

Coku-Tulume/Newspaper (joh-guh duh-luh-mee)

Poarch Creek News

March 2016



Creek Indian Enterprises
Development Authority



Volume 34, Issue 3 | Tasahcuce (March)

Keeping the friends & family of Poarch informed

A Moment With The Tribal Chair

March 2016

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



March 20, 2016 marks the first day of spring, and with it we can anticipate watching the surrounding foliage transform. I always enjoy this time of year because I love seeing the leaves change and emerge, the flowers grow and blossom, as well as the longer days. The seasons have often been likened to life events that involve change. You don't have to live very long to realize that the only constant in this life is change – nothing stays the same for very long.

Similarly, our Tribal Government operations have been going through its own “seasons” in a sense. As you may recall from last month's Tribal Newsletter, Division Directors have been added to our organization. To me, these Division Directors are like PCI's own personal sunshine that is causing our organization to evolve into a more beautiful place. As part of their first tasks, they are critically assessing each department under their supervision to determine ways resources can be better administered so that a greater benefit is produced to you, the Tribal Members.

While this is a huge undertaking that requires patience, I feel confident that the end results will far outweigh any inconveniences we may see in the interim. I am really proud to have these key employees on board and look forward to



Shown at Wind Creek Montgomery are Jake Carlton, Property Manager for Wind Creek Montgomery, Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair/CEO for the Poarch Creek Indians, Brent Pinkston, Chief Operating Officer for Wind Creek Hospitality, and Chad Cochran, Assistant Property Manager for Wind Creek Montgomery.

seeing the positive impact they will make on our organization. Should you have any suggestions for improvement, concerns, or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to these Division Directors.

Another development that I am really excited about is the latest addition to our resorts: Wind Creek Montgomery. This recent addition to the Wind Creek family is unlike any of our other properties. It has a downtown vibe that invites you to come on in

and have a good time. The Southern environment coaxes you to swing by the B.B. King Blues Club where you can relax as you enjoy top-of-the-line entertainment. Great food and good times are sure to be found here! So, if you ever find yourself in the Montgomery area, I encourage you to stop by and see this latest jewel in our crown of Wind Creek resorts.

In closing, I thank each and every one of you for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers

as our Tribe continues to work through its seasons. I believe that just as the leaves change and emerge with the coming of spring, so too will the Poarch Band of Creek Indians come through our trying seasons and emerge better than before.

In love,

Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair/CEO

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

Joseph Marshall, Lakota Sioux

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

Chief Seattle, 1854

Tribal Council Values

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

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



Tribal Council's Purpose

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

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





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

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- **Submission Criteria**

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

- **Copyright Materials**

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

- **Birthday & Anniversary Wishes:**

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

- **Obituaries:**

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

- **In Memoriam:**

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

- **Birth Announcements:**

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

- **Engagement/Wedding Announcements:**

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

- **Photo Submissions:**

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

- **Corrections:**

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



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30 OBITUARY- IN MEMORIAM



31 DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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



53 CIEDA/ NRCS UPDATES

A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2016 WORD LIMITS

Birthday	40 words or less
Anniversary	50 words or less
Engagement	50 words or less
Reunions	50 words or less
TM Submissions	300 words or less
Birth/Wedding	200 words or less
Graduation	200 words or less
Achievements	200 words or less
In Memoriam	250 words or less
Obituary	250 words or less
News Article	400 words or less

DEADLINES

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

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

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

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

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



TRIBAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES BOARD VACANCY

The Tribal Council has announced a vacancy on the Tribal Enrollment Committee and will be taking applications for the vacancy through 5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 31, 2016.

If you are interested in applying for this position, an application is available on the Tribal Council page of the Tribe's official web site, www.pci-nsn.gov; the application may be completed and submitted directly from the web site.

You may also pick up an application at the Tribal Chair's Office in the Lavan Martin Assisted Living

Facility located at the Tribal Complex, 5811 Jack Springs Road, Atmore AL or contact Kelli Ramer, Tribal Council Office Director, at (251) 368-9136 x 2110.

All applications, and resumes if applicable, should be returned to the Tribal Chair's Office by close of business Thursday, March 31, 2016. Applications may be submitted via online submission, U.S. Mail, hand delivery, or email to boards-committees@pci-nsn.gov.

Once the March 31, 2016 deadline has passed, a list of all applicants

will be published for your review. Please review to ensure that your name is listed if you applied for this vacancy. If your name is not listed, please contact the Tribal Chair's office immediately at (251) 368-9136 x 2110.

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

EYE CARE

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Robert R. McGhee, Vice Chair
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David W. Gehman, Secretary
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Sandy Hollinger, At-Large
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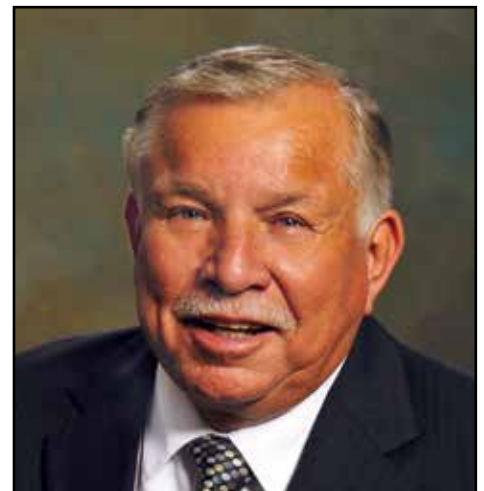
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Tribal Council Update

March 2016

David W. Gehman, Secretary

dgehman@pci-nsn.gov

Punxsutawney Phil, the season forecasting groundhog did not see his shadow on February 2nd so when you receive this issue of the *Poarch Creek News*, hopefully the coldest weather of winter will be over.

Cold weather reminds me of times we would gather around a fireplace, like the one at Aunt Dorothy Rolin's home, all of us children trying to stay warm. Aunt Dorothy was the youngest daughter of my great grandparents, Len and Hettie Colbert McGhee.

Aunt Dorothy married JB Rolin, and raised 12 children. Their home was located along south Main St. in Atmore, where the original K-Mart was built. It was a wood frame house with tin roof and an open walkway between the kitchen area and the bedrooms. There was one fireplace and a pot belly stove to keep warm. They had no running water, no inside restroom, just an outhouse and water well with a hand pump. Aunt Dorothy cooked some very good meals on her wood fired potbelly stove, especially her delicious cat head biscuits. Having

warm cat head biscuits made by Aunt Dorothy was definitely a blessing, and if you ever had one it would not only fill your tummy and but warm your soul! Today, we are blessed with dry warm homes on cold days, a blessing that many of our people just a generation ago did not always have.

Last July, I wrote you about the pending ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in a suit brought by Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange, attacking the Tribe's lands that were placed in trust in the 1980's during President Reagan's Administration. I am pleased to report that the Appeals Court rejected the Attorney General's arguments and upheld the status of our existing trust lands.

Our Tribal homelands continue to face several other challenges—two are pending before the Alabama Supreme Court and one was filed just days after the Eleventh Circuit's opinion. If even one of these suits prevails, it could reopen the Eleventh Circuit's decision and jeopardize all of Indian Country.



This is why the Tribe continues to press Congress for legislation in the long term to fix the 2009 Carcieri decision - and in the short term to reaffirm all existing Indian trust lands, which would prevent these frivolous but dangerous lawsuits.

Sunday March 13th at 2:00 am, Daylight Savings Time returns, remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.

March 27th is Easter Sunday. We celebrate because Jesus arose from the grave.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life".

Happy Easter.

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

Vince Lombardi

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

Margaret Chase Smith

Congressional Update

March, 2016

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

“What are you hearing?” That is probably the most common question I get whether I’m visiting a local business or just stopping by the grocery store. People want to know what their neighbors are worried about.

One of the best ways I hear the concerns of my constituents is by holding town hall meetings. These meetings aren’t formal events. In fact, I simply get right into taking questions and listening to concerns from my constituents.

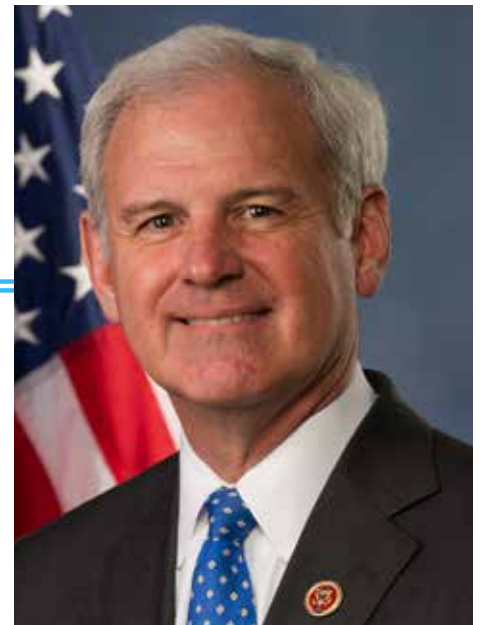
Over the last two years, I have held over 70 of these town hall style meetings. From Atmore to Dauphin Island to Brewton, I’ve held meetings in every corner of the First Congressional District.

The number one topic I hear about is issues with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Our area is home to over 52,000 veterans, and far too many of them are being left

behind by the VA’s bureaucracy. These concerns just further motivate me to take power away from the VA and instead allow veterans to receive care from doctors and hospitals in their local community.

I also hear from a large number of people who are frustrated with President Obama’s decision to bring 10,000 Syrian refugees into the United States. This plan is severely flawed and puts the American people at great risk. That’s why I have introduced a bill that would stop the Syrian refugee program.

Border security and illegal immigration are another hot topic. People are simply outraged that our nation’s immigration laws are not being enforced, and I am just as frustrated as everyone else. We need to boost border security and start enforcing our immigration laws.



I also receive a lot of questions about the rising costs of healthcare. I hear far too often from individuals who had their health care plans cancelled or have seen their deductibles rise due to Obamacare. This is why I am leading the charge in Congress to repeal Obamacare once and for all.

So that’s a quick sample of some of the things I’m hearing. A lot of people are simply frustrated with the direction our country is headed. I don’t blame them because I am too. We must restore people’s confidence in America again, and we do that by first listening to their concerns. That has always been and always will be my top priority.

I think there's no higher calling in terms of a career than public service, which is a chance to make a difference in people's lives and improve the world.

Jack Lew

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I AM ALABAMA.

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*CIEDA's investment — Westin Lake Mary —
is exceeding everyone's expectations*



*Within the first
18 months,
the revenues
and profits,
generated
from hotel
operations,
increased
significantly
and exceeded
expectations.*

By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

You know you have hit a home run in business when after five years, people are still talking about how well things are going and how well the future looks.

That is the case with Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority (CIEDA) and its economic investment in The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North hotel.

Opening in November 2009, the hotel became fully operational in 2010. CIEDA's involvement began in 2014 when visiting another investment venture in Huntsville, Ala. CIEDA representatives were approached by the Yedla Management Co., and talks initiated on how CIEDA could be brought on board for the new partnership.

Yedla Management Co. covers day-to-day operations at The Westin, and Yedla's President and CEO, Srinath Yedla, said he wanted CIEDA to take charge and make the development prosperous.

"We had developed the hotel for another partner but after a while, it was apparent that we needed someone like CIEDA to step in and turn it around," Yedla said. "That's when we got CIEDA and the Tribe involved. We knew they had tremendous success in the hospitality industry, and they have what it takes to make a lucrative investment work."

Executive Vice President of Yedla Management, Michael Amaral, stated "with CIEDA's participation, we were able to achieve the levels of service and quality expected from a Westin Hotel. **Within the first 18 months, the revenues and profits, generated from hotel operations, increased significantly and exceeded expectations.** Further, as of December 2015, overall occupancy at The Westin at Lake Mary was up 6.2 percent over the competition's 4.5 percent for the year.

"Our average daily rate, \$110.68, exceeded our competition's rate of \$109.42," Amaral said. "We attribute this success because of our partnership with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians."

In its latest report, Smith Travel Research indicated that hotels reporting in the Orlando North area were achieving an occupancy of 67.7 percent while the Westin achieved a 72.9 percent occupancy for the same period.

As a final note, Amaral said he was pleased with the operating team assembled at the hotel, and that in 2015, **the hotel was named No. 1 in Orlando by Orlando Magazine and the sales team was awarded the honor of "Sales Team of the Year 2015"** for Seminole County.



See WESTIN, continued on next page

WESTIN, continued from previous page

To further help the hotel stand out, when Seminole County rebranded its name to “Orlando North,” The Westin added the branding to its name.

The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North features 253 guest rooms and suites. Westin’s signature Heavenly Bed and Heavenly Shower, Shula’s 347 Grill, a 24-hour fitness center and a lobby bar are among the vast amenities offered at the property.

The Westin features 14,000 square feet of meeting and event space that can accommodate up to 750 guests, and the 7,700-square-foot ballroom can be divided into five sections, ideal for weddings, special events and banquets.

Yedla said he is pleased with the rate of the hotel’s success and its potential to grow even more.

“When you get a 20 percent profit margin within the first five years, I’d say that is pretty successful,” he said.

“CIEDA already has seen 11.15 percent on what is called an internal rate of return (IRR).”

The IRR measures the profitability of potential investments; it’s a cash-



on-cash revenue over several years.

The higher a project’s internal rate of return, the more desirable an investor is to undertake the project. We believe this investment will continue to grow for years to come.”

CIEDA President and CEO James T. Martin echoed Yedla’s statement.

“We were honored to be considered as an investor for this project,” Martin said. “We carefully considered the potential of the hotel to succeed under our management and having worked

with Mr. Yedla in the past, we knew this partnership would be beneficial to all involved.”

Martin said the hospitality industry was a lucrative one to be in.

“We as a Tribe are driven to succeed. We invest in economic developments wisely, and I believe The Westin property was a home run.”

CIEDA has additional hotel investments in Huntsville, Ala.; Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; and Pensacola, Fla.



2016 Tribal Council Election

Notice

WHEN: June 4, 2016

LOCATION: PCI Community Resource Building (old SAIL Center)

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

PURPOSE: To elect the following:
Tribal Secretary (3 year term),
Tribal Treasurer (3 year term), and
1 At-Large Council Member (3 year term)

DEADLINE TO DECLARE CANDIDACY:

5:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, 2016
To have name printed on official ballot.

5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 5, 2016
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 5, 2016.

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.

2016 Tribal Council Election

Calendar

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016 – Deadline to submit Letter of Candidacy to Election Board for name to be included on official ballot.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016 – Deadline to submit biography and photo for publication in May 2016 issue of *Poarch Creek News*.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016 – Names of candidates and any proposed constitutional amendments, ordinances and/or resolutions will be posted.

MAY 5, 2016 – 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 10 days.

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2016 – Walk-in voting starts and continues through Friday, June 3, 2016. Open daily from 9:00* a.m. to 6:00 p.m. except for Sunday, May 29, 2016 and Monday, May 30, 2016.

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016 – Last day to request Absentee Ballot be mailed out.

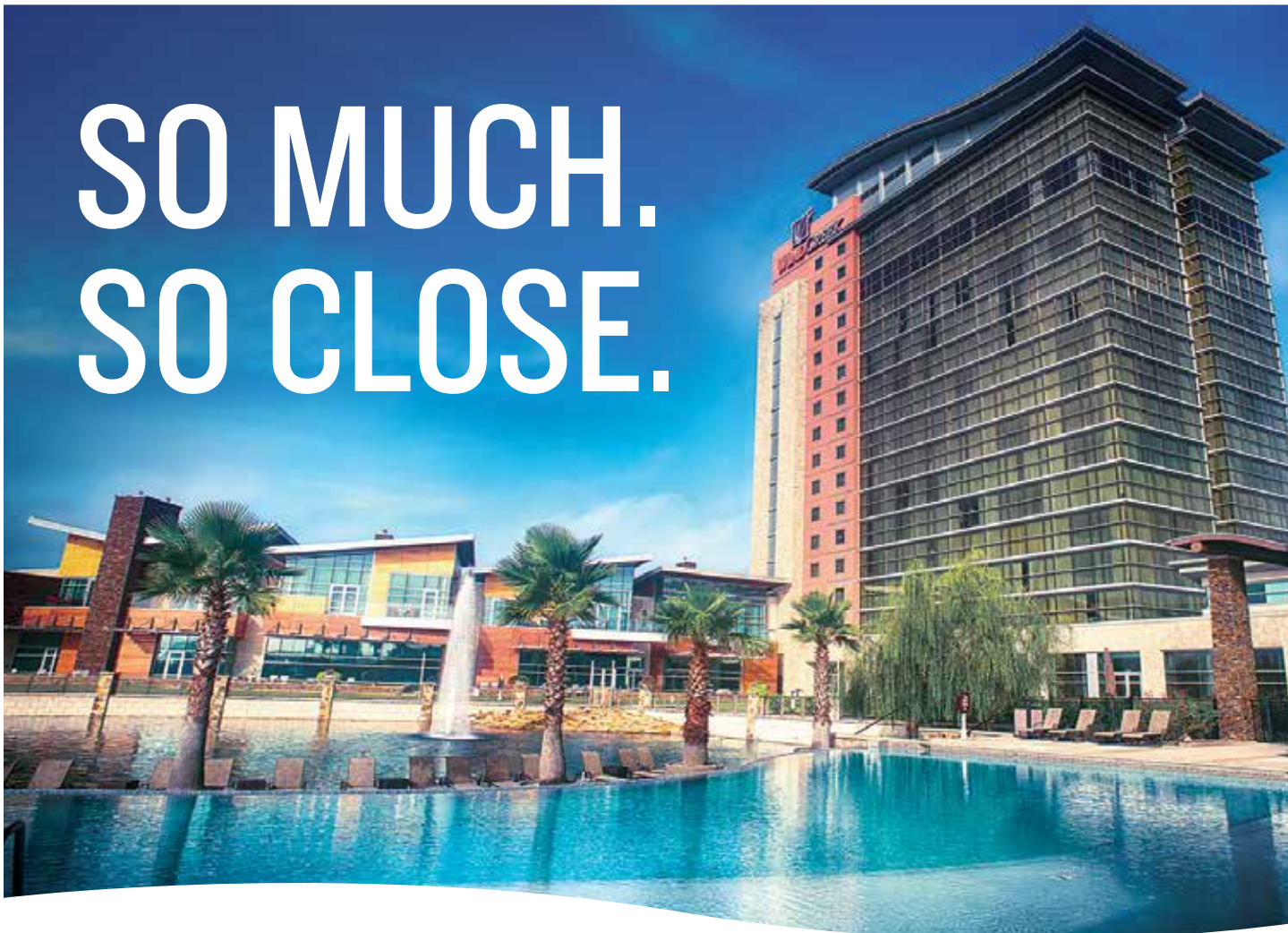
FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016 – Walk-in voting ends at 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016 – Deadline to receive Absentee Ballots at 5:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016 – 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 back door of the PCI Community Resource Building (Old SAIL Center), on the Community Bulletin Board, on the Tribe's web site www.pci-nsn.gov and social media, and will be printed in the July issue of the Poarch Creek News.*

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

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TRIBE HOSTS SPECIAL HUNT

Members of the Tribal Hunting Club join disabled hunters for lunch at Magnolia Branch on Saturday, January 9, 2016.

We all seem to take the simple things in life for granted. We wake up each morning, get up out of bed and get dressed for the day, whether it be for work or recreation. We think nothing of putting on our clothes with no assistance, of bending down to tie our shoes, or to sit down at the table to eat a meal. Don't take these simple little things for granted, some people cannot do these simple little things without assistance.

The Tribal Hunting Club recently hosted a two day hunt for the disabled members of Wheelin' Outdoor Adventures and other disabled hunters. During those two days these hunters were able to join members of the Tribal Hunting Club in a special hunt. On Friday, January 8, 2016 the group hunted on the Bell Creek Hunting lands; on Saturday they hunted on the Magnolia Branch hunting lands. Wind Creek Hospitality hosted lunch for the hunters on both days.

I overheard many conversations those two days and none of them were about the individual's disability. There was talk about the guns they used, which was

the best make, how their wheel chairs were equipped to allow them to hunt, the best ammunition, and the game they had killed. They talked about their best hunting experiences, gun shops, game wardens, and the one that got away.

The hunt was not limited to men, there were lady hunters as well and several youth joined the group on Saturday. For some it was their first hunt, but others were avid hunters and this was just one of many hunts they had participated in.

I must say that I came away from this assignment with a greater respect for our local hunters and the disabled hunters in attendance. Some of these hunters might not have known each other at the beginning of the hunt, but they were all fast friends by the end of the hunt. Everyone who participated, including me, carried away memories that will last a life time.

By: Gayle Johnson, Editor



OLDEST TRIBAL MEMBER TURNS 99

Carl "Buster" McGhee, Sr. with his children. Front row Carl, Jr., Buster, & Glenn. Back row Larry, Gilbert, Sandra, Harold, & Robert.

Carl "Buster" McGhee is the Tribe's oldest Tribal Member. He turned 99 on Tuesday, February 9, 2016. He is the son of the late Littles and Ellen Colbert McGhee.

Carl grew up in Huxford, AL.; he started his own family in Huxford before moving to Walnut Hill, FL in 1942. "I went to school in Huxford" Carl said, "but I only went to the fourth grade. I didn't stop learning though; life has taught me a lot. I got a good job and I took care of my family."

Carl is a veteran; he served in the Marines during World War II. After returning home from the war he went to work for St. Regis, the paper mill in Cantonment where he

worked for over thirty years. When he was not working in the paper mill, Carl was fishing or farming. "I love to fish. When I was a boy I fished every fishing hole in and around Huxford."

When you ask his family and friends about Carl, they will all tell you the same thing; he is a quiet man and is well respected by everyone he knows. They tell of how he never says a curse word or loses his temper. "It's true" said Carl's son Gilbert McGhee "I do not remember ever seeing Daddy get mad or lose his temper and I have never heard him use a curse word." This is a trait we all need to assimilate!

Carl married his late wife, Atre B. Dees, in 1935. They had eight children, Gilbert, Carl Jr., Robert, Glenn, Larry, Harold, Stephen (an infant who passed away at about 10 months old), and Sandra McGhee Chunn.

Buster's family gathered at the Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility on Saturday, February 6, 2016 to celebrate his birthday with him. Family and friends came from near and far, including his sister Thelma McGhee Henson and her family from south Florida.

Happy birthday Buster, we look forward to celebrating your 100th birthday next year!



TRIBAL MEMBER FAMILY PASS FOR MBWR AVAILABLE

Tribal Members are admitted free to Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve (MBWR) with proper identification, i.e. Tribal Member ID Card, Tribal Member Youth ID Card, or Tribal Member Family Pass.

A Family Pass allows a Tribal Member, a Tribal Member's spouse, and all children under the age of 18 who are living in the household, to enter the park free of charge when presented at the front gate entrance; if you do not have proper identification or a Family Pass, you will be expected to pay regular admission charges. All applicable fees apply for all additional park amenities.

Tribal Member families that had a Family Pass made last year will not be required to get a new pass this year unless there has been a change to the family makeup, i.e. divorce, marriage, birth of a child, a child reaching age 18,

etc., or if they have lost their Pass. A maximum of two (2) Family Member passes will be issued per household per year.

If you need a Tribal Member Family Pass to MBWR, please contact the Tribal Member Benefits Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2209 to schedule an appointment. Be sure to bring all required documentation to your appointment. Passes will not be issued without proper documentation.

Please contact Tracy Sells, MBWR Park Coordinator, at (251) 446-3423 or (251) 253-3153 if you have any questions about MBWR, park services, and/or amenities. Tracy can also be contacted via email at tracy@pcimbwr.com.

You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.

Desmond Tutu

Happy or unhappy, families are all mysterious. We have only to imagine how differently we would be described – and will be, after our deaths – by each of the family members who believe they know us.

Gloria Steinem

AN EDUCATION SUCCESS STORY

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT FOR WILL MARTIN

Will Martin is set to graduate in May with a Major in Biology and a Minor in Psychology from the University of Alabama. He has a firm road map of the direction he wants his educational life to take. With a lifelong dream of becoming a doctor, he is currently applying to both University of Alabama School of Medicine and the University of South Alabama Medical School, where he hopes to fulfill that dream. After graduating from Medical School, Will has plans to give back to the Tribal Community by “spreading awareness and prevention of different diseases that are an unfortunate part of our genetics.”

While in school, Will has been busy with a full list of Academic Honors, Certificates and Awards and many extracurricular and volunteer activities. Just a few of these honors include the University of Alabama Dean’s List, Order of Omega Honor Society and Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. One of his biggest challenges was learning how to juggle everything from his social life, relationships, course work, and community involvement, while still leaving sometime for himself. According to Will, “Time

management was a critical skill to learn and prioritizing what was most important helped everything fall into place.”

Will feels that his entire family is responsible for supporting him during his educational journey. Each one of them contributed to his success in their own way. Christine Martin, Will’s mother, was especially helpful by being there through every essay and tackling some of the paperwork. Will jokingly refers to her as his “personal secretary.” He attributes her help to being a necessary and important part of his success while contributing to his ability to reach his goals.

The Tribal Educational funding helped Will tremendously with his college experience. The financial assistance allowed him to focus completely on his studies, while allowing him to purchase of quality educational materials needed for school. Without the assistance, he may have been working part time, trying to juggle all of the other activities of college life. Will comments that the financial assistance allowed him to “take leaps rather than just steps in his education.”



Will Martin

Will has excellent advice to offer students who may be struggling with academic goals. Never give up, don’t be afraid to ask for help and look for opportunities to explore your interest are among the suggestions he makes for academic success.

Congratulations Will; we look forward to seeing you do great things for your Tribe and community.

By: Annie Nowak

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

Erma Bombeck

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*Jason Stephens
Staff Sergeant
United States Army*

Jason C. Stephens is the son of Dave and Barbara Stephens. He has two brothers, Christopher and Jonathan. He is the grandson of the late Roy Lee and Opal Fay McGhee, and the great grandson of the late Chief Calvin and Joyce McGhee.

Jason joined the United States Marine Corps in 1994, just one month after his 18th birthday and a couple of months after high school graduation. He served in the Marine Corp from his enlistment until June of 2007. After his Marine Corp service, he enlisted in the United States Army until his retirement from active military service on August 31, 2014 with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

During Jason's twenty years of service, sixteen were away from his family; of those sixteen years, twelve were deployments in times

of war to Iraq (2), Afghanistan (2), Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti. Jason's duty stations included Japan, Korea, Australia, Hawaii, Spain, Greece, Egypt, France, Italy, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee.

During his service he received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), Certificate of Commendation, Certificates of Appreciation (5), Meritorious Mast (5), Letters of Appreciation (6), Iraq Campaign Medal with stars (3), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (5), National Defense Service Medal (2), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (2), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (2), Good Conduct Medal (4), Rifle Qualification Badge (Expert) (10), Pistol Qualification Badge (Expert) (3), Arctic Service Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation, Presidential Unit Citation-Marines, Combat Action Ribbon (10), Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 2 campaign Stars, Marine Corps Meritorious Mast Ribbon, Army Commendation Medal (2), Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal (2), Korean Defense Service Medal, Non Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (2), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon-Army (3), and NATO Medal (2).

After retirement from active duty Jason decided to come back to his roots in Alabama to be closer to his family as well as returning

VETERAN'S SALUTE

to his legacy and Tribal family. Jason is currently employed with Wind Creek Hospitality as a Security Officer I. He began his employment as a Supervisor in the Casino Housekeeping Department but found the job unchallenging. "I needed more of a challenge; I knew I was capable of doing so much more. In my desire to utilize the training and education I received in the military, I decided to pursue my goals one step at a time by applying for a position in the Security department. My next goal is Security Officer II which entails being a Medical First Responder as well."

Jason says that some people might perceive him as being hard, when the persona actually comes from survival during all those years in the military and combat.



Jason's bunk in Iraq, all the comforts of home!

After so many years in the military, most of them overseas and in foreign countries during war time he says that he tries not to take things too seriously (unless need be). "I like to take things easy and have a good time. When I make friends they are my friends for life. Believe it or not after all those years of being a Marine I never started smoking and decided that drinking on a social level is better suited for me."

Jason and his wife Crystal M.Y. Stephens were married on June 5, 2008. They currently live in Atmore and have four children, Sahara A. Stephens, Paityn M.Y. Stephens, Ariea J.Y. Stephens, and Wyatt L. Stephens.

Jason is a member of the Veterans Affair in Kentucky, Tennessee and



Jason with wife Crystal

Alabama. He has taken classes at the University of Maryland and just a few credits shy of an associate's degree.

Some of Jason's hobbies include reading, watching movies, wood crafting and design, fishing, collecting swords and knives of various styles, target shooting with my various acquired weapons and knives. "I play paint ball once in a while and I am a Play Station man. My inner nerd comes out and I still get a chance to play Dungan's & Dragons and Rifts. My favorite game which I even have my oldest daughter and wife hooked on is Spartacus!!"

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

Because of their sacrifices, we enjoy the freedoms we have today.



Jason's Mom & Dad, Barbara and Dave Stephens with Jason's oldest daughter, Sahara



Wyatt, Paityn, and Ariea Stephens

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.

Jason Rackard
February 5, 2016

Happy birthday Jason!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

With love from all your family & friends.



Walter B. Hicks
February 8, 2016

Happy 80th birthday!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

From your family and friends.



Roy Baggett
February 8, 2016

Happy birthday!

We love you.

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Evie, Rex, Stephanie, Lindsey, and Clay.



Carl 'Buster' McGhee
February 9, 2016

Happy 99th birthday Dad!
We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

With love, your family & friends.



Shawn Rolin
February 16, 2016

Happy birthday Shawn!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Stephanie and family.



John Laviolette
February 17, 2016

Happy birthday to a wonderful man and father!

We love you very much.

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love from Dana, Madison, JJ, Ablaza, Cody, Daniel, Dillon, and all your family.



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

Jeremy Odom
March 2, 2016

Happy birthday BooBoo!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Samantha, Jackson, and the rest of your family and friends.



Stephanie Bryan
March 3, 2016

Happy birthday to our Tribal Chair, Stephanie A. Bryan!

We appreciate all that you do, and wish you many years of health, happiness, and blessings.

You are loved more than you know!



Aubrey Holcombe
March 3, 2016

Happy 8th birthday to our beautiful Aubrey!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

From you family.



Tehya Rolin
March 3, 2016

Happy birthday Tehya!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love you, Mama & Daddy.



Allison Rodriguez
March 4, 2016

Happy 40th birthday to an amazing daughter, wife, and mother.

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Jose, Moms/Dads, brother, son, relatives, conus/oconus.



Kyle & Kaylee Salter
March 4, 2016

Happy 18th birthday Kyle & Kaylee!

So proud of both of you. We are truly blessed to have both of you in our lives.

Love, Mom, Dad, Oma, Opa, Papa, Memaw, brothers, sisters, Aunt Allison, Uncle Jose, & Caleb.



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

Rose McGhee
March 6, 2016

Happy 61st birthday Rose!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

From your cousin Connie Vickery and the rest of your family and friends.



Brycen Lane Phillips
March 6, 2016

Happy birthday Brycen!

We love you and are so happy to have you in our lives.

Love, Daddy, Meme, Dalt-Dalt, Kentleigh, and all the family.



Jennifer Thomas
March 7, 2016

Happy birthday Jen!

Wishing a very happy birthday to the person that makes our lives better every day just by being a part of it.

We love you!

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



Jordan Schrock
March 9, 2016

Happy 20th birthday Jordan!

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

We love you very much.

From your family.



Leslie Odom
March 13, 2016

Happy birthday Leslie!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

Love, Chad, Lea, Myra, Bryant, and the rest of your family and friends.



Nancy Paulk
March 13, 2016

Happy birthday Nancy!

We are truly grateful to have you in our lives!

Love you, Mom, son, husband, and brothers.



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

Kintley Drew Flowers
March 15, 2016

Happy 5th birthday to our beautiful, fun loving, and outspoken little girl!

The world didn't know what it was missing until you arrived. Mommy and Daddy love you so much!

Love, Momma, Daddy, and family.



Crimson Josiah Chavira
March 16, 2016

Happy 2nd birthday Crimson!

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

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



Dallon Rackard
March 17, 2016

Happy 12th birthday Dallon!

We love you and are so proud of you!

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

With love from all your family.



Evelyn Overstreet
March 17, 2016

Happy birthday Evelyn!

We love you.

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives.

With love from your family and friends.



Zackary "Zack" McGhee
March 24, 2016

Happy 29th birthday Zack!

We love you very much.

God blessed us when He sent you to us. Our lives are fuller with you in them.

Love Dad Johnny, Mom Sandy, brother Jake, Aunt Angela, and Aunt Betty.



Kentleigh Marie Phillips
March 27, 2016

Happy birthday Kentleigh!

You have brought nothing but joy into our lives since you have been born.

We love you, Daddy, Meme, Dalt-Dalt, Brycen, and the rest of the crew.



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

Austin Shuttlesworth
March 27, 2016

Happy 20th birthday
Austin!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

Wishing you the best!

Love, Mom, Darrell,
Denver, and Anna Grace.



Shirley 'Pug' Roberson
March 30, 2016

Happy 60th birthday to the
world's best mom, wife,
and granny!

We love you!

We are truly blessed to
have you in our lives.

Love, Aubrey, James,
Marlene, David, Reece,
and Micah.



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

William Barclay

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Ask about our special rates for Tribal members



Introducing

AINSLEY REY COLBERT

December 24, 2015 ✨ 6 lbs 1 oz ✨ 20 inches

Ainsley Rey Colbert was born December 24, 2015 at the Kaiser Palomar Health Downtown Campus. Ainsley is the daughter of Sean and Krystal Colbert of Carlsbad, CA. She is the granddaughter of Charles Colbert.

Welcomed with love.

Dad & Mom. Sean & Krystal Colbert.



Introducing

AMARA MADISON PRINCE

January 13, 2016 ✨ 9 lbs 5 oz ✨ 21 inches

Amara is an English spelling of a Muscogee title associated with war clans. She is the granddaughter of Jack Allen and Charlotte McGhee and Robert and the late Suzanne Stoltenberg Prince. She is the great granddaughter of Ernestine and the late DC Daughtry, and the late Jack McGhee.

Welcomed with love.

Dad & Mom. Jim & Venus Prince & big sister Aya.

In Loving Memory of DENNIS VICKERY

ON HIS BIRTHDAY: MARCH 5, 2016

The Reunion Heart

Since Heaven has become your home
I sometimes feel I'm so alone,
And though we now are far apart
You hold a big piece of my heart.

I never knew how much I'd grieve
When it was time for you to leave,
Or just how much my heart would ache
From that one fragment you would take.

God lets this tender hole remain
Reminding me we'll meet again,
And one day all the pain will cease
When He restores this missing piece.

He'll turn to joy my every tear
With thoughts of you I hold so dear,
And they'll become my special way
To treasure our Reunion Day.

Author Unknown



*Dennis Vickery
March 5, 1955 - October 9, 2012
Sadly Missed By
Family & Friends*

In Loving Memory of FIELDS MCGHEE

ON HIS 77TH BIRTHDAY: MARCH 30, 2016

Happy Birthday In Heaven

Today is filled with memories
With happiness and tears
Of birthday celebrations
We've shared throughout the years

And though I'll always miss you
The endless joy you brought
Warms my heart with gratitude
And fills my every thought

Wherever you are resting
I hope you can see
How precious and uplifting
Your memory is to me

I feel that you are with me
In everything I do
So I'll celebrate your birthday
But I'll spend it missing you

allgreatquotes.com



*Chester Fields McGhee
March 30, 1939 - May 15, 2015
Sadly Missed By
Family & Friends*

HELPING EACH OTHER

We would like to extend our sincere and heart-felt appreciation to all who participated in the Cancer Support Group meetings for the last several years at Wind Creek Hospitality Atmore!

As we reflect over these special times together it brings back many precious memories of sharing personal testimonies, lots of laughter, as well as tears. If only one person was helped through these meetings, it was worth it all. Your presence and teamwork made these meetings successful. The common thread proved to be "Helping Each Other".

A huge thank you to Wind Creek Hospitality Atmore for providing all the lovely banquet rooms, delicious meals, excellent service, and to all the Helping Hands that made it all happen! There are too many names to mention to thank each one of you. However, you know who you are; most importantly, God knows who you are! He loves the hearts of His servants.



We are excited to say that Carrie Martin has graciously accepted the invitation to carry the "torch" and continue the Cancer Support Group meetings! They are opened to Tribal Members and community.

You can reach Carrie at PCI Health Department at 368-9136, ext. 2374. Quarterly meetings are scheduled annually for January, April, July, and October on the third Tuesdays of the month at 6 pm in the ballroom at Wind Creek Hospitality Atmore.

In closing, love and thanks to you all. Please continue to support the meetings. Carrie has some wonderful new ideas! See you there!

Mvto!

Helen Hallman and Cindy Martin.

RETURNED NEWSLETTERS

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

From this point forward, if an individual's newsletter is returned by the Post Office for two consecutive months, their name will be removed from the mailing list prior to mailing the next issue of the newsletter if the individual's address has not been updated.

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

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

EA ADVANCES IN TOURNEY

Three of four All-Stars are Tribal Members

The Escambia Academy basketball teams both advanced in a tournament played in Greenville, Ala., Saturday, January 30.

EA Lady Cougars played Fort Dale Academy. The final score was EA 36, Fort Dale 42. EA moves on as the No. 2 seed going into the 2016 AISA Class 3A Elite 8 Tournament.

Alia Snow and Mikayla Spruill made All Tournament team.



All Tournament – Alia Snow, left, and Mikayla Spruill

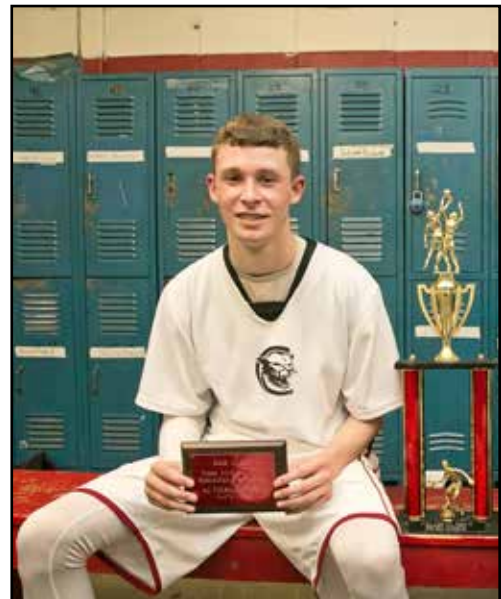
TRIBAL MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

EA Cougars played Hooper Academy. The final score was EA 47, Hooper 53. EA advances as the No. 2 seed going into the 2016 AISA Class 3A Elite 8 Tournament.

Trae Lee and Tyler Sells made All Tournament team.

*Atmore News
February 3, 2016*

*Photos by Ditto Gorme/Atmore News
Submitted by Susan Spruill*



All Tournament – Tyler Sells

A side note: Mikayla Spruill and Tyler Sells were named 2015 Tribal Athletes of the Year at the Sports Banquet held in October 2015.

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MARY KAY

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Karla Martin, Division Director

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Escambia County Alabama schools will close half a day on March 15, 2016. To accommodate Boys & Girls Club participants who attend Escambia County Alabama schools, the Boys & Girls Club will open at 11:30 that day. All children should be picked up by 5:30 p.m. that day.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians T.R.A.I.L. Program is sponsoring our 3rd Annual Charity Run.

This year's Glow Run theme is "GLOW for Healthy Lifestyles". The event will be held on Friday afternoon and evening at the PBCI track. Registration forms will be available at the Boys & Girls Club.

Proceeds from the event will benefit "Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mobile".

Date: Friday, March 11, 2016

Registration Fee: \$10.00

Time: 5:30 pm
Sign in & late registration

Glow Run @ 6:30 pm

Location: PBCI Track
444 Lynn McGhee Drive, Atmore, AL

Pre-Registration Deadline was February 19, 2016. Day of event late registration shirt sizes & quantity limited, and are not guaranteed.

Everyone is invited to participate in this fun and exciting community event. Spectators are welcome and encouraged.

The Boys and Girls Club will be accepting donations until the day of the event to support this local non-profit organization

Contact information: Janet Shultz, T.R.A.I.L. Coordinator @368-9136 X 2411

2015 STATISTICS

During the 2015 calendar year the Boys & Girls Club of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians' had a total of 461 participants.

We have a USDA grant that helps ensure that our children receive a daily well balanced meal.

Children Served through Membership:

- 461 Total Membership
 - 125 Tribal Members
 - 205 First Generation
 - 52 Second Generation
 - 38 Living in a Tribal Household
 - 34 Parent's employed with Tribal Government
 - 7 Member of another tribe

Meals served to children

- 28,826 dinners After School Program
- 7,939 meals & 6,072 snacks Summer Program
(breakfast, lunch, dinner & snack served each day)





2015 YOUTH POW WOW

Hundreds of people helped over 73 registered tiny tot and youth dancers, and 5 different drum groups bring in 2016 with fun fellowship and activities at the Poarch Creek Wellness and Activities Center this New Year's.

The 6th Annual New Year's Eve Sobriety Youth Pow Wow ensured that many of our youth were able to enjoy bringing in the New Year with fun and healthy competition and entertainment, while keeping them away from the dangers of drugs and alcohol that are unfortunately so prevalent in this day and time.

We, as a community, should continue to strive to surround our children and youth with positive, healthy, and sober environments. Remember, they're not just our children, they are our future. Soon, these children will be the voices and leaders of our Tribe.

MVTO to everyone who helped make this New Year's Eve Pow Wow a success!

THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT INVITES YOU TO COME QUILT

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

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

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

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

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

THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT PROUDLY OFFERS CREEK MOCCASIN CLASSES

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

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
(Hwy 21 Building)

Session One February 29 & March 1 & 3, 2016

Session Two March 14, 15, & 17, 2016

Session Three March 21, 22, & 24, 2016

Session Four March 28, 29, & 31, 2016

Only 10 slots are available for each class.

All supplies will be provided

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS!

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



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

Name: _____ Age: _____

Birthdate: _____ Male or Female (circle one)

Tribal Member or 1st Generation Descendant? (circle one) Roll # _____

If 1st generation descendant, list parent who is on roll and his/her roll number: _____

Employment/School: _____

Phone number(s): _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

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

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

Explain your involvement in your community and/or Tribe.

Essay Questions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTHEASTERN INDIAN FESTIVAL

APRIL 7-9, 2016

FREE ADMISSION

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

Learn about Southeastern Indian Culture through

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

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

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

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

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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

PRE-K REGISTRATION

April 11 – 15, 2016

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

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

Complete application MUST include:

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

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

NOTICE TO PARENTS OF FIRST & SECOND GENERATION INDIAN DESCENT STUDENTS

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

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

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

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



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

All information must be complete!

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

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

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

William E. Smith. Jr., MD



Southern Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine, P.A.

401 Medical Park Drive, Atmore, AL 36502
1717 North E Street Pensacola, FL 32501
850-432-3293

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

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

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

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

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

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

Honoring ALL Graduates



Graduation Banquet



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

You must be a 2015-2016 graduate to attend.

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

Place: Wind Creek Casino Coosawada Ballroom

Graduates must RSVP by May 20th to attend.

Full Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Please check one: Tribal Member _____ First Generation: _____

School Graduated From: _____

Degree Received: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



CULTURAL EXCHANGE ABROAD

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

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

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

**VISIT ALASKA AND
CANADA**

**10 DAY TRIP
JUNE 22ND – July 1ST**

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

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

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

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

Joint Announcement from the Cultural & Education Departments

Regarding the Gifting of Eagle Feathers

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

- A completed application found at www.fws.gov
- Certification of tribal enrollment form completed by a certifying tribal official

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

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



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

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

Dr. Stephen M. Gross
Optometrist

Dr. David J. Helton
Optometrist

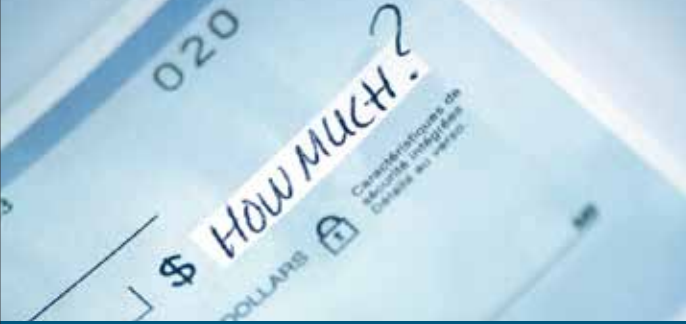
Dr. Alan Franklin
Retina Specialist

Dr. Rollins Tindell
Cataract Specialist

Dr. Ryan Tarantola
Retina Specialist

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YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Small Decisions Make Big Things Happen

Let's Walk About It

Do you have afternoon slumps in enthusiasm and focus? Take a walk during your lunch hour! It is not news, of course, that walking is healthy and that people who walk or otherwise exercise regularly tend to be more calm, alert and happy than people who are inactive. But did you know that brisk walking workouts can help you maintain a steady blood sugar level and body weight if you have type 2 diabetes? A 30 minute walk at least 5 times per week is recommended by the American College of Sports Medicine and the American Diabetes Association for people with diabetes.

Consult your health care team to see if walking is the right exercise for you, and take any necessary precautions before making adjustments to your medications or diet.

1. **Walk at an Easy Pace for 3 to 5 Minutes:** Use the beginning of your walk as a warm-up to get your blood flowing to your muscles and to continue to tweak your walking posture. An easy pace is one where you could sing or carry on a full conversation without any heavier breathing.
2. **Speed up to a Brisk Pace for 20 to 25 Minutes:** Now you want to move into a brisk walking pace to achieve moderate exercise intensity that has the best health benefits. Move your arms faster in coordination with your steps to help pick up the pace. A brisk walking pace is one where you are breathing heavier but you can still speak in sentences. You want to aim for 50% to 70% of maximum heart rate.
3. **Cool Down for 1 to 3 Minutes:** Finish your walk by walking at an easy pace. You may want to end with a stretching routine.



No matter what your fitness level, taking a walk during lunch is a great way to connect with people and clear your mind. It will really change your work experience in a positive, healthy way. Start a walking group and see how it goes!

Let me know if you need some ideas or if you're ready to add some intensity, and please reach out to me if you have any questions or if you could use some encouragement. I'd love to hear from you.

Win the Day!
Spencer

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



www.mypciwellness.com
facebook.mypciwellness



YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

Small Decisions Make Big Things Happen

Let Food Be Thy Medicine

What timeless words of wisdom! I saw this quote in an advertisement recently and it really got me thinking. I found a meta study Rutgers University conducted looking at 68 different studies examining the relationship between family meals, eating habits, and children's health. Specifically, they wanted to know if there was a correlation between family meals and obesity. Interestingly, because so many of the studies outcomes were in general agreement, it makes sense to keep them in mind. The data suggests that family mealtime does indeed have a wealth of benefits, especially for children.

When families make mealtimes more of a priority, they tend to pay more attention to what is served. Children who have more family meals get more of the nutrient-rich foods that build strong bodies and smart brains: more fruits, veggies, lean meats, and low-fat milk; fewer fried foods and soft drinks. Additionally, researchers found that the quality time spent together during a family meal helps build relationships and foster healthy eating habits such as eating slowly, enjoying a variety of foods, and stopping when comfortably satisfied rather than overstuffed.

Make as many family meals as possible a priority. By making some healthy and realistic goals you have a plan for success. How?

Step 1: Get Ready

Involve all family members in the planning by allowing each person a chance to talk about their food preferences.



Step 2: Plan the Main Courses

Plan your food shopping for the week, your budget, preparation time, and nutrition. Save time by using ready-to-eat fresh vegetables or salads.

Step 3: Stock the Kitchen with Staples

Stocking the pantry and fridge with basic ingredients makes it easy to prepare a quick and tasty meal.

The very act of prioritizing family mealtimes can help sustain a family's health and culture while providing the deeply rooted satisfaction of making something with your own hands.

- Ashley

Ashley Richards is a Health Coach and Nutritionist for Advantage Training. She believes that the key to creating healthy habits is to start by making small, sustainable changes. You can connect directly to Ashley by clicking on My Message Center/Talk to a Health Coach inside the My PCI Wellness online portal.



www.mypciwellness.com
facebook.mypciwellness.com

2016 Baseball & Softball League Registration

January 7, 2016 - March 5, 2016
Registration open to public

Tribal & non-Tribal athletes-Boys & Girls
Ages 7-18

Registration Fee \$50.00

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



Rising Stars Studio Of Dance

Be a part of our reigning regional and national winning dance company!

Register Now!
Registration Fee

\$20 per child
\$30 for 2 children same family
\$50 for 3 children same family

Monthly tuition rates also apply and are based on total hours of practice per week: \$42 per month for half hour per week, price increases \$5.00 per additional quarter hour.

Example:

30 minutes per week	\$42 per month
45 minutes per week	\$47 per month
1 hour per week	\$52 per month

Ballet & Funky Fun Jazz
Beginner Gymnastics

ages 3-5
ages 3-5

Ballet/Jazz

ages 6-14

Int./Adv. Gymnastics

ages 6 and up

Come in and register to reserve your spot in a class today! Classes will fill up fast!

Registration fee and first months tuition is due at the time of sign up.

For questions or to sign up, call (251) 605-6066 or contact the Recreation Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2256.

2016 Summer Swim Team Registration

March 14, 2016 - May 13, 2016

No applications will be accepted after May 13, 2016

No exceptions

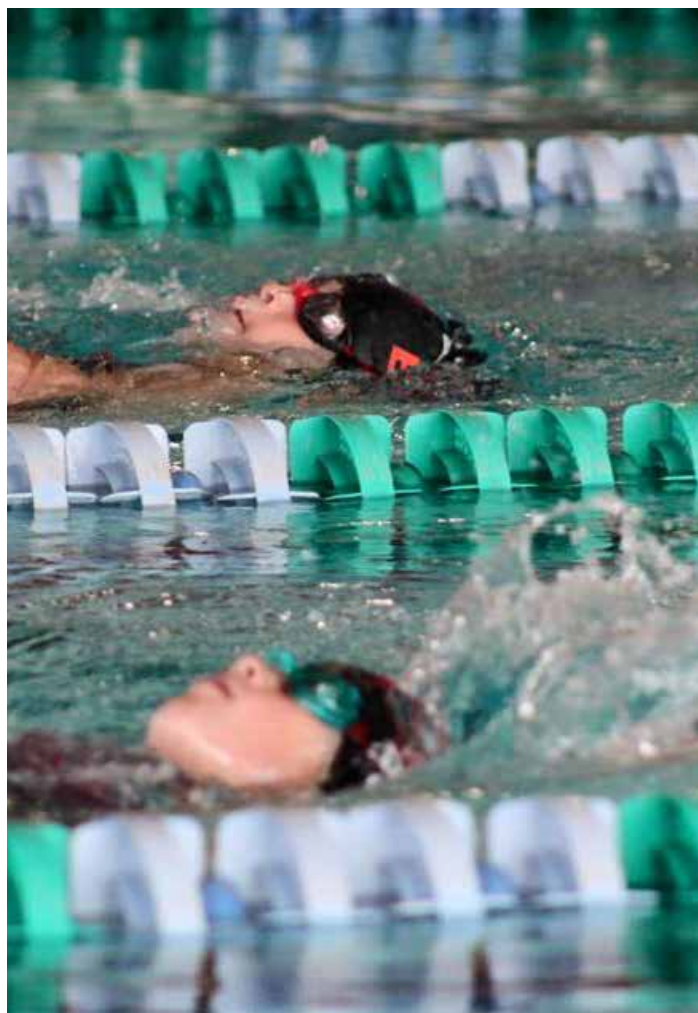
Tribal Member & first generation
Boys & Girls

Registration Fee \$30.00

Early Bird Practice May 16th -27th
Monday - Friday 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Recreation Department

Season is June 6th - August 1st
Practice /Recreation Department
Monday - Friday 10:00 am -11:30 am

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



Mary Ashlyn Williams and Abby Ross compete in the backstroke.

Swim Team Proudly Displays Ribbons

Members of the Poarch Swim Team are shown to the right proudly displaying ribbons won during the Winter Swim season.

Front row, left to right are Mary-Ashlyn Williams, Kamden Martin, Kylee Langham, and Myra Pettway.

Back row, left to right are Hannah Johnson, Abby Ross, Claire Johnson, and Kamryn Langham.

Congratulations to each swimmer for a job well done!



**Southeastern 8 & Under
Championships & South Regionals**
University of West Florida
Aquatic Department
March 4-6, 2016

Come support your Tribal Swim Team!

FACILITIES DIVISION

Wesley Woodruff, Division Director

The Tribe began applying for a High Priority Project contract in 2009 through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Department of Transportation (DOT) to fund pavement of Atmosphere Road, one of the major thoroughfares of the Tribal Community.

After several failed attempts, the contract was awarded for partial funds in 2012 after Public Works contracted with certified engineers to get right of ways from homeowners. The grant application described how our school kids had to walk to Poarch Road to catch the school bus after bus drivers refused to travel on Atmosphere Road because they often slid off the road into the ditch and had to be pulled out due to the condition of the road after it rained.



Public hearings were held for the Tribe, Escambia County Engineers, Escambia County school bus drivers, homeowners, and community members. All were in agreement that the road was not safe for the school bus route.

The remaining funds needed for the project were secured in 2015. The project will provide for grade drain and asphalt. The project has been bid out to Mitchell Construction;

after the execution of contracts construction should begin first week of March 2016.

The Tribe is in the process of planning a ground breaking/ribbon cutting ceremony so watch the web site and official Tribal social media for more information and dates once all arrangements have been made.

**CCS
ATMORE**

BUY LOCAL

Donut Delite tasty donuts are sold at Creek Convenience Store Atmore. Try one today!



116 Poarch Road | 251-446-8801

BLOGS

Discover new and exciting things at Muskogee Inn on our blogs page!



www.muskogeeinn.com/category/blogs



Inside Creek Travel Plaza
251-368-0085



New Menu Items!

Try cheesy chicken tacos or crab bites 

HEALTH & ELDER SERVICES DIVISION

Edie Jackson, Division Director

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

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

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

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

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

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

US Savings Bonds available for purchase with a qualified refund.

Tax Counselors are available on site to assist you.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

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



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NEW REFERRAL POLICY

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

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

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

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

NEED HELP WITH INSURANCE?

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

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

FREE SCREENING FOR CERVICAL MYELOPATHY

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

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

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

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

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

All screening appointments will be at the SAIL Center.

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT TOOTH DECAY!

Tooth decay is the single most common childhood disease affecting our youth today. The Dental Department each year does 3 dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications to the children at the Fred L. McGhee Early Learning Center.

As a part of our fight against this disease, we have began a toothbrush protocol for our children. Each child is given a personal dental kit with a spin toothbrush, toothpaste and timer.

Soon we hope to make our way around to the Boys and Girls Club to instruct all our youth on the importance of good oral hygiene.

A good habit today will hopefully lead to a healthier tomorrow.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

Bruce Lee, Division Director

TRIBAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BETHANKFUL Sometimes in our lives, we have a tendency to take things for granted, recently while at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD a single brick reminded me of the sacrifices made daily to keep our small Tribal community safe.

Several years ago, our department lost a firefighter in a tragic accident. The dedicated team members at Wind Creek Atmore took up a collection for a donation in the memory of Luther McRae. The department decided to take the donation and purchase a brick at the National Fire Academy. These bricks make up the Capital Walk of Capital Honor that winds through the grounds of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park. The park is located on the grounds of the National Fire Academy and is the first National Memorial Honoring Americas fire service. The Capital Walk of Capital Honor is adorned with circular nodes set aside for sponsors supportive of the foundations mission.

If the Poarch Creek Fire Department did not thank the team members at Wind Creek Atmore for their gracious donation we thank them now.

FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL Several years ago, the Tribal Council approved a budget for the Fire Department to design and erect a Memorial to the memory of those Volunteer and Career firefighters who served our community. The memorial is placed at Station #2 located at 845 Poarch Road. On behalf of the Fire Department we would like to thank the families of the men and women who have served our community and who gave up family time, missed birthdays, Christmas's, and other holidays to make sure our community was safe.

NEW ENGINE Lastly, our Department would like to thank the Tribal Council for our recent purchase of a 2016 KME Engine. This apparatus contains a 1000-gallon tank and has 2000 GPM hale pump. The apparatus has LED lighting, LED telescopic light tower, and was designed to respond to the new facilities being built in our Tribal Community and to carry enough water to protect our district and Tribal Offices. This apparatus is stationed at Station #1 on the main reservation.



2016 KME Engine

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

Henry Ford

TRIBAL POLICE

BEWARE OF SCAMS THIS TAX SEASON

The IRS continues to warn the public to be alert for telephone scams and offers five tell-tale warning signs to tip you off if you get such a call. These callers claim to be with the IRS. The scammers often demand money to pay taxes. Some may try to con you by saying that you're due a refund. The refund is a fake lure so you'll give them your banking or other private financial information.

These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They may even know a lot about you. They may alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. They use fake names and bogus IRS badge numbers. If you don't answer, they often leave an "urgent" callback request.

The IRS respects taxpayer rights when working out payment of your taxes. So, it's pretty easy to tell when a supposed IRS caller is a fake. Here are five things the scammers often do but the IRS will not do. Any one of these five things is a sign of a scam. The IRS does not:

1. Call you to demand immediate payment. We will not call about taxes you owe without first mailing you a bill.
2. Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the chance to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
3. Require you to use a certain payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.

4. Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
5. Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement to have you arrested for not paying.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here's what to do:

- If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 800-829-1040 to talk about payment options. You also may be able to set up a payment plan online at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).
- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to TIGTA at 1.800.366.4484 or at www.tigta.gov.
- If phone scammers target you, also contact the Federal Trade Commission at [FTC.gov](https://www.ftc.gov). Use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" to report the scam. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

Remember, the IRS currently does not use unsolicited email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issues. For more information on reporting tax scams, go to www.irs.gov and type "scam" in the search box.

Here are a couple of helpful sites:

IRS YouTube Videos: Tax Scams

IRS Podcasts: Tax Scams

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.



REGULATORY, GRANTS, & COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Carolyn White, Division Director

The Tribal Regulatory, Grants, and Compliance Division was established during April 2015 by Tribal Council as a part of the reorganization of Tribal Government. During November 2015, Departments, Offices, and Programs were moved under the Regulatory Division based on their regulatory function and compliance-related activities.

The Regulatory Division is governed by Title 26 (Environmental Protection), Title 33 (Tribal Employment Rights), Title 39 (Tribal Historic Preservation), Title 45 (Board and Committee Organization Act), Title 49 (Tribal Athletic Regulation Act), Title 50 (Tribal Athletic Regulatory Act), Title 51 (Tribal Regulatory Commission), and other applicable federal and Tribal laws. Carolyn M. White was appointed as the Regulatory Division Director on November 8, 2015.

Currently, the Division is organized and consists of the regulatory and compliance areas as follows:

- Tribal Regulatory Office
- Environmental Protection Department
- Tribal Employment Rights Office
- Tribal Historic Preservation Office
- Tribal Regulatory Commission
- Tribal Grievance Board



General information is provided in this March newsletter about the Tribal Regulatory Division and the events held or activities since November 2015. The Regulatory staff and I thank you for your patience and understanding while we continue to organize. We will share more updates and in-depth information in upcoming newsletters regarding existing programs, announcement on future events, and regulatory and compliance activities.

If you have any questions regarding any Department, Office, Commission, or Board organized under the Regulatory Division, please contact the Tribal Regulatory Office at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2066.

Carolyn M. White is the Tribal Regulatory, Grants, and Compliance Division Director and can be reached at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2532 or by email at cwhite@pcinsn.gov.

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Brandon McGhee
Cell: 251-359-3283
Owner/Operator
Web: diggindeepconst.com

Diggin' Deep Construction LLC

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ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

The Environmental Department hosts two events throughout the year to collect household hazardous waste and electronics. In 2015 the events were held on April 25th and November 14th. The Department has held at least one event per year since 2009. The events were held each year using funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Starting in 2012, the events began being funded by revenue generated from cardboard and paper recycling for the most part with Tribal Government providing funding for the balance.

Since 2009 these events have helped to keep a large amount of household hazardous waste and electronics from being taken to a landfill or ending up on the side of the road or in a creek. The charts below show how many tons of



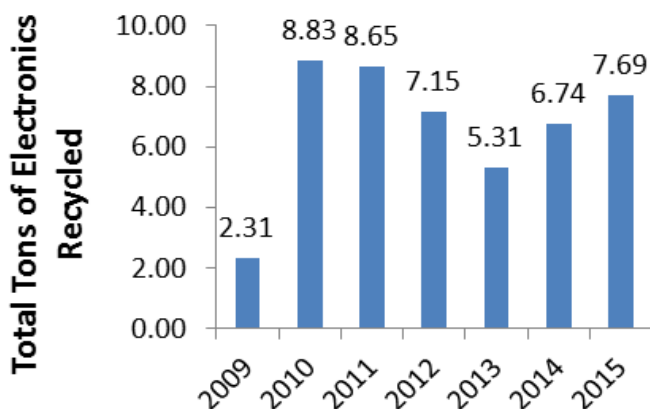
materials have been received at the events from 2009-2015

In total from 2009- 2015 over 60 tons of household hazardous waste and electronics have been collected. This amount has been collected from over 500 participants.

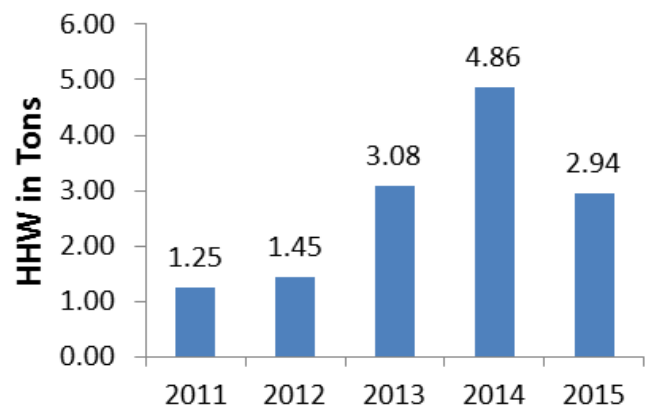
The first event of 2016 will be in April. The details of the event will be posted shortly.

If you have any questions about these annual recycling events, please contact Ralph McCullers, Environmental Protection Director, or Tiffany Janes, Environmental Specialist I, at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2680

**Total Tons of Electronics Recycled
2009-2015**



**Tons of Household Hazardous
Waste Collected 2011-2015**



TRIBAL GRIEVANCE BOARD

On February 19, 2015, Tribal Council Resolution 2015-027 established a “new” Board called the Tribal Grievance Board. With the reorganization of Tribal Government, Title 19 (Housing), Title 31 (Calvin McGhee Cultural Authority), and Title 48 (Recreation Authority) were repealed. With these Titles repealed, the three associated Board of Directors were converted to advisory committees. The Tribal Grievance Board was created to address the grievances previously handled by these specific Board of Directors for Housing, Cultural, Recreation, and include grievances from other program areas within Tribal Government.



Seated, left to right are: Charlotte Meckel, Kathy Ward, April Sue Dortch, Cornelia Miller. Standing, left to right are: Lonell Peacock, Shawn Rolin, Randy Martin, John Kelley. Not

Pictured: Kimberly Bragg.

The Tribal Grievance Board is delegated by Tribal Council with the duties and responsibilities “to provide a method for the redress of grievances related to or arising from policy concerns or alleged violations”. The Board is currently drafting bylaws to govern day-to-day operations and policies and procedures to hear grievances from Tribal members and other program

applicants arising from denials, policy concerns, or alleged violations of Program services. The Board is comprised of seven (7) members and two (2) alternates appointed by Tribal Council as follows:

3 year term

Cornelia Miller, Chair
Randy Martin
Kathy Ward

2 year term

Lonell Peacock, Vice Chair
Shawn Rolin

3 year term

Charlotte Meckel, Sec/Tres
April Sue Dortch

Alternates

Kimberly Bragg
John O. Kelley

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

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

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Poarch Creek Tribal Historic Preservation Office has relocated. After two years in the Public Works Building, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office has been relocated to Highway 21, adjacent to the Cultural Department Offices, in what was formerly the Poarch Creek Tribal Council Office Complex.

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Robert Thrower said: "We began the process of site preparation and physical moving the last week of January. While there are still modifications to be made, I am excited about moving into this new location, which will offer more functional space and storage capabilities for the Historic Preservation Office."

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Public Works Director Kent McGhee and his staff for all the professional and personal support that they have given me in the last two years. While I am excited about acquiring this new office space, I will certainly miss seeing all of them on a regular basis."

Thrower adds, "Now the office is located beside the Cultural Department, in the area formally occupied by 'Cherokee Industries'. This location has a far deeper personal meaning to me in that this office space was the home of, and was especially designed

for, my late mother's (Gale Thrower) educational center then called 'Wilderness Wisdom.' After all these years, a full circle has been completed by relocating Historic Preservation to this site. I am very grateful and honored to be here. There is a deeper connection with the past for me here at this current location. It's a new, but familiar, home."

On March 31, and April 1, 2016, the Alabama Writer's Symposium will be held at the Alabama Southern Community College in Monroeville, Alabama.

For this year's annual event, the Poarch Creek Indians have been asked to install an art exhibit at the community college which features some of the visual arts of our Tribal artists. This work will be on display during the Alabama Writer's Symposium and will remain on display at the college for two weeks.

If you would like participate and display some of your work there, please contact one of the following: Margaret Baggett, Traditional Arts Demonstrator at 251-368-9136, ext. 2648; Jonathan Martin, Traditional Arts Assistant at 251-368-9136, ext. 2537; Carole Henderson, Seamstress at 251-368-9136, ext. 2686; or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Robert Thrower at 251-253-5620.

All artwork submitted for this show must be from certified artists of the Tribe. If you want to participate, but have not yet been certified, please contact any of the above referenced individuals for further details.

For anyone who may be interested in attending the Alabama Writer's Symposium, visit the website: www.writerssymposium.org



TRIBAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

2015 LEGAL UPDATE CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE COUNCIL ON TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

During December 2015, Board members from the Tribal Regulatory Commission and staff from the Tribal Employment Rights Office, Tribal Regulatory Division, and Legal Department traveled to Las Vegas, NV to attend the annual Legal Update conference hosted by the Council on Employment Rights (CTER).

The Tribe has been a member of the CTER organization for approximately 7 years. CTER was founded in 1977 and is acknowledged as a premier leader in the field of tribal employment rights. CTER is known for outstanding community service work and national achievements in the field of employment rights and its cultural diversity programs.

Ms. Theresa Lujan, Director of the Indian and Native American Employment Rights Program with the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) of the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), is pictured with the Tribal group. Ms. Lujan is the Tribe's



Pictured Above From Left to Right are: William "Joey" Selzer, Erica Klinger, Carolyn M. White, Theresa Lujan, Valerie Taylor, Charlotte Meckel, and Wesley Manning. Not pictured is Cornelia Miller.

contact as it pertains to consultation sessions on the laws and regulations enforced by OFCCP and as it relates to federal contractors and subcontractors working on or near Indian reservations and tribal lands. At each annual CTER Legal Update, Ms. Lujan provides valuable information regarding tribal employment rights, Indian Preference, individuals with disabilities, and protected veterans.

An article will be published in the April newsletter introducing all the members of the Tribal Regulatory Commission. If you have questions about the activities of the Tribal Regulatory Commission, contact Carolyn M. White, Tribal Regulatory Division Director, at (251) 368-9136 Ext. 2066.



www.facebook.com/groups/PoarchCreekSpecialNeedsAutismAndLDGroup/

www.autismspeaks.org/

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

Visit *Autism Speaks* at www.autismspeaks.org for more information on autism.

TRIBAL MEMBER SERVICES DIVISION

Martha Gookin, Division Director

FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF TRIBAL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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

REMAINING DISTRIBUTION DATES: Tuesday - Thursday March 1, 2, 3

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR ALL APPLICANTS

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

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

Please be aware of household income adjustments.

LIHEAP applicants must meet listed income guidelines to qualify.

2016 PER CAPITA TOTAL = \$24,315.56

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

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

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

Remaining 2016 Winter LIHEAP dates and times.

DAY	DATE	TIME	PRIORITY SCHEDULE
Tuesday	March 1, 2016	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	All types of households
Wednesday	March 2, 2016	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	All types of households
Thursday	March 3, 2016	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	All types of households

*2016 Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 19, 2016
10:00 am - 11:00 am
Pow Wow Grounds
Age: Birth - 12 years old
For Tribal Member Households only
Prizes! Prizes! Prizes!
Light refreshments will be served*



Contact Jennifer Reynolds , Family Services Clerk, at (251) 368-9136 x 2060 or jreynolds@pci-nsn.gov if you have any questions of need more information.



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HOUSING DEPARTMENT

MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

The Housing Department will be accepting sealed bids on the following mobile homes located at Heritage Park, 10802 Highway 31, Atmore, AL 36502:

- Lot #13 One (1) two (2) bedroom mobile home

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- This trailer is sold “*as-is, where-is.*” Housing is not responsible for transportation, set up, or repairs of trailers being sold.
- All bids must be sealed.
- Minimum bid is \$3,000.00 .
- **NO FINANCING.** Payment must be made in full.
- You have *5 calendar days* after bid is awarded to submit payment.

- You have *16 calendar days* from date of payment to move mobile home from its current location or make arrangements with the property owner.
 - Failure to comply with the timeline will result in a refund, and bid will be awarded to the next highest bidder.
- Housing reserves the right to withdraw any trailer from the auction for good cause prior to the bids for the trailer being opened.

All bids are due in the Housing Department by *Tuesday, March 22, 2016 before 2:00 p.m.*

ALL BIDS MUST INCLUDE:

Tribal Member name, roll number, address, phone number, and bid amount. Envelope must list which item you are bidding on.

Contact the Housing Department at (251) 368-9136 x 2251 for more information.

HOUSING POSTER CONTEST

The PCI Housing wants to acknowledge the winners of the Safety Poster Contest.

K-3rd Grade

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1 st Place | Lance Presley |
| 2 nd Place | Toni Allison |

4th-6th Grade

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1 st Place | Alexus McGhee |
| 2 nd Place | Levi Presley |

7th-8th Grade No Entries

The 1st place winners will go on to be judged at the Regional 1 level which will be held at USET Impact Week Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Whoever wins 1st place at this level will go on to be judged at the National Level for a chance to win \$1,000.00.

The winning posters for the National Level will be announced at the 30th Annual AMERIND Risk Conference & Trade Fair.

Congratulations to our winners and we wish them the best of luck.



EMERGENCY REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS

The Emergency Rehabilitation Program is a non-payback Tribal wide program, funded by federal and discretionary funds. This program is designed to assist the elderly and/or disabled Tribal Member. The program is for emergencies that are an existing threat to health and/or safety of the resident.

In 2015 Housing had 101 applications for the Emergency Rehabilitation Program, 79 have been completed or in the process of being completed. Of those 79, 14 are out of the service area.

Some of the projects that have been completed are:

- Bathrooms made more accessible for the handicap resident
- Windows
- Ramps
- Roofs
- Electrical
- Heating and Air Conditioning
- Insulation
- Flooring

REHABILITATION PROGRAM

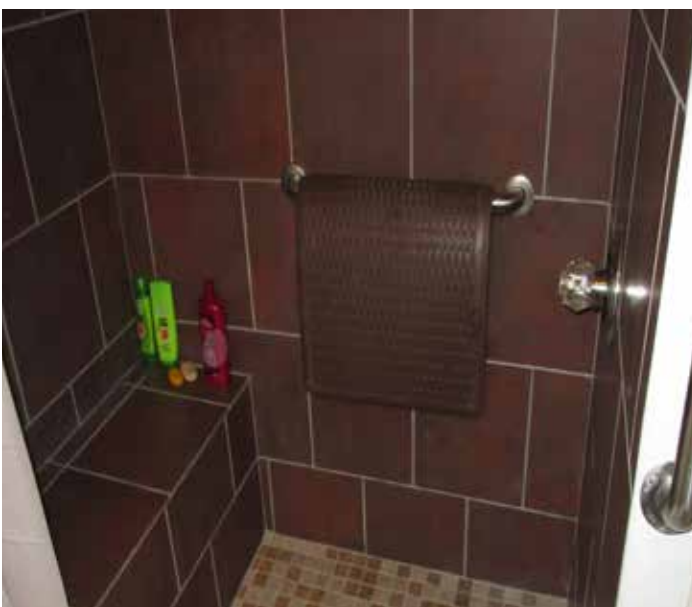
The Rehabilitation Program is a separate program from the Emergency Rehabilitation Program for the Elder and Disabled Persons. The Rehabilitation Program is a payback program funded by federal and discretionary funds and is only available within the seven (7) county service area. This program is designed to assist Tribal Members with replacement of items identified as a danger to life, health or safety of the tribal member or household.

RENOVATIONS PROGRAM

The Housing Department is currently working with ten (10) Tribal Members on renovation projects.

TAHO PROGRAM

Three Tribal Members, Timothy Wiggins, Darby Peavy, and Melanie Owens, were able to move into their new TAHO homes in January.



Shower updated through Emergency Rehabilitation Program



TAHO home completed, homeowner took possession January 2016

TRIBAL MEMBER BENEFITS DEPARTMENT

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UPDATED

In order for annual Tribal Member distributions and benefits to be processed accurately, Tribal Member Benefits must be informed of any changes you may have to your address, phone number, banking information, and/or other personal information.

Numerous newsletters and other Tribal correspondences have been returned by the Post Office marked 'undeliverable as addressed', 'insufficient address', 'unable to forward', etc.

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

TRIBAL UTILITIES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT

If your Utility company does not accept the debit/credit card, you may be eligible for reimbursement on a quarterly basis.

The following items are required:

1. Must first pay any and all other utility companies that will accept the Utility card
2. Rejection letter from the Utility Company
3. Detailed Utility Invoice showing service address
4. Proof of detailed receipt showing payment
(Payments must have been made after April 1, 2015.)

Application Received by
March 30th

Check will be mailed
April 30th

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

ELDER ENROLLMENT PACKETS

All Tribal Elders who are 55 or who will turn 55 in 2016 must return their Elder Enrollment packet to the Tribal Member Benefits Department.

If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Rackard, Elder Benefits Assistant, at (251)-368-9136, ext. 2501 or crackard@pci-nsn.gov.



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NON-DIVISIONAL DEPARTMENTS

IT DEPARTMENT

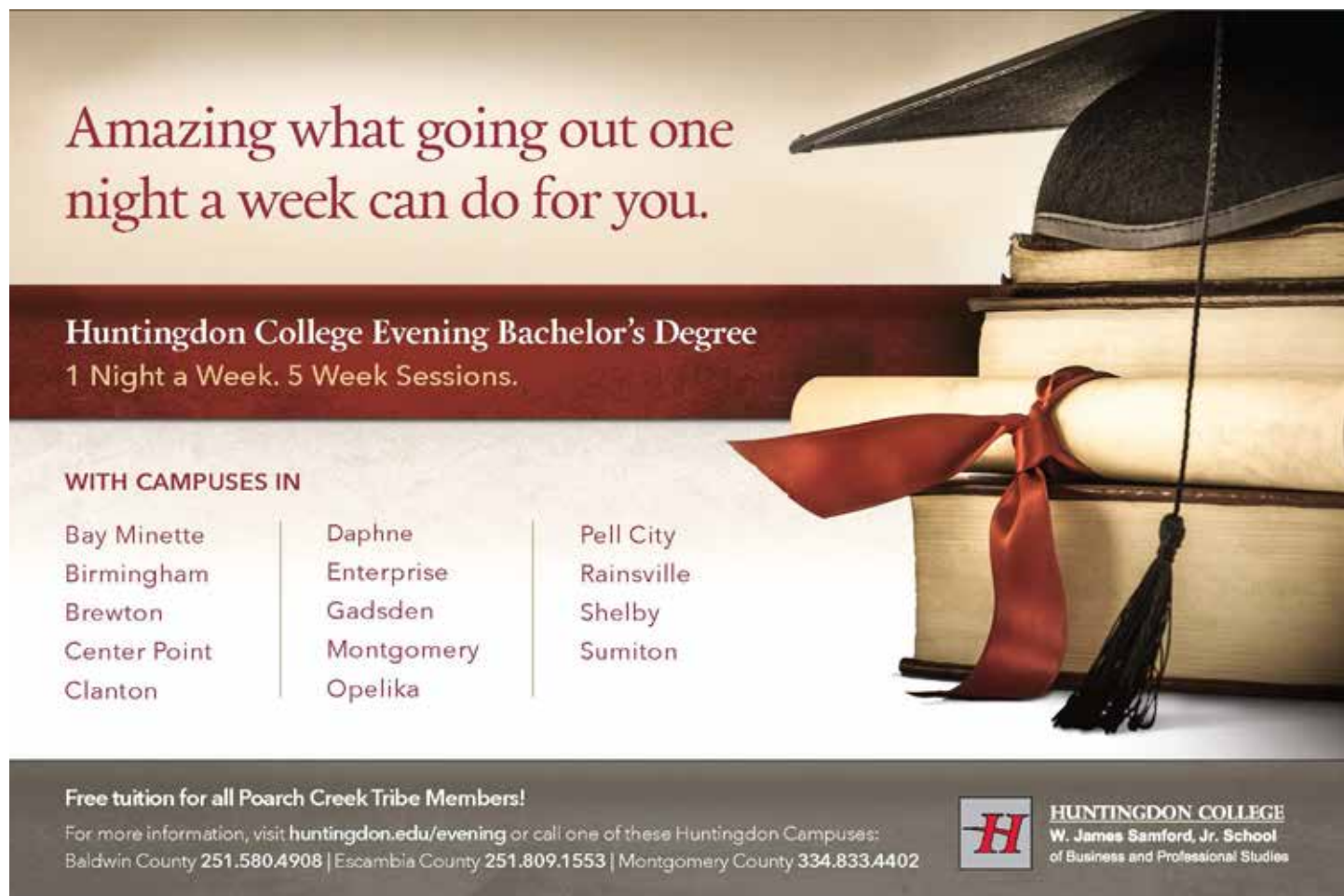
It has long been the request of Tribal Members to have the Tribal Council meetings streamed so that those unable to attend would be able to watch the Tribal Council meetings. As many of you know, the IT and Government Relations Departments have worked diligently to accommodate this request. After several flawed attempts, we think we now have the correct software and equipment in place.

From this point forward, you will be able to view the Tribal Council meetings live, or later at your convenience, in the Tribal Member Only Portal (TMOP) of the Tribe's web site.

The TMOP is accessible to Tribal Members only, 18 years old and older, utilizing their established username and password. Please contact Hannah Flowers, Government Relations Administrative Assistant, at (251) 368-9136 x 2003 or hflowers@pci-nsn.gov if you need assistance with your username and/or password.

If you have any questions about the information presented at any of the meetings, please email those questions or concerns to meetings@pci-nsn.gov.

Please know that the Executive Sessions of the Tribal Council meetings will not be streamed.



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

TRIBAL LITIGATION

Kelly et al. v. Poarch Band of Creek Indians et al. (State Court)

On March 21, 2013, Adrienne Kelly and Edward Gilbert filed a complaint against the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and PCI Gaming Authority d/b/a Creek Casino Montgomery (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Tribe”) in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Alabama. The Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control (“ABC”) Board, ABC Board Administrator H. Mac Gipson, and Elfago Ramos Ramirez were also named as defendants. The suit alleges that the Tribe furnished alcohol to a visibly intoxicated person, namely Elfago Ramos Ramirez, and that Mr. Ramirez caused an accident that injured Kelly and Gilbert.

On April 24, 2013, the Tribe filed a motion to dismiss the complaint arguing that the court lacked jurisdiction and that the Tribe enjoyed sovereign immunity. In response to the Tribe’s motion to dismiss, Kelly and Gilbert have argued that the Tribe waived sovereign immunity by purchasing insurance and applying for a license from the ABC Board. On July 22, 2013, the Tribe’s motion to dismiss was denied.

On September 3, 2013, the Tribe filed a mandamus petition with the Alabama Supreme Court asking that the Alabama Supreme Court order the circuit court judge to dismiss the case on the basis of sovereign immunity and lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Kelly and Gilbert responded to the Tribe’s mandamus petition, and the Tribe submitted a reply brief on November 15, 2013. The circuit court judge stayed the case in circuit court pending the outcome of the mandamus petition.

On May 23, 2014, the Alabama Supreme Court denied the Tribe’s petition for mandamus, and Chief Justice Roy Moore issued a special concurring opinion. Litigation resumed in the circuit court case.

The Tribe filed a motion for summary judgment on July 20, 2015. The Plaintiffs filed an objection and a brief in opposition to the Tribe’s motion in September of 2015. The court denied the motion for summary judgment on September 24, 2015.

Also on September 24th, the court denied the Tribe’s motion to sever claims against Ramirez but granted the Tribe’s motion to sever claims against Gipson and the ABC Board. The claims against Gipson and the ABC Board will now be heard separately.

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

On May 26, 2015, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians (“Tribe”) filed a complaint against Escambia County, Alabama Tax Assessor Jim Hildreth in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama. The Tribe’s complaint requests that the court declare that the lands are not within the Escambia County Tax Assessor’s taxing jurisdiction and asks the court to issue a preliminary and permanent injunction to prevent him from taxing the Tribe’s trust property in the future.

Hildreth filed his brief in opposition to the motion for preliminary injunction on June 16, 2015. The Court granted a preliminary injunction in favor of the Tribe on July 22, 2015.

Hildreth appealed this order to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals on July 28th. The parties have submitted briefs on this issue. The United States filed a brief supporting the Tribe’s position on October 28, 2015. Hildreth filed a reply brief on November 16th. The Eleventh Circuit will hear oral arguments in April of 2016.

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

an Indian tribe and not entitled to any of the rights and privileges, (b) declare that any federal trust established for the Tribe's benefit is void, (c) declare that the lands are not "Indian country", (d) declare that the Tribe does not have sovereign immunity, and (e) order the Tribe to pay his attorney fees. On or about August 4, 2015, Hildreth amended his answer and counterclaim to add the Tribal Council in their official capacity, the United States of America, and various federal officials, departments, and agencies as defendants.

Both the Tribal defendants and federal defendants submitted Motions to Dismiss on November 2, 2015. Hildreth filed a response to the motion to dismiss on November 25th. Arguments on the motions to dismiss were heard in the United States District Court on December 22, 2015.

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

Hebert v. Bryan et al. (Tribal Court)

On July 23, 2015, Tribal Members Elizabeth Hebert and Gail Veasey filed a Petition in Tribal Court against eight current Tribal Council members, namely, Stephanie Bryan, Robert McGhee, Arthur Mothershed, David Gehman, Sandy Hollinger, Garvis Sells, Kevin McGhee, and Eddie Tullis and one former member, namely, Buford Rolin (hereinafter collectively referred

to as "Tribal Council Members"). Hebert and Veasey requested the Court to compel the Tribal Council to take action with regards to pending disenrollment proceedings. An amended petition was filed on July 31, 2015, in order to add Keith Martin, another current Tribal Council Member, as a respondent.

Hebert and Veasey filed additional amendments on August 11th and 12th.

On September 22, 2015, the Tribal Council Members filed a motion to dismiss. That motion is still pending.

TRIBAL LEGISLATION

As always, to promote dissemination and public access to Tribal laws, Tribal Member public viewing is available during office hours at the Tribal Chairman's Office, Tribal Council Office, Tribal Court, Education Department, and the Office of Archives and Records Management. The Tribal Code is also available online, 24 hours a day, by clicking on the links found on the Tribe's website, www.pci-nsn.gov. Also full copies of any Titles or amended legislation may be obtained by contacting the Office of Archives and Records Management at (251) 446-4540.

Lynn Woodcock to send a different ad



The Office of Archives and Records Management at the Poarch Band of Creek Indians invites you to an



Rev Edgar Van Edwards

Ms Roberta McGhee Sells

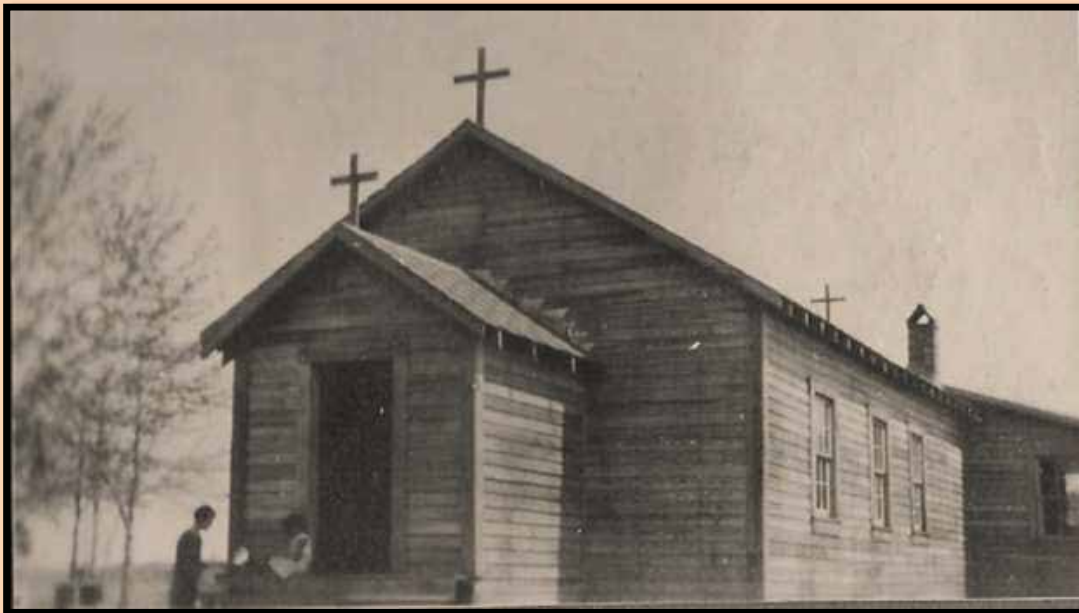
Ms. Anna Macy

Chief Fred Walker

EVENING WITH THE ELDERS

Featuring Poarch Creek Indians' relationship to the founding of

SAINT ANNA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



In the 1930s, Rev. Edwards wrote, "The Indians are having ice cream parties to raise money for painting the Church."

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Old Family Services Auditorium—Bldg. 500

Everyone is invited. Dinner will be served.

Join us to experience the history of Saint Anna's through the eyes of parishioners and church leaders, and recordings by Dr. Paredes, digitized by the University of Florida.

You are invited to bring memorabilia and share your church stories with us.

Contact Ms. Ellen O'Barr: 446-4941; Ms. Wendy Phillips-Cox: 446-4942; Dr. Dees: 446-4940

Tribal Member Ida Gibson Garcia passed away March 1, 2015. Her name was erroneously omitted from the list of deceased Tribal Members published in the February issue of the newsletter. Tribal Member Benefits and Tribal Enrollment apologize for the omission and any confusion it may have caused.

TRIBAL FINANCE DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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TRIBAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

The new year has been challenging yet successful for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Utilities Authority. The Canoe Water acquisition has generated new undertakings for Utility employees but the transition has been effective through hard work and dedication. At this time, there have not been any major issues with the system infrastructure, but we have been proactive in initiating essential system upgrades that are ongoing and some that will begin soon.

We have been working diligently to resolve any questions or concerns regarding customer accounts and utilizing the Easy Bill program to operate and manage the billing cycle. The residences of Canoe that we have had the privilege to interact with seem to be excited about the transfer and look forward to being part of our system.

Escambia Community Utilities hosted a community meeting on January 25, 2016 in the Escambia Academy Auditorium to address any inquiries of the Canoe residents. We will continue to strive at providing the most efficient services to our new, as well as our existing, valuable customers.

The Utilities Authority is excited about current on-going and upcoming utility projects for 2016.

We are currently working on the Expanded Metal Project, the East Well UV Project, and the Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Project (DWIG). The DWIG Project bid advertisement was advertised in the Tri-City Ledger, Mobile Press Register, and the Birmingham Press for 4 weeks to seek professional services for design. We have received a lot of interest from multiple firms regarding this project. The Expanded Metal and East Well UV Projects are under construction and both should be complete in the coming months.

PCI Utilities is honored to be nominated by Indian Health Service for the Global Water Company of the Year Award. To be considered for this prestigious worldwide award amongst the top International water companies is a privilege. Whether awarded such an esteemed accolade or not, PCI Utilities is grateful to be recognized in such a manner.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about any of our services, please contact our office at 251-446-1617 Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. excluding holidays, and we will be glad to assist you.

APPLICATIONS FOR SERVICE

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

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





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

CIEDA SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority offers valuable business assistance to Tribal Members seeking small business loans. Getting your loan request approved depends on how well you represent yourself, your business and your financial needs.

The lending limit may extend up to \$100,000 in aggregate to any Tribal Member.

All loans exceeding \$50,000 must be approved by the CIEDA Board of Directors. Additional credit criteria as well as loan collateralization requirements apply.

If you are a Tribal Member who owns a business or is considering starting a business and are interested in obtaining a small business loan, you may request additional information

or schedule and appointment by calling or emailing the CIEDA offices at 251-368-081. Please ask for Ed Powell, Business Development Analyst, (epowell@pcicie.com) or Chad Klinck, CIEDA CFO (cklinck@pcicie.com).

THE ANATOMY OF A CAMPFIRE

Magnolia Branch
Wildlife Reserve

Not all campfires are alike. First and foremost, always consider safety before arranging and lighting a fire. According to the latest study from 2011, someone is injured every 30 minutes by fire.

It's winter season, and for many, that means ample opportunity to build a bonfire in the back yard or at a campsite, such as Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve.

At Magnolia Branch, most campsites have a fire ring area where campers can keep warm, roast marshmallows and even cook over an open fire. Be sure to check with management at the campground if you are bringing your own firewood tinder. There are plenty of twigs, pine cones and sticks around the park to use as kindling, but be sure to put out your fire safely as well.

"Never build a fire you can't control," General Manager of Magnolia Branch Billy Smith said. "Always remember

Always practice fire safety

Types of campfires



Tee Pee



Lean To



Log Cabin

Fire

4

Ignite the flames with matches or a BBQ lighter

Firewood

3

Large pieces of wood. The frame that makes a great campfire burn for hours

2

Kindling

Usually twigs, small branches or pieces of wood to keep the fire going

Tinder

1

Small, easily combustible items, such as leaves, cardboard, wood shavings, dryer lint, paper, etc. used to initially start the fire

See FIRE, next page

FIRE, continued from previous page

that the unexpected can happen and that fires can spread very rapidly. Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of emergencies.”

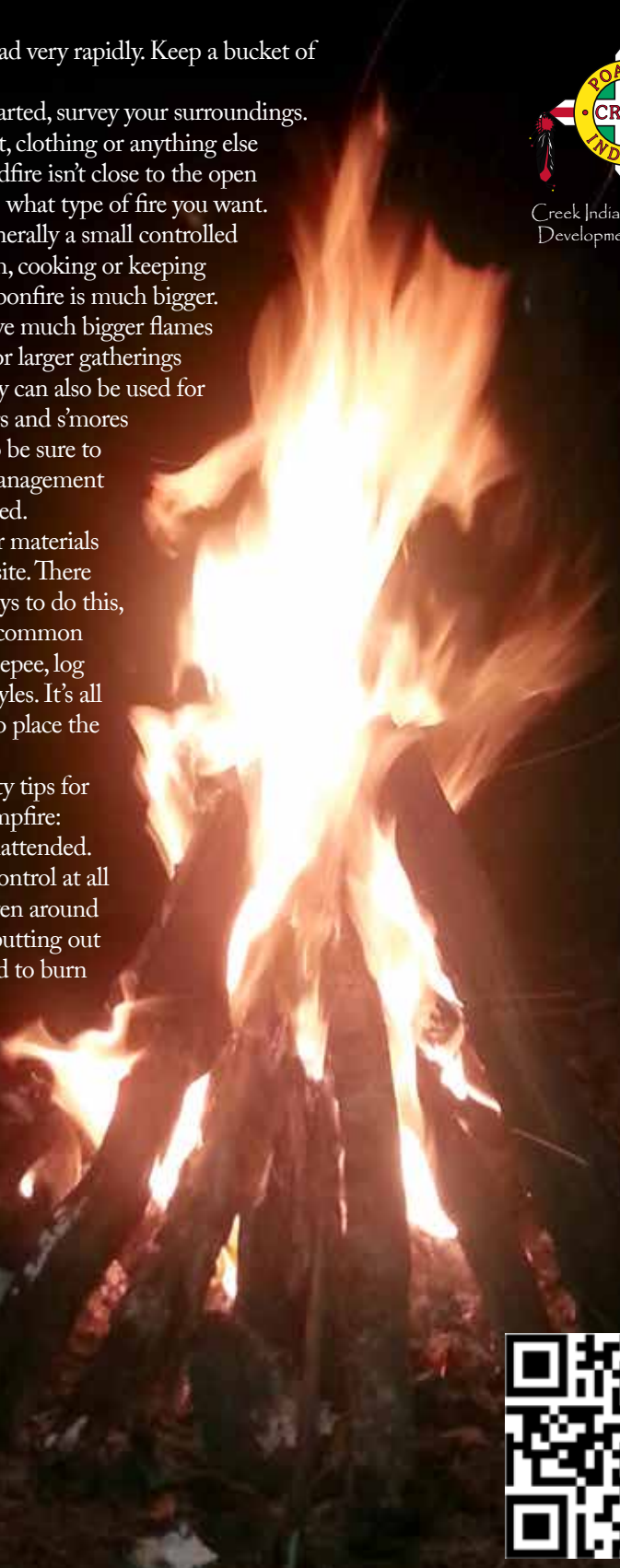


Before getting started, survey your surroundings. Make sure your tent, clothing or anything else that can cause a wildfire isn't close to the open flames. Then decide what type of fire you want.

A campfire is generally a small controlled fire used for warmth, cooking or keeping insects away. But a bonfire is much bigger. Bonfires usually have much bigger flames and are used a lot for larger gatherings or celebrations. They can also be used for cooking — hot dogs and s'mores come to mind. Also be sure to ask campground management if bonfires are allowed.

Next, gather your materials and assemble your site. There are a plethora of ways to do this, but the three most common arrangements are teepee, log cabin and lean to styles. It's all in how you prefer to place the firewood or logs.

A few other safety tips for enjoying a good campfire: never leave a fire unattended. You want to be in control at all times. Watch children around the fire, and when putting out fires, allow the wood to burn completely to ash if possible. Do not just bury the fire, as it can smolder and restart.



**Magnolia Branch
Wildlife Reserve**

By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

FUEL



CCS ATMORE

GRADES



Why buying premium gas
helps your car engine roar



Modern engines,
with electronic sensors
and controls, are very
good at preventing
pinging/knocking with
lower-octane gas but
performance is lost

High-octane fuel
is specified when
designers want
to achieve better
acceleration and
power output

Some cars with high
compression engines,
such as sports cars and
certain luxury cars, need
mid-grade or premium
gasoline to prevent
knocking



By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

6 reasons to choose Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka

It's 6 p.m. and you realize you are out of coffee, cigarettes and bread. You really aren't in the mood to tackle the Wal-Mart crowd, but you need to pick up a few things. Think quick: where's the most convenient place that has what you need right now?

Most often, the quickest choice is the convenient store. Now there are many convenient stores to choose from, so why do you choose to go to one over the other?

Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka (CCSW) has a niche in the convenience store/retail industry because it has more to offer than the average national brand store.

There are a variety of factors that run through consumers' minds, albeit unconsciously, because of personal preference and the most logical, convenient choice.

Here are a few things to consider about Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka and why many choose to stop here instead of across the street.



Location

Directly off Highway 231 on River Oaks Drive, CCSW is the perfect stop for all your convenience

items and fuel. Positioned directly across from Wind Creek Casino and Hotel, CCSW is beneficial to those visiting or staying at the casino.

If you forgot a few basic essentials or you just want a quick, cheap snack, Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka is just a few steps away from your hotel room at Wind Creek.

Safety

Thanks to the close proximity of CCSW to Wind Creek Wetumpka, the Tribal Police Department regularly patrols the property to keep things safe at the convenience store. With so much foot traffic between the casino and CCSW, the station also is very open and spacious, leaving very little places for criminals to hide. Officers are frequently visible on the property and report low crime activity.

Merchandise

Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka offers customers merchandise that is unique. Poarch Creek Indian logo items, such as T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and other souvenir items, offer a piece of local Indian history. Collegiate memorabilia also can be found at CCSW.

Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka now accepts Fuel Perks with the Fuel Rewards Network (FRN). This enables customers to earn points by spending a set amount of money in exchange for cents off a gallon of gas. Shell Oil Co., the brand of gas sold at CCSW, is one of the highest participants in the program and sees a high rate of loyal consumers using FRN.



By Jen Peake
CIEDA Marketing Specialist

Loyalty

You might have originally stopped at CCSW for a particular reason the first few times, but consumers are wired to become loyal to



certain brands over others. CCSW does a great job retaining loyal customers, both local and frequent travelers.

"I attribute this to my employees," General Manager Ellis Martin said. "They do a great job in customer service, talking with each customer about this and that, making each one feel important. They get to know people in the community and learn about their different lives, and I think that brings people back in, sometimes just to chat."

Low gas prices

With oil prices all over the place the past few years, one thing CCSW has successfully been able to offer is fuel at a competitive price. Occasionally the station will be lower than the other stations on Highway 231. This is partly because Creek Convenience Store Wetumpka sets its own gas prices. Most stations' fuel prices are set by the fuel company brands they sell or by the companies from which the oil is purchased.

Discount tobacco prices

CCSW offers tobacco products at a reduced price to customers. Because the store is on Indian land, this gives us a competitive edge in the tobacco industry. Many tobacco users choose CCSW because of the low prices. E-cigarettes are also sold for less. The multiple drive through lanes help serve customers who are in a hurry or just don't want to get out of the car to get cigarettes.

Rave Reviews



Hospitality is a competitive industry. Guest reviews often dictate where a traveler will stay, and the effects of online reviews can make or break a hotel chain. Having a good reputation is an asset no hotel can afford to lose.

Customer service is key to any business, and here at Muskogee Inn, it's no different. We strive to provide our guests with the best experience while they are away from home, and we embrace consumers' opinions in the form of online reviews.

Muskogee Inn ranks at the top of good reviews from various websites, such as Booking.com, TripAdvisor, Yelp and more. See what our customers are saying about us:



OSusanna8
Savannah, Georgia
1 review
1 helpful vote



"Trucker Friendly & Clean"

Reviewed October 22, 2013

I am a trucker and sometimes need to get out of my truck & relax. I found Muskogee Inn by Google search and chose it over the other local motels because they advertised as locally-owned. The place is clean and has spacious parking that is well-lit. I enjoyed my stay.

Statistics about hotel reviews and the role it plays on bookings

50 percent of consumers will not book a hotel that doesn't have reviews



HollyCO15
United States
2 reviews

"Affordable price with high quality!"

Reviewed October 25, 2015

Clean, large, comfortable, surprisingly modern and just as pictured rooms. Quiet location even though off main street with easy access to things. Friendly lady serving the desk lives on site. Continental breakfast is a bonus. We really lucked out ...



robbybrana
Asheville, North Carolina
Level 1 Contributor
4 reviews
5 helpful votes

Guests read 6-12 reviews before deciding where to stay

"Unexpected quality"

Reviewed May 27, 2015

We stopped late in the day and checked out the chain hotels at this exit ... at 11 p.m. they were asking \$140+ ... since we were only going to be in a room maybe 8 hours, we checked out the independent hotel. At \$80, it was almost half the price and seemed OK. It was better than OK! Extremely clean!

According to hotelnewsnow.com, higher reviews result in more bookings 3.9 times more than negative or no reviews



Pamela S.
Troy, AL
8 friends
16 reviews

★★★★★ 10/27/2015
1 check-in



Mark D.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
3 reviews
1 helpful vote



"Had a very enjoyable stay here!!!"

Reviewed March 2, 2015

Room was very clean!!!! Amazing bathroom and shower!!! Really super sweet and friendly staff!!! I had a great time visiting with the staff at the front desk. I very much enjoyed drinking coffee whenever I wanted and having free cookies to boot! Can't wait to come back and visit y'all again soon!

I was a little leary about staying here. I'm generally not someone who stays at an independent hotel. I was so impressed that I will stay here every time I come to Atmore!!! The team members were so friendly and helpful!!! Definitely recommend!!!!!!

By Jen Peake
CIEDA Marketing Specialist

DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS

Muskogee Technology gets opportunity to present to NASA contractors

Director of Marketing for Muskogee Technology Mal McGhee attended a Mobile Chamber of Commerce conference to learn about how Muskogee Technology (MT) could do more business with NASA.

MT already has built parts for the International Space Station in the past. Through this match-making conference, another opportunity was presented for Muskogee Technology. McGhee was invited to do a presentation for NASA and its top contractors, which include The Boeing Co., Lockheed Martin, Booz Allen Hamilton and many others.

"After attending this conference, we were invited by the Marshall Space Flight Center and Space Launch System to showcase our capabilities and what we have accomplished and can accomplish in the future if given the opportunity," McGhee said.

In 2008, Muskogee Technology secured a contract with Boeing and provided them with several parts to be installed on the International Space Station. Some parts included window hatch covers, fan seal flanges and ducts and are still in use in space today.

"The International Space Station was getting upgrades, and we were excited and honored to be able to supply Boeing with the parts it needed. It was a quick turnaround, and we made it happen," he said.

After McGhee presented to NASA's contractors in Huntsville, he is working to gain additional contracts for Muskogee Technology.

"This is the next step in getting more high-profile contracts and keeping Muskogee Technology competitive in the aerospace industry for years to come," he said.

McGhee highlighted the efforts it took to get an exclusive partnership with GKN Aerospace in 2014. He said it took almost two years of negotiations and started with just a meeting, then a proposal to do supply management.

"MT has the capabilities NASA is looking for, and we can develop a new niche of capabilities per the needs of the customers."



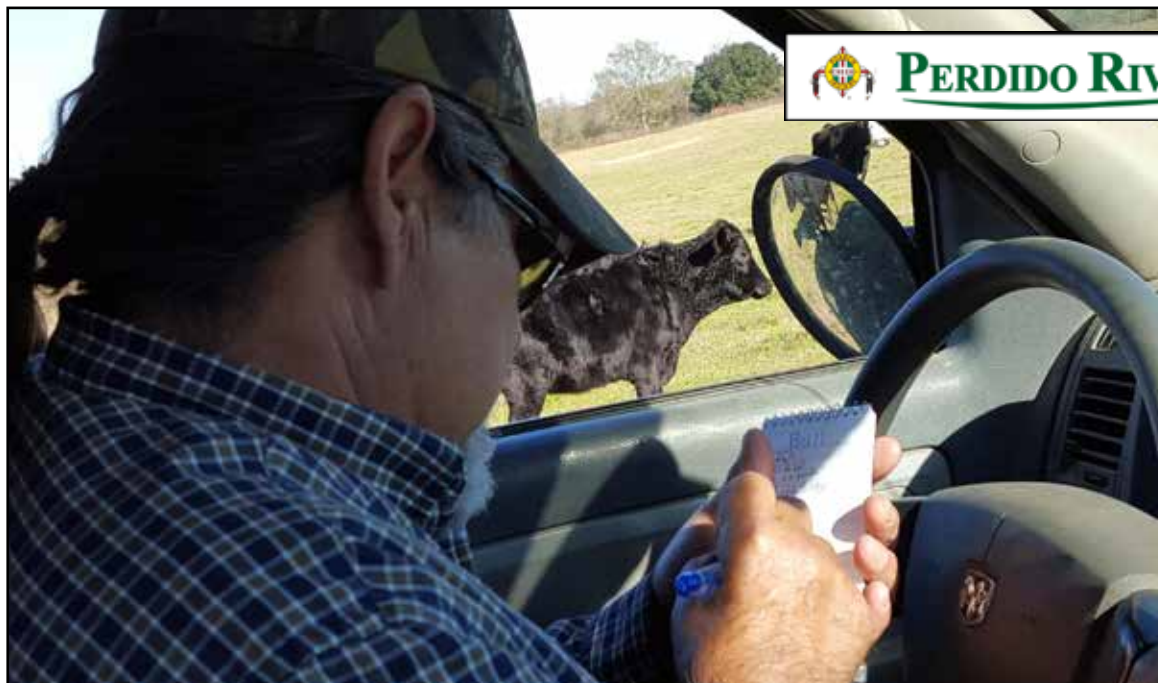
Hatch window cover



Duct



Fan Seal Flange



PERDIDO RIVER FARMS

Life on the farm

By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist

Riding around with Tribal Member Douglas Kelley, aka Poncho as he is more commonly known, and seeing him work at Perdido River Farms (PRF) gives an outsider the ability to appreciate what he does every day. Driving cautiously through a herd of bulls and cows, Poncho calmly stops and records the tag number of a bull. Later on, he points out a pregnant cow.

"We have the doc coming next week for preg checks," he said. "That one is about ready to drop hers."

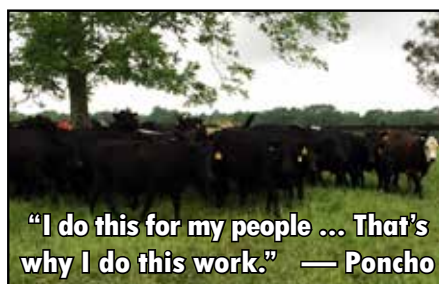
As he pulls up to a gate, he stops the truck and looks around. The cattle is moving ever so slightly toward the gate. Poncho gets out and unlocks it, just in time for the herd to stomp through.

"Opening the gate is always the hardest," he said with a chuckle. "They come in fast knowing they are heading to the green. Then I just make sure they all made it in before I shut it again."

For the past 12 years, Poncho has worked at PRF as a foreman/farm hand. He said life is never dull at the farm.

"From fixing fences, getting hay to the cattle, cutting hay in summer ... I'm always on the go," he said. "Winter gets here and things slow down but not really. We have to prep for the spring and summer."

Summertime is longer working hours, but Poncho said he doesn't mind.



"I do this for my people," Poncho said. "Back in the day, our people worked for the white folks in farming because we didn't have our own means of business. *Now, we own the farm*; we own a hotel, a truck stop, a wildlife reserve and other businesses. We can support ourselves now. That's why I do this work here. I give back to my people and take care of the elders who took care of me. It's a privilege to work for the Tribe."

Poncho said what he enjoys the most about working at PRF is the fact that every day is different.

"When you come through those gates, you know a brand new day has begun," he said. "It's exciting, and there is always something to do. If you want a job twiddling your thumbs, *this ain't it!*"

"It's hard work, but I love it," he said. "When the hay is right, you have to stay with it and get it up and cut by the time night comes. Keeping the cows in the pastures and making sure they are fed and

healthy is what keeps us busy."

Poncho said he likes the unpredictability each day brings.

"It keeps you on your toes. I like that."

Perdido River Farms occupies most of Poncho's time during the week, but he has another important role away from the farm.

"I serve as *Henebvu*, the second chief of Hvsossv Tallvhasse, which is our ceremonial grounds where we hold our stomp dance ceremonies. I started there in 1992. I have been called back to the farm during one of the dances to tend to a calf that had gotten loose. I had to fix another unforeseen occurrence. But that's all in a day's work," he said with a smile.

PRF has about 1,050 head of cattle.

"It's definitely an adventure caring for that many animals," Poncho said. "We have a good team here, and it just doesn't seem like work to me."

General Manager John English said he is proud to have Poncho as part of the team.

"He's the glue that keeps things together around here," English said. "He takes the lead on a lot of projects and helps out others when he sees they need a hand. Poncho's work ethic just amazes me. He's been a blessing to the farm and to the Tribe."



Mission: Helping people help the land

Vision: Productive soil, healthy land

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

Visit the NRCS web site www.al.nrcs.usda.gov to see updated news and information about services that may be helpful to you and your family.

Other sites that may be of interest to Tribal Members include:

Farm Service Agencies

www.fsa.usda.gov

www.fsa.usda.gov/al

www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill

USDA Rural Development

www.rurdev.usda.gov

www.rurdev.usa.gov/al

Alabama Forestry Commission

www.forestry.state.al.us

For more information contact:

David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison
5535 Poarch Road, Atmore, AL 36502
(251) 368-0826

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

Aldo Leopold

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

Sidney Sheldon



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March (Tasahcuce) 2016

SMART Recovery

Every Monday night @ 6:00 pm
Tribal Court Lobby

Parenting Skills

Every Wednesday @ 11:00 am
Tribal Court Activity Room
Open to TM & FG
RSVP/Lunch Provided

February 29, 2016 & March 1, 2016

Monday & Tuesday,
Museum gift shop closed for monthly inventory

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Last day to apply for Winter LIHEAP

Friday & Saturday, March 4-5, 2016

Swim Competition
Southeastern 8 & under
Championship & South Regionals

Saturday, March 5, 2016

Last day to register for Baseball & Softball Leagues

Monday, March 7, 2016

5:00 pm (CST)

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

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Evening with the Elders
Building 500 Auditorium 6:00 pm

Friday, March 11, 2016

Boys & Girls Club's annual Glow Run @ PCI Track
Late registration @ 5:30 pm
Run starts at 6:30 pm

Saturday, March 13, 2016

Daylight Savings Time
Spring forward!
Move clock forward 1 hour when you go to bed!

Monday, March 14, 2016

Summer Swim Team Registration Starts
And runs through May 13, 2016

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Escambia Co. AL schools close at 12 noon Boys & Girls Club will open at 11:30 am

Saturday, March 19, 2016

Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Pow Wow Grounds
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Deadline to submit bid for mobile home being sold by Housing

Friday, March 25, 2016

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

Saturday, March 26, 2016

Gym will be closed in observance of Good Friday

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

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

Thursday, March 31, 2016

Last day to submit Application for Tribal Enrollment Committee Vacancy.

Tribal Council Meetings

Thursday, March 3rd & 17th
Building 500 Auditorium 4:00 pm

Tribal Court Sessions

Monday, March 7th & 21st
Tribal Courtroom 9:00 am

Tribal Regulatory Commission Meetings

Tuesday, March 8th & 22nd
Building 500 Auditorium 8:00 am

Tribal Grievance Board

Tuesday, March 8th & 22rd
Building 500 Auditorium 1:00 pm

Calvin McGhee Cultural Advisory Committee

Monday, March 14th 4:00 pm
Cultural Building on Hwy 21

Education Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 9th 3:00 pm
Family Services Conference Room
Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic

Utility Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, March 17th 1:00 pm
Utilities Office

4H Club

Monday, March 14th and 28th Education Department 6:00 pm

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

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

Newsletter Contact Information

Poarch Creek News

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

Government Relations Department

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