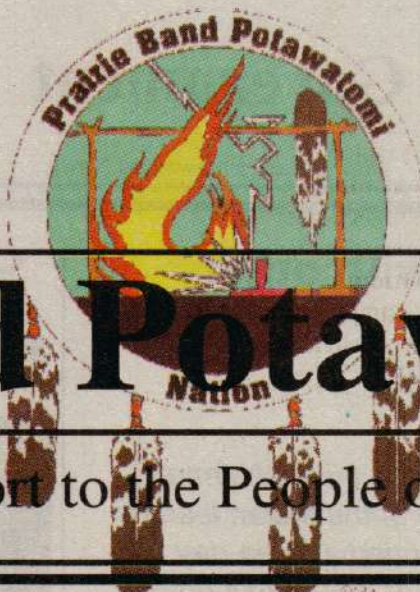


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Prairie Band Potawatomi News

December 2007 EDITION

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Voters approve changes to constitutional amendments in BIA Secretarial Election



Above is a map that breaks out how many tribal members voted (388 total) from each state (number in red) in the BIA Secretarial Election. Kansas had the most with 175 voters that was followed by Wisconsin with 39 and California with 26. The election, conducted by the BIA, was held November 30. Special thanks to Voncile Mitchell, Elections, and Steve Duryea, Department of Planning and Environmental Protection, for contributing the information above.

A secretarial election for six proposed amendment changes to the PBPB Constitution was held on November 30 at the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) office in Horton, Kan. and passed with 56 percent (388) of the 687 registered voters casting mail-in votes.

The PBPB Elections Department assisted the BIA with the election process which was a separate election from those usually conducted by the tribe like the upcoming Gaming Commission election, for example.

The amendments will include changes

in the tribal election process, forming a process for dealing with the ethical responsibilities of officials, establishing a separate and independent judicial system from Tribal Council, removing the Secretary of Interior, giving more power to the General Council in expending funds, and changing meeting schedules of the General Council, Tribal Council and other types of meetings.

The Secretary of the Interior has 45 days from the election to approve the amendments.

Inside: On page 2: information about the Gaming Commission Election and a copy of the Revenue Allocation Plan in case you missed it in the mail
Pages 3 and 4: Gaming Commission candidate profiles

2008 PBPB government work force sees reduction and realignment

The PBPB government will begin operating with 230 employees in 2008 instead of the 300 plus it had in 2007.

Steve Ortiz, tribal chairman, told the *News* that 67 positions were laid off but stressed that half of those positions had been previously unfilled.

Employee benefit packages were also online for reduction in some areas like retirement, for example.

A job fair was sponsored by the Human Resources Department and held December 20 at the Bingo Hall.

PBPB directors of departments and programs were notified the first week of December what their operating budget amounts were going to be and how some

departments were going to be realigned.

For example, a Public Works Department has been created that realigns Road & Bridge, Maintenance, Motor Vehicle, Lands, Construction and the Department of Planning and Environmental Protection into one group and the Enrollment Department and Elections Department and Per Capita office are going to be restructured into one Member Services Department.

A reduction in the 2008 government operating budget became necessary after the tribal membership voted to increase per capita distributions from 30 to 48 percent last October.

Ice storm hits reservation: emergency services called into action



The property of Joe Mendez, who lives on K Road on the PBPB reservation, was severely impacted by an ice storm that ravaged northeast Kansas the second week of December. This photo, taken December 14, shows how the ice broke tree limbs causing lots of destruction. Joe was without power for 13 days. Several reservation residents lost power and had to take shelter at the casino, Bingo Hall, or stayed with relatives and friends until the power was turned back on and the debris was safely removed.

By Suzanne Heck

A major ice storm that struck late December 10 left over 100,000 of people without power for days in Kansas including many who live on the PBPB reservation.

A two-inch coating of ice broke tree limbs and downed power lines. The damage was widespread on the reservation and forced many people to leave their homes. The devastation can still be seen today by broken tree tops and hanging limbs.

The PBPB was ready, however, as an emergency preparedness meeting was called by tribal leaders early Monday upon seeing the weather reports. That afternoon a plan was outlined at the casino between Tribal Council, PBPB emergency services, and casino personnel which took effect after the storm hit.

Tim Ramirez, director of Road & Bridge, was one of the first out in the storm organizing his crews to clear the roads. He said he saw several power lines down and large tree limbs on the roads and that the ice was thick.

Early Tuesday morning PBPB emergency services workers moved elders to a block of rooms in the Casino and younger families in need took shelter at the Bingo Hall which was set up as a refuge until Friday afternoon.

Generators powered the Casino, Bingo Hall, fire and police stations while workers in each of those places and the Road & Bridge crew worked around the clock during the storm and long outage.

The Government Center was without power and several other buildings which caused offices to close the rest of the week. Department

directors were called in to work on Thursday and all employees were told to report on Friday dressed for outdoor work. Groups were formed and several employees helped bring in computers and equipment from the Government Center to create a temporary finance office in the Bingo Hall so that per capita checks and the PBPB payroll deadlines could be met for the week. Other groups fanned out where needed.

Additionally that Friday, electric crews from Kansas and out of state began arriving on the reservation to restore power. The north section of the reservation was the hardest hit with some homes not receiving power for up to two weeks.

"I finally got power back on December 24 and got to go back to my home," said Joe Mendez who lives on K Road and had been staying at the casino. "It was the greatest Christmas gift I ever received."

The next week Fire Chief David Price called a Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC) meeting on December 20 to assess the response of the PBPB to the emergency. The consensus of the group was that things went well despite some small glitches here and there.

The ice storm was one of four federally declared disasters in Kansas for 2007. Others included an ice storm last January that also impacted the reservation, flooding this summer in southeast Kansas, and the Greensburg tornado that literally wiped out the town in May.

Dick Hainje, Director of FEMA Regional 7, made a visit to the reservation to get a firsthand look at the damage.

Tribal Council and the Tribal Emergency Response Commission thanks everyone who helped with the ice storm emergency and keeping everyone safe

The *Potawatomi News* regrets it missed its December deadline due to outage and holiday schedule

Beginning 2008 the *Potawatomi News* will be printed and mailed quarterly. Future plans are in the making for a news section on the Nation's website. News Office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Regional 7 Director Dick Hainje, center, made a visit to the reservation on December 17 to get an assessment of the damage from the ice storm. With him is Fire Chief David Price, left, and Brenda Pahmahmie, General Manager's Office, who escorted Hainje on his tour. This photo was taken at Cluster One on M Road. In the background are linemen from Parr Electric who were helping to restore power to residents that day.



Kansas Casino News

Eleven casino proposals submitted to Kansas Lottery

December 31 was the deadline for applications for casino proposals to the Kansas Lottery. Four have been submitted for Sumner County, two for Ford County, one proposal for Cherokee County and four for Wyandotte County.

If Kansas-owned gaming is ruled constitutional, the Lottery will hire developers to build and manage one casino in each of the counties listed above. A state review board of seven members will determine the contracts.

In related news, the Kickapoo-Sac and Fox have withdrawn a proposal to put in a casino in Wyandotte County citing competition as a primary reason for withdrawing, according to an article in the *Lawrence Journal-World* (Dec. 14, 2007).

Lastly, the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma is planning to open a casino on January 10 in downtown Kansas City, Kan. the *Lawrence Journal-World* (Dec. 29, 2007) reported.

Kansas Attorney General resigns

Paul Morrison, Kansas Attorney General, held a press conference on December 14 announcing his resignation due to a sexual harassment lawsuit placed on him.

Morrison plans to work until January 31 which is around the same time that a decision as to whether the state's expanded gambling law will be ruled constitutional by a Shawnee County District Judge. Whoever loses that decision is expected to appeal to the Kansas Supreme Court.

Shabbona Update

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and DeKalb County are in the final stages regarding an intergovernmental agreement about building a gaming facility in the County, according to an article printed in the *DeKalb Daily Chronicle* (Dec. 19, 2007).

The report said that under the 25-page proposal the tribe would be allowed to build a Class II gaming facility that includes services for food and retail as well as a government center and parking. In addition, several agreements were spelled out that the tribe would also have to adhere to. The facility would fall under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

A public meeting originally scheduled for January 9 in the community of Sycamore in DeKalb County regarding the proposal has been recently delayed by Roger Steimel one of the DeKalb County board members who asked for more time to review it.

The PBPB 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, they are now awaiting a decision from the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) for it to be federally recognized as such.

Don't miss the next General Council meeting, January 19, 2008



Steve Ortiz visits Wal-Mart home office with other Indian nation leaders



Steve Ortiz, tribal chairman, was one of the Indian leaders that attended a three-day meeting at Wal-Mart's home office in Bentonville, Ark. Tribal leaders came together to learn more about the company and its economic opportunities.

Steve is on the back row, fourth from left.

Steve Ortiz was one of several Indian leaders recently invited to the home office of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in Bentonville, Ark.

Other prominent groups besides leaders from nine Indian Nations included representatives from the American Indian College Fund, Haskell Indian Nations University, Tiller's Guide and the Native American Chamber of Commerce.

"It was truly an honor for our company to host dignitaries from Indian Nations as their visit will play an important role in broadening our outreach to American Indians," said Esther Silver-Parker, senior vice president, diversity relations, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. "Wal-Mart has long maintained relationships with various tribal organizations, and having the opportunity to recognize the nations that attended only strengthens our commitment to these communities."

The three-day meeting, co-sponsored by Wal-Mart's Office of Diversity Relations and the company's American Indian and Alaska Native Associate Resource Group, Tribal Voices, allowed Wal-Mart associates and representatives from Indian Nations to discuss how to better serve Native Americans. The meetings, which were part of Tribal Voices' celebration of American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, featured discussions on various topics including the diversity within the American Indian culture, recruitment efforts and addressing the needs of customers who reside on reservations or tribal lands. Attendees were also invited to Wal-Mart's famed Saturday morning company-wide business meeting where the Tribal Voices leadership welcomed the representatives of each Nation with Pendleton. One of the guests, Rick Waters of the American Indian College Fund reciprocated the gesture

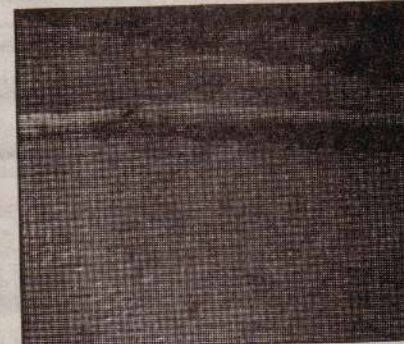
by wrapping John Menzer, Vice-Chairman of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., and Monte Boulanger, Chair of the Tribal Voices Associate Resource Group, in Pendletons.

Currently, Wal-Mart operates more than 140 stores and Sam's Clubs on or near tribal lands and reservations nationwide. Wal-Mart continuously measures its success in assisting all communities, including the Native American community, through local, national and international support and outreach. Throughout the year, Wal-Mart works to support Native American nations through scholarship, sponsorship and service. Some of the retailer's efforts include, financial donations to the American Indian College Fund for the Wal-Mart Tribal College Scholarship Program, which provides the nation's 32 tribal colleges and universities with grants and scholarship money; continued sponsorship of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development National Reservation Economic Summit (RES), the largest Native American economic summit/supplier development trade fair in the country; and hosting educational health events specifically for the Native American community.

Wal-Mart's Tribal Voices Associate Resource Group, comprised of nearly 100 American Indian associates located in the company's home office, is integral in advising the retailer and other associates about Indian ways and Indian Country. The meeting with the representatives of Indian Nations, conducted in a traditional manner with respect to the elders and the nations, allowed Wal-Mart to further educate its associates about the American Indian and Native Alaskan community and strengthen the company's cultural competence.

Scenes from the ice storm

The storm created hazardous roadways and downed power lines



Special thanks to Tim Ramirez for submitting the top two pictures

Tribal Council, emergency services, administrators, directors, employees and volunteers worked together to ensure people were safe and warm

RIGHT: Discussion at the Bingo Hall on December 15: 1 to r facing the camera, Junior Wahweotten, Rick Rector, Jim Potter and James Wabaunsee. With backs to camera are 1 to r, Steve Ortiz and Jim Shane.



DIRECTLY BELOW: At the fire station: 1 to r, Larry Woltje, David Price and Doug Schreiner.



RIGHT: Evie Hopkins, standing, helping Barb Smelter at the Bingo Hall.



ABOVE: On the far right are EMS workers Scott Fleming and Scott Price (back to camera) checking on the safety of residents who lived in the Prairie Ridge apartments. Door-to-door checks were made on residents and homes. Community nurse Mina Neuburger and other Indian Health Center staff also tracked the medical conditions of elders and checked on others who were housed at the casino and elsewhere.

2008 Notice of Election for Gaming Commission

Members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation are hereby notified that an Election will be held on February 26, 2008 for the purpose of electing two (2) members of the Gaming Commission. The term of office for the position is four (4) years. This election shall be conducted in accordance with the Constitution and Election Ordinance of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Automated Election Services of Rio Rancho, New Mexico will assist the Election Board with this Election.



Gaming Commission Election Calendar

February 26, 2008-9:00 a.m.
Election Day
Ballots tabulated and results reported

March 4, 2008-4:00 p.m.
Last day to file protest of the election

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Election Board
P.O. Box 213
Mayetta, Kansas
66509



Election Board

Area code: (785) 966-

Voncile Mitchell, 3911
Ruta Mendez, 3912
Julia Barber, 3910
Fax Number, 3913

Letter below was submitted by the Elections Department and is reprinted for your convenience

REVENUE ALLOCATION PLAN (RAP) October 26, 2007

Dear General Council Members:

On Saturday, October 20, 2007, the General Council requested that the general membership be allowed to vote on the Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP). To accommodate the increase in Per Capita, the budget cuts are not made in the revenue allocation plan, but in the program budgets within the Revenue Allocation Plan. Currently, all the categories (with the exception of Per Capita and Charitable Contributions) are used for government operations and tribal programs.

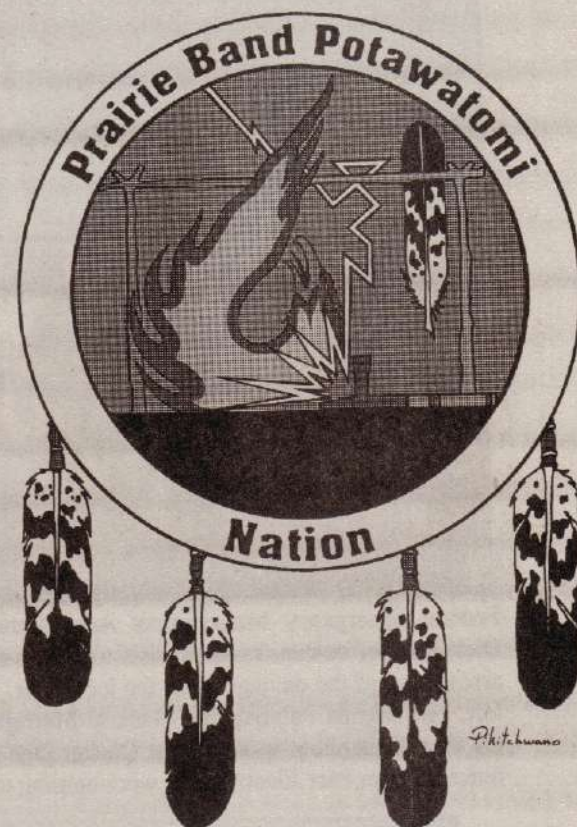
Included on the Gaming Commission ballot, you will be required to select one of the following two options presented below. More information regarding the actual allocation will be mailed to you prior to the ballot election:

OPTION 1: Adjusted RAP categories to reflect more appropriate expenditures

Economic Development reduced to actual development
General Welfare becomes Social Services, Vision, Housing Plan, Education, and Other Services
Programs includes Health Clinic, Maintenance, Road and Bridge, EPA, Lands, and Other Programs
Per Capita increased to 48%

OPTION 2: All General Welfare items are part of the Government operations
Contributions not mandatory but become a budgeted expense
Economic Development strictly for economic activities
No risk of crossing Revenue Allocation Plan lines
Per Capita increased to 48%

Submitted by: Ryan Dyer, Tribal Treasurer
October 26, 2007





Gaming Commission candidate profiles



Calvin Evans

I am a candidate for the 2008 Gaming Commission election. I have been with the Gaming Commission for about 12 years since 1994, one of the first ones elected in.

I ran for office in 1994, because I have always been interested in casino gambling. I have learned more about it than I thought I knew. It is always changing (rules, etc.).

The main thing I've learned is that you can have dozens of degrees (college, etc)

and be the smartest person around, but if you don't use common sense, be able to work with people, treat people like you would want to be treated, then your education (degrees), won't do you any good.

I would appreciate your vote in the 2008 election. If elected, I will try to do the best I can. Thanks.

Calvin Evans
785.966.3043



Marty Greemore

To all members of the Nation,

My father was Francis Greemore, son of Fred Greemore and Theresa Tuckwin Greemore. My mother was Elizabeth Matchie Greemore, daughter of John Matchie and Hattie Lasley. I was born and raised on the Potawatomi reservation, the second son of five. I attended school at Grand Prairie, Marty, S.D., Haskell Institute, Mayetta High School and have acquired 33 hours worth of college credits. I served in the U.S. Marine Corp for three years and received an Honorable Discharge.

I have worked in Indian Gaming long enough to have learned that a little common sense and cooperation go a long way in solving problems. I worked as an auto body repairman for 30 plus years. Because of that experience, I know I am consistent, dependable and hard-working. I worked as a security officer in bingo until our Nation began gaming in the casino. I have been in the surveillance department for 14 years, beginning on the first day when our casino

opened. I have gained valuable knowledge of the inner workings of the casino and know just how important it is to protect our compact with the state of Kansas. Our number one priority is and will always be to protect the integrity of the casino and the assets of the Potawatomi nation. If elected, I will stand behind our Tribe to maintain working relationships between the Gaming Commission, Tribal Council, State Gaming and employees of the casino. Working in the casino, I have come to understand the importance of the policies, procedures and internal controls.

I would be proud to serve as your Gaming Commissioner and will do my best to maintain the integrity of our casino. If you have any questions you may contact me at my email address: circletrack24@yahoo.com.

Sincerely
Marty Greemore



Chago Hale

Hello, my name is Chago Hale. I am the son of Joe Hale and LaVerne Hale. My wife, Shayla (Catron) Hale and I have three beautiful children, Mittina, Mshewe, and Nagosqe.

I am seeking your vote in the upcoming Gaming Commission election. I will be hardworking and fair in all aspects of the gaming industry. Following the Title 12 guideline is important to help ensure that the PBP Casino & Resort continues to be successful!

With my positive personality and way of thinking, I will help to maintain the progress that our Nation has made and will continue to make throughout the years to come. Teamwork is important and plays a huge role in a productive business. I believe that I have the knowledge and skills to help with the difficult decisions that our Nation will face.

Your vote will be greatly appreciated. You will not be disappointed with your support in my favor. I would also like to remind all our members that voting is important to take part in all tribal elections. Thank you!



Tamara McClammy

My name is Tamara (Tami) "Wa-sesh-mo-quah" McClammy and I am asking for your vote in the upcoming Gaming Commission election.

My educational background is comprised of a Masters degree in Business Management from Baker University and a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice from Washburn University. One of the requirements of my position is to maintain my license as a Category I (CAT I) employee. This is the predominant level of licensing mandated by the State Gaming Agency and is the most difficult to attain due to the stringent guidelines that must be met.

I have been employed for four years with an in depth background and multitude of experience within the gaming industry. As an intern for the casino, I worked in several different departments which provided me with a valuable perception of how the casino business operates. My diverse work experience within the casino has allowed me to work as a front-line employee as well as "back of the house" gaining the internal knowledge needed to work in conjunction with management. My experience in various areas provided me an overview of the role each department contributes to the casino and how each department's cooperation with one another has made our casino a successful investment for the tribe.

It has been an educating and very interesting journey that has paved the way to my current position as an Internal Audit Assistant for the Gaming Commission. From a

regulatory standpoint, a Gaming Commissioner will need to interpret compliance of federal, state, and tribal law pertaining to the casino and ensure the casino continues to remain in accordance with National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) standards. In my current position, we are in the process of reviewing the Minimum Internal Control Standards (MICS) and the Internal Control System (ICS) for any corrections needed due to the transition from Harrah's Prairie Band Casino to Prairie Band Casino & Resort. My department audits all casino departments and works closely with our external auditors. We resolve audit findings within management and make objective recommendations to the commission. In addition, we are currently crosschecking revisions made for the casino's policies and procedures to ensure that they are up to date and relevant. I would also like to maintain a positive working relationship between casino management, board of directors, and Tribal Council for the Gaming Commission.

My reason for running for Gaming Commission is quite simple; our tribe is in an economic transition and we need to ensure that the casino receives an appropriate degree of oversight essential in protecting it from internal and/or external threats. My educational and professional background has prepared me for this position. I will be a fair, dedicated, forward thinking person with uncompromising integrity and would greatly appreciate your vote.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!



Vernon Mzhickteno

Greetings. My name is Vernon L. Mzhickteno (Noe-do-nee),

I am a candidate for gaming commissioner. As gaming commissioner my goals would be:

- To be knowledgeable in and strictly enforce the laws and regulations related to tribal gaming.
- For our Nation to be successful in opening and operating a gaming establishment on our Shabbona land.
- That we continue to develop and increase business at our local casino and resort.
- For the gaming commission to have a good working relationship with the tribal council.
- Through our successful gaming enterprises, provide career employment opportunities for our members.

I am 56 years old. I am the oldest son of La Rue and Jo Ann Mzhickteno. My

grandparents were Peter Mzhickteno and Mary Ann Matchie, Mzhickteno, Mendez. My great-grand parents were Patrick and Nancy (Kahdot) Matchie, Elizabeth White Pigeon and Joseph Mzhickteno.

My family and I own property on the reservation, an allotment to my great-grandfather Patrick Matchie.

Being a gaming commissioner, is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week job and I have an excellent work record. I have worked in the trucking industry for 32 years. I was employed by the casino for two years, I began in the year 2002 as a warehouse clerk, when I left in 2004 I was the warehouse lead. In this position I worked with employees from all departments and all levels of management. During this time I also worked part-time for the trucking industry.

I would appreciate your vote.



Jona Rupnicki

Greetings! It has been a pleasure serving the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for the past four years as a Gaming Commissioner. I have truly appreciated the opportunity to expand my knowledge in Indian gaming; but, most importantly, I have appreciated the opportunity of representing the Nation. During the transition period, we have seen many changes with management of the Casino; but, for the most part, it has been a successful transition. I am proud to say that I have been a part of these changes and look forward to watching us succeed as a stand-alone property.

Many of you may know me as Jona (Potts) Rupnicki daughter of the late Vernon Potts, granddaughter of Maynard and Coralene (Keesis) Potts. I am married to John Rupnicki and have three children Nolan, Kaylyn and Doran. Educationally, I have earned degrees in Associates of Arts, Bachelor of Science in Management and Master of Science of Management. In addition, the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) tri-level series of the Commissioner Certification courses has certified me. I have also completed Gaming Agent Training (IGT technical training), due to the casino floor conversions and system changes.

Many times people ask, "What does a Gaming Commissioner do?" Listed below are a few examples of key oversight requirements of the position.

- 1) Conduct background investigations on management officials, key tribal gaming employees and vendors in accordance with Indian gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and NIGC regulations and forward them for NIGC or State review;
- 2) Issue, deny, review, suspend, or revoke tribal gaming licenses of management officials and key tribal gaming employees and vendors, in cooperation with the State and NIGC;
- 3) Promulgate tribal gaming regulations in accordance with tribal and federal law and tribal-state compact requirements for class III gaming; and establish minimum standards for the operation of the gaming facility;
- 4) Continuously monitor the gaming operation and oversee audits of the gaming facility; to ensure compliance with tribal and federal law and tribal-state compact requirements for class III gaming;
- 5) Conduct investigations of any alleged misconduct; take appropriate enforcement action and make appropriate referral to tribal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies;
- 6) Conduct hearings, take testimony, take disciplinary action, levy fines, and resolve patron disputes;
- 7) Work cooperatively with the state regulatory agencies, the NIGC, and Tribal, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies; and, report regularly to the governing body of the Nation.

All of these important functions are conducted on behalf of, and in addition to, the sole benefit and interest of the tribe, so that we can improve our tribal self-government, services, economic development, independence and self-determination. Most important is the continued prosperity and future of our Nation.

During my four years as a Gaming Commissioner, I have witnessed and been a part of many changes within the Commission. Listed below is a comparison of how things operated (THEN) and (NOW).

1) (THEN) When I first began my term as a Gaming Commissioner, they were still using fingerprint cards for backgrounding, which took a minimum of (1) month to maximum of (90) days. This caused a major cost to the operation, due to pending licenses of future employees waiting at the training center for final reports to come back to the Gaming Commission. (NOW) The Gaming Commission has advanced its technology and purchased a system called IDENTEX -- a fingerprint system that allows us electronically to submit fingerprints directly to the KBI. The wait time for results is a minimum of (3) days to a maximum of (10) days.

2) (THEN) The Gaming Commission used to keep all records pertaining to licenses, meetings, correspondence, investigations, etc., in yellow filing folders for data retention. (NOW) The Gaming Commission has purchased an electronic data warehousing system called IAT - a Gaming Management System. This allows us to scan and house all-important documents in a secured system that only Commissioners can fully access for electronic review. Since the purchase of our system, the State Gaming Agency has also purchased the same system, which allows us to communicate directly and securely with State Gaming; this also speeds up our licensing process.

3) (THEN) The Gaming Commission office used to be housed at the Government Center. This allowed for minimal contact with the day-to-day interaction at the Casino. (NOW) We are currently housed behind the back-of-the-house with access to the Casino any time of the day. This allows us to interact with Casino personnel and address regulatory issues directly. The Casino is where the Commission needs to be; I believe this has allowed us to have a better grasp of day-to-day Casino business.

4) (THEN) We used to outsource our IT consulting and the majority of financial/auditing consulting. This resulted in a major financial increase to the Commission budget. (NOW) We have hired our own IT Manager and Internal Auditing Manager. This has allowed us to cut costs, given us the ability to keep up with technology changes, maintain proper auditing requirements, and helped keep us more cost-effective.

These are a few of the major highlights achieved during my term as Gaming Commissioner; I am proud to say that I have been a part of the positive changes that have advanced our organization to become more self-sufficient. These very important features have allowed us to keep up with technology, as it rapidly advances. Gaming is continually changing too. We need to consider the regulatory details involved in gaming and the time it takes to ascertain this knowledge. I can honestly say it took me a good two years before I could feel comfortable in my position, because there are so many factors involved in Indian gaming. Now, I am confident in saying that I feel I can meet all requirements necessary to be an effective Gaming Commissioner.

I believe in consistency; this is why I am respectfully asking for your vote in this upcoming election and wish to serve the Nation for another four-year term as a Gaming Commissioner. Electing me to serve another term will ensure that there is qualified, experienced oversight of our gaming regulations. It is imperative that we strive to maintain this important aspect after a vigorous transition.

Thank you for your support,



Adriana Wahwasuck

Hello,

I am Adriana Wahwasuck and currently reside in Mayetta, Kan. Since June of 2005 I have had the privilege of working for the Gaming Commission as a Gaming Inspector. Working for our tribe has always been an important goal in my life. As a Gaming Inspector the main focus is to oversee gaming activity throughout the day, any suspicious activity is reported to the Gaming Commissioners. Inspectors protect the integrity of the gaming operation, whether that is electronic gaming devices or table games. We must familiarize ourselves with the Gaming Compact that was negotiated and set forth by the State and Tribal Council, as required by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act passed by Congress. Inspectors also uphold the Tribes Title 12 law and order code that was established by the Tribal Council. We must be knowledgeable in the Minimum Internal Controls Standards which is an extensive guide to gaming standards that was adopted by the Gaming Commission. It is a basic template for the way the casino must be operated, it includes required standards that the Casino must abide by in order to maintain its integrity. Violations to any of these documents must first be discovered by a Gaming Inspector if they are to be reviewed by the Gaming Commissioners and the Kansas State Gaming Agency. This makes the role of a Gaming Inspector vital to Casino operations as well as to the Tribe. My experience of almost three years as a Gaming Inspector has been educational and will greatly support a role of Gaming Commissioner if elected.

In addition to my gaming experience I would also like to add some personal information; I am the grand-daughter of Trilby and Lucille Wahwasuck, daughter to Badger and Karen Wahwasuck. I am thunder clan and my Indian name is moukamouk which was given to me by my uncle Clyde Papakee from Tama, Iowa, my kids were fortunate to receive their names from Clyde as well. I grew up in Phoenix Ariz. and from there I moved to Reno, Nev. where I met my husband of thirteen years, Victor Ortero. Victor is from the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe and together we are raising four beautiful kids, Travis, Victor, Dania and Arianna. I have one sister, Josette and two brothers, Trilby and John. My family and I have lived in Kansas since 1999 and cherished everyday of family life here in Mayetta. I currently attend Haskell Indian Nations University and my field of study is elementary education. That is what first sparks my interest in tribal gaming, because it is essential for our tribe to maintain and regulate our casino in order for our children to have a promising future. I feel that my experience in gaming qualifies me to be a Gaming Commissioner and my experience as an Inspector gives me an advantage having the hands on experience in discovering violations first hand. It would be an honor to be elected Gaming Commissioner and I would greatly appreciate your support, thank you.

Adriana Wahwasuck
wahwasuckortero@yahoo.com



Raphael Wahwassuck

Hello, my name is Raphael Wahwassuck.

I am privileged to say that I have lived most of my life here on the reservation. I am a graduate of Highland Community College with my Associate Degree of Arts with an emphasis in business, and a soon to be graduate of Friends University with my Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Management and Leadership. All of my studies have emphasized my interest in business management.

I have been witness to and participated in the many great accomplishments that we have gained in recent years. I have worked within our Tribal government in several different capacities. I have assisted many of our departments develop from ideas, to become functional programs.

I am proud of the accomplishments by our past leaders. They have laid the ground work to bring us to where we are today. Today is a very important time for

us as a Nation. We now have vast opportunities for additional growth, both in the state of Kansas and throughout the country.

It is the duty of the Gaming Commission to regulate the operations of the casino, and to issue licenses for the employees of the casino. I believe these are great responsibilities that our elected leaders have. It is crucial to ensure that we have the right people in the right positions at the casino because these individuals are the ones that make our gaming operation the best in the area.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to bring my ideas and knowledge to the commission to help with our continued success and future endeavors. With this being said, It would be an honor to have your consideration in the upcoming election for Gaming Commission.

Thank you.

What's the weather?

By Steve Duryea, Environmental Specialist II

Below are the daily meteorological conditions for November, 2007 on the reservation.

The information comes from the Meteorological (MET) Station located at the PBPB Solid Waste Center on 142 Road. The

station is designed to record weather conditions (seen below) and to project where a pollutant has come from and where it is going.

The MET Station was made possible through an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality grant that is being administered by the PBPB Department of Planning and Environmental Protection.

MET Weather Observations

Courtesy of the Air Quality Program
Department of Planning and Environmental Protection

November 2007

DAY	AIR TEMPERATURE		RH	BPA	WIND SPEED		WIND DIRECTION	PRECIP	SOLAR RAD
	MAX	MIN			MAX	MIN			
	(DEG F)	(DEG F)	(%)	(%)	(MPH)	(MPH)		(INCH)	(W/H2)
01	58.22	31.10	59.61	30.18	9.14	15.10	SW	12.04	0.00
02	62.05	37.19	48.51	30.11	13.24	21.92	SW	13.08	0.00
03	61.27	32.57	40.19	30.17	13.05	22.11	SW	10.83	0.00
04	71.19	40.34	48.46	29.94	11.71	19.57	SW	12.26	0.00
05	54.86	36.90	51.69	30.00	26.16	42.36	SW	10.65	0.00
06	45.94	26.28	49.66	30.33	12.26	19.94	W	11.99	0.00
07	58.02	26.59	48.67	30.11	17.63	32.13	S	11.05	0.00
08	63.82	42.99	49.41	29.90	8.63	12.56	SE	14.99	0.00
09	60.48	40.43	55.49	30.00	10.26	15.69	SE	13.25	0.00
10	65.98	41.22	62.25	29.90	12.56	23.64	SE	9.58	0.00
11	73.06	58.71	75.17	29.74	17.25	30.82	S	10.07	0.00
12	67.26	47.80	55.93	30.01	17.36	26.90	E	10.86	0.00
13	66.47	38.66	51.63	29.86	13.87	23.80	S	10.30	0.00
14	59.25	40.14	34.93	29.99	23.75	37.28	NW	9.84	0.00
15	51.14	30.51	39.56	30.20	12.31	18.96	W	9.47	0.00
16	62.54	37.78	34.26	29.80	18.94	20.51	SW	10.78	0.00
17	69.82	38.37	38.77	29.81	8.71	10.48	S	15.87	0.00
18	61.76	40.14	63.13	29.91	11.16	17.71	E	8.94	0.00
19	78.45	51.44	66.71	29.84	17.58	28.63	S	9.16	0.00
20	72.17	41.51	77.17	29.75	20.50	33.57	S	10.87	0.00
21	41.42	24.71	74.39	30.05	25.96	42.12	SW	11.83	0.00
22	27.17	15.87	74.59	30.35	11.79	18.15	SW	9.08	0.00
23	33.85	12.53	70.92	30.30	7.15	12.42	S	12.47	0.00
24	37.78	27.76	74.90	30.15	9.20	16.19	SW	12.49	0.04
25	47.51	25.20	69.08	29.96	13.84	22.90	S	14.53	0.00
26	48.59	30.81	80.84	30.04	12.06	20.23	SW	10.36	0.00
27	55.86	26.77	81.03	30.12	15.48	24.65	S	8.57	0.00
28	48.00	30.90	54.42	29.97	23.12	34.26	W	9.53	0.00
29	50.56	22.25	50.86	30.16	15.78	24.21	SW	9.05	0.00
30	34.83	23.24	46.83	30.25	17.80	27.09	E	8.94	0.00
	79.46	12.63	66.63	30.03	26.16	42.36	S	11.10	0.04

From NOAA's National Weather Service in Topeka, KS:

- the 30 year average high for November is 53.1°F and the 30 year average low for November is 32.1°F,
- the record November high was 77°F set in 1939 and the record November low was -26°F set in 1989,
- the 30 year average precipitation for November is 2.31"

Mko Kisès

Bear Moon

December

Visit www.doi.gov/ost for more details.

Know your rights medical care campaign launched

The Joint Commission has launched a national campaign to help Americans understand their rights when receiving medical care. "Know Your Rights" is part of The Joint Commission's award-winning Speak Up (TM) program that urges people to take an active role in their own health care. Patients who ask questions and are aware of their rights have a greater chance of getting the care that they need when they need it. "Know Your Rights" provides tips to help people become more involved in their treatment, thus improving the safety and quality of care received. The campaign advises patients that they have a right to be informed about the care they will

receive; get information about care in their preferred language; know the names of their caregivers; receive treatment for pain; receive an up-to-date list of current medications; and expect that they will be heard; and treated with courtesy and respect; "Knowing your rights regarding treatment and care is the foundation for all interactions with your caregivers at health care facilities. Candid conversations between patients and their caregivers will help facilitate the delivery of safe, high quality care and ultimately, enhance recovery," says Paul Schyre, M.D., senior vice president, the Joint Commission.

Patient Rights and Responsibilities

Submitted by John Holtz, Director of Potawatomi Indian Health Center

Patients have both rights and responsibilities when it comes to their health and the health care services they receive. The Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry has issued a Consumer Bill of Rights and Responsibilities which expresses three goals:

- To strengthen consumer confidence by assuring that the health care system is fair and responsive to consumers' needs, provides consumers with credible and effective mechanisms to address their concerns, and encourages consumers to take an active role in improving and assuring their health.
- To reaffirm the importance of a strong relationship between patients and their health care professionals.
- To reaffirm the critical role consumers play in safeguarding their health by establishing rights and responsibilities for all participants in improving their health.

The Joint Commission has launched a national campaign to help Americans understand their rights when receiving medical care. "Know Your Rights" is part of the Joint Commission's award-winning Speak Up™ program that urges people to take an active role in their own health care.

Visit

<http://www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/SpeakUp/sp.rights.htm> to access this new brochure.

Patients who ask questions and are aware of their rights have a greater chance of getting the care that they need when they need it. "Know Your Rights" provides tips to help people become more involved in their treatment, thus improving the safety and quality of care received. The campaign advises patients that they have a right to be informed about the care they will receive; get information about care in their preferred language; know the names of their caregivers; receive treatment for pain; receive an up-to-date list of current medications; and expect that they will be heard; and treated with courtesy and respect.

"Knowing your rights regarding treatment and care is the foundation for all interactions with your caregivers at health care facilities. Candid conversations between patients and their caregivers will help facilitate the delivery of safe,

high quality care and ultimately, enhance recovery," says Paul Schyre, M.D., senior vice president, the Joint Commission.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Clinic Patients' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

Patient Rights

Information Disclosure-Patients have the right to receive accurate, easily understood information to assist them in making informed decisions about their health care, facilities and professionals

Choice of Providers and Plans-You have the right to choice of health care providers that is sufficient to provide you with access to appropriate high-quality health care.

Access to Emergency Services-If you have severe pain, an injury, or sudden illness that convinces you that your health is in serious jeopardy, you have the right to receive emergency services. Patients eligible for Managed Care Services must notify the Managed Care Services office within 72 hours of emergency care for the emergency services to be a covered service. (Persons 62 or older have a 30-day notification period)

Participation in Treatment Decisions-You have the right to know all your treatment options and to participate in decisions about your care. Parents, guardians, family members, or other individuals that you designate can represent you if you cannot make your own decisions.

Respect and Nondiscrimination-You have a right to considerate, respectful and nondiscriminatory care from your doctors, and other Health Center personnel.

Confidentiality of Health Information-You have the right to talk in confidence with health care providers and to have your health care information protected. You also have the right to review and copy your own medical record and request that your physician amend your record if it is not accurate, relevant, or complete.

Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians cautions trust account holders about misleading notifications

Submitted by BIA Horton Agency

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) warns Individual Indian Monies (IIM) beneficiaries to use caution if they are contacted about their accounts by private firms. OST has become aware of firms charging fees for account holder services that are free to beneficiaries.

OST is continually looking for people who have funds in trust but who do not have current contact information on file. There is more than \$70 million in trust for over 70,000 people whose whereabouts are unknown (WAU). One business is charging WAU individuals a fee and may misrepresent the amount an individual has in an account. Another firm claimed Power of Attorney status for several WAU account holders and instructed OST to forward all forms, documents and checks directly to the company. The Department of Interior's Solicitor has reviewed that company's paperwork and does not recognize its validity.

"These firms have not contracted nor are they affiliated with OST or the U.S. Government. Beneficiaries should not be led to believe they need to pay finder fees to receive their trust funds nor that firms have access to their account balances," said a spokesperson from the Trust Beneficiary Call Center (TBCC). "People who wonder if they have funds in trust can call the TBCC and establish rights to their accounts without paying fees."

IIM beneficiaries can call the TBCC to receive accurate and timely information and assistance about their accounts. There is no cost to the beneficiary to receive assistance from the TBCC; even the phone call is toll free. Beneficiaries with questions or concerns should call 1.888.678.6836 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. All times noted are in the Mountain Time Zone.

Visit www.doi.gov/ost for more details.

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Telephone:

785.966.2461

Fax:

785.966.2867

Editor:

Suzanne Heck

Suzanneh@pbpnation.org



To contact the PBPB Tribal Government and departments:

Write to:

16281 Q Road
Mayetta, KS 66509

Toll free: 1-877-715-6789

Or call (785) 966-4000

Prairie Band Potawatomi News An Award Winning Newspaper

The *Prairie Band Potawatomi News* is a monthly 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. We request your submissions by the 15th of each month. 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.



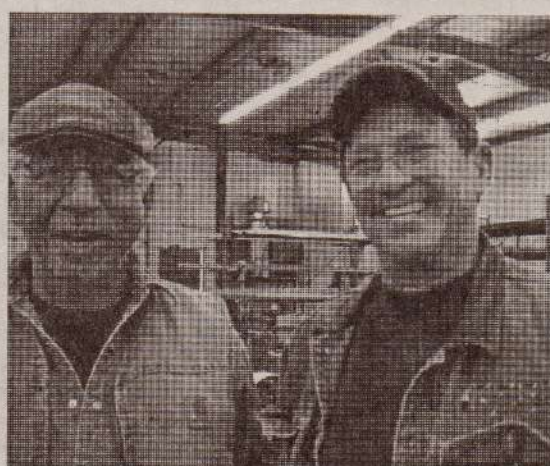
Departments/Programs

Prairie Band Potawatomi News

A salute to Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation employees



Susan McKibben, CHR



Merriell Wahwassuck and Charlie Seymour, Road & Bridge



Evie Hopkins, PARR Recovery House



John Hurla and Bowie, Tribal Police Department

Photo by Jennifer Hale



L to R: Micki Martinez, Motor Vehicle, Ann DeCoteau, Realty, Ruth Vega, Casino.



Facing camera, David Price, Potawatomi Fire Department



Kathy Slimmer and Myra Barrow, Social Services Department



Kelly Mills, Social Services Department



Roy Hoss, Department of Planning & EPA



Frank Shopteese, We-Ta-Se



Liana Onnen and Jackie Cummings, Housing



Arlene Lingo, Enrollment



Virgil (Wamp) Shopteese with daughter, Road & Bridge



L to R: Brenda Pahmahmie, General Managers Office, Alan "Boney" Pahmahmie, Road & Bridge, Vanessa Pahmahmie, Finance.



Scott Price and Larry Woltje, Potawatomi Fire Department



Laura Thackery, Nurse, PBP Health Center



Steve Cook, Tribal Police Department



Barbara Smelter, Purchasing



L to R: Angela Emert, Mike Carpenter, Mary Shopteese, Pharmacy, PBP Health Center



Mark Matchie, Nation Station



Nola Alhquist-Turner, Medical staff, PBP Health Center



Connie Smith, Potawatomi Fire Department, Jim Darnall, We-Ta-Se



Dr. Terry Harter, PBP Health Center



Mikes Potts, Early Childhood Education Center



Yvette Washington, Tribal Council offices



Dawn LeClere, Grants



Doncka Etteyan, Government Center



Terry Fox, Maintenance



L: Helen Sumner, Economic Development



L to R: Paula Hopkins, Attorney's office, Chago Hale, Tribal Court



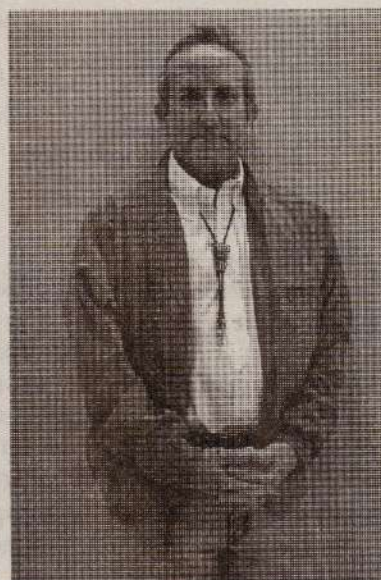
Some faces from the 2007 staff



Ida Nadeau,
Education Department



L to R: Denise Suisala, Elaine Mzhickeno Barr and
Shirlene Seymour, Alcohol and Drug Program



David Prager, Attorney's Office



Cheryl Hopkins, Boys & Girls
Club



Nona Wahweotten,
Firekeepers Elder Center



Election Department and helpers



Edie (Wamego) Valdivia
and child, Early
Childhood Education
Center



Martin Hale, Tribal Dispatch



Steve Duryea, Department of Planning and EPA



Audrey Oliverius and John Crites,
Finance



Laverne Haag,
Language Department



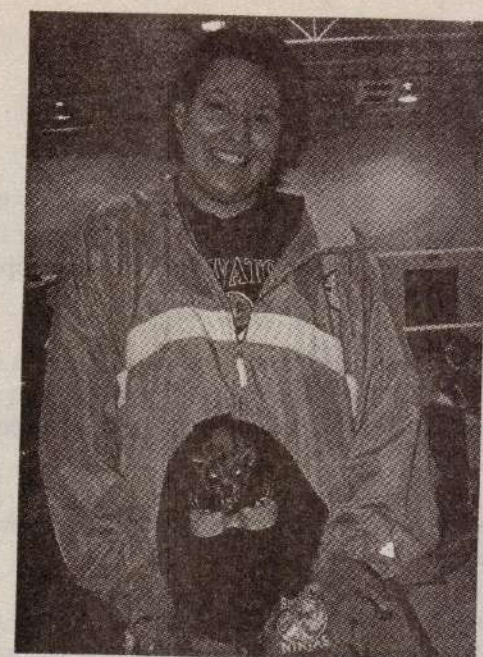
L to R: Mike Shobney, Brad Rice, Larry Picard and
Robbie Griffith, Road & Bridge



Virginia LeClere, Department
of Planning and EPA



Jim Garcia, Per Capita office



Kumos Hubbard and child, Boys &
Girls Club



Jim Shane, General Managers
Office, Suzi Heck, Newspaper



Tony Scardina and daughter,
IT/Computer Department



L to R: John Rodecap, Tim Flanary (former employee), Tim Morse,
Rick Swogger, Potawatomi Fire Department



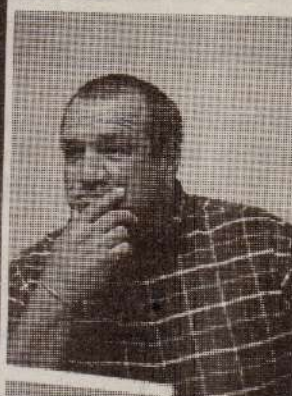
Heather Guillen-Woltje,
Human Resources



Laury Shopteese, Nurse, PBP
Health Center



Cecily Wabaunsee and Judy
Jackson, Early Childhood
Education Center



Kent Miller, Tribal
Court



Gary Buskirk,
Maintenance



L to R: Louis Johnico, Paul Vega, Amanda Barbosa,
Finance



Sydney Van Zile, Language Department



Brenda LaClair, Government Center



L to R: Gayle Lambrecht, Debra Lowe,
Andrea Wahwausuck, PBP Dental Clinic



John Rupnicki, Lands Department



New Nike shoe designed especially for Native Americans

Nike recently rolled out a new shoe line called the Air Native N7 that has been designed specifically for Native Americans.

It is similar to the look of a tennis shoe and will sell for \$42.80 a pair.

The product is receiving mixed reviews from the Indian population. According to a recent article in *News From Indian Country* (November 26, 2007) opponents of the shoe think Nike is fostering stereotypes while proponents argue that the company is being culturally sensitive in addressing the health and wellness of the American Indian population. Those in favor of the shoe say that the shoe is needed to fight diabetes and obesity which are prevalent health issues with Native Americans.

The article also reports that the idea for the shoe was the brainchild of Sam McCracken, who is manager of Nike's Native American Business program based in Beaverton, Ore. McCracken, a Native American, is a member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine Reservation and said that he has seen firsthand what the health issues are that Native Americans face. He said that his mother died of Type II diabetes.

McCracken has worked with Nike for several years and was used, along with other Native American health professionals, as consultants for the Air Native N7. Their consensus was that there was a problem with Native Americans getting a good fit from the regular sized standard shoe and that the Air Native N7 is an attempt to address the situation.

Nike also reported that all profits from the sale of the shoe will go into health programs for tribes.

How is the shoe different?

The Air Native N7 is wider with a larger toe box. The shoe also has fewer seams and a thicker sock liner. There are other design elements like feathers, for example, that are used to accentuate the shoe.

Nike researchers examined the feet of more than 200 people (men and women) from 70 tribes across the nation and found that the average shoe size was three width sizes larger than the standard Nike shoe. Nike points out that their research is just an average of those surveyed, however, and that the shoe may not fit everyone.



Where are they being sold?

The Air Native N7 will not be sold in shoe stores and plans are to make them available to Indian Health Centers in tribal communities through Nike's Native American Business Program that will begin distributing them.

At press time the shoes were not available to the PBP but the Potawatomi Indian Health Center was looking into the program. Watch for more information in future issues of the *News*.

Diabetes Prevention Program
Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian Health Center
11400 158th Rd
Mayetta, KS 66509
Steve Corbett, coordinator
785.966.8271
email: Scorbett@pbpnation.org

How does diabetes affect the feet?

The National Institute of Health has found that Indians, on average, are twice as likely to die from complications of diabetes than non-Indians. Below is some information about what diabetes does to hurt the feet and common foot problems.

How can diabetes hurt my feet?

High blood glucose from diabetes causes two problems that can hurt your feet:

Nerve damage. One problem is damage to nerves in your legs and feet. With damaged nerves, you might not feel pain, heat, or cold in your legs and feet. A sore or cut on your foot may get worse because you do not know it is there. This lack of feeling is caused by nerve damage, also called diabetic neuropathy. Nerve damage can lead to a sore or an infection.

Poor blood flow. The second problem happens when not enough blood flows to your legs and feet. Poor blood flow makes it hard for a sore or infection to heal. This problem is called peripheral vascular disease, also called PVD. Smoking when you have diabetes makes blood flow problems much worse. These two problems can work together to cause a foot problem.

For example, you get a blister from shoes that do not fit. You do not feel the pain from the blister because you have nerve damage in your foot. Next, the blister gets infected. If blood glucose is high, the extra glucose feeds the germs. Germs grow and the infection gets worse. Poor blood flow to your legs and feet can slow down healing. Once in a while a bad infection never heals. The infection might cause gangrene. If a person has gangrene, the skin and tissue around the sore die. The area becomes black and smelly.

To keep gangrene from spreading, a doctor may have to do surgery to cut off a toe, foot, or part of a leg.

What are common diabetes foot problems?

The following foot problems can lead to infections.

Corns and calluses. These are thick layers of skin caused by too much rubbing or pressure on the same spot. Corns and calluses can become infected.

Blisters. These can form if shoes always rub the same spot. Wearing shoes that do not fit or wearing shoes without socks can cause blisters. Blisters can become infected.

Ingrown toenails. These happen when an edge of the

nail grows into the skin. The skin can get red and infected. Ingrown toenails can happen if you cut into the corners of your toenails when you trim them. If toenail edges are sharp, smooth them with an emery board. You can also get an ingrown toenail if your shoes are too tight.

Bunions. These form when your big toe slants toward the small toes and the place between the bones near the base of your big toe grows big. This spot can get red, sore, and infected. Bunions can form on one or both feet. Pointed shoes may cause bunions. Bunions often run in the family. Surgery can remove bunions.

Plantar warts. These are caused by a virus. The warts usually form on the bottoms of the feet.

Hammertoes. These form when a foot muscle gets weak. The weakness may be from diabetic nerve damage. The weakened muscle makes the tendons in the foot shorter and makes the toes curl under the feet. You may get sores on the bottoms of your feet and on the tops of your toes. The feet can change their shape. Hammertoes can cause problems with walking and finding shoes that fit well. Hammertoes can run in the family. Wearing shoes that are too short can also cause hammertoes.

Dry and cracked skin. This happens because the nerves in your legs and feet do not get the message to keep your skin soft and moist. Dry skin can become cracked and allow germs to enter. If your blood glucose is high, it feeds the germs and makes the infection worse.

Athlete's foot. This is a fungus that causes itchiness, redness, and cracking of the skin. The cracks between the toes allow germs to get under the skin. If your blood glucose is high, it feeds the germs and makes the infection worse. The infection can spread to the toenails and make them thick, yellow, and hard to cut.

(Information taken from the National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NIC), a service of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). The NIDDK is part of the National Institutes of Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).



Dr. Harter on foot care and shoe design

By Terry L. Harter, MD
Prairie Band Health Center
11400 158 Rd.
Mayetta, KS 66509
Foot Problems

As noted above, Nike Corporation has reported research that indicates that their current shoe design does not accommodate the shape of Native American feet. To address this issue Nike has developed Nike Air Native.

The foot is a complex mechanical structure composed of 26 bones and numerous ligaments, tendons, nerves, blood vessels, and the skin. The foot and ankle are subject to a number of maladies and injuries. Several of these conditions are either caused or aggravated by improperly fitting foot wear. Diabetes also contributes to many disorders of the foot.

Blisters and calluses are caused by pressure and friction. Blisters on the soles of the feet usually indicate foot gear that is too loose and allows the foot to slide around in the shoe while walking or running. Blisters on other parts of the foot usually indicate a poorly constructed shoe that puts excessive pressure on the affected area. Calluses are formed in response to prolonged pressure and friction. Some degree of callus formation can be considered normal in physically active people and in people who frequently go barefoot. Excessive localized callus formation is abnormal and can be caused by improperly fitting foot gear. Structural and neurological abnormalities of the foot can also promote excessive callus formation. Calluses often split or tear deep into the underlying tissue and are responsible for many chronic foot ulcers and infections. Blisters can also lead to serious foot infections.

Corns develop over bony prominences as a result of prolonged pressure and friction. Hard corns develop on the tops of the toes while soft corns develop between the toes. Corns are always abnormal and are caused by improperly fitted foot gear. All corns could be prevented. For people with foot deformities this often requires custom fitted shoes or surgery to correct the condition.

Ingrown toenail is another condition which is probably solely caused by the wearing of any foot gear

that places pressure on the edge of the great toe. Pressure on the lateral edge of the toenail causes the nail to curve down and dig into the toe. This leads to pain and often infection of the toe. Properly fitted footgear should help reduce the frequency of ingrown toenails but going barefoot or wearing open toed sandals are the only surefire ways of preventing this condition.

It is unclear whether bunions and hammertoes are caused by improperly fitting foot gear. There is no question that poorly fitted shoes aggravate these conditions. People with these deformities require an active foot care program that frequently entails custom fitted shoes and or corrective surgery when possible.

It is also unclear whether heel spurs or plantar fasciitis is a result of poorly fitted foot gear. It is clear that many people with this condition receive benefit when their foot gear is modified.

Diabetics are especially prone to foot problems. Diabetes damages the nerves and blood vessels all over the body. This damage frequently first becomes apparent in the foot. Nerve damage, Diabetic Neuropathy, causes loss of sensation. This makes it more difficult for the diabetic to sense whether they have uncomfortable shoes that are damaging their feet. They can also have difficulty sensing if they have a rock in their shoe, a splinter in their foot, or a sore on their foot. Nerve damage can also result in decreased sweating of the feet causing the feet to be too dry and easily damaged. Damage to the blood vessels results in slow healing of injuries and difficulty fighting infections in the feet as well as the rest of the body.

Our feet are our primary contact point with the earth and need to be cared for. When our feet hurt our whole body hurts. You've heard the phrase, as comfortable as an old pair of shoes, a new pair of shoes should fit comfortably from the start. Shoes should protect our feet from harm not inflict harm. Stockings should be soft, absorbent, and should not have seams that can cause skin irritation. I hope the new Nike shoes will provide people with comfortable protective foot wear. If you have pain in your feet or questions regarding foot care please make an appointment to discuss this with one of the healthcare providers at the Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center.

MRSA – What is it and how you can help prevent it from spreading

By Mina L. Neuburger, RN, CHN
Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center
Office: 785.966.8233

Health and education officials are reporting that staph infections, including the antibiotic-resistant strain known as Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), have spread through schools nationwide in recent weeks.

MRSA is a strain of staph bacteria that does not respond to penicillin or related antibiotics, though it can be treated with other drugs. The infection can be spread by skin-to-skin contact or through sharing an item, like a towel or a piece of sports equipment that has been used by an infected person, particularly one with an open wound.

Please share with your family and friends, the following tips from the Center of Disease Control to help prevent the spread of MRSA and other infections or diseases:

- Wash your hands. Use soap and water or an alcohol-base hand sanitizer. Experts suggest that you wash your hands for as long as it takes you to recite the alphabet.
- Cover cuts and scrapes with a clean bandage. This will help the wound heal. It will also prevent you from spreading bacteria to other people.
- Do not touch other people's wounds or bandages with your bare hands. Use gloves, and still be sure to wash your hands after you take off the gloves.
- Do not share personal items like towels or razors.
- If you use any shared gym equipment, wipe it down before and after you use it.
- Drying clothes, sheets, and towels in a dryer — rather than letting them air dry, it helps kill bacteria.



Learn what nationwide credit agencies are reporting about you

By Suzanne Heck

It is worth the time and effort to get a credit report from each of the three major credit agencies or bureaus that should have reports on you if you have ever applied for a loan, credit card, or rental property.

A centralized service called AnnualCreditReport allows individuals the ability to request a summary of their credit history from all three of the major nationwide credit reporting agencies at one time. The agencies, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, must give consumers who ask for them a free credit report once a year thanks to a law enacted in 2004 called the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act (FACT Act). The sidebar graph, right, tells you how to order online or by phone or in writing.

I looked into my credit history after having the experience of being denied a short-term free-financing loan on a camera I wanted to buy a couple of years ago. I knew I had good credit so I couldn't figure out why I had been denied the loan. I asked the camera store for the written report from the credit company they had used to inquire about me, and contacted them about why I was denied the loan. They are required by law to give a reason. What I

learned was that my personal identification didn't mesh with what I had given them on the loan application. I'd never changed my first and last name and I had always disclosed address changes and where I worked, etc. so I was baffled.

I decided to look into what was on my credit reports. After receiving all three I found several errors in the personal information section in each and it took several letters to each agency to straighten them out.

Examples on the reports included misspelling my last name as Hecke instead of Heck, listing that I had lived at PO Box 338 in Eden, Wisconsin when it should have been PO Box 338 in Centerview, Missouri. There were also several transposed errors on past addresses like having lived at 4304 Terrace Place when it should have been 4034 Terrace Place. Identity theft has also heightened suspicion.

Thank goodness the credit histories were fine but I also urge examining those real close and doing any communication with the companies in some written form.

It's a hassle but worth knowing what these credit agencies are reporting about you that may be incorrect and could affect your daily life for years to come.

You are entitled to a free credit report once a year from each of the three nationwide consumer credit reporting companies

- Equifax
- Experian
- TransUnion

To order all three at the same time visit
www.annualcreditreport.com

or call
877.322.8228

or write
Annual Credit Report Request Service
P.O. Box 105281
Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

Information about credit reports

What is a credit report?

A credit report is a summary of your financial reliability that shows your history of paying debts and other bills. It is prepared by credit bureaus (also known as credit reporting agencies) and used primarily by banks, employers and others who under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), have a legitimate need for information about you when you apply for a loan, insurance policy, apartment or job.

What is in the credit report?

In general a credit report has four components:

- **Personal identification information**-your name, social security number, current and previous addresses, telephone number, birth date and employers both past and present are listed in this section. Check this section carefully on each report to ensure that another person's name and identifying information isn't intermingled with yours.

- **Public record information**-this is information generally gathered from local courthouses, including bankruptcy records, foreclosures, tax liens, court-ordered payments, and late child-support payments.

This information is used to determine if you have previous defaults or legal judgments against you. Derogatory information can generally remain on your credit report for up to seven years, except for bankruptcy information, which may be reported for 10 years.

- **Other credit history information**-this section will list your credit cards and loans, and whether you made payments on time. Here, too, negative information about your credit relationships, such as late payments or defaults, will remain on your report for up to seven years, and bankruptcy information may appear on your report for 10 years.

- **Inquiries of who has requested a copy of your credit report**-this section will list creditors, insurance companies or other parties that have requested your credit report. This usually occurs after you have applied for a loan but not always.

What is NOT in a credit report?

Your credit report should not include information about your checking and savings accounts, brokerage accounts, medical history, race, sex, religion, national origin or your driving record.

How do credit agencies and bureaus get their information?

According to David Lafleur, a Policy Analyst at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), lenders often voluntarily supply information to credit bureaus so that there can be current and reliable information about individuals as a means of providing products and services quickly. Public records that are obtained from courthouses or newspapers where public records are recorded are other sources of information about individuals.

Can anyone get my credit report?

No. The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) contains rules about who can access your credit report. Generally, a third party can access it when you are considering an application that you have made, such as for a loan, a job, insurance or an apartment. The law also allows entities to attain your report as part of an ongoing business relationship. Suppose you already have an auto loan at the bank and you miss a payment or you move and don't provide a forwarding address. In this case, the bank has the right to obtain a copy of your latest credit report.

(Information provided by the FDIC Consumer News. For more information go to www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/news)

It's that time of year!

Free income tax assistance site available soon
at Firekeepers Elder Center

15372 K Road

Mayetta, KS 66509

Call: 785.966.4000 for appointments; walk ins welcome

Bring this Tax Information to complete your Income Tax Forms:

1. A copy of your 2006 tax return, if you have one.
2. Birth dates and social security numbers, for the taxpayer, spouse and any children in the household born before Dec. 31, 2007 are needed to claim the EIC. Bring the social security cards, if available, to ensure the necessary information is copied correctly onto the tax return.
3. W-2 forms from all 2007 jobs. Workers who didn't get W-2s should still come to VITA with final pay stubs, if available. Volunteers can assist in verifying income.
4. 1099-G form, if you received unemployment insurance benefits at any time in 2007.
5. 1099-INT, if you received bank interest in 2007.
6. All other 1098 and 1099 forms.
7. Any statements received from a mortgage company during 2007.
8. Any notices sent to the worker by the IRS in 2007.
9. Workers with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) should bring the ITIN card sent to them by the IRS. Workers need either an ITIN or a SSN for the Child Tax Credit.
10. W-2 G Gambling Income
11. 2007 (Homestead) Property Tax Form, name of landlord, address and phone number.
12. Voided check or savings account number where a refund will be direct deposited.

Amended returns and past years' returns will be completed in March only.

For individuals and families with low to moderate incomes

When: Beginning January 28, 2008

Times: Mondays: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thursdays: noon - 4p.m.

Where: Firekeepers Elder Center (basement)
15372 K Rd., Mayetta, KS 66509

NOTICE

Volunteer Tax Assistors

Will Prepare:

Form 1040 EZ
Form 1040 A
Form 1040 with Sch A, B, C-EZ, D, EIC, R & SE
Form 1040-V
Form 1040-ES
Form 2441 (Child & Dependent Care Credit)
Form 8812 (Additional Child Tax Credit)
Form 8863 (Education Credits)

State Tax Returns:

Food Sales Credit
Homestead Credit

Will NOT Prepare:

Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business)
Complicated & Advanced Schedule D (Capital Gains & Losses)
Schedule E (Rents and Royalties)
Form SS-5 (Requests for Social Security Number)
Form 2106 (Employee Business Expenses)
Form 3903 (Moving)
Form 8606 (Nondeductible IRA)
Form 8615 (Minor's Investment Income)



Save \$80 - \$300
in tax preparation fees



2008

Shawnee County Sites
Open January 28th
through April 15th

Bring Last Year's Tax Return!
See the checklist & come prepared.

Returns that are e-filed will have their full refund as soon as 8 days with a direct deposit to a bank account (or as soon as 15 days by mail).

This list contains both AARP-sponsored (Tax-Aide) sites and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites.

There are several tax sites available in Shawnee County made possible through the community partnerships of:

- United Way of Greater Topeka
- K-State Research & Extension-Shawnee County

Service available to Indians and non-Indians

For more information and a complete list of sites contact:

Cindy M. Evans
County Extension Agent
K-State Research & Extension-Shawnee County

1740 SW Western Ave
Topeka, KS 66604

or call
(785) 232-0062



Life in the seventies

One of the many community events was the monthly dinner/dances. Pot luck and mini pow wows were held every month. Those dances were truly community participation needing no donations and no one person in charge. There was always plenty of food. Garfield shelter house was the place where most of them were held. Children were safe, either dancing or running about. Indian bowling teams at Gage North were also popular during those days. We had some great bowlers and if you didn't bowl you could just bring the kids and watch. It was family night every Friday at the Gage North. Indian families. Great fun. We had some real champion bowlers, men and women.

The Indian Center of Topeka opened around this time. It would become a focal point for all Indians to have a place to come together for meetings, Indian language and history classes and many social services, outreach to Indians incarcerated was another program.

The missionary group the Jesuits at St. Marys vacated the property and the land and the buildings were returned to the Prairie Band Potawatomi. The plans were to develop into a cultural and educational center. I remember pow wows out there, dances with Gary Cooper's band (yes, even back then we grooved to Gary Cooper's band). There was summer day camp for kids; it was indeed a beautiful green campus. Another event that stands out to me was the wedding reception of my sister Laverne and Joe Hale. I guess about everyone from the reservation and Topeka came to that celebration, it was like the event of the summer. Some of the young men that had served in Viet Nam formed "The Little Soldier Singers" drum group. Joe Hale, Curtis Paul, were two, including Don-Don, Wahp, and others, always a source of pride to hear those singers at events and rallies.

There were complications for the Prairie Band Potawatomi and this land out at St. Marys. Some thought the BIA was stonewalling plans. Problems were also arising within Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal politics. Two important issues during this time were: St. Mary's land issue and our constitution suspended. There was increasing frustration with the BIA here at Horton and also in D.C. with their mistreatment and broken promises to Indians. I attended many meetings, rallies and a day protest/sit-in at the BIA in Horton.

A protest/demonstration in Topeka at the municipal auditorium where the boy scout Koshare group were performing was held and members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) joined

You can find much to read on the history of the American Indian Movement. Therefore I will not attempt to explain how AIM was formed.

Their message was supportive and hopeful to know that other tribes across the country were having basically the same problems with the government, namely the BIA and they were a group that was not opposed to taking these messages nationally and were successful at getting action. There were many of our own people that were also bravely going forth with our issues and were willing to sacrifice the comforts of their homes and jobs to do what they thought was right. Speakers, our own people, men and women

stood up here right in front of the state capital and very articulately spoke of our rights as Indian nations that were being neglected. This was a resurgence period for some Indians now learning of their culture and tradition and expressing pride in being Indian.

"Red Power" was not just for bumper stickers. In the fall of 1972 they had a demonstration at the state capital in Topeka, this was not local, it was part of a nationwide caravan called the "Trail of Broken Treaties" organized by the American Indian Movement. I was attending Clarks School of Business at this time. I walked over to the rally and listened to speeches with tribal people from different parts of the country who were telling their stories and inviting anyone who could to join the caravan as it headed to Washington D.C. The intent was to gain national attention and hopefully an audience with federal officials to discuss these issues from Indians speaking for themselves. Participants coming from different parts of the country were to join up at Minneapolis. The next day others and I joined this caravan, going at first to Minneapolis for weeklong workshops and rallies. There was a 20-point proposal that was finalized before we left for Washington D.C. Our numbers had reached the thousands. I could not count the cars. At night looking back, headlights stretched for miles. Gassing up was a huge chore, taking hours, with organizers standing by the gas pump with their clipboards tallying up as we all pulled through the gas pumps then pulled back in line waiting hours. We traveled days slowly all staying in the caravan. There were other supportive organizations that would help along the way. Indians and non-Indians, churches, college student groups made arrangements for our large camp to sleep in their college gyms as we passed through and showers and food were made available to us. When we finally got to Washington D.C. early one morning we found that shelter arrangements that had been made in advance had been pulled back due to pressure from the government officials. We didn't know that and we found ourselves with nowhere to go.

It was during a meeting later in the day at the BIA auditorium where security of the building started pushing people out of the auditorium, tempers flared, people were tired, and started pushing back and the building was now occupied by us. The BIA workers and their security left the building. Our group held the building we realized.

Many actions happened during the next few days. It was certainly not the meetings we expected. As negotiations went on for our safe return out of the building there would be deadlines and standoffs that came and went. Indian warriors prepared, lining up around the building while non-Indian supporters of all races stood outside in front of the building for hours in solidarity with arms linked forming a barrier as buses pulled up in the streets carrying uniformed troops with tear gas and riot gear. I joined other mothers and took our children to the local YMCA who had opened their doors to us. There was an outpouring of support from the people in Washington, D.C. There was concern as to what they would do to us.

Negotiations were finally successful in over a week to see that we would all get out of Washington, D.C. to safely return home. In my group that is all that we wanted was just to get home. Tired and weary we returned home.

It seemed as if the only news being reported were stories

of, "Indians ransacked and 'sacked', the BIA building and got off with government property, documents and items.

During the days following after we got back, we heard of FBI agents starting to harass families that had gone or had family members that were a part of the trail. In the meantime, smaller caravans were coming through Kansas trying to get home, there were informational rallies and meetings to assist those that needed help to get to their homes across the country. Some of the meetings would be held in various homes, mine included. There was fear and panic that FBI were stopping cars that held Indians and searching for items and documents taken from the BIA building. In one such meeting there was a car that needed to dispose of items they had brought out of the building in D.C. While there was others involved, I took responsibility for helping them. That decision would be life changing for my family and me. I didn't personally know them and they went on their way to Oklahoma. Although I knew whose leadership they were under and what AIM chapter they were in, I never heard from them again. Later on that year I would face federal charges and was ultimately convicted of receiving stolen government property. The FBI continued to make their rounds harassing Indian families. Even with my legal battle going on, I would not be their informant, so I let things unfold as they did. With "Wounded Knee" going on and the events in South Dakota happening, Indians across the country felt the backlash. There was this big push by the government to clamp down hard on Indians.

Everybody was paranoid. There were FBI agents that we came to know by their first names. If you would not talk to them they would camp by your house and watch you come and go. The thing was that many people they harassed were just families that happened to be Indian and had no information to tell!

Although there were many people involved in this movement it did provoke negative reactions between some non-Indian and some Indians too. Some believed they had assimilated very successfully and didn't want this publicity. Others just did not like outsiders coming in. I am grateful for the recent circumstances, which prompted me to write this story. Maybe one day I will expand and write more on my experiences.

I believed that when I was allowed to run for Gaming Commissioner in 2002 and again in 2005, that the election board had properly examined my background and my election certified by the Tribe was correct. The election board has been erroneously sending out notices that state "you must not have had a felony conviction within the past five years". That is in the Constitution for tribal council elections, but incorrect for gaming commission elections. Although this was an oversight by the election board and our legal department, I do not want any mistake in the election process to serve as a target for criticism of the commission or the gaming operation that has been so important to our tribe's growth and prosperity. Although I have been honored to serve and help safeguard the integrity of the tribe's gaming operation as a commissioner, I have vacated my position.

Sincerely,

Joyce Guerrero

A Letter to the Editor,

Another election, another misrepresentation! Let's try to make some sense of this election. There are 3,800 adult tribal members. Of that amount, only 2,610 are registered to vote in a tribal election. So that means 69% percent of the adult tribal members can vote in a tribal election. Where are the other 1,190 voters?

In the recent secretarial election, of the 687 registered to vote only 388 voted in this election or just 56%. Where are the other 3,113 (3,800 - 687 = 3,113) tribal members who failed to register? Where are the other 3,412 (3,800 - 388 = 3,412) tribal members who should have voted?

Of the 687 that registered for this secretarial election, 175 were Kansas's votes or just 25%. In this case, 512 (687 - 175 = 512) were out of state votes. If 175 were Kansas voters, then to guess how many were reservation voters—so let's just say half—so 87 might be from the homeland reservation. How ridiculous is that?

In this secretarial election, on an average, 241 registered tribal members voted YES to change our Constitution. That means, on an average, 186 voted NO not to change our Constitution.

If there are 3,800 adult tribal members, 241 secretarial registered voters or just 6% voted to change our Constitution. Not all of the 3,800 are registered to vote.

There are 2,610 adult tribal members registered to vote in a tribal election, so if all 2,610 registered to vote in the secretarial election and only 241 voted or 9% would have changed our Constitution.

In the last special tribal election for chairperson, only 1,452 voted of the 2,610 registered voters or 56%. Where are the other 1,158 adult tribal members?

Our current Constitution states, "This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Nation voting at *an election called for that purpose by the Secretary of the Interior, provided at least thirty percent (30%) of those entitled to vote shall vote in such election." The key word here is *an which should be any. In this case, with 2,610 registered to vote in any election and 687 voters in this secretarial election that would be 26% and would not meet the 30% rule.

This is to show you that tribal member participation in electing our tribal council and amending our Constitution is very, very low. But it is also very, very important to register and vote. Why? Because the minority will rule instead of the majority. Why is it that adult tribal members fail to fully participate in our constitutional process? If you think it was difficult to get something done by the General Council in our current Constitution, wait until the amendments are approved for our new Constitution by the Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary and for the last time.

Here is something else to consider. Our amended Constitution now mandates the Tribal Council to fund some oversight committees or to reimburse committee expenses with no limitations. As of right now on this date, the Nation cannot afford to pay some of our tribal employees and are lay-

ing them off the payroll. There is also talk of the Nation cutting out current services. How are we going to pay for those committees in the amended Constitution?

Having a watch dog committee overseeing the Tribal Council can be embarrassing and insulting to them only if you are of an honest character. Otherwise, their action or inaction demands this committee.

There will have to be run-off elections because some candidate positions may not make the 50 + 1 rule. The Nation will have to factor in the costs for regular tribal elections and depending on the year when the first ethics commission elections will be held there maybe election costs every year from now on.

There was so much encouragement from a few (and boasting) that if we take over the Casino we will make more money. Would that include the Harrah's contractor savings of \$20 million? Also, what did it cost us to prematurely get out of Harrah's contract? And then the Shabbona land purchase. Would you wonder why we are having money problems?

If the Casino is making less money perhaps they should adjust their budget and cut back on their administrative services. There has to be some budget adjustment for the loss of income and certainly they are not just sitting back hoping more gamblers will show up during the holiday season. If no casino budget adjustment is made then the Nation will be expected to absorb this loss and more cut-backs if casino profits continue to trickle down. In either instance, demands for an explanation should be required from the Casino and the Tribal Council and their plan to resolve this problem.

This secretarial election was totally unconscionable, a gross misrepresentation of the Nation's members and lacked support and protective oversight from our two governing entities, Tribal Council and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The election results are proof. There should have been education workshops explaining these amendments before the election.

Everyone concerned should send in letters to the Tribal Council demanding that they cancel the secretarial election results for the lack of proper representation. Even though these amendments are General Council driven, the Tribal Council and surely the BIA should have provided protective service and guidance that these amendments create no hidden harm or conflict with existing powers. In my opinion, this secretarial election is inconsistent with our current Constitution and in the spirit of the majority of the Nation. Otherwise, a continuing, "divide and conquer" and "us and them" attitude, and a "well, that's what they wanted" decision-making thought process well haunt our governance.

That's not what we wanted!

Thomas M. Wabnum

To the Editor:

When I was younger and even now I have heard the expression of "Don't put all your eggs in one basket" and to always have a good back up plan, Option B. However, I assume that this saying has never been uttered within the confines of the administration building, nor has an option B ever been considered from the get go in the establishment of a casino.

However, we the voters are supposedly to blame for the short fall of financial obligations that our tribal administration seems to be stating in their articles in the paper. No, it's not a direct accusation but subtle to say the least. How greedy can we be, how dare us, the tribal members, to vote and approve a raise in the per capita. Didn't we even consider the consequences, we didn't think about our people, didn't we think about our poor tribal administrators and the hardships that they would suffer? My thinking is yes we did take it into consideration and for that reason I voted accordingly.

In my opinion, long have we waited for our elected officials to push and lead our tribe into the prosperity that could be

rivalled by the Anglo-world. Instead our elected officials have chosen to put all of OUR eggs into (1) one basket AND now that basket has tumbled to the floor. There has never been a plan or Option B, except to buy land and put another casino on it. What other economic development has there been? I have seen none or should I say I have seen no articles in the paper concerning economic development. I can remember a time when the big casino opened, I had spoken to a few of our tribal administrators about going into the telecommunications industry. The answer I received was "we already have a telephone". I had provided information from a company that would have helped the tribe get grants, training and other administrative necessity to establish itself in the telecom industry. The information disappeared. I'm sure that I'm not the only one that wanted to help the tribe in such a fashion, I'm sure that I wasn't the only one concerned with the tribe having a back up plan, in case the casino revenues would diminish. Now look, they have diminished and WE have spoken.

Tribal administration should have foreseen this problem coming when the per cap started getting smaller and we voted to raise the percentage the first time. However, I can hear the elected

official say "we never expected this to happen, and we have other economic strategies that we are working on". Well how long have we had a casino? What other businesses have you developed? There has been more than enough time and more than enough elected officials to have already established other viable sources of income. What do we have to show for it? Nada, Nix, Zero, Zilch. 16% economic development on both RAP options, 16% to develop what, it's a little too late for that my friends, unless you can pull a rabbit out of the hat.

So, I suppose we are to blame for the reduction in services, the reduction in personnel, we should all be ashamed of ourselves for being so greedy, and expecting elected officials to actually do more than what they do. But in essence think about the vote and think about why "we" the voters approved the raise, because evidently someone is not doing their job.

Sincerely,

Larry G. DuBoise



Support the Shab-eh-nay Agreement with Dekalb County

Congratulations to all of our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Council members – past and present - and Washington, D.C. and Illinois legal staff that worked on the historic Intergovernmental Agreement with Dekalb County regarding our Nation's re-jurisdiction over our reservation lands in Illinois.

This Intergovernmental Agreement is the "key-stone in building our bridge back to jurisdiction" over our reservation that was illegally taken from our people over 150 years ago. The foundation for this historic re-acquisition was our actual purchase of a piece of the reservation which we completed utilizing our own funds in April of 2006.

This Agreement provides a "win-win" for our Tribe and the County of Dekalb while addressing challenges that have arisen when a Tribe is moving back into land that is rightfully the Tribe's and is still held in trust by the U.S. government as is our Shab-eh-nay reserve.

Our Shab-eh-nay Reservation is a unique parcel in many ways and as I said many times when I served as our Chair, "There is probably not another situation like this for any other Tribe in the Country." However, other tribes' "efforts" to regain their lands as reservations caused the need for these Intergovernmental "partnerships." It is for this uniqueness of situation and Indian law that the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation will enjoy the re-acquisition of our jurisdiction over our reservation; it is for the other tribes' "efforts" that we have to enter these partnerships.

What a difference a year makes. Last year,

internal Dekalb County politics as a result of their then pending elections caused the County to unexpectedly "pull-out" of our negotiations which had just begun. Once the County elections were over, it took our Washington, D.C. and Illinois legal staff and myself leading the Tribal Council, to persuade the County to come back to the negotiating table. The turning point was last April when the County board voted to resume talks.

Much can be debated concerning the details of the actual Intergovernmental Agreement. I for one do not like the point on the County receiving audited financial statements from any gaming operation opened, however, I have sat with the County and I know it is not easy to get all of the provisions that we would like, especially when discussing our mutual sovereignty as governments. The financial considerations, most of the points on our conducting business on and restoring our jurisdiction over the land seem fair. The bottom line on this Agreement is: **PLEASE VOTE YES AT JANUARY'S GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING FOR IT.**

There have been a couple of "disgruntled, arm-chair trust-land so-called experts" in the tribe who have blogged and written their opinion of status of the reservation and how the tribe should conduct our business – stop it. The foremost Indian law legal minds in the country have concluded: the land is our reservation – there is no other way to get it back other than fair market purchase or transaction and we are on the cusp of making history while enriching the tribe in many ways other than just the monetary rewards.

Once this County Agreement is approved there are a few other tasks for the tribe to focus on in regards to the Shab-eh-nay reservation re-jurisdiction. We need to push forward and get

this completed.

There are other concerns that I have in regards to Shab-eh-nay and it has nothing to do with our rights and the land's status as our reservation. Tribal Council must be accountable when utilizing our house and property up on the reservation in Illinois. The tribally-owned house must be and should be used only for tribal business at all times – not used as someone's second home, no long weekends, no get-aways or vacations on the tribe's expense. Once all the "government" functions of starting the new operations are complete, Tribal Council must stay out of the new Bingo/Class II Gaming business. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation needs to be able to do their job as designed in our Section 17 Tribal Corporation by operating the new Bingo Hall. Tribal Council should also not let "splintering" of government decisions happen – we are one nation, no one should be up in Illinois making unilateral decisions on behalf of our people. I believe the Accountability Program for our elected officials that I wrote about in a previous newspaper article would help alleviate concerns.

While we have this "victory" in Illinois, we need not forget about re-invigorating our Kansas reservation. Our gaming business is down in Kansas, as reflected in our last per capita check. If we had just maintained our pre-transition from Harrah's numbers our checks would have been more since we did not have to pay Harrah's management fee. Just as important, our government has had to down-size due to this lack of revenue. Our Entertainment Corporation needs to "rally the casino troops" and get back our business – and I for one, am rooting for it to happen.

Tracy Stanhoff

Education Department Notices

Service Changes

The following services will NOT be offered beginning January 1, 2008

- K-12 Computers
- College Computers
- Student Loan Repayment Program
- Study Abroad Program
- Executive Education
- High School Graduation Incentive

In addition student services for K-12 will have reduced funding levels. Grades K-8 will be eligible for \$250 per calendar year and 9-12 will be eligible for \$400 per calendar year.

High school students will NOT be eligible for assistance above the allocated level for college courses. College courses will be subject to each student's

Get transcripts in!

Students currently receiving funding for fall 2007 MUST turn in an OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT to the Education Department no later than JANUARY 31, 2008. Spring awards will not be released until a transcript has been received.

Questions?

Contact the Education Department
toll free at
877-715-6789



2007 4th Quarter Charitable Contributions

•Ms. Wheelchair of Kansas	\$ 1,000
•Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition Inc	6,000
•GaDuGi SafeCenter Inc	5,750
•Florence Crittenden	6,000
•Living the Dream, Inc	5,000
•KSDS Inc	5,000
•American Heart Association	2,000
•Meals on Wheels	13,919
•Boy Scout Troop # 173	2,000
•KETCH	3,000
•American Cancer Society	5,000
•Civitan Club of Topeka	10,000
•Royal Valley High School Native American Club	2,000
•TARC	3,500
Total	70,619

Charitable Contributions Committee member vacancy notice

Tribal members interested in serving on the Charitable Contributions Committee should write a letter of intent to:

Wanda Treinen, coordinator
16281 Q Rd
Mayetta, KS 66509

Deadline: January 30, 2008

For more details call 785.633.3354 or 785.966.3918

Mayetta Oil Company
13487 162 Road
PO Box 95
Mayetta, KS 66509
Phone:
785.966.2721
or 785.966.2696



New delivery charges as of December 1, 2007

This applies to "Will Call" or C.O.D. customers:

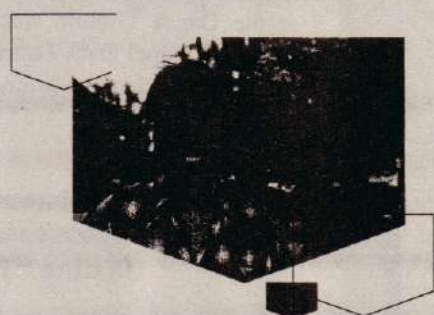
- 1) Out of Gas charges are \$50.00 during delivery hours
- 2) Weekend or holiday "Out of Gas" charges are \$75.00
- 3) Same day deliveries will include an additional \$50.00 fee due to the rising cost of diesel fuel to run the bulk trucks
- 4) Weekend of holiday deliveries will include an additional \$100.00 fee

When placing orders for your propane please call in your order two days prior to your delivery request or when your tank is at 15%. This will allow ample time for the drivers to add you to their routes and save you additional charges for same day deliveries.

HOME MORTGAGE

A special message for

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation tribal members!



Are you looking to purchase a home on or off the tribal lands?
You may be eligible for up to \$12,500 in down payment assistance!

General Grant Requirements*

- Must be an adult enrolled tribal member of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- Homebuyer education is required for first time home buyers
- Owner occupied primary residences only
- A minimum \$1000 applicant contribution is required
- Maximum allowable down payment assistance is 20% of the purchase price not to exceed \$10,000 unless matching funds are available
- Matching funds are available on a one to one basis not to exceed a total grant of \$12,500
- Other Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation restrictions may apply

U.S. Bank mortgage loan programs available to use with the down payment assistance grant are:
American Dream—Fixed interest rate and NO private mortgage insurance is required
FHA—Fixed interest rate, flexible credit terms and a first year rate reduction option
Home Possible—Fixed interest rate, flexible credit terms and low down payment options

Call today, let's get started with your mortgage loan pre-approval!

Dennis Thurman
Mortgage Loan Officer

Office: 785-291-1247
Cell: 785-331-9890
Fax: 785-271-2008
Email: dennis.thurman@usbank.com



Loan approval is subject to program guidelines. *Not all loan programs are available in all states for all loan amounts. Interest rate and program terms are subject to change without notice. Rev. 12/2007 Member FDIC.

ANNOUNCING MORE BANK FOR YOUR BUCK

Enjoy the money saving benefits of Group Banking

- Group Checking¹ with No Minimum Balance or Monthly Maintenance Fee
- Free First Box of Checks²
- Free Internet Banking, Bill Pay and Online Statements
- Free U.S. Bank Check Card with Rewards³
- 1/2% Interest Rate Bonus on a Certificate of Deposit⁴
- Preferred Consumer Loan Pricing with AutoPay⁵
- 25% off a Mortgage Loan Origination Fee⁶
- And more!

courtesy of
Prairie Band
Potawatomi Nation

Pioneer Square Office
3625 NW 46th St.
785-291-1087



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Ttiwenmo eginigyèn (Happy day you were born)

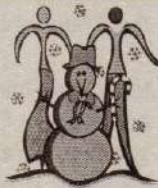


Happy 21st Birthday
Morningstar Shines

December 10, 1986



*My beautiful Morningstar,
you hold my heart.
With the struggles you are facing,
know that I am there with you.
I can close my eyes, and
go to any place in our journey together.
I can see your newborn smile,
hear your dad singing, welcoming
you into the world, giving thanks for the gift,
of you.
I see you being held to the four directions,
and to the Creator, with your five-month-old smile,
my little blue bear
And we danced, giving thanks for the gift, of you.
I can see you at 2 years old, waking up at 3 a.m. to dance adoption
way, smiling. 21 years, we've danced together.
My beautiful Morningstar, keep smiling, and always know, I'm for-
ever thankful for the gift, of you.
Find you way, my child, to the place you need to be...
I love you,
Mom*



Happy Belated Birthday
to
Crystal Jones, 33, on December 1
&
Melissa Goins, 32, on November 3

From dad (Kevin Aitkens)

Happy Birthday Drake Jones

4 years old
on
December 1

From Misho
(Kevin Aitkens)



Happy 3rd Birthday
Ainsley "Shaw-wih" Schimmel
on
December 30

We love you!
Parents: Brad & Kim Schimmel
Big Brother: Austin Schimmel
Grandparents: Carol & Kevin Heimiller
Dennis & Alice Schimmel



Happy Belated Birthdays

Love,
Grandma & Grandpa
Keltner
Great-grandpa Robert
Asselin
Great-grandma Janice
Asselin
Aunt Melanie Asselin
Cousin Valerie



Zachary & Lelani Keltner



Dustin Lane Keltner

Happy
9th
Birthday



Tootie
and
Kenny



Love, Louis, Martie, Kek & Pat-ko-shuk



Happy Birthday
to
Mason, 3 years old
on
December 11
and
Addy, 7 months old

Parents: Craig & Robin Welker
Grandparent: Rick Phinney



Messages



Happy New Year
to our two cutie pies!
(Dutch & Ashtyn Keo)

Love,
Mom & Dad
(April Wahwasuck
&
Mokie Keo)



On behalf of the
We-Ta-Se American Legion
Post 410 I'd like to thank the
volunteers and the community
for helping make the
10th annual
veterans pow-wow
November 17 a big success.

-Jim Darnall,
Post Commander



*Thank you
I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and help after my stroke on May 18. A special thanks to Willie Banks. I don't know how that little fellow got me into his car by himself, but I am thankful he did. A special thanks to Kathy Slimmer and Jeanie Combs at Nation Independent Living for all their help and to Vern Wabaunsee, Gary Buskirk and the other young man who worked in the heat for several days making me some steps I could climb and rails and handles where I needed them. I don't know where to begin to thank my daughters, Crystal and Melissa. Just know that I feel very blessed to be your dad. God bless you all.*

Kevin Aitkens



Congratulations to Naseka Hale
on graduating from Washburn University
December 14, 2007 with a
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology.
We love you and are very proud of your success.
You're a wonderful son!

Your momma and all your family



Mi gwech to the PBPB from Dianna M. Payne

I completed my studies in esthetics (skin care) in July of this year and sat for the State Board of Examiners in September. Upon receiving my license from the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations, I am currently employed as an esthetician with Rendezvous Salon & Spa in Longview, Texas where I have been a practicing massage therapist. I want to thank the tribe for the educational grant that has enabled me to expand my options in this industry.



Congratulations to Joshua Dahlsten

Football player on the Humboldt (Iowa) Middle School 7th grade football team. Joshua made four solo tackles and one forced fumble. He is also on the Humboldt Middle School wrestling team.

From: Steve Dahlsten



Kamboŭtĕk (those who died)



Linda Zephier (Shopteese) Kitch-Kumme-Quah

Linda Shopteese Zephier, Kitch-Kumee-Quah, 42, Lawrence, died Dec. 2, 2007, at her home. She was born Feb. 3, 1965, at Topeka, the daughter of Irving L. Shopteese Sr. and Inez S. Wahweotten Shopteese. She attended Highland Park High School in Topeka and Haskell University in Lawrence. Ms. Zephier worked in food service at the University of Kansas. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Drum Religion. Survivors include a daughter, Geri Zephier, of the home; three adopted daughters, Maisie Riley, Kathleen Daney and Mona Daney, all of Lawrence; her mother, Inez S. Dodds, Mayetta; two brothers, Dennis Shopteese and Irving Shopteese Jr., both of Mayetta; a sister, Vicki Kitterman, Rapid City, S.D.; a grandson, Adonis Stanwix; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father, Irving L. Shopteese Sr.; and a brother, Randall J. Shopteese, who died in 1982. Drum services will be held Dec. 5 at the Dance Ground west of Mayetta. Burial will be Dec. 6 in the Dance Ground Cemetery. Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hoyt is in charge of services. Online condolences may be sent to chapeloaksfuneralhome.com.

(Courtesy of Holton Recorder 12/5, 2007)

Justina "Tommie" Jackson (Nu-Weis-Kwe)

Justina "Tommie" Jackson (Nu-Weis-Kwe), 29, Mayetta, died Dec. 29, 2007, from injuries sustained in a traffic accident. She was born May 8, 1978 at Topeka, the daughter of James H. and Judy Faith Carlisle Jackson. Miss Jackson had worked at Harrah's Prairie Band Casino, but had spent the last couple of years taking care of an ill daughter. She was a member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation and the Drum Religion. Survivors include two daughters, Yolanda and Sandra Solis, both of the home; her parents, James and Judy Jackson, Mayetta; her grandfather, Ed Potts, Mayetta; two brothers, Jason Jackson, Topeka, and Justin Jackson, Mayetta; two sisters, Jennifer Buskirk, Mayetta, and Felicia W. Brown, Denver, Colo.; an uncle, Michael Jackson; seven aunts, Linda Jackson, Evelyn Seymour, Lucy Jackson, Lorilei Potts, Roberta Jackson, Janice Jackson, and Beverly and Douglas Goslin; six nephews, Eugene Masquat, Gary Wayne Buskirk, James Buskirk, Matthew Buskirk, Lance Buskirk and Jordan Jackson; and numerous cousins, including Robert W. Jackson, Janis R. Jackson and Joseph A. Jackson. Drum services will be held Jan. 3 at the Danceground west of Mayetta. Burial will be held Jan. 4 in Wago Cemetery. Miss Jackson will lie in state until 3 p.m. Jan. 3 at Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hoyt, where family and friends will meet from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 2. Memorial contributions may be made to benefit Yolanda and Sandra Solis, sent in care of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, P.O. Box 280, Hoyt, KS 66440. Online condolences may be made at chapeloaksfuneralhome.com.

(Courtesy of Holton Recorder 1/2/2008)

You go from us
Into a beginning;
We rejoice for you and wish you an easy journey out into the light.

-Suzette Haden Ekin
Native Tongue

