



Prairie Band Potawatomi News

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

SPRING 2016 EDITION

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PBPN Celebrates the Rock Building 75th Anniversary in Style



Traditional garments adorned with ribbons, silver conches and ornate applique and beaded designs were loaned to the event by community members for display. Clothing included several styles of womens dresses and two mens vests, traditional woven belts and moccasins. In the background is a hand painted picture of Maynard Potts done by Leonard Peltier.

February 16, 2016 a crowd of 120 tribal and community members filled the Rock Building in celebration of its 75th Anniversary. The event

featured Potawatomi traditional clothing and an array of bead work, moccasins, fans, and traditional dried foods displayed in glass cases. There were also photos of tribal members from the past, along with photos of those who have served in the military, a series of historical timeline banners, an oil painting and posters of photos of the original construction. The event was opened with a prayer by Roy Hale, PBPN tribal member and United States Army, Korean War Veteran.

The highlight of the celebration was the

Traditional Potawatomi Clothing Fashion Show. Approximately 19 tribal members from young to old donned their traditional clothing and danced their way through the crowd to the stage to the beat of live Native American hand drum music provided by PBPN tribal member, Adrian "Gubba" Hale. Tribal Councilman Thomas Wabnum, was the master of ceremonies announcing each of the models as they made their entrance.

The participants of the fashion show were: Julia Lewis, Lavera "Babe" Bell, Marilyn Wakolee, Arlene Lingo, Roslyn Hale, Linda Hale, LaVeda Wahweotten, Frances Wabaunsee, Mary Mitchell, Tosha Wilson, Tara Mitchell and Riston, Jr., Monty and Shug Little Axe, Mae Joslin and Jacob Wewenis, Cindy LeClere and Rambo Wewenis, Laverne Hale, and Wahpi Hale.

Food and refreshments were provided by the PBPN Diabetes Program and staff Melinda Williamson, Matthew Waits along with servers Linda Yazzie, Josette Berryhill and Tina Levier. Tribal Display Consultants were Mary LeClere and Jackie Mitchell. PBPN Maintenance Department staff who prepared the Rock Building for the event consisted of Charles Nez, Burton Jones, and Damon Wahquahboshkuk.

Special Guests in attendance were Jackson County Commissioners from Holton, Kansas. Participating Tribal Council were Liana Onnen, Chairwoman, Joyce Guerrero, Vice Chairperson, Camilla Chouteau, Secretary, Hattie Mitchell, Treasurer/Event Coordinator, and Thomas Wabnum, Member. Paula Hopkins was the designated Tribal Photographer and Pam Bowman, Executive Assistant processed the duplication of Tribal Photographs

donated and volunteered by Tribal Members and their families.

The Rock Building is a 36 by 60 square foot structure with a basement. It was initiated as a project of the United States government, funded at a cost of \$201,000 under the Civil Public Work Administration (CPWA) program in the late 1930s. The construction materials were hand hewn rocks hauled from the Big Soldier Creek on the Reservation. The majority of the workers who constructed the building were tribal men from the PBPN community. The official completion date was February 16, 1941.

The Rock Building is located adjacent to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Government Center. The site is the former location of the Potawatomi Agency which was moved and established in Horton Kansas, as the Horton Agency by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) providing trust services for all four of the northeast Kansas Tribes.

Since its completion the Nation has designated it as a community center for gatherings and social events, such as general council meetings, funerals, pow wows, and weddings. In the 1990's it was renovated by PBPN tribal member Reverend Vernon Potts and his church members. Records of the Rock Building Project are stored in "The Caves" in Lenexa, Kansas.

The Nation looks forward to the continued use of the building for as long as it stands. The building is a testament to the strength and resilience of the people it serves.

Article submitted by Tribal Council Secretary Camilla Chouteau.



Anthony "Wahpi" Hale speaks to the crowd describing the elements of his outfit and their significance.



A Message to the PBP Nation - Chairwoman Liana Onnen

sisters have sacrificed more than any of us civilians will ever know or understand, so that we can fill out that form, drive to the poll or mail cast a ballot. Do not let anyone make decisions for you or tell you your voice does not matter. It does.

I have learned just how much voices/votes matter in the past 18 months as I have traveled to Washington D.C. or met with legislators in the Kansas Statehouse or met with County Commissioners. It is so very important to have people in those positions willing to work with Native American tribal governments, people that recognize the sovereignty of Indian Nations and treat them as equal government entities with the same rights and responsibilities of any government in providing services to its people. We also need people in those positions who understand the trust responsibility of the Federal government to provide adequate funding for guarantees made in still-binding treaties including health care and education, which continue to be grossly underfunded by the current congressional delegation. We need local and state leaders who also recognize and respect the special government-to-government relationship we share with them. When we don't have those types of people in these positions the Native voice is minimized. This is why it matters.

As we move through these election cycles, talk to candidates when you have the opportunity, ask them why they want to be in office and what they are going to do. Look at a candidate's record, their history and ask yourself what they have done to make a difference. I have always believed in the importance and power of the vote. I know that the more Native Americans exercise their right to vote, the more politicians will pay attention to us and our unique needs. We are one of the last demographics considered but we are also quickly becoming key game changers in our communities, especially when those politicians see our turnout numbers growing with each election and races with closer and closer margins. Exercise the rights of your triple citizenship in tribal, local/state and federal elections. Use your voice and make your choice!

Switching gears, much has happened with our Nation this past quarter. Our application for land-into-trust on the Shabehnay reservation was finally published in the Federal Register and a public hearing was held in Illinois on the environmental impact and concerns of building a casino on trust land. I was unable to attend the scoping hearing in Illinois due to the unexpected loss of my father-in-law, who lost his battle to cancer. I have to give a sincere thank you to those Tribal Council members who stepped up and represented our Nation at the hearing. Much time and money has been invested by this Council and many before it, in the effort to protect our interests in Shabehnay. It must remain foremost in our minds as your leaders and I know it remains foremost in mine. We will wait for the BIA to obtain and catalogue all of the comments and then the arduous task of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement will begin in earnest.

Another development is the successful negotiation of the tobacco tax compact. This project was the culmination of almost a year's worth of work and negotiations on the part of the Nation's negotiation team. This project was a labor of love for me. I was not well-versed on matters of tobacco taxation when the project started, but I am now. The internal team met weekly and both the state and tribal teams monthly, as we worked to find a solution to the state's obligations under the Master Settlement Agreement that would respect the Nation's sovereignty. I believe we have accomplished that. I am proud of the work the team did to get an agreement signed by myself and the Governor. The agreement will be introduced to the legislature and I will provide testimony in support of the compact in March. There is still work to be done to get our compact ratified by the Kansas legislature and I remain optimistic that it will pass through the legislature successfully.

I continue to participate in National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) activities and meetings. In January, I attended my first NCAI Executive Board meeting and also attended the State of Indian Nations address by NCAI President, Brian Cladoosby. This meeting affords the NCAI board the opportunity to meet with key congressional staff members to discuss what is happening in congress with bills that have impact on all Native Americans. In my role as a Regional Vice President, I am able to engage with these key staffers directly and learn the necessary processes to get legislation passed in DC. It is a new experience, one I am grateful for. By knowing how the processes work and who makes things happen it strengthens the NCAI's position, and also my position as your Chairwoman.

I also attended the NCAI Executive Council Winter Session, where I was able to meet and engage with bi-partisan leadership from both chambers including: Congressional representatives, Dan Kildee (D-MI), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Mike Honda, (D-CA), Don Young, (R-AK), Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) Gwen Moore and Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Senators Al Franken (D-MN), Jon Tester (D-MT), James Lankford (R-OK) John Barasso (R-WY), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Michael Crapo (D-ID). These folks voluntarily and actively engage with Native American leaders in their respective states as well as NCAI leadership. Many sit on key committees that decide the budget allocations for BIA and other federal agencies that supplement funds to many of our programs. Most all of our tribal programs are funded both by federal allocations and grants and tribal supplement. We depend on these allocations to continue providing services so it is important that to be visit with them, face-to-face, to ensure that our needs are always being considered.

I was also able to meet with Kansas Senator Jerry Moran, who sits on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, who sits on the House Ways and Means Committee (think taxes) while in Washington D.C. I always appreciate how each of them take the time to meet with me personally when I am in D.C. and listen to my requests. This time, I specifically discussed getting the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) funding approved in the Senate as quickly as possible. The Nation receives approximately \$250,000 annually in NAHASDA funds to supplement it's low-income housing programs and our people depend on this money. I discussed tax matters and concerns with Congresswoman Jenkins and the possibility of legislation that would create more tax parity for tribes with regard to tax exempt bonds and adoption tax credits. I feel both conversations were positive and productive.

I also made time to meet with the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Larry Roberts, and his staff to discuss the Shabehnay application. When I am in D.C., I always try to schedule a meeting with BIA to discuss any matters that may need attention. Since Shabehnay is a top priority, this is generally the topic of discussion and I feel that by continuing to "put a face" to our application and endeavors for the Shabehnay reservation, it keeps our application at the forefront of the minds of the powers that be within the BIA. I believe we enjoy a positive relationship with the BIA at this time and "face time" with BIA leadership is important in maintaining and strengthening that positive relationship.

The last part of my trip was spent primarily at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for my role on the newly formed Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee (TCAC.) We continue to have discussions with NIH leadership and have successfully implemented the development of a Native American position within NIH to assist with consultation and to implement the policies, practices and ideas the TCAC determines are necessary to advance responsible, respectful and meaningful medical research in Indian Country.

Bosho! As I write this letter to the Nation, I find myself completely immersed in the 2016 Election. You have to admit, this is not a boring election cycle! With this being a critical election year for the Presidential election, many Congressional seats being up for grabs, many state legislative representatives' terms ending, gubernatorial elections and our own tribal elections, I want to take the time to encourage you to get involved in the political process at every level.

Recently I spoke to a veterans group in Topeka. It occurred to me that many American Indians fought and died for this country on foreign soil during World War I although not yet citizens of this country. I think that is a remarkable thing. Some people might wonder why anyone would fight for a country of which they were not even considered a citizen. The answer I see is because this land has always been ours, long before it was called America.

It wasn't until the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act, which conferred citizenship upon American Indians, that our right to vote was recognized. The United States Constitution was established in 1787, and it took 137 years before our Native voices were legally recognized in election processes that directly affect us.

More than anyone, Native Americans should exercise their right to vote. This is our country and we have fought for it in every incarnation and for every reason anyone could ever think of to preserve this land and our way of life. The right to vote is one of the rights our veterans and warriors have fought to protect, along with our health, safety, well-being and freedom. I think we owe it to them, to our children and to ourselves to be involved in the political process, to make our voices heard.

In recent years, there has been a push to get Native Americans registered, informed and to the polls. The Native Vote effort is finding momentum and making a difference in close races. I understand a lot of people have no desire to take the time to listen to politicians debate (argue) and explain their policy and platform. However, we find ourselves in changing times and many elections in recent years have been close races decided by small margins, including my own election as your Chairwoman. The scapegoats, "my vote doesn't count" and "one vote doesn't make difference," are less and less valid as we move into a new era in which the people are asking more questions and becoming more involved. Elections once considered "sure things," due to being held in a red or blue state, or because the incumbent was running against a little known candidate are a thing of the past. Social media has changed that, minority votes have changed that, and in more and more cases across America, Native votes are changing that.

I encourage you to register to vote in any election you are eligible to vote in. I encourage you to use your voice and make your own choices. Many of our brothers and



A Message to the PBP Nation - Vicechair Joyce Guerrero

In 2006, the project appeared to move forward with the purchase of 128 acres of the original, historic 1,280 acres of the Shab-eh-nay land. During this time there were also court decisions, political actions and local community action occurring outside the purview of the Nation. Following tribal councils continued advocating for this project by meeting with the Assistant Secretary and key staff and through communications with National Indian Gaming Commission attorneys. At the federal level the message has remained consistent; the history and documents give the PBP a credible claim although the land has not been through the trust application process. In Dekalb County, Illinois local officials and community members have also continued advocating for the project.

The current efforts are the result of many discussions among tribal council and inquiries from the General PBP membership on the activities, or lack of, at Shab-eh-nay. In June of 2014, tribal council met with regional director of the BIA in Minneapolis where the Nation's intent to submit an application for land into trust for the Shab-ey-nay reservation was discussed. In November 2014, the Nation submitted the application to have the purchased 128 acres and a one acre residential parcel within the Shab-eh-nay Reservation taken into trust by the United States. The intent being to complete the trust process and thus remove any possible questions or challenges as to the status of the lands allowing the Nation to move forward with economic development. The planned economic venture is a modest Class II gaming facility.

Recently the land into trust application process has progressed by former Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Kevin Washburn initiating the review process. The first step in the process is issuance of a Notice of Intent to conduct an Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The NOI was published in January 2016 in the Federal Register.

On January 26, 2016, as required of the environmental review process, the BIA held a scoping hearing for public comments. I attended, along with Secretary, Camilla Chouteau, Treasurer, Hattie Mitchell and council members, Thomas Wabnum and Carrie O'Toole. The Entertainment board president, Joshua Arce along with board member, Frank Tecumseh and Media Relations Specialist, Michelle Simon were also in attendance.

On behalf of the Nation, Tom, Hattie and I spoke prepared statements. There were approximately 30 speakers including the mayor of Shab-eh-nay. Some individuals spoke of their support of the economic development and some that spoke about environmental concerns. After the meeting we met with some of the attendees about their concerns. The meeting was another step in the right direction toward our goal.

The tribal council will continue to assist and expedite the process wherever we can. There are no plans at this time to purchase anymore property in that area. We are mindful that expenses on this project have at times been a concern to the General membership, also travel is carefully considered before approval in TC meeting. More information on the project is located at shabehnayreservation.com and prairiebandeis.com.

On February 3, 2016, I participated in the Native American Legislative Day at the state capitol building in Topeka along with my fellow council members. The day is designated for the four tribes in Kansas to be recognized by the Kansas Legislature and Governor. The PBP sponsored an early morning meet-and-greet event with coffee and donuts for the state legislature members. Many state representatives stopped by and visited with tribal council members on various topics. Later in the day we had meetings with several senate leaders and were introduced on the Senate floor. We also met briefly with Governor Brownback. The Nation is hopeful a tax compact with the state will be considered this year and we plan to attend committee hearings as the issue comes up.

It was also my pleasure to attend the 75th anniversary celebration of the Rock building. A display of traditional clothing, historical items, and documents about the history of the Rock building and other events and timelines of the Prairie Band Potawatomi history and many, many old photos were donated by families and put on display. There was also a cultural fashion show where beautifully dressed participants showed off their modeling. It was enjoyable! I especially paid attention to the many comments from the community welcoming more events like this and the need for a museum.

Sincerely,
Joyce Guerrero
Tribal Council Vice Chairperson

The start of the year has already been busy as tribal council continues to actively pursue the PBP Nation's goals and projects.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has been pursuing the Shab-eh-nay project for many years. Several PBP tribal councils have inherited this project with the goals remaining the same: to right a historical wrong and move forward with economic development ultimately allowing the PBP to better provide housing, health care, education, cultural programs and other services to tribal members.

There is favorable research, supportive documents and correspondence from the United States Department of Interior that positively affirms the PBP claim. In 2000, the Assistant Solicitor of the U.S. Department of the Interior issued an opinion stating:

(1)The Shab-eh-nay reservation continues to exist. (2) The Shab-eh-nay band held recognized title to the reservation pursuant to the Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1829, (3) there is no evidence to support the contention that Shab-eh-nay and his Band voluntarily abandoned the Reservation. Congress has never passed any statute or ratified any treaty which would have extinguished the Shab-eh-nay bands title to the Shab-eh-nay reservation. Lastly, The PBP has the strongest claim that it is the successor in interest to the Shab-eh-nay land.

- ONNEN Continued

I remain committed to this project and learning what I need to know about medical research and its impact and significance in Indian communities. I also have to thank my Technical Advisor, tribal member Jason Hale, who assists me in understanding the research aspects of my role and steps up to represent the Nation on the committee when I am unable to adequately do so. His consultation and time are greatly appreciated.

Finally, I have to share that I, along with the other leaders of the four resident tribes of Kansas, were invited to meet with presidential candidate, Senator Bernie Sanders at his rally in Lawrence, Kansas in March. For approximately 20 minutes Senator Sanders engaged with tribal leadership, Haskell student leadership and Kansas Representative Ponka-We Victors, the only Native American woman in the Kansas legislature. As a group we expressed our concerns on everything from water rights to taxation to education and health care. To be clear, this is not a "plug" for Senator Sanders. It is a report to you, the membership, about another face-to-face meeting with another leader. No other presidential candidate who visited Kansas reached out to tribal leaders. If they had, I would have made every effort to meet with those candidates as well. Any opportunity to educate politicians about the needs and challenges to sovereignty should be taken. I appreciate Senator Sanders and his campaign for taking the time to reach out. I think the outreach is

both a desire to understand Native issues better, but also a direct result of a continually developing understanding of the power of the Native Vote.

So remember, as we move through 2016, be a part of the election processes at every level. If you haven't registered, register! If you are registered and haven't voted in a while, get back to the polls! All of the politicians I mention in this message are elected. They choose to interact with Tribal leaders in a leader to leader, nation to nation relationship. Find out what kind of relationship the officials in your area do or do not have with Natives. Find out why candidates are running and what they have done or plan to do to further the best interests of their constituents. Those who are elected are going to shape the attitude and policy which will guide the government to government relationships between our tribal nation, other tribal nations and state, local and federal governments. It matters. Believe me, when I tell you, it matters.

Until next time... Miigwetch!

Liana Onnen
Tribal Council Chairwoman

The Prairie Band Potawatomi News

The *Prairie Band Potawatomi News* or *PBP News* is a quarterly publication of the 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 Media staff, Tribal Council, Gaming Commission or the Nation.

The PBP News reserves the right to reject any materials or letters submitted for publication, including those 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 Media office.

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Honoring Former Tribal Council and Their Contributions to the Nation

In December of 2015 Mayme Rupnicki and James Wabuansee, former members of the Tribal Council passed away. Each individual made a lasting contribution to the Nation.

Mamie Rupnicki served one term on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council as the Chairperson beginning in 1996. Mamie was instrumental in the establishment of gaming on the reservation. During her time in office the Nation secured a compact with the state and a management contract with Harrah's Inc. Rupnicki also initiated the Tribe's movement to expand gaming to lands held by the Prairie Band located in present day Shabbona, Illinois. The Tribe continues to tackle the steps of the Shabehnay Project and hopes to realize progress in the near future. Rupnicki also served on the PBP Gaming

Commission, as president of the Board of Regents of Haskell Indian Nations University and was an NCAI officer.

James "Nebi" Wabuansee served one term as a member of the Tribal Council from 2004 to 2008. James was instrumental in establishing vocational rehabilitation services for the Nation. After his time spent serving the Nation, he returned to academia and received a doctorate degree in physical therapy.

The legacies of these individuals continue on today with the Nation's successful gaming operation which is currently expanding along with a vocational rehabilitation program that continues to provide needed opportunities to the local community.

Mamie "Zaoshee" Wahwassuck Rupnicki



MAYETTA - Mamie "Zaoshee" Wahwassucki Rupnicki, 76, of Mayetta, died Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at the F.W. Huston Senior Care in Winchester.

She was born May 21, 1939 on the Potawatomi Reservation at Mayetta, the daughter of John and Josette Nahgonbe Wahwassuck.

Mamie married Joe Rupnicki in January of 1956 in Topeka. He survives.

She received a Master's degree in Business from Baker University.

Mamie and Joe had operated a ranch in Arizona. Upon her return to the Reservation, in seeking to improve the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe, she served as Chair of the Gaming Commission and then served as Tribal Chairperson.

She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Doc Wahwassuck, Twila "Charlie" Lee, Raphael "Bugger" Wahwassuck, Florence "Gumpy" Ross, Henry Wahwassuck, and Jewette "Swede" Wahwassuck.

Other survivors include her children, Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick and wife LeAnne, Delia, Royetta Rodewald, Hoyt, John Rupnicki, Sr., Mayetta, Rachel Wamego, Las Vegas, NV, and Jesse Rupnicki, Soldier; siblings, James Wahwassuck, Mayetta, Pete Wahwassuck, in Washington state, Merrill "Meatball" Wahwassuck, Mayetta, and Nancy Wahwassuck Conboy, Mayetta, twenty-one grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Drum services will be Friday evening, December 4th at the Dance Ground, west of Mayetta. Burial will be Saturday afternoon in the Dance Ground Cemetery. Mamie will lie in state Thursday at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Joyt, where family and friends will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Online condolences may be made at chapeloaksfuneralhome.com.

James Louis "Wasko Nebi" Hale



TOPEKA - James Louis "Wasko Nebi" Wabaunsee, 45, of Topeka, KS passed away Wednesday, December 30, 2015 at Select Specialty Hospital in Kansas City, KS. He was born September 29, 1970 in Topeka, KS the son of Louis and Judith (Hale) Wabaunsee.

James graduated from Seaman High School in 1989 and graduated from Kansas University in 1993 in Exercise Science. James received his Masters in 1995 at Mayo School of Health Science in Rochester, MN and he received his Doctorate in Physical Therapy at KU School of Medicine in 2010.

He worked for Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and was instrumental in forming vocational rehabilitation at Prairie Band Social Services. James also worked for St. Francis Rehabilitation and Holton Community Hospital Rehabilitation.

James was a member of the Drum Religion and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. He had served one term on Tribal Council. James enjoyed all sports; including KU Basketball and Kansas City Royals.

He married Natalie Jefferson on August 26, 2005 in Topeka. She survives of the home. Other survivors include 3 daughters, Ishta, Madison and Amyah all of the home; his parents, Louis and Judith Wabaunsee of Topeka and his sister, Ursula Fish of Topeka.

Drum Services will be Saturday evening, January 2, 2016 at the Danceground Building west of Mayetta. Burial will be Sunday afternoon in the Matwe-Shobney Cemetery. James will lie in state at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton beginning Thursday afternoon, December 31, 2015. To leave a special message for the family, please visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

PBPN Election Starting Soon

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Election Board has given notice of the upcoming election. The Election Board has allowed 75 working days for the election, with holidays taken into consideration. Tribal Council seats have a filing fee of \$150 and Ethics Commission seats have a filing fee of \$50. Filing fees are payable by money order only. The PBPN Tribal Council is a seven member board with staggered 4-year long terms. The PBPN Ethics Commission is a six member board with staggered 3-year long terms.

Positions open for election:

TC Vice Chair: Joyce Guerrero - currently in office
TC Treasurer: Hattie Mitchell - currently in office
TC Person #2: Thomas Wabnum - currently in office
TC Person #3: Carrie O'Toole - currently in office

Ethics Commission Chair - Vacant
Ethics Commissioner #1 - Vacant
Ethics Commissioner #2 - Vacant
Ethics Commissioner #3 - Vacant

See page 6 for the election timeline of events.

PBPN Trust Land Increases

On November, 25, 2015, just over 352 acres at 150 Road and US Hwy 75 were accepted into United States Trust. The acreage is east of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation and is a site for future tribal development along the US 75 corridor. The process began February 20, 2001 and took over 14 years to complete. The process included: a period for public comment, several boundary surveys, an environmental review and an appeal by the State of Kansas to the Interior Board of Appeals (IBIA).

Election Timeline

Wednesday, April 6:
Mailing of Election Notice

Monday, April 18 - Friday, April 29 from 9am to 4pm:
Declaration of Candidacy

Friday, May 6 by 4pm:
Deadline to Withdraw Candidacy

Friday, May 20 by 4pm:
Registration Deadline Date/18 years and older

Saturday, June 4 from 9am to 12pm:
Informal forum with Tribal Council Candidates

Friday, June 10:
Mail Ballots to Registered Voters

Saturday, July 23 at 9am:
Tribal Election Day - Votes Counted
**Candidates must win by a majority vote, if needed a run-off election will be held.

Saturday, August 20 at 9am:
Tribal Election Run-Off - Votes Counted

Native American Legislative Day



TOPEKA - The Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council participated in Native American Legislative Day at the state capitol building in Topeka, Kansas on February 3, 2016. Members of council were able to meet with members of the Kansas House of Representatives and Senate. The Council was also introduced for the first time on the Senate floor. (L to R) Camilla Chouteau, Thomas Wabnum, Liana Onnen, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, Joyce Guerrero, Junior Wahweotten and Carrie O'Toole.

Charitable Contributions 4th Quarter Distribution

Total Donated \$73,885

- Boys & Girls Club of Topeka
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Manhattan
- Community Health Ministry Inc
- Heart of Jackson Humane Society
- Lawrence Arts Center
- Let's Help
- Life House Child Advocacy Center
- Morning Star, Inc
- Ms. Wheelchair America
- Ronald McDonald House
- Rossville High School Alumni Scholarship Foundation
- Royal Valley Native American Singers & Dancers
- Salvation Army
- Shawnee County Historical Society
- TARC
- Topeka Rescue Mission
- Topeka Youth Project
- Washburn Mulvane Art Museum
- Williams Science & Fine Arts Magnet School



The PBP Nation made a generous donation of \$10,000 to the Topeka Let's Help Inc. The organization's executive director, Linda Kehres stated, "We are grateful for the generosity of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation." (L to R) Joyce Guerrero, Wanda Treinen, Thomas Wabnum, Linda Kehres, Liana Onnen and LaVera Bell.

Welcome Aboard!

The Education Committee, Enrollment Committee and Entertainment Board all have new members.

The Education Committee - Makes recommendations in the implementation of the Education Program and in approving educational grants for students. New members are Adele Wahwassuck and Jason Hale, joining Arlene Wahwassuck, Mary Wabnum Mitchell and Mary Wilson.

The Enrollment Review Committee - Reviews the tribal enrollment applications to determine eligibility. Newly appointed members are Micki Martinez and Michelle Simon, joining Lorrie Melchior, Benny Potts and Thomas Tuckwin.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation, commonly referred to as the Entertainment Board - Provides oversight and oversees the gaming business while the casino management staff runs the actual day-to-day gaming operations. Frank Tecumseh is the newest addition to the board, and he joins fellow board members Joshua Arce, Ed Callozo, Denise Marshall and Corey Mzhickteno.



Two Entertainment Board members were present at the recent BIA Scoping Meeting of the Shabehnay Project. Pictured from L to R are PBPEC President Joshua Arce, Tribal Council member Thomas Wabnum, Vicechair Joyce Guerrero, Treasurer Hattie Mitchell, and new PBPEC board member Frank Tecumseh, with Secretary Camilla Chouteau and Tribal Council member Carrie O'Toole seated.

Native Vote is Afoot



Tribal member Nina Hinds signs up to receive information from Native Vote organizer Paula Hopkins at the Kansas Caucus information meeting held at the Rock Building on Feb. 22, 2016.

Organization of the local Native Vote is underway. Native Vote is a nonpartisan campaign initiated by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). The PBPN got involved promoting the Native Vote in 2014 and were able to register over 100 new voters! The focus of the local Native Vote group is voter registration and education. Native Vote will be at various community events from now until the United States National Election in November.

So far this season, Native Vote has set up at an informational meeting on the Kansas Caucus process on February 22, registering four new voters. Then on February 29, they attended a student informational session in Lawrence, Kansas, registering two new voters.

Remember, getting registered to vote is critical, followed by voting in elections. Your voice does matter; be sure to vote in county, state and federal elections.

If you would like more information, would like to volunteer or get registered to vote, contact: Paula Hopkins - phopkins@pbpnation.org, Verna Simon - vernasimon@pbpnation.org, or Michelle Simon - michellesimon@pbpnation.org.

Free Car Seat Fitting

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police Department will be hosting a car seat fitting station on Friday, April 8th from 10am-2pm located at the Prairie Band Potawatomi Child Care Center parking lot; 15380 K Road, Mayetta, KS.

This fitting station is open to anyone who would like education on car seat installation or to make sure the car seat you are currently using is safe for use by a certified passenger safety technician.

New car seats will be issued to federally recognized tribal members in need of a car seat with Tribal ID cards. People will be helped on a first come first serve basis, no appointments accepted. Please allow 30 minutes per car seat. For further information please contact John Hurla (CPS Technician) 785-966-6657.

PBPN Police Staff Recognition

In December the PBPN Police Department held an Awards Banquet recognizing outstanding work by officers.

- John Hurla came up on an accident on Nov. 11, 2015 and performed CPR until Medics arrived on scene.
- Tyrel Askren used training techniques with a subject that had caused self injury, the techniques prevented any further harm.
- Tyler Shobney performed CPR on an elderly individual who was unresponsive and successfully resuscitated them.
- Herb Nance will be retiring and was recognized for 17 years of service.



The PBPN PD has new car seats available for members of federally recognized tribes.

PBPN Education Department Notice

The Education Department is accepting undergraduate applications for the 2016/2017 school year. Application packets with all required materials are due no later than July 1st of each year. Although there is a late application policy, it is always recommended to adhere to the July 1st deadline. Late applications are not guaranteed funding.

Applications are available on the website at <http://pbpindiantribe.com/education.aspx>. First time students will need to download the New Undergraduate application packet, while returning students will want the Renewal Undergraduate application packet.

READ MATERIALS CAREFULLY!! It is imperative that applications are read thoroughly and completely. All applications have a cover sheet that provides specific instructions for completion. Failure to review instructions can cause an appli-

cation to be incomplete and late. This can be the difference between an application being approved or denied.

DON'T WAIT TOO LATE!! Completing any scholarship application can be time consuming. It is each student's responsibility to ensure their application packet is received and complete. It is recommended that students stay in touch with the department and with the college they plan to attend. It only takes one missing item or one day to be considered incomplete and late.

DID YOU KNOW?? In addition to undergraduate funding, we have programs designed to assist different educational needs. The education department staff is available to assist in the application process. For more information please call us toll free at 877-715-6789.

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES!! Colleges may have a list of private scholarships, but there are also scholarship websites available to assist in your search for funding. There are several sites that list a multitude of scholarship resources designed for Native students. Here are a few helpful resources; each of these sites provides scholarship resource information along with application materials. The Cobell Scholarship website is not yet "live," however a link for the application is available.

American Indian Graduate Center
www.aigcs.org

American Indian College Fund
www.collegefund.org

Cobell Scholarship
www.cobellscholar.org

Article submitted by Kristen Aitkens.

A Look Back on the Prairie Band, LLC

As 2016 begins, the Prairie Band, LLC is heading into its sixth year of business with an overall track record of positive performance. Each year, revenue for the LLC has grown, except for 2014 when one investment caused a negative impact. This will be the first year the Nation will realize a dividend from the investment into the LLC. The reinvestment plan for the company allowed for any profit made in the first five years of business to roll back into the company. Beginning in 2016, the Nation will receive a 10% dividend, in 2017 a 15% dividend and from 2018 onward a 20% dividend for all years to come. It is important to note that throughout all this time, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation still owns 100% of the business.

Here is a look back at how the LLC was created and how far they have come. The idea of an LLC emerged when members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation thought it prudent to create a plan that would generate dividends separate from gaming income in light of the 2007 Kansas Expanded Gambling Law. The law authorized construction of four state-owned resort casinos. To date the state of Kansas is operating Hollywood Casino in Kansas City, Boothill Casino & Resort in Dodge City and Kansas Star Casino in Mulvane. Their fourth operation, Kansas Crossing Casino is slated to open this summer 2016 in Pittsburg.

In 2009, work began on a plan to diversify the Nation's earnings. The plan was presented to General Council in January of 2010, when they approved creation of the Prairie Band, LLC allotting funding of 10 million dollars in total. The LLC would start with an initial 5 million dollar fund, and receive a 1 million dollar investment each year for five years to total 10 million. In March 2010 the Prairie Band, LLC was officially established under PBPN Tribal Law & Order Code 25 by the PBPN Tribal Council, along with an implementation plan that mandated responsible growth and an operating agreement for the new company providing rules and regulations for smooth operation.

The overall purpose of the Prairie Band, LLC is to ensure long term economic stability through diversifying, managing and expanding economic interests of the Nation beyond the realm of gaming. The business structure of an LLC isolates liability directly from the Nation while allowing tremendous advantages related primarily to the Nation's civil regulatory powers, sovereign immunity, certain tax immunities and status as a minority entity. This situation also allows for an appropriate level of separation from the tribal government.

The Prairie Band, LLC operates as a holding company (parent) company with the majority of its activity occurring through its subsidiary companies. The subsidiary companies are owned and controlled with at least a 51% share by the parent company. Currently the Prairie Band, LLC is composed of four divisions with six subsidiaries. The four divisions are Prairie Band Shared Services, Prairie Band Government Services, Prairie Band Business Services and Prairie Band Consumer Services. The six subsidiaries include Prairie Band Capital the investment arm of the LLC, Shared Services which provides administrative support to the varying subsidiaries, Health Services, Prairie Band Construction, Prairie Band Propane and One Stop, the full service convenience store located at 190 Road and Highway 75.

Organizationally the Prairie Band, LLC Board of Directors is the primary authority over the umbrella of the Prairie Band, LLC. They are responsible for setting the company's strategy, providing oversight of the CEO, overseeing the company's general operations and reporting to the Tribal Council. The current board consists of tribal members Peggy Houston – President, Forrest Cox – member, Junior Wahweotten – Tribal Council Representative, Thomas Wabnum – Tribal Council Representative and Mark Kern.

The CEO, Burton Warrington, runs the day-to-day operations. He is responsible for administering the company's strategy, developing the subsidiary companies along with new business opportunities and he reports to the LLC board of directors.

Initially the Prairie Band, LLC was slow getting on its feet. The first board of directors was not formed until the end of 2010 and beginning of 2011. It was another six months until Warrington was hired on as the CEO. In August of 2011, the first infusion of capital was released. At this time the business was centered on establishing internal operations and creating its first subsidiary to passively invest capital.

By the end of 2011, Prairie Band, LLC had made progress by fully acquiring three existing PBPN tribal businesses. They were Mayetta Oil originally acquired by the Nation in 2005, Firekeeper Golf Course built by the Nation in 2010 and Prairie Band Construction, formed by the Nation in 2009.

In 2012, PB, LLC acquired one more business from the nation, Prairie Band Health Services, also formed by the Nation in 2009. The LLC went on to expand its passive investment portfolio to include: 4th Street Centre, LLC,

Counsel Financial Holdings, GMB Mezzanine Capital, Haley Communities and Specialty Surgical Center of Columbus. They year 2012 closed out with the Prairie Band, LLC operating 6 wholly owned subsidiaries. One of which was the Potawatomi Smokeshop, which would not be fully realized until the next year.

The Prairie Band, LLC completed phase I and II of the "190 Road and Highway 75 Revitalization Project" in 2013. The project consisted of constructing company headquarters and the Potawatomi Smokeshop, which opened in August and captured the cigarette market on the north end of the reservation, with the larger goal being to monopolize Native cigarette sales on the reservation and collect 100% of the tax revenue generated. With a stable base for operations, the Prairie Band, LLC began strategically focusing on growing federal contract capacity. The LLC was also transitioning from Phase I emphasis of the Implementation plan to Phase II: organically starting new companies or acquiring controlling interests in existing companies.

At the end of 2013, the Firekeeper Golf Course was turned over to the Prairie Band Casino & Resort for use as an amenity.

In 2014, more buildings at the 190 & Highway 75 were acquired, and the former Potawatomi Smokeshop was closed and transitioned to the newly renovated One Stop full service convenience store. The Prairie Band LLC reports they employ 42 positions, with 20 being local and 22 being national through the use of contracts within the subsidiaries.

Within the past year the Prairie Band, LLC has continued to evolve. They finally saw a return on the legwork done to get federal contracting at military installations by way of profitability in the health services subsidiary. The LLC also increased jobs by 6 positions for a total of 48, with 22 now being local.

In reviewing the story of the Prairie Band, LLC one thing CEO Burton Warrington notes is, "People don't see the back side of starting everything from scratch." A lot of the work involved in creating a successful venture includes building relationships and credibility in the business community.

Slated for the near future is the third phase of the 190 & highway 75 revitalization project, which will include development of a welcome/visitor center and attract additional tenants to three vacant spaces available for commercial use. More information on the LLC will be available at the July 2016 General Council Meeting.

New Investment Committee Seeking Qualified Members

Pursuant to the Investment Policy Statement of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, applications are now being accepted for the PBPN Investment Committee Member.

Role of Board Members:

Provide management oversight, policy-making and related activities necessary to carry out the Investment Policy Statements listed objectives. Members shall act as a Board, regularly convened, by a majority vote, and may adopt rules and regulations for conducting meetings in compliance with the Investment Policy Statement, and where applicable tribal and federal law. Members must handle information in a private and confidential matter. Investment Committee members will be paid a monthly stipend of \$250.

Qualified applicants must have the following:

- Open and public reputation for integrity and honesty.
- Professional work ethics, manner and appearance.
- Ability to pass background check and be subject to credit report review.
- No felony convictions within the last 10 years.
- At least two (2) of the following:
 - o Identifiable experience in business management, personal management and business administration;

- o Experience owning and running a business enterprise;
- o Experience as a member of a Board of Directors of any corporation
- o Specialized training or educational achievement, which qualifies the individual for the available position;

• Other qualifications may be added from time to time as reasonably required given the importance of this position to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Duties:

- Attend all Board meetings as required. Be prepared and informed, conducting due diligence as necessary;
- Attend required Investment/Finance Training;
- Adopt rules and regulations and overall policy in compliance with the Investment Policy Statement;
- Be available to meet periodically if needed.

Qualified applicants should submit a Resume, Letter of Interest and two (2) Letters of Professional Reference to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Human Resources Department, 16281 Q Road, Mayetta, KS 66509 or fax to: 785-966-3062. Call 785-966-3060 or toll free 1-866-694-3937 for more information or go to our website www.pbpindiantribe.com

Equine Assisted Therapy on the Horizon for PBPB



A horse used in equine assisted therapy takes a whiff of PBPB employee Tamara Sweeney's hand during an informational demonstration at Double J Acres farm.

An ad hoc group of PBPB employees consisting of Tamara Sweeney, LMSW, Judge Theresa Barr and educator Kate Adame are interested in bringing Equine Assisted Therapy to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Last summer, in her role as an Indian Child Welfare Act social worker, Sweeney referred three female youth to a program called HELP, Horses Easing Life's Pain, facilitated by Deborah Myers, LCSW at the Double J Acres farm located in Atchison, Kansas.

The HELP program uses the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA) model for all activities which requires a co-facilitating team of a mental health professional and an

equine specialist professional. The HELP program is essentially a collaborative effort between the mental health professional and a horse professional working with individuals and horses to address personal and/or treatment goals. It is considered a short-term or "brief" approach due to its intensity and effectiveness.

Equine assisted psychotherapy incorporates horses

experientially for emotional growth and learning. The focus of equine assisted therapy is not riding or horsemanship, instead it is centered on setting up ground activities involving the horses which will require the individual or group to apply certain skills. Therefore, no previous experience with horses is necessary.

With the experiential nature of horse-assisted therapy participants learn about themselves and others through participating in activities with the horses and then processing (discussing) feelings, behaviors and patterns. This approach has been compared to the ropes courses used by therapist, treatment facilities and human development courses around the world. However, equine assisted therapy has the added advantage of utilizing horses; powerful and

dynamic living beings. Most groups can use two to four horses, with as few as one horse in certain instances. The horses are not trained per se, but they are used to being handled and being respectful toward people.

After seeing the success the HELP program brought to the youth, the ad hoc group of employees were encouraged to share this form of therapy with more people utilizing services from the Nation.

One of the main hurdles to supplying this type of therapy to more clients is the logistics of getting to the horses. The group then thought, "What if we bring the horses here?" The group sought to gain more support for their idea and hosted a hands-on learning session inviting other employees of the Nation to experience it for themselves.

In February, Tribal Council members and other PBPB employees travelled to the Double J Acres farm where Myers volunteered her time to explain and demonstrate elements of equine assisted therapy firsthand. While there, the PBPB ad hoc group expressed how it could be utilized on the PBPB Reservation. Attendees were in agreement that an equine assisted therapy program could be utilized by several different age groups of tribal members in conjunction with the many services currently being offered on the reservation.

The next step in bringing Equine Assisted Therapy to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is securing funding. The group believes if all programs that could utilize the horses pull together and share the cost, it can be realized quickly.

Buffalo Wins Award



This fall the PBPB Buffalo Crew received a 2nd place award from the Kansas Buffalo Association for a two year old buffalo heifer out of more than 500 animals present at the event. Pictured with the award are Chris Decoteau, Elliot "Wah" Masquat and Nathaniel "Mi-kes" Potts.

Royal Valley 9-Time Battle of the Plains Grand Champions!

The Royal Valley Native American Dancers traveled to Bartlesville, Oklahoma on January 16, 2016 to compete in the annual Battle of the Plains Native American Dance competition. Royal Valley placed first in the competition. The competition is sponsored by Operation Eagle, which is the Indian Education Program through the Bartlesville Public Schools in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. The competition included a total of 7 schools. Royal Valley Native American Dancers have always been invited to the competition to represent Kansas. Royal Valley Native American Singers/Dancers is the only school-sponsored dance group in the state. Currently the group is 54 members strong. The group is composed of members from kindergarten to 12th grade. Sponsors for the group are Anita Evans-Title VII Indian Education Director for U.S.D. #337/ Director, Kidz Lit. Program for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Boys & Girls Club and Connie Peters-Math and Student Assistance Teacher at Royal Valley Middle School. Royal Valley Native American Singers/Dancers is supported by U.S.D. #337 through Impact Aid. The sponsors would like to thank all the parents and family who attended. Special thanks to the Boys & Girls Club Staff of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for their generous support. *Article submitted by Anita Evans.*

List of Royal Valley Dancers in attendance

Age Category 14 to 18

Taryn Boswell - 2nd Place, Girls Jingle
Madison Boswell - 3rd Place, Girls Jingle
Keesis Potts - 2nd Place, Boys Traditional
Zach Wahweotten - 2nd Place, Boys Fancy

Age Category 11 to 13 year olds

Aislan Levier - 1st Place, Girls Cloth
Adrianna Suke - 1st Place, Girls Fancy
Shanokwe Price - 2nd Place, Girls Fancy
Autumn Wabaunsee - Participant, Girls Fancy
Elizabeth Wishteyah - Participant, Girls Fancy
Marcella Wishteyah - Participant, Girls Fancy
Sophia Suke - 1st Place, Girls Jingle

Sunny Wahquahboshkuk - 3rd Place, Girls Jingle
Hayley Harmon - Participant, Girls Jingle
Angel Wahwassuck - Participant, Girls Jingle
KJ Miller - 2nd Place, Boys Grass
Nahconbe Wahwassuck - 3rd Place, Boys Grass
Isaac Hale - Participant, Boys Grass
Aven Mitchell - Participant, Boys Grass

Age Category 8 to 10 year olds

Alyssa Levier - 3rd Place, Girls Cloth
Cloe Wahquahboshkuk - Participant, Girls Cloth
Destiny Hiddleston - Participant, Girls Cloth
Wyatt Boswell - 2nd Place, Boys Fancy
Anthony Wabaunsee - 1st Place, Boys Grass

Antjuan Patterson - 2nd Place, Boys Grass

Age Category 5 to 7 year olds

Eviana Evans - 1st Place, Girls Cloth
Panno Wahwassuck - 1st Place, Girls Fancy
Ki-We Miller - 3rd Place, Girls Fancy
Kache Hale - Participant, Girls Fancy
Nami Thomas - Participant, Girls Fancy
Dasno Mills - 3rd Place, Girls Jingle
Shanehse Williams - 1st Place, Boys Fancy
Taylor Osceola - 2nd Place, Boys Grass
Thomas Harmon - 3rd Place, Boys Grass

News from the Diabetes Program

Thank you to all that participated in our 4th Annual Eliminate Diabetes Holiday Challenge! We had 91 people participate this year, with many receiving some great prizes throughout the challenge, including Fitbits, weight scales, and Nike Jackets! A special "Thank You" to our Community Health Assessment Team (CHAT) which donated some of the big prizes for this year's challenge. Congratulations to our winners, Miyah Danielson, Justin Pahmahmie, Mary Borne, Nathan Hale, Ella Dawson, Mike Boswell, Corie Lange, and Jason Davis! You guys are setting great examples in our community, keep up the wonderful work!

We also have some announcements:

It's time to start preparing your gardens for planting season! Please contact Eddie Joe at 966-8243 to get on the list for spring garden tilling. Also, be on the lookout for information on our upcoming garden-

ing workshop, as well as other great garden-related workshops planned for the year!

We are currently in the process of updating some of the workout rooms here on the Rez. We are swapping out old equipment for new equipment and updating the rooms over the next month. We just finished renovating the Wellness Center here at the Clinic and it looks amazing! The space is fully equipped to get a full-body workout in. The Wellness Center is open from 7:30am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday.

Next we are remodeling the Elders Center workout area in the basement. It is where we hold our exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30am. Now it will also be an area to work out on your own or with a buddy. The Elder's Center is open from 8:00am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday.

We are also going to be working on a little rearrang-

ing and equipment updates at the Boys and Girls Club Gym. If you haven't visited it since the update a couple years ago, please come do so immediately! It contains state of the art workout equipment that rivals that of big name gyms in Topeka. In the next month it will be even better. We are working to make it more functional and user friendly. If you need help with creating a workout plan, feel free to make an appointment with Matt or Melinda in the Diabetes Program and we will help you get started!

Coming soon.....New exercise classes will be offered later this spring/summer as well as the possibility of a dietician being added to our program!

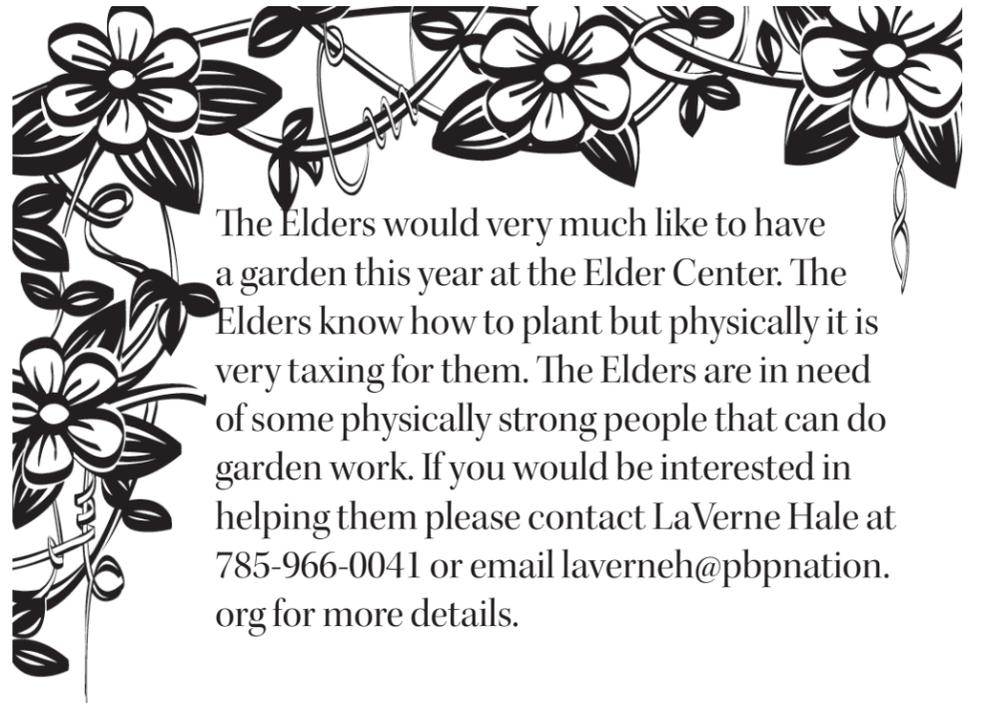
We will keep you updated, in the meantime, spring is almost here, so let's all get moving! We are committed to making our Rez the Healthiest in America! Have a healthy and active day!

Article submitted by Melinda Williamson.

Elders Stay Active



In January, PBPB tribal member, Karen Thomas instructs Maggie Adame-Wood as she works on completing a traditional Potawatomi applique skirt in preparation for the Fashion Show held at the Rock Building Anniversary.



The Elders would very much like to have a garden this year at the Elder Center. The Elders know how to plant but physically it is very taxing for them. The Elders are in need of some physically strong people that can do garden work. If you would be interested in helping them please contact LaVerne Hale at 785-966-0041 or email laverneh@pbpnation.org for more details.



Elders sign-up for the bus trip to the 2016 Potawatomi Gathering will begin April 4, 2016 at the Elder Center. The bus will leave on Tuesday, July 26 and return Sunday, July 31. This year's trip is a total of six days in the middle of the hot Oklahoma summer. Please make sure you are healthy enough to attend. Call 785-966-0041 or 785-966-0040 to sign up or for any questions pertaining to the trip.



PBPB tribal elders Roy Hale and Jeanette Little Sun two-step at the Elder Center Sweetheart Round Dance held in February. In the background, Mache Masquat dances with partner Mary LeClere.

A Purple Heart Story: LaClair injured overseas in WWII

Milton LaClair of rural Mayetta was among the second wave of soldiers to hit the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, remembering the experience as a living nightmare of “carnage and death” for Allied forces landing there.

A private at the time with B Company, 18th Infantry, First Division, LaClair would earn a Purple Heart not on the beach that day, but further inland about two months later, according to a *Holton Recorder* interview from 1994.

Today, LaClair, now in his 90s and retired from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Gaming Commission for more than a decade, lives west of Mayetta on the Potawatomi Reservation with his wife, Rose. He is believed to be the last living Potawatomi resident on the reservation who participated in World War II.

LaClair was 19 when he landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day, the most difficult of the five Allied invasion sites at Normandy to secure. His time on the beach, he said, was either spent flat on his stomach or crouched and trying to run while evading German bullets and shells.

But the Allies were able to push past the Germans on the beaches and make their way about a mile inland by nightfall. It wasn't long before LaClair - assigned to duty as a “company sniper” - and his unit found themselves in combat with German forces

again, trading gunfire back and forth for more than 50 days.

During that time, he said, he and his fellow troops were in almost constant combat with Axis troops, and sleep in the muddy foxholes was a rare commodity. He also saw many of his friends fall victim to a German bullet or shell.

On the day after his 20th birthday, LaClair and the rest of B Company was pulled from combat, given a hot shower and a change of clothes and a hot meal. The next day, however, it was right back to work, fighting the German line.

It was less than two weeks after that when a mortar shell exploded near LaClair, killing his sergeant and wounding him and another man. The explosion blew part of LaClair's right leg off, below the knee, and he also sustained a deep back wound, but he was able to apply a tourniquet and inject morphine to alleviate the pain before assisting a fellow soldier who was also hurt in the explosion.

For nearly two years, LaClair recuperated in a military hospital, and he eventually lost more of his leg to gangrene. Eventually, he made it back to a hospital in Texas and would later come back to his native northeastern Kansas.

He would later work as a consultant with the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism,

but after retiring from there, he went to work for the Potawatomi Gaming Commission, retiring for good after turning 80. He continues to live on land that was originally part of an allotment to his family in 1902 under the Dawes Act, the controversial legislation that created Indian reservations.

In addition to his Purple Heart Medal, LaClair earned medals for participating in the war and for good conduct. The medals were all stored at the home of his parents, but the home and medals were lost in a fire in the early 1980s.

But with the help of then-Congressman Jim Slattery, himself a military veteran, LaClair was given new medals to replace the ones that were lost in that fire.

This article was reprinted with permission from the “Holton Recorder.” It is the seventh article in a series of stories about past and present Jackson County residents who earned the Purple Heart Medal, which is awarded to military personnel wounded or killed in the line of duty.

The names of those profiled in these stories will be placed on a special monument for Purple Heart Medal recipients to be built later this year in Holton's Linscott Park. If you know of a Purple Heart Medal recipient from Jackson County, Kansas, contact Mike McManigal at 785-364-3131, as soon as possible to be included on the monument.

71st Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation We-Ta-Se Color Guard travelled to Arizona in late February to participate in the 71st Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising, an event that commemorates the historic moment that signaled the end of World War II.

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the United States of America by bombing Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This action forced the United States into World War II. Many years later on February 23, 1945, United States military forces gained control of the Japanese occupied island Iwo Jima. By gaining control of Iwo Jima and its aircraft landing strip the U.S. gained a strategic advantage that allowed U.S. aircraft a place to refuel and launch missions against Japan, thus taking the fight to them. When the island was initially taken over by the United States, the American

flag was raised on Mount Suribachi by five U.S. Marines and one U.S. Navy Corpsman. Ira H. Hayes a member of the Gila River Indian Community was among the men who raised the flag that day.

Now this historical event is celebrated each year on or around February 23rd. It is focused around Veterans of that era, but it is an important and prestigious event for everyone who lives free in the United States today. It also honors the Navajo Code Talkers who used their language as a powerful source of winning WWII. The anniversary event includes a parade, a flyover and other special ceremonies. The PBPN We-Ta-Se Color Guard participate in the parade event in honor of their fellow Veterans; the ones still here and those who have fallen.

Article submitted by Lorrie Melchior.



PBPN We-Ta-Se Color Guard attend the 71st Anniversary of the Iwo Jima Flag Raising, from L to R: Lorrie Melchior, Chuck Wahweotten, Jim Potts, Chuck Jacobsen and BJ Darnall.

Editorial: Native Veterans Wrongfully Taxed

Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal member Richard Adame has been instrumental in the fight to get wrongly withheld income tax back into the hands of Native Veterans. At issue are state income taxes that were wrongfully withheld from service members while they were on active duty whose permanent residence was on a federally recognized Indian reservation.

The United States Congress is aware of the wrongful taxation and stopped the illegal activity in 2001, however no legislation has been passed to restore repayment. In 2004, the Native American Veteran Pay Restoration Act was introduced specifically targeting 26 states with American Indian reservations, but died due to lack of support. 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.

In the spring of 2013, Adame's fight gained traction with a resolution passed by the National Congress of American Indians urging the U.S. Congress to refund the improperly withheld taxes. The four tribes in Kansas have also signed their own resolution asking the same thing of the U.S. Congress.

To this day, the U.S. Congress, still has not done anything to rectify the situation. Now it is up to individuals to join together and let their voices be heard. The first step is for people to be aware of this important situation. The next step is making others aware. Tell your friends and family about it, tell those in office such as Kansas House of Representatives member Becky Hutchins and Governor Sam Brownback about it and if you have the opportunity tell the candidates who are running to be the next President of the United States. If we stand together and make our voices loud enough, something will be done about this. Our Native Veterans deserve to have this wrong righted.

Article submitted by Richard Adame.

Kambottek - Those Who Died

In Memory

LOS ANGELES - **Robert Darling, Sr.**, 65, born on January 23, 1950, in Los Angeles, California, passed away October 16, 2015. He resided in Los Angeles, California at the time of his passing.

ALBUQUERQUE - **Orena Baker**, 94, born on June 29, 1921. She passed away November 15, 2015. She resided in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the time of her passing.

WAUKESHA - **Summer Sky Lewis**, 22, born on August 4, 1993. She passed away December 7, 2015. She resided in Waukesha, Wisconsin at the time of her passing.

Alan "PamSot" Hale

ROSSVILLE - **Alan "PamSot" Hale**, 68, of Rossville, KS passed away, Saturday, December 26, 2015 at Rossville Valley Manor. He was born December 19, 1947 in Horton, KS the son of Louis E. and Pearl (Herrick) Hale.

Alan graduated from Topeka High School in 1965 and he also attended Haskell Indian School in Lawrence. He proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

Alan had lived most of his life in Topeka, working in construction. He had also lived in California for 10 years in the late 1970's and early 1980's. He was a member of Drum Religion and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Survivors include 2 sisters, Linda D. Hale of Mayetta, KS and Joraine Tuckwin of Hiawatha, KS.

He was preceded in death by his parents, 3 sisters, Cecelia Hale, Julia Deener and Anita Hale and a brother, Louis "Sonny" Hale, Jr.

Drum Services will be Tuesday evening, December 29, 2015 at the Danceground Building, west of Mayetta. Burial will be Wednesday afternoon in the Danceground Cemetery. Alan will lie in state beginning late Monday afternoon at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton.

Bradley Orville "Patko Shuk" Rice

MAYETTA - **Bradley Orville Rice**, Patko Shuk, 56, of Mayetta, died Sunday, December 27, 2015. He was born February 20, 1959 at Holton, the son of Orville and Betty Mahkuk Rice.

He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Native American Church. Brad was a mechanic for the Potawatomi Tribal Road and Bridge Department.

He married Sandra Mitchell. She survives.

Brad was preceded in death by his brother, Kevin Rice.

Other survivors include his parents, Orville and Betty Rice, Mayetta; a son, Hunter Rice, Albuquerque, NM; four step-daughters, Maria Fairman (Jose), Topeka, Nikki Jackson (Robert) and Saga Fairman (Josh), all of the Potawatomi Reservation, and Pam Knoxsah, Horton; one brother, Chris Rice, Nedrow, NY; two sisters, Shirley Rice and Sylvia Johnson, both of Topeka; eleven grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Native American services will be Wednesday evening at the Native American Church on the Potawatomi Reservation. Burial will be Thursday morning in the Mahkuk Cemetery. Brad will lie in state until 2:00 p.m. Wednesday at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Holton where a visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

William Levier

CHICAGO - **William Levier**, age 66, late of Chicago, passed away Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Loving brother of Nancy (Kookie) Camarena and Geneva Varela. Cherished uncle of Margaret and Ernest Varela.

He was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters.

William was a U.S. Army Veteran, a P.O.W. and a Purple Heart Recipient of the Vietnam War.

Visitation Tuesday, January 12, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until time of Funeral Services at 11:00 a.m. at Elmwood Chapel 11200 S. Ewing Ave., Chicago. Interment with Military Honors at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

Wilma Marie Whitaker

TULSA - **Wilma Marie Whitaker**, 77, passed away January 13, 2016, in Tulsa, OK. Wilma was born July 26, 1938, in Claremore, Oklahoma, to Cherie and Marcel Darling. She was a citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and of Cherokee descent.

Wilma was a graduate of Tulsa Central High and OSU Institute of Technology, and received a B.A. in Museum Studies from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Wilma was a talented watercolor artist. She loved to travel and her love of art took her all over the world making new friends. She was an active member of the Tulsa Indian Methodist Church. Wilma also was active in civic affairs: She was a member of the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission and the Oklahoma Arts Council.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years Don Whitaker, her parents, her daughter Willa Stephens, her grandson Anthony Whitaker, her sister Rochelle Robertson, and her sister Marcella Postoak.

She is survived by daughter Julia Ziegler and husband Danny, son Tony Whitaker, son Steve Whitaker, and son Phillip Whitaker and wife Lisa, 13 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, her brother Joe Darling of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation in Kansas and sister Nedra Darling of Alexandria, VA.

Viewing will be 10:00 A.M. til 8:00 P.M., Sunday, January 17, 2016 at Moore's Southlawn, 9350 E. 51st, Tulsa, OK. Service will be 10:00 A.M., Monday, January 18, 2016 at Moore's Southlawn Chapel. Moore's Southlawn 918-663-2233

Kambottek - Those Who Died

Kevin Bruce Cadue

TOPEKA - **Kevin Bruce Cadue**, 60, of Topeka passed away on Monday, February 1, 2016 at the VA Medical Center in Topeka. He was born October 9, 1955 in Topeka. Kevin lived in Topeka until his mom was killed in a car-pedestrian accident when he was nine. He moved to Oklahoma to live with his dad until returning to Topeka several years later. He graduated from Topeka High in 1973.

Kevin joined the U.S Army where he was trained as a mechanic. He served our country for several years before returning to Topeka. He was a CNA by trade and worked at Highland Villa and The Manor. Kevin loved to tinker, especially working with leather making moccasins and wallets. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

He is survived by his wife Kathy Hawkins of Topeka; three children and three step-children.

The family will receive friends from noon to 1:00 pm on Friday, February 5, 2016 at Davidson Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow beginning at 1:00 pm. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project in care of the home.

Joseph Grant "Sao nem ki" Jessepe

MAYETTA - **Joseph Grant "Sao nem ki" Jessepe**, 66, of Mayetta, KS passed away Sunday, February 14, 2016 at his home. He was born December 9, 1949 on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation, the son of Leroy J. and Constance (Magnauck) Jessepe.

Joseph graduated from Manhattan High School in 1967 and had attended Kansas State University. He graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1974. He was a member of the Native American Church and served as president of the Delia Chapter. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Joseph served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Decorations such as Medals of Commendations and Campaign Medals include: National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars, Vietnam Campaign with 1960 device, Marksman (M-14), 1 O.S. Bar, Expert (M-16, Combat Infantrymen's Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Purple Heart Medal.

He worked for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation as a Community Health Representative for over 20 years.

Joseph married Rosanna Whiteskunk, they were later divorced. He married Mary Greene in October 1992 on the reservation. She survives of the home. Other survivors include 3 daughters, Leslie Marshno and Jacquelyn Levier both of Topeka, KS and Jodi Jessepe of Mayetta, KS; a son, Andrew Joseph "A.J." Ortega of Topeka, KS; 2 sisters, Theresa Murray (Robert) of Poplar, MT and Imelda Jessepe of Mayetta, KS; a brother, Charles Lewis of Kansas City, MO; 8 grandchildren, Sydney Jessepe, Sylvana Levier-Jessepe, Ivan Levier, Alyssa Levier, Aislen, Arrow & Justina Jessepe and Lorraine Jackson and 1 great-grandson, Frankie Snell.

Rosary will be recited at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at Sister Therese Klepac Hall with visitation to follow. Native American Church Services will be Thursday evening, February 18, 2016 at Joe's home. Burial will be Friday afternoon in Shipshee Cemetery.

Lavonne Marie "Bonnie" Abram

LAWRENCE - **Lavonne Marie "Bonnie" Abram**, 70, of Lawrence, KS passed away Friday, February 19, 2016 at her home. She was born June 26, 1945 in Holton, KS the daughter of Theodore Breitigan and Mercedes M. Tuckwin and step-daughter of Kenneth A. Degand.

Bonnie graduated from Delia High School and attended Haskell Institute. She had lived in the Lawrence community since 1977 and previously in Topeka and Meriden. Bonnie retired from Indian Health Services at Haskell University in 2004; she was currently an independent contractor for Indian Health Services.

Bonnie was a member of Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and was also active in Haskell Alumni Association. Bonnie took a lot of pride in helping to raise her siblings; they referred to her as "step-mom".

She married James C. Abram, they later divorced. Bonnie is survived by her longtime companion, Curtis Wright; 3 sons, Darren Abram (Brandi) of Linwood, KS, Mike Abram (Christina) of Eudora, KS and Brian Abram (Kari) of Eudora, KS; 3 sisters, Connie Smith of Mayetta, KS, Maureen Throssell (Kevin) of Mayetta, KS and Cheryl Gillaspie of Lawrence, KS; 3 brothers, Dennis Degand of Mayetta, KS, Greg Degand (Sally) of Topeka, KS and Jimmy Degand (Cindy) of Mayetta, KS; 13 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Mayetta. Burial will follow in the Shipshee Cemetery. Rosary will be 6:00 p.m. Monday evening, February 22, 2016 at Sister Therese Klepac Hall at Our Lady of the Snows west of Mayetta. Family will greet friends at the hall following the rosary. Memorials may be given to Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

Edgar Lee "Shakazee" Levier, Sr.

MAYETTA - **Edgar Lee Levier, Sr., Shakazee**, 70, of Mayetta, died Thursday, February 25, 2016 at the Rossville Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center.

He was born July 7, 1945 in Topeka to Ada Levier, and graduated from Holton High School.

Edgar was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Native American Church, Chapter One.

He had worked as a firefighter in Arizona and at Blackburn Nursery in Topeka. He was a renowned artist whose artwork is displayed in many tribal buildings.

Edgar married June Ann Price. She survives.

Survivors include his mother, Ada Levier, Mayetta; two sons, Edgar Lee Levier, Jr. Topeka and Gary Joe Levier, in Arizona; three daughters, Kateri L. Levier, Topeka and Jessica Levier and Mary Levier, both in Arizona; two brothers, Gary Buskirk, Mayetta and Mike Levier, in California, and fourteen grandchildren.

Native American services will be Sunday evening, February 28th at the Native American Church on the Potawatomi Reservation. Burial will be Monday morning in the Mahkuk Cemetery. Edgar will lie in state until 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Holton where a visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Community Happenings



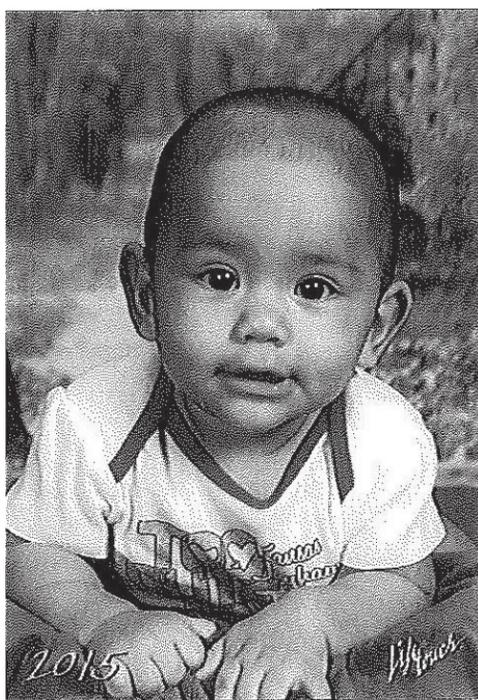
Rose Jim welcomes Baby Brother Thomas R. Jim III
Born 10/19/15, 8lbs & 21" long
Parents: Thomas & Jessica Jim



The pool team "N8ives" composed of members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation took 1st place in the Northeast Kansas BCA pool league tournament on December 20, 2015. The group includes (L to R) Ray Rice, Chuck Wahweotten, Ray Wahweotten, Marcus Tuckwin, Elizabeth Bartlett and Justin Pahmahmie.



Congratulations Kek, Kahke & Big Sis Kweh-Kweh-Gee!
Gary Lyle-Martin Simon
Born 1/10/16, 8lbs 5oz & 18" long
Gma Mauds & Misho Mike Love You All!



Happy 1st Birthday Grandson!
Myron Adame
Love, Your Family



Tribal member, William Eteeyan, Jr. was surprised by a beautiful hand-made quilt for Christmas 2015. His step daughter Janet Woodward of Overland Park, KS and step-daughter-in-law Cheryl Cathey of St. Joseph, MO worked 3 months to construct the quilt with the PBPB logo on the front side. The reverse side is covered with eagles in flight. William is 1st cousins with Hardy Eteeyan, who designed the logo. (L to R) William Eteeyan, Jr., Cheryl Cathey, Janet Woodward.



PBPB tribal member, Linda Tecumseh surprised Julia Lewis at her birthday party by joining the celebration dressed as Elvis!



Happy Birthday to Ms. Julia Ann Lewis! In January, Julia's family surprised her with a "Mini" Talent Show and Card party held at the Elders Center. Julia has done tremendous work in the community through out her life, including putting on the annual talent show. A highlight of the day was seeing Julia's eyes light up when she saw all her friends, family and community members joining her to celebrate her life. Thank you to everyone who made the day possible and attended her party!



Our Christmas Miracle! For the past 7 years my grandson, DayShawn Joe Lewis Kiyukan suffered from undeveloped organs. Last year we almost lost him. After much prayer and excellent health care, he is now out of the danger zone. He loves to get mail! If you would like to send a card, his address is: PO Box 332, Pierre, SD, 57501. DayShawn is the great grandson of Julia Lewis. Best to all ~ Dorothy Kiyukan

Information & Save the Dates

Spring Health Fair & Head Start Round-Up

PBP Early Childhood Education Center
15380 K Road - Mayetta, KS

April 8th from 8:30AM to 2PM

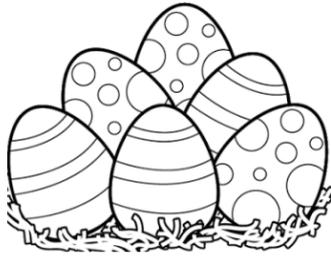
Well Child Clinic for ages 3-5, plus
information handouts & door prizes

For more info or an appointment call
785-966-2707 or 2527



This event is a collaborative effort of the PBP Interagency
Coordinating Council/Health Advisory Board

Tribal Office Closings



Easter
March 25, 2016



Memorial Day
May 30, 2016



Independence Day
July 4, 2016

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

~ BINGO HALL ~

APRIL 16 / JULY 16 / OCT 15

PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI POWWOW

JUNE 10, 11, 12

2016 Blood Drive Dates - PBP Health Center

To sign up, contact Verna Simon 785-966-8303



1 blood donation can save up to 3 lives



May 13



Aug 5



Dec 16

POTAWATOMI GATHERING

HOSTED BY CITIZEN BAND
IN SHAWNEE, OK

JULY 28, 29, 30, 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
[WWW.POTAWATOMI.ORG/CULTURE/
GATHERING-OF-NATIONS](http://WWW.POTAWATOMI.ORG/CULTURE/GATHERING-OF-NATIONS)

Storm Spotter Training Course



The National Weather Service will be
instructing a Storm Spotter training
course at the PBPB Bingo Hall on Thurs-
day, April 7, 2016 from 9 to 10:30 am.
The training is open to the public and all
surrounding emergency response agencies.

NEED A RIDE?



Call PBPB General Public Transportation!

785-966-2995 or 1-866-782-8181

Holton/Mayetta or Topeka/Mayetta \$2 Each way/\$1 for 60+ years
Last scheduled ride 3:30PM

Holton/Topeka \$4 Each way/\$2 for 60+ years
Last scheduled ride 3PM

Local Mayetta Rides \$1.50 Each way/ \$0.75 for 60+ years
Last scheduled ride 4PM

PBPB Transit is First Come, First Serve
Handicap Vans are Available!

Business Hours are Monday - Friday, 8AM to 4:30PM
Excluding Holidays, Closings & Inclement Weather

*This project is funded in part by the KDOT Public Transit Program

Fashion Show on Display



Wahpi Hale



Julia Lewis



Arlene Lingo



Marilyn Numweh Hale-Wakolee



Linda Hale



Mary Mitchell



Tara Mitchell & son Riston, Jr.



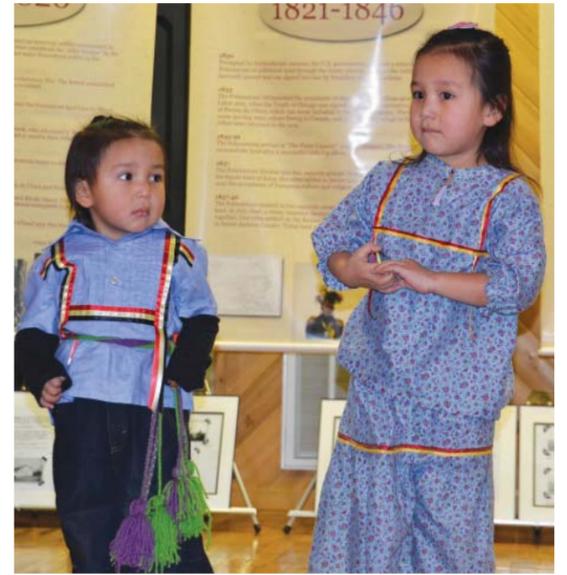
LaVeda Wahweotten



Tosha Wilson



Jacob Wewenis



Bub & Shuggy Littleaxe



Cindy LeClere & grandson Rambo Wewenis



LaVera "Babe" Bell



Gubba Hale



Francis Wabaunsee



Mae Joslin



LaVerne Hale



Roslyn Hale