

# Poarch Creek News

June 2010

*Keeping the family and friends of Poarch informed*

## 2010 Annual Celebration Rescheduled for September 4, 2010 Due to Magnolia's EWP Project





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**Buford L. Rolin**  
*Tribal Chairman*  
tlancaster@pci-nsn.gov

## Chairman's Corner

June 2010

We have the honor and privilege of being the host Tribe for semi-annual USET, United South and Eastern Tribes, meeting this month in Mobile, AL. For those of you who may not know, USET is a non-profit, inter-tribal organization that collectively represents its member Tribes at the regional and national level.

This will be only the second time in the 41 year history of USET that we have hosted a USET meeting and we are excited about showcasing our warmth and hospitality. If you would like to know more about USET you can visit the website at [www.usetinc.org](http://www.usetinc.org).

I would like to extend a gracious thank you to each of the staff members and community members who participated in the planning and organization of this event. Whether it is Tribal Government staff, CIE staff, Wind Creek staff, or members of our community, they have all worked collectively at various tasks and assignment to ensure the success of this event and they all deserve recognition. We have and must continue to work together because we are all part of the same "team".

In closing of this month's article, I would like to say that I hope you have exercised in the June 5<sup>th</sup> Tribal Council elections. If you receive this newsletter prior to June 5<sup>th</sup>, please make sure to exercise your right to vote on June 5<sup>th</sup>. This is your privilege and honor as a Tribal member.



**Stephanie Bryan**  
*Vice Chair*  
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**Arthur Mothershed**  
*Treasurer*  
amothershed@pcigaming.com



**David W. Gehman**  
*Secretary*  
dgehman@pci-nsn.gov

## Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Project

*Submitted by Bridget Wasdin*

Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve will be closing the park effective June 21, 2010, in order to move forward with an Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Project to repair and restore the banks along the east and west sides of the creek in which recent floods have caused severe erosion. The park closure is necessary in order to complete the scope of the project by the September 1, 2010 deadline as outlined by the onetime recent grant award through the EWP Program.

It is anticipated that the park will reopen for business on Friday, September 3, 2010. Following the reopening of the park we invite you to come out and view the improvements that have been made to the property in an effort to protect our natural resources and offer an enjoyable family setting for Tribal Members. If you should have any additional questions concerning the park closure, please feel free to contact Billy Smith, General Manager of Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve at 251-446-3423.



**Helen Hallman**  
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**Keith Martin**  
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**Robert McGhee**  
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**Berry L. Ross**  
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June 2010



**Garvis Sells**  
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**Magnolia Branch will close June 21, 2010  
and reopen on Friday, September 3, 2010.**

**Per the Tribal Council, the 2010 Annual  
Celebration has been rescheduled for  
Saturday, September 4, 2010 at Magnolia  
Branch Wildlife Reserve.**

**If you have a campsite reserved at Magnolia,  
please contact Billy Smith or Tracy Sells at  
(251) 446-3423. The campsites previously  
reserved for the celebration will be honored  
for the rescheduled date.**

## Deadlines

The deadline for submission of information to be published in the *Poarch Creek News* is the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication. If the 10th falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline will be extended to the next working day.

Specific Deadlines:

Birthday/Anniversary Wishes: Birthday/Anniversary Wishes can be published the month before, the month of, or the month after the birthday/anniversary as long as established deadlines have been met.

Birth/Wedding Announcements: Birth/Wedding Announcements will be published as long as the birth/wedding announcement is received by the last working day of the month **immediately following** the birth/wedding.

Obituaries: Obituaries/Family Thanks will be published as long as the information is received by the last working day of the month immediately following the death.

Photos: Due to space limitations photos may be limited to one photo per article.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY FUN DAY

On May 4, 2010, the Family Services and Education Departments joined with GRCMA Early Childhood Directions to sponsor the annual Early Childhood Literacy Fun Day. Students from the Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center joined participants from First Baptist Church and other local child care providers for the event. The highlights of the day included fun and games such as dress up, basketball, beanbag toss, bubbles, hula hoops, sidewalk chalk, and parachute; story time with stories about a dancing frog and Tony Chestnut. All in attendance had a great time.

GRCMA Early Childhood Directions is a private, non-profit agency that helps people make informed child care choices.

Find out more about GRCMA at [www.grcma.org](http://www.grcma.org).



*A photo of last year's Literacy Fun Day was used in TriTac (Tribal Child Care Technical Assistance Center) Celebrating Tribal Child Care 2010-2011 Calendar.*

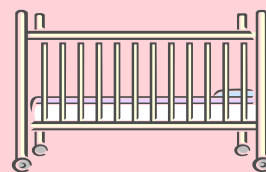
*Our photo is featured on the month of September 2010 calendar page. you can find out more about TriTac at 1-800-388-7670 or by visiting <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/tribal>.*

## CRIB RECALL

*Submitted by Carolyn White, Family Services Director*

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has announced the recall of the Simplicity Cribs and the Graco Brand Drop Side Cribs due to suffocation, strangulation and head entrapments.

Please visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/> for additional information.



# Relay Parade Cancelled Due to Weather

The theme for the 2010 Relay For Life Campaign was 'Cancer Is No Parade'; in keeping with this theme a parade was scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2010 to kick-off this year's event. Due to inclement weather, the parade was cancelled and activities were moved to the gym at the YMCA in Atmore. We were all a little concerned about the close quarters in the gym, but everything worked out fine. It was a tight fit, but we all had a great time.



*Krew De'LaCure Standing l-r are Juanita Slate, Gayle Johnson, Shirley Von McGhee, Eldnar McGhee, Pug Roberson, Shada Thomas, Deanna Harris. Kneeling l-r are Tawana McGhee, Lori Findley, Kevin McGhee, Jessica Singleton, and Magen Weaver.*

were victorious with a first place win for Best Campsite! Just imagine how magnificent our float would have been! We would like to say Mvto! to Kevin Waters, Donnie Jackson, Billy Joe Gibson, and others who stepped up to help us with the float, they were as disappointed as we were when the parade was cancelled.

The Relay season doesn't actually end until September, so we

A lot of hard work had already been put into the Mardi Gras float for the Poarch Relay Team and we were very disheartened to learn that the parade had been cancelled. We rallied of course and pulled together to dismantle the float and set up our campsite at the YMCA. We were the first team to start and

will continue with fundraisers to raise money to fight cancer. We appreciate your continued support.

To learn more about the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life, visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

## Cultural Authority Announces Cultural Education Classes

*As distributed by Robert Thrower*

The Calvin McGhee Cultural Authority is often asked when will they have a particular class relating to our Tribal history and/or culture. Listed below is a schedule of upcoming classes to be held at the Cultural Center (old school house). These classes are open to Tribal Members and First Generation Indian Descents only. Please give us a call at (251) 368-9136 x 2656 if you have any questions.

Creek Beadwork Classes	May 25th - June 10th Five (5) Classes	Alez Alvarez, Instructor 5:00 pm. - 7:00 pm Tues. & Thurs.
Tradition Education Classes For Male and Female Youth Council Members Instructors will be CMCMA staff and Thad Beckum		July 29th - August 1st
Muscogee Creek Language Classes	August 3rd - September 9th Twelve (12) Classes	Alex Alvarez, Instructor 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Tues. & Thurs.
Creek Basket Weaver/Rivercane Processing	August 4th - September 10th Sixteen (16) Classes	Mary Smith, Instructor 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Mon. Wed. & Fri.
Creek Finger Weaving Classes	September 14th - October 5th Four (4) Classes	Ruth Hogan, Instructor 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Tuesdays
Creek Patchwork Classes	October 12th - November 2nd Four (4) Classes	Lois Amos, Instructor 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Tuesdays



# Girl's Softball League Begins

Opening ceremonies and the first games of the season for Girl's Softball were held April 30, 2010. Opening ceremonies were originally scheduled for April 24, 2010 but were rescheduled due to inclement weather.

There are five Poarch teams in this year's league: Yellow Jackets (Yellow), Sassy (White), Poarch (Blue); After Shocks (Pink), and the Flexers (Green). Good luck to all teams and to all players. We hope you have an outstanding season!



## Poarch Creek Indians

Hosting

## N.A.Y.O

## Softball/Baseball Tournament

Girl's Fast Pitch & Boy's Baseball

## July 16-17, 2010

### Arrowhead Park



447 Lynn McGhee Dr. Atmore, AL 36502

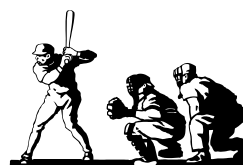
Eligibility requirements: Must be 9 years of age by the first day of tournament (July 16, 2010) and may not turn 19 years of age before August 1, 2010 in order to participate. Age categories 9-12, 13-15, & 16-18 years age as of 8-1-10.

**Must be Tribal Member or First Generation Descent!**

Applications for **Coaches & Participants** will be accepted Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> through Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. The Wellness & Activities Department (Gym) business hours are Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Applications will be accepted on Election Day June 5, 2010  
PCI Health Fair - Wellness & Activities Booth 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For more information contact Trina Rackard at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2248  
or Eddie Jackson (251) 368-9136 ext. 2256 Wellness & Activities Center (Gym)



# Who's Having A Birthday??

*Birthday Wishes can be published the month before the birthday, the month of the birthday, or as a belated Birthday Wish the month after the birthday as long as the established deadline has been met. Please remember the established deadlines when submitting your Birthday Wish.*

## Greg Findley

Greg Findley will celebrate his birthday on June 7, 2010. Happy birthday, we love you! From your wife Lori and daughters Peyton and Paige.



## Curtis Hayes

Curtis Hayes will celebrate his 20th birthday on June 14, 2010. Happy Birthday Curtis, I love you! Mallory



## Chance Jackson

Chance Jackson, son of Eddie and Edie Jackson will celebrate his 16th birthday on June 15, 2010. Chance is the grandson of Eddie and Mary Jane Tullis and Mable and the late Alton Jackson, all of Poarch.



## Kim O'Barr

Kim O'Barr will celebrate her 30th birthday on June 20, 2010. Happy 30th birthday Kim, remember we all do get old... OK! We love you very much; Mom, Dad, Sisters, Brothers, Sister-in-law and all your co-workers and friends.



## Keenan McGhee

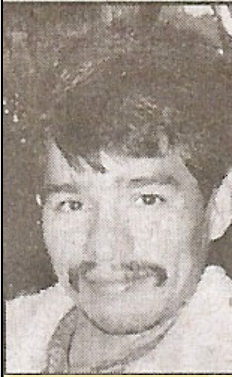
Keenan McGhee will celebrate his 3rd birthday on June 28, 2010. Keenan is the son of Angelia Bartley McGhee and Travis Daughtry. He is the grandson of Yvonne Bartley and the late Richard Leon McGhee, Jr and Sue Turberville and Douglas (Spat) Daughtry. Happy birthday Keenan, we love you very much!! Mama, MeMe, Paw Paw Terry, Aunt Pam, Uncle Duck, Aunt Emily, and JuJu.



# Farewell To Loved Ones

## JOE FRANCES MCGHEE, JR.

"Evil Eye" 1953 – 2010



Joe Francis McGhee, age 56, of Atmore, Alabama passed away April 10, 2010. He was born August 5, 1953. Joe was a local truck driver for many years and was a tribal member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Preceding him in death were his father, Joe Francis McGhee, Sr. and his grandson, Issac Wessel.

Survivors include his mother, Letha McGhee; his wife of 26 years, Kathleen Norwood; his former wife, Stella McGhee; his children, Monica Carter (Jason), Amanda McGhee, Josh Hilton, Kelly Norwood and Heather Wessel; his grandchildren, Courtney, Dajsha, Mikel, Malaya, Caden, Isaiah, Corey, Jace and Hunter; his siblings, Linda Shipp, Patricia Wessel, Sandra Steverson, Frederick McGhee (Carol), Sybil Smedley, Kenneth McGhee (Linda), Veronica McGhee, Tonya Flynn (David), Rhonda Taylor (Jason); uncles, Thomas and Chester McGhee and Edward Rolin; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at Faith Chapel South with Rev. Steve Ward officiating. Interment followed at Holy Cross Cemetery.

The family received friends at the funeral home on Monday, April 12, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

You will be missed. I love you, your wife Kathy.

# REMEMBERING MAMA

## DOROTHY MCGHEE ROLIN

APRIL 4, 1913  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2001

*We miss you and still  
love you very much.*





# Tribal Chairman Meets With USDA Representatives

*Submitted by David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison*



*Pictured above l-r are Ronald W. Davis, Daniel Robinson, Chairman Rolin, Dr. Puckett, and David Elliott*

On April 6, 2010, Dr. William Puckett, State Conservationist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, introduced Daniel Robinson, State Executive Director USDA Farm Service Agency and Ronald W. Davis, State Director, USDA Rural Development to Chairman Buford L. Rolin, PBCI Tribal Chairman in a meeting at the Chairman's Office, in Atmore, Alabama.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the two new agency leaders of the potential opportunities available with the Tribe for USDA programs and share some success stories that NRCS has with the Tribe. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Davis were very proud of the opportunity to visit the Reservation and to learn about the ongoing projects of the Tribe. Both leaders shared their interest in working with the Tribe in the future and were proud of the projects that each agency had already assisted with in the past.

Chairman Rolin offered to provide the group a tour of some Reservation areas and they accepted. An evening tour was given by Chairman Rolin and much discussion took place on how the Tribe and each USDA agency could partner on different projects. The meeting and tour were very informative and productive according to David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison. David commends Dr. Puckett for his leadership in getting more agencies and organizations involved in working with the Tribe to help them preserve, enhance, and maintain their natural resources and in their economic development. Chairman Rolin is very proud of the strong Government-to-Government relationship that the Tribe has with NRCS and looks forward to building relationships with other USDA agencies.

# TRIBAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES BOARD & COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Tribal Council is currently accepting applications for vacancies on the following boards/committees/authorities/commissions.

Muskogee Metalworks	1
Muskogee Inn	1
CIE Development Authority	1
Magnolia Branch	1
Perdido River Farms	1
PCI Gaming	1
Gaming Commission	1
Election Board	1 board, 1 alternate
Utility Authority	2
Housing Authority	2
Endowment	1
Investment	1
Environmental	1
Recreation Authority	2
Education	1
Cultural Authority	2
Enrollment	1
TERO Commission	1
Ethics Board	1

Applications are available from the Chairman's Office and online at [www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov). Applications will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. a.m. Tuesday, June 1, 2010 through 5:00 p.m. Thursday, June 30, 2010.



**A careless word may kindle strife;  
A cruel word may wreck a life;  
A timely word may level stress;  
A loving word may heal and bless.**

**Anonymous**



**Happiness is like a butterfly  
The more you chase it  
The more it will elude you  
But if you turn your attention to other things,  
It comes softly and sits on your shoulder.**

# Smith Receives Award

BY: LAURA COOK, ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR

Mr. Billy Smith has managed Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians since the Tribe acquired the acreage a number of years ago. Under his direction, land, creek banks, and numerous camp sites have been cleared. The road leading to the recreational area has been paved, covered pavilions, restrooms, picnic tables and numerous other buildings have been built to make the Reserve one of the nicest in the State.



Simultaneously, with the above work, longleaf pines were planted, forests cleared of debris, fire lanes established, scheduled burning as required for longleaf pine growth has been accomplished, gopher/tortoise habitat established, and in the next few years after the trees are at the right age, the almost extinct red-cockeyed woodpecker will find a home at Magnolia Branch. Mr. Smith does all this with a small amount of workforce and equipment. The Natural Resource Conservation Service, Fish and Wildlife as well as Creek Indian Enterprises and the Magnolia Branch Board have contributed to making Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve what it is today.

Laura Cook, Environmental Director, Poarch Band of Creek

Indians and her department became involved in some of the work at Magnolia Branch and she saw first-hand what Mr. Smith and his staff were accomplishing there. Laura nominated Billy Smith for the Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Award which has never been received by an Indian Tribe in the Southeast.

The Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Award is only given to individuals by the Intertribal Timber Council who have made significant contributions in the field of Indian forestry and natural resources. After Mrs. Cook received word that the National Committee had chosen Mr. Smith, she was told to keep it as a surprise and the two of them should attend the National Indian Timber Convention where he would receive the honor.

Laura was unable to attend due to prior commitments so she enlisted the help of Environmental Specialist, John English, to accompany Mr. Smith to New Mexico. Mr. Smith was totally shocked when his name was called to receive a beautiful plaque with his name engraved.

Laura says this is what makes life worthwhile, to see others receive acknowledgement and credit when it is deserved. There are a lot of people she has seen in her lifetime achieve great things but no word given them. She believes in "smelling the roses" along with friends and family in their lifetime, not after they have left us.

**Calling all Dancers!**

## THE POARCH CREEK POWWOW CLUB

Is now taking applications for its 2010-2011 members



Applications can be picked up at the new cultural bldg. Closing dates for Applications is June 22nd

**For more info, contact Alex Alvarez, Cultural Educator @ 251-368-9136 ext 2655**

**Email: aalvarez@pci-nsn.gov**

*The Calvin McGhee Cultural Management Authority Proudly Presents:*

### *The 2010 Poarch Creek Indians Tribal Princess Competition*



*The Poarch Creek Tribal Princess program has laid the foundation for many young ladies from our reservation. Join them as a part of our tribe's history.*



*Age divisions are: 8-12; 13-17; 18-24*

*For more info, contact Amber Smith, Community Outreach Coordinator at 251-368-9136 ext. 2649 or a-smith@pci-nsn.gov*



# Chairman Honored on 70th Birthday

Tribal Chairman Buford Rolin was honored by staff, family & friends on his 70th birthday. If you were unable to attend any of his celebrations, we share some of those memories with you.



# Ethics Corner

By Tami Manning, Vice Chair

## ADVISORY OPINION

December 30, 2009

By an opinion dated December 30, 2009, the Ethics Board addressed the following Question posed by a Tribal Official:

### I. ISSUED PRESENTED

Section 28-1-7 (e)(4) of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Ethics Code authorizes the Ethics Board to “issue written advisory opinions to guide the conduct of Tribal Officials and employees when requested by Tribal Official or employees.”

A Tribal Official requested an advisory opinion, as follows:

*I have been operating a business for the past 4 years. I have provided services to the Tribe. Is there a conflict of interest since I am now a Tribal Official.*

The Board concluded that the Tribal Official’s contract creates a conflict of interest between their obligations as a tribal official on the one hand and his personal economic interest on the other. For the reasons set forth below,

The Tribal Official’s contract with the Tribe is permissible under the Ethics Code as long as the Tribal Official strictly observes the rules that apply to conflicts of interest.

### II. APPLICABLE LAW

The following provisions of the Ethics Code are relevant:

#### 28-1-4 Definitions

(f) Economic interest means any interest in which there exists a likelihood for direct or indirect gain of any kind, including, but not limited to, employment contracts, benefits, salaries, funding, or ownership or investment held by a Tribal Official, employee, or immediate family member of a Tribal Official or employee.

(t) Tribal Official means any person who is a candidate for or who has been elected or appointed to the Tribal Council, committee, commission, authority, board and/or any other organization under the auspices of the Tribe.

#### 28-1-5 Standards of Conduct for Tribal Officials or Key Employees

All Tribal Officials and key employees shall endeavor to avoid any action or situation in which there may exist the appearance of impropriety, and all Tribal Officials and key

employees shall adhere to the following standards of ethical conduct:

#### (a) Conflict of Interest

##### (1) Tribal Official

No Tribal Official shall participate in (including being present for the discussion of or voting on) any issue involving business, transaction or professional activity of the tribal government or tribal enterprises in which an economic interest of the Tribal Official or his or her immediate family member will affect, or could be reasonably expected to affect, the Tribal Official’s judgment in executing his or her official duties...

#### (b) Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

If a Tribal Official is or becomes aware of an actual or potential conflict of interest described above, he or she must immediately disclose on the record the existence of the conflict to the Tribal Council or his or her board members and recuse himself or herself from any further participation in the matter.

### III. ANALYSIS

#### A. Duty of Disclosure and Non-participation in Discussions and Decisions Relating to Contract

You fall within the Ethics Code definition of “tribal official”. The code provides that a tribal official may not “participate in (including being present for the discussion of or voting on) any issue involving a business, transaction or professional activity of the tribal government or tribal enterprises in which an economic interest of the Tribal Official or his or her immediate family member will affect, or could be reasonably expected to affect, the Tribal Official’s judgment in executing his or her official duties.” The contract involves a “business” or “transaction of the tribal government.” The Tribal Official has an interest in the contract. It follows, therefore that you have a conflict of interest where the contract with the Tribe is concerned. This does not mean, however, that you are prohibited from continuing to provide the service under the contract. It does mean, however, that you may not “participate in (including being present for the discussion of or voting on) any issues involving the contract”.

In addition, whenever any issue relating to the business is raised, You are required by Section 28-1- 5(a)(1)(B) of the Ethics Code to “immediately disclose on the record the existence of the conflict to the Tribal Council or his or her board members and recuse himself or herself from any further participation in the matter.” This means you should leave the room and not reenter until the discussion is complete. This should be documented in the board meeting minutes.

#### B. Primary Duty to Perform Governmental Duties

Outside employment by a tribal official also presents a potential conflict of interest between the official’s obligation



to devote his or her time to tribal business on the one hand and the official's personal economic interest in spending time on his or her private business. You have an obligation to assure the Tribe is receiving the benefit of your full time and attention. The Ethics Code provides no clear standard to address this issue and the Ethics Board does not mandate specific action to you, requiring that you hire additional employees while serving as a Tribal Official. Notwithstanding the lack of clear standards and the Board's disinclination to issue specific direction, we deem it appropriate to raise this important ethical issue.

#### IV. Summary

1. Your contract presents a conflict of interest in two ways: First, you have an economic interest in the company that has a contract with the Tribe. Second, time devoted to the business has a potential to detract from the performance of your duties as a full-time Tribal Official.

2. You are not barred from continuing to contract with the Tribe but must disclose the conflict on record and leave the room when an issue "involving" the contract is discussed or voted upon, including, but not limited to, discussion relating to

- i. Your performance under the contract
- ii. the value of the contract to the community
- iii. potential alternatives to the service you supply
- iv. whether the Tribe should terminate the contract
- v. whether the Tribe should renew the contract and, if so, on what terms
- vi. etc.

3. You should take appropriate steps to assure that conducting your business does not detract from your primary obligation as a Tribal Official

4. You should not use tribal resources (staff, computers, phones, stationery, etc.) to conduct your business.

5. At the next convenient opportunity, you should have recorded in the official minutes of a meeting that you have disclosed that you own the business currently under contract with the Tribe.

You may obtain forms for advisory opinions from the Legal Department, Chairman's Office and Tribal Court.

# Legal Update

*Submitted by Venus McGhee Prince, Attorney General*

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on several legal matters affecting your interests as tribal members. If you have any questions regarding any of these matters, please feel free to contact any of your Tribal Council members at (251) 446-1140 or me at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2525.

## STATE BINGO BILLS

As many of you may already know, the Alabama legislative session ended in April, and the Alabama Legislature did not pass any "bingo bills". As a result, there will be no bingo bill on the ballot in the November elections.

## SIGNIFICANT COURT CASES

*T.J. Johnson Holdings, Inc. v. Poarch Band of Creek Indians, PCI Gaming, and CIE*

On October 22, 2009, T.J. Johnson Holdings, Inc. ("Johnson") sued the Tribe, PCI Gaming and CIE in state court, claiming that the parking deck in Wetumpka that serves Riverside Entertainment Center encroaches onto Johnson's portion of River Oaks Drive, which runs in front of the parking garage. On January 5, 2010, the state court granted the Tribe's motion to dismiss one of the three claims. The parties engaged in mediation on May 5, 2010, but the mediation was unsuccessful. Unless the parties are able to settle the case through another means, the Tribe will continue to defend the Tribe's interests in state court.

*Alabama Department of Transportation v. Poarch Band of Creek Indians d/b/a Wind Creek Casino & Hotel, PCI Gaming, CIE et al.*

On April 15, 2010, the Alabama Department of Transportation ("ALDOT") sued the Tribe, PCI Gaming, CIE, and each entity's Chairman in Escambia County for alleged illegal advertising on the Tribe's water tower located next to Interstate 65. ALDOT wants the Tribe to remove "Wind Creek Casino and Hotel" from the signage on the water tower. The Tribe plans to file a motion to dismiss based on sovereign immunity.



# Tribal Member Submissions



## Up, Up, And Away!

Submitted by Lenna Rackard

Lenna and Hubert Rackard, Billie Rolin, Deloris Schultz, and Lois Amos recently took a ride on the Wind Creek Blimp. It was the experience of a lifetime and they all enjoyed it tremendously.

## Officer Valon McGhee Graduates Police Academy



*Officer McGhee and Police Chief Larry Hammonds*

Tribal Officer Valon McGhee (PCI-Tribal Member) graduated from the Montgomery Police Academy on April 14, 2010. While attending the Academy, she was chosen as one of the class officers (Secretary) for her class. The Tribal Police Department would like to commend Ms. McGhee for her dedication and hard work in accomplishing this task.

## Is There A Pot of Gold at the End of the Rainbow?

*Submitted by Debbie Bray*

It was 7:00 am April 8, 2010; we met the Poarch bus at Carolyn Rackard's home for everyone to get their items loaded. The skies were gray and the rain was surrounding us everywhere we tried to move. The members and friends from United Pentecostal Church was taking a trip to Blairsville, Georgia for the Kindred Spirit Retreat, a retreat for all Indian Tribes to enjoy. Felicia Waters did us the honors of being our driver for the trip.

Everyone was getting excited but not knowing what the weather was going to do made everyone a little nervous. Finally everyone showed up and we were all loaded ready to pull out. PRAYER someone called out, so everyone took the time to pray in their own way for the safety of the trip and for the safety of the love ones we were leaving behind. It was raining so hard we felt like Noah in the Ark. At times we could hardly see anything from the side windows. I knew everyone was thinking; "We might need to pull over and wait it out." But soon as the thought would enter my mind the rain would slack up. The skies were still dark gray and rolling like the ocean.

We decided to pull out the guitars and sing a little while; maybe practice what we were going to do at the Friday night Church Service. The songs kept coming and we kept playing. Then before we knew it we were in Georgia! Someone said "Look at the beautiful rainbow"! Everyone was trying to look on the left side of the bus to see the rainbow, then right before our eyes another one appeared, we had a double rainbow. It was like God telling us "I'm taking really good care of my people." Now we truly felt like Noah in the Ark, and that God giving us a sign. We tried to take pictures but they would barely show up. Then Charles (Bo) said, "Did you see the end of the rainbow? The end is right on the edge of the road." No one saw the end of the rainbow but Charles (Bo), Robert and Felicia. I asked if they had seen the pot of gold that was supposed to be at the at the end of the rainbow? We must have been at the wrong end because there was no gold. The skies cleared up and we had great weather after that. The real gold at the end of the rainbow was God letting us know He had everything under control, and all we needed to do was sit back and ride.

We had a great trip and we would like to thank Felicia Waters for making it that way for us. As the Lord said "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE", John 8:12. Thanks to the Tribe for allowing us to use the bus for our trip. God Bless You All.



## **LIFE IS AN EDUCATION WE LEARN SOMETHING EVERY DAY**

*Submitted by John Arthur McGhee*

John Arthur “the Corn Man” McGhee never meets a stranger. For many years John Arthur was a familiar face at the Creek Family Restaurant and met many new friends there. He is now a familiar sight at the Wind Creek Casino and meets many new friends there, as is evidenced by the letter he recently received from a couple he met there one day. He would like to share this letter with you.



*“To Mr. John McGhee. My mother used to say that life is an education: we learn something every day. Last month my friend Ron and I were visiting the lovely new Casino in Atmore and enjoying a wonderful feed at the buffet. You rolled up with your chair and immediately extended your warm hand of friendship. The first thing you asked was if we were from Minnesota or Michigan, which I assume was based on our northern accent. ‘No, we said, we are from New Hampshire’ and that led us into a conversation about other Indian casinos in the New England area. We talked about family and jobs and faith in the Lord. You had been dealt some mighty heavy blows with your health and Ron was recuperating from cancer surgeries and more recent seven way heart bypass in November and I had my own nightmares from the past to deal with. I was impressed with the attention you got from the wait staff and so many regulars that came by to shake your hand. You must be a mighty fine man.*

*I keep a journal of sorts of our trip and as I wrote in it that evening I promised myself to do this one little thing, to thank you for reinforcing what I already know, but tend to forget sometimes, that kindness and friendship and respect for each other is what gets us through the day. I have a little theory and it goes like this: For every person we meet, for everything we experience or see and even what happens to other people sticks to us like glue and makes us who we are. I will never step foot in a casino that I won’t remember Mr. John McGhee and how I was changed.*

*I am sending along this little bracelet that I made. I know it is not a guy thing, but Ron wears his and is frequently asked about it. I hope you will find it worth wearing and when you look at it remember how little it takes to make someone else’s day. God willing we will visit there again next spring and I will be looking for you in the buffet. Take good care of yourself and continue to enjoy your wonderful friends and family. God Bless You; Nancy Aguiar”*

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND FRIENDSHIP**

*Submitted by Pastor Stan Pearson*

Pastor Stan Pearson of the All Nations Baptist Church submitted the following letter of thanks to the Tribe and Tribal Members.

*“I would like to thank you for all the kindness and friendship shown to me since I came to this area. I came to Pensacola for hip surgery and heard about your reservation. I was excited to hear that there was an Indian reservation in the area. I had been living with the Sioux for 12 years; we had a church ministry that included a half-way house and a support group that is much like your Drug Court. I have 26 years of experience in the ministry on Indian reservations with the Sioux and the tribes of the Pacific Northwest. While I was recovering from my surgery, I visited your reservation. I was homesick for Indian County and you folks filled that void: I believe God called me to this area. I heard about the old Sardis Church building that the Tribe had purchased; I approached the Tribal Council and requested to rent the building to establish a church for those coming back from treatment or from jail or prison. We have come a long way since that first visit and I think that the All Nations Baptist Church has had a positive influence on the community. The success of our church comes from God’s good graces and the help and support of the community. Thank you the kindness and friendship that has been extended to me and my ministry. Mikaku ye Owasin (All my relatives) I am praying for you. Pastor Stan Pearson”*

### **Attention All Diabetic Patients:**

**We are updating our Blood Glucose Meters from Precision to Bayer Contour. If you have a Blood Glucose Meter that you received from PCI Health Department and if you have not gotten your New Bayer Contour Meter and would like to exchange it, please read carefully.**

**We will exchange meters at the Health Fair June 5th 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the gym. You must bring your old precision meter to the Health Fair with you. (NO EXCEPTIONS) We will not have computer access there, so you will have to have your old meter.**

**We will continue to swap out meters every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 p.m. till 4:00 p.m. at the clinic, if you are unable to swap your meter at Health Fair.**

# Education

## Huntingdon College

For those of you familiar with Huntingdon College's Adult Degree Completion Program, you already know that we offer a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. Our classes are one night a week in five week sessions. Classes are offered in the evening from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Our program meets the requirements the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools (SACS) demand for an academically proven curriculum. What you may not be familiar with is the history of Huntingdon College.

Huntingdon College is a private, liberal-arts college with 150 years of history in the state of Alabama. Founded in 1854, the main campus is situated on a 71 acre campus surrounded by a beautiful neighborhood which gives the campus a "home away from home" feel for the students that live on site.

The motto for the college is "Enter to Grow in Wisdom, Go Forth to Apply Wisdom in Service". Huntingdon is affiliated with the United Methodist Church. We are grounded in faith, wisdom, and service. From this dedication, came the concept of meeting the need of the non-traditional college student. The college realized that there was a need in the community for busy professional adults to have the opportunity to complete their four year degree in a manner that would enable them to attend classes in the evening and not have to give up their current employment to advance their education. We continue to evaluate the communities need for higher education opportunities because we know communities are made stronger when those individuals in the community have the ability to improve their education.

We are grateful to the Poarch Creek Indians for their support of our program. We are proud to say that the following students associated with the Poarch Creek Indians have graduated from our program: Kim Smith, Mona Hollis, Amy Johns, Billy Locke, Joseph McGhee, Jonathan Nall, Leslie Presley, Jeremy Rolin, and Lena White. Our congratulations go out to these students and to those who are taking steps toward furthering their education to help advance not only themselves, but also their families and community.

*See Huntingdon's ad on page 18*

## Honoring our Graduates

### LASSITER GRADUATES

*Submitted by Maxine Lassiter*



Cassie Lassiter graduated from Brenau University in Gainesville, GA with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. She plans to attend law school in the fall.

While she was earning her degree she played four years of softball, earning two Conference Championships, one State Championship; a third place National Championship and a first place National Championship. She also earned the following individual awards: two Conference Player of the Year Awards, State Player of the Year Award, member of State All-Star team, member of National tournament team, member of two second team all American awards, and member of first team All American Awards.

Cassie is the daughter of Rusty & Sonya Lassiter. She is the granddaughter of Russell & Maxine Lassiter and Melba Chalk and the late Mayo Dreadin. She is the great granddaughter of Verlie McGhee Bailey and the great great granddaughter of Mamie & Lawrence McGhee, and the great great great granddaughter of Fred Walker.

We are very proud of you! Keep striving! With the Lord all things are possible! We love you; your family.

### LASSITER GRADUATES KINDERGARTEN

*Submitted by Maxine Lassiter*



The family of Jalia Lassiter would like to congratulate her on her many achievements and her graduation from Kindergarten at Huxford Elementary School.

We love you and are proud of you and can't believe that you have recently turned 6 years old!



# Honoring Our Graduates & Student Successes

## Snow Places Third In Math Bowl

*Submitted by Ellen O'Barr*

On April 27, 2010, Gavin Snow won the Math Bowl at Huxford Elementary. This is the first year that Kindergarten has been included in the Math Bowl. Kindergarten, First, & Second Grade students competed using addition and subtraction facts. His win qualified him to participate in the county competition held in Flomaton, AL on May 5th. He placed third in that competition. We love you "Bubs"! Great job!! Mom, Sissy, & Daddy; Aunts & Uncles, Me-Maw Ellen & Pa Pa Joe, and Me-Maw Faye & Pa Pa Aubrey.



## Miller Graduates Atmore Christian School

*Submitted by Cornelia Miller*

Zachary Lee Miller, son of Cornelia and Roger Miller graduated from Atmore Christian School on May 14, 2010 and will begin attending Jefferson Davis Community College in the fall.



Zachary is the grandson of Martha Wilson, the late Sherman Wilson, the late Melvin Manning and the late Wilson and Esther Miller. Congratulations Zack, we love you and are very proud of you!

## Montgomery Graduates UWF

*Submitted by Amanda Montgomery*

I would like to thank the Poarch Creek Indians and the Education Department for the financial assistance to complete my college degree. This dream may not have been possible without the Tribe's tuition assistance program. On May 1, 2010, I graduated from the University of West Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. I previously graduated from Pensacola Junior College with an A.A. in Social Sciences in Spring 2008. I would especially like to thank my husband Michael for his unconditional love and support over the past four years. I also want to thank my family, friends, and co-workers in the Family Services Department for their support and encouragement. It's never too late to earn your degree!! *Amanda is pictured above with her parents Charlotte and Lamar Martin.*



## Warren Graduates Excel High School

*Submitted by Charlene Weaver*

Heather Nicole Warren, daughter of Christine and Jessie Warren, granddaughter of Red and Charlene Weaver, graduated Excel High School on May 27, 2010. After graduation Heather plans to join the Air Force. Congratulations, we love you and are very proud of you. Mom, Dad, brothers Jessie and Devin, and Paw Paw & Grannie.



## Heather Stabler Graduates ECHS

*Submitted by Velma Hollingsworth*

Heather Stabler graduated from Escambia County High School on May 28, 2010. Her family would like her to know that they are proud of her and all she has done. "Through the bad times and the good, you held on and now you have made it! God bless you as you begin your journey in the world and finding your dreams. Love Nanny, Mom, Megan, Daphne, Grannie, and PawPaw.



## Justin Stabler Graduates ECHS

*Submitted by Velma Hollingsworth*

Justin Stabler graduated from Escambia County High School on May 28, 2010. "You have achieved a lot; God has blessed you with the ability to learn and reach for your goals. Always remember we are proud of you and will always be there for you. I know that your Dad would be very proud of you. You were his heart and he loved you very much. I know that if he were alive today he would say 'Justin, son I am very proud of you.' God bless you as you go out into the world to find your career and go on to college." Love from your parents, your father, the late Woodrow Stabler, and mother, Velma Hollingsworth, your step-dad, Robert Hollingsworth and step-sister Bessy Hollingsworth.



**The Poarch Creek News** will be happy to publish graduation and student accomplishments as long as applicable deadlines have been met. As dates for graduation ceremonies vary, we list the upcoming deadlines for your convenience, please be sure to submit your information by the established deadline.

July Newsletter/June 10, 2010 For May/June Graduations

August Newsletter/July 12, 2010 For June/July Graduations

Sept. Newsletter/August 10, 2010 For July/August Graduations



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## Advertise Your Business In the Poarch Creek News

Inside Covers	\$300 per issue
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Quarter Page Ad	\$ 75 per issue

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## Buy the new album from Medicine Tail!

*Recorded live at the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Poarch Creek Powwow*



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# June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Summer LIHEAP Applications</b> <b>For age 55 and older &amp; families with legal custody of children under age 5</b> <b>June 1st - Sept. 15th</b>		<b>1</b> Walk-In Voting Ends 5:00 p.m.  Weight Watchers Weigh-in @ 5:00 pm Classes @ 5:30 pm @ Gym  Aerobics @ 5:45 pm @ Gym	<b>2</b> Housing Authority Meeting 3:00 pm	<b>3</b> Tribal Council Meeting 4:00 pm  Aerobics @ 5:45 pm @ Gym	<b>4</b> CIEDA Meeting 8:00 am  Deadline to receive Absentee Ballots	<b>5</b> Election Day Voting 8 am - 7 pm SAIL Center  Registration for Health Camp and Tribal Elder Conference Begins
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Tribal Court 9:00 am  CMCMA Meeting 5:30 pm Welcome Center/ Museum	<b>8</b> Weight Watchers Weigh-in @ 5:00 pm Classes @ 5:30 pm @ Gym  Aerobics @ 5:45 pm @ Gym  TERO Meeting 3:00 pm Building 200	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Deadline to submit information for July newsletter</b>  Aerobics @ 5:45 pm @ Gym	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Tribal Court 9:00 am  Well & Act Authority Meeting 4:00 pm @ Gym  Warrior Society Meeting @ St. Anna's 6:00 pm  4-H Meeting 6:00 pm Education Dept.	<b>15</b> Weight Watchers Weigh-in @ 5:00 pm Classes @ 5:30 pm @ Gym  Aerobics @ 5:45 pm @ Gym  TERO Meeting 3:00 pm Building 200	<b>16</b> Housing Authority Meeting 3:00 pm	<b>17</b> Tribal Council Meeting 4:00 pm  Aerobics @ 5:45 pm @ Gym	<b>18</b> CIEDA Meeting 8:00 am	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> CMCMA Meeting 5:30 pm Welcome Center/ Museum	<b>22</b> Weight Watchers Weigh-in @ 5:00 pm Classes @ 5:30 pm @ Gym Aerobics @ 5:45 pm @ Gym Warrior Society Meeting @ St. Anna's 6:00 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Aerobics @ 5:45 pm @ Gym	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Well & Act Authority Meeting 4:00 @ Gym  4-H Club Meeting 6:00 p.m. Education Dept.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

Be Aware of Nature's Beauty! This bald eagle has been spotted near the Tribal Fish Ponds on more than one occasion.

## Newsletter Contact Information

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