

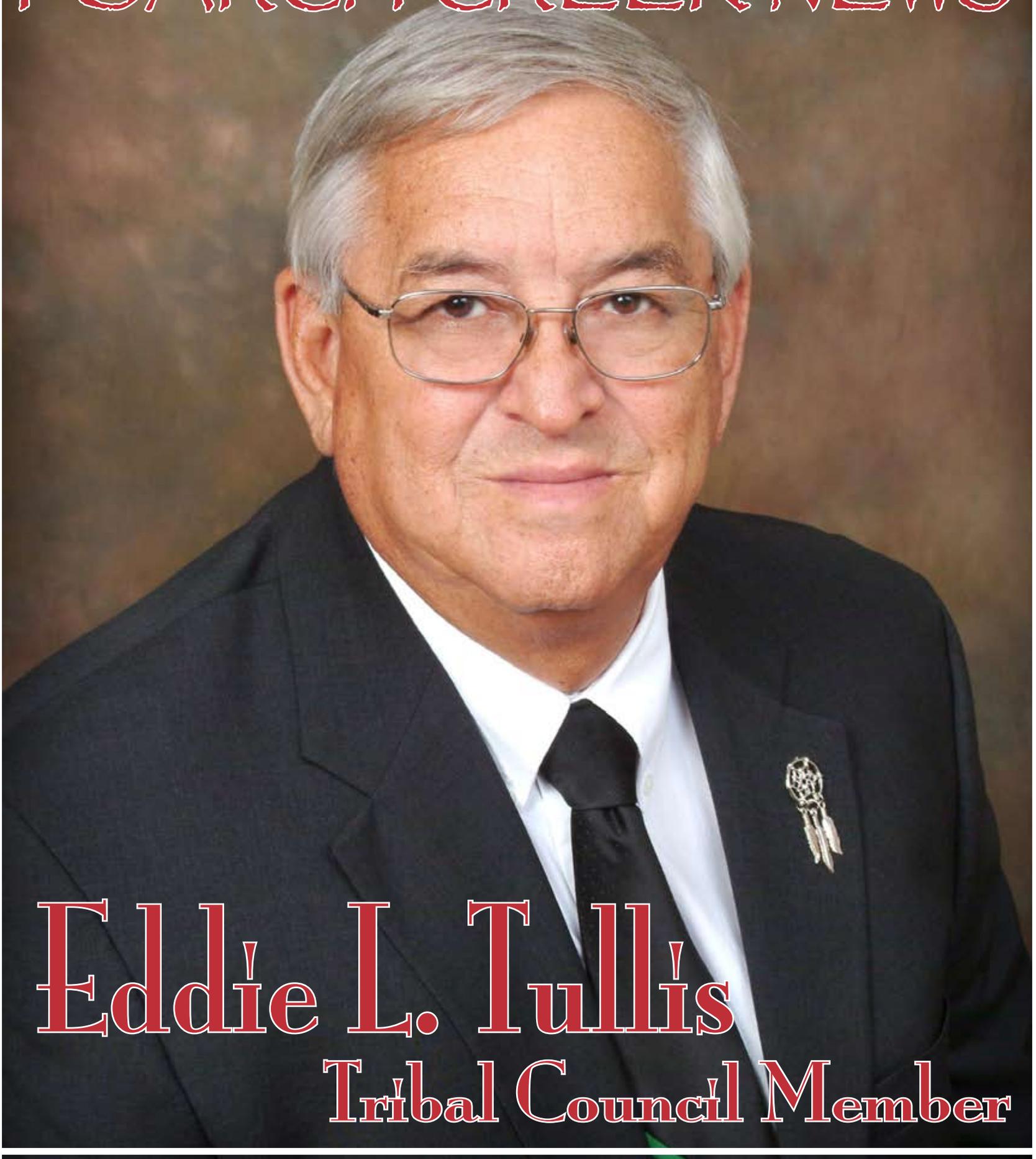
*Keeping the Family and Friends of Poarch Informed*

April 2008

[www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov)

VOLUME 25 • ISSUE 3

# POARCH CREEK NEWS



**Eddie L. Tullis**

**Tribal Council Member**

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### PUBLICATION/PRINTING SERVICES

The Poarch Creek News is printed and published by Huskey Printing, a Tribal Member owned business. Huskey Printing is owned by Christy O'Barr Huskey.

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## Community Relations Department Disbanded

By Gayle Johnson

As some of you may know, the Community Relations Department has been disbanded. Sharon Delmar, former Community Relations Director, has moved to Chairman's Office and now serves the Tribe as Public Relations Tribal Liaison. Suzanna Lambeth, has moved to Health Department and now serves as CHS Intake/Office Clerk. Mandy Peebles, Tribal Administration Events Coordinator, and Gayle Johnson, Media Specialist, are the only two staff members remaining in the department, and are now part of Tribal Administration.



Mandy Peebles (sitting) and Gayle Johnson (standing) are still here to assist you.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be in our new office in Building 600, the newly completed office building located next to the Family Service Department/Resource Center. Our phone numbers remain the same, so do not hesitate to give us a call at (251) 368-9136 ext 2205 (Mandy) or ext 2210 (Gayle) if we can be of assistance.



## New Deadlines for Tribal Newsletter

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

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

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



## Chairman's Corner April, 2008

I am happy to say that the Senate has voted to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act with a vote of 83 to 10. Although we had

full support of both Alabama Senators on the cloture vote (85-2), the vote that sends the bill to the floor, we had a split vote on the bill itself. I have spoken with the leadership in the House, including the Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D Cal), Speaker of the House, and she foresees a favorable vote on the bill by the end of March. I will keep you updated on the status of the bill.

On February 29<sup>th</sup>, I attended the One Year Anniversary Banquet for the Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council. It was an interesting night with entertainment and the swearing in of newly elected officers. Our youth have often voiced an interest in establishing a Tribal Youth Council and it is refreshing and promising to see that the steps have been taken to accomplish this goal. I congratulate and commend all of those involved. As Calvin McGhee once told me, "If we want to continue to grow, we must get the young people involved." The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow and must be educated on the ways of leadership.

I have traveled to Washington D.C. on separate occasions these past months to attend the NCAI Winter Session, the NIHB Quarterly Board Meeting, and to meet with George Skibine, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior, to discuss Secretarial Procedures. I also traveled to Atlanta, GA to attend the CDC Budget Summit, where I provided testimony on the 2009 healthcare budget, Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee, Special Diabetes Program for Indians, and funding.

The Jena Band of Choctaw Indians were on-site Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> to meet with CIE on various issues and to get an overview of our gaming status. As part of the tour, they were honored with a breakfast at the Creek Family Restaurant and taken on a tour of Creek Entertainment Center.

The Tribal Council hosted its third annual Legislative Reception in Montgomery on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Tribal representatives as well as representatives from the Atmore Chamber of Commerce, Escambia County Industrial Development Board, Leadership Atmore, and others met with members of the State Legislature to network, update, and inform state legislative representatives of the issues relating to the Tribe and our local community. As in the past, this event was a success.

In closing, I would again like to remind everyone that Tribal Elections are scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2008, and there are three seats to be filled. I encourage each of you to vote in Tribal Elections in June and national elections in November.

## 2008 Tribal Council Election Notice

Pursuant to Section 22-1-17 of the Tribal Election Procedures, notice is hereby given that the 2008 Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council Election shall be held on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at the Community Services Building (SAIL Center). Voting will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. There are three positions open on the Tribal Council for the 2008 election. Anyone wishing to be a candidate for this year's election must submit a written statement of candidacy with the Election Board no later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 8, 2008.

If a Tribal Member living in the service area (Mobile, Baldwin, Monroe, Escambia Counties in Alabama and Escambia County, Florida) has a legitimate reason for being unable to vote on Election Day, or during walk-in voting May 8, 2008 through June 3, 2008, he/she must submit a notarized statement reflecting such reason in order for an Absentee Ballot to be mailed to them. For your convenience, an Absentee Ballot Request for those living in the service area as well as an Absentee Ballot Request for those living outside the service area has been included in this issue and is posted on the Tribal website at [www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov). Please remember to submit a copy of your valid ID with your request as well.

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

### *Tribal Election Calendar*

#### ***Tuesday, April 8, 2008***

Deadline to submit Letter of Candidacy, biography, and picture for Tribal Council if name is to be Printed on the Official Ballot and printed in the May newsletter

#### ***Thursday, April 17, 2008***

Names of Candidates and any proposed Constitutional Amendments, Ordinances, and/or Resolutions will be posted

#### ***Thursday, May 8, 2008***

Last day to submit Letter of Candidacy for Tribal Council to be a Write-In on Ballot. Any additional Names of Candidates will be posted within ten days of submitting a Letter of Candidacy Walk-In Voting begins at 8:00 a.m.

#### ***Tuesday, May 27, 2008***

Last day to request that an Absentee Ballot be mailed out

#### ***Tuesday, June 3, 2008***

Walk-In voting ends at 5:00 p.m.

#### ***Friday, June 6, 2008***

Deadline to receive Absentee Ballots at 5:00 p.m.

#### ***Saturday, June 7, 2008***

2008 Tribal Election Day  
Community Services Building (SAIL Center)  
Voting from 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

# A Blast From the Past

Submitted by Gayle Johnson

In preparation for our move into our new office space, we discovered a gold mine. We have issues of the newsletter dating back to the first issue, Volume I, Number One. Starting with this issue, we will share some of the information in these newsletters. We hope that you will enjoy this gold mine!

Volume I, Number One

November, 1978

## What is S.A.I.L.?

Senior Activities for Independent Living! Our Creek SAIL Center opened its doors on June 19<sup>th</sup> in the new addition to the Creek Community Multipurpose Center. The Center is presently serving forty (40) Senior Creeks and expanding to serve fifty (50) when request are accepted.



The Creek SAIL Program is directed by Jeannie Ardis, who is ably assisted by Ms. Rentha McGhee and Ms. Roberta Sells.

## Title IV Conference

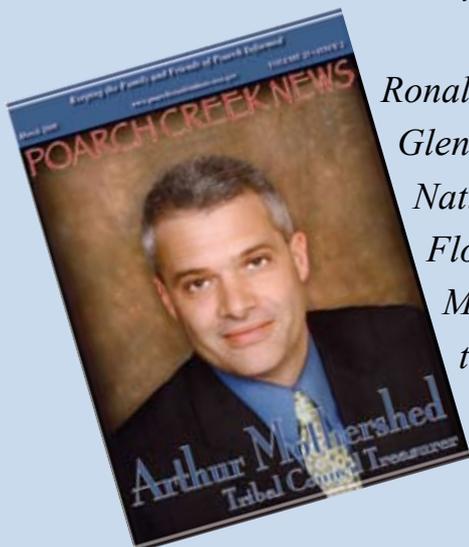


Lenna Rackard, Chairperson for Escambia County Title IV Indian Education

The Title IV Indian Education Conference was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on September 25-27, 1978 and was sponsored by the Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council through the Office of Indian Education. The theme was "We Learn for Our Children." The theme was excellent, as this is the goal that we are trying to achieve, so that our children may have a better education. ...

## Tribal Newsletter Used As Marketing Resource

Submitted by Billie McGhee



Ronald McGhee, son of Billie Jo and Glenn McGhee, recently completed a Native American Studies class at West Florida University. He also takes Marketing classes and took some of the Tribal Newsletters to class with him as a resource for his classes.

## Board/Committee Vacancy

The Tribal Council is currently accepting applications for one vacancy on the Utilities Authority.

Applications are also available from the Chairman's Office and online a

[www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](http://www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov).

Applications will be accepted from

8:00 a.m. Monday, April 1, 2008

through 5:00 p.m. Wednesday,

April 30, 2008.

Tribal Council Members welcome calls from applicants requesting

their support. Tribal Council

contact information is listed

on page 2.

## I Didn't Know That!

- A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
- A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

## 2008 USET Impact Week

By: Gayle Johnson

United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) is dedicated to promoting Indian leadership, improving the quality of life for American Indians, and protecting Indian rights and natural resources on tribal lands. Although its guiding principle is unity, USET plays a major role in the self-determination of all its member Tribes by working to improve the capabilities of Tribal governments. As part of this role the organization hosts two semi-annual meetings and Impact Week in Washington D.C. in February each year.

This year, as in years past, Tribal Council Members, designated staff, and other Tribal representatives traveled to Washington D.C. to attend USET Impact Week. During this week Tribal representatives met with members of Congress to address issues relevant to their Tribe and Indian Country as a whole.

Each USET Meeting begins with a Board of Directors Meeting to inform and update all tribal representatives before they break out into various sub-committee meetings. Buford L. Rolin, Tribal Chairman and Tribal Council Member Eddie L. Tullis represent the Tribe on the Board of Directors. At this meeting, Gregory Smith of Smith & Brown-Yazzie LLP., told us that the nation faces a 3% inflation rate, with an 8% medical inflation. The President's budget proposal includes eliminating funding for Johnson O'Malley and cuts for Road Maintenance, Tribal Court, EPA, Education, IHS, and Alcohol Abuse. Representatives from the Senate and the House of Representatives were also present and assured those present that Congress would take a strong stand on federal spending and hopefully the funding cuts would not be as drastic as those proposed by the President. Other issues addressed by the Board of Directors during Impact Week included National Indian Issues-NCAI, presented by Jackie Johnson, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians; Indian Housing Issues, presented by representatives of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National American Indian Housing Council; Bureau of Indian Affairs, presented by Carl J. Artman, Assistant Secretary, BIA, U.S. Department of Interior; Indian Gaming Issues, presented by representatives from the Nation Indian Gaming Commission and the National Indian Gaming Association; Indian Health Service and National Indian Health Issues, presented by representatives from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Indian Health Board; and BIA-Eastern Regional Issues, presented by Franklin Keel, Regional Director, Eastern Regional Office, BIA, U.S. Department of Interior. Each issue addressed by the Board of Directors was important to the Tribes of USET as well as Indian Country.

The Board of Directors were not the only committee addressing issues and concerns; the Culture and Heritage Committee addressed legislative issues relating to culture and heritage, the STB Section 106 review process for rail line abandonment, Forest Service updates, Tribal Historic Preservation Office programs, native initiatives, the Clean Water Act, and Native Sacred Places Protection. Robert Thrower, the Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, was elected as Chairman of this committee. Other sub-committees that met and addressed issues relating to Indian Country were the



During the Capitol Hill reception the Tribe's Close Up representatives spoke with Senator Dale Kildee (D-MI). Shown left to right are Kevin Andrews, Justin Stabler, Jon Dean, Eddie L. Tullis, Representative Kildee, Mallory Young, Edie Jackson, and Jessica Rolin.



A special called Tribal Council meeting was held on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Tribal Council Members Eddie Tullis, Robbie McGhee, and Keith Martin were still in Washington D.C. but were able to participate via modern technology. Pictured left to right are Keith Martin, Eddie L. Tullis, Tierney Lancaster, and Robbie McGhee

Commercial Law, Legislation & Economic Development Committee (Tribal representatives Robbie McGhee, who was elected as Chairman of the Committee, and Kathy Jowers), the Transportation Committee (Tribal representative Teresa "Shada" Thomas), the Tribal Administration Committee (Tribal representatives Edie Jackson and Jason Rackard), the Social Services Committee (Tribal representative Carolyn White), the Education Committee (Tribal representatives Sandra Hiebert and Daniel McGhee), the Health Committee (Tribal representative Candace Fayard), the Housing Committee (Tribal representatives Susan Wicker, Levan Martin, and Kevin Andrews), the Tribal Emergency Services Committee (due to scheduling conflicts, the applicable Tribal representatives were not able to attend), the Tribal Justice Committee (Tribal representative Keesha O'Barr), and the Natural Resources Committee (Tribal representatives Laura Cook and John English).

Tribal Council Members not directly affiliated with a specific committee attended the committee meetings of their choice plus networked with other Tribal leaders and Congressional representatives. On Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, USET hosted a Capitol Hill Reception where attendees met with such Congressional representatives as Congressmen Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Dale Kildee (D-MI), Nick Rahill (D-WV), and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL). Former Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell was also present. It was at this reception that I experienced the worse nightmare of a photographer. I had been taking pictures of all the events and some of the committee meetings so I took the camera with me when we went to Capitol Hill. Somewhere, somehow, a glitch occurred and I could not get the camera to take a picture without a lengthy delay. In trying to fix this problem, I accidentally deleted all of the pictures from the memory card. Needless to say, if someone had cut me at that time I would not have bled a drop! Edie Jackson helped me with the camera and we finally got it working again, but I had lost all of the pictures that I had taken and had to start all over.

Alex Alvarez, Cultural Educator, and Christyn Sells, Children's Services Coordinator, also traveled to Washington D.C. with the Tribe's Close Up representatives Mallory Young, Jon Dean, Justin Stabler, and Jessica Rolin. Close Up has been the nation's leading civic education provider since 1971; its mission is to educate, inspire, and empower individuals to become active leaders in their Tribe/community. This is a pivotal time in US history. With a Republican president and Democratic Congress, major Supreme Court cases, and presidential campaigns underway, DC is making history every day. By participating in Close Up, our youth were a part of the action!

The Close Up kids participated in the opening ceremonies on the first day by presenting the colors. Mallory Young presented the Poarch Creek flag and Justin Stabler presented the flag for another tribe that did not have Close Up representation. They also participated in workshops, made a presentation to USET delegates during the Gala Reception on Monday night, February 11<sup>th</sup>. They toured monuments, memorials, museums, and other historical locations. They visited Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress. They participated in cultural activities and attended the USET Gala Reception and the USET Capitol Hill Reception. This was truly a once in a lifetime experience for these young people.

## Attention:

**Tribal Member and 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Indian Youth  
in Grades 1<sup>st</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>**

Come join the PCI Education Department's

### Homework Club!

- **Who is eligible?**  
- Any tribal student who wishes to come and receive help with homework, research, projects etc.
- **What services are available?**  
- Tutoring, homework help, computer usage, math and reading practice, ALABAMA EXIT Exam practice and assistance with school projects etc..
- **Where is the Club held?**  
- The Homework Club will be held in the computer lab/classroom area of the PCI Education Department.
- **When does it meet?**  
- The Homework Club will be held every **Monday-Thursday** throughout the school year from **5:30-7:30 p.m.** Any eligible student may join at any time!

For more information, please contact **Christyn Sells-Children's Services Coordinator**@ (251)368-9136 ext.2244 or [csells@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov](mailto:csells@poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov)



Join us for the  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Poarch Creek Youth  
Fishing Rodeo**

**Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2008**

**6am-2pm**



**At the Tribe's very own  
Magnolia Wildlife Reserve**

**All supplies, bait, and meals for event will be provided**

**Open to all Tribal Members and 1<sup>st</sup> Generation  
Descendants**

**Age categories: 0-6, 7-12, and 13-17**

**Many prizes to give away! All participants are  
winners!**

**Join us Friday night for Family Campout Night**

**Fun, games, food, and entertainment for everyone!**

**Call Now to Sign Up! Space is Limited!**

**For more info, call Alex @ 251-368-9136 ext 2242**

## Tribal Youth Council

By Gayle Johnson

The Tribal Youth Council has reached its first anniversary. Officers elected were sworn in during the Tribal Youth Council One Year Anniversary Banquet. This banquet was attended by the Tribal Youth Council, their families, Tribal Council Members and other Tribal and community leaders. Tribal Youth Council members sworn in that night were: Chief-Curtis Hayes, Second Chief-Amanda Pierce, Speaker-Whitney Flurnoy, and Secretaries-Mallory Young and Jessica Rolin.

For years it has been the goal of our youth to establish a Tribal Youth Council; it is something that has been discussed and planned but never put into place. It is exciting to see that this goal has actually been met and look for great things from this group in the future. We say "Mvto!" to Alex Alvarez, Amber Lisenby, Sandra Hiebert, and the many others who have worked so hard to make this dream a reality.



Shown left to right bottom row are Thursa Griffey, Jami Andrews, Whitney Flurnoy (Speaker), Tarissa Daughtry, Megan Flurnoy, Mallory Young (Secretary), Amanda Pierce (Second Chief), Michael Hipa, Tamyrn Gorum, Nick Rolin, and Brent Lambeth. Top row, left to right are Cedo Coon, Dylan McGhee, Kaweta Coon, Curtis Hayes (Chief), Jessica Rolin (Secretary), Crystal Kelley, and Justin Stabler. Not shown are Jon Dean, Greg McGhee, Mallory McGhee, and Tori Rodriguez.



L-R Amber Lisenby, Alex Alvarez, and Brian Frejo, Guest Speaker. Mr. Frejo is a cultural activist, DJ, actor, and youth trainer. He also provided the entertainment for the night.



Amber Lisenby and Alex Alvarez present Eddie L. Tullis with a token of appreciation of his support, dedication, and hard work in developing the Tribal Youth Council



Tribal Chairman Buford L. Rolin addresses banquet attendees.

## American Indian Arts Council, Inc Scholarship Program

The application is available online at <http://www.americanindianartscouncil.org/>. The application states that the applicant must be of Native American heritage.

## Minority Nurse 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Program

The scholarship was created to help minority nurses complete their BSN degree. The details and the PDF file for the scholarship application are found at [http://www.minoritynurse.com/features/financial/12\\_21\\_07.html](http://www.minoritynurse.com/features/financial/12_21_07.html). This scholarship is available to tribal descendants that provide documentation of their tribal heritage. The applications are due June 15, 2008.

## Florida Fund for Minority Teachers

The applicant must be a Florida resident and meet the other eligibility requirements listed at <http://www.ffmt.org/scholarship.htm>. The award amount is \$4000.00 per year and can be renewed for an additional year.

## Native American Graduate Awards

Tribal students that need additional funding for graduate studies should apply to the following sources

- American Indian Graduate Program --- <http://www.aigc.com>
- Association on Indian Affairs--- <http://www.indian-affairs.org>
- American Indian Science and Engineering Society --- <http://www.aises.org>
- Catching the Dream---<http://www.catchingthedream.org>

## The AICPA Fellowship for Minority Doctoral Students

The \$12,000.00 awards can be renewed and are awarded annually to full-time minority accounting scholars who demonstrate significant potential to become accounting educators. <http://www.aicpa.org/members/div/career/mini/fmds.htm>

## Manning Receives Tribal Academic Achievement Bonus

Submitted by Sandra Hiebert



Lindsay Manning is the first recipient of the Tribal Academic Achievement Bonus for maintaining a 3.5 or higher GPA during her college career. Lindsey made the following statement

“I cannot begin to express my gratitude to the Poarch Creek Indians for their help in the funding of my education. The Tribal tuition program was enacted the year I graduated Florida State University and began working towards my graduate degree at Nova Southeastern to become a Physician Assistant. This program is extremely costly and without tribal help would have placed a tremendous financial burden upon my family. Because of this assistance, I was able to finish my degree with a minimal amount of education loans. In addition, upon completion of my masters, I was honored to receive the Tribal Academic Achievement Bonus for maintaining an A average throughout graduate school. I applaud not only the Education Committee, but also the entire Tribal Council for realizing the great need in this area and making educational dreams a reality.”

## Basket Making Class Was Big Success



Participants of the basket making class proudly display some of the finished products. Shown l-R are Lena Rackard, Lois Amos, Mary Smith (Teacher from Oklahoma) Catherine Sells, Megan Young, Pauline Parker, Denise Young, Mary Jane Tullis, Amber Lisenby with son Colby, and Rosaline Smith. Not shown are Gloria Fowler, Carolyn Peterson, Glenda Nelson, and Linda Rollin.



Shown above is the beginning of a sifter basket.

## Marshall Graduates Alabama Southern

Submitted by Brenda Helton



Tiffany Turberville Marshall will graduate from Alabama Southern in Monroeville, AL in May and has been accepted to attend Auburn University this fall. Her major will be undeclared Math and Science and plans to apply to Pharmacy School while at Auburn. Tiffany is the daughter of Tribal Member Brenda Helton and the granddaughter of Alex “Buster” Hollinger of Uria.

*Congratulations Tiffany, we are proud of you.*  
Momma, Mike, & Brandy



**E**ddie Leon Tullis, son of Florence and Volt Tullis, was raised in the Nokomis community, just south of Nokomis Antioch Church. When asked about a favorite childhood memory he said that he remembers walking to school.

The children in his community attended Nokomis Grammar School and walked to school every day. He can remember walking to school in the winter and hearing the “squish” and “crackle” of the ice that had frozen on the ground and created icicles that shoot up from the ground. Eddie says that he does not think weather is as severe now as it was back then and he wonders if there are kids anywhere who still walk to school. He also remembers that Nokomis Grammar School closed the year he completed the fifth grade and the students had to transfer to Davisville Grammar School. He can remember his first day at the new school. He saw a purse hanging on the wall and realized that it was the purse his sister had lost when she came to the school for orientation. He said that he was so elated that he had found his sister’s purse he couldn’t sit still; the Principal chastised him for his “squirring” and told him that he would have to wait until school was out before he talked to his sister. After completing grammar school he attended Ernest Ward High School. He remembers that even when he rode the school bus he still had to walk almost 3/4 a mile to catch the bus and then ride 16 miles to school; it was time consuming, it seemed that it took all day to get to and from school. While at Ernest Ward, he played football for four years; the school wanted him to play basketball, but he stated



Eddie Leon Tullis, Fifth Grade,  
Nokomis Grammar School

that he was to slow. He was tall and skinny, but he was just too slow for basketball!

When asked about three major accomplishments of his life, he said first and foremost was his family. He had a mother who was hardworking and encouraged her children to get an education and learn how to make a living. Another major accomplishment was meeting and marrying Mary Jane McGhee and raising four daughters on the family farm in Nokomis. Finally, he considers his involvement in the efforts of Calvin McGhee, Buford Rolin, Houston McGhee, and others to organize and lead the Poarch community from its meager existence to its rightful place and to impact the quality of life of the people of the community.

Who was the most influential person in Eddie’s life? Personally it was his mother because she was always involved in his life; professionally, it was Calvin McGhee. Seeing the dedication that Calvin had for members of this community, and the audacity he showed in his battle with the Escambia County School System to create the opportunity for better education for the children of the community made a lasting impact on him. He is proud to have been a small part of Calvin’s legacy and to be part of the group that worked to continue Calvin’s efforts.

Eddie first became involved in Tribal politics in 1964 at the urging of Calvin McGhee. Calvin approached him and asked him to volunteer some time to assist an elderly Council Member. The problems facing the Council were becoming more complex than the Council were able to understand and Calvin saw the need to get others involved. Eddie, Buford Rolin, and Dewey and Houston McGhee worked closely with the Council and assisted them with issues as needed. Eddie was appointed to the Council for the first time in 1964 and has served on the Tribal Council



Florence Tullis



The Tullis family, twenty years ago; Florence, seated, Eddie (left) Nettie Ruth (center) and Leroy (right)

since that time. He served as Treasurer for four years under the Chairmanship of Calvin McGhee. He was selected as Tribal Chairman in 1978 and served in the capacity until 2000.

How do the issues facing the Tribal Council today compare to those faced by previous Councils? Eddie stated that he has always said “You don’t have big problems until you have big money. We are to the point that we are having more complicated problems, not harder, just more complicated.” He also says that we are all family and it makes it hard to make the tough decisions and after a while it all gets personal.

Eddie is a full time Council Member and serves on the Cultural/Natural Resources Legislative Committee and the Housing/Community Activities Legislative Committee. Them Cultural/Natural Resources Legislative Committee has the responsibility of treating the natural resources of the Tribe as they should be. Mother Earth must sustain us for generations to come and we must leave our resources in better



Eddie participated in FFA during his high school years

condition than we found them.

Eddie stated that he is most passionate about raising the awareness of Tribal and community members that we cannot preserve if we do not understand change and opportunity and that we must never lose sight of the fact that we are an Indian Tribe.

When asked what would he be doing if he were not serving on the Council he stated that he would be doing something that would get his hands dirty. He loves farming, but could not afford to make a living at it. He worked at Chemstrand/Monsanto for 34 years; during that time he also worked at jobs such as hanging sheet rock in hopes of having enough money to run his farm. It took Mary Jane a long time to convince him that he just was not going to be able to make a living on the farm. He also loves to work on cars. He has always been proud of his automobiles, not because of how much they may have cost or what they looked like, but because **he** kept them running, he did his own mechanic work. He says that one of his most rewarding things to do is work in his shop; he loves to tinker on various gadgets.

In closing, Eddie sees the Tribe facing more exceedingly complicated challenges in the near future. He feels that we have greatly exceeded the understanding of where we are by Tribal Members. He feels we must have more involvement from the General Council and more commitment from Tribal leadership, because our government is for the people, by the people.



“I love to work on cars and other things that will get my hands dirty.”

## St. Anna's Delegates Journey to Minnesota Winter Talk

Submitted by Velma Amos



Velma Amos (left) and Helen Price (right)

From January 20<sup>th</sup> through January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 65 people visited Buffalo, Minnesota for Winter Talk XX. This is an annual gathering of Native American Episcopalians from around the United States and Canada, sponsored by the Native American Ministries of the Episcopal Church. There were 21 Tribes from 29 churches, 10 dioceses, and two Anglican providences represented. In attendance were many priests along with lay readers, elders, middle aged and young adults, and children enjoying the frigid Minnesota weather. Even with the temperature reaching below zero at times, it was warm inside and our hearts were filled with love. I had the pleasure of attending with my sister, Helen Price. My friendship was renewed by many close friends I met last year, and I got to meet many new friends this year.

The Diocese of Minnesota was in charge this year and did an excellent job. A Missioner, The Rev. Susan Moss, lead a discussion on Goals and Objectives. A goal is something you want to accomplish, objectives are the plans that help you accomplish your goals. Our goals were planned and thought out, and the objectives are what we do in our everyday life, which is to live out God's plan for us. That is what we Christians strive to do on a daily basis. Whether you are a teacher, someone who sweeps the floor, empties the garbage, a church leader, or priest, we do it because we love God and want to serve Him. My personal objective is to carry out my goals and ask God's help in everything I do. I listen and encourage and pray for others. I pray for their happiness and encourage them to be thankful for what they have. For many years I wanted to be in the Peace Corps and help people in Mexico and other countries. I did not realize then that I could help other people in other countries plus help people in the community close to home right from my own church.

Winter Talk was a wonderful experience again this year.

*Note: This article is a condensed version of the article submitted by Velma Amos. Due to space limitations, we could not publish the complete article.*

## UPDATE: Wind Creek Casino and Hotel – Atmore

Submitted by Lori Sawyer

Jim Angus reports that progress on the new Wind Creek Casino and Hotel – Atmore continues at a rapid pace. The back-of-house area is now completely enclosed and roofed and the interior walls are being constructed. Interior partitions are being framed, rough-in of electrical is following the framing, ductwork and sprinkler piping is roughed-in. The steel structure for the Casino is about 65% complete and the underfloor electrical duct is being installed.

The concrete frame for the hotel tower has now reached the 15<sup>th</sup> floor and the Contractor remains on schedule to “top-out” the building by the end of March. The walls for the hotel rooms on floors 2 thru 8 have been framed and the Contractor is proceeding to rough-in plumbing, electrical and ductwork. The glass curtainwall for the tower has started and mullions are in place on the North and West facades from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. The glass installation is scheduled to begin later this month and will continue to follow the concrete up the tower.



Hotel Tower with 15<sup>th</sup> Floor in Place



Steel Framing at  
the Casino with  
Walker Duct on the  
Floor



Back-of-House  
Exterior Walls with  
Windows

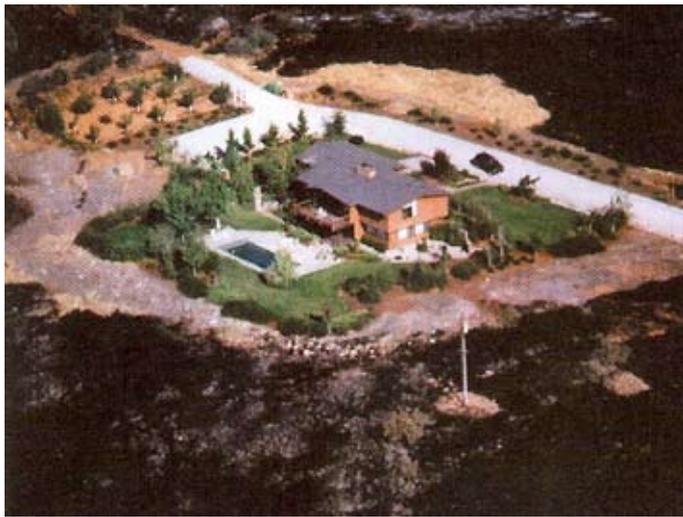
# LIVING WITH FIRE

## A Guide For Protecting A Home

Reprinted with permission of Alabama Forestry Commission

*The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) recently published "Living With Fire" a guide for protecting homes from wildfire. We will feature the Poarch Volunteer Fire Department later this year, but felt that we should provide this information to Tribal Members at the earliest possible date. We have contacted AFC and they have approved for us to re-produce this important and valuable information in our newsletter. Due to space limitations, we will publish a portion of the information each month. Per the AFC, this information is provided to help you (homeowners, firefighters, and the general public) identify numerous activities that will help you co-exist more safely with wildfire. For additional information or assistance, contact the Alabama Forestry Commission or your local fire department.*

**"When?" Not "If"** Dangerous fires do not only occur in the Western U.S., high fire activity is also common in the South. Within this hazardous environment, there are homes, subdivisions, and entire communities. However, many who live near woodlands or vegetated areas are ill prepared to survive an intense wildfire.



*The pre-fire implementation by this homeowner included a green and well maintained landscape, reduction of wild vegetation around the perimeter of the property, a fire-resistant roof, and a good access road with a turnaround area. As seen in this photo, these pre-fire activities were effective.*

**Act, Not React** Our ability to live more safely in this environment depends on "pre-fire" activities. Research shows by being proactive before a wildfire occurs, you have a better chance of saving lives and property from wildfire.

**What To Do** We cannot "fireproof" the forest, but we can:

- Manage the vegetation around homes to create defensible space for protection.
- Use fire resistant building materials when building new or improving homes.
- Help design new subdivisions using fire-safe measures
- Ensure coordination among all emergency response agencies to wildland fires.

# NAYO Baseball & Softball Registration

Who: Tribal Member and 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Boys & Girls  
Ages 9 – 18 (Must be of correct age by July 17, 2008)

What: 2008 NAYO Baseball/Softball Tournament

When: July 18 & 19, 2008

**Registration: May 1, 2008 through June 7, 2008**

**Applications are available at the Gym**

Where: Hollywood, Florida

If interested, contact the Wellness and Activities Center (Gym) at 251-368-9136 ext. 2256 or 2246. If you are interested in coaching one of the teams, please fill out a coach's application at the Gym. All coaches must have a background check through the Tribal Police Department before being able to coach.

## A NIGHT OF BASKETBALL



# An Introduction of the Tribal Police Department (Public Safety)

By Gayle Johnson & Larry Hammonds

*May is Law Enforcement Appreciation Month.*

*Did you know?*

*165 officers die in the line of duty annually*

*1 officer is killed every 54 hours*

*61,000 officers are assaulted annually*

*189 officers are assaulted every day*

*19,000 officers are injured in those assaults*

*2 officers are shot every day*

***Because They Serve, They Deserve!***

*Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, L.E.A.D., May 15, 2008, is an advocate for law enforcement officers by providing national recognition for their dedication and a showcase of their accomplishments.*

*Law enforcement officers place their lives on the line every day to protect the citizens of their community. L.E.A.D. allows citizens to acknowledge with gratitude the hard work, dedication, selflessness, and courage it takes to become and serve as a law enforcement officer.*

Although this is the April edition of the newsletter, we are providing the above information as an introduction to our article on the Tribal Police Department so that we will all know the importance of the dedication of the men and women who serve in law enforcement. Although L.E.A.D. is May 15th, we should thank and appreciate our local officers on a regular basis for we know not what we may have faced if not for their dedication and service.

The Tribal Police Department, which has a law enforcement agreement (aka cross deputization) with Escambia County, Alabama Sheriff's Department, the Wetumpka Police Department, and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, operates under the Special Law Enforcement Committee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). All Tribal Police Officers must be BIA and APOST Certified. Continuing education classes are required to ascertain that officers are abreast of all local, state, and federal law enforcements codes and regulations.

Larry Hammonds serves as the Tribe's Police Chief. Larry has been employed with the Tribe since 1987 and has served as Public Safety Officer and Corporal under former Chief of Police Stan Stuart. Larry assumed the position after Stan's resignation until he was hired into the position



*Police Chief Larry Hammonds*



*Lt. Rex Baggett pins the bars on Corporal Chris Rutherford*

in 2003. Larry supervises a large staff locally at Poarch and at the two gaming facilities, Riverside Entertainment Center in Wetumpka, and Tallapoosa Entertainment Center located in rural Montgomery County. The Tribe is also a member of the Central Alabama Drug Task Force; Chief Hammonds, Wetumpka Police Chief William Pertre, Elmore County Sheriff Bill Franklin, and Elmore County District Attorney R.H. Houston serve on the Central Alabama Drug Task Force Board.

Lt. Rex Baggett is in charge of investigations and special operations. Doyle "Butch" Lee is the Tribe's Investigator and works closely with Lt. Baggett on special projects. Paul Thomas is the Tribe's Probation Officer and works with the Tribal Police Department in conjunction with Tribal Court.

Lt. Darrell Ledkins has management responsibility for the Tribe's six patrol officers, who are immediately supervised by Cpl. Chris Rutherford, who is also the Tribe's Certified Firearms Instructor. The Tribal Police Officers assigned to patrol are responsible for patrolling the Reservation as well as checking all Tribal properties. They enforce all local, state, and federal codes and regulations, answer complaints and calls for assistance, serve civil papers, search warrants, answer



*Investigator Doyle "Butch" Lee with Dispatcher Melissa Kendrick*

complaints, serve as escorts for all money transactions, serves as security for Tribal Council meetings as well as other special events. Generally, Tribal Police Officers patrol on twelve hour shifts. During the day shift there is one officer on patrol, but Chief Hammonds, Lt. Baggett, and Investigator Lee are available for assistance as needed; on the night shift there are two officers on duty.

Cpl. William T. Rolin is the immediate supervisor for the seven Tribal Police Officers who are on special assignment to Creek Entertainment Center. These TPOs are assigned to this location for the safety and security of patrons and staff as well as protection of Tribal properties. Although these officers are assigned to Creek Entertainment Center, they maintain the same certifications and enforce the same rules and regulations as those detailed to patrol. These officers also work twelve hour shifts, with two officers on duty 24/7. Additional officers are assigned during the peak hours (6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.) Wednesday through Saturday.



*Butch Lee fingerprints Human Resources Executor Director Jason Rackard using the new AFIS machine*

Lt. David Killough has management responsibilities for the Tribal Police Officers assigned to Riverside Entertainment Center and Tallapoosa Entertainment Centers. As with the local officers, these officers must meet and maintain all BIA and APOST certifications and enforce all local, state, and federal codes, laws, and regulations.

Dispatch, which is the lifeline of the department, currently has four full-time Dispatchers and two part-time Dispatchers.

You can't do an article on the Tribal Police Department without mentioning two very important people, Melinda McCurdy, Secretary, and Connie Vickery, Administrative Assistant. Chief Hammonds says that these two ladies are vital to the success of the department.

Life in the Tribal Police Department is always challenging and ever changing. They are developing a Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) and will be fully prepared for any emergency situation with this special training and equipment. The department is initiating a fitness program and is preparing for the opening of the 2500 sq. ft. expansion at Riverside which is expected to be complete and open to the public by June.



*L-R are Police Chief Larry Hammonds, Lt. Darrell Ledkings, Tribal Police Officers Ronald Freeman and Roger Peebles, and Investigator. Not shown are Lt. Rex Baggett and Cpl. Chris Rutherford*

This expansion will include 500 additional gaming machines and the increased security and safety issue present a challenge that they are ready to undertake.

The Tribe is also proud to be the first Tribe to be identified as a federal agency with the Department of Justice. This allows the Tribe to utilize its new Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) in a agency to agency relationship. AFIS produces results in as little as 24 hours, whereas our manual system could take up to six months. Securing the AFIS hardware, software, and agency cooperation was a year long process, but the end result will prove to be more than beneficial to the Tribe.

In closing, Chief Hammonds would like to remind everyone that the Tribal Police are here to protect and serve. With summer coming, people will be taking to the highways for vacations and summer time fun; he reminds everyone to buckle-up, not only is it a safety issue, it is the law and it saves lives. He also encourages everyone not to drink and drive; if you must drink, have a designated driver or call someone to come pick you up. Tribal Police Officers will strongly enforce all traffic laws and rules, including driving while intoxicated. The Tribe also has a zero tolerance for drugs and will strongly enforce all applicable laws relating to the use, possession or sale of illegal/illicit drugs. He asks that parents do all they can to educate their children on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse; education and prevention is the best way to fight the battle against drug.



*L-R are Tribal Police Officers Wade Smith, , Steve Wyatt, Foster Anderson, Cpl. William T. Rolin, Tribal Police Officers Ricky Page and Christopher Sheffield.*

# Economic Stimulus Payment

By Gayle Johnson and Felecia Ardis

Starting in May, the Treasury will begin sending economic stimulus payments to more than 130 million households. To receive a payment, taxpayers must have a valid Social Security number, \$3,000 of income and file a 2007 federal tax return. IRS will take care of the rest. Eligible people will receive up to \$600 (\$1,200 for married couples), and parents will receive an additional \$300 for each eligible child younger than 17. *Millions of retirees, disabled veterans and low-wage workers who usually are exempt from filing a tax return must do so this year in order to receive a stimulus payment.*

The vast majority of Americans who qualify for an economic stimulus payment will not have to do anything other than file their 2007 individual income tax return to receive their payment this year. They will not have to complete applications, file any extra forms or call the Internal Revenue Service to request the payment, which is automatic. The IRS will determine eligibility, figure the amount and issue the payment.

Stimulus payments will be direct deposited for taxpayers selecting that option when filing their 2007 tax returns. Taxpayers who have already filed with direct deposit won't need to do anything else to receive the stimulus payment. For taxpayers who haven't filed their 2007 returns yet, the IRS reminds them that direct deposit is the fastest way to get both regular refunds and stimulus payments. The IRS will use the 2007 tax return to determine eligibility and calculate the basic amount of the payment. In most cases, the payment will equal the amount of tax liability on the return with a maximum amount of \$600 for individuals (\$1,200 for taxpayers who file a joint return) and a minimum of \$300 for individuals (\$600 for taxpayers who file a joint return).

Even those who have little or no tax liability may qualify for a minimum payment of \$300 (\$600 if filing a joint return) if their tax return reflects \$3,000 or more in qualifying income. *For the purpose of the stimulus payments, qualifying income consists of earned income such as wages and net self-employment income as well as Social Security or certain Railroad Retirement benefits and veterans' disability compensation, pension or survivors' benefits received from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2007. However, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) does not count as qualifying income for the stimulus payment.*

Low-income workers who have earned income above \$3,000 but do not have a regular filing requirement must file a 2007 tax return to receive the minimum stimulus payment. Similarly, Social Security recipients, certain Railroad retirees, and those who receive the veterans' benefits mentioned above must file a 2007 return in order to notify the IRS of their qualifying income.

The IRS emphasized that people with no filing requirement who turn in a tax return to qualify for the economic stimulus payment will not get a tax bill. People in this category will not owe money because of the stimulus payment.

Examples of how the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 may affect taxpayers are as follows:

- Single, without Qualifying Children
  - \* Individual with AGI \$35,000, federal income tax liability in excess of \$600  
Individual rebate of \$600
- Single, with Qualifying Children
  - \* Single parent with 2 children, AGI is \$22,000, federal income tax liability before child tax credit is \$395.  
Individual rebate is \$395  
Qualifying child credit is \$600  
Total is \$995
- Married with Children
  - \* Married couple with 2 children, AGI is \$35,000, federal income tax liability before child tax credit is \$1,070  
Rebate is \$1,070  
Qualifying child credit is \$600  
Total is \$1,670
- Married without Qualifying Children
  - \* Married couple with no children, AGI is \$25,000, federal tax liability is \$750.  
Rebate is \$750

If you have any questions about the Economic Stimulus Payment, do not hesitate to call Felecia Ardis, Internal Auditor, at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2505 or visit the Internal Revenue Service website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Felecia will also be able to help you with questions and concerns relating to the Tribe's tax assistance programs, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), for taxpayers under age 55 and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), for taxpayers over age 55.

## Do I Qualify for the 2008 Economic Stimulus Payment?



**If you have already filed your 2007 Federal Tax Return, DO NOTHING!**  
You will automatically receive the payment if you qualify.

**If you are required to file a 2007 Federal Tax Return, file as you normally would and you will automatically receive the payment if you qualify.**

**If you have no filing requirement or you don't normally file a Federal return, you will need to file this year in order to receive your payment if:**

- (a) You had at least \$3,000 of qualifying income. Qualifying income includes:
- Earned income (wages, salaries, tips, net self-employment)
  - Social Security (not SSI payments) and certain Railroad Retirement benefits, even if the income is not subject to federal income tax.
  - Veteran's benefits received in 2007, including disability compensation and pension or survivor's benefits.
  - Nontaxable combat pay if the taxpayer elects to include it as earned income for purposes of the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- (b) Qualifying income for this purpose does NOT include unemployment, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or unearned income such as interest, dividends and income from pensions and IRAs.

**Payments will begin going out in May, based on the taxpayers Social Security number. No payments will be issued after December 31, 2008.**

### How Much Will I Receive?

Max Basic Rebate (no children): 1.) Individual = \$600 or 2.) Married filing a joint return = \$1,200

Minimum Basic Rebate: 1.) Individual = \$300 or 2.) Married filing a joint return = \$600

Extra Money for a Qualifying Child: \$300 per child. To qualify the child must have been under the age of 17 on December 31, 2007, and qualifies for the Child Tax Credit on your Federal tax return.

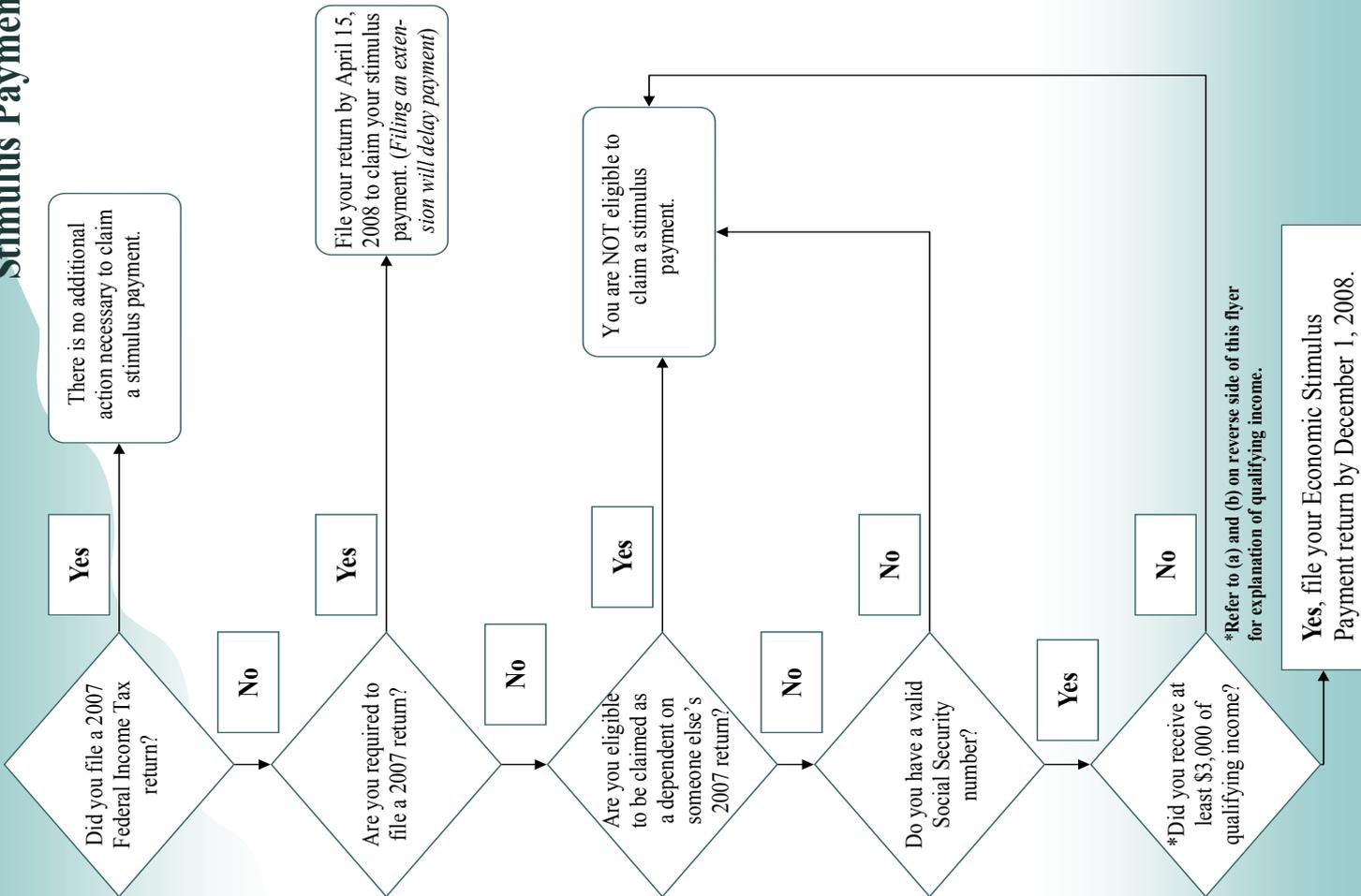
To receive the payment you must either have taxable income OR have at least \$3,000 of qualifying income. See (a) & (b) above for definition.

The payment amount will begin to phase out if your income is above \$75,000 for Individuals and \$150,000 for Married Filing Joint. For more information about the income limitation phase out or the Economic Stimulus Payment, please go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call 800.829.1040.

**You MUST File a Federal Tax Return for Tax Year 2007 and have valid Social Security numbers for all individuals who are claimed on your return to receive a stimulus payment.**

## Do I Qualify for an Economic Stimulus Payment?

START



## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month!

Submitted By Wanda Fowler, Victims Advocacy Coordinator

Sometime during your life you may have heard the words rape or sexual assault. Sexual assault is any sexual contact or sexual attention committed by force, threats, bribes, manipulation, pressure, tricks, or violence. It includes rape and attempted rape, child molestation, incest, and sexual harassment. Sexual assault is a terrifying and often brutal crime! Assailants can be strangers, acquaintances, friends, dates, or family members including spouses. It is not a crime of passion as many would suppose, but a crime of violence. It is a vicious crime of dominance and aggression with sex as a weapon. Anger and hostility are the emotions of the rapist. Power and control over the victim are the goals. Sexual Violence affects every aspect of a person's life- his/her body, emotions, thoughts, behaviors, spirituality and relationships with others and the outside world. This is true whether it is acquaintance rape, stranger rape, date rape, child sexual abuse or marital rape.

- Rape is just not against females. Males also experience rape.
- Over 10% of the rapes that are reported are male victims.
- Male and females of all races and ages are equally vulnerable to attacks.

Rapists are using a new weapon to overpower their victims, drug facilitated rape! Alcohol and other drugs are involved in many rape cases. A growing trend is the use of date-rape drugs that are often put into alcohol, soft drinks, water, or other drinks. **HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?** You're at a party, a club, or a social event. You're with people you know, people you think you have no reason to fear. Someone secretly drops a drug like Rohypnol or GHB in your drink. When the drug dissolves, it is colorless and odorless. It may also be tasteless. As you consume the drink, the drug takes effect. You're now in a weakened, helpless, or unconscious state. You're so incapacitated that you can't escape or resist a rapist, or even call out for help. You're sexually assaulted. When the drug wears off, you may not remember what happened or who participated because the drug often causes amnesia.

### Here are Crisis Hotlines you can call for Help:

Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
911 after hours and/or 368-9136  
Health Department extension 2300  
or Family Services extension 2600  
M-F, 8 AM to 5 PM

### The Lighthouse Sexual Assault Program

P.O. Box 531 Robertsdale, Alabama 36567  
251-947-4393

### The Rape Crisis Center of Mobile

1-800-718-Rape toll free  
1-334-473-Rape 24-hours

### Florida Council Against Sexual Violence

[www.fcasv.org](http://www.fcasv.org)  
1-888-956-7273 (RAPE) FL Statewide

### Alabama Coalition Against Rape

24-Hour Hotline  
1-800-725-RAPE (7273)

### RAINN National Sexual Assault Hotline

1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

## DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION

Submitted by Carolyn White

HHS has agreed to assist the Federal Communications Commission with a national campaign to disseminate information about the digital television transition that will start in approximately one year. An important benefit of the switch to all-digital broadcasting is that it will free up parts of the broadcast spectrum for public health and safety communications (such as police, fire departments, and rescue squads). HHS is being asked to help spread the word to those we serve, including low-income, seniors, people with disabilities, rural citizens, multilingual citizens, and minority populations.

As part of the transition, the Federal government is offering U.S. households up to two \$40 coupons to help with the cost of converter boxes, which will allow analog TVs to continue receiving broadcasts after the February 17, 2009 switch to digital broadcast-only date.

The Family Services Department will have brochures and other information available to assist you in this matter. Please be sure to visit our office to pick up this information or give us a call at (251) 368-9136 ext. 2600.

### Are Your Adolescents Protected?

In Alabama, vaccine preventable diseases are still a threat among adolescents. These diseases have persisted for years and can still be life-threatening today. Many people between the ages of 11 and 19 need vaccinations to prevent whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis B, hepatitis A, chickenpox, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, influenza, meningococcal disease, pneumococcal disease, and human papillomavirus infection.

Meningitis, whooping cough (pertussis), and diphtheria are spread through direct contact with an infected person, large droplet respiratory secretions, or intimate respiratory contact. These diseases can be spread by coughing, kissing, sharing cigarettes, utensils, cups, lip balm, or anything an infected person touches with his or her mouth. Approximately 25% of adolescents who get meningitis die from it, while 11-19% experience long-term disability. Pertussis may cause pneumonia, encephalitis, and death, especially in infants. If not treated, diphtheria can result in airway obstruction, coma, and death.

The mode of transmission for each vaccine preventable disease (VPD) varies. Tetanus enters the body through a break in the skin and can result in death in about 10-20% of cases. Human papillomavirus (HPV) is transmitted through direct skin-to-skin contact. High-risk HPV types act as carcinogens in the development of cervical cancer and other anogenital cancers.

In order to reduce the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccines are now available that specifically target adolescents. These include Tdap, HPV, and MCV4. Tdap contains tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccines. Adolescents 11-18 years of age should get vaccinated with a one-time dose of Tdap. HPV contains vaccines for protection of four different human papillomaviruses, two of which cause up to 70% of cervical cancers. HPV vaccine is routinely recommended for females 11-12 years of age but may be given as young as 9 years of age. HPV vaccine is also recommended for females 13-26 years of age who have not previously been vaccinated and is given in a 3-dose series. Furthermore, MCV4 contains vaccines to prevent four types of meningococcal disease, including 2 of the 3 most common types in the U.S. and is recommended for persons 11-55 years of age.

The adolescent growth period is full of conflict, both developmentally and physically. You can help them by making an appointment for your adolescent to receive the above vaccines. For additional information, visit the ADPH website at [www.adph.org/immunization](http://www.adph.org/immunization) or call 1-800-469-4599.



## The Family Service Department

**Staff Members:** Carolyn Rackard, Carolyn White, Kathy Ledkins, Juanita Slate, Lois Amos, Martha Gookin, Sandy Hollinger, Stella Rutherford, Suzanne McGhee, Tammy Smith, Wanda Fowler

# April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

## Child Abuse Prevention Information

Pick up a newspaper, look on the internet, or simply watch the evening news and it becomes apparent child abuse and neglect can be found in every race and within every income level in our world. The impact of child maltreatment is profound and has life-long effects on the physical, psychological, and behavioral development of children. The good news is child maltreatment is preventable! We can honor our native heritage by building strong and supportive families who nurture and love our children.

Child abuse and neglect often takes place in the home and generally falls into four categories.

**Neglect** is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs, such as food and clothing.

**Physical Abuse** is causing physical harm to a child, such as hitting, kicking, shaking, or burning them. **Sexual Abuse** is any situation where a child is used for sexual gratification.

**Emotional Abuse** is any pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth, such as constant criticism, threats, and rejection.

Being a parent is a 24-hour-a-day job and it is normal for parents to feel overwhelmed at times. Parents can feel angry, lonely, and depressed while simply attempting to make ends meet. Don't let these feelings affect how you treat your children. You can: **Talk to someone; Reach out to other parents; Call a help line (1-800-4-A-CHILD); Get babysitting help when you need a break; or Take a parenting class.**

Prevention of child maltreatment includes five protective factors. First of all, **establishing a nurturing bond** between a parent and child will help the parent better understand, respond

to, and communicate with their children throughout life. **Second, increasing parental knowledge of child and youth development** will help parents know what to expect as their children grow. **Third, parental resilience**, or the parent's ability to cope with stressors, is essential for parents to recognize about themselves, and to manage appropriately. **Fourth, establishing positive social connections** will enable parents to build support for themselves in times of need. **And last, having community support** is essential for parents to meet and better attend to their role as parents.

All children need to have strong parents who will love them and who will do what is in their best interest. Babies who have a loving bond with their parent will have a better chance to grow up to be adults who trust others and know how to return affection. As young children grow and develop, they need parents who will establish loving boundaries helping them to become independent and yet, safe. Teenagers need parental guidance and loving boundaries to guide them in their decision-making processes, their relationship choices, and their tendency to be risk-takers.

Children are a gift from God and are the future of our tribe and our nation. Take time to love them and treat them with dignity and respect. Then they will love and respect us!

Martha Gookin  
Family Services Coordinator



Child Abuse casts a shadow the length of a lifetime.—Herbert Ward

### Ways to Help Prevent Child Abuse

- ☺ Be a nurturing parent.
- ☺ Love your children.
- ☺ Help yourself by dealing with your own issues.
- ☺ Take parenting classes.
- ☺ Ask for help if you are overwhelmed.
- ☺ Get involved in the community and learn from other parents.

### 12 Alternatives to Lashing out at Your Child.

- Take a deep breath . . . And another. You are the adult.
- Close your eyes and imagine you're hearing what your child is about to hear.
- Put your child in time-out.
- Put yourself in time-out.
- Phone a friend.
- Take a hot bath or splash cold water on your face.
- Hug a pillow.
- Turn on some music.
- Pick up a pencil and write it out.
- Call 1-800-CHILDREN.

### General Information

### Family Services Department

368-9136, ext. 2600

Carolyn M. White, LCSW  
Executive Director

## Family Services Department Future Events

### \*Angel Food Ministries Distribution Site

Dates: **Monthly**, contact FSD for more information

### \*Free Clothing Give Away Fridays

Date: **April 18, 2008**  
Time: **11:00 am until 2:00 pm**

# BIRTHDAY WISHES



**Forrest A. Rackard** celebrated his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 23, 2008. Forrest is the grandson of Frank A. and Sandra Rackard.



**Frank A. Rackard** will celebrate his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 3, 2008. Frank and his grandchildren joined other family members at the home of Dennis and Suzie Rackard to celebrate together.



**Brooke & Dawn Allen**, twin granddaughters of Frank A. and Sandra Rackard, celebrated their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 29, 2008



**Hayden Connor Kinman** celebrated his second birthday on February 23<sup>rd</sup> with an Elmo themed birthday party at his home on Flurnoy Circle. Hayden is the son of David Allen Kinman and Jessica Ramsey; he is the grandson of David and Myrtis Kinman and Margaret Ramsey. Hayden was happy that his Aunt Melanie and cousins Madelyn and Logan Boatwright from

Wetumpka, AL were able to join him and other family and friends at the party.



**Kaelyn Emma Montgomery**, daughter of Kristy and Mike Montgomery of Milton, Florida will celebrate her 2nd birthday on April 27th. Kaelyn is the granddaughter of tribal member Sandra (McGhee) and Larue Chunn of Theodore, AL. and the great granddaughter of Carl (Buster) McGhee of Walnut Hill, FL.



**Lonnie and Carolyn Rackard** with sons **Kason (left)** and **Jeremy (right)**

**Lonnie Rackard** celebrated his 59<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 20, 2008. Lonnie and his family would like to thank everyone that prayed for him during his recent illness and hospital stay. They would also like to say thanks to everyone that attended his 59<sup>th</sup> birthday party on February 23, 2008. The cards were beautiful, the gifts were very special, the food was delicious, and the singing was awesome. Special thanks to the singers, they were great. The family also asks that you continue to pray for them; they know that many a pray has been spoken and heard and the God continues to bless them.



**Gaston A. Rackard** was confirmed on March 23, 2008. Gaston is the grandson of Frank A. and Sandra Rackard.

# BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Regan Nicole McGhee



Faron and Tracy McGhee of Sikeston, MO announce the birth of their first child, a daughter Regan Nicole, born on November 21, 2007. At birth Regan weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces. Regan is the granddaughter of Tom and Tina McGhee of Gates, TN and Melton and Mickey Tabor of Sikeston, MO. She is the great granddaughter of the late Hurley and Nelda McGhee.



## Kenslee Savannah Chavira



Romualdo and Shelly (White) Chavira, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Kenslee Savannah Chavira on February 19, 2008 at 7:15 a.m. At birth Kenslee weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19 inches long. Kenslee is the granddaughter of Joe and Lena White and Romualdo and Margarita Chavira. She was welcomed home by her big brother and her Aunt Heather and Uncle James White.

## Employee of the Month



Police Chief Larry Hammonds (left) with Investigator Butch Lee (right) after receiving the February Employee of the Month Award.

The Employee Awards Committee selected Investigator Doyle “Butch” Lee as the February Employee of the Month. As Investigator, Butch is responsible for criminal investigations, alcohol and substance abuse related investigations, enforcement of the alcoholic beverage control ordinance, and is assigned to the domestic violence unit. This is Butch’s first time to receive this award since coming to work with the Tribe in February of 2006.

Butch stated that he was totally shocked when the Employee Awards Committee came to Public Safety with platters of food and Police Chief Larry Hammonds told him that he had been selected as Employee of the Month. “I was shocked.” he said, “I just strive to do the best I can. I think most of our employees do the same.”

He stated that his favorite part of the award is the enjoyment of knowing that your extra dedication is noticed. He attributes his success to Chief Hammonds; he often pushes him on different issues and aspects of his job. “He knows my capabilities and keeps me focused. He expects the best from me and I strive to achieve that.”

When asked what the greatest aspect of his job is, he said that is probably dealing with grants. He has always enjoyed working on grants and his job here with the Tribe allows him to search for and secure grants that have proven to be beneficial to the Tribe. He also said that there is not much that he would change about his job; everyone with the Tribe has made this the most pleasurable employment he has ever had.

Butch graduated from Ernest Ward High School and possesses certifications through the Alabama Peace Officer Standards and Training (APOST), crime scene investigation, and chief of police administrative training. He is also a member of the Tribe’s Domestic Violence Task Force.

Butch is married to Sandy Jo Lee, the best mom in the world to his “little man” Dustin Joe Lee. In closing, Butch would like to say thanks to the Tribe for giving him the opportunity to work here. After almost twenty years in law enforcement, he has enjoyed his time here at the Tribe the most. “Thanks to everyone who me gave the opportunity to receive this award. You truly brightened my day!”

### Schedule of Events for April, 2008

#### Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Tribal Council Meeting – 4:00 p.m. – Tribal Chambers  
Opening date to submit applications for one vacancy on the Utility Authority; Tribal Council Members welcome your call requesting their support.

#### Saturday, April 5, 2008

Relay Talent Night – 7:00 p.m. – Gym  
Please call Gayle Johnson, Team Captain @ 368-9136 ext. 2210 if you wish to participate. Lack of participation will cancel the show so please call if you are interested in participating; as of the date of the publication of this issue, no one has voiced an interest in participating.

#### Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Deadline to submit Letter of Candidacy, Biography and Picture For Tribal Council if name is to be PRINTED on the OFFICIAL BALLOT and printed in the May Newsletter \*Although the regular deadline for article submission is April 1<sup>st</sup>, the deadline is extended to April 8<sup>th</sup> for biography and picture for Tribal Council candidates only.

#### Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Housing Authority Meeting – 1:00 p.m. – Housing Conference Room

#### Tuesday, April 15, 2008

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

#### Thursday, April 17, 2008

Names of Candidates and any proposed Constitutional Amendments, Ordinances, and/or Resolutions will be posted.

#### Friday, April 18, 2008

Free Clothing Give Away – 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Family Services

#### Saturday, April 19, 2008

Walk Across Atmore – 9:00 a.m. – Alabama State Line  
The Relay Team will accept sponsorships to “Walk Across Atmore” from the Alabama State Line to the Escambia County Middle School on Hwy. 21. Please sponsor a team member/walker or join us on the walk!

#### Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mystery Dinner – 6:00 p.m. – Family Services Auditorium  
The Relay for Life team will host the Mystery Dinner. Contact any team member for a ticket. Cost of ticket \$10. Please contact Gayle Johnson, Team Captain at 368-9136 x 2210 for more information.

#### Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Housing Authority Meeting – 1:00 p.m. – Housing Conference Room

#### Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Closing date for applications for one position on the Utilities Authority.

#### Thursday, May 1, 2008

First day to submit application for players and coaches for NAYO Baseball in Hollywood, FL in July 2008.

# MUSKOGEE METALWORKS

In 1988, as one of its first economic development ventures, Creek Indian Enterprises purchased Strader Manufacturing, in Milton, Florida. At that time Strader Manufacturing Company was a small metal stamping company. In the early nineties the company was relocated to the Tribe's industrial park located just north of Atmore, AL on Highway 21. The move was the beginning of new growth for the company and created additional jobs for Tribal Members.

The year 2000 brought many changes to Muskogee, bringing about growth and expansion. In 2001, the product line was expanded to include electronic assemblies and electro-mechanical production. Muskogee now offers a variety of services including metal fabrication, electronics, warehousing, and engineering. Quality metal fabrication is accomplished with the latest CNC machining and water jet equipment and dies.

Mal McGhee, General Manager since 1992, stated that 2007 was a very successful year for Muskogee. They had several lucrative contracts that earned them revenue of over \$15.5 million dollars. He is proud to say that Muskogee is now debt free; all equipment and property is paid for and they are in great shape to grow with the future that appears to be brighter by the day. In anticipation of that great future, they have already started the process to become AS9100 and ISO 9001 2000 certified. These quality standards with additions and interpretations specific to the aerospace industry with emphasis placed on areas deemed to have the greatest impact on safety, reliability and regulatory compliance for aerospace products. Once Muskogee receives this certification, they will qualify for contracts that they would not otherwise be able to receive.



Muskogee has purchased a FARO Arm, which is a portable precision measuring system that will enable technicians to use reverse engineering and measure precise components. Shown L-R are Mike Newton, James Sutton, Larry Sammons and Mal McGhee

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development selected Muskogee Metalworks as the recipient of the 2008 American Indian Tribal Enterprise of the Year Award. The award is presented annually to a profitable business owned and operated by a tribe which demonstrates positive community impact both economically and socially. Muskogee Metalworks, was also selected as the Minority Manufacturer of the Year at all levels (local, state, and national) by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MDBA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in 2007. In 2005 Muskogee was awarded the Nunn Perry Award, by the Department of Defense in recognition of superior program performance by Mentor-Protégé teams.



James T. Martin, Creek Indians Enterprise Development Authority President/CFO (left), Mal McGhee, Muskogee Metalworks General Manager, and Ronald J. Solomon, Chairman of the National Center For American Indian Enterprise Development Board shown during the presentation of the 2008 American Indian Tribal Enterprise of the Year Award.

Mal also stated that Muskogee's success is also partially due to the support of CIE and the Tribal Council. At times in the past it would have been easy to give up on them and close their doors, but their support is evident in the success of today. He would also like to encourage Tribal youth to pursue education and training in the technical field. Jefferson Davis Community College currently looking at using the equipment at Muskogee for technical training classes.



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