

FEBRUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

TRIBAL COUNCIL NEWS:

We are just over a month into the New Year and much has already happened. We witnessed history in the making with the inauguration of the first African American President, who has made promises of change, which in turn is showing ripple effects throughout the nation. On the state level, the Texas Legislation which started on January 13 is also showing changes in the make-up of the House. With this in mind, the Tribal Council will be working hard to get our bill passed so that we may reopen our Gaming Facility. We appreciate all the support and volunteers that we had last session and hope to have the same support again this session.

Tribal Council, as well as Sharon Miller, attended the DETCOG reception in Austin on January 12, 2009. This

function allowed us to meet and greet and discuss more in-depth of our issues to the Representatives from our area.

Three individuals have been selected as Peacemakers, which is another big step in getting our Tribal Court started. The three Tribal members selected are Othelda Jean Williams and Quanah Whitethunder. A Swearing-In Ceremony is scheduled for February 6, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. We hope you will be able to attend this historic moment as we begin our own court system.

The following are actions taken by the Tribal Council during the month of January:

- * Tribal Budget was approved during the January 15th Tribal Meeting.

- * Approve ACITC Resolution #2009-02-

2009 CSBG Grant

- * Approve ACITC Resolution #2009-03-Transportation

- * Approve ACITC Resolution #2009-04 Roads

- * Consider actions pertaining to personal appearance by Angela and Arika Williams

- * Approve ACITC Resolution #2009-05-National Park Service, Oral History Grant

- * Approve ACITC Resolution #2009-07-Humble Smoke shop

- * Approve ACITC Resolution #2009-08-Leggett Smoke Shop

- * Approve ACITC Resolution #2009-09-Livingston Smoke Shop

- * Approve ACITC Resolution #2009-10-One Stop Ischoopa

- * Approve ACITC Resolution #2009-11-Service Center



PUBLIC NOTICE

A general public meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the Special Events Center to discuss the Westside Sewer Project—Phase 3. The Tribe is seeking a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture—Rural Utility Service to complete the project. It is anticipated the project will provide community sewer to the residents along FM 2500, Ah-Me-Sa Road, Chief Kina Loop and Black Lake Loop.

Tribal Council (cont.)

* Consider any and all actions pertaining to the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies

* Approve ACITC Resolution #2009-06-NIGA

* Consider any and all actions pertaining to Peacemaker recommendations

For the information of our Tribal members, the

majority of the Tribal Council will be attending the USET (United South and Eastern Tribes) Impact Week conference in Washington D.C. during the week of February 9-13, 2009.



Council Treasurer McClamroch Battise represented the Tribe at the grand opening of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians' casino in Atmore, Alabama.

TRIBAL DOCUMENTS:

As the new Tribal Documents Clerk, I am currently updating all membership files. Tribal files are an important factor to tribal laws and federal government. It is vital to have accurate and updated information on all enrolled members. I am asking each member to call or come by the Tribal Documents Office to make sure all documents are in your files as well as for the rest of your family. I have some files that do not have copies of birth certificates issued by the Bureau of Vital Statistics or copies of Social Security cards. An updated address and phone number is also very important to this office. I



am asking each enrolled member to please update your beneficiary on your Tribal Term Insurance. All Documents and information to this office will be kept strictly confidential.

The deadline to submit a Tribal Roll Entry for Adoption Application, with applicable documents, will be on **Thursday, April 30, 2009**. Request your application now to meet the deadline. **Any application received after April 30, 2009, will not be accepted.** This includes those who are PENDING to the Tribal Adoptions List (applicants who did not receive favorable votes

in the last tribal elections). This is so I can review and prepare these applications for the Tribal Council before the Tribal Election in June.

Please keep in mind that all of these documents are very important to have in this office for future references or for your grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and etc.

If you have any questions, please contact me @ 936/563-1180, or by fax @936/563-4923, or e-mail to **actri-doc@actribe.org**.

Charlene Alec

Tribal Documents Clerk

POWWOW ASSOCIATION:

We've been a bit slow getting started but we are trying. The January Benefit was very successful and we would like to thank all who donated drinks and taco fixings for the concession stand.

Thank you to Judy Williams for donating the frybread dough. Special thanks to our head staff and all those who helped out.

Thank you to Mae Mae Battise and her family for sponsoring the cake walk.

To Sawa and Deni, thanks for sponsoring the dance contest for January.

The head staff for the 41st Annual is set and we also have some special contests scheduled as well, see attached flyer for the head staff. As soon as we finalize our flyer, we will make them available for anyone who wishes to take and distribute them.

Powwow Bingo coming for the March Benefit! A demonstration of how that's played was given during the February benefit.

Attention Past Princesses!

A special contest is being planned just for you, to be held during the May Mini Powwow to

honor the current Princess, Portia Cheyenne Alec.

Actually, there will be two contest, the first will be a Traditional Dress contest, with three places. The second one will be a dance contest also with three places and you must wear Traditional Alabama-Coushatta dress to compete. All past Alabama-Coushatta Princesses, Powwow, Tribal, Junior, Children's and Indian Club are eligible. There will be a special award for the most Traditional regalia.

This contest is being sponsored by Deni Sylestine, her "other" Koosie.



EMPLOYEE PROFILE OF THE MONTH:

The employee profile for the month of February is Armando Rodriguez. He is currently employed with the Alabama-Coushatta Security Department as a Dispatcher. His job duties as a Dispatcher include dispatching Security personnel to incidents on the reservation, keeping up all radio logs, dispatching emergency help when

needed.

He says his hobbies are studying the Civil war, WWII, Lincoln, Churchill, leaders during the war times.

He is of the Turkey Clan.

He has been married to Boni for 33 years and they have 4 children, Elijah, Ezekial, Issac, and Tabitha. He has 4

grandsons and 2 granddaughters. Armando graduated from Kirby High School in Woodville, Texas, and went to Sam Houston State University for 5 years.

His favorite sport is football and his favorite movie is "The Big Chill". His favorite actor is Hugh Laurin and his favorite artists are The Beatles and the music he

enjoys is anything after 1969.

Editor's Note: We were unable to acquire a photo of Armando as he is sleeping when we are at work and he is working when we are sleeping.

WIA PROGRAM:



The WIA Program is still accepting applications between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

When applying please bring each of the following items:

1. Drivers License or ID Card
2. Social Security Card or original Birth

Certificate.

3. CDIB Card

The application process will be delayed if any of these items are not turned in. If you have any questions about the WIA Program, please call us @ (936) 563-1160.

The WIA Staff wishes to extend best wishes to Boni Rodriguez, whose last day of employment

as our receptionist was January 27, 2009. Boni has been employed as part of the WIA staff since September 30, 2002. After six years and four months in our department, Boni has reached the decision that it is time to stay at home because of health reasons. We wish her only the best in everything.



In Loving Memory Of

Sissie Linn Williams

It has been a year since she was called home on January 25, 2008. As she worked with the Management Information System in our program, we cherish our memories of her, and will forever hold Sissie and our memories of her in our hearts.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE , BIG THICKET NATIONAL PRESERVE

College Students looking for Summer Employment can call or come by the WIA office and let them know of your interest for employment. The staff of WIA will be happy to

assist you in completing the necessary paperwork.

Qualifications:

- * Must be a college student
- * Must be returning back to school for the Fall Semester
- * Must have a GPA of 2.0

* Must have transcript from current school

* Willing to travel to location of employment

If you have any questions about location, hourly wages, or just need additional information ,please contact Deborah Sylestine @ (936) 563-1168.



PUBLIC RELATIONS:

This department would like to take this time to say “thank you” to those individuals who volunteered their time as the Tribe made their presentation at the Multi-Cultural Night in Livingston. This event is held yearly in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. but the planning committee made it a time for all ethnic groups to get together for an enjoyable evening with all types of entertainment. Dinner consisting of fried catfish and chicken was served at no charge to those attending.

Thank you to Nicole Langley who did the sign language to The Lord’s Prayer. Thank you to the following dancers: Lyndon Alec, Ryan Alec, Tobine Alec,

Logan Alec, Portia Alec, Lesli Long, Monica Parkinson, Marie Parkinson and Obrey Alec. These dancers did a routine to “Seminole Wind” by John Anderson. Again, thank you for the giving of your time.

Our next event will be with the Los Vaqueros Trailriders and Horseshoes from the Heart program this month. We perform for a large group of mentally challenged children adults as well as to members of the trail ride organization and their families in the evening and then take part in a parade through the HISD schools the next day which lasts until the early afternoon.

NOTICE: This department is always in need of dancers (male and

female) who are willing to travel to the surrounding communities where we have been booked to perform.

The requirements are:(1) must have full regalia; (2) willing to visit with the public; (3) represent the Tribe in a professional manner; (4) travel week day or evenings and on weekends;(5) must be dependable. If you meet these criteria, please come see us.

We look forward to working on several projects this year to include the annual powwow, and the music festival. You will hear more as these plans are finalized in the near future.

Sharon Miller

Mary Alec



CHIEF KINA HEALTH CLINIC:

The Chief Kina Health Clinic would like to welcome Mr. Bob Boykin as the clinic’s part time pharmacist. Mr. Boykin is a graduate of the University of Houston School of Pharmacy and has been a pharmacist for over 30

Years. We are glad to have him on our staff. Welcome, Mr. Boykin!

The clinic has more information attached as a flyer in the back of this newsletter.



FROM THE GRANTS DEPARTMENT:

January was another busy month for this department. For the first time, I attended a Tribal meeting where department budgets were discussed. It was interesting as well as informative.

January also meant the application for a new CSBG grant from the state. This stands for Community Services Block Grant; we are currently operating under one of these grants, but this time we asked for twice as much money as before. The paperwork amounted to 160 pages; we had to submit an original and two copies, each of which had to be bound. With the strict deadline set by the state, all of this had to be completed, including passage by Tribal Council, in one week's time. It meant some nervous hours and the work of several people getting everything together that was required, but we did it. Now we wait until May to hear if we receive the funding.

A second grant application was submitted this month, one that was more enjoyable to work on. Bryant Celestine

and I had been working on the information necessary for this grant since before Christmas. Funded by the National Park Service, this grant would pay for the beginning of an oral history project, along with the copying of family photos and photographing



of family artifacts so they are included in the Tribal records. This is something that is needed, and it is always nice to work on something that meets with vocal approval. It will be months before we hear the outcome of this application also.

In addition to actually writing applications for grants, there is always the planning process for new projects. Two representatives of the Administration for Children and Families met with a roomful of Tribal employees from various

departments to be involved in a new program being made available to tribes. We will have a two-year period to get the appropriate paperwork together and have things in place for this program to begin. The announcement of the program was also so

large it took up five e-mails to receive it.

The exercise program and the art lessons that were

provided for the elders have continued even after the grant periods officially ended; this is a sign that both activities were really successes. Impressive results have been seen also.

Currently, the library is receiving this department's full attention; the annual grant that provides funding for books and supplies is up for renewal and has a March deadline.

If you know of a project or need that might benefit from a grant, please contact the appropriate

Department head, Alton LeBlanc, or Tina Battise to discuss it first. This department will gladly research the possibilities when recommendations has been approved and passed on to this office for action.

HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY
ON
FEBRUARY 14

THANK YOU!!

To the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe and Friends:

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our Tribe and friends for the generous outpouring of love and sympathy extended to us at the home going of our dear son, brother, uncle, cousin and friend, Ronald King Obe. We are deeply grateful for all the ways in which everyone honored him. As he had written in a journal he kept, King was very

proud of his Tribe, heritage and had great love and pride for his family and relatives. Some of his relatives and friends may not have told him but we were very proud of his artistic talent and loved him deeply.

We want to thank everyone for all the food, the beautiful flowers, and groceries. It was well received with gratitude and generosity. The songs, service, prayers and ministry from the Presbyterian, Texas In-

dian Baptist and the Assembly of God Churches brought to our family was encouraging and uplifting.

Words cannot adequately express how your outpouring of love has impacted our family and how much each of you means to us. Please keep us in your prayers for we are still healing.



A NOTE OF GRATITUDE:

A note of gratitude to the entire Tribal community for the expressions of love shown during the passing of our loved one, Clara Faye Battise. The food, visits, cards, calls, accommodations for out of town relatives, floral tributes, testimonies and special singing from all the churches, Sharon Miller, the Poncho family, Judy Williams, and the Tribal Elders was a comfort to all of us and a memory that we will cherish in

our hearts. May God Bless all of you.

Here is a scripture from Psalm 19:14 that Clara quoted often in testimony: "Let the words of my mouth and meditation of my heart, be acceptable in sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

The Family of Clara Faye Battise





Nelson Celestine retired recently after serving seven years as the Maintenance Supervisor for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe. A reception was held in his honor on Friday, January 30, 2009. He received a plaque and a Pendleton vest from the Tribal Council.



Myra Sylestine (Health Director at IHS) and Michelle Battise (Humble Smoke Shop) are role playing a scenario during recent training for all the Department Heads employed by the Tribe.

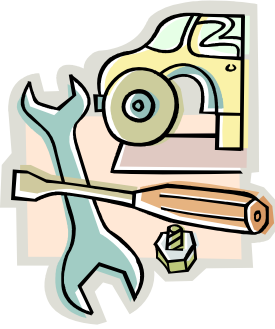


Lorna Rose, daughter of Fred and Donna Alec, was crowned the 2009-2010 Children's Powwow Princes during their annual powwow held on January 31, 2009.



Jason Lighfoot from Oklahoma was the Head Singer during the Children's Powwow. He was assisted at the center drum by members of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe.

THANK YOU:



We would like to take this time to say **Thank you** to the Tribal Council and to the Education Department for their support while we were going to school at Universal Technical Institute in Spring Texas. We both studied to become automotive technicians. We learned a lot. On the first day we took a motor apart and put it back together for a grade and it was a lot of fun. We are still doing interviews with different companies. We would also like to say Thank you to Koosie Carol for her love and support and to Moosie Donnis for

lending us his pretty red truck when our truck broke down so we could get to school on time, to Koosie Deni for forever saying prayers because we really needed them to get through. She was there for us when we needed an ear to talk to. Koosie Joann and Arnold for everything they helped us with, also to all our friends, Thanks for being there for us. Also to Sawa, for all your help. We especially like to say “We love you mom, dad,

and Portia”, You were always ready to help us in anyway you could at a moments notice, it being gas money , groceries, or just to hear your voice on the phone. We made it.

Logan graduated in August 2008 and I graduated in January 2009. Thank you to those of you who traveled to our graduation ceremonies, it meant a lot to both of us.

Ah-li-la-mo-lo !

Tobine and Logan Alec

HEAD START PROGRAM

During the week of Thanksgiving, the Alabama-Coushatta Head Start program hosted the children from “New Beginnings Day Care” in Livingston where Sonia Flores is a teacher. The children were treated to a dance program. We would like to thank the following people for helping with the program. Delbert Johnson,

Davie Johnson,
Logan Alec and
Monica Parkinson.



CONGRATULATIONS:

We would like to congratulate Mykiah Fose Williams for his acceptance into the People to People Student Ambassador Program for the 2009 year. He will be traveling to Australia this summer and venture into a new country to learn and experience the culture and history. He attends Big Sandy Junior High and is the oldest son of Kyle "Eagle" and Glenda Williams. Please come out and support him as

we will be raising money throughout the coming months.

On January 24th, we held a Round Robin Volleyball Tournament as well as a single elimination bracket tournament. The results are listed: The Round Robin Tournament:

1st Place –Melanie's team

2nd Place -- Terrah's team

Bracket Tournament

1st Place — Terrah's team

We would like to thank everyone for participating and the assistance we've received from the community.



The Grand Entry and the presentation of colors during the Children's Powwow held on Saturday, January 31, 2009.

The deadline for the next issue of this NEWSLETTER will be Monday, March 2, 2009. Please have all your news items, announcements, etc. turned in to the Public Relations Office no later than 5:00 p.m. by the date designated above. Your cooperation in getting your articles to us in a timely manner assures us of getting it to you in a timely manner.

If any tribal members has any news they would like to share with others, please let us know and we will be happy to include it in the newsletter. Churches, if you have revival coming us or any special event, send us your information.

You may bring your articles to the office, call us at 936/563-1120 or 563-1131; fax it to 936/563-1137; or email to alec.mary@actribe.org or sawa@actribe.org.

If anyone would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact me with your email address and we will send it to you electronically.

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Road 56
Livingston, Texas 77351