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Prairie Band Potawatomi News

Spring 2008 EDITION

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

DeKalb County Board okays intergovernmental agreement with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is one step closer to opening a gaming facility on their land in Shabbona after the DeKalb County Board voted on February 20 to approve an intergovernmental agreement that spells out gaming facility and land use regulations and revenue sharing that will occur between the two groups.

Since that time, however, the Shabbona township and village have requested more information from the PBPN about their building plans, according to Steve Ortiz, Tribal Council chair.

Tribal Council members were in attendance at all of the meetings before the February 20 vote and were lobbying for approval of the agreement along with their Washington, D.C. attorneys.

DeKalb County voted 16-7 to approve the document and five Tribal Council members also approved the agreement.

Prior to the vote, a public meeting was held in DeKalb on February 11 where more than 30 county citizens and tribal members spoke on the proposed agreement. Discussion ranged from the language used in the intergovernmental agreement to the social and economic impacts of the surrounding area once the facility is built.

The DeKalb County Board also held a workshop to review the document with their attorneys a few days before the vote was taken.

The state of Illinois was not involved as part of the proposal although a report from *MidWeek News* (Jan. 9, 2008) said that Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office had been researching the possibility that the land will be determined to not be Indian-reservation land.

There are divided camps within both DeKalb and the tribe. In DeKalb County a group of business workers and some construction workers support the facility while a group against it called the DeKalb County Taxpayers Against the Casino is opposed.

The PBPN voted to approve the intergovernmental agreement during their last General Council meeting but an article that appeared in *MidWeek News* (Feb. 6, 2008) did quote the opinions of two tribal members who voiced that they were against the agreement.

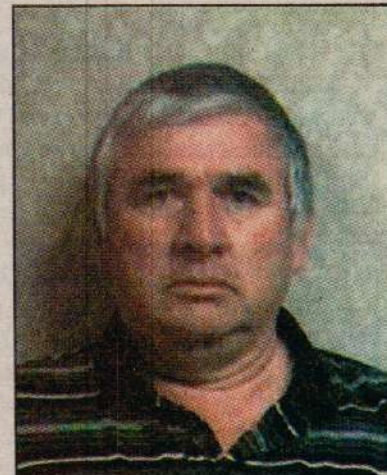
The PBPN wants to build an electronic bingo hall on 128 acres of land that it purchased in April 2006. Although the tribe has always maintained that the land is reservation land because it was given to Chief Shab-eh-nay in 1829, the PBPN is awaiting a decision from the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) for it to be federally recognized. According to an article in the *Daily Chronicle* (Feb. 12, 2008) government officials have said that that decision is not expected before the end of the year.

The full text of the agreement can be found on http://www.dekalbcounty.org/PBPN/pbnp_index.html.

McClammy and Evans elected gaming commissioners; voters choose Revenue Allocation Plan Option 1



More election coverage on page 3 inside the News



Tamara McClammy and Calvin Evans were elected to the Gaming Commission and Option 1 on the Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) also passed over Option 2 in the last tribal election.

Mail-in ballots were counted on February 26 at the Bingo Hall in front of a small crowd of around forty people who had gathered by the election's end. See below for official vote count tally.

McClammy won by 398 votes and Evans followed with 385. Evans has been on the Gaming Commission since 1994 and this is McClammy's first term as a Gaming Commissioner. Vernon Mzhickteno placed third with 248 votes and Chago Hale and Adriana Wahwasuck tied for fourth with 233 votes each.

Due to the per capita increase,

a Revenue Allocation Plan that determines how revenue is distributed from the casino operation, was presented as a question on the ballot that gave voters two choices. RAP Option 1 received the most votes with 670 votes and 381 members voted for Option 2.

During the election a continental breakfast was served.

Members of the Gaming Commission besides Evans and McClammy are Gary Mitchell, chairman and Tom Tuckwin. Another former member, Joyce Guerrero resigned a few months ago and has not been replaced.

A swearing-in ceremony was held on March 3 in Tribal Council Chambers where the two newly elected members were officially sworn into office. Enrollment Committee members were also sworn in that day.

Mark your calendar

April 19 General Council meeting
April 20 PBPN Earth Day
May 26 Government offices closed for Memorial Day
June 13-15 PBPN Pow-Wow
July Tribal Council election (four seats available)



Shawnee County District Court judge rules state-owned gaming constitutional: Kicked back to Kansas Supreme Court who will hear arguments May 14

On May 14 the Kansas Supreme Court will begin hearing arguments on whether the state can legally operate four destination casinos and slot machines at horse and dog tracks.

The bill, passed last April in the Kansas legislature, is being challenged in the courts to see if it is constitutional or not.

In pushing for a clear opinion, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius asked Paul Morrison, former Kansas Attorney General, to file a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law which he did last August. The Court then threw the case to Shawnee County District Court who ruled on February 1 that it is constitutional.

Tribal Council responded to the district court's decision with the following statement that was released to

the media: "We are obviously disappointed with the decision. The proponents claim that the state will own and operate these casinos, but when you look at the bill, it's pretty clear that they won't really own or operate anything. At the end of the day, the State's only real involvement will be to receive a cut of the gaming revenue. Our legal team is reviewing the decision and will present options to our Tribal Council."

Morrison has since resigned his position and was replaced by Stephen Six, a former attorney from Lawrence, Kan.

The Kansas Lottery has also delayed selecting the casino management teams for the four casinos stating it needed more time to review the applicants and pending approval for expanded gaming in Kansas.



PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION
GAMING COMMISSION ELECTION &
REVENUE ALLOCATION PLAN (RAP) QUESTION
Mayetta, Kansas
February 26, 2008

OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Candidate	Ballots	Percentage
CALVIN L. EVANS	385	18.14%
MARTY M. GREEMORE	225	10.79%
JOSEPH W. "CHAGO" HALE, JR.	226	10.98%
TAMARA M. "TAMI" McCLAMMY	398	18.76%
VERNON MZHICKTENNO	248	11.69%
JONA (POTTS) RUPNICK	202	9.71%
ADRIANA WAHWASUCK	228	10.98%
RAPHAEL J. WAHWASUCK	186	8.95%

Option	Ballots	Percentage
VOTE FOR OPTION 1	670	63.75%
VOTE FOR OPTION 2	381	36.25%

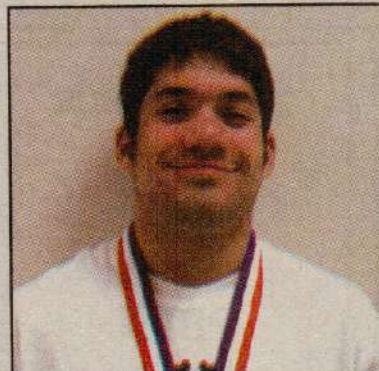
Tribal Council in their finest



This professional photograph of Tribal Council was taken by Nathan Ham Photography. On the front row from left to right is Rey Kitchkumme, Vice Chairman, Steve Ortiz, Chairman, and James Potter, Secretary. On the back row from left to right is Junior Wahweotten, James Wabaunsee, Ryan Dyer, Treasurer and Jackie Mitchell.

Worth his weight in gold!

Alex Rupnick wins 4A state championship in wrestling



Alex Rupnick won the Class 4A 189-pound state title in wrestling at a championship tournament held in Salina, Kan. on Feb. 23 and ended the season with a record 34-2 for Royal Valley High School, Mayetta, Kan.

Rupnick goes down in the school's history as only the second wrestler ever to win a gold medal at the state championships. Shawn Root was the first gold medalist back in 1989.

Rupnick's parents are Zeek and LeeAnn Rupnick, Mayetta, Kan. and grandparents are Joe and Mamie Rupnick, Soldier, Kan.

Rupnick was also crowned the king of courts at Royal Valley and plans to graduate this spring.

Long time tribal leader Vestina Nonken dies

Vestina Nonken, "Nee-ba-wee" a former active member of the PBPN government died January 24 in Holton, Kan.

Vestina was born in 1928 on the reservation to Joseph S. and Alice Lasley Nioce and worked for the tribe at different times as vice chair on the Tribal Council, PBPN executive director and bingo hall manager. She was also on the boards of the Indian Health Center and



Firekeepers Elder Center and a member of Our Lady of Snows Church. She also worked in the BIA office in Holton for over 20 years.

Last year Vestina was inducted into the Holton Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame for her work in the Holton community where she was involved in several philanthropic activities.

Vestina Nonken at the grand opening of PBPN Health Center in 2006. Her obituary appears on page 11.



Message to the Nation from Steve Ortiz, Tribal Council chairman

During the first quarter of 2008 Tribal Council has been busy working out the agreement between the PBPB and Dekalb County Commissioners on the economic development venture of a Class II Bingo Hall on the Shab-eb-nay land purchased in Illinois. This agreement was voted on and passed by the PBPB General Council at the January meeting and voted on and passed by the Dekalb County Commissioners at their February meeting. Tribal Council is now finalizing a time line for completing all actions needed to start construction of a facility. The Township and Village of Shabbona are now seeking agreement with the PBPB concerning roads, water, and sewage for the facility. A further update on this project will be given at the April 19 PBPB General Council meeting.

In other business: the Tribal Council has reviewed the current burial plan and has voted to increase the burial plan from \$5,000 to \$6,000 effective March 1; Tribal Council swore in the newly elected Gaming Commissioners Tami McClammy and Calvin Evans and along with this vote count the membership voted to accept option 1 for the Revenue Allocation Plan distribution. A resolution was passed by Tribal Council and forwarded to the BIA Horton Agency who in turn will forward it to the Washington D.C. office for approval of the per capita increase to 48% and option 1. The BIA has 60 days to review the resolution and approval is not automatic after 60 days. The Tribal Council will be following through with the request to increase the per capita; Gaming revenues during the first quarter of 2008 will be impacted by winter weather conditions experienced here in Kansas. The per capita payment was scheduled to be paid out on March 15; The Kansas expanded gaming

effort has been stalled for several months due to a lawsuit filed by the Kansas Attorney General over a management company operating the state's casinos. The case is now before the Kansas Supreme Court and the PBPB will submit an Amicus Curiae brief in the case.

Tribal Council, tribal government management, and employees have done an excellent job of managing their budgets and expenditures during the first quarter of 2008 to meet the expected increase to be allotted for the per capita. Tribal employment remains at 200 plus jobs even after the budget cuts. A call back policy has also been developed by Human Resources.

Tribal Council approved travel for the chair to go to Washington D.C. on January 30, 31

Chairman Ortiz with BIA Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne in D.C. at a meeting about reorganizing the BIA that was held in January.



to meet with Assistant Secretary Carl Artman and other tribal leaders concerning a project called BIA Modernization. Artman, the Assistant Secretary of Interior, is seeking input and involvement from all 562 federally recognized tribes to reorganize the BIA. The Assistant Secretary opened the meeting by stating he had no predetermined plan and was seeking input on functions provided by the BIA and placement of

employees throughout the regions. Regional meetings with tribes concerning modernization were held before the Washington D.C. meeting. Tribal leaders are concerned that this project will be difficult to complete by the end of the Bush Administration. Further meetings will be held in the next quarter.

Tribal Council has completed interviewing the individual recommended for the general manager position at Prairie Band Casino but the name can not be disclosed at this time until background check and negotiations are completed. The position of tribal economic development director remains open and the position of grant writer has been filled by Dawn LeClere. Tribal Council has sworn in and approved the members of the enrollment committee and looks forward to working with them.

Tribal Council is completing revision of the election ordinance to reflect the Constitutional changes and will be notifying the membership of filing dates for four Tribal Council positions (vice-chair, treasurer, council member, and council member) to be voted on in 2008 as well as ethics commission positions to be filled in 2008.

Lastly, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Health Clinic is currently undergoing a Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations review for accreditation. Tribal Council is looking forward to final results. A lot of great effort by the health facility's management and employees has gone into achieving this recognition.

Steve Ortiz (Mon-wah)
Tribal Chairman



Tribal Council election coming up in July

- vice chair
- treasurer
- two (2) member seats



Message to the Nation from Jackie Mitchell, Tribal Council member

After a long and cold winter, we are finally getting a hint of spring coming around. My thoughts and prayers are with our families that have suffered losses this winter. It has been extremely difficult for all of us and we will all have an ache in our hearts for those who have left us.

We are in the process of updating our website. It is going to be a real asset to our Nation and be a method of more communication for not only the outside community but for our tribal members. The first phase will be the general website with information for the membership and public. The next phase will be site protected access for tribal members to receive

additional information such as online news, etc. It will be located on pbpin-diantribe.com and we will have it online hopefully by the first of May.

We are in the process of adding pictures and up to date news. If you have any pictures you would like to share, please send to me at jackiem@pbpnation.org. There will be galleries of photos to see and enjoy.

In addition, we will have a page dedicated to website links to tribal member's web pages. If you would like to include your website to share, please send it to me by email. If you have any questions, suggestions, comments, please call me at 877 715 6789 or 785 966 4016 or email me. Thank you and enjoy the spring and the new beginnings that come with this time of year.

Dignitaries visit Tribal Council at Prairie Band Casino & Resort



Left: An informal dinner was held at the casino on January 10 between Tribal Council and some Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officials. Pictured from left to right are Ryan Dyer, Jackie Mitchell, James Wabunsee, Junior Wahweotten and James Potter from the Tribal Council. Next to Potter is Assistant Secretary Carl Artman and Nedra Darling, Director of Public Affairs, from the Department of Interior. Nedra is also a tribal member. On the far right is Tribal Chair Steve Ortiz.

Photo submitted by Jackie Mitchell



Above is Tribal Council Vice Chairman Rey Kitchkumme with Liana Onnen, Director of Housing, during a program director meeting on January 30. Director meetings are held weekly and members of Tribal Council often attend the meetings to learn what departments and programs are doing.

Stacy Leeds is the new PBPB District Court Judge



Stacy Leeds, Cherokee, began work as the new District Court Judge for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation on January 15. She divides her time between Tahlequah, Okla. and Lawrence, Kan. where she serves as the director of the Tribal Law and Government Center and is also a professor of law at the University of Kansas. She also judges for the Kaw Nation and Kickapoo of Oklahoma tribal courts and was the first woman to ever serve on the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court. She holds degrees from the University of Tulsa and University of Wisconsin.

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June 25

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Prairie Band Potawatomi News An Award Winning Newspaper

The *Prairie Band Potawatomi News* is a quarterly newspaper of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Prairie Band Potawatomi News staff, the Tribal Council, Gaming Commission or the Nation.

The *Prairie Band Potawatomi News* encourages and welcomes letters, editorials, articles and photos from its readers. This publication reserves the right to reject, edit or condense items submitted. Please submit items by March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. Submit items by email (as an attachment) or disk in Microsoft Word or stop by the News office with your information.

Anonymous letters will NOT be printed or accepted. Letters which are libelous will NOT be published.

Please include your name, address, and telephone number where we can contact you should we need to verify information.

Photos submitted with news article will be returned after publication. Please print name on back of photo to ensure accuracy. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope with the photo.

Quarterly Schedule Potawatomi News

Summer	news deadline June 1 published June 25
Fall	news deadline September 1 published Sept. 24
Winter	news deadline December 1 published December 17



Gaming Commission election snaps

During the election



Above: Left to right is Tim Kloepfel, Automated Election Services, Voncile Mitchell, Elections Director, and Marty Hamlin, Election Judge, checking the final results.



Above: Calvin Evans and Tami McClammy shortly after their win election day on Feb. 26 at the Bingo Hall.



Above: Tami McClammy, left, gets a congratulatory handshake from Chago Hale, one of the candidates in the election.

Gaming Commission

14987 W. Casino Dr.
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.8043

Commissioners

- Gary Mitchell, chairperson
- Calvin Evans
- Tami McClammy
- Tom Tuckwin

Gaming Commission Staff

Office: Josie Pahmahmie, Sherry Alt
Finance: Lily Hall, Marlena Jordan
Compliance: Geraldine Hamlin,
Linda Hegemann, Melissa Tecumseh
Internal Investigative Inspector: Jacob Wamego
Internal Auditor: John Forrester
Gaming IT Manager: Tom Wiley

Editor's Note: Prairie Band Casino & Resort staff not listed due to space considerations

At the Swearing-In Ceremony



Left: Steve Ortiz, Tribal Chairman, right, swearing in Calvin Evans with tribal leaders looking on in the background. Gaming Commissioners serve for four years and are housed at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort.



Above: Gaming Commissioners and Tribal Council standing together before taking part in the Swearing-in Ceremony held March 3 at the Bingo Hall.



Above: Left to right is Will McClammy, Juanita Jessepe, Tami McClammy and Joe Jessepe after Tami was sworn in to office as a Gaming Commissioner.

Enrollment Committee also sworn in for a two-year term at the Swearing-in Ceremony

Right: From left to right is Marilyn Wakole, Clarice Broxterman, Theresa Asselin, Delores Abrams, and Tom Tuckwin taking the oath of office to serve on the Enrollment Committee. The Committee meets monthly to review enrollment applications for membership into the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.



Photo directly left shows Delores Abrams, left, and Tom Tuckwin signing papers and photo at right is Theresa Asselin.



PBPN holds meetings with FEMA officials regarding damage from major ice storm in December

President Bush declared Kansas a federal disaster February 1 and hopefully that means that some federal financial assistance is on the way to help the PBPN clean up from a major ice storm that hit the reservation the second week of December.

Meetings have been occurring between Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives and tribal, state and county personnel since January in an attempt to gather cost data information regarding damages made from the storm.

FEMA representatives came to the PBPN Government Center on January 8 and on February 8 to meet with Steve Ortiz, tribal chair, and other PBPN leaders to get information about the storm's impact on the reservation. Long power outages that forced evacuations to emergency shelters and a lot of damage to homes and other buildings from broken tree limbs were listed as items very costly to the tribe.

During the January 8 meeting, Roger Jones, a FEMA debris specialist, discussed Public Assistance programs that he thought could help the PBPN government. Other FEMA representatives from Washington, D.C. were also present at that meeting.

On January 24 former Fire Chief David Price and Public Works Director Tim Ramirez traveled to Holton, Kan. to meet with more FEMA officials and Jackson county representatives to debrief about the storm.

At the February 8 meeting, Tribal Council and other PBPN staff met with G. Steve Davis, a FEMA Public Assistance Project Specialist, who is now the primary contact between FEMA and the PBPN and has been meeting with staff since then to work out the details in regards to receiving assistance.



Tribal Council and other PBPN government leaders (above) met with G. Steve Davis, a FEMA Public Assistance Project Specialist (close up below right) on February 8. Davis is assisting the PBPN who are planning to receive some federal disaster aid from the ice storm. The group met in Tribal Council chambers to go over what data was necessary to begin the process. Above right, Steve Ortiz, Tribal Council chairman, is seen signing some papers with Audrey Oliverius, Comptroller in Finance, who prepared a lot of the documentation.



Left: From left to right is former Fire Chief David Price, Roger Jones, FEMA Deputy Director-Debris, and Tim Ramirez, PBPN Public Works Director, who met with Tribal Council and other PBPN staff on January 8 in Tribal Council Chambers. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss federal assistance programs available to the tribal community (not individuals) for removing debris from the ice storm that occurred.

Another snow storm blew in on February 4 and shut the government down for a day



Road & Bridge crews were ready

Above: PBPN trucks were full of sand and ready to go in front of the Road & Bridge building on February 4 before a 9-inch snow fall occurred. At right is Road & Bridge's Billy Jim Jr., who posed for the *News* before hopping into the truck above and taking out to help clear the roads.



Clean up continues...



These photos of the Cadue home on O Road were taken in January. The photo below left is of John Matchie and Fawn Cadue who were outside cleaning up the property on the day this photo was taken.

A public thank you from the Bob Cadue family

We would like to say "thank you" to the Road & Bridge Department and to the Maintenance Department for their prompt action in our time of need to get the area cleared of the ice storm debris. I made the call on a Monday, Tim Ramirez was here on Tuesday and the road equipment came here on Wednesday and they began the work on Thursday.

We had a mess, have a different mess right now, but we are grateful we did not have to move all the big debris ourselves. Willie Potts said we were hit the hardest on the reserve.

John Matchie worked very hard and is still helping us to rake and burn and move debris. Thank you, John.

One day this year we may have a park-like setting again. Once again, thank you so much for the action taken to help us out. If anyone needs firewood, please feel free to contact us at 785.364.3317 or 3318 to let us know that you would like come out and cut some of the large limbs in the pile.

Sincerely, to all,

Bob and Fawn Cadue

Editor's Note: Submitted January 14, 2008



Where we were in 1998

The Potawatomi News has been published for 10 years now. Below is a glimpse of some of the information that appeared in Volume I, Issue I of the Potawatomi News in 1998 and a message from Gary Mitchell on what has been accomplished since

10 years ago the Potawatomi News reported

Tribal Council News

- There were 134 tribal employees
- That since the first casino opened in the fall of 1996 it was allowing for projects to be already completed or in the planning stage including:
 - Road improvement project
 - We-Ta-Se multi-purpose building
 - Early childhood center
 - Prairie People's Park pow-wow grounds
 - Tribal outdoor recreation complex
 - Ball field renovation
 - Stabilization of tribal programs
 - Repurchasing reservation lands
 - Implementation of tribal newsletter
- That January 1997 marked the culmination of a management agreement between Harrah's and the Potawatomi Tribe with the Grand Opening of Harrah's PBP Casino off of 150 Road and Hwy 75.
- That the Tribal Council under the direction of the General Council in 1997 had adopted Traffic/Criminal Codes into the PBP Tribal Law and Order Codes and also hired a police chief and two officers to patrol the reservation.
- That a new Tribal Government Center was being planned to house the Tribal Council, administrators, the Gaming Commission and Human Resources Department.
- That attorneys and judges were being interviewed for the Tribal Court system.
- That a full burial plan was going to be presented to the membership at the General Council Meeting in July, 1998.

General News

- Gary Mitchell and James Jackson were editors of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi News.
- Tribal Council offices had moved to the old bingo hall at 16283 Q Road
- A police station was being built next to the community building.
- Roy Spoonhunter, Greg Wold and Latane Donelin staffed the Planning/EPA Department.
- The Land Department was staffed by John Rupnicki, supervisor, Sam Potts, Wilson Noriega and Willie Potts, laborers, and Sogi LeClere, secretary
- Prairie Band enrollment totaled 4,274 members. Grace Wahwassuck was the Enrollment Officer and the Theresa J. Kitchkummie was Enrollment Clerk. Orlando Green, Cecilia Jackson and Alberta Wamego were the three tribal elders listed on the Enrollment Committee.
- The Tribal Attorney's Office included David Prager, III as the Tribal Attorney and Paula Hopkins, Office Assistant.
- The Senior Citizen Program was delivering 12 meals to home bound seniors and serving 60-70 meals at the meal site weekly. The director was Nona Wahweotten.
- Lester Sumner was the department coordinator for the Prairie Band Alcohol and Drug Program, a position he had held since 1989.
- Sharon McClane was the Education Administrator for the Adult Education programs that were located at 15434 K Road. Education Committee members were Arlene Wahwassuck, Gary Mitchell, Venida Chenault and Mary Wabnum-Mitchell.
- Human Resources Department had just formed for tribal employees. Dale Delg was director and Rubina Eteeyan was administrative assistant.
- A comprehensive language curriculum was being planned to revive the Potawatomi language through a \$75,000 Administration for Native Americans grant received in 1997. An estimated 21 of 4,274 tribal members were reported to speak fluent Potawatomi.
- Road and Bridge had completed projects like the foundation for Child Care and various bridge repairs and work was underway on a \$3.69 million 158 Road project. Tim Ramirez was directing 22 tribal members hired for the project.
- Susie Wilbur, daughter of William and Verna Wilbur, had received a President's Outstanding Minority scholarship at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities for fall, 1998.
- Zach Pahnahmie, son of Richard Pahnahmie and Cheryl Simon, would attend University of Kansas Law School in the fall of 1998.
- Terri Kern, daughter of Jim and Tutti Kern, would attend University of Kansas Law School in the fall of 1998.
- Jessica Childers, daughter of Ione Delge, and Jennifer Delge, daughter of Renee Delge, both graduated from Perry High School in May of 1998. Jessica was to attend Haskell in the fall. Jennifer, had a 4.0 GPA and was to attend UCLA in the fall on a dance scholarship.
- The Election Board was located at the O Ketch Show Now Center. Election Board members were Rosemary Wahweotten, chairperson, Voncile Mitchell and Julia Barber, clerks.
- A tribal election was scheduled for July 15, 1998. Candidates were: chairperson- Mamie Rupnicki, Ralph Tecumseh, Juanita Jessepe, Laura Abeyta, Joe Hale, Betty Rice and Roy Ogden; secretary-Lisa Wamego Otero, LaVerne Hale and Steve Ortiz; member- Benny Potts, Mando Evans, Rey Kitchkumme, Joe Jessepe, Charlie Seymour, Ron Wahweotten, Sr., Theresa Wabnum Asselin and Roland Matchie.
- The PBP had chartered two buses to travel to the 6th Annual Gathering to be held in Fulton, Mich. August 27-30, 1998.
- On July 4 a PBP community celebration was planned with youth softball games, volleyball, bingo, evening entertainment, feast and watermelon feed, scheduled for the annual event.

An account of a 10-year rebuilding phase

By Gary E. Mitchell

Because I played a small part in getting the tribal paper started ten years ago, the editor of this paper asked me to write my impressions of the events that happened since that time.

I never viewed starting a paper as a big deal, since I enjoy writing and reading a lot anyway. By working on the paper in my spare time, it gave me the opportunity to develop ideas I had, prepare stories I wanted told, and to use different lay-outs. Whenever I read a paper, I would notice how they did their lay-outs; and I would clip out the good ones and use the same design in our paper. The process was fun and the tribal paper turned into an information source for our membership.

My writing background started when I had to write 15-page papers during college and graduate school. Some of the material I developed then has evolved into several articles on the history of the tribe, and the contributions our people made over the same span. It's unlikely anybody would ever tell those stories. It seemed like the press only wrote about the negative aspects of Indian life. Of course, negativity does sell newspapers.

It was a complete surprise when the *Topeka Capital Journal* elected to run my stories for 41 weeks straight in the mid-1990's. This gave good coverage for Potawatomi life and the hard times over the years. I also wrote articles for several Indian papers across the country and one of my articles ended up in a publication in England. All of that prepared me to do some writing for our tribal paper and it was rewarding to see our paper develop over the years.

At that time, it was an opportunity to establish some much needed communication among tribal members. Overall, the concept worked then and should today. We never could have started a newspaper without the gaming money that started to come in during the late 1990's and tribal council support of this initiative.

I view Indian gaming as a historical accident. In our case, we were "poor as the day is long," and in retrospect that's probably an understatement. There were a few circumstances that fell into place to make it easier for gaming to come to our reservation. In the early 1990's, the State of Kansas built a new \$55 million dollar four lane highway that went right by our reservation. This made it only a 20-minute drive from Topeka, with a population base of 150,000 people, and an hour and a half drive from Kansas City, which has a population of over a million people.

In 1995, the State of Kansas approved a Tribal/State Compact, but only after years of litigation that was costly to both sides. Fortunately for us, it passed without a sunset provision, which means we don't have to renegotiate the terms every few years.

The tribe started a small casino shortly after this compact was approved and built a \$36 million dollar casino - initially a 950-machine facility - which was capable of creating significant wealth for the tribe to use in righting the wrongs of the past. We went through a \$55 million dollar expansion of our facility a few years later. The expansion plans included the addition of 198 hotel rooms (tripling the current facility's capacity and I used to laugh about how we had an elevator on our rez now), a 12,000 square foot visitors and convention center (accommodating up to 1,000 visitors), and a steak house with seating for 120 people.

All the way through this casino odyssey, the tribe knew gaming might be a short window of opportunity and had to take full advantage of the economic windfall. I've been around for a long time and have seen the poverty on our reservation, so the transformation is gratifying to witness. To give a few examples of this change, consider these improvements.

It was the position of the tribal government to concentrate on improving our infrastructure, which included providing jobs for our people. We were able to employ over 1,200 people in our casino and tribal operations with over \$34 million in annual wages. Prior to this, we only had about 25 jobs available working in federal grants. Outside work was hard to come by in the local towns for Indian people; and when work was secured, racial slurs were common. It wasn't pretty. Gaming money also made it possible for more tribal members to attend the college of their choice. The tribe provided computers to young tribal members to give them the opportunity to better prepare homework. It's an investment that will pay dividends in the future. The leaders of tomorrow will come from this mix.

Later, many of our tribal members criticized

tribal leaders for not creating more businesses, but that is not the only definition for economic development. Some of those people never lived here to see the poor conditions of the reservation. It was a time to rebuild the neighborhood and have jobs available.

As a result of this philosophy, we have a new Government Center, a new Senior Citizen Center, Boys and Girls Club, Police Station, Water Treatment Plant, a new Fire Station and a Health Clinic with state of the art equipment. In addition, we funded a new addition to our Childcare Center. These few examples total millions of dollars.

Once we had horrendous roads, we would literally get stuck in the middle of the main road during rainstorms, or we would get lost in the dust on hot days. In the winter, we were at the mercy of the county to clear our roads. If they didn't, we didn't go anywhere. Today we have 30.7 miles of blacktop road and enjoy independence from county road and bridge crews. The Nation's Road and Bridge Department maintains 119 miles of road on the reservation. In addition, the Nation has built 25 bridges in the last 11 years.

We have built over 24 houses, 16 regular apartments, 15 senior citizen apartments, 14 rent-to-own houses, 4 rental units and 15 duplexes. The tribe enabled tribal members nationwide to benefit by assistance with home purchases, renovation and relocation assistance. Prior to that, the last homes built on the reservation were with Housing and Urban Development money in 1977 and 1985. I read an article some where that said the only way tribes can make lasting change on reservations is to provide housing for its people.

Our people wanted a recreation area, so we developed a 160-acre park in the center of our reservation. It was featured in a Sunday edition of the *Topeka Capital Journal* as a must-see site in a 60-mile area. We have our pow-wows there along with the Potawatomi Gathering when it comes to town. It is the focal point for meetings, birthday parties, graduation parties and family picnics. Just recently, the tribe developed a pedestrian-bike trail that will wind through the reservation ending up at the park. Eventually this will cover six miles. This trail will help promote community interaction and better health. Our membership will benefit from the park for years to come.

I'm a student of history and have seen many federal programs come to our reservation and nothing, and I mean absolutely nothing, has had the impact on our reservation like gaming. I don't mean to paint a perfect picture because we have had dissent on our reservation, just like all reservations, and we will have it in the future because people's opinions and individual priorities vary. It's always an interesting life when you don't know what will happen next.

Recently the tribe voted to increase the per capita payments and the tribal government elected to begin immediate cutbacks in programs and economic development programs. The future promises more money in the pocket of tribal members and why not? We have had the opportunity to improve the neighborhood over the last ten years and that was accomplished. Now it's just up to the tribal government to make the needed adjustments as mandated by the membership, but, that won't be pretty either.

Yes, it's true nobody likes to lose a meaningful job or go without services - something we have taken for granted the last ten years. It really is bad to see many tribal members lose out on an opportunity for housing renovation, or a down payment on a new house. Or see a young single mother raising kids or elders have no help with medical costs. With the vote to increase the per-cap, all those arguments and lost opportunities are academic, so it's time to move on and live with the results. No matter how we view the future, nothing can discount what has positively happened for the tribe as a result of gaming.

In fact our tribe was once featured in *Time Magazine* in a positive manner among many negative Indian gaming stories. It stated: "For a few tribes like the Potawatomi, gaming has been what advocates had hoped it would be an economic tool to improve the lives of Native Americans." This indicates that we did it right on our reservation.

I think a tribal member who hasn't been here for years would be amazed at the total transformation of the reservation, and it's all because of the gaming revenues we had coming in for the last ten years. I know it's a lot better than it was before 1998. The only sad thing is that in those ten years so many good people passed away. Some didn't get to see the prosperity, the better times, and the positive change, but that's the cards we're dealt.



Where we are now in 2008

PBPN government departments and programs

On the next two pages are photographs of the buildings that house the PBPN government department and programs, building addresses and general phone numbers. Names of employees are also included and were taken from the Human Resources PBPN Nation's phone list posted in March. For detailed information call the Government Center receptionist at 785.966.4000 who can help you with more specific information about department and programs. Also visit www.pbpnation.org or www.pbpindiantribe.com.

Tribal Council

Members: Steve Ortiz, Rey Kitchkumme, Jim Potter, Ryan Dyer, James Wabaunsee, Jackie Mitchell, Junior Wahweotten,

PBPN Government Center
16281 Q Road
Mayetta, KS 66509


Phone:
785.966.4000-local
877.715.6789-Toll Free

Administration

Staff: Jim Shane, Brenda Pahmahmie, Doneka Eteeyan, Cheryl Walker, Paula Hopkins

Tribal Council Support Staff

Staff: Linda Yazzie, Yvette Washington, Pam Bowman, LaVerne Hale, Barbara Cornelius, Shayla Hale



Economic Development

Staff: Kary Broxterman, Dawn LeClere (Grants)

Attorneys

Staff: David Prager, Vivien Olsen

Purchasing Department

Staff: Barbara Smelter, Walt Racker, Joe Mendez

Member Services

Staff: (Enrollment) Arlene Lingo, (Elections) Julia Barber, Voncile Mitchell, (Per Capita) Jim Garcia

Finance Department

Staff: Amanda Barbosa, Marie Mundy, Vanessa Pahmahmie, Louis Johnico, Sylvia Johnson, Audrey Oliverius, Wade Pahmahmie, Deanna Weaver, Robin Shield, Linda Tecumseh, Amber Walker, Leslie Marshno, Paul Vega, Raphael Wahwassuck

Human Resources

Staff: Heather Guillen-Woltje, Donna Valdivia, Tracy Rogers, Michelle Emmert

IT/Computer Services

Staff: Ben Joslin, Alicia Sellens, Tony Scardina (located in Indian Health Center)

Education Department

Staff: Kristen Aitkens, Deb Matchie-Wakolee, Ida Nadeau, Connie Smith

Division of Construction Maintenance
16281 Q Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
785.966.4023


Staff: Carl Matousek, Vern Wabaunsee, Rick Rector, Perk Whitetail, Aaron Hale, Robert Lange, Ahnah Wahwassuck, Lorrie Wahwassuck, Don Don LeClere, Terry Fox, Burton Jones, Richard Pahmahmie, Jonathan Melchoir, Charles Jacobson, Charles Nez, Thomas Jim, Gary Buskirk, John Rupnicki

(part of Public Works)

Tribal Police
16344 Q Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.3024

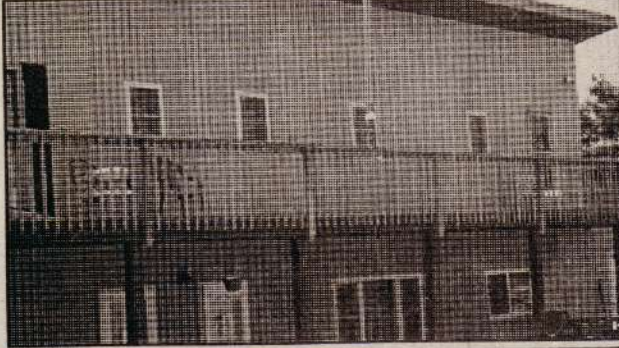
Staff: Sam Grant, Mike Boswell, Ricky Burns, Micky Houk, Steven Cook, John Hurla, Rebekah Jones, Herbert Nance, Jayne Wooton, Larry Rodecap, Wade Schneider, Fredonia Coverdale, Russell Whiteside, Shawn Swisher

Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center
11400 158 Road
Mayetta, Kansas 66509
Phone: 785.966.8200



P.A.R.R. Recovery House
18367 Hwy 75
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.3010

Staff: Evelyn Hopkins, Evans Barr, Vernon Wahweotten, Terry CrossBear




PBP Health Clinic (west wing)

Clinic Staff: John Holtz, Tim Mendez, Tony Scardina, Robin Shield, Sara Price
Business Office Staff: Loree Brooks, Thomasine Pahmahmie, Nicki Dugan, Rhonda Schneider, Iva Long
Diabetes Prevention Staff: Sebe Masquat, RN, Roy Spoonhunter, Steve Corbett
Contract Health Staff: Sarah Turner
Nursing Staff: Brenda Catron, RN Sup., Mina Neuburger, RN CHN, Laury Shopteese, RN, Laura Thackery, LPN, Delores Maines, Bill Read, MBA, MT, Janell Kern RT (R), Nancy Stegman
Pharmacy Staff: Mike Carpenter, RPH, Angela Emert, Mary Shopteese, Jim Simonson
Physician Staff: Richard Pruiksmas, M.D., Terry Harter, M.D., Steven Stevenson, M.D.

Tribal Court
15498 K Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.2242

Staff: Royetta Rodewald, Chago Hale, Kent Miller, Stacy Leeds

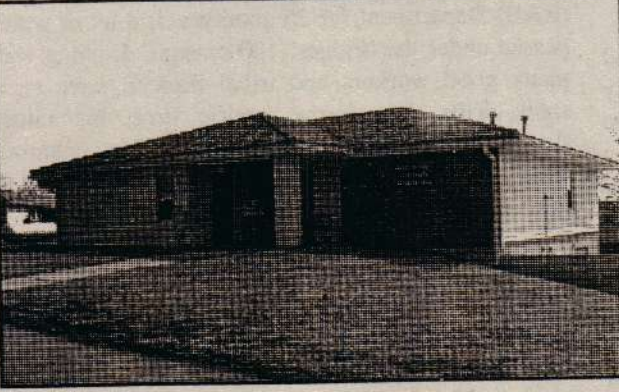


Dental Clinic (north wing)

Staff: Randy German D.D.S., Gayle Lambrecht D.A., Debra Lowe D.H.

Housing Department
8273 156 Lane
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.2756, Toll free: 1-866-966-2756

Staff: Liana Onnen, John Wahwassuck, Jackie Cummings, Larry Coats, Bill Jim, Lisa De Vader, Shannon Lynch, Leanna Hernandez




Social Services Department (east wing)

Staff: Barbara Bowman, Robin Guerrero, Kelly Lewis
Alcohol & Drug: Elaine Mzhickeno Barr, Shirlene Seymour, Denise Suisala
Vocational Rehabilitation: Morris Taylor, Dawn Masqua, Joanna Mitchell
Three Rivers Independent Living: Jeanie Combs
Domestic Violence: Verna Wahweotten
Indian Child Welfare: Mary Sands
Adult Social Worker: Kathy Slimmer
Community Health Representative: Brenda Nozhackum, Mary Jessepe

PBPN Fire Department
15468 K Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.2164

Staff: Jamie Clancy, Scott Fleming, Eric Ganson, Paul Juedes, Mary LeClere, Melvin Lewis II, Curt Bigge, John Bills, Darin Daniels, George Wiecken, Tim Morse, Carl Springer, Mike Barbosa, Doug Schreiner, Cheri-Micol Smith, Randy Smith, Rick Swogger, Scott Price, Lance Wishkeno





Department & Program News

Prairie Band Potawatomi News

We-Ta-Se Building
15434 K Road
Mayetta, KS 66509

We-Ta-Se Department
Phone: 785.966.2580

Staff: Frank Shopteese, Jim Potts

Newspaper Department
Phone: 785.966.2461

Staff: Suzanne Heck



Division of Planning & Environmental Protection
Phone: 785.966.2946

Staff: Virginia "Osh" LeClere, Vincent Hernandez, Sharon Bosse, Bruce Weber, Bill Wilbur, Steve Duryea, Erin "Kumos" Hubbard

(part of Public Works)

Firekeepers Elder Center
15372 K Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.0040



Staff: Wynona Wahweotten, Adrian "Gubba" Hale, Thedi Uhl, Joy Yoshida, Michelle Wabaunsee

Language Department
(located in basement)
Phone: 785.966.2138

Staff: Sidney Van Zile, Laverne Haag, Billy Matchie



Boys & Girls Club
15424 K Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.3031

Staff: Coleen Thomas, Nathan Hale, Cheryl Hopkins, Patrick Mills, Pam-Saht Winsea, Mario Kitchkomme

Ben-no-tteh Wigwam
Early Childhood Education Center
15380 K Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.2527

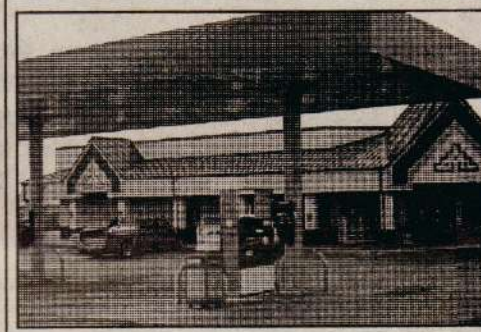


Staff: Hope Adame, Susie "Nis" Wilbur, Tina Haefke, Megan Catron, Carrie Hastings, Judy Jackson, Sandi Jim, Stephanie Greemore, Michelle Throssell, Myra Matchie, Natalie McClane, Norma Shipshee, Vicki Wahquahboshkuk, Edie Wamego, David Noland, Nina Hinds, Tuttie Kern, Nikki Price, Nathaniel "Mi-kes" Potts, Reina Rodriguez-Higine, Brande Adame, Mary Catron, Linda Hale



Mayetta Oil Company
PO Box 95
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.2721

Staff: Louie Creek



Nation Station
12285 150 Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.2719

Staff: Mark Matchie, Stephanie McClure, Kim Simon, Thomas Hernandez, Brenda McClure, Scott Hopkins

Division of Land Maintenance

Staff: Alan "Boney" Pahmahmie, Elliott Masquat, Chris DeCoteau, Scott Eteeryan, John Levier



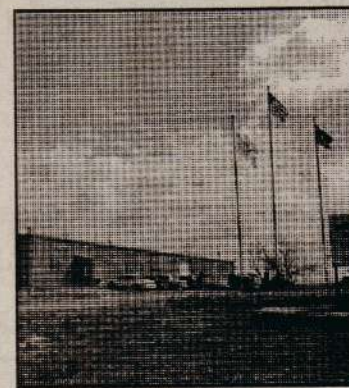
Public Works Department
15185 K Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.2737

Staff: Tim Ramirez, Celeste Weber

Division of Motor Vehicle - Transit Division

Staff: Micki Martinez, Lester Sumner, Roger Lewis, Robbie Griffith, Mike Shobney Jr., Brad Rice, David Daubon, Carol Dewitt, Warren Wahweotten Sr., Lythia Shopteese, Martin Hale, Lesli Grage

Note: Three divisions of Public Works are in separate buildings from the headquarters at 15185 K Road. The Building Maintenance/Construction is located at 16281 Q Road, Department of Planning and Environmental Planning is at 15434 K Road and Road & Bridge is located at 14880 K Road.



Division of Road & Bridge
14880 K Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone: 785.966.2375

Staff: Hardy Eteeyan, Angie Wahquahboshkuk, B.J. Darnall, Benny Potts, Billy Jim, Jr., Henry Pahmahmie, Lawrence Pahmahmie, Billy Price, Willie Potts, Bob Arnold, Joe Shipney, Virgil "Wamp" Shopteese, Ronny Hester, Merriell Wahwassuck, Dennis Eakin

(part of Public Works Department)

A Message from Tim Ramirez, Director of Public Works



By Tim Ramrez, Public Works Director

The five departments above now all fall under the oversight of two newly created position, Director of Public Works, and an assistant coordinator, who reports to the General Manager. The combination of the five divisions is a part of the restructure of the PBPN government operations. This re-organizational change became effective January 2, 2008. By the oversight of one director, more manpower and equipment can be directed to a common task of using what is needed from a combination of specialties available. Before the restructure, the five departments worked independently within a realm of duties, with somewhat limited coordination between division activities.

The Public Works Department is headquartered in the Lands Building along with two other divisions now under Public Works which are Transit and Lands.

The Transit Division has been given the task of maintaining and keeping up the tribal vehicles and the repair bays are staffed and devoted to this. Farming operations are also coordinated and work out of this base of operations.

Within the Public Works Department there are 59 employees located at six sites to take care of the reservation and its many infrastructure needs and also to those services pertaining to the tribal programs and to a healthy environment.

The deliverables of this department is to coordinate activities, keep a tight rein on program budgets

and successfully operate the Public Works Divisions.

I have been employed at the Road & Bridge (R&B) Department for 25 good years; a lot of water has passed under the bridges, 100 seasons. I, along with the many good workers and tribal leaders, have seen big snow drifts, ice storms, prairie fires, big rains and floods, droughts, bitter cold wind chills, steaming hot days and all of what Mother Nature can muster in the four seasons.

I was happy at R&B as the director, it was a rewarding job, a lot was and will continue to be accomplished. I was approached by the General Manager's office before the restructure; there was a sense of concern that the drastic program budget cuts have to work. Being employed by the Nation, I had to step up after the offer was given to fill this new position. I was at a Indian Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) training in Stillwater, Okla. for RIFDS (Road Inventory Field Data System) when I was called and put on speaker phone by the brain-storming restructure folks. I gave it five seconds of silence before I accepted. I continued the last six weeks at R&B and gave it my 100% right into snow season. While everyone was bringing in the New Year, it signaled to me that it's a whole new ball game after 100 seasons. The past two months have been a chore that's for sure, the existing programs were in place, as was R&B, people were let go, moved, and activities are re-delegated. Time will tell as to how this will play out, I foresee it will be a tough fourth quarter on the fiscal year budget line items with the depletion of the historical available funding levels.

Motor Vehicle-Transit Update

Submitted by Micki Martinez, Transportation Manager

Vehicle Registrations

We are now sharing our vehicle registration information safely via the internet with The State of Kansas. We continue to work with the State, County offices, insurance agencies, and financial institutions in providing titling information to each other.

We continue to receive information from the public regarding tribal members not living on the reservation who continue to use the tribal plates; our office is enforcing our tribal code by notifying each tribal member for possible revocation of their tribal plate.

Renewals may be done in our office; however inspections for vehicles will still be conducted by the Tribal Police department (16344 Q Road) and by calling 785-966-3024. Once the inspection is completed we will complete the application process at our office on K road.

Transportation Services

All transportation services will be scheduled or referred through our

office by calling 785-966-2737 or 785-966-2995. Transportation is on a first-come-first-serve basis and the fees are as follows:

- Unscheduled additional stops are 50 cents per stop if not scheduled at the time of original request for transportation
- Local area fares within the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation reservation or within the town of Mayetta

- 50 cents each way for ages 6 years and older - under 5 years will need car/booster seats

- 30 cents each way for elders aged 50 and over

- Long distance fares to Holton, Hoyt, Dennison, and Topeka are \$1.00 one way for ages 6 years and older and 60 cents one way for elders aged 50 and over

Additionally, we are no longer able to provide maintenance vehicle service other than vehicles owned by the Nation.



Department and program news

Bowie, the tribe's drug dog gets certified



The photo, left, shows Officer John Hurla introducing Bowie, the PBPB drug dog last summer at the Casino 4th of July party. Hurla and Bowie trained for several weeks together at the Kansas Highway Patrol Company B in Topeka, Kan. and Bowie passed all the tests needed to become certified. Drug dogs are highly pedigreed and must meet certain criteria before joining a law enforcement agency like the PBP Tribal Police Department.

News from the Social Services Department

Indian Child Welfare Program

Several youth have turned 18 and are enrolling in Vocational Rehabilitation Program and other services to learn independence. The girls in the group home are practicing independent living skills. Several families are reuniting with their children which is a goal of the program. Foster families are also needed. Call 785.966.8326 for more information.

PBPB Vocational Rehabilitation Program

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program has over 100 active cases. Last year the program closed 38 client cases meaning that 38 individuals were successfully employed for over 90 days. The national average for the 72 Native American VR programs in the country is 22 so the PBPB had a very good year. Currently 44 clients are in various training programs and 26 are employed but have not reached the 90-day mark yet. Additionally, 35 are in evaluation, treatment, or job placement status. Only five new cases are accepted each month but the waiting list has not been more than three weeks for an appointment this year.

Three Rivers, Inc. Center for Independent Living

Three Rivers, Inc., a Wamego, Kan. based organization, has an office in Social Services and is dedicated to promoting the independence of persons with disabilities. Contact Jeanie Combs, 785.966.8344 for more information.

Adult Social Services Program

The Adult Social Services Program is designed to promote personal responsibility, family unity, economic and social stability with the goal of working toward attaining self-sufficiency. Kathy Slimmer is the social worker for the program and can be reached at 785.966.8323.

Community Health Representative's Program

The CHR program is a now under the Social Services Department. It provides services of: home visits, blood pressure screenings, some follow-up care, delivery of medications and assistance with scheduling of medical and dental appointments. To be eligible for services, individual must be an enrolled tribal member of a federally recognized tribe and reside within the service area of Jackson County. Call the CHR office at 785.966.8360.

Family Violence Prevention Program

The Family Violence Prevention Program is an advocacy and individual support program that addresses domestic violence issues in the community. A Stop Grant program that includes hot lines, crisis intervention, shelter, and outreach counseling is available. Call 785.966.8340 for assistance.

Social Services project aimed at recruiting tribal foster families

The Indian Child Welfare program in the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Social Services Department has begun a tribal foster family recruitment project designed to increase the number of tribal Potawatomi and/or Native American foster families who will take a youth into their homes.

Two meetings are planned on March 28, 5:30 p.m. and April 11, 5:30 p.m. at the PBPB Community Building at 158 & L Road where those interested can learn about the project. Refreshments and prizes will be offered at the

meeting.

There is a dire need for placement of Potawatomi youth with foster families. The project coordinator is Abigail Estes, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, who is interning with the PBP Social Services Department and conducting the project as part of her studies with the University of Kansas and American Indian Studies Program at Haskell Indian Nations University. Estes is being supervised by Mary Sands, LCSW, and can be reached at 785.966.8326 for more information about the project.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center Hours

Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays- 8 a.m.- noon and 12:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Tuesdays- 8 a.m.- noon and 1:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Thursdays- 8 a.m.- noon and 1:30 p.m.- 7 p.m. (after 4:30 p.m. by appointment only)
Call 785.966.8200

Treatment tips for parents to keep their children from sickness

Submitted by Mina Neuburger, RN CHN

Are you caring for someone who has an infection that you can catch? We are often too late to guard against infection because we are exposed before symptoms appear. For example, the flu can be contagious about a day prior to the onset of symptoms, while strep throat can be contagious as much as five days prior to onset.

Hand Washing, Hand Washing, Hand Washing

The experts continue to say what you've heard before: Frequent hand washing is the single most effective way to prevent catching a communicable disease.

Guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC)

Recommend washing: •Before and after you prepare food •Before you eat •After you use the bathroom •After handling animals or animal waste •After coughing or sneezing •When your hands are dirty wash them frequently especially if someone in your home is sick
To wash properly: •Wet your hands and apply liquid or clean bar soap. Place bar soap on a soap dish that allows it to drain. •Rub your hands together vigorously, scrubbing all surfaces for 15 to 20 seconds. That's about how long it takes to hum "Happy Birthday" twice.
•Rinse well and dry your hands. In a public restroom, use the air dryer or paper towels.
•In the absence of soap and water, use alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers.

What to Disinfect and How

Germs are sneaky. Not only are they invisible, but they can hide on surfaces from a few hours for viruses up to three days for bacteria. And they laugh at our attempts to wipe them out with a soapy rag. You have to think like a detective to figure out all the places they're hiding like on phones, remote controls, microwaves and refrigerator handles, door handles, toilet seats and handles, faucets, light switches and toys.

The CDC likes old-fashioned chlorine bleach, which is effective against viruses. Add one-fourth of a cup of bleach to one gallon of warm water and allow the mixture to sit on the surface for 10 minutes before rinsing.

Whenever disinfecting surfaces, you should wear rubber gloves, ventilate the area, and, if you're sensitive to chemicals, wear a mask. Wash your hands after removing the rubber gloves.

Tribal Crime Victims Assistance Program now available

Submitted by Rebekah Jones
Office Manager/Tribal Victims Assistance
Program Manager

The purpose of the Potawatomi Tribal Police Department's Tribal Victims Assistance (TVA) Program is to assist Native American victims of crime and their families in meeting their immediate essential needs subsequent to victimization as well as providing support and assistance in navigating and understanding the criminal justice process.

Native American crime victims and their immediate family members residing in Jackson County, Kansas, or an adjacent county (Pottawatomie, Nemaha, Brown, Atchison, Jefferson and Shawnee) are eligible for services regardless of the jurisdiction in which the crime was committed. Direct financial assistance may be provided to meet immediate essential needs that are created or not being met as a consequence of a crime. Immediate essential needs can be defined on a case by case basis but are generally defined as the basic human needs of food, safe shelter, clothing, and transportation. Personal and family counseling and advocacy, assistance with legal costs related to victimization, and some limited employment assistance are also eligible services through the TVA Program.

Micki Martinez elected chairperson of regional transit group



Micki Martinez, Transportation Manager, was elected chairperson January 18 at the Coordinated Transit District (CTD) #3 meeting in Holton, Kan.

CTD #3 includes Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, and Nemaha counties in northeast Kansas.

There are 15 CTDs in Kansas with each CTD responsible for coordinating public transit systems within their service area. Membership consists public and human service transit funds recipients from the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Housing Department update

By Liana Onnen, director

National Programs

- As of January 1, 2008 the Down Payment Assistance Program and the Renovation/Repair Program are no longer available effectively ending the Housing Department's National Programs.
- Those with existing and open grants/awards from 2007 will be allowed to finish out their projects.
- Those who were placed on a waiting list for funding availability in 2008 will not be awarded.

Rental Housing

- The Housing Department still provides rental housing on and near the reservation.
- Applicants are responsible for updating their address with the Housing Office. Address changes given to Enrollment, Elections, or Per Capita are confidential and not shared with the Housing Department. It is the applicant's responsibility to update the Housing Office of any changes in address. All notifications of available housing will be sent to the most recent address on file. If there is no response to a mailed notification we will move on to the next person on the list and the applicant who did not respond will be moved to the bottom of the list. Please keep the Housing Office informed of any address changes to ensure you are given every opportunity for tribal housing.
- As of March 1, 2008 there are approximately 170 applicants on our Rental Waiting List. There are approximately 28 applicants on our Senior Rental Waiting List.
- The Housing Department will no longer offer the Transitional Housing Program.

Phone: 785.966.2756, Toll free: 1-866-966-2756.

Language Department acquires Phraselator teaching tool

The Language Department is shown, right, with Don and Kara Thornton of TMI Media who conducted a Phraselator training recently. The Phraselator is a computerized language conversion tool. Pictured from left to right, front, is Sidney Van Zile and Cecilia "Meeks" Jackson. Back row, left to right, is Billy Matchie, Don Thornton, Kara Thornton, and Laverne Haag.



The Language Department recently went through a two-day training for the Phraselator that converts spoken words into other languages by computer.

Don and Kara Thornton of Thornton Media, Inc., (TMI) Banning Calif. taught the Language staff how to use the equipment. So far TMI has worked with more than 80 tribal groups and Don told the News that the Prairie Band is the fifth

Potawatomi tribe that they have worked with in their thirteen years as an Indian-owned company. Don is a Cherokee of Oklahoma tribal member.

Cecilia "Meeks" Jackson, a fluent speaker of the Potawatomi language, also participated in the two-day training held March 3-4 at the Language Department.

The Department is located in the Firekeepers Elder Center basement.

P.A.R.R.-TYERS



Dancers at P.A.R.R.'s Valentine's Day dance to Gary Cooper and the Blue Feather Band at the Bingo Hall on Feb. 9.

P.A.R.R., an addiction recovery house for men located on the reservation held a Sobriety Valentine Dance on February 9 at the Bingo Hall.

P.A.R.R. was recently featured in the nationally known *Indian Country Today* newspaper written by columnist Mary Pierpoint who attended the dance and interviewed staff and Tribal Chairman Steve Ortiz about additional funding needed to keep the house open.

Another dance is scheduled for April 12 at the Boys & Girls Club.

Boys & Girls Club learn and have fun with spring break activities



Lots of activities and events were scheduled during spring break at the Boys & Girls Club and one of them was learning how to fold the American flag. In the photo above is Quamell Eteeyan, left, and Jayden Sernalb-Blakemore, right, completing the folding exercise that was taught by We-Ta-Se staff. The PBPB Department of Planning and EPA and a few other PBP departments also gave educational presentations that week as part of the fun for the youth. There was also a sleep over and visits from the Topeka Zoo.



Royal Valley to offer Summer School Enrichment Program for elementary and middle school students

By Katie Petesch, Royal Valley School District CLC Director

I'm sure everyone is already thinking about summer and making plans. Well, before you get your vacations set, make sure and leave June 2 - June 20 open for your elementary kids from 8:30-12:30 p.m. and June 2- July 3 for the middle school program which is a five-week program this year and will run from 8:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Elementary school program

The elementary summer school program is similar to years past but since there is construction going on at the elementary school some high school classrooms will be used for the program. We will still offer some of the same classes as last year but will not be going to the Boys and Girls Club. The cost for the elementary summer school program is \$20 a week per child and lunch will be provided. Financial assistance is also available. Please call the school for more information at 785.986.6286.

Middle school program

Middle School students can choose what weeks to come to the program. The district received a grant from the State of Kansas to provide a summer school program. This program will allow students to explore different careers. Each day two different guest speakers will come in and talk about their careers and what it took to get there. Speakers from the military, airline industry, health care field and other professionals including a plumber, beautician, coach and biologist will speak. Students will also learn interview and job-application techniques. The next phase of the summer school program will be on fitness and academic enrichment. Like in the past students will be able to choose what classes to take. If they need extra help in math or reading those classes will be available to them. Other classes planned are: arts and crafts, basketball, volleyball, dance, kickboxing, and more. Students will also have the opportunity to go to the Boys and Girls Club twice a week to go swimming. The final phase of the summer school program will provide technology and science to the students. Students may learn web design, video editing, power point, and more. In addition, the grant will offer "Field Trip Fridays". Each week there will be a tour of a different college. We will explore dormitories, cafeterias and different academic areas.

This is a free program for the middle school and breakfast and lunch is included.

If you have youngsters in the K-4 program and you use your middle school student to baby sit, RVCLC will provide childcare for a very low cost until 2:15 p.m. when the middle school students are dismissed. For more information call Katie Petesch or Jessica Wilhelm at the elementary school.

Look for enrollment forms that will be sent home at Parent-Teacher Conferences or included in your child's book bag at the end of March.

Royal Valley Native American dancers place first at 2008 Battle of the Plains contest

Submitted by Anita Evans

The Royal Valley Native American Dancers took first place at the "Battle of The Plains" dance competition held on January 26 in Bartlesville, Okla. Royal Valley was invited as special guests in the competition that was open to Oklahoma Title VII or Johnson O'Malley Indian Education Programs. Competing teams included: Operation Eagle-Bartlesville; Northern Plains-Pawnee Nation Indian Education; Sequoyah High School-Tahlequah; Norman, Okla. Indian Education; and Royal Valley Native American Dancers, Mayetta, Kan. Second place went to Operation Eagle and Northern Plains of Pawnee Nation took third.

Royal Valley has won first place each year since 2005 but the 2007 competition was cancelled due to bad weather. Sponsors for the dance group are Anita Evans and Connie Peters.

Dancers compete against other individually and in group dancers from various schools for points. Royal Valley won the competition by 40 points as they entered 51 dancers in the competition with a total of 54 dancers representing Royal Valley.

Listed below are the RV participants:

Ages 5-7 Girls Fancy

1st-Tamo Green
2nd-Kishno Bell
3rd-Candy Alcantar
HM-Isabella Wamego-Martinez

Ages 5-7 Cloth

1st Kiikto Green
2nd-Felicity Price

Ages 5-7 Jingle

1st-Dania Ortero
2nd-Assleyn Jessepe
3rd-Pudge Coon

Ages 5-7 Boys Fancy

2nd -Zach Wahweotten
3rd-Daniel Scholfield

Ages 5-7 Boys Grass

1st-Darius Thomas
2nd-Tyson Hale
3rd-Bryce Garrison
HM-Edgar Higin Jr.
HM-Komesh Spoonhunter

Ages 5-7 Boys Trad.

Ages 5-7 straight
(No RV entry)

Ages 8-10 Girls Fancy

1st-Brennah Wahweotten
2nd-Natalie Fish
3rd-Tesla Potts
HM-Quengo Fairman
HM-Micaella Wamego-Martinez

Ages 8-10 Cloth

(No RV Entry)

Ages 8-10 Girls Jingle

2nd-Mady Krick
HM-Taryn Boswell
HM-Shobwas Ceja
HM-Sondra Solis
HM-Sage Pahlmhamie

Ages 8-10 Boys Fancy

1st-Kwaki Spoonhunter
2nd-Blake Garrison
3rd-Rainer Brady

Ages 8-10 Boys Grass

1st-Arrow Levier
2nd-Blake Garrison
3rd-Rainer Brady

Ages 8-10 Boys Traditional

Ages 8-10 Boys Straight
(No RV Entry)

Ages 11-14 Girls Fancy

1st-Kacie Boswell
3rd-Alicia Scholfield
HM-Pam Knoxsah
HM-Yolanda Solis
HM-Sierra Pahlmhamie
HM-Faith Potts
HM-Danielle Lesdesma
HM-Leonna Wilson

Ages 11-14 Cloth

2nd-Mittina Hale
HM-Sylvana Levier
HM-Rebekah Navarro

Ages 11-14 Girls Jingle

2nd -Nadas Green
HM-Kek Mitchell
HM-Hannah Wahwassuck



The Native American Dancers after winning the Battle of the Plains contest in 2005 with their trophy.
News file photo

Ages 11-13 Boys Fancy

(No RV Entry)

Ages 11-13 Boys Grass

2nd-Joshua Tessoroff

Ages 11-13 Boys Trad

1st-Doug Green
Ages 11-13 Boys
Straight
(No RV Entry)

Ages 14-18 Girls Fancy

2nd-Andrea Alvarado
HM-Elizabeth Gaona

Ages 14-18 Cloth

HM-Ttem Pahlmhamie
Ages 14-18 Buckskin
(No RV entry)

Ages 14-18 Girls Jingle

1st-Sydney Jessepe

Ages 14-18 Boys Fancy

(No RV Entry)

Ages 14-18 Boys Grass

2nd -Pam Johnson

Ages 14-18 Boys Trad

(No RV Entry)
Ages 14-18 Boys Straight
(No RV Entry)

Ages 4 and under-Tiny Tots-Future RV Dancers

Tti-Ttak Hale
Mshawe Hale
Gishko Hale

A few of the Native American youth dancers, seen right, participated in a fashion show last summer during the Pathways to our Future Education Conference. Adult tribal members also participated in the show wearing their regalia.



Potawatomi youth standouts in sports

Kwake Hale scores big as basketball player for Royal Valley High School

Kwake Hale recently ended his high school basketball career by scoring a total of 517 points making him one of the few basketball players ever at Royal Valley to score more than 500 points.

He was also selected to play on the area All-Star team in Highland, Kan. on March 30.

Hale is the son of LaVerne Hale and Joe Hale, Sr. and plans to graduate from Royal Valley this spring.



Jake Rodewald selected to Shrine Bowl

Jake has also signed a letter of intent to play football at Butler Community College in Eldorado, Kan. this fall.



Jake Rodewald has been selected to play in the 2008 Kansas Shrine Bowl to be held on July 26 at Welch Stadium, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kan.

Rodewald, who attends Royal Valley High School, was chosen for the prestigious honor by over 30 sports media professionals by mail-in ballot.

Only 68 men from the entire state of Kansas were asked to play in the charity all-star football game which brings honor and recognition to the players, coaches and their schools each year. The Shrine Bowl donates all net profits, which has amounted to over \$2 million so far, to the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Rodewald's parents are Tracy & Royetta Rodewald, Hoyt, Kan., maternal grandparents are Joe and Mamie Rupnicki, Soldier, Kan., and paternal grandparents are Kermit & Colleen Rodewald, Somers, Iowa.

Hiawatha High School senior Jonathan Dupuis signs letter of intent to play football at Butler Community College



Jonathan Dupuis, center front, at the signing with his mother Doris Shopteese, to his left and Ralph Herling to his right. On the back row second from left is his brother, Josh, with unidentified representatives from Hiawatha High and Butler Community College.
Photo courtesy of the Hiawatha World

PBPN Education Department update

By Kristen Aitkens, Education Director

The spring semester is well underway and the Education Department has been working to update policies and procedures. Policies are constantly being reviewed to ensure that we are working to meet the needs of the students.

Each semester we see an increase in students requesting assistance. This spring 2008 semester we are funding: 116 undergraduate students, 13 graduates and 11 adult vocational training students. With the number of applications received it is important to pay attention to deadline dates! Submitting late applications could make a student ineligible for assistance.

As a reminder all undergraduate students are required to reapply for funding each year! Applications must be complete and received by JULY 1 to be considered. Late applications will be

accepted until August 1, but late applicants will be awarded based on available funds. Late applications will not be eligible for the maximum award so be sure to apply as early as possible. Applications can be requested from our office or downloaded on our website: www.pbpnation.org/Education.

Don't forget to complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It does not matter if a student is eligible for a Pell grant, the FAFSA is required as part of the tribal scholarship application. The FAFSA is also a great way for schools to determine eligibility for different grants, scholarships, student loans or federal work study. Don't wait too late! Waiting to file the FAFSA could jeopardize your eligibility for funding. Our office is always available for individual assistance in filing the FAFSA. For more information about eligibility, award amounts, and to file online visit www.fafsa.ed.gov. Call 785.966.2960 for details.

Message from a proud grandma

On January 26 a very large group traveled to Bartlesville, Okla. for the gathering called Battle of the Plains, a youth competition pow-wow. It had been several years since I attended this youth pow-wow. I am writing because I am very proud and very impressed with our youth and the parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents that attended. This was a fairly large building where the pow-wow was held and when I walked in the door half the room was filled with our group.

Every time I see the Royal Valley (RV) dancers I'm so proud because they just keep getting better and better. They were well behaved and represented us with honor. I would like to say "thank you" to each one of them for what they've accomplished. I enjoyed watching each one dance. This grandma must brag a little, because my granddaughter, Mi-tti-na Hale, was the head teen dancer and she did a beautiful job. Grandma was very proud to dance with her. I must also mention the singers. At this time Mek-tew-shuk (Gubba) Hale helps with the RV group. When they perform he rounds up the singers. There is a good group of young boys who sing and are learning the songs. I would also like to say I am proud of my sons who usually sing with them, the Little Soldier Singers. Their dad, Joe Hale, who sings with them, has taught them well. You all do a wonderful thing in singing for these young dancers and helping to teach the young boys the songs.

LaVerne Hale, your momma & your grandma

**PBP Student Awards
Banquet
April 23
Prairie Peoples Park
(rain out at Boys & Girls Club)**



News Tidbits

From the Geneology Office

By Delores Abrams

The Genealogy Office has a notebook put together by Sherry Harrington Penland that has her family information in it. The family information starts with Naw-gish McPherson, her daughters Emily, Elizabeth, Laura and Mary. Mary McPherson married Jock Sheppo, children were Charles Shepard and Emily Shepard. Emily married John Pappan, Peter LaTraunch, Edmond Maynes (Maines) and John Preston. Many children were born of these marriages. One daughter, Anna LaTraunch Maynes married Henry Harrington and their son Harry was Sherry's father. There are obituaries, cemeteries, census charts and many more interesting facts. A copy of this notebook is at Jackson Historical Society and Horton Indian Agency. If anyone has information about Sherry's family please contact her as she is always looking for information. Sherry's email is secstart@cox.net, please put Indian in the title so she will know it isn't spam. Please leave a message at 785-966-0037 or email deloresabrams@pbpnation.org to set up an appointment if you wish to review this book.

Galen Hubbard retires from BIA



2006 News file photo

Galen E. Hubbard, a Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal member, retired as superintendent of the Horton Agency/Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on January 31. He had been in that position since 1999.

Galen began working at the Horton Agency in 1987 in the Individual Indian Monies Section and two years later began working in an administrative post until he became superintendent.

He is a Vietnam veteran and a life member of the We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410. He is married to Sue Hubbard and has four children and 10 grandchildren.

He told the News that he plans to spend more time with his family now that he is retired and to continue his interests in arts and crafts and attending pow-wows.

At press time Hubbard had not been replaced at the Horton Agency/BIA.



Letters to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:

Harrah's Entertainment has been officially gone since the end of June and let's see what changes are happening. According to an article in the last newspaper, 67 employees have either been laid off or their positions have been abolished. There has been a reduction in employee benefits. Down payment and home improvement assistance programs are gone. Our Potawatomi News will now only be printed and mailed quarterly. Too bad programs directly affecting the youth of this Nation have had to be cut. The future leaders of this Nation (Pottawatomi children) don't need help with computers or loan repayment programs. They apparently don't need high school graduation incentives or study abroad programs or executive education assistance either. No money for those things. At least there is plenty of money for charitable contributions as I see we have given out \$70,000 in the 4th quarter of 2007.

Operating budget reductions and realignments in departments are being blamed on an increase in per capita payments. It is my belief that this is a direct result of not continuing our relationship with Harrah's. There was plenty of money for new roads and bridges while Harrah's was here. There were education programs and graduation incentives while Harrah's was here. Tribal members were helped with the pride of home ownership while Harrah's was here. We have a big new medical and dental facility that was built while Harrah's was here but the services there have been cut as well. Sure, some belt-tightening measures would have been necessary because of the increase in the per capita but not to these extents had those in power not been greedy in wanting to self manage the casino. Just watch as the casino revenues continue to dwindle and reductions continue to be the norm. Look at the changes in the last seven to eight months and then wonder what the next year will bring. I hope those that didn't want Harrah's to remain are those most affected by these changes.

Happy New Year.

Gary Nelson

Letter to the Editor:

On the front page of the Topeka Capital-Journal (January 15, 2008) there was an article entitled, "Innovate, Educate." It is about Gov. Sebelius' State of the State Address given the night before. Anyway, as I read this I was wondering why we as "Native Americans" aren't actively involved in the "innovation" and practicing what we preach and supposedly teach in "living in harmony with nature."

It just urks me when I think of all the so called "Natives" who preach the preachings of our ancestors really well but do the opposite. That almighty dollar has clouded the morals and actions of too many of "our" people. Our ancestors preached against material gains and the greedy and uncaring ways of the "white man" long ago. They predicted that it was this behavior that would destroy "Mother Earth." Native Americans should be "leading the way" to "innovation" in providing for a cleaner form of energy and doing anything and everything we can to help lower the emissions of greenhouse gas in the form of wind or solar energy. What happened to the Prairie Band Potawatomi plan? Was there no "instant profit" in it to please the powers be? I'm all for progress, but it seems we have lost our sense of traditional native values. Historically we were known for our bravery, courage, integrity, fairness, honor and environmental concern.

There was also an interesting article on the opinion page written by Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson, the chairman of the Kansas Wind Working Group, indicating the group was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy because Kansas is the third best state in the country for wind farms. He further stated that by the end of the year Kansas will become one of the country's leaders in the per capita creation of wind power. For the "profit mongers," he stated that "this can create more than \$15 billion in investments, thousands of permanent jobs and millions of dollars of lease payments to farmers."

Respectfully,

Kevin Aitkens

March 3, 2008

To the Editor:

This DeKalb agreement does not reveal the Prairie Band (PB) income to be generated from Illinois bingo operations but that is irrelevant in this response for now. How sure are they with the gaming competition that surrounds Shabbona area?

First and foremost, why doesn't PB wait for a legal ownership decision of the Shabbona land and concentrate on our Kansas business problems? I cannot see how in a couple of months the casino profits are dwindling to the point of desperation. Our own failed bingo, frivolous Tribal Council (TC) spending, tribal casino ownership and now tribal program and employee cutbacks seem to be new business. So, if one fails, forget that and let's try another business guess.

Payment in lieu of taxes from the Nation to the County is only a fancy title for actually paying county taxes as "the same methodology as if the tribal lands were otherwise subject to real property taxes." A piece of our sovereignty is surrendered to the County for a fancy title. Then we allow the County to charge us more "payments in lieu of taxes" in future annual assessments. In this sense, we are being treated as regular citizens unprotected by tribal treaties and sovereignty, Supreme Court and President (Executive) decisions and fiduciary trust responsibility. With our land purchase, we probably are the highest property tax payers in the county and it will get higher.

Any dispute is before the County and State court so who do you think they are going to side with under their laws? Law enforcement is according to County laws.

The County does not recognize the whole reserve as Indian land but this agreement that PB agrees to, prohibits PB casting future claims on the remaining parts of the reserve. But if any landowner wants to submit a written request to PB to purchase their real estate property or any other property (actually ours), it will be at FULL market value with no negotiations. So, once again, we give them our land free of charge for use of it for over 150 years, loss of generated income for over 150 years without interest and then if we agree to purchase it back at full value, our own land.

The Nation agrees to waive any claim to the Forest Preserve and State Park. But in this agreement the TC will agree to "In the event that ownership of the park and forest is transferred to the Nation, the Nation agrees that it will take no action to alter its character and shall only exert jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions of this agreement and applicable law." Unbelievable! Whenever the federal government makes a legal decision that we own the land, we can't do anything to it because of this hasty agreement. Who gets the income generated from this land for the past 150 years? It's our land but they keep the money.

We are also financially responsible for all servicing roads and bridges in this County forever. Also, this includes any additional developments due to the tribal project lands and cooperatively seeks additional approvals as may be required under applicable law. This means that we pay for all future expenses as well. Like federal law, this agreement steams with ambiguity totally at our expense. This even includes when the bingo operation is closed.

The Nation has already paid some expenses (\$129,460.27 of the total amount of \$152,460.27) and paying all expenses associated with the tribal project lands. I wonder if the other party has paid their share?

I know this a younger generation of Prairie Band but we have a history of a physical and spiritual life to the land from alpha to omega. Whatever meager human resources our elders had it was to keep the land, even signing 43 treaties under duress and termination to surrender homelands for other distant lands for cultural survival. Our Nation and other native nations have never voluntarily surrendered their lands for free and then agree to buy it back.¹ Prior to these treaties, we have always fought to keep our land.

In mid 1800's, the PB has displayed historical resistance from losing our lands. "The Diminished Pottawatomi Reserve has been long

looked upon as a section exceedingly fertile, and highly desirable for settlement, but since 1875, there has been but little expectation that it would become a part of the taxable domain of Jackson County, until at a somewhat distant period."²

In 1861, the Potawatomi split into two bands. PB and Citizen Band (CB). Taking land into sole ownership violated tribal law and it was so offensive to PB that the bands are like two different Nations. The PB does not even consider CB blood, even though its Potawatomi blood, when calculating blood quantum for PB tribal membership. PB chose to hold their land in common and CB took ownership of their land allotments, usually 80 or 160 acres. Most CB lost their allotments and tried to move back in with PB relatives on the reservation but were forcibly removed, probably at PB request, and eventually relocated to Oklahoma.

In the 1880's, Wakwaboshkok "led the opposition to the Dawes Allotment Act and its implementation. In this fashion the Prairie People became a composite group and, as the years passed, one increasingly heterogeneous in language and culture." He was jailed at the Fort Riley stockade, wrote James Clifton in his book *The Prairie People*.

In 1887, the CB received reservation allotments again. Maybe there are other dates but in 1954 the TC protested to Congress to take CB off the tribal roll and place land back into common tribal status. Again, it was so offensive for PB to forcefully surrender their land that they chose not to recognize those tribal members that took land into sole ownership. They wanted to be like regular citizens so they were called Citizen Band.

In a January 4, 1954 draft, a proposed bill for our tribal termination was sent to the U.S. President from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior Orme Lewis who stated, "Most of their contentions centered around the fear of loss of land or a depressed standard of living for those individuals whose land becomes taxable."³

In February 1954, Congress wanted to terminate us as a tribe. Chairperson Minnie Evans, James Wahb-noh-sah and John Wahwassuck testified to protest proposed legislation to remove Indians (PB) from federal supervision and that we are a tribe with a language, land and people. "The PB leaders maintained that removal of federal supervision violated their treaty with the U.S. They wanted to remain wards of the government which makes them tax exempt and which keeps Indians from selling their reservation land," said Evans.

Evans also stated later in her testimony that in general, "We desire to hold that land in common and to be a home for the Prairie Band Indians." She was speaking of the Kansas reservation but even at this point in a terrible time of our history, we still did not desire to give away any of our land.

In October 1972, "the Commissioner of Indian Affairs withdrew federal approval of the 1961 Constitution on the grounds that the PB's government was no longer able to function, and reverted to the system of direct rule by the superintendent until such time as a new constitution acceptable to the community was drawn up and approved." The land is so important to the PB that they risked their tribal existence to maintain control over it.⁴

Also, during this time, the PB and the Jesuits agreed to give to PB control of the St. Mary's College in St. Mary's, Kan. and to place it into trust. Over time, the BIA's forked tongue prevailed and the loss of the college and the land was taken away from the PB. At that time, the PB, at least, fought for the land.

There are more instances but this letter reveals that we have a history of fighting to keep our land and not surrender it or barter it away. In the DeKalb/PB agreement, it is not that way anymore. Our history also records major disagreements with the U.S. and other Potawatomi who took allotments or CB and now it's within our own ranks. But again, this is not new because back then the 1972 differences between the bureau favored the Business Committee and the people's Tribal Action Committee and is what led to the bureau's disapproval or our Constitution.⁵

Show me the money! At a General Council (GC) meeting on October 20, 2001, the TC negotiated a casino fee reduction that was to pro-

duce an additional \$34.6 million. There were all kinds of TC and other tribal income incentives anticipated to justify an increase in their salary but that did not happen.

The point is, this agreement is bad! The financial advantage goes to DeKalb County. TC can't wait for a federal decision and would rather give our land away only to buy it back at a later and more expensive date.

In my opinion, the Shabbona reserve is ours, all of it. When it is officially ours, DeKalb County should have to deal with Illinois for compensation buyout to all landowners for illegally creating false title of our land, instead of PB. My concern would be calculating the loss of all income generated from this land since mid 1850's plus interest and it already should be in trust status. That is why the TC cannot give away this land, with or without the GC consent. That loss of income is where the TC can show me the money and we can have our land too.

How would the federal government benefit from delaying the decision of Shabbona land ownership? If TC approves this agreement, the government wouldn't do anything further than wait for retirement. Their self-imposed idea of self-determination would be if PB wants to do this then let them. For centuries they have tried to figure out a way to get out of the Indian business and we figured it out for them. After centuries of war, legal battles and attempts of tribal sovereignty enforcement, we would be non-sovereign on our own land, pay taxes and surrender to County and State jurisdiction. Now you know why DeKalb County wants immediate TC approval without our approval.

When the ownership decision goes in our favor, and with GC desires, I would jointly discuss a resolution with DeKalb County with Illinois being responsible to their landowners. All other side deals in conjunction with any operations would be null and void and without our permission, feel free to sue the PBPN.

There are more legal and financial requirements unforeseen in this agreement but without GC having legal representation, they won't know the full financial story and who will tell them?

One last note. I know that not all PB will agree with me and want the agreement approved so they have a larger per capita check. Since our enrollment doubled in size since the opening of the Casino in 1998, there are many new members with no cultural attachment to the Nation other than they acquire the blood quantum under federal law to be a tribal member. In that case, I just hope the tribal share will help increase their knowledge of our tribal sovereignty and history, language and culture, and many will seek our way of life, unattached to vices today. I also hope that someday decisions will be made upon a majority rule instead of a minority. I pray that our membership unites upon common grounds, one congenial heart, family-oriented Nation, business and tribal, to remain in nature as Prairie Band as our Great Spirit intended.

This is a sad day for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and far from historic.

Thomas M. Wabnum (Since I quoted names from books I wrote them as they are spelled. Today, family names are spelled differently and show no disrespect to them).

¹ William G. Cutler's History of the State of Kansas published in 1883 by A. T. Andreas, Chicago, IL.

² Chief Menominee was the leader of the resistance and refused to sell his land and move west of the Mississippi River, per the treaty of 1836. He did not sign the treaty but was forced to go anyway. Hundreds of Potawatomi who did not want to leave Indiana moved to his village, which grew from 4 wigwams in 1821 to 100 wigwams and cabins in 1838.

³ Joint Hearing before the Subcommittees of the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs, Congress of the United States Eight-Third Congress, Second Session on S. 2743 and H.R. 7318; Part 11 Sac and Fox, Kickapoo and Potawatomi Tribes, February 18, 1954.

⁴ The Prairie People, James Clifton, U. of Iowa P, 1998, (463).

⁵ Our Story. The Prairie Band Pottawatomi Indians. How to Survive when the Government tries to Steal Everything you Have." Chairman Lester L. Jessepe, 1972.



Ttiwenmo eginigyán (Happy day you were born)



Happy Birthday
to my beautiful
children!

From: Dad,
Christopher
Vanderblomen,
Grandparents, John
Vanderblomen Sr. &
Ada
Wahquahboshkuk
& Carol
Kitchkommie &
David Lake

Azure, 3
January 21



Andrew, 14
January 13



Happy Birthday
to

Alyssa Levier Feb. 2
Arrow Levier Feb. 4
Juanita Jessepe Feb. 10
Sylvana Levier Feb. 21
Rosanna Jessepe Feb. 28

We love you very much!
From the Jessepe and Levier family

Thurman
"Dutch"
Keo



Happy 5th Birthday
to
our little wrestler!
We are proud of you and
love you very much.

Mom, Dad & Ashtyn



Happy
4th
Birthday,
Zaid



We love you,
Candi

Ganiçák (Those who are born)

Welcome
Marisa Despie McKinney
who was
born on
November 8, 2007
to
Kateri Lamoyne Levier
&
Daryl James McKinney



Welcome to the world!
Madeline Alice Gragg
Born: October 22, 2007
Parents: Chris & Audra (Ramirez)
Gragg
Grandparent: Terri (Blandin)
Ramirez
Great grandparent: James (Bud)
Blandin (deceased)



Happy Birthday
Amber Sky Mzhickteno
Born: January 10, 2008

Your family loves you
and you brought a new light
into our lives.



Happy Birthday
to
Misho Raymond Wahwasuck, Sr.
on March 2
Hope you had a great day.
Love,
Dutch, Ashtyn & Derek



Alice



Michael

The Beres Kids

Parent:
David Beres

Grandparent:
Alice Dexter

Great-grandparent:
Janice Levier

Hello
to
Jasmine
Lynneil
Kahbeah
Born:
February 27,
2008



Parents: Tiffany Jim & Jarred
Kahbeah
Grandparents: Philip & Debbie Jim
Jewel Tucker &
Daniel Kahbeah

Happy Birthday



Koby Goins, 10
March 7



"J" Jeffrey L.
Goins, 12
January 10



Photo left:
Jeffrey Goins II, 35
and
Charlee Goins, 5
both on
March 31

From: Misho
(Kevin Aitkens) & Aunt Crystal
and family

Happy
2nd
Birthday
on
March
29



Gisso (Evan Tate Whiteshield)
&
OB (Aleck Noll Whiteshield)
With lots of love from Dad & Mom

Birthday wishes to the Guerrero family



In April
Angelo (left) will
turn 30-something
and Alexis (right)
will turn 7 in May

In June
Aiden will be 2
and Robert will be
13

Cassie (not
pictured) will also
turn 2 in June.



Love, Grandma, Auntie/Mommy.

Messages and other news

One
tough
dude!



Nathan DeCoteau, 4,
took second place at the Muttin-
bustin (ride the sheep) PRCA
(Professional Rodeo Cowboys
Association) January 18-19 at the
Kansas Expocentre in Topeka.
He received a bobble-head bull
for his efforts.

He is the son of Ann and
Chris DeCoteau. After he won
the trophy he was also invited to
join the Kansas Jr. Rodeo
Association.

Haskell visitors



Aaron Ross, left, and Leah Hitcher, center, from Haskell
Indian Nations University American Indian Studies
Program were given a tour of the reservation recently by
Benny Potts, far right. Benny works at Road & Bridge and
has lived on the reservation most of his life.

Happy 41st Birthday to Big Daddy Sam



on
April 29th

Love, Beka
and
the Bad Boyz



Cornelia Donahue will recite part of a
rosary in the Potawatomi language at the
Eucharistic Family Rosary Crusade
scheduled for May in Kansas City at Kauffman
Stadium. Over 40,000 people from various walks of life
and ethnic groups are expected to attend. Cornelia is a
member of the Our Lady of the Snows Church on the
reservation.

James McKinney listed on honor wall at
National Museum of American Indian

We want to share the glad news that the next phase of the Honor Wall project has been completed at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) - this means that the inscriptions we requested some time ago in honor of Jim now appear at the museum in Washington, DC. The inscriptions are as follows:



JAMES MCKINNEY
NANIMNUKSHKUK
(Level 4/Panel 19/Line 17)
and
PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI
NATION
(Level 4/Panel 19/Line 17)

Darlene Young & Agnes McKinney

Shawnee County Allied Tribes donates to Early
Childhood Education Center

The PBPB Early Childhood Education Center received a \$400 donation recently from Shawnee County Allied Tribes (S.C.A.T.) in Topeka. Pictured, right, is Hope Adame, Child Care Director, left, with Dawn Masqua, center, and Chris Wagner (in hat) from S.C.A.T. Dawn is affiliated with S.C.A.T. and helped arrange the contribution for the Center which is an all-tribal philanthropic organization based in Topeka.

S.C.A.T. also sponsors the Jim McKinney scholarship fund
each year.

For more information go to www.shawneecountyalliedtribes.org.



Mi - gwech



Mi-gwech to everyone who called, sent cards, brought
food, came by for visits, the grave diggers, those who bladed the snow, the
fire keeper, singers, drummers, cooks, pall bearers, and especially the
EMT's and tribal law officer who answered the call on January 6, 2008.

Shabbona would have admired the singers and drummers who are
teaching the younger generation those very important traditions. He always
said "it's very hard to be Indian" and now I see why.

I highly respect your Native traditions after being around here for
over 28 years. I am very thankful to those who helped us through this dif-
ficult time.

Most importantly our gratitude goes out to those who gave us guid-
ance throughout the Native ceremonies to carry out Shabbona's wishes.

Kay Nocktonick
Tammy and Dean Martindale

A Native American boy was
talking with his grandfather.
"What do you think about the
world situation?" he asked.
The grandfather replied,
"I feel like wolves are fighting
in my heart.
One is full of anger and hatred;
the other is full of love,
forgiveness, and peace."
"Which one will win?"
asked the boy.
To which the grandfather
replied, "The one I feed."

-Anonymous



In loving memory of Sandi Lewis
Born: February 14, 1980
Died: March 5, 2000

We love you,
The Lewis Family



If you need information about the Commodities Department
please call 785.966.2995



Kamboçâk (Those who died)

Laura Mae Ortiz



Laura Mae M'Jessepe-Ortiz (Pshuck to' quah), 76, of Lawrence, KS, formerly of Brown County, died Sunday, January 20, 2008 at her son's home. She was born on February 19, 1931 on the Kickapoo Reservation, the daughter of Dewey M'Jessepe (Ga Kee Kaw bah) and Minnie Wahwassuck-M'Jessepe (Sho-wak-e-yah). She went to Red Top Grade School on the Kickapoo Reservation and Haskell Institute in Lawrence. She was a nurse's aide and a homemaker. She was a member of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation with Kickapoo bloodline. She belonged to the Brown County Native American Church. Laura married Eleodoro (Lolo) Ortiz. They were later divorced. She is survived by a son, Stephen R. Ortiz and his wife Dolores of Lawrence, KS; grandsons, Stephen E. Ortiz and Dominic R. Ortiz and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by sisters, Big June Green and Melvina Banks and brothers, Paul M'Jessepe, Francis "Bud" M'Jessepe, Louis "Roe Cloud" M'Jessepe, Nelson "Pandy" M'Jessepe, and Walter M'Jessepe. Native American Church Supper will be Tuesday evening at the Brown County Native American Church, 5 miles east on K20 hwy. from US 75 hwy. Burial will be Wednesday at the M'Jessepe Family Cemetery north of the church. She will lie in state after 2:00 p.m. Tuesday at the church. Memorials may be given to Kansas Heartland Hospice c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

(Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home)

Francis F. "Bug" Wishteyah, Jr.



Francis Frank Wishteyah, Jr., 66, died Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at Harry Hynes Hospice, Wichita, Kan.

He was born on June 25, 1941 at Mayetta, Kan. the son of Francis F. and Christeen Mahkuk Wishteyah. He graduated from high school in Topeka, Kan. and attended Haskell Indian College, Lawrence, Kan. He was a Physicians Assistant for several years, a barber for many years, and lastly a heavy equipment operator who built bridges. He attended the Apostolic Faith Church.

On January 22, 1996 he married Marjorie L. Johnson at Hutchinson, Kan. She survives. Other survivors include: three sons, Fred Hyatt, Chillicothe, Mo., Jeff Foster, Kansas City, Mo. and Greg Foster, Ashbuen, Va.; a daughter, Jill Lumpkins and husband, Delwin, Hutchinson, Kan.; six granddaughters; four great-grandchildren; two brothers, Steve Wishteyah, and Pat Mahkuk and a sister, Dorothy Sheppard, all of Topeka, Kan. Two uncles also survive; Orville and Ed Rice, Topeka, Kan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Norman, and a sister, Mary Frances. Visitation will be from 1 to 9 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at Penwell-Gabel's Funeral Home and Crematory Chapel, Hutchinson, Kan. with Pastors Carl Elder and Rev. Nathan Karriker presiding. Burial will follow in Penwell-Gabel Crematory & Mausoleum. Memorials may be given in care of the funeral home. To leave a special message for the family online, visit www.PenwellGabel.com.

(Courtesy of Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home and Crematory-Hutchinson, Kansas)

Donald G. Nocktonick

Donald G. Nocktonick, Shabbona, 63, Mayetta, died Jan. 6, 2008, at his home. He was born Aug. 7, 1944 at Holton, the son of John and Louise Masha Nocktonick. He graduated from Mayetta High School in 1963 and attended Washburn University. Mr. Nocktonick was a farmer and had worked for the Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal council in various positions. He was a member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation and the Drum Religion. He married Mary Kay Boeckman on Jan. 24, 1970, at Ottawa. She survives. Other survivors include a daughter, Tammy Martindale and husband Dean, Paxico; a brother, Norwood "Woody" Nocktonick and wife Lucy, Mayetta; and a niece, Joelee Charles and husband David, Topeka. He was preceded in death by a sister, Verna Nocktonick, on Aug. 25, 2006; and a nephew, Michael Nocktonick. Drum services will be held Jan. 11 at the Dance Ground west of Mayetta. Burial will be held Jan. 12 on the family's property west of Mayetta. Mr. Nocktonick will lie in state from 9 a.m. Jan. 10 until 3 p.m. Jan. 11 at Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hoyt, where a prayer service will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, followed by visitation. Memorial contributions may be made to Helping Hands Humane Society, sent in care of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, P.O. Box 280, Hoyt, KS 66440. Online condolences may be sent to chapelOakFuneralHome.com.

(Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home)

Michael Levi (Ksa-kee) Aitkens

CIRCLEVILLE - Michael Levi Aitkens (Kwa-kee), 30, of Circleville, KS died Thursday, February 7, 2008 at an Overland Park Hospital. He was born July 19, 1977 in Oklahoma City, OK the son of Maurice "Mo" and Joyce Moberg Aitkens. He had moved to Circleville from Mobile, Alabama a few years ago and worked in construction. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and attended the Potawatomi Pentecostal Church.

He is survived by his parents, Mo Aitkens and his wife, Linda of Circleville, KS and his mother, Joyce Nash of Mobile, AL. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Adrian and Maurice Aitkens.

Drum services will be Monday evening, February 11, 2008, at the Danceground Building west of Mayetta. Burial will be in the Danceground Cemetery Tuesday afternoon. He will lie in state Sunday and Monday until 3:00 p.m. at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Online condolences are available at www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

(Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home)

Johnnie P. Wahwassuck, Jr

MAYETTA - Johnnie P. Wahwassuck, Jr. "Wah-sa-ge-zhuk", 82, of Mayetta, KS died Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at a Topeka hospital. He was born August 31, 1925 in Mayetta, the son of Johnnie P. Wahwassuck, Sr. and Josette Nagonbe Wahwassuck. He lived most of his life on the Potawatomi Reservation. He had also lived in Topeka and in Washington State where he worked for Yakama Nation Forestry. He had worked for Skinner Nursery and Blackburn Nursery in Topeka. He was a member of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

He was married to Roberta Lucei on July 15, 1975 in Holton, KS. She survives. Other survivors include his children, Sandra Lee of Lincoln City, OR, Ronnie Thomas of Warm Springs, OR, Layton Abbott of Bellcourt, ND, Larry Picard of Hoyt, KS, Pam Simon of Horton, KS, Theresa Hutchinson of Canterbury, NH, John P. Wahwassuck of Topeka, KS, Roberta Wahwassuck of Mayetta, KS, Lorrie Wahwassuck of Delia, KS and Ahnah Wahwassuck of Mayetta, KS; his sisters, Nancy Conboy of Mayetta, KS and Mamie Rupnicki of Circleville, KS; his brothers, Raphael Wahwassuck of Waynesville, MO, Pete Wahwassuck of Bellingham WA, James Wahwassuck and Merriel Wahwassuck both of Mayetta, KS and Henry Wahwassuck of Folway, MN; 27 grandchildren and many great and great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Edwin Thomas; daughter, Debbie Lucei; sisters, Twila Lee and Florence Ross; and brothers, Norman and Jewitt Wahwassuck.

Drum services will be Saturday evening at the Danceground west of Mayetta. Burial will be in the Prairie Peoples Cemetery on Sunday afternoon. He will lie in state until 3:00 p.m. Saturday at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton, KS. To leave a special message for the family visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com

(Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home)

Vernon "Namen" Shopteese, Jr.



Vernon Ernie "Namen" Shopteese, Jr. (Nam-mah-kweh), 34, of Falls City, Nebraska, formerly of Horton, Kansas died Thursday, January 17, 2008 at a Falls City hospital. He was born November 13, 1973 in Horton, the son of Vernon Shopteese, Sr. and Penelope Keesis Shopteese-McCrory.

He graduated from Horton High School and Highland Community College. He had lived on the Kickapoo Reservation before moving to Falls City 13 years ago. He most recently had worked as lead man at Crosswinds Industries at Sabetha. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

He was married to Tonya L. Hayes on September 23, 2000 in Falls City. She survives. Other survivors include his son, Ty James Shopteese and daughter, Jocie Lynn Shopteese both of the home; his sisters, Dora Pelkey and Doris Shopteese; his brother, James Shopteese and his adopted mother, Whitebird. He was preceded in death by his brother, Ronnie Shopteese.

Drum Services will be Saturday evening, January 19, 2008 at the Kickapoo Community Building west of Horton. Burial will be 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning at the Mason Cemetery. Online condolences are available at www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

(Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home)

Vestina Mae "Nee-ba-wee" Nonken

Vestina Mae Nonken (Nee-ba-wee), 79, of Holton, died Thursday, January 24, 2008 at the Holton Community Hospital. She was born March 9, 1928 on the Potawatomi Reservation near Mayetta, KS, the daughter of Joseph S. and Alice Lasley Nioce.

Vestina graduated from Holton High School in 1945 and had lived all her life in the Jackson County area. She worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in land leasing dept., Indian Health Services and as Potawatomi Tribal Council Secretary for 4 years. In the early 1970's she contributed to the reinstatement of the constitution for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the formation of a tribal council. During the four years as secretary, she saw the construction of 36 homes, the first phase of the Housing and Urban Development and a combination elder center, gymnasium and office building. In 1982 she was executive director for the tribe; in 1996 she was elected vice chairperson on the tribal council for 4 years and later served on the tribe's elder advisory board and health board.

She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, and also attended St. Francis Xavier in Mayetta and St. Dominic in Holton. She was a charter member of the Eagles Auxiliary, a member of the Holton Business Women, the VFW auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary. She served on the Jackson County Development Board of Directors, the Holton Area Chamber of Commerce, and in February of 2007 was nominated into the Chamber's Hall of Fame.

She is survived by her husband of 23 years, Bill Nonken of Holton; a son, Cecil Walker of Gold River, CA; 2 step-sons, John Walker of New York Mills, MN, Mike Nonken of Nolan, TX; 3 step-daughters, Sue McGilton of Topeka, KS, Shirley Grosse of Marion, KS, Janie Turner of Fletcher, OK; 3 sisters, Inez Aiken of GA, Jeanette Cummings of WA, Loretta Rosenthal of IA; 19 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a sister Isabelle Thomas and a brother Edgar L. Nioce.

Mass will begin at 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 28, 2008 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Mayetta. A rosary will be recited 6:00 p.m. Sunday evening at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton and visitation will follow the rosary. Burial will be in the Shipshew Cemetery. Memorials may be given to Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Emergency Services c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436. Online condolences are available at www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

(Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home)

Yolanda Solis (Kett-Kut-Kwe)



MAYETTA - Yolanda Solis, Kett-Kut-Kwe, 12, of Mayetta, died Thursday, February 14, 2008 at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City after a 2 1/2 year battle with cancer.

She was born February 10, 1996 in Topeka, the daughter of Isaias Solis and Justina "Tommie" Jackson. Justina preceded her in death on December 29, 2007.

She was a member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation and the Drum Religion. She was an honor roll student and a member of the Native American Indian Club, both at Royal Valley Middle School.

Survivors include her father, Isaias Solis, Topeka; her grandparents, James & Judy Jackson, Mayetta, and Hector & Consuelo Solis, Topeka; great grandfather, Ed Potts, Mayetta, great grandmother, Mary Carlisle, Topeka; a sister, Sandra Solis, Mayetta; three half brothers, Marco A. Solis, Juan P. Solis, and Jesus N. Solis, and one half sister, Alicia Solis, all of Topeka; eight aunts, Jennifer Buskirk, Mayetta, Felicia W. Brown, Denver, Emma Medrano, Maria Rodriguez, Hilda Solis, Noehmi Solis, Yolanda Steward and Patricia Solis, all of Topeka; seven uncles, Jason Jackson, Topeka, Justin Jackson, Mayetta, Raul Solis and Eduardo "Lalo" Solis, both in Mexico, and Armando Solis, Hector Solis, Jr., and Elias Solis, all of Topeka; great aunts, Linda Jackson, Evelyn Seymour, Lucy Jackson, Lorilei Potts, Beverly Goslin, Roberta Jackson, Janice Jackson, Therese Large; great uncles, Michael Jackson, Bennie Potts, Ted Carlisle, and Danny Carlisle; and numerous cousins, including Eugene Masquat, Gary Wayne Buskirk, James Buskirk, Matthew Buskirk, Lance Buskirk, Jordan Jackson, Robert W. Jackson, Janis R. Jackson, and Joseph A. Jackson.

Yolanda will lie in state until 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 19th at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hoyt where family and friends will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday. Drum services will be Tuesday evening at the Dance Ground west of Mayetta. Burial will be Wednesday afternoon in the Matwe-Shobney Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the Yolanda Solis Memorial Fund and may be sent in care of the funeral home, P.O. Box 280, 66440. On-line condolences may be made at chapelOakFuneralHome.com.

(Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home-Hoyt)

Dewey James Jessepe

Dewey James Jessepe, 50, of Horton, Kansas, passed away Monday, February 18, 2008 at the Horton Community Hospital. He was born on May 22, 1957 in Holton, Kansas the son of Louis "Roe Cloud" & Luetta Jean McKinney Jessepe. Dewey was an artisan of Native Culture and worked for the Kickapoo Fire Department for years. He was a member of the Potawatomi Tribe, Native American Church, a Charter member of the United Methodist Church-Kahbeah Fellowship where he served as head trustee and lay speaker. On May 17, 1995 he married Peggy Romero on the Kickapoo Reservation, she survives of the home. Additional survivors include three sons, Ricky Wabaunsee, Clifton Wabaunsee and Gregory Wabaunsee all of Horton, Kansas; daughter, Lindsey Wabaunsee of Topeka, Kansas; brother, John Klusener of Topeka, Kansas; sister, Shirley Potts of Sabetha, Kansas; grandson, Dominick Wabaunsee and nephews and a niece. Wake services will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 21, 2008 at the Dishon-Maple-Chaney Mortuary in Horton, Kansas where the family will greet friends following the service until 8:30 P.M. Native American Church Services will be at 6:00 P.M. on Friday at Wayne Jessepe's home on the Kickapoo Reservation. Burial will be on Saturday at 10:00 A.M. at the Mjissepe Cemetery on the Kickapoo Reservation. Memorials may be sent to the Dewey Jessepe memorial fund in care of the mortuary. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.dishon-maple-chaney.com.

(Courtesy of Dishon-Maple-Chaney Funeral Home)



Community

Prairie Band Potawatomi News

Prairie Band Early Childhood Education Center Health Fair



15380 K Road
Mayetta, KS 66509
April 18, 2008



To schedule a health-screening appointment for your child
call Mikis Potts, 785.966.2527

Applications also now being taken for child care openings



PARR House DJ Dance & Karaoke Contest

April 12
7 p.m.-10:30 p.m.
PBP Boys & Girls Club
15434 K Road
Mayetta, KS 66509

•prizes •raffles
\$3 advance, \$4 door
Call 785.966.3010

10th annual Earth Day April 20

Prairie Peoples Park, Mayetta, KS

- Predictors walk (8:30 a.m.)
- Run/Walk/Bike Ride/Bi-athlon
- Big Green Machine Soap Box Derby
- Games, booths and more!

Registration: 8 a.m.
Call Dept. of Planning and EPA
785.966.2946 for details



Spring Fashion Show 2008

April 20
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Stone Community Building

\$5 at the door (includes refreshments)

Hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary Unit 410 of Mayetta
Fashions by Jan's Attic, Holton, Kan. and Roy Frey's
Western Wear, Topeka, Kan.

Models needed: email:unit410_ladiesauxiliary@yahoo.com

Native foster families are needed!

Learn what it takes to be a foster parent at a recruitment
community information meeting

Two dates: March 28 and April 11

5:30 p.m.-7 p.m., Community Bldg, 158 & L Rd

Free refreshments and gift-card drawings

Sponsored by PBP Social Services Department

Indian Child Welfare Program.

Call Abbie Estes at 785.966.8326



May 25 We-Ta-Se Memorial Service at 16 cemeteries on the reservation

Call Frank or Jim at 785.966.2580
for details

Important Gathering notice with passport information

Submitted by LaVerne Hale

It is time to start planning our trip to the 2008 Potawatomi Gathering. The dates are August 8-10, 2008. Walpole Island First Nation will be hosts this year. This is in Ontario, Canada so you must have a passport to go with the Elder's group. **No exceptions.** You can apply for a passport at any major U.S. Post Office (see Topeka listing below). It is important that you apply as soon as possible.

Our plan is to take two days to get to the Gathering which means we will tentatively leave on August 6 in the morning and return August 12. The return date may change but I will keep you informed. Since budget cuts each traveler is required to pay \$50 that can be paid upfront to LaVerne Hale by money order to the PBP or pay in cash where a receipt will be given by LaVerne at the Government Center. The money will be applied to the hotel rooms.

At this time the same rules will apply:

- Prairie Band Elders 60 years and over have first priority along with their spouses
- Elders 50 to 60 years have second priority
- Adult caregivers must be able to be fully responsible for the Elder they are helping
- No minor caregivers will be considered
- Medication list should be made available and make sure you take enough medication to last the duration of the trip
- All bus riders are expected to participate in the Gathering activities
- Each bus rider must provide a gift for the giveaway (there may be some changes to the giveaway)
- You are responsible for your own meals on the way up and back

As always a sign up sheet will be placed at the Fire Keepers Elder Center and **sign up will be from April 1 until April 25.** One 47-passenger bus will be reserved. Call LaVerne Hale @877-715-6789 ext. 4014 or e-mail laverneh@pbpnation.org or call Joy Yoshida @ 785-966-0041 at the Elder Center.

Get your passport now for crossing the border in Canada. There is a Passport Card available for travel to Canada and Mexico only. Cost is \$20 per card and \$25 processing fee and you must get a passport picture that can be taken at Walgreens for \$7 or at the following U.S. Post Offices where passports can also be obtained in Topeka: Gage Station, 1410 SW Woodhull, Topeka-Main Post Office, 424 S. Kansas, North Topeka Station, 220 NW Limon, and the General Mail Delivery Distribution Station, 1410 NW Gage.

Have you had a winter of discontent?

Here's some helping agencies recommended by PBP Social Services

Job layoffs, a colder-than-usual winter and the discontinuance of the Community Service Program have challenged a number of adult tribal members who have need for utility assistance. Below is a list of agencies that can help which was provided by Kathy Slimmer, PBP Adult Social Services. Call the Social Service office at 785.966.8330 or 1.888.966.2932 for assistance with accessing these programs or doing the paperwork.

Utility assistance

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

purpose: assists with heating home

Application deadline: **March 31**

Applications available at PBP Social Services Department (Indian Health Center)
and Firekeepers Elder Center

Gift of Warmth

Call 1.877.566.2769, Ext. 402

Leave your information on recording and they will send
application to your forwarding address

Project Deserve

Must be a customer of Westar Energy; electric bill assistance

Call 1.800.343.1183



Mayetta Business Association

2nd Annual Backyard
Barbeque Cook Off

Saturday, June 7

For information and registration form:
Chairman Bob, 785.966.2405 (after 7 p.m.)
Assistants: 785.966.2592 or 785.966.3015



2008 Mayetta Business Association Officers

Jim Potter, President

Judy Darnell, Vice President

Gladys Schlodder, Secretary/Treasurer

New Mayetta business owners welcome. Meetings every fourth Wednesday of month, 7 p.m.
at Masonic Lodge on Main street. Call Judy Darnell, 785.966.2710 for details.

Don't miss Rez Run 2008

during the 2008 PBP
pow-wow
Saturday, June 14
at
Prairie Peoples Park,
Mayetta, Kan.



sponsored by
We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410
Call 785.966.2580 for details

Breakfast: 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Ride begins: 10:30 a.m.

\$20 donation per person includes run and weekend pass for pow-wow.

Extra hands \$5 each



Now Hiring!

Summer Internship Program

The focus of this position is to gain an understanding of the casino business through practical experience. This position will have exposure to a variety of casino departments with the opportunity to work side by side with casino staff. Junior and Senior Collegiate level students with Business, Marketing, Accounting, Finance and Management majors preferred. Candidates will need proven communication skills with the ability to interact professionally within all levels of the organization. Come and spend the summer learning the casino entertainment business with the company voted "Best Place to Work" by the Topeka Capital Journal.

Apply online at www.pbpgaming.com or in person at Prairie Band Casino & Resort, Human Resources Department, 12305 150th Rd, Mayetta, KS 66509.

Questions? Please call 785-966-7773.
Tribal Preference Exercised



Spring Craft Show

(sponsored by the PBP Firekeepers
Elder Center)

May 3

(time to be announced)

Community/Rock Bldg

To reserve a booth call LaVerne

Hale, 785.715.6789, Ext. 4014

or email:

laverneh@pbpnation.org

2008 PBP Pow-Wow



June 13,14,15
Prairie Peoples
Park
Mayetta, KS.
66509

(M Rd between
150 Rd & 158 Rd)

- vendor applications
- dance contest

Get the details by logging on to
www.pbpnation.org/powwows/forum
information

- lodging information

For more information call Blake at
785.845.9819



Sunday - Thursday 8am - 10pm
Friday - Saturday 8am - midnight

Snacks • Candy • Casino Merchandise
Souvenirs • Convenience Items • Cigarettes

Located just off the Casino floor, in the bus lobby.

All Tribal Members RECEIVE 20% OFF

with a Prairie Band Potawatomi
Enrollment Card.

*Discount not available on tobacco
products or consignment items.*



15 minutes north of Topeka off Hwy 75
www.pbpgaming.com • 1-888-PBP-4WIN

Must be at least 21 or older to gamble. Owned by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. When It's No Longer a Game, call the confidential toll-free Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-866-662-3800.