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Prairie Band Potawatomi News

January 2004 EDITION

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

PBPN and Sac and Fox Health and Wellness Center opens

By: Suzanne Heck

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and Sac and Fox Health and Wellness Center is officially open for servicing tribal members who need medical care. Formerly known as the Indian Health Center that is located in Holton, the Center came under the direction of the PBPN and Sac and Fox on January 2.

"Being in transition is the best way to describe the new center," said Josephine Bellonger, interim director, "and direct patient care is our primary concern. When the federal Indian Health Service (IHS) out of Oklahoma City came in at the last minute to remove some equipment, computers and medicines it made us scramble to replace those items to keep a continuum of care and we feel we have done that to the best of our ability."

The center now has a full time staff, necessary medical and

those filled as soon as possible."

Last year the PBPN General Council (GC) voted to move the Center into what is known in Indian country as Section 638. This meant that the PBP and Sac and Fox Nations, who have formed a compact, will self govern the Center versus having it operated under the umbrella of the federal Indian Health Service. Funding for the Center now comes from area IHS sources and the Center also plans to third-party bill as a way to generate revenues for the Center.



Josephine Bellonger
Interim Director

"We're asking patients for insurance or other cards when they come in," Bellonger said. "It helps us and helps the patients reduce the deductibles on their plans."

Bellonger also said that the center has their own cost accounting system that is separate from the rest of the Nation's business transactions but that it is managed by the PBPN Finance Department.

PBPN members also voted last year to approve funding for a new clinic building. In the meantime, the new Health and Wellness staff will operate out of the former IHS building on West Sixth street in Holton. An Open House is planned at that site on January 27 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

A federal holiday schedule for when the Center will be closed is listed under the Health Section of this paper on page 12.



The PBPN & Sac and Fox Wellness Center staff posed for a photo before their weekly administrator meeting.

business equipment, and a full time pharmacist on board. There is also a Managed Care Services outreach program being established for the elderly that was formerly known as Contract Health Services. "We still have three staff vacancies," Bellonger said, "but we are hoping to get

PBPN judges gather for judicial meeting



From left to right are Judges Francis Skenandore, Gregory Bigler, John Wabaunsee, Joe Young, and Charles Tripp who all gathered on January 16 for the day at the Tribal Court. Absent from the meeting was Gerald Hill.

PBPN Court of Appeals:

John Wabaunsee, Chief Justice

Francis Skenandore, Associate Justice

Joe Young, Associate Justice

PBPN District Court:

Gregory H. Bigler, Administrative District Court Judge

Charles H. Tripp, Special District Court Judge

Gerald L. Hill, Special District Court Judge

For more information on the judges see their biographies on page 10.

PBPN and Jackson County continue to meet on zoning issue

The Tribal Council and Jackson County Commissioners met on January 20 at the S & A Cafe where they discussed the issue of zoning both on and off the reservation and how to work together more effectively in solving potential problems that may arise about land use.

The two groups, who have met previously regarding the issue, are attempting to develop an agreement of understanding that will hopefully benefit each other. Environmental and quality of life matters were mentioned as primary items of concern for residents on the land.

PBP Tribal Attorney David Prager opened the meeting by presenting a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that summarized the Nation's position on the issue. It will now be reviewed by both groups and brought to the next meeting for further discussion. Prager said that the MOU had been revised to emphasize the areas of agreement that both groups had in common concerning zoning versus dilineating guidelines or differences.

Both groups will study the memorandum and meet again on February 17 at Harrah's Casino.

Road and Bridge Director represents all tribes at BIA meeting

By: Suzanne Heck and Mary Young

Tim Ramirez, director of Road and Bridge, was the sole representative for all tribal nations during a three-day meeting held in January with BIA officials concerning funding and more programming for road and bridge departments.

From Jan. 12-14 he traveled to the BIA Portland, Oregon Area Office where he spoke to Interior Department officials about the need for more funding for the PBPN and all tribes.

His all-expense trip was paid for by the BIA and he said he got there in record time. "Security is real tight in the airports, however," he said.

When interviewed after his return, he said that the meetings went well. He said that BIA officials are planning to switch to a computerized data system that will help track specific dollar amounts spent for various programs and that funds for road and bridge programs are proposed to increase.

"There has not been an increase in BIA funding for road and bridge programs for 13 years," Ramirez said, "so this was good news."

He said that the BIA Road Maintenance program was seriously underfunded nationwide and the fact that officials acknowledged the lack of funding and said they were going to do something about it was welcome news to him.

Ramirez also said that another program called the Indian Reservation Roads program, that is federally funded by the Highway Department, would also be increasing next year. He said that the PBPN Road and Bridge Department had received about \$520,000 in 2003 out of a total \$275 million fund.

Being selected to testify was a stroke of good luck for the PBPN as Ramirez probably had a lot to tell the BIA. In his twenty years with the Nation he has watched his crew grow from two to 34 and, out of those 34, 95 percent are tribal members. There are welders, truck drivers, heavy equipment operators,

surveyors, mechanics, office personnel and laborers, to name a few, and they will do just about anything they can for the Nation's members from changing tires to digging graves. They also maintain the Bison Program for the Nation's enjoyment and put in fences when the need arises.

More importantly, Road and Bridge are presently responsible for maintaining 119 miles of road on the reservation. This compared to the 44 miles that Jackson County maintains is no small feat. This includes all aspects of road maintenance too, from paving, to snow removal, and repairs. Ramirez said that during snow storms he runs snow-removal crews all night long so that members and workers can get to their destinations and homes the next day.

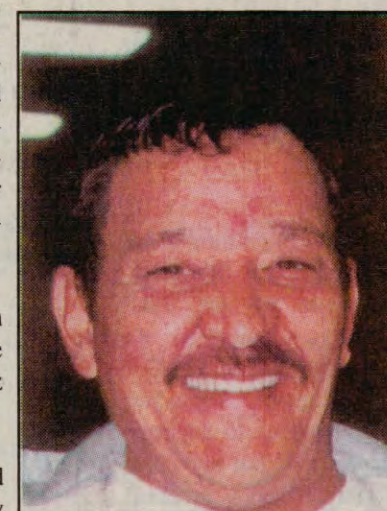
In addition, the Road and Bridge Department are working on five bridge projects that include three tribal bridges and two BIA funded bridges on the reservation.

And, there's more. The crews have been busy working on breaking ground on the new Harrah's Casino RV Park that will be located south of the Casino and they plan to donate an in-kind service for Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence where they will put in a modified pit pond to help alleviate a water problem that the university has had at their Cross Country Track field. "It will only take us two or three days," Ramirez said. "Six

pieces of equipment and three dump trucks to haul off the dirt, and the problem should be fixed."

The work that the Road and Bridge Department has accomplished has also had a huge impact on the local economy as well. Mentioned at the last Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations meeting as being a major contributor to the economic progress of Jackson County, the Road and Bridge Department is well known for its strong work ethic and quality workmanship.

The Road and Bridge Department offices are located near 150 Rd and K Road in the old tribal headquarters building.



Tim Ramirez

Roy Hale selected Employee of the Year



Roy Hale, who heads the We-Ta-Se Post 410, was voted Employee of the Year which was announced at the January all-employee meeting. Roy is seen above "hamming it up" in the We-Ta-Se Conference Room by pretending to play Taps on a trumpet while it plays on the tape recorder in the background. Roy's good sense of humor and the many hours that he puts in on behalf of tribal veterans and the Nation made him a natural pick for Employee of the Year.



Gaming Commission Candidates/Elections

Prairie Band Potawatomi News

Gaming Commission candidate profiles



Laura (Harrison) Abeyta

Hello. My name is Laura (Harrison) Abeyta. I am running for Gaming Commissioner and would like to visit with you and share my goals. Ten years ago, the first thing I learned from other gaming tribes was the importance of being **SOVEREIGN** and that meant having a Tribal gaming commission in place, an **Independent Governmental Entity** apart from **Tribal Council**, to regulate the gaming business.

The Commission has the responsibility to recommend changes in the law, to the Council, but they cannot change the laws themselves. They do have the power and authority to see that the existing laws are adhered to, and they answer to the PBP people.

The responsibilities of our gaming commission besides licensing and background investigations include:

- To provide pertinent and updated information and available services to members.
- To develop common strategies and positions concerning issues affecting gaming.

Native American Casinos are a fairly new industry and can bring immense prosperity. Safeguarding that prosperity requires that our Commission work closely with

Council, and any other entity involved in any tribal gaming operation. (Sec. 12-3-20. Powers of the Commission)

Having been involved in the original contract negotiations it concerns me that certain clauses of the original contract were not met. One of the **Purposes** of Title 12-1-8 (D) is **To enhance employment opportunities for Tribal Members**. The first year of our casino gaming experience operated out of the Bingo Hall and employed 2 (two) Harrah's members and the remaining workforce hired were local people. Now six years later we still do not have the ability or tribal members in positions to run the casino like our original contract called for. It only takes four years to get a college degree.

We have all enjoyed the benefits of gaming, (per capita, education, housing, employment, health benefits, road & bridge, social service assistance, etc.). My heart swells with pride as I drive through the reservation as it grows day by day. The talented work of the people is evident everywhere. All growth by nature is hard. It has been hard at times for us. We have a long way to go, but just look what we have accomplished. As a grandmother of 17 grandchildren, I would like to do my part to see that these benefits continue for them and their grandchildren.

The current programs, have allowed me to pursue a new path of knowledge. I recently completed all necessary requirements needed to graduate as a massage therapist. This has been a fulfilling, and satisfying accomplishment because I sincerely believe that stress reduction can improve one's health and it feels good to make people feel better. Before this, I was a homemaker (25 years, with husband David), PBP Tribal Gaming Commission Chairman (4 years), a Field Engineer (electronics technician) for NCR (13 years), and a phone company employee (approximately 5 years). I enjoy my grandchildren, gardening, painting, reading, and playing pool.

We, as Native Americans have the opportunity to create a nation amongst ourselves dedicated to maintaining our heritage through education and employment. Like many tribal members I believe this can and will be achieved through hard work, dedication, communication, and sheer Indian pride. We currently employ many talented and experienced tribal members in our numerous tribal departments and I would like to see this increase along with our rapidly growing community. Many new families are currently residing in homes that would have been virtually impossible for them to attain without the teamwork, late nights, meeting headaches, and intelligent negotiations endured by the founding tribal members involved in creating our first official Tribal Gaming Commission. The children will have the opportunity to remain and grow on their Tribal lands, an opportunity denied to many of us, who, for education, employment, (boarding schools, relocation) or other reasons were not able to do so. Our ancestors would be proud that the people are able to return home.

We as a Sovereign Nation must evaluate how important that sovereignty is to us, since it is "OUR NATION", "OUR WORLD", it is "OUR RESPONSIBILITY" to elect governmental officials, who put the PBP peoples' interests before their own. **VOTE WISELY!**

My address is 7472 142nd Rd, Delia, KS 66418. If you have any questions feel free to call me at (785) 771-0103.

Thank you for your time.



Calvin Evans

- Born August 27, 1956
- Elected as a Commissioner for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Gaming Commission in 1994, and re-elected in 2000
- Resident of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation for almost 40 years
- Hobbies include fishing, hunting, football, baseball and basketball
- Phone: (785) 966-4057

I would appreciate your vote in this election. I won't make any promises, as sometimes they are hard to keep. I will say, however, that I will do the best job that I can.

Thank you.

Don't forget that on election day only tribal members or invited guests are allowed in the election area at the Community Building.



Scott Hopkins

Being a Prairie Band Potawatomi Member who works at Harrah's Casino as a Security Supervisor, I feel I would be a good candidate for the upcoming Gaming Commissioner's position. My name is Scott Hopkins and I am married with three children. My grandfather is Garnett Potts and my mother is Evie Hopkins. My grandmother is Lillian Kelly who still lives in Wisconsin Rapids. My sisters Paula Hopkins and Cheryl Hopkins worked for the PBP Bingo on the PBP Reservation for many years.

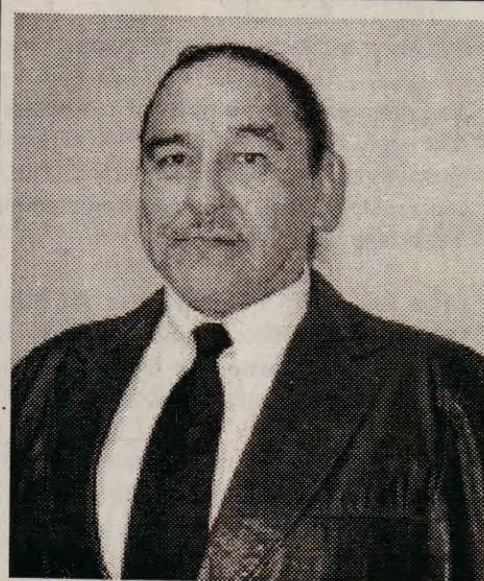
My background has been in gaming since I worked at Bingo when it was first started out at the gym in on the PBP Reservation. I worked in a factory for six years before I started working at the Ho-Chunk Casino in Wisconsin. I worked my way up from Maintenance to Security Guard to Shift Supervisor. I put my name in for Security at Harrah's Prairie Band Potawatomi Casino and I have been working on third shift as a Shift Supervisor for the last two years.

During this time I had a lot of training required for my position. This includes knowing each position and what they do, knowing the gaming compact, policies and procedures and keeping up on all the new information on gaming.

I enjoy working in Security, but would like to enhance further on my career in gaming and what a better way, being a Gaming Commissioner. I feel I am capable of handling this position, since I have worked on the floor with both the employ-

ees and customers and I am aware of some of the issues at the Casino.

So I am asking for your support on February 25th, 2004, and to vote for me.



Joe "Zow-Nim-Ki" Jessepe

- U.S. Army Viet Nam Veteran (Purple Heart Recipient)
- President, Delia Chapter-Native American Church
- 10 years of sobriety
- Strong Potawatomi lineage: father: Leroy Jessepe, mother: Constance Magnauk, grandmother: Suzie Zownimki, grandfather: Grant Magnauk, grandmother: Madeline Tomey
- Comes from a long line of Warriors who served in the U.S. Armed Forces who **Fought For Our Freedom** to live, die and worship as "Nishnabek"
- If elected will continue to fight for the people and promises to uphold the Tribal Constitution, Law and Order Codes: Title 12 and the State/Tribal Gaming Compact.
- Will assure that the employment practices of the Gaming Commission are in compliance with Indian Preference laws
- Will provide reports to the voters at General Council meetings
- Will work closely with the Tribal Council to protect tribal gaming interests and all assets held in common by the people.

Vote for Joe!



Sylvia Moss

My name is Sylvia Moss better known as Chaz. My father is Floyd Wamego of Horton, KS. My grandmother was Florence Wamego. My mother is Mildred Whitefish (Engels) from Wabeno, WI.

I now reside on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation reservation. My position is the Bingo Manager for the Nation which started August 4, 2003.

I worked for the Forest County Potawatomi's for nine and one-half years. I started as a Security Guard, Surveillance Dept, Bingo Floor Supervisor, Gaming Manager, Asst Bingo Manager and Bingo Manager.

For the past two and one-half years my job history has included being the third shift supervisor at the Potawatomi Convenience Store. I was also a Front Desk Clerk at the Indian Springs Lodge and Conference Center in Carter, WI.

If elected as a gaming commissioner my goal will be to make sure that all minimum internal control standards are in compliance along with current policies and procedures for all aspects of gaming.

All ballots must be received in the Election Board Post Office Box in Mayetta, Kansas no later than 9 a.m. on February 25.



**Vernon Mzhickteno
(Noe do nee)**

My name is Vernon Mzhickteno (Noe do nee) and I am a candidate for the position of gaming commissioner. I am 52 years old and although my family owns property on the reservation, I was born and raised in Topeka. I graduated from Highland Park High School in 1969.

I have two children, a son, 24, who is a computer technician for a Topeka firm and a daughter, 19, a second year student at Emporia State.

In my employment history, I was a truck driver for Consolidated Freightways for 18 years, until they closed the Topeka terminal in September 2001. From September 2001 until the present, I have been employed in the warehouse at Harrah's Prairie Band Casino.

I'm an easygoing person. I don't smoke, drink or do drugs and the extent of my criminal record is a few speeding tickets when I was a teenager.

As gaming commissioner my goal would be to ensure that gaming in our casino is conducted fairly and honestly and that the casino is successful, thereby continuing to improve the quality of life for all members of our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.



Gaming Commission candidate profiles



Tom Ogden (Op-Tuck-Uck)

My name is Thomas Ogden. My mother is Cora Louise Ogden Humm. My grandmother was Clara Tapsee. She was born and raised here on our Potawatomi reservation. Her parents were Tap-See and Meek-Tah. I was born and raised in Nebraska but always had contact with my relative here on the reservation. I have just recently moved here which was always my desire to do so.

I am pleased to inform you that I have declared my candidacy for a seat on our Gaming Commission. I would very much appreciate your support for this very important position.

My wife Louise and I have four children of our own and three adopted children. Occasionally we get swamped by our grandchildren which is a delight as we can always watch children grow.

My career with the gaming regulatory field started in 1996 when the Kickapoo Tribe first opened their Casino. I have been working at Prairie Band Gaming Commission for almost two and one-half years. While working in this business, I have learned much about the broad scope of regulatory concerns that Indian gaming faces on a daily basis. My training has been with some of the premier trainers in

this business. As a gaming inspector I have received very good training throughout the years. Some trainers have given me the honor of special recognition in leadership and holistic ideas on the role of gaming commissions.

If elected I will stay aware of newly developing cheating methods. I will see that the inspectors receive up to date training. I will also keep an open mind to new regulations and technological developments. I would work to utilize technology in the Gaming Commission regulatory process to ensure continuing integrity and superior gaming experience.

Again I thank you for your support. May our creator bless each and every one of you.

I-gwi-en.



Dolly Potts

Hello, my name is Dolly Potts and I am running for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Gaming Commission. This will be my first bid for an elected office with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

I have lived on the reservation for 23 years and reside in the 2nd cluster with my family. I have four children and one

grandson of whom I am very proud. Our lives have revolved around the reservation and we love living here.

My gaming career started in bingo as a caller and a floor clerk. I started working for the bingo in 1987, watched it grow and evolve into the operation it is today. It was a lot of fun learning to call bingo, selling cards and visiting with the bingo players. The first bingo was at the gym and even though the roads were rough back then we had quite a clientele that would never miss a session. Bingo was an important part of the revenue of the tribe. Remember the Gravel Game? Moving to the new building was an exciting event for all of us.

My first year working for casino gaming was for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Casino as a Slot Supervisor. The one word that would describe that experience is BUSY. I was very instrumental in the training and hiring of our tribal members to work in the Slot Department. When Harrah's came in I helped the management with the policies and procedures of the slot operations.

Harrah's hired me as a Slot Shift Manager for the move to the facility on 150 Road. My first task was helping move the 171 machines from the tribal facility to the new casino. I was part of the team nominated as finalists for the Harrah's Chairman's Award.

I have a total of six years experience working in slot operations for our popular and prosperous casino. I have key skills in customer service, communications, and employee relations. I have computer skills and an in-depth understanding of the data system of the slot machines. I have worked with both State and Tribal Gaming Commissions. Currently, I attend Kaw Area Vo-tech in Topeka and anticipate a Legal Office Professional diploma in December. I have excellent office, clerical skills, and possess the professional conduct needed for the business environment.

I am very proud of the Prairie Band Potawatomi peoples' contribution to our success in the gaming industry. I strongly believe that it is our culture, heritage and history that contribute to our strong financial structure. I will devote my skills, education, and character to uphold the compact and ensure compliance of our gaming operations. I would appreciate your vote in the Prairie Band Potawatomi Gaming Commission election.



You
will vote
for two gaming
commissioners
and the per capita
ordinances that
are also featured
in this issue of
the PBPB News



Jona Potts-Rupnicki

Hello, my name is Jona Potts-Rupnicki I live here on the reservation and have done so for the majority of my life. The Potawatomi reservation is an important part of my life that I cherish and is where my heart lies.

My grandparents are Maynard Potts and Coralene-Keesis-Potts both are Prairie Band Potawatomi members. My father is Rev. Vernon Potts of Mayetta, Ks, and my mother is Marcia Couch-Potts of Powhattan, Ks.

I received my Associate of Arts degree through Highland Community College with an emphasis in Business. I am currently attending Friends University where I will complete my Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management and Leadership in the middle of March 2004.

I have worked in many areas of our Nation from the tribal Finance department to many years and areas of our Bingo operation and am currently working at PBP Early Childhood Education Center as Administrative Assistant to the director. My intentions are for the prosperity of the Potawatomi Nation and to be able to utilize my skills and education in an area that will be affective for our Nation.

Being a team player is of great importance when dealing with the future of our Nation. My natural aggressiveness gives me the desire to follow through with organizing any given tasks. My goals are to see the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation be successful in our endeavors. If voted as Gaming Commissioner I will enforce regulations that need to be met. Staying in compliance with the regulations is a must when dealing with our Gaming facility. After all, this is our major source of revenue. Keep in mind that everyone has to follow rules, and we can all benefit by the experiences and wisdom of others!

Thank you! I would greatly appreciate your support!



Laveda Thomas Wahweotten

*From a Jack to a King
From a Temporary to a Permanent
From Rags to Riches
From Mike Kenny to Patrick Browne
From perhaps to per-caps
What does this all mean?
It means I've been there and done that!
I played a part in Tribal Casino success!*

I was raised on the Prairie Band Potawatomi and Kickapoo reservation in Kansas up until the age of 12. Like most Native Americans of my time, I was forced to attend Marty Indian School in South Dakota when I was about 6 or 7. At the age of 12 I volunteered to attend Pawnee Indian School in Pawnee, Oklahoma from 1953 to 1956. I am married and my spouse's name is Ron. We raised and edu-

**There are
approximately
2,322
eligible registered
voters
for this election**

cated six children named Gerald, Mark, Tina, Tony, Ray and Chuck. I live off the reservation and reside in the small town community of Hoyt, Kansas.

I have 64 years of experience and education. Nine years of that time has been in the work force as a Tribal Gaming Commissioner for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. I have been asked by my daughter-in-law "Why would you want to go back to such a stressful job position as a Gaming Commissioner," and my response was, "I have been out of the loop since February, 2002 and have observed a large turnover in the Gaming Commission staff." The Gaming Commission from 1996-2002 had a loss of approximately six employees. The turnover of Gaming Commission employees in 2002 alone has more than doubled and totals 11 approximately. I see this as a great loss of revenues in training and experience. One of the main purposes of having a tribal gaming casino was to employ tribal members and Native Americans and others. I also see a need to change the work policies that not only govern the Commission staff employees, the tribal gaming inspectors but also the Gaming Commission. The position of a Gaming Commissioner is full time and there should be no outside activities allowed because it interferes with your duties as a Commissioner. There are regulatory areas of the tribal gaming commission that have gone south for the winter and have not returned.

I thank you in advance for your vote and for believing in me.



Shawwna Wabaunsee

My name is Shawwna Wabaunsee, daughter of the late Will Wabaunsee and Drusa Wabaunsee. I am running for Tribal Gaming Commissioner. I attended Haskell Indian Junior College with the emphasis in Liberal Arts and am continuing my education at Washburn University and studying to be a Legal Assistant.

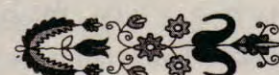
The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is heading towards a new direction with the expansion of the Harrah's Prairie Band Casino and the ever increasing improvement to our Nation's infrastructure. Gaming revenue from the Casino has provided the Nation with the ability to begin the steps of self-governance.

We, as tribal members, must do everything possible to protect the assets of the Casino and this is being done through tight rules and regulations provided by the Gaming Commission. As a Gaming Commissioner one must be knowledgeable in the Federal,

State and Tribal laws but most importantly having the courage to stand up and be heard.

I have done this in the past when I was a Gaming Commissioner. I have stood up to the National Indian Gaming Commission. I have stood up to the Kansas State Gaming Commission-Executive Directors and their inspectors. I have stood up to Harrah's Board Members. I have stood up to Tribal Council Members. I stood up to these people because it was the right thing to do in order to protect the Nation. Even though it was not the "politically correct" thing to do but because it was in the best interest of the Nation.

I am asking for your vote today to be your Gaming Commissioner. If you have any questions about myself, please give me a call at (785)986-6509.



Elections for per capita ordinance coming up on February 25

Exhibit A

In accordance with Article IX, Section 2, of the Constitution of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Referendum.

The Tribal Council of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is asking the voters of the Nation to vote on the following two issues that would amend the Tribal Per Capita Ordinance:

1. Should per capita distributions to tribal members be increased from 24% to 30% of net gaming revenue and should the allocation for tribal economic development be decreased from 43% to 37% of net gaming revenue?
2. Should the number of per capita distributions to tribal members be increased from two to four times per year?

At left is a copy of the actual questions you will vote on in the upcoming election concerning the per capita ordinances

FIRST QUESTION:

Should per capita distributions to tribal members be increased from 24% to 30% of net gaming revenue and should the allocation for tribal economic development be decreased from 43% to 37% of net gaming revenue?

YES

NO

A YES VOTE, amends the Tribal Per Capita Ordinance. A NO VOTE would not amend the Per Capita Ordinance, and the allocation percentages would remain at 24% for per capita distributions and 43% for tribal economic development.

Voting yes on Question 1 would amend the Per Capita Ordinance as follows:

ARTICLE III ALLOCATION PLAN

Section 1. The Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indians intend to dedicate the Net Gaming Revenues to the following purposes or programs as set forth in the percentages shown in this article III.

- (a) ~~30%~~ percent of the Net Gaming Revenues shall be used to fund or supplement Tribal Government Operations and Programs.
- (b) ~~24%~~ 30% percent of the Net Gaming Revenues shall be used for Per-Capita distributions to all eligible enrolled tribal members.
- (c) ~~43%~~ 37% percent of the Net Gaming Revenues shall be used to fund tribal economic development, including but not limited to developing tribal business enterprises, business opportunities, goods and services that may provide employment to its members, and financial returns to the tribe and its members.
- (d) 1% percent of the Net Gaming Revenues shall be used to donate for Tribal and or non-Tribal charitable organizations or local government organizations providing services to the Potawatomi Indians.
- (e) 2% percent of the Net Gaming Revenues will be used to provide for the general welfare of the Tribe and its members.

Section 2. The Tribal Council shall have the authority to designate and move a percentage of funding in a category (Section 1 (a) - (e)) to any other category in the fourth (4th) quarter of that fiscal year, if the funding in the category from which the money is being taken is not necessary for the stated purposes and the funding is required for the category into which the money is being transferred. Otherwise, the purposes and proportions for the expenditure of Net Gaming Revenues may be changed by a majority vote of the General Council, except as provided in Article VI herein relating to amendments required to obtain Secretarial approval of this ordinance pursuant to the (IGRA) Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The percentage in Article III Section 1 (b) shall in no event exceed ~~24%~~ 30%.

SECOND QUESTION:

Should the number of per capita distributions to tribal members be increased from two to four times per year?

YES

NO

A YES VOTE, amends the Tribal Per Capita Ordinance to make per capita payments four times year. Note that this will not increase the total dollar amount of per capita distributions during the year. A NO VOTE would not amend the Per Capita Ordinance, and the per capita distributions would remain at two times per year.

Voting yes on Question 2 would amend the Per Capita Ordinance as follows:

Article II, Sec. 1(h) Per-Capita Pay Period: means the ~~semi-annual~~ quarterly period of time established by the Tribal Council that is used to calculate Net-Gaming Revenues actual and projected available for the Per-Capita Payment in the period. The ~~two semi-annual~~ four quarterly periods end on *March 31st*, June 30th, *September 30th* and December 31st of each year.

Article II, Sec. 1(r) Distribution Date/s: means those dates set by the Tribal Council for the distribution of a Per-Capita Payment. Those dates set by the Tribal Council are *March 15th*, June 15th, *September 15th* and December 15th, of each year.

Article II, Sec. 1(s) Eligibility Date: means the day a person's application is approved for Tribal Membership by the Enrollment Committee. The eligibility determination dates for distributions are *February 15th*, May 15th, *August 15th* and November 15th of each year.

Research from the Per Capita Office about the per capita questions



by: Susie Morgan

Researching the affects on tribal members of having a biyearly, quarterly, or monthly Per Capita distribution has turned up some interesting scenarios. We spoke with different agencies that offer various forms of assistance to gain insight into what sort of aid they offer, what criteria they use to determine eligibility, and whom they felt would be most affected by a change in the current disbursement schedule.

Members who use the services of the PBP Social Services program would see no changes, as they do not consider Per Capita payments as income. However, members who require state assistance would be affected. Currently, if a person qualifies for aid through the state program, he or she must reapply for assistance every six months as the payment counts as income and therefore disqualifies them for aid. They must fill out a ten-page application and go through the full process of reapplying for the aid to get back on assistance. Quarterly distributions would present a similar result for some families, though not affect those whose income is so low that they would still qualify even with the payments issued that often. Monthly distributions would only affect those whose income would exceed the state's maximum earnings limit to qualify for aid. Those persons would no longer qualify for state aid.

Veterans benefits and SSI benefits are determined differently than state assistance. The VA counts the payments as income, but divides them over the period of time between payments, and then uses that figure to determine the benefit owed to the member. The Supplemental Security Income benefit is determined by each state, and has rules of expenditure that are different from other agencies. Their formula for determining eligibility is done on a case-by-case basis, and it is therefore hard to predict what affect a change would incur.

The Commodities Program and Housing Program would see similar affects. Either a person or family would remain eligible due to low-income levels even with a monthly disbursement or they would be eliminated completely from qualifying due to a higher income level. For those members who are right at the high end of the income qualification guidelines, the extra payments would disqualify them from receiving further assistance. A monthly stipend would benefit those persons who need only a minimum of aid to get by each month, though it would most likely only replace what they are currently receiving in aid and not be "extra" money at their disposal.

During our research we discovered that each scenario depended on a member's personal circumstances and state in which they reside. The overview is what the research indicated would occur for most. In general, it comes down to whether or not members in need take advantage of the resources available to them, and if so, how often those resources are used. Some would benefit from a monthly payment if it would help get them off assistance, and others would see little to no change in receipt of assistance.

The only affect that can definitely be foreseen is the increased cost of producing the payments. The cost for extra staff, larger and sturdier equipment, maintenance of that equipment, postage, check stock, toner, and office supplies would markedly increase. The cost analysis shows a per distribution and yearly expense schedule, but does not show the actual cost of equipment replacement. The equipment currently used was meant for the biyearly schedule and would have to be replaced with better, sturdier equipment if payments were distributed more often. The associated cost would depend on the equipment needed for a different schedule.

POSSIBLE AFFECTS OF DISTRIBUTIONS ON TRIBAL MEMBERS

1. Social Services Benefits: Includes food stamp program, cash assistance, Section 8 housing, medical card, Aid to Dependent Children, daycare assistance, utility assistance. (Does not affect PBP Social Services recipients, payments not counted as income.)
 - a. Biyearly: During month of distribution, applicant receives a lowered amount of assistance or no assistance at all and must reapply (10 page application) the following month to be put back on assistance.
 - b. Quarterly: During month of distribution, applicant receives a lowered amount of assistance or no assistance at all and must reapply (10 page application) the following month to be put back on assistance.
 - c. Monthly: Applicant either no longer qualifies for assistance due to higher monthly income, or if applicant still meets income eligibility guidelines to receive assistance, he or she will have a reduced amount of assistance and will not have to reapply after each distribution.
2. Veterans Affairs Benefits: Cash assistance offered to disabled veterans.
 - a. Biyearly: During month of distribution, payment is divided by six, and benefit is reduced that amount each month.
 - b. Quarterly: During month of distribution, payment is divided by three, and benefit is reduced that amount each month.
 - c. Monthly: Benefit is reduced by that amount each month.
3. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Benefits: Federal income supplement program designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income.
 - a. Biyearly: During month of distribution, recipient receives a lowered amount of assistance or no assistance at all.
 - b. Quarterly: During month of distribution, recipient receives a lowered amount of assistance or no assistance at all.
 - c. Monthly: Recipient may no longer qualify for assistance due to higher monthly income.
4. Commodities Program: Tribal food program.
 - b. Biyearly: During month of distribution, recipient receives a lowered amount of assistance or no assistance at all.
 - c. Quarterly: During month of distribution, recipient receives a lowered amount of assistance or no assistance at all.
 - d. Monthly: Recipient may no longer qualify for assistance due to higher monthly income.
5. PBP Housing Program: Assistance with down payments, moving expenses, deposits.
 - a. Biyearly: Frequency of distribution will have no affect on applicants, payments broken down over a 12 month period.
 - b. Quarterly: Frequency of distribution will have no affect on applicants, payments broken down over a 12 month period.
 - c. Monthly: Frequency of distribution will have no affect on applicants, payments broken down over a 12 month period.

If your household will be affected by the per capita distribution and increase issue it would be worthwhile to call Susie Morgan at 785-966-3993 or Jamie Reynolds at 3994 and talk with them regarding your situation.



ELECTION DAY



February 25, 2004
9:00 am

Feb. 25th is the last day for Ballots to be received by the Election Board!

Ballots will be tabulated and the results reported at 9:30 am on Feb 25th.

March 1, 2004 at 4:30 pm is the last day to file Protest of the Election.

OFFICIAL BALLOT
PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION
GAMING COMMISSION AND
REFERENDUM ISSUE ELECTION
Mayetta, Kansas
February 25, 2004

This is your secret ballot.
Do not sign or otherwise mutilate it.
DO NOT ERASE
TO VOTE: USE A #2 Pencil (NO INK)
Complete the arrow(s) ←
pointing to your choice(s),
like this ←

GAMING COMMISSION

Vote for Two (2)



LAURA
(HARRISON) ABEYTA



CALVIN
EVANS



SCOTT E.
HOPKINS



JOSEPH
JESSEPE



SYLVIA K.
MOSS



VERNON
MZHICKENO



TOM
OGDEN



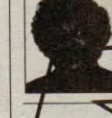
DOLLY
POTTS



JONA L.
POTTS-RUPNICKI



SHAWWNA
WABAUNSEE



LAVEDA
THOMAS WAHWEOTTEN

Please read Referendum pamphlet
before answering these questions

FIRST QUESTION

Should per capita distributions to tribal members be increased from 24% to 30% of net gaming revenue and should the allocation for tribal economic development be decreased from 43% to 37% of net gaming revenue?

YES

NO

SECOND QUESTION

Should the number of per capita distributions to tribal members be increased from two to four times per year?

YES

NO

A Shared Language of Expectations

By Gary E. Mitchell,
Vice-Chairman

The other day a tribal member said it would be a good idea if each tribal council member put an article in the newspaper monthly to let tribal members know what they are doing. In politics, it is a shared language of expectations. I thought about the remark and realized I hadn't put an article in the paper in awhile and I apologize. Tribal members living off the reservation hear little about what goes on here and it is important for the council to communicate with all tribal members. The tribal newspaper along with the website is that mechanism.

My days are devoted mostly to administrative duties. I go to work at 8:00 am and leave at 4:30, and rarely do I take took days off unless I am sick. Part of my administrative duties includes signing account payable checks, which total thousands of checks a month. I make myself available to finance department and keep them informed when I have to attend a meeting outside the office. We are a multi-million dollar enterprise with over 40 programs each with their own separate budget. We sometimes have to listen to numerous complaints about every issue under the sun, but it's an issue important to that particular tribal member. Most times if it's a program-related issue we refer it back to the executive director and he along with the program director arrive at an equitable solution.

One thing I have done during the last three years working for the tribe is develop the Resource Directory - a compilation of tribal and program accomplishments; a Comprehensive Economic Development report covering some of the infrastructure improvements done on the reservation. Currently in development is a booklet covering

the contributions of Potawatomi veterans. Several interviews will be conducted over the next few months to add to the booklet.

The recent completed Veterans Memorial Wall was well received by tribal members and is a solid addition to our Peoples Park. It cost around \$50,000 and will stand forever as a lasting memorial to our veterans. It's an honoring long overdue for our veterans. Any omitted names will be added in the future once the required paperwork is received. The future veterans booklet and wall is a collaborative effort by the council and the We ta se, Post 410.

I think how a tribal member who hasn't been here for years would be amazed at the total transformation of the reservation. We now have affordable housing that meets the need for decent, safe, and sanitary housing for tribal members. We have new blacktop roads, new buildings for office space, senior citizens and our youth. In addition, people have good jobs and drive decent cars - all because of the gaming revenues we have coming in today. We know it won't last forever but we can show positive change to what once was a poverty-stricken area.

The improvements aren't limited to here though, everyday checks are signed that help tribal members living off the reservation. For example, checks for housing repairs, down payments on new homes, computer purchases, eyeglass replacement, dental and medical assistance are processed daily. So the improvements are far-reaching.

I rarely travel, but have an active interest in Indian law, water rights, gaming, and economic development and when I do travel, it's in those particular areas. We have some strong Indian leaders at the national level and I'm impressed with the way they handle them-

selves in the defense of sovereignty. We have to stay apprised of issues at that level because it affects every Indian tribe when something goes wrong. I read all the journals and Indian newspapers I can, along with reading indianz.com on the inter-net. It has all the latest breaking news around Indian country.

My biggest concern is the adverse decisions being handed down by the United States Supreme Court. The Supreme Court members are a largely conservative group and have ruled against Indians on a regular basis. One pending court case, *United States v. Lara*, originates on the Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota. Lara, an Indian, but not a tribal member, was convicted in tribal court for hitting a BIA policeman. Two months later, he was indicted on a federal charge relating to the same offense. Lara objected to the federal prosecution, claiming that the double jeopardy clause in the 5th Amendment prevented the later prosecution. The issue is whether the tribe's authority to prosecute Lara was based upon inherent tribal sovereignty or upon a power delegated by Congress. This issue exists because the Supreme Court held in 1990 that tribes had no inherent criminal jurisdiction over nonmember Indians. Congress then amended the Indian Civil Rights Act to "recognize and affirm the inherent authority of tribes to exercise criminal jurisdiction over all Indians." Lara sued saying the tribe had no rights over him. The Supreme Court will take a hard look at whether Congress can pass a law to override Supreme Court decisions on constitutional issues. If they rule against the Spirit Lake Nation then there can be chaos on reservations, which is why it's important for all Indian tribes to band together to fight off these assaults on what remains of our tribal sovereignty. The tribal

council approved a \$5,000 donation to the Native American Rights Fund to help pay the extensive legal fees in fighting this case.

I have been around our new chairman for two years and my assessment is that Zach Pahmahmie will contribute to the tribe for a long time. I'm impressed with his educational background and his common sense. Those attributes will carry him for the rest of his life. Politics isn't easy and sometimes stressful but I firmly believe the tribe did not make a mistake when they elected him to office.

In the absence of the chairman, I'm called upon to offer testimony, such as a recent 4-Tribes meeting with Governor Sebelius. Her intent is to improve government to government relations between the tribes and the State of Kansas by having monthly meetings to discuss issues.

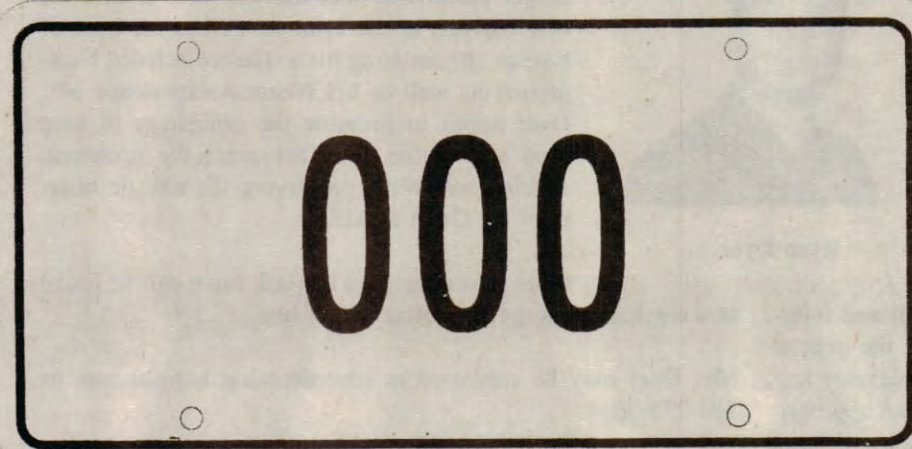
On behalf of the council, I relayed to the governor: that our nation doesn't agree with her position on expanded gaming in the State of Kansas. We understand her position but ours is the same—we have to protect the interests of our constituents. If the state expands gaming in the state then it will hurt our economic interests. That is our position and will continue to be our position. Although it is good to improve communications with the state, we will not back-off that particular position.

I will be undergoing a total knee replacement surgery at the end of January. After rehab, I hope to be 100% better.

Meanwhile, I think of all the members we have lost this past year and pray for the families during those hard times, along with all our sick people. We are very fortunate to have our tribal traditions and religions intact on the reservation and I am honored to be part of that, too.

Thank you for reading this article.

Here's a look at the new PBPN motor vehicle tags



PBPN Tribal Members Living on the PBPN Reservation only:

Prairie Band Potawatomi members living on the PBPN reservation will be sporting new license plates beginning February 2004; the PBPN Police Dept. will be following Jackson County license schedule, i.e., those with the last name beginning with "A" will be first to obtain their new plates after the auto inspection.

The auto inspection will be done at the time the vehicle is brought in for the new tags. A safety check will be conducted; this includes checking the odometer and identification number of the vehicle. Autos will be inspected day or evening during the weekday.

To register your vehicle, the tribal member will need two of the following:

- Proof of insurance
- Proof of residency
- Tax forms
- Utility bills
- Voter's registration
- Valid drivers license

Cost to register the vehicle will be \$25.00.

Six years later– Harrah's Prairie Band Casino keeps generating profits

by: Randy Conroy and Ryan Ross
Tribal Representatives to the
Casino Management Committee

With the six-year anniversary of the opening of Harrah's Prairie Band Casino that approached in January, we think it's important to reflect on the casino's accomplishments, what has worked and why, and also to keep an eye to the future. As the two tribal representatives on the Casino Management Committee, our mission is to work with Harrah's to ensure the ongoing success of the casino.

It's easy to see why Harrah's Prairie Band Casino has outperformed initial estimates. As with many businesses, the three most important determinants of success are location, location and location. Harrah's Prairie Band Casino is one of four casinos that exist within the borders of Kansas. Of these four, Prairie Band has the best location, as it's the first casino north of Topeka on Highway 75.

The other dominant factor why Prairie Band has continued to succeed is the professional management of Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. The overall gaming experience at Prairie Band, which includes customer service, product offerings, and new and attractive facilities, is superior when compared to the other Indian casinos in Northeast Kansas. Harrah's has done a good job in attracting new customers, and at the same time, retaining existing customers. The casino business is a very complex industry with high demands on employees and technology. Being open every hour of every day of the year places an inordinate degree of importance on highly trained and motivated employees. Harrah's Prairie Band employees exhibit a high degree of job satisfaction, and in turn, provide excellent guest satisfaction. The casino closely monitors both employee and guest satisfaction via surveys. The "Harrah's" brand and casino industry reputation also are influential in driving head counts and profits.



Randy Conroy

The increase in business levels since opening at Prairie Band has been dramatic. The acceptance of gambling as a viable entertainment option has become a reality. Harrah's Prairie Band generates most of its patronage from residents of the state of Kansas. Despite the historical "Bible Belt" anti gambling stance, Kansans enjoy gambling and most do it responsibly. This creates a paradox for

Prairie Band. On the one hand, as more Kansans gamble, Harrah's Prairie Band visitation and profitability rises, as the business has experienced since 1998. On the other hand, as acceptance of gambling increases, so does the attractiveness of making money off gambling, most noticeably by the State of Kansas.

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius is lobbying hard for legalizing gambling in Kansas. Her goal – tax revenues! Her rationalization for legalizing gambling is that Kansans are already gambling, either at the Indian casinos or in other states such as Missouri, Oklahoma, and Nevada. If Kansans are going to gamble, they may as well do it in Kansas, keeping the money local, and taxable in Kansas. Expansion of gambling legislation has been narrowly defeated in the past couple sessions. As acceptance of gambling becomes more predominant in Kansas however, expansion of gambling is more likely inevitable, rather than merely possible.

If and when Kansas legalizes gambling, Harrah's Prairie Band Casino will face new challenges. The most determining factor of the success during the past six years – location – may not exist if new casinos are located throughout the state. Obviously, if a gamer in Wichita has the choice of driving 150 miles to Prairie Band or driving 10 minutes to a comparable casino in Wichita, that gamer would take the 10-minute drive (and not come to Prairie Band).

How will Prairie Band compete if gaming is legal-

ized in Kansas? One way to come up with strategies is to look at similar situations throughout the country. Las Vegas casinos compete against each other based on the degree of other amenities. The

massive build-out and success of "mega-casinos" on the Strip with multiple food and entertainment options, demonstrates that large capital reinvestments are mandatory. Casinos that don't get "bigger and better" in Las Vegas fail.

Another example of how competition influences strategy is found in Mississippi. The Choctaw Band of Mississippi Indians has created an economic powerhouse with their two "destination resort" style casinos in the middle of the state. The Golden Moon and Silver Star casinos are engulfed in other amenities options including a water park, fitness/health center, two 18-hole championship level golf courses, and multiple shopping centers. Choctaw Chief Philip Martin is committed to a large reinvestment plan that he feels is necessary for the long-term success of the casinos. Mississippi has large numbers of other casinos options north of the Choctaws in Tunica and south in Biloxi. Despite these competitive influences, the Choctaws have continued to succeed. Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation representatives visited the Choctaws earlier in 2003 in an effort to gather information and advice.

Prairie Band Expansion – Is it enough?

The \$55 million hotel and event center expansion project approved by the General Council in 2002 will undeniably allow Prairie Band to better compete with potentially new casinos in Kansas. Further, the decision to build an upscale addition to the existing facilities creates a way to differentiate Prairie Band from possible rivals. There is still a question of whether the new amenities created during the Prairie Band expansion will draw patrons from more than 75 miles away, if indeed a closer gaming option exists. Unfortunately, until such a situation exists and the degree of competition in Kansas is known, the question of whether the expansion is enough cannot be answered.

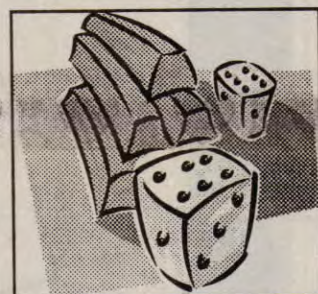
A reasonable strategic approach when considering additional amenities at Prairie Band is to accept new projects that can generate positive cash flow



Ryan Ross

to the Nation with or without new competition in Kansas. A shopping center and a golf course are good examples of amenities that will help Prairie Band attract patrons despite future competition. These investments should generate profits on a "stand alone" basis for the Nation, and additionally increase visitation to the casino thus making more profits for the Nation. Building another 300-room hotel with the speculation that competition will force Prairie Band to become a mega resort in order to compete in the future, on the other hand, does not seem to be a wise decision. At this point, the Nation simply doesn't have enough information to accurately assess whether such an investment would be profitable.

In conclusion, Harrah's Prairie Band Casino has taken full advantage of its superior location and its professional management since opening in January 1998. If the competitive environment for gaming in Kansas changes, Prairie Band's strategic planning will also need to change. We recommend Prairie Band consider additional amenity options with the two-prong requirements of specific business profits and incremental casino profits. If the gaming environment changes dramatically, Prairie Band should be flexible enough to take quick action on initiatives to preserve its casino market share.



RV Park at Harrah's Prairie Band Casino under construction

Construction is underway to build a new RV Park adjacent to Harrah's Prairie Band Casino. According to Randy Conroy, tribal representative to the Casino Management Committee, the Park will have 70 concrete RV pads with various sizes to accommodate small, medium and large RVs. Two bathhouses will have restrooms, showers, and laundry facilities. A small office will require campers to check in prior to entering the RV Park. The Park is located on the southern 40 acres of the 80-acre casino site.

"Our purpose for recommending the RV Park investment to Tribal Council is to provide another amenity for the Nation's casino," said Conroy. "We are catering to a specific target market at the RV Park – older, wealthier RV Park owners with plenty of discretionary income. We will give them a superior RV Park experience and entice them to game at the casino," said Conroy. Conroy added, "From a financial standpoint, the

Tribal Council's decision to approve the RV Park investment makes perfect sense. Not only will the RV Park itself generate a positive cash flow, we fully expect incremental, or new, gaming revenues at the casino to be realized."

The RV is designed to allow for future expansion if market conditions change. Forty additional RV pads can be added to the design if demand for the sites exceeds the initial 70 spots. Conroy said, "We have recommended a conservative approach by building 70 spots. When we begin to experience 100 percent occupancy, we will be easily able to add pads."

The Nation recently purchased the Prairie Schooner RV Park to the east of Highway 75 south of Mayetta. "We recommended developing the southern 40 acres adjacent to the casino rather than the Highway 75 site simply due to the proximity to the casino. We expect more casino visi-

tation if RV campers can walk to the casino versus having to drive. Further, the Highway 75 site may be more valuable land for the Nation once the new casino intersection is built in 2005/2006. It will also give the Nation an extra 70 'beds' at the casino, at a nominal cost," explained Ryan Ross, the other Tribal Representative to the Management Committee.

AHRS Construction Inc. won the competitive bid for the RV Park construction project. The Nation's Road & Bridge crew performed the clearing for the site in November. "Tim Ramirez' crew did a great job clearing the large number of trees and debris. We worked out a deal with them, and the next day they were working. They were done before we knew it," said Conroy. Construction on the pads, road, and buildings will begin in February 2004. Completion is slated for June 1, 2004.

Once complete, the RV Park will be operated by Harrah's Prairie Band Casino. "As an amenity to the casino, the casino management is best able to draw RV campers into the casino. Further, by assigning the management of the Park to the casino, the park's operating expenses will be far less than if managed by the Tribe or a third party. The Casino already has a maintenance department that can tend to the Park's upkeep, and a marketing department that can effectively draw the campers onto the gaming floor," Ross said.

Conroy concluded by adding, "This investment moves Harrah's Prairie Band Casino one step closer to a true 'destination resort.' By adding amenities to the casino experience, we further differentiate ourselves from current and future competition. If Kansas opens up gaming, Prairie Band will have the necessary tools to compete."

Ryan Dyer appointed to Governor's task force

Submitted by: Dan Dyer

Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal member and Harrah's Prairie Band Casino employee Ryan Dyer was recently appointed to the Kansas Wind and Prairie Task force.

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius said that "The Task Force should thoroughly examine and consider all of the key issues involved and recommend fundamental guidelines, principles, and best practices that can be utilized by local governments, landowners, project developers, and other interested stakeholders to site future wind energy projects in this environmentally sensitive region of the state. As it studies the issues involved, the Task Force should solicit input and information from a wide variety of experts, as well as the general public. The Task Force's primary goal should be to develop recommendations that will help decision-makers find an appropriate balance that promotes our state's wind energy potential and

preserves those natural ecosystems and places of scenic beauty, like the Flint Hills and the tallgrass prairie that cannot be easily replaced."



Ryan Dyer

As a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Alternative Energy Committee, Mr. Dyer is in a unique position to steer the task force toward the best interests of the Tribe as well as the State of Kansas. By utilizing his extensive science background as well as his business experience Mr. Dyer hopes to promote the utilization of long term sustainable wind resources for economic development while preserving the holistic beauty of the Great Plains.

More information on the task force can be found at www.kansasenergy.org/sercc_wwptf.htm.

Mr. Dyer may be contacted at rdyer@prairie.harrah.com or 785-273-3634.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE AS UNIQUE AS YOU.



Executive Intern

This position will work closely with our Senior Casino Management to apply analytical skills to strategic projects, which are designed to add significant value to the organization for a period of 9-12 months. While collaborating with senior management, you will effectively communicate with all areas of the casino and complete assigned projects in a timely manner. 3-5 years experience in increasingly more responsible supervisor/managerial level positions required. A master's degree is required.

Apply online at www.harrah.com or in person at Harrah's Prairie Band Casino, Human Resource Department, 12305 150th Road, Mayetta, KS 66509. For questions, please call 785.966.7663. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Harrah's
PRAIRIE BAND
CASINO

Tribal members benefit from working at Harrah's Casino



Bert Vega

Bert Vega began his career in the casino industry as a Slot Tech at the temporary Prairie Band of Potawatomi Casino. As the permanent facility was nearing completion in November of 1997, Bert made the move to Harrah's Prairie Band Casino as a Slot Tech. He held this position for nearly a year and a half when he was promoted to Slot Supervisor. In December 1999, he was quickly promoted back to the performance side of the Slot department as Slot Performance Supervisor. Then, on June 1, 2001, Bert was promoted to Slot Performance Manager, a position he presently holds. During his six-plus-year career with HPBC, Bert has also had the opportunity to complete all three tracks of ACE (Accelerated Career Enhancement), which generally takes two to three years. Graduates are viewed as upwardly mobile and considered bench strength for management positions. Completion of the total program is a significant accomplishment and earns the graduate an opportunity to have a positive impact on the business.



Monique Cox

Monique Cox has worked at the Harrah's Prairie Band Casino for over six years as a Table Games Dealer. Her peers selected her as Star of the Month in January 2003. She is a member of the Celebration Committee and a Mentor for all departmental (Table Games) new hires. She has also had the opportunity to complete both Casino Management classes at Haskell Indian Nation in Lawrence, Kansas. As a Tribal member she is very proud of the casino and what the Tribe & Harrah's have accomplished as a team.



Junior Wahweotten

Junior Wahweotten began his gaming career as a Lead Cashier Supervisor at the temporary Prairie Band of Potawatomi Casino. During this time he had the opportunity to attend Harrah's dealer school. That opportunity landed Junior the position of Dual-Rate Supervisor when the permanent facility opened. Less than a year later, Junior was quickly promoted to a Table Games Supervisor and then in September 1999, he was promoted a second time to the position of Table Games Senior Supervisor. In less than a year he proved that he was ready for the next step and became one of three property Table Games Shift Managers. He held this position for approximately two and a half years until a new opportunity became available in the Human Resources department. At that time, Junior made the move from Operations to join Human Resources as the Employee Relations Manager. He said that his current position has been a "valuable learning experience for him" and that "Harrah's Prairie Band Casino offers many career development opportunities in all departments." As of December 2003, Junior has been employed with the company for 6 years.

These tribal members
are moving
up
the Harrah's
Prairie Band
Casino
ladder of
success!



Prairie Band Gift Shop scheduled to close February 27

temporary shop to be located on casino floor
until new gift shop opens



Employees who have worked at Prairie Band Gift Shop are from left to right on the back row Thomas Hernandez, Cindy LeClere, Brenda McClure and Gina Wahweotten. On the front row left to right are Karen Thomas, Anna Padilla, and Joy Yoshida.

The Prairie Band Gift Shop is scheduled to close on February 27 to make way for a new gift shop that is scheduled to open in the newly-expanded casino around August 1.

According to John Schilling, PBPB's Economic Development Director, the new gift shop will be different in design and style although what its image will be hasn't been determined yet. "It will be in keeping with the new look of the expansion's overall design," said Schilling, "and it is planned to be located near the main entrance of the casino."

In the interim a small gift shop is planned to be located on the main casino floor where assorted sundries and a few gift items will be available for sale to casino patrons.

When asked about the closing of the Prairie Band Gift Shop, managers Cindy LeClere and Karen

Thomas, both said that they wanted to thank their employees for their years of service and dedication and loyalty.

They recalled how the business began in 1995 as the Senwigam Craftstore and Smokeshop with a mission to have a place for local craftspeople to sell their wares. In 1998 it moved to the Prairie Band Gift Shop which was located in the Harrah's Prairie Band Casino. In operation for nine years the managers both voiced that they had nothing but great appreciation for the excellent service that all their employees gave.

Schilling also said what a good job the employees had done at the Prairie Band Gift Shop.

After March 1, Cindy LeClere said she can be reached at the Tribal Government Center at 785-966-4000.

Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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 or disk in Microsoft Word or stop by the News office with your information.

Anonymous letters will NOT be printed in the paper.

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.

Newspaper Information

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We-Ta-Se building)

Telephone: (785) 966-2461
Fax: (785) 966-2867

Co-editors:
Mary L. Young (maryy@pbpnation.org)
Suzanne Heck (suzanneh@pbpnation.org)

Call for Veterans



On November 26th, 2003 the Prairie Band Potawatomi Veterans Memorial Wall was dedicated. There were 309 names of Veterans who had served in the United States Military from WWI through Desert Storm inscribed on the wall.

In our continued effort to acknowledge all Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal members who may have served in the Armed Forces of America we ask that you forward a copy of their discharge papers to the WE-TA-SE office for verification and future inscriptions to be added on to the Memorial wall.

Send information to our office:

We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410
15434 Q Road
Mayetta, KS 66509

Or contact us directly by calling 1-785-966-2580. E-mail: bozoh@pbpnation.org or jimd@pbpnation.org. Fax: 1-785-966-9853.

New Handicap Accessible Apartments

Two handicap accessible apartments are now available for tribal members with disabilities at Prairie Ridge, 158th & L Roads. The one and three bedroom apartments include:

- *Stove
- *Refrigerator
- *Dishwasher
- *Central Air/Heat
- *Paid Water & Trash
- *On-site Laundry Facility
- *Wheelchair Accessible Showers

1 Bedroom — \$160-\$200 (determined by income)
3 Bedroom — \$320-\$400 (determined by income)

Please call PBPB Housing Department toll free at 1-866-966-2756 for more information.

McKinney steps down at Haskell as PBPN distance education classes step up

For the last year and a half, Dr. Smokey McKinney, a tribal member, has been the interim Vice President of Academic Affairs at Haskell Indian Nations University. At the end of December 2003, he stepped down as VPAA and resumed his previous position as Director of Distance Education at Haskell.

There was, for a time, some expectation that Dr. McKinney would become the permanent VPAA, but he says that last fall he became increasingly aware that this would not occur. McKinney cited health and work satisfaction as the two reasons for stepping down in a recent letter he published to the Haskell campus. By resuming his former position as Distance Ed director, Dr. McKinney will have direct oversight and involvement once more on the new classes that are being offered to the tribal community.

Below is an article he submitted to the News about the new distance education program that is being offered in the PBP Government Center.

by: Dr. Smokey McKinney

You may have heard about the distance ed classes that just started. Sixteen Potawatomi tribal members began January 14 and 15, in four classes, using computers and internet technology to be the first Distance Education students at Haskell. The classes are The American Indian Experience (AIS 312), Introduction to Computer Operations (CIS 201), Introduction to Algebra (MATH 011), and Chemical Dependency and the American Indian (SW 110). The last class is taught by Venida Chenault and has eight Potawatomi students enrolled in it.

The nation authorized funding for the construction of two classrooms over a year ago, one at Haskell and one in the Tribal government center, and those classrooms are now ready for use. They include seating for 12 students in each location, laptop computers for Internet access, the Blackboard system for "any time, any place" access to course materials, and perhaps most importantly, video teleconferencing (VTC) capabilities. Video teleconferencing is the cutting edge of communications over the Internet. This system, made by the Tandberg Company, allows full, real-time interaction between several locations by feeding two constant streams of video and audio in both directions.

I'll stop right there for the sake of those who are technically challenged, but the end result of all this technology is that our students can now go to a classroom right here on the Potawatomi reserva-

tion and attend a class (and earn a degree) at Haskell just as if they were living on the Haskell campus itself. You almost have to see this in action to understand how it works, and you are invited to come down to the VTC classroom located in the Training Room at the Government Center to do just that.

Meanwhile, I'll try to describe what happens: Students report for class at the appointed time of the week. A number is dialed, and the classroom, with three TV screens, two cameras and a whole bunch of other nifty gadgets, goes to work. Students in both classrooms can see and hear the teacher who, because of the laws of physics, is only able to be in one location at a time. Students can also see and hear the other class he or she is teaching at the time. The teacher can see and call on and respond to students in either place. Overheads, videotapes, powerpoint presentations are presented by the teacher, showing up in both classrooms.

This full-time, real-time, face-to-face interactivity puts the Haskell/Potawatomi classroom far ahead of other distance education programs, which use a web-based interface alone to allow students and teachers to interact. Users sign onto the system, any time they want, and trade emails, submit and receive feedback on assignments, and conduct discussions in chat rooms. This method is important, and our system has it (Blackboard), but from the start, Haskell worked from the belief that a student wants more than this to feel like they're getting a great educational experience. So we took a dual approach, and made face-to-face inter-

activity a main component of our distance education system.

I authored this approach at Haskell two years ago and now, by returning to my present position, have come full circle, and will oversee the implementation and further development of this virtual classroom and distance education program.

Each semester, more classes and more classrooms will be added to the Haskell Distance Education program. Last Summer, Haskell published a five-year strategic plan that set a goal of having twice as many students in 2008 (they currently have nearly 1,000 each semester), without adding more dorm rooms. That is to say, the second 1,000 students will be distance students!

Other Indian students and tribes have already made inquiries about how soon they can have this kind of satellite Haskell classroom in their own

community. One of them is Kickapoo public schools.

The impact of distance education on Indian country is huge. Think about it: students will be able to take classes and get degrees in higher education without leaving their home communities, their families, their jobs, their cultural attachments.

Of course, there are many challenges to overcome before this becomes a reality. The Spring 2004 semester is just the first step, but it is exciting to be part of the cutting edge of higher education.

Best of luck to the Haskell Distance Education program and to the sixteen Potawatomi tribal members who have volunteered to be the first Haskell virtual students!

For more information about the Haskell/Potawatomi distance ed program, I can be contacted at Haskell by going to the Haskell website at www.haskell.edu.



Potawatomi students learning in the new distance education classroom located in the Government Center.

Congratulations



Elizabeth Ann Young, received her B.A. in Elementary Education last fall from Arizona State University West. She is a sixth grade teacher.



Evie Hopkins recently became certified in Addiction Counseling from Washburn University and is a member of the National Association for Addiction Professionals and in the state of Kansas. Evie works at the PARR Recovery House.



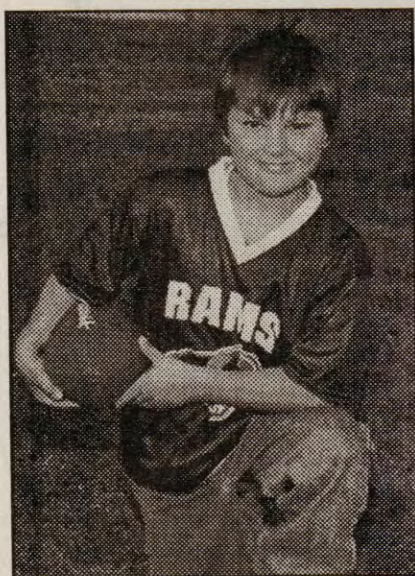
Johnny Williams is an honor student at Haskell Indian Nations University and has a 3.7 cumulative GPA. He is a tribal member and is the step son of Eli Wabnum, Sr. and the son of the late L.W. Williams and M. Theresa Masquat.

USD #501 honors veteran Eli Wabnum




Eli Wabnum was the honored veteran at a powwow held on the Washburn University campus on January 12. Members of the We-Ta-Se Post 410 were the colorguards for the powwow that was co-sponsored by the WU multicultural affairs office and Topeka Unified School District 501 Indian parent committee.

Proud to be a Potawatomi!



Joshua Wilson, 9 and John Dahlsten, 14, both played football in Humboldt, Iowa last fall. Joshua played on a championship flag football team and John is a member of the Humboldt High ninth grade football squad. Steve Dahlsten, father of the boys, wrote to the News that John never misses an opportunity to tell others that he is a proud member of the Potawatomi Nation.




Congratulations
to all
PBPN members
who are
attending school
and working
toward their
goals

Jacob "Tug"
Wamego
4.0 GPA
fall semester
Washburn University

2004 Election for Indian Education Committee

Election Date
February 11, 2004
5:30 pm
Tribal Government Center
Downstairs Training Room

What are the Responsibilities of an IEC member?

1. Attend monthly meeting
2. Assist other IEC members in planning and implementing program and special events.

Election Highlights

1. Snacks and Beverages!!!
2. New members are elected in an open meeting for a term of 2 years by a majority vote of parents, of eligible Indian students, in attendance.
3. Nominations for new members shall be taken from the floor by an eligible voter.
4. Votes shall be cast by secret ballot and tallied visible, so that all in attendance will know the result.

Qualified Candidates/ Voters

A qualified candidate or voter MUST Be a parent/legal guardian of an eligible J.O.M. student in the PBP serving district.

Districts Served:

USD 335
USD 336
USD 337
USD 321

This is an open meeting for all parents. We are looking to fill 4 positions. Anyone interested in serving on the Indian Education Committee is encouraged to attend. For more information please call the JOM office at (785) 966-3041.

PBPN employees make a special Christmas for PBPN foster children

This year, Christmas was made "as good as it could be" for tribal foster children, by several employees of the tribe. For the second year in a row the Tribal Police Department organized collecting gifts and donations for foster children for their Christmas day.

"The generosity of employees of the Tribe was overwhelming," said T.J. Scott, Chief of Police. "There are thirty youngsters out there that, thanks to those employees, will have a very good Christmas." Beka Potts, who spearheaded the drive, said, "We estimated that the gifts and cash donations exceeded \$3,000 this year which showed how much people care when they find out that someone else needs their help."

Volunteers spent all day December 22 wrapping gifts getting ready for Santa's helpers who consisted of Tribal police officers and Social Services employees who helped deliver the gifts in time for Christmas.

At the all-employee meeting held on January 9, Chief Terry Scott was presented an award of appreciation from Eric Sanderson of Social Services thanking the Police Department for spearheading the drive for PBPN foster children.

tribal police organize gift drive and Social Services offers a public thank you



Above is Nis Wilbur, Social Services, wrapping presents for foster children at the Tribal Police Department on December 22.

Below Social Services Director, Eric Sanderson, presents an award of appreciation to Chief Scott on Jan. 9.



Come to the PBP Family Violence Prevention's Women's Voices group every Thursday, 6-7 p.m. WE-TA-SE Building, 15434 K Rd (next to Boys & Girls Club)

The horrible thing I learned

by: Nis Wilbur, Family Violence Prevention

Sexual assault is a difficult subject to talk about because it's so personal. It's not like other crimes, such as burglary, which is when someone breaks into your house. No. Sexual assault, and rape, is a direct invasion of you. It is someone breaking into your body, and your mind. Life for some people will never be the same after a sexual assault. It is an experience that can change a person in so many ways because of all the intense emotions involved. It can make your head swirl, and may leave a person feeling like they are going crazy.

When I first began research for this article I assumed I would write another educational, yet bitterly boring, 1,000 words or so. I never imagined the intense feelings that would arise in me during the process.

I felt the way you feel when something life-alteringly awful happens. My stomach cramped up and my chest tightened. I was so shocked that I couldn't talk. I was extremely filled with rage and confusion. It was like I was the scientist in the movie, *The Fly*, when his body, and mind, painfully transformed into another creature.

What I learned was something that should have been common sense, considering I've grown up in an era where the phrase, "Sex Sells" is a household term. I knew there was a market catering to those with abominably graphic sexual tastes. I've seen the movie, *8MM*, which is about getting those tastes satisfied. However, I naively thought that it was difficult to fulfill violent fantasies. I was wrong.

This is what happened: I was looking for basic statistics about the three types of rape: stranger, date, and marital. Up popped a screen listing the websites containing my key words. When I clicked on one of the links, I was taken to a page that showed very explicit pictures of women being raped and dreams of men who desire this. This site sold "REAL RAPE" videos for your "thrilling pleasure," as the website stated.

I was horrified and couldn't believe what I was seeing! I know thousands of women are raped each year. I also know that violent pornography exists, but my brain just didn't connect this very intimate crime with another person's need for sexual gratification through such visual stimuli. Don't get me wrong, I am fully aware that sadists and psychopaths live among

us; however, I just didn't realize how easily their fantasies could penetrate my reality. For the first time in my life I felt betrayed by my curiosity. I felt sexually violated, in a manner of speaking, by this website. Even though I trusted the search engine to be responsible, I felt violated by it and was not expecting to find what I got.

At first I just sat there, numb, staring at the site. My hands were clenched into fists, my soul was sad; and my thoughts were just zooming past me. I knew I needed to do something, but I didn't know what. Finally, I called my boyfriend. I told him about what I had just seen and how it made me feel. He didn't say much, but listened, and that was all I wanted him to do. Soon I began to feel a little bit better. Later I told a colleague about my experience, and she helped me feel even better.

I can't imagine the amount of heartache, confusion, anger, and other stuff that victims of actual sexual assaults or rapes feel. I do know what I experienced was a very mild intrusion in comparison to theirs. I now realize that a sexual violation on any level is traumatic. I also realized that simply talking about it can help and that talking can be healing.

Around 400,000 women report rape each year (U.S.D.O.J.), and officials estimate thousands more are not reported, for many reasons. Some of the reasons sexual assault, &/or rape, go unreported are: fear, feelings of embarrassment, denial, not knowing if the experience was sexual assault, and/or believing sex is an obligation of a relationship.

Please understand there is NEVER an obligation to perform sexual acts, even if you are married. (On July 5th, 1993, marital rape became illegal in all 50 states.) Engaging in sexual contact should always be your choice, and if someone forces you to have sexual contact, or to participate in a sexual activity you do not want, it is a crime.

Sexual assault can have many long lasting effects, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. However, there are people who care and that want to help. If you are victim, **you do not have to be alone**. You can call (anonymously if you choose), even if you just have questions, the PBPN Family Violence Prevention Program at: 1-866-966-0713 or the National Sexual Assault Hotline at: 1-800-656-HOPE. about sexual assault, rape, and other sex crimes.

REMEMBER: Sexual assault, or rape, is NOT the victim's fault!!

Boys and Girls Club News

Boys and Girls Club Expansion Update

by: Nathan Hale

The Boys and Girls Club expansion is very close to being finished. As I write this they are putting down the flooring in the hallways. The pool is filled with water and lockers installed in the locker room. We are expecting to have all of the final touches done and the building turned over to us sometime toward the end of March. Then we are tentatively planning a grand opening in mid April.

There is still a lot of work yet to be done as the original building will be receiving a facelift as well. And with this construction there will be times that we will have to close down for short periods.

Our staff is also going to be preparing for the new expansion as all of our staff will be getting CPR and lifeguard training. Our original hopes were that we would be able to coordinate our training with the construction closing, but that may not be possible. So watch for club closings in the upcoming weeks. We will post them as soon as we know of them.

Look for the Boys and Girls Club Grand Opening in April!

Boys and Girls Club of PBPN hosts parent meeting to discuss plans for expansion

The Boys and Girls Club staff is getting ready to offer new educational programs to coincide with the expansion of the club scheduled for completion soon.

A parent meeting was held on December 18 to inform parents about the expansion and to ask for more volunteer help that is needed now that the expansion is nearly completed.

"The most exciting part of the expansion is the swimming pool," said Yvette Washington, executive director, "but we are also excited to offer some educational programs for the kids in the newer part of the facility."

Some of the programs planned include classes in culture like sewing/regalia, beadwork, pow-wow dancing, and scrap booking. Education

programs scheduled to be offered are a Youth Power Hour that will involve completing homework in the computer laboratory, a tutoring program that is already in place, and A1-A-Teen and Smart Moves programs that are geared to preventing the use of alcohol, drugs and sex among teenagers. Other classes geared to teens will be in video production and digital photography as well as the already ongoing college preparation programs.

Another program being planned is to begin a 4-H group that will include activities related to PBPN community interests.

Besides the swimming pool the new expansion area includes reading rooms, recreational rooms, a computer laboratory, and a library.

Wanted All Artists

The Boys and Girls Club is looking for someone with an artistic eye to paint 2 murals in the library of the new Boys and Girls Club expansion.

Dimensions

One wall is 17' 6" long 8' high
The other is 23' 11" long 8' high

All bids and proposed designs need to be submitted to the Boys and Girls Club no later than February 4th 2004. For more information contact Yvette Washington @ 966-3031

Royal Valley 7th Annual Native American Club Pow Wow Over 148 dancers performed at this year's event



In the photo on the left is Haskell student Tiffany Dawn Stuart who is Miss Siletz of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, and Sydney Jessepe, Miss Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation who were both a part of the royalty at the pow wow held on January 17-18.

The photo to the right shows Smokeytown who were the invited drum group for the pow wow. They have CDs available for sale through Myron Pyawasit, PO Box 188, Neopit, WI 54150.





Some guidelines for containing trash

Submitted by: BPPN Department of Planning and Environmental Protection, (785) 966-2946

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Department of Planning and Environmental Protection has provided solid waste disposal services to the reservation community for nearly six years. Dumpsters provided for reservation residents, are located at 12 different sites throughout the reservation. Two large recycling bins are also available for community use.

The Department of Planning and Environmental Protection is dedicated to consistent improvement of the services provided, including the dumpster service. Many tribal departments and community members have expressed their support as well as their issues of concern with the

dumpsters, and the communication is appreciated. It is important to have community involvement and awareness of environmental issues. We welcome any ideas and suggestions from the community with regard to the improvement of service.

Some issues of concern associated with the dumpster service are the appearance of the surrounding areas, overflowing containers, garbage blowing onto surrounding properties, and inappropriate items placed inside the dumpster containers. Although the dumpsters are monitored and the area is cleaned regularly, improper use of the dumpsters can cause a delay in service. Below are a few recommendations for reservation residents about the dumpster service.

Is there a dumpster near you?

At the Housing cluster sites:

Cluster 1 152nd Lane
Cluster 2 L4 Lane
Cluster 3 156th Lane

Locations North of 158th Road:

174 Road, North side between M and N
174 Road, North side between I and J
K Road, East side between 190 and 198
198 Road, South side at N Road

Locations South of 158th Road:

O Road, West side between 142 and 134
O Road, East side between 134 and 126
K Road, East side between 134 and 126
L Road, East side between 150 and 142
142 Road, South side at N Road, by siren

Rules for throwing away trash

- Throw away correctly. Put the bag of trash *inside* of the dumpster. Not on the out side of the dumpster on the ground.
- Throw away in the right place or container. Do NOT throw trash away in cardboard boxes. Please put trash in TRASH BAGS and tie the top off tightly. This will keep the wind and animals from spreading the loose trash onto the ground and it blowing into yards and fields.

Thank you all for your cooperation!



PBPN Government Offices will be closed for Presidents Day, February 16

Biographies of tribal judges

continued from page 1

Joe Young

Joe Young received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point and his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School at Madison and obtained his law degree in 1987. His practice is in Federal Indian and environmental law. He was selected by the Prairie Band Potawatomi to serve as an Associate Justice for the Nation's Court of Appeals in 1994 and is a member of the tribe. As a Wisconsin resident, he has worked for the Lac du Flambeau and Mole Lake Band of Chippewa and Forest County Potawatomi. In 1973, he was the All American 2-miler. He has been the state champion three times; he won twice in the 2-miler and once in cross-country. He is married and has six children and four grandchildren. His parents are Frank Young, Jr. and Dorothy.

John Wabaunsee

John Wabaunsee received his law degree from DePaul University College of law in 1973. The Chief Justice has worked as an attorney for the Native American Rights Fund and the Legal Services Corporation specializing in treaty rights, education law and the delivery of legal services to Native Nations. Wabaunsee has taught for the General Practice Court at the University of Wisconsin Law School. He is currently an attorney with the Wisconsin State Public Defender in LaCrosse. He is married and has two adult sons.

Francis Skenandore

Francis Skenandore received his law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law. His practice includes an emphasis on treaty rights, governmental operations, gaming and economic development issues, federal Indian law issues relating to Indian tribes and federal court practices. Mr. Skenandore is Court of Appeals Justice for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. He is a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin.

Gregory H. Bigler

Gregory H. Bigler received his law degree from the Wisconsin Law School in 1987. He is currently with Rice & Bigler, representing primarily Indian Tribes. He serves as the Administrative District Court Judge for the Prairie Band Potawatomi, Judge for the Citizen Band Potawatomi, Iowa Tribe, Supreme Court Justice for the Kansas Kickapoo, and Court of Appeals for the Mashantucket Pequot Nation. He is the Assistant Attorney General for the Sac and Fox Nation and former Attorney General for the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. The Rice & Bigler firm argued and won the 1993 U.S. Supreme Court case of Oklahoma Tax Commission v Sac and Fox Nation. His tribal affiliation is Euchee, enrolled with Muskogee (Creek) Nation. Mr. Bigler is married and has two children.

Charles H. Tripp

Charles H. Tripp received his Juris Doctorate in Native American Law from the University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1993 and earned his Master of Business Administration in 1995. Mr. Tripp serves as a Special District Court Judge for the Prairie Band Potawatomi and is a member of the Cherokee Nation. He has participated in the "Practice of Indian Law in Tribal, Federal, and State Courts" and "Ethics in Tribal Court" at the Native Nations Law Symposium in 2003.

Gerald L. Hill

Gerald L. Hill is a Special District Court Judge for the Prairie Band Potawatomi and is a member of the Oneida Nation. After 25 years of legal experience he has retired as the Oneida tribal attorney and chief counsel to the Oneida Tribal Government. His experience is in tribal government, tribal constitutions, personnel, gaming, administrative law and ICWA. Mr. Hill has authored the article "Conflict of Interest for Tribal Attorney" (Kansas Journal of Law & Government, fall, 1999).

Emergency Services instructor Tim Flannery is top notch



By: Suzanne Heck

teach all levels of emergency services staff.

Tim Flannery, training officer for the BPPN Fire and Emergency Services Department is seen here working in his office located on K Road. He teaches several classes a year in the Department's classroom facility which is located in its basement.

Tim Flannery, who has been with the Nation's Fire/Emergency Services staff since July 2003, is a self-admitted "trauma-junkie."

"I know it sounds weird," he said, "but I have always liked responding to emergency situations. The adrenalin rush does subside after awhile but wanting to care and be there for people has never gone away."

Flannery, who has spent most of his life in the emergency services business, began his career working for Jeffrey Energy Center located north of St. Marys when he was just 19 years old. Twenty-two years later he decided to retire from the Center as a maintenance electrician which he did in 2003.

In addition to his regular work at Jeffrey, Flannery was also responsible for their Emergency Services program. This experience honed his skills and knowledge of emergency services programs and found him rising in the ranks of Emergency Services certification levels.

He was first certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and became an instructor in 1984. By 1992 he rose to the rank of paramedic and by 1994 became a paramedic instructor.

The paramedic certification is the highest credential that can be garnered in the Emergency Services field which allows Flannery the ability to

Presently, Flannery is keeping busy teaching two advanced level EMT classes. On Tuesday evenings he teaches an intermediate EMT class and on Saturday mornings he is teaching a class on how to use heart defibrillators out in the field.

Flannery is proud of the EMS/Fire Department facilities and crew. He said that seven of the BPPN EMS staff hold EMS training credentials and that all of the staff are certified to teach CPR.

"In comparison to other EMS staffs in the region, our crews are a top-notch bunch in both their training and credentials," he said.

He also noted how the BPPN community benefits from their services. Recently they trained 30 Early Childcare Education Center employees in CPR and that in 2003 approximately 140 others who either worked or resided within the borders of the reservation were trained in CPR.

The new Fire/EMS facility has a large classroom located in the basement where several trainings a year are held. Other instructors and trainers from across the state and midwest region also hold trainings there. The facility offers a good place for emergency personnel from around the region to come and learn the latest technological and innovative advances in the field.



Kansas State Head Start Association visits Early Childhood Education Center

Headstart professionals from all over the state of Kansas came to the Early Childhood Education Center on December 12 for their monthly meeting and to tour the Center's facilities.

Marcia Manter, EHS/HS Consultant with Flint Hills Associates and Rhodanne Schiller, Kansas Technical Assistant facilitated the meeting.

The group discussed home visiting: the challenges, the success stories, and issues families face today.

At the BPP Early Childhood Education Center Head Start staff members have home visits with families three times a year. Early Head Start families in the home-based program have 1 1/2 hour weekly visits by the Early Head Start Family Development Specialist. Early Head Start center-based families meet with classroom staff

weekly in the classroom for 30 minutes and at home four times a year.



Carrie Hastings
Early Headstart Program Manager

A few of the BPPN Early Education Center staff are members of the Kansas State Headstart Association who meet each month at a different location.

Carrie Hastings, who is the Early Headstart Program Manager/tiny-k Early Intervention Service Coordinator was the primary host for the meeting. She said that the visitors were impressed with BPPN's modern facility and the services available to the community's families.

The group was also feted with an afternoon luncheon at Harrah's Casino.

Of note, Carrie was also voted BPPN's Employee of the Month for November, 2003.

P.A.R.R. Recovery House News

By: Helen Slattery

P.A.R.R. residents have successfully gained employment with the exception of one who has some limited physical and medical problems. Thanks to the Social Services Vocational Rehabilitation program this client will be doing some work for that department until he hears from the Social Security Administration about his disability.

One client is working at the Harrah's construction site for MPW Construction Company, two are working for a painting contractor in Lawrence at the Lawrence Community Theater. Another client is working for Harrah's as a cook and two are working at the Sac & Fox Casino.

We have two pending admissions for this month. PARR receives an average of five calls a month from treatment providers who refer men for our program's reintegration services.

Two staff at PARR are beginning another year of college courses that relate to the field of addiction, alcoholism and recovery. Other staff will be taking continued educational courses to enhance their skills regarding working in a treatment setting. These courses will focus on communications and interactions with clients, documentation and record keeping of client progress and monitoring client daily house responsibilities.



Bosho from Botewatmi Teshēmwen Department

We, from this department hope you all enjoyed your holiday season and are now ready for Cupid to shoot his arrow your way.

Now is the time to let us know what classes you will be able to participate in. For now, we will be offering Parent/Child classes, Beginning Adult, Beginning II Adult. Each class will run six weeks and will be starting in April. You might think that that is a long way off but the department is due to move into its new office and needs time to accomplish this. So please call the office, 966-2138, and let us know how many will be attending.

We will be starting simplified language lessons in our columns. First, we want to explain our alphabet system. Since you will be reading this and not hearing this you will need to understand how to read it.

Our alphabet system was based on the older written version of Potawatomi commonly know as the Ba, Be, Bi, Bo system. Through the years the knowledge of sounds that Potawatomi contain grew and so the alphabet grew to capture the sounds in the best way possible. Without trying to incorporate new symbols for the language and basing it on the previous system, the department created marked letters to indicate a change in the sound. As with all languages, we have consonants and vowels. Potawatomi has fifteen consonants which are B, T, G, H, TT K, M, N, P, S, T, TT, W, Y, S. The marked T̄ is similar to the "D" sound in English. The unmarked TT sounds like a "CH" combination while the marked TT̄ is similar to the "J" sound. Marked S̄ is similar to the English "Z" sound. There is a definite "B" sound in some of the words, so that is why we include a letter B. Before, there was only a letter P and it served dual purpose. There are lower case letters in the consonants and vowels but for sake of

space we do not include them. The vowels are as follows: A, E, Ê, Ê̄, I, Ī, O.

To illustrate the sound we will include some English equivalents. The sound will be the vowel underlined in the English word.

A, a----saw
E, e----cat
Ê, ê----yet
Ê̄, ê̄----buck
I, i----knee
Ī, ī----mitt
O, o----so
T, t----doe
TT̄, t̄----jaw
TT, tt----which
S, s----zebra

Now you can practice with simple letter combinations:

Ba	Be	Bê	Bê̄	Bi	Bī	Bo
Ta	Te	Tê	Tê̄	Ti	Tī	To
Ga	Ge	Gê	Gê̄	Gi	Gī	Go
Ha	He	Hê	Hê̄	Hi	Hī	Ho
Ka	Ke	Kê	Kê̄	Ki	Kī	Ko
Ma	Me	Mê	Mê̄	Mi	Mī	Mo

Create more practice with all the consonants in front of the vowels. Next time we will learn about a few more vowel combinations that are used and the sounds of them.

By the time you receive this newspaper, the Language survey results will be distributed at the government center front desk and through this office. Please stop in or call for a copy. It entails not only the results of the survey but also the Language Department's plan to revitalize the language.

Pama mine

GENEALOGY OFFICE NEWS

Submitted by: Delores Nioce-Abrams

Ever wonder how you can help the tribe wherever you are located? We have an opportunity for you to do just that. We are asking for your help and support as we work towards our MISSION: "We will strive to collect all information about our nation in one location to preserve for future generations." In searching our family histories we cannot always retrace the footprints of our ancestors and visit the many locations where we may find records. Even in Jackson and Potawatomi Counties of Kansas there are many small town, church and cemetery records to search. We hope the people of our nation will volunteer and contribute to this cause. Please contact us if you can help in any of the following areas:

- 1) **Typist**, Excel experience, for data entry of census and annuity rolls to be placed on CD or floppy disc. We plan to create a data base of this information so a computer search by name can be accomplished. This can be typed in the comfort of your own home.
- 2) **Office volunteers** to catalog and file historical data received.
- 3) **People to share & donate copies** from their personal collection of tribal information of historical content. (For example; annuity or census rolls, old newspaper articles, church records, old obituaries, books, and photographs).
- 4) **Researchers** with computer experience who are willing to volunteer their experience to search internet sites for information in National Archives & Records Administration (NARA), Mormon Church Family History Centers and other web sites which focus on American Indian Genealogy research. This can also be done from your home computer.

This office does not have designated tribal funding or grants, so we will need volunteer help. We are taking names now for assistance in any of the above areas. Call (785) 966-2582 or email abramsda@yahoo.com if you would like to discuss how you may be able to help.

The Genealogy Office is located in the Land Office Building. Our address is **PBP Genealogy Office c/o Land Office Building, 15185 "K" Rd, Mayetta, Ks 66509**. The telephone number is (785) 966-2582 Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 10 am - 3 pm. Please leave your name and telephone number and we will get back to you. We hope to have our web page available soon which will list information that is available now for research. In the meantime, we can be reached by email at abramsda@yahoo.com.

Monthly meetings from January through May will be held on the fourth Thursday evening of each month at the Elder Center at 7 pm. Our January meeting will be held January 22, 2004. Everyone is invited.

Editorials

A satisfied recipient of the home improvement grant program

I am married to a Potawatomi Native American, an enrolled tribal member. My wife and I are raising a family with three young children. A couple years ago we made the decision to exercise a leap of faith and opt to have the mother remain at home for the upbringing of the children instead of being employed outside of the home as well. We knew it would be hard financially but felt strongly it was the correct thing to do and was willing to sacrifice those few extra dollars so that Skylar, Simeon and Cheyanne would have that vital needed childhood of a mother's nurture that so many children lack these days. I reflected upon this as I heard of "overly" dissatisfied recipients of the tribal grant funds for home improvements.

We applied and were very grateful to have been approved for a grant. Our means are very limited, but what means we have we dedicate to our Creator and our children. Throughout the home improvement project there were things here and there that we felt could have been improved upon but consistently kept in mind the question, "Is it better?", not, "Is it perfect?". If one can see something as better, then your outlook is brighter than if one expects perfection. The project is done to our property and we are pleased with the results. I fear that too often we, of all peoples, begin to place our pride before that which is important. What is important is that if there is something better there should be proper gratitude expressed in the right directions. Gratitude should be given to the

Creator for his mercy shown in providing such ways lives can be improved. Gratitude should be given to the tribal government for the proper care of these funds which I believe should be held as "sacred". Gratitude should be given to the contractors that have done the work to "better" your life, but not "perfect".

Life's growth is more spiritual than it is temporal. Are you more apt to grow spiritually and be more tolerant and patient by seeking that which is constantly better or risk repeated disappointment and little growth by the mindset and expectation of perfection being served to you on a silver platter?

I am a holder of the royal priesthood and my faith holds the Native Americans on a very high pedestal for many reasons. Though my blood is not of the Nation I consider such blood with the upmost respect and regard. I ask all peoples to evaluate yourselves and consider your needed growth areas. Ask yourselves the beforementioned questions when He has given you such wonderful opportunities as these grants and programs for the benefit of such an chosen people.

We publicly thank all involved in the program for the success of our home.

Aaron, Lisa, Skylar, Simeon & Cheyanne Green
799 Southwest Road
Shenandoah, IA 51601
(712)246-3876
aarong@heartland.net
Aaron M. Green

In response to "Tribes, officials debate land"
(an article that appeared in the December 2, 03 issue of the Topeka Capital-Journal)

The notion for the state of Kansas to complain about losing property tax dollars just because tribes purchase former land within their own reservation boundaries is such a poor excuse.

I can complain how they didn't care when the federal government forced tribal members to take their land out of trust and put it into fee (taxable). A majority of those tribal members who did only lost their land to back taxes because they were drafted in WWI and WWII and sent off to fight a war. If they survived or when they returned, they lost their land to unpaid property taxes and that's how many non-Indians purchased land within reservation boundaries, and only for unpaid taxes. Unfortunately, this was intentional because the federal government and Kansas wanted to terminate Indian tribes and gain control of their land anyway. No one was willing to help the tribal members keep their lands back then.

Kansas doesn't say how much additional tourist money and additional taxes are generated off reservation because of the casinos but I bet it's more than the lost property taxes. How about the new housing developments that are creeping towards the Prairie Band casino? I bet those property taxes are higher than the Indian land purchases. Look at the retail stores and businesses creeping towards Prairie Band that generate tax income. How about the federal funds that the tribes generate for Kansas in salaries, taxes and out-of-state state business that comes to

Kansas for meetings that generates more retail tax income for Kansas. The casino also draws in other tribal members business and tourist dollars because of the cultural and recreational events especially in the summertime. The unemployment rate must have decreased because of the larger tribal governments that are due to casinos where tribal members spend more money in off reservation businesses. More housing units are built on the rez, more utility, community programs and other tribal businesses are created and developed on the rez that generates more tax income for the county and state. There are all kinds of other consumer spending that generates tax income because of the increased tribal business activity that is not being mentioned in this article that the public should know. All of this tribal activity is definitely more than the lost property taxes.

Kansas is a state. The tribes are a federal entity. Neither have jurisdiction over the other and then if you try then lawyers make money that generates tax income. We shouldn't have to but if litigation happens then it should go all the way to the Supreme Court and they will say that tribes are a nation within a nation and states don't have jurisdiction. We don't want to spend our money that way but it can happen.

There are many reasons why tribes are tax exempt but because during the treaty making days, the feds knew that tribes were misplaced on desolate/isolated and non-business environment lands and some incen-

tive was required for tribes to be self-sufficient. For hundreds of years, that didn't even work and Kansas still didn't offer any communication to help back then. So far, casinos have proven the only lucrative, successful, large business to finally generate income to tribes. The federal protector has federally neglected tribes for so long that a historical resentment has been aired for tribes just to have their own money. You can't blame tribes for states overspending their own budget and don't have the fiscal restraint to control their spending. If tribes overspend their budgets, do you think they will go to the state for the money?

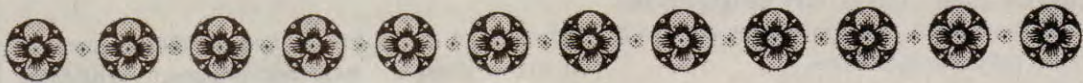
If tribal casinos and tribal activity are relieving some of the financial burden for Kansas then purchasing former Indian land and placing into trust (non-taxable) isn't the problem, Kansas should assist the tribes in enhancing their business adventures and not fight the issue that enhances the problem. This definitely can be a win-win situation.

Help us to heal our federal wounds and our rewards will help you from a budget deficit.

Thomas M. Wabnum
Mack-Taw-Zee
Prairie Band Potawatomi,
Viet Nam Veteran
IIM Accountholder,
Tribal Land Owner,
American Citizen

What's your opinion?

The PBP News welcomes letters and editorials from its readers.
Please submit by the 15th of each month.



Cleaning Ears the Safe Way

Richard Pruiksma, MD
PBPB Health Clinic, 100 W. 6th Street, Holton, KS 66436
(785) 364-2176

Nothing gets me on my soapbox faster than finding out one of my patients has been sticking a "Q-tip" in their ears. This usually comes up when I see one of those rare episodes of an "external" ear infection in my office.

There are basically only two times I see an "external" ear infection (that is an infection in the canal of the ear). The first situation is when a child has been swimming and has gotten water in the canal. If the canal stays wet for a prolonged period and if you throw in a few lake organisms besides, than an infection of the ear canal will result in some kids. This is usually limited to the swimming season and is usually prevented with the use of "Swimmear" right after swimming. This is available over the counter. Some families use this on the children after every swim to avoid those trips to the doctor like they had to do the previous year. Some kids don't have any trouble no matter where they swim, and can live just fine without any drops.

The second time I see external ear infections is when adolescents or adults who are "Q-tip" users come in because their ears hurt. This can be anytime of the year. In all my years of seeing external ear infections that weren't related to swimming, I have yet to find one case that wasn't related to "Q-tip" cleaning of the ears. (You can be sure I always ask, as I would be glad to see an exception to my rule.)

I often tell my patients, "There are lots of places you can put a cotton-tipped applicator ("Q-tip") but the ear canal isn't one. Mouths, noses, belly buttons (not with the same one please) are all okay. But NEVER put anything smaller than your elbow in your ear canal.

If you can't put anything smaller than an elbow in your ear, than what are you to do about those annoying itches, or the wax that is keeping you from hearing well? The answer lies in drops. No paper clips, no bobbie pins, no pens and pencils. Just Drops. In other words there are many appropriate

liquids that are designed for all your ear problems.

"Debrox" or "Cerumenex" for wax softening (this can be followed with a warm water flush using those big blue bulb syringes designed for ears)

"Swimmear" - this is basically very concentrated isopropyl alcohol which disperses the water and helps it evaporate faster so the bacteria don't get enough time to enjoy the wet ear and start infection.

Sweet oil - this is basically pure olive oil. Both this and mineral oil seem to be good at softening wax without irritation. These don't disperse in water however; so following up immediately with a water wash is not a good idea.

There are some vinegar drops that basically have the same effect as "Swimmear" in that they dry the ear canal and make bacterial overgrowth unlikely.

If none of these home treatments work, please see your doctor for assistance. We can do special irrigations of the ear and, if need be, use an instrument under direct visualization.

Now, some of you may be wondering, "I've had no trouble using "Q-tips" in my ears. I'll stop if I have any trouble." Although external ear infections are rarely as serious as a cancer or a heart attack, you wouldn't advise a person to wait until he has lung cancer or a heart attack before quitting smoking, would you?

Let me explain things from the ear's perspective for those who want the details or are still not convinced. The rest of you can skip to the last line.

When you put a "Q-tip" in your ear, you are very careful. You only put in about halfway to the eardrum so as not to damage the drum (or the tiny bones behind it) and so as not to hurt your hearing. The problem comes when there is enough wax to fill up the rest of the space, and now the wax is pushing up against the drum when you only have the "Q-tip" in halfway. Besides damaging the hearing mechanism, the wax now becomes impacted, blocking any sound transmission to the surface of your eardrum. Also, the wax doesn't let the eardrum move freely, which it needs to do to send the sound signal to your brain. Meanwhile, because the "Q-tips" are actually too big for ear canals, they

often break off the little hairs in your canals that were designed to point outward, keeping the wax moving in an outward direction. Now you don't have their help any more. And finally, the main reason for the infections occurring is that there is no fat under the skin in the canal, so there is no "give" to the pressure of the "Q-tip" leading to easily torn skin or abrasion of the top few layers of skin cells. Bacteria love to grow on damaged skin, especially away from sunlight. The slightest tear leads to an exposure of the bone underneath to the germs of the ear canal. This is very dangerous because, as you may know, bone infections are much harder to cure than skin infections.

You may not remember all the details of the ear's perspective, but you can remember:
"Nothing smaller than your elbow goes in your ear."

New Column:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Nancy Rios, who works in the Kansas City Regional Office of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), met with the Holton Service Unit Health Board on August 13. CMS is the federal agency of the Department of Health and Human Services that is responsible for the federal administration of the Medicare, Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance programs (SCHIP). CMS' Kansas City Regional Office oversees the administration of these programs in the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

The purpose of the meeting was to educate the Health Board members on the roles and responsibilities of CMS, CMS' consultation process and the basics of these programs. It is CMS' goal to improve communication and build partnerships with Tribal officials to help them realize the extent of the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance program benefits for American Indian beneficiaries and to learn about the needs and concerns of Tribal members, providers and health care partners.

Medicare provides health insurance coverage for those

- over the age of 65, or
- who have received Social Security disability payments for at least 24 months, or
- individuals who have end stage renal disease, (permanent kidney failure-requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant)

One must enroll in Medicare through the Social Security Administration (SSA) because SSA determines Medicare eligibility. Medicare eligibility is determined by one's work history and how long one has paid into Medicare through payroll taxes. Enrollment is usually three months prior to the 65th birthday month, if your eligibility is based on this. To apply, you can visit your local Social Security office or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to find the nearest Social Security office. You can apply online (using the Internet) if you meet certain rules. To apply online, visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

Medicaid is health insurance funded through a state/federal partnership for low-income individuals. Each state administers the program and has the authority to set its own guidelines. However, according to federal law, certain health services must be covered by the states. Each state has the authority to:

- establish eligibility standards
- determine the scope of the benefits and duration
- set payment rates

To find out if you are eligible for Medicaid, please call 1-800-792-4884, or visit www.kansashealthwave.org

CMS also has federal oversight for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). This program is intended to provide health insurance for children from working parents who make too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to pay for health insurance for their children. This program helps states expand health care coverage to as many as five million of the nation's uninsured children. To find out if your children are eligible, please call 1-800-792-4884, or visit www.kansashealthwave.org

Ms. Rios and CMS will continue to educate us on these programs so that we can make the best use of these resources, but if you have a question about Medicare you can call Medicare's toll-free helpline 24 hours a day, seven days a week and speak to a live customer service representative, not a recording. Call 1-800-Medicare, which is: 1-800-633-4227, or visit Medicare's award-winning Web site at www.medicare.gov

Answers To Some of The Most Commonly Asked Medicare Questions

Q: Can You Explain the New Social Security Eligibility Age and Does This Affect Medicare Eligibility?

A: This year, 2004 is the second year that the full retirement age to be eligible for Social Security benefits has changed/increased. Last year eligibility was 65 years and two months, and this year it is 65 years and four months. This affects Medicare eligibility as people still are eligible to enroll in Medicare at age 65. Initially, people can sign up for Medicare beginning three months prior and up to the three months after the month in which they turn 65.

However, it is critical for new Medicare enrollees to know about the new Social Security eligibility age because, in the past, the full retirement age and

Medicare eligibility had been tied together in people's minds because they both occurred at age 65. This has changed and the two are no longer linked. If an individual waits until their full retirement age or later to sign up for their Medicare, they will miss their initial enrollment period for Medicare, which is the seven months surrounding their 65th birthday month. If an individual misses his or her initial enrollment period for Medicare then he or she will have to wait until the next General Enrollment Period for Medicare which is January through March every year, and if 12 full months have passed since they should have enrolled in Medicare, he or she will be charged 10% more monthly for their Medicare premium. For Medicare information, call: 1-800-Medicare, which is: 1-800-633-4227.

2004 Federal Holidays for PBPB Health and Wellness Center

According to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and Federal law (5 U.S.C. 6103), the following are designated public holidays for Federal employees and the Center will be closed:

- Monday, Jan. 19
- Monday, Feb 16
- Monday, May 31
- Monday, July 5
- Monday, Sept. 6
- Monday, Oct. 11
- Thursday, Nov. 11
- Thursday, Nov. 25
- Friday, Dec. 24
- Friday, Dec. 31

The Prairie Band Health and Wellness Center remains at the former Indian Health Service Clinic at 100 West 6th Street, Holton, KS 66436. The telephone number is (785) 364-2176.

Employees include the following: Josephine Belonger, Health Director; physicians include Richard Pruiksma, M.D. and Stephen Stevenson, M.D.; Judy Wabaunsee, R.N. is the clinic nurse and Susan Gruver, R.N. is the public health nurse; Winona Masquat, R.N. is the diabetic case manager; Jada Baker, lab tech; Michael Carpenter, RPh, is the pharmacist; Dawn LeClere, pharmacist tech; Robin Shields, budget analyst; Melanie Baker, benefits coordinator; Paula Moore, data entry; Laurie Valdivia, managed care coordinator; Linda Wahweotten, support services; Patti Wahwasuck, medical records (billing); and Tim Mendez, custodian. Three positions remain vacant.

2003 Blood Drive Tops 2002

Blood drives sponsored by the PBPB Community Health Representatives and the Community Blood Center of Topeka rose from 85 useable units in 2002 to 122 useable units in 2003. This means, for every unit or one pint, three people are helped. In 2003, 366 people were helped and in 2002, 255 people received help from the blood donations.

Statistics show that one out of three people will have a blood transfusion in their lifetime and individuals need a blood transfusion every four minutes in the service area. To supply the Community Blood Center service area, they require 38,000 units of blood daily. The Community Blood Center provides this service to Kansas's hospitals.

FUTURE BLOOD DRIVES

Feb 17, 2004
8:30—2 pm at the Fire Station

Location and time to be announced:

May 13
Sept 10
Dec 14

CHARTS FOR ALL AGES

If you just cannot wait until you reach your full retirement age to collect Social Security benefits - and statistically most workers do retire 'early' - we have a chart that quickly shows you what percentage of your full retirement benefits you will be able to get. If, on the other hand, you are one of those individuals who intend to work well beyond their full retirement age, you will enjoy checking out the second link below for our chart on delayed retirement credits. (HINT - you will get a higher benefit!).

To see our chart for retiring early, visit this link. <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/agereduction.htm>

If you're thinking of a delayed retirement, take a look at this one. <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/delayret.htm>

Courtesy of Social Security eNews.

Fried Bread Man

In the November issue of the Potawatomi Nation News, Fried Bread Man shared some teaching about the holiday season to Linda Sitting Arrow, Joe Fast Elk, and Mary Swiftbird. The three young people are sitting on logs around a blazing cracking fire. Instead of sitting under the star lit sky and full moon, they are inside a bark house. It has recently snowed. The snow glitters and sparkles like diamonds under the moon lit sky. The three children have returned back to school after the Christmas Holiday break, and were talking about school. A warm fog appears that engulfs the children, and then Fried Bread Man walks out of the cloud. He warmly smiles and walks to the three kids and shakes their hand to wish them a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's and then proceeds to sit down on a log.

Fried Bread Man clears his throat followed by a pause and speaks to the children, "Its good to see the three of you. It's been two months since we talked. I hope you had a nice holiday spent with your family and friends. So tell me about the holidays," asked Fried Bread Man. "What did you do?"

"Well, Fried Bread Man," Joe spoke looking at both Linda and Mary, "our 5th grade class met and wanted to do an activity for the reservation community."

Mary explained, "Our class decided to invite five elders to our family Thanksgiving Dinner. There were five families who volunteered to be a host family."

"We asked Social Services and the Senior Citizens Program if they knew of any elders that would be spending the holiday alone, or if any who didn't have families nearby," said Linda. "The two programs knew of five individuals and they were invited to dinner."

Fried Bread Man asked Mary what she learned from this experience and she replied, "Our family was a host family to a 79-year-old elderly man named John G. Bear Cub. We had our dinner late in the afternoon. My dad asked Mr. Bear Cub if he would say the blessing of the food. He prayed in the Potawatomi language, and then translated in

English so us kids would understand. We had the usual turkey, but wild game was included this year and we had pleasant, rabbit, and squirrel. When we were having dessert, Mr. Bear Cub told us some stories.

"What kind of stories?" asked Linda.

"Well Linda, Joe and Fried Bread Man, Mr. Bear Cub told us a story of how The Raccoon got a Hump on his Shoulder."

The story begins:

'Long time ago there lived an Indian, who had two pets. A raccoon and a dog. Both pets were always ready to please their master. They soon became jealous of each other. Both wanted more time with the Indian man. Something had to be done. Both the raccoon and the dog, knew one of them had to go. But who would be asked to leave? Both pets decided it-- to have winner take all wrestling match! The winner to be proclaimed would be man's best friend. The wrestling match began with the raccoon looking stronger of the two. The raccoon proved to be quicker. Then the dog began to get best of the raccoon, which had the weight advantage. However, the raccoon proved to be a crafty character who didn't give up easily. Suddenly, the dog made a desperate lunge at the raccoon, and grabbed the nap of the neck of the raccoon with his teeth. The dog threw the raccoon up against a tree. This made a loud thud, and raccoon laid there to catch his breath. The dog walked over to the raccoon and asked, "Megwa ne (Do you want more)?" The raccoon was hurt, and couldn't wrestle anymore. The raccoon told the dog, "Tto kego, kego, you are man's best friend." Then the raccoon got up slowly, looking so tired and wearily, finding it difficult to walk, due to the hump on his shoulder.'

All three had a good laugh.

"Mary, that was a funny story," said Fried Bread Man. "Before we all go home, I would like to share that story telling was mainly done in the winter months, usually after the evening meal," said Fried Bread Man. "Many of our stories have humor, fables, and others are a learning experience. Beginning next month I will pass along some stories."

This concludes this month's article on Fried Bread Man. Have a good month!



Support
Groups

Topeka Area

AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) – For people who have a desire to stop drinking. For meeting schedule and times in the Topeka area: 354-3888

Native American AA Meeting — 8:00 p.m. Friday, SW 135 Buchanan.

Recovering Women’s Group— 5:30 p.m. Monday, 725 Buchanan ring bell. Non smoking, closed.

Cancer Support Group – For people with cancer and their families; caregivers are encouraged to attend. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday at Pozez Education Center, 1505 S.W. 8th. Free. Information: 354-5225.

Gamblers Anonymous – For people seeking help for problem gambling, 7 p.m. Wednesday at St. Francis Hospital, 1700 S.W. 7th, 2nd floor, meeting room 6: 862-6666; 7 p.m. Friday at St. Francis Hospital, 2nd floor, meeting room 9: 862-6666; and 7 p.m. Wednesdays at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1275 S.W. Boswell: (785) 339-3583.

Food Addicts Anonymous — For people who feel addicted to certain foods, such as sweets, and who want to abstain from eating them; uses a 12-step program, 3 p.m. each Sunday at Pozez Education Center, 1505 S.W. 8th, in Centennial Room D. Information: Michele at 233-1604. Internet: www.foodaddictsanonymous.org.

Weigh Down Workshop—Experience God’s deliverance from dieting and overweightness. Free orientation at 12:30 pm Thursday, White Lakes Plaza

Apartments clubhouse, 3730 SW Plaza Drive. Call Elizabeth, 266-7318.

Mayetta Area

Open AA Meeting at Judy’s Café, 104 E. Main Street, Mayetta, KS on Tuesday’s at 6 pm.

Open AA Meeting, Wednesday, 7 p.m. to ??, We Te Sa Building, 15434 K Road

Alanon/Alateen Unheard Voices, Thursday, 7 pm at the We Te Sa Building, 15434 K Road

AA Meeting at St. Francis Xavier Church bsmt, 7:30 p.m. every Thursday and Sunday.

PARR Ranch—Open meeting, Monday at 7:00 pm, 18367—182 Rd.

Women’s Voices—Thursday from 6-7 pm, at the We-Ta-Se building, 15434 K Road. Toll free 1-866-966-0173.

Kickapoo AA meeting— at the Kickapoo Senior Citizen Building at Friday at 8:00 p.m.

Holton AA Meeting — at First Christian Church, 5th & Wisconsin, Thursday at 7:00 p.m. 966-2178, 364-4479.

Holton AA Meeting—at EUM Church (1 block south of post office—enter south door), Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Lawrence Area

Circle of Hope AA Meeting every Wednesday at 7 pm, Haskell Campus, Winnemucca Hall (south of the campus)

Recipe Corner

By Mary Young

Depending on your location and weather, we are still in the winter months. Kansas’s temperatures have been in the 50s with sunny to rainy days. This month *Recipe Corner* will feature soups. The following recipes are the courtesy of the *From Our Kitchen To Yours: recipes to warm your heart*, Adult Day Programs at Midland Hospice Center.

Sunday Supper Soup

Meatballs:

1-1/2 ground beef 1/4 tsp salt
1 egg, slightly beaten 1 tbsp chopped parsley
3 tbsp water 2 tbsp butter
1/2 c dry breadcrumbs

Soup:

2 c water
1 (10-1/2 oz) can condensed beef broth (undiluted)
1 (1 lb 12 oz) can tomatoes (undrained) chopped
1 (1-3/8 oz) envelope dry onion soup mix
1 c sliced carrots
1/3 c chopped celery tops 1/4 c chopped parsley
1/4 tsp black pepper 1/4 tsp dried oregano
1/4 tsp dried basil leaves 1 bay leaf

To make the meatballs, combine beef, egg, water, breadcrumbs, salt and parsley. Mix lightly; shape into 24 balls. In 5-quart Dutch oven, melt butter and brown meatballs, a single layer at a time, on all sides. Drain off fat; remove meatballs and set aside.

To make soup, combine ingredients in same Dutch oven. Bring to boiling. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Add meatballs; simmer 20 minutes longer. Yield: 6 to 8 servings, about 2 quarts.

Easy Potato Soup

32 oz frozen hash brown potatoes 2 c milk
1 c chopped onion 2 c water
1 (14-1/2 oz) can chicken broth
1 can cream of celery soup (undiluted)
1 can cream of chicken soup (undiluted)

Garnish with shredded Cheddar cheese, diced

cooked ham or bacon.

Combine first 4 ingredients in a Dutch oven. Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 30 minutes. Stir in soups and milk. Heat thoroughly. Garnish, if desired. Yield: 2-1/2 quarts.

White Bean Soup

1 lb small white beans onions
1 ham bone with meat carrots
hot sauce (taco sauce) potatoes
Worcestershire sauce celery
garlic cumin

Soak the clean beans. Drain and put them in a soup kettle with ham bone and plenty of water (about 2 inches above beans). Bring to a boil and simmer about 2 hours with all ingredients. Remove the bone and return cut up ham to the soup.

Taste the broth. If it tastes about right, add more spices. Simmer about another hour. If too thin, take about 1 cup of beans; mash them and return to soup.

Italian Vegetable Soup

1 lb ground beef 5 tsp beef bouillon
1 tsp salt 1 tbsp dried parsley flakes
1/2 tsp oregano 1 c sliced celery
1 c diced onion 2 c water
1 c sliced carrots 1/2 tsp sweet basil
2 cloves garlic, minced 1/4 tsp black pepper
1 (16 oz) can tomatoes 2 c shredded cabbage
1/2 c elbow macaroni Parmesan cheese
1 (15 oz) can red kidney beans (undrained)
1 c green beans (optional)

Brown beef in large heavy kettle; drain. Add all the ingredients except cabbage, green beans and macaroni. Bring to boil. Lower heat; cover and simmer 20 minutes. Add cabbage, green beans and macaroni. Bring to boil and simmer until vegetables are tender. If you prefer thinner soup, add additional water or broth. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese before serving.

Please submit your favorite recipes to the PBP News. Be sure to include your name, telephone number and/or address in case we have any questions. Until next issue, Recipe Corner would like to say wis-ne-men!

Ask the Dentist

By Jessica A. Rickert, DDS

Dear Dr. Rickert,

This may be a simple question, but with all the toothpastes on the market, how does one choose? Are there any differences, does name brand or price matter?

DKB

Dear DKB,

The American public spends millions per year on toothpaste, trying to obtain the Hollywood smile. Interestingly, toothpaste is mostly a phenomenon in the United States; other countries use plain water, salt and baking soda to brush the teeth. American companies have tried to break into the toothpaste markets in other countries with limited success. For example, the Japanese find American toothpastes too sweet and the flavorings too strong, even “yucky.” They have used baking soda for years, and cannot seem to be able to change to American commercial toothpastes. The Japanese also think it is ridiculous to pay so much money on an “unnecessary” product.

I’d like you to look for the American Dental Association Seal of Acceptance on the tubes of paste. This ensures a basic level of quality and freshness and safety and sanitation. Fluoride is the most beneficial ingredient found in a tube of toothpaste.

The artificial toothpastes account for 95% of the toothpastes out there. Generally, the ingredients are a bulking agent, slight abrasive, artificial sweetener, artificial flavorings, stabilizers to keep ingredients mixed, preservatives, fluoride, foaming agents, oxidizing agents and “active ingredients.” “Active ingredients” may be artificial or natural. The most common abrasives are silica and baking soda. The exact make-up of toothpastes are covered by patents, and the ingredients listed on the side of the tubes are as much information as anyone can obtain from the manufacturer.

There are some all-natural toothpastes, but TOM’S is the only all-natural toothpaste with the ADA Seal.

Americans like razzle-dazzle and respond to advertisements with their dollars. So yes, walking down

the toothpaste aisle of a drugstore can be quite overwhelming. I do think age-specific toothpaste are a good idea, because babies, toddlers, kids and teens have needs which can be very different from adults. The toothpastes for the little ones are gels with much less ingredients other than the bulking agent, because they are likely to swallow much more when brushing. Kids need to avoid cavities, so anything that can get them to brush more often and more thoroughly is desired. Sometimes, a cartoon character or celebrity motivates kids. It seems that there is more artificial sweetener in the kids’ toothpastes, because they like it more.

Often teens have braces, so a toothpaste with a little higher content of fluoride is desired. I have found the teens are the hardest to motivate; some of them are just plain lazy. So, celebrity and athlete endorsements can be used to catch their attention; teens seems to be very brand conscious.

Adults also need toothpastes specific to their needs, such as adults who have very sensitive teeth. Or adults who have periodontal disease and who need toothpastes specifically formulated to reduce tartar build-up.

The whitening toothpastes do work, if used three or more times per day for two or more minutes. The whitening action comes from hydrogen peroxide, which is an oxidizing agent. Common sense tells us that those who drink a pot of coffee per day as well as smoke 1 pack of cigarettes per day may not find a toothpaste which removes all that stain.

If you are ever in a situation where you do not have toothpaste, brush with water. This is almost as effective as using toothpaste; the only beneficial ingredient you are missing is fluoride.

So, look for a toothpaste which targets your specific problem; look for the ADA Seal of Acceptance. If there are several to choose from, ask the pharmacist who knows you what might be recommended. Most of the price you pay for toothpaste is for advertising and packaging.

Personally, I am glad we live in a country where there is an increasing emphasis on oral health and where the free market allows as many manufacturers of toothpastes to peddle their wares as the market will bear. So, let’s all - eat , drink, be merry, live long and brush well.

February Potawatomi
Elder Center



Liver & Onions Potato & Gravy Green Beans Dinner Roll	Sloppy Joes Chick Rice Soup Tossed Salad Crackers	Sliced Ham Potato & Gravy Zucchini & Carrot Dinner Roll	Chicken Pot Pie Buttered Noodles Spinach Salad Deviled Eggs	Catfish Macaroni & Cheese Broccoli & Cheese Garlic Bread
Breakfast Sausage, Bacon Eggs, Hashbrowns Biscuits & Gravy	Meatloaf Potato & Gravy Green Beans Dinner Roll	Baked Chicken Lettuccini Alfredo Fruit Salad Carrots, Roll	Birthday Dinner Roast Beef	Beef Steak Buttered Noodles Tossed Salad Biscuit
Presidents Day Closed	Cornbread Bake & Chili Tossed Salad Crackers	Oven Fried Thighs Potato & Gravy Mixed Vegetable Dinner Roll	Chicken Casserole Steamed Broccoli Tossed Salad Dinner Roll	Salmon Patty Macaroni & Tomato Steamed Zucchini Broccoli Salad
Chicken Noodle Turkey Sandwich Rice Stuffing Cranberry Salad	Pork Chops Scalloped Potato Louisiana G Beans Dinner Roll	Goulash Brussels Sprouts Tossed Salad Garlic Bread	BBQ Pork Sand Potato Salad Baked Beans Coleslaw	Chicken Stir Fry Fried Rice Egg Drop Soup Pork Egg Roll

Native Seniors 50+ Free

Adults \$3.50

Children \$2.00

Menu Subject to Change

Lunch Hours 11:30-12:30

Meth: What is it?

Methamphetamine: What is it? According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the term is defined as a powerful addictive stimulant drug that strongly and dramatically affects the central nervous system. Methamphetamine is made in illegal laboratories and has a high potential for abuse and dependence. Street methamphetamine is referred to by many names, such as “speed,” “meth,” and “chalk.” Methamphetamine hydrochloride, clear chunky crystals resembling ice, which can be inhaled by smoking, is referred to as “ice,” “crystal,” and “glass.” There are slang terms from A to Z.

Methamphetamine causes increased heart rate and blood pressure and can cause irreversible damage to blood vessels in the brain, producing strokes. Other effects of methamphetamine include respiratory problems, irregular heartbeat, and extreme anorexia. Its use can result in cardiovascular collapse and death.

Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri are ideal states for methamphetamine manufacturing because of the rural area setting. Barns, outbuildings, hotel and motel rooms, apartments, storage sheds, garages and vacant buildings are common places for meth to be produced states the Kansas Bureau of Investigation Drug Enforcement. This hazardous waste may be dumped on the ground or in nearby streams, lakes and creeks.

To learn more about meth and to be aware of meth

manufacturing in your neighborhood, attend the various workshops that will be given or attend the upcoming meetings. Contact 966-3002 for more information.

The PBP News will be featuring Fact Sheets on this subject in the February issue.

(Photo courtesy of Narconon Southern California, Inc.)



1998



2002

SOMETHING IS MISSING
FROM GOVERNMENT
CHECKS

If you get Social Security, Supplemental Security Income or any other paper checks printed by the U.S. Department of Treasury, you will find something different about them this January. To protect your privacy, the Treasury Department will remove Social Security numbers from all federal government checks starting January 1, 2004. Of course, you also can protect your privacy and guard against theft if you simply sign up for direct deposit. Direct deposit is the safest and most reliable way to receive payment. Find out more by visiting the link below. <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/deposit/index.htm>

Courtesy of Social Security eNews.

NE Kansas Prevention
Coalition

Meeting:
February 18, 2004
10:00 am
At the
Community Building
(Rock Building)

To learn more about methamphetamine abuse in your community or find out more about chemical abuse, plan to attend the February meeting. Ideas, suggestions are welcome.

February 28 at 10 a.m.

Ganittek (those who are born)



Joseph Luis Palacios Alcantar
born: December 5, 2003
to: Nellie Olivas & Jose L.P. Alcantar, Jr.



Sergeant Robert Paul Johnson
will be deployed to Iraq in January 2004. He is the son of Susan and William Emrich and Donna and Jack Johnson all from Edmund, OK. The family urges to keep him in your thoughts and prayers for a safe and speedy return home.

Kanibwēřřēk (The ones that stood up together)



photo by: Joyce Koeppen

Michael Wayne Nelson and Tamara L. Bruhn were united in holy matrimony on October 4, 2003. The outdoor wedding was a western affair complete with the bride riding up side saddle on her favorite horse led by two of her brothers. On the gorgeous fall day, guests sat on straw bales listening to fiddle music as the two were joined as one. Tami is an enrolled member and is the granddaughter of the late Christine Whitefish Graveen. The couple are making their home in Salmon, Idaho, birthplace of Sacajawea.

Congratulations

to
Nikki Fairman
and
Billy Price
on their
marriage
January 16, 04

Come to the Drug Abuse Interventions in the Workplace and Family Setting
To register, contact Elaine Mzhicteno-Barr at 966-2463

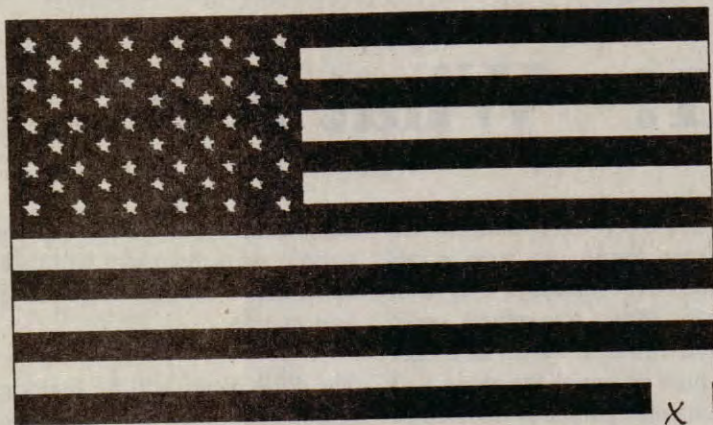
Friday, February 13, 2004
12 Noon—4 pm
Stone Building
3.0 Contact Hours

Announcement

If you are interested in being a part of a Thursday evening Women's Bible Study come and join the study at the following:

Thursday at 6:30 pm
at the
Prairie Potawatomi Baptist Church
128 E. Main Street
Mayetta, KS

Missing a flag? We may have yours and vice versa



For the last few years Angie and Patti Wakolee have participated in the Memorial Day services at the Potts' with their father's flag. They would like for everyone to check their flag because they have someone else's flag.

Missing:

C. L. Wakolee, Wapish-ka American flag. "Wapishka" is hand-embroidered in cursive on the lower right hand side of the flag (x) in blue thread.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact:
Patti—785 843-4470 (Lawrence)
Angie—785 228-2547 (Topeka)
Marilyn—785 966-2888

Area Churches

By Mary Young

Baptist

Prairie Band Baptist Church
128 E. Main Street, Mayetta, KS

Sunday: 10 am – Sunday School
11 am – Worship Service

Pastor Terry Paine

Bethany Baptist Church
821 New York Ave., Holton, KS
(785) 364-4379

David Noland, Youth Sunday School Teacher
David preaches the 5th Sunday of months.

Catholic

Our Lady of the Snows Parish
5971 – 166th Rd, Mayetta

Our Lady of Snows is on-line with a web page on history, calendar of events, mass schedule, photo gallery, and other important information. Please take a few minutes to visit our web page at <http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/snow/index.html> or go to the tribal web site home page and click on Our Lady of Snows icon. We would be glad to answer any questions about our parish.

Native American Mass at Assumption Church

204 West 8th, Topeka, KS

Methodist

Pottawatomie United Methodist
On O Rd. between 142 and 150 Rd.

Rev. Floyd Nolin, Jr.

Sunday: 9:45 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service

Pentecostal

Potawatomi Pentecostal Church
4-1/2 mi. west of mi. marker 134
Rev. Vernon Potts

Sunday: 10 am – Sunday School
10:45 am – Worship service
7 pm – Evening Worship

THE BIBLE SAYS...

by Pastor Terry Paine
II Corinthians 5:17—"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold,

all things are become new."

In this text, the Bible says that once we receive Christ, we "become a new creature, old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new." Friend, if I know anything, I know this scripture is true. You see before I received Jesus as my Savior, (as the old man), I never had any success in breaking my bad habits. Even though I desperately wanted to.

I would make New Year resolutions to stop smoking, or drinking, or doing drugs. And as quickly as I made them, I would break them. As much as I wanted these things to stop, I could never bring about the change that I wanted in my life.

Then on Sept. 3, 1997, everything changed for me. You see, that night in a church service in Rossville, KS, the Holy Spirit of God pricked my heart and brought me under conviction of my sin. (That included all of my bad habits.) I went down front after the service, and knelt down to God in a prayer. I admitted to God that I was a terrible sinner, with terrible habits, and I believed that when Jesus died on the cross & shed his blood, that it was payment for those sins. Then I called upon the name of Jesus to save me from my sins. After I prayed, I felt like a ton of bricks had been lifted from off my back!

After that night, I began to notice that I was having amazing victories over the things that I had wanted to get rid of in my life for so long. (You see Jesus will never let you down!) My first victory was over alcohol, then over drugs, and last but not least, came my victory over tobacco. (I had smoked from the time I was 9-years-old, until the Lord helped me quit at 41.)

Today, when people come to me with life problems and bad habits they want to get rid of, I tell them of my testimony. I tell them that when I tried to stop my habits within my own power, I could not seem to get rid of the alcohol, drugs, or tobacco. I needed Jesus!

The best advice can be found in the words God left us. That is, in the Bible. A good place to start is in this passage, II Corinthians 5:17. My friend, if you are wanting victory over your old habits, look to your Creator, and to His son, Jesus Christ. Look to the One that can give you the power to become a new creature in Christ, and let your old things pass away, and become a new person inside.

Many of you may not believe me when I tell you this, but I believe God is saying to you, "Why not try me, why not trust me?"

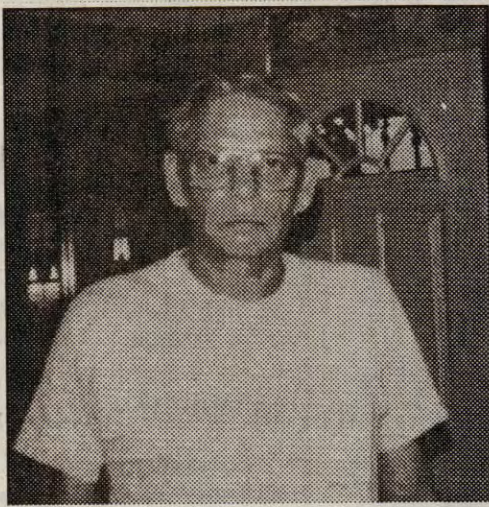
At the beginning of this new Year, don't put all your trust in resolutions and things such as that. Instead, put your trust in the name of Jesus. Jesus loves you. (He gave His life for you!), and He wants you to be free of the habits and sins that have bogged you down for so long. Beloved, why not call upon the name of the Lord Jesus just now, and experience true victory in your life in the New Year to come.



HAPPY NEW YEAR
2004



Kamboŕk (Those who died)



Cletus Levier

Kappa—Cletus M. Levier, 65, of 304 Grove St. Kappa, died at 12:36 a.m. Saturday (Dec. 18, 2003) at OSF Saint Joseph Medical Center, Bloomington.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at East Lawn Funeral Home, Bloomington. His funeral will be at 10a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home, Bloomington. Burial will be in East Lawn Memorial Gardens, Bloomington.

Memorials may be made to an education fund for his son, Joe Levier.

Mr. Levier was born May 23, 1938 in Mayetta, Kan., a son of Joseph and Cecilia Atkins Levier. They preceded him in death.

He married Lila Lough on April 12, 1970 in Colorado Springs, Colo. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Terry (Suzanne) Phelps, Kappa and Joe Levier, at home; four daughters, Rosa (Steve) Adkins, Chenoa; Joyce (Larry) Sandage Phelps, LeRoy; Annette Phelps, Kappa; and, Beverly Levier, Bloomington. Thirteen grandchildren, Jason, Scotty, Jennifer and Allie Phelps; Michelle Potts; Samantha Regenold; Shawntae, Tayna, Kayla, Stephanie, and Stevie Adkins; Mark Overholser; and, Ashley Levier.

Six great-grandchildren, Dalton and Michael Phelps; Sierra Ballard; Andrew Adkins; Logan Smith; and, Mario Velesco. His step-mother Mary Levier, Manhattan, Kan.; three brothers, Charles (Jolene) Levier, Winnebago, Kan.; Mike (Stephanie) Levier, Topeka, Kan.; and Francis Levier, Sparks, Nev.; three sisters, Judy (Ken) Sebo, Blen, N.M.; Atha (David) Kerrs, Reno, Nev.; and Joan (Tom) Stech-Lero, St. Paul, Kan.; three sisters-in-law, Audrey (Ronnie) McWhorter, Darlene Gaines and Marilyn Lee; his mother-in-law, Luella Lough; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two grandchildren, Mary Levier and Shawn Phelps.

Mr. Levier retired from the United States Army. He served in Vietnam and Korea. While in the Army, he received many accommodations.

He then retired from the Bloomington Post Office.

He is a proud registered Native American of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

He was a very caring and devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

(Submitted by East lawn Memorial Gardens, Bloomington, IL)



Marcella Cha-mi-queh Nozhackum Hernandez

MAYETTA—Marcella Cha-mi-queh Nozhackum Hernandez, 78, of Mayetta, died Saturday, December 27, 2003 at her home on the Potawatomi Reservation.

She was born Sept. 8, 1925, on the Potawatomi Reservation, the daughter of Charles and Anne Numkee Nozhackum.

Marcella was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church.

Her cherished companion of many years was Pete Aitkens. He preceded her in death.

Survivors include three daughters, Patricia A. Matchie, Georgie Potts and Nina Hinds, all of Mayetta; two sons, Vincent Hernandez, Mayetta, and Robert Padilla, Lawrence; one brother, Chris Puckee, Topeka; one sister, Maxine Ramirez, Mayetta; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Mass of Christian burial will be 11a.m. today at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church in Mayetta with burial in the Shipshew Cemetery. A rosary for Marcella was held at 9 p.m. on Monday in the parish hall on the church grounds followed by an all night wake.

Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to www.chapeloaksfuneralhome.com.

(Courtesy of the Topeka Capital-Journal, Dec. 30, 2003)

Shirley Camille Jessup

Shirley Camille Jessup, 14, Mayetta, died Thursday, Jan. 15, 2004 at her home.

She was born Sept. 22, 1989, in Kansas City, the daughter of Gordon Gaylord "Bud" and Cheryl Jean Laster Jessup.

Miss Jessup attended grade school at McLouth and Perry/Lecompton and was currently a student at Royal Valley Middle School in Mayetta. She and her family had moved from McLouth to Perry in 1997 and to Mayetta in 1999.

She was a member of Christ's Church at Holton, the Youth Group at the church and helped at Christ's Closet in Mayetta. She played the flute and later the clarinet in band, and had been on the volleyball team at Royal Valley Middle School.

She was preceded in death by her father, Gordon Gaylord "Bud" Jessup; paternal grandparents, Jack, Sr. and Joyce Faye Jessup; and maternal grandmother, Shirley Jean Larison.

Survivors include her mother and stepfather, Cheryl Jean and Garald Ansley; two brothers, Michael Lee Jessup, Lawrence, and Jack Francis Jessup, III at home; two sisters, Gina Marie Jessup, at home, and Billie Jean Jessup, Hiawatha; two stepbrothers, Timothy James Ansley and Jonathan Paul Ansley, both of Sulphur Springs, Texas; maternal grandparents, Jess Fredrick and Mary Laster, Kincaid; step-grandparents, Linda Ball, Perry, and Paul and Debbie Ansley, Overbrook; and her greatgrandmother, Frances Rolin, Ozawkie.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Wild Horse Cemetery at McLouth. She will lie in state Tuesday at Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hoyt, where family and friends will meet from 10 a.m. until noon.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shirley Camille Jessup Memorial Fund, sent in care of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, 100 Apache Drive, Hoyt, KS 66440.

Online condolences may be sent to www.chapeloaksfuneralhome.com.

(Courtesy of Holton Recorder, January 19, 2004)

Joseph M Gomez

EMMETT—Joseph M. Gomez, 57, died Thursday, Jan. 15, 2004, at St. Francis Hospital.

He was born July 29, 1946, in Topeka, the son of Euliojio Montez and Rosetta M. Mattwaoushie Gomez.

A member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, he grew up in Topeka, and lived in the Emmett community for many years. He served in the U.S. Navy. He had worked for the Santa Fe Railway and in construction.

His father, Euliojio Montez Gomez preceded him in death.

Surviving are a son, E. Michael Gomez, St. Marys; a daughter, Melissa Ann Gomez, St. Marys; and his mother, Rosetta Anderson, Emmett.

Mr. Gomez will lie in state from 2 to 8 p.m. Monday at Piper-Verschelden Funeral Home in St. Marys, where the family will meet with friends from 6:30 until 8 p.m. Monday. Cremation will follow the visitation.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society and sent in care of the funeral home.

(Courtesy of Topeka-Capital Journal Jan. 17, 2004)



In memory of Michelle Harlan

December 6, 2003



Kanibwēŕk (The one's that stood up together)



Warren and Nona Wahweotten celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on January 10 and are seen here at a reception held in their honor on January 9 at the Elder Center. The couple was married at the home of Bill and Vestina Nonken in 1964. Nona and Warren both work at the PBPB Elder Center.

Congratulations
to
Darrell & Sally (Jacobson)
Kern
of
Mayetta, KS

Happy 40th
wedding anniversary

January 9, 2004



Learn more
about PBPB family histories
and look at tribal member
photographs
on the Internet at
www.pbpindiantribe.com



Year End: 2003 Top Stories

Ongoing changes and improvements on the reservation continued during 2003; housing, paved roads, and groundbreaking ceremonies. The Casino expansion including another water tower, tribal license plates and state-of-the-art emergency services equipment is not only visible on or near the reservation but is necessary as the reservation grows.

The following are the highlights of the year:

January

To commemorate Harrah's Prairie Band Casino's 5th anniversary, 11 slot machine games that featured the Potawatomi Tribal logo were placed in various locations on the floor. Hardy Eteeyan made the PBPN logo and Frank LaClair designed the fire wings.

Donica L. Nanez introduced a new column "Building futures today."

Information on how the housing tax credit program works with historical background insights was presented.

February

Two PBP public transportation buses began operation.

March

As of February 26, the Tribal Police Dept. came under new leadership.

April

The Earth Day celebration drew over 300 community members to the annual event held at Prairie People's Park.

May

Groundbreaking for the PBPN bike and pedestrian trail occurred.

June/July

Latane Donelin received the first EPA Tribal Partnership Award and was awarded a grant to continue a project.

Sprint and PBPN entered into an agreement that included a 500 line, 3-year NVP and a shared agreement to provide additional cell phone coverage

for the reservation.

August

The US Bank sent a packet of information to the parents of all minor tribal members regarding the trust fund. The minor's trust fund received its first deposit on June 13th.

Per Capita checks for name and address accuracy: these changes must go through the Enrollment office—phone, fax, or email are not accepted.

The 2003 Potawatomi Gathering is highlighted.

September

License plates were issued to all tribal government vehicles. The yellow collector plates will no longer be available.

Public hearings were held in regards to the tribal law enforcement issues of Senate Bill 9.

PBPN Emergency Services and Tribal Police sponsor a day of remembrance: 9/11 commemorated.

October

Enrollment committee member, Cecelia "Meeks" Jackson, retired and was honored for her 25 years of service.

In a news brief, the Nation's EPA Department was asked to look into what impact coal-bed methane exploration would have on the environment after learning that several residents on the reservation had been contacted about leasing their land for that use.

The Finance Department sees growth through the years states John Crites and Jim Potter.

November

Zach Pahmahmie replaces Jim Potter as NCAI area vice-president.

Eleven Gaming Commission candidates were announced.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation unveiled a memorial wall dedicated to 309 tribal members who served in the armed forces. Full coverage is in the December issue.

Health screening for PBPN employees were held at the Elder Center.

Elders taught 3 to 5 year-olds at the Early Child Care Education Center on how to dry squash.

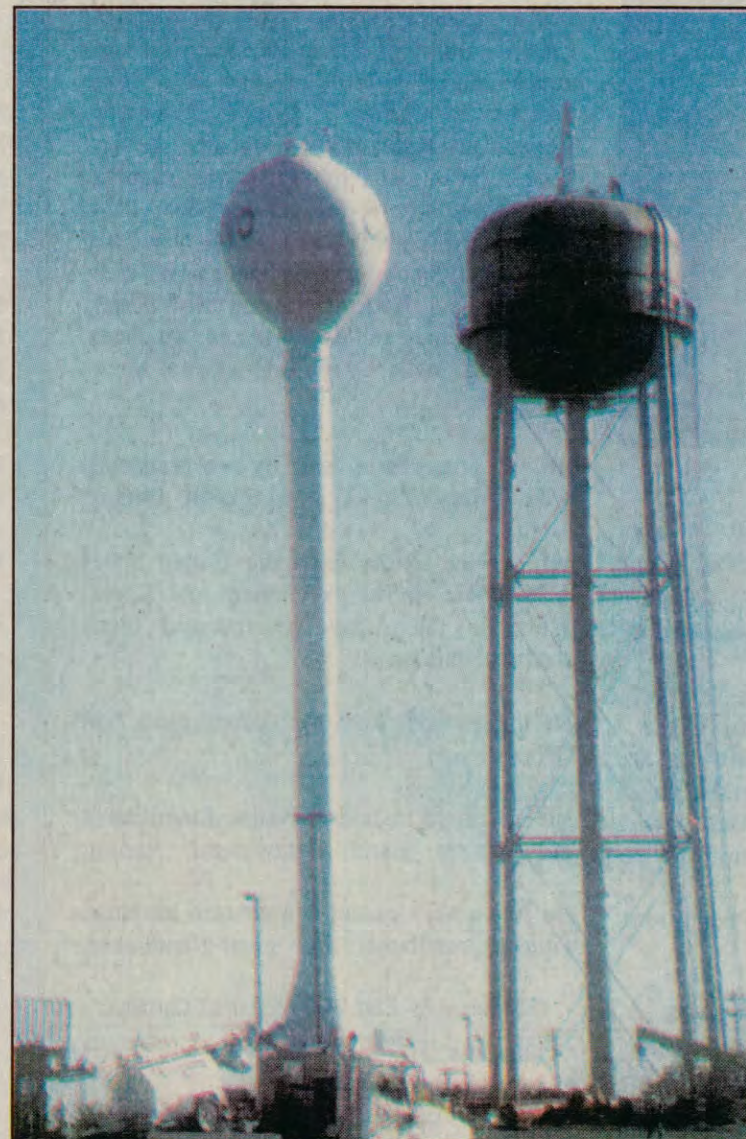
December

The Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations

toured the reservation.

Tribal Council met with Jackson County Commissioners concerning the land use issue.

An update on the casino hotel and event center expansion states the project completion timeline remains on schedule.



Other Events & Changes in 2003:

Erecting the Casino twin towers.

1st row (L—R):

Chair Zach Pahmahmie & Jim Potter at Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' inauguration at the State Capitol.

A view of the PARR Ranch at the old location.

2nd row (L—R):

A controlled burn: Chaney Hill house was used by the Fire Dept for practice training; 3000 acres were burned in 2003.

Hardy Eteeyan breaking up concrete in front of the We-Ta-Se building — all part of the Girls & Boys Club expansion.

3rd row (L—R):

We-Ta-Se Post 410 Color Guard invited to lead the Mayetta Pioneer Days Parade. Look for the Color Guard on Oct 9, 2004 in celebration of Mayetta's 118th year.

Steve Ortiz and Zach Pahmahmie, Tribal Council, at the Hannahville Potawatomi Gathering.

