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**Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation**  
**16277 Q Road**  
**Mayetta, Kansas 66509-9114**

# Prairie Band of Potawatomi News

**A Report to the People of the Prairie  
 Band of Potawatomi Indian Tribe**

Volume 1, Issue 3

16277 Q Road, Mayetta, Kansas 66509

Phone 785-966-2255

Published Quarterly

## Pictures from Dedication



- Photo by Gary E. Mitchell

### Ribbon Cutting Time for Road 158

Left to right: Philip McKinney, Rey Kitchkumme, William Evans  
 James Jackson, Jimmy Potter, and Tara Mitchell



- Photo by Gary E. Mitchell

### ROYAL VALLEY DANCERS WATCHING FIREWORKS

Left to right: Nye Little Axe, Evan Evans and William Evans

## Road Dedicated

By: Gary E. Mitchell

After 155 years of deplorable road conditions on the Potawatomi Indian Reservation when getting stuck in the middle of the road on a rainy night was not unusual, a positive change has occurred finally.

On March 26, 1999, the Potawatomi Road and Bridge Department hosted a Grand Opening to commemorate the opening of 158 Road, the "main road" coursing through the reservation, a \$3.6 million dollar project.

Well over 150 people were in attendance, ranging from tribal members, tribal government members, tribal staff, representatives from Congressmen Jim Ryun and Sam Brownback's office, BIA personnel, and local government officials.

The opening ceremonies started with the We Ta Se Honor Guard presenting the flags of the United States, Kansas, MIA, and, of course, the Tribal Flag. The Royal Valley Native American Singers sang the flag song, honor song and victory song. Youth dancers from Royal Valley also danced and performed for the crowd.

Tim Ramirez, the Road & Bridge Program Director, served as the emcee, so to speak, and introduced the visiting dignitaries. He talked about the history and progress of the project, and related how the planning started when Vice-Chairman, Luther Wahwasuck brought the initial paper-work to the council table and work on it until it's implementation in 1999. "This project," said Ramirez, "signifies the federal government's trust responsibility to American Indians."

As a historical footnote, in the 1980s, the road situation for countless years was a jurisdictional mess. The tribe had control over many miles of road, but little money to improve and maintain the crumbling system.

The county commission on the other hand, had tax revenues coming in from white land-owners on the reservation who, by this time, owned 71 percent of the reservation but still displayed an indifference to any road improvements. Usually what occurred, was a display of stubbornness on both sides, with nothing being accomplished. Who suffered when the two governing bodies couldn't agree? The people who chose to live on the reservation - both non-Indian and Indian.

In a departure from past practices, both groups in the late 1980s came to the realization that being stubborn accomplishes very little. Slowly a compromise developed. Maintenance agreements were drawn up to clearly outline maintenance responsibilities on designated roads. This was the beginning these first steps of compromise were an essential element for the progress we see today.

The Tribe decided to attack the problem in increments. At this time, Class II Bingo was established and a portion was allocated to road improvements. Thereafter, tons of gravel were applied each week. The road receiving this gravel was known at that time as the "main road." Today, it is known as 158

Road.

This action was a slow approach to improvement. However, the Tribe was also working on other alternatives. For a number of years in the 1980s, the tribe was out of compliance with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office. This occurred when HUD determined that the Tribe had not complied with all of the requirements associated with a grant that the Tribe had received from HUD. Thereafter several thousand dollars needed to be repaid to the HUD account. This situation had to be cleared up in order to progress.

With hard work and revenues generated by Class II Bingo, the HUD account was cleared. This grant was for \$400,000. The grant provided temporary employment and improvements to the tribal gymnasium, and most important of all, it provided the bulk of the money needed for putting gravel on the reservation's main road (158 road).

While these actions never brought the roads up to standard (studies of that time said it would take \$2.5 million to reach that standard), they did improve the situation dramatically.

In 1998, a \$3.6 million dollar project was made possible with funding from a variety of sources. The needed capital was provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs contributed the majority of the funding. However, the Housing and Urban Development provided a grant of \$750,000 and the County Commission contributed \$50,000.

Amino Brothers of Kansas did the actual road construction. Mary Sullivan, President of the company, informed the crowd how this project was one of the more rewarding jobs her company has done. She said it meant a great deal to her to be part of the transformation of our community.

Tribal Council members thanked all the people for coming to this great event. They said they could remember in earlier times when it took days to get from one place to another. People are looking forward to having vehicles that will not be continually damaged by the road.

Roy Ogden, of the County Commission, and Bob Murray of Senator Brownback's office, expressed their belief that this is a new start for the community and that through joint efforts and cooperation much can be accomplished for all the people on the reservation.

Shortly after the Tribal Council's ribbon-cutting, everyone enjoyed a fireworks display, especially the younger members of the community.

Sandra Knoxsah and T.J. Kitchkumme cooked buffalo burgers as part of the traditional fare for the meal. The rest of the food was provided by the community.

Road engineers have informed the Tribe that this type of road usually lasts for up to twenty years which is good news for the residents of the Potawatomi Indian Reservation - both Indian and non-Indian.

## Road & Bridge Thanks the Following People

We would like to thank all of the people that have helped in this long process. Including but not limited to the following:

### Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council

Mamie Rupnicki, Chairman  
 Vestina Nonken, Vice-Chairman  
 Steve Ortiz, Secretary  
 James Potter, Treasurer  
 Mayme Mattwaoshshe, Council Member  
 Rey Kitchkumme, Council Member  
 James Jackson, Council Member

Congressman Jim Ryun

### Bureau of Indian Affairs, Horton Agency

Galen Hubbard, Acting Superintendent  
 John Briscoe, Area Roads Engineer  
 Antoinette Houle, Realty Specialist  
 Nellie Cadue, Realty Specialist  
 Mary Mitchell, Probate Clerk  
 Wally Leander, Soil Conservationist

Senator Sam Brownback and his representative Bob Murray

### Jackson County Commissioners

Roy Ogden 3rd District  
 Ellen Schirmer 2nd District  
 John Grau 1st District

### B & G Consultants

Tom Bennett  
 Chris Becker

### Jackson County Road and Bridge Dept.

Ed Bruns Road and Bridge Supervisor  
 Louis Pelton Administrative Assistant  
 Pat Moulden Retired Jackson County Employee  
 Ron Karn Former R/B Supervisor  
 Road Crew

### Amino Bros.

Mary Sullivan President  
 Bob Griffith General Superintendent  
 Mike Vaughn Superintendent  
 Tony Barber Laborer  
 Duane Barber Laborer



- Photo by Gary E. Mitchell

### Opening Remarks at Road Dedication

Left to right: Rey Kitchkumme, Jimmy Potter, Steve Ortiz, Tim Ramirez, Mamie Rupnicki, Vestina Nonken, Mayme Mattwaoshshe, James Jackson, Gary E. Mitchell and Bob Murray of Senator Brownback's office



## PRAIRIE BAND OF POTAWATOMI Tribal Government Objectives

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is to further the education and cultural development of tribal members, as well as non-tribal members, that will enhance the understanding of the historical background, tribal sovereignty, self-determination and the development of the tribe as it exists currently.

### GOALS

- To facilitate communication among tribal members by creating a web site, tribal newspaper, brochures and other educational handouts.
- To expand economic developments addressing infrastructure damage, stabilizing tribal programs, and repurchasing reservation lands that will provide for the general welfare of all tribal members.
- To promote unity and cooperation among the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for the protection of treaty and sovereign rights;
- To educate the public, state, federal and local governments on the status of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation as a government, the federal-tribal relationship and the federal obligations to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian Nation;
- To facilitate national tribal approaches and positions on key legislative issues and arrange dissemination and advocacy that will result in successful outcomes;
- To distribute information and provide updates to tribal members on developments in our tribal, state and federal governments;
- To preserve and enhance funding for essential tribal programs and services for our tribal members;
- To develop a pro-active legislative agenda that will improve federal policies for Indian Nations, educate on the manifest justice of tribal sovereignty, and seize the initiative from the adversaries of tribal sovereignty.

### POTAWATOMI TRIBAL COUNCIL

**Chairperson:** Mamie Rupnicki  
**Vice-Chairperson:** Vestina Nonken  
**Treasurer:** James Potter  
**Secretary:** Steve Ortiz  
**Member:** James Jackson  
**Member:** Mayme Mattwaoshshe  
**Member:** Rey Kitchkumme

#### The mailing address:

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PRAIRIE BAND OF POTAWATOMI NEWS  
EDITORS: GARY E. MITCHELL, JAMES JACKSON

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

The Prairie Band of Potawatomi News encourages and welcome letters, editorials, articles and photos from its readers. This publication reserves the right to reject, edit or condense items submitted.

### Prairie Band of Potawatomi Web-site

In late 1998, the Tribe started an informative and colorful web-site. Joining the modern cyberspace world is designed to keep the tribal membership informed on both modern and past issues. The web-site has historical facts, tribal program up-dates, gaming facts, tribal newspaper archives, and links to other Potawatomi or Indian sites. To date, well over 2,000 visitors have visited the site in three months.

Also, in the first year, the site will undergo several changes to accommodate suggestions for improvement. The site has an e-mail for comments, letters-to-the-editor, etc. Your visit to the tribe's site is encouraged.

#### Web-site Address:

**Http://www,pbpindiantribe.com**



## Chairperson Report

**Mamie Rupnicki**

Once again I offer my greeting to you and your families. As always, I hope for the best for each of you.

It has been my pleasure to speak for the Tribe on many different issues. There are many bills coming out of the 106th Congress. Due to the diligence of many Indian Nations we have defeated most, but we are still trying to defeat many bills that are carried over from the 105th Congress. Many of which affect not only this Nation but all Tribal Nations. We as Indian Nations are always under attack. We are always reminding congressional people of the Indian Sovereignty that is at stake.

Most Americans forget the long constitutional and legal history between the US government and the 500-plus Indian Nations that exist within its boundaries. The US Constitution states that "only" the federal government has the power to regulate commerce between states and with the Indian Tribes.

In *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832) the US Supreme Court ruled that tribes in aboriginal times possessed sovereignty as complete as that of any European nation. After forming treaty alliances with the US, they surrendered their external sovereignty to negotiate treaties with other countries. But they remained as sovereigns in their ability to shield themselves from any intrusion by the states. "It is the federal government's responsibility to ensure that this sovereignty is preserved," the court stated.

The question for Indian communities is why Congress appears set on ignoring its constitutional mandate to protect the sovereign rights of Indian Nations. Legally considered sovereign nations, Indian tribes have a higher legal status than states. Through the Indian Gaming Act, however Congress has given the states the right to meddle in Indian affairs.

The Indian Gaming Act requires Indian Nations and states to sign compacts, which Congress approves. Has a Congress relegated Indian Nation to the status of states? Such a move contradicts the legal status of Indian Nations, bestowed on them through treaty agreements with the government.

Treaties are between Nations. Indian Nations, because of a long treaty relationship with the US government, not with states and should not be required to sign compact with states, unless the Indian nations themselves negotiate such agreements directly. But also would conflict with the constitutional restriction on states signing treaties.

State governments need to understand and respect the status of Indian Nations to ensure fair and knowledgeable discussions between states and Indian Nations about such issues as gaming, taxation, law enforcement, land acquisition, even road construction.

State governments need to realize that American Indian Nations are an asset, not the liability some perceive. Many states have benefited through increased economic and resource development increased federal funding, stronger intercultural relationships.

Indian gaming has been an economic boon to most areas where it has been allowed and has created jobs for both American Indian and non-Indians. In northeast Kansas new restaurants, motels and other non-Indians ventures sprang up to accommodate the crowds.

Some of the critical issues in D.C. are:

Senator Gorton of Washington State introduced Senate Bill 550 on March 4, 1999. It is virtually the same bill as Senate Bill 2300 from last session. S550 would provide the federal courts with federal question jurisdiction over the issue of the collection of state taxes on sales of goods to non-members by an Indian Tribe or tribal businesses. It would have allowed a state to bring an action against a tribe or a tribal member that owns or operates a tribal retail enterprise to discern whether a state excise, sales or transaction tax is lawful and, if so, to enforce the collection or remittance of that state tax. Tribal leaders need to closely monitor Senator Gorton to determine if he will reintroduce legislation to impact on sovereign immunity. If not then legislation like this will be passed and tribes will have to live with the consequences for all time.

Tribes are strongly recommended by national Indian organizations to participate in all information gathering sessions and to submit materials that explain the tribes' positions on important issues.

We as Tribal leaders support H.R.403 because it would bestow more power onto the Indian Health Service within the department. As assistant secretary, the person governing the IHS would have a more prominent role in determining the policy, budget and activities of the agency which is vitally important for Indian Health. This bill would bring Indian health to the forefront of the department and more readily allow the health needs of Indian Country to be heard. We are happy to report that the total IHS budget request for FY2000 is \$2.8 billion, which is an increase of \$170 million over last year's budget. This total includes Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance collections provided for the treatment of Indian people. There is an increase of \$33 million to maintain access to health care as the Indian population increases and \$24 million for the Contract Health Services Program which purchases health care from private businesses.

In addition the BIA TPA (Tribal Priority Allocation) Task Force, of which I am a member, is comprised of Tribal Leaders and BIA representatives. We are continuing the study of tribal need and developing alternative methods for a more equitable distribution of new TPA monies among the Tribes. The base now will not be touched. It is expected that the report will include a historical background of TPA and will reiterate, the fact that TPA monies are federal obligations to the Tribes. It will also point out the vast inequities of funding of tribal programs as opposed to comparable non-tribal programs. Alternative methods of distribution of future monies have been developed. They are based upon a tier system in which all tribes would share in the increase of new monies but the lower funded tribes would receive a larger percent of the increase. The goal would be to gradually raise the lower funded tribes to a parity level.

We have and will always try to educate as many congressional people as possible so that our Indian Nation and other Indian Nations are not taken advantaged of.

The Tribal Council appreciates your continued support.



-Photo by Gary E. Mitchell

**Front left to right: Stephanie Greemore, Cheri-Micol Smith, Annie Potts, Richele Pahmahmie, Back row: Theodore Ciqui, Wahpi Hale, Tug Wamego, Mi-kes Potts**

## Potawatomi Youth to San Diego

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council sponsored 8 high school students along with four adult sponsors to attend the Native Women & Men's Wellness Conference II, held in San Diego, California, February 28 to March 4, 1999.

The purpose of sending the youth to the conference was to expose them to ideals that they could share with their peers to benefit not only themselves but our native community as well. The conference offered several topics centering around these four general areas: Emotional, Spiritual, Physical, and Mental Wellness. The theme of the conference was "Coming Together in a Good Way". In a sense that is what we are trying to do with our youth as well as native people in general. They benefited in self worth as well as expanded their horizons by attending this conference.

Adult sponsors attending the conference were: Steve & Dolores Ortiz, Cheryl Hopkins, Connie Peters, Laverne Hale, and Jason Matchie.



# National Indian News

## Mismanagement of Indian trust fund continuing

The story of the U.S. government's management of American Indian trust-fund monies might best be told in pictures.

Pictures like the one of a storage facility near Albuquerque, N.M., where soggy boxes sit forgotten in a leaky warehouse among piles of debris — a sight more reminiscent of a turn-of-the-century tenement than a government storage facility.

Or a picture of government employees dressed up in moon suits as they retrieve and sterilize those same boxes — believed to be contaminated with the deadly hantavirus as a result of mouse-droppings.

Perhaps a picture of U.S. District Court Judge Royce Lamberth handing out a contempt of court citation to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin for failure to produce documents sought in a civil suit by the same Indians whose account files are covered in mouse-droppings.

None of the snapshots of this long-running tragi-comedy is very pretty.

At issue is the trust fund that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (which is part of the Interior Department) manages on behalf of more than 300,000 individual Indians and their tribes. The trust was set up in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to handle royalty

and lease payments by corporations and individuals that use Indian lands. If someone wants to use Indian land to drill for oil or mine gold, he or she must pay a royalty to the BIA, which then deposits it into a trust account.

Virtually from the start, the trust fund was mismanaged. Records were kept by hand — and are this day — and the paper trail has now been muddled beyond recognition. As it stands, more than \$2.4 billion cannot be reconciled. While the money is on the books, nobody knows for sure who it belongs to and whether it's an accurate figure. Since many of the documents have been lost, or are covered in mouse-droppings, it's unlikely that the Indians will ever get a full accounting.

After decades of empty promises to clean up the trust fund, some Indians ran out of patience. They filed a class action suit in federal court seeking a full accounting of the fund — but no punitive damages.

Congress also got into the act by passing the American Indian Trust Management Reform Act in 1994. The act created a "special trustee" to examine the problem and shepherd the reform effort. By 1994, it looked like progress was on the horizon when the special trustee,

Paul Homan, produced a plan to remove the trust-fund management from BIA and place it with a new, quasi-governmental entity using modern financial management.

That's where Babbitt comes into the picture. The former Arizona governor came to Washington as one of the most honest and capable members of the Clinton team. And he has generally lived up to that billing by tackling long-standing, sensitive land-use issues that confounded his predecessors. But he has run into trouble in dealing with Indians.

First, there was his meeting with representatives of some Midwestern tribes that want to block approval of a casino license for another tribe. The rival tribes had given gobs of money to Democratic campaigns and didn't want a competing casino taking money out of their pockets. The Interior Department declined the license application, reversing a decision by its own regional office. The matter is now in the hands of an independent counsel, making Babbitt the only Clintonite thus tarnished by the financial excesses of the 1996 campaign.

More serious is Babbitt's apparent disregard of the trust-fund issue — on which he claims he and his de-

partment are misunderstood. From the moment Homan issued his reform plan, Interior officials have fought him tooth-and-nail, preferring to protect the moribund BIA bureaucracy now in charge of the mess. Fed up, Homan resigned in January after Babbitt tried to force a major reorganization on his department.

For three years, Babbitt has refused to even discuss the trust-fund issue, either with the press or with tribal leaders. That all changed earlier this month, when — under threat of subpoena — Babbitt testified before a Senate committee about the pace of reforms. With the contempt citation still fresh in everyone's mind, Babbitt offered little besides an apology for his agency's perplexing inability to fulfill a simple document request.

Meanwhile, 300,00-plus Indians are waiting for a full accounting of money the governmental supposedly held in trust.

"Trust" being a relative term with this administration.

-Reprinted with permission. Monday, March 15, 1999 Topeka Capital Journal. Written by: Jack Anderson

## Quotes & Events From Indian Country

In his acceptance speech as newly-elected President of the Navajo Nation, Kelsey Begaye urged tribal employees to deliver quality services. "I ask you to account for every minute of your time and every penny of your budget."

"And I really was disappointed today when Chairman Moore indicated that when the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act was passed it gave the tribes the right to gamble. That act gave nothing to the tribes. That act took away from the tribes. The Supreme Court in the Cabazon case indicated Indian tribes had the right to conduct gaming unrestricted by state law. IGRA required states and tribes to negotiate compacts. It was a limitation, not granting a gift. Tim Wapato at a field hearing in Seattle, Washington, January 7, 1999 before the National Gaming Impact Study Commission.

On March 25, 1999 the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the right of the Chippewa Tribe to hunt and fish on 13 million acres of public land in central Minnesota free of state regulation. By a 5-4 vote, the court said eight Chippewa bands still have hunting and fishing privileges under an 1837 treaty. The issue has been debated hotly in Minnesota, where some fear that the Indians would take too much fish from one of the state's prime walleye lakes. Gov. Jesse Ventura recently drew criticism from saying that Indians who assert treaty rights "ought to be back in birch-bark canoes."

## Potawatomi in Business in Florida

(Orlando)

Cecil Virgil Walker is a general contractor who not only can laugh at himself — he loves to do it.

"I started my business with \$100 seven years ago and wound up \$100,000 in the hole in the first year," he recalls.

"Hey, that's not bad," says the former running back for the University of Kansas. "It could have been \$200,000.

Walker himself has been in the construction business 25 years. His 14-person Longwood firm, CW Construction Services & Materials Inc., has come a long way since that sparse start-up year of 1991. The firm posted gross revenue from construction management contracts exclusively of \$150,000 in 1992; \$250,000 in 1993; and \$313,000 in 1994.

Fast forward now to the late '90s.

CW had \$6.5 million of new work under contract in December and completed \$1.15 million of general contracting jobs in 1998, its first full year of general contracting. Walker is shooting for contract volume of \$10 million in 1999. The firm previously stayed exclusively in the construction management end of the industry because it did not yet have the long-term relationships vital to winning contracts in this hotly contested business. "We're hopefully over that hurdle now," says the 46-year-old, full-blooded member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian tribe in Holton, Kan. CW is the only Native American-owned firm certified as a minority business enterprise and disadvantaged business enterprise in metro Orlando and the state.

"You would have thought that sort of designation would have gotten us plenty of work in the early years of the company, but it didn't," recalls Walker. "We had to go out of state for many of big jobs." The contractor was never discouraged, however. "We kept networking and building our relationships" with private and public owners, he says. "And it is paying off today."

Walker's firm currently is completing an estimated \$2 million, 13-storage building job for Walt Disney World at Lake Buena Vista. The 200-day project calls for the work being completed by Feb. 15. "We'll be on time and within budget," says the former Union Pacific Railroad construction manager. "It's our biggest job today at Disney, and I'm not at liberty to discuss it," says Walker who takes confidentiality contracts with clients seriously.

CW provided limited construction services at the Tree of Life attraction in Disney's Animal Kingdom park last year. The firm won the storage building job because it made the theme park's sought-after "select bidder" list after years of knocking on Disney's door.

"Construction is a relationship business," says Walker. "And that has become our new strategy in moving from the construction management side to the general contracting arena."

He credits his own "select" team of advisors for pushing CW to its current contract volume level. That group includes John Gibson, vice president/operations; Bob Nidzgorski, vice president/operations and estimating; Kurt Thalwitzer of Mateer & Harbert, the company corporate lawyer; Vic Incinelli of Cuthill and Eddy, CW's accountant; and Jack Cunningham and Lou Byron of Hillcrest Insurance.

"I would not be where I am today without their help and counsel," says Walker.

Besides his family and work, in that order, Walker prides himself in running "a family-oriented" company. Cookouts and social get-togethers at CW's office and employee's homes are monthly functions.

Walker's Sweetwater area office is only a half-mile from his home. "I like to be near my family," says Walker.

## Heron to nest on Conective gas tank

### The mural is part of a \$50,000 contest to coincide with the official re-naming of Delmarva Power

WILMINGTON — Armed with a paintbrush, three rollers and hundreds of gallons of paint, a 60-year-old Claymont muralist is converting a 121-foot-high natural gas tank into art.

When finished this month, Jim Wahwassuck will have painted a giant heron nurturing her two chicks onto the tank near Frawley Stadium.

"When I first came down here and looked at [the tank], I said, 'Wow. Look at all the space,'" Wahwassuck said.

The mural is part of Delmarva Power's \$50,000 contest that was launched in April to coincide with the official unveiling of its new name: Conectiv. The design was chosen from entries submitted by about 250 students statewide.

To paint the mural, Wahwassuck measured and graphed the tank's entire face. He sketched on the birds and other details with a crayon-type pencil. Then, he began to paint, spreading color with a 3-inch brush and 4-, 7- and 9-inch rollers.

To paint those hard-to-reach places, Wahwassuck uses a boom, which he controls from a 6-by-3-foot basket, where he keeps his

paints and tools.

Wahwassuck uses pre-mixed custom colors and some special tints, which he creates as he progresses. His choice in paint is DuPont Imron, a urethane-based, fast-dry automotive paint with high gloss retention. He chose it for its durability. He expects his work to remain on the tank for about 10 years.

Debbie Poppiti, Delmarva Power spokeswoman, said the company chose Wahwassuck because of his work on billboards and sides of buildings.

"He is remarkable," Poppiti said. "His work is very good. Some of his works look like photographs."

One of his pieces is a mural of felines that he painted for the Philadelphia Zoo. But the heron piece is the biggest — splashed across a tank large enough to hold gas to supply New Castle County for three days.

The design Wahwassuck is painting was submitted by Keeya Jones, a recent Newark High School graduate. She will attend the University of the Arts in Philadelphia this fall and will study multi-media design, including computer animation and CD-ROM development.

Delmarva Power officials said her design was selected in part for its suitability to the shape of the tank.

Two other designs were also chosen. Those winners are: Elaine Dunlap, a 1997 A.I. du Pont High graduate who will attend Rhode Island School of Design; and Katie Kercher, a senior at Sussex Technical High School. Dunlap's sketch will be displayed on a billboard along Interstate 95 near Pennsylvania

Avenue. Kercher's will be displayed along Delaware 1 in Sussex County.

The three winning students were recognized



Muralist Jim Wahwassuck, who will render the winning design from Delmarva Power's "Paint the Tank" contest onto the 121-foot gas tank

at Junior Achievement's annual Showcase of the Future May 22. Each student was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship, and the art departments at their schools will receive a Compaq Presario multi-media computer system. The computers were donated by Delmarva Power and Info System of Wilmington.

Reprinted with permission - The News Journal, Wilmington, Del., Friday, September 5, 1997

## Potawatomi Gathering News July 29-August 1, 1999 Gates Road Property Dowagiac, MI

For more information contact:  
Lucinda Graverette-Smith 1-888-330-1234

## National Earth Day Announcement

The National Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22, 1999; the celebration originated in April 22, 1970 and has been an annual event. The Prairie Band of Potawatomi Tribal Council has recognized April 24, 1999 as the day the Reservation will celebrate Earth Day. The theme for the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Earth Day '99 is "It's Not Just a Day, It's a Way of Life." This gives the community the opportunity to plan events and activities that they would like to see happen.

A committee made up of volunteers from the community will need to be formed and begin the planning for this event. There will be a meeting on March 17, 1999 to discuss and originate some ideas for the Reservation Community. If you cannot make this meeting there will be more meetings scheduled to follow. Meeting will be scheduled and posted, up until the celebration.



# Local Reservation News

## Letters, Faxes and E-Mail

### Wants Information

Your last news letter was very interesting and informative. I would love to have "The Chapters in Time," a 40 page brochure about our culture, history, and updated information. My children are also in interested in our culture and history. Here are their addresses. I am looking forward to my next news letter and hopefully the children will get their own and I won't have to pass mine around. Thank you,

-Margarete Schneiderwendt

### Wants Information II

I would like to especially thank all the individuals involved in me receiving my first Prairie Band of Potawatomi Newspaper. It's very informative - the editor and layout artist have done an exceptionally great job! I have for years requested such material from our people - is the newspaper new? I would appreciate it if I could receive the 40 page brochure "Chapters in Time." Respectfully,

-Rick Sheppard, Angola, LA

### Newspaper loaned out

Please send me the Prairie Band Potawatomi Newspaper. I didn't get it. My daughter loaned me her paper. I didn't know there was a newspaper for the tribe. Thank you much,

-Marion Perrote, Irma, WI

### Responsibility

I am really concerned about EDUCATION. I

think the youth today do not put enough emphasis on their education. Instead they are placing too much emphasis on partying (I think parents are partly to blame for this). As a young adult, I can relate.

I had a baby when I was a senior in high school. However, I did not use this as an excuse to drop out. It was really hard for me to continue, but I did. I doubled up on classes and I graduated early. I was even able to get my name on the honor roll.

I am using this as an example to all the girls and boys out there who, under certain circumstances, do not feel able to continue with their education. There is always a way. If you are willing to take an opportunity, there is a whole different world, a better world, waiting for you. Don't let your "friends" pressure you into quitting. Stay in school. Go to college. You are only young once! You have the rest of your life to party and have fun.

I wish someone would have laid it all out for me a long time ago. I am only twenty years old but I feel more like I'm forty. I have to be a responsible adult for the sake of my child - I have no choice. I am letting you know that you do have a choice. You can choose to get your education. I am not saying "don't party." Everyone has to have fun once in awhile. I'm just saying wait until you have at least experienced college.

-Tracy Rogers, Mayetta, Kansas

### Letters from California

I really enjoyed your web site, as a tribal member I feel connected. Even though I live in San Diego, CA., I was born on the reservation, but left at a very young age. I have visited there only once in my adult years, that was two years ago. I bought a jacket when I was there which I like and am proud

of. I really like the emblem. If you had the store online I would buy more items.

Also is the newspaper online and do you have a place to post messages?

I hope to visit the reservation soon to see the new casino and hotel.

-Charles Starr, San Diego, CA

Thank you for sending us here in California the Potawatomi News. It is good to be kept informed and I appreciate the opportunity to make my opinions known to the tribal council members.

I think that what the tribe is doing for the people on the reservation is good and should be continued but for every dollar spent on the reservation I believe that some more money should be made available to the members who live off the reservation. We too can benefit from child care centers and senior programs. Not in the way they are on the reservation but in the form of per capita payments. We too, have the problem of finding child care for our children and grandchildren when we have to go to work to earn a living. As a senior I could use the money for many things I need as I am on disability for a weak heart. My children could benefit from per capita payments by being able to afford a house or take care of the problem of child care. We could also use the money to maintain small businesses, etc. I may not have five years to be able to enjoy per capita payments. Please reconsider your plan not to increase substantially the amount of per capita payments. Put in the budget more money for per capita payments. This is my opinion and I feel if you asked more members who live off the reservation you would find many have the same opinion.

-Darlene Stanhoff, Norwalk, CA

## Pictures from the Potawatomi Past



League of Nations Pan American Indians Inter-Tribal Pow Wow Council (Pictures donated by Calvin Evans)

Known: Minnie Evans, Wild Bill, Cope Darling, Bill Evans, Johnny Wahwassuck



Bark-House Scene

Known: Minnie Potts LeClere, Susie Wabnosah, See be quah Masha, Rose Potts

## Prairie Band of Potawatomi Pow Wow '99

### Contest and Drum Money

#### Grand Entry

Saturday - 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

#### Host Drum

Potawatomi Singers

#### Invited Northern Drum:

Menominee Chiefs

#### Invited Southern Drum

Yellow Earth Singers

#### Master of Ceremonies

Dean Whitebreast, Mesquaki

#### Head Man Dancer

David Cornelius, Onelda/Potawatomi

#### Head Lady Dancer

Addie Jessepe Horn, Potawatomi

#### Head Teen Dancer's

Thunderchild Thomas, Potawatomi

#### Male

Rachael Deo, Potawatomi/Creek

#### Female:

#### Color Guard:

We Ta Sa, Post 410, Mayetta, Kansas

#### Arena Director:

Joe Hale, Potawatomi

#### Camping Facilities Available

Supper meal served Friday & Saturday - Brunch on Sunday

Sponsorship contact: Camilla Chouteau 785-887-0982

Vendor Contact: reykitchkumme@juno.com & Ruth Ramirez 966-3014

Pow Wow contact: phouston@prairie.harrah.com & Curtis Masquat 966-3097

P.O. Box 2, Mayetta, KS 66509

General Admission Buttons \$3.00 per weekend

## June 11, 12 & 13, 1999

Mens Fast Pitch Tournament Contact John LeClere - 785-966-2335

Prairie People's Park, Mayetta, Kansas

Prairie Band Potawatomi is not responsible for theft, lost items, or accidents

Join us for an alcohol & drug free celebration!

Sponsored by: 1999 Pow Wow Committee  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation



# Tribal Program News

## Local Taxation Issues

By David Prager, III

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has the inherent powers of a sovereign government. Using these powers, the Nation provides

many governmental services on its reservation and for all of its tribal members. These tribal services include road and bridge maintenance and construction, law enforcement, fire protection, tribal court, environmental protection, education, and social and other tribal services. The Nation finances these services using grant money, gaming revenue and tribal taxes.

In order to conserve gaming revenue, the Nation plans to help fund tribal government operations by using tribal tax revenue. For many years the Nation has imposed a tribal sales

tax on reservation businesses. Recently, the Nation enacted a tribal motor fuel tax on reservation gas stations. One problem with imposing tribal taxes is the possibility of double taxation, which is caused when the State of Kansas also attempts to impose its tax.

On December 17, 1998, the Federal District Court in Kansas issued a favorable ruling. Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri et al. v. LaFaver, U.S. District Court for Kansas, decision dated 12-17-98, Case No. 95-4152-DES. The Court held that the Kansas motor fuel tax on tribal gas stations in Kansas is prohibited by federal law. In this case, tribal taxes were being imposed to help finance tribal government. The Court determined under the balancing test for federal preemption that the tribal interests outweighed the state's interests and, therefore, that "the tax in question must be invalidated as it relates to transactions involving tribal retailers."

On December 18, 1998, the Kansas Supreme Court upheld the Kansas motor fuel taxes which were imposed for a non-tribal gas station on the Prairie Band Reservation.

Kaul v. Kansas Department of Revenue, Kansas Supreme Court decision dated 12-18-98, No. 79,647. The Court held that the state tax was not federally preempted because there was "no showing by Retailers that payment of fuel tax to Kansas interferes with the self-government of a Kansas tribe or a Kansas tribal member or the tax impairs a specific right granted or reserved by federal law to the Kansas Indians."

The Sac & Fox and Kaul decisions are consistent. The Sac & Fox decision invalidated Kansas motor fuel taxes for tribal retailers because of the negative impact on the Indian tribes. The Kaul decision upheld the state motor fuel tax for a non-tribal retailer because there was no showing that it affected the Indian tribe.

In the Spring of 1999, the Nation will be opening a convenience store and gas station at its casino. A tribal tax on sales of gasoline and diesel fuel there will be imposed. This tribal fuel tax revenue will help fund tribal government services, including road and bridge and other tribal services. Hopefully, the Sac & Fox decision will be upheld on appeal and the

Nation will not have the problem of double taxation caused by the imposition of state taxes on reservation businesses. The Nation will be filing a lawsuit in the near future to prevent the State of Kansas from taxing the Nation's new gas station and convenience store.

David Prager, III, has worked as the Nation's in-house Tribal Attorney and General Counsel since September of 1997. He attended Kansas University (B.A. in English in 1976 and J.D. in 1979) and also attended Washburn University (M.B.A. 1986). He was previously employed by the Kansas Revenue Department for 13 years, serving as its General Counsel, Chairman of the Multistate Tax Commission Litigation Committee and enforcing the state's corporate income, bank and severance tax laws.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the Indian Care Alcohol Recovery facility in Topeka and he successfully defended Governor Finney in the early 90's in opposing the Attorney General's attempts to enforce state tax laws on the Nation's Reservation. He now provides general legal services to assist and advise the Tribal Council and Tribal Government, including the drafting of resolutions and tribal statutes, the review of contracts and providing other legal services for the Nation in its relationship with the State of Kansas, the U. S. Government, and the Indian gaming business.

## Education Department News

By Sharon McClane

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Education Department has several programs available to adult tribal members, and has a staff of two persons - Sharon McClane, Education Administrator, and June Quetone, Job Skills Coordinator.

An Education Committee was formed in 1980; present members are: Gary Mitchell, Venida Chenault, Arlene Wahwasuck, Mary Mitchell and Sharon McClane.

Mission statement: To develop leadership abilities of the members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi to the highest level through promotion of higher education. Goals: 1) assist enrolled members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe with financial resources to meet higher education goals; 2) assist with financial resources to increase employment through training opportunities that enhance job skills and/or technical skills; 3) promote social and economic goals of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe through education of tribal members.

Current programs are: Adult Education, Adult Vocational Training, Higher Education Scholarships, and Tribal Scholarships. Our Tribe also receives \$50,000 per year from Harrah's for higher education. The agreement states that we will receive this amount per year, as long as we are under contract with Harrah's for our Casino, for a period not to exceed five years. This \$50,000 is added to our Higher Education program which enables us to fund more tribal members attending college full-time.

Our higher education funds are not sufficient to meet each student's unmet financial need, but are available as a supplement to other financial resources. Students must also apply for all campus-based aid and other financial aid.

The Adult Education program was expanded during 1998, in large part due to casino revenues. Our office now has a mini-computer lab with 6 computers. Classes are offered to tribal members, employees and community members. So far, approximately 125 persons have begun computer training.

We are now able to offer onsite training. Sessions offered during the past few months included a personal budgeting workshop, telephone etiquette/ techniques, and interpersonal communication skills. Future onsite training will include employment training opportunities, such as public speaking, writing skills, personal development, resume' writing.

G.E.D. classes are offered at least twice a year. This has been a successful program for us. We recently

finished our current session, and four tribal members passed their official G.E.D. test.

Also, we have been able to bring excellent presenters/role models to our Reservation community. Our Reservation faces problems of alcoholism and drug abuse. By inviting these presenters to our Reservation, and through their messages, if we can help one young person (or old) make the right choices, we will be successful.

In the last issue of this newspaper, Editor Gary Mitchell wrote an article about one of our past presenters - Don Bartlette, PhD, a Chippewa native who presented "Macaroni at Midnight", an autobiographical profile of his social, psychological, and educational experiences as an Indian child growing up with emotional, speech and physical disabilities in an environment of poverty, family violence, juvenile delinquency, child abuse, racism and alcoholism, and how he was able to overcome all these things and become a positive, successful individual.

Native American actor and rap artist LITEFOOT was here in late fall. LITEFOOT is dedicated to upholding his status as a role model through being substance free, and he empowers youth to make clear, concise and positive decisions regarding their future.

Billy Mills, Lakota Sioux, will be our next presenter on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Mills' life was made into a major motion picture, "Running Brave". His book "Wokini" blends traditional Native American beliefs with modern positive thinking principles. In 1964, he became the first and only American to win the Gold Medal at the Olympics in the 10,000 meter race. He challenges his audiences "...to reach within the depths of your capabilities and to compete against yourselves to the greatest extent possible. When you do that, you have the dignity, pride, and can walk about with character no matter in what place you happen to finish."

Howard Rainer, Taos Pueblo/Creek, will be a future motivational presenter. He is currently the program administrator for the Native American Educational Outreach Program at Brigham Young University. His message will include valuable information for both youth and adults -- personal goal setting, enhancing personal communication skills, preparing to succeed in life, and insight into realizing our potential of abilities and talents.

For further information or any questions regarding our programs, contact the Education Office at 15434 K Road, Mayetta, Kansas 66509-9093. Telephone numbers: Sharon McClane (785) 966-2960; June Quetone (785) 966-2884.



-Photo by Gary E. Mitchell

### Early Childhood Staff

#### Ben-no-tteh Wigwam News

By Jackie Mitchell  
Director of Early Childhood Programs

The new reauthorization of the Head Start Act now states that each Head Start classroom have a Teacher with an Associate of Arts degree by the year 2003. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Head Start and Early Head Start program are making plans now to insure that staff will be able to meet this requirement.

The community has access to classes from Highland Community College at satellite sites in

Hoyt and Holton, and Washburn University is located in Topeka. Staff have access to these classes and the center provides transportation for staff to attend these locations.

Another possibility for classes exist with Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence. But travel time prohibits staff from attending this college and continue working and taking care of their families. Therefore, Haskell and Prairie Band Potawatomi Early Childhood programs are looking into alternatives such as on site classes with professors from Haskell coming to the reservation and long distance learning such as interactive television. These possibilities could become a reality if a grant is funded

through American Indians Program Branch Head Start.

This grant is offering program money to help build model collaboration between Indian colleges and local Head Start programs. A series of meetings are being held between Head Start staff and Haskell to write this grant. Kickapoo Head Start and F.A.C.E. programs are also very interested in this because they must meet the same requirements.

If the collaboration is successful, staff and parents will be able to participate in college classes offered from Haskell and that is an exciting step into continuing to provide quality services by qualified and caring staff.

### Potawatomi Publication wins Addy Award

By Gary E. Mitchell

Jones, Seel, Huyett, of Topeka recently won an Addy Award in recognition of work created for the Prairie Band of Potawatomi at the annual Topeka Advertising Federation awards banquet.

An Addy is the highest honor within an individual advertising category. The Prairie Band Tribal Brochure "Chapters in Time" received this distinction.

Jones, Seel, Huyett appreciated recognition from its advertising peers. "Such acknowledgment fuels our creativity, our discipline, and reflects a successful communication of our advertising messages," said Jake Huyett. "We understand

solid working relationships, with exceptional clients such as Prairie Band of the Potawatomi, greatly facilitates the process," continued Huyett, "Much of the credit goes to the tribe for providing clear direction, creative freedom, marvelous photos, and solid copy foundation. We hope this project has performed well for you, and has played a part in the Tribe's continued success."

The brochure is available to all tribal members and depicts the culture, history and contemporary issues of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi. Call the tribal office at 785-966-2255 for more information.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Education Department brings you -

**Billy Mills,  
Olympic Gold Medalist**

At the Tribal Administration Office 16277 Q Road, Mayetta, Kansas 66509  
April 15th, 1999

Dinner Provided - 6:00 pm and Presentation Begins at 7:00 pm

Co-sponsored by Alcohol and Drug Services and Human Resource Department





1998 Potawatomi Indians Baseball Team  
**Standing Left to right: Russell Jim, Jason Jackson, Noah Wahquaboshkuk, Mark Essman, Adam Pinger, Josh Quick, and Levon Goslin. Sitting: David Nelson (assistant coach), Dax Goslin, Jason Ramos, and Doug Goslin (head coach)**

Potawatomi Indians Baseball Team  
1998 Ken Berry League Champions

The 1999 season for the Potawatomi Indians Baseball team looks to be more challenging this year for the season. In 1998 this team went undefeated in the Ken Berry League in Topeka, Kansas. This team represented the tribe with a lot of pride last year and played with much heart and skill. They were coached by Doug Goslin who was named coach of the year because of the effort the kids gave throughout the season. "It means a lot to me to take an active role in our younger members lives, and I know it meant a lot to the boys," said Goslin, " So many times I see our youth taking the wrong roads in life and for many of them it's because they don't have the chance to do different things such as playing sports or other things which keep them occupied and away from negative things. Some of these boys I've coached since they were young so I don't expect the great accomplishment that we had last year but I know the boys will give it a one hundred ten percent effort. We would like to ask you to continue to support us by attending the games and showing the boys that their namesake appreciates what these boys are doing and wish them luck as they are about to start a new season."

1999 Potawatomi Indians Baseball Schedule  
(All games played at Ken Berry Complex, 61st and Wanamaker Road, Topeka)

May 8	11:15 AM	June 5	11:00 AM
May 15	3:45 PM	June 8	8:30 PM
May 17	8:30 PM	June 12	11:15 AM
May 21	6:15 PM	June 15	8:30 PM
May 24	6:15 PM	June 19	1:30 PM
May 28	6:15 PM	June 19	3:45 PM
June 5	9:00 AM	June 25	6:15 PM

County, tribe continue cross-deputization talks

County's approach is cautious

Jackson County and Prairie Band Potawatomi officials continue to hammer away at a proposed agreement to cross-deputize county and tribal law enforcement officers.

County and tribal officials met on Monday to review a revised agreement proposal. No action was taken, as the county vowed to approach the agreement cautiously.

"I think the decision is, there's going to be a lot of further discussion," said Commission Chairman John Grau toward the end of the meeting.

A year ago, Jackson County Sheriff Durham said, she had sent a proposal concerning cross deputization to the tribe, and had heard nothing recently.

"We're going to proceed with this very cautiously," Durham said to tribal officials gathered in the county commission chambers on Monday. "Evidently, you felt the need to proceed cautiously."

Issues raised in an earlier meeting were briefly touched upon in Monday's meeting, such as the county's liability in the event that someone would bring suit over action by a tribal officer.

Durham said she has discussed cross-deputization with the sheriff of Brown County, where the Kickapoo Reservation exists. She said he has made no cross deputization agreement with the Kickapoo Tribe because of liability is-

sues.

Jackson County Attorney Mike Ireland again raised the question of which cases would go to tribal court and which cases would go to District Court.

"I want a list of each and every thing you want to take through tribal court," Ireland said.

The tribe's attorney David Prager, agreed to provide such a list, and asked that the county's legal counsel provide him with a list of the county's concerns.

While several issues were touched upon in Monday's meeting, the most critical was providing information to and getting input from non-tribal members living on the reservation. "My big concern," Grau said, "is the feeling of non-tribal members on the reservation... I'm not going to make a decision until we hear from the people and get their questions answered."

"I want to have town meeting," Durham said. She added that she intended to discuss the issue privately with some people, "because some won't express their opinion in public because of the fear of retaliation."

"I have no problem with that," said Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Chairman Mamie Rupnicki. "As long as it doesn't take too long."

After a 45-minute discussion during which debate between attorneys for the tribe and county at times became tense,

most of the tribal representatives left, and the commission and a few tribal representatives continued, in a quieter manner, the discussion about obtaining public comment on cross deputization.

"You've got to look at the political side of this and talk to these people," said County Counselor Ed Dunn.

Tribal Council Secretary Steve Ortiz agreed.

"It's best for everybody if you have these town meetings," Ortiz said.

"Ortiz also expressed agreement with a comment made earlier by Durham, that the agreement does set a precedent.

"I'd like to see us both winners in this," he said.

Durham added that while she wants to proceed slowly and cautiously, she supports the concept of having tribal officers deputized by the county sheriff.

"Jim (Battese, the tribe's police chief) and I never would have discussed it if we didn't think it would work," Durham said.

Durham, Battese, and the county's and tribe's attorneys will continue to discuss cross deputization and work out details.

Reprinted with permission:  
Thursday, March 25, 1999  
Written by Sandra Siebert



Photo by Gary E. Mitchell

Potawatomi Fire Department Members  
(Going on a 3-mile timed walk with a 40 lb. Backpack)

Tribal Council 1999 Resolutions

PBP-99-001 01-11-99	Tribal Fuel Tax - Potawatomi Law and Order Code Chapter 10-6 -Motor Fuel Tax- Sections 10-6-1 to 10-6-8
PBP-99-002 01/11/99	Legal Services - Morrisset, Schlosser, Ayer, and Jozwiak, for the months of October and November, 1998.
PBP-99-003 01-11-99	Architectural Services - Sewerdt Design Group Inc. to provide architectural services for the Elder Center.
PBP-99-004 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 72.9 acres
PBP-99-005 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 32.4 acres
PBP-99-006 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 96 acres
PBP-99-007 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 80 acres
PBP-99-008 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 55 acres
PBP-99-009 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 120 acres
PBP-99-010 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 10 acres
PBP-99-011 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 80 acres
PBP-99-012 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 118 acres
PBP-99-013 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 16 acres
PBP-99-014 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 80 acres
PBP-99-015 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 160 acres
PBP-99-016 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 98 acres

PBP-99-017 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 580 acres
PBP-99-018 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 4.3 acres
PBP-99-019 01-14-99	Land Purchase - Purchased 120 acres
PBP-99-020 01-19-99	Constitutional Changes - General Council to vote on the amendments.
PBP-99-021	VOID
PBP-99-022 01-27-99	Grant Renewal - Title VI Senior Citizen Program
PBP-99-023	Personnel - Social Worker Position
PBP-99-024 02-02-99	Amendment to Law & Order Codes Motor Vehicle Registration & Titles.
PBP-99-025 02-02-99	Reciprocity Agreement with Minnesota provides for mutual recognition of the vehicle registration and titles of the other jurisdiction
PBP-99-026 02-09-99	Grant Renewal - Headstart/Child Care Grant
PBP-99-027 02-12-99	Employment Contract - Dave Danielson to perform services for the Nation as Registrar off Motor Vehicles.
PBP-99-028 02-16-99	Land Subdivision - Revise one of the general guidelins for the Nation's Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.
PBP-99-029 02-16-99	Language Grant - ANA Grant submitted
PBP-99-030 02-16-99	Enrollment - Amend Article III, members must possess at least one-fourth (1/4) degree Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian blood.
PBP-99-031 02-16-99	BIA Superintendent Position - Support and concur that Mr. Galen Hubbard to acquire the position of Superintendent of the Horton Agency.

PBP-99-032 03-12-99	Bank Signature Cards - Mamie Rupnicki, Chair; Vestina Nonken, Vice-Chair; and James Potter, Treasurer , to sign/cosign all negotiable instruments executed on behalf of the Tribe, when authorized to do so by the Tribal Council with Farmers State Bank, Holton, KS.
PBP-99-033 03-12-99	Bank Signature Cards - Mamie Rupnicki, Chair; Vestina Nonken, Vice-Chair; and James Potter, Treasurer to sign/cosign all negotiable instruments executed on behalf of the Tribe, including access to safe deposit boxes entrusted to the Kansas State Bank, Holton, KS.
PBP-99-034 03-12-99	Land Lease - Two (2) tracts of land are to be included in BIA Land Lease Sale on April 14, 1999.
PBP-99-035	Amendment to Law & Order Codes Amend Motor Vehicle Code, Title 17.
PBP-99-036 03-16-99	Amendment to Law & Order Amend PBP Court Codes, Title 2.
PBP-99-037 03-16-99	Appointment to a Board Appoint James Potter, as a representative for the Prairie Band Potawatomi to NAFS.
PBP-99-038 03/16/99	Appointment to a Board - Appointment to Native American Family Services, Phillip A. Tatum, as a representative for the Prairie Band Potawatomi.
PBP-99-039 03/16/99	Procurement Clerk - Approval of a Procurement Clerk to direct a Procurement Department.



PER CAPITA INFORMATION UPDATE

By: Doris A. Potts

In the last quarterly newsletter, we reported that we'd keep you updated on the per capita news, so please don't listen to the "idle gossip" from the friendly sources who may be only having fun with you to see how far and fast the news spreads when they tell you we are getting a payment soon and it's more than the last payment. Because, believe me, the per capita news spreads like the wild fires you are now witnessing out on the reservation!

You can quote this though, "There is not a per capita distribution payment to be made soon!" It's presently an annual distribution and we're still tying up the loose ends from the 97 & 98 per capita payments. The next payment won't be until the end of 1999 and we'll be passing this definite information on to you as we receive it from the Tribal Council. So, please don't start calling our toll free hot line to ask if we're getting a payment and for

what amount.

The good news we have to share with you is to report that we have successfully gained Tribal Council's approval in allowing us to add a new category to our Tribal Newspaper mail-out listing. We'll be adding non-tribal member's names that have custodial care over a minor tribal member or adult requiring custodial care. This will help eliminate the problem of a check getting into the incorrect hands as the non-tribal custodial parent/guardian will be aware of what is going on with tribal business. It is our goal to get all of the per capita checks to the correct person. You can help us do that by keeping your addresses current with our office. It's as simple as a phone call as our toll free # is 877-715-6789.

Currently, we have a standard procedure of sharing address update/change information between the Election, Enrollment, and Per Capita Division. as soon as this updated information comes in, a copy is made and

our courier takes out the copy to the required departments on a daily basis.

To date, we still have ninety-one minor's checks that we are holding due to lack of current address or by court order. If you have a minor tribal member who has not received their per capita check, please contact this office and we'll look into the reason for the delay. We will not be publishing the minor list in this newspaper.

Last of all, we'd like to share some per capita statistics with you just to show you the actual facts - interesting conversation piece, if nothing else. This year, we had the toll free line for the first time and that line was kept busy during the actual process. The volume of calls were quite gratifying as we turned into resource people for many tribal members as they inquired about various subjects that didn't pertain to the per capita distribution. We were happy to assist those tribal members in any way possible though.

Bringing Leonard Peltier Home

by John Paul Montano (Pokagon Band Potawatomi)

There have been many supporters that have stuck with me since the day of my arrest ... There are always many more new ones coming to my aid in my hour of need. I thank all of you for the position you have taken on my behalf. I wish I could hold you in my arms and thank you personally for the sacrifice you are willing to take for me ... We must strengthen our abilities to communicate with each other and educate our communities to the realities which we face as caring, compassionate human beings. I know that one day we will succeed.

-Leonard Peltier, January 1999

Our Anishnabe relative, Leonard Peltier, has spent more than 23 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit. He was falsely convicted of killing two FBI agents on June 26, 1975 during a shoot-out on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The U.S. Department of Justice has openly admitted that "we don't know who killed those agents." According to Leonard, "In reality, the only thing I am guilty of is defending and standing up for a Nation of people who were being oppressed."

As we approach June, the 24th anniversary of the Pine Ridge shoot-out, Leonard is asking for our support to help win his release from prison. We can pray for him in our ceremonies. We

can take an afternoon in June to talk to our children about who Leonard Peltier is, and what he stands for. We can write a letter to Leonard just to say 'hi' (Leonard Peltier, USPL, #89637-132, PO Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048). We can write a letter to President Clinton asking for Executive Clemency for Leonard. We can attend the three-day organizing conference being sponsored by the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee on June 25, 26, and 27 at Haskell Indian Nations University. What we do is up to us. Leonard is just asking that we do help him win his freedom.

In planning for his release, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council has passed Resolution 97-58 asking Leavenworth Federal Prison to parole Leonard to this Reservation. "Our tribal members, especially our children can learn from Mr. Peltier's experiences and benefit from his message of living a life free of drug and alcohol abuse, and retaining the traditional ways of our People ... The Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indians desire that Mr. Peltier be released from parole, so that he will be able to be amongst our People, and participate in our ceremonies, and teach our children."

Bringing Leonard back home is a great challenge for us as a People. But, much of our history is a history of overcoming challenges. As we have shown for centuries, Anishnabe prayers and unity can accomplish anything.



Royal Valley Dancers

Left to right: Rusty Potts, Lara Lou O'Toole, Nyeh LittleAxe, Evan Evans, William Evans, Syndey Jessepe, Erin Pahmahmie, Zebrina Tye,

-Photo by Gary E. Mitchell

Address Correction Needed

Arnold, Josephine  
Bartlett, Elizabeth  
Bartlett, Elizabeth P.  
Battese, Francis Graham  
Bernabe, Robin Merdia  
Bodah, Sandra Lee  
Boho, Chester Leon  
Bolicki, Doris  
Bourbonia, Davis, Betty Jean  
Boushie, William  
Boushie, William  
Boutwell, Thomas  
Butcher, Ray  
Canku, Morris  
Carrell, Linda  
Carroll, Alicia  
Carroll, Alicia A.  
Chandler, Karla  
Chapman, Wayne  
Chenault, Earl  
Clark, Leroy  
Conley, Rae  
Cook, Stuart  
Coon, Aleshia  
Coon, Aleshia  
Cowell, Michael  
Cravatt, Frank  
Crayton, Raymond  
Darling, Louis Sr.  
Daubon, Charles  
Daubon, David  
Daubon, Joseph  
Daubon, Manuel  
Daubon, Sherry  
Daubon, Sherry  
Daugherty, Tony  
Daugherty, Tony  
Davis, Patricia  
Dean, Josetta  
DeSautels, Loretta  
DeSautels, Michael  
Douthilt, James  
Dwyer, Ndoness  
Eteeyan, Roger  
Evans, Daniel  
Evans, Leslie  
Failing, Sheryl Kay  
Ferrell, Clinton Wayne  
Fitzsimmons, Ginger  
Fitzsimmons, John  
Fitzsimmons, Shelia  
Forbis, Janet L.  
Ford, Ralene  
Ford, Richard

Franz, Jack  
Free, Adina L.  
Garcia, Barbara  
Georgeson, Kathryn Lea  
Gibson, Robert  
Gibson, Theodore  
Godinez, Patti  
Gonzales, Luis  
Grinnell, Guy  
Gunn, James, Jr.  
Gunn, Judith  
Gunn, Mark A.  
Gunn, Susan Renee  
Gunn, Tracy  
Harrington, Harry N.  
Harrison, William Scott  
Harrison, Jessica  
Hawkins, Desiree  
Henderson, Timothy M.  
Hernandez, David  
Hernandez, Lori  
Hernandez, Senobio  
Hicks, Theresa  
Hinsa, Romona  
Hodahkwen, Marnie  
Holaday, Pamela  
Houghton, Gwendolyn  
Hurst, Jolene  
Ingram, Jason  
Ingram, Jennifer  
Jackson, Derrick  
Jackson, Ernest  
Jackson, Lawrence  
Jackson, Patricia  
Jackson, Thomas  
Jacobson, Ernest  
Jacobson, Ronald  
Jensen, Aaron  
Jensen, Glen  
Jessepe, Clifford  
Johnson, Kim  
Johnson, Pamela  
Johnson, Shellia  
Jorissen, Cathleen  
Kabance, Gail  
Kabelitz, Regina M.  
Kerns, Lisa Rene  
Ketcheshawno, Robert  
Kitchens, Eldon  
Kitchkommie, Carol J.  
Knight, Eldon  
Knight, Lynell  
Kourtis, Stephen  
Lackey, Travis P.

LaClair, Victor  
Lacy, David  
Lacy, Dixie  
Lacy, James  
Lacy, Robert W.  
Lavender, Rita  
Lawrence, Grant M. Jr.  
Lawton, Quentin  
Leach, Bobby  
Leach, James  
Ledbetter, Jon  
Lewis, David  
Lewis, Raymond  
Lewis, Richard E.  
Light, Melissa Suzanne  
Little Bull, Donna  
Lowe, Debra  
Lurvey, Ramona Elizabeth  
Magnauck, Michael  
Manis, Michael  
Martinez, Ricardo, Jr.  
Martinez, Rosendo  
Martinez, Rudolph  
Maruska, Amy  
Masquas, Michael  
Masquas, Stacy  
Matchie, Christina  
McDonald, William, Jr.  
McKendree, Marisa  
McKendree, William  
McKinney, Gladys Marie  
Mendez, Gabriella  
Messner, Judy  
Meyers, Eleanor  
Mitchell, Gerald, Jr.  
Moe, Robert G.  
Monroe, Alice  
Moore, Paula J.  
Moore, Scott  
Morash, Carles  
Morgan, Leslie  
Mzhickteno, Deborah  
Mzhickteno, Lynda  
Nahnogah, Daryl  
Nash, Terri  
Nelson, Larry  
Nioce, Lenora  
Nioce, Paul  
Olney, Aaron  
Pahmahmie, Tena  
Patch, Lois  
Patch, Timothy  
Penland, Sheryl  
Perrote, John

Peters, James  
Phillips, Jody  
Pierson, Victoria  
Pigeon, Curtis  
Postoak, David  
Postoak, Denise  
Powers, Rhiannon  
Primeaux, Virginia  
Puckkee, Jim  
Rader, Michael S.  
Ramirez, Gregory  
Ramirez, Marina  
Reigle, Linda  
Reynolds, David  
Rice, Kendall  
Rice, Lahoma  
Rice, Norris  
Rice, Ramona  
Rice, Robert Joseph  
Rice, Wauhellau  
Robinson, Shawn  
Rodriquez, Martha R.  
Ross, Lillian  
Ross, Theodore  
Sanchez, Dennis  
Seymour, Ernest  
Seymour, John  
Seymour, Kendis  
Seymour, Lisa  
Shegonee, Leland  
Shepard, Carole  
Shepard, Judy  
Shepard, Marcia  
Shepard, Matt, Michelle Rae  
Shepard, Melville  
Shepard, Tammy  
Sheppard, Charles  
Sheppard, Douglas  
Sheppo, Patrick  
Shopteese, Faron  
Shopteese, Marvin  
Shopteese, Marvin J.  
Shuckahosee, Robert J.  
Simpson, Sandra  
Smith, Linda R.  
Snoddy, Gregory  
Staton, Anthony  
Staton, Elizabeth  
Steelman, Jennifer  
Steshyn, Tisha  
Steward, Jack  
Steward, Valerie  
Stewart, Terry  
Stich, Debra

Stich, Joan  
Stretiberger, Ona  
Sullivan, Vernon  
Sweet, Julia C.  
Tecumseh, Joseph  
Thares, Ardith  
Thomas, Loren  
Tuckwab, Steven P.  
Vanderblomen, John M.  
Vanderewiele, Darlene  
Vaughn, Lea  
Ventura, Raquel  
Wabaunsee, Jason  
Wabnum, Loren  
Wabshoggin, James E.  
Wabskie, Donald  
Wagner, Evelyn R.  
Wahquaboshkuk, Lucille  
Wahquaboshkuk, Wallace, Jr.  
Wahwassuck, Trilby  
Wahweotten, Brian  
Wahweotten, Edward  
Walder, Christie  
Walker, Bruce  
Walker, Richmond  
Waller, Monica  
Walrod, Aaron  
Walrod, Peter  
Willoughby, Christine  
Wishkeno, Calvin  
Wiskeno, Lisa  
Wood, James E.  
Yarbrough, Rex  
Young, Frank  
Young, Kathryn  
Zoret, Josephine



-Photo by Gary E. Mitchell

Royal Valley Jingle Dress Dancers

Left to right: Ashley Whitetail, Kristina Throssell, and Michelle Yoshida

Impact Aid Public Hearing

Wednesday, April 14, 1999 6:00 p.m.

Royal Valley High School Gym

Letter of Appreciation

On behalf of the Royal Valley Board of Education, I wish to thank you for your financial assistance with the start-up costs for the baseball and softball programs in our district this Spring. Your gift to the district paid for over \$36,000 worth of equipment, uniforms, and storage cabinetry for the programs.

We also appreciate use of your softball playing field for games. It is a first rate athletic field, and one to which we are pleased to have access. Having the two new athletic programs has allowed us to involve 28 more students in Spring sports than last year, and we believe both programs will be very competitive even in their start-up year!

Thank you for your generous support of these athletic programs. Working together, we are able to provide additional activities for students in our communities which will benefit and enrich their lives.

With sincere appreciation,

Marceta A. Reilly  
Superintendent, USD 337



# The Back Page

## The Warrior's Heart

Submitted by: Rosemary Bachmurski-Fosdick, Emporia, Kansas

So inspired by Dr. Donald Coldsmith's regular featured commentaries on the American Indian in the Emporia Gazette, I too, decided it was high time for me to do a little research and writing of my own about the Indian way.

Like ol' Doc Coldsmith explained a few full months ago, there are 300 to 500 very different and individual Indian cultures, histories, and customs from which to choose. With this new wealth of information and opportunity before me, it became more and more apparent there was definitely room for the voice of a cross breed, white woman, who's elders are of European decent, and written contributions to American Indian traditions. And so my search began for a story to tell, a legend to pass on, or some other interesting, little known, historical fact about American Indian traditions worthy of researching, writing about, and ultimately shared with others by publication.

Once upon a time, long before the advent of tribal gaming, slick brochures, glittery advertising foretelling the best gambling odds and best pay outs on slot machines among the Big Three Nations now

operating casinos in Kansas, and finally, a means of financial independence and freedom for our Native Americans, and old, old Indian tale was passed down. Found on page four of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Chapters in Time, by tribal historian, Gary Mitchell, this story pulled so hard and so long at this immigrant's granddaughters heartstrings, and most assuredly, at the same heartstrings of the immigrant "Jajo" as he looks down from heaven's gate at his Polish/Cherokee Nation mixed grandchildren. My search for a topic abruptly ended and my research stopped.

This story begins, like all great Indian legends, with a buffalo hunt. The story goes something like this.....

Way back in the late 1840's, the Potawatomi tribesmen embarked on their very last buffalo hunt. Federal regulations, such as they are, required the tribe to obtain a "permit" from the local Indian agency before the tribe could leave their reservation. Armed with permission to leave appropriately documented with the federal authorities, furlough papers in

hand, the Potawatomi hunters traveled on horseback to the areas of Kansas where the buffalo still roamed and proceeded to kill just enough buffalo to met their needs through the ensuing winter.

Coming home, however, the great braves of the Potawatomi came upon the black settlers of Nicodemus. The hunters found the settlers "helplessly stranded, hungry, and without means of shelter." These newly freed slaves, having the initiative and courage to start their own community out there in the wilds of Kansas, had little or no knowledge of the harsh winters out there on the prairie nor the means of survival necessary for their new environment.

In passing, the Potawatomi, noticing only the perilous plight, not the cultural differences or color of these settlers, knew instinctively the Nicodemus tribe would never, ever, last the Kansas winter without shelter, food, or adequate clothing.

As the hunters continued to discuss the plight of the starving settlers over the evening campfire. The Great Spirit touched the hearts of the hunters and they returned to

help the settlers of Nicodemus.

The Potawatomi hunters taught the black settlers to build shelter, provided them with buffalo skins to keep warm, and gave them one half of their proceeds from the buffalo hunt. A good deed done, the tribesmen headed home.

Returning to the reservation, news spread among the Nation about the great act of compassion and sacrifice made to the Nicodemus community. Deliberately and conscientiously giving away to total strangers one-half the buffalo meat was not met with "what are we suppose to do for food?" or "what took you so long?" type questions, but a hail from the tribe to the hunters as "heroes." This particular story is listed in the Potawatomi culture and history as a "bright page in human history."

But then, this great story and act of compassion, is, indeed, the Indian way. Contrary to white society's values and mores of "taking and saving," tribal values endorse "giving and sharing." Sounds like a perfect world to me.

### Local Potawatomi Girl Awarded Gladys R. Routh Memorial Scholarship

Allison Florence Pahmahmie (Mi Mi Kwe) was awarded the Gladys R. Routh Memorial Scholarship by the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution on March 13 at the Topeka West Holiday Inn.

The scholarship is awarded once every three years to an applicant who preferably is at least 1/4 Potawatomi. The applicant must have a sound academic background and must be accepted by a college or university. Three letters of reference must be submitted. Applicants must be sponsored by a DAR chapter. Allison was sponsored by the John Haupt Chapter of Topeka.

Allison is a graduate of Seaman High School in Topeka and is a freshman at the Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Ks, where she plans to major in elementary education.

Allison is the daughter of Albert and Phyllis Pahmahmie, Topeka, Ks, and the granddaughter of Albert and Dorothy Bomar, Meriden, Ks, and the late Dick and Josie Pahmahmie.



Allison Pahmahmie



Study Hall on the Reservation  
A project of the Potawatomi Youth Program

by Gary E. Mitchell

## Kansas factions push for expansion of Gaming Devices

By: Gary E. Mitchell

After a year of success in the casino business, the Potawatomi Tribe continually face new obstacles to maintain the status quo.

For instance, in a recent *Topeka Capital Journal* article entitled, "Speaker: Indian casinos should pay taxes," by Roger Myers, House Speaker Robin Jennison outlined why casinos in Kansas should pay taxes to the State of Kansas.

Jennison said there are some members of the House who would be willing to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot that would repeal the authority of the state to operate a lottery.

"I think at some point the Indian nations would be wise to renegotiate their compacts," Jennison said. "The state could give them exclusive rights to operate their casinos in Kansas in return for them making a payment in lieu of taxes to the state. Right now we don't get anything from the casinos."

Evidently, Jennison has gone through a temporary memory loss. The Kansas State Gaming Agency is funded fully by assessments levied against the four tribes of Kansas. This formula for assessment stems from a provision in the Tribal-State compacts signed in 1995. Jennison was a ranking member of the House of Representatives when the Compacts became law.

In addition, the Jennison argument fails to mention that the State of Kansas would lose a \$185 million dollar gross revenue source in the

lottery as evidenced by the latest financial statements from the Kansas Lottery Office.

Transfers from the State Gaming Revenues Fund are made on a formula in statute. The current formula transfers 85 percent to the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF), 10 percent to the Correctional Institutions Building Fund (CDIF) and 5 percent for Juvenile Facilities Fund (JDFF).

Transfers for these purposes are limited to \$50 million in a given fiscal year. Any receipts above that amount are transferred to the State General Fund. For instance, in 1998, 50 million went to this fund by law and over \$9.9 million went to the General Fund. The General Fund is a discretionary fund for the legislators.

It is highly unlikely that the House of Representatives would risk losing such a profitable business for the State of Kansas because of the economic racism of a few, but who knows.

A local writer, Martin Hawver, commented about the Jennison remarks in his Capital Report of March 9:

"Now, it might have sounded intriguing as he said it, but what are chances, do you think, that Indian casino operators are gonna, after fighting for half a decade for casinos, and roughly 300 years before that, suddenly decide they'd like to pay some taxes to the state in order to keep slots safely in Indian hands...Now, maybe that suggestion isn't extortion, like it sounded."

Furthermore, the Jennison article spurred an interesting letter to the editor in the March 28 edition of the *Topeka Capital Journal*.

Robert M. Tyler of Ozawie said, "So the In-

dians of Kansas have found a way to make money on those bastions of America's much criticized history - the reservation. Now the speaker of the House, Robin Jennison, a Republican wants some of that money. Well, Mr. Speaker," Tyler said, "as one Republican to another: Leave the Indians alone. For years the Indians of Kansas have had to live on these playgrounds of poverty we put them on. Once you see they've become self-sufficient and don't need the occasional bone you throw at them, your eyebrows raise and wonder, what's up." Tyler warned Jennison in the ending of his letter with the following words, "Don't become a tax and spend Republican, or I'll have to find myself a new party and then I will tell everyone in the beautifully stated words of my Republican hero, Ronald Reagan, 'I didn't leave the party, the party left me.'"

As an alternative, David Powls of the Holton Recorder suggests compromise: "that working with county officials is easier than working with state officials in Topeka and contributing in the area of public safety would be a good place to show support - and the funding would stay at home where it would do the most good."

Only time will tell what the ultimate solution is to the continuing political problem in Kansas. On Friday, March 26, 1999 Senate debate on the bill to allow gambling machines in Kansas City and Wichita race tracks was postponed because it was evident there weren't enough votes to pass it. But, rest assured that this will come up again before this legislative session ends.

### Browne Named New General Manager

Patrick Browne has been named vice president and general manager of Harrah's Prairie Band Casino, pending tribe and regulatory approvals. He began his career at Harrah's Lake Tahoe in house-keeping, keno and slots. His operations talents have taken to North Kansas City and recently St. Louis, where he has been serving as assistant general manager.

Joe Hasson has been named senior vice president and general manager of Harrah's Laughlin (subject to regulatory approval). He began his career at Harrah's Atlantic City in 1981 as an internal auditor. Working his way up through finance and administration, Joe joined the Riverboat Division to later become general manager of Harrah's Tunica. He has most recently been the general manager of Harrah's Prairie Band Casino.

Anthony Sanfilippo has been named president of the Central Division for the Harrah's brand, with responsibility for the North Kansas City, Prairie Band Potawatomi Casino-Topeka, Shreveport, St. Louis, Tunica and Vicksburg operations.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND/OR NAME

##### RETURN TO:

Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indian Tribe  
Attention: Finance/Per Capita Division  
16277 Q Road  
Mayetta, Kansas 66509

LastName \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

MI \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_

Other Names Used \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

PBP Tribal Enrollment # \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

This form can be faxed in to 785-966-2462 or 2144. Our toll free number is 877-715-6789 and our local number is 785-966-2848. Currently that line is quite busy, so be patient and keep trying to phone if you have per capita questions.