

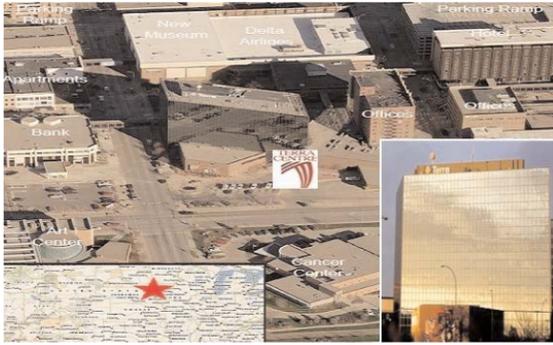


# Prairie Band Potawatomi News

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

**A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation  
Winter 2012**

## Prairie Band LLC announces acquisition of Terra Centre in Sioux City, Iowa



The photograph, left, shows an aerial view of downtown Sioux City with inset photos of the Terra Centre building (right) that Prairie Band LLC has recently invested in. The map (left inset) shows where Sioux City is located.

*For full story see page 6*

## Chairman Ortiz attends fourth annual White House Tribal Nations Conference

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Chairman Steve Ortiz attended the White House Tribal Nations Conference, Dec. 5 at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

President Barack Obama spoke at the conference to leaders of the 566 federally recognized tribes keeping with his former commitment to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with Indian Country.

In addition, officials from the

Department of Interior, Education, Commerce, Health and Human Services and Agriculture spoke at the conference and break-out sessions were also held during the day.

While in Washington, D.C., Chairman Ortiz also attended a National Congress of American Indian Preparatory meeting as part of his visit. He plans to return in January for a Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting.

## Salazar announces final steps on Cobell litigation and implementation of settlement

*Settlement includes land consolidation program to help promote tribal self-determination and strengthen economic development*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on Nov. 26 lauded the final approval of the Cobell settlement and outlined steps that Interior will take to help implement the historic \$3.4 billion settlement. The settlement resolves a long-running class action lawsuit regarding the U.S. government's trust management and historical accounting of individual American Indian trust accounts. It became final on November 24, 2012, following action by the Supreme Court and expiration of the appeal period.

"With the settlement now final, we can put years of discord behind us and start a new chapter in our nation-to-nation relationship," said Salazar. "Today marks another historic step forward in President Obama's agenda of reconciliation and empowerment for Indian Country and begins a new era of trust administration."

The settlement includes a \$1.5 billion fund to be distributed to class members for accounting and potential trust fund and asset mismanagement claims. The settlement also includes a \$1.9 billion fund for a land

consolidation program that allows for the voluntary sale of individual land interests that have "fractionated," or split among owners, over successive generations. Fractionated land can have many owners - sometimes hundreds or more - diminishing the land's value and making it difficult for individuals to use the land for agriculture, business development, or housing from which tribes can benefit. Up to \$60 million of the \$1.9 billion fund may be set aside to provide scholarships for American Indians and Alaska Natives to attend college or vocational school.

"This marks the historic conclusion of a contentious and long running period of litigation," said Hilary Tompkins, Solicitor for the Department of the Interior. "Through the hard work and good will of plaintiffs, Interior and Treasury officials and Department of Justice counsel, we are turning a new page and look forward to collaboratively working with Indian country to manage these important funds and assets."

### Payments to Claimants

The Claims Administrator will now begin overseeing disbursement of the \$1.5 billion to nearly 500,000 class members. The court previously approved GCG, Inc., as the Claims Administrator. The Department of the Treasury will transfer the \$1.5 billion to an account at JP Morgan Chase, a bank approved by the court. Per the terms of the settlement agreement, Interior's Office of the Special Trustee (OST) has assisted GCG with its database by supplying contact information of individual class members from its records.

"We will continue to work with GCG to ensure it has the information it needs to make expeditious and accurate payments," Deputy Secretary of the Interior David J. Hayes said. "At the same time, we're focused on making meaningful improvements to our trust administration so that we're more transparent, responsive and accountable in managing these substantial funds and assets."

*(Continued on page 3)*

<b>Coming up!</b>		<b>Jan. 19</b>	<b>General Council Meeting</b>
<b>Dec. 24, 25</b>	<b>PBP Government &amp; Health Centers closed Christmas</b>	<b>Jan. 21</b>	<b>PBP Government &amp; Health Centers closed Martin Luther King Day</b>
<b>Dec. 31, Jan. 1 (2013)</b>	<b>PBP Government &amp; Health Centers closed New Years</b>	<b>Feb. 18</b>	<b>PBP Government &amp; Health Centers closed President's Day</b>

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



Last quarter has been a busy time for Tribal Council and the PBPN.

During the last week in September I was asked to be a panelist at the 29th Annual Consumer Conference with the National Indian Health Board Conference in Denver on Sept. 26, and on Sept. 28 Tribal Council and I met with two directors from the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Services organization who were visiting the tribes in Kansas and came to the Council chambers to meet with us.

October was kicked off by my attending the Haskell Student Convocation in Lawrence, Kan. on Oct. 2, and on Oct. 4 I traveled to Oklahoma City where I attended a meeting with the Oklahoma City Area Inter-tribal Health Board (OCAITHB) (EPI meeting) and then returned for an Oct. 9 quarterly meeting). On Oct. 17 I traveled to Chicago where I was a speaker at the Midwest Native American Economic Development Conference and got to share information about how our Nation is utilizing its economic development opportunities. Back in Kansas, on Oct. 21 I attended the celebration of the canonization of Native American Saint Kateri Tekakwitha that was held at Our Lady of the Snows church on the reservation that drew over 450 people. Archbishop Joseph A. Naumann from Kansas City, Mo. was the homilist and main celebrant that day and I was pleased to have met him previously to tell him about the community and history of the Prairie Band people.

To finish out the month, I represented the PBPN at the signing of a proclamation by Gov. Brownback regarding November as Native American Heritage Month along with other tribal representatives and leaders.

In November I was a guest speaker at the American Indian Enterprise and Business Council in Kansas City on Nov. 1 and on Nov. 13 I attended a KanCare Advisory Council meeting with the State in Topeka. KanCare will consist of privatized health insurance carriers and is replacing the State's health care system that is scheduled for operation in 2013.

Following that, I gave opening remarks on Nov. 15 and 16 to participants at the 2nd Annual Inter-tribal Solutions Cooking Class that was offered to tribal members from the four tribes in Kansas and sponsored by AARP of Kansas, Kickapoo Diabetes Coalition and the Association of American Indian Physicians. In addition, on the evening of Nov. 15 I attended the PBPN community Harvest Feast that featured traditional foods and was hosted by the Diabetes Program. On Nov. 20 I attended the Four tribes quarterly meeting held at the Kickapoo Indian reservation near Horton, Kan.

In honor of Native American Heritage month on Nov. 27, I was asked to be the keynote speaker at a dinner for Ft. Riley's First Infantry Division's Equal Opportunity Office and several PBPN members and staff also accompanied me to the event where they performed or were there on behalf of the tribe. The next day, back in the office, I met with Kevin Meeks and Max Tahsuda who are with the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Services.

The first week in December was spent in Washington, D.C. where I attended the 4th Annual White House Tribal Nations Conference at the Department of Interior and was also a tribal leader along with Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs and Jodi Gillette, Senior Policy

Advisor for Native American Affairs, at a Law Enforcement/Disaster Relief break-out session. During my stay, I also attended a Preparatory Meeting sponsored by the National Congress of American Indians.

On Dec. 12 I gave opening remarks at a We-Ta-Se American Legion Post #410 breakfast meeting with special American Legion guests Glenn Hickman, Midwest Region Area National Vice Commander, and Department of Kansas Commanders. Paul Sanford and Gaylord Sanneman.

The Tribal Council and I are pleased with the departments and programs that are sponsoring many holiday gift drives presently taking place to help people in need and are looking forward to the Christmas luncheon for employees on Dec. 21.

Next year's calendar is already filling up fast with more meetings and events scheduled at the national, state and local level that members of the Tribal Council and I are planning to attend. In the meantime, we will be preparing our reports for the next General Council meeting on Jan. 19 and hoping to get in some quality time with our families during the Christmas and New Year's breaks. Until then, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Steve (Monwah) Ortiz

Tribal Chairman

### Notice to Tribal Members

**At the October 19, 2012 General Council meeting, members attending requested formation of a Constitution Committee with members to be selected at the Jan. 19, 2013 meeting.**

**Those interested in serving on the committee should submit their names to the Tribal Secretary's office by Jan. 15, 2013 to be presented to General Council for approval.**

**At this point, seven (7) members will form the committee.**

**Please send a letter of interest to:**

**Attention: James M. Potter  
Office of the Tribal Secretary  
16281 Q Road  
Mayetta, KS 66509**

**Or by email: [jmpotter@pbpnation.org](mailto:jmpotter@pbpnation.org)  
Or by fax: 785-966-3935**

**Or hand deliver by the end of the business day**

### Potawatomi News

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### 2013 Potawatomi News schedule

**Spring issue: News deadline-March 1; Mailed out -March 27**

**Summer issue: News deadline-June 3; Mailed out-June 26**

**Fall issue: News deadline-Sept. 3; Mailed out-Sept. 25**

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

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

The Nation's budgets for 2013 have been completed and approved and a special open-meeting for tribal members was held on December 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m to review it at the Bingo Hall.

Tribal members were invited to the meeting by a General Council postal mail out that included an invitation letter, and a W-9 tax form that all members need to update and send in to the Per Capita office (see page 5). Thank you to those who have already sent in a W-9 form as this helps the Nation have the appropriate forms in place in order to be compliant with our policies.

In other news, I also held a financial workshop with the Boys and Girls Club on Nov. 17 (see article below) and I was very

pleased with the willingness of the teens to participate in all of the planned activities. Shawn Spruce, from First Nations, also helped lead the workshop and had prepared activities for discussion like how to: read a credit report, utility bill statement, and make a budget. Teens were also taught the basics of investments.

Lastly, we are formalizing an office in the Government Center for our new Tax Department and we have a webpage on the Tax Commission that can be found at

<http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/tax-commission.aspx>



### Tribal Council Treasurer Hattie Mitchell gives Personal Finance Workshop to Boys & Girls Club youth

Tribal Council treasurer Hattie Mitchell gave a workshop on learning about personal finances Nov. 17 at the Boys & Girls Club.

Eighteen youth participated in the workshop that involved learning how to be on a budget, understanding credit, dealing with consumer issues like buying a car and insurance, investing, retirement, and managing per capita and/or lump sum payments.

Mitchell has a CPA from Washburn University and before she was elected Tribal Council treasurer last summer, she worked in finance at Security Benefit Life and for

Harrah's Prairie Band Casino (now Prairie Band Casino & Resort). She was raised on the Prairie Band Potawatomi reservation.

The workshop was open to PBPN youth and their families and also included refreshments, door prizes, and games.

Boys & Girls Club Director Nathan Hale and Cheryl Hopkins also assisted Mitchell during the workshop.



Hattie Mitchell presented a workshop on skills needed to make the most of personal finances on Nov. 17 at the Boys & Girls Club.

Contact Hattie Mitchell, Treasurer  
at  
email: [hattiem@pbpnation.org](mailto:hattiem@pbpnation.org)  
phone: 785-966-4004

## Cobell litigation and settlement

(Continued from page 1)

### Trust Land Consolidation Program

The Department of the Interior will use \$1.9 billion from the Trust Land Consolidation Fund to acquire interests in trust and restricted lands that have "fractionated" over successive generations since the 1880s.

Individual owners will be paid fair market value for such interests with the understanding that the acquired interests will remain in trust and be consolidated for beneficial use by tribal communities. Interested sellers may convey their fractional interests on a voluntary basis. Currently, there are over 2.9 million fractional interests owned by approximately 260,000 individuals.

While the settlement was pending, Interior held a

series of consultation meetings with tribes in 2011 to ensure that this landmark program incorporates tribal priorities and promotes tribal participation in reducing land fractionation in a timely and efficient way. These discussions informed a draft land consolidation plan released in February of 2012. Interior is incorporating public comments and expects to release an updated plan by the end of the year for additional consultation.

"The land consolidation program is our chance to begin to solve a fractionation problem that has plagued Indian country for decades," said Interior Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn. "We are anxious to get started. We know that Interior's continued outreach through consultations with Indian Country is a crucial component to accomplishing truly open government-to-government

communication."

Congress approved the Cobell settlement on November 30, 2010 as part of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010. President Obama signed the legislation on December 8, 2010. The district court approved the Cobell settlement on August 4, 2011 and it has been upheld through the appeals process.

**For additional information about the individual class-action payments, please contact GCG, Inc. at 1-800-961-6109 or via email at [Info@IndianTrust.com](mailto:Info@IndianTrust.com)**

**For additional information on the Trust Land Consolidation Program, please visit <http://www.doi.gov/cobell/index.cfm>**

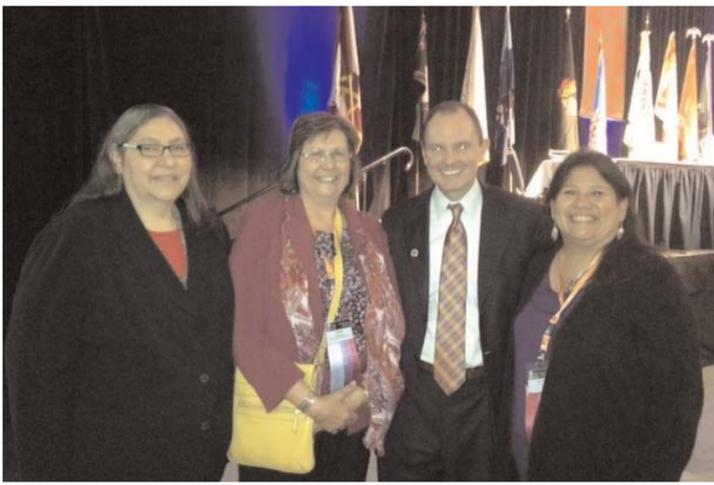
## Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation receives settlement funds

MAYETTA (Oct. 11, 2012): Twelve years ago the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation filed claims against the United States for mismanagement of tribal trust accounts, assets and resources. Last year, The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation entered into negotiations for purposes of settling ongoing litigation. The settlement agreement was finalized this summer. Chairman Steve "Mon-wah" Ortiz announced that the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has now received its net settlement proceeds in the amount of \$1,366,344.47.

The tribes may use these settlement funds for various purposes including establishing loan programs, financing social service groups, improving infrastruc-

ture on reservations, undertaking environmental initiatives and making per capita payments to their members. Pursuant to an IRS Notice from August of this year, per capita payments made to tribal members that are the proceeds of an agreement between the United States and an Indian tribe settling the tribe's claims of mismanaged trust assets shall be excluded from the gross income of the tribal members (see IRS Notice 2012-60).

The PBPN Tribal Council is considering options for the use of the settlement funds in the near future.



Tribal Council members Joyce Guerrero (second from left) and Carrie O'Toole (far right) attended the 69th National Congress of American Indians Conference held in Sacramento, California Oct. 21-26. Also, in the photo is Nedra Darling, Public Affairs Director for the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and a PBPN member, and Kevin K. Washburn, the new Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. Not pictured is Tom Wabnum, Tribal Council member, who also attended the conference.

### Chairman Ortiz panelist at Economic Development Conference

Chairman Steve Ortiz spoke at the Midwest Native American Economic Development Conference in Chicago Oct. 17. The purpose of the conference was to share information on creating economic development opportunities for future generations.

Ortiz was one of six panelists who participated in a Tribal Leaders Roundtable that discussed how their tribes are utilizing various approaches to economic development to shape the welfare of their people. Other panelists on the roundtable included: Gus

Frank (Forest County Potawatomi); Vince DelaRosa (Oneida Tribe of Indians); Larry Romanelli (Little River Band of Ottawa); Kevin Leecy (Bois Forte Band of Chippewa), and Rochanne Hackett, Managing Director, National Gaming Development.

The two-day conference explored economic topics like project financing, legislation, gaming, construction, renewable energy projects and sovereignty and also gave tribal leaders and professionals an opportunity to network with each other.



Kevin Meeks (fifth from left) and Marjorie Rogers (third), who are from the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Services, stopped in to pay a visit with Tribal Council on September 28. Tribal Council members in the photo (left to right) are Junior Wahweotten, Jim Potter, Hattie Mitchell and Steve Ortiz. The Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Services serves tribes in Kansas, Oklahoma and portions of Texas.

### Ortiz speaks at National Indian Health Board Conference in Denver

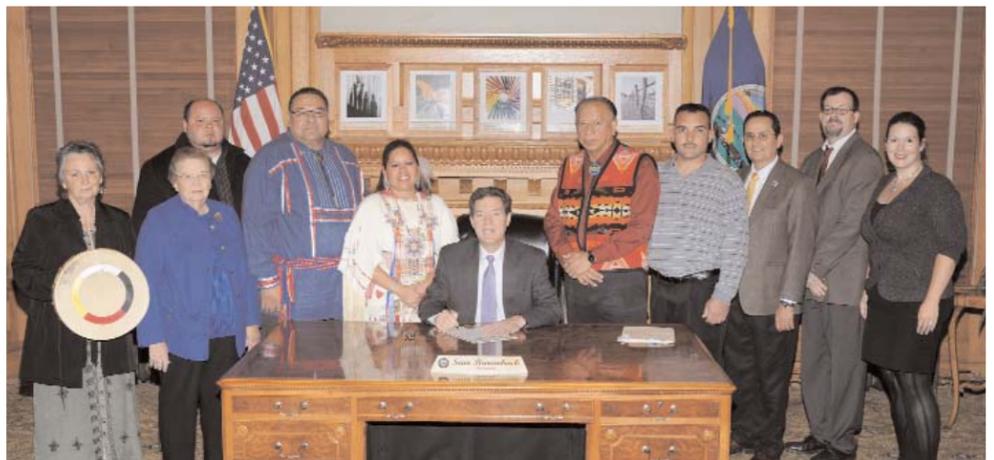


The group above participated as a panel in the National Indian Health Board's 29th Annual Consumer Conference on Sept. 26. Left to right: Lane Terwilliger, attorney for Center for Medicaid & State Operations, Elliott A. Milhollin, attorney/partner with Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker LLP, Jay Steiner, representative of National Indian Urban Board, Ken Lucero, co-chairman of the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC), and Steve Ortiz, co-chairman of STAC and PBPN chairman.

PBPN Chairman Steve Ortiz travelled to Denver to participate as one of the speakers of the National Indian Health Board's 40th Anniversary and 29th Annual Consumer Conference in September.

The conference revolved around activities including Tribal Consultations conducted by federal agencies like the Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs and other federal agencies. There were also workshops including those on Federal Tribal/State Relations, Public Health Issues, Diabetes, Health Information Technology, Behavioral Health, and Medicare/Medicaid Changes. In addition, other activities at the four-day conference included a pow-wow and the 2nd Annual Native Youth Track.

### Native American Heritage Month proclamation signed by Governor Brownback at Capitol



PBPN Chairman Steve Ortiz (fourth from left) attended a proclamation signing ceremony to recognize November as Native American Heritage Month in Kansas on Oct. 26 at the Capitol. Governor Sam Brownback (sitting) signed the proclamation to honor the history and culture of American Indians and their influence and impact on the State of Kansas. Others in the photo (left to right): Laura Bond (Topeka Daughters of American Revolution); Mary Ellen Norris (Topeka Daughters of American Revolution); Tim Rhodd (Iowa Tribe); Rep. Ponka-We Victors (Kansas District Representative); Steve Cadue (Kickapoo Tribe); Tony Fee (Iowa Tribe); Stephen Prue (Haskell Indian Nations University); Michael Zogry (University of Kansas), and Elizabeth Ann Kronk (University of Kansas).

*(Photo courtesy of Governor's Media Office)*

### Charitable Contributions quarterly distributions

•Audio Reader	\$ 1,000
•Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 2,000
•Community Advocates for Social Enrichment	\$ 2,500
•Easter Seals Capper Foundation	\$ 5,000
•Four Winds Native Center	\$ 2,000
•Heart of Jackson Humane Society	\$ 1,000
•Housing & Credit Counseling Inc.	\$ 5,000
•Jackson Heights Educational Foundation	\$ 1,000
•Kansas Specialty Dog Service (KSDS), Inc.	\$ 3,000
•Morning Star Inc.	\$ 2,000
•Holton Community Hospital	\$ 3,600
•USD #337 Royal Valley	\$10,000
•Sheltered Living Inc.	\$ 2,500
•TARC	\$ 5,000
•Topeka Public Schools Indian Education Program	\$ 1,300
•Topeka Symphony	\$ 1,000
•Topeka Youth Project	\$ 2,000
• Three Rivers Inc.	\$ 5,000
•Topeka Performing Arts Center	\$ 3,500
•Washburn University Foundation	\$ 5,000
 Total	 \$63,400

### Next PBPN election in 2013 for two seats on the Gaming Commission

The Potawatomi Tribal Gaming Commission is the nation's regulatory entity for all gaming enterprises. The commission issues gaming licenses and is responsible for ensuring all gaming employees undergo background investigations.

It should be noted that the gaming commission does not oversee the daily operational management of the casino but is primarily concerned with adhering to Indian gaming regulations enacted through the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

The purpose of regulation is to provide a statutory basis for the operation of gaming as a means of promoting economic development, self-sufficiency, and strong national governments. Furthermore, regulation is needed to shield the nation from organized crime and other corrupting influences.

These measures ensure that the nation is the primary beneficiary of the gaming operation and that the operator and players conduct that gaming fairly and honestly.

The Potawatomi Tribal Gaming Commission is elected by the Nation's General Council to serve four-year terms. The Potawatomi Tribal Gaming Commission, initiated in 1994, is recognized as a political subdivision of the Nation receiving funding from a small percentage of the casino's gross operating revenue. The commission regulates all gaming activities under Title 12 of the Potawatomi Law and Order Code.

In 2011 Tribal Council chose to reduce the number of commissioners from five to three seats that was approved by the National Indian Gaming Commission in February 2012.

The Gaming Commission offices are located at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort.

Election notices will be sent by mail to registered members later on this spring.

### Tax Commission up and running *info available on tribal website*

In order to strengthen and preserve the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation as a sovereign government, a Prairie Band Potawatomi Tax Commission was formed and appointed by the Tribal Council as the tribe's designated taxing authority. Information about the Tax Commission can be found in the PBPN Law and Order Codes under Title 10 (General Taxation) and Title 13 (Business Licensing) which is designed to outline simple, fair, straightforward and efficient procedures to be used for the licensing and regulating of certain conduct, and the levy and collection of certain taxes.

Members of the Tax Commission include three (3) members who are appointed by Tribal Council are Hattie Mitchell, treasurer, Jim Potter, secretary, and Amanda Barbosa, director of finance. A full time tax director has also been hired who is housed in the upper level of the PBP Government Center.

The Tax Commission webpage can be found at [www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com) under Government and is listed under Tax Commission. The following documents can be downloaded:

- PBPN Business License Application
- PBPN Renewal Business License Application
- PBPN Tobacco Wholesaler or Retailer License Application
- PBPN Tobacco Wholesaler or Retailer License Monthly Report Form

For information contact the Tax Office at 785.966.3998.

### Renew W-9 Forms for Per Capita Distributions

An important statement from PBPN Director of Finance Amanda Barbosa: "Please renew the W-9 form with the PBPN Per Capita Department as soon as possible."

The W-9 form can be downloaded at [www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com) and must be filled out and signed and sent to:

PBPN Per Capita Office  
Attention: Jim Garcia  
16281 Q Road  
Mayetta, KS 66509-9114

**Fax to 785-966-3917**

This is required for all future Per Capita Payments/Disbursements. Failure to return the W-9 form could stop future Per Capita/Disbursement payments owed to you. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Garcia at 785-966-3993.

### Peggy Houston named General Manager of Tribal Operations

Peggy Houston, PBPN, was named the General Manager of Tribal Operations and began her duties on Dec. 17. Her office will be located in the Government Center.

Houston last worked for the PBPN when she was on the casino management transition team with Dan Kennedy in 2006-2007. Prior to that, she was the Manager of Guest and Human Relations for Harrah's Prairie Band Casino. She has several years of management experience in the Indian gaming industry.

### Prairie Band featured at Ft. Riley First Infantry Division Native American Heritage Month observance

Several members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation participated in a luncheon event in honor of Native American Heritage Month that was sponsored by the First Infantry Division's Equal Opportunity Office at the Ft. Riley (Kan.) conference center Nov. 27.

Steve Ortiz, chairman, was the keynote speaker and Garrett Rodewald, 13, a student at Royal Valley Middle School, read a PBPB Tribal Council Resolution in support of the month. For entertainment several PBPB elders traditionally danced in their regalia while Gubba Hale sang and drummed for the group.

First Infantry Division Brigadier General Donald M. MacWillie, was also a speaker during the presentation that was organized by SFC Sandra Duhart, SFC Frank Desario, and SFC George Vazquez from the Equal Opportunity Office.

SFC Desario moderated the event that also

included a Native American food sampling.

For their involvement, the PBPB was given a certificate of appreciation from the soldiers and, likewise, in a show of friendship, Chairman Ortiz presented General MacWillie with a Pendleton blanket.

In addition, during his speech General MacWillie recognized Glenn Levier, who was one of the dancers, and Steve Ortiz for their military service in Vietnam.

History teacher Nathan McAlister from Royal Valley Middle School was also at the event and was accompanied by several of his stu-

dents who were all tribal members.

In addition, members of Garrett Rodewald's family attended the presentation along with Administrative Assistant Linda Yazzie and News Editor Suzi Heck.



Left to right: Garrett Rodewald, Steve Ortiz and Gen. Donald MacWillie.



PBPB singers and dancers with Chairman Ortiz and soldiers from the First Infantry Division during a Native American Heritage Month observance at Ft. Riley Nov. 27.



Royal Valley students, who are all PBPB, photographed with Gen. MacWillie and their teacher. From left to right, is Blake Garrison, Josie Matsapto, Phlyte Wishteyah, Gen. MacWillie, Samantha Rupnick, Garrett Rodewald, Brendon Rodewald and teacher Nathan McAlister.

### Tribal Attorney visits KU



PBPB Tribal Attorney Vivien Olsen, left, visited with University of Kansas students last fall about her work position during an Indigenous Studies class that was also cosponsored by the Kansas Native American Affairs office.

### PBPB voice concern to State over voter ID

Some tribal members ran into problems on election day at the Jackson County Courthouse when trying to use their tribal identification cards to vote and Chairman Steve Ortiz and the Tribal Council took action on the matter by notifying Kansas Governor Brownback's office the next day about the problem.

In a letter drafted to Brownback from Ortiz, some Jackson County election staff questioned the validity of the tribal ID card since it had no address on it and some staff were simply unaware that tribal IDs could be used.

In response, Brownback's Secretary of State Kris W. Kobach replied in a letter to Ortiz dated Nov. 29 that his office looked into the problem and that there had been a period of time when the tribal IDs were questioned by election staff but that the problem was quickly resolved after an

inquiry to Kobach's office that same day.

This was the first year in Kansas that people were required to show proof of citizenship through photo identification. When Kansas legislation originally introduced the bill tribal identifications were left out as a legitimate form of voter identification. Through a push by the Kansas Democratic Party, the American Civil Liberties Union, and Kansas tribal leaders and their legal teams, SB 129 was signed in June by Gov. Brownback that allows the right of tribal members to use their tribal identification cards at the polls.

Other counties in Kansas also reported problems with the new voter ID requirement that some argue is an unnecessary obstruction to the constitutional right to vote in the election system.

### International visitors learn about PBPB and Native community



Left photo: Visitors from El Salvador stopped at the Government Center last November to learn about the PBPB government. In the photo (right) front row, left to right, is Carrie O'Toole, Carmen Arqueta, and Ana Rodriguez. On the back row, left to right, is Sara O'Keefe, Hattie Mitchell and Derek Wamego. Arqueta and Rodriguez were the visitors from El Salvador and O'Keefe is from Topeka, and acted as their interpreter. O'Toole and Mitchell are on the Tribal Council and Wamego works in Social Services. He escorted the two visitors on a tour of the reservation where they learned about other departments and places.



## Salazar finalizes reforms to streamline leasing, spur economic development on 56 million acres of American Indian trust land

### Rule removes roadblocks to residential, commercial, renewable energy development; restores greater leasing control to tribal governments

WASHINGTON (Nov. 27) - As part of President Obama's commitment to empower tribal nations and strengthen their economies, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn announced final regulations that will streamline the leasing approval process on Indian land, spurring increased homeownership, and expediting business and commercial development, including renewable energy projects.

The comprehensive reform, informed by nation-to-nation tribal consultations and public comment, overhauls antiquated regulations governing the Bureau of Indian Affairs' process for approving the surface leases on lands the federal government holds in trust for Indian tribes and individuals. As trustee, Interior manages about 56 million surface acres in Indian Country.

"This reform will expand opportunities for individual landowners and tribal governments to generate investment and create jobs in their communities by bringing greater transparency and workability to the Bureau of Indian Affairs leasing process," Secretary Salazar said. "This final step caps the most comprehensive reforms of Indian land leasing regulations in more than 50 years and will have a lasting impact on individuals and families who want to own a home or build a business on Indian land."

"This reform is about supporting self-determination for Indian Nations and was developed in

close consultation with tribal leaders," said Assistant Secretary Washburn. "The streamlined, commonsense rule replaces a process ill-suited for economic development of Indian lands and provides flexibility and certainty to tribal communities and individuals regarding decisions on the use of their land."

The new rule complements and helps to implement the recently-passed Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act (HEARTH Act), which allows federally recognized tribes to assume greater control of leasing on tribal lands. The HEARTH Act was signed into law by President Obama on July 30, 2012.

Previous BIA regulations, established in 1961, are outdated and unworkable in today's economy. They lacked a defined process or deadlines for review, which resulted in simple mortgage applications often languishing for several years awaiting approval from the federal government. These types of delays have been significant obstacles to homeownership and economic development on tribal lands.

The new regulation, effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, will fundamentally change the way the BIA does business, in many ways by minimizing BIA's role and restoring greater control to tribal governments. The final rule provides clarity by identifying specific processes - with enforceable timelines - through which the BIA must review leases.

The regulation also establishes separate, simplified processes for residential, business, and renewable energy development, rather than using a "one-size fits all" approach that treats a lease for a single family home the same as a lease for a large wind energy project.

The new process provides a 30 day-limit for the BIA to issue decisions on residential leases, subleases, and mortgages. For commercial or industrial development, the BIA would have 60-days to review leases and subleases. If the BIA does not complete its review of subleases in this timeframe, those agreements will automatically go into effect.

The new rule increases flexibility in compensations and land valuations, with BIA deferring to the tribe's negotiated value for a lease of tribal land rather than requiring additional, costly appraisals. Other changes eliminate the requirement for BIA approval of permits for certain short-term activities on Indian lands, and supports landowner decisions regarding the use of their land by requiring the BIA to approve leases unless it finds a compelling reason to disapprove.

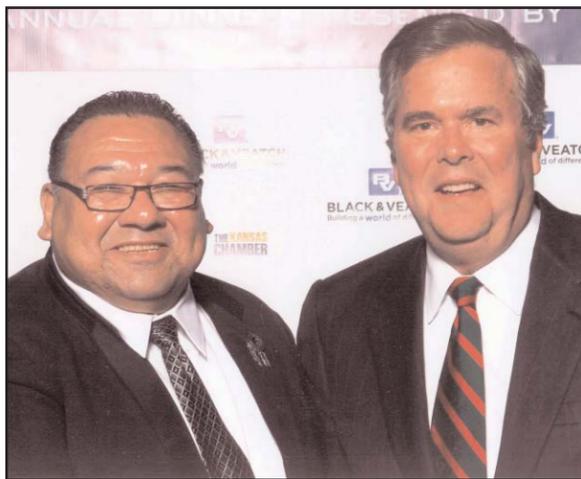
Led by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Donald E. ("Del") Laverdure, Interior conducted several rounds of consultation in 2011 and 2012 to develop the proposed and the final regulations. The comments received in writing and during the public meetings helped inform the final regulations that have been announced.

### Tribal Realty office name changed to Tribal Land office

In October Tribal Council changed the name of what was formerly known as the Tribal Realty office to the Tribal Land office. The office is located in the Government Center and is administered by Steve Duryea.

The Potawatomi Tribal Land office is responsible for executing the Nation's fee-to-trust applications, facilitating land-purchases, right-of-way and easement agreements, and is responsible for maintaining land records including purchase documents, appraisals, reports, maps, etc. The Potawatomin Tribal Land office also acts as a liaison between the Nation and the BIA, as well as other necessary agencies, in regards to the Nation's land business. All tasks are conducted with guidance from Tribal Council through the General Manager.

For more information, please contact the Potawatomi Tribal Land office at (785) 966-3928 or fax (785) 966-3908.



Chairman Steve Ortiz with Jeb Bush, former Governor of Florida and brother of former President George W. Bush, at the Kansas Chamber Annual dinner held last winter.

(Photo submitted by the Kansas Chamber)



Tribal Council member Tom Wabnum, second from left, gave a tour of the Government Center on Oct. 8. Others in the photo include Daniel Martinez, far left, and Julie and Patrick O'Brien, to the right of Wabnum in the photo. The three visitors are from Topeka and Martinez is also a tribal member.

### 2013 General Council Meetings

- Jan. 19
- April 20
- July 20
- Oct. 19

### Four-tribes meeting held

A four-tribes of Kansas meeting was held on Nov. 20 on the Kickapoo reservation near Horton, Kan. that was attended by Chairman Steve Ortiz and Carrie O'Toole from the PBPN Tribal Council.

## Prairie Band, LLC launches new website

Prairie Band, LLC has a new website at [www.prairiebandllc.com/](http://www.prairiebandllc.com/) that began October 18.

The website includes information about the company and is divided into sections including the company's profile, information about its subsidiaries, employment opportunities, and press releases. There are also links to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPB) website, Prairie Band Casino & Resort and Firekeeper Golf Course.

In 2010, the PBPB created Prairie Band LLC, which is a wholly-owned company with the purpose of expanding the Tribe's interests beyond Indian gaming. Since that time, the company has established internal operations, created new subsidiaries and oversees Mayetta Oil Company and Firekeeper Golf Course, which are tribal businesses.

Visit

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

## Prairie Band, LLC invests in Terra Centre building in Sioux City

Prairie Band, LLC was among a group of investors who officially acquired the Terra Centre, the tallest and most prominent building in the Sioux City metropolitan area on Sept. 26. Prairie Band, LLC owns 34% of 4th Street Centre, LLC the company formed to own and operate the Terra Centre. Donald Dunham Jr., the 4th Street Centre, LLC founder will serve as the member of the company responsible for day-to-day property management of the Terra Centre.

"We have been diligently working on this deal for the last few months and we are happy to have the acquisition complete. This investment provides Prairie Band, LLC huge appreciation potential with limited associated risk. Mr. Dunham is well versed in property management and has a successful proven track record. We are confident that we will reach our target occupancy rates and that this investment will provide us solid returns," said Burton Warrington, President and CEO of Prairie Band, LLC.

The Terra Centre was originally constructed in 1983 and served as the long time corporate headquarters of Terra Industries, in addition to offering premier corporate offices for Sioux City businesses. In 2010 Terra Industries was acquired by CF Industries who subsequently relocated the Sioux City operations to CF's corporate headquarters in Illinois. In total the 10-story building has over 181,400 square feet of rentable space and has many long time tenants such as Wells Fargo and the U.S. Attorney's Office. The building's occupancy rate is close to 60% and now that the sale is complete the company is working under a letter of intent with a new anchor to fill the space vacated by Terra's operations.

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

## Prairie Band Health Services gaining federal contracting momentum

Prairie Band Health Services (PBHS), a subsidiary of Prairie Band, LLC, is continuing to build momentum as a company and was recently one of six companies awarded the Western Physicians MATO Contract from the United States Navy. Under the contract PBHS and the five other companies will provide competitive bids to the Navy to fill task orders for 255 physicians positions and 37 other medical personnel positions.

"We have been working to build PBHS's federal contracting capacity and we are starting to see the results of that work. Our work is far from over though. Once the task orders are released we need to focus on providing competitive bids to the government and wait for the task orders to be awarded." said Burton Warrington, President and CEO of Prairie Band, LLC

In March of 2011 PBHS was awarded a contract from the United States Navy to provide services at 29 Palms and Lemoore Military Bases in California.

PBHS currently provides emergency room physicians for the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital at 29 Palms Military Base. PBHS is also preparing to start 6 additional positions under that contract including 3 Licensed Clinical Social Workers, a Pharmacist, a Registered Nurse and a Substance Abuse Counselor.

PBHS is a healthcare management staffing company that provides cost effective, comprehensive healthcare solutions for the federal government and corporate clients throughout the United States. PBHS offers a vast range of services that include recruiting, credentialing and placement of clinical, technical and administrative professional personnel for numerous federal military bases and private commercial clients.

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

## Burton Warrington named to Native American Contractors Association Board of Directors

Burton Warrington, Prairie Band, LLC's chief executive officer, was recently appointed to the Native American Contractors Association (NACA) that is based in Washington, D.C.

"The staff and current board of NACA are happy to welcome our board members from across the country," said Kevin Allis, Executive Director, in a news release disseminated by NACA Nov. 9. "Today's election reflects our diversity with four (4) new board members representing tribes from the lower 48 and two (2) board members from Alaska. By engaging new and current leaders, we can enhance services to our membership and succeed in preserving Native American participation in the 8(a) program."

NACA is a national Native advocacy organization that represents tribal, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations across the country.

NACA seeks to protect the economic self-sufficiency of American's indigenous people that is enhanced through the participation of its members in the SBA 8(a) program. NACA's members represent and provide benefits for nearly 700,000 tribal members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.



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KS 66509

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

## Departments work together to improve places and buildings

### Bingo Hall gets renovation

The Bingo Hall has been renovated. In the kitchen, all the drywall was removed and replaced along with the ceiling tiles and installation of new lights. Kitchen appliances were either cleaned or totally replaced and a fresh coat of paint has brightened the place.

In the main hall of the building, painting is being done, a former mirror window has been removed, and a new screen projector with audio visual capabilities has been added with the help of the IT department.



The Maintenance Department has been busy for the last few months renovating the Bingo Hall. In the photo above, workers stop to pose in the kitchen. Left to right, is Philip Jim, Jr., Robbie Lange, Chuck Jacobson, Was-keh (Matthew) Littleaxe and David Daubon.

### New technology in the Government Center



A new 70-inch video monitor was recently installed in the Tribal Council chambers. Construction Maintenance/Director Carl Matousek (photo left, far right) supervised the installation that was completed with the help of Ben Joslin, IT Director (photo, right).



### Maintenance employees get certified by Westar Energy

Four PBPB Construction/Maintenance employees have been certified as Level I Westar Energy building operators which allows them to maintain the PBPB's buildings with greater knowledge and energy efficiency.

Sam Mitchell, Robbie Lange, Carl Matousek and Jim Harvey earned their certifications through rigorous coursework and training and passing an exam. The course took six-months to complete.

### Merry Christmas from Construction/Maintenance & Road & Bridge



### In memory of Jim Magee

Born: Dec. 19, 1942  
Died: Oct. 19, 2012



Left: The Maintenance Department's landscapers have been making big improvements in the islands located in the Government Center parking lot and on other places on the PBPB reservation.

In addition, the Government Center parking lot received asphalt and other seal repairs last fall by crews from the Road & Bridge Department.

## Road & Bridge news

### Road & Bridge on-site training



The Road & Bridge department held an on-site training at their headquarters Nov. 5-8 that was taught by Bill Heiden, a registered professional engineer and retired land surveyor. During the four-day training, he discussed many facets of road design and maintenance, and also included information on subjects like running a department like a business.

### Generator installation



Road & Bridge had a generator installed that will be useful when power outages occur and the crews have to stay working on the job. The generator was installed on Nov. 7 and was activated a few days later. The electrical work was done by Shawn Kelly (Kelly Electric of Topeka) and PBPB electrician Jim Harvey who are pictured above, left to right.



It took a semi truck to bring the generator to Road & Bridge and another crane truck to help install it on its base outside of the building. Later on, conduits were placed in the ground by the PBPB electrical team as one of the steps in getting the generator ready when it is needed in the future.

## Meet Tribal Police Officer Cassandra Hofich

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

*This series introduces Cassandra Hofich:*

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

**A:** I am a Tribal Police officer, a School Resource officer (SRO) and the department evidence custodian. I received special training to become an SRO and began working for Royal Valley School District which includes three schools in 2011. Last June, I also received special training to become an instructor for the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program and am presently teaching a 13-week program to sixth-grade students and will teach a 6-week program this spring to fourth-grade students.

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

**A:** A little over a year. I began on Aug. 1, 2011.

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

**A:** No.

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

**A:** I have a Bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement from a university in Minnesota.

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

**A:** I have volunteer experience as a Police Explorer

and a Police Reserve at multiple agencies in Minnesota but I was never a sworn full-time officer there. I began my professional career as a deputy at a sheriff's office in southwest Iowa for 2 1/2 years and ended my employment as a K9 handler.

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

**A:** I attended a reciprocity class at the KLETC which allowed me to receive credit for my previous work experience and education thereby not having to attend the full term at the academy.

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

**A:** Besides my recent training in Kansas, I also have an inactive Minnesota peace officer license having attended an 8-week academy there. In Iowa, I also attended an 8-week academy. I have learned that as a police officer you are never done learning on the job. Things constantly change and evolve in this career.

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

**A:** It is an honor to work for this agency and to serve the community and its citizens. I like having a variety of different responsibilities and I truly enjoy working with the youth in the community and in the schools. I strive to have a positive impact on the youth and hope my efforts also influence a positive relationship between law enforcement and the com-

munity.

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

**A:** I have already achieved a goal in having different responsibilities within the department and having received some quality training in various aspects of law enforcement.

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

**A:** I am from the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area (I still have a little bit of my Minnesota accent). I do not have any family here but I surround myself with good friends and I enjoy my time with them. I play various sports in different communities and also enjoy different hobbies. And, I love this area of Kansas. Lastly, I consider it to be an honor to be a law enforcement officer and I will continue to strive to serve the community as part of the Tribal Police Department with the highest integrity.



**Cassandra Hofich**

**Officer Hofich with Avante Jessepe who dressed as a police officer for Halloween.**



## Young people learning through G.R.E.A.T. program being taught at Royal Valley



*Photo by Micki Martinez*

**G.R.E.A.T.**  
which stands for  
**Gang Resistance Education And Training**  
teaches learning life skills to help  
avoid delinquent and violent behaviors

The Tribal Police Department and the Royal Valley School District have teamed together to participate in a nationally known program called the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) curricula that is based on preventing gangs and violence and was introduced last fall.

The purpose of the program is to teach students and their family members about learning life skills that will help them avoid delinquent and violence behavior problems.

Patrol Officer Cassandra Hofich has been trained to be a G. R.E.A.T. instructor and began teaching a 13-week course to sixth grade students at Royal Valley last fall. She will also teach another shorter course to fourth graders this spring.

G.R.E.A.T. has developed partnerships with nationally recognized organizations that are encouraging positive relationships in communities, with parents, schools and the law enforcement agencies.

There are four components to the G.R.E.A.T. curricula that include programs designed for middle school, elementary school, families, and summer courses.



Some of the learning tools involve interactive teaching sessions, behavior rehearsal segments, question and answer periods, and the use of other learning models of prevention like bullying and family violence.

**The Tribal Police Department participated in National Take-Back Day on Sept. 29 and collected 40 pounds!**

**As a collection site in Kansas Tribal Police have collected over 130 pounds of prescription drugs since the national initiative began last year.**

## Rick Burns named employee of the quarter



Rick Burns was honored as Employee of the Month at the All-Employee quarterly meeting Oct. 19. Rick is the animal control officer for the Tribal Police Department and also helps in the maintenance area of the police department. He is a tribal member and lives near the reservation.  
*(Photo by Micki Martinez)*

### Have you changed your address lately?

Help keep costs down by keeping your address up to date. Changes must be authorized by your signature and made through the Member Services Department. Change of address forms can be downloaded on the PBP website under the Per Capita section and mailed in or obtained at the Member Services office located in the Government Center  
16281 Q Rd  
Mayetta, KS 66509

## New legal requirements for hunting and fishing on reservation

Below are some of the legal requirements for hunting and fishing on the PBPB reservation, especially regarding the sponsorship of non-member or non-Indian individuals. The two Amendments outlined below were approved through Tribal Council by Resolutions on October 15, 2012. For details or questions call Rick Burns or Herb Nance at the Tribal Police Department at 785.966.3024.

Tribal Council Resolution No. 2012-233-Amendments to the Potawatomi Law and Order Code Title 18 (adopted on October 15, 2012)

Amendment addresses the following sections:

### Section 18-7-1 Permits and Identification

(B) States the Tribal Police Fish and Wildlife Division is authorized to issue non-member/non-Indian individuals permits/licenses to hunt and fish on PBPB reservation. This section identifies the information to be provided on the form.

### Section 18-7-29 Tribal Member Sponsorship for Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, or Wood Cutting on Tribal Owned Land

This allows a PBPB tribal member to sponsor a maximum of one (1) non-member or non-Indian. The PBPB sponsor must be within sight of the person they are sponsoring at all times. The individual being sponsored must obtain a permit from the Tribal Police Fish and Wildlife Division. Both the PBPB tribal member sponsor and the individual being sponsored are required to sign the permit. The individual being sponsored must be at least twelve (12) years of age. This section designates the second week of September through January 31 as the hunting season for non-members and non-Indians, unless otherwise provided.

### Section 18-8-2 Tribal Member Hunting Season

PBPB tribal members are allowed to hunt anytime throughout the year.

### Section 18-8-20 Deer Stands

This requires a Deer Stand permit for any person (PBPB tribal member, non-member or non-Indian) wishing to erect or maintain a deer stand or ground blind on tribal owned lands. Tree stands placed in trees on tribal owned lands must be portable, removable, and must not damage the tree they are placed in. Tribal members are allowed to leave the tree stand in place to up to a year. Sponsored non-members and non-Indians must remove their deer stand at the end of their sponsorship. All tree stands and ground blinds must have permits by November 30, 2012, or face a penalty of no more than \$200.00 per violation. The Tribal Police Division of Fish and Wildlife is authorized to remove and/or destroy tree stands and ground blinds on tribal owned lands that are in violation of these regulations. Tribal Council Resolution No. 2012-225-Amendments to the Potawatomi Law and Order Code Title 18

### Section 18-7-15 Hunter Education Requirement

Requires all persons (PBPB tribal member, non-member or non-Indian) under the age of eighteen (18) years of age to complete a certified Reservation, State, or Canadian Hunter Safety Course and show proof of successful completion to the Tribal Police Fish and Wildlife Division in order to purchase a hunting or furbearers license. Prior to this amendment, all persons born after July 1, 1977 were required to complete a certified Hunter Safety course.

## Potawatomi Fire Department news

The Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department celebrated National Fire Prevention Week Oct. 7 -13 with an open house that was postponed from a week earlier due to weather and held Oct. 20. At the open house, refreshments were served along with games and prizes, fun activities for the kids, teaching demonstrations, and fire apparatus that was on display. Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and other personnel were also on hand that day.

During Fire Prevention week and as a way to make people aware of how to prevent fires, the fire department performed safety inspections that included testing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in people's homes.

The Potawatomi Fire Department was established in 1980 and is in its 32nd year. It is made up of highly skilled firefighters that are also trained as Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics. The primary function of the department is fire suppression and providing emergency medical services to the community.

Kids had fun at the Tribal Fire Department open house on Oct. 20. The firemen, at right, are Greg Bills (left) and Cecil Mercer.



**Emergency Services information now online**  
**Potawatomi Fire Department**  
[www.pbpindiantribe.com/emergency-services-fire-department.aspx](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/emergency-services-fire-department.aspx)  
**Tribal Police Department**  
[www.pbpindiantribe.com/emergency-services-tribal-police-department.aspx](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/emergency-services-tribal-police-department.aspx)

**The Potawatomi Fire Department taught a First Aid/CPR course at the Health Center on Oct. 29.**  
**For information about upcoming courses call 785.966.2164**

Human Resources happenings



The Human Resources staff held their annual bake sale on behalf of Breast Cancer Awareness month Oct. 12. In addition, they held raffles for a day-off work to raise money that was donated to the National Breast Cancer Coalition. From left to right, Donna Valdivia-Wofford, Cherie Jim, Shanna Smith, and Allison Garcia.



Cherie Jim (sitting), of the Human Resources staff, helped hand out holiday hams and Walmart gift cards to PBPB employees for Christmas on Nov. 19. Standing, is Cheryl Hopkins, who is on the Boys & Girls Club staff.



Last year's Christmas party luncheon brought employees together and this year's luncheon will be held Dec. 21 at the Bingo Hall. Employees will be off work on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25.



Education Department



The Education Department is sponsoring a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) training through White Line CDL Training. Classes are held on Saturdays at the Boys & Girls Club and presently 20 students, many who are PBPB, are enrolled. Mike King is the instructor for the course and will work with the students until they pass their CDL exam to become licensed. (Photo by Kristen Aitkens)

Care packages sent to college students



L to R: Stephanie Jim, Kristina Matsapto, and Kristen Aitkens, sent over 200 care packages of goodies to college students during their finals` week in December.

New Bachelor's degree in Business Management offered by Friends University at Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Government Center Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. beginning Jan. 31

Call Dorothy Karnowski at Friends University ph: 785.272.9595 or email: dorothy\_karnowski@friends.edu

Tti wen mo E pok! (Merry Christmas) from the Language Department



L TO R, front row: Pom (Jan) Hubbard, Leo Nadeau, Cindy LeClere. Back row, Jessica Youngbird, LaVerne Haag, Sogi (Dawn) LeClere, Colton Wahquahboshkuk, Sas (Jayme) Thomas, and Billy Matchie.

(Photo submitted by Language Department)

Hoppy "Kapi" the dog: a true friend and faithful companion



A PBPB community favorite is Hoppy "Kapi", the dog, who belongs to the family of Don Don and Cindy LeClere. Hoppy can be seen almost every day in the parking lots at the Early Childhood Education Center, Boys & Girls Club, We-Ta-Se, and Fire Station, and she ends each day at the Fire Keeper Elders Center to meet Cindy, who works in the Language Department, for a ride back home in the car.

Cindy told the News that Hoppy or "Kapi" is around 12 years old and that all the children and kids know her as well as the many others who go in and out of the buildings at the K-Road complex each day.

Cindy said, "She is a true friend and a faithful companion."

# Tribal Victim Services brings community awareness to Domestic Violence Prevention Month

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Tribal Victim Services (TVS) staff held several activities throughout the month to bring community awareness to ending violence.

The PBPB community joined other federal and tribal officials across the nation to reduce and end violence against American and Alaska Native women which has reached epidemic proportions. Rates of domestic violence against Native women in Indian country are now the highest in the United States. Half of all Native American women have experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, according to a recent nationwide survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

On Oct. 6 the TVS staff held their annual Walk a Mile In Their Mocs event at Prairie Peoples Park. Attendees all gathered and reflected in a moment of silence and then participated in a community walk. Commemorative T-shirts and refreshments were also offered to registrants.

On Oct. 12-13, the TVS sponsored a 24-hour art marathon called Splatters That Matter that began at the Bingo Hall and ended the next day at 4:30 p.m. During that event art activities were available for all ages who created messages about ending domestic violence in addition to listening to live music, having refreshments, and viewing art exhibits of works created through the PBPB Healing Through Arts program.

In addition, the Tribal Victim Services (TVS) staff also held a local contest where any TVS staff member caught not wearing something purple (symbol color of domestic violence awareness) received a prize from the staff. Employees on the Tribal Victim Services staff include Rebekah Jones, TVS Program Manager, and Victim Specialists Samantha Wahquahboshkuk, Shirley Rice, Kent Miller, Daniel Goombi and Derek Wamego.

The TVS program is housed in the Social Services Department. The program was formerly known as the Tribal Victims Assistance Program and was originally housed in the Tribal Police Department. Recently, the staff has merged with the Family Violence Prevention Program and they provide educational programs, a crisis hotline service, and an art studio for adults, families and children that are held in the Old Tribal Court Building and makes up the healing through arts program.



ABOVE: U.S. Attorney for Kansas Barry Grissom, third from left, and Chairman Ortiz, fifth, were on hand to help kick off the Splatters That Matter art marathon Oct. 12 at the Bingo Hall. In the photo with the two men are, left to right, Kent Miller, Derek Wamego, Rebekah Jones, and Daniel Goombi who are on the Tribal Victim Services staff. RIGHT: Carol Dewitt and her grandson, Cameron Onnen painting pictures at the marathon.



**2012 Christmas Toy Drive**  
Tribal Victim Services held a gift drive for new toys for boys and girls of all ages and had donation boxes located at Social Services, the Government Center, and the Potawatomi Fire Station.



It was a chilly morning on October 6 but it didn't stop the PBPB community from coming out for the Walk a Mile in Their Mocs event held at Prairie Peoples park. Over 75 people registered for the day that included getting some exercise, having refreshments and receiving a commemorative t-shirt.

Providers Art Circle-Mondays, noon to 1 p.m.  
Children's Art Circle Session A-Mondays, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Children's Art Circle Session B-Tuesdays, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Family Art Circle-Thursdays, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Open Art Studio-Fridays, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Old Tribal Court Building (behind Fire Station)-Call Kent Miller-785.966.8330



Photo above, left: Samantha Wahquahboshkuk and baby Leo. Photo, right: Nagos Hale, left, and Shirley Rice. Wahquahboshkuk and Rice are both Tribal Victim Services specialists.



Photo above, left: Tom Wabnum, Jim Potter, Barry Grissom, and Steve Ortiz gave opening remarks at the Splatters That Matter event. Photo, right: Angel Wahwassuck painting a picture.

## Vocational Rehabilitation program update

Submitted by Morris Taylor

Janet Bair Carpenter, director of Social Services, Morris Taylor, project director of Tribal Vocational Services, and Dawn Masqua, vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselor, attended the annual Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation Conference in Seattle, Washington from Nov. 5-8.

During the conference, Masqua gave a presentation called "Using Traditional Healing and Treatments for Native Americans" which is one of her ongoing research projects.

In other news, the VR program also held

its fall quarterly meeting on September 26 and its winter meeting on December 5 at the casino. The meetings are designed to bring together regional administrators, social workers, and project coordinators who work on behalf of individuals who are in vocational rehabilitation programs.

Lastly, Joanna Mitchell, youth transitions coordinator, attended a Youth Leadership Forum in Chicago on November 13-14 and a Healing to Wellness Court training December 4-6 in Palm Springs, California. Mitchell is a recent appointee to the Healing to Wellness Court team. The youth transitions program is under the umbrella of the vocational rehabilitation program.



Kari Johnson (left) and Kelli Martinez of Shawnee County Corrections Services gave a presentation on Working with Offenders Using Cognitive Behavioral Services to approximately 25 people on Dec. 5 at the VR quarterly meeting. The meetings are organized by Jeanie Combs of Three Rivers PBPB Independent Living who has an office located in the Social Services Department in the east wing of the Health Center.

### Casino coat drive benefits Boys & Girls Club, Child Care Center, Elder Center and Social Services

Prairie Band Casino & Resort held the largest donation drive in its history in November, according to the Prairie Band Casino & Resort marketing department.

The casino invited guests to bring new or gently used winter wear in exchange for "Prairie Cash." The turnout exceeded the casino's expectations. While up to 15 items per person were donation-eligible, many donated above and beyond.

"On behalf of Prairie Band Casino & Resort we would like to thank everyone who donated for their thoughtfulness and for practicing generosity during this holiday season," Assistant General Manager Stephen E. Ortiz said. "These donations will serve to help many people that are in need of warmth in their lives."

The casino paid more than \$21,000 in Prairie Cash for the donated items, which went to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Early Childhood Education Center, Elder Center, Social Services and Boys & Girls Club. Other items went to the Oglala Lakota Nation in South Dakota that were delivered by members of the PBPB and Tribal Council.

### Thanksgiving dinner held at the Boys & Girls Club

There was a big turnout for the Boys & Girls Club annual Thanksgiving feast on Nov. 21. Several donations were given and several volunteers also helped with the dinner that included turkeys and hams and other foods that were served.



Above, Nathan Hale, director of the Boys & Girls Club (in hat), greeted trick or treaters on Halloween at the club. On Hale's right, is Patrick Mills who works at the Child Care Center.

Calendars of Boys & Girls Club & Child Care Center events and activities are online at

<http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/boys-and-girls-club.aspx>  
<http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/early-childhood-education-programs.aspx>

A Fall Health Fair that focused on providing a well-child clinic for children 0-3 years of age was held Nov. 9 at the PBPB Health Center and sponsored by the Child Care Center

### Early Childhood Education Center passes federal on-site review of Head Start programs

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Head Start and Early Head Start programs were approved for re-accreditation after an on-site review team made a visit to the Early Childhood Education Center last April.

The team was from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) who looked at preschool classroom instruction, teacher/child interactions and child-to-child interactions.

Particular strengths pointed out in the review included extraordinary support of on-site services available from the Health Center and Social Services Department, and that the Early Childhood Education Center staff were trained to conduct hearing and vision screenings with proper equipment within the Center as well as employing a Speech Pathologist.



The Early Childhood Education Center had Halloween on Oct. 31 where kids dressed up and paraded through the Boys & Girls Club to receive treats from various departments and programs in the PBPB government.



The Dental Department, that is located in the Health Center, won this year's door contest that was held during Red Ribbon week in October. The Dental Clinic also held a Halloween candy buy-back where they paid \$1 per pound for candy that was brought in.

(Photo submitted by Sandi Shopteese)

# 15th annual We-Ta-Se pow wow held Sept. 22



The first Grand Entry



Left to right, Robert Jackson, Frank Shopteese and Charles Wakole



Sue and Galen Hubbard



Registration table



Cecelia Hubbard  
2013 We-Ta-Se princess



Pewamo Kitchkommie performed with Little Soldier



Dancers entering the arena in beautiful regalia



Mason Spoonhunter and Sierra Pahnahmie



Dancer

**Pow-wow stats**

- 51 adult dancers
- 62 youth dancers
- 35 veterans
- 450 meals served by Native American Church



Men dancers



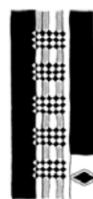
Honored veterans Debra J. Lowe and Roy Hale

## We-Ta-Se Veterans Reading of the Names ceremony

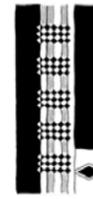


We-Ta-Se veterans pose for a photo in front of the Veterans Memorial wall on Nov. 9 in Prairie Peoples Park. Eight PBPB veteran names were added to the wall and read aloud during the ceremony to honor Veterans Day. A 21-gun salute was also conducted. Above, left to right, are Steve Ortiz, Jim Potts, Cecelia Hubbard (princess), Chuck Jacobson, Glenn Levier, Benny Potts, Frank Shopteese, Tim Ramirez, Roy Hale, Joe Jessepe and Emery Hale.

### Names added to the PBPB Veterans Memorial Wall



- William Battese, WWII
- Daniel Gonzales, Vietnam ERA
- Duane Hubbard, Desert Storm
- Charles Jacobson, Vietnam ERA
- Raymond McDonald, National Guard
- Robert McDonald, Navy
- Thomas McDonald, Desert Storm
- Theresa D. Sweet, U.S. Army



### Hall of Fame honor

Captain Elwin I. Shopteese, WWII, (deceased) will be inducted into the 35th Infantry Division Hall of Fame in September, 2013.

There are 398 names on the wall.  
For a complete list go to

[http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/sub/veterans/VeteransWall/veterans\\_memorial\\_wall.htm](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/sub/veterans/VeteransWall/veterans_memorial_wall.htm)

## Our Lady of the Snows celebrates Mass for Kateri Tekakwitha

(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted by permission of *The Leaven* and author Joe Bollig)

By Joe Bollig  
joe@theleaven.com

MAYETTA - It took a proclamation of Pope Benedict XVI to make official what Native Americans already knew: Kateri Tekakwitha was a saint.

On Oct. 21 in Rome, the Holy Father proclaimed seven new saints of the Catholic Church - one of them being St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the "Lily of the Mohawks." She is the first Native American saint.

"This should have happened a long time ago," said Glenn Levier, a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, who lives on the Potawatomi Reservation in Jackson County.

Many Potawatomi - as well as individuals representing 22 Native American nations or tribes - and Catholics of a constellation of ethnicities gathered for a Mass celebrating the canonization on Oct. 21 at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows on the Potawatomi Reservation.



**Archbishop Joseph Naumann**

"Many Native peoples have come together to pray for her canonization and already felt she was a saint before she was officially recognized by the church," said Laura Thackery, a member of the shrine community. She hoped the saint would be a source of inspiration to young Catholic Native Americans.

Saint Kateri was known for her faith even during her own lifetime. It was only four years after



her death, on April 17, 1680, that a chapel was built near her gravesite at Kahnawake in Quebec, Canada.

A convent of Native American nuns in Mexico began praying for her canonization 50 years after her death. For many years, miracles and healings have been attributed to her intercession. American Catholics initiated the canonization process in 1884, and many Native Americans have gone to Tekakwitha Conferences for more than 60 years to promote the saint's cause.

One of them was Kathy Redbird, a White Mountain Apache and member of the Haskell Catholic Campus Center at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence.

"Obviously, I would have rather gone to Rome, but to come here and pray with other Natives and celebrate this glorious occasion means the world to me," said Redbird.

Redbird credits her family to the intercession of St. Kateri.

"The doctors told me I wouldn't be able to



conceive," said Redbird. "They said I would be a barren woman. So, I went to a Tekakwitha Conference as a pilgrimage in the late 1970s. I went up there and I asked her to pray for me. I said, 'You chose not to have any kids, but if I am to be a barren woman, I want to be like you.' After that, I became pregnant, so I named my daughter Tekakwitha. I wanted her to emulate the love for Jesus that Saint Tekakwitha has."

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, who was the homilist and main celebrant for the Mass, was joined by five concelebrants. Among them was Father Chris Rossman, who serves the shrine and is pastor of St. Dominic Parish in Holton; and Father Duane Reinert, OFM Cap., chaplain of the Haskell Catholic Campus Center and a frequent Mass celebrant at the shrine.

The Mass was celebrated in a large tent pitched on a parking lot next to the shrine. A crowd of more than 400 people crowded the tent and filled chairs set up outside.

In his homily, Archbishop Naumann welcomed the gathered Potawatomi in their own language, saying, "Bosho anish nah bak."

He also passed on the greetings and blessings of Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap., the archbishop of Philadelphia and a native of Concordia. Archbishop Chaput is an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi. His Potawatomi name is "Pyet-ta-sen," which means, "Wind is Stirring the Leaves."

"He told me that he was very pleased you were having this celebration today, and that he is in

Rome for the canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha along with six other saints of the church," said Archbishop Naumann. "He asked me to assure you that he was united with us in prayer."

Saint Kateri Catharine Adame, holding book, was in the processional and did a reading at the Mass.



Despite much hardship - she lost her family to disease, was left partially blind and scarred by smallpox, and was persecuted for her Christian faith - St. Kateri lived a life of heroic Christian virtue.

"She had found the love that could never be denied," said the archbishop. "She knew the joy of being loved by the One who was love itself."

The Mass was followed by a dinner, which



(L-R) Steve Ortiz, Milt LaClair, Emery Hale, Roy Hale, and Jim Potter.

included Native American foods such as fry bread and buffalo stew.

The canonization celebration had been planned since June by a joint committee of representatives from the Haskell Catholic Campus Center and Our Lady of the Snows Shrine.

Rey Kitchkumme, a member of the celebration committee, said St. Kateri now gives Native Americans a saint of their own.

"On a personal level, knowing there is a Catholic Native American who in her lifetime lived devoutly . . . is an inspiration to people like me, Native American Catholics," he said.



**Vivian Gonzeles and Rey Kitchkumme**

Cornelia Donahue attended the Kateri Tekakwitha celebration and is seen, right, carrying a tray of food that was served after the Mass celebration. Cornelia has been a member of the Our Lady of the Snows church ever since she was a young girl. (See story right)



## Jerry and Terry Tuckwin attend canonization in Vatican City

Jerry Tuckwin and his wife, Terry made a trip to Rome, along with several other Native American Catholics, to witness the canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha on Oct. 21.

While there, Jerry was interviewed by *CBS News* as one of several Native Americans that attended the event. During the interview he said, "I thought a lot of our ancestors are probably really excited about this day, and although they've already passed on, they've got to be happy with us and what's taken place here in the Vatican."

The Tuckwins were part of a 750-member tour group who went to Italy from Oct. 18-24. During the weekend of the canonization they attended a reception at the Vatican Gardens and on Saturday attended a Mass at St. Peter's Basilica celebrated by Archbishop Charles Chaput, who is also a Prairie Band Potawatomi member and head of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Tekakwitha and Mother Marianne Cope, who worked in the leper colony in Molokai, Hawaii until her death in 1918, were both canonized that day bringing in a total of twelve American saints overall.

## Cornelia Donahue remembers family life in the 1930s and Our Lady of the Snows church

What was it like living here on the rez approximately 76 years ago? Every Sunday we put on clean duds and went to Our Lady of the Snows Catholic church. We had several different ways to travel the three miles to and from our home. Sometimes we would walk, or ride on horses, or one of the older siblings would drive all of the family in dad's car. Dad always had a car that he used to go to work in whether it be on or off the reservation.

I didn't mind the horseback ride on Bolly, our horse, who would sweat on the jaunt there. After I arrived at the church I would have to brush the horse's hair off of my legs before going into the building.

One of the highlights of being a part of that church was that three of my brothers and me were baptized into the Catholic faith and our photographs were published on the front page in the *Eastern Kansas Register*. After church services the adults would meet and greet each other which was nice because some people did not live on the reservation any longer but would come to the church.

The kids liked to take turns driving the car to the church. I remember one time when my cousin Dorothy drove the car and wouldn't move the steering wheel for turns in the road which taught us passengers to hang on tight for near accidents which were many. On Sundays, when we did take the car, we would go to South Lake located east of Chaney Hill. Chaney Hill was named because the Chaney family lived near that section of road and they had a pretty daughter named Lorraine. She was nicknamed "A-dollar-ninety-eight" because when she was asked how much her dress cost she'd always say, "It cost \$1.98."

When we would unload at South Lake the boys would get on a raft that was already there to ride on until they would get hungry and go to our home that was near the Danceground. My mother would make fried chicken and we had home-made ice cream that was made by hand on a churn. The churning involved using lots of ice and during the process my brothers would chase the younger kids around and throw cold ice on them.

The timber around our house provided our family with wood, fruit, honey, and a creek for fishing and swimming. We had a lumber wagon that was used to bring wood to the house harvested from the timber many times. We had two horses for seventeen years and eventually the family bought another horse named "Western" that had a huge backbone. We would take our cows to the land every day before milking and we also had pigs that we raised to feed the native people about four times a year.

## Ettenan Tak So Wat Kek Yattek (Honor the Elders) ceremony

Three elders were honored on Oct. 24 during an Ettenan Tak So Wat Kek Yattek (Honor the Elders) dinner and ceremony held at the Fire Keepers Elder Center.



Julia Kabance

Alvina LaClair, Julia Kabance, and Eddie Potts were selected as this year's honorees.

Elders are nominated by their fellow elders and then names are forwarded to an advisory committee for the final selection.

Emcee for the ceremony was Gary Mitchell, who spoke about the honored elders, and an invocation was said in the Potawatomi language by Pat

ko shuk (Daniel Mitchell-Alvarado).

Dinner was served before the ceremony and youngsters Pak and Gish Hale served cake to the elders.



Alvina LaClair

*Editor's Note: No photograph of Eddie Potts was available*



## 6th Annual Community Talent show

The 6th Annual Community Talent show was held Sept. 6-7 at the Rock Building.

Carol Dewitt was the emcee for both nights and the talent in the show included skits about water olympics and track and field, music and dance acts, and dance/lip sync performances.

First (1st) place went to Hedy Noland, Tootie Kern and Myra Matchie for (water olympics/track and field); 2nd place was won by Kent Miller (guitar); 3rd place went to Mert Miller and the Prairie Footlets (dance), and 4th place was Frank

McDonald (keyboard).

PBPN member Julia Lewis has organized the talent show since its inception and always has an act. This



Julia Lewis and members of her family performed a lip sync of "Grandma Got Ran Over by a Reindeer" at the 6th Annual Community Talent Show last September at the Rock building.

year she and members of her family performed lip syncs of "Yakety Yak" and "Grandma Got Ran Over by a Reindeer." Concessions were made available by Laverne Hale and members of her family in between the performances.

## Harvest Feast a success



The Harvest Feast held Nov. 15 and sponsored by the PBPB Diabetes Program included traditional Native American foods including buffalo, turtle, wild rice, squash, fry bread, hominy, Indian beans and more. It was open to the community and the feast is a part of the "Return to a Healthy Past" program that is designed to educate Native Americans about learning about traditional foods and developing patterns of healthy eating.



## 2nd Annual Inter-tribal Solutions Cooking Class taught by Chef of National Museum of American Indians



In the photo, left, is Richele Pahmahmie with Naseka Hale at the 2nd annual Inter-tribal Solutions free cooking demonstration held at Prairie Band Casino & Resort Nov. 15 and 16. The event was sponsored by the AARP of Kansas, Kickapoo Diabetes Coalition and the Association of American Indian Physicians Program.



Richard Hetzler, Chef of the Mitzitam Café at the National Museum of the American Indians (NMAI) and his assistant Meriam Menkir, before teaching a two-day cooking demonstration on how to prepare healthy foods. Hetzler has been the chef at NMAI since it opened in 2004 and the NMAI restaurant was recently named the Best Casualty Dining Restaurant in Washington, D.C. for 2012.



Steve Ortiz, PBPB chairman, gave opening remarks at the cooking class that was open to enrolled tribal members of the Kansas tribes. Eddie Jo Mitchell gave the invocation and Dr. DeeAnn DeRoin also spoke at the workshop. Approximately 40 people overall participated in the cooking demonstration which was broken into a lecture and hands-on demonstration format during the two days.

### Diabetes Program Activity Schedule

<b>Diabetes Self Management Classes</b> Every Tuesday 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Classes held in the Diabetes Program offices at the Health Center	<b>Diabetes Prevention Program Education Classes</b> Wednesday's: 5:00pm-6:00pm Thursday: 12:00pm-1:00pm Held in the Diabetes Program offices at the Health Center **NEW CLASSES START JAN. 23, 2012**	<b>DPP Aftercore Classes</b> The last Wednesday and Thursday of every month Wednesday: 12:00 pm-1:00pm Thursday: 5:00 pm-6:00 pm These classes are for past DPP participants and are held in the Diabetes Program offices at the Health Center	
<b>Line Dancing with Hoppy</b> Learn the basics of line dancing at the Rock Building! Classes will be held every Monday at 5:00 pm	<b>Tuesday &amp; Wednesday Walks</b> Come join us for our weekly 15 minute walks! Tuesday: Health Center @ 12:00 pm, Tribal Court @ 2:00 pm Wednesday: Boys & Girls Club @ 10:30 am, Elders Center @ 11:00 am, Government Center @ 1:30 pm	<b>Find your "Center" with Yoga at the Health Center</b> TWT's will be shown from 12:00 pm-1:30pm every Monday and Thursday in the Clinic Conference Room. Limited space available. See you.	
<b>Exercise in the AM</b> Call us all your early bird! Come over to the Boys and Girls Club and get a great workout in before work. Feel free to workout on your own or jump in on Cody Camp! Monday-Friday 6:00am-7:00 am	<b>PBPB Wellness Center</b> Fully-equipped gym with cardio and strength-training equipment OPEN: Monday-Friday 7:30am-5:30pm (Located in the Health Center, near the Pharmacy)	<b>Chair Exercises with Cody</b> Learn alternative ways to exercise, using stretching and resistance bands to build strength and flexibility. Classes are held on the first floor of the Elders Center. Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 10:30am	<b>ZUMBA fitness</b> Come high, learn some new dance moves and get a great workout in at the same time! Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 5:30 pm-6:30 pm At the Boys and Girls Club

Please contact Melinda Williamson in the Diabetes Program at 785-966-8271 for further information

A new session of Diabetes Self Management classes will begin Jan. 23. If you are pre-diabetic, please contact Melinda Williamson, Kathy Sterbenz or Cody Wilson to learn more at 785.966.8271.

## Trunk or Treat: a big hit



Hundreds of people attended the Trunk or Treat Halloween event held in Prairie Peoples Park Oct. 27. The trunk of this car was decorated by staff from the Housing Department who passed out treats to the kids. A buffalo chili cookoff, costume contest, and a haunted hayrack ride also added to the fun. The event was sponsored by Tribal Victim Services and several other PBPB organizations.

(Photo by Tracy Potts)

## Vision Service Program still in effect for tribal members

The Nation's Vision Service Program (VSP) is still in effect. This program began in August 2001 and is still ongoing and unchanged.

Participation rules for the Vision Service Program are as follows:

1. Eligible participant must be an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.
2. You may enroll at any time; however, your vision insurance will not become effective until the 1st of the following month.
3. The eligible participant must complete a vision insurance enrollment form. This form must be turned into the Human Resource Department.
4. Enrollment can be done over the phone as long as you have the necessary information for the person(s) being enrolled, to include: CDIB#, SSN, DOB, mailing address and phone number.
5. Once you become enrolled, you never have to re-new your membership.

VSP enrolled members are eligible to receive a standard eye exam once every 12-months from the last date of service, lenses once every 12-months from the last date of service and a frame once every 24-months from the last date of service.

VSP's frame benefit fully covers more than half of the 42,000 frames currently available. Due to this large selection and the fact that buying habits and tastes differ from one region to the next, frame inventories may vary from office to office. When deciding on a frame, members should ask their doctors which ones are covered in full.

VSP covers single vision, bifocal, trifocal or other more complex lenses when necessary for the patient's visual welfare once every 12 months.

Contact lenses are covered in full up to \$130.00 once every 12 months. Contact lenses are instead of complete pairs of prescription glasses.

### **THIS PLAN IS DESIGNED TO COVER THE MEMBERS' VISUAL NEEDS RATHER THAN COSMETIC MATERIALS.**

If the patient selects any special features that are not medically necessary but sometimes chosen for cosmetic reasons, they will be responsible for the additional charge. Optional items may include (but are not limited to):

- Blended lenses
- Contact lenses (except as noted elsewhere)
- Oversize lenses
- Progressive (no-line) multi-focal lenses
- Photo chromic or tinted lenses
- Coated or laminated lenses
- UV protected lenses
- A frame that exceeds the plan allowance
- Other optional cosmetic processes
- Certain limitations on low vision care

### **THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL NOT BE COVERED UNDER THE PLAN:**

- Orthoptics or vision training and any associated supplemental testing
- Plano lenses
- Two pair of glasses in lieu of bifocals
- Medical or surgical treatment of the eyes
- Any eye examination, or any corrective eyewear, required by an employer as a condition of employment
- Corrective vision services, treatments, and materials of an exceptional nature

### **LENSES AND FRAMES FURNISHED UNDER THIS PROGRAM, WHICH ARE LOST, STOLEN OR BROKEN, WILL NOT BE REPLACED EXCEPT AT THE NORMAL INTERVALS WHEN SERVICES ARE OTHERWISE AVAILABLE.**

To use the Vision Service Plan:

1. Call a VSP doctor: VSP members can call toll free 1-800-877-7195 to locate a provider nearest to them or go to the web site [www.vsp.com](http://www.vsp.com).
2. When making your appointment, you must tell them that you are a VSP member and give them your Social Security Number, and the group name - Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. The doctor will then obtain an authorization to provide services and materials from VSP.
3. At the appointment, the eye doctor will provide an eye exam and, if necessary, order eyewear from a VSP contract laboratory. You will be responsible for any costs resulting from cosmetic options or non-covered services. VSP will pay the participating doctor directly for covered services and materials.

To receive the maximum benefits under the plan, it's best to seek services from a VSP- participating eye doctor. If you choose to go to an out-of-network provider, you will be responsible for the entire bill. However, you can file for reimbursement within 6-months from the date of service. Your out-of-network benefits DO NOT guarantee full payment. For out-of-network reimbursement, send your itemized receipt to VSP and include the Group Name, your name, phone number, address, SSN, and DOB. Please keep a copy for your records and send original receipts to: Vision Service Plan, Attn: Non-Member Doctor Claims, P.O. Box 997105, Sacramento, CA, 95899-7105.

If you are already enrolled in the Vision Service Program, you can call toll free 1-800-877-7195 to access your eligibility information. If you are not currently enrolled in the VSP but would like to get enrolled, please call Human Resources toll free 1-866-694-3937.

#### **NOTICE TO ALL PBPN ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS:**

Pursuant to PBPN Code of Ethics, Section 5.7.C, elected/appointed officials shall submit a completed gift disclosure form issued by the Ethics Commission at the deadline established by the Ethics Commission.

Pursuant to PBPN Code of Ethics, Section 5.8.B, elected appointed officials shall submit a completed quarterly travel expense report form issued by the Ethics Commission.

These code requirements apply to ALL elected/appointed officials, including elected/appointed committee members. The Ethics Commission has determined that both gift disclosure and travel report forms must be submitted by the following dates annually:

March 31  
June 30  
September 30  
December 31

If you are an elected/appointed official, it is your responsibility to comply with the Code of Ethics requirement. Completed forms will be kept on record with the Ethics Commission and shall be available for public inspection upon written request from enrolled members.

Additional information regarding the code requirement and copies of the forms are available on the Tribal website or can be obtained by contacting the Ethics Commission at: PBPN Ethics Commission, P.O. Box 218, Mayetta, KS 66509

#### **Ethics Commission**

- Information
- Code of Ethics
- Gift disclosure form
- Travel expense form

**available online under Government  
at**

**<http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/ethics-commission.aspx>**

**2013 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations  
will be hosted by the  
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians  
in  
Dowagiac, Michigan.**

## News and notes

### Lara O'Toole crowned Haskell Homecoming Queen



Lara O'Toole was crowned homecoming queen of Haskell Indian Nations University on October 6. Lara is a senior majoring in business and is the daughter of Carrie and Jim O'Toole. In the photo with O'Toole is Jared Hammer, who was selected homecoming king.

*(Photo submitted by Carrie O'Toole)*

### PBPN teens Rebekah Navarro and Rory Lange KAY Club officers

Tribal teens Rebekah Navarro and Rory Lange, who attend Royal Valley High School, are officers in the Kansas Association for Youth Club. KAY is an organization dedicated to building character and leadership training.



Tribal members who are on the 2012-2013 Royal Valley cross country team this year include (left to right) Arrow Levier, Pallas Tye, Brennah Wahweotten, Michael Simon and David Criqui.

*(Special thanks to Angie Wahweotten)*

### Levi Rickert receives HEROES award for his positive work

Tribal member Levi Rickert, who is the editor and chief of the Native News Network, was recently honored by receiving an award as a West Michigan Health HEROES presented by the Alliance for Health in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

He was also interviewed as representing people who have exhibited greatness in their own lives as part of Native American Heritage Month on a television program called The Greatness in You that aired on ABC-7 in Chicago and ABC's Live Well Network on Nov. 26.

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

### Marcus Oliveira captures WBA Fedebol Light Heavyweight title

Prairie Band Potawatomi (PBP) reservation resident Marcus Oliveira (Menominee/Potawatomi) captured the WBA Fedebol Light Heavyweight Title in Caracas, Venezuela Oct. 27 after knocking out Bolivian boxer Ricky Torrez (18-6-1) in less than three minutes in the first round.

Oliveira, now 24-0 with one draw, lives with his family on the reservation and works at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort. He is coached by Erik Riley who runs the Haskell Boxing Club in Lawrence and Oliveira fights under the banner of Underground Boxing ([www.ubcboxing.com/](http://www.ubcboxing.com/)) that is managed by Doug Ward. Additionally, Oliveira has recently been doing some strength training with Cody Wilson (Choctaw), who also lives on the PBPN reservation and is the Lifestyle Coach for the PBPN Health Center's Diabetes Prevention Program.



Before winning the title, Oliveira was featured in an article that appeared in *Indian Country Today* on October 22. In the article, he said was maturing and getting smarter as a fighter and credited Riley with helping him to break down his fight plans. He also spoke highly of Wilson by saying that Wilson was helping him improve physically in every area inside

and outside of the boxing ring.

Manager Ward of Underground Boxing told the *Potawatomi News*, "Heading into the fight, a markedly determined Oliveira vowed to end it early and he did just that with an aggressive attack from the opening bell. Torrez had no answer for Oliveira's hand speed, his punching power or his determination to make good on his promise. With this impressive win, Oliveira is on a fast track that will hopefully lead him toward the International Boxing Federation (IBF) Light Heavyweight Champion, Tavoris Cloud.

Before his latest fight with Torrez, Oliveira knocked out Antwun Echols at the Menominee Casino and Resort in Keshena, Wisconsin on January 29. Oliveira has fought over 200 amateur fights and signed on with Don King Productions in 2010.

Oliveira was also featured on Topeka television station *Kansas First News* (Channel 27-Topeka) on Nov. 15. Cody Wilson was also interviewed during the television spot by KSNT Sports Director Alex Wiebel.



Congratulations to Knowee Potts and the Rossville Jr. Dawgs (5th and 6th grade) football team on becoming 2012 league champions

Message from family:  
*You can accomplish any goal through hard work, determination and a positive attitude. We love you and are so proud of you.*

Your parents,  
Willie & Tracy Potts

Congratulations to Sylvana Levier on making the Holton Recorder All-County volleyball team!



Mary (Wahweotten) Brown was the PBP elder queen at this year's Mayetta Area Business Association fall festival held in September. Mary told the *News* that she had a great time at the event and enjoyed being in the parade and representing the PBPN.

*(Photo by Judy Darnell)*

Ttiwenmo eginigyèn  
(happy day you were born)



Happy 5th Birthday  
to  
Ki-bo  
on  
Dec. 27

Love you lots!  
Mom & Family

Happy 7th Birthday  
to  
Angelina  
on  
Jan. 13

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Sister,  
Brother & Family



Happy 8th Birthday  
on  
Dec. 29  
to  
Nathan Lee Earwood Jr.

We love you,  
Dad, Renee, Alex,  
Michael, Ezequiel & Kaden

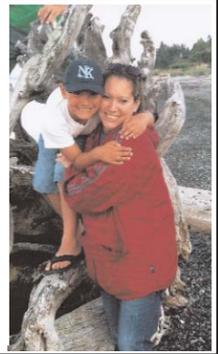


A best Birthday wish  
shout out to  
Uncle Ross Cooper  
Dec. 21

From nieces, Ashley, Jessey, Melinda  
& Michelle

Happy Birthday  
to  
Crystal & Drake Jones, 9  
on  
Dec. 1

From,  
Dad/Misho Kevin Aitkens



Engaged



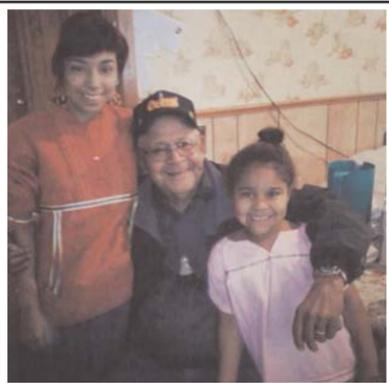
Mr and Mrs. Alan "Boney" Pahmahmie, Mayetta, Kan. are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter Brittney Pahmahmie to Douglas Stithem. Brittney is the granddaughter of the late Richard "Dick" Pahmahmie Sr. and the late Josie Wamego Pahmahmie. Other grandparents are the late Gilbert Graner Sr. and Brenda Graner who resides in Mayetta. Douglas is the son of Darrel and Julie Stithem, Hoyt, Kan. Grandparents are Gayle and Jo Stithem, Hoyt, Nonie Stithem, Topeka, and Ervin and Grace Sackman, Silver Lake, Kan.

The couple graduated from Royal Valley High School. Brittney attends Highland Community College and is employed at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort. Doug works for Flinthills Construction, Inc., Topeka. A wedding date of April 13 is scheduled that will be held at the Capital Plaza Hotel & Convention Center in Topeka.



Happy Birthday  
to  
Doran Rupnicki-Dec. 20  
Kaylan Rupnicki-Jan. 3  
Taylor Faye-Dec. 23

Love,  
Auntie V & Cousins



Happy Belated Birthday  
Oct. 26  
Meeks-Sas-Quah  
"Kaliyah" Mahkuk, 5,  
&  
Oct. 27  
Ma-Ma-Ga-Quah  
"Krista" Vanderbloomen, 18,

We love you and wish you many  
more returns of the day!

Love,  
Mom, Grandma, and Sisters

Note: In the photo with the girls  
is Misho "Corky" Sumner



Happy Birthday  
Tressa, 8, on Jan. 13  
Trulee, 6, on Jan. 28

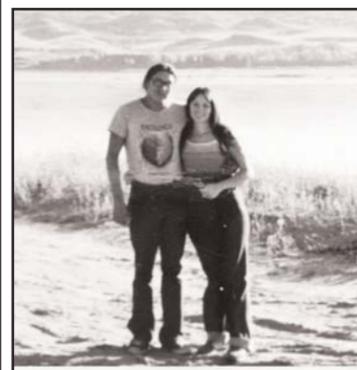
Love,  
Grandma & all your Family



Happy 6th Birthday  
Tori  
on  
Jan. 19

We love you!  
Mom, Ethan &  
Family

Kanibwettek  
(the one's that stood up together)



Happy 40th anniversary  
on  
Dec. 16  
to  
Karen & Jr. Thomas

Love you always!

Your children, Coleen, Note,  
Sas, Son, & Quahmee

Kambottek (those who died)

**Larry "Mik-se-ni" Berryhill**

Larry "Mik-se-ni" Berryhill, 70, of Circleville, formerly of San Jose, CA, passed away Sunday, October 28, 2012 at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka. Larry was born November 23, 1941 in Kansas City, MO, the son of Marie Rice.

Larry grew up on the Potawatomi Reservation and attended Haskell School. He served in the U.S. Army and was a member of American Legion Post #410 We-Ta-Se. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi and was an Elder's Resource Person in the Language Department at Prairie Band. He was a member of Marshno Drum.

Larry is survived by his wife, Emily Berryhill; daughters, Tanya Berryhill, Tina Berryhill, and Dawn Berryhill all of San Jose, CA; Josette Berryhill of Overland Park, KS; Justine Berryhill of Lawrence, KS; a son, Duane Berryhill of Concord, CA; four granddaughters and two great-grandsons.

Drum services will be Wednesday evening October 31, 2012 at the Danceground Building west of Mayetta. Burial will be at the Josette Rice home Thursday, November 1, 2012. Larry will lie in state at Mercer Funeral Home in Holton until Wednesday afternoon. [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com)

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

**Ramona Kay "Tino Quah" Ramirez**

Ramona Kay "Tino Quah" Ramirez, 39, Atchison, died Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012 at Heartland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph, Mo. She was born Dec. 28, 1972, in Manhattan, the daughter of William Lewis and Deanna Pewamo.

Ms. Ramirez was a CAN and CMA at several area nursing homes and had worked for Kickapoo Headstart.

She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe and the Native American Church.

She married Sam Ramirez on Jan. 1, 1997, in Horton. They divorced.

Survivors include two daughters, Audrey Ramirez, Horton, and Madelyn Greene Horn, Springfield, Ore.; three sons, Joseph Ramirez and Jonathan Ramirez, both of Horton, and Ryan Green, Powhattan; a sister, Mary Lou Jessepe, Mayetta; three brothers, Edwin Green, Raymond Greene and Cleary Craine, all of Powhattan; four grandchildren, Trennity, Lyllian, Karson and Miley; a sister-in-law, Ruthie Greene; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Thelma Marie Greene and Dionna Craine; and two brothers, Rocky Greene and John Collins.

Native American church services will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday at Mary Lou Jessepe's home, 15975 L4 Lane, Mayetta. Burial will be held Friday at the Old Dance Grounds Cemetery after dinner. The family will greet friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Dishon-Maple Chaney Mortuary in Horton. Online condolences may be sent to [www.dishon-maple-chaney.com](http://www.dishon-maple-chaney.com)

*(Courtesy of Dishon-Maple Chaney Mortuary, Horton, Kan.)*

**Carol Jean Kitchkommie**



MAYETTA - Carol Jean Kitchkommie, 68, of Mayetta, KS passed away November 1, 2012 at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka. She was born December 20, 1943 in Topeka, KS the daughter of Joseph and Lucille (LaClair) Kabance.

Carol had lived most of her life in Kansas. She was a homemaker and housewife. She was attending Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses and was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Survivors include 2 sons, Anthony Kabance and David Kitchkommie both of Topeka, KS; 2 daughters, Deanne Muniz of Wichita, KS and Andrea Kitchkommie of Topeka; a sister, Helen Parkinson of Topeka, KS; 2 brothers, Joseph Kabance of New York and Frank Shopteese of Mayetta, KS; 21 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Carol was preceded in death by a daughter, Christina Fitzherbert in 2000; a sister, Margie Wabski and 2 brothers, Andrew and Donnie Kabance.

Graveside services will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at the Shipshee Cemetery in Mayetta. Family will greet friends 6:00 -8:00 p.m. Monday evening at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. To leave a special message for the family, please visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com).

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

**Marjorie K. Pahmahmie**

(January 3, 1931 - November 27, 2012)



Marjorie K. Pahmahmie, 81, of the Kickapoo Reservation, passed away on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 at her home. She was born on January 3, 1931 in Horton, Kansas the daughter of Jesse and Dora Williams Keesis. Marjorie worked for the Kickapoo Tribe as an Activity Director prior to going to work for the Sac-N-Fox Casino as a hostess and cashier. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe and the Drum Religion. On May 30, 1950 she married John Pahmahmie at Mayetta, Kansas. He preceded her in death on April 22, 2003. Survivors include, son, James Pahmahmie of Horton, Kansas; two daughters, Darlene Shuckahosee of Mayetta, Kansas and Henrietta Brown of Tama, Iowa; two adopted sons, Rudy Keo of Horton, Kansas and Bill Murphy of Atchison, Kansas; five adopted daughters, Darlene Wewenis of Horton, Kansas, Nancy Smartlowit of Yakima, Washington, Kizzie Conklin, Kyra Conklin and Ashlyn Conklin all of Horton, Kansas; sister, Gloria Keesis of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; four adopted sisters, Rose Allen and Phyllis Johnson both of Horton, Kansas, Mary LeClere of Mayetta, Kansas and Venita Chenault of Lawrence, Kansas; two adopted brothers, Don-Don LeClere of Mayetta, Kansas and Marcellin "Buck" Wewenis of Horton, Kansas; fourteen grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren. Marjorie was also preceded in death by her parents, two daughters, Paula Jo Pahmahmie and Janell Cadue, son, Timothy Pahmahmie, brother, Jesse Keesis and five sisters, Sophie Shane, Corlene Potts, Franceline Masqua, Florence Gibson and Nettie Wishkeno. Drum services will be at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 29, 2012 at the Kickapoo Community Building. Burial will be at 10:00 A.M. at the Mason Cemetery on Friday morning. A special message may be sent to the family at [www.dishon-maple-chaney.com](http://www.dishon-maple-chaney.com)

*(Courtesy of Dishon-Maple Chaney Mortuary, Horton, Kan.)*

**Obituary policy**

The *Potawatomi News* will publish only obituaries of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation tribal members that have been verified by the Member Services Department and obtained by the mortuary, funeral home or crematorium handling the funeral arrangements. The *Potawatomi News* reserves the right to edit or omit any obituary.

**In Memory  
of all our loved ones  
who have passed from this earth**

**BIG BEAR MOON Traditional Powwow**

Strengthening our families through togetherness



**NEW YEARS EVE, December 31st**

**PBPN Bingo Hall: 16277 Q RD, Mayetta KS**

**Pot-Luck Dinner: 6PM**

**Grand-Entry: 7:30PM**

**Two Step Special: Midnight**

Join us for a fun night as we celebrate the NEW YEAR with a traditional powwow designed to promote healthy living and a safe community.

**THIS IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT DESIGNED FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.**

Head Man Dancer: Lyman Shipshee	Color Guard: We-Ta-Se
Head Woman Dancer: Angie Wahweotten	Host Northern Drum: Little Soldier
M.C.: Trilby Wahwassuck	Host Southern Drum: White Water
Arena Director: Roger Lewis	Invited Drums: Big Soldier, Rockin K, Boss Hogg

**ALL Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.**

Bring a side dish to share with the community. Bring your dish bags, no plates will be provided. Host programs not responsible for accidents or injuries. Questions contact TVS at 785.966.8330.



**Christmas gift drives bring holiday joy**

There were several gift drives held by the PBPN to help others in need or to let people know that they are being thought of this year.

The **Tribal Council** sent care packages to active PBPN military soldiers who are serving in various branches of the service.

The **Tribal Victim Services** program sponsored a Toy Drive in partnership with Social Services to help area families. Donation boxes were placed in the lobbies at the Government Center, Fire Station and Social Services.

The **Early Childhood Education Center** held a Christmas Family Adoption

gift drive where five families within the PBPN community were given gifts through purchased-item donations established via an ornament tree located in the Center's lobby.

The community at large also helped Adopt a Family for Christmas through the work of Judy Darnell, Sherri Landis, and Tanya Greeve who held a **Holiday Craft/Bake sale and silent auction** on Dec. 14 and 15 at the Bingo Hall.

In addition, a winter blood drive was held Dec. 7 at the **PBP Health & Wellness Clinic** in conjunction with the Community Blood Center in Topeka.

**Migwetch**

to  
the Nishnabek community  
and all others  
who donated items to the  
winter coat drive for Pine Ridge  
Indian Reservation and the  
PBPN.



A special thanks  
for the support of  
PBPN Tribal Council,  
Prairie Band Casino & Resort  
and all others  
who made this  
a successful drive.

From:  
**Richele Pahmahmie and  
Gea Aitkens**

**Need a gift idea?**

**PBP collector plates for sale**



**\$40 plus \$5 for shipping**  
money order, cashier's or personal check  
Make checks payable to:  
**Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation**  
Motor Vehicle Registrar  
16344 Q Rd  
Mayetta, KS 66509

**Merry Christmas  
From  
the  
Potawatomi  
News**



**Donna Valdivia-Wofford  
with son, Lorenzo**

*So this is Christmas  
And what have you done?  
Another year over  
And a new one just begun.  
And so this is Christmas  
I hope you have fun.  
The near and the dear ones  
The old and the young... a very Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year  
Let's hope it's a good one  
Without any fear...  
And so this is Christmas  
For weak and for strong  
For rich and the poor ones  
The war is so long.  
And so happy Christmas  
For black and for white  
For yellow and red ones  
Let's stop all the fight... a very Merry Christmas  
And a happy New Year...*

*-John Lennon*



**Paula Hopkins with granddaughter, Grace  
Whitebird.**



**Eliana Ysela Higin-Rodriguez,  
daughter of Reina and Edgar Higin**