It was always a dream of the PBPN Education Department to have on-site college courses available to tribal members and PBPN employees so that they could conveniently obtain college degrees.

In 2010 that goal was reached through a partnership with Friends University to provide an on-site program on the reservation. The program allows adult learners the ability to work, live and learn on the reservation and it has been successful.

This past spring six people obtained degrees through the program and walked in a graduation ceremony that was held April 29 in Topeka on the Friends University campus.

Classes were open to everyone and included PBPN members, employees of the Nation and community members at large. Classes were held one night each week and students began working toward obtaining a Bachelor’s of Science in Organizational Management and Leadership degree.

Friends University is based out of Wichita, Kansas and offers several nontraditional undergraduate and graduate programs that deliver programs in a unique way to adults who have other responsibilities to balance with school.

Friends University was one of the first educational institutions to offer these types of programs in Kansas and the very first to offer a program on the Prairie Band Potawatomi reservation.

Kristen Aitkens, director of the Education Department, was the driving force in overseeing the program that received national news coverage for its innovativeness in Indian Country Today last year.

Sixteen candidates have filed for four seats on the Tribal Council and there were no candidates that filed for any of the six seats on the Ethics Commission.

Calvin Evans, Joyce Kischkommie Guerrero, Tony Wahweotten, Carol Wahwasuck Shoptesees, and Joe Young are squaring off for Vice-chairperson; Council Person #2 candidates are Camila Chouteau, Chris “Pah na” Mzhickteno, Benny Potts, Tom Wahnum (Meketwzi or Hoppy) and Jancita Warrington; and running for Council Person #3 is Felix Cruz, Anita Pahmahmie Evans, and Carrie O’Toole.

Candidates filed for the positions in April. Profiles and photos of the candidates are listed inside this issue of the News on pages 11-17 and posted online under elections at www.pbpindiantribe.com/elections.aspx.

Ballots were mailed to registered voters on June 13 and must be received in the pre-addressed return envelope that came in the mailing packet with the ballot. Ballots must be returned by 9 a.m. on July 28 which is the day of the election.

If no candidate wins by a majority vote plus one, a run-off election will follow four weeks after the initial election. The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes in the first election will face each other in a run-off in order to determine a winner.

Ballots will be tabulated in an open meeting for the tribal membership and the Election Board will issue the unofficial election results immediately following the conclusion of the tabulation that is done electronically and verified by election clerks. Any protests must be filed within three business days following the election.

The official certified election results will be posted at appropriate tribal offices and distributed to appropriate media at the conclusion of the election process.

Elections Board members are Voncile Mitchell, Arlene Lingo, and Sherri Landis.

See inside pages for profiles submitted by the candidates and other election highlights.

Photos and profiles also online at www.pbpindiantribe.com/elections.aspx

Potawatomi Fire Chief Richard “Mike” Mills dies

Potawatomi Fire Chief Mike Mills died June 11 and funeral services were held June 16 in Eskridge, Kan. Full Fire Department honors were given.
Tribal Council Chairperson Steve Ortiz update

Below are a list of meetings for the quarter that were or are being scheduled by the Tribal Chair's office

**April**

April 9: Meeting Nike Shoes, Manager Dave Chaffins/Kansas City  
April 21: General Council Meeting at Bingo Hall/Mayetta  
April 27: Remarks and presentation of Employee of the Quarter award to Fire Chief Mike Mills at All-Employee Meeting at Bingo Hall/Mayetta

April 28: "Opening Remarks" at Rotary Club Conference/Prairie Band Casino & Resort (PBC& R)/Mayetta

**May**

May 2-3: Department Health and Human Services (HHS) Region 7 Tribal Consultation/ Norman, OK  
May 14: Four Tribes Meeting hosted by Sac and Fox /Reserve, KS,  
May 21: KanCare Meeting/Topeka  
May 22: Governor Brownback Economic Advisors Meeting/Topeka  
May 23: Speaker at Vocational Rehabilitation Meeting, at PBC&R/Mayetta  
May 24: Tribal Outreach & Office of Attorney General Meeting, PBC&R

**June**

June 8 - 10: Vice Chairperson Joyce Guerrero gives welcome at PBPN Pow Wow on chair’s behalf/Mayetta  
June 14: We-ta-se Flag Retirement at Prairie Peoples Park/Mayetta  
June 15: "Opening Remarks" to 63rd Annual Native American Church of North American Conference, at PBC&R and Prairie Peoples Park/Mayetta  
June 16: "Remarks" at PBPN Fire Chief Richard "Mike" Mills funeral service/ Eskridge, KS

**Upcoming**

June 23: Prairie Band Potawatomi Wisconsin Membership meeting/Nekoosa, WI  
June 25: "Opening Remarks" to Kansas State CPA Conference-PBC&R/Mayetta  
June 27: National Health Service Corp meeting at PBPN Clinic/Mayetta

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Snaps from Golfweek National Pro Tour at Firekeeper

Golfweek National Pro Tour event planners were so pleased with the Firekeeper Tradition tournament held at Firekeeper Golf Course May 22-25 that they plan to come back next year in June 2013. The tournament was won by Matt Miller, Bloomington, Illinois, who took home a $20,000 purse.

Notah Begay played in the tour at Firekeeper.  
Dodge Kemmer, a Wichita native, warms up on the putting green.

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2012 Potawatomi Gathering  
hosted by Nottawaseppi Huron Band  
Pine Creek, Mich.  
August 8-12  
Language Conference  
Aug. 6-9  
Look for upcoming details at www.pbpindiantribe.com

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

A new law in Kansas that will require new voters to prove their U.S. citizenship now includes the use of tribal identification cards (CIDB).

In a ceremonial signing on June 1 at the State Capitol, Gov. Sam Brownback signed SB 129 that allows tribal members to use tribal cards.

When legislation was first introduced the State left out tribal identification as a legitimate form of voter identification.

It was through the Kansas Democratic Party and the American Civil Liberties Union that Kansas tribes first learned about the issue last year at a Four tribes meeting. Since that time tribal leaders and their attorneys have been working to change the rule.

I hope this update finds you and your families in good health and spirit. I understand many of our tribal members are not able to attend the Nation's General Council meetings; therefore I would like to take this opportunity to provide a short history and overview of Prairie Band, LLC.

Like many tribal governments around the county the phenomenon known as Indian gaming has provided a platform for our great Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPN) to grow and flourish. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the leadership and foresight of the past and present Tribal Council and General Council members who lead our great nation to the prosperity we enjoy today.

Along those same lines in 2010 our Tribal Council and General Council took another affirmative step in the long term economic stability of our Nation by creating Prairie Band, LLC, a wholly owned holding company to diversify, manage and expand economic interests of the Nation beyond the realm of Indian Gaming. Prairie Band, LLC is a limited liabiility company, wholly owned by the PBPN, and is chartered under PBPN Law (Title 25 - Limited Liability Company). The company is overseen by a five member corporate board of directors, appointed by the Nation's Tribal Council.

Tribal nations have tremendous advantages in business related primarily to the Nation's civil regulatory powers (power to make laws), sovereign immunities, certain tax immunities and status as a minority entity. Prairie Band, LLC is structured to maximize those competitive advantages through a corporate body with an appropriate level of separation from the Tribal government.

Without a doubt the second most successful tribal business enterprise model behind Indian gaming has been associated to federal contracting. The federal government is by far the world’s largest customer of products and services. In 2011 the federal government was estimated to have spent over $535 billion, with $18 billion of that through the SHIA-8 (a) programs ($7 billion specifically to tribeally owned 8 (a) businesses. Last year, for the first time in the history of the Nation, one of the Nation’s businesses was awarded a federal contract. More recently this year we have received our second contract award and will continue to diligently work to increase and position ourselves to take full advantage of the federal contracting realm; much like the Nation has taken full advantage of the Indian gaming phenomenon.

An outreach training on racial profiling was presented by Kathryn Carter (far right) from the State of Kansas Attorney General’s office on May 24 at the Bingo Hall. With Carter are Chief of Police Mike Boswell and Chris Howell who is the tribal liaison for Governor Brownback’s office. Law enforcement officers and members of the PBPN and Kickapoo Tribal Councils attended the training.

With summer just around the corner, Prairie Band LLC will celebrate its first full year of operation. During the last 10 months we have dedicated significant effort to build the internal operating infrastructure of the company with the intent to position the company for positive sustainable growth for years to come.

Last year we acquired four pre-existing tribal businesses and have continued to work to increase the operational efficiencies of those businesses and position those businesses for responsible growth. Additionally, we created Prairie Band Capital which serves as the primary investment vehicle of the holding company to hold non-controlling passive interests in other companies.

Since arriving at Prairie Band, LLC last July as the inaugural President/CEO we have quickly grown from one employee to over 37 employees across the holding company structure. The current portfolio of subsidiary companies under the holding company includes the Firekeeper Golf Course, Mayetta Oil Company, Prairie Band Construction, Prairie Band Health Service and Prairie Band Capital. As we continue on into 2012 we are consistently reminded of our saying at Prairie Band, LLC “Success doesn’t happen overnight, but indicators of success should be apparent”. We feel positive of the indicators we have and are confident and excited that Prairie Band, LLC is headed for success.

Over the next few months please stay tuned for the launch of the Prairie Band, LLC website (www.prairiebandlive.com) as well as Prairie Band, LLC’s 2011 Annual Report, which will give you more information on the developments we are undertaking and the progress we continue to make. I say ‘I’gwen to each of you for the privilege to serve in this position and wish you all the sincerest prosperity over the summer months.

Summer 2012 update from the desk of Burton Warrington

President/CEO

Prairie Band, LLC

Without a doubt the second most successful tribal business enterprise model behind Indian gaming has been associated to federal contracting. The federal government is by far the world’s largest customer of products and services. In 2011 the federal government was estimated to have spent over $535 billion, with $18 billion of that through the SHIA-8 (a) programs ($7 billion specifically to tribeally owned 8 (a) businesses. Last year, for the first time in the history of the Nation, one of the Nation’s businesses was awarded a federal contract. More recently this year we have received our second contract award and will continue to diligently work to increase and position ourselves to take full advantage of the federal contracting realm; much like the Nation has taken full advantage of the Indian gaming phenomenon.
Members of the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) Regulation Review Committee met at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort on March 21. Steve Ortiz, tribal chairman, on the far right, gave a welcome address to the group that day and was photographed above visiting with some of the members before the meeting convened.

The NIGC is an independent federal regulatory agency that was established pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. The Commission maintains its headquarters in Washington, D.C. and has many regional offices throughout the United States.

Prairie Band Potawatomi veterans were given a certificate of appreciation for their military sacrifices on March 23 by a regional U.S. Army Corps of Engineers called Heartland Engineers based out of Kansas City, Mo. Col. Tony Hofmann (in army fatigues) presented the plaque to We-Ta-Se veteran Jim Potts, who is holding the plaque. The award was given in front of Tribal Council members who are, left to right, Carrie O’Toole, Jancita Warrington, Steve Ortiz, Noah Wahquahboshkuk (next to Hofmann) and Jim Potter.

The PBPN were honored at the National Indian Gaming Association convention the first week of April for their outstanding Firekeeper Golf Course business enterprise. Above, Junior Wahweotten is photographed with the award that was given at the event.

Sherri Landis was sworn in to office as a member of the Election Board on March 22 in Tribal Council chambers. Tribal Council Secretary Jim Potter conducted the oath of office in front of other members of the Tribal Council and Voncile Mitchell, Election Board director. Arlene Lingo also sits on the board.
Charitable Contributions quarterly distributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TDC Learning Center</td>
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<td>YWCA of Topeka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington University of St Louis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sertoma Clubs of Topeka</td>
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<td>35th Infantry Division Assoc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alzheimers Assoc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midland Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of the Mulvane Art Museum</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nafl Indian Child Welfare Assoc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Arthritis Foundation</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<td>United Way of Greater Topeka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Land Foods Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make-A-Wish Foundation</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Topeka Civic Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kickapoo Head Start</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topeka LuLac Senior Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haskell Spring Commencement</td>
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<tr>
<td>PowWow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Service &amp; Guidance Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayetta Pioneer Day Assoc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Cancer Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shawnee Co Allied Tribes Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breakthrough House Inc.</td>
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<td>Mayetta Area Business Assoc.</td>
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<td>American Legion Auxiliary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topeka Blues Society</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</table>

Charitable Contributions event held at casino April 12

Tonya Greeve with the Mayetta Business Association shakes hands with members of the Charitable Contributions Committee during a ceremony where 27 organizations (listed above) received their awards totaling approximately $87,000. Chairman Steve Ortiz was the emcee for the event.

Holly Johnson returns home from Afghanistan and visits Tribal Council

Senior Airmen Holly Johnson and members of her family gave an American flag to Tribal Council March 30 to thank the PBPN for supporting Johnson while she was on a tour in Afghanistan.

For two years now the Tribal Council has sponsored an address request and gift-drive for active soldiers during Christmas time. Johnson was one of those to receive a care package last Christmas and she told the News how much receiving the gifts meant to her.

In return, the flag she gave to Tribal Council that day had special significance. Johnson said that she requested that it be flown in honor of the tribe on a C 130 airplane that she was on March 14 during a bundles mission over Afghanistan before she left.

Johnson, from Topeka, has been in the Kansas Air National Guard for three years and is based with the Forbes Field Air National Guard 190th ARW. She was in Afghanistan for six months and returned home March 28. Accompanying her on her visit to Tribal Council, was her Mother Debbie Johnson, Aunt Audrey Oliver, and Grandfather Howard Oliver. Her grandmother is Melvene Oliver, who was not present but is a tribal member.
Jim Potter gives remarks at Banner Creek Science Center opening

Jim Potter gave remarks at the Banner Creek Science Center official opening of its temporary building on May 29 near Holton.

Potter spoke on behalf of the PBPN who have been involved in the new center that is being designed to offer science education for children and adults. It will also house the Elk Creek Observatory that is the only school-owned observatory in the world and is presently located in Holton. The observatory includes a Ritchey-Cretien telescope and advanced astronomical technology.

The new building is located at 22275 N Road west of Holton and plans are to include a special wing of the center to the history of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Potter told the Topeka Capital-Journal in response to negative comments made about Indians during a speech that Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten gave at the State of the Community Event in front of approximately 350 people sponsored by the Topeka Chamber of Commerce.

During introductory remarks and seeking to make fun of Shawnee County Commission Chairman Ted Ensley, after following him to the microphone for his speech, Bunten made several disrespectful jokes including one that said that in Ensley’s younger days, Ensley dated an Indian girl, “but when they went out dancing, it rained.”

Shortly after learning about the contents of the speech, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Council responded by stating that Bunten’s remarks were disappointing and disparaging and that the tribe had given millions of dollars to the Topeka community and northeast Kansas to help with their nonprofit organizations and schools. Further, they were disheartened that Bunten would discredit them and other groups which did nothing but perpetuate a negative stereotyping of people.

Bunten’s remarks received national television attention when he was featured on Jay Leno’s Tonight show in an “inappropriate comment” spot on the show. Other local television stations also followed up on Bunten’s gaffe. However, when pressed by the local media a few days later for an apology Bunten reported that he was not going to apologize for his remarks as he felt he did nothing wrong.

Potawatomi police praised for work on child rape case

The Potawatomi Tribal Police Department received high praise from Barry Grisson, the U.S. Attorney in Kansas, and the PBPN Tribal Council for thoroughly investigating and cooperating with other law enforcement agencies that contributed to a plea of no contest from a man in a child rape case.

A press release issued from Grisson’s office said that Trent Robinson, 51, pleaded no contest in Jackson County District Court to a charge of raping a child under 14 years of age that occurred on the reservation. A judge found Robinson guilty and has set sentencing for June 27.

“The PBPN Tribal Council is pleased with the swift and professional job with which the PBPN Police Department conducted the investigation in this case...”

Steve Ortiz, Tribal Chairman

Robinson was NOT a PBPN tribal member or a member of any tribe, as was erroneously reported in the Topeka Capital-Journal on May 25. A retraction was issued by the newspaper the following day after officials from the Tribal administration notified them about the misinformation.

In return for Robinson’s plea to the charge in state court, the U.S. Attorney’s Office agreed not to file federal charges against him. “Mr. Robinson was unwilling to enter a plea until he was assured in writing there would be no federal charges,” said U.S. Attorney Grisson.

The parties have agreed to recommend a “hard 25” sentence.

“After consulting with the Jackson County Attorney’s Office and tribal law enforcement, I agreed with them that justice would be served in this case by a sentence of 25 years without parole,” Grisson said.

Steve Ortiz, tribal chairman said: “The PBPN Tribal Council is pleased with the swift and professional job with which the PBPN Police Department conducted the investigation in this case. The Tribal Council also appreciates the cooperative efforts of the Jackson County Attorney’s Office, the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Police Department. They worked collaboratively and speedily to bring the defendant to justice while continuing to make and keep the PBPN a safe community in which to work and live.”

Shawna Miller, Jackson County Attorney, said: “The Prairie Band Potawatomi Police Department conducted a professional and thorough investigation into this matter. The cooperation between my office and the U.S. Attorney’s Office ensured that a child rapist has been taken off the streets for twenty-five years, without any further trauma to the child in this case.”

In his plea, Robinson admitted that he had sexual intercourse with a minor child on the reservation.

Grisson commended the Tribal Police Department, Jackson County Attorney Shawna Miller and Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Metzger for their work on the case.

Tribal Council issues statement to media about Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten’s negative remarks on Indians

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council issued a statement on April 24 to the Topeka Capital-Journal in response to negative comments made about Indians during a speech that Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten gave at the State of the Community Event in front of approximately 350 people sponsored by the Topeka Chamber of Commerce.

Plans are in the works for Banner Creek Science Center to include space for a curriculum of courses that will study the history of the PBPN and hopefully bring a broader understanding of mutual respect and appreciation for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation’s beliefs, customs and activities.
Meet Tribal Police Corporal Steven Smith

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 Steven Smith:

Q: What is your official title?
A: I am the Police Service Dog Handler (K9) and a Corporal for second shift (3 p.m. to 11 p.m.)

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

Q: Are you a tribal member?
A: No.

Q: Do you have other education besides high school?
A: I attended Hutchinson Community College and studied Criminal Justice. I have served as a Military Police Officer in the U.S. Army. I also graduated from the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in 1999. After coming to Kansas, I completed a brief training session to obtain my Kansas Law Enforcement certification.

Q: Can you briefly outline your work experience?
A: I attended basic training in Ft. McClellan (Alabama) and completed the Military Police Officer Academy in 1996. In May 1998 I became employed with the Richardson County Sheriff’s office in Falls City, Neb. where I was Deputy Sheriff and a Police Service Dog Handler until 2006. I then moved to Kimball County, Neb. where I served as Chief Deputy (Undersheriff) and Interim Sheriff. Following, in 2009 I began working for the Potawatomi Tribal Police Department.

Q: Have you graduated from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) and what does that mean to you?
A: Yes, and it always feels great to complete training as it is allowing me to continue working in law enforcement. I have wanted to be a police officer ever since elementary school and it is not every day that you get to do the work you love, be happy doing it, and, as a bonus, get paid for doing it.

Q: What does it mean to you to work for the Tribal Police Department?
A: It is affording me the opportunity to learn about a different culture of people and how to serve the community when needed.

Q: What goals would you like to achieve in your work with the Tribal Police Department?
A: Many of the goals I set forth for myself have already been accomplished through creating a five-year plan. They are: becoming a K9 Handler; being an instructor in defensive tactics, ground fighting and police-pursuit driving, and attending field training officer school. Further, my day-to-day goals are to continue serving the community fairly, honestly and professionally. I also strive to be a productive supervisor and officer for the tribal police. I also plan to finish my degree and have a long-term goal of teaching other law enforcement officers in a training academy setting.

Q: What would you like to tell the tribal membership about your work or life?
A: When I’m at work I have a business-like personality and I am a driven individual. I am married to Shanna Smith who works in the PBPN Human Resources Department. I also have a daughter, Sierra, 14, who attends Royal Valley. I have two miniature Pinscher dogs and I enjoy being outside with my family, bird hunting, fishing, water skiing, exercising or riding my motorcycle.

Come learn the basics of what dispatchers need from citizens when reporting a crime to be presented by John Hurla (PBPN tribal dispatcher)

When: July 5, 2012, 5 p.m.
Where: Bingo Hall,

Call 785-966-3024 for details
The Boys & Girls Club held lots of activities during spring break including a dodge ball game on March 21 between tribal police and the kids. Other activities included trips to the Salt Mines in Hutchinson, Kan. and bowling and visiting the zoo in Topeka.

Staff from the Language Department worked with youth during their spring break last March and taught them how to make stick balls and how to play the game. (Left to right) Leo Nadeau, Eddie Joe Mitchell, Colton Wahquahboshkuk, Doug Thomas, Wahp LeClere, Darius “Nenahi” Frisby, and Billy Matchie.

(Photo submitted by Jessica Youngbird)

Easter Egg-stravaganza held at Boys & Girls Club - community event a big hit

Thanks to the sponsors of the Easter Egg-stravaganza

• Gina Roxas & daughter Jennifer
• Brenda Nozhackum in honor of baby Xavier
• Noah and Samantha Wahquahboshkuk in honor of baby Leo
• Kansas Reservation Ministries
• Tribal Council
• Holton Walmart
• PBPN Tribal Police
• Denison State Bank
• WIBW TV 13
• PBPN Elder Center
• Karen Kats-PBPN Adult Social Services
• Boys & Girls Club
• Tribal Victims Assistance
• PBPN Family Violence Prevention

Brunch was served at the club.

(Left) Some Boys & Girls Club youth who attended the Easter Egg-stravaganza gathered for a pose outside the club’s signage.

(Right) Kids hunting for eggs in the library of the club. Poor weather conditions forced the Easter Egg-stravaganza inside where eggs were hidden in various rooms and in the hallways. Door prizes were also given to attendees.
Potawatomi Fire Chief Mike Mills named Employee of the Quarter

The Potawatomi Fire Department has acquired a new state-of-the-art Ford ambulance that has upgraded safety features and new equipment to provide better service to the community.

A new rescue fire truck was also acquired recently that will help fight fires and provide more protection to the community.

Editor’s Note
At press time, Chief Richard “Mike” Mills died on June 11 and funeral services were held June 16, 11 a.m. at Mission Valley School in Eskridge, Kansas. He was given full Fire Department Honors and paid deep respect by the Potawatomi Fire Department.

Storm Spotters training teaches community how to be safe

The Potawatomi Fire Department hosted a Storm Spotters Training at the Bingo Hall April 18. Chad Omitt (right), a meteorologist from the National Weather Service, taught the training that was open to the public and drew a crowd of more than 30 people. With Omitt is Randy Smith (left) and Paul Juedes (center).

The Potawatomi Fire Department was honored April 27 as Employee of the Quarter at the All Employee meeting held at the Bingo Hall.

It was a special day for the PBPN, as Mills, who has been diagnosed with cancer and is on a medical leave, was able to attend the ceremony and meeting with the help of his wife, Rita. He was recognized in front of the audience by Lance Wishkeno, of the Fire Department, who read aloud Mills’ nomination for the award and where several firefighters and the Tribal Council stood in support. Following a short acceptance speech by Mills, PBPN employees came forth and shook hands with the group in a line which is Prairie Band tradition.

Parked outside the Bingo Hall were two new fire department vehicles that Mills also got to see finally in the possession of the PBPN. For months before his illness, Mills had been working on securing the correct specifications for a state-of-the-art new Ford ambulance and a rescue-fire truck.

A fundraising benefit was also held the following Saturday night for Mills at the Dover Community Center in Dover, Kan.

Chief Mills began his duties for the PBPN on June 29, 2009 and is in charge of a staff of approximately 18 firefighters/emergency medical technicians (EMT) and paramedics who work in the department. He was recently noted for his work as the acting public information officer for the incident management team composed of northeast Kansas EMS personnel that formed quickly when an EF-2 tornado touched down in Harveyville, Kan. on February 28. According to Wishkeno, who was at the scene, Mills worked at the scene all night and into the morning the next day. Harveyville is near Topeka and in Wabaunsee County and was declared an emergency disaster.

Mills is from Topeka and prior to his present position, worked for the Topeka/Tecumseh Fire Department for 23 years. Before that, he was the assistant fire chief for the Mission Township Fire District region for five years and is originally from the Dover/Wabaunsee area. In addition, his experience also includes being a field instructor in the University of Kansas Fire Search Training Program for several years and receiving training through the National Fire Academy.

ABOVE: Mike Mills (center with buffalo award) with members of the Fire Department and Tribal Council. (Left to right) Randy Smith, Cecil Mercer, Jim Potter (kneeling), Lance Wishkeno, Rick Swogger, Paul Juedes, Greg Bills, Bruce Coates, Austin Stam, Steve Ortiz (kneeling), Ursula Fisk, Mary LeClere and Frank Zeller.

BELOW: (Left to right) Lance Wishkeno, Steve Ortiz, Carrie O’Toole, Jim Potter (in back of Mills), Chief Mills and Rita Mills. Wishkeno nominated Mills for the award.
Potawatomi News
summer 2012

Human Resources update

All workers for the PBPN participated in a seminar called Boundaries in the Work Place that was taught by Carol Bonebrake, an attorney with Holbrook & Osborn in Overland Park. The seminar was held March 14 at the Rock/Community building.

Human Resources update

Don Baker, Loss Control Consultant for Tribal First Insurance Service, gave a training on defensive driving to all PBPN employees on May 1-2 at the Bingo Hall. Employees were given tips on how to drive safely and to avoid having accidents on the road.

Health Fair promotes good health and fun

A “Commit to be Fit” health fair was held after the All-Employee meeting April 27 where employees learned about becoming fit and getting involved in exercise.

The event was sponsored by the Human Resources Department, Diabetes Prevention Program, Health Center, Fire Department and the Healing to Wellness Court.

Medical staff from the Health Clinic provided medical screenings and there were demonstrations of zumba, theraband, and high intensity workouts for employees to try.

In addition, outside businesses had information tables like Maximus Fitness Club, Weight Watchers, Topeka’s Garage Gym, Holton Chiropractic Center, and Elite Nutrition, to name a few.

There were also prizes for completing a personal health screening and door prizes were also handed out throughout the morning activities.

PBPN job opportunity listings
at www.pbpindiantribe.com/employment.aspx

New Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Child Support Services program

A new PBPN child support program that will provide child support services to tribal members and other members of federally-recognized tribes is now staffed and located in offices on the lower level of the Government Center.

The purpose of the program is to assist grandparents, guardians and others who qualify in obtaining child support through the enforcement of child support orders, locating custodial and non-custodial parents, and working with various tribal programs to ensure members receive benefits.

Kelly Greemore and Erin “Kumos” Hubbard have been hired to staff the program and are presently setting up the office that is being developed through 1 Family Services, a consulting agency with child support program expertise.

PBN employee health insurance meetings held

Employees met with health insurance representatives from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, Delta Dental, and Aflac May 15-17 to learn about insurance coverage and cost changes. The meetings that were held at various locations on the reservation was sponsored by the Human Resources Department.

For information about the Human Resources Department call 785.966.3060.

(Left to right) is Marsha Harlan, Vivien Olsen, Jerry Sweet and Kay Kile who spoke to an audience at the Fire Keepers Elder Center about the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Child Support Enforcement program that has come to the Nation and is housed on the lower level of the Government Center where Economic Development offices previously were located.
This voter guide includes the photographs and profiles of candidates who are running in the Tribal Council/Ethics Commission Election to be held on July 28, 2012. Four (4) members of the Tribal Council: Vice Chairperson (1), Treasurer (1), and Council Person #2 (1) and Council Person #3 (1) will be elected. The term of office for each position is for four (4) years. Six (6) members of the Ethics Commission: Chairperson (term 4 years), Vice Chairperson (term 3 years), Secretary (term 4 years) and one (1) Commissioners: #1 (3 years), Commissioner #2 (2 years) and Ethics Commissioner #3 (2 years), Candidates listed provided their own profile for the News.

### Election Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 16-30</td>
<td>Declaration of Candidacy Filing Date (4 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Deadline to withdraw candidacy (4 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 23,</td>
<td>Last day (4 p.m.) members 18 years of age or older can register to receive a ballot for this election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Ballots mailed to registered voters only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 28</td>
<td>Last day for ballots to be received at Mayetta Post Office (9 a.m.). Ballots will be tabulated in an open meeting for tribal members that will be held in the Rock/Community bldg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Protest to election must be filed by 4 p.m.</td>
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If needed, Run-Off Elections will take place for those not winning by majority vote four (4) weeks following the election.

### Just so you know

- The Tribal Council/Ethics Commission Election day falls on a Saturday.
- Candidates must win by a 50 percent plus 1 majority vote or a run-off election will be held.
- Oath of Office of newly elected officials is scheduled by Tribal Council not later than 14 business days after announcement of election results.
- Election shall be conducted in accordance with the Constitution and Election Ordinance of the PBPN.

Voters Guide 2012 Tribal Council/Ethics Commission Election page 11

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Election Board
P.O. Box 128
Mayetta, Kansas 66509

Voncile Mitchell-785.966.3911
(email: vmitchell@pbpnation.org)

Arlene Lingo-785.966.3934
(email: Arlenel@pbpnation.org)

Sherri Landis-785.554.7060
(email: sherri39@hotmail.com)
Exert your right to vote in the election!

**Tribal Council Vice-Chairperson (vote for one (1))**

**Calvin Evans**

My name is Calvin Evans. I am seeking the position of Vice Chairperson of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. I just finished serving 18 years on the Gaming Commission. My position was eliminated by the powers that be. Being an elected official can be difficult, if you let it be. If elected, I will do the best that I can. I will listen and be fair about everything and everyone.

An elected position is not just an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. job. As a former Gaming Commissioner, I have sometimes had to be at the casino at all times dealing with projects, problems, etc. and on call and believe Tribal Council officials should be the same. Travel is not that important to me. I will go if need be, but my job is here, working for the people.

Four years ago I was honored to be elected to this position of vice-chairperson for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. I am pleased to ask for your support to continue to serve as your representative once again.

I am Joyce Kitchkommie Guerrero. Sogmah-quah is my Indian name. I am the daughter of Agnes Wabski and Joseph Kitchkommie, my grandparents are Francis Kitchkommie and Dora Gokey and Mary Ship-Ship-quah and Joe Wabski. I have proudly served as Tribal Council vice-chairperson representing the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for the last four years. Before that I was elected for two terms as a Gaming Commissioner with regulatory duties ensuring compliance with the state compact and the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC).

As Tribal Council vice-chairperson, I am called upon to assist the chairman as required by the Constitution sometimes doing the duties of the chairman in his absence, meeting and greeting local, state and federal officials, presiding over meetings, making sure tribal member's requests that need Tribal Council attention gets on the agenda. I was elected for two terms as a Gaming Commissioner with regulatory duties ensuring compliance with the state compact and the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC).

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I have a broad range of working experience having worked all my adult life. I worked at Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) for many years in accounting and customer service and resigned when I was elected to work for the Nation. I was raised in Topeka, around and with other Indian families who, like mine, moved off the reservation for the first time to find work. I know where we came from; I know the background and history of our people. We are all the same, whether we moved off the reservation or stayed on the reservation. We all carry the same pride in being Prairie Band Potawatomi and have an interest in our future, for our children and grandchildren. As a grandma and family-oriented person, I would like to see our younger generation enrolled and not left out. We need to take care of our elderly and families to make sure they live in a safe environment.

I attended Topeka schools and also for a short time boarding school in South Dakota. I attended Washburn University while as a single mother working part time. I also served on the Tribal Council in the early 1980s. During that time, I volunteered for the Topeka Indian Center and was on the board of directors for awhile offering support and services to all Indians.

One of the goals I will work on with Tribal Council is to keep employment steady. Although last year was a record for tribal distributions from the casino, we must be aware that state gaming is still a factor. The General Council approved funding for economic development and we need to start focusing on economic development in other areas. Other goals are the continued support for housing assistance in the areas of down payment, rental assistance and renovation for all members and education assistance for all. Health care is another concern that needs improvement.

I voted with Tribal Council recently to approve a land into trust application process for the land in Illinois. The Shab-e-h-nay project has been going on so long with time and money spent on it. Once we know the answer from the Department of Interior I would like to see Tribal Council move on feasible plans for that area. Until a time in the future where we can find out what the land status is I would not approve of spending of anymore money on housing or plans in that area. There has been much good work done in that area from past Tribal Councils, and also some not very good decisions and we have to deal with what the situation is now and move forward.

I will continue to strive to be a positive and influential representative for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation making fair and thoughtful decisions. I will uphold the Prairie Band Potawatomi Constitution and law and order codes. I will approve amending or adding codes when it benefits the entire PBP Nation. I will be available at all times for meetings and communication from all.

If elected, I will do the best that I can and be responsible for my conduct while in office. I can't speak about other officials but at the quarterly General Council meetings and in the Vice Chairperson report I plan to list my expense report for the quarter for food, gas, travel, etc.

In closing, I'd appreciate your vote and say to you that if I am elected I will do the best that I can. I can be reached at 785.966.0112.

I have been on the reservation for over forty years. I enjoy being around my nephews, nieces, and basically, my family.

If elected, I will work on Tribal Council to keep employment steady. Although last year was a record for tribal distributions from the casino, we must be aware that state gaming is still a factor. The General Council approved funding for economic development and we need to start focusing on economic development in other areas. Other goals are the continued support for housing assistance in the areas of down payment, rental assistance and renovation for all members and education assistance for all. Health care is another concern that needs improvement.

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In closing, I'd appreciate your vote and say to you that if I am elected I will do the best that I can. I can be reached at 785.966.0112.
Tribal Council Vice-Chairperson (vote for one (1)) (cont’d)

I am Carol Wahwasuck Shopteese (Ishnokwe’). I am seeking to serve as Vice-Chairperson on the Tribal Council. I am the daughter of Thurman “Dutch” Shopteese and Arlene B. Shippee Wahwasuck. I am married to Kenneth “Shoe” Jessepe and have 3 children-Charissa (Sebeke’), Shannon (Mukswe’), and Cordell (Bebishe). I possess two Master’s Degrees-Social Work (2004) and Business Administration (2006). I believe I’m a strong candidate for this position. I have served as an administrator for over eight years in two tribal social services programs. I served on local, state and national initiatives for foster care to address tribal concerns and advocacy in State/Federal systems. I am an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) expert and have taught ICWA basics to attorneys, judges and social workers for Kansas SRS in a collaborative effort with (University of Kansas) KU. I taught Cultural Diversity at KU in 2009/2010. I am a recent appointee by the General Council to the PBPN Social Services Board. I have 7 years experience of business management, personnel management and business administration through my service as a founding board member of two non-profit organizations. I continue to serve as a board chairperson for one of those non-profit organizations. I successfully operated my own business for 6 years. I have 6 years experience as a Gaming Inspector and 1.5 year's experience as a regulatory/management employee for the Kickapoo Tribe Gaming Commission. I have served on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation Board since December 2010. I am knowledgeable of Federal laws that affect the Tribe and our gaming enterprise. I will uphold the PBPN Constitution and ensure it is used to support our People, not oppress them.

I strongly feel that Tribal Members deserve compassion, respect/responsiveness, fairness, honesty and integrity. Our children need to be protected and our families need to be preserved. I believe when Tribal Members ask for information, they deserve an answer and attention when they have concerns and a true “open door” policy. They deserve Tribal Council Members who are willing to work 40 plus hours a week to meet the needs of the People. We need to move forward with our economic development. Above all, Tribal Members should receive first consideration for a job with the Nation if they qualify for the position. Tribal Members should be given every opportunity to advance in their positions. Those Members who are treated unfairly should be given reconsideration by the Nation and we need to restructure our Employee's Tribunal system. Our employees deserve fair, consistent policies. Lastly, we need to draw wisdom from our Elders and, if elected, I hope to create an Elders Council to provide direction to the Tribal Council.

I am willing to work very hard for the Nation and to represent our People in a fair, honest, consistent manner. I hope you will place your confidence in my capable hands, your concerns onto my competent shoulders and honor me with your vote as Vice-Chairperson for the Nation. If you have any questions, please call me at 785-991-0299.

Carol A. Wahwasuck Shopteese

You have been introduced to me a few times before. My name is Titu paw kwa. My English name is Ronald A. Wahweotten Jr. Friends, family and acquaintances call me Tony. My parents are Ron and Laveda Wahweotten. My grandparents are Ray and Elsie Wahweotten-Wahweotten and Charlie and Lillian Shopteese -Thomas. I have three children, Chaumin, Breenah (Our 2009 – 2011 Prairie Band Potawatomi Princess), and Zach, and am married to Angela Greenmore-Wahweotten. We have lived in Mayetta, Kansas for 21 years.

I started working when I was young, mowing yards, shoveling snow, and painting. Starting to work at an early age helped me create a strong work ethic. I graduated from Royal Valley in 1984. At that time, I went to work for the U.S.D.A. as a Field Office Engineering Technician for six years where I learned land management practices that would be very beneficial to our reservation.

My father and I created 1st Nation Painting which was founded in 1996. The business is still in operation today. In addition, I have been taught great respect for all of our resources through hunting, fishing and gathering from our Wisconsin Potawatomi's Big Drum religion since I was 12 years old. In closing, thanks again for this opportunity to run for PBPN Vice-Chairperson.

Tony Wahweotten

In addition to my daily activities, I have served on our Tribal Zoning committee for eighteen years. I was nominated and voted to serve as chairman for two terms on the Tribal Zoning committee. I was asked to participate and soon after was elected as a board member to the Land Management committee where I served for ten years.

I have lived both on the reservation and off the reservation in the surrounding areas of Mayetta, Hoyt and Topeka all of my life. Raised by a strong family, I acquired the knowledge needed to function well in both our traditional and contemporary worlds. I am invested and active in both. I am a healthy, non-smoking, full-blooded Prairie Band Potawatomi.

My business management skills, time management abilities, and self-sufficiency have been developed through many years of hard work. Once elected into the office of Vice-Chairperson on our Tribal Council, my wife, Angela, and staff will continue to run our business. I will surrender my duties. Currently, as far as the Nation's affairs, I would like to see our programs evaluated for effectiveness and continued accountability.

My interest in running for Tribal Council has come from being involved with the Nation in various business endeavors, meetings, committee work and my own personal experience. I have earned a reputation for being fair, honest, and reliable concerning responsibilities and obligations, having strong ethical standards and being able to make sound business decisions quickly.

We need a strong communicator, a leader, and a person with proven business skills that thinks in honorable, ethical and moral ways. I fit those qualifications.

I humbly ask for your vote. With your support, I will do my best in representing our Nation.

Joe Young

Hello to all of you, and thanks for the opportunity to run for Tribal Council. I am Joe Young from Vesper, Wisconsin. I'm 57, and with my wife, Lysa we have 6 children and numerous grandchildren. I have 24 years of experience working for Indian Tribes. I've worked in all areas of tribal government, know their inner workings, and believe that I can help our Tribe.

The one thing I strongly believe is that the welfare of the Wisconsin Potawatomi Nation should come first. By that I mean not only the local tribal membership who live on the reservation, but those who live near and far from the reservation, should have a fair share of the tribal prosperity and benefits that are available. I know the Tribe can’t meet all the needs of the people. That means that tough but fair decisions have to be made by our leaders, and that's where my experience and education will help.

We need a strong communicator, a leader, and a person with proven business skills that thinks in honorable, ethical and moral ways. I fit those qualifications.

I humbly ask for your vote. With your support, I will do my best in representing our Nation.

Joe Young

I have a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. My Juris Doctorate law degree is from the University of Wisconsin. I started as an attorney in the Indian law section of Wisconsin Judicature. I worked on Indian Child Welfare cases, a discrimination case in federal court, and helped Indian organizations with tax exempt issues. I then worked as tribal attorney for the Lac du Flambeau Chippewa. While there, I represented that tribe in a part of their successful 17 year federal court battle with the state of Wisconsin over treaty rights, and we won the federal court lawsuit against Wisconsin, which opened the casinos in the state. I also had to negotiate with the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and with Governor Tommy Thompson. I worked on personnel issues, tribal government program compliance problems, and had to deal with every issue facing the tribe.

I worked next as tribal attorney for the Forest County Potawatomi. While there, we sued the State of Wisconsin for bad faith negotiations on a gaming compact and won. My main issue there was the right against Exxon mobil, and in 1989, I helped set up a complete Tribal Environmental Department, with tribal jurisdiction, codes and enforcement authority.

We worked for years on a Class I air designation under the Federal Clean Air Act, which would protect the reservation if the mine ever came in. I dealt and negotiated with members of the U.S. Congress and Senate, EPA and BIA. I sat for a number of years on the Environmental Financial Advisory Board, which advised EPA and the President of the United States on national issues.

I then worked for the Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe. My main issue there was successfully dealing with a major HUD housing problem. Finally, I sat on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Court of Appeals as one of the three original justices. I've been a member of our Wisconsin Potawatomi's Big Drum religion since I was 12 years old. In closing, thanks again for this opportunity to run for PBPN Vice-Chairperson.

Joe Young

I am willing to work very hard for the Nation and to represent our People in a fair, honest, consistent manner. I hope you will place your confidence in my capable hands, your concerns onto my competent shoulders and honor me with your vote as Vice-Chairperson for the Nation. If you have any questions, please call me at 785-991-0299.
My name is Hattie Mitchell "Wabenoqwe." I am a lifelong follower our traditional ways, the Potawatomi Drum religion and the Potawatomi language. I am committed to serve the people of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in a fair, honest, and transparent manner. It is important for the treasurer to be dedicated to the fields of accounting and finance. As a licensed CPA, and member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), I have in-depth experience working in the accounting and finance professions. It has always been my goal to run for treasurer of our Nation. Having this as an end goal has directed me on what I have needed to do to prepare myself to be the best treasurer for our people. My expertise in accounting and knowledge of finance and investments is allowing me to better read and understand financial statements and to better analyze business and tribal operations. Currently, I work in the PBPN Finance department, where I am responsible for tracking tribal operations and working with the accounting systems.

Education
CPA-Certified Public Accountant with a permit to practice in Kansa and AICPA member
- Highest license in the field of accounting
- Trained in governmental accounting and financial statement analysis
- Maintain a high level of financial competence through continuing education
- Dedicated to provide the highest standards of ethics and professional conduct
- Pursued rigorous course work in accounting, finance, and economics after college

BBA-Bachelor's of Business Administration with emphasis in Accounting and Finance, Washburn University, Topeka, KS
- Earned a total of 150 hours of college credit including post graduate work required to take the CPA examinations

Professional Experience
Over 6 years as an accountant and financial performance analyst at Security Benefit, Topeka, KS
- Financial statement and budget analysis for multiple entities in asset management, investments, and insurance
  • Presented financial results and did financial forecasting for a multi-billion dollar insurance company

Other Experience
-5 years experience in gaming operations at Harrah's Prairie Band Casino (earned chairman's award for best team results)
- Summer Venture in Management Program at Harvard Business School
- Studied International Politics at Cambridge University in England
- Community involvement
- Kansas Children's Discovery Center (KCDC) Board of Directors and Finance Committee - provided oversight and input on the organization's operations, financial well-being, and strategic direction
- Member of Women of Interest Investment Club-study the economic environment and research equity investments

Knowing my lifelong goal of being treasurer of the PBPN has directed my education, professional experience, and community involvement. I am highly enthusiastic to take on the opportunity of treasurer and plan to deliver a better future for our general membership. I plan to focus on the issues of:
- Economic development and job creation
- Protecting tribal sovereignty and gaming compacts
- Increasing transparency of tribal operations
- Increasing educational opportunities
- Improving health care services

I would appreciate your vote, and I look forward to serving the tribe. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at hattie.mitchell@gmail.com.

---

My name is Paul Vega, son of the late Ralph and Phyllis Nozhackum Vega and I am running for the position of Tribal Treasurer. I believe that the position of Tribal Treasurer is an important position within our government structure because it is through the responsible fiscal management of the Nation's finances that we are able to provide the programs and services that allow us to continue to improve the quality of life for all tribal members. I understand and respect the fiduciary responsibilities that come with the position of Tribal Treasurer and will uphold these responsibilities with integrity and pride.

I have a varied background that I believe provides me with the skills, education and experience to successfully hold the position of Tribal Treasurer. I served three years in the United States Army Airborne Infantry and received an honorable discharge at the end of my service to our country. Through the assistance of the Nation's Education Program, I have obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Washburn University and I have a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Baker University. In addition to my service to our country and my education, I have had the honor of working for both our Casino and our Tribal Government. While at the Casino, I worked as a Table Games Supervisor and was promoted to Table Games Manager. I currently work for the Tribal Government in Member Services, but I have also worked for the Road and Bridge Program and as an Accountant in the Finance Department.

This background and work history provides me with first-hand knowledge of casino operations as well as government operations, both of which I believe are beneficial to the success of the Tribal Treasurer because our casino revenues directly fund the major portion of our tribal programs. Understanding how these two are connected and interdependent is important in understanding the roles, responsibilities and functions of the position of Tribal Treasurer. My background as a Finance Accountant allows me to come into the position of Tribal Treasurer already knowing the financial structure of the Nation. I have direct, hands-on experience working with the actual budgets of the Nation.

I believe that we have done a good job of managing the Nation's finances and at the same time, I also believe that that there is always room for improvement. I have heard concerns of the membership with regard to the Minor's Trust Fund, the Nation's investments, and Economic Development progress. I believe that there are ways to improve these areas and am willing to listen to the membership and the current staff to find solutions to the concerns that continue to resurface with regard to these issues. I know that there are solutions and I believe that through a coordinated effort we can find those solutions.

If I am elected to the position of Tribal Treasurer, I promise to always work for what I believe is in the best interests of the Nation and all of its members and to listen to those members when they have concerns or suggestions. We are all Prairie Band Potawatomi and I believe that by working together, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

Please feel free to contact me via email at pvega2896@yahoo.com if you have any questions and thank you for your time.
First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone for your attentiveness and trust. I am Noah Wahquahboshkuk and I am Thunder Clan. I know what it is like to come from poverty and have to make do with what we had available, by means of the use of our traditional ways of self-sustenance, as well as, using what little "commodes" we had. Coming from a family of 9, it was hard to have enough to go around but we made it work. Being Potawatomi we are survivors, we all have it in us to find the strength to overcome. I am running for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council Treasurer position and I believe I have what it takes to continue to address the important economic and intricate issues of the Nation.

From the time I was appointed as Treasurer, in November 2021 to the present, I have made the best decisions possible to help alleviate some of the shortfalls pertaining to the Nation's finances. Some decisions are tough but in the end, you have to ask yourself, "What is in the best interest of our people?" The main thing I find difficult, when faced with these decisions are that, sometimes it makes "business sense" but other times, does it make "cultural sense"? As we continue to develop as a growing Nation, we find ourselves having to re-evaluate our current goals to see if they are still in alignment with the goals that have been established in the past.

My K-12 education has been with USD 337-Royal Valley. After high school, I attended Haskell Indian Nations University where I received my Associate Degree, as well as, my Bachelor Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Tribal Management. Finally, I completed my Masters Degree in Business Administration from Baker University. This pursuit of education allowed me to venture from home (the Rez) and to see what is available. This expanded my knowledge of the working world and the part tribal nations play in it.

Our people, our land, our values, and our treaties define us as who we are. If you take one of these away it weakens us, as Potawatomi people we shall continue to preserve these things we hold sacred. Sometimes we find ourselves fighting with one another, but we should be helping one another, because in the end that is all we have; the way I see it, WE ARE ALL FAMILY, we are Potawatomi. Sometimes it feels as if a lot of these things we have afforded to us now make us greedy and cold, but there are larger threats that we should be focused on such as the health of our people, the revitalization of our natural resources, creating jobs for our people, etc....

Again, thank you for your time and consideration, I appreciate the time I have had as Treasurer and I look forward to the opportunity to be one of your tribal leaders of the next 4 years.

Tribal Council Treasurer (vote for one (1) cont’d)

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I hereby declare my candidacy for the position as Council Person #2 on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Tribal Council. The qualifications I bring to the elected position are my work experience in our Tribal government, management, Federal/State programs, and my formal education. In addition, I have previously worked for the highly nationally profiled Salvation Army and presently work as a Special Education Paraprofessional II for the Topkea School District U.S.D. #50L.

I pledge the following visionary goals on behalf of our Nation:

- Preservation of our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation language and culture beliefs.
- Create new jobs through a comprehensive economic development plan.
- More efficient financial responsibility to the General Council/Tribal Membership.
- Propose a new business plan to establish our Nation's first ownership of a digital/copy services enterprise.
- Propose a long-term plan to insure our Nation's energy and water resource needs are met.

My Vision for the Nation
Specifically I want to pursue more grant programs in order to provide more housing, better healthcare, and more education and employment opportunities. Ignoring these opportunities only impedes our progress. By utilizing these benefits, advancement and improvement for the tribe can happen.

Some of the issues that I seek to address while serving the people of the Potawatomi Nation are the following:
- Develop More Housing
- Enhance Healthcare Services
- Creating New Employment
- Increasing Education Opportunities

Conclusion
I will use my skills of leadership, intelligence, and diligence to have a positive impact on our Nation. My attention and commitments are to the Potawatomi people and their needs. I understand that purposeful and productive change needs to continue to occur so that our Tribe will grow stronger and continue to prosper. Most importantly I understand that as your representative, I am your advocate.

Tribal Council Person # 2 (vote for one (1))

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My name is Chris "Pah Nah" Mzhickteno. I am married to my lovely wife, Laura, and I have two wonderful children, a son, Cody, 11, and daughter, Tiffany, 1. My father is Vernon Mzhickteno and my grandfather was La Rue Mzhickteno. I have strong family values, and I intend to raise my children practicing our traditional way of life. I have been fortunate enough to work for the Nation for 3 years. I currently work in the health center as the RPM Site Manager/Computer Technician. In that time I have learned a lot about the needs and hopes of our people. I invite tribal members to visit me and share their thoughts with me at any time. With your support, as a council member I would continue my open-door policy and remain available to hear your thoughts. I have started a blog, and over the coming months I will post more about me and my ideas for our tribe. I encourage you to comment and share as well. http://chrisforpbpncouncil.blogspot.com/

My Promise to the Nation
I promise to uphold the integrity of my position and I will strive to exceed the expectations of all citizens of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe. I am devoted to listening to all citizens and addressing their needs, concerns, and hopes. I am dedicated to protecting and preserving the traditional way of life and traditions. Finally, I will work to enhance and strengthen the tribe for the future.

My Vision for the Nation
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- Enhance Healthcare Services
- Creating New Employment
- Increasing Education Opportunities

Conclusion
I will use my skills of leadership, intelligence, and diligence to have a positive impact on our Nation. My attention and commitments are to the Potawatomi people and their needs. I understand that purposeful and productive change needs to continue to occur so that our Tribe will grow stronger and continue to prosper. Most importantly I understand that as your representative, I am your advocate.
I have been a life-long resident of the reservation only leaving to serve my country proudly in the Marines from 1970 to 1972. I am a Vietnam veteran. I am a life-long member of the We-Ta-Se Legion Post #410. Currently, I am an active member and serve on the Color and Honor Guards.

I graduated from Mayetta High School in 1969 and attended Haskell Indian Junior College.

Currently I work for the Potawatomi Nation at the Road & Bridge Department.

I would appreciate your vote during our upcoming election.

Benny J. Potts

My name is Thomas M. Wabnum. I have filed my candidacy for Tribal Council Person # 2. I have the honor of being named after my Misho John Wabnum (Nuck Muck), brother Pete Wabnum and also called Mktewzi. To many of you I am also called Hoppy. My maternal grandparents were Louis (Wabunuese) and Catherine (Kocke no quah). My paternal grandparents were John Wabnum (Nuck Muck) and Emma Young (Ash teh kish ko quah). My parents were Edward T. Wabnum (Wabnum) and Angeline M. Wabunuese (Kw Wai Quah).

I have been retired for eight years now and widowed for four years. I live in Albuquerque, N.M. and share a home with my family on the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Dulce, N.M.

I was employed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in various positions in Washington, D.C., Riverside, Calif., Dulce, N.M. and Albuquerque, N.M. Some positions were administrative and management positions with the BIA such as: Budget, Finance, Contracts, Social Services, Forestry, Property and Supply, and Trust Responsibilities. There were other positions in tribal government, Indian Self Determination or "638" and having oversight and monitoring of tribal governments. I performed on-site inspections of contract requirements pertaining to their financial records, vendor payments, sub-contract requirements, 638 drawdown request, contract reporting, computer systems, tribal budgeting and tribal reporting requirements.

I was also employed with the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) as required by the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994. I was a Budget Analyst for OST and a Management Analyst for the Office of Trust Records (OTR). The OST and OTR programs were to fix the historical broken trust system of BIA and create an electronic records management system for BIA.

After retirement, I also worked as a tribal contractor consultant with one Native Nation who was considered a "high risk" of failing their 638 contract requirements and federal payments were suspended.

During my career, I have learned so much about the government's failing attempts to administer program services. I was mainly concerned with the federal trust responsibilities pertaining to our tribal trust lands but more importantly the Individual Indian Allotments created by the Dawes Act of 1887. This Act was primarily the reason our lands were intentionally and forcefully taken from us by congressional legislation. We did not have any participation or vote in this Act but a majority of our lands were lost by Treaty and then later by allotment and fractionizing. Basically, BIA was responsible for will-making with tribal citizens keeping our allotments in whole but failing their duties, allotments are now owned by hundreds of heirs. These lands are not used, under-utilized but still under the same trust as tribal lands and still federally neglected.

The government's undermining attempts were to destroy tribal unity, abandon trust land status and forcing us to sell our lands that they didn't care about or our destiny after that. With my federal and tribal government experience, I want to continue to improve our tribal operations, create better business practices, review all tribal policies, create tribal and Indian preference policy, and, in general, build a reformed government. If elected, it's what WE want to do for our Nation now, our future so our decisions are based on the "common good" of the Nation.

For more information go to www:voteformktewzi.com.

My hope is that this newsletter finds you in good spirits and good health. My name is Jancita Warrington, or as some of you may have known me while growing up as Soc, which is a shortened version of my Indian name. I am Potawatomi and Ho Chunk on my mom's side and Menominee on my dad's side. I come from the Young family who has always resided in Wisconsin around what the Potawatomi know as the Shunk Hill area.

I have a Bachelors degree from Haskell and a Masters degree from the University of Kansas. I have had the privilege of serving our great Nation for almost two years as a Tribal Council woman. During this time I have strongly advocated for progressive change in our government structure with more accountability and transparency in our Nation by way of updated and restructured policy and procedures. During my time in office the Tribal Council has also tasked me with creating the Tribal Council policy and procedure document which is awaiting approval of its final revision.

In addition, I have also been tasked with running the Nation's Tribal Historic Cultural Preservation Department. I am currently working on a cultural preservation project that will temporarily be housed at the casino lobby but will be moved to its permanent home once a Potawatomi Cultural Center is approved. The preservation project will serve as an educational tool to learn about our people to those in the surrounding communities and, more importantly, to our own people. In the future, our people will be able to use these items and information for further study to learn about the old ways and to regain a cultural knowledge base that has been lost or forgotten over time. I believe this project is a vital link to the past, present, and future and identity of ourselves as Prairie Band Potawatomi people.

I am writing to ask for your support in the upcoming July election. I have always maintained a strong work ethic and I believe that each generation must work a little harder than the one before to set the stage for future leaders who will come after us.

We, as a Nation, must continue to move forward and PBPN tribal leaders must always have a positive vision for our future and more importantly for the future of our children. I am a strong believer in the importance of an identity that draws from our past, teaches us a strong place in the current world and gives us a level of responsibility to carry and accept with pride to assure that our future generations of Potawatomi people will understand who they are. I have never believed in blood quantum and will continue to try to educate our community about the importance of not letting this dictate who we are.

I believe in hard work, dedication to our people, and have a strong vision for the future of our Nation. I have always had an open door policy, and love to engage in discussion, as I believe this is what leads to empowerment of our people. I believe in treating each of our tribal members fairly, with respect and dignity because we as a whole together as Potawatomi people is what makes our Nation so great. Again I respectfully ask for your support in the upcoming election.
My name is Felix Cruz and I am a candidate for Tribal Council Person #3. I am the son of Richard Cruz and Christine Wahquahboshkuk. I have been married to Karissa Michelle Cruz for 12 years; I have one son, Sean Gerald Cruz. Although, due to my father's career in the U.S. Air Force, I was never afforded the opportunity of residing on the reservation. I do have a great many relatives still living and they have kept me up to date on current events throughout the years. Like most children of my generation, I attended Wamego Indian School, Marty Indian School, and Ft. Sill Indian School in Lawton, Oklahoma. The rest of my education was in the public school system. My work career has consist ed of 30 years in the telecommunications industry. I have been employed and worked with some of largest firms in the country including General Dynamics, Northrup Grumman, AT&T, and Verizon. I started out as a tester (labor) for a project in Puerto Rico for the Puerto Rico Telephone Company. Through hard work and studies I have progressed in this industry from the position of laborer to various degrees of engineer ing, project management, sales and marketing director, and construction manager. I presently work for Huntec Engineering in southern Kansas contracting to Kanotak Telephone Company. We are responsible for the engineering and project management overseeing the construction for a $58 million dollar internet upgrade from copper wire to fiber-optic cable placement to rural farming communities.

After attending recent General Council meetings, it is my opinion that our Tribal Council has lost its way. Combative positions instead of answers are not what we elect our representatives to government for. This is why I am asking for your vote and confidence for the upcoming election. My background in business has positioned me for any agenda that the General Council, will choose for me to represent. I welcome your suggestions and opinions. My email is cruz-felix@live.com and feel free to contact me anytime. I will share, that my concerns for the Prairie Band L.L.C., will be my top priority. We need jobs on the reservation and this firm can start creating ideas for our people. Once again, thank you for your time and I would appreciate your vote for Tribal Council Person #3.

Anita G. Pahmahmie Evans

My name is Anita G. Pahmahmie Evans (Kee-Wah-Chee) and I am a candidate for Tribal Council Person #3. My parents were the late Josie Wamego Pahmahmie and Richard “Dick” Pahmahmie. My maternal grandparents were Florence and Henry Wamego, and my paternal grandparents were Dolly and Thomas Pahmahmie Sr. I am a lifelong resident of the Prairie Band Potawatomi community and reservation. I am married to Mando Evans (31 years) and we have two sons-William and Evan. I have 3 grandchildren.

Education:
•1988-Bachelor of Science in Education Degree. Emporia State University, Emporia, KS.
•30+hours of credit-Washburn University/Friends University toward a Master’s Degree

Professional Experience
•18 years teaching in Kansas (Physical Education, Health, French)
•27 years coaching high school sports in Kansas
•17 years Title VII Indian Education Director for U.S.D. #337- wrote and implemented all aspects of the grant each year
•3 years-Native American Culture/Craft Specialist-PBPN Boys & Girls Club
•Designed and implemented Summer Youth Work Program-PBPN-1998
•Implemented the Potawatomi Language through the PBPN Language Department into the schools and at the PBPN Boys & Girls Club-17 years
•Taught French I and French II at Haskell Indian Nations University through the Upward Bound Program-2009
•Served as Director, Asst. Director, and Recreation Coordinator

Awards
•1997-Native American Educator of the Year (Kansas Association for Native American Education)
•2002-National Indian Teacher of the Year (National Indian Education Association)
•2010-Port Jervis High School Hall of Fame Inductee (Port Jervis, New York)

Community Service
•Chairperson-PBPN Head Start Policy Council-3 years
•Member-PBPN Language Preservation Grant Committee-4 years
•Member-U.S.D. #337 School to Work Committee-1 year
•Member-IMPACT Aid Committee-U.S.D. #337-17 years
•Member-PBPN Johnson O’Malley Parent Committee-3 years
•Head Coach-Pet-Wee Baseball League-3 years
•Head Coach-YMCA Basketball-4 years

I have worked with our youth all my life and I bring strong leadership qualities with me if elected to this prestigious position. I have seen our reservation grow in terms of economic development due to gaming revenue and good leadership over the past years. I witnessed all the positive opportunities that opened up for all of our members. I want to ensure that we, as a Nation, continue to thrive economically for our future generations. I won’t make any promises, but if elected I will work diligently for our people in every aspect. I believe I possess the work ethic to pursue the position of Council Member. I would appreciate your support in the upcoming election.

My name is Carrie Wabaunsee O’Toole. I am lightfoot Wabaunsee of the oldest daughter of Druss Masquant Wabaunsee and the late Will Wabaunsee. My grandparents were Jim and Charlotte Nokechick Wabaunsee and Bob and Carrie Packie Masquant. I have been happily married to Jim O’Toole for over 27 years and live in Mayetta, Kansas. We have four beautiful children: Kateri, Chris, Kavan and Lara; as well four grandchildren Andray, Daryon, Cllin and Dominick also an adopted son Josh who has a daughter Kylie. In addition, my sons have served in the military including the Marines, Army and Navy.

I was raised with my brother and sisters to have a strong belief in family, hard work and seeing things in a positive way. I have used this as philosophy to guide my life and, in particular during my time while serving the Nation as a member of the Tribal Council and former employee. I have worked as Gaming Commissioner also in Slots, Regulator Compliance and for the Nation's former bingo operation as well as both the Nation's Administration Program and Housing Program. This experience has allowed me to serve the people of our Nation and to gain knowledge and experience that are valuable in the position of a Tribal Council Member.

I have also served the people by serving on the Nation's Tribal Health Board and also as the alternate representative for the Oklahoma City Area Indian Tribal Health Board (OCAITHB), participating in the Four Tribes of Kansas meetings, working closely with the Census Bureau for the 2010 Census on the reservation. I routinely attend conferences and workshops to find additional resources for the Nation and ways to protect our sovereign rights. I participate in consultation with Federal Agencies to express the concerns of our Nation and to learn about how we can and do fulfill grant requirements. I believe in protecting our elders, veterans, children, and land, water rights and gaming rights. In my time in office, I feel we have made others very aware that we are serious about protecting our rights and sovereignty because of direct communication with Tribal council members such as me, rather than having attorneys relay our message for us. We have worked on Tribal legislation to strengthen our laws, State to be more inclusive like legislation to get Tribal Identification Cards accepted as a document to register to vote, and passing various Tribal resolutions and actions to protect and serve the Nation. Of utmost importance to is ensure the sovereignty of our Nation while at the same time being fiscally responsible and debt free.

(Continued on page 18)
Carrie O Toole profile continued from page 17

I graduated from Royal Valley High School and have attended college at Emporia State University, Washburn University, Haskell Indian Nations University. The knowledge I have gained while in college in the fields of education, psychology, and business and casino management has given me a diverse background that is helpful in the position of a Tribal Council Member. Over the years I have also volunteered and been involved in many community organizations where I have been and officer for the Tribal Education Parent Committee for Johnson O’Malley (JOM), as well as Title VII and Impact Aid. My family belongs to Our Lady of the Snows Church where we are active members. I want to thank you for letting me serve the Nation and its members. If re-elected, I will work with the members on supporting education programs for tribal members, keep the great programs we have that benefit our membership and community and keep the continual vigilance of protecting and serving our elders, veterans, youth and address- ing ongoing and upcoming health issues. I also believe strongly in preserving our history and culture while continuing to pursue economic development ventures with realistic goals to ensure our Nation’s future. Our goals can only be met by listening and working with other and using common sense to make smart decisions for the Nation.

I ask for your support and your vote to continue serving the Nation in the office of Tribal Council Member #3. I thank you in advance for participating in the upcoming Tribal Council Election and feel free to contact me at carrieo56@yahoo.com or my cell number 785.845.0111.

Tribal Council approves funds for over-income rental assistance for National Housing program

By Jackie Cummings, Housing Director

The Housing Department has announced that there are new funds available in an over-income category for rental assistance. Tribal Council approved the funds in May and an update of rental guidelines was made that are available on the housing webpage at www.pbpindiantribe.com.

The Renovation Assistance program and Down Payment program have also been resumed. Overall, the department began accepting applications on April 16 and applications and guidelines are available for pick up in the office and on the website at pbpindiantribe.com.

For more information call the Housing Department at 785.966.2756.

Review of programs

Renovation Program: Many applicants are on a waiting list and they will be processed first in the order in which they were received. New applications are also being accepted.

Rental Assistance Program: NOTE: Funds are now available in an over-income category.

For members who previously applied and were approved and received assistance you can re-apply, however, those applicants who are applying for the first time will be given priority.

Down Payment Assistance: Funding is available to assist tribal members with a down payment for a new home.

Fire Department/Emergency services to no longer respond to non-emergency lock outs

It’s a sign of the times but the Potawatomi Fire Department/Emergency Services, with the approval of tribal administration, would like to inform residents who live in homes under the jurisdiction of the Housing department that it will no longer respond to house or car lockouts unless it is a confirmed lifeline medical emergency situation.

Rick Swogger, Potawatomi Fire Department shift captain, said that it was regrettable but the change is mainly a matter of safety and liability.

“There are people out there who want to get inside homes who we don’t know or self-identify themselves as close relatives or even repair people,” he said.

“In the case of car lockouts we can also be held liable for possible damage to the car itself or theft of items inside the car once the car is unlocked.”

Below is a list of area locksmiths and call the PBPN Housing Department at 785.966.2756 for further information about losing house keys.

Area locksmiths

JA CO Locksmith (Holton)...785.305.1439
ASAP Locksmith (St. Marys)...785.43.2727

A note from Member Services about the burial fund

The Burial Fund was established to help ease the financial burden of funeral expenditures at a time of a family member’s death.

The burial benefit will pay up to $6,000 in burial costs per eligible individual. Tribal members with funeral expense for stillborn or premature death of infant (who are less than 3 days old) can also be reimbursed for up to $500 to be paid to a funeral home for burial. All burial allowance applications and statements must be filed with the Tribal Council within one year from a member’s date of death. The Burial Plan may be amended or terminated only by a vote of the General Council, with a quorum present, and approval by the Secretary of the Interior.

For additional information call the Member Services Department at (785) 966-3910 or toll free 1-(866) 277-3722.
Programs team up to provide sexual assault awareness

Almost 175 people turned out to walk in the Take Back the Night event held April 24 on the reservation. It was a beautiful night where walkers began at the arch in Prairie Peoples Park and walked a trail that led north on M Road and west to Buffalo Drive near I Road.

Walkers included Tribal Council members and their families, Judicial Center administrators and judges, four members from the Institute for Native Justice in Oklahoma, and several other PBPN directors of programs and their staffs.

The event was sponsored by the Family Violence Prevention Program and the Tribal Victims Assistance Program and the Diabetes Prevention Program staff also assisted with the event.

In addition that week, it was also National Crime Victims Week sponsored by the FVPP and the Tribal Victims Assistance program and an informational email campaign to the PBPN community where they highlighted information on sexual assault, stalking, elder abuse, and child abuse.

The Family Violence Prevention Program is located in the Health Center and serves enrolled members of federally recognized tribes who are victims of family violence or sexual assault. The Tribal Victims Assistance Program is housed in the Tribal Police Department. For more information call 785.966.8343 or 785.966.3024.

Need help? Don’t go through it alone
Tribal Victim Services
Toll free crisis hotline number. 1.866.966.0173

New program called Tribal Victim Services

The Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) and the Tribal Victims Assistance Program have merged into one program newly named Tribal Victim Services, according to Daniel Goombi, FVPP Outreach Specialist and Victims Advocate. The Tribal Victims Assistance Program was formerly housed in the Tribal Police Department but has moved to offices near the FVPP which is located in the Social Services (east) wing in the Health Center.

Young Native musician with FASD tells inspirational story

Morgan Fawcett (Tlingit), 20, is an Alaska Native who is traveling around the country to raise awareness about a condition called Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

FASD by definition is “a continuum of permanent birth defects found in babies that is caused by consuming alcohol during pregnancy.”

Fawcett has FASD and his personal story about how he is overcoming the condition combined with his musical ability as a flutist was told to various audiences on the reservation April 12-13. Fawcett gave public performances at the Fire Keepers Elder Center and the Bingo Hall that was sponsored by the Vocational Rehabilitation Program and Alcohol & Drug Program. He also spoke to some youth groups during his stay.

Fawcett has been playing the flute for only four years and has already cut three CDs. He only plays wooden flutes and said he owns 21 of them that he displays during his performances that he selects at random to play. He said that music is very much a part of his life and that he found, after discovering the flute, that he can calm himself and speak in a clear and understandable manner. He said that the flute allows him to cope and deal with his condition and that that, combined with a holistic approach to daily life of eating right and wearing natural clothing, has allowed him to overcome his obstacles.

He is traveling around the Nation with his Grandma Sue Hempel to tell individuals and particularly Native Americans that they can overcome FASD by becoming healthy and he does it in an entertaining way.

Learn more at: www.morganfawcett.vpweb.com

Diabetes Prevention Program sponsors gardening workshop

A gardening workshop was held on March 29 in collaboration with the Diabetes Prevention Program, Division of Planning and Environmental Protection, Haskell Indian Nations University and K-State Research & Extension. Topics included how to control weeds, improving soil with compost, insect control and tips for growing a variety of vegetables.

Participants who signed up received a transplant 6 pack of new varieties of tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers and a protection cover for growing tender plants.

Special thanks to the Lands Department for tilling garden plots for the community gardens and PBPN residential homes.

Departments and Programs

Potawatomi News
summer 2012

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Participants who signed up received a transplant 6 pack of new varieties of tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers and a protection cover for growing tender plants.

Special thanks to the Lands Department for tilling garden plots for the community gardens and PBPN residential homes.
The Earthship building, that is located on 142 Road and under the direction of the Division of Planning and EPA, has been completely renovated from top to bottom with the majority of the work being done by the PBPN maintenance facilities crew.

Under the direction of Robbie Lange, facilities coordinator, who has worked for the tribe since 2006, he told the News that he is proud of the fact that the PBPN can now construct, renovate, and maintain a facility without having to hire outside contractors to do the work.

Gunzy Wahquahboshkuk (PBPN) is seen above putting the finishing touches on the outside of the building. Wahquahboshkuk is a skilled carpenter and craftsman whose work can also be seen at the arena stage at the pow-wow grounds and in other buildings on the reservation.

Their most recent job was the Earthship building that was originally built by community volunteers around 2000 out of recycled materials. Although functional, it was never used to its full potential, and so the PBPN decided to renovate it into usable office space for the EPA. Lange and his crew plumbed the building, installed a HVAC system and renovated the entire interior from floor to ceiling. Concrete work was also done by the maintenance concrete crew and a septic tank and road improvements were put in place by Road & Bridge.

Gunzy Wahquahboshkuk, a skilled carpenter, who also works for the Maintenance Department, completed the inside and outside trimwork for the building and also did the ceiling work.

Other maintenance personnel who helped renovate the building and are involved in facilities renovation are: Jim McGee, David Daubon, Jim Harvey, Jake Rodewald, Tom Jim, and Chuck Jacobson. Carl Matousek is the director of Construction/Maintenance for the PBPN.

In other work on the reservation, the maintenance concrete crew made upgrades to the driveway at the Potawatomi Fire Department on K-Road by installing underground storm system drains and replacing deteriorating concrete that was on the driveway in front of the fire truck bays. This photo was taken on May 8 and, from left to right is David Daubon, Ernie Coleman (in hat), Tom Jim and Jake Rodewald.

Road and Bridge has purchased its own equipment for re-stripping the asphalt roads on the reservation. The project began in April and is another way the Nation is becoming self-sufficient and saving money.

A grant was also received for a road safety enhancement project that will allow for a hill cut on 150 Road near Nation Station convenience store that is located near the casino. The work is scheduled to begin this fall and will involve construction around four of the entrances to the casino.

Road & Bridge Department happenings

A new parking area for recreational vehicles was being constructed when this photo was taken last spring at Prairie Peoples Park.
Richard Adame speaks out for Native American veterans

Richard Adame gave this presentation to James Anaya, United Nations Special Rapporteur, on May 3 at the University of Tulsa College or Law. Anaya was in Tulsa on consultation regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other issues during his official visit to the United States from April 23 to May 4.

American Indian Veteran Pay Restoration

STATE TAXATION OF INCOME OF CERTAIN NATIVE AMERICAN ARMED FORCES MEMBERS

Hello my name is Richard Allen Adame, and I am enrolled Prairie Band Potawatomi and a 20-year Army veteran who fought in Desert Storm. Myself and thousands of other Native American Veterans possibly including Medal of Honor recipients and the many code talkers from various tribes were illegally taxed while in the military. Many are unaware of this but most were taxed illegally. Treaties between the Indian Tribes and the United States, and federal Indian law generally prohibit the several states of the United States from taxing the income or property of Indians located within the recognized territories of the Tribes. This has been recognized as a property right. For all Americans other than Indians the place of their domicile for tax purposes when they join the military service is respected, and they are taxed on their military income based upon their residence when they joined the military service. Prior to 2001, however, Indians who were domiciled in the territories of Indian tribes were subjected to state taxation even though the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act of 1940 prohibited states from taxing the military compensation of Native American armed forces members who are residents or domiciliaries of tribal reservations from which they are absent by reason of military service.

The military compensation of Native American armed forces members who are residents or domiciliaries of tribal reservations from which they are absent by reason of military service is a property right. For all Americans other than Indians the place of their domicile for tax purposes when they join the military service is respected, and they are taxed on their military income based upon their residence when they joined the military service. Prior to 2001, however, Indians who were domiciled in the territories of Indian tribes were subjected to state taxation even though the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act of 1940 prohibited states from taxing the military compensation of Native American armed forces members who are residents or domiciliaries of tribal reservations from which they are absent by reason of military service.

In 2005 Rep. Tom Udall, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, stated that Native Americans have the highest rate of military service of any ethnic group in the nation; how have we repaid them for their dedication? By illegally withholding state taxes from their paychecks. He also introduced a bill that would restore justice to thousands of our nations Native American veterans, the American Indian Veteran Pay Restoration Act. This bill did not become law. While the policy of withholding state taxes on these soldiers pay was changed in 2001 the government has failed to pass legislation to compensate and reimburse tens of thousands of American Indigenous Veterans from all services. It was illegal for this government to allow the states to tax the military pay of tens of thousands of American Indigenous veterans. We are here today to complain of a violation of our human rights and discrimination by the United States against the American Indian veterans who served this country. We ask that the United States honor their commitment when they signed the UN declaration and restore the pay of these Honored veterans. We also ask that the United States government negotiate a compromise with these veterans rather than allow each state to act alone.

It is the responsibility of the United States to implement the Declaration, to protect the property of its Indian veterans, and to comply with its treaty responsibilities to Indigenous people and the international community. We ask only that justice be done for those Indigenous veterans who have risked everything in the service of the United States.

For additional information on this subject, please see the web page of the Association of the United States Army: Restoring Pay located at: https://www3.ausa.org/WEBINT/DeptAUSA/News.nsf/byid/CCRN-6CGMT3
The Early Childhood Education Center was busy with several activities this spring and also managed to prepare for a site visit by the National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation team.

On April 5 they held their annual Easter egg hunt for children and on April 13 they held their annual Spring Health Fair & Head Start Round-Up that provides medical screenings for 3-5 year olds.

On May 17 the center held the end-of-the-year pow-wow where children in Head Start classes graduated and were cheered on by families and friends who came to help celebrate the year’s end.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Early Childhood Education Center is accepting 2011-2012 Head Start applications Deadline: July 1, 2012

For details call 785.966.2707

Photographs taken by the Potawatomi News

ABOVE LEFT: Nis Wilbur, who is on the management staff, is holding baby Petannokwe Lamb at the Easter egg hunt April 5 that was held indoors this year due to inclement weather. RIGHT: Little toddler all decked out in her Easter dress and looking for eggs that were filled with stickers and other goodies instead of candy this year.

It was a beautiful day for the pow-wow and several family members were on hand to congratulate the children. Lunch was served at the pavilion.

Other pow-wow highlights

We-Ta-Se led the grand entry and Little Soldier Singers provided the singing and drums. Chago Hale was emcee and Tribal Council member Junior Wahweotten gave the welcome.
Earth Day fun

The 14th Annual Community Earth Day Celebration (Mnokwabem Komisnau) was held April 22 at Prairie Peoples Park. This year's activities were concentrated in the arena area of the park instead of at the west end near the archway entrance as in years past. Events included a Fun Run, 3-Mile Predictor's Walk, 3-Mile Bike Ride (ages 7+) and other games that were organized by the EPA, Diabetes Prevention program, the Boys & Girls Club and the Language program.

The event was sponsored by the Division of Planning and EPA and was free and open to the public.

For more about Earth Day see the Rez Recycler at www.pbpinindiantribe.com/epa.aspx

Some young winners of the predictor walk were (L to R) Marcella Wishteyah, Stella Rector, Daniele Rector and Elizabeth Wishteyah.

Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Submitted by Morris Taylor, director

The PBPN Vocational Rehabilitation Program has been busy this spring with a number of students going through the Distance Learning Program. Funding for the program is provided by the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation and includes Customer Service Training and Microsoft Word. Of the 18 students who have completed the program, 14 are employed with six of those employed with the PBPN government and four with the Casino.

The Youth Transition Program sponsored a Health Inventory Training Program with 10 youths May 24-25 in the PBPN Education Department. The program was taught by Richard Johnson and Wendy Parent Johnson of the Univ. of Kansas grants program.

The youth learned how to better manage health care needs and the training was an extension of the Youth Transition program and Independent Living Skills Development program that are included as part of the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

In other news, Dawn Masqua completed her Graduate Leadership Training program in Vocational Rehabilitation Management through San Diego State University and she was recognized at the 2012 Annual CANAR Conference held June 16-20 in Niagara Falls, New York.

The Department wants to encourage all Native American tribal members who have a disability that affects being employable to come by the Vocational Rehabilitation offices that are located in Social Services/Health Center to learn about the various programs, and whether you might be eligible for assistance. You must live in Jackson County or one of the counties that touch Jackson County (Atchison, Brown, Jefferson, Nemaha, Pottawatomie) to be eligible for services.

For details contact Morris Taylor at 785.966.8332.

Congratulations to Archie Alcantar who recently graduated from White Line CDL Training in Topeka. Archie now has his commercial driver’s license and hopes to work in the transportation industry soon. He also received his high school diploma last year and said he owes his success to his family and the PBPN Vocational Rehabilitation program.
Special thanks to the parents and families of high school graduates who submitted photos and information to the News.

Logan Boswell: Congratulations. From Mom and Dad
Anthony Estes: We are very proud of you. Love Mom & Chris
Christopher Paul Rupnicki: Congratulations. Your family is very proud of you.
Kayla Gomez: Kayla plans to attend Sacramento State-Univ. of Calif. With lots of love, Leslie, Uncle Anthony, and Grandma Arlene Lingo

Larry “Cheegwah” Shopteese: Congratulations, we are very proud of you. Love, from your family
Chaz Shopteese: Congratulations. We are so proud of your year-early graduation and plans for college. From, your family
Aaron “Pah-ha” Francis Gomez: Plans to attend Washburn University to pursue Criminal Justice degree. From, your family.
Juan “Sonny”, Deb, Sophia, Crystal, Ed, Derek, Ginny Peters, Marty Greemore, Mary Wahwassuck & Juan Gomez.
Congratulations to
Lillyan Mzhickteno
from Benton, Louisiana
who received the U.S. President’s Education Award
for outstanding academic excellence.
This award is given annually to only one student per school
and is of the highest level of achievement.
Lillyan is the daughter of Captain Corey Mzhickteno (PBPN)

Message for Juliet Carlisle on her college graduation
(see front page story for details)

Congratulations to Juliet, Head Start Administrative Assistant,
from all your co-workers at Ben no ttek Wigwam

Congratulations to
Rebekah Jones
on graduating
with a Masters in Social Work
from Washburn University

Congratulations to
Sarah Catron (PBPN)
B.S. Human Services & Family Studies
with emphasis in Psychology
Kansas State University
Parents: Rod Catron & Hope Adame
Grandmothers: Babe Bell & Maxine Catron
Love,
Dad, Mom, Glen, Jeruk, Emily & Marcus

Congratulations to
Naseka Hale (PBPN)
M.A. Indigenous Studies
University of Kansas
Message from family:
We love you and are so very proud of you

Congratulations to
Charissa Wahwasuck-Jessepe
B.A. Anthropology (Magna Cum Laude)
Wichita State University
From your proud family

Congratulations to
Lillyan Mzhickteno

Levi Nozhackum & Hunter Rice
2012 Royal Valley High School graduates
From the creek and timber and now
to the ocean and forest. Good luck
to you both.
We love you.
Mom & Aunty/Aunt & Mom
(Gaynell Jessepe & Nina Hinds)

Send your
good
news
to the
Potawatomi News
Fall issue:
News deadline: Sept. 4
Printed: Sept. 18
Mailed out: Sept. 19

Winter issue:
News deadline: Dec. 3
Printed: Dec. 18
Mailed out: Dec. 19

Ivan Levier, left, and Arrow Levier are cousins who graduated from the 8th grade at Royal Valley this spring.
Congratulations to Clint “Patch” Potts

4th Place
Kansas Kids State Folkstyle Championship

Topeka, Kan.
March 24-25

“We are so proud of your accomplishment!

From,
your parents
Willie & Tracy Potts

Mario Kitchkommie, back row, left, was the coach of the Hawks football team that played in an area league and included PBPN youth.

Some Royal Valley Singers & Dancers performed during Student Recognition Night held April 18 at Prairie Peoples Park.

Exert your right to vote in this year’s election!

The Royal Valley High School golf team got in some practices at Firekeeper Golf Course last spring. Members of the team are: front row (left to right) Sierra Pahmahmie (PBPN) and Jacob Schuetz. Back row, (left to right) Talon Shipshee (PBPN) Wes McClane, coach Willy McClane (PBPN), Kaleb McClane, and Matt Hastings. Not pictured-Abe Stewart.

(Photos courtesy of Holton Recorder)

Joseph Eckerberg
(Keeweenaw Bay Indian Community) staff director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (Middle East & North Africa) announces career/education opportunities for Native Americans.

For details go to www.DIA.MIL or call him at phone: (202)231-4558
email: joseph.eckerberg@dia.smil.mil

Actor Chaske Spencer (star of Twilight Movies) and the National Congress of American Indians organization urges you to Be the Native Vote in this year’s 2012 National Election

Native American voters are one of the country’s most under represented and disenfranchised group of voters. Estimates show that over one million eligible Native voters are unregistered.

Learn more and see Chaske’s message at TinyURL.com/ChaskeNativeVote

Meeks Mahkuk shows off her first place medal she won in the 3-mile predictor walk in the 0-10 age category at Earth Day.

(Photo by Nevika Mahkuc)
Anita Evans retires from Royal Valley: honored at Student Recognition Night

Student Recognition Night was held April 18 at Prairie Peoples Park and Anita Evans, a long-time advisor of the Title VII program and high school teacher at Royal Valley High School, was honored for her achievements. Evans plans to retire at the end of the school year after 17 years of teaching at Royal Valley and 27 years overall.

Evans has been highly influential in Native American education. In 2002 she was named the National Indian Teacher of the Year from the National Indian Education Association and Native American Educator of the Year by the Kansas Association for Native American Education in 1997. She was also a primary sponsor of the championship Royal Valley Native American Singers & Dancers, along with Connie Peters, and she founded RVSD's women's softball team twelve years ago. She is a tribal member and has also been involved in the PBPN educational summer youth programs and at the Boys & Girls Club.

A potluck dinner kicked off the evening that was followed by a special exhibition by the Royal Valley Native American Singers & Dancers. Next, Evans was recognized with a special award given by administrative leaders and teachers from Royal Valley who were also on hand to wish her well. Following that, members from the Boys & Girls Club staff gave a Pendleton blanket and other gifts to Evans and then a special retirement honor song was held in her honor. Little Soldier Singers provided the drum for the evening.

The evening concluded with student, parent, and other special recognitions for individuals that are involved in Title VII-USD #337, Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program and the Boys & Girls Club.

Dominic Ortiz selected for national AICPA Council

Dominic Ortiz, CPA, CGMA, a member of the Kansas Society of CPA (KS CPA) and graduate of the “20 up to 40” Leadership program and American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) Leadership Academy, has been nominated by the AICPA to serve as a three-year At-Large Elected Member of the AICPA Council.

“We are honored by Dominic’s nomination to the AICPA Council,” said Mary Rapp MacBain, President/CEO of the KSCPA. “There are 377,000 members of the AICPA and 263 make up the AICPA Council. There are 22 at-large members of the governing council. There are 54 members representing business and industry. With this nomination, we are confident that Dominic has a bright future as a leader of the CPA profession. We are eager to support his endeavors and look forward to his participation in the leadership of the KSCPA and AICPA. With his nomination, Dominic will be an ad hoc member of the KSCPA Board of Directors. I know that Dominic’s participation on the AICPA Council will be a highlight of his career.”

Ortiz also leads the Finance Department at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort.

On the far right, is musician Terry Crossbear who directs Blue Earth Initiatives, a recovery center in Topeka, who was photographed playing with another musician during a fundraiser the group had last April at the Bingo Hall.

Rey Kitchkumme was recently given a certificate of appreciation for becoming part of the 2011 Jackson County Friends of Hospice Volunteer group in Holton, Kan.

Hattie E. Mitchell received her CPA last spring at Washburn University. Hattie works in the Finance Department. She is a member of the Kansas Society of CPAs and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).
Mjissepe Family Gathering
(Minnie & Dewey Mjissepe)

July 7
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Mjissepe/NAC Chapter House
Horton, Kansas

Pot luck, door prizes, games for kids. Please bring a covered dish
and new and old family photos

For details call
Corrina Hale
at
785.741.5954
or
Gea Aitkens-785.430.1699
email:
gea.aitkens@yahoo.com

Don’t forget
to vote!

Old teammates reunite
Ron Jessepe (PBPN) and
Lon Kruger, University of
Oklahoma’s basketball coach, are
picture together last fall at the Lloyd
Noble All-Star Alumni Legends
game in Norman, Oklahoma.

The two men first met in 1968 when they were
teammates for Silver Lake
(Kan.) American Legion
baseball team and in high school they
competed against each other as

Ron Jessepe, left, and Lon Kruger,
Univ. of Oklahoma basketball
coach, are old friends.

Our Lady of the Snows Church
5871 166 Rd
Mayetta, KS
welcomes you to come to
the Mass by Archbishop Joseph Naumann
October 21, 3 p.m.
to celebrate the sainthood of
Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680)
the first Native American saint

Meal and festivities following Mass.

Another rez tale by Cornelia Donahue

Many years ago my grandma lost her hus-
band in death, so, as was, and is the custom, she
arranged and filled his memory with an adoption cer-
emony.

A young boy-child was adopted and there-
after TA DAA Archie answered my mother whenever
she called him. He was then only 5 years old.

TA DAA Archie attended one of the many
day schools on the reservation and by the time he was
11 years old, other boys visited him on weekends,
and because all the Indian families were used to
walking or using wagons for errands or to do chores,
etc. his friends and he agreed to walk to a town south
of Mayetta to fill their paper sacks with apples that
grew abundantly in someone’s orchard.

Walking back and forth took all day and
they ate almost all of their fruit up on the way back.
Since it was a long ways away they were happy to be
getting to the end of their venture and were on a road
that passed alongside a creek. Night began to fall and
they could barely see... when all of a sudden they
heard a low grunting sound followed by some move-
ment in the tall weeds nearby. They couldn’t decide
whether to run in different directions and they just
about ran into each other, and then... they saw a four
legged something that was coming straight at them
from the grass toward the road.

“Blasted!” a man’s voice was heard to say.
“Can’t even get drunk and they will throw you in the
creek.”

Firekeeper Junior Golf Camps
Beginners 9 years & up
$30 for PBPN members
$40-non-members
July 16-17 - 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
August 6-7 - 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Two day camps that places
emphasis on learning the game.
Fundamentals, rules, etiquette
Golf Clubs available if needed
Go to www.firekeepergolf.com

Steve McDonald, a PBPN and
PGA golf professional (R), and
Notah Begay, PGA golf profes-
sional, played together during
Golfweek’s National Pro Tour
held at Firekeeper Golf Course in
May. McDonald reported to the
News that he is also part owner of
a golf course near Tampa Bay,
Florida.

For details
go to
www.plantationpalms.net

Send your good news
to
the
Potawatomi
News

Jason Turner
(PBPN)
AVALON
www.darktrainfilms.com

Heather Heim selected as one of
top ten
YWCA future leaders

Heather Heim with former First
Daughter Jenna Bush Hager at the
YWCA 24th Annual Leadership
Luncheon in Topeka.

( Photo by Ruta Mendez)

Heather “Shum-Na-Bo” Heim,
was named one of ten high school
women selected as a 2012 Future Leader
at the YWCA 24th Annual Leadership
Luncheon held May 9 in Topeka.

Heim, who is the daughter of
Marg Pahmahnie (PBPN), graduated at
the top of her class from Hope Street
Academy (Topeka, Kan.) with a
3.98/4.00 GPA. A profile of Heim in the
banquet’s program said that she is
extremely proud of her Native American
heritage and that she is a member of the
Indian Education Advisory Council with
the Topeka Public School system.

Members of Heim’s family
including Myra Matchie and Ruta
Mendez and the PBPN Charitable
Contributions Committee also attended
the luncheon that featured Bush Hager
who met individually with the 2012
Future Leaders before the luncheon
began. Bush Hager is also a NBC news
correspondent.
Enibowat (Weddings)

Congratulations to
Kent Eldert and Amanda Lutz
on their marriage
June 9, 2012
at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort

Love,
Sherri Landis
&
Lance Eldert

Engagement

Dutch & Ashton Keo
are excited to announce
the wedding of their parents
James Keo Jr. and April C. Wahwasuck
of Horton, Kansas
on April 26, 2012

James is the son of Jim & Donnis Keo
&
April is the daughter of Raymond Wahwasuck Sr. &
Debbie Whitebird-Tarsah

Kanibwettek
(the ones’ that stood up together)

Congratulations to
Jim (Wabaunsee) and Patty (Tissa) Potter
on their
20th wedding anniversary

Share your birthdays,
weddings and anniversaries
with the
Potawatomi News

Welcome Ariana Ann Melchior

Born: February 10, 2012
Height: 20.25 inches
Weight: 8 lbs, 8 oz
Parents: Lorrie C. Wahwasuck & Jonathan F. Melchior

Hello to
Ryan Kuli Rupnicki

Born: May 9, 2012
Parents; John Jr. & Stephanie Rupnicki
Happy 6th Birthday
Ashtyn Raylynn Keo
on June 1
We love you!
Mom, Dad & Dutch Keo

Happy 25th Birthday
to
Richard Parker Jr.
Love, Mother, Father, & Sisters

Happy Birthday
John Jim
April 19!
From Mom & Dad and the rest of the gang!

Happy 24th Birthday
Thunder Jessepe
Love and miss you!
From, Aunt Gil, Sissy G, and the rest of the Kansas family

Happy 21st Birthday
Matneyah
(Ryan Kingfisher)
on
July 11
Love, Mom, Sister & Rane

Happy Birthday
Desiree
on
July 10
Love, Your Family

Happy Birthday
to
Jodi Jessepe
on
May 23
From your family

Happy Birthday
Robert (Kwa-to) Guerrero
on June 14
We’ve had the best 17 years of our life because you are in our lives.
Love Auntie Robin Guerrero
Grandma Robert Guerrero
Dad Angelo Guerrero
and Brothers & Sisters

Happy Birthday
Alexis (Wa Sh Na) Guerrero
11 years old
on
May 11
Alexis is a 6th grade graduate and her family is very proud of her.
Love,
Angelo Dad, Auntie Robin, Grandma Robert & Brothers & Sisters

Happy Birthday
Robert “Bob” Wahwasuck
June 13
We love you!
Dutch, Ashtyn, Moke and Apes

Happy Birthday
to
John A. Rupnicki Jr June 23
John A. Rupnicki III July 10
From your family

Happy Birthday
Jodi Jessepe
on
May 23
From your family

Happy Birthday
To
The love of my life
Love Momma
Grandma Robert Guerrero
Uncle Angelo Guerrero

Happy Birthday
Aiden (Nen-Nah-Heen) Josiano Guerrero
5 years old
on
June 17
To the love of my life
Love Momma
Grandma Robert Guerrero
Uncle Angelo Guerrero

Happy Birthday
Alexis (Wa Sh Na) Guerrero
11 years old
on
May 11
Alexis is a 6th grade graduate
and her family is very proud of her.
Love,
Angelo Dad, Auntie Robin, Grandma Robert & Brothers & Sisters

Happy Birthday
to
Dumplings
a.k.a./Mom/Koyah
on
May 6
From: Waskeh, Nikki, Shug and Bub

Happy Birthday
Aiden (Nen-Nah-Heen) Josiano Guerrero
5 years old
on
June 17
To the love of my life
Love Momma
Grandma Robert Guerrero
Uncle Angelo Guerrero

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Love Momma
Grandma Robert Guerrero
Uncle Angelo Guerrero

Happy Birthday
Desiree
on
July 10
Love, Your Family

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Love,
Angelo Dad, Auntie Robin, Grandma Robert & Brothers & Sisters

Happy Birthday
Desiree
on
July 10
Love, Your Family

Happy Birthday
to
Jodi Jessepe
on
May 23
From your family
Gerald Lee "Wah-Knee-Kaw-Bout" McKinney

Gerald Lee "Wah-Knee-Kaw-Bout" McKinney Sr. 62, of Topeka, Kansas, passed away at his home on April 11, 2012. He was born on April 29, 1949 in Horton, Kansas the son of Leon and Melvina Mjessepe Banks McKinney. He attended several Native American Boarding Schools in Nebraska, South Dakota and Oklahoma.

Gerald was a draftsman and an Native American artist which he enjoyed very much. Gerald was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi tribe and the Native American Church. He married Marlis Bearstail and they were later divorced. He then married Jody McIntosh, she survives of Topeka, Kansas. Additional survivors include two daughters, April McKinney and Sharol McKinney both of Horton, Kansas; one sister, Carol McKinney Yazzie of Topeka, Kansas; three brothers, Michael McKinney of Topeka, Kansas, Murray Banks of Horton, Kansas and Jason Banks of Hiawatha, Kansas; six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Gerald McKinney Jr., five brothers, Larry, Norris and Joseph McKinney, Narcissus "Doc" and Maurice Banks.

The family will greet friends Friday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the Dishon-Maple-Chaney Mortuary in Horton, Kansas. Native American Church Services will be at 7:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at Wayne Jessee's home on the Kickapoo Reservation. Burial will be at the Mason Cemetery on Sunday morning at 9:00 A.M. A special message may be sent to the family at www.dishon-maple-chaney.com or line condolences may be made at chapeloaksfuneralhome.com (Courtesy of Dishon-Maple-Chaney Funeral Home-Horton, Kan.)

Remembrance

Grandma Geraldine, 

Although it's been a year since you've been gone, you have not been forgotten. I carry your memory everyday with me and I've seen you in my dreams. I will forever hold you in my heart. I love and miss you.

Debbie

Thank you from 
Frederick R. “Anwahbe” Thomas Jr. family

We would like to thank family; the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, food and monetary gifts and for just being there during our time of loss which made it so much easier. There are too many names to list but a special thank you to Marg Pahmahnic for being with him at the Marshalltown Hospital. Words cannot express our thanks and appreciation to all.

MiGwetch

Gerald Lee McKinney

Thamar Morris

MAYETTA - Thamar Morris, 83, of Mayetta, died Saturday, May 5, 2012 at her daughter's home west of Mayetta.

She was born January 27, 1929 at Mayetta, the daughter of George Leander and Helen Cynthia Nahgonbe Williams. She attended school at the Marty Indian School in South Dakota.

Thamar was one of the first Oblate Sisters at Mt. Marty. At the age of nine she had the privilege of meeting Sister Katherine Drexel, who was later canonized as St. Katherine Drexel. She was a member of Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church at Mayetta, enrolled with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation as a Tribal Member, and also was Kickapoo and Sac and Fox. She was also a member of the We-Ta-Se American Legion Post No. 410, and was a committee member with the PBPN EPA program.

She married Calvin Charles Morris, a decorated officer of the Merchant Marines in World War II, in San Diego, CA. She met him while being stationed at Long Beach Naval Base, where she served as a nurse in the U.S. Navy. He died January 19, 1998. After her discharge from the Navy, Thamar continued her nursing career with Los Angeles County for 25 years.

Thamar was also preceded in death by a grandson, Skylar Clement, a brother, Hank Williams, sisters, Sharon Rose Pilcher, Cynthia Swich, and Georgia Elizabeth "Cub" Williams, a half/brother, Edgar "Booger Red" Williams, and a half sister, Donna Jean Oliver.

Survivors include one son, Charles Morris, Mayetta; three daughters, Marie Therese Clement and husband Robert, Lucie Renee Morris and husband Richard Veit, Jr., and Lysette Diane Morris, all of Mayetta; a step-son, Herbert Morris, Tujunga, CA; one sister, Helen Wilson, Delia; one half sister, Donnis Keo, Horton; six grandchildren, Lisa Morris, Jason Wilder, Nick Wilder, Elliott Morris, Desiree Morris, and Chance Clement, and six great grandchildren, Sirena Wahquahboshkuk, Arthur Riios, William McKinney, Arianna Wilder, Joseph Wilder, and Donald Wilder.

Funeral Services will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday, May 10th at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Holton. Burial with military honors by We-Ta-Se American Legion Post No. 410 will follow in the Weso Cemetery west of Mayetta. Thamar will lie in state at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Holton, where a rosary will be prayed at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Memorials are suggested to the Oblate Sisters, and may be sent in care of the funeral home, P.O. Box 1034, Holton, 66436. On-line condolences may be made at chapeloaksfunerarhome.com (Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home-Holton, Kan.)

April May Wahquahboshkuk Corbridge

April May Corbridge, 32, of Topeka, KS passed away Thursday, May 3, 2012 at her home. She was born April 13, 1980 the daughter of Roy and Ethel Foster Wahquahboshkuk. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and received a business degree from Baker University.

She is survived by her father, Roy Wahquahboshkuk and his wife, Chris; her mother, Ethel; her husband, Robert Corbridge; her children, Angel, Maylee, Sunny and Cloe; her brothers, Roy Jr., Kristen, and Preston; her sisters, Lois, Lucy and Searra and her nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be Tuesday evening, May 8, 2012 at the Roy Wahquahboshkuk home (10062 174th Rd., Mayetta). Burial will be Wednesday morning at the Dancerground Cemetery. Memorial contributions for April's children may be sent to Mercer Funeral Home, Box 270, Holton, KS 66436. Condolences may be given at www.mercerfuneralhomes.com (Courtesy of Mercy Funeral Home-Holton, Kan.)
Through a generous donation by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, the Brown County Chapter of the Native American Church in Kansas, Inc. sponsored the 63rd Annual Native American Church of North America Conference June 15-17.

Editor’s Note: The following information was submitted to the News by Jeanette “Green” Little Sun that offers a history of how some of the Prairie Band people became involved with the Native American Church.

An Exchange of Drums Story
By: Jeanette “Green” Little Sun

There are several accounts of how and when the Prairie Band Potawatomi began to use peyote. In the late 1800’s and early 1900’s the Otoe and Iowa tribes have been mentioned in some of these reports. I remember and am writing the story that I was told by my father, Orlando Green “Mazshe” and have consulted with Aaron “Louie” Aitkens, the grand-son of William Wahzowkouck Jr. “Jack Forty”, the son of William Wahzowkouck Sr, “Bill Waza”.

In 1908 Bill Waza was about 16 years old when he accompanied the elders of the tribe on a walk to Oklahoma to visit the Sac & Fox people. It was Bill’s job to carry the “Big Drum” which was to be given to them. The Sac & Fox were grateful to receive the drum and included with the bundles of gifts were train tickets for the Potawatomi delegation to return to Kansas. When it was time to leave Bill Waza was nowhere to be found and so was left behind. He stayed with the Butlers, a well known Sac & Fox family for many or several years. During his stay he was introduced to the medicine, learned their songs and ways of this ceremony. He was also good help to the Butler family.

Bill became lonesome for his relatives and told the family of his plan to go back home. He was asked to stay until they had a peyote meeting for him. After this meeting, he was given the medicine, peyote, sage, a staff, an eagle feather, cedar, a gourd and a drum. He was told they were not giving him their fire-place because the Potawatomi had their own. After sharing his experience with his family it was decided to ask the tribal leaders for their permission to use the ceremonial flint fire in the tipi. They were given permission.

My memories of a peyote meeting now called Native American Church among the PBP starts at sunrise on the designated day of the meeting. It begins with starting of the for-the-spirit supper. When the supper is over, coals are carried into the tipi and the all night peyote ceremony begins.

This is how I have witnessed the use of peyote and the worship of our Creator in Native American Church among the Prairie Band Potawatomi. I heard the expression, “God has His ways” because, as it turned out, it was an exchange of drums, the Big Drum for the Little Drum between the Sac & Fox and the Prairie Band Potawatomi.