



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

# Prairie Band Potawatomi News

## A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

### Winter 2010

### Ortiz selected to national Tribal Advisory Committees

Chairman Steve Ortiz is busy this week in Washington, D.C. representing the PBPB and some Indian service area organizations as their primary representative at several meetings.



**Steve (Monwah) Ortiz**

On December 13-14 he is planning to attend the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee, the first ever to convene, and the following day he will meet with the Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Consultation Committee. On December 16 he will attend President Obama's second White House Tribal Nations Conference where leaders from the 565 federally recognized tribes will interact

directly with Obama and the highest levels of his administration. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the Department of the Interior.

Ortiz was also recently elected to the Local Government Advisory Committee by Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Other members of the Council are also in Washington, D.C. this week and in Oklahoma at various meetings.

Ortiz also attended Obama's first Tribal Nations Conference held in November of 2009.

### Tribal members signing up for tribal members only section on website

As of December 1 over 300 members had signed on to the new online link for tribal members only on the Nation's website at [pbpindiantribe.com](http://pbpindiantribe.com). Adult tribal members can now access member-specific documents by registering on a community extranet system using their tribal roll number and creating a password for security. Once this information is submitted the member's identity is then verified for approval and access to the protected portion of the website is granted.

The Tribal Member Login is located at the bottom of the navigation panel that is located on the home page's left side. By clicking there tribal members can begin the registration process.

An extranet is a private

network that uses Internet technology but with registrations and the use of passwords so that information will remain private. Before the roll out of the PBPB Tribal Member Login everything that was posted to the Nation's website was available for public view. But with the extranet link, only tribal members are able to see certain postings. Documents like the General Council minutes, Tribal Council meeting minutes, and Tribal Council Resolutions are a few documents that are available on the new section along with other member-specific documents. Previously the only way to attain those documents was to request them through the secretary's office via email or by mail.

### Jancita Warrington appointed to the Tribal Council

Jancita Warrington was appointed to the Tribal Council and sworn into office on Nov. 22 at the Bingo Hall.

Warrington holds a master of arts degree in Global Indigenous Nations Studies from the University of Kansas and a bachelor of arts degree in American Indian Studies from Haskell Indian Nations University. In addition, she has expertise in tribal law and policy.

She formerly worked for the Bureau of Indian Education as a teacher/mentor and was the project coordinator for the

PBPB Community Garden Project that operated through the Grants Department last year. In 2007 she also worked for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation on a project involving the Native American Grave Protection Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Warrington began her duties following the Swearing-In ceremony and will serve until her term expires in 2012. She was selected by the Tribal Council from a pool of applicants for the position and replaces Chago Hale.



**Jancita Warrington**

### Notah Begay gives golf clinic to youth Members enjoy Firekeeper soft opening



PGA golfer Notah Begay III was on hand the first day of the soft opening for the Firekeeper Golf Course on Sept. 27. He played a practice round earlier in the day and gave a golf clinic to PBPB youth later that evening. For details on the soft opening see page 4 inside the *News*.

**Register today for late breaking member specific information found under public documents on the tribal member only extranet site**

**Go to tribal members only at [www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com)**

**to sign up**

### Calendar of events

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Dec. 24-27</b>     | <b>Government &amp; Health Center offices closed-Christmas</b> |
| <b>Dec. 31-Jan. 3</b> | <b>Government offices closed-New Years</b>                     |
| <b>Jan. 15</b>        | <b>General Council meeting</b>                                 |
| <b>Jan. 17</b>        | <b>Government offices closed-Martin Luther King Day</b>        |
| <b>Feb. 21</b>        | <b>Government offices closed-Presidents Day</b>                |

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



The Tribal Council has completed the interview and selection process for members to the Economic Development Board (five members) and Casino Entertainment Board (five members). Board members will be announced in January 2011. In 2011 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding will end and Tribal Council will be looking to keep costs in line as funding runs out. In addition, the 13% increase given to tribes for healthcare in 2010 is not guaranteed to be there for 2011 by Congress. However, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) which was to end in 2011 has been extended to 2013. The EPA solid waste disposal grant that the PBPB has been receiving will also be ending in 2011 because we have reached our maximum grant period eligibility. The regional EPA has offered the PBPB a grant to fund a start-up of our own PBPB Trash and Pickup and Disposal Service based on charging a fee for service. Guidelines and fee costs are being developed. If you were at the quarterly General Council meeting in October, you may recall that Virginia LeClere gave a presentation on the Pickup and Disposal Service.

The challenges facing Tribal Council concerning Shabehnay need to be brought forward again to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk in 2011. The Tribal Council and I met with Echo Hawk and his Indian gaming staff concerning a course of action on having the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) make a determination as to the Illinois land eligibly for gaming purposes. As part of this course, a meeting was held with the NIGC lawyers and a phone conference was held with the Department of Interior Solicitor General's office staff to discuss the Shabehnay gaming issue. The outcome of these meetings was a suggestion to put in application for trust status for the Shabehnay land to get a ruling that the land has reservation status. Tribal Council has made no decision on submitting an application for trust status. A letter from the Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs states that the Shabehnay land eligibility for gaming will be a strong component in defending the PBPB against any lawsuits and putting in class II gaming devices.

### In other activities:

- A soft opening of the Firekeeper Golf Course was held the week of September 27. Management of the course will continue in 2011 under NBIII Consulting and Landscapes Unlimited, Inc. The clubhouse is completed and Q Road between 150 and 158 has been paved.
- On October 4 the tribal attorneys and I met with U.S. Attorney Barry Grisson in Kansas City, Kan. to discuss law enforcement issues relating to the reservation and Jackson County.
- The Kansas expanded gaming effort still continues to take unexpected turns. The Dodge City casino has opened and a new player in the casino arena has surfaced in Kansas and it is the Wyandotte Tribe in Oklahoma. The Wyandotte tribe wants to open a class two casino in Park City outside of Wichita, Kan. The

Wyandotte tribe made application to the Interior Department to open the class 2 casino in the mid-1990s and the Department of Interior has not ruled on the land's eligibility for gaming yet. Global Gaming, an arm of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, has put in a bid for the Wichita area casino but wants further concessions from the state of Kansas. The State has not selected who will get the bid for the casino in Wichita but that is expected soon. The Hollywood Casino at the Kansas speedway in Kansas City, Kan. is scheduled to open in 2012 and construction is underway.

- Tribal Council met with Kansas Governor-Elect Sam Brownback and was encouraged by his willingness to establish a relationship with the four tribes in Kansas. The PBPB plans to meet with the Governor after his inauguration in January 2011.
- On October 27-29 I travelled to Lawton, Okla. to attend the Southern Plains B.I.A. Regional Director's meeting with the tribes. Discussions were held on tribal budgets, land into trust, upcoming B.I.A audits of tribes, and road and bridge projects and funding.
- On November 5 I attended the Indian Health Service director's meeting with tribes from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas to discuss 2011 healthcare funding. Topics included the funding allocations to Indian urban health clinics and the SDPI initiatives.
- On November 16-18 I was appointed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Local Government Advisory Committee by EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. I met with other committee members and the EPA administrator and received training on EPA operations in Washington, D.C.
- On December 2 I was appointed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) by Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. I will be attending the two-day committee training and committee meeting on December 13-14 in Washington, D.C.
- On December 15 I will be attending a meeting of the Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Consultation Committee in Washington, D.C. I serve as an alternate to the committee and have been asked to attend the meeting.
- On December 16 I will be attending President Barack Obama's meeting at the Department of Interior with tribal leaders from across the United States.

Steve Ortiz (Mon-wah)

Tribal Chairman

### 2011 Potawatomi News

March 1 23	<b>Spring issue</b> deadline for news mail out
June 1 22	<b>Summer issue</b> deadline for news mail out
Sept. 1 21	<b>Fall issue</b> deadline for news mail out
Dec. 1 21	<b>Winter issue</b> deadline for news mail out

### Potawatomi News

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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.

## Message to the Nation from Joyce Guerrero, Tribal Council Vice Chairperson

As the holidays approach, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's (PBP) departments are starting to look and feel festive, the government center reception area now features a beautiful Christmas tree. The staff did a great job on decorations so come by and take a look at it. Local community members and PBP departments have been teaming up with Tribal Council and once again shown the Christmas spirit by adopting families for Christmas.

By the time the newspaper goes to print, Tribal Council should have selected board members for the LLC Economic Board and filled vacancies on the Prairie Band Entertainment Board. We have been involved in reviewing and interviewing applicants for months and the last week of November we conducted final interviews. I was very impressed with all the applicants and their commitment to serve on these boards and would like to thank all of them who applied. Tribal Council hopes to have those selected and will introduce them to the General Council in January 2011.

Last month some Tribal Council members and I attended the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) annual conference held this year in Albuquerque. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar addressed the NCAI General Assembly the first day. During his remarks he emphasized the importance of restoring the tribes' land bases. Later, a break out session with a BIA Land to Trust Program furthered discussion of that issue. Secretary Salazar and Kim Teehee, Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs for the White House, addressed their support for a clean Carcieri fix. The Carcieri Decision basically threw into question whether or not the Secretary of Interior could take land into trust if the tribe was not federally recognized in 1934. Initially that decision did not affect all

tribes but now some in Congress want to "fix" that decision by attaching gaming language that will affect more tribes, and possibly ours, with the Illinois claim. We are also closely watching an anti-gaming amendment that Senator Feinstein (D-CA) is pushing for that could restrict the ability of tribes to take land into trust for gaming purposes and other added restrictions that includes the crossing of state lines in building a casino. Salazar stated he is not in favor of amending the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and Kim Teehee stressed that the President is supportive of a clean Carcieri-fix. Tribal consultations were also a part of the discussion.

Here in Kansas there are two companies contending for the state contract for a south-central Kansas casino. One is Peninsula Gaming that plans to build near Mulvane and the other is Global Gaming (owned by the Chickasaw Nation) that would construct a complex near Wellington. The Lottery Gaming Facility Review Board will be making the final decision by December 15. And, there is still no definite word on the Wyandotte tribe's plan to build a casino near Wichita.

May you and your families have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ahead!!

Joyce Guerrero  
Tribal Council Vice-Chair



### Four tribes hold quarterly meeting



The four tribes of Kansas held their quarterly meeting on Nov. 4 at the Sac & Fox reservation in Reserve, Kan. The agenda included updates from the Great Plains Indian Gaming Association, Region VII Indian Child Welfare program, a report from the IHS/Oklahoma City region, State gaming expansion, and Kansas election results. Steve Ortiz and Carrie O'Toole, from the Tribal Council, and Mark Dodd, attorney, attended on behalf of the PBP.

### Remembering the military at Christmas!

Tribal Council conducted a search for the addresses of PBP soldiers who are presently serving in the U.S. and overseas and sent them gifts for Christmas.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to PBP soldiers and veterans everywhere

Christmas Day Buffet at the Longhouse Buffet Prairie Band Casino & Resort December 25 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. \$16.99

Prairie Band Casino & Resort held an American Indian Day Celebration on Sept. 23 and served Indian tacos and soup to PBP employees for free.

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- One round of golf per person - Monday through Friday
  - Spring (Opening Day - May 27) - \$149
  - Summer (May 31 - September 2) - \$169
  - Fall (September 6 - October 31) - \$149

**WEEKEND PACKAGES INCLUDE:**

- One hotel room (double occupancy) - Friday through Sunday
- One round of golf per person - Friday through Monday
  - Opening Day - October 31 - \$209

*All packages include golf cart and are based on availability.*




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

# Tribal members get VIP treatment during Firekeeper soft opening

Tribal members got the royal treatment during a sneak preview week of the golf course the last week in September. Members got to play on the course for free and received course momentos and refreshments. Many also took advantage of the great weather during the week by playing the course several times.

Notah Begay, PGA golfer and designer of the course, was present on opening day and scored a 68 stroke practice round.

When the *News* asked him about the course, he said, "The project is as perfect as I've seen. We've had great community support, the uses of the land for the course are beautiful, and we are coming in under budget and on time. It

just doesn't get any better than that."

This is Begay's first signature course that was built by his company NB3 Consulting and partner company Landscapes Unlimited, Inc. Designed by landscape architect Jeffrey D. Brauer, it is an 18-hole course that sits across the street from the Prairie Band Casino & Resort. It is 7,445 yards in length and has five sets of tee boxes. The course will officially open to the public next spring.

Later that day, Begay gave a golf clinic to tribal youth at the driving range. The rest of the week PBPN member Steve McDonald, PGA golfer, gave golf clinics to adult tribal members at the driving range.



Left to right: Mark Freeland, NB3 Consulting, Rob Christie, Landscapes Unlimited, Inc., Notah Begay, NB3 Consulting, Junior Wahweotten, Tribal Council, Dominic Ortiz, Prairie Band Casino & Resort and Jack Morgan, Landscapes Unlimited, Inc. Freeland, Begay, Wahweotten and Ortiz played a practice round the first day while Christie, golf course superintendant, and Jack Morgan, clubhouse project manager, took tips on the course from Begay during the round.



Begay taught a golf clinic for youth on the first day of the soft opening.



Carrie Cornelius, left, and Helen (Sumner) Sedlacek, right, played golf on opening day and were photographed with Begay.



Members and their families got to enjoy box lunches on the patio at the clubhouse as part of the fun.

**Members were invited to play the course from Sept. 27-Oct. 3**



Left: Roy Spoonhunter teeing off on hole number 1 which is a 370-yard 4 par hole that faces west toward Nation Station and the casino water towers. The weather was beautiful and in the 70-80 degree range throughout the week.

# Meet the new Firekeeper golf pro



Randy Towner has been named the general manager/golf professional for Firekeeper Golf Course and began his position November 2. He was the golf professional at Alvamar Golf Course in Lawrence, Kan. for 22 years and has strong ties to the University of Kansas (KU).

"I am real excited to be here," he said. "I am hopeful that I can make the Prairie Band people really proud of Firekeeper and financially feasible as well." He said that one of the reasons he took the job is to help further Prairie Band Casino & Resort (PBCR) as the top destination casino in the region and by adding the new golf course it should broaden the market.

Towner said he thinks the course is beautiful, is playable for all levels of golfers, and that he is anxious to teach the game of golf to individuals and in group clinics. He is also interested in working with schools in the area and the community at large and getting to know everyone here.

This winter Towner is organizing the clubhouse and getting it ready for opening day this spring. As a team member of Landscapes Unlimited, Inc. he is in the process of hiring other staff to help him run the golf course this spring.

Right now he is working with the PBCR staff on scheduling individual and group golf packages for 2011 that includes a hotel room and round of golf. For more information about the golf course packages go to hot topics at [www.pbpgaming.com](http://www.pbpgaming.com) or see the display ad in this issue on page 3.

### Firekeeper Golf Course prices

<b>Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation tribal member rates with cart</b>	
Monday-Thursday-\$30	Twilight: \$23
Friday-Sunday-\$40	Twilight: \$33
<b>General Public</b>	
Monday-Thursday-\$50	Twilight: \$23
Friday-Sunday-\$60	Twilight: \$33

# 2010 year in review

## January

- PBPN develops start-up businesses: Prairie Band Construction, Inc. and Prairie Band Health Services, Inc.
- PBPN Code of Ethics written and approved by General Council
- Chairman Steve Ortiz attends Indian Health Services Tribal Consultation meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Chairman Steve Ortiz elected vice president of Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board
- Nation-wide home improvement program for PBPN approved by General Council
- Ben Joslin and Carl Matousek named employees of the quarter at All-Employee Meeting
- Potawatomi News changes format and launched online as part of www.pbpindiantribe.com

## February

- Tribal Council leaders attends National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) winter meeting in Washington, D.C.
- 10th Annual Native Nations Law Symposium held at Prairie Band Casino & Resort
- Tribal Council and Health Center administrators host regional Kansas Health and Human Services Tribal Consultation meeting between State and four tribes at Health Center

## March

- Tribal Council chair and vice-chair hold meetings with Joint Committee on Tribal State Affairs
- PBPN representatives meet with Southern Plains BIA director and Kansas tribes regarding infrastructure improvements using American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds at Government Center
- 4th quarter charitable contributions donations of \$89,623 announced
- New www.shabehnay.com website launched

## April

- Twelve candidates file for Tribal Council/Gaming Commission Election.
- 12th Annual Earth Day celebration held at Prairie Peoples Park.
- Firekeepers Art Market held at Prairie Band Casino & Resort
- Student Recognition Night held at Prairie Peoples Park

- Bill Jim selected Employee of the Quarter at All-Employee Meeting and Carl Matousek, Employee of the Year
- Chairman Steve Ortiz attends Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board quarterly meeting attended by National Indian Health Services director and other regional tribal leaders

## May

- Ben-no-ttah Wigwam Childcare pow-wow held
- Cecelia "Meeks" Jackson honored with dinner at casino for her contributions to language program

## June

- Brennah Wahweotten selected as Prairie Band Potawatomi princess
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation annual pow-wow held
- Tribal Council and employees conduct Town Hall Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. and We-Ta-Se American Legion Post #410 hold service at Highground Veterans Memorial in Neilsville, Wis.

## July

- Tribal Council/Gaming Commission Election held. Steve Ortiz wins chair; Junior Wahweotten, member; and Rey Kitchkumme, Gaming Commission member
- PARR Recovery House closes
- Tribal Funfit Day held
- Dawn Masqua named Employee of the Quarter at All-Employee Meeting
- Tribal Council meets and holds reception for Sam Brownback, candidate for Kansas governor
- 2nd Quarter Charitable Contributions ceremony held to award \$91,100 to groups
- Tribal Council chairman and Health Center administrator meet with Kansas Health and Human Services leaders about developing a cancer prevention program in Northeast Kansas

## August

- Tribal Council/Gaming Commission Run-off Election held. Jim Potter elected secretary
- Tribal Council hosts Four Tribes of Kansas Meeting with Steve Six, Kansas Attorney General
- Tribal Council meets with Region 7 EPA leaders and PBP Department of Planning and EPA
- Chairman Steve Ortiz co-facilitates Region 7 Health & Human Services Tribal Resource

## Conference

- Boys & Girls Club Fundraiser Golf Tournament held at Alvamar in Lawrence, Kan.
- PBPN travel to Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Shawnee, Okla. for Gathering: Tribal Council and Gaming Commission leaders attend meeting for Economic Development Summit; Language Department attends Potawatomi Language Conference
- Firekeepers Elder Center hosts 100th birthday party for Julia Kabance
- Chairman Ortiz attends Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board meeting

## September

- Firekeeper Golf Course-soft opening for tribal members
- Tribal Council hosts Four-Tribes Meeting with U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback at casino

## October

- 3rd Quarter Charitable Contributions awards announced for \$89,400
- Roland Matchie and Lavera Bell selected as Honored Elders at Firekeepers Elder Center dinner
- Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department celebrate 30-years and National Fire Prevention week with open house
- First on-site college course taught at PBPN with Friends University through PBP Education Department

## November

- Veterans Day Memorial Wall Celebration
- We-Ta-Se Veterans Pow-wow held at 4-H Building-Holton, Kan.
- Sylvana Levier-Jessepe selected We-Ta-Se Pow-wow Princess
- Jancita Warrington appointed to Tribal Council

## December

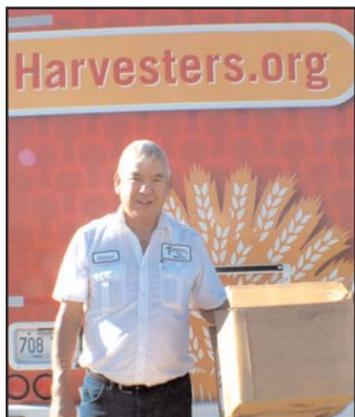
- Steve Ortiz selected to HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Council
- Steve Ortiz attends Tribal Consultation with President Obama in Washington, D.C.
- Arts & Crafts Fair at the Boys & Girls Club



# Prairie Band gives back: volunteers recognized for work

## LaVera Bell and Roland Matchie honored elders this year

Each year seniors are nominated at the Firekeepers Elder Center and selected for being outstanding citizens in the community. This year's dinner was held on October 13 and Matchie and Bell were honored for their many years of service to the community.



Roland Matchie has been active in helping to establish the Rural Mobile Food Pantry that delivers food on the reservation the first Friday of each month at the Buffalo Community building. Matchie helped coordinate the pantry with the Jackson County Ministerial Alliance of which he is a part. Matchie is pastor of the Thunderhill Eagle Ministries that he operates on the reservation. He is also a former Tribal Council member.



LeVera "Babe" Bell has been a member of the Charitable Contributions Committee since it began in 1998 and has also served on the PBPN Enrollment Committee for several years. In addition, she is an active member of Our Lady of the Snows Church and became a certified hospice volunteer for Jackson County last year. She was also an Honored Elder during the 2009 Prairie Band Potwatomi pow-wow.

## Harvesters come to the rez



Volunteers from the PBPN community helped load produce and other foods during the first Rural Mobile Food Pantry held October 1 at the Buffalo Community building on 158 Road. The pantry makes stops the first Friday of every month from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

### 2010 3rd Quarter Charitable Contributions

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPN) awarded checks totaling \$88,820 to several non-profit organizations at an award ceremony on October 7 at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort. Members from the PBPN Charitable Contributions Committee and Tribal Council were on hand to give the checks to the various organizations and groups listed below.



•All Veterans Memorial (Overland Station) Topeka, Kan.	\$2,000
•Washburn Women's Alliance Topeka, Kan.	\$5,000
•St. Francis Health Center Foundation Topeka, Kan.	\$2,500
•KTPK Country Legends-Children's Miracle Network Topeka, Kan.	\$ 100
•Topeka Public Schools Indian Education Program Topeka, Kan.	\$5,000
•Lawrence Arts Center-American Indian Exhibits Lawrence, Kan.	\$5,000
•United Way of Greater Topeka Topeka, Kan.	\$5,000
•Papan's Landing Service Center-Assist elderly Topeka, Kan.	\$2,500
•Cystic Fibroses Foundation Mission, Kan.	\$5,000
•Breaking Camp Lawrence, Kan.	\$2,500
•Inter-Faith Ministries Wichita, Kan.	\$2,500
•Seaman USD 345 Band Boosters Topeka, Kan.	\$2,500
•Topeka Performing Arts Center Topeka, Kan.	\$3,500
•Morning Star Inc. Manhattan, Kan.	\$2,120
•Friends University Topeka-Scholarships Wichita, Kan.	\$1,000
•Kickapoo Nation Health Center Horton, Kan.	\$5,000
•Holton Community Hospital-Phillips fetal monitor Holton, Kan.	\$3,600
•St. Matthew Church Topeka, Kan.	\$2,500
•Royal Valley School District Mayetta, Kan.	\$6,000
•Haskell Catholic Campus Center Lawrence, Kan.	\$1,500
•Asbury Mt. Olive UMC Topeka, Kan.	\$1,500
•Let's Help Topeka, Kan.	\$17,500
•Breakthrough House Inc. Topeka, Kan.	<u>\$5,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,820</b>

## Education Department featured in Indian Country Today with Friends University partnership

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation made national news last fall for being the first tribe in the state of Kansas to ever partner with a mainstream university in providing on-reservation college courses.

An article titled "Making Friends: Mainstream university goes to the reservation" appeared in *Indian Country Today's* Education 2010-11 magazine supplement. The story was written by *Indian Country Today* staff reporter Rob Capriccioso who interviewed Kristen Aitkens, PBP director of education, and the marketing staff from Friends University.

In the article, Aitkens said that the department had been considering a program like Friends for quite some time and were looking for a university that would be the right fit. After gaining support from the Tribal Council and sending out proposals to other schools Friends University received the bid.

Aitkens said that Friends was selected because they seemed more committed to recruiting students and because they were willing to pay the tribe for the teaching space on the reservation. She also liked that they seemed more concerned about tailoring courses to meet Native American student needs keeping in mind their cultural heritage.

The first course began this fall with fourteen students enrolled. A Computer Information Services (CSIS125P-8) course, taught by Travis Reed in the Education Department computer laboratory, brought adult tribal members and non-natives from the community together on Tuesday nights.

Aitkens has been working with Dorothy Karnowski, Friends program coordinator, for over a year to get the partnership off the ground. Karnowski has been holding several informational sessions on the reservation as a means of getting the word out.

In the *Indian Country Today* article, Aitkens said, "This is all about providing another educational outlet for students who choose to live and work on the reservation." She reported that many of the students who have received college degrees have ended up leaving the community and she thought it important that there be a physical classroom for students where

instructors personally interact with students. "We know that some students just learn better when they are in a physical classroom setting, and this arrangement allows for that," she said.

Overall, Friends has committed to providing adult education programs at the associate, bachelor and graduate levels to the tribal community. The first degree program being offered this fall is the Bachelor of Business Management. So far, students are coming from all walks of life including employees of the PBP government, the casino and residents who live on and off the reservation. Aitkens told the *Potawatomi News* that she was very encouraged by the large number of those enrolled in the first course. Classes are open to any degree-seeking student in the surrounding area.

Friends University is an independent, comprehensive liberal arts university based in Wichita with permanent locations in Topeka and Lenexa. Founded in 1898 the Wichita campus provides a non-denominational Christian environment for traditional-age and adult students. The university has offered programs for adult students in Topeka since 1993.

Besides the Friends University partnership, the Department of Education includes programs in higher education undergraduate, higher education graduate, adult education, adult vocational training education, student services and Johnson O'Malley. The department has a staff of three that are housed in the lower level of the Government Center.

Karnowski and Aitkens are encouraging students into the program. By spring 2011 students will be able to choose between a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management and Leadership and a Master of Business Administration degree.



Travis Reed, a Friends University instructor, has been teaching a Computer Information Systems class this fall in the Education Department's computer laboratory.

**For more information contact**  
**Dorothy Karnowski at 785.272.9595**  
**or email [dorothy\\_karnowski@friends.edu](mailto:dorothy_karnowski@friends.edu).**  
**FRIENDS UNIVERSITY**  
**or**  
**go to**  
**[www.pbpindiantribe.com/education.aspx](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/education.aspx)**



Above is Suzanne Heck, editor of the *Potawatomi News* and the website, with Craig Cooke, owner of Rhythm Interactive, the website company that launches [www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com) online. Rhythm Interactive is located in Irvine, Calif.

**For important information on Cobell Settlement go to the website**  
**[Cobellsettlement.com](http://Cobellsettlement.com)**

### Washburn students visit Judicial Center



Second and third year law students from Washburn University made a visit to the reservation on October 5 to learn about the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. The students are in Professor of Law Aliza Organick's (fourth on front row) Law of Indigenous Peoples class and were photographed in the court chambers at the Judicial Center. On the back row (fifth from left) is Royetta Rodewald, Administrator for the PBP Judicial Center, who arranged the group's visit. Later, Judicial Center staff member Raphael Wahwassuck took the group on a tour of the reservation and met briefly with Tribal Council members Joyce Guerrero, Junior Wahweotten and Carrie O'Toole at the Government Center.

## Region 7 Environmental Protection Agency and tribal representatives take tour of solid waste facilities

The Prairie Band Potawatomi (PBP) Department of Planning and EPA staff gave representatives from EPA Region 7-Kansas City and tribal representatives a tour of the PBP recycling facilities on October 21.



Casino & Resort and to tour the solid-waste recycling and management facilities.

The purpose of the Regional Tribal Operations Committee is to improve communication and build strong partnerships between area tribes and the EPA.



Craig Wahwahsuck and Kyle Miller who work for the Department of Planning and EPA were photographed in front of the new recycling bins that will be distributed for curbside recycling on the reservation soon. Recycling is already being done inside PBP government buildings and the program is being expanded to include residential homes on the reservation.

The tour was part of a four-day Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting held at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. from October 19 to October 22. EPA and representatives from the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas, Santee Sioux Nation from Niobrara, Neb., Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and Ponca Tribe of Nebraska traveled to the PBP reservation on Oct. 21 to have lunch at the Prairie Band

**Want to learn more?**

**Region 7 EPA**  
[www.epa.gov/indian/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/indian/index.htm)

**PBP Department of Planning & EPA**  
[www.pbpindiantribe.com/epa.aspx](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/epa.aspx)



**Check out the winter 2010 Rez Recycler and new Solid Waste Mailout on the web**

*Merry Christmas from the Department of Planning & EPA staff*

Photo, right: Front row, from left, Sharon Bosse, Virginia "Osh" LeClere and Craig Wahwasuck. Back row, from left, Erin "Kumos" Hubbard, Bill Wilbur, Adam Irvin, and Kyle Miller.



### Testing fish on Big Soldier

By Sharon Bosse, PBP Department of Planning & EPA



EPA staff in their sampling boat on the Big Soldier Creek last fall.

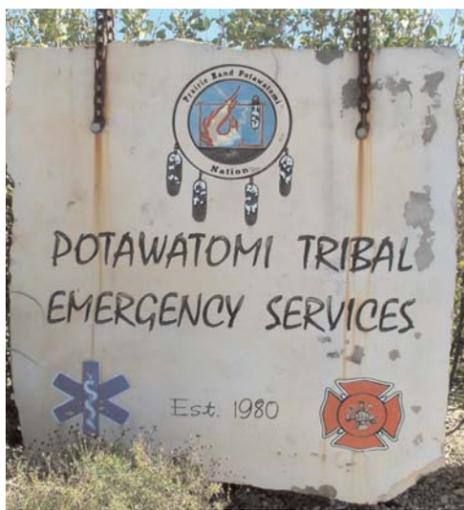
October 6 was a beautiful fall day on the Big Soldier Creek near Rocky Ford when members of the Department of Planning & EPA participated in a project called the Regional Ambient Fish Tissue (RAFT) monitoring plan. Funded by the U.S. EPA Region VII, the goal of the project is to provide data to the tribe on the presence or absence of contaminants in fish tissue. The process involved shocking the fish and those that floated to the top were collected in a net and a sample of their tissue was taken. Five bottom feeders (catfish) were collected for sampling and tested for four metals; arsenic, cadmium, mercury and lead and also for pesticides. The samples are being analyzed at a U.S. EPA laboratory in Kansas City and test results

should be available in March 2011.

This is the third year the department has participated in the program and the data collected is helpful to the department and others concerned about human health and the environment on the reservation in making natural resource decisions.

In previous years the fish sampled have passed standards for food consumption under the Federal Clean Water Act. In nearly all cases, the fish on the reservation are safe to eat. As with all other living creatures, fish are susceptible to diseases, parasites, and other natural occurring conditions in the water.

If you suspect lake or pond fish may be affected by any of the above conditions, it should NOT be eaten.



## Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department celebrates 30 years with open house during National Fire Prevention Week

The Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department celebrated 30 years of service and National Fire Prevention Week with an open house at the station on October 9.

The fire department began in 1980 with one fire truck, one duty officer and approximately eight volunteers that operated out of a Morton building and mobile trailer that was located on K Road. By 1999 the fire department had turned into a full-service 24-hour shift operation and a year later ambulance service was provided.

In the summer of 2000 ground was broken for a new fire station and on August 18, 2001 a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to officially open the new building.

Since that time, the tribal community has benefited from the fire department that includes five engine bays, living quarters for on-call fire personnel and office suites. Recently the old tribal court building has been converted into additional training facilities for the department and other programs.

In addition to fighting fires, the department provides public education, CPR and first aid training, and it



The Potawatomi Fire Station is located at 15482 K Road, Mayetta, Kan.

has several Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) who offer medical checks to tribal members in the community on a regular basis. The fire department is also involved in wild-land firefighting and has been recognized as one of the most advanced EMS services by the Kansas State Board of EMS.

Mike Mills is the director of emergency services and directs a staff of about 20 full-time and part-time firefighters, paramedics, and emergency service technicians.

For more information about the fire department call 785.966.2164.

### Fire Department staff

(as of Dec. 1, 2010)

- Richard "Mike" Mills
- Mary LeClere
- Rick Swogger
- Jon Gwartney
- Ronnie Sellens III
- Eric Ganson
- Paul Juedes
- Randy Smith
- Frank Zeller
- John Bills
- Erica Spurling
- George Wiecken
- Steve Duryea
- Lance Wishkeno
- Mike Barbosa
- Matt Conger
- Cheri Micol-Smith
- Greg Brown
- Tim Morse
- Benjamin Green
- Malcom Stapel

### A message from Lance Wishkeno, EMT/Firefighter

To everyone,

*I have been here for 10 years and I have seen a lot of changes from the old station to the new station. And, having the equipment we had then, as opposed to what we have now, is amazing. We've gone from no ambulance service to a state of the art ambulance service for the Nation. The fire department has come a very long way. I want to say thank you to everyone who came out Saturday, October 9, 2010 to help celebrate with us. I want to thank Council members, Boys and Girls Club staff, and all the other agencies and speakers that helped us make a very successful and fun day for all. And, thank you to all my fellow staff members at the fire station for taking the time to help and make the event run smoothly. I say I-gwi-en. And, what a wonderful 30 years of service in celebrating the Potawatomi Fire Department and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for which we should all be proud!!*



Left: A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the new fire station on August 18, 2001. Members of the Tribal Council, at that time and in the photo are, left to right, Steve Ortiz, Roy Ogden, Vestina Nonken (deceased), Gary Mitchell, Jim Potter, Badger Wahwasuck, and Jackie Mitchell.

(News file photo)

## A bit of fire station history

From the *M Shko Tan Ni*  
*Prairie Band Pottawatomi (sic) Special Edition (1981)*

### Potawatomi Fire Station

Since we have become a volunteer fire department (#JA 409) we have had 11 fires. 9 were grass fires and 2 were house fires that we had to report to the State Fire Marshall's office and to Washington, D.C. for the computer on all fire stations. We have a Mutual Aid Agreement with the other fire depts. for assistances on fire. We have 8 volunteers. At present, we have radio communications with 6 of the volunteers and we have 2 dispatchers on duty round the clock (24 hrs. daily).

At present we are working on additional equipment and one more dispatcher.

We have also had trainings on different types of fires, from the KU Fire School and K-State Fire School. We are planning to attend school at Hutchinson in October 81 for four days to further our fire dept. for fire protection for years to come.

Our telephone numbers are 966-2796 for five days a week and 966-2413 or 966-2138 on weekends.

*Editor's Note: The M Shko-Tan-Ni was the name of the tribal newspaper that began in November 1976 and ran until 1981. The year this article appeared the paper was edited by Eddie Joe Mitchell. Accompanying the article were photographs of Vernon Wahweotten who was seen working on a fire truck and Don Don (LeClere) photographed working on the siren at the fire station.*



The old fire station still stands south of the new station on K Road.

Some of the first tribal volunteers at the fire station were

- Mary LeClere
- Jim Potts
- Don Don LeClere
- Eddie Joe Mitchell
- Vernon Wahweotten (deceased)

**Human Resources Department News**



**Dawn Robertson**  
(Race Against Breast Cancer)

**Julie Biswell**  
(cancer survivor)

**Liz Bisette**  
(St. Francis Hospital)

*Photos by Micki Martinez*

The All-Employee Quarterly Meeting was held on October 22 at the Bingo Hall. The meeting centered around Breast Cancer Awareness month and included speakers from Topeka, Kan. including Dawn Robertson (Race Against Breast Cancer), Julie Biswell (cancer survivor), and Liz Bisette (St. Francis Hospital).

In addition, the Human Resources Department also sponsored a Denim Day Everyday fund

raising contest where employees bought chances to win a day off from work and the right to wear jeans for a month.

Donna Valdivia-Wofford is the director of the Human Resources Department that also includes Nancy Davidson, Priscilla Martin, Shanna Smith, Jillea Knoxsah, and Cheri Jim. The Human Resources Department is located on the lower level of the Government Center.

**Amber Walker wins Employee of the Quarter**



**Amber Walker (holding the buffalo trophy) was announced as Employee of the Quarter at the All Employee Quarterly Meeting on October 22. Some of the employees in Finance who helped her celebrate her win are, from left, Vanessa Pahmahmie, Sylvia Johnson, Walt Racker, Paula Moore, Dave Greeson, Lisa Thurman-Hawley, Richard Brewer, Amanda Barbosa, Linda Tecumseh and Wade Pahmahmie. Walker works in the Finance Department that is located on the upper level of the Government Center.**

**Directors get trained on new employee manual**



Directors and Tribal Council received training on a new employee manual that was approved by Tribal Council last April. Above, leading the training, is Kristina Dietrick, president of Creative Business Solutions of Topeka, Kan. The trainings were held Nov. 16-17 at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort.

**2011 Boys & Girls Club memberships now available**

For details and monthly calendar go to [www.pbpindiantribe.com/boys-and-girls-club.aspx](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/boys-and-girls-club.aspx)

**Holiday photos**



ABOVE: Shobwas Ceja and Hannah Wahwassuck helped with the Boys & Girls Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 24.



ABOVE: Firekeepers Elder Center Thanksgiving dinner held Nov. 18.



ABOVE: Lauren (Kache) Hale smiles for the camera with mom Jennifer looking on during the Thanksgiving dinner at the Child Care Center on Nov. 20.



ABOVE: Chicken man (Tim Mendez) with a trick or treater at the Halloween parade held at the Boys & Girls Club on Oct. 26.



A commercial drivers license (CDL) class was held on Nov. 4 and 5 in a new classroom located at the old tribal court building. Fourteen students participated in the course that was taught by instructors from Oklahoma. Some of the students were employees from the PBP Transit staff, the Potawatomi Fire Department and Construction/Maintenance Department. The old tribal court building has been converted into classrooms for the Fire Department and other PBP departments and programs.



Ernie Coleman, who works for the Construction Maintenance Department, was busy last fall putting in shrubs and fall flowers in the islands located in the Government Center's parking lot.



Chad Kleppin is a police officer for the PBP and is on the night shift.



Cars were backed up and waiting in line for the Harvesters Rural Mobile Food Pantry that was held Nov. 5. The Harvesters community food truck is now stopping at the Buffalo Community building on the reservation the first Friday of every month from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. For more information call the Housing Department at 785.966.2756.



Lots of new improvements were made at the pow-wow grounds last fall. In the photo, Jim Harvey, PBP electrician, is overseeing some contract workers from Kelly Electric. Additional electric power was added to the park arena and several new vendor posts have been added around the park so more booths will be available for pow-wows and other events.



*Inset photo: The interior of the new addition*

The Commodities building was recently expanded with an addition that can be seen in the top photo, left. The expansion makes it easier for trucks to unload and a large lift has also been added inside the building to shelve food easier. The expansion was made possible with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Commodities is located at 15189 K Road on the reservation.

(photo submitted)

### Housing Department National Programs Update

By Lenee Nastov, Housing Department

#### Home Renovation & Repair

The first 70 applications have been reviewed and are nearly completely processed. Award letters and packets have been mailed to those who will be receiving the 2010 award for assistance. There are a few applications pending so please turn the necessary paperwork in for processing as soon as possible. The first 40 qualified "over-income" applicants will receive the \$5,000 award. And the first 29 qualified "within-income" applicants will receive the \$10,000 award.

#### Down Payment

There are 9 applications left to review and only 5 awards left to be fulfilled. The remaining applications will be reviewed and processed in December.

#### Rental

The first 100 applications have been reviewed but not all have been processed. There are quite a few appli-

cations pending so please turn the necessary paperwork in for processing as soon as possible. A second and final notice has been sent to those pending and if information is not received within the allotted time frame then those applications will be denied and the remaining 2010 awards will be fulfilled by the next qualified applicants in December.

All applications will continue to be processed in the order they were received and individual application status information will be sent via mail once your application is processed.

All applications are subject to an Environmental Review per HUD requirements. Down Payment and Renovation & Repair applications of homes built prior to 1978 will be subject to a Lead-Based Paint inspection based on a Federal Law requirement as of April 22, 2010.

For details call Lenee Nastov at 785.966.2756.

### American Recovery & Reinvestment funds at work on the reservation



Repairs were made last fall at the duplexes located on 156 Lane with American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Roofs were repaired and interior renovations were also done on the homes.

## Important phone numbers and addresses

<p><b>Attorneys Office</b> Paula Hopkins, Admin. Ass't 16281 Q Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.4032 fax: 785.966.4035 email: phopkins@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Finance Department</b> Audrey Oliverius, Director 16281 Q Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.4039 fax: 785.966.4051 email: audreyo@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Human Resources Department</b> Donna Valdivia-Wofford, Director 16281 Q Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.3060 fax: 785.966.3062 email: donnav@pbpnation.org</p>
<p><b>Boys &amp; Girls Club</b> Nathan Hale, Director 15424 K Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.3031 fax: 785.966.3018 email: topash@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Fire Department</b> Mike Mills, Chief 15468 K Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.2164 fax: 785.966.3040 email: mikem@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Information Technology (IT) Department</b> Ben Joslin, Director 16281 Q Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.4084 fax: 785.966.3907 email: Benj@pbpnation.org</p>
<p><b>Construction Maintenance Department</b> Carl Matousek, Director 16281 Q Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.4031 fax: 785.966.3915 email: carlm@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Food Commodities Department</b> Tracy Potts, Director 15189 K Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.2718 fax: 785.966.2520 email: tracyr@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Judicial Center</b> Royetta Rodewald, Administrator 11444 158 Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.2242 fax: 785.966.2662 email: roy@@pbpnation.org</p>
<p><b>Early Education Childcare Center</b> Hope Adame, Director 15380 K Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.2527 fax: 785.966.2514 email: hladame@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>General Manager Office</b> Liana Onnen, General Manager 16281 Q Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.3900 fax: 785.966.3990 email: liana@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Land Management Department</b> Chris DecCoteau, Director 15185 K Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.2375 fax: 785.966.2861 email: CDecoteau@pbpnation.org</p>
<p><b>Education Department</b> Kristen Aitkens, Director 16281 Q Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.2960 fax: 785.966.2956 email: kristena@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Grants</b> Dawn "Sogi" LeClere, Director 16281 Q Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.4075 fax: 785.966.4035 email: dleclere@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Language Department</b> Olivia Pewamo, Coordinator 15372 K Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.2138 fax: 785.966.2383 email: oliviap@pbpnation.org</p>
<p><b>Elder Center</b> Nona Wahweotten, Director 15372 K Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.0040 fax: 785.966.0052 email: nona@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Health Center</b> Jerry Briscoe, Administrator 11400 158 Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.8302 fax: 785.966.8392 email: jbriscoe@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Member Services Department</b> Arlene Lingo, Director 16281 Q Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.3934 fax: 785.966.3917 email: arlenel@pbpnation.org</p>
<p><b>EPA/Planning Department</b> Virginia LeClere, Director 15434 K Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.2946 fax: 785.966.2947 email: valeclere@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Housing Department</b> Jackie Cummings, Director 8273 156 LN Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.2756 fax: 785.966.2864 email: jcummings@pbpnation.org</p>	<p><b>Motor Vehicle Department</b> Micki Martinez, Coordinator 16344 K Rd Mayetta, KS 66509 phone: 785.966.3024 fax: 785.966.2585 email: mickim@pbpnation.org</p>

## Important phone numbers and addresses

**Newspaper Department**  
 Suzanne Heck, Editor  
 16281 Q Rd  
 Mayetta, KS 66509  
 phone: 785.966.3920  
 fax: 785.966.3912  
 email: suzanneh@pbpnation.org

**Police Department**  
 Mike Boswell, Chief  
 16344 Q Rd  
 Mayetta, KS 66509  
 phone: 785.966.3024  
 fax: 785.966.2585  
 email: mboswell@pbpnation.org

**Road & Bridge Department**  
 Tim Ramirez, Director  
 14880 K Rd  
 Mayetta, KS 66509  
 phone: 785.966.2375  
 fax: 785.966.2693  
 email: tramirez@pbpnation.org

**Social Services Department**  
 Mary Sands Director  
 11400 158 Rd  
 Mayetta, KS 66509  
 phone: 785.966.8330  
 fax: 785.966.8338  
 email: msands@pbpnation.org

**Transit Department**  
 Celeste Weber, Director  
 15185 K Rd  
 Mayetta, KS 66509  
 phone: 785.966.2995  
 fax: 785.966.2861  
 email: celestew@pbpnation.org

**We-Ta-Se Veterans Office**  
 Frank Shopteese, Senior Liaison  
 15434 K Rd  
 Mayetta, KS 66509  
 phone: 785.966.2580  
 fax: 785.966.9853  
 email: franciss@pbpnation.org

**TOLL FREE NUMBERS**

**Boys & Girls Club** 866.727.6242

**Government Center** 877.715.6789

**Health Center** 866.694.6728  
 Family violence crisis line 866.966.0173  
 Pharmacy 866.727.6330  
 Social Services 888.966.2932

**Housing Office** 866.966.2756

**Judicial Center** 866.966.2242

**Per Capita Office** 866.277.3722

**Transportation** 866.727.8181

**Tribal Police** 877.727.6743

**Tribal Council  
 Government Center  
 16281 Q Rd  
 Mayetta, KS 66509**

**Steve Ortiz**  
 Chair 785.966.4007  
 email:steveo@pbpnation.org

**Joyce Guerrero**  
 Vice Chair 785.966.4019  
 email:joyceg@pbpnation.org

**Jim Potter**  
 Secretary 785.966.4022  
 email:jmpotter@pbpnation.org

**Ryan Dyer**  
 Treasurer 785.966.4004  
 email:rdyer@pbpnation.org

**Carrie O'Toole**  
 Member 785.966.4048  
 email:carrieo@pbpnation.org

**Junior Wahweotten**  
 Member 785.966.4013  
 email:jrw@pbpnation.org

**Jancita Warrington**  
 Member 785.966.4016  
 email:JancitaW@pbpnation.org

**Tribal Council  
 Administrative Assistants**

Chair office 785.966.4008  
 Linda Yazzie  
 email:linday@pbpnation.org

Secretary office 785.966.3922  
 Pam Bowman  
 email:Pbowman@pbpnation.org

Treasurer office 785.966.4005  
 Tina Levier  
 email:tinal@pbpnation.org

**In case of an  
 emergency  
 on the reservation  
 call  
 Tribal  
 Dispatch  
 at  
 785-966-3024  
 or 911**

## Important Prairie Band Casino & Resort/Firekeeper Golf Course numbers

**Prairie Band Casino & Resort**  
 Dave Albrecht, General Manager  
 12305 150 Rd  
 Mayetta, KS 66509  
 phone: 785.966.7777  
 fax: 785.966.7640  
 email:dalbrecht@pbpgaming.com

**Gaming Commission**  
 Gary Mitchell, Chair  
 14987 W. Casino Dr  
 Mayetta, KS 66509  
 phone: 785.966.3043  
 fax:785.966.2421  
 email:garym@pbpgaming.com

**Firekeeper Golf Course**  
 Randy Towner, General Manager/Golf Pro  
 12524 150 Rd  
 Mayetta, KS 66509  
 phone: 785.966.2100  
 fax:785.966.2421  
 email:rtowner@firekeepergolf.com

# Here's the latest dirt!

## U.S. Highway 75 flashing beacons and message boards now operating *Rural Safety Innovation Program at work*

Two major intersections on U.S. Highway 75 that connect to the reservation are now safer due to a project the PBPB Road & Bridge Department has been working on in conjunction with the Rural Safety Innovation Program (RSIP).

Warning signals and signs are now in operation on 158 Road and 162 Road that includes a flashing beacon system and electronic message boards. The way the beacons work is that stop signs at the intersections contain small sensor detectors that are triggered by approaching cars. The sensors then activate the flashing beacons on the highway warning motorists that cross traffic is ahead.

Approximately 14,000 vehicles pass through

the intersections daily and in the last decade eight fatalities have been recorded in those intersections alone. Tim Ramirez, Director of Road & Bridge, compiled the report that led to receiving the RSIP funding.

Future plans call for a live cam system that will offer remote weather information and birds-eye views of traffic and road conditions for the Tribe's Police Department and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The purpose of the Rural Safety Innovation Program is to provide funding to rural communities like the Prairie Band. It is a program of the Federal Highway Administration and the Kansas Department of Transportation.

## Road & Bridge improve roads and bridges with American Recovery & Reinvestment funds and help from Prairie Band



Hardy Eteeyan, Road & Bridge



A new space is under construction where the brave dance grounds will be located near K Road and 158 Road.



Brad Rice, Road & Bridge



Road improvements were made last summer and fall at 126 Road & O Road on the reservation. View is facing east from O Road.



Pedestrian-Bike trail looking west on 158 Road. Road & Bridge has been working hard before winter sets in.

*Special thanks to Hardy Eteeyan and Road & Bridge crews for contributing photos*



Right: Q Road being asphalted between 150 Road and 158 Road earlier this fall. Work was completed on the project and the road is now open to the public.



## Construction/Maintenance Department stays busy at Boys & Girls Club



LEFT: David Daubon, left, and Jake Rodewald, right, working on an outside sewer line at the Boys & Girls Club. Photo taken on Nov. 29.

RIGHT: Several repairs and upgrades are being made at the Boys & Girls Club that has kept construction/maintenance crews busy.

*(Special thanks to Carl Matousek )*



## Healing to Wellness Court marks one year

Submitted by Raphael Wahwassuck

The Healing to Wellness Court or Pemaknēgetēk Washēwebēk in Potawatomi (the one's making decisions on what will happen) recently passed its one year anniversary.

Members of Pemaknēgetēk Washēwebēk are Judge Theresa Barr, Mike Boswell, law enforcement officer, Laverne Haag alcohol/drug counselor, Mary LeClere, tribal elder, Benny Potts, traditional advisor, Nathan Hale, adult youth representative, and Norma Shipshee, community member.

Currently there are three participants in the second phase of the four-phase program. They have come a long way since first entering the program and put forth tremendous effort in completing all requirements that were set forth for them based on their individual case plans. For instance, not only are they required to undergo

strict supervision by the court team, they must also learn how to positively reintegrate themselves into everyday life while managing activities such as school, work, and family.

By completing the Healing to Wellness Court, it is hoped that they are gaining the tools and knowledge necessary to become whole, healthy individuals mentally, spiritually, and physically. By doing this it is hoped that they will share their experiences and grow within their families and help others who may be in need someday.

Some of the positive statements the participants have shared with Court administrators are: "My relatives trust me a lot more now than before, because I used to lie and steal from them;" "They can depend on me now;" "I am closer now with my family than I have ever been and I spend time with them on a regular basis;" "They are my main social support system whom I depend on;" and, "I am committed to what is

asked of me from the Healing to Wellness Court not only because it is court ordered, but because I have paid attention to how beneficial it is to me and my family. The Healing to Wellness Court has helped me realize what's truly important to me and what my priorities are."

A Court consensus is that these individuals have progressed a great deal from where they began and that the program is working.

If you are interested in learning more about the Healing to Wellness Court for yourself or family contact  
Raphael Wahwassuck  
(785) 966-2242  
or by email  
raphaelw@pbpnation.org.

## Language update

Submitted by Cindy LeClere

We just finished our 11th Session of family and adult classes. We worked on survival phrases that you would use if you were in a fluent community where only Potawatomi was spoken. We had a lot of fun with this and the students did a fantastic job and learned a lot. Along with our classes, we have also been regularly going to the child care center and Boys & Girls Club. The children there are singing songs and learning words and phrases. They are quick learners and we must constantly come up with new ideas to keep up with them.

Another important happening has been our community meetings. As of this writing we have had two. These meetings are designed to gather input from the community to see what people want to happen with our language. We have had a good showing of members who care about our language and we are thankful for their continued support.

We still have Potawatomi grammar books available and are hoping to offer a class in the near future. You can obtain a book by contacting our office and filling out a simple form. Your tribal ID number is required so give us a call at 785 966-2138 and we can set you up with one.

Our next session of classes begins January 10th and we still need families with children K-12 to attend. We realize that it is hard to find the time but our language belongs to the children and it is all of our responsibility to take care of that for them and to help them in their way of life. So come on over and check it out; it is fun and we try to make it as comfortable as possible for new learners.

*We are at a critical point with keeping the Potawatomi language alive. There are only 8 fluent speakers left across the nation so we need to hang on to what we have.*  
-Cindy LeClere



The Language Department held three community meetings in November and December to gain input from members about the future of retaining the Potawatomi language. Attendance has been good at all three of the meetings that were held at the Bingo Hall and Elder Center.

### Some sample Potawatomi language phrases

Wekniŋte kakityēn	what did you say?
Mine kīton	say it again
Gowikshēton	I'll try
Tto nēstotwēsnon	I don't understand you



## Nīshnabemwēn Ewītonakŋmgo

Classes provided in part by the Administration Native Americans (ANA) Language Preservation Grant

Session 12 (Year 3)

### PBPN Language Classes

Monday evening is for adults—age seventeen and up.

Tuesday evening is for families—any relation with children.

Adult Class held from 5:30-8:30 p.m. / Family Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Date	Event	Other information
1/10/11-Monday	Adult Night	Course handout & stipend rules
1/11/11-Tuesday	Family Night	Language/Cultural Activities
1/18/11-Tuesday	Family Night	Language/Cultural Activities
1/19/11-Wednesday*	Adult Night	
1/24/11-Monday	Adult Night	Language/Cultural Activities
1/25/11-Tuesday	Family Night	
1/31/11 Monday	Adult Night	Language/Cultural Activities
2/1/11-Tuesday	Family Night	
2/7/11-Monday	Adult Night	Language/Cultural Activities
2/8/11-Tuesday	Family Night	
2/14/11-Monday	Adult Night	Language/Cultural Activities
2/15/11-Tuesday	Family Night	
2/22/11-Tuesday	Family Night	Language/Cultural Activities
2/23/11 Wednesday*	Adult Night	
2/28/11-Monday	Adult Night	Language/Cultural Activities
3/1/11 Tuesday	Family Night	Post Test/Potluck

PBPN Language Department  
15372 K Road  
Mayetta, KS 66509  
Phone: 785-966-2138

Classes will be held at the Basement of Elder Center

E-mail: billym@pbpnation.org  
cleclere@pbpnation.org  
oliviap@pbpnation.org  
larryb@pbpnation.org

### Language staff

Olivia Pewamo-Language Coordinator  
Cindy LeClere-Language Specialist  
Cecelia "Meeks" Jackson-Cultural Resource Person  
Larry Berryhill-Immersion Instructor  
Rencie Eteeyan-Language Advocate  
Billy D. Matchie-AV Technician

## Youth leadership training workshop features Amanda Old Crow from Native Wellness Institute

A Youth Leadership Conference was held and led by motivational speaker Amanda Old Crow (Crow) of the Native Wellness Institute at the Rock building Oct. 28-29. Old Crow spoke on team building, leadership, learning culture and sharing to a youth group that ranged from 12-19 years in age. During the conference Old Crow engaged them in several interactive exercises that are outlined in the article below. Lunch and snacks were also served and participants each received a sweatshirt from the Native Wellness Institute.

Old Crow is a comedian, singer, and actress who lives in Seattle, Wash. The Native Wellness Institute is based in Gresham, Ore. and is dedicated



**Amanda  
Old Crow**

to promoting the well being of Native people by teaching them holistic approaches to life through their traditional ways. To learn more about the organization go to [www.nativewellness.com](http://www.nativewellness.com)

The conference was sponsored by the PBPB Youth Transition Program that is housed in the Social Services Department.

*Want to learn more about the Youth Transitions program?*

Call Joanna "Dumps" Mitchell  
at  
785.966.8336  
or email:  
[Jdumpsmitchell@pbpnation.org](mailto:Jdumpsmitchell@pbpnation.org).



**Twenty-eight youth participated in a Youth Leadership Conference held on Oct. 28-29 at the Rock Building. Above, they were photographed with Old Crow and PBPB Youth Transition leaders during one of their breaks.**

### What the youth learned at the conference

By Joanna "Dumps" Mitchell

Amanda Old Crow opened each day singing a prayer song on a hand drum. The conference began a little quiet for the youth, but soon changed with Amanda's motivational energy to liven up the room by waking up the youth with some interactive group activities. The youth broke into four teams. They came up with the team names -The Team Squirrels, Team No Names, Team Gnarly Natives, and the Team Panda Bears. The youth did a lot of team building exercises during the conference, which they enjoyed.

The conference began with the discussion topic How Well Am I? The youth wrote down their strengths and areas for improvement, how to maintain a healthy lifestyle, and the importance of being healthy. At the end of the conference, each youth wrote down a vision statement, goals on how they will reach that vision, where they see themselves in one month, and who their support system is. They then shared their thoughts with the group.

During the conference, the youth were asked to write a list describing healthy and unhealthy relationships and leaders, and their thoughts are listed below:

#### What makes a healthy and stronger community?

Honesty, friends, forgiveness, education, college, trust, respect, loyalty, humor, religion, laughing, communication, rehabilitation, community events, education of drugs/alcohol and kindness

#### What makes an unhealthy community?

Drugs and alcohol abuse, drug dealers, lack of education, negative attitudes, discrimination, judging people, no religion, weapons and fighting, gambling, mistrust, corruption in the government, money, and illness

#### Present resources for a healthy community

Churches, Royal Valley High School, recycling center, Government Center, GEN S Youth

Council, community garden, Health Center, court building/police station, pow-wow grounds, basketball courts, Boys and Girls Club, buffalo pin, Child Care Center, and parks for the younger kids.

#### What makes a healthy leader and unhealthy leader:

##### healthy leader:

Positive role model, respectful to everyone, trustworthy, lead by example, public speaking skills, makes good decisions, encourages others, willing to help others, humble, can get along with others, honest, drug-free

##### unhealthy leader:

Bossy, cusses, uneducated, negative attitude, untrustworthy, judgmental, not responsible, conceited, partys, selfish, not considerate, disrespectful, unreliable, makes wrong decisions, not open minded, doesn't pay attention to what people say, lies, does drugs, and is hypocritical.

#### Ideas on what they can do to become better leaders in the community

Become a part of the GEN S Youth Council, travel and attend more youth conferences, get involved with more community events. Fundraise, recruit more youth to get involved with the youth council and community, get our nation more well known in different countries, set and plan community goals, make events annual with youth council, and get good grades in school.

I wanted to share this with the members of the Nation, because the influence adults have on the youth is magnificent. The youth watch what we say and do. We are who they are learning from. Let's help them achieve their goals and encourage them to have a great future whatever they choose to do and to be happy and healthy.

Me-gwetch to all the youth who attended the conference especially since it was held on days they had off from school! Me-Gwetch to you for taking the time to read this article.

## Health Center news

### Blood drive held

A community blood drive was held at the Health Center on the morning of Dec. 3. The drive was co-sponsored by the Community Blood Center in Topeka and 25 units were collected. Verna Simon was in charge of the drive.

### Christmas family adoption drive

The Health Center and Child Care Head Start programs teamed up to sponsor a Christmas Family Adoption program where employees and community members contributed gifts to families in need. Melinda Feldkamp, Family Services Specialist at the Child Care Center, was in charge of the program.

### Social Services holds blanket drive

Social Services sponsored a blanket drive from Oct.15-Nov. 5 and collected new blankets or those in good condition. As an ongoing service, Social Services also accepts used clothing and other items that can be dropped off at their office located in the east wing of the Health Center. For more information call 785.966.8330.

### Royetta Rodewald a success story

Tribal member, Royetta Rodewald was featured in a national booklet for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) for having success in the program. According to Carol Shopteese, Diabetes Prevention Program Manager, Rodewald lost 39 pounds, quit smoking, and has lowered her diabetic risk substantially.

### Dental program receives recognition

The PBPB dental program has been recognized by the Indian Health Service for having above average numbers and performance. The Health Center has been voluntarily participating in the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) that measures clinical staff performance the past year, according to a Sept. 17 email message to the PBPB from Jerry Briscoe, health administrator.

### Kansans Optimizing Health Program

The Kansans Optimizing Health Program is a six-week program that is beneficial to anyone with a chronic illness and their caregivers. The program is offered for free at the Firekeepers Elder Center and will begin another series in January, 2011. To register call Janis Simon, caregiver coordinator, at 785.966.2103 or Jeanette Little Sun, community nurse, at 785.966.8233.

# Harvest Feast draws large crowd

To heighten awareness and to celebrate Native American Heritage Month, the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) staff sponsored a Harvest Feast on Nov. 22 at the Bingo Hall that drew over 240 people. The meal consisted of corn soup, hominy, pumpkin, squash, sweet potatoes, buffalo, deer, and turtle and included produce that was grown in last summer's community gardens. Eddie Joe Mitchell, a traditional gardener and the DPP community gardens coordinator, also discussed what he has in store for next year's gardens at the feast.

November was Diabetes Awareness Month and the Prairie Band Health Center staff, as part of the national Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) initiative, has been utilizing a grant from the Indian Health Service (IHS) that they have had since 2006 to address the problem.

In addition, during National Diabetes Month, Jerry Briscoe, health admin-

istrator, and Cory Wabski, DPP lifestyles fitness coach, sent several notices to PBPN email users about what diabetes is and how to prevent it. American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest rates of diabetes of all U.S. population groups.

The DPP is part of the "Return to a Healthy Past" grant that is sponsored by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Program. The program is housed in offices at the PBP Health Clinic and also includes a fitness center.

Fellow PBPN members:

My name is Carol Shopteese and I am the new Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) Manager. I began my employment Nov. 8 so I'm brand new and excited to get started with our DPP initiatives.

### New eligibility criteria for participation in the SDPI DPP include:

- An A1c range for prediabetes is now 5.7%-6.4%;
- Fast Blood Sugar between 100 to 125 mg/dl;
- Blood Sugar 2 hours after a meal should be from 140 to 199 mg/dl; and,
- Obtaining an Albumin/Creatinine (A/C) ratio.

If you meet the new criteria or haven't had any testing completed in the last year, please call our program or schedule an appointment at the Health Center. Individuals have a 2-5 times greater risk of developing the chronic diseases of diabetes and/or atherosclerotic disease, the cause of heart attacks, strokes and peripheral vascular disease if they meet this criteria. Unfortunately, once you have developed these diseases, you cannot cure them - you can only try to control them. These diseases are the leading causes of blindness, kidney failure requiring dialysis and amputations of extremities. Drugs can be given to treat the elevated blood sugar, triglycerides and blood pressure, but the only treatment that can cure the condition is weight loss. It is important for everyone to be as healthy as they can be.

We are looking for Native American pre-diabetic participants for the DPP classes as well as community members interested in a lifestyle change. If you're interested, please email or call me and I'd be glad to visit with you about your participation or any questions you have regarding diabetes. This includes you or your family members.



**Cory Wabski**

We'd also like to keep Cory Wabski, lifestyle coach, busy. He's available to meet with participants for exercise regimens, to assist with exercise programs, to provide exercise demonstrations, etc. Cory enjoys working with people so please let him help you be successful with your exercise programs and goal.

Kathy Sterbenz, is the new diabetes nurse and began on Nov. 22. She brings lots of nursing experience, energy and caring to our DPP team. Collaboration between the clinic and the DPP is being increased to better serve our community.

Eddie Joe Mitchell has done a wonderful job with the community gardens and he plans to expand the program next year. I look forward to learning lots from him.

I'm seeking funding sources to provide incentives not only to DPP participants, but also to past DPP participants, youth and our elders. My wish is to have a comprehensive diabetes program that helps our people to be healthy and happy. We had a great turnout for the Harvest Feast on November 22. We're starting a Diabetes Resource Center so visit us soon! We will have the Wellness Center open until 6 p.m. on Thursdays that began Dec. 2 and may increase days/times when we're overwhelmed with exercisers! Any ideas or suggestions you have to improve our program are welcome! Please stop by or call... We look forward to serving the Potawatomi people.

**To learn more about the Diabetes Prevention Program call 785-966-8271 or email: CarolS@pbpnation.org.**



**Carol Shopteese**



**Kathy Sterbenz**



**Eddie Joe Mitchell**

Call  
785-966-8271  
for details

**Water Aerobics Classes**  
**Tuesdays- Dec. 14 & 21, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.**  
**Thursdays-Dec. 16 & 23, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.**  
**Boys & Girls Club pool**



**Over 240 people signed in at the Harvest Feast that featured traditional foods.**

## Briefly

### Upcoming community Christmas party

A community Christmas party will be held Dec. 22 from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Bingo Hall. A bingo gift exchange will be held and those who wish to participate need to bring a gift worth no more than \$5 (can be handmade or baked item). Family craft workshop and light refreshments will be served. Party is co-sponsored by the Boys & Girls Club and Family Violence Prevention Program. Call 785.966.3031 for details.

### Red Road Workshop

A Red Road Workshop was held on Oct. 13-14 at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort that was co-sponsored by the PBP Alcohol & Drug Program and Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri. The two-day program featured Rick Thomas (Dakota-Isante) who is an expert in the Red Road Approach in the clinical administration of alcohol and drugs.

### "Walk a Mile in Their Mocs"

The 2nd annual "Walk a Mile in Their Mocs" event was held at Prairie Peoples Park October 9. A 5k run and balloon release was held and t shirts were handed out to participants. The event promoted domestic violence awareness and was sponsored by the PBPN Family Violence Prevention Program. October was National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the PBPN Family Violence Prevention program also distributed a series of informational newsletters to PBPN email users.

### Domestic Violence Scenario Training

A Domestic Violence Scenario Training was held Oct. 6-7 at the casino. The training involved role playing and scenario sets and was sponsored by the Tribal Victim Assistance Program.

## Notes from Brennah Wahweotten: PBPN princess quarterly journal

*Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of quarterly reports being written by Brennah Wahweotten, 13, who was selected as the Prairie Band Potawatomi princess this year and published in the Potawatomi News.*

Bozho and Happy Holidays!

As you know, this is my second quarterly journal and I hope you enjoyed the first one. I haven't been to as many pow-wows as in the summer, because of school and extracurricular activities, but I'm still managing to get to a few pow-wow events with the Royal Valley Native American Dancers and Singers while representing our Nation.

I was an honor roll student this past nine weeks. Reading, history and the PE/health teacher are tough, so I was thankful to be able to make good grades. And, this was the first year I ever participated in cross country track. I completed the season and liked running. The running helped with my dancing. I feel fancy shawl dancing is easier because I'm stronger and know NOW what it's like to keep going when you REALLY don't feel like it anymore ~ LOL. Also, I wanted to be involved and helpful at school. The way I did this was to become a manager for the Royal Valley 7th Grade Girls' Basketball team. A few other things I'll mention, I moved to a full size cello (last transition between cello sizes) and classes at Studio 1 Dance are going well. On to the latest powwows...

September 3-5

### SHAWNEE LAKE POW-WOW

This was another close-to-home pow-wow after Sac and Fox. During this week, I got my braces off! I was very excited to eat my first piece of chewy candy in four years and I got to see school friends and my old friend, Natalie Fish. I just so happened to dance jingle at this pow-wow. I wanted to try out my dress and practice for when there's a time to dance jingle again. We all got day money and had a very good time. I didn't speak on the microphone but they introduced us during the grand entry.

September 19-21

### WHITE CLOUD POW-WOW (IOWA)

I danced along with princesses, Elaine Frank, Hannah Wahwassuck, and Christian Leroy. I danced both fancy and jingle at this pow-wow. I used my dresses and wore some of a friend's dresses, too. We were given day money here. Mom and dad said if my friends and I could put up our tent by ourselves we could stay in Candy Wahwassuck's camp. We "got er done". We took it down, too, on the last day.

September 25

### THE WE-TA-SE POW-WOW

This pow-wow was rained out, so we didn't dance. But, Hannah and I walked in the parade. It was on the outside street of the arena at Prairie Peoples Park.

October 9

### MARYSVILLE POW-WOW

This was a contest pow-wow. I sat by the Pelkeys. And for grand entry, they did all the honor songs and then introduced the royalty one by one. For

my contest, there were only three of us, including two girls that were SO little and me! They were cute little fancy dancers. I got 1st, Zach- 2nd, and Mom-3rd. Dad was at the San Manuel pow-wow in California. After the pow-wow, my family and the Leroys ate at Pizza Hut. Mmmmmmm, mushroom pizza!



**Four Potawatomi princesses: From left, Presley Keeboe, Brennah Wahweotten, Treasa Lange, and Elaine Frank. (photo submitted)**

October 16

### CLINTON, MISSOURI POW-WOW

I didn't dance at this pow-wow because they only had adult contests. But, I had a very good time. Since I wasn't dancing, I helped my friends, Brittany and Haga, with young Mr. Peyton. Haga and I took Peyton to some courts to play basketball and volleyball. After the pow-wow, we went to the Waffle House to eat! It was cool.

October 22- 24

### HUNTING MOON POW-WOW

This pow-wow was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and I got to stay in a hotel! Ha-ha! We ALWAYS tent camp or stay in our camper but not this time. I'm glad because it was chilly up there. It was cold last year in the camper, so I was extra happy about the hotel room. And man, are the grand entries big there! I've gone the past four years and the grand entries are still long. They introduced the princesses after the grand entries. I danced super hard here during my contests and actually got 5th, in teens. My first time in four years! I ate at their big food court and got some chips at a little gift shop in their building.

November 6

### 19th ANNUAL AUSTIN, TEXAS POW-WOW AND FESTIVAL

I got to see more Oklahoma friends than Texas friends. I placed 1st, all of my friends placed, and Dad and Zach placed. They had the biggest vendor area ever! Zach and I both ended up in our categories with 1st place ties. They danced us at the same time. Zach's tie was on one side of the arena and mine was on the other side. We both won. After the pow-wow, mom wanted to go to Barton Springs at Zilker Park. She knew about it because she lived in Austin for awhile. Dad, Zach and I went swimming in the natural spring-fed pool. Mom wouldn't go. She put her feet in and said "No way"! I thought the cold water felt good after dancing.

November 20

### WE-TA-SE POW-WOW

Yea! This powwow was at the old Holton fair grounds. I braided three heads of hair. Royalty was introduced after grand entry. And, I was given two exhibitions in which I felt I did a good job. I enjoyed being at a home pow-wow. Many of my friends and family were there. Hannah had a jingle special. We were given a straight song and a side-step. I was awarded 1st and won her special. The prize was an Ipod bundle. I was SO happy because I haven't bought an Ipod yet. I used Brittany's dress and I gave her something for letting me use it. And the greatest compliment was that people thought I was actually Brittany out there!

November 26-28

### INDIO, CALIF. POW-WOW

We left late Tuesday night and traveled for 2 1/2 days. We were at Fantasy Springs Resort/Casino. For Thanksgiving we ate dinner at their buffet which was very good. Then, we went to the hotel across the street since we didn't have a room reserved for Thursday night. Friday morning we had breakfast and moved into our room at the casino hotel. Grand entry was at 8 p.m. so we hung out until then, very nice. They had a carpeted area to dance on and it felt good. I was happy because I had good songs for contesting.

After the dancing was done, it was time for the awards to be called. I had hard competition and got 3rd out of 4 places. Zach got 4th and dad got 3rd also. I spoke on the microphone, danced in grand entry with bird singers, and held a blanket on the arena for a family collecting money. There were only four of us dancing as royalty on the last day. We made it home in two days.

In closing, I want to share that the Royal Valley Native American Dancers and Singers went to Kemper Arena-American Royal in Kansas City on November 4 and we also performed at the Topeka VA on November 18.

In January on the 14, 15, 16, we will go to 2011-Battle of the Plains in Bartlesville, Okla. They are going to have hand games the first night, our competition the next day, and stomp dancing that night.

Until next time...Brennah Wahweotten

# We-Ta-Se holds veterans ceremony and pow-wow



We-Ta-Se American Legion Post #410 added eight Potawatomi veterans to the Veterans Memorial Wall during a ceremony held November 11 on Veterans Day in Prairie Peoples Park.

"Pam-y-puck" Cadue (deceased), who is said to be the first Native American from Kansas killed in action during World War I in 1917, was given special distinction during the ceremony and will be honored with a separate plaque on the wall. Other veterans recognized were Fred A. Comacho (Vietnam), Debra J. Lowe (Desert Storm), William Moore (Korea), Luther Pidgeon (WWII), Edmond C. Shepard (WWII), Lorrie C. Wahwassuck (Iraq), and George H. Williams (Korea).

We-Ta-Se also held their 13th annual pow-wow on November 20 at the 4-H building in Holton, Kan. The pow-wow was originally scheduled for September 25 but was postponed due to rain at Prairie Peoples Park and held at a later date.

For a complete listing of veterans on the wall go to [www.pbpindiantribe.com/sub/veterans/VeteransWall/names\\_on\\_the\\_wall.htm](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/sub/veterans/VeteransWall/names_on_the_wall.htm)

We-Ta-Se veterans taking a breather during the Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at Prairie Peoples Park.



Sylvana Levier-Jessepe, 15, was crowned We-Ta-Se Princess for 2011. Sylvana is a sophomore and honor roll student at Royal Valley High School and is one of the Native American Singers & Dancers.



Nearly 500 people attended the 13th Annual Veterans Pow-wow this year. Directly above is the grand entry that kicked off the event that was held at the 4-H building in Holton, Kan. Above, far right, is Francis Jensen, saluting, and, to his right, is Dean Whitebreast, master of ceremonies at the pow-wow. The photo, directly to the right, is of a member of the Nek-pen-wes youth drum group.



*We-Ta-Se means One who is brave!*

*Other notable recognitions at the pow-wow*

Honored Male Veteran-Joe Hale (deceased)  
Honored Female Veteran-Rose "Teno" Masquat(deceased)  
Outgoing We-Ta-Se Princess-Hannah Wahwassuck



Right: Adult language students sang "She'll Be Comin Round the Mountain" in Potawatomi during the pow-wow. The language department has just wrapped up its 11th session of language classes and is planning more classes for spring.



Improvements were made last fall around the Howitzer display that sits in front of the We-Ta-Se building on K Road. Above are maintenance department workers who were putting in a walkway around the display as well as space for a descriptive plaque that describes the Howitzer military piece of equipment.

Member news and notes



Tyler Mendez, 25, (left) and Gabe Mendez, 16, (right) provided the entertainment for an alcohol and drug prevention dance that was held on Nov. 13 at the Bingo Hall. In the photo, with the two men, is Terry Crossbear who directs the Blue Earth Resource Center in Topeka, Kan. Over 75 youth attended the event that featured original music and singing by the two Mendez entertainers. Refreshments were also served and door prizes were awarded.

Blue Earth Cultural Resource Center  
2519 N Topeka Blvd  
Topeka, KS  
www.blueearthrecovery.com

Save your pop bottles for us!



Some students who are Prairie Band members and attend high school in Rossville, Kan. are involved in building a “green” green house out of 2 liter bottles for a community garden next spring. Above, are Battice Mahuku, Austin Hester and Bobby Hester who were photographed setting the corner posts for the new green house last fall. Tanner Shobney, another PBPN, (not pictured) is also helping with transportation needs.

The project is sponsored by the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) at Rossville High and the group is trying to collect 1,500 or more of the clear 2 liter bottles. If you care to donate to the cause bottles are being collected in a bin located at Wehner’s Thriftway in Rossville or call 785.584.6193 for details.

Got some good news to share?  
Send it to the  
*Potawatomi News*  
News deadline: March 1

Thank you  
from  
Carolyn Quintana

I would like to thank my family and the community that helped and came to my fundraiser for a trip to New York City. I marched with the Seaman High School Marching Band in the Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11. It was a fun and exciting trip. Thanks again!



In the center, above, is Betty Davis, a tribal member, with her two daughters (unidentified). Davis is from Albuquerque and met the Member Services staff at a conference last fall. Davis then invited them to her home. Voncile Mitchell, who is on the Member Services staff, submitted this photo and wanted to publicly thank Davis for the hospitality she and the others were shown at her home.

Our Lady of the Snows church members host The Little Sisters of the Lamb



Church members from Our Lady of the Snows Parish hosted a visit from six sisters who are European and with a monastery called the Community of The Little Sisters of the Lamb that is located in Kansas City, Kan. PBPN members who are in the photo and in street dress on the back row, are Vivien Gonzales, Roy Hale, Cornelia Donahue and LaVera “Babe” Bell.

( photo submitted)

Life in Russia: A short story by Dustin Goslin

Zdravstvujtye or greetings in Russian! My name is Dustin Joseph Goslin and I am a proud member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation. I am writing to share a comical story and photo with readers! This past October I had the opportunity to complete my graduate studies in Organizational Development with a 16-day international business consultancy trip to the great country of Russia. I traveled across the globe to the city of Petrozavodsk to work with a small credit union with the task of assessing and developing real time solutions for this struggling business. In completing my presentation to the owners of the credit union, we both presented each other with gifts. The young owners presented me with a small sign carved from local wood and a hat used in Russian saunas. I brought with me small beaded pins with the four sacred colors, and small braided strands of sweet grass tied together at the ends (so it resembled a tear drop shape). Immediately after presenting my new friends with their gifts, they put the braids of sweet grass on their heads; thinking they were to be used as hats. After informing and reminding them numerous

times that the sweet grass is not worn as hats by Native people, rather burned for its smell, my new friends finally appeared to understand. Within a few weeks of returning to the United States, I noticed on a social networking website that my new Russian friends had uploaded pictures of a birthday party they hosted days after I departed the country. You can see for yourself what the picture showcases!

Dustin Goslin’s sweet grass braids that he gave for a gift to co-workers in Russia were used for another purpose, as seen to the right.





**Congratulations to Eliana "Zaw Zee" Banks 2010 Miss Seminole Nation Days Sweetheart (3-5 year olds) Seminole Nation Days Seminole, Okla. Sept. 11, 2010**

**Parents: Wadum & Enedina Banks & brother Jose**  
**Grandparents: Jaime Cervantes & Eleanor Banks**



**Keep smilin!**

**Dr. Jessica A. Rickert was the keynote speaker at Northern University College Prep Medicine Wheel Academy from Nov. 11-13.**

**American Indian students who are interested in the dental field should contact Dr. Rickert for more information. She became the first Native American woman dentist in 1975 and is dedicated to promoting young Prairie Band Potawatomi and other Indian people to the dental profession.**

**Contact her at:  
Jessica Rickert, DDS  
PO Box 478  
Interlochen, MI 49643  
Ph: 231-276-9644  
Email: jarickert@charter.net**



**Congratulations to Mary Brown! 1st place winner of Mayetta's 124th Chili Cookoff held Oct. 9 in historic Mayetta, Kan.**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Judy & Eldon Darnell Darnell Antiques/ Native Essence**



**Tsianina Whitetree (left) and Kira Vega.**

**Congratulations to Kira Vega Royal Valley High School 2010 Homecoming Queen**

**Kira is active in sports, the Native American Club, Student Council and band. Parents: Gilbert Vega & Ella Mzhickteno**

**Dominic Ortiz passes Kansas Board of Accountancy exam**



The Kansas Board of Accountancy has recently announced that Dominic Ortiz has passed its computerized examination in the July/August window.

Ortiz is the director of finance for the Prairie Band Casino & Resort (PBCR) and acting CFO for Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation. He was instrumental in overseeing the end-to-end financial transition from Harrah's to the PBCR in 2007 and before that time had worked for Harrah's Entertainment for five years where he gained operational and financial management skills. He has also been a consultant with Ernst & Young.

He holds a Master's in Accounting and Information Systems degree from the University of Kansas and in 2006 attended the Harvard Business School where he attained alumni status by completing the Executive Education General Manager Program.

In addition, Ortiz is also a mentor to Native American youth. He was a principal organizer for the Ni-Gahn-Ji-I-Gwan Future Ink careers workshop that was part of the Youth Conference held during the 2009 Gathering and hosted by the Prairie Band and is active in the casino management intern program.



**Congratulations to Christina Tsotaddle on graduating from the University of Phoenix with an Associate Arts Degree in Criminal Justice. She thanks her parents Lea and Michael Tsotaddle for all their support.**

**Jim Wahawassuck creates sculpture**

Jim Wahawassuck was featured in the *Topeka Capital-Journal* on Nov. 7 for his latest artwork called "Tonantzin," a 17-foot tall sculpture of a Mascouten woman. The sculpture is made of limestone and will eventually be moved to the Firekeepers Elder Center.

Look for more information about "Tonantzin" in future issues of the *News*.

**Anita Evans receives alumni hall of fame honor**

Anita (Pahmahmie) Evans was honored by her high school in Port Jervis, New York by being selected as a member of the schools' alumni hall of fame last October.

Evans graduated in 1976 and moved to Kansas where she earned a degree in physical education and French from Emporia State University. From there she began teaching in 1980 and is presently at Royal Valley High School. She has received other teaching honors includ-

ing being recognized in 1997 for her work in the Title VII Program as the Native American Educator of the Year by the Kansas Association of Native American Education. In 2001 she was named the National Indian Teacher of the Year by the National Indian Education Association.

Evans has helped cosponsor the award-winning Royal Valley Native American Singers & Dancers for several years and also coaches at the school.



**Anita Evans, third from left, leading a dance in her honor at the Student Awards Banquet held last spring at Prairie Peoples Park.**

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



**Happy 3rd  
Birthday Kibo  
on  
Dec. 27**

**Love,  
Mom & family**



**Happy 4th Birthday  
Victoria  
on  
Jan. 19**

**Love you!  
Mom, Ethan & family**



**Happy 5th Birthday  
Angelina  
on  
Jan. 13**

**Love,  
Mom, Dad, Desiree,  
Bear & family**



**Happy Birthday wishes to some of my family!**

Mary Brown	Nov. 3
Rosie Martinez	Dec. 7
Ronald Wahweotten	Dec. 26
Serenity McKinney	Feb. 2
Lorene Wahweotten	Feb. 3
Emma Raven Martinez	Mar. 13
Anthony (Tony) His Law	Mar. 25
Amber D. Walker	Mar. 31



**Blessings to all and many more to come.  
Love always,  
Mom, Grandma, and Sister (Cheryl Walker)**



**Happy Birthday  
Taylor R. Potts  
(Meh-Meh)  
15 years old  
on  
Dec. 23**

**Your family and friends wish you a happy day and hope your wishes come true. You are a sweet and beautiful young lady.**

**Love,  
Mama, Gramma Lou, Uncle Chris, Auntie Al, Ariel, Cassie,  
Jo-Jo & Pepsi.**

**Enibowat  
(Weddings)**



**Michael and Kay Cook  
and  
Galen Fouraker  
wish to  
congratulate  
Steve and Denise (Suisala) Cook  
on their marriage  
November 26, 2010**



**Congratulations  
to  
Nathan and Renee Earwood  
married  
July 24, 2010**

**4th annual community talent show**



**Part of the fun at the talent show was a Dolly Parton lip synch. In the photo, from left, is Marilyn Brewer, Doris Cochran, Cindy McFarland (blocked from view) and Julia Lewis.**

A community talent show was held Sept. 9-10 at the Rock building that was sponsored by Julia Lewis, a tribal elder. Lewis has organized the show for four years and brings in local acts of talent and members of the community who star in the show and help organize it.

Chago Hale was the show's master of ceremonies and LaVerne Hale and members of her family ran the concession stand.

Winners of the contest were Debbie Garcia, Linda McCoy and Wanda Trujillo for a lip synch of a Shangrila's song, Hedy Noland, Tootie Kern, and Myra Matchie as a lip synch group called the Rapiteers, and LaVerne Hale who did a lip synch of a Patsy Cline tune.

For prizes winners received the proceeds from the \$3 admission charged at the door both nights.

Kamboŕtĕk (those who died)



**Carol Jean Robinson**

Carol Jean Robinson, "SOZETTE", 59, of Federal Dam, MN entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at home surrounded by her loving family. She was born on June 27, 1951 in Holton, Kansas to Joe and Evelyn (Fitzsimmons) Wahweotten.

Carol enjoyed going to Pow-Wows and the casino. She also liked birch barking, collecting all kinds of nick knacks, and was a really good garage saler.

She was preceded in death by her parents Joe and Evelyn, husband Ralph White; daughter Shawn Robinson and granddaughters Brianne and Chantel Robinson.

Carol is survived by her sons Chadley (Charlene Mitchell) White of Boy Lake, and Israel White of Sugar Point; daughter Shannon (Kenneth) Robinson-Moore of Sugar Point; brother Gary Wahweotten of Deer River; sisters Juanita Wahweotten of Deer River and Darlene Fairbanks of Ball Club; nine grandchildren, one great grandchild, numerous nieces, nephews and many friends.

A wake service for Carol will begin at 2:00 p.m. Friday, November 5th, and continue until the 10:00 a.m. Saturday service all at the Ball Club Community Center in Ball Club. Spiritual leader will be Steve Jackson. Pallbearers for Carol will be Ralph Schaaf, Bob Schaaf, Frank Robinson, Ed Cloud, Jeff Whitebird and Mike White. Honorary Pallbearers will be Randy Schaaf, Terry Robinson, Kenneth Moore, Chris Robinson, Benny Robinson, Jerred Moore, Gary Wahweotten.

Interment will be held at the Olivet Cemetery in Deer River following the service.

Arrangements entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. On-line condolences can be left at [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com)

*(Courtesy of Northern Peace Funeral Home-Walker, Minn.)*

**Homer James Jury**

Homer Jury, 72, of Topeka passed away November 12, 2010. He was born April 6, 1938 at Mayetta the son of William and Angeline (Jessepe) Jury. He was raised in Topeka. Mr. Jury worked at Skinner Nursery and Blackburn Nursery. Homer was a member of the Prairie Band Pottawatomie Nation. He is survived by his sister Helen Cantrell of Topeka; son James Jury of Mayetta and daughter Lisa Jury of Topeka; one grandchild also survives.

He will lie in state at the Dance Grounds Building west of Mayetta starting at 4:00 p.m. Thursday. Graveside services will be held at Dance Grounds Cemetery on Friday, Nov. 19th at 1:00 p.m. Davidson Funeral Home in Topeka is assisting the family. He will lie in state Thursday morning from 8-12 at the funeral home. To leave a message for Homer's family please visit [davidsonfuneral.com](http://davidsonfuneral.com).

*(Courtesy of Davidson Funeral Home-Topeka, Kan.)*

**Obituary guideline**

Obituaries of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation tribal members only will be published in the *Potawatomi News* and on the Nation's website at [pbpindiantribe.com](http://pbpindiantribe.com)

The *News* prefers that obituaries be submitted by the mortuary or funeral home that is in charge of the arrangements.

If you want to submit an obituary please request that the mortuary send it by email to:

[Suzanneh@pbpnation.org](mailto:Suzanneh@pbpnation.org) or to the following address:

Potawatomi News  
P.O. Box 116  
Mayetta, KS 66509

**In memory  
of  
Judy Gunn (Blandin)  
died  
October 26, 2010**

**In memory  
of  
Larosa M.  
Knoxsah  
died  
November 7, 2010  
Tucson, AZ**

**In memory  
of  
Teresa Looney  
Born: Mar. 27, 1956  
Died: October 28, 2010**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

**Holiday Craft & Bake Sale  
at the  
Prairie Band Casino & Resort  
12305 150 Rd  
Mayetta, KS 66509**

**Dec. 17-18  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

*Special performance by RV Singers & Dancers on  
Friday at 1:30 p.m.  
Talent Show on Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

Proceeds go to  
PBP Boys & Girls Club

For more details call Cheryl Hopkins at 785.966.3031  
or download flier at  
<http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/boys-and-girls-club.aspx>



*Make it a day of fun!*



**Don't miss the  
Native Holiday Flea Market  
at the  
Bingo Hall  
16281 Q Rd  
Mayetta, KS 66509**

**Dec. 17-18  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Proceeds go to  
Adoption of Family for Christmas**

**Breakfast & lunch concession by Lea Jim  
(No outside food or drink)**

For information call Sherri Landis  
785.966.2855 or 785.554.7060

# Photo gallery



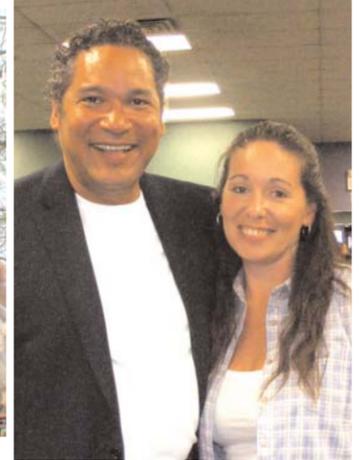
**Liana Onnen,  
General Manager**



**L to R: Pam Bowman, Linda Yazzie, and Tina Levier, Tribal Council Administrative aSistants**



**Alan "Boney" Pahmahmie,  
Road & Bridge**



**Jerry Briscoe, Health Center,  
and Ann DeCoteau,  
Finance Department**



**Rey Kitchkumme,  
Gaming Commissioner**



**L to R: Alice Potts, Rose Potts, Andrea Beam, and Rachael Keehn,  
We-Ta-Se Post #410 Auxiliary**



**Rebekah Jones and Kent Miller,  
Tribal Victims Assistance Program**



**L to R: Joan Pahmahmie, Martie Mitchell and Josie Pahmahmie, Tribal Members**



**Tom Wabnum,  
Tribal Member**



**L to R: Geraldine (Shopteese) Masqua and Lilly Hall, Tribal Members**



**Gary Mitchell,  
Gaming Commission Chair**



**Kristen Aitkens, Education Department, with daughter Eva Marie Wamego**

*Photos by  
Micki Martinez & Suzanne Heck*