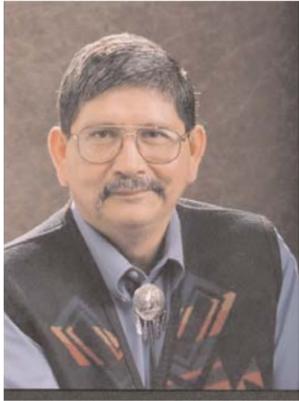




# Prairie Band Potawatomi News

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation  
Fall 2013

## Gary Mitchell and Larry Mzhickteno win Gaming Commission seats



**Gary Mitchell**  
Gaming Commissioner #1

The winners in this year's Gaming/Ethics Commission Election were Gary Mitchell and Larry Mzhickteno who both retained their seats on the Commission.

In the first election, held July 27 at the Bingo Hall, Mitchell won **Gaming Commissioner #1** with (444 votes or (57.29%) and beat Rebecca J (Shopteese-Thomas) Harman who received 331 votes or (42.71%). Mitchell and Harman were the only candidates running for that position where a total of 775 votes were counted during the open meeting of the tribal membership.

For **Gaming Commissioner #2**, the first vote count was: Marlana Jessepe-Jordan-137 (17.68%); Larry Mzhickteno-239 (30.84%); Jona (Potts) Rupnicki-101 (13.03%); Adriana Wahwasuck-106 (13.68%), and Jancita Warrington-192 (24.77%). Since no candidate won by the majority vote plus one needed to win in the first round, a Run-Off Election was held between Mzhickteno and Warrington who received the highest number of votes. On Aug. 24, the day of the Run-



**Larry Mzhickteno**  
Gaming Commissioner #2

Off election, Mzhickteno won with 365 (53.43%) votes over Warrington's 317 (46.57%) count. The total vote count that day was 685 votes.

Candidates filed for the positions in April. Profiles and photos of the candidates were listed in the summer issue of the *News* and were also posted on the tribe's website. Ballots were mailed to registered voters on June 12 for the first election and counted electronically on July 27 in an open meeting of the tribal membership. Run-off ballots were mailed on Aug. 2 and counted on Aug. 24 at the Bingo Hall.

Election Board members are Sara Gartenmayer, Arlene Lingo, and Sherri Landis. Leslie Marshno was election judge and election clerks for both elections were Frank Shopteese, Elizabeth Gaona, Linda Yazzie, Linda Wahweotten, and Beverly Brandt. Paul Vega, member services coordinator, administered both elections.

Mitchell was sworn in to office Aug. 1 and Mzhickteno on Aug. 29 during short ceremonies at the Bingo Hall.

## Healthy Kansas Tribes 2020 Summit brings Kansas governor to PBPN



Tribal leaders pose with Gov. Sam Brownback at the Healthy Kansas Tribes 2020 Summit held Sept. 9-10 at the casino. Left to right: Tony Fee (Iowa), Tim Rhodd (Iowa), Brownback, Steve Ortiz (PBPN), Steve Cadue (Kickapoo), Carrie O'Toole (PBPN) and Adolph Cadue (Kickapoo).

A Healthy Kansas Tribes 2020 Summit that was held on Sept. 9 and 10 brought together Kansas tribal leaders and other health officials from the State of Kansas and Midwest region to begin an information dialogue to create a community health assessment study that will gauge overarching health issues and concerns that pertain to tribal communities.

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback attended the Summit on the first day and gave brief remarks at the conference that was held at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort. During his speech, he told the audience that he is willing to help tribal communities with their health issues and concerns and hopes to continue generating positive government-to-government relationships with the Kansas tribes.

Other notable leaders at the summit included Dr. Robert Moser, MD, Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Stephene Moore, Director of the Region VII U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Stacy Bohlen, Executive Director of the National Indian Health Board on Public Health Action Agenda, and Tom Anderson, Director of Southern Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center, Oklahoma City Area Intertribal Health Board.

Tribal chairpersons and other leaders were also at the conference from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, and Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.

Aiko Allen, KDHE Center for Health Equity, was the facilitator for the summit that has been in the works since last spring. Other members of the planning committee included Bill Thorne (PBPN), Steve Corbett (Kickapoo), Carrie O'Toole (PBPN), and Zach Pahmahmie (Kickapoo).

PRESORT STANDARD U.S.

Postage Paid  
Permit #10  
P.O.Box 116  
Mayetta, Kansas  
66509-9114

## Message to the Nation from Steve Ortiz, Tribal Council Chairperson

This has been an exciting quarter for the Prairie Band that began with the election of two gaming commissioners and for the many who traveled to the Potawatomi Gathering hosted by the Pokagon Band in Dowagiac, Mich.

There has also been a lot of action occurring with our Native American veterans who will soon have greater access to medical care on their reservations. On July 2 I had a meeting with Assistant Secretary Tommy Sowers of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Hutchinson, Kan. as a follow up regarding the new health services agreement plan that is in the works between leaders from the Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal Health Program (THP), and the Veterans Administration (VA) medical centers. The reimbursement plan will focus on increasing coordination, collaboration, and the sharing of resources between the afore-mentioned groups and allow Native American veterans the ability to use their tribal health program facilities versus having to utilize VA facilities that are usually off the reservation and in larger cities.

On July 20 tribal members gathered for the General Council meeting and on July 27 the Gaming Commission elections were held with Gary Mitchell winning Gaming Commissioner #1. On August 1 he was sworn in to office at the Bingo Hall. On Aug. 24 Larry Mzhickteno regained his seat as Gaming Commissioner #2 in a Run-Off election and on Aug. 29 Tribal Council and I administered the oath of office to him at a swearing-in ceremony at the Bingo Hall.

On August 5 I traveled to Washington, D.C. where I had a meeting with Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs. A week later, Aug. 14-15 I was a speaker at the National Dialogue on Oral Health Needs and Workforce Solutions in Indian Country Conference in Aurora, Colo. The conference was designed to bring Native American leaders and professionals together to discuss the need for more dental therapy and services in Native American communities.

On Aug. 23 some members of Tribal Council attended the grand opening of the Potawatomi Smoke Shop and the new headquarters of Prairie Band, LLC located on U.S. Highway 75.

I traveled to Dodge City, Kan. on Aug. 27 to attend Gov. Sam Brownback's Council of Economic Advisors meeting where environmental issues primarily concerning water were discussed along with other economic items of interest.

September has also proved to be a busy month. After enjoying the Labor

Day weekend, I traveled to a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Workshop in Albuquerque, N.M. that was held Sept. 4 and returned back to the reservation for a Town Hall meeting about enrollment with the tribal membership on Sept. 7.

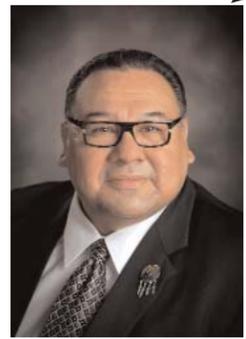
I was also invited to give opening remarks and introductory remarks about Gov. Sam Brownback at the Healthy Kansas Tribes 2020 Summit on Sept. 9-10 at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort. The summit brought together Native American and State of Kansas leaders to discuss what the leading health issues and concerns to Indians in Kansas are. The goal of the summit was to work toward providing what will be a uniformed community health assessment study to be developed in the future that will collect important data.

On September 11 Shawn Walker was sworn in as the new Chief of Police in Tribal Council chambers. Walker is a tribal member and has several years of experience as a law enforcement officer including previous work as a tribal police officer from 1997-1999. On Sept. 13 the Prairie Band Judicial Center staff hosted a Native American Law Symposium and Tribal Council's Tom Wabnum gave opening remarks.

From Sept. 17-18 I was in Washington, D.C. for the DHHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Council (STAC) meeting and returned home to attend a reception for Gov. Brownback's 2014 Re-Election Campaign on Sept. 25. Other members of the Tribal Council also attended the reception.

Other activities and events in the PBP community in September included the Our Lady of Snows Church Bazaar held Sept. 15 and the 16th Annual Veterans Pow-wow that is hosted by the We-Ta-Se American Legion Post #410 each year that was held Sept. 21. Employees were also given a day-off on Sept. 20 in celebration of American Indian Day.

The next quarter should also prove to be busy with another General Council meeting scheduled for Oct. 19. Tribal elders are also getting assistance with estate planning workshops by working with Kansas Legal Services and the Office of the Special Trustee along with Treasurer Hattie Mitchell who has been facilitating the meetings.



L to R: Dr. Jessica Rickert, Chairman Steve Ortiz and Tribal Council member Carrie O'Toole at the "A National Dialogue on Oral Health Needs and Workforce Solutions in Indian Country" held last August in Denver. Dr. Jessica Rickert is a tribal member and also the first Native American woman dentist in the country and is featured on page 20 inside this issue.

### Potawatomi News

P.O. Box 116

Mayetta, KS 66509-0116

#### Physical location:

16281 Q Road

Mayetta, KS

66509

Phone: 785.966.3920

Fax: 785.966.3912

Editor: Suzanne Heck

Email: [suzanneh@pbpnation.org](mailto:suzanneh@pbpnation.org)

The Prairie Band Potawatomi (PBP) News is a quarterly publication of the Prairie Band Potawatomi (PBP) Nation. Editorials and articles appearing in the PBP News are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of the PBP News staff, Tribal Council, Gaming Commission or the Nation. The PBP News encourages Letters to the Editor but all letters upon submission must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author. Letters are subject to editing for grammar, length, malicious and libelous content. Please submit items by email or by other electronic means if possible. The PBP News reserves the right to reject any materials or letters submitted for publication and items submitted past the deadline. Photos submitted with news articles will be returned after publication with a SASE or can be scanned if brought to the News office.

### 2013 Potawatomi News schedule

Winter issue: News deadline-Dec. 2; Mailed out-Dec. 18

[www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com)

## Message to the Nation from Hattie Mitchell, Tribal Council Treasurer



It has been a year and a month since I was sworn into office as the tribal treasurer. One of my initiatives has been to provide more opportunities to learn about finance to the general tribal membership. Last year, I helped teach a financial literacy workshop for the youth at the Boys and Girls Club. This year, I am working with Kansas Legal Services and the Office of Special Trustee (OST)-Horton Agency to do a series of estate planning meetings that will lead to a workshop where wills are drafted by Kansas Legal Services for up to 40 tribal elders. The first meeting was held on August 24 at the Fire Keepers Elder Center and the second meeting was held September 19 that focused on land interest and the American Indian Probate Reform Act (AIPRA). The final meeting is scheduled for October 3 before the wills are drafted by the Kansas Legal Services team on October 24. This is the first in a series of estate planning and will workshops, with plans to partner with local colleges that will hopefully continue the legal assistance. If elders are not able to attend any of the sessions offered at the Fire Keepers Elder Center please call the Kansas Legal Services directly. The goal of the workshops is to educate people about personal estate planning, to gather interests/accounts, and to avoid probate and fractionation of land, with the purpose of planning estates properly and completing the wills.

In August, I attended the National Intertribal Tax Alliance (NITA) conference on the Tulalip Tribe reservation in Washington and while there I toured the economic development enterprises of the Tulalip tribe. Just north of Seattle, the Tulalip tribe has a casino resort and a premium outlet mall within walking distance of the casino. Their economic development was impressive; they have 125 shops that are leased from the tribe and they also have other business parks with brands like Cabela's and Home Depot. The PBPN could generate economic development on a smaller scale similar to the Tulalip; we are still working on the 150 Road and US Highway 75 interchange development plans. Currently, we do not have a starting date for the project.

In addition to the conference, I traveled to Auburn, Wash. to volunteer in the Junior Achievement Finance Park with the youth of the Tulalip and Puyallup tribes for their annual financial literacy training program. This educational training program could also be brought to the PBPN reservation where our youth could be trained about finance.

Additionally in August, along with the PBPN finance team, I worked with a consultant to finish up the negotiations on the indirect-costs rates with the National Business Center on the Indirect Cost proposals, 2001-2010. Having an updated rate allows the Nation reimbursement for indirect costs, and is required when applying for new grants. This project took great effort in completing and we

are ready to move forward. In September, a town hall meeting was held at the Bingo Hall where tribal members discussed enrollment. This meeting was not a voting meeting but more an open discussion on issues surrounding enrollment and how to address concerns. The meeting went well and another special meeting is being planned to further the discussion.

Other upcoming events in September included attending a reception for Governor Sam Brownback and finalizing the 2014 budgets with Tribal Council and the administration.

Other meetings, activities, and events I have been involved in are:

- June**
  - Attended the Wisconsin town hall meeting-Nekoosa, Wisconsin
- July**
  - Held quarterly actual-to-budget review sessions with PBP department directors
  - Participated in the PBP General Council Meeting-Bingo Hall
  - Participated in the PBP Employee Appreciation and Awards ceremony and event-Bingo Hall
- August**
  - Attended Swearing in of Gaming Commissioners Gary Mitchell and Larry Mzhickteno-BingoHall
  - Started the 2014 PBPN budget process with the PBPN finance team
  - Attended meeting with Tribal Council and Department of the Interior-Washington, D.C.
  - Attended the Potawatomi Gathering-Dowagiac, Michigan
  - Attended the grand opening of the PBP Smoke Shop and the Prairie Band, LLC headquarters- Mayetta, Kan.
- September**
  - Worked on the structure of the PBPN investment portfolio
  - Working on completing the external financial audit
  - Attended the Community Talent show- Bingo Hall
  - Attended the Native American Veterans Enrollment Fair-Prairie Band Casino



Hattie Mitchell is photographed, above, with youth from the Tulalip and Puyallup tribes who got together for an annual financial literacy training program at the Junior Achievement Financial Park in Auburn, Wash. in August. Mitchell reported that she would like to create a similar program for Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation youth in the future.

### Growing our own! Tribal members work as summer interns for Prairie Band Casino & Resort

For details about college summer internships  
call Frank Tecumseh at 785.966.7786  
or click on  
[www.pbpgaming.com/employment](http://www.pbpgaming.com/employment)



These three PBPN members held internships this summer at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort. From left to right is Curtis Pahnahmie, Kira Vega, and Forrest Cox.



Tribal member Nes Hubbard (left) interned at the casino this summer and worked with Sheryl Blue, advertising manager in the Marketing Department.

Right: Hattie Mitchell (right) visiting with Jolene McDonald at the Estate Planning Workshop that was held on Aug. 24 at the Fire Keepers Elder Center. The workshop is helping elders plan their estates.



## Buy-Back Program being developed by Department of Interior

A Buy-Back program is being developed by John McClanahan, program manager for the U.S. Department of Interior Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations. He has a team who are going to post information for individuals and tribes who have fractional land interests.

The team is composed of workers from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) who are working on handouts of frequently asked questions and presentational materials that will describe the buy-back program in detail.

According to an article in spring 2013 newsletter, *Trust Matters* funding for the Buy-Back Program is coming from the \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund established in the Cobell Settlement. The fund will be used to purchase, at fair market value, interests from willing sellers. All fractional interests purchased by the Buy-Back program will be held in trust for the tribe with jurisdiction over the tract of land, which can then be used by the tribe for social, economic, and cultural activities. Purchased interests will remain in trust status. As an additional incentive, when individuals sell fractional interests, a payment from the fund will go to an Indian Education Scholarship Fund for American Indian and Alaska Native students. Up to \$60 million can be paid into the scholarship fund.

**Buy-Back Program website**  
[www.doi.gov/buybackprogram](http://www.doi.gov/buybackprogram)  
or call  
**Trust Beneficiary Call Center**  
1-888-678-6836

## PBPN attend KanCare meeting



Individuals from tribal governments, Indian health programs and urban Indian organizations, that comprise a Tribal Technical Advisory Group (TTAG), got together with State of Kansas officials in July to discuss the upcoming KanCare program that will run in conjunction with the Federal Affordable Care Act. The photograph, above, shows representatives from the PBPN who attended the meeting including Vivien Olsen, Junior Wahweotten, Joyce Guerrero, and Bill Thorne.

(Submitted photo)

**Native American Law Symposium**  
held Sept. 13 at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort.  
Look for details in the winter issue of the *Potawatomi News*

## Casino wins Romero Awards for marketing excellence in Las Vegas

Prairie Band Casino & Resort (PBC&R) won two awards and two honorable mentions in the 2013 Romero Awards presentation that took place July 25 in Las Vegas.

The awards PBC&R won were in the following categories: Casino Floor Promotions where they won Diamond, the top award possible, for "The Price is Right Live." In the same category, they also won Gold for their "\$200,000 Spring Payoff" promotion

and an Honorable Mention for the "Forecast Blast" promotion. They also won an honorable mention in the Community Relations category for "Warm Hands & Hearts," an event where they invited casino guests to donate coats, gloves and blankets in exchange for Prairie Cash.

Romero Awards are presented to a variety of gaming operations including casinos, racinos and other world-wide gaming facilities in recognition of

casino marketing excellence. A panel of expert judges determine Diamond, Silver, Gold and Honorable Mention winners in six categories: Direct Mail Marketing, Community Relations, Casino Floor Promotion, VIP Promotion, Online Marketing, and Electronic Marketing. This year, there were a total of 119 entries.

**Did you know?**  
The Prairie Band Casino & Resort is the only restaurant group in Topeka that donates food to the Harvesters' Food Rescue program?



Tribal Council and PBPN staff traveled to Nekoosa, Wisconsin from June 21-23 to give a Town Hall meeting at the Rainbow Casino to members who live in that region. The meeting, held annually for the past few years, allows PBPN members to meet and discuss issues in person with tribal leaders and administrators.

**Tribal leaders and staff travel to Wisconsin for Town Hall meeting**



Dolly Potts attended a town hall meeting held in Wisconsin in June and was photographed at the registration table.  
(Photo by Linda Yazzie)

## Casino wins 19 Best of Topeka awards

Prairie Band Casino & Resort won nineteen awards in the 2013 *Topeka Capital Journal* Best of Topeka Awards. Voting for the awards took place in April and May by the readers of the Journal. The top five winners were announced in 100 categories.

Prairie Band's awards included: First Place: Best Casino, Best Place for a Reception/Event, Best Place for Live Entertainment, Company with the Best Customer Service, Best Event in NE Kansas (Keepers of the Fire BBQ Contest), Best Locally Owned Restaurant (Longhouse Buffet), Best Place for Lunch (Longhouse Buffet) and Best Restaurant Service (Three Fires Steakhouse.)

Second Place: Best Employer, Best Local Website, Best Place for a Cold Beer and Best Golf Course (Firekeeper).

Third Place: Best Area Lake/Reservoir/Campground/RV Park, Best Buffet (Longhouse Buffet), Best Place for Breakfast (Longhouse Buffet), Best Burger (Buffalo Grill), Best Convenience Store (Nation Station) and Best Steak (Three Fires Steakhouse.).

## Tribal member Duane McCrary is new appellate judge



Judge Duane McCrary shakes hands with Chairman Steve Ortiz shortly after taking the oath of office as a PBPB appellate judge on June 28. McCrary is a tribal member and lives in Madison, Wisconsin. He recently retired from being the Director of Labor Relations for the Madison Metropolitan School District. With him in the photo, left, are members of the Tribal Council, and on his right are members of his family.



Judge McCrary addressing the audience after the ceremony where he said that he was excited about the opportunity to serve the Prairie Band people. He is originally from Topeka and graduated with a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University in 1969 and with a law degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1976. His professional background also includes having worked extensively for the state of Wisconsin in labor and employment law. McCrary is also a veteran of the U.S. Army.



Judge McCrary with members of his family who came to the swearing in held at the Judicial Center. (Left to right) Monique Hase, John McCrary, Marianne and Judge McCrary, and Robin Guerrero.

### PBPB Appellate Judges

John Wabaunsee (Chief)  
Francis Skenandore (Associate)  
Duane McCrary (Associate)

## Charitable Contributions ceremony held

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPB) presented checks totaling \$77,000 to various organizations at the quarterly Charitable Contributions ceremony July 11 at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort.

Areas that are focused on when determining the distribution of funds include groups involved in education, health and community services, environmental protection and preservation, and religious organizations that have an impact on the spiritual wellness and quality of life.



Chris Fisher (far right, front row) represented TARC, an organization from Topeka, that received a \$1,000 donation. Seated with Fisher on the front row (left to right) is Wanda Treinen, John Tuckwin, and Betty Rice who are on the Charitable Contributions Committee. On the back row (left to right), is Jim Potter, Tom Wabnum, Joyce Guerrero, and Junior Wahweotten who are on the PBPB Tribal Council.

For the complete list of donations for the quarter go to [www.pbpindiantribe.com/admin/news.aspx](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/admin/news.aspx) and select the News & Press Archives menu and see story "Charitable Contributions Ceremony Held"

## New health services agreement plan for Native American veterans in the works

Plans are underway for health care services to be expanded to Native American veterans under a new reimbursement agreement plan that will allow veterans to receive medical care at Indian Health Service (IHS)-Tribal Health Program (THP) facilities. Previously, Native American veterans have had to rely on getting their health care needs met at Veterans Administration (VA) medical centers which are sometimes hard to reach for those who live on reservations or in rural communities.

A meeting was held on June 19 between leaders from the IHS, the VA, and the PBPB who met face-to-face for the first time at the Colmery-O'Neil Veterans Administration Medical Center in Topeka to go over a new Local Implementation Plan being designed for veterans in the Eastern Kansas Health Care System. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center is one of the Tribal Health Program (THP) facilities actively involved in the Eastern Kansas Health Care System and PBPB representatives were there to add input on the new THP agreement template being proposed along with VA and IHS leaders in the Eastern Kansas Health Care System.

The reimbursement agreement focuses on increasing coordination, collaboration, and the sharing of resources between the VA and IHS-THP to help Native American veterans. It was developed in 2010 and is now in its implementation phase across the Nation. More follow-up meetings are planned in the future.



(Left to right, front row) Rudy Kopfler (director Veterans Affairs (VA)-Eastern Health Care, Topeka); Steve Ortiz (PBPB chairman); Kevin Meeks (director Oklahoma Area Indian Health Services (IHS)). (Back row) Mary Culley (tribal government relations specialist Southern Plains and Southeast Region Department of VA); Rajeev Trehan (chief of staff VA-Eastern Health Care, Topeka); Bill Thorne (PBPB Health Center administrator); Will McClammy (tribal outreach coordinator-VA Eastern Health Care, Topeka); Nancy Diacon (associate chief nurse-VA Eastern Health Care, Topeka) and Vivien Olsen (PBPB tribal attorney).



A Native American Veterans Enrollment Fair for benefits was held Sept. 5 at the casino. Many PBPB departments and other agencies were on hand to inform veterans about programs available. Above, is Tribal Council member Tom Wabnum (left) who emceed the event, visiting with Rudy Kopfler, who was also a speaker that day.

**Casino hosts Negro Leagues Baseball Museum travelling exhibit and All Star Celebrity Golf Classic**

Six baseball legends that included Frank White, Mike Torrez, Ken Berry, Al Fitzmorris, John Mayberry and Amos Otis signed autographs at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort (PBCR) Aug. 4 and participated in an All-Star Celebrity Golf Classic at Firekeeper Golf Course the next day.

Both events were designed to promote and raise funds for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum that is located in Kansas City. Bob Kendrick, president of the museum, told the *News* that the PBCR is one of the museum's best supporters. "They have embraced us by sponsoring several of our events like the golf tournament and last year's celebration of the Rawlings Negro League Gold Glove Awards," he said. "They are great promoters for the museum and have been very good to us."

The autograph signing drew a large crowd, and was held at the casino where a "They Were All Stars" travelling exhibition was displayed at the casino from July 29 to Aug. 4. The exhibit was previously developed by the museum in conjunction with the Major League All-Star Game held in Kansas City last year. The exhibit chronicles twenty baseball players who transitioned from the Negro Leagues into the Majors and became All-Stars. In addition, nine Gold Glove awards that were given posthumously to Negro

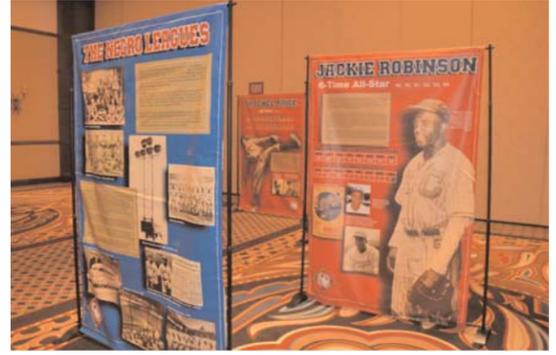
Leagues players were also displayed in the exhibit.

Amos Otis, who played center field for the Kansas City Royals from 1970-1983, was interviewed at the All Star Golf Classic and said that he thought the Prairie Band Casino & Resort was one of the best destination casinos he'd ever seen. "I live in Las Vegas," he said, "and your casino and this golf course rivals any of the ones found there."

Frank White, who played second base for the Kansas City Royals from 1973-1990, also told the *News* that the support from the casino and community during their two-day stay was wonderful. He sits on



**L to R: Jerry Tuckwin, Russell Bradley, Bob Kendrick, and Junior Wahweotten with Amos Otis. Otis played with the Kansas City Royals from 1970-1983. Kendrick directs the Negro Leagues Baseball museum. Tuckwin and Wahweotten are PBPN and Bradley is a Kickapoo member.**



**The Negro Leagues Baseball museum travelling exhibit at the casino highlighted 20 former baseball players who transitioned from the Negro Leagues into the Majors and became All Stars.**

the advisory board for the museum and is a native of Kansas City. "I'm grateful to the PBCR for all they've done to promote the museum the past few years."



**L to R: Barry Coffin, Ryan Shuetz, Ken Berry, and Steve E. Ortiz.**

**Kansas CPA conference held at casino**



**Dominic Ortiz moderated the conference on June 25 and is on the board of directors for the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants (KSCPA).**



**The KSCPA Conference on Kansas Taxes was held June 25 at the Prairie Band Casino. Conference attendees included certified public accountants (CPAs) and other State officials and employees who gathered to discuss tax methods and issues that are affecting Kansas.**



**Former Secretary of Revenue for Kansas, Joan Wagon was one of the speakers at the conference. Other noteworthy speakers included Nick Jordan, Kansas Secretary of Revenue, and Ron Estes, Kansas State Treasurer.**



**Dominic Ortiz on American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Board of Directors**

On the far right is Dominic Ortiz, CPA, CGMA, who is an At-Large Council Member who serves on the board of directors of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the world's largest membership association in the accounting profession. With Ortiz in the photo (left to right) is Gary Allerheiligen, CPA, KSCPA Elected Council Member; M. Aron Dunn, CPA, Designated Council Member; DeAnn Aumann Hill, CPA, CGMA, Board Nominee; Richard Caturano, CPA, CGMA, Chairman, and Robert Schuster, CPA, KSCPA Immediate Past Chair.

## Prairie Band, LLC hold grand opening of new office and Potawatomi Smoke Shop

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Aug. 23 to celebrate the grand opening of the new location of the Prairie Band, LLC offices and drive up Potawatomi Smoke Shop located at 19035 U.S. Highway 75 near Holton, Kan.

The building, once used as a training center for Harrah's casino, now offers more space for the Prairie Band, LLC offices, that were originally located near Firekeeper Golf Course, and the new smoke shop. The smoke shop sells cigarettes, candy and pop directly through a drive-up window located on the building's east side. Smoke Shop hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Burton Warrington is the CEO and president of Prairie Band, LLC and Chad Wilkins is the financial controller. The company was created in 2010 and began operating in 2011 as a holding company. According to the Prairie Band, LLC website ([www.prairiebandllc.com](http://www.prairiebandllc.com)) Prairie Band, LLC currently operates five subsidiaries including Mayetta Oil, Firekeeper Golf Course, Prairie Band Health Services, Prairie Band Construction and Prairie Band Capital. The mission of the Prairie Band, LLC is to utilize various economic and legal advantages to expand the portfolio of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation beyond Indian gaming.



At the ribbon cutting ceremony and in the photo are Prairie Band, LLC staff and board members, and members from the PBPB Tribal Council. Left to right is Tyler Levier, Ramona Nozhackum, Lance Morgan, Gene Thomas, Burton Warrington, Carrie O'Toole, Hattie Mitchell, Jim Potter, Junior Wahweotten, Chad Wilkins and Tug Wamego.

**Prairie Band, LLC offices  
19035 U.S. Highway 75  
Holton, KS 66436**

### Firekeeper Golf hosts AdamsGolf Pro Tour Series



Firekeeper Golf Course hosted the Firekeeper Classic Pro-Am in partnership with the AdamsGolf Pro Tour Series from Aug. 14-Aug. 17. There were 99 golfers who signed up for the tour that included Firekeeper Golf Pro Randy Towner. A Folds of Honor Fundraiser was also held on Aug. 13 to kick off the tour.

### Boys & Girls Club golf fundraiser held Aug. 21



Firekeeper Golf was also the place for the annual Boys & Girls Club golf tournament. The golf course is a Prairie Band, LLC enterprise.

### Prairie Band Health Services awarded large contract

Prairie Band Health Services, Inc. (PBHS), a subsidiary of Prairie Band, LLC, was awarded a \$2,584,590 contract to deliver physician and nursing services at the Naval Hospital in Lemoore, California. The one year contract begins in October and can be extended for multiple years resulting in a potential value in excess of \$8 million.

"Our team has worked diligently for the last few years building PBHS's federal contracting capacity and positioning the company to compete for these types of awards," said Prairie Band, LLC CEO Burton Warrington. "Being awarded contracts in the competitive federal contracting realm does not happen overnight but we are slowly starting to see the results from our past efforts."

"PBHS has built a history of solid past performance and we are confident that we will continue that performance on this contract," said PBHS President John Holtz. "We also look forward to receiving our certification as a SBA 8(a) company, which will greatly enhance our ability to be awarded additional contracts with the federal government."

PBHS is a healthcare management staffing company that offers a vast range of services that include recruiting, credentialing and placement of clinical, technical and administrative professional personnel for numerous federal military bases and private commercial clients.

Prairie Band, LLC is wholly owned by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPB) and serves as a holding company charged with diversifying, managing and expanding economic interests of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Gene Thomas is the manager of the Potawatomi Smoke Shop 19035 U.S. Hwy 75 Holton, KS 66436



### Prairie Band, LLC interns



Ramona Nozhackum



Jacob "Tug" Wamego

Two Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation members interned with Prairie Band LLC this past summer to learn about the functions of operating a tribal economic development holding company.

Ramona Nozhackum and Tug Wamego interned this summer and worked with Burton Warrington who is president of Prairie Band, LLC. Tyler Levier (Citizen Potawatomi) also interned with Nozhackum and Wamego.

The interns assisted Prairie Band, LLC and learned about corporate structures and business and operating functions. The interns also learned about how to develop businesses along with tax and legal advantages and subsidiary management.

Nozhackum recently completed her college degree from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. and Wamego is working on his law degree at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan.

## Meet Tribal Police Officer Matt Simpson

*The News periodically plans to conduct a series of question and answer interviews with tribal police officers who work on the reservation.*

*This series introduces Matt Simpson:*

**Q:** What is your official title?

**A:** Sergeant/Patrol Supervisor

**Q:** How long have you been working for the Tribal Police Department?

**A:** Since 2011

**Q:** Are you a tribal member?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Do you have other education besides high school?

**A:** I have a bachelor of science degree with an emphasis in Criminal Justice and Psychology from Washburn University. Additionally, I am working on my master of liberal studies degree with an emphasis in Criminal Justice Administration and Human Resources Management from Fort Hays State University. I hope to graduate in the fall of 2014.

**Q:** Can you briefly outline your work experience?

**A:** I've been a police officer since 2004. I began my career with the Johnson County Sheriff's Department and then moved to Topeka and became a school

resource officer for seven years before coming to the Tribal Police Department.

**Q:** Have you graduated from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) and what does that mean to you?

**A:** Yes. Being a graduate has taught me many things about law enforcement and people in general. It was a great experience and provided me with the technical education I needed to take my present position. Since graduating I've become a guest instructor for KLETC which has allowed me the opportunity to teach others what I have learned.

**Q:** Where did you do your training and what did you learn?

**A:** I attended the police academy in Johnson County, Kan. While there, I learned about criminal law, civil law court procedures, investigations, ethics, diversity, integrity, problem-solving methods, community policing and many other topics that have assisted me in being a police officer.

**Q:** What does it mean to you to work for the Tribal Police Department?

**A:** It means a lot to me. I truly enjoy the community and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. The work has broadened my horizons and I am enjoying my time here tremendously.



**Matt Simpson**

**Q:** What goals would you like to achieve in your work with the Tribal Police Department?

**A:** To expand upon the relationship between the police department and the community while providing valuable resources and being a role model for youth.

**Q:** What would you like to tell the tribal membership about your work or life?

**A:** I'm here to help and always approachable. I like to meet new people. If you see me, come up and introduce yourself. And, thanks for taking the time to read about me.



**Officer Simpson provided the police escort for the Gaming/Ethics Commission Election and the Run-off Election.**

## Tribal police/firefighters involved in Jackson County Sheriff's Camp for Kids

Over 270 kids participated in the annual Jackson County Sheriff's Camp for Kids that was held Aug. 8-9 at Banner Creek Reservoir. PBPB law enforcement officers and members of the Tribal Fire Department were on hand to help out.

According to Tim Morse, Jackson County sheriff, the camp keeps getting bigger every year. Held annually since 2001, it provides a good time for children to get together to enjoy outdoor activities and to also learn the positive side of law enforcement.

During the camp, kids were divided into teams and participated in various water activities like canoeing, fishing and swimming and other activities like archery, obstacle courses, and a moon walk. Breakfast and lunch was served each day and campers were given t-shirts and goody bags.

Sheriff Morse told

the *News* that since the camp began the PBPB had always been involved. For example, this year the fire department showcased their fire trucks and provided paramedics and firefighters, while the police department provided transportation and staff to help run the

camp. Sheriff Morse also said that the tribe had financially supported the camp through the years with generous donations from Charitable Contributions.



**Kids were having a great time dressing up in PBPB fire department gear with the help of the firefighters during the first day of camp. The Fire Department displayed vehicles and conducted safety demonstrations.**

*(Photo submitted by Jackson County Sheriff's Department)*



**Sheriff Tim Morse helping a child get fingerprinted in the identikid activity.**



**PBPB police officers Mike Holt (left) and John Calvert were monitoring the swimming activity when this photo was taken at the camp. Holt joined the police department last spring and Calvert is now the school resource officer for Royal Valley School District, in addition to his role as a law enforcement officer.**

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Fire Department and Tribal Police Department hold many activities and events throughout the year that are geared to youth to teach them how to stay safe and be good citizens.

## Tribal Police Department begins Explorer Program for Native American teens

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police Department has initiated an Explorer Program for young people between the ages of 14 and 20 who are interested in a career in law enforcement.

An informational session was held on Sept. 4 at the Bingo Hall. Officers Matt Simpson and John Calvert are instructing the program designed to teach the skills necessary to become successful police officers in the future. Other goals of the program are to challenge young people to become responsible citizens of their communities and in the nation and to build lasting partnerships between community, school and law enforcement.



There was a good turnout Sept. 4 at the Bingo Hall for the first session of the Explorer Program that will teach teens about law enforcement.

Classes will be held weekly and include practical exercises related to how to conduct criminal investigations and process crime scenes, administer first aid, use defensive tactics, and enforce traffic regulations. Fun activities are also planned including field trips, family cook outs, and other entertaining ways of building self confidence through the use of obstacle courses and other field games.

There are over 33,000 explorers and approximately 8,500 adult volun-

teers involved in Police Explorer Programs.

## Welcome Shawn Walker new Potawatomi Police Chief



Shawn Walker was sworn in as the new Chief of Police for the Tribal Police Department on Sept. 11.

Walker is a tribal member and has relocated to the community. He previously worked as a police officer for the tribe from 1997-1999.

Walker's previous position was serving as the Chief of Police for the city of Pleasanton, Kan.

Prior to that he was with the Mission Police Department for 10 years.

Additionally, Walker is a retired reservist in the National Guard having served in three deployments from 2002-2011 and as a mentor for the Afghan Border Police.

## Tribal Fire Department has new ambulances and two new firefighter/paramedics



Two new ambulances arrived at the Fire Department in June. Both vehicles have the newest technologically advanced medical equipment that is providing a quicker response time and a much smoother ride for those emergency rides to health care facilities.



Two new paramedic/firefighters joined the Fire Department this summer. (Left) is Michael Lynch and (Right) is Mark Meinhardt.



### October is Fire Prevention Month

Look for upcoming activities at [www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com)

### Closures and meetings

October 19

General Council Meeting

November 11

Veterans Day Holiday  
Government offices closed

November 28-29

Thanksgiving Holiday  
Government offices closed

### Introducing Officers Derek Wamego & Tyler Shobney

Derek Wamego joined the Tribal Police this summer. He formerly-worked for the PBP in Social Services and Maintenance.



Tyler Shobney joined the Tribal Police Department last spring. Before becoming an officer he worked as a Police Dispatcher.



# Human Resources Department provides trainings and hotdog fun!

Last quarter's All-Employee meeting was held on July 26 and followed by an outside barbeque lunch and games.

During the All-Employee meeting Tribal Council gave out years-of-service awards to employees and the Construction/Maintenance Department was honored for their hard work in preparing the pow-wow grounds for last summer's pow-wow. Additionally, employees who had perfect attendance during second quarter were also honored and Charles Wakole was named Employee of the Quarter.

Following the meeting, employees headed outside for the lunch and games that included a Big Foot Race, Soak N Wet, and Impaired Vision Relay Race that were held in the lower level parking lot of the Government Center.



Employees had fun in activities like the Big Foot Race on July 26. From left to right is Leslie Marshno, Tracy Potts and Gaynell Jessepe trying their hand (or feet) at the race.



Second from left is Vicki Wahquahboshkuk after receiving an award for twenty years of service at the All-Employee meeting. With her, left, is Hattie Mitchell, and to Vicki's right is Tom Wabnum and Junior Wahweotten, who are on the Tribal Council. Wahquahboshkuk works at the Child Care Center.

## Charles "Wishkeno" Wakole named Employee of Quarter



photo by Micki Martinez

Charles "Wishkeno" Wakole, who works in the Division of Planning & Environmental Protection, was named Employee of the Quarter. He was nominated by one of his fellow employees who wrote on his nomination form that Wakole was always punctual and had exemplary work habits.

In addition to his regular work as a Solid Waste Assistant/Equipment Operator, Wakole is also the Commander of American Legion Post #410 (We-Ta-Se) and a PBPN tribal member.

Wakole was recognized at the meeting and received a buffalo statue, a day off with pay, and a \$50 gift card.



Sonya Sexton, Human Resources manager, conducted a training on sexual harassment at the Boys & Girls Club on July 3. The training was held at various sites and times on the reservation so that all employees could readily attend.

### Member Services Delivery management training

Directors of departments for the PBPN attended a management training on July 24 at the Bingo Hall. Human Resources Consultant, Rich Drinon conducted the training that educated directors on improving communication and collaboration efforts.

### DID YOU KNOW?



You can sign up online to access your VSP (Vision insurance) account at <http://www.vsp.com/>

After your acceptance visit the website

Click on the "Members" tab

On the right hand side click on "Register for a VSP account"

Fill out Step 1, 2, and 3

From there you can:

Monitor eligibility dates for your benefits

Find out who your local VSP providers are

All PBPN enrolled members are eligible

Once signed up there is no need to ever re-enroll with VSP

Plan is designed to provide for regular eye exams

And benefits toward vision care expenses

Including glasses and contact lenses

Questions/Concerns call VSP Customer Service

800.877.7195

## Construction/Maintenance keeps growing and mowing!



Left: Aaron Hale mowing grass near the Government Center last summer.



Above, right: A new building recently constructed west of the Government Center parking lot, now keeps maintenance vehicles and equipment safer and weatherized.



Bottom right: A new carpentry workshop was also built for Maintenance.

## Young athletes enjoy Hi-Intensity sports workshop

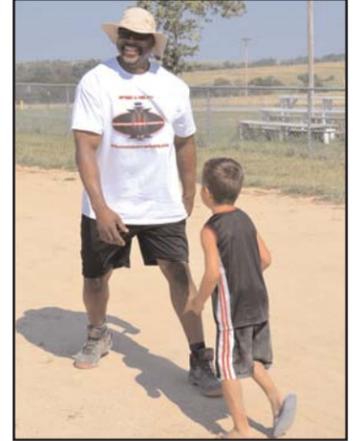
A three-day life skills athletic performance camp was held July 10-12 for young people on the reservation. Athletes from Hi-Intensity Sports Concepts taught the camp that included strength and conditioning exercises and listening to motivational sessions.

Approximately 70 youth a day participated in the camp that was sponsored by a grant from the Prairie Band Healing to Wellness Court (Judicial Center) and the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP). Healing to Wellness Coordinator Raphael Wahwassuck, Cody Wilson, Life Skills Fitness Coach for the DPP, and Chago Hale, PBPB member, were additional coaches for the camp along with other PBPB men and women who assisted with the camp.

Hi-Intensity Sports Concepts was founded by J.D. Harris eight years ago who uses former NFL players and other athletes to teach the camp. Harris worked in the front office for the Chicago Bears for four years and has a long coaching career in training athletes from all over the world.



Hi-Intensity coaching staff with PBPB's Lifetime Fitness Coach Cody Wilson (third from left). (Left to right) Al Ledet, Mark Roozen, Will McAdams, J.D. Harris, and Ray Austin.



Ray Austin with a camper. Austin is a former NFL player and played with the New York Jets, Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers.

**A RezStrong community event was held Sept. 7 at Prairie Peoples Park**  
•frisbee throw •tug of war •Lacrosse toss •telephone pole race •obstacle course  
sponsored by Diabetes Program, EPA, Boys & Girls Club, Language, EMT & Fire departments

## Department of Education Summer Youth Work program

Teenagers between the ages of 14-18 worked on or near the PBPB reservation this summer as part of the Department of Education's Summer Youth Work program.

The program placed workers in various departments and programs and also held career-oriented seminars and tours that allowed the youth to learn about vocations and job industries. The program involved an application and

interviewing process and students had to pass a drug test to qualify. The first group of students worked from June 1-June 28 and the second set of workers were employed from July 1-26.

Kristina Matsapto, Johnson O'Malley (JOM) coordinator for the Department of Education, supervised both sessions this summer.



On the front row, with youth workers from the first session, are officers Steven Smith (far left), John Calvert (in protective gear following a police demonstration with Bowie, the retired drug dog) and Wade Schneider, far right, that was given on June 24. In addition, youth workers in both sessions made visits to the Tribal Police Department, Topeka Law Enforcement Center, and PBP Health Center and the Prairie Band Casino & Resort.



Left: Youth workers learned about business concepts from Prairie Band, LLC, the PBPB's economic development group in session 1. Standing, left to right, is Tyler Levier, Ramona Nozhackum, Tug Wamego, and Burton Warrington who spoke about the businesses of Prairie Band, LLC.



Left: In the photo, on the far left, is Verna Simon, PBP Health Center Executive Administrative Assistant, who conducted a tour of the Health Center to a group of workers in the second session. The purpose of the tour was to teach the youth about careers in the health care industry.



In the photo (sitting) is Josie Matsapto, a youth worker who worked second session, with Leslie Marshno in the General Manager/Tribal Council administrative assistant offices.

# Language Department has lions and tigers and bears....oh my!

Learning the Potawatomi language can be fun and entertaining as was shown at the annual Potawatomi Gathering held in Dowagiac, Michigan in August. The Language Department performed a Wizard of Oz skit in Potawatomi language where they dressed in costumes on a stage in front of a large audience.

The skit's title, translated in Potawatomi by Leo Nadeau and Pom Hubbard as "Wizard shi Oz", showcased the department's language and immersion skills and highlighted how learning the language can be fun and applied to everyday life. The classic Wizard of Oz story included

PBPN language apprentice Cindy Leclere who played Dorothy and others including: Cowardly Lion-Billy Matchie; Tin Man-Sogi Leclere; Scarecrow-Colton Wahquahboshkuk; Wicked Witch of the West-Laverne Haag; Glinda "The Good Witch"-Pom Hubbard; Wizard of Oz-Leo Nadeau; and Munchkins-Jayme Thomas and Jessica Youngbird.

The Gathering, that was hosted by the Pokagon Band, drew approximately 3,000 Potawatomi people to the four-day event. The Language Conference, that is part of the Gathering, was held the week before the Gathering that was held Aug. 8-11.



The Language Department presented "The Wizard shi Oz" at the 19th Annual Potawatomi Gathering held in Dowagiac, Michigan in August. The classic film and book was translated in Potawatomi by the Language staff.



Scarecrow Colton Wahquahboshkuk



Off to see the Wizard.



Cowardly Lion-Billy Matchie with Tin Man-Sogi Leclere.



At right, is Algie Frisby (left), a visitor from Alaska, who was on a tour of the PBPN with Jayme Thomas and Cindy Leclere on Aug. 21.



## Language classes

(classes held in basement of Fire Keepers Elder Center)

Mondays- 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (Intermediate)

Tuesdays-5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.(Beginners)

Wednesdays-5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Youth-kindergarden to 6th grade)

Begins Oct. 16-Wednesdays-5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Teens-7th to 12th grade)

### Contact Information:

Phone: (785) 966-2138

Fax: (785) 966-2383

Email: [dleclere@pbpnation.org](mailto:dleclere@pbpnation.org)  
[jessicay@pbpnation.org](mailto:jessicay@pbpnation.org)

Open to the public

Come join the fun

## Education Department



Above (left to right) is Damian Johnson with child, Andre, and Felicia Masquat picking up Johnson O'Malley (JOM) school supplies from Kristina Matsapto in the Education Department on Aug. 5 before the school year began.



Above, holding some of the school supplies that were donated by Sam's Club/Walmart, is (left to right) Stephanie Jim, Kristina Matsapto and Kristen Aitkens who are on the Department of Education staff. In addition, Sam's Club also performed free vision screens for school-age children on Aug. 5.

## Human Resources salsa party



There were 11 types of salsa to try during a contest between employees who brought their entries to the Human Resources (HR) Department on Aug. 21 for judging. There were four categories to choose from and employees were urged to come sample and vote for their favorite sauce. The HR staff got into the act by decorating and wearing costumes that had a Mexican theme.

In the photo, left to right, are Tribal Council members Junior Wahweotten and Tom Wabnum along with HR employees Cherie Jim, Robert Jackson, Sonya Sexton, Allison Garcia and Shanna Smith who posed for the camera that day.

## Kids: Don't miss Trunk' Or' Treat Oct. 26 at Prairie Peoples Park

A new link called Accredited Online Colleges is now available for college-bound persons.

For more listings on scholarships go to <http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/education.aspx>

A Back to School Party was held Aug. 31 at the Sports Center in Topeka that was sponsored by the Boys & Girls Club and the Department of Education.

## Tribal Land Office news

By Steve Duryea, Tribal Land Office

The Potawatomi Tribal Land Office is responsible for executing the Nation's land purchases, fee-to-trust applications, right-of-way and easement agreements, and is responsible for maintaining land records including purchase documents, appraisals, reports, maps, etc. The Land Office also acts as a liaison between the Nation and the BIA, as well as other necessary agencies, in regards to

### Land Purchase Highlights

In this last year, the Nation has purchased 17 tracts encompassing 762.5 acres for a grand total of \$2,277,500. The tracts include:

ID	PREVIOUS OWNER	DESCRIPTION	DATE PURCHASED	ACRES
PT 189a	Schultz	pasture	06/20/2012	156.00
PT 189b	Schultz	pasture	06/20/2012	0.00
PT 190	Schirmer	pasture	09/13/2012	189.00
PT 191	Fleming	pasture	09/18/2012	10.00
PT 192	Kidd	residential/pasture	10/31/2012	80.00
PT 193a	Brucken	residential/pasture	12/07/2012	4.00
PT 193b	Brucken	pasture	12/07/2012	32.00
PT 193c	Brucken	pasture	12/07/2012	80.00
PT 194	Kansas Land	vacant residential	12/14/2012	10.00
PT 195	Slattery	residential/pasture/timber	12/14/2012	39.00
PT 196	Fleming	timber	12/14/2012	29.00
PT 197	Paletta	residential/pasture/timber	12/19/2012	36.00
PT 198	McManus	vacant residential	03/29/2013	3.00
PT 199	Sender	residential/pasture	04/19/2013	26.00
PT 200	Mader	pasture	04/26/2013	56.00
PT201	Devore	residential	06/27/2013	10.00
PT202	McClane	residential	05/22/2013	2.50
				762.50

the Nation's land business. All tasks are conducted with guidance from Tribal Council through the General Manager's office.

### Trust Purchase Highlights

In this last year, the Nation has re-implemented the program for the purchase of undivided interests in U.S. Trust land. The purchase of undivided interests generally follows a six-step procedure, managed by the BIA Horton Agency.

- interest is indicated to the Nation by the individual,
- Tribal Council endorses a solicitation to the BIA for the purchase of the indicated interests,
- the BIA conducts an appraisal of the property and determines its value,
- the interests are offered initially to the other co-owners and then to the Nation,
- the Nation purchases the interests through a resolution, and,
- the BIA completes the transaction and files the deed

The Nation is currently in the process of purchasing the interests of 14 different individuals in 56 tracts.

### Fee-to-Trust (FTT) Highlights

In this last year, the Nation has submitted 21 new applications encompassing 26 tracts and three tracts have been accepted into trust; Ellison (PT 71), Johnson (PT 122), and Slechta (PT 124). The acceptance of these tracts into trust, results in an annual savings of \$ 3,124 to the Nation in the payment of real estate taxes. Currently there are 62 tracts in the fee-to-trust process.

One of the requirements in a fee-to-trust application is a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA). The ESA is an environmental review that identifies any potential or existing environmental contamination liabilities in regards to both the underlying land and any physical improvements to the property. With assistance from the Road and Bridge Department and the Building Maintenance Department, five sites were cleaned up on Q Road between 150 Road and 158 Road; three trailer houses were removed, a structure razed, and an open dump cleared.

**The Tribal Land Office, Road & Bridge, and Building Maintenance worked together to clean up five sites on Q Road between 150 Road and 158 Road this summer.**



Another trailer house, seen in the photo above and below, was dismantled on Sept. 3. The debris was hauled to Rolling Meadows Landfill with the salvageable metal sold and used to partially fund the cleanup. The deck, seen below, was saved and will be reused for residential use.



Above is Billy Jim, Jr. who was manning the controls of a Road & Bridge excavator and was able to take out this trailer house in 30 minutes last August. Steve Duryea, who took the photograph, works in the Potawatomi Tribal Land Office located in the Government Center and can be contacted at (785) 966-3928 or fax (785) 966-3908.

## Land Management Department caretakers of tribal land

### Committed to:

- protecting and regaining Tribal lands
- invoking Prairie Band Potawatomi sovereignty and its right to the Nation's Treaty lands
- asserting the Nation's paramount and superior claim to any grant or sale of tribal property to other entities, government or otherwise, and to regain the Nation's tribal properties through land acquisition

### Programs

#### Agricultural

**Farming**-Approximately 1,500 acres of tribal land are farmed with row crops of rotated corn and beans. Crops are harvested and hauled to local distribution centers where they are sold. This year 750 acres of corn was planted and 600 acres of soybeans.

**Haying**-Historically the department has averaged putting up approximately 800-1,000 bales of hay that are used to supplement the bison herd during the winter months. Other bales are sold to other producers in the area.

**Fencing**-Land Department employees are trained and knowledgeable about Tribal Law & Ordinances and Kansas law when constructing fences for personal property and right-of-way projects that involve the PBP. On average land management staff construct 5 to 10 miles of fence per year.

**USDA**-To stay compliant, the Land Department has ongoing contracts with the (USDA) United States Department of Agriculture in the areas of a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and other disaster relief programs. The department is also involved with the Farm Service Agency(FSA) which financially assists Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Environment Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) programs.

#### Prescribed Burn/Conservation

This program was established in 2011 and works in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), local fire departments and other tribal nations. Its purpose is to clear and clean land (through regulation) by burning with the intent of rejuvenating pasture lands and natural habitats. When properly managed prescribed burning can create lush and healthy grasslands. In 2012 approximately 4,000 acres of land was burned.

#### Specified Land Leasing

During certain planting, grazing rotations or active lease expirations the land management department holds lease land auctions for selected sites of the PBP tribal tract properties (with Tribal Council approval). Tracts declared are used "as announced" for leasing and cannot be changed.

Tribal members are encouraged to take advantage of these leases as a means of promoting the self-sustenance of the Nation.



The Land Management Department tends to approximately 32,000 acres of land for the PBP tribal government. The department also works cooperatively and in collaboration with the following groups: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); Natural Resource Conservation Reserve Service; Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP).

#### About the Land Management Department

The Land Management Department began as an organized department of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in 1995 and today oversees almost 32,000 acres of tribal land with eight employees. The department is located at 15185 K Road in a building that it shares with the PBP Transit Department.

Chris DeCoteau directs the Land Management Department that is divided into seven programs that are agriculturally based. The seven person staff is divided into various programs that often overlap with each other. The most popular program appears to be the bison program and all the staff is actively involved in educating the tribe and general public about the exquisite animals through offering exhibits and giving educational tours periodically throughout the year.

Presently the Land Management Department takes care of 200 tracts of land or close to 17,000 acres of tribal land. In addition, in the winter time they use are called upon to keep the parking lots at Prairie Band Casino & Resort cleared of ice and snow.



#### Land Management Department

15185 K Road  
Mayetta, KS 66509  
Phone: 785.966.2737/0037  
Fax: 785.966.2861

- Chris DeCoteau, manager
- Elliot Masquat, assistant foreman
- Ahnah Wahwassuck, technical assistant
  - Jason Davis
  - Nathaniel Potts
  - Travis Darnall
  - Robbie Griffith
  - Daylon Mzhickteno

## and protectors of the bison herd

**The Prairie Band Land Department staff is committed to carrying out the mission of the Buffalo Management program which is to preserve, protect, and maintain the Nation's bison herd to the fullest extent free from any pollutants, abuse, infestations, wrongful use, or general danger of any kind.**

### Land Management Department cares for bison herd and offers educational programs

The PBP Land Management Department oversees a herd of approximately 200 bison that are presently located on 420 acres of tribal land. The herd is divided on two tracts of tribal land that can be seen most visibly on 158 Road a few miles west of the casino. The other tract of land is located at the intersection of I Road and 158 Road on the reservation.

The herd began with three bison that were donated to the tribe by the Kickapoo Tribe in the 1980s and during that time employees from the Road & Bridge Department cared for the animals. Gradually more bison were born and acquired and in 1993 the PBP joined the Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative (ITBC) where more bison were obtained that came from the National Parks system. Today, the tribe is still an active member of the cooperative and are one of 58 tribes across 19 states that belong to the organization. A major goal of the ITBC is to restore bison back to Indian Country and to protect and preserve them. In addition, the PBP also works with the National Bison Association and Kansas Buffalo Association.

The bison program has grown in physical space the last five years through the Land Department. It has added an extra tract of grazing land for the buffalo and have built a corral that makes it easier to catch the bison and a small barn that is located off the 150 Road tract.

Staff in the Land Department have also been instrumental in offering educational programs to teach about the bison and they have mounted exhibits and given tours which have proved popular. For example, last spring a one-day Hand Drum Crafting class for tribal youth was sponsored by the department that quickly filled up the first day. The class consisted of teaching young boys how to make a Native hand drum using different parts of the buffalo and the boys also learned about traditional storytelling and singing.



**Hand Drum class with instructors last spring at the Land Building where the class was held.**

In addition, the past few years bison from the tribe's herd have been harvested for food which is then distributed for traditional ceremonial feasts or given to the Firekeepers Elder Center. According to Chris DeCoteau, land manager for the PBP, bison meat is then processed by a small meat processing company that is USDA approved. Packages of meat are then stored in refrigeration facilities back at the Land Department. In 2012 Tribal Council formally approved a policy where the meat may be distributed as long as it is not sold for profit by any individual, department or organization. In addition, a general procedure policy has also been developed that is available at the Land Department. For more information call 785.966.2737 or visit the department at 15185 K Road, Mayetta, KS 66509 on the reservation.



#### Facts About American Bison or Buffalo

- Buffalo are not domestic animals and should be treated with caution and respect
- A mature bison male will weigh around 2,000 lbs. while a mature female will weigh around 1,100 lbs.
- Bison can run at speeds up to 35-40 miles per hour
- Each bison has its own personality
- Watching the tail of a bison or "buffalo" will let a person know if the animal is angry. Tail up and head down...look out!!
- Buffalo have excellent vision, hearing, and memory
- "Bison" or "Buffalo"? Scientifically, the term "buffalo" is incorrect for the North American species; its proper Latin name is bison. However, common usage has made the term "buffalo" an acceptable synonym for the American bison. (Source: The American Buffalo in Transition, by J. Albert Rorabacher)
- Bison do well on a wide variety of grasses and most native grasses in the United States and Canada.
- The approximate birth weight of a bison calf is between 40 to 50 pounds. They are usually up and walking or running with their mothers within a couple hours of being born.
- Average life span of a bison is 20-25 years.
- Bison calves are normally weaned when they are around 6 months old. Females generally weigh around 350 lbs. when mature and males weigh around 425 lbs.

(Source: Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Land Management Department Bison Program brochure, 2012)

#### Visit

[www.itcbuffalo.com](http://www.itcbuffalo.com) or  
[www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com)



**This spring 35-40 calves were born. The bison crew takes great care to ensure that the herd stays as genetically pure as possible and keeps a watchful eye on what they are fed.**

**News Department attends Native American Journalists Association  
Native Public Media Conference in Tempe, Arizona July 18-21**

Editor Suzanne Heck attended the conference and took these photos.



Staff from the Potawatomi Traveling Times Michelle Spaude, office manager, (left) and Winda Collins, editor, were at the NAJA conference. The Potawatomi Traveling Times is a twice-monthly publication for the Forest County Potawatomi.

A session called Social Mobile Boot Camp featured the new Google Glasses that were tried out by an unidentified attendee at the conference.



At left, is Deborah Parker who was a leading voice on the recent inclusion of Native American women in the Violence Against Women Act and a key-note speaker at the conference.



At left is Margaret Holt, Chicago Tribune, with Rhonda LeValdo, outgoing President of NAJA. LeValdo is an instructor at Haskell Indian Nations University and advisor of the student newspaper, the Indian Leader.

**Six PBPN women become certified as SAFESTAR volunteers**

Members of Tribal Council attended a ceremony at the casino August 2 where six women from the Prairie Band community were recognized for completing an intensive volunteer training that will help see victims of sexual assault on the reservation through oftentimes difficult medical and law enforcement processes.



Holding certificates of completion as SAFESTAR volunteers are (left to right) Samantha Wahquahboshkuk, Keirsten Hale, Iva Rank, Shirley Rice, Josette Whitlock and Joy Matchie. On the back row (left to right) are Tribal Council members Carrie O'Toole, Joyce Guerrero and Tom Wabnum.

The training, called SAFESTAR, stands for Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Safety Training, and Resources, is sponsored by the Southwest Center for Law & Policy. Trainers from the SWCLAP came to the reservation the last week of July and instructed six PBPN volunteers who completed the 40-hour course. They also returned Sept. 11 and 12 for a follow-up training.

According to the SWCLAP website, the purpose of SAFESTAR is to provide specially trained laypersons in tribal communities who can provide necessary and important healthcare for sexual assault victims in Indian Country. Along with the intensive training of local community health care sexual assault specialists, tribal and federal criminal justice professionals are cross trained to utilize collected evidence that can lead to successful federal and tribal court criminal prosecutions.

Cordelia D. Clapp, RN, BSN (Pawnee), one of the founders of the organization and a SAFESTAR trainer, told the *News* that she was very impressed at the response of the PBPN in their support of the program. "We've been blown away by

the positive response we've gotten from various tribal departments and the government to help in what must be a collaborative effort." As examples, she pointed out how pleased she was that members of the Tribal Council came to the closing ceremony and were inquiring about the program and she said that Tribal Emergency Services (fire and police departments), under the direction of Chief Doug Schreiner, were also very willing to play an active part in the program.

Hallie Bongar White, the director of SWCLAP, was also interviewed and said that Samantha Wahquahboshkuk, one of the Tribal Victim Services Specialists for the PBPN, had done a tremendous job in coordinating the training with her group. "The Prairie Band has a wonderful Social Services Department and Tribal Victim Services program and the community has embraced the program which is very exciting to us." She said that there were only 20 SAFESTAR trainers in the country and the PBPN now had six of those 20.

SAFESTAR was founded six years ago and is an approved program by the Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime and International Association of Forensic Nurses.

Samantha Wahquahboshkuk (left) with Hallie Bongar White after the closing ceremony of the training and the lunch held at the casino.



**There are only 20 SAFESTAR volunteers in the Nation who are qualified to assist victims of sexual assault and the Prairie Band has six of those 20. To learn more about SAFESTAR go to [www.swclap.org/](http://www.swclap.org/)**

## B.J. Jones a success story



**B.J. Jones gets a congratulatory handshake for completing the Diabetes Program health plan and losing 30 pounds from Melinda Williamson, PBPN Diabetes Program manager.**

Four months ago B.J. Jones was the champion of making fry bread but now he is a champion at weight loss. Since April Jones has lost 31 pounds after enrolling in the Diabetes Program's (DP) weight-loss program. He went from 297 pounds to 266 pounds and says he is feeling a lot better.

Jones credits the turn-around to learning how to eat right and counting calories. When asked how he did it he said, "I don't eat fry bread as much as I used to but lots of chicken and salads instead."

Jones also said that he gets his exercise by working two jobs and by walking his dog. He said that he has incorporated more stretching and becoming more active in his life which

is easier to do since he's lost weight. "I can bend over and pick up items a lot better than I used to and I have so much more energy."

He also gave a lot of credit to the Diabetes Program staff and said each one of them had encouraged him in various ways. DP staff members include Melinda Williamson, Cody Wilson, Eddie Joe Mitchell, and Kathy Sterbenz, R.N.

There are three separate diabetes prevention program classes held each week at the Health Center, in addition to several exercise classes that are offered at different places on the reservation. 785.966.8271.



**B.J. Jones won first place in a fry bread making contest back in April and was 30 pounds heavier than he is now. Jones works in the Maintenance Department.**

*(Photo by Micki Martinez)*

## Division of Planning & EPA sponsor Underground Storage Tank workshop for PBPN



**An Underground Storage Tank (UST) workshop was held on Aug. 13 that trained participants about EPA rules and regulations and Nation Station was used as a demonstration site for the workshop. Several PBPN and casino employees attended the workshop that was sponsored by the Inter-Tribal Council Arizona UST Compliance Assistance and Training Support Program. In the photo, above, is John LaBlanc (kneeling), who was one of the instructors for the course, seen giving a demonstration.**

## Funds available for water quality concerns for landowners in Upper Soldier Creek watershed

Funding is available for landowners in the Upper Soldier Creek Watershed which has been listed as a high priority area due to water quality concerns for sediment by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment.

Funds are available through the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams/Middle Kansas Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) program.

Funds are being offered for project types that include \$50/ac up to \$5,000 for cover crops, cost share for buffer development, tile terrance outlets with sediment basins, establishment of permanent vegetation, grassed waterways, wetlands and no-till practices.

For projects on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation please contact Verna Potts, Division of Planning & EPA, at 785.966.2946.

## PBP EPA offers to close open wells/cisterns on rez

The PBPN EPA Department is taking an inventory of wells and cisterns on the reservation and will close them, if needed. Please contact Verna Potts at 785.966.2946 for details.

## IHS field office to do construction work in Cluster 1-housing

The Indian Health Service Office of Environmental Health and Engineering Holton Field Office will be starting construction around mid-September to connect the Cluster #1 homes to the wastewater treatment plant behind Meadow Lane. Work will continue until March 2014. Residents need to be aware of road work in that area. Furthermore, residents living on the North side of Cluster #1 may be inconvenienced by construction of the sewer main in their yard and crossing their driveway.

For details contact the Indian Health Service at 785.364.4164.

## Indian Health Service provides safe drinking water and wastewater facilities to Native American homes and communities

OKLAHOMA CITY - Safe and adequate water supply and/or wastewater disposal facilities are lacking in approximately 12% of Native American and Alaska Native homes, in comparison to less than 1% of homes for the general U.S. population. Safe sanitation facilities can improve public health in many ways, including lowering the incidences of gastrointestinal disease and infant mortality.

Through recently improved coordination between several federal agencies, access to funding that can increase the means to provide these services has been greatly improved. The Indian Sanitation Facilities Act, P.L. 86-121, authorizes the Indian Health Service (IHS) to provide essential sanitation facilities, such as safe drinking water and adequate sewage systems, to Native American and Alaska Native homes.

The IHS works in partnership with tribal communities to provide a comprehensive health system for approximately 2.1 million Native American and Alaska Natives - who are members of 566 federally recognized tribes - to provide these services. The Oklahoma City Area Office (OCAO) of the IHS Sanitation Facility Construction (SFC) program oversees this program to an estimated population of 150,000 Native American and Alaska Natives, by working with the 39 Tribes and Tribal Organizations within the OCAO. This area includes parts of Texas, all of Oklahoma, and portions of Kansas and Nebraska. The SFC program is able to assist Native homeowners by providing water and wastewater services to new or like new homes and by providing necessary water and sewer repairs to existing homes.

To qualify for this program, the following criteria must be met:

- The homeowner must be a registered member of a federally recognized Native American Tribe or Alaska Native Village;
- The home and land must be owned or under a contract for purchase by a federally recognized tribal entity or member of a federally recognized tribal entity (Rentals may be considered if home has minimum 5-year lease signed by homeowner and lessee);
- The home must be a new or like-new, HIP, or existing home;
- The home must be located in Brown, Doniphan, Douglas, or Jackson County, KS or Richardson County, Nebraska.

## To apply for services contact

**Lyle Setwyn  
Holton IHS OEH&E Field Office  
324 NEW YORK AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 349  
HOLTON, KS 66436  
PHONE: (785) 364-4164  
or (405) 951-3739**

## Road trip with LaVerne Hale: Elders bus to the Gathering



By LaVerne Hale

On August 4 the elders began their journey to the 2013 Potawatomi Gathering hosted by the Pokagon Band in Michigan. It was a little rainy that morning but everyone hurried along to

load the bus.

It was good to see our old friend John, the bus driver. John has driven us to many Gatherings. Over the years he has become familiar with us and we always invite him to join us. He likes to buy Indian crafts and he usually sits with us and visits. This was his last year to drive the bus as he said that he is retiring in May. We thanked him for taking such good care of us all those years and wished him well.

We were finally on our way to another Potawatomi Gathering. I really look forward to these trips every year. Just the thought of getting out of town, sitting back while someone else does the driving, and seeing once again all the Potawatomi people and friends. I think everyone that travels this journey year after year feels the same. We always seem to have a bus full of happy people.

Of course everyone was looking forward to the first stop at Meskwaki Casino Hotel. We got there in time for Bingo and a relaxing night's stay. While there, we got to see a few tribal members, relatives, and friends that came over to visit.

On Monday, Aug. 5 we continued our trip onto South Bend, Indiana where we stayed for the week. After arriving we went to the local Walmart to stock up on snacks and items we had forgotten.

On Tuesday, arrangements were made for those that wanted to attend the Language Conference for the day. The rest of us left the hotel at 10 a.m. and headed for the Gathering grounds. Once we arrived, some of the Pokagon workers greeted us and showed us around. We located our spot where our canopies and chairs were located and there was a banner that read "Prairie Band Potawatomi". Boney Pahmahmie and his Road & Bridge crew did us proud, as usual.

The Pokagon Gathering grounds were beautiful. It was shaded and had a beautiful camping area. The Pokagon workers were so kind and helpful throughout the Gathering.

Later that day, we left the Gathering grounds and registered at the Language and Youth Conference where we also got invited to lunch. We were able to visit with some of our grandchildren that were attending the Youth Conference.

Next, we left the conferences and headed to Lake Michigan. Once we got over by the lake we couldn't find a beach area that the big bus could reach. We thought we found one place, however, so John drove the bus down a residential street and discovered it was a dead end. We had no way to turn around so John backed up the bus for about three blocks. That made for an interesting outing. We finally found a marina area where we could at least look at the lake from the bus. It was beautiful.

After our lake outing, we headed for

Pokagon's Four Winds Casino. It is really big and beautiful. We stayed there a few hours.

On Wednesday, we began early and went to the Language Conference. We wanted to be there for our own Language Department's presentation called the "Wizard of Oz" that was given in our language. It was great! Their performance was a highlight of the trip and the elders were so proud of them.

A golf tournament was also held on Wednesday and we had several teams from the Prairie Band Potawatomi play. It rained, but those golfers just kept playing. Jason Matchie, Leland Matchie and Don Don LeClere's team tied for 3rd place with a score of 4 under par for a 68.

The Gathering began Thursday. Our group registered and soon got busy participating in all the workshops. We had many making hand drums and baskets. Also, the horseshoe tournament was held and Daylon Mzhickteno and Boney Pahmahmie took 2nd place and Leland Matchie and Jeanette Little Sun also played. In addition, PBN members, young and old, played volleyball, basketball, Lacrosse and ran in a 5K run. We had many winning teams in these sporting events.

On Friday, members participated in the Talking Circles and basket and drum workshops. Our own Gubba Hale volunteered to assist the hand drum instructor with the drum-making classes. We even had a couple of guys get in the canoeing competition. I believe they were doing great until they tipped over and went into the lake. But Wah Masquat and Kwaki Spoonhunter were just fine. A little wet, but fine.

Friday also included a veterans historical bus tour. We had several PBN on this tour and our traveling EMT, Lance Wishkeno, went along with this group. He came back and reported it was a good trip and that all went well. He did tell us that he once got separated from the main group because he was checking on one of the elders who was at Notre Dame. He said he thought the group had gone into this big church so he went up to the church and opened the doors and ended up right in the middle of a wedding that was taking place. He eventually caught up with the right group.

Friday evening was the pow-wow. We-Ta-Se and other Potawatomi veterans led the Grand Entry. Gubba Hale, Naseka Hale, Tug Wamego, Pak Hale, Don Don LeClere, Wahp LeClere, and Kwaki Spoonhunter with backup singers Mittina Hale and Gish Hale represented the Prairie Band as Little Soldier Singers. We had about 15 dancers at the pow-wow and it was a beautiful evening.

Saturday was the last day of the Gathering. Everyone seemed anxious to participate in everything they hadn't the first two days. It was a long day but a good one.

The Pokagon fed us differently from past Gatherings. Upon registering we each received \$68 worth of food coupons to use at any of the vendor food stands. At first we were not sure how this was going to work but it didn't take us long to love it. We could eat anywhere and anything, at anytime and we did eat and eat.

On Sunday, we left our "home for the week" and headed back to the Meskwaki Casino Hotel for

one more night's stay. We arrived in time for Bingo and there were shuttles available to their annual pow-wow. So, we had one more fun night of activity before we journeyed back home the next day. We arrived home safe and sound Monday about 5 p.m.

For many years now we have had the great opportunity to enjoy a trip such as this one. And once again we are thankful to have made it back to our homes safe and filled with happy memories of what we all witnessed. I am thankful for being allowed to coordinate this trip for our elders.

### Elder bus traveler comments

*I enjoyed the trip. Nice meeting individuals from our relatives. Being in a different type of environment with so many trees was awesome. I also thought about our relatives who have passed away. Just going was a wonderful treat for me.*

-Debra Matchie-Wakolee

*We enjoyed our trip. We were able to take Orville Rice Jr., and Robert (his grandson & caretaker) for the first time to a Gathering. We had a nice time and hope to go again next year. Grandpa had a nice time. Robin Guerrero and family drove. So we all thank you for having these trips. -Orville Rice, Jr., Roberta & Robin Guerrero & family*

*The best time I ever had on a trip with a group. Best time and thank you. -Verna J. Wahweotten*

*Larry & I want to thank the committee for allowing us to join this year's Gathering trip. We always enjoy these trips, getting to visit with everyone and the camaraderie. LaVerne took excellent care of us, making sure we were well cared for. We had plenty of snacks, water and entertainment on the bus. We stopped many times for "potty breaks" and meals. The Pokagon Band really outdid themselves and it was by far one of the "best". The best part was the "food vouchers". What a clever way to distribute food. The crafts were great, and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Language skit "Wizard of Oz" was by far one of the best. LaVerne made sure the Elders were taken care of, plenty of help. There was always someone there to offer assistance. We especially enjoyed the "Veterans Historical Tour" and veteran gifts. Migwetch!! -Larry & Ramona Cole*

*Thanks to LaVerne Hale for her efforts and patience with us - we know it is work. This trip by far was the best!! Enjoyed the meal tickets, ate when you wanted to. We were glad for the Boys & Girls Club especially winning the 5K runs & basketball. Thank you. -Ron & Rose Jessepe*

*Great trip. Enjoyed everything we did. Good to be going home. Even made a basket. Good job for Granny.-Alvina LaClair*

**Next year's Gathering  
will be hosted by  
Match E-Be-Nash-She Wish  
Gun Lake Potawatomi**

Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center Frequently Asked Questions

Here is some information on the Health Center provided by Brenda Catron, R.N. and Nancy Henry who are on the Health Center staff

Q: Why am I asked if my phone number and address are correct on every visit?  
A: The receptionist will ask for updated information once a year. If we need to contact you regarding your care, or if your future appointment will be changed we need a current phone number and address. It is the patient's responsibility to keep their information updated at all times.

Q: My pain medicine can only be refilled by my current provider, why wouldn't any of the providers fill them; sometime I have to wait if he isn't there.  
A: You may have signed a pain contract with your provider when you were placed on the pain medication, your provider knows best about your health condition.

Q: I left a voicemail with pharmacy on Saturday to have my chronic medications refilled, how come they weren't ready Monday?  
A: Medication is refilled in the order they are received and Friday evening voicemails are taken care of first. The pharmacy is closed on the weekend; therefore voicemails for refills are checked on Monday.

Q: Can I have my outside prescription filled at the pharmacy?  
A: Yes, providing you are an active patient at the clinic, and the pharmacy carries the medication in the formulary.

Q: I am a patient at the dental department and recently became a patient of the health clinic, how come I had to give my information all over again?  
A: Currently we keep separate files for dental and medical and they are not shared as they are two separate departments, even though they are in the same building.

Q: I heard you take walk-ins everyday so I showed up as a walk-in at 9:45 a.m. and couldn't be seen until the afternoon, why did I have to wait until afternoon?  
A: We keep a certain number of openings for same day appointments to treat Acute Care patients, when they are gone we are limited to when one will be seen.

Q: Who is considered Acute Care and how come I could not get my physical for work on the same day?

A: Acute Care visit is considered when a person who has signs and symptoms of a current problem that just arose, typically within a day to a week, i.e. ear ache, rash that is spreading, injury from fall, eye pain.

Q: Who is considered a current patient?  
A: A person who has been seen by any of our departments within the past three years.

Q: Why am I given a Patient Survey every visit?  
A: It is very important that we hear from our patients in regards to your care at our facility. In order to provide better care we want to hear ideas or suggestions from our patients. We give surveys to all patients to allow an opportunity to let us know how your visit went, and if there is a way to improve our care for you. The survey is not mandatory, but we appreciate hearing from our patients. So once again, if you have any ideas or suggestions please fill out the survey and we will do what we can to improve your healthcare.

Q: I received a letter in the mail stating my medical bill was denied for payment, why?  
A: There are many reasons why medical bills get denied for payment, the most common are listed:  
1. No proof of current address (must be submitted within 30 days per Contract Health Services (CHS) request  
2. Failure to get a referral for appointment  
3. Failure to apply for Alternate Resources (Medicaid, KanCare, etc.)  
4. Failure to notify CHS within 72 hours of your emergency room (ER) visit  
5. Patient lives outside the coverage area-it is the patient responsibility to find out  
6. The specialty care service did not meet the level of care requirements  
7. Medical review of the ER report did not support the necessity for using the ER

**Flu shot clinics coming in October  
Look for times and dates  
at [www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com)  
plus  
added Health Center evening hours  
open until 6 p.m on Wednesday, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec 11.  
For appointments only**



**We-Ta-Se veterans pow-wow**

We-Ta-Se held their 16th annual veterans pow-wow on Sept. 21 at Prairie Peoples Park. Look for more photos and information on the pow-wow in the winter issue of the *Potawatomi News*.



Marty Hamlin was honored at the Gaming Commission Election with a Pendleton blanket given to him by the tribe. Hamlin served as the PBP Election Judge for over 30 years and has retired.



Elders participated in planting corn in one of the community gardens last June. This garden plot is located near the senior housing complex and is one of four that the Diabetes Program's "Return to a Healthy Past" placed on the reservation last spring.

**Richard Adame helps push through National Congress of American Indians Resolution to refund veteran state taxes**

Tribal member Richard Adame has been instrumental in helping to push through a National Congress of American Indians resolution approved last spring that is urging Congress to refund state personal income taxes improperly withheld from Native service members' paychecks while they were on active duty.

According to an article in the *Navajo Times*, states may owe as much as \$20 million in back taxes to veterans. Eligible service members are those who served between 1977 and 2001 and whose permanent residence was on tribal land during the time they served. The resolution targets 26 states with American Indian reservations in them.

Adame comes from a Prairie Band Potawatomi family that has many descendants that served in the military for generations. He, himself, served in Operation Desert Storm and took up the cause after he returned home from military service and saw the tax injustice. His cause caught the attention of United Nations Special Rapporteur James Anaya and other Indian law attorneys after giving a presentation at the University of Tulsa on the subject in 2012. Following that, a resolution was formalized by the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma that urged Congress to take action that then led to the passage of a resolution by the NCAI last spring.

## Member news and views

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Our Tribal Nation is once again at an economic development crossroads. Therefore, I want to address a few observations in our economic development process.

First, it is a really good thing to see our Prairie Band, LLC flourishing in establishing a vision and path for our tribe's economic diversification.

Of course, being a successful entrepreneur for over 25 years this business development is never at a fast enough pace for my liking, but something is happening and from what I can observe as an outsider of the LLC, we are moving onto a path for diversification.

It is great news that we have had a new smoke shop open; and that the Nation Station now has a full-fledged name brand franchise - Subway. However, these are small businesses with not enough revenue to make too much of a difference in our tribe's bottom line or in adding to our tribal reserves or increasing per capita payments. Hopefully, though more jobs will be added, our reservation will be better off for this development and we will make a profit.

Now, there are apparently bigger economic development projects being proposed. One of the proposed projects is an expansion of our Prairie Band Resort & Casino property with an addition of 70 suite rooms with a roof top indoor pool and other amenities. This type of expansion is of a bigger nature and could either help our tribal finances -- or put us into huge debt -- or drain our tribal economic development reserves.

In hearing of this proposed expansion, I have also heard that the Prairie Band Resort & Casino will be coming to ask the tribal government and our people through a referendum vote for a loan or infusion of up to \$30 million to conduct this expansion that is reported to be in the \$60 million range.

Even though I was, and am totally in favor of our own management of the casino, I am not in favor of the tribal government having to foot the bill for any expansion of the casino property - and do not get me wrong, I am very proud of the casino management team, and that we are experiencing somewhat good revenue and that the property is in great condition.

What I am urging is that the casino business be kept separate from the tribal government business like we had planned in establishing our casino business separate from tribal government with Prairie Band Entertainment Corporation - our tribe's Section 17 corporation for the casino business. Using that separation theory in real business practice any expansion of the casino should come from the casino revenues and not from Tribal econom-

ic development reserves.

Again, I am really proud of the Tribe and the team of tribal managers over at our casino. What I am asking them to do is step up to an even greater level and totally run the casino like a business by not dipping into the Tribe's funds, but doing the expansion with utilizing Prairie Band Resort & Casino resources - which of course we tribal members are also the stakeholders - leaving the Tribe's reserve funds and other investments intact for now.

There will be many factors to consider when, and if, we are asked to vote on this expansion. Some of the major factors include: the still slow growing economy; the growth of our competitors' gaming operations in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma; the high cost of gasoline; proposed legislation concerning internet gaming in the United States and how internet gaming will affect "brick and mortar" operations on more rural locations such as our gaming facility; and the more important question - is this expansion really going to add more funds to our revenue to pay back the expansion cost and add to our profit?

Another huge determiner on if a \$60 million casino expansion is fiscally right at this time is the high cost of any loans that we may obtain. What has become a "quiet secret" in the financial industry is the fact that there are a number of tribes with huge delinquent debts due to casino expansion - add to this delinquency issue - the sovereignty issue and you have high interest and lack of access to money.

Does this high interest mean that it is better for the Tribe to invest? No, on the contrary, it means that the Tribe needs to be just as cautious as the banks are during this time. Our tribe has been very smart in not taking on debt that we cannot pay back - and we have already given the casino operation a "starting shot in the arm" by paying for the casino transition costs with our tribal economic development funds.

Therefore, as I stated earlier, it seems like we are at a crossroads when it comes to our tribal economic development.

I still hold hope out for a completion of the Shab-eh-nay project as I know there is still legislative and legal methodology to make it work. I still hold out hope for the 150/75 interchange to become a corridor of business opportunity as I know that would also add to our revenue and per capita payments.

But for now, we need our businesses to act as businesses and fund themselves.

Sincerely,

Tracy Stanhoff

#### Dustin Goslin hired as vice president of hotel, retail & resort



Dustin Goslin has been named the vice president of hotel, retail & resorts for the Grand Casino Mille Lacs in Onamia, Minn.

In his new position he will oversee all day-to-day hotel operations at the casino and Eddy's Lake Mille Lacs Resort.

He has prior work experience as the general manager of Homewood Suites by Hilton in Saint Cloud, Minn. and he also served as the general manager of Riverside Inn in Cold Spring, Minn. In addition, he has worked in Indian Health Services (IHS) where he was the chief operating officer with (IHS) White Earth and in charge of the administration for three of its federal healthcare facilities.

Goslin is a tribal member and the son of Robert Sr. and LaVonne (Chenault) Goslin who reside in Bayfield, Wisconsin.

#### Jessica Rickert, first female Native American dentist keynote speaker and advocate for Native American youth



Tribal member Jessica Rickert, the first Native American woman dentist, is dedicated to promoting the field of dentistry to young Native American people. This year she has been giving speeches around the country to encourage young Native American people to enter the dental profession.

In June, she spoke at the 2013 Achievement Celebration at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago and in August she was a keynote speaker at the Annual Potawatomi Gathering in Dowagiac, Michigan.

Rickert's credentials include being a member of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and she is a staff dentist for the Michigan Community Dental Clinics that is located near her home in Interlochen, Mich.

She wrote to the *News* that she is available for speaking engagements and she shared some of the comments that people have made regarding her presentations:

*-Her story is riveting and she definitely engaged the audience  
-Peg Siciliano (History Center of Traverse City, Mich.)*

*-Her speech both captivated and incorporated audience participation and she had the ability to relate to the Natives in the audience. Her speech was uplifting and encouraging to the youth in telling them to branch out into different fields and don't let anything get in their way.*

*-Jolene Aleck and staff  
(Chicago Title VII American Indian Education Program)*

**Contact: Jessica Rickert, DDS- Phone 231-313-8407  
or email-jarickert@charter.net**

**Enibowat  
(Weddings)**



**Congratulations  
to  
Mario and Nevika Kitchkommie**  
  
**married  
at Holmes Beach on  
Anna Maria Island, Florida  
on  
June 21, 2013**

**Congratulations  
to  
Sam and Tina Mitchell**

**married  
on the  
beautiful Prairie Band  
Potawatomi Reservation**

**July 27, 2013**



**Congratulations  
to  
Chris and Leigh Ann  
Harjo**

**married  
in  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
on  
June 29, 2013**



**Messages**



**Congratulations  
Linda "Tina Turner" Tecumseh  
1st Place 2013 Talent Show**



**Congratulations  
to  
Taylor (T Bug)  
Keep on  
Pitching On!**

**3rd  
in  
World Series  
&  
Runner Up-State  
Wave 04 8U  
2nd Place  
SCGSA**

**Message from family:  
Thank you for giving us a  
great year. Can't wait till  
next year.  
Love you,  
Mom, Dad, Misti, Bri, Papa,  
Grandma and Oliver Family**



**Ganiçâk  
(those who are born)**



**Introducing  
Simion James Oliver Gibson**

**Born: May 10, 2013  
Weight: 7 lbs., 13 oz.  
Length: 21 3/4 inches**

**Parents: Sherie Nephew and Robert Gibson  
Grandparents: Berdina Marshno, Sharon Levier, and  
Milford Gibson**



**Welcome**

**Elise Skye Eagle Star  
Born: June 7, 2013  
Parents: Ryan Eagle Star &  
Maraya Blassingame  
Grandparent: Dawn Eagle Star  
Great-Grand Parents: Cheryl &  
Thomas Nagel**



**In memory of Raymond David  
Bridegroom  
Born: July 27, 1959  
Died: Aug. 1, 2012**

*Ray was so proud to be a Prairie Band Potawatomi member, a former iron worker, a son, a big brother, a dad, and a loving husband to his wife Peggy of Houston, Texas. Ray knew his journey here on earth would soon end. He journeyed to Kansas last June and he stayed with his mother Julia Ann Lewis and a few of his siblings. Two months later he left for the spirit world. Rest in peace, brother. We love you and we will always miss you!*

*Dorothy Kiyukan and Family*



*The family of Andrew Mitchell  
would like to  
sincerely thank each of you  
for your kind  
expressions of sympathy  
in the recent loss of their  
father and grandfather.*

**Ttiwenmo eginigyán  
(happy day you were born)**



Happy Belated Birthday to Taliya Tae Dorsch who turned 4 years old on July 22!  
*Love you very much, Mom*



Happy Birthday to Wahbewah, Panosh, Kata and Naba!!  
Luv,  
your Hubbard family

Happy 1st Birthday to Sebequah! (Eliana) August 31, 2013  
Love,  
Mom and Dad

Happy Belated Birthday to the Earwood kids!



Wabski "Ezequiel"- 7 years July 27  
Skomahk "Kaden"- 4 years August 28

*Message: Love you, Dad, Mom & Brothers*



Happy 25th Birthday Tara "Turtle" Mitchell  
Happy 2nd Birthday Julisa "Shug" Littleaxe

*Message: We Love You! Mom, Grandma, Misho Aunti, Kek, Patko Luis, Waskeh, Nikki, Bub & Monte!*



Happy Birthday Mom or Cheryl (Maudwas) Nagel on July 21

*Message: For the best mom ever. Thanks for everything. Wishing you many more!*

*From: Dawn, Ree, Scotty, Kirsten & Caelio*



Happy Birthday to Kaylan (left)-Jan. 3  
Doran (center) Dec. 20  
Nolan (right) Oct. 13

From: Jona Rupnicki

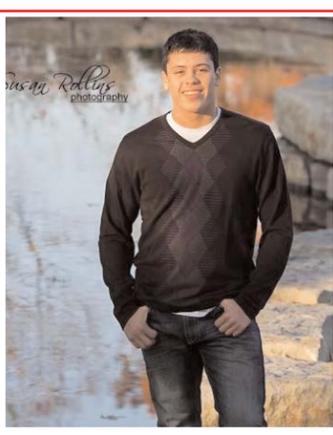
Happy 6th Birthday...Monica! on Oct. 7  
Love,  
Marie, Roman, Damon & Jay

*Message: Growing up too fast and now it's time for elementary school. Good luck, baby sister.*



Happy Belated Birthday to Nancy Conboy!

From, your family



Happy Birthday Kacie Boswell, 18 years old Aug. 29  
Logan Boswell, 20 years old Sept. 28

*Message: Keep steadfast to your beliefs and dreams and move on from the mistakes in your paths. You can and will achieve much in your lives. We love you!*  
Dad, Mom, Taryn, Madison & Wyatt



Happy Birthday "Ohn-wah-sah" Orville Rice, Jr. on Oct 18 81 years old!  
*Message: From all who hold you near and dear!*  
Love,  
Shirley & Sylvia



Kambottek (those who died)

**Donald R. "Wab num dah" Delg**



LAWRENCE- Donald "Donnie" R. "Wab num dah" Delg, 65, of Lawrence, KS passed away unexpectedly July 10, 2013. He was born December 21, 1947 in Holton, KS the son of Salvador and Mary (Wishkeno) Delg.

Donnie attended Bell Grade School on the Potawatomi Reservation and graduated from Burbank High School in Burbank, CA. After graduation, he proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He had lived in the Lawrence area for over 25 years where he was a bus driver for the Lawrence school district.

Donnie was a member of the Drum Religion and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Survivors include his mother, Mary Delg of Lawrence, KS; a sister, Barbara Ferguson of Green Valley Lake, CA; 2 brothers, Dale Delg of Topeka, KS and Darrell Delg of Lawrence, KS and many nieces and nephews.

Drum services will be Saturday evening, July 13, 2013 at the Danceground Building on the Potawatomi Reservation west of Mayetta, KS. Burial will be Sunday afternoon in the Wishkeno Cemetery. Mercer Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements. To leave a special message for the family, please visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com).

*(Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home, Holton, Kan.)*

**Andrew Mitchell, "E ttweh i"**



MAYETTA- Andrew "Andy" Mitchell, E ttweh i, 86, of Mayetta, KS passed away June 30, 2013 at the Holton Community Hospital. He was born April 6, 1927 on the Potawatomi Reservation the son of Joe and Angeline (Battese) Mitchell. He was born and raised on his family's original allotment where he has lived his entire life.

Andy attended Chilocco Indian School and Sequoya Indian School both in Oklahoma. He also attended schools at Wahpeton in North Dakota and Genoa in Nebraska before serving in the United States Army during 1947 to 1952 with 2 years of service in Japan. Andy was a skilled carpenter, worked construction and also was a farmer. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Drum Chief of the Drum Religion and a member of the We-ta-se American Legion Post #410.

Survivors include 2 sons, Gary Mitchell and Eddie Joe Mitchell both of Mayetta, a daughter, Jackie Mitchell of Mayetta; a sister, Zelda Martinez of Topeka and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was adopted by the Charles Thomas family.

Andy was preceded in death by 2 sons, Larry Mitchell and Andrew Mitchell, Jr.; a sister, Cecelia Mitchell and a brother, Edward Mitchell.

Drum services will be Wednesday evening, July 3, 2013 at Danceground Building. Burial will be Thursday afternoon in the Mitchell Cemetery. Mercer Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements. To leave a special message for the family, please visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com).

*(Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home, Holton, Kan.)*

**Adrian C. Barber**

ROSSVILLE-Adrian C. Barber, 21, of Rossville died Saturday, June 29th in Topeka, due to injuries sustained in an ATV accident.

He was born October 16, 1991 in Topeka, KS the son of Dwayne Barber and Charlene Wilson. He graduated from Rossville High School and had previously lived in Delia.

He is survived by: his parents, Dwayne Barber and Charlene Wilson of Rossville, KS; his grandmother, Helen Wilson of Topeka, KS; his sister, Brooklyn Gama of Rossville, KS and his brothers, Cody Wilson, Aaron Barber and Lance Buskirk all of Rossville, KS.

Memorial service will be 1:00 p.m. Friday, July 5th 2013 at Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Memorials are suggested to the Adrian Barber Memorial Fund and may be left in care of Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270 Holton, 66436. To leave a special message for the family, visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com). Mercer Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements

*(Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home, Holton, Kan.)*

**Catherine "Ce-Ceen" Lewis**



MAYETTA- Catherine "Ce-Ceen" Lewis, 100, of Mayetta, KS passed away July 12, 2013 at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka. She was born June 12, 1913 on the Potawatomi Reservation the daughter of Frank "Batese" and Susan (Pashaw) LaClair.

Catherine was raised on the Potawatomi Reservation and later moved to Manhattan for a majority of her life. She returned to the reservation in 2001. She was a homemaker. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Catherine married John Lewis in 1932. He preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Geraldine Lewis; 6 sons, John Harold, James Mervin, Raymond Edward, Delmar Wayne, Larry Gene and Mervin James Lewis; 4 sisters, Elizabeth Bennick, Mary Hubbard, Susan Bennick and Lucy Kabamsee; 2 brothers, George and William LaClair and 2 grandsons.

Survivors include 2 daughters, Phyllis Kaufholz of Mayetta, KS and Peggy Miller of Ft. Myers, FL; 14 grandchildren; many great and great-great grandchildren and 1 great-great-great grandson.

Wake services will be Monday evening, July 15, 2013 at Sister Therese Klepac Hall (at Our Lady of the Snows). Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday morning at Shipshee Cemetery. Mercer Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements. To leave a special message for the family, please visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com).

*(Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home, Holton, Kan.)*



**In memory  
of  
Joyce A. Dixon  
who passed away  
on  
May 24, 2013**

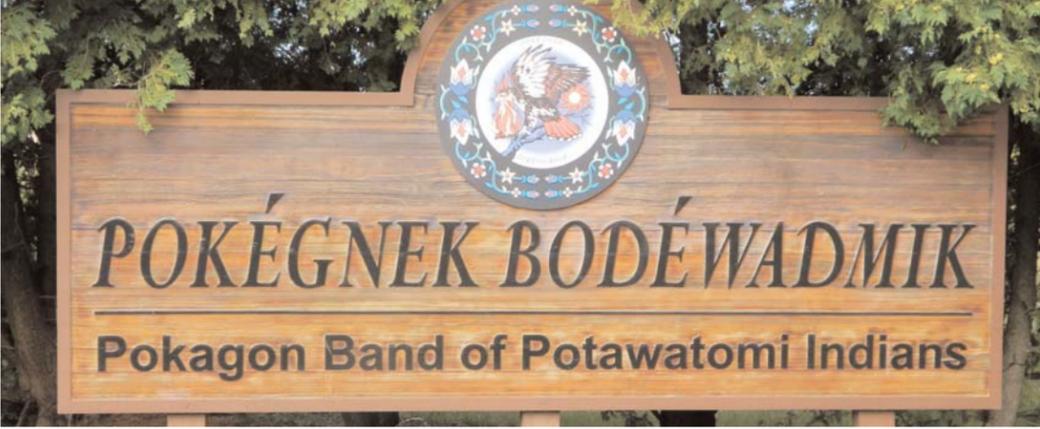
**In memory  
of  
Jamie Bentley  
who passed away  
on  
June 28, 2013**



**In memory  
of  
Waunita Bomar  
Born: Jan. 20, 1961  
Died: July 21, 2013**



# Gathering photo gallery



Photos by Linda Tecumseh, Carrie O'Toole and LaVerne Hale



### Traveler comments on Gathering

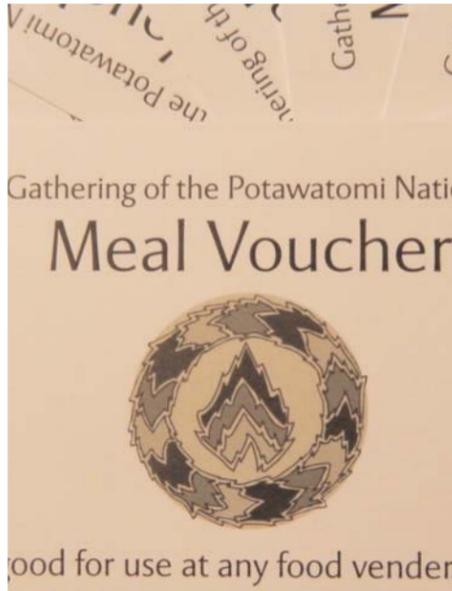
I really enjoyed the trip to this year's Gathering. This is my second trip on the bus. A great group of people to travel with. LaVerne does an awesome job of attending to everyone's needs. Also, it was good to see our Potawatomi EMT's attending to our elders. The Gathering was GREAT! Enjoyed the crafts and all the food to go with our vouchers, good idea! Many thanks to Tribal Council for making our trip possible!

"Wizard of Oz" was spectacular by our PBP language group. Learned a little bit more history of the Pokagon Band since I sat in the Talking Circle. Basket making was not my cup of tea because of arthritis in my hands. Thanks to Lance Wishkeno for the "drive through" of Notre Dame. Would have been better with a guided tour. The food vouchers were an excellent idea. Thanks to all who made the trip great. -Numwa

Thank you, thank you, thank you, don't want to write a book. Everything was great, and thanks to my son Larry Jr., and daughter for making this trip possible for me, shon-ya wise. I had a blast!! Best trip I've been on in a long time. Every part of the trip was excellent.

As always, LaVerne did a great job with the Elders. I don't know of anyone who did not have a good time. Our host Band saved the day with the food tickets. Our own PBP language group was outstanding. If we were able to attend any classes they were very enjoyable. -Babe Bell

I enjoyed the well organized bus trip. The written schedule was helpful. The language class did an outstanding "Wizard of Oz" presentation. Meals were great at the language class. The Pokagon Band was friendly and helpful. I liked the meal tickets. LaVerne did an excellent job with the seniors. Thanks for a great week. Enjoyed it all very much. -Arlene Wahwasuck



### Gathering Thank You's from LaVerne Hale

- Tribal Council
- Gubba & Keirsten Hale
- Boney Pahmahmie
- Billy Jim, Jr.
- Daylon Mzhickteno
- Wah Masquat
- Lance Wishkeno
- Ursula Fish
- Spencer Shopteese
- Volunteer helpers
- Travelers that just helped each other.

