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# Prairie Band Potawatomi News

March 2005 EDITION

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

## United States Supreme Court to hear motor fuel tax issue

by: Suzanne Heck

The Prairie Band's motor fuel tax case is back in the courts and this time it is going to be heard at the top.

On February 28 the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it would review the case filed by the State of Kansas to impose a gas distribution tax on the PBP.

The State won the first court case that was filed in district court in 1999, but the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver ruled unanimously that the State did not have the right to interfere with the commerce of the Tribe after the PBP filed an appeal last fall. The State then filed with the high court in November which the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear.

The issue is over whether the state may tax non-Indian companies who are off the reservation that distribute fuel to tribal operators located on the reservation.

Presently the Nation's tribal government imposes its own fuel taxes, which are used to build and maintain roads and bridges on and near the reservation. If the State is allowed to tax the motor fuel the Tribe believes that they will be doubly taxed and that it will interfere with their right as a sovereign nation.

Both sides have their supporters in the dis-

pute. Kansas is supported in the petition by thirteen other states who are in similar situations and the Prairie Band have several other tribes who are filing "friend of the court" briefs on their behalf.

At stake is the inherent sovereign authority of Indian Tribes in Kansas and everywhere that PBP Attorney David Prager and other Indian law-makers have debated are guaranteed by federal treaties and federal law.

In the Prairie Band's case Prager has suggested that the state motor fuel tax impairs Indian rights guaranteed to them when Kansas was admitted to the Union in 1861 (Act for Admission, Sec. 1) and that it violates the U.S. Constitution, which gives Indians the right to maintain their own sovereign governments.

Zach Pahlmhamie, Tribal Council chairman said, "Kansas has erected 'a Berlin Wall' around the Prairie Band Potawatomi."

Contacted on the day the Supreme Court announcement was made, Prager said that the case was as well postured as it could be under the circumstances and that he is hopeful that the U.S. Supreme Court will rule in favor of tribal sovereignty. He said oral arguments will be heard before the Court in October but a final decision on the case will probably not be made until summer, 2006.



David Prager

## Gary Mitchell and Joyce Guerrero elected to Gaming Commission



Joyce Guerrero



Gary Mitchell

Joyce Guerrero and Gary Mitchell were elected to the Gaming Commission on February 23.

Mail-in ballots were counted at the Community Building that morning before a crowd of around 75 people who attended.

Mitchell won with 261 votes and Guerrero with 245. Both have served as gaming commissioners previously.

Carrie O'Toole placed third with 241 votes and Steve Ortiz placed fourth with 225.

Guerrero and Mitchell were sworn in by the Tribal Council on March 1 at the Bingo Hall. They received gifts and were congratulated by many friends, family members and employees of the Nation.

For more information on the Gaming Commission see page 2.



Members of the Tribal Council, Gaming Commission and the newly elected commissioners all posed for a group photo at the Swearing-In Ceremony held at the Bingo Hall on March 1.

## No decision made on Thunderhill by Jackson County Planning & Zoning Board

The Thunderhill Speedway will continue to operate as it is for now.

That was the decision made at the Jackson County Planning & Zoning Board meeting held on March 10 at the Jackson County Courthouse in Holton. They decided to let the issue "die" because they felt they did not have the proper authority to enact the zoning change.

The Prairie Band have been challenging a recent application made by Thunderhill owner Mike Henry to rezone his business from agricultural to heavy industrial citing nuisance and environmental factors. Tribal members have also pointed out that it causes disturbances when traditional ceremonies are held on the reservation.

Thunderhill is located on the reservation on 142nd Rd. a few miles west of U.S. Highway 75.

Prior to the meeting the PBP Planning Board issued a letter of recommendation to the JC Planning & Zoning Board that was read at the meeting. It cited several restrictions that the Tribe would like to see enforced regarding Thunderhill if it was allowed to continue. No action was taken.

## Zach Pahlmhamie receives Diversity in Law Award



Zach Pahlmhamie received a Diversity in Law Award at the 10th Annual Diversity in Law Weekend Conference sponsored by the Native American Law Students Association on March 5 at the KU Alumni Center. The award is given to a person of color who has made significant contributions to the law.



## PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION GAMING COMMISSION ELECTION

Mayetta, Kansas  
February 23, 2005  
OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

GAMING COMMISSION	MACHINE	HAND TALLY	TOTAL	%
DALE I. DELG	147	2	149	7.76%
JOYCE KITCHKOMMIE GUERRERO	241	4	245	12.76%
JAMES H. JACKSON	75	4	79	4.11%
FRANKLIN C. LACLAIR	140	3	143	7.45%
CINDY L. LECLERE	200	2	202	10.52%
JAY H. MATTAWSHSHE	104	1	105	5.47%
EDDIE JOE MITCHELL	77	0	77	4.01%
GARY E. MITCHELL	256	5	261	13.59%
CARRIE WABAUNSEE O'TOOLE	237	4	241	12.55%
STEVE ORTIZ (MANWA')	222	3	225	11.72%
CHARLES L. WAHWEOTTEN	189	4	193	10.05%

## Special General Council meeting held: quarterly meetings coming up

A special General Council meeting was held on March 12 at the Bingo Hall where casino transition issues were discussed. At the meeting were presentations by members of Harrah's Casino management and the PBP's two new management casino committee members. For more details on the meeting see page 2.

The next quarterly General Council meeting is scheduled for April 16 and the annual General Council meeting is planned for July 16. Times, places and agenda items will be sent by mail when confirmed.

In addition, mark your calendar for the 12th Annual Potawatomi Gathering to be held from July 28-31 in Fulton, Michigan. Check-in day is July 27. This year's host is the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi.

For more information regarding the meetings or Gathering call the Government Center toll free at 877-715-6789 or locally at 785-966-4000.

In related news, the PBP Government offices will be closed on March 25 for Easter weekend and May 30 to observe Memorial Day.

## Tom Tuckwin appointed Gaming Commissioner



Tom Tuckwin was sworn in as a Gaming Commissioner on March 11 at Harrah's Events Center.

He was appointed by the Tribal Council to fill an 11-month vacancy on the Gaming Commission left by Joyce Guerrero's first term.

Tom spoke at the ceremony and thanked his family and friends for supporting him through the years. He promised to do a good job for the Nation.

He has over 20 years of business experience and was on the Tribal Council at one time.



Marge Abney, left, and Maxine Ramirez, right, attended the Flag Ceremony held on Flag Day at Prairie Peoples Park. On that day We-Ta-Se Post 410 held a special ceremony that retired flags no longer in use. See pages 6-7 for details.



## Highlights from the Gaming Commission Election and Swearing-In Ceremonies



Joyce Guerrero, center, is seen shortly after her win on the day of the election with Tribal Council Member James "Nabi" Wabaunsee (left) and Election Board Director, Voncile Mitchell (right). The election was held on February 23 at the Stone Bldg.



A thank you to the people  
from Gary Mitchell



*First of all, I want to thank the people who voted for me in this election. I will work hard to justify your confidence. My goal is to continue contributing positively to the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation for the next four years. We have many gaming challenges ahead of us and regulation will be at the forefront of that effort, which is why it is so important to articulate our regulatory position to both tribal and outside interests. I want our Nation to prosper for many more years to come and I will also continue to stay active in my community. Thank you for your support.*

GM



Joyce and Gary smile for the camera after being congratulated by family and friends at their Swearing-In Ceremony.



Vice Chair, Rey Kitchkumme presided over the Swearing-in Ceremony held on March 1 at the Bingo Hall. He is seen in the photos on the far right and left with Joyce and Gary as they each signed the swearing-in forms.



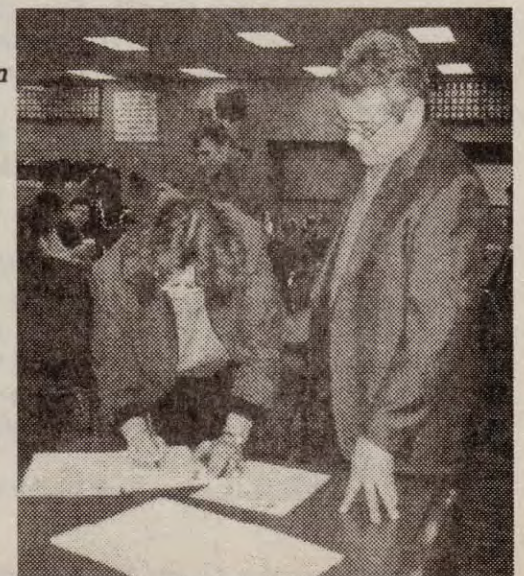
Tribal Council Chair, Zach Pahmahmie, right, was at the election and is seen here visiting with Joyce after her win.



A thank you to the people  
from Joyce Guerrero

*I would like to say thank you to everyone that supported me and voted in the Gaming Commission election.*

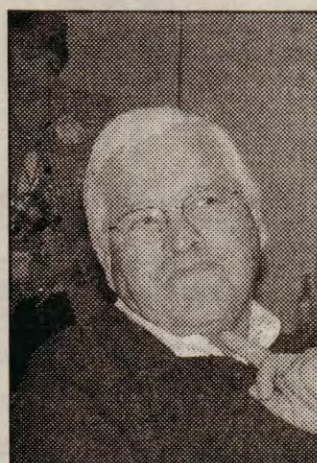
*Thank You!*  
Joyce Guerrero and family  
[joyceg@pbpgaming.org](mailto:joyceg@pbpgaming.org)  
785 966-3047



## Tom Tuckwin was sworn in on March 11 at Harrah's Events Center



Chairman Zach Pahmahmie, left, shakes hands with Tom shortly after he was sworn into office.



Above is Tom's brother, Jerry, who looked on while Tom was sworn in. Several of Tom's family attended the ceremony that day.



Tom is seen above holding one of the gifts that he was given during the ceremony.



In the photo above are some members of the Tribal Council enjoying themselves in the brunch buffet line offered that day. From left to right are Jim Potter, "Nabi" Wabaunsee, Ryan Dyer, and Jackie Mitchell.

### News from the Special General Council meeting

Submitted by: Eric Hale

A special General Council meeting was held on Saturday, March 12, at the Bingo Hall to discuss the options that the Tribe has for continuing casino operations. Presentations were given by Vern Jennings, Harrah's Management Committee Member from Harrah's Las Vegas, Lou Anderson, Harrah's VP of Legal Affairs, and Warren "Junior" Wahweotten and Eric Hale, the Nation's new management committee members.

Jennings' presentation was a repeat of the one he gave at the last General Council meeting where he discussed the benefits that Harrah's brings to the Nation. Benefits include having experienced talented people already on board, world-class marketing capabilities, quality informational systems developed by Harrah's, and corporate services that are provided as part of our management agreement. He also presented information on transition considerations and costs that would occur if the Nation decided to self-manage the casino. Some issues the Nation would have to consider are the cost of replacement IT systems that he estimated between \$6 and \$9 million, and the costs of re-branding the casino to our own brand identity which he estimated at \$1.1 million. Additionally, Jennings said that

other transition costs would include the loss of Harrah's purchasing power, which has brought in an estimated \$900,000 in savings for 2004, and another estimated loss in profits from losing the Harrah's brand name, which he estimated at around \$8.1 million annually.

The next presenters were Warren "Junior" Wahweotten and Eric Hale who discussed three different options for the casino transition. They are: 1. modify/renegotiate our contract with Harrah's; 2. take RFP (request for proposals) from other management companies, including Harrah's; 3. self-manage the casino. A discussion on each topic's pros and cons were discussed with emphasis on management fee costs to the Tribe and the need for stronger tribal leadership in key positions at the casino. Junior Wahweotten did emphasize that the Nation needs to be presented with all of the facts before making this very important decision. The Nation has until July 2006 to gather all the needed information to make an informed decision. The Tribe's management committee members are planning to have a more detailed financial analysis of the options that were discussed for the upcoming July General Council meeting.

### A Word from Patrick J. Browne, Harrah's Prairie Band Casino Sr. Vice President and General Manager

Harrah's Prairie Band Casino has launched an aggressive marketing campaign to publicize the dramatic improvements recently completed at the casino and hotel.

With the addition of 196 new premium guestrooms, the area's best convention space, a new diamond lounge and the Three Fires Steakhouse, Harrah's Prairie Band Casino has more to offer visitors than ever before. To spread the word, the marketing team is working to secure Harrah's Prairie Band's reputation as the region's "Ultimate Gambling Getaway."

Since the expansion's completion, the casino has attracted top entertainment acts such as the Commodores, Tony Orlando, the Flying Elvi and Las Vegas impersonators of Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton and The Big Bopper. The casino also hosts local bands on weekends and has welcomed two Vietnamese concerts and a New Year's Eve party featuring Kings of Swing.

Harrah's Prairie Band's best customers have been treated to special steakhouse

dinners, Diamond Lounge parties, and Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day event center buffets.

To further encourage visitation, the casino has initiated a cross-property direct mail campaign to reach customers from other Harrah's casinos who have never visited Harrah's Prairie Band Casino. With the addition of the new hotel, Harrah's Prairie Band Casino is better able to accommodate visitors who live outside the casino's typical feeder markets.

The casino's primary target markets remain Topeka and Wichita, the marketing department is utilizing radio, billboard and print advertising to increase awareness and incent visitation to the property.

The number one casino operator in the market, Harrah's Prairie Band is publicizing the fact it offers the hottest slots, best table game action and great video poker machines coupled with a luxury hotel and award-winning casual and fine dining.

An open door policy: visit the new PBPN Casino Management Committee  
Warren "Junior" Wahweotten, Harrah's Casino, 785-966-7638.  
Eric Hale, Government Building, 785-966-4055.

Tribal members receive 25 % OFF Prairie Village Gift Shop in March and April  
(discount does not apply to cigarettes, medicines, magazines and some other items)



## An interview with Gaming Commission Executive Director Mark Adame

By: Suzanne Heck

**Q:** You are the first executive director the Gaming Commission has ever had. How did this position come about?

**A:** About the middle of last year the gaming commissioners realized that their duties were to primarily enforce regulations of the casino and Bingo Hall, but what they were doing was a lot of daily routine office and management work. They decided they needed an assistant who would be a salaried employee to carry on the daily activities of the office to make sure things got scheduled, employee performance reviews were conducted, and to have someone that would be trained to handle further expansions should the need ever arise again... Prior to my position there was also a lot of confusion as one staff member might go to one commissioner for an answer and another employee would go to another commissioner with the same request and they each would come back with different answers to the same problem. Now employees are supposed run their ideas and suggestions through me. That way I can approach the commissioners and narrow it down to one focal-point person for consistency in order to get a consensus of the commissioners. Then I can re-route that feedback back to the employee or employees through a memo or one-on-one to help them better understand what the decision or consensus of opinion was.

**Q:** How many employees are there?

**A:** Not counting the gaming commissioners, there are about 22 or 23 people who are full time.

**Q:** What is the organizational structure of the Gaming Commission?

**A:** The Gaming Commission is a branch of the tribal government and in this sense a branch of the tribal enterprises. Gaming Commissioners are charged with having their own employee manual policies and procedures. The executive director is a non-gaming-commission decision-maker. I have no authority to make any decisions on regulatory issues. My job is strictly for keeping the department running smoothly and I act as a go-between with the commissioners on any issue that they want me to check into. The commissioners do discuss a lot of the regulatory issues, if not all, with the Tribal Council and the Gaming Commission is responsible for making sure things stay within compliance. We have no decision-making authority as to what goes on in the casino. That is handled through the Tribal Council who are technically the owners. Once things are decided between Harrah's management and Tribal Council, processes, policies and procedures are drafted and are accepted and we enforce those accepted policies and procedures. We have no decision-making authority on how the events are conducted on the floor, or how games are switched-out or things like that. It's a management decision that goes through the Tribal Council who approves them and then we support those decisions.

**Q:** What is a day at work like for you?

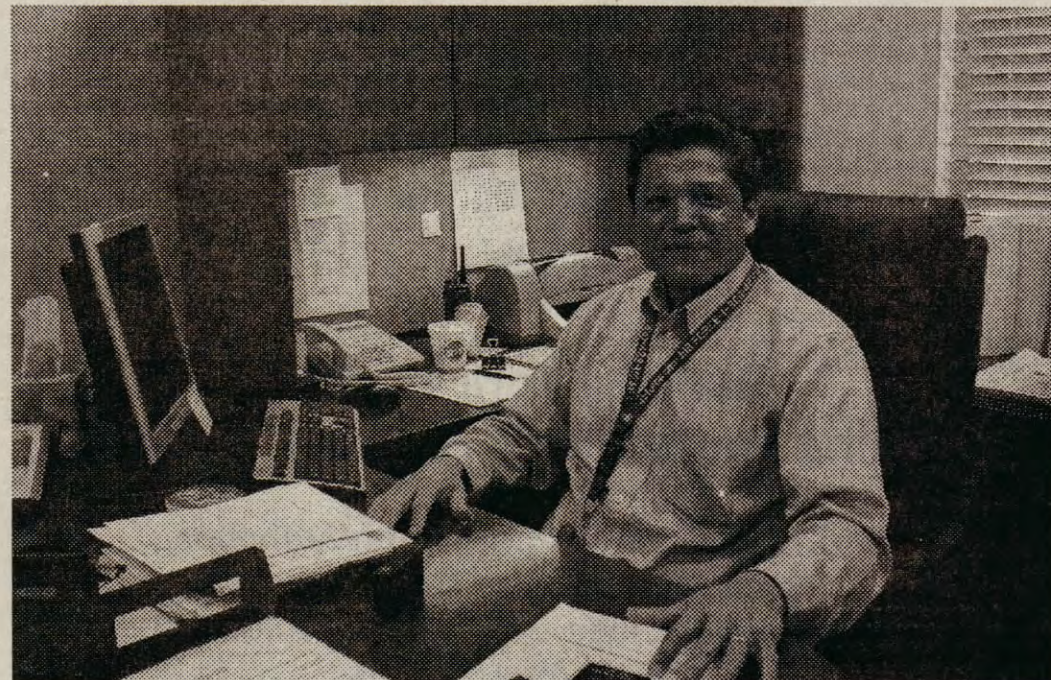
**A:** Our offices are open from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. I come to work and there is an inspector on duty who gathers the previous day's reports submitted by surveillance and the tribal inspector staff who worked in the casino. He/she routes those reports through the commissioners and myself which gives us a synopsis of the previous 24 hours. Every employee in surveillance and each inspector on duty has to submit a daily log for review. If an incident is worth investigating, the commissioners will ask the investigator in our office to check into it. The investigator may ask me to decide if it needs to be checked with the commissioners. I also work with our senior administrative assistant to coordinate meeting agendas, to copy materials, and to get ready for a meeting that may take place that day. We also do a lot of coordinating for the gaming commissioners as well and to make sure that our positions are all staffed each day.

**Q:** Is there more than one inspector?

**A:** Yes. There are about 13-15 inspectors who are on the floor constantly. They act as the commissioners' eyes and ears. Any time any regulatory issue occurs the inspectors get the approval via cell phone from one of the commissioners who offer them direction on how to proceed. The majority of the time it has to do with either the game, money handling, or some other financial aspect of the table games or slots operations. This is done 24-7 and is the type of thing that is included in the reports that we receive the next day.

**Q:** What is your relationship with the management of Harrah's Casino?

**A:** I am a liaison with the general public, community and the casino management staff. I act on behalf of the gaming commissioners as long as I get their approval beforehand so the commissioners know I'm not trying to circumvent their authority. I have a good working relationship with the senior staff at the casino. When they see me on the floor I often stop and chat with them but I don't make decisions for the most part.



Mark in his office located in the Gaming Commission headquarters at Harrah's Casino.

**Q:** What is your background?

**A:** I grew up here on the reservation and am part Potawatomi but I am an enrolled member of the Winnebago tribe. Most of my relatives still live in this area and my mother and two of my older sisters and my brother are on the Potawatomi roll. The rest of us kids are on the Winnebago roll. I graduated from Royal Valley High School in 1980 and joined the Air Force in 1982. I am married and have three children and we reside in Topeka. My wife presently teaches at Washburn Rural. My son plans to graduate this year from Royal Valley. My daughter is in Junior High, and I have a 4-year-old son at home.

My educational background includes having a bachelor's degree in business management from Park University and I plan to finish my master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix this summer.

I retired from the military as a First Sergeant in the 338 Combat Training Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base. Before that I was a gunner for B52 bombers from 1986-92 and from 1992-2003 I was a boom operator for KC 135 tankers. A boom operator refuels other jets in the air and as I progressed in that position I eventually became a trainer, instructor and evaluator. Working with new jet pilots as a boom operator teacher was sometimes a very challenging and often exciting position to be in.

**Q:** What are your thoughts about Milton LaClair who recently retired as Chair of the Gaming Commission?

**A:** I have a great respect for Indian people who have gone into the military. The Native American culture holds veterans in very high esteem. And this can be linked or traced back to earlier days when men of the tribe were the ones who defended the tribe and that is something that has never been lost with our culture. My grandfather was in WW I. I had uncles in Korea and relatives who were in Vietnam. I think that over time that has helped me to come to appreciate them more. Since I spent almost 21 years in the Air Force I consider myself lucky to have spent so much time for so long and to not have experienced some of the horrors that I heard about from my friends and relatives regarding their tours of duty. I told Milton that I remember him back in the 1970s when he and some other tribal members helped us kids go to a special summer school session in St. Marys. When I came to work in the Gaming Commission he said that he had remembered me as a little guy back then. When I came on board as the Gaming Commission Executive Director last September, Milt and I would discuss things that we both could relate to about our military experiences. He called me "Sarge" and it made me extremely proud to get to know him and I respected his leadership. As an elder he brought dignity to this department and the community and he did such a good job while he was here.

## AICCK election: board members selected



The American Indian Chamber of Commerce election was held on March 10, 2005 at the Rock Building. The officers in the back row, are (L-r): Gail DuPuis, Secretary, Jean Howley, Vice President, Karla Bylund, President, and past President Peggy Houston. Front row (L-r): Lyman Boursaw, Member, Gwen Burns, Member, and Don Rice, Treasurer. Blake Garrison, Member, was unavailable for photo.



The American Indian Chamber of Commerce (AICCK) in Kansas met on March 10, 2005 to elect seven members to serve on the Board. Meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month.

AICCK was incorporated in May 2002 for the purpose of promoting American Indian businesses throughout the state of Kansas and across the Nation. The AICCK serves as a central point of contact for government agencies, corporations and other companies and individuals that are interested in contracting for products and services from American Indian businesses.

AICCK is not affiliated with any tribe; membership is open to anyone interested in supporting its purposes and goals, with voting mem-

berships available to American Indian business owners/tribal businesses and individuals. Non-voting associate memberships for non-Indian businesses, agencies and individuals as well as dues-reduced student memberships are also available. Membership dues are set each year by the Board of Directors.

### Purposes of AICCK:

- To provide information, instruction, training in the form of discussion groups, forums, panels, lectures, conferences and networking to assist potential and existing American Indian owned businesses so that they can effectively and successfully participate in business opportunities.
- To have American Indian business members serve as role models for Indian youth.
- To establish job opportunities for American Indians.
- To collaborate with educational institutions such as Haskell Indian Nations University

to enhance the knowledge of American Indians in business practices.

AICCK also participates as a member of the United States American Indian Chamber of Commerce, an entity that represents the interests of Indian Chambers of Commerce and their members on a national scale.

### Mark your calendar for the next meeting:

April 21, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.  
Downstairs at  
1100 Gage  
Topeka, KS

Contact:  
AICCK  
P O Box 750222  
Topeka, KS 66675-0222  
(785) 845-7919  
jnlmurk@hotmail.com  
Or visit the website:  
www.aicck.org

## Houston leaves Casino



Peggy Houston

Peggy Houston has accepted a position of Director of Guest Relations at Mystic Lake Casino, owned and operated by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. Her objective is to utilize acquired expertise, gain experience from other gaming environments as a change agent leading to the improvement and success of Indian Gaming Operations. She said, "It is a win / win situation as I contribute to their casino. I will gain valuable knowledge of the internal workings of a successful "stand alone" casino with the goal of bringing it back to PBPN."

*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, tenth edition* states the following: **Entrepreneur**— one who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise. The PBPN News would like to introduce a Prairie Band enrolled member the opportunity to be featured in the News. Contact the News by email for more information or telephone.

## Spotlight on David Noland: Entrepreneur



Mowing since 1988

### David's Lawn Care

Christian owned and operated—Isaiah 40:8  
David Noland, Owner  
Home # (785) 364-3488 or  
Mobile # (785) 851-0251



### Free Estimates

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- Mowing
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- Edging
- Leaf Removal
- Bagging
- Lawn Striping
- Aerating

Born and raised in Holton, David Noland is the son of Hedy and Willard. He attended Holton High School and went on to Pensacola Christian College in Florida. Currently he is the Youth Director at Bethany Baptist Church in Holton and works at the PBPN Head Start/Child Care Center [Ben-no-tteh Wigwam]. David has been working on the Reservation since September 2002 and has formerly worked at the Boys and Girls Club.



## Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation 7th Annual Earth Day Celebration



**Sunday, April 17, 2005  
Prairie Peoples Park, Mayetta, Kansas**

- Environmental Information/Activities
- Tree/Shrub/Flower Bulb Giveaway
- Community Clean-up Projects, Golden Age & Youth Activities
- Run/Walk/Bike Ride, Community Awards
- Recognition Presentation
- and many more family-friendly activities!

**PBPN Planning & Environmental Protection Office  
15434 K Road, Mayetta, KS 66509  
(785) 966-2946**

## It's almost Prairie Band Pow Wow time Here's how to help!

Submitted by: Laverne Hale

It is time for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Pow-wow once again. The Pow-wow Committee is working very hard to put together a pow-wow we can all be proud of.

It's looking pretty good so far and I'm betting this will be one of the best pow-wows this year. As you know, it takes a lot to put together a good one. We have different types of fundraisers going on like selling pow-wow booster ads for the program book and selling a package plan. Another fundraiser is through sponsorship. You can sponsor any of the existing contests or a portion of any of them.

Your sponsorship will be recognized in the program book next to the contest you sponsor. This can be a family, a group of employees, or individuals. Any contribution helps. You can also volunteer your services for the many jobs to be done during the pow-wow. All our contributors will be recognized on a thank you page in the program book.

Contact me for sponsorships. My number is 785-966-4014 or e-mail me at [laverneh@pbpnation.org](mailto:laverneh@pbpnation.org). Ruthie Harjo can take your name for volunteering. I hope we hear from you!

## News snaps



Photo submitted by: B.J. Darnall

The National Vice Commander of the American Legion, Charles W. Barrett, left, was in Holton recently for a visit to Holton's American Legion Post. We-Ta-Se Post 410 Commander Byron Darnall (far right) was invited to meet with Barrett who was on a Legion membership tour of Kansas. In the center are members of the Holton American Legion Post who hosted a dinner and reception for Barrett.



Duane Olberding, Clinical Coordinator at St. Francis Health Center, gave a workshop on Substance Abuse in the Workplace, at the department/program quarterly meeting on February 24 at the Elder Center. Tribal Council also attended the meeting and everyone was treated to breakfast before the presentation. Olberding also works with the PBPNs Alcohol & Drug Program and the Employee Assistance Program.

## Newspaper Information

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# From the Language Department

By Sydney Van Zile

## Tí ttak Kisès (Crane Moon)



This month is named after the crane. Now is the time you would see cranes returning from the south as it warms up. In older days, the weather was colder and you would still have ice on the ponds and creeks so about this time it would be melting off. The crane would be creating their nests and mating would take place. Their nest building would be located in the tops of the sycamore or cottonwood tree along secluded thickly wooded creeks. The nest itself is very large in relation to the size of the crane. The mating ritual is very noisy and at times you can possibly hear them along the Big Soldier.

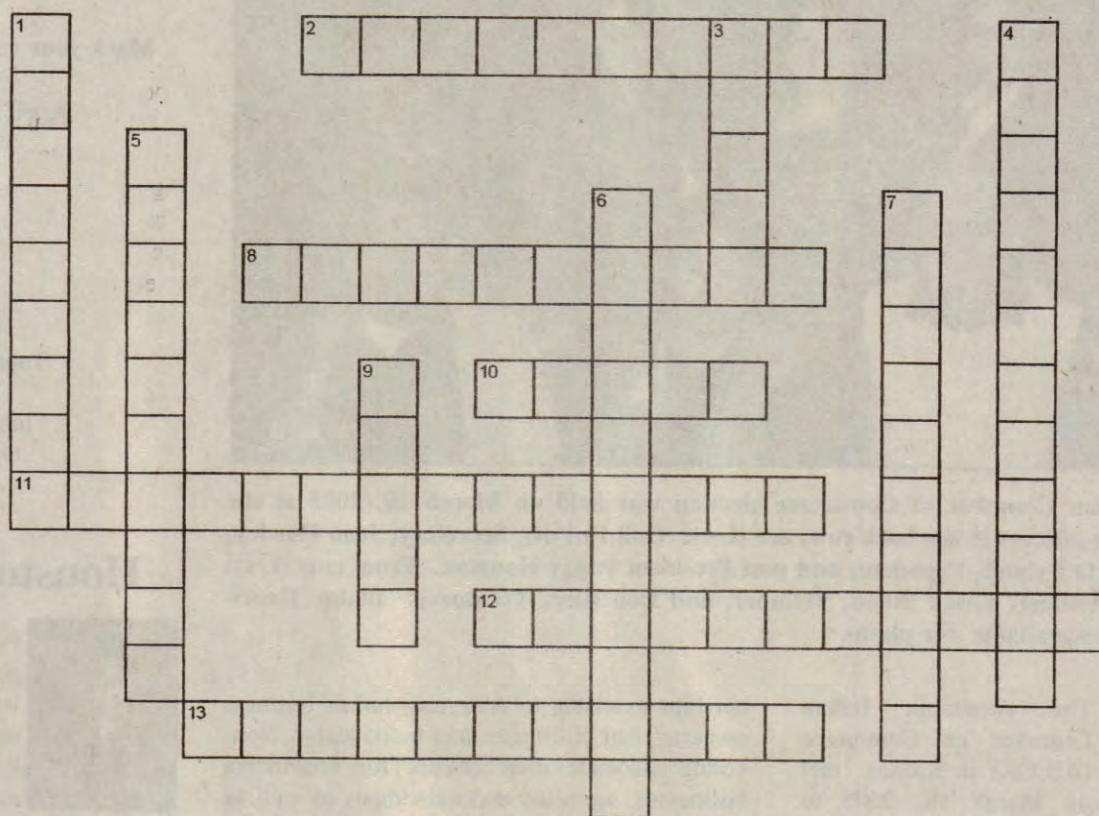
On the home front the winds bring warmer weather. Pények etegewat (they are planting potatoes) or pények ottégen (plant potatoes) takes place on or before March 17. The gooseberry plants start leafing out about now also the first shoots of the cattail plants are beginning to show. You can cut and eat them with a taste resembling asparagus or you can cook them like asparagus.

We hope you enjoy the crossword puzzle for the month. Answers will be found on another page in the paper. Eshgénibek begins March 20 by the dominant society; we know it to begin with the first thunders that signaled its arrival the first weekend in March.

### Conference information:

Another matter is that the Language and Cultural Department along with the Language and Cultural Committee are not involved in the upcoming language conference due to be held in June. We state this as a matter of clarity for the membership. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to call the department 785-966-2138.

## Spring Time in the Air



### ACROSS

- 2 All of us are going to hide (eggs)
- 8 Mushrooms
- 10 Chicks
- 11 Hunt -- We are going to look
- 12 Wild potatoes
- 13 Ducks

### DOWN

- 1 Milkweed
- 3 Rabbit
- 4 Crane Moon (March)
- 5 Spring
- 6 Frogs
- 7 Gooseberries
- 9 Eggs



## Tornado season: peak season to begin soon for Kansas

Information provided/courtesy of the National Weather Service

Tornado season is just around the corner according to "A Preparedness Guide" by the U. S. Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Weather Service. In the Kansas area, April through June is the peak tornado season.

The PBPB Fire Dept. has brochures on tornadoes and other safety issues. If you live in other areas, contact your fire department, Red Cross, or the National Weather Service for more information. For the latest list of radio frequencies, check the NOAA website:  
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr>

NOAA will report a "watch" or a "warning" in the advent of a tornado or severe weather and will interrupt radio and television broadcasts to inform the listener.

### A Watch is in effect:

This means conditions are favorable for severe weather.

- **Severe thunderstorm:** Severe thunderstorms are possible in your area.
- **Tornado:** Tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms.
- **Flash flood or flood:** Flash flooding or flooding is possible in your area.
- **Winter storm:** Hazardous winter weather conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, are possible in your area.
- **Hurricane/Typhoon:** Hurricane/Typhoon conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch.

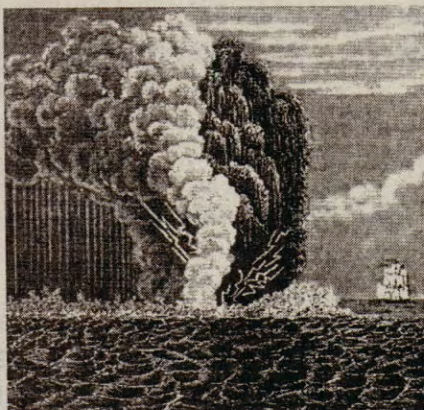
### A Warning is in effect:

This means severe weather is imminent or is occurring.

- **Severe thunderstorm:** a severe thunderstorm is imminent or has been indicated by

Doppler radar or reported by storm spotters.

- **Tornado:** A tornado is imminent or has been indicated by Doppler radar or reported by storm spotters. Move to your pre-designated place of safety immediately!
- **Flash flood or flood:** Flash flooding or flooding is occurring or is imminent. Take necessary precautions immediately!
- **Winter storm:** Hazardous winter weather conditions are forecast to occur within 12 hours or are about to begin in your area. Stay indoors!
- **Hurricane/Typhoon:** Hurricane/Typhoon conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 24 hours. Complete storm



preparations and evacuate if directed by officials.

### Signs to watch for:

- Dark, often greenish sky

- Wall cloud
- Large hail
- Loud roar; similar to a freight train

Remember, remain alert because sometimes tornadoes develop so rapidly a warning is not possible.

### Before a storm:

Develop a plan and have frequent drills.

### If a Warning has been issued:

- Move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement.
- If a basement is not available, go an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a piece of sturdy furniture.
- Stay away from windows.
- Get out of automobiles.
- Do not outrun a tornado in your vehicle, leave it immediately.
- If caught outside or in a vehicle, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection and should be abandoned.

**Storm Spotter Training April 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Elder Center. Questions call: 966-2164**



## News from Tribal Council Member Jackie Mitchell

Submitted by: Jackie Mitchell, Tribal Council Member

We have been very busy since the first of the year. We now have three new gaming commissioners.

Congratulations to Joyce Guerrero for being re-elected to four more years and welcome to Gary Mitchell for being elected to the gaming commission. Tom Tuckwin has been appointed to serve the remaining 11 months of Joyce's term from her first term. All come with years of experience and they will do an excellent job as gaming commissioners. Milt LeClair retired and the Potawatomi Nation can be proud of the contribution that Milt brought to the nation. The retirement dinner was a huge success honoring Milt.

Welcome to our newest lawyer, Teri Barr. Teri is a tribal member and will be a wonderful asset to the team. Our in-house lawyers are valuable assets to the Tribal Council in all aspects including day to day business. Teri will have many responsibilities including assisting with the housing program. David Prager is working on the motor fuel tax. All of Indian Country is waiting for the outcome of this effort.

Eric Hale and Jr. Wahweotten have been hired as the Prairie Band Potawatomi Management Committee members. They will assist the Tribal

Council in all regards to the management of the casino. They presented General Council with possible transition options at the special meeting. They did an excellent job of researching the different options. Membership will need to study the different options including renegotiating with Harrahs, putting up the contract for bid or self-management. All these options have pros and cons and will need to be reviewed by each tribal member. The decision that we make will have an impact on us for years to come. We must stand behind the final decision and fully support it to make our casino successful for years to come.

The Health Clinic has made a successful move to the former Holton Hospital. The facility is a perfect fit for the medical needs of our community. Tribal members have been impressed with the facility and care that is given. John Holtz has been hired to be the director and is doing a great job of coordinating everything to ensure that our tribal members have the best possible health care. Ongoing planning is occurring to finish the health facility on the reservation. The present holdup is high building costs; to get everything that has been planned for is coming in higher than anticipated. Work will continue on the new clinic and an update will be given to General Council in April. The Health Screening provided by KU nursing students was well attended and provided an informal health assessment for the community.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program is doing many wonderful things including developing a compost program. Latane Donelin showed us the facility and explained the process. Sludge is pressed from the wastewater treatment center at the casino facility and this is mixed with wood chips and other natural materials to make the compost. The product will be utilized by the farm program as fertilizer and will be available for personal use or sale to the community in the very near future. It was an impressive operation. Being a gardener, this is an exciting development for the gardeners in our area. In addition to helping protect our environment. Earth day is coming up and the committee has busy planning for this annual event. We all need to be respectful of our reservation at all times. Support Earth Day.

The Tribal Council continues to work toward resolution of all of these issues. Each victory that the nation accomplishes protects the sovereignty of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. It is a very exciting time for the nation and we can all be proud of what is happening within it at this time. If you have any questions about any of these issues, please call any of the council. Jackie Mitchell, Tribal Council Member 785 966 4016 or toll free at 877 715 6789. Email at [jackiem@pbpnation.org](mailto:jackiem@pbpnation.org). Thank you for your continued support and allowing me to represent you.

## 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 (as an attachment) or disk in Microsoft Word or stop by the News office with your information.

Anonymous letters will NOT be printed or accepted.

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.

## Car seats available for children

Submitted by: Rebekah Potts, Law Enforcement Office Manager

Car seats are once again available for tribal members at the Tribal Police Department. We are pleased to report in 2004 we distributed 99 child passenger safety seats to 79 tribal member families and we're even more pleased to see the seats being used regularly as we drive around the rez and see all our precious babies buckled up. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, this program saw a dramatic decrease in funding for 2005. As such, we're forced to place some restrictions on eligibility for receiving seats:

- Grandparents without primary care-giver responsibility for the child are not eligible to receive a seat.
- We will issue only one seat/child/year. For example, if you receive an infant seat for your child, we will not issue the next size for this same child once the child has grown out of the infant seat within a year of the last issue. This applies to any of the seat sizes.
- We don't intend to apply any income based limitations on who is/is not eligible to receive car seats but we do ask that you consider your financial position when deciding whether to get the child car seat from us or from a retailer. We realize income level is not always a good indicator of life's expenses but we ask that you consider that other tribal member families with children may have more of a financial need.

There are four different sizes of child passenger safety seats available:

**Infant Carrier** – for infants 5-20 pounds installed rear facing in the back seat.

**Convertible Seat** – for babies 20 pounds but not yet a year old installed rear facing in the back seat. Once the baby reaches one year old and 20 pounds this seat can then be turned forward facing and used until s/he reaches 40 pounds.

**Forward Facing/High Back Booster** – for toddlers. Installed forward facing in the back seat and used with the internal harness until the child reaches 40 pounds. Once 40 pounds, the internal harness is removed and the seat is used with the vehicle's lap/shoulder belt at a belt-positioning booster.

**Backless Booster** – The big kid seat. This belt-positioning booster is again used with the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt in the back seat. Older children are more inclined to use this seat for longer as it doesn't look like a "baby seat" but does the job of keeping the vehicle's seat belt properly positioned low and snug across the hips.

For more details call Rebekah Potts at 785-966-3024. On arrival please bring proof of tribal enrollment for either parent or child.

## 2nd Annual Conference "Construction in Indian Country"

May 5-6, 2005

At the Sheraton Crescent Hotel  
Phoenix, AZ

For more registration information, go to the following website:  
<http://construction.asu.edu>

## Pow Wow Booster 2005 Support your Pow Wow

- **Level 1—\$25:** You get 1 pow wow admission, 1 pow wow program book and your name in the program as a pow wow booster.
- **Level 2—\$40:** You get 2 pow wow admissions, 1 pow wow program book and business card size ad to send whatever message you wish. You design .

See a Pow Wow Committee Member Today to Become a Booster:

- At the Casino—Ruth Harjo or Blake Garrison
- At the Government Center—Ann DeCouteau, Laverne Hale, Jim Potter or Jolene Thomas
- At the Police Dept.—Micki Martinez or Rebekah Potts
- Out and about—Chago Hale, Dumps Mitchell or Richele Pahmahmie

Questions: call 966-3024 or 1-877-727-6743

## The Unnatural and Accidental Women

by First Nations playwright Marie Clements

Washburn University Theater  
Garvey Fine Arts Center, Washburn University  
April 29, 30, May 6, and 7 at 8:00 p.m.  
May 8 at 2:00 p.m.



- ▶ General admission: \$5.00
- ▶ Admission is free for students, faculty and staff with Washburn or Haskell I.D.
- ▶ Tickets are available at the box office one hour prior to the performance.
- ▶ For more information call (785) 231-1010, ext. 1639

- ▶ This play tells the story of a young native woman who is looking for her missing mother.
- ▶ The young woman stumbles upon her mother's murderer and avenges her mother's death.

- ▶ The play is guest-directed by Julie Little Thunder (Creek), founder of the Tulsa Indian Actors Workshop.

Recommended for persons 17 and older.



## We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410 holds Flag ceremony on Flag Day Veterans, Tribal Police, and Fire Department participate in special ritual

We-Ta-Se Post 410 organized a Flag ceremony that was held on Flag Day in Prairie Peoples Park. Flags that were no longer serviceable were gathered beforehand by members of the Post and retired in a special ceremony that was conducted before a crowd of around 30 people who came to pay their final respects to the Flags that had previously served as symbols of America's freedom.

We-Ta-Se members conducted the ritual by following American Legion guidelines established in 1937.

The following is a photo essay of the process involved in the ceremony and some of the people who came together to pay their respects that day. Also included is some information about the United States flag that you might find useful.

photos by:  
Mary Young and Suzanne Heck



Above is an example of the type of flag that was retired.

A flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner of finest silk. Its intrinsic value may be trifling or great; but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that we and our Veterans have worked for and lived for, and died for a free nation of free men and women, true for the faith of the past, devoted to the ideals and practice of justice, freedom and democracy.

"Let these faded flags of our country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites and their places be taken by bright new flags of the same size and kind, and let no grave of our soldiers, sailor, or airman dead be unhonored and unmarked."

-American Legion Officer's Guide



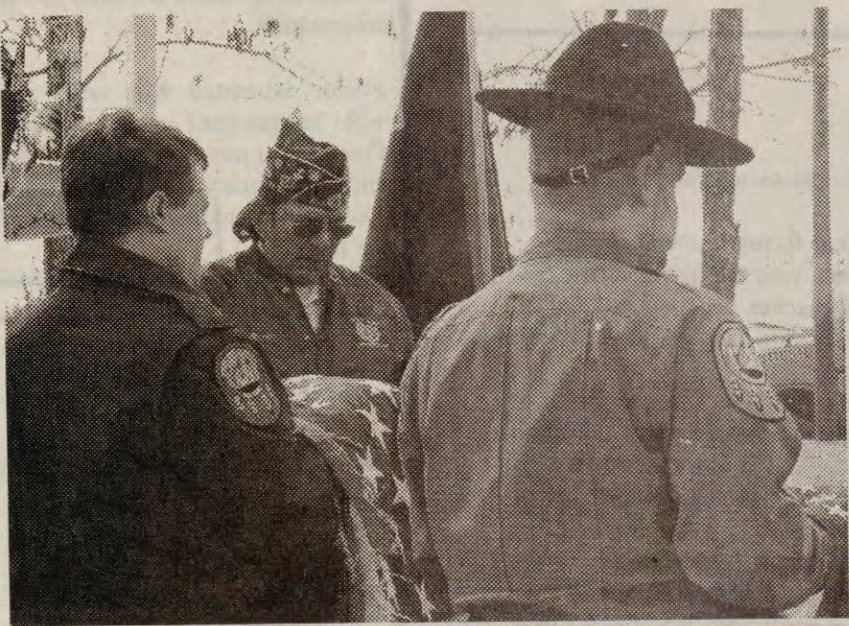
We-Ta-Se Liaison Jim Darnall shows a box of flags that were to be retired during the ceremony.



Joan Rebar, left, and Maxine Ramirez, right, cooked a soup and fry bread luncheon for participants before the ceremony at the Boys & Girls Club.



The group is seen here practicing before the ceremony began. Guidelines called for the ritual to be conducted outside before a small fire that was prepared ahead of time. The group used American Legion protocol during the ceremony.



B.J. Darnall, We-Ta-Se Post Commander (center) leads the group through the procession. With their backs to the camera are Scott Price, Emergency Services (left) and Russell Whiteside (right) of the Tribal Police who are holding a couple of flags to be retired.

Ralph Lundin acted as the Second Vice-Commander and is seen here preparing for his role before the ceremony began.



### Meaning of colors of the Flag

- White for purity and innocence
- Red for valor and bravery
- Blue for vigilance, perseverance and justice

(U.S. Code, Title 4)



### Why stars and stripes on the Flag?

- Stars symbolize the heavens
- Stripes symbolize rays of light emanating from the sun

(U.S. Code, Title 4)



Carrying the flags to be retired are veterans Glenn Levier, left, and Jim Lyddane. Behind them is Jim Darnall and Larry Rodecap.



Seated in the photo observing the Flag ceremony was Marge Abney (l) and Maxine Ramirez (r) who are accompanied by T.J. Kitchkommie (l) and Joan Rebar (r) in back. The ceremony was held behind the We-Ta-Se stand in the park on a cool but sunny day.



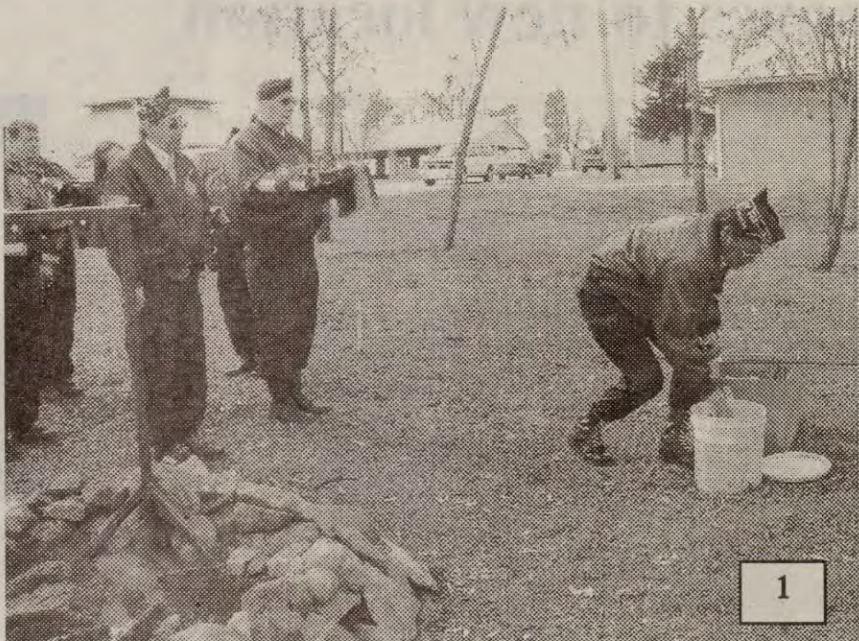
# We-Ta-Se Flag Ceremony

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*"These Flags have become faded and worn over the graves of our departed comrades and the dead soldiers, sailors, and airmen of all our Nation's wars."*

*-American Legion Officer's Guide*



These photos show: 1. Jim Darnall, who acted as the Sergeant-at-Arms, dipping the flag in a bucket of kerosene; 2. Darnall holding the dipped flag as it begins to burn over a rack; 3. Another view of the flag as it is finally draped and begins to burn; 4. The flame of the fire getting brighter as the flag is retired; 5. Francis Shopteese shooting a volley into the air.

*"To a clean and purging flame we commit these Flags, worn out in worthy service. As they yield their substance to the fire, may your Holy Light spread over us and bring our hearts renewed devotion to God and Country."*

*-American Legion Officer's Guide*



Those who took part in the processional are front row left to right: Ralph Lundin, Francis Shopteese, Cheri-Micol Smith, Emery Hale, B.J. Darnall. Back row left to right: Francis Jensen, Russell Whiteside, Larry Rodecap, Jim Lyddane, Scott Price, Glenn Levier and Jim Darnall.



The Tribal Police Department was represented by Larry Rodecap, left, and Russell Whiteside, right, who were in their dress uniforms for the occasion.



The photo to the right shows in the forefront Cheri-Micol Smith and Scott Price holding the flags.



## Some U.S. Government Flag Codes

- The Flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
- The Flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- The Flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery.
- The Flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle or of a railroad train or a boat. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.
- The Flag should be displayed only from sunrise to sunset, however, the Flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

(Title 4-FLAG AND SEAL, SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, AND THE STATES-of the United States Code Chapter 1-THE FLAG)



## Clinic moves to new location



Above photo: Dr. Richard Pruiksmas clearing out his office.



Above photo: Paula Moore and Thomasine Pahmahmie-Arteaga ready to greet the community at the new location. Rhonda Schneider, Medical Records Supervisor is in the background.



Above photo: Alicia Green and Ben Joslin of the IT Dept. load a van with the clinic's computer hardware.



Photos, L-R: A look at the old and new. The change took place in a matter of days.



Friday, February 25, 2005, was a busy day at the health clinic. This was moving day.

**PBP Family Health Center**  
510 Kansas Avenue  
Holton, Kansas 66436  
  
866-694-6728  
Or  
785-364-2176  
  
John Holtz, Administrator



Staff were seen hunting down empty boxes to pack loose items while the IT staff were unhooking computers and loading them in a van. Road and Bridge staff drove the huge truck and the Maintenance crew loaded it up. On hand to assist in the move were PARR clients.



Photos by Mary Young and Suzanne Heck



Above photo: Kristina Galvan with Michael Carpenter in the pharmacy at the new location.



### Ask the Dentist

By Jessica A. Rickert, DDS

Dear Dr. Rickert,

I had a root canal done, but I can still feel the tooth. It's not painful, but isn't this tooth dead?  
Sincerely,  
Larry G.

Dear Larry G.,

Because of the root canal procedure, called endodontics, most teeth can now be saved. There is nothing like the patient's very own tooth for function and esthetics.

A root canal removes all the living tissue inside the tooth. This is accessed through an opening in the enamel and dentine. The nerve canal space is filled with blood vessels, capillaries, connective tissue and nerve fibers. Damage can occur from a large cavity, trauma, many past restorations to the same tooth and idiopathically, meaning without any explanation or reason. The nerve will finally die. The soft tissue inside the tooth tries to swell, but the tooth and bone are hard, so the swelling exits out the end of the root. The body reacts with an inflammatory response. This is an abscess. Often, the patient is in severe pain with throbbing. Sometimes, though, the abscess is discovered with routine x-rays, and the patient remembers only mild discomfort in the past.

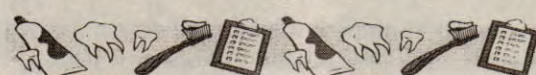
The whole purpose of the root canal procedure is to remove the damaged soft tissue. The inflammation will then stop, and the patient will feel relief. The nerve space cannot be left empty, and the dentist fills it with gutta percha and sealer past. The patient can see none of this, as it is visible only on x-ray.

A periodontal ligament surrounds the teeth, which are fibers tinier than a single hair, hundreds of them suspending the tooth in the bone. The fibers compress each time you chew, and then they relax. Alongside the ligaments are hundreds of nerve fibers. These keep you from breaking a tooth. The nerve fibers let you know where the tooth is positioned during the chewing cycle. This is called proprioception. This is what you are feeling in that tooth. The tooth cannot distinguish hot or cold, or sweets or bitter.

The dentist cannot see how the root canal is going except with x-ray or a fibro-optic microscope. Mostly, the dentist does the root canal by feel. The canal is three dimensional and convoluted. It is not expected that the dentist can always get 100% of the nerve, but the dentist tries to shape the canal the a certain diameter and length, and this is usually enough to "cure" the tooth. IF the abscess at the end of the root doesn't heal, there is another procedure called an apicoectomy. The dentist may refer you to an endodontist, a dentist who only does root canals, for this surgery. Basically, the abscess is surgically removed from the root end, as is inflamed bone and soft tissue. The end of the root is sealed, and a few sutures are placed. The gums will heal quickly, but the bone can take up to 6 months to heal; this depends on the individual patient's healing response. The tooth might be sensitive to hard biting during this time.

After a root canal, the patient is strongly urged to have a full crown placed. Many patients are using teeth, which were root canalled and crowned over 30 years ago.

Root canals are routine but sometimes patients are afraid; some patients fall asleep during the procedure. Root canals are expensive but with modern dentistry, hundreds of teeth can be saved.



### Fried Bread Man

In this March issue of the Prairie Band Potawatomi News, the three children; Joe Fast Elk, Mary Swift Bird, Linda Sitting Arrow; have invited Andrew White Wolf or Knel-bu-sa to meet Fried Bread Man. The kids are inside a comfortable bark house, sitting on the logs around the blazing crackling fire that Joe, with the help of Andrew, has prepared. Where there used to be patches of snow is now a carpet of green grass. The trees have buds on them. The night sky is clear with no clouds in sight; the stars seem to twinkle, with the new full moon. The children do their tobacco offering and become silent as they pray together.

A warm comforting fog engulfs the four, and Fried Bread Man walks out of the cloud. He greets the three children, and shakes their hands. He smiles warmly at the fourth child, and shakes the hand of Andrew.

"I am very happy to meet you, Andrew," said Fried Bread Man.

"Thank you for inviting me, Fried Bread Man," said Andrew. "Joe has told me a lot about you. He said that you are able to help kids like me."

"That is right, Andrew," said Fried Bread Man.

"Our teacher, Ms. Redhorse at school, had a meeting with my parents last week. They reported that I need to be evaluated for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)," said Andrew. "But I first have to see Dr. Good Medicine at the tribal clinic."

"Andrew, what is Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder?" asked Mary.

"Ms. Redhorse told my parents that ADHD is when I fail to give close attention to details or when I make careless mistakes in schoolwork. I have difficulty paying attention to tasks or play activities, and I do not seem to listen when spoken directly to. And, most of the time, I can't seem to sit still. Do you think I can be helped Fried Bread Man?" asked Andrew.



"Yes Andrew, you can be helped. But I want you to do the following things. Can you do these Andrew?" asked Fried Bread Man.

"Yes I can," said Andrew.

"I want you to get up before sunrise and do a tobacco offering for four days. Pray that you will be helped. Ask our Creator to help you overcome the ADHD as the sun rises to the east. Now Andrew, repeat back to me what will you do," said Fried Bread Man.

"I will get up before sunrise for four days and give a tobacco offering, and pray to the Creator and ask for help to overcome my ADHD as the sun rises," said Andrew.

"Please be patient with the medical providers and people who will be evaluating you, Andrew," said Fried Bread Man. "I want to thank you, Joe, for bringing Andrew to our small gathering."

"Andrew has been my playmate at school since we were in kindergarten," said Joe.

"Should you need people to help you, just let us know," said Mary.

"I know how it feels to have a rough time," said Linda.

"Before we leave, I have some information to leave with all of you," said Fried Bread Man. "On March 20, 2005 is the first day of spring. Remind your parents and family that they offer their tobacco to mother earth before they turn the ground. To ask permission and to observe certain trees that may be budding which is time to plant different crops. We will be having many thunderstorms in the spring. Remember to put out your tobacco. And to have an eagle feather or crafts on your walls in your homes. So that when the storms (divine natures) come through they will see that it's an Indian home and will pass around and do no harm."

To our readers, have a Happy Easter Holiday. This concludes the March issue of Fried Bread Man.





PBPN Health Insurance Plan Research and Development

Submitted and written by Cecil Walker

In April of 2004, I was directed by the PBPN general membership and Tribal Council to research into the possibility of obtaining health insurance for all Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal members and employees throughout the United States. The PBPN has 4,816 members both nationally and internationally. With the administrative staff, I amassed demographic data about our members, to include ages, gender, and geographical location of our members. No names or addresses were included in this data to protect anonymity of our members. I organized all the members by state, by gender, and adult status versus minor status based on age. These three data clusters were then further organized by gender, location and age information again; all the data was organized by different compilations for separate and different analysis of each cluster.

Using the geographical data I searched for doctors, clinics, and medical facilities located within a 5-mile radius of each zip code containing members, a 15-mile radius, a 25-mile radius and a 50-mile radius from each provided zip code. From this information I contacted several of these facilities and providers within each zip code to inquire which health insurance companies they currently accept. I performed this inquiry process for all the zip codes I was provided with across the United States. We have members in all but two states, as well as members in two provinces in Canada, and members in the country of Belgium. For this study, I performed searches for PBPN members located only within the United States.

I then contacted each health insurance company identified to inquire as to who their administrators were for all of their accounts, and what type of inter-local agreements they had across the United States. During this search I discovered several tribes who already have health insurance in place for their members. However, upon contacting each of these tribes I found that they did not have health insurance in place for their entire membership.

I have talked to all the major and nationally-spread health insurance companies, and the majority of national TPA (Third Party Administration) firms. TPAs process, manage, and settle all claims for each of their insurance clients. It will behoove us as a tribe to contract with a TPA to handle all of our members nationally.

Now that I have given you some background on what was required to get this far, let me discuss what will be happening next to bring a health insurance plan to the Tribe at the January General Council meeting. As I presented at the last Tribal Council meeting, there are several issues that will need to be

addressed to set up this health insurance plan. These topics include plan development, administration, eligibility, funding considerations, and ultimately how to execute communicating our health plan to our members and tribal employees. I will briefly outline each area as follows:

Plan Development:

- It is the PBPN's intent to provide health insurance benefits for both the members of the tribe as well the employees of PBPN. In addition, it is the Tribe's intent to allow PBPN members to add non-PBPN family members, at those family's own cost, to this program.
- There are unique hurdles to overcome in our situation. The Tribe is a sovereign nation not subject to state laws. However, it is advisable to use certain federal laws both for protection and to gain access to national insurance markets.
- PBPN will need to determine the health insurance benefit design and the limits we will issue. I am sure that the design used by the current employees and those that will transfer over from the coverage provided by their gaming employer will be at least partially determined by their current level of benefits. However, we also need to examine the comparative current health insurance plans members are using when determining the benefits for all of our tribal members. We will design our health insurance plan to make the best use of any tribal health resources and programs available.

Administration/Funding:

- Once we determine plan parameters, we need to go to the health insurance market and choose an administrative partner for claims administration.
- There are independent Third Party Administrators (commonly known as TPAs) and there are Carriers (examples: Aetna, GE, United Health Care, Blue Cross) that administer and coordinate medical claims activity.
- There are two ways to fund a medical plan - fully insured or self-funded. In our case, a self-funded plan is the most advantageous. A self-funded plan will lower the potential risk costs of our membership; because of the total membership size of our plan, the overall wellness of our members is healthy, which reduces the potential dollars required for health claims.

The way self-insurance works is as follows:

- We will choose a Third Party Administrator (TPA) or Carrier to set up the plan and provide claims payment administration.
- TPAs and/or Carriers rent negotiated physician networks nationwide on our behalf so that our members and employees will have access to doctors, clinics and hospitals across the country. As part of their physician network negotiations, they will have negotiated our dollar parameters on billings from providers in the network. Consequently the tribe will receive significant discounts to the tribal health insurance plan.
- We must then set risk levels for our health insurance plan. Risk levels refer to the amount of dollars we will maintain in our health insurance plan to

cover all claims. We will work with actuaries to develop templates that will let us determine a few factors about the risk exposure (dollar exposure) to our tribe:

- We will set up an expected exposure limit per participant, member and tribal employee. This will be based on their age, gender, location where they live and their current probable health.
- We will set up an aggregate exposure for the entire plan. This may be separate for the tribal members versus tribal employees, but this will set our maximum exposure level. Aggregate is the maximum out of pocket expenses the tribe will pay for the year.
- We will determine re-insurance levels for our health insurance program to insure the tribe's dollar exposure does not exceed the aggregate levels we will establish. The re-insurance level will take over when the Tribal health insurance plan has reached our set aggregate dollar limits. This re-insurance amount will economically be set for the best deal for our tribe.
- We do not want to enter a self insured plan without first establishing a dollar amount that the tribe is willing to pay. This dollar amount, risk, is the monies the tribe will be required to pay. To that end, we will purchase two levels of re insurance to cover our risk.

First, we will purchase what is called "specific" re-insurance. This provides protection on how much risk the tribe will take on any one claim. An example: The tribe chooses to cover individual costs up to \$150,000. If we have one medical claim for \$300,000, our health insurance plan would pay \$150,000 and the specific re-insurance carrier would pay the rest of the bill.

Next, we will set up what is called "aggregate" reinsurance. This protects our health insurance plan for total aggregate exposure from all of the members and tribal employees for the entire year. An example: We buy aggregate exposure coverage and set our self insured coverage at \$10,000,000 per year, and that year we have claims from all members and tribal employees totaling \$12,000,000. In this case, the tribal health insurance plan would pay \$10,000,000 and the aggregate re-insurance would pay \$2,000,000. This all happens behind the scenes and is seamless and not visible to the tribal employees and members.

Plan Communication/Implementation:

- Ultimately, after the health insurance plan is in place, we must also establish how the health insurance plan will be implemented and how we will communicate with our tribal members and tribal employees.
- After we determine our plan parameters, risk and exposures and funding, a date to implement the plan will be set so that everyone has their medical cards and all associated materials before our health plan begins.
- There will be many phone calls concerning the health insurance plan on an ongoing basis. We will set the standard operating procedures on how the health insurance plan will be managed and handled. Either all the communication of

our services can be handled internally or we can partner with an outside vendor.

- We will need to discuss what role technology will play in our communication to tribal members/tribal employees. One use of technology will be that we will need to develop a website that will provide links to our PBPN website and the PBPN health insurance plan information.

The reasons I have chosen Self-Funding are as follows:

- PBPN will have greater control over the health insurance plan, benefits and the administration of the health insurance plan.
- PBPN will avoid risk charges from health insurance companies and health insurance premium taxes from health insurance companies.
- PBPN may provide pre-emption from individual state mandated benefits (ERISA). Many states have requirements on what services must be included in a health insurance plan that is implemented in that state.
- PBPN health insurance may be available for funding by using tax advantage trusts funds.
- This type of health insurance plan has a more favorable cash flow for the Tribe.

PBPN can establish mechanisms to subsidize our needs-based groups:

- We can define health care objectives for our diverse membership which may include medical issues more commonly found among Native Americans such as diabetes, cardiac and cholesterol issues.
- We can establish administrative infrastructure to support our health insurance plan.
- We can establish a sustainable level of benefits with tribal resources, government, Indian Health Services (IHS), Medicare and potential other resources that may be available.
- We can then communicate the use of health, wellness and disease management services.
- We can take advantage of cost containment tools such as domestic health care centers, managed care, demand and disease management programs and plan administration functions.

After my review of the potential costs of health insurance monthly compared to what PBPN is currently paying for their employees, I found that we would have a huge savings. Below I have made a chart listing the types of groups you currently have. Currently you are separating your health insurance into four groups. My plan uses only two groups. The first dollar column is my estimate of health insurance costs, the third column is your actual costs and the fourth column is what you will be expecting if you renew the existing health insurance plan. Should you decide to add dental and vision to my estimate, that cost should be approximately \$60 per month for a family.

Groups	Est.	Actual Rate	Renewal Rate
Single Employee	\$100-250	\$324	\$389
Employee + Children		\$624	\$749
Employee _ Spouse		\$696	\$835
Employee + Family	\$250-\$500	\$996	\$1,195

Through all my research I only found one company that would develop a plan that would provide coverage not only for tribal employees but also provide coverage to all members and member companies across the nation. That company is Willis, www.willis.com. Willis has revenues of 1.7 billion per year and is ranked third in the world.

In addition, AFLAC has developed a plan to cover all tribal members with secondary coverage that can be purchased by either the tribe or each individual for a minimum of \$10 per month. Each individual can add AFLAC benefits to this, if they should so desire. They have designed a plan that will work for all of our members both on and off the reservation.

Developing a self-insured tribal health insurance plan will not only save the tribe money, this can also become a new business for the tribe as well. I have developed the above strategy to allow for the plan to be developed into a tribal business.

If you should have any additional questions and or comments please send me an email at cwalker557@aol.com or give me a call at 407-421-0702 (cell) or 407-869-8567 (home). In addition you can send a facsimile to 407-869-8573.

Our tribal membership is international and our potential for tribal economic development is international as well. We are at the beginning of a new future for our people. It is upon us to develop a base for our tribal economic growth that is not dependent on gaming. In order to provide diverse services for our tribal members we must have a diverse base of economic development to support it. All of our tribal members are important.

### Health Tip

Get plenty of the following:

Rest

Exercise

Water

Food



Making Medicare Make Sense

Answers To Some of The Most Commonly Asked Medicare Questions

**Q: The end of January, the Department of Health and Human Services announced additional information about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit that will begin in January 2006. What are some of the key elements that I should be aware of?**

**A:** For too long now America's seniors have struggled to pay for their medicines. In less than a year, for the first time, Medicare will offer a prescription drug benefit to help them pay for the prescription drugs that their doctor tells them they need. All people with Medicare are eligible regardless of their income or how they receive their medical coverage.

- The Drug benefit was signed into law on December 8, 2003 under the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA), and enrollment in the new drug plans will begin November 15, 2005.

- This legislation creates the first prescription drug benefit for beneficiaries in fee-for-service Medicare. Medicare Advantage plans such as health maintenance organizations will continue to offer prescription drug coverage to enrollees and enhance their existing coverage. While the Medicare-approved drug discount card remains active throughout 2005, these new regulations begin the shift from providing discounts and temporary assistance alone to providing broad-based coverage in 2006.

- This new benefit will offer comprehensive help for those with limited means, which means no premiums or deductibles for more than nine million Medicare beneficiaries.

- Beneficiaries will have a choice between at

least two plans available in their area that will cover a comprehensive set of both brand name and generic drugs.

- Beneficiaries will have convenient access to pharmacies, generally within just a few miles of their homes.

- Beneficiaries living in a nursing homes also will be able to enroll in a drug plan and take advantage of the new benefit, because all prescription drug plans will have to contract with the pharmacies that serve long-term care facilities.

- We will also make sure that beneficiaries who receive both Medicare and Medicaid and who currently receive their drug benefit through Medicaid will be automatically enrolled in a plan if they fail to sign up by the middle of December so they will have no gap in their prescription drug coverage.

**Q: In addition to creating the first Medicare prescription drug benefit in history, this new law also helps make sure that retirees who currently have health and drug coverage from their past employer or union continue to get that coverage. How will this work?**

**A:** First and foremost, the new law gives employers and unions a menu of flexible options enabling them to continue providing high-quality drug coverage for their retirees at a lower cost.

- An employer whose coverage is at least as good as or better than the Medicare benefit can apply to receive some tax-free assistance to assist them with covering the costs of such coverage for their retirees.

- The rules also help employers supplement or "wrap around" the Medicare drug benefit, so comprehensive coverage can be provided at a lower cost, just as many employers currently supplement Part A and B benefits.

- Finally, for the many retirees in plans with little or no employer contribution, enrolling in the Medicare drug benefit allows them to lower their drug costs because of

some special assistance available for them.

**Q: I know there are different ways some Medicare beneficiaries can get their Medicare through other health plan options and there will be more opportunities for beneficiaries to choose one of these Medicare Advantage Programs. What are they?**

**A:** There are several ways that beneficiaries can receive their Medicare benefits. The new law creates new regional Medicare Advantage Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs) contracting option as an additional choice for Medicare beneficiaries beginning on Jan. 1, 2006.

- This will provide important new options for Medicare beneficiaries who lack comprehensive and inexpensive supplemental coverage that provides extra benefits and lower out-of-pocket costs compared to the traditional fee-for-service Medicare plan.

- Unlike the current Medicare Advantage program, which features local plans that serve individual counties and groups of counties, the new regional PPOs will serve 26 regions across the U.S., which include all rural areas. All regional PPO plans are required to offer the same benefits as traditional fee-for-service Medicare with simplified cost-sharing and new protections against catastrophic costs. They are also expected to offer additional benefits not available in fee-for-service Medicare.

For more information about the upcoming Medicare prescription drug benefit or other Medicare questions try www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-Medicare, 1-800-633-4227. This Medicare column will serve as a means to educate readers on updates to the new Medicare legislation.





## Support the Fire Keepers Elder Center: buy a raffle ticket



(L-r): Carol Mooris and Julia Lewis enjoy what they do, selling raffle tickets. Bernadette Lewis was unavailable for photo.

Seniors hold fund-raisers. Proceeds will go towards a pool table in the lower level of the Fire Keepers Elder Center. The ladies also sponsored an Indian taco sale held on March 18, 2005. On April 1, they will hold the raffle ticket drawing at the Center for the food basket shown in the photo above.



### Seniors hold fund-raisers

Julia Lewis, Carolyn Mooris and Bernadette Lewis have been instrumental in the most recent fundrais-

## Food Basket Raffle Drawing April 1, 2005

At the Fire Keepers Elder Center

Tickets 3 for \$1.00

Plus \$50.00 Gift Certificate

From: Fairview Farms Meat Co.



- 5# Pork Chops 2 pk.
- 5# Bacon 1# pk.
- 5# Steaks 1 pk.
- 5# Sausage
- 1 Slab Spare Ribs
- 1 Pork Roast

# April "2005"

## Potawatomi Fire Keepers Elder Center

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sloppy Joes Baked Potato Sliced Tomatoes Fruit Salad	Chicken Teriyaki Brown Rice Steamed Broccoli Tossed Salad	Meatloaf Potato & Gravy Green Beans Dinner Roll	Fried Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo Squash Casserole Dinner Roll	Fajitas Hominy Rice Refried Beans Tossed Salad
Beef Stroganoff Steamed Broccoli Caesar Salad Buttered Toast	Baked Chicken Wild Rice Steamed Spinach Dinner Roll	Corned Beef & Cabbage Grilled Red Potato Peas / Tossed Salad Sliced Wheat Bread	Sliced Ham Yams & Stuffing Green Bean Casserole Dinner Roll	Tuna Salad Sandwich Tomato Soup Garden Salad Crackers
Chili & Hot Dog Baked Fries Chefs Salad Cheese & Crackers	Southwestern Chicken Potato & Gravy Steamed Zucchini Black Bean Salad	Creamed Chipped Beef Over Noodles Mixed Vegetables Texas Toast	Chicken Sandwich Broccoli & Cheese Soup Crackers Jelled Waldorf Salad	Chicken Pot Pie Buttered Noodles Tossed Salad Biscuit
Liver & Onion Potato & Gravy Steamed Carrots Dinner Roll	Chicken Stir-Fry White Rice Oriental Veg. Soup Salad and Bread	Pork Chops Mashed Potatoes Succotash Dinner Roll	Lasagna Green Beans Tossed Salad Garlic Toast	Baked Fish Potato & Gravy Brussels Sprouts Dinner Roll

Native Seniors 50+ Free  
Adults \$3.50  
Children \$2.00



Lunch Hours 11:30-12:30  
Menu Subject to Change



## Recipe Corner

By Mary Young

Cold weather is not over yet! Light snow covered the ground on March 9 with predictions of more snow in the coming weeks!! According to Punxsutawney Phil, the King of the Ground-hogs, six more weeks of winter were predicted!!

### Corn Pudding

Submitted by Diane Amour

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 box jiffy corn bread
- 1 can cream corn
- 1 can corn (drained)
- 2 eggs
- 8 oz. sour cream

Mix together. Top with grated parmesan cheese (optional).

Bake for 45 minutes - hour at 375 degrees.

### Spanish Rice

Submitted by Donica Nafiez

- 4 cups medium grain rice (white)
- 1/4 cup sofrito or
- 1/2 cup to your taste (pre-freeze)
- 2 pkg. sazón
- 1 can gandules (pigeon peas) or chick peas or red beans
- 2 slices bacon fried and crumbled
- 2 tbsp. adobo or 2 tbsp. of salt, with 1 tsp. of garlic, and 1 tsp. of pepper (black)
- 4 cups water

Fry bacon, crumble, (do not remove oil from pot). While oil is still hot, add sofrito, gandules and cook for 1 minute or so, then add sazón, adobo (or mixture of salt, etc.). Stir well, add rice, and immediately add water. Simmer on stove for approximately 5-10 minutes, until most of the water is gone—you will see small holes that the water was bubbling from, this indicates most of the water is gone. Make sure the pot has a tight lid, if necessary, place aluminum foil on top of pot and replace cover. Steam for 7-10 minutes. Use a large spoon to gently turn the rice over in pot so that most of the bottom is now on top. Do not stir, this causes the rice to stick together. Add a small amount of water if necessary to create more steam. Check consistency of rice, rice will expand.

### Sofrito

Submitted by Donica Nafiez

(This is a puree of chili peppers, green peppers, onion, garlic, cilantro and culantro—a stronger Caribbean version of cilantro)

This mixture is a great base for soups, stews, or anything else that needs some jazzing up. Most large cities have sofrito available for purchase in jars, made by Goya brand. Or if you are more adventurous try making some on your own!

- 1 yellow pepper—stemmed and minced
- 1 green pepper—stemmed and minced
- 1 onion
- 1 large tomato
- 4 garlic cloves
- 1 habanero pepper—stemmed and minced
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. saffron or annatto powder
- 1 bunch cilantro, chopped

Combine all ingredients in a blender and puree until smooth. Add the tomato only before you start cooking. This can be frozen or stored in refrigerator for 5-7 days.

### Sorbet Cocktails

Submitted by Donica Nafiez

Strawberries with stems cut

- off
- 2 cups apple juice
- 2 bananas, peeled and cut into pieces

Blend together. Pour into separate cups. Add any flavor sorbet ice cream. Scoop sorbet into little ice cream balls. Put ice cream into cups.

### Spiced Fruit Smoothie

- 1-1/4 cups orange juice
- 1 cup frozen berries (your choice)
- 1 small ripe banana, cut into chunks
- 1/2 cup tofu
- 2 ice cubes
- 1/4 tbsp. (each) cinnamon and nutmeg

Combine and blend all of the ingredients. Blend until smooth. Pour into glasses and serve immediately.

Please submit your favorite recipes to the PBP News Paper. 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!

## Senior women's annual pool tournament

Held on  
March 5, 2005  
Fire Keepers  
Elder Center



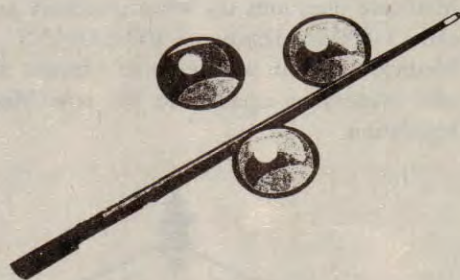
1st Place— Carol DeWitt



2nd Place—Laura Abeyta



3rd Place— Juanita Jessepe



## The Anishinabek - The "Original People"

Submitted by: Ma Dos/Doris A. Potts-Zygnaniuk

I am submitting this creation story to the newspaper in the hopes that our children will take the time to read it, or that parents will read it to their children. Another reason for submitting it to our newspaper is in the hopes that all PBP members can deeply understand our roots and respect our traditional teachings and ways. As a member of the drum ways, I can see all aspects of this creation story incorporated into our ceremonial practices. Very soon, we will be gathering for our spring ceremonies for a time to pay our respect and prayers to all of these powers and gifts of Cos non. Here in Canada, the teachings are basically the same as can be witnessed through this teaching.

Anishnabek (singular, Anishnabé) means "original people", or literally, "first man to be standing." Some translate it as "people of the Earth." In Anishnabek culture, a respect for the natural world is grounded in the belief that humans are simply another form of animal, on equal ground with all of the others animals and plants of the Earth. It is also believed that the animals and plants know everything about humans and that without them, humans would die.

Traditional teachings emphasize that an understanding of the connection between the Anishnabek and the land requires an understanding of the people themselves, because everything is connected. One must understand what the people are about, and know that without the land, they would die. In Anishnabek tradition, there are three or four creation stories that tell of the origin of humans and the Earth. For Anishnabek, it is accepted that everything is connected through the Creator. The story of the creation of humans began with the Creator.

Originally, before everything was created there was only water, air and the sun. The colors were created, and then the fish people and the air people. But the air people got tired and wanted a place to rest, so the land was created. Once the land was created, the Creator could not contain himself, and he went on creating all kinds of animals and trees and grasses. Eventually he ran out of energy, and when he only had enough energy to create one more thing, he created human animals.

Then the Creator called a meeting of all creation. All of the plants and animals were there, even the rocks. The Creator said a being would be coming to the Earth. And it was going to be called

a human being, and it was going to be pitiful. It would not know its own language, nor have any clothes. It would not know what to eat. That is when the animals and plants, and all living and non-living things came forward and offered themselves to the Creator to be used by humans. The trees were the first to come forward, saying the beings would need a place to live, so they could use the bark from the trees to make lodges for shelter, and the wood for fires. They were also to be used for weapons, poles for the lodges, pipe stems, arrow shafts and bows, and wood for the sweat lodges. The animals offered themselves and said the humans could eat their flesh as food, and use their bones for tools, and their skins to stay warm. The moose, deer, elk, and caribou came forward and said the beings could use their hides for clothing. The rabbit offered itself as food, and made a special request to be clubbed on the head: that is how it wanted to be killed by the hunters. The plants said that if people did not know how to survive, they would probably get sick, and they offered themselves as medicine. Sweetgrass was given to the Anishnabek by the Creator for cleansing. Then the birds offered to carry human's prayers and words to the Creator because they flew close to him. A spotted eagle said it would carry people's prayers to the Creator because he could fly closest to the sun without being burned, and he demanded respect. He is considered a sacred animal. The eagle feathers are now used in ceremonies and in smudging; they are also used in dances. Then the fish and whales and seals came forward and offered themselves and said humans could eat their flesh as food, and use their bones, and their hides for clothes to stay warm. Finally, the rocks came forward and said people could use them in their sweat lodges for cleansing themselves. The solid rock offered itself for flint for arrows and tools. The red rock - considered by some to be grandfather of all rocks - offered itself for pipes.

To this day the plant and animals have kept their promise, they are still providing for the people. That is why the people leave tobacco as thanks to the plants and animals that give themselves so the people can survive. It is through these initial sacrifices that the Anishnabek, survive and remain connected to all beings on Earth and the Creator."

- As told to the author by two Anishnabek



**Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation  
Pow Wow Celebration**  
June 10-12, 2005  
Mayetta, KS

- Drum Contest \$12,500
- Dance Contests \$34,850
- Plenty of camping-limited RV space
- 4 Person Golf Scramble
- Rez Ride Motorcycle Run

for more information go to [www.PowWows.com](http://www.PowWows.com)

**12th Annual Potawatomi Gathering**  
hosted by  
**NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF POTAWATOMI**  
July 28-31, 2005  
Check in day-July 27, 2005  
on the reservation  
2221 1-1/2 Mile Road  
Fulton, MI 49052  
Phone: 269-729-5151, Fax: 269-729-5920

**Ganiñt̄ek**  
(Those who are born)



**Welcome Leilani Marcellina Sims**

Born: January 11, 2005  
Weight: 5 lbs, 12 oz  
Length: 18 inches

Parents: Carmen & James Sims  
Grandparents: Ruth & Late-Arthur Levier, Jr.  
Great-Grandparents: Late-Arthur, Sr. & Julia Levier

She was welcomed home by  
her Aunt Cherise Levier & big sisters Brandy,  
Miranda & Jaimie Sims

**Haskell Reunion  
Class of 1955**  
*Celebrating 50 years!*

**May 13, 14, 2005**

Contact:  
**Avis Sorrels Glodek, 760-757-2619**  
or  
**2317 Nicklaus Dr.**  
**Oceanside, CA 92056**

**The Third Annual  
Potawatomi Language Conference**

**The Gift of Language  
Giving & Sharing**

When: June 6,7,8,9 2005  
Where: Prairie Band Reservation, Mayetta, Kan.  
Hosted by: The Potawatomi Language Restoration Project Inc.  
P.O. Box 82, Mayetta, Kan.  
Contact: Lou & Lisa Aitkens, ph: 785-966-2464  
email: [lou\\_aitkens@hotmail.com](mailto:lou_aitkens@hotmail.com)

We would like to extend an invitation to all who are interested in the Potawatomi language to come and join us. We will be sending out fliers with an agenda later with more detailed information.

If you plan to attend please notify us (no fees) so we may plan accordingly for the number of attendees.



**Calling all graduates!**

The News will be highlighting graduates in the May issue. Send in your photo and information about your graduation. Don't forget school, city, degree earned, and parents names

Deadline the 15th of each month.  
*photos returned with a SASE*



**Haskell Indian Nations University  
& The Lied Center**  
present  
**Native Voices-Secret History**  
oral histories about Native Americans in  
the community of Lawrence  
  
**April 28 -30**  
**Lawrence, Kansas**

**Kanibwēñt̄ek**

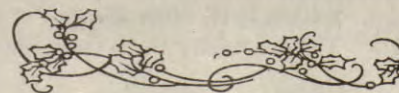
(The one's that stood up together)

**Happy 50th Anniversary  
Pete & Marge Lewis**

Hollytree, Alabama  
**March 21, 2005**  
from

your children and grandchildren

(Family and friends are invited to a  
celebration on June 11, 2 p.m.  
Our Lady of the Snows, Mayetta, KS)



**Happy 17th Birthday, Mija  
Denae LaClair**

on  
**March 16**



1 month



5 years



17 years

Love,  
Aunt Brenda,  
Brandon & Joey

**RW Lawn Service**

For all of your lawn's general maintenance  
and minor landscaping!

Contact: Raphael Wahwassuck for a free estimate  
(785) 608-5500



Serving Jackson County and the surrounding area

**William D. "Willie" "Neh-nah-no-wet" Potts**

William D. "Willie" "Neh-nah-no-wet" Potts, 91, Topeka, died Feb. 17, 2005. He was born Feb. 6, 1914, in Wisconsin, the son of Joseph William and Roseann Nasley Potts. Mr. Potts was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Survivors include two sisters, Cecelia "Meeks" Jackson and Rose Pewamo, both of Mayetta; three brothers, Maynard Potts and Eddie Joe Mitchell, both of Mayetta, and Clyde Papagee, Tama, Iowa; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers and three sisters. Funeral services were held Feb. 20 at Penwell-Gabel Parker-Price Chapel in Topeka. Indian Drum services were held Feb. 20 and 21 at the Dancing Grounds. Committal services were held Monday afternoon at the Potts Cemetery, 13862 O Road, Mayetta. Online condolences may be left at [www.penwellgabel.com](http://www.penwellgabel.com)

(courtesy of the Holton Recorder 2/21/05)

In  
memory  
of  
**John Allen Cox**

**Born: June 22, 1974**  
**Died: February 23, 2005**

Schramka Funeral Home, Milwaukee, Wis.  
submitted by Dianne Mundell, grandmother

In  
memory  
of  
**Virgil R. Darling, Sr.**

**Born: December 7, 1929**  
**Died: December 9, 2004**

Survived by his wife,  
Loretta F. Darling

*There is no death.  
Only a change  
of worlds.*

*-Chief Seattle,  
Suquamish*

**Kamboñt̄ek**  
(those who died)

**Robert P. "Pam-Wa-Tak" Shuckahosee**

Robert P. "Pam-Wa-Tak" Shuckahosee, 47, Mayetta, died March 6, 2005, at a Topeka hospital from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident on Friday.

He was born Sept. 6, 1957, in Topeka, the son of Isaac Shuckahosee Jr. and Ruby Wahbnum Shuckahosee. He attended Royal Valley schools and graduated from Sequoia High School in Tahlequah, Okla. He attended Highland Community College and Washburn University and received his certified nurses aide certificate in 1990.

Mr. Shuckahosee worked for the Topeka Independent Resource Center until 1999 and later for the American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center at the University of Montana until 2002. He was currently in charge of the Independent Living Center for the Prairie Band Potawatomi.

He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Drum Religion. He served on the National Council on Independent Living and the Prairie Band Boys and Girls Club board. He was a consultant for the National Council on Disabilities and a member of the Johnson O'Malley Program parent committee. He received the Martin Luther King "Living the Dream" Humanitarian Award in 1997.

He married LaDonna G. Kirkaldie Fowler in 2000. She survives.

Other survivors include his father, Isaac Shuckahosee Jr., Tama, Iowa; his mother, Ruby Shuckahosee, Mayetta; two sons, Sos-ti Witch-e-wah, in Michigan, and Kyle Fowler, Mespelem, Wash.; two daughters, Ahshani Witch-e-wah, Topeka, and Andrea "Mouse" Fowler-Shuckahosee, Mayetta; six brothers, Robin Shuckahosee, Topeka, Leslie Shuckahosee, Mayetta, Leroy Pelkey, Jr., Holton, Charlie Shuckahosee, Tama, Iowa, Joe Garcia, Emmett and Wilson Garcia, Jr., Junction City; six sisters, Alexis Bailey, Mesquite, Texas, Leatrice Noriega, Topeka and Hattie Whitebreast, Mary Sanatche, LaDonna Shuckahosee, and Annie Shuckahosee, all of Tama, Iowa. He was preceded in death by three brothers, Wilson Garcia, Sr., Terry Shuckahosee and Lauren Dale Wahbnum.

Drum services will be held March 8 at the Dance Ground west of Mayetta. Burial will be March 9 in Mitchell Cemetery. Mr. Shuckahosee will lie in state until 3 p.m. March 8 at Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Holton, where family and friends will meet from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. March 7.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Robert P. Shuckahosee Memorial Fund, sent in care of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, 524 Pennsylvania Ave., Holton, KS 66436.

Online condolences may be left at [www.chapelocksfuneralhome.com](http://www.chapelocksfuneralhome.com)

(courtesy of the Holton Recorder 3/7/05)

Answers to Puzzle: Across -- 2. kwik̄etom̄en 8. waptokeȳek 10. bitis  
11. kwint̄ewab̄am̄en 12. mkott̄p̄enyek 13. shishibeȳek Down -- 1. n̄enw̄esh̄ek  
3. m̄sh̄we 4. T̄T̄i ttak K̄is̄es 5. Eshḡenib̄ek 6. m̄ekt̄tako 7. p̄i shk̄m̄en̄ek 9. wawen



## It's okay to say FIRE: prescribed burns

By Mary Young

Smoke and fire was prevalent on portions of the reservation during the last week of February and March. In fact, this is the season for prescribed burns in the northeast section of Kansas. On hand to assist in this endeavor were the PBPB fire fighters, Pawnee Fire Scouts, several members of the Sac & Fox of Oklahoma, Jicarilla Apache, White Earth Ojibway, Kickapoo and Kiowa Nations, and BIA personnel Aaron Roper, Coordinator, and Engine Crew Leader Adam Rogers. Christopher Henderson-Brown, a former fire fighter and student at Kaw Tech, contributed photos of the burn on K Road.

The burns have apparently also routed out the mice and other rodents. In one instance, seven hawks were seen perching on the tree limbs at 158 and P Roads as the black ground smoldered and a farmer tended the flames.

### Prescribed Burns:

According to Daniel Dyer, Land Management Director, PBPB conducts prescribed burns for three reasons:

- Fire is used to control the eastern red cedar species considered a nuisance,
- Fire helps regenerate the native grasses,
- And the long-term goal is to reintroduce fire to the prairie because it has been suppressed so long.

Prescribed burns are conducted to prevent growth of weeds and the accumulation of matter that could fuel a fire. Not only does the burn control the weed population, but the weed species can be identified and monitored.

One important aspect of fire is that it changes the plant material into ash which in turn acts as a natural fertilizer.

To inform the PBPB Fire Dept. a burn will be conducted contact:

**PBPB Fire Dept. at 966-2164**



### Controlled Burn:

In a controlled burn situation, precaution is advised. The following are suggestions for a safe burn:

- Do not burn any waste matter which will cause a dense smoke or odor such as old hay, straw, manure, etc.
- Do not burn if wind is blowing.
- Keep fire small and feed material into it. If a large pile must be burned, wait until there is snow on the ground.
- Keep fire at least 50 feet away from structures, grass, brush, etc.
- Have a hose and water available to reach all sides of fire.
- A responsible person must be in attendance at all times during the burning.
- Burn during daylight only. Morning is the best times to burn.

### Recreational Fires:

In preparation for warm weather, the following precautions are advised for recreational fires:

- Recreational fires must not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible materials, unless contained in an established barbeque pit (concrete pit). Barbeque pits may not be closer than 10 feet from a combustible wall. If conducted 25 feet or more, the fire must be in an established fire ring.
- Any conditions, such as tall grasses, which would allow the fire to spread to a structure, must be eliminated prior to the fire being ignited.
- A fire extinguishments method must be immediately available, such as a hose, portable fire extinguisher, shovel and dirt, etc.
- The fire must be constantly attended.
- The fire must be completely extinguished prior to being abandoned.

(Controlled and Recreation information Courtesy of <http://www.tetonwyo.org/sheriff/navi/100103.shm>)



Above and to the right: Equipment used. /\ and >



< Photo at left:

Checking barometric / atmospheric conditions.



Photo at right: >

A drip torch is used instead of flares to start the fire.



Above Photo: Setting back burn aka buffer zone. /\

Photo at right: Testing buffer back burn line. >



< At left: a prairie fire.



Above photo: Watching for fire to jump buffer line. /\



Above photo: Smoke from the fire, near zero visibility. /\