan. This plan may not cover all Tribal Members initially but he hopes that one day in the near future all Tribal Members in need of health coverage have health coverage.

When asked what he would be doing if he was not serving on the Tribal Council, he said that he hoped he would still be employed with the Tribe. He stated that he really enjoys his job, that it is a great opportunity to help Tribal Members. CIE has implemented two major programs over the last years that offer Tribal businesses growth opportunities. First the Qualified Tribal Contractor/Vendor gives Tribally owned businesses first shot at construction and providing goods and services. The Economic Development Loan Program assists Tribally owned business with startup loans, working capital loans, and lines of credit. The Economic Development staff assists the Tribal Member with business plans, financial statements, and financial literacy. The program not only helps them with the CIE loan but prepares them for other commercial loans. Thus far six Tribal Members have received loans from CIE with three pending.

Arthur says that he hopes that within the next ten years the Tribe will have improved its political and economic position in the State, the southeast, and the nation. In order to accomplish that he understands the Tribe must move past gaming as its sole source of revenue. With the Wind Creek project underway there is justifiably a lot of focus on gaming right now. But he states we must use gaming as a spring board into other economic development opportunities for the Tribe. Focusing on other areas can no longer be put on the back burner. He stated that if his dream of the Tribe becoming one of the largest employers in the state is to become a reality we must continue to diversify our business opportunities. His commitment is to continue to strive to make that dream a reality.

Seniors Visit Riverside

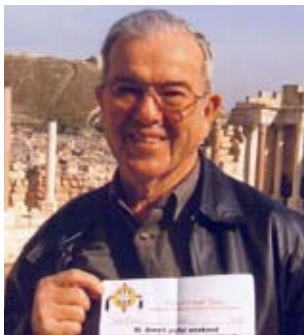
After a visit to Fort Toulouse on Monday, 2/4/08, several of our Tribal Elders visited Riverside Casino in Wetumpka. They were greeted with a warm welcome and an outside picnic. While most stayed outside to enjoy the nice weather, a few toured the inside to try their luck with on some of the games.



Traveling with the Poarch Creek News

As part of their 50th wedding anniversary celebration, Benjamin and Barbara McCurdy traveled to the Holy Land. As part of this tour, they visited the Bet-Shean ruins in Israel. Bet-Shean is mentioned in the Bible as the site of King Saul's death in battle with the Philistines. While at the ruins, Benjamin had his picture taken with a copy of the *Poarch Creek News*.

Benjamin is the son of Bert and Emma McCurdy and the grandson of Hettie McGhee.



If you would like to share your journeys with us, please take along a copy of the *Poarch Creek News*, have a picture taken with the issue, and send it to us for publication.

Building 600 Nears Completion



Construction of Building 600, the newest Tribal Administrative office building is almost complete.

Chris "Ding Ding" Blackburn dumps a load of dirt for the new road and parking lot for Building 600.



Kevin Waters distributes the dirt Ding Ding dumped.



PRINCESS JOURNEYS



Poarch Volunteer Firefighters
Carla McGhee and Chastity Peebles
assisted by loading and sorting
candy and driving the Fire Truck.



Our reigning Princesses participated in Atmore's 2008 Madi Gras parade. Pictured bottom to top are Mallory Young, Senior Princess, Dariann Guy, Elementary Princess, and Destiny Morris, Junior Princess. Gayle Johnson, not pictured, served as chaperone.

Poarch Creek Indians 2008 Easter Egg Hunt Saturday

March 15, 2008

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Pow Wow Grounds

Ages 0-11

Prizes will be awarded for:
Most eggs found in each age group
(1st, 2nd, & 3rd place)
Prize egg in each age group

The hunt will begin at 9:00 am, so don't be late!
Refreshments will be provided.

ALONG THE CREEK



Billy Smith, Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve (Magnolia) General Manager, says that there has been an increased interest in Magnolia since it was featured in Sweet Home Alabama, a tourist magazine. According to Magnolia's records, over 29,000 people visited Magnolia last year, with 15,000 the year before. With the improvements made and the exposure from the tourist magazine, even more visitors are expected this year.

Last year the main entrance to the Reserve was a small one way gate through which visitors entered and exited, often causing a back up, depending on which way the majority of the traffic was going. There is now a dual entrance and traffic can flow both entering and exiting with little delay. The automatic gates are equipped with an automatic locking system and each overnight guest will be given the entrance/exit code so that they can enter/exit without the assistance of the gate attendant.



The walking/cycling trail has been completed. It is a four mile roundtrip hiking trail that runs from the entrance to the pavilion area. The trail is also the main road into the area; the road is twelve feet wide and must be shared by walkers, cyclist, and motorist. Speed limit signs of 15 mph are clearly posted throughout the area and will be strictly enforced.

Slippery Turtle Canoe Ramp, located just beyond the dam, has been completed; Walking Turtle Canoe Ramp, located north on Big Escambia Creek near I-65, is under construction and should be completed by early March. These two canoe ramps run in conjunction with Turtle Point in Flomaton. Although the price hasn't been set at this time, there will be a fee involved for those who rent canoes/kayaks from Magnolia; you can bring your own and pay a smaller fee.

Magnolia will soon host a 20 mile trail ride. Plans for a holding pen and other facilities are underway for those who love to ride; this area will be located in the area adjacent to Slippery Turtle Canoe Ramp, which will separate those with a love of horses from other visitors as a safety factor for all involved.

Plans are also underway for a new and smaller shower facility located mid-way of the entrance and the pavilion area. A new 40 x 50 enclosed, air conditioned pavilion is also being planned at the Pavilion Area. This facility will feature a seating area for approximately 50 as well as providing storage, cooking and shower facilities.

Billy says that the developed campsites have all been booked for this year's Annual Celebration, which is scheduled for the first Saturday in August, but there are an unlimited number of primitive campsites throughout the reserve.

In closing, Billy would like to share some of the changes this year. The pavilions at the Reserve are available at a cost of \$10 for everyone, including Tribal Members; this fee must be paid prior to use. **An entrance fee of \$1.00 per person, including Tribal Members, must be paid at the gate.** The exact fee schedule for use of facilities has not been set at this time, so please watch future issues of the newsletter for further updates.



From L to R: Tracy Sells, John Sells, Cody Sells, Clayton Cagle, Freddie Fails, Boone McGhee, and Billy Smith.

AN INTRODUCTION TO TRIBAL COURT

By Gayle Johnson and Keesha O'Barr

The overall goal of the Tribal Court System of the Poarch Creek Indians is to establish the rule of the law in the enhancement of the Tribe's capability to provide judicial services to Tribal members. The Judicial power of the Tribe is vested exclusively on the judicial system, which consists of a Tribal Supreme Court and a Court of general jurisdiction known as Tribal Court. The Courts have all authority provided by Tribal Law and the Tribal Supreme Court authority to promulgate rules of Court for the administration of the judicial system, rules of Civil Procedure and Rules of Criminal Procedure. Tribal Court exercises jurisdiction over Indians in all misdemeanor criminal offenses, traffic matters, civil and juvenile cases. The federal court system has judicial authority only over major criminal offenses which occur on the Reservation and also serves as an appellate system for the Tribal Supreme Court. The Tribal court system is operated exclusively for the benefit of Tribal members as an important exercise of sovereignty. Court sessions are held the first and third Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Criminal and civil cases are open to the public, but Juvenile cases are closed.

The Tribal Supreme Court is the appellate court for our Tribal Court system; if a party is unhappy or disagrees with the decision of the Tribal Court, they have fourteen (14) days in which to appeal their case to the Tribal Supreme Court; the Tribal Supreme Court then has 120 days to render a decision. All decisions of the Tribal Supreme Court are final and without appeal. The Tribal Supreme Court consists of three positions; a Chief Justice and two Associate Justices. Cody Williamson, a tribal member attorney residing in Brewton serves as the Chief Justice. Teri Poust, a tribal member attorney residing in the State of California serves as an Associate Justice. Keith Harper, an Attorney employed by Kilpatrick Stockton LLP, a Native American Practice Group in Washington D.C. also serves as an Associate Justice.

Tribal Court staff is made up of the Tribal Judge, Prosecutor, Public Defender, Tribal Court Director, Tribal Court Specialist, Tribal Court Clerk, Tribal Probation Officer, and an Alcohol and Drug Addictions Counselor.

Ernest "Earnie" White, a local attorney from Brewton, has served as the Tribal Court Judge for approximately nineteen (19) years. As Tribal Judge, he is responsible for presiding over all Criminal, Civil, Domestic, Juvenile, and Drug Court Cases and renders all court related orders and/or decisions. Ben Brown, a local attorney from Atmore, serves as Special Appointed Judge and presides as Judge in cases when Judge White recuses himself from a case. Mr. Brown replaced Bert Rice in 2007, when Mr. Rice was appointed as a Judge within Escambia County. Mr. Rice served as the tribes Special Appointed Judge for well over ten years. Charles "Chuck" Johns, also a local attorney from Brewton, serves as Tribal Prosecutor and prosecutes all criminal and traffic cases. Mr. Johns was recently hired as a part-time staff member of the Legal Department, formerly serving as the Prosecutor on a contract basis. Jim Hart serves as the Tribal Public Defender for those defendants in criminal cases who cannot otherwise afford legal representation; Mr. Hart is also a local attorney from Brewton.

Keesha O'Barr was hired as Tribal Court Director in December of 2005 after the passing of Donna White. Donna served as Tribal Court Director for well over fifteen years. As Tribal Court Director, Keesha O'Barr is responsible for administering all court related programs, generating all budgets, reports, and preparation and issuance of all court orders. Angela McGhee, Tribal Court Specialist, is responsible for matters relating to the civil, juvenile, criminal, and domestic dockets as well as the bookkeeping for the department. Debra Coon serves as Tribal Court Clerk and is responsible for the traffic docket, child support files, and collection of all fines, fees, and other monies that come into the court as a result of actions or decrees of the Court. Paul Thomas, Tribal Probation Officer, is responsible for monitoring and drug testing of adults placed on probation by the Court and Drug Court Participants. He also is responsible for the monitoring of the Juvenile Offenders including assisting in preventative issues such as truancy so that these issues may be remedied before it develops to the need for court appearances. Paul is currently assisting the Tribal Court Director with the development of the Sexual Offenders Registration program in compliance with the Adam Walsh Act; and hopes to have this registry set up and active by this summer. James "Wes" Hayles serves as the Tribe's Drug & Alcohol Addictions Counselor and handles all counseling ordered by Drug Court as well as taking counseling referrals from Tribal Court, Family Services, and the Health Department.

If you have questions about services offered by Tribal Court, please do not hesitate to contact Keesha O'Barr, Tribal Court Director at (251) 368-9136 x 2652.

BIRTHDAY WISHES



Sara Rolin, daughter of Randal Rolin and Charlotte Rolin, celebrated her seventh birthday on November 10, 2007. Happy birthday Sara!



P.J. Rolin, son of Paul Rolin and Felicia Lassister, celebrated his tenth birthday on December 30, 2007. Happy Birthday P.J.



Katelyn Carnley, daughter of Robert and Holly Carnley, celebrated her second birthday on January 1, 2008. Happy birthday Katelyn (Katelyn's Gramma, Gayle Johnson, also wishes Katelyn a happy birthday!)



River Ramer, son of Tim and Brandy Ramer, celebrated his second birthday on January 5, 2008. Happy birthday River.



Brooke Schachle celebrated her fourth birthday on January 17, 2008. Happy birthday Brooke.



Madyson Moye, daughter of Jessica and Rob Moye, celebrated her fifth birthday on January 21, 2008. Happy birthday Madyson.



Brodie Rolin, son of Randal and Malori Rolin, celebrated his second birthday on January 22, 2008. Happy birthday Brodie.



Hayden Weaver celebrated his fifth birthday on December 26, 2007. His sister, Hayla Weaver, celebrated her third birthday on January 13, 2008. They celebrated their birthdays together



on 1/12/2008 with a Sponge Bob birthday cake and ice cream. Happy birthday Hayden and Hayla. Hayden and Hayla are the children of Jeffrey and Jackie Weaver.



Ava Katherine Davis celebrated her third birthday on February 17, 2008. Ava Katherine is the daughter of Tim & Tracy Davis of Robertsedale and the granddaughter to Emily Nelson of Robertsedale and Annie Jean Davis of Uriah, AL. Happy Birthday Ava Katherine.



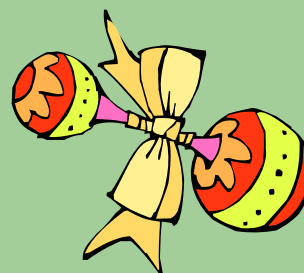
BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kaylee Lynn Wise



Landon Wise of Stapleton, Alabama is happy to announce the birth of his baby sister, Kaylee Lynn Wise. Kaylee was born at Mobile Infirmary on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 5:46 p.m. At birth Kaylee weighed seven pounds, five ounces, and was twenty inches long.

Landon and Kaylee are the children of Terry and Kacey Rolin Wise and the grandchildren of William and Shelia Rolin.



Cristiana Joy Ward



Cristiana Joy Ward with mom Dee, brothers Alex and Patrick, and dad Jeff.

Dee (McGhee) and Jeff Ward proudly announce the arrival of their baby girl. Cristiana Joy Ward, born on December 21, 2007 in Homewood, AL. At birth, Cristiana weighed 5 lbs 13 oz and was 18 inches long. Cristiana is the granddaughter of Mary Jane and the late Raymond McGhee of Poarch, Sharon and Jimmy Sanborn of Atmore, the late Joy Kay Ward of Caruthersville, MO, and Harrison and Twila Ward of Burlison, Tennessee. She was welcomed home by her big brothers Alex and Patrick.

Strategic Plan Approved

Submitted by Kenny Shivers, Planning Director

The Poarch Creek Indians Strategic Plan has been completed and adopted by the Tribal Council. For the past year, Tribal Members, staff and Council members have worked on the development of the plan under the guidance of the Auburn University Community & Economic Development Institute. A copy may be picked up from the Tribal Receptionist area in the Health Clinic, Community Relations and the Planning Department located in Building 200.

We would like to say Mvto to those who worked diligently on this project. Strategic Plan Committee members were as follows:

Community Services & Facilities Focus Group

Myrtis Kinman
Stephen Hester
Sarah Garrett
Estelle Bradley
Barbara Holman
Deloris Kelley
Lois Amos
Marvin Andrews
Carolyn Dortch
Arelene Mack
Clara Jones
Helen Hallman
Randy Rolin
Keesha O'Barr
Carolyn White
Kathy Ledkins
April Sells
Candace Fayard
Ronnie Jackson
Carl Madison
Janet Rodriguez
Ann Brooks
Velma Crocker
Chris Rodriguez

Infrastructure Focus Group

Robert "Robbie" McGhee
Lisa Milliken
Arelene Mack
Ellen O'Barr
Sharon Delmar
Kent McGhee
Jamie Ramer
Shada Thomas
Donnie Jackson
Joe Watson
Wayne Colbert
Kathy Jowers
Eddie L. Tullis
Janet Rodriguez
Keith Martin
Sibyl Estain
Catherine Sells

Economic Development Focus Group

Tim Martin	Edna Parker	Billy Smith
Carl Madison	Helen Hallman	Wayne Colbert
Marsha Manning	Leevan Martin	Nathan Martin
Mal McGhee	Chris McGhee	Garvis Sells
Raymond Rolin	Leevan McGhee	Eddie L. Tullis
Ann Brooks	Arthur Mothershed	Terry Smith
Lois Amos	Helen Hallman	Edna Parker
Kathy Ledkins	Keesha O'Barr	Clark Manning
Bridget Wasdin	John Flowers	Jay Dorris
Bryan Fayard	Vicki Pickern	
Carolyn White	Kathy Jowers	
Travis Manning	Donna Henry	
Harold Gibson	Lori Sawyer	

Education Focus Group

Daniel McGhee
Eddie L. Tullis
Ann Brooks
Mary Jane Tullis
Billie McGhee
Sandra Hiebert
Karla Martin
Marshann Jackson
Glenn McGhee

UPDATE: Wind Creek Casino and Hotel - Atmore

Jim Angus reports that the new Wind Creek Casino and Hotel – Atmore continues to take shape. The steel structure for the back-of-house area is complete, the exterior walls are progressing and the back-of-house area has been completely roofed. Interior partitions are being laid out, ductwork has begun and the sprinkler piping is progressing. The steel structure for the Casino is about 35% complete and you can now see the outline of the oval structure.

The concrete frame for the 17-story hotel has now reached the 10th floor and Flintco, the contractor, anticipates "topping-out" the building by the end of March. The walls for the hotel rooms on floors 2 thru 6 have been framed and Flintco is proceeding to rough-in plumbing, electrical and ductwork. The glass curtainwall for the tower is scheduled to start within a week and will follow the concrete up the tower.



Interior partitions are being laid out, ductwork has begun and the sprinkler piping is progressing.



The concrete frame for the 17-story hotel has now reached the 10th floor



The steel structure for the back-of-house area is complete, the exterior walls are progressing and the back-of-house area has been completely roofed.

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority

In conjunction with the new format, we will feature a different Tribal Enterprise each month.

We will begin this series with Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority.

In 1988, the Tribe chartered Creek Indian Enterprises (CIE) primarily to be the economic development and management arm of the Tribe, to further the economic and social development of the Tribe and its Tribal Members through the exercise of governmental powers in the development, construction, and operation of businesses on Tribal lands. In 2007, CIE became Creek Indian Enterprise Development Authority.

James T. Martin, President/CFO, states that CIE utilizes all Tribal resources, both fiscal and human, to develop Tribal businesses to which Tribal Members have the skill necessary to fit or compliment the business. He would also like to remind Tribal Members that in addition to the established Tribal Enterprises and on-going construction projects such as the Wind Creek Atmore Project, they also have an incubator program, which can be used to start up, expand, or stabilize Tribal Member owned businesses. CIE is currently planning the expansion of their incubator program, which will include the renovation of current properties, purchasing new properties, and building new buildings to be used in the program. He would like to remind those interested to be patient, that businesses do not take off overnight, it takes time to develop, expand and become a success.

The Creek Indian Enterprise Development Authority is managed by a five member board consisting of Ronnie Smith, Chairman, Nathan Martin, Vice Chairman, Connie Naragon, Treasurer, Robert "Robbie" McGhee, Secretary and Tribal Council Representative, and Danny Lambert. A breakdown of CIE and Tribal Enterprises is as follows:

- Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority, which is the economic development and management arm of the Tribe, has a staff of 23.
- Creek Indian Smoke Shops, which manages the sale of tobacco related products at discount prices, has a staff of 17.
- Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve, the Tribally owned wildlife reserve and recreational facility, has a staff of 7.
- Perdido River Farms, which maintains management control of Tribal agricultural properties including a 178 acre pecan orchard, a 13 acre catfish pond, 2,200 acres of row cropland leased to area farms, and a 400 head brood cattle herd, has a staff of 8.
- Premier Family Eyecare, which provides treatment that will best meet patients' eye care needs that fits everyone's budget, has a staff of 3.
- Poarch Road Service Center, which serves the Tribal community as a convenience store and Shell gas station, has a staff of 5.
- River Oaks Apartments, which manages the River Oaks Apartment Complex in Wetumpka, AL, has as staff of 2.
- Tallapoosa Entertainment Center, a 21,000 square foot casino managed by PCI Gaming Authority, has a staff of 181.
- Best Western, an 88 room motel with a pool, cable TV and wireless Internet, has a staff of 30.
- Creek Family Restaurant, newly remolded with buffet and fine dining areas, has a staff of 46.
- Muskogee Metalworks, which offers a variety of services including metal fabrication, electronics, warehousing, and engineering, has a staff of 27.

It is the ultimate goal of CIE to strike a balance between the development of Tribal businesses that will employ Tribal Members as well as encourage individual entrepreneurship of members of the Tribe. CIE is striving to develop a true Tribal economy which will turn dollars over multiple times in the Tribal community before leaving. In this effort CIE has made six loans to Tribal Members to develop new businesses or expand on their existing businesses. If you are interested in any of the services CIE has to offer, contact them at (251) 368-0819, you may find that your business dream is only a phone call away. Just remember to be patient, as Mr. Martin stated earlier, "...businesses do not take off overnight, it takes time to develop, expand and become a success..."



CIE staff l-r front row Wayne Colbert, Kathy Cadwell, Ginger Stabler, Paula Smith, Savilla McGhee, and Bridget Wasdin. L-r back row Daphne Sells, Amanda McGhee, Paula Miller, Teresa McLaughlin, and Brenda Helton. Not pictured are Jim Angus, Becky Flowers, Clay Gibson, Tim Martin, Matt Martin, Tamaniek McGhee, Lee Moons, Arthur Mothershed, Michelle White, Donna Henry, Kathy Jowers, and Crystal Daughtry.



Poarch Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

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