



Prairie Band Potawatomi News

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Winter 2011

Kansas apologizes to Tribes



Kan. Gov. Sam Brownback signing a proclamation of apology for past misdeeds at the Tribal Kansas 150 Commemoration held Nov. 16 at the Kansas Museum of History. Standing (left to right) are the chairs of the tribes Mike Dougherty (Sac & Fox), Steve Ortiz (PBPN), Steve Cadue (Kickapoo), Tim Rhodd (Iowa), and Guy Monroe (Kaw). The Kaw were included for their historical role in the statehood of Kansas.

History was made Nov. 16 when Kan. Gov. Sam Brownback issued an official apology to Native Peoples at the Tribal Kansas 150 Commemoration held at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka and signed a proclamation in front of tribal leaders including PBPN Chairman Steve Ortiz.

"As Governor, I resolve we will move forward with the recognized tribes in a positive and constructive relationship that will help us fairly and effectively resolve differences to achieve our mutual goals and work together to protect this land we call Kansas," Brownback said.

Several members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPN) attended the event and also had a role in the ceremony including We-Ta-Se Post #410 that provided the

color guard, Little Soldier Singers who drummed and sang, and Steve Ortiz who gave the invocation.

The commemoration also included a welcome by Chris Howell, executive director of the Office of Native American Affairs, and remarks from Jennie Chinn, executive director of the Kansas Historical Society.

Tribal dignitaries from the four Kansas tribes and the Kaw Nation sat up front with the Governor and also spoke briefly during the event.

In addition, as part of the Tribal Commemoration, Brownback gave an American Bison as gifts to the tribes from the state that were on display in a pen outside the museum and were supervised by rangers from the National Park Service until they were turned over to the Tribes.

Chairman meets Obama



Steve Ortiz (fifth from left at table) was selected as one of twelve tribal leaders to meet personally with President Obama (far left) at the White House Dec. 2. (White House photo)

While Chairman Steve Ortiz was in Washington, D.C. attending meetings at the White House Tribal Nations Conference he learned that he had been selected as one of twelve tribal leaders out of 565 to personally meet with President Barack Obama at the White House Dec. 2.

Besides Obama, the group also met with the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Education Arne

Duncan, and Associate Attorney General Thomas Perrelli who are members of Obama's Cabinet.

Chairman Ortiz told the *News* that issues and concerns discussed at the meeting were on jobs in Indian Country, protecting tribal trust resources like land, water, energy and treaty rights, and improving communication between Native American tribal communities and Obama's Cabinet. For more details see the chair's message on page 2.

Noah Wahquahboshkuk appointed Tribal Council treasurer

Noah Wahquahboshkuk was appointed treasurer of the Tribal Council and sworn into office by Vice-chair Joyce Guerrero on Nov. 30 at the Rock/Community building

Wahquahboshkuk was selected by the Tribal Council after going through an application and interviewing process.

When asked about his new position he said, "I plan on making some changes for the Nation. I know I have less than eight months to provide results but I believe that a lot of good will result from these changes. Tribal affairs has

always been a passion of mine and to have a responsibility that reflects just that is truly a dream come true."

Wahquahboshkuk holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Baker University and a Bachelor of Science degree from Haskell Indian Nations University.

In addition, he has supervisory/management experience from the Prairie Band Casino & Resort.

His term for this appointment will expire in July 2012. He

replaces Ryan Dyer who left office in September.



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Message to the Nation from Steve Ortiz, Tribal Council Chairperson

During the 4th quarter Tribal Council appointed Noah Wahquahboshkuk as treasurer for the PBP. The Tribal Council now has all seven seats filled and I am looking forward to working with the Tribal Council.

I recently returned from Illinois where I attended the Shabbona Lake State Park 12th Million Visitor recognition. Also, Shabbona Lake State Park was recognized for its impact on Northern Illinois tourism. While there I met State Senator Christine Johnson and a staffer from State Representative Robert Pritchard's office. I also met with community members that attended the function and are hopeful the PBP Tribal Council will take action to build a casino on the Shabehnay land as the community is in need of jobs. Local community members are willing to set up a meeting with the State Attorney's office to discuss the casino and to urge why it is needed.

The number of visitors to Shabbona Lake State Park is a good indicator of potential visitors that would come to a casino on Shabehnay land. We are at a time now in Kansas where the three state-run casinos located in Kansas City, Kan., Mulvane, and Dodge City are either set to open or are in operation. If the PBP wants to continue improving our existing programs like housing, education, health-care, etc. we need to be looking at starting up the Illinois casino to generate more income for the PBP.

The economic development plan (called Prairie Band LLC) that was recently formed to generate income from businesses other than the casino will not be ready to dispense income to tribal members for five years. In contrast, the Shabehnay casino could generate income quicker than that if we begin now. We already have PBP Entertainment Corporation in place to handle the casino operation once Tribal Council completes the governmental work. Currently an agreement has been signed with DeKalb County by me with Tribal Council approval for a casino in the community. Tribal Council is aware of the consequences of placing the Shabehnay land into trust for gaming purposes, land into trust for non-gaming purposes and starting class II gaming with current documentation. However, at this point the Tribal Council has made no decision on making an application for placing the Shabehnay land into trust. The National Indian Gaming Commission will not rule on the Shabehnay land eligibility for gaming unless the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs rules the Shabehnay land is a reservation. The Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk will make no ruling on Shabehnay land status unless an application is made to take the land into trust. As chairman I have advised the Tribal

Council to make an application for land into trust for gaming purposes but ultimately the decision of placing the Shabehnay land application into trust will take a vote of four of the Tribal Council to the affirmative to do so and I will continue to await their decision. The last big question to answer is how big of a casino do we build and how much are we willing to spend to construct it.

From Nov. 28 to Dec. 2 I travelled to Washington, D.C. for meetings with the National Congress of American Indians and the Tribal Leaders meeting with President Barack Obama on Dec 2. On Tuesday the National Congress of American Indians met with tribal leaders to discuss common platforms on trust issues, health-care funding, education funding, water rights, subsistence hunting and fishing rights, taxation issues, and an Indian preference lawsuit that is on its way to the Supreme Court. On Wednesday and Thursday tribal leaders were invited to the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the Whitehouse grounds to meet with assistant secretaries and deputy assistant secretaries from Education, Commerce, Department of Transportation, Office of Management & Budget, Department of Health and Human Service, Indian Health Service, Federal Communications Commission, and Veterans Affairs. On Friday the White House Tribal Nations Conference was held at the Department of Interior where President Obama spoke. At 4:30 p.m. I was invited, along with 11 other tribal leaders, to go to the White House and meet with President Obama to further discuss tribal issues I was grateful and honored to have been selected to meet with the President in this private meeting.

Other activities:

* October 3: Tribal Council appointed me as Tribal Chair to represent the PBP with the Topeka Chamber of Commerce.

* October 12 & 13: I attended and chaired the meeting of the Oklahoma City Inter-Tribal Health Board Meeting in Oklahoma City.

* October 24: I met with Governor Sam Brownback at the State Capitol to discuss cigarette tax issues, Kansas gaming impact on tribes in Kansas, Kansas Commission on Veteran Affairs, and tribal I.D.'s for voter registration.

* November 2: I met with Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer, Governor Sam Brownback and PBP Lobbyist Ron Hein.

* November 10: Gave welcoming remarks for the Cultural Competence and Native American Religious

Freedom Conference held at the PBP Casino & Resort; gave opening remarks for the AARP/AIPP Healthy Cooking Class at the PBP Casino & Resort; and participated in the American Legion Post 410 We-Ta-Se Veteran's Day Memorial and Reading of New Names at the veterans wall at Prairie Peoples Park.

* November 14: Attended the Governor's Economic Advisors Committee meeting in Kansas City, Kansas at the Legends where I am a committee member. Discussion was about completed research on Kansas business growth and job creation.

* November 15: Tribal Council and I attended the Four Tribes meeting held at PBP Casino & Resort.

* November 16: Attended the Fire Keepers Elder Center Thanksgiving dinner: spoke at the 150 Tribal Commemoration of Kansas as chair of the PBP and also gave the invocation. Gov. Brownback signed a proclamation of apology to the Kansas tribes and gave a bison as a gift to each of the tribes during the historic occasion.

* November 17: Met with the Kansas Department of Revenue to discuss license plate issues concerning updating data and access to KBI license data information. The PBP attorney, IT and Motor Vehicle staff (Tribal Police) also attended. Key information hardware will be added to the KBI system to allow tribes access in late January 2012.

Lastly, I express my condolences to tribal members and their families on the passing away of their loved ones.



A meeting was held with Gov. Brownback Oct. 24 at the Capitol. (Clockwise) is Chairman Ortiz, Chris Howell, Bob Murray and Gov. Brownback. Howell and Murray work for Brownback.

(Photo courtesy of Governor's office)

Other tribal leaders who met with Obama at the White House

- *Fawn Sharpe, President, Quinault Indian Nation
- *Diane Enos, President, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- *Jefferson Keel, Lt. Governor, Chickasaw Nation;
- *Nelson Cordova, Governor, Pueblo of Taos
- *George Edwardson, President, Inupiat Community of Arctic Slope
- *Ben Shelly, President, Navajo Nation
- *Richard Milanovich, Chairman, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- *Colley Billie, Chairman, Miccosukee Indian Tribe
- *Tracy "Ching" King, President, Fort Belknap Indian Community
- *Rodney Bordeaux, President, Rosebud Sioux Tribe;
- *Erma Vizenor, Chairwoman, White Earth Band of Chippewa
- *Steve Ortiz, Chairman, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Potawatomi News

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Tribal Council attends National Congress of American Indian 68th Annual Convention



Left to right: PBPN member Cheryl Nagel was photographed with Tribal Council member Carrie O'Toole at the National Congress of American Indian (NCAI) conference held in Portland the first week in November. Vice chair Joyce Guerrero and Jancita Warrington also attended the convention from the Tribal Council.



Jefferson Keel (Lt. Gov. Chickasaw) was sworn in as the President of the NCAI and unanimously re-elected for a second term. Keel was also one of the twelve leaders selected to meet with Obama (along with Steve Ortiz) Dec. 2 at the White House.

Photos submitted by Carrie O'Toole

Prairie Band hosts Four-Tribes meeting at casino



(Left to right) is Jim Potter, Carrie O'Toole, Steve Ortiz, Jancita Warrington, Gary Brunk, Joan Wagnon, Doug Bonney, Joyce Guerrero and Junior Wahweotten. Brunk and Bonney are with the American Civil Liberties Union and Wagnon is Executive Director of the Kansas Democratic Party. They came to the meeting to speak about the new voter ID legislation passed by the Kansas legislature last year. The others are on the Council.

Anna Boswell named Assistant General Manager of Tribal Operations



Anna Boswell has been named the assistant general manager for tribal operations and began her duties last October.

"I am excited to be working for the Nation's government," she said.

Boswell is a tribal member and before coming to work for the PBPN government she worked at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort (and Harrah's) for twelve years as a

compliance officer for the Gaming Commission, as a Database Analyst, and in the human resources and marketing departments.

Boswell will assist the General Manager Liana Onnen with the supervising of program directors, managers and coordinators. She is also assisting with program development, resolution of issues and coordination of multi-program activities.

The General Manager's office serves as the liaison between the Tribal Council and the program directors, primarily to assist directors in making proposals and responses to the Council.

Tribal Operations is located on the first level in the Government Center.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Council attended a Four-Tribes meeting Nov. 15 at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort.

Items on the agenda included representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Kansas Democratic Party who informed the group that the new voter ID legislation recently passed by the State had left out tribal identifications as a form of voter identification.

Other persons presenting at the meeting were: Chris Howell, tribal liaison for the state of Kansas, who read a

proclamation declaring the month of November as Native American Heritage Month and gave a summary of his liaison work to date; David Neumayer, Western Area Power Administration, who spoke on power marketing initiatives; Judy McKee and Will McClammy, Topeka Veterans Administration, who spoke about Native American veterans housing initiatives; and Dave Chaffins and Ashley Kusi, KC Nike who discussed possible sports-related partnerships with Haskell and the other tribes.

Nation Station smokin hot!



Nation Station, a convenience store run by the Prairie Band Casino & Resort, won an award recently from HCI Distribution vendors for having the highest volume of cigarette sales in their region. Several PBPN members work at the store including (left to right) Eugene Thomas, Adraine Gillum, Dawn Matchie-Harjo, John Mitchell, and Tom Hernandez. Others not pictured are Robynn Barney, Lan Danielson, Evan Evans, Brenda McClure, Lucas Slater and Roman Harjo.

Burton Warrington and Pete King Jr. receive Native American 40 under 40 awards

Burton Warrington and Pete King, Jr. both received prestigious awards last fall at the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's (NCAIED) 36th Annual Indian Progress Business Awards Event held Sept. 8 in Hollywood, Fla.

Warrington and King, who work for Prairie Band LLC were among a group of 40 Native Americans under the age of 40 who were honored as existing and emerging young American Indian leaders. The selection was based on demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication in achieving impressive and significant contributions in the areas of business and economic development.

Warrington (PBPN) is the

President/CEO of Prairie Band LLC and King (Oneida) is the Chief Operating Officer. According to a report in *Indian Country Today*, King was selected for the 2011 NCAIED award for his previous work as the Vice President of Marketing and Business Development with the Oneida Seven Generations Corporation in Green Bay, Wis.

Winners ranged from tribal officials and leaders to attorneys and business entrepreneurs to tourism and museum directors. Winners were nominated and then selected by a panel of NCAIED representatives.

Prairie Band LLC is now located in a building on the Firekeeper Golf Course.

National Museum Director visits Tribal Council



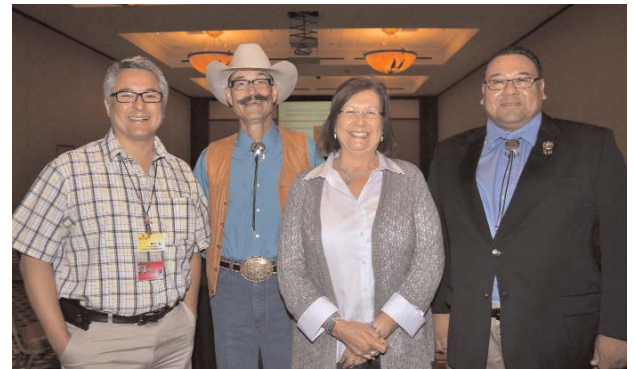
Kevin Gover (sitting center) director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, came to the reservation to visit with Tribal Council on Oct. 17. Gover is a member of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma and has been director of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. since 2007. To Gover's left is Joyce Guerrero, and, to his right, is Jancita Warrington. In back, left to right, is Carrie O'Toole and Junior Wahweotten. The meeting was held in Tribal Council chambers.

Carrie O'Toole attends Native American Law Symposium



Tribal Council member Carrie O'Toole poses with Walter Echo-Hawk at the Native American Law Symposium where Echo-Hawk was a featured speaker. The symposium was held Sept. 16 on the Iowa reservation that is located in White Cloud, Kan. Read more about the symposium on page 6 inside this issue.

Regional Gaming & Legislative Summit Conference held at Prairie Band Casino



Kurt Luger, second from left, who directs the Great Plains Indian Gaming Association, is photographed with PBP Gaming Commissioner Rey Kitchkumme, far left, and Tribal Council officers Joyce Guerrero and Steve Ortiz, third and fourth respectively. The PBPN co-sponsored a Regional Gaming & Legislative Summit on Sept. 20-21 led by Luger at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort.

Charitable Contributions gifts \$88,807

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPN) presented checks to 27 organizations totaling \$88,807 at a ceremony on October 13 at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort. Six members from the PBPN Charitable Contributions Committee and Tribal Council members Jim Potter, Carrie O'Toole, Jancita Warrington, and Junior Wahweotten were on hand to deliver the checks to the following groups:

- Breaking Camp Corporation (\$2,500)
- Lawrence Community Shelter, Inc. (\$5,000)
- Shawnee County Allied Tribes (\$4,000)
- Washburn University Foundation (\$5,000)
- Woodland Boys & Girls Club (\$3,000)
- Housing & Credit Counseling (\$5,000)
- Circlefest (\$1,000)
- Four Winds Native Center (\$5,000)
- Inter-Faith Ministries (\$4,000)
- Topeka Performing Arts Center (\$3,500)
- Capital City Friends of the NRA (\$2,000)
- American Heart Association (\$6,000)
- KSDS, Inc. (\$5,000)
- Brewster Place (\$1,800)
- Morning Star (\$2,343)
- Sheltered Living, Inc. (\$2,500)
- North Topeka Saddle Club (\$200)
- Topeka Public Schools Indian Ed Program (\$1,500)
- St. Matthew Catholic Church (\$2,500)
- Holton Community Health (\$2,500)
- Horton High School Student Council (\$650)
- St. Francis Health Center Foundation (\$5,000)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Topeka (\$1,000)
- Topeka Symphony (\$1,000)
- Topeka North Outreach, Inc. (\$5,000)
- Audio Reader (\$1,000)
- USD #337 Royal Valley School (\$10,814)

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



Jim Potter, Tribal Council secretary, was interviewed by Topeka television station KSNT-27 News at the ceremony. Potter was also emcee for the event.



Right: Members of the Charitable Contributions Committee look on during the event. (Left to right) Lavera Bell, Wanda Treinen, Mary Carr, John Tuckwin and Frank Tecumseh.



Left: Bonnie Williams from Royal Valley School District giving thanks for their \$10,814 award.

Firekeeper Golf Course ranked in Golfweek magazine's top 10 of new courses

Firekeeper Golf Course has been selected in the top 10 for best new courses that opened in 2010 and 2011 by Golfweek Magazine, a weekly publication that has over 150,000 subscribers.

According to the marketing staff at Firekeeper Golf Course, a nationwide team of esteemed course raters for Golfweek Magazine evaluated Firekeeper in ninth place.

Firekeeper Golf Course opened to the public in the spring 2011 and is a 240-acre 18-hole course located across from the Prairie Band Casino & Resort. The course offers multiple teeing options for players and is a traditional-style course. Randy Towner is the golf course manager and the property is owned by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

As an aside, Firekeeper was also featured in a television episode called *Native Cultures* on Sunflower Journeys, a weekly program of KTWU-11 Public Broadcasting of Topeka last fall. The show featured the grand opening activities at Firekeeper that included KU basketball coach Bill Self and former coach Roy Williams along with interviews by PGA pro Notah Begay and PBPN's Tribal Council Member Junior Wahweotten.

Briefly

Elouise Cobell dies

Elouise Cobell (Blackfeet) who led the fight demanding that the federal government give Native Americans an accounting of billions of dollars called the Cobell Settlement, died of cancer October 16 in Great Falls, Mont.

Cobell led a 16-year landmark lawsuit that is the largest class-action settlement ever which is resulting in the federal government giving money back to Native Americans who filed for mismanaging their trust accounts.

Cobell was born on the Blackfeet Reservation on Nov. 5, 1945 and was one of eight children. Her Indian name was Little Bird Woman.

Highland College has Native American coach

B.J. Smith (Osage Nation) is the new coach of the Highland Community College women's basketball team. He has 22 years of coaching experience having previously coached at Southeast Missouri State Univ., Northeastern Oklahoma A & M, and Northern Arkansas College.

Haskell president named

Chris Redman (Chickasaw) was named President of Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) in July.

Before that time he had served as acting president for two terms at HINU from May 2010 to March 2011 and from Sept. to Dec. 2009. He has worked at Haskell since 2008 and before that worked for the BIA Office of Education and for the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma.

He replaced former president Linda Warner, who resigned from the post and Clyde Peacock who was acting president from March to July 2011.

In other news, Shane Flanagan has been named HINU women's basketball coach.

State casinos set to open

The Kansas Star Casino near Mulvane, Kan. in southwest Kansas plans to open Dec. 26 and the Hollywood Casino, near the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kan. plans to open early next year.

Both casinos will be state-run along with Boot Hill Casino that is already in operation in Dodge City, Kan. and plans to open a hotel in February.

Coming up!



Dec. 23-26 PBPB government offices closed
Christmas break

Dec. 30- Jan. 2 PBPB government offices closed
New Years break

Jan. 16 PBPB government offices closed
Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 21 PBPB General Council meeting

Feb. 20 PBPB government offices closed
Presidents Day

General Council Meeting Dates 2012



January 21
April 21
July 21
Oct. 20

For more details log on to the members-only section at www.pbpindiantribe.com

Tribal member Tom Wabnum speaks out: Elouise Cobell: The loss of a modern day Lady Warrior

By Tom Wabnum

On October 16, Indian Country lost a modern day Lady Warrior that will always be well spoken of from now to the end. All across this country many have responded on her passing from the U.S. President to the oldest individual Indian account holder.

My feelings were this: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Even while she was ill she still traveled the country to educate all Natives of the settlement she died for. She is a hero and will never be forgotten.

During the Cobell trial, Judge Lamberth said the individual Indian knew very little of their land and money business because the government failed in administering the basic federal trust responsibilities to American Indians.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has one of the worst allotment situations and history with the government. Basically, the Allotment Act was to break up tribal lands by allotments, terminate the tribes, force public land sales by starvation and failed Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) programs that still makes the remaining Indian trust lands available to the white man. The government forced us from our lands to make it available to others. This is why we live in a checkerboard reservation that means tribal and non-tribal citizens both own land within the reservation.

The government, through the BIA, forced assimilation dreams onto us of becoming a rich farmer if we volunteered to take our land out of trust. They knew at that time through their own failed federal programs we were not independent enough to compete in the modern business world. The proof is the millions of acres of lost land from tribal ownership and all the money derived from our lands that they cannot account for from day one. This broken trust pol-

icy all happened while under the care and protection of the U.S.

Ms. Elouise did not fight the U.S. with the bow and arrow, tomahawk or war paint on the Plains or in the mountains like in the past. She fought this war their way and in their courts. In 1996 she filed a lawsuit to basically fix the Department of Interior's (DOI/BIA) broken trust system and account for all funds taken from individual Indian trust lands. The first judge tried to hold the government accountable for their actions but they ferociously defended their trust mismanagement. The government spent more money in trust reform than the settlement amount of \$3.4 billion. Finally, the U.S. was tired of this lawsuit beating up on the government so they got rid of the first judge, appointed a second who left, and then appointed a third judge who just wanted to end it no matter what the cost. After 15 years of court and investigations and finding federal hate and criminal conduct towards American Indians, the end seemed endless. I believe the government's strategy was to keep this lawsuit in court forever rendering bankruptcy, exhaustion and even death of its claimants without payment.

This lawsuit forced information from the government that proved two centuries of abstraction of Indian trust funds. There is a great legal history of hundreds of court documents proving U.S. failure of their fiduciary trust. Some day the court documents Cobell provided may be required reading if you want to understand the government's real intentions of getting out of the Indian business. They will reveal to you the real pain and damage inflicted on Indian people who owned the land and lived happily on them.

The BIA is recognized as the worst and most corruptible federal agency of all times. "The actions of Interior and Secretary [Gale] Norton in this instance again demon-

strates why the court continues to believe that the Interior sets the gold standard for mismanagement of a government agency," Lamberth wrote. "The Interior has once again proven that it cannot be trusted and is in need of judicial oversight."

The lawsuit exposed so much historical trust mismanagement but it also exposed what the trust should have been. If the government trust was a common law trust as in public banks, tribes and individual Indians would have had the best of beneficiary services and wealth management. We would have kept our lands and our money would be accounted for from day one. Unfortunately, the U.S. wanted our land and money and stole it and that's what Elouise exposed.

I feel the tribes and individual Indians failed to financially support the Cobell lawsuit. We failed to band together as one Nation because that is what is required for us to protect our own sovereignty, property, money and future if we are ever going to fix the broken trust system. We failed to watch her back.

Elouise Cobell knew the effort needed to provide once-and-for-all justice to all American Indians. She knew all too well the strength needed and went beyond what was humanly possible. We may never have another Cobell-like lawsuit but she knew there should be and encouraged it. Unfortunately, many did not opt out of the settlement, they will receive payment and cannot participate if there is another. There is so much more to say about her and will be someday when we realize what she provided for us in her life and her death.

Elouise fought the good fight, she stayed her course and she kept the faith.

U.S. Attorney of Kansas holds news conference at PBPB to promote national Drug Take Back Day



(Left to right) is Alan Metzger, Assistant U.S. Attorney of Kansas, Jim Potter, Tribal Council Secretary, Joyce Guerrero, Tribal Council Vice Chairperson, and Barry Grissom, U.S. Attorney of Kansas at a news conference about a Drug Take Back program that was a national effort where individuals brought their unused or expired medications to collection sites like the tribe's police department on October 29.

"Safely disposing of old and used prescription drugs is the first step in dealing with America's prescription drug abuse epidemic," said U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom at a news conference held Oct. 21 at the Bingo Hall. He, along with Joyce Guerrero, Vice Chairperson of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPB), and Jim Potter, Tribal Council Secretary, were on hand at the Bingo Hall that day, among others, to urge the public to take part in National Drug Take Back Day.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police Department was one of the collection sites where bottles of prescription medications that were unused or expired were brought in by members of the community on Oct. 29.

"Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in America," Grissom said. "Our family medicine cabinets are full of old and unused bottles of powerful pain killers, sedatives, tranquilizers and stimulants that should be disposed of safely." He also said that law enforcement and health care providers need the public's help to tackle this problem.

Mike Carpenter, pharmacist for the Prairie Band Health Center, and other Health Center staff, were at the press conference that day.

Congress recently passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010 to give consumers a safe and responsible way to dispose of unused prescription drugs. Consumers currently seeking to reduce the amount of expired or unwanted prescription drugs in their homes have

few disposal options, increasing the risk of drug abuse and poisonings. The Secure and Responsible Disposal Act of 2010 seeks to reduce these risks by permitting individuals to deliver their unused medications through the Drug Take Back program.

Up to 17 percent of prescribed medica-



Mike Carpenter, pharmacist at the PBPB Health Center, visits with Judy Williams of the Drug Enforcement Administration from Kansas City who attended the news conference.

tions go unused, and if improperly disposed, may contribute to drug diversion and environmental problems. This is a concern as studies have shown that medications are present in the water systems and may cause ecological concern and that storing old medications may increase the opportunity for illicit use. One in five teens report intentionally misusing someone else's prescription drugs to get high.



Individuals who were working in the PBPB attorney's office last fall were photographed at a news conference with U.S. Attorney Grissom. (Left to right) is Cody McCullough, Univ. of Kansas extern, Abby Stenek, law clerk, Grissom, and Vivien Olsen, PBPB attorney.

Potawatomi Tribal Police Department collects 25 pounds of meds during Drug Take Back Day

The Potawatomi Tribal Police department collected approximately 25 pounds of unused or expired prescription drugs during National Drug Take Back Day Oct. 29 at the police station.

According to the DEA website, studies show that prescription drugs are often obtained from home medicine cabinets and that approximately 2,500 teens use prescription drugs each day to get high for the first time. The website also stated that disposing of medicines properly is a concern for saving the environment.

Rebekah Jones featured in magazine

Rebekah Jones, who manages the office at the Tribal Police Department and Tribal Victims Assistance Program, was featured in the winter 2011 issue of *Lady A Magazine's* series called "In the Uniform". In the article Jones discusses her work with the Potawatomi Tribal Police Department and her life on the Potawatomi reservation. The Community Story Tree is also photographed.

Lady A is published by the Atchison (Kan.) Globe and features women of the Mo-Kan region.

11th annual Native Nations Law Symposium

The 2011 Native Nations Law Symposium was held Sept. 16 on the Iowa Reservation in White Cloud, Kan.

Walter Echo-Hawk who is an attorney and with the University of Tulsa was the featured speaker and spoke about a book he has authored called *In the Courts of the Conqueror: The 10 Worst Indian Law Cases Ever Decided*.

Burton Warrington (PBPB) also gave a presentation with Antoinette Houle on Land into Trust and Vivien Olsen, the PBPB Tribal Attorney, was the moderator

for a session on the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Carrie O'Toole, Tribal Council Member and Theresa Barr, PBPB Administrative Judge for the Judicial Center also attended the symposium that day.

The Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri hosted the event and The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Iowa Tribe in Kan. & Neb. and Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas were co-sponsors.



Walter Echo-Hawk, left, gave a presentation at the 11th Annual Native Nations Law Symposium held Sept. 16 on the Iowa reservation. With him is PBPB's Administrative Judge Theresa Barr. Topics at the conference included Indian Taxation, Indian Health Care, Indian Child Welfare, Land Into Trust, Tribal Gaming and Ethics, to name a few.

PBPN actively support Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Community Story Tree Project a success

The Community Story Tree, a large mosaic of art tiles created by 72 individuals and shaped into a tree has found a permanent home in the lobby of the Government Center. The purpose of the project was to raise awareness about domestic violence and highlight PBPN's commitment to ending violence in the community.

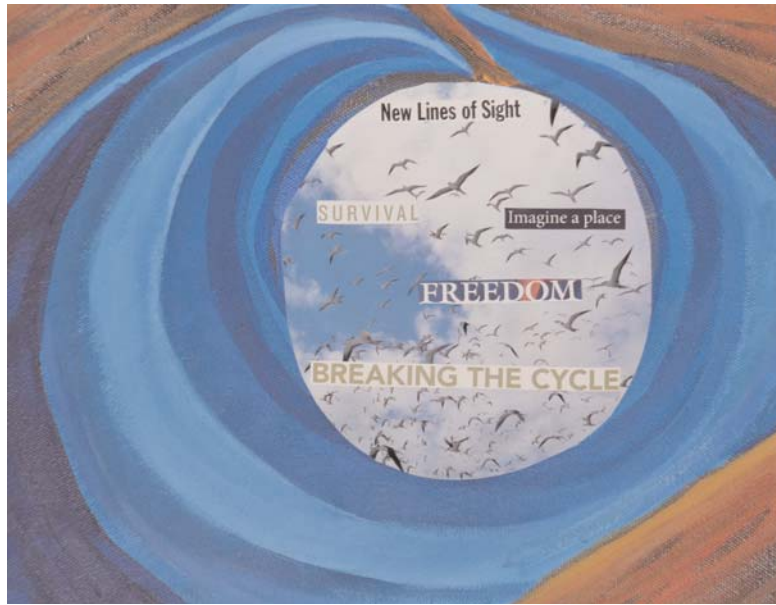
A ceremony was held Oct. 28 to celebrate the permanent installment of the Community Story Tree. Tribal Council, artists, and members of the community were on hand for the event.

The project, organized by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's (PBPN) Tribal Victims Assistance Program (TVAP), took several months to complete.

A companion book that describes the artwork grid accompanies the display. In the book each tile is coded to identify who the artist is and also offers his/her reflections on how violence has affected them.

The Community Story Tree project, was first unveiled at Jones Huyett Partners (3200 SW Huntoon) during the First Friday Art Walk in Topeka. There were over 150 people in attendance.

over a decade and is committed to ending domestic violence. The Community Story Tree visualizes that commitment and we will continue to work for a violence-free future."



A close up of one of the tiles created. The Providers Art Circle still meets on Wednesdays at noon at the old Tribal Court building.

life using a variety of mediums which took several months to complete. An art room was established in a building on the reservation where various groups, formed by the TVAP staff, still regularly meet to create art and relax. Among them are the Providers Art Circle that is comprised of tribal employees who provide services to the tribal community, and the Women's Art Circle which is a workshop for victims of domestic violence or other survivors of violence. There is also an open studio available that has no group designation.

The Community Story Tree project was sponsored by the Potawatomi Tribal Police Department, TVAP and support of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Family Violence Prevention Program and Native Women's Advocacy Committee.

The Tribal Victims Assistance Program on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation began in 2006 with the purpose of assisting Native American victims of crime and their families. Some of the services they provide include counseling, emergency assistance, criminal justice process information and court accompaniment, transportation assistance and helping with referrals for other services. The program is staffed by Rebekah Jones and Kent Miller who have an office located in the Potawatomi Tribal Police Department. The art room, where the Community Story Tree Project was created, is located in the Old Tribal Court Building.

TVAP also serves the other three tribes in northeast Kansas. The program is funded by a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, and U.S. Department of Justice.



Rebekah Jones and Kent Miller, who coordinated the Community Story Tree, were photographed shortly after the mosaic was installed in the lobby of the Government Center. A ceremony was held Oct. 28 that included Tribal Council and several other members of the PBPN community who came together to celebrate the installation.

Attending the premiere Oct. 7 were leaders from the PBPN community and artists who created the tree along with U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom and Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Metzger. In addition, Chris Howell, executive director for the Office of Native American Affairs for Kansas attended the premiere.

In a news release about the project, PBPN Chairman Steve Ortiz said: "The Nation has been actively working in family violence prevention for

Micki Martinez, who was one of the artists said creating one of the tiles helped her let go of the darkness and sadness. "I could not have articulated myself in any other way," she said. "Through the use of art, it has brought comfort and gratitude to my heart, knowing that I am a survivor."

As an aside, Martinez also created a power point presentation for the premiere that described what the artists were thinking while drawing their tiles.

The Community Story Tree project began last spring and was scheduled for completion in October to be in conjunction with National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. After the unveiling the mosaic became a traveling exhibit and was shown at other tribal locations in northeast Kansas.

There are 72-12x12 inch tiles that were created by individuals from all walks of



Artists and U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom, second from left, at the premiere unveiling of the Community Story Tree Project on Oct. 7. The premiere was held at Jones Huyett Partners, a communications agency, during the First Friday Art Walk of Topeka.

(Photo submitted by Rebekah Jones)

Human Resources supports Race Against Breast Cancer at All-Employee quarterly meeting



The Human Resources department featured Race Against Breast Cancer speakers at their All-Employee meeting held Oct. 21 and raised money for the cause at a bake sale on Oct. 14 (above) in the lobby of the Government Center. (Left to right) is Priscilla Martin, Shanna Smith, Monique Liesmann, Cherie Jim, Jillena Knoxsah and Donna Valdivia-Wofford who raised over \$500 for the charity.



The Division of Planning and EPA had a display at the All-Employee meeting on how to weatherize homes for winter temperatures. Adam Irvin, from the PBPB EPA Department, was available to answer questions and to pass out literature.

Kent Miller named Employee of the Quarter



Kent Miller was named Employee of the Quarter at the All-Employee meeting held Oct. 21 at the Bingo Hall. Miller is a Victim's Outreach Advocate in the Tribal Victims Assistance Program at the Potawatomi Tribal Police Department.

Tribal Operations restructures weekly director meetings



Instead of the former weekly meetings of all tribal directors, the general manager has separated programs into four areas including: 1. infrastructure 2. health, safety and wellness 3. education, services and support and 4. essential operations. The restructure was aimed at providing better time management. The meeting above was an infrastructure & maintenance meeting held at the We-Ta-Se building Oct. 11.

News shorts

The PBPB Division of Planning and EPA cosponsored a two-day training called Tribal Healthy Homes Regional Training with U.S. Region VII EPA and the National Tribal Healthy Homes Assessment Training and Technical Assistance Support Center. It was held Sept. 27-29 at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort.

EPA and Diabetes Prevention Program. More hikes are planned in the future.

There were approximately 24 hikers that took part in **Take a Hike** event on Oct. 16 that began at We-Ta-Se and included a picnic lunch. **Mary LeClere**, PBPB member, helped lead the hike that was sponsored by the **Division of Planning &**

Chris DeCoteau, Director of the Lands Department, and **Steve Duryea**, Tribal Realty Specialist, conducted a tour of the reservation's bison program and farming program on Oct. 21 for Jeff Sutton, of the Kansas Farm Bureau, and four German dignitaries who were in the U.S. as McCloy Interns. Also on the tour with them was Chris Howell, executive director of the Native American Affairs Office for the State of Kansas.



Juliet Carlisle was all smiles after receiving a 10-year work award at the All-Employee meeting. She works at the Early Education Childhood Care Center.



A buffalo chili cook off and feed contest was held Nov. 9 at the Bingo Hall that was sponsored by staff from the Lands Department. A raffle was held and buffalo meat was provided for contestants to use in their chili. There were 21 who entered the contest in three categories that included mild, hot, and fire-alarm hot. In the photo above are members of the Lands Department including (left to right) Jason Davis, Ahnah Wahwassuck, Travis Darnall, Chris DeCoteau, Mikes Potts, Elliot Masquat, and Russell Jim and unidentified girl.

Training employees to become leaders



Some PBPB employees, including Robbie Lange (standing above) participated in a five-week training called Directions in Organizational Leadership offered by Washburn University's Academic Outreach program last fall at the casino. The course revolved around problem-solving and teaching directors and supervisors to become more effective in managing people.

Meet Tribal Police Officer Matt Johnson

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

This series introduces Matt Johnson:

Q: What is your official title?

A: I hold the rank of Sergeant and I am currently assigned the duties of Patrol Supervisor.

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

A: I initially worked here from 2001 to 2007 and then returned to the department in Nov. 2009.

Q: Are you a tribal member?

A: No.

Q: Do you have other education besides high school?

A: I've attended several community colleges and am currently enrolled at Highland Community College. I am working toward a four-year degree in criminal justice with a goal of earning my master's degree so I can teach at the college level.

Q: Can you briefly outline your work experience?

A: I have almost twenty years of experience in law enforcement with nine of those being spent as a corrections officer in state and local detention facilities. I have been a commissioned law enforcement officer for the past eleven years. Prior to that I served four years in active duty in the United States Navy.

Q: When did you graduate from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) and what does that mean to you?

A: I graduated from KLETC in 2000. Graduating from the KLETC afforded me the opportunity to embark on my career as a police officer. In addition to the technical training that is taught at this academy, they also instill the philosophy of honor, integrity and service into new police recruits. This is a philosophy that I have adopted and adhered to my entire police career.

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

A: My initial law enforcement certification was through KLETC, however, since that time I have received additional training in a wide variety of area that include DUI

Apprehension and Investigation, Criminal Investigations, Tactical Response Training, Field Training Officer, Drug Investigations, etc. Each training course that I have completed has gone towards making me a better officer which has allowed me to provide more effective law enforcement services in the community that I serve.

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

A: I've had the opportunity to work for several state and local law enforcement agencies and they have all been exceptional in one way or another, but serving as a Prairie Band Potawatomi (PBP) police officer has been the highlight of my career. The PBP reservation is a "family-oriented" community with programs and activities geared towards youth and families. To serve as an officer in this type of environment has been rewarding.

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

A: I'd like to continue with my growth as a police officer, a leader and as a person. The struggles that face our community are always changing so constant training and education is critical in facing those challenges. As a leader, I subscribe to the philosophy that I am always "training my replacement". I want to provide my officers with opportunities to grow and develop in this profession. I want to build their management skills by placing them in leadership roles and involving them in policy development. I want this agency to seize on every available opportunity to utilize technological advances and education that will allow us to serve this community more effectively and efficiently. I want the PBP Police Department to not only be the gold standard for other tribal law enforcement agencies but for all law enforcement agencies in this region.

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

A: I am a police officer and an avid family man. I am blessed to have a terrific wife and four children. I try to instill in my children a love for their God, community, country and themselves. I also try to teach them the value of a good education and hard



work; passing along the values taught to me by my parents, grandparents and ancestors. I am an obsessive learner and I enjoy reading, no matter the topic. I also study karate which has shown me a connectivity between body, spirit and mind.

Regarding my work, I truly believe that law enforcement is a calling. As police officers, we respond to situations that most people try to avoid. We often see people at their worst but also at their best. No one enters into law enforcement with the intent of making a great living. I am an officer because I believe that I can be an instrument of change. In my career I can recall several instances where I have had a positive, life-changing effect on people's lives.

An officer and person I try to accept everyone at face value. To me, differences in culture and background are opportunities for learning and exploration. Everyone has something to offer and everyone should have a seat at the table. I believe that respect is something that is not guaranteed, but is something that is earned. I come from the old school where you were taught to respect your elders, and the Pledge of Allegiance really stood for something. The American flag was something to honor and appreciate and not a cool, or trendy fashion accessory. And, last but not least, military veterans were honored for their service and sacrifice.

My goal as an officer and person is to try and leave this life just a little better off than when I first found it.

**Tribal Police Department
785.966.3024**

Tribal license plates meeting held with the State

PBPN tribal personnel including Chairman Steve Ortiz attended a Tribal License Plate meeting that was sponsored by the Office of Native American Affairs on Nov. 17 in Topeka. The purpose of the meeting was to offer an information exchange between the Kansas tribes and the State and to discuss technical issues and glitches regarding data being transferred from tribal Motor Vehicle Departments to the Department of Revenue.

*The
Tribal Police Department
wishes you a Merry Christmas
and a safe
2012 New Year*

FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

Holiday Fire Prevention and Home Fire Safety

About **3,500 Americans die each year** in fires and about 20,000 are injured. You can stop the fire before it starts. Use this fact sheet to learn how to prevent a fire in your home and know what to do if you have a fire.

Stop the holiday fire before it starts:



▶ Do not place your holiday tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree and it could catch fire by heat, flame, or sparks more easily.

▶ Never put holiday tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove.

- ▶ When the tree becomes dry, remove it from your home right away. The best way to get rid of your tree is to take it to a recycling center or have it collected by a community pick-up service.
- ▶ Check holiday lights each year for wires that are worn out or coming apart, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and a lot of bends or twists in the wire.

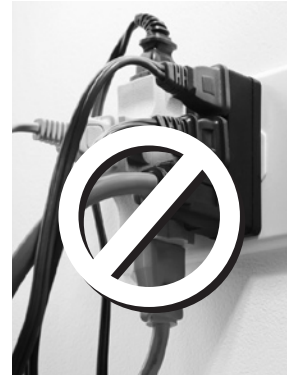
▶ Only use laboratory-tested lighting and extension cords.

▶ Never overload outlets or extension cords. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.

▶ Do not leave lit holiday lights on unless someone is in the room.

▶ Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and put them where they cannot be easily knocked over and start a fire.

▶ Never leave the home with candles burning.



Be prepared for a fire:

- ▶ One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames. It is called a “Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm.” A smoke alarm greatly reduces your chances of dying in a fire.
- ▶ Prepare an escape plan and practice it often. Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two (2) escape routes from their bedrooms.



To learn more on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department's office phone number (not 911) or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.



FEMA

Cultural Competency & Native American Religious Freedom seminar draws large crowd



Learning about different Native American religions and how social and legislative bodies should deal with them was the topic of a Cultural Competency & Native American Seminar Nov. 10 at the casino. Speakers for the sessions were, left to right, Wilson Aronilth, Steve Ortiz (gave opening remarks), Justin Jones, and Gerald King. Audience members included attorneys, law enforcement personnel, social workers, health care providers, Native Americans and others. Aronilth is a cultural/traditional teacher, Ortiz, the chair of the PBPB, Jones, a Native lawyer, and King, a traditional counselor.



LaVerne Haag was the moderator for the Cultural Competency seminar. She works in the Social Services Department.



Mending Broken Hearts: Healing from Unresolved Grief and Intergenerational Trauma workshop held

Sharyl Whitehawk of White Bison, an organization that teaches and offers healing resources to Native American people, taught a training that offered a culturally-based way of healing from grief, loss and intergenerational trauma Nov. 15-17 at the Rock building. The workshop was sponsored by the PBPB Alcohol & Drug Recovery program.



Social Services sponsors drives

The Social Services department held a warm clothing drive for clients the first week in December and held a Client Appreciation Day on December 9 in the Social Services lobby. In addition, the Youth Services program in Vocational Rehabilitation sponsored an Operation Military Kids toy drive and a Christmas food drive.

Early Childhood Education Center update

Fire Prevention Week Head Start classes tour Potawatomi Fire Department



Fire Prevention Week was held the second week in October and Head Start classes were photographed going to the Fire Station on Oct. 11 for a tour. The building seen in the photo is the old fire station that was used for several years before the new one was built that can partially be seen at left.

The Early Childhood Education Center and other programs involved wishes to thank the PBPB community and employees for the outpouring of donations for the

2011 Adopt a Family for Christmas gift drive

Halloween and Red Ribbon week focus on children



Red Ribbon week was Oct. 23-29 and celebrated with a parade to the Boys & Girls Club for treats and more Halloween fun Oct. 31



Fall Health Fair & Early Head Start Round-up held at Health Center



A well-child clinic was offered for children ages 0-3 years of age Nov. 10 at the PBPB Health Center. Various developmental screenings were offered and informational tables were available. This is the first year the clinic has been offered at the Health Center instead of being held at the Early Childhood Education Center located on K Road.

For more information about the Early Childhood Education Center go to www.pbpindiantribe.com/childcare.aspx

Diabetes Prevention Program



(Left to right) is Elwood Ott, Exercise Specialist, Kathy Sterbentz, R.N. and Educator, and Hubert White, Lifestyle Coach, who are all working together at the PBPB Health Center in the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) to provide information and programs. Ott and White are with Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence and are temporarily assisting Sterbentz with the DPP program.

Diabetes Prevention Program upcoming classes

- Diabetes Self-Management classes begin Jan. 10
- New Special Diabetes Program for Indians session begin Feb. 1, 2012

For details call 785.966.8207
or email KathySterbentz@pbpnation.org

Chef with National Museum of American Indian Cafe teaches healthy foods cooking class at casino

(Right) Richard Hetzler, Executive Chef of the National Museum of the American Indian's *Mitsitam* Cafe, with Janis Simon, Caregiver Coordinator for the PBPB. Hetzler was in Kansas on Nov. 10 to give a cooking class using healthy foods that was held at the casino. The class was a joint project between the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the Association of American Indian Physicians.



Vocational Rehabilitation update

By Morris Taylor, director

Lots going on over the holidays with the Youth Transition Program conducting activities like a Christmas food drive, Gen S meetings, and an Operation Military Kids back pack (OMK) drive. In addition, Independent Living hosted a client appreciation reception on December 9 at the Health Center. Their next quarterly meeting will be Jan. 25 at the casino.

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) fiscal year ended September 30 and the average statistics for the 79 programs found in Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation programs nationwide

were 22 successfully employed closed cases and 106 clients served. In comparison, the PBPB had 33 successfully employed closed cases and 130 clients served. These numbers are down about 15% from previous years as a result of the economy and a shortage of available jobs. Lastly, the VR program has begun a number of short term training programs in computer skills as well as developing some creative plans involving self employment that are expected to bear increased numbers next year. Even with the shortage of jobs our numbers are very good in comparison with the national averages.

Health Center pharmacy installs prescription dispensing robotics system

A new technology is taking the Prairie Band Health Center back to the practice of allowing pharmacists the time for personalized service and counseling. The pharmacy staff is now using the SP 200 Robotic Prescription Dispensing System from ScriptPro, an automated system that has many safety features and ensures accurate medication dispensing.

Mike Carpenter, who has been head of the Pharmacy Department since 2004, said he is pleased with the system and that it is very efficient and safe.

"The SP 200 has saved us a lot of time that is normally taken in the tedious tasks of counting pills, filling vials, and labeling prescriptions," he said. "It has really been a boon to increasing our staff efficiency."

How does the robot work? Once a prescription is entered into the pharmacy computer system, the robotic arm determines the correct size vial, then finds the specified drug. Using barcode scanning, it verifies the location of the drug. The robotic arm holds the vial and counts the pills as they are automatically dropped into the vial. The arm then places the vial on a short conveyer belt and the patient label is applied, complete with medication warning labels.

Barcode scanning is used throughout the system to ensure that the correct drug is given to the patient. The pharmacist makes the final check for accuracy, comparing the pills in the vial with a computer screen image of the drug. Pharmacists are pleased to have the SP 200 on staff. It never calls in sick or takes a vacation. The system counts and fills up to 150 prescriptions per hour, so customers get their medications promptly, even during peak pharmacy hours.

ScriptPro developed the SP 200 and the business is located in Mission, Kansas. The company provides, and supports state-of-the-art robotics-based management and workflow systems for pharmacies that, in turn, helps pharmacies operate efficiently, safely, and profitably so they can make the maximum contribution to the healthcare system.

The Pharmacy staff photographed in front of the new dispensing unit. (Left to right) is Heather Redlightning, Angela Emert, Jim Simonson, and Mike Carpenter. The women are nationally certified technicians and the men are full-time pharmacists.



For Pharmacy Department hours
go to
www.pbpindiantribe.com/health-center-information.aspx

Pharmacist Mike Carpenter demonstrates the old method of filling prescriptions that took a lot of staff time. Now the pharmacists can counsel more and update their records quickly.



Haskell Indigenous Food Festival includes PBPN involvement



LEFT: Eddie Joe Mitchell, former project coordinator and traditional gardener for the PBP Health Center's Diabetes Prevention Program's "Return to a Healthy Past" program, gave a presentation on Indigenous Food Sovereignty at the Haskell Indigenous Food Festival Oct. 22 at Haskell Indian Nation University's Cultural Center. It was the first time for the festival that focused on restoring healthy and culturally relevant food systems. **RIGHT:** A table that exhibited indigenous foods was placed in the exhibit hall. The festival was sponsored by the Haskell Green Campus Initiative, the Douglas County (Kan.) Community Foundation, and private donors.



Heidi Mehl, K-State doctoral student to study quality of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's streams

MANHATTAN -- A change of heart in Siberia led to a nearly \$100,000 fellowship for one Kansas State University graduate student and the possibility of cleaner water for many indigenous people.

Heidi Mehl, a doctoral student in geography from Lawrence, is the recipient of a nearly \$100,000, three-year Science to Achieve Results -- or STAR -- fellowship from the Environmental Protection Agency. Mehl recently returned from a conference in Washington, D.C., with other STAR fellowship recipients, where they were given the tools and the confidence to begin moving forward with their work.

This fellowship will fund part of the work Mehl is doing for her dissertation, "A cultural ecology of riparian system on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation: Understanding stream incision, riparian function and indigenous knowledge to increase best man-

agement plan adoption." processes, and cultural ecology, the study of how cultures influence land use decisions.

In short, Mehl will focus on the relationships between riparian water quality filtering and streambed incision or down-cutting, along the Soldier Creek system on the Potawatomi Nation reservation. Mehl has been working with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's stream system near Topeka to determine its water quality and how to improve it.

"Riparian vegetation serves as a filter for runoff, and removing stream-side trees and grasses can lead to more nutrients, bacteria and pesticides in the water as well as bank erosion," she said. "What we don't know is how stream incision affects riparian water quality functions."

Starting in the spring and continuing for several years, Mehl will use piezometers -- tubes installed from the surface of the ground to the water table -- to measure the water level in the riparian zone and take samples to determine how water quality is influenced by riparian zones along incising river channels on the reservation. She will also interview tribal members about their land-use decisions.

Eventually, Mehl hopes to use this research and the EPA fellowship to not only earn her doctorate but to educate the public about their natural resources and to improve water quality and availability for those who desperately need it.

Her research and motivation may be impressive on their own, but even more so when one considers her original undergraduate focus: animal behavior. While studying ecology as an undergraduate, Mehl accompanied other students and professors on a trip to Siberia, where she was introduced to water quality science and how it affects indigenous communities. She immediately sought a new focus in indigenous studies with an emphasis on water quality, in which she received her master's degree at the University of Kansas before coming to K-State to pursue her doctorate in geography.

Mehl's passion for water quality shines



Soldier Creek a few years ago when it was swollen with water.



Heidi Mehl also gave a presentation at the Haskell Food Festival along with two other environmentalists on Water and Agriculture in Northeast Kansas.

agement plan adoption."

Mehl receives tuition and stipend funding for three years, including a \$5,000 equipment fund each year.

"Although the geography department does a great job of helping students by offering graduate teaching and research assistantships, this fellowship is wonderful because now I can simply focus on my research and my studying," she said.

Mehl's research will combine fluvial geomorphology, the study of river systems and related

through to her work, helping her receive the highly competitive EPA STAR fellowship, regularly awarded to students from top schools like Yale and Princeton, said Melinda Daniels, Mehl's doctoral supervisor and associate professor of geography at K-State.

Daniels said that Mehl is the only student in Kansas to receive the fellowship this year, and only the second in the university's history to receive the honor. She is Daniels' second doctoral student to receive the fellowship.

"Heidi brings a unique and powerful interdisciplinary background to her doctoral work in geography," Daniels said. "She is addressing a critical problem -- poor water quality -- in an innovative way that can be transferred from her case study to other indigenous and nonindigenous communities and will help the EPA more successfully effect water quality improvements in the region."

"Rivers are thought of as a conduit to carry waste away, but I want to help people value rivers for their ecological services and recreation," Mehl said.

The Science to Achieve Results fellowship is also an opportunity to represent her state and university, she said.

"I love Kansas, and this is a good chance to bring positive attention to the state, as well as draw attention to important issues with rivers and streams," she said. "This is an important time to focus on our water resources."

Road & Bridge

By: Suzanne Heck

In the last few months the Road & Bridge Department has really come together to make their work place on K Road more energy efficient and safe.

As examples, administrative offices have been re-organized, bathrooms upgraded and the kitchen improved with the help of the Construction/Maintenance department. In addition, the shop floors have been sanded and sealed for easier cleaning and a large air compressor that was originally in the kitchen, was removed to an outside shed which has really cut down on the noise.

On a sunny fall day in October when the *News* was at Road & Bridge, electricians Shawn Kelly and Jim Harvey were busy installing security lights outside. The lights will help when the weather gets bad and when the Road & Bridge crews work at night. The outside lights will also keep outside equipment safer and are energy-efficient which will cut down on the electric bill.

Another big improvement has been the installation of a generator that will kick in when the power goes off during extended periods of time. Road & Bridge crews work 24/7 when the weather is bad and having power all the time will help crews complete their work faster to keep the roadways clear.

The mechanics shop, located in a building nearby, has also been reorganized. Better compartmentalizing of automotive items and a new shelving system is affording quicker response times by the mechanics and easier inventory counts which has also made things more cost effective.

Another change is that the asphalt operation has been centralized with the use of two sheds on the property that will store equipment and materials.

Road & Bridge has approximately 20 employees and many are tribal members who have

worked for the Nation a long time. Job positions include equipment operators, truck drivers, mechanics, welders, sign installers, asphalt/bridge, deck/tire repair workers, administrators and foreman. The primary job of the crews is to regularly maintain reservation roads but it is well known that the workers do many other jobs on the reservation as well.



Brenda Pahmahmie, Road & Bridge Specialist, points to where a large air compressor has been placed in a shed outside the main building. Originally the compressor was housed in the kitchen of the main building that caused a lot of noise when it was used.

intersections on U.S. Highway 75 at 150 Road, 158 Road, and 162 Road with the installation of flashing beacon warning signs and message boards that have been placed. Lastly, the final phase of an asphalted pedestrian-bike trail that connects



(Above) Jim Harvey (left) and Shawn Kelly (right) placing security lights on the south side of the Road & Bridge headquarters building. Harvey works for the PBPB and Kelly owns Kelly Electric in Topeka.

The department is funded by the PBPB along with other federally-funded programs that come primarily from the BIA. Another major boost came last year when several road and bridge improvements were made possible by American Reinvestment & Recovery Act (ARRA) funds. In addition, a Rural Safety Innovation Program (RSIP) that included help from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and PBPB has allowed for safer

Merry Christmas from Road and Bridge!



Front row (left to right) Donita Mattwaoshshe, Hardy Eteeyan, Brenda Pahmahmie, and Justin Hainline. Middle row (left to right) Ronnie Bone, Dennis "Festus" Eakin, Ronny Hester, Brad Rice, Virgil "Wamp" Shopteese, and Alan "Boney" Pahmahmie. Back row (left to right) Gordon Beightel, Billy Price, Billy Jim, Benny Potts, Robert Arnold, Lawrence Pahmahmie, Joe Shobney, Willie Potts, and Mike Shobney. Not pictured is Craig McNutt.

The shop room floor was sanded and sealed by the Construction/Maintenance department last summer which has made cleaning easier and safer for crews to work. A large road grader can be seen inside the shop.



community places on the reservation was also finished this year which has created a safe and beautiful trail for community members.

The Road & Bridge Department's first blacktop was placed on the reservation in 1997 and since that time several miles of roads have been blacktopped with the most recent being the Q Road stretch between 150 Road and 158 Road. Last year crews also completed a hill cut on 174 Road between H & I Roads and another cut is being planned to begin next year on 150 Road near Nation Station and the casino.

Crews are making preparations for the 2012 winter weather ahead and in the meantime keeping busy by improving parking lots and other roadways that are on the reservation.



The Road & Bridge Department is located at 14880 K Road, Mayetta, KS. Years ago the building housed the PBPB administrative offices of the government and the only way to get to it was on a dirt road that is now paved.

Language

Submitted by Billy Matchie, Language Specialist

Ho! Good news from the Language Department. We have been awarded a new ANA grant that will fund six positions that will continue to bring you language for the next three years. Our Administration for Native Americans (ANA) grant will utilize the Master Apprentice Program, providing an emphasis on immersion that centers around a master speaker and two apprentices.

The staff

Jan "Pom" Hubbard, a first language Potawatomi speaker, is our master speaker. She is the daughter of Cecelia "Meeks" Jackson (deceased) who was the teacher of our language for many years. Pom has recently moved back to the reservation and has stepped in to help us keep our language alive.

Eddie Joe Mitchell is one of the new apprentices that will work with the master speaker in acquiring the language. His mother, Alberta Nagmo was a fluent speaker. Eddie Joe has lived on the reservation most of his life and grew up hearing and working with the language.

Cindy LeClere is now another apprentice and has been a devoted worker in the department for the last five years. She has been an asset to the Language Department and has come a long way in learning Potawatomi.

Jessica YoungBird is the administrative assistant and began working six months ago and has already taken on many roles in the department. Jessica was exposed to the language while a young girl due to the influence of her late grandfather, Walter Cooper.

Larry "Mekseni" Berryhill is the elder language resource person. He has worked for the department for for two years. Potawatomi is his first language and he's become a solid resource for his knowledge of the language and its uses.

Billy Matchie is the new language specialist. He has worked for the language for the past six years. He is skilled in the grammar and structure of the language and has come a long way in understanding the Potawatomi language.

Dawn "Sogi" LeClere is a part-time coordinator and is assisting the department.



Dr. Leanne Hinton from the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Speakers gave a training on the Master Apprentice Program on Nov. 9-10 to the Language Department. There were 10 participants who attended the two-day training.

We are just getting started with our new grant and we are still in the transitioning phase. We have many projects underway as well as continuing to support other departments such as the Child Care Center and the Boys & Girls Club. The department is excited to be working with Larry and Pom on this grant. They are excellent sources for learning the language and our culture. There is much positiveness and strength in preserving our language and culture within the department.

We always welcome visitors and new students to our Monday night adult classes. In February, we are hosting Winter Stories (see flier on back page).

'Tis the season of giving

Community steps up for Adopt a Family Christmas gift drive

The community came out in force this year to help families in need for Christmas. The Adopt a Family for Christmas program, a gift drive originally begun by the Tribal Police Department that has been in existence for several years, was another big success this year with the help of several groups.

The drive was administered by the Early Childhood Education Center, and assisted by the Tribal Police/Tribal Victims Assistance program and Social Services Department. Families were nominated and selected from within the PBPB community and then those families made a list of items that were purchased and gift wrapped by volunteers.

Some of the PBPB departments that helped with the drive included the Housing Department that sponsored a 50/50 raffle and raised over \$300 and the Lands Department that contributed over \$500 raised from a Buffalo chili cook off that was held. In addition, the PBPB Health Clinic employees sponsored a silent auction and the GEN S Youth Council conducted a non-perishable food drive and toy drive to help with the cause.



Season Serna from the Housing Department puts tickets into the 50/50 raffle jar at the Elder Center while Verna Simon (with purse) and Mary Truhe from the Health Center look at the table display.

The community at large also helped. For example, proceeds from a Holiday Flea Market organized by Sherri Landis at the Bingo Hall on Dec. 16-17 were given to the Adopt A Family program and some local churches in the area also helped purchase gifts.

Gifts will be distributed the week before Christmas to the families selected.

The PBPB community also came out to donate pints of blood at a Blood Drive held December 2 at the Bingo Hall

Merry Christmas to active PBPB military soldiers like Holly Johnson

Holly Johnson of Topeka is currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She is the daughter of Debbie Johnson (and the late Bruce Johnson) and granddaughter of Howard & Melvne Oliver.



For the second year in a row Tribal Council sponsored an address request and gift-drive for active soldiers who are Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation members. They had a great response this year and want to thank those who sent the contact information to them.

State officials visit We-Ta-Se to look at Native American veteran taxation issue



Kansas representatives attended the monthly November We-Ta-Se meeting to discuss a veteran's taxation issue. (Left to right) is Chris Howell, tribal liaison for the Kansas Governor's office, and Kan. Rep. Ponka-We Victors, from Wichita, who are seen receiving thanks and a coffee mug from Jim Potts, staff liaison, for coming to the meeting.

Officials from the State of Kansas came to the We-Ta-Se American Legion Post #410 monthly meeting on November 7 to see if the veterans were willing to push for the collection of back state taxes that may have been withheld from Native American soldiers who lived on reservations prior to 2001.

Chris Howell (Pawnee) and Ponka-We Victors (Ponca-Tohono-O'dham) spoke to a group of 14 We-Ta-Se members to get the veterans' views on the issue. Victors, from Wichita, is an elected state representative from District 103 and Howell is the Executive Director of the Office of Native American Affairs for Kansas.

The taxation issue was first brought to light by veteran Richard Adame who was at the meeting and said he had been trying to alert legislators and the media about the issue since learning about it through the Internet last year. Howell and Victors said that they were willing to go forth with the issue provided there was enough veteran interest which was the purpose for their visit.

During the meeting Frank Shopteese, We-Ta-Se Senior Liaison, asked the group if they wanted to pursue the issue and the group informally agreed that they did. Individuals then asked questions to Victors and Howell about how to proceed and they both said that they would guide the group through the legislative process but that it needed to start with individuals at the grass-roots level.

At issue is a federal law enacted in 1940 called the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act (SSCRA) (Section 514) that prohibited the collection of state income taxes from the pay of American Indian veterans who lived on reservations at the time of their entrance into military service. Even though there have been newer versions of the law (Service

Members Civil Relief Act of 2006, section 511e) and other legal opinions that also favor the protection, the wrongly deducted taxes before 2001 are still with the Department of Defense. In 2001 the Department of Defense did stop the improper taxation of Indian veterans so the emphasis on the newly-planned legislative process would be to return state taxes before 2001 retroactively.

One state that has initiated restoring taxes back to veterans is New Mexico that created a Native American Veterans' Income Tax Settlement Fund in 2010. Native American veterans there are being asked to go through a claims process using proper documentation that should prove that their state income tax was withheld while they were on active duty and legally domiciled on tribal land. Howell said during the meeting that something similar could be enacted in Kansas and that he would research the New Mexico process more.

At the national level, New Mexico also took the lead on resolving the issue in 2004 when New Mexico (Democrat) Rep. Tom Udall introduced bill (HR5275) to Congress that would have allowed Native American veterans to recover state taxes withheld prior to 2001 but the bill died on the floor for lack of support. The opening paragraph of the bill said: "Native Americans have had 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".

We-Ta-Se was organized in 1985 and is one of the oldest Native American Legion posts in the United States. Presently there are two full-time staff members who have offices and a small museum in the We-Ta-Se building located at 15434 K Road, Mayetta, Kan.

Native American Veteran's Pow-wow in Topeka



(Above) We-Ta-Se posted colors along with other veterans of the Kickapoo tribe and Haskell Indian Nations University on Nov. 18 at the Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka. The dancer in full view is Galen Hubbard who is also a PBPN.

(Below) is Chago Hale (left) and Naseka Hale who provided the drum for the grand entry. Chago was also emcee for the pow-wow.



We-Ta-Se year-end stats

(as of Dec. 1, 2011)

- Motored over 39,000 miles in 2 We-Ta-Se vans
- Transported 516 vets to various VA centers and other medical facilities
- Color Guard performed at 56 events in Kansas and in four other states
- Honor Guard conducted 12 military burials



Little Soldier Singers provided the drumming and singing at the Kansas 150 Tribal Commemoration held at the Kansas Museum of History on Nov. 16. (Left to right) Naseka Hale, Gubba Hale, Chago Hale and Kwake Hale. We-Ta-Se provided colors and Chairman Steve Ortiz gave the invocation and other remarks.



We-Ta-Se Color Guard during the first grand entry on Sept. 24 in the arena.



Whistling Wind was one of four drum groups that performed. The others were Little Soldier Singers, Boss Hawgs, and White Water.



In back is Jim Potts (left) and Frank Shopteese (right) who are on the We-Ta-Se staff. In the ball cap is Dean Whitebreast with Roger Lewis in front. Whitebreast was the master of ceremonies for the pow-wow and Lewis was arena director.

14th Annual Veterans We-Ta-Se pow-wow



Amber Mahkuk was named the 2011-12 We-Ta-Se princess. She is 17 years old and attends Kickapoo Nations School. This photo was taken before she was crowned.



Afternoon grand entry.

Pow-wow held at Prairie Peoples Park



Amber Mahkuk was also the Head Girl Dancer at the pow-wow and is seen (left) lining up with her family before her special.



(Left to right) Jancita Warrington (Head Lady Dancer), Amber Mahkuk (Head Girl Dancer), Mjek Hubbard-Irving (Head Boy Dancer), and Mike Mattwaoshshe (Head Man Dancer).



Boys Grass dancers in the arena. There were 101 dancers registered for the pow-wow.

Approximately 500 meals were served at the evening meal during the pow-wow



Raffle winners:

- Pendleton blanket-Lisa Wamego
- 50-gallons gas-Mary LeClere
- 100-gallons gas-Cindy LeClere
- \$1,000 cash-Rosa Potts

Veterans Day



We-Ta-Se veterans at a ceremony held in Prairie Peoples Park Nov. 10.



Above: Roy Hale and Amber Mahkuk carrying the wreath to the Veterans Memorial Wall that is located in Prairie Peoples Park.

We-Ta-Se at Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art



We-Ta-Se provided a Color Guard for a cultural day of celebration at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art on Oct. 23. Little Soldier Singers and the Royal Valley Singers & Dancers also performed at the event.

(Photo courtesy of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art)

The Tribal Council Review Committee

A Tribal Council Review Committee that will review several aspects of the Tribal Council was formed in 2011 and is carrying out its duties.

According to Dale Delg, who is the secretary of the committee, members were nominated and selected at the the October General Council meeting. Other members are Royetta Rodewald, chair, Frank Tecumseh, vice-chair, Dale Delg, secretary, and Kelly McClure, research analyst, and John McClury, Lysette Morris and Laura Abeyta who are members.

On Oct. 27 the TCRC met for the first time where they selected officers. Since that time the group has had six meetings and gathered information that will be used in a report for an audit of the Tribal

Council that will be done by an outside auditing firm. Plans are for the TCRC to interview three companies that will submit request for proposal (RFP) bids back to the committee. The TCRC will then choose one firm and assess which company has the most expertise and experience working with Indian tribes in the areas that the committee has chosen to review.

On Nov. 22 the TCRC met with Tribal Council about their progress to date and intentions to move forward with interviewing three firms after the TCRC receives the final financial bids from the three companies. After the bids are received, a budget for the TCRC will be created to be inclusive of all the contingencies needed to complete the committee's

work. One caveat to Tribal Council's agreeing to the budget request for the committee is that the final report is to be presented at a General Council meeting sometime in the future. Discussion ensued that this might take some time to do a thorough investigation and that it was unlikely that it would be ready for the January 21 General Council meeting.

Delg also reported that the TCRC is comprised of non-paid volunteers who are honored that the General Council selected each of them to serve and that they will diligently and professionally attempt to complete the task of preparing the final report.

The origins of the Boys & Girls Club: a short story by Clifford Knoxsah

By: Clifford Knoxsah

Dedicated to Clint-my forever nephew

This is the story of the original Boys & Girls Club on the reservation. It began when I witnessed the kids playing kickball in the front yard. The yard, while good in size, wasn't big enough for all the kids so I loaded them all up in the truck and took them to the ball field-just as much for space and safety.

That was the beginning. We began to play softball instead and practiced three to four times a week. We furnished everything including the equipment, refreshments and transportation.

More than just teaching the game to the kids, Sandy Mitchell and I also tutored some of them at home during the evenings. Randy Mitchell was also very helpful as a player/coach.

We began putting on tournaments and had one every Fourth of July for three years. We also traveled to other tournaments to play with other teams and

players.

We also played volleyball and basketball during the off season. I opened the gym a couple of nights a week for the kids-offering a fun and safe place and we usually had a full house. Thanks to DonDon LeClere.

We offered an alternative to drugs and general boredom. We made sure everybody got to play that showed up and stressed teamwork versus winning. We won more than we lost but we learned to lose with character and integrity and, above all, we showed good sportsmanship.

One particular loss in softball was to the Horton Ramchargers, an elite co-ed championship caliber team. They were leading about 16-0 and after a couple of innings their coach asked us if we wanted to forfeit. I told him I'd ask the players and when I did they wanted to play on. Clint Wahquahboshkuk told them "we're here so let's play on" so we did. We lost 33-0 but gritted it out and played with our heads held high as a team in that tournament.

Later on, Sandy took the kids to the 1st

Gathering at Perry Sound. I was unable to attend and regret missing the trip. We took the kids to some pow-wows including camping for a week at the Winnebago Homecoming pow-wow which was awesome. We took them to a leadership conference in Kansas City and we named ourselves TLT-(Tomorrow's Leaders Today).

Through the tribe's help and covering our own expenses we organized the original Boys & Girls Club. We were the Dead-End Kids. Sandy was the director and organized all the transportation, fund raising, etc. I was the player/head coach, Randy pitched for us, and Clint was team captain.

I'm probably missing someone but Maria, Nikki and Sage Fairman, Pauline and Maxine Wabaunsee, Russell Jim, Eric Jim, Daylan Mzhickteno, Jason and Justin Jackson and them little O'Toole's, who never missed a practice and played their hearts out, were the first Boys & Girls Club.

I cherish the memory of the Dead-End Kids as they are our champions.

Member news and notes

Congratulations Tyler Bell



Royal Valley High School
2011 Football Senior
•All County
•All League
Honorable Mention

Francis Jensen to be inducted into Holton/Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame

Francis Jensen will be inducted into the Holton/Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame in February for his volunteer work with area youth-oriented programs. He retired a few years ago from operating his own barber shop

for over 50 years in Holton and he is an active member of We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410. Francis also works with the medical community to provide equipment for those in need. He also makes handmade flutes.

Isaac Murray graduates



Isaac Murray graduated as a Combat Medic. He received his basic training in Ft. Benning, Ga. He received his Health Care Specialist training in Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Robert and Theresa (Jessepe) Murray and the grandson of Constance Magnauck Lewis and LeRoy Jessepe.

Jessie Murray graduates

Jessie Murray graduated from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico with a Bachelor of Arts degree in New Media Film. She is the daughter of Robert and Theresa Murray and the granddaughter of Constance Magnauck Lewis and LeRoy Jessepe.



Member news and notes

Dustin Goslin on the winning team

By: Dustin J. Goslin

Greetings from St. Cloud, Minnesota! My name is Dustin Joseph Goslin (Pam-Mbwit-M'ko), 27, and I am a member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation. My parents are Robert Goslin Sr. (Wish-kohnah-be) a Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and LaVonne Chenault-Goslin (Kaw-e-quah) a PBPB/Kickapoo tribal member. I spent most of my life growing up on the shores of Lake Superior near Bayfield, Wis.

I possess a Master's of Management in Organizational Development and received numerous fellowships, grants, and scholarships. One of the scholarships I received was from the PBPB education program and would not be where I am today had I not received that financial assistance.

I am the General Manager of St. Cloud's new Homewood Suites by Hilton hotel in St. Cloud, Minn. As General Manager, I oversee four managers and a staff of approximately 45 employees. In my position I help establish long-term partnerships with organizations and businesses in the St. Cloud area. I have served as a city official for the city of Waite Park, Minn. and have volunteered with the St. Cloud Social Security Administration.

This past year I helped establish a partnership with the St. Cloud Area School District 742 to provide a community based educational setting for disabled young adults. I have also been working with the Director of the American Indian Center at St. Cloud State University to develop an American Indian management internship. This new public-private partnership with Hilton will give American Indian students an opportunity to develop practical business skills and gain exposure to the corporate lodging industry. The program is important to me and I am hoping it will develop successfully.

I was selected as a local young professional in the September 12, 2010 edition of the *St. Cloud Times* due to my prominent role with a new business. In the article I stressed the importance of higher edu-

cation and its importance to tribal governments and organizations. I have also spoken to students on several occasions at St. Cloud State University regarding higher education, program development, personnel management, financial planning, and other areas.

I have also been involved with the Wiconí



Wasté Mentoring and College PREP high school program with Little Earth of United Tribes located in Minneapolis. This program has allowed me to speak with American Indian students about the importance of graduating from high school while sharing with them the obstacles I have overcome to achieve my educational goals.

My recent successes have not always come easy as I have struggled with being an American Indian leader in corporate America. Different cultures often value different qualities in effective leaders. There are many differences that exist between mainstream American business leadership and American Indian leadership. Many of these differences are noted as distinct opposites. Mainstream American business leaders value a centralized authority to enforce hierarchal leadership models, while American Indian leaders value a decentralized approach in which all parties have a voice in the decision. Mainstream American business leaders often have a

tendency to see themselves as strategic individual players seeking to advance their own purposes, while American Indian leaders seek to blend into the collective and value humility and self-deprecation. As you can imagine, these two cultures can conflict with each other. I, however, believe that being an American Indian leader in corporate America works well to balance me out and will help make me a stronger leader in the end.

When I give presentations, I speak about the two sides of my personality. One side reflects the capitalist and competitive nature of my personality. I like being on the winning team and coming out on top. My business card states this side of my personality nicely as "striving to exceed expectations." I feel this personality characteristic causes me to be a "workaholic" - I am one who, when the going gets tough--I work harder. The other side of my personality is that I am a very caring person. I love getting involved with my community and volunteering for a purpose. I like the idea of equality amongst people. I often think this side of my personality reflects my American Indian heritage. My leadership style is one that is passionate about driving toward results but not at the expense of my human capital. A mentor once told me that I clearly understand how to work with people but not through people.

I once read that a successful leader leads with integrity, vision, and competence. This statement is what I adhere to and will often recite when in times of doubt.

I will be featured in the American Indian Graduate Center magazine as one of their success stories in their 2012 spring edition. I received a graduate scholarship from AIGCS during my entire graduate program. You can access their magazine at www.aigcs.org.

*Upon request by AIGCS, article submitted to American Indian Graduate Center Scholarships' magazine for featured article in Spring 2012 issue.

Dominic Ortiz attends American Institute of CPA's Academy: an elite group

Dominic Ortiz, PBPB, was one of 33 CPAs under age 36 selected to participate in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' (AICPA) annual Leadership Academy in Durham, N.C.

Ortiz joined fellow rising stars in the profession for three days in October 2011 to learn a cutting edge strategic thinking process and discuss a host of strategic issues facing CPAs and the accounting industry. Attendees participated in exercises to help them internalize the value of leadership personally and professionally and understand how they can impact their community, organization and the profession as a whole. They were joined by some of the profession's most experienced leaders,

including AICPA Chairman Paul Stahlin and Barry Melancon, AICPA president and CEO.

Ortiz received his CPA from the Kansas Board of Accountancy last year. He is the director of finance at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort and acting CFO for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation. He holds a Master's in Accounting and Information Systems degree from the University of Kansas and in 2006 attended the Harvard Business School where he attained alumni status by completing the Executive Education General Manager Program.



Have you known these Rez people?

Submitted by Cornelia Donahue

Cornelia Donahue, a life long reservation resident, submitted this list of nicknames of people that she's known through the years. She said that some of the names had been given to more than one person through the years but she thought it might be fun for readers to try and identify who some of the nicknames belonged to.

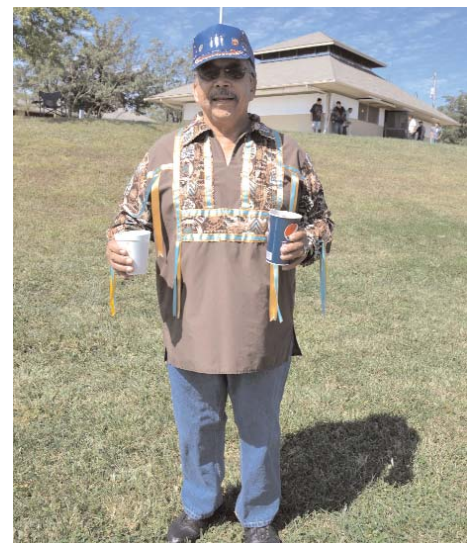
- Butch
- Burns
- Pandy
- Wild Bill
- Emmytoes
- Flop (or) Flip
- Boozen Susan
- Scary Mary
- Old Joe (or) Possum
- Cassabooboo
- Tony Glento
- Chicken
- Wash
- The Snake
- Day
- Little Joe
- Kawzho
- Jimmie Due
- Canio
- Lil Helen
- Bope
- Corky
- Porky
- Marty
- Tiny
- Arch
- Chink
- One Dollar Ninety Eight
- Whimpy
- Bud
- Ducky
- Hobo
- Pink
- Johnnie Boy
- Wildman
- Junior
- Bonydick
- Hawkeye
- Bozo
- Tweetie
- Runt
- Azabee
- Uncle Fudge
- Smoky
- Wine
- Punk
- Pinoccio
- Squirt
- Banjo
- Jack Forty
- Ninety-nine
- Misho
- Jawblue
- Sheem
- Dupee
- Brub
- Mokey
- Gunzy
- Moldy
- King
- Shop
- Shucka
- Shuck
- Tope
- Sawgie
- Girlie
- Bud
- Meeshty
- Sissy
- Junior(in twice)
- Fatty
- Ol'Man
- Sonnyman
- Mouse
- Posey
- Pickles
- Gumpy
- Booger
- Meatball
- Shorty
- Pinhead
- Kungfoo
- Festus
- Beanno
- Swede
- Woody
- Joe-Joe
- Lil Joe
- ClydiePie
- Nan
- Papa Jay

Snaps



These three tribal members were photographed at the Health Center and are (left to right) Roland Matchie, Janice Ownby, and John Matchie. Ownby is the Outreach Eligibility Specialist for a program called Health Wave that has an office in the Health Center. The photograph of the buffalo in the background was taken by Jim Wahwassuck.

(Right) Ron Wahweotten was photographed at the We-Ta-Se pow-wow held Sept. 24 at Prairie Peoples Park. Ron was one of the honored veterans at the pow-wow and served in the Korean War.



Sandra Bodah (Desert Storm) was also recognized as an honored veteran at the 2011 Veterans Pow-wow



(Left) is an imitation casino family that was on display for fun at the Elder Center's Holiday Craft & Bake Sale held Dec. 7. Vendors sold food and crafts and other works of art throughout the day.

Thanksgiving dinner at the Elder Center Nov. 16



(Right) The Elder Center holiday craft and bake sale drew a big crowd for lunch. The annual Christmas dinner also drew lots of diners on Dec. 14.



Fire Keepers Elder Center continues to rock



An arts and crafts/bake sale was held October 5 and above is Linda Tecumseh who sold decorated cupcakes that were a hit.



Waiting in line for the meal site to open for lunch on October 5. Meals are served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Greg Brown, an EMT from the Potawatomi Fire Department, does a medical check on Kitty Shoptese at the Elder Center. The Fire Department's EMT's administer the check ups at the meal site regularly on the reservation.

Halloween fun!



The top three winners in the costume contest at the Halloween party held at the Elder Center Oct. 26 were (left to right) the Mad Hatter, mystery man and the mummy. Around 50 people attended the party.

**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year**

From the Fire Keepers Elder Center

For monthly Fire Keepers Elder Center luncheon and activities calendars go to www.pbpindiantribe.com/community-services.aspx and look under Elder Center



Kanibwēftēk
(the one's that stood up together)



**Congratulations and Happy 30th Wedding Anniversary to
Floyd (Chagabe) and Sara Ann Slocum LaClair
who were
married Sept. 12, 1981
at Meade Park Gardens in Topeka, Kan.
A celebration
of the
Albin Family Reunion and Floyd and Sara Ann's anniversary
was held Sept. 11, 2011
at
The Lodge in Circleville, Kan.**

*A very special Migwetch
to
Ralph and Linda Tecumseh
&
Nina Hinds
Mayetta, Kan.
(Ralph was Chagabee's best man at the wedding)*

LittleAxe 50th Wedding Anniversary



Troy and JoAnne (Kitchkommie) LittleAxe of Bartlesville, Okla. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 2, 2011. They met as teenagers at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas in the late 1950s and married in JoAnne's hometown of Topeka, Kansas in 1961. They began their family in Kansas City, Kan. and then moved to Bartlesville in 1973 to start the family business. They are both retired and nowadays enjoy spending their time with their grandchildren and attending Native American activities and events.

Share your birthdays, weddings and anniversaries with the Potawatomi News

Ttiwenmo eginigyèn
(happy day you were born)

Happy 5th
Birthday
Jan. 28

Trulee



Happy 7th
Birthday
Jan. 13

Tressa



Love,
Mommy & Daddy



Happy Birthday
Jaiden Albert-Cooper
Wamego
10 years old
on
January 24

You are my reason for
existing!
You are such an angel.

Love,
Mom

Happy 16th Birthday
to Taylor Potts on Dec. 20

To one of my beautiful granddaughters. Let's hope the
holidays are good for all and remember, Meh Meh.
We all love you.
This is from Gramma Lou's outfit

Happy Birthday
to
Jacob Walter
5 years old
on
Dec. 22

Love,
Dad & Mom
(Dan & Mary Walter)
and
Grandmother
(Bernadette Lewis)



Happy Birthday
to
Taylor Potts-Dec. 20
Kay-Kay Rupnicki-Jan. 3
Doran Rupnicki-Dec. 20

From your family!



Happy 4th Birthday
Dec. 27
Ki-Bo!
Love you lots,
Mommy
&
Family

Happy 6th Birthday
Jan. 13
Angelina!
Love,
your Mom, Dad,
Sis, Brother &
Family

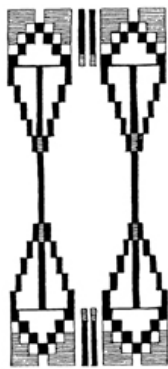
Welcome to this world!



Sylas Ancel Mitchell

Born: September 10, 2011

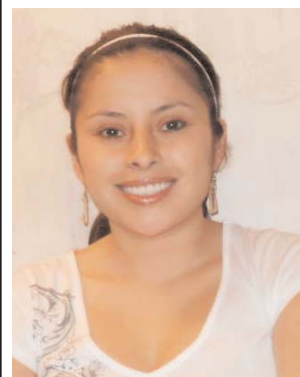
I love you my favorite grandson!
From:
Grandma Whitepigeon Ingersoll



Happy Birthday
Tosha Wilson
Dec. 27
Love,
Dawn Masqua



Happy Birthday
to
Alvina LaClair
who will be
89 years old
on
Dec. 21



Happy Birthday
Leigh Ann
Dec. 21

Love,
Your Mom & Brothers



Kamboçák (those who died)

Norma Tolsma



Mrs. Norma J. Tolsma, aged 73, passed away Tuesday, March 22, 2011. She was preceded in death by her parents, Levi and Ellen Whitepigeon; sister, Vivian Whitepigeon; brothers, Levi Pigeon, James Pigeon. Surviving are her children, Kim (Doug) Whitepigeon-Ingersoll, Brian Tolsma, Kenneth Tolsma; grandchildren, Tiffany Mitchell, David (Jessica) Mitchell, Joshua Tolsma, Aiyana Tolsma; great granddaughter, Madyson Mitchell; sisters, Lorraine Bessemer, Jennie (Carl) Wicker, Marlene Wade, Ruth (Robert) Carlton, Yvonne Whitepigeon; sister-in-law, Laura Pigeon. Funeral Services will be held 11:00 AM Saturday, March 26 at Life Center Church of the Apostolic Faith, 4488 Breton Rd. SE with Elder Wiley Rigsby officiating. The family will greet relatives and friends Friday 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 PM at the Ronan-Vanderpool-Stegenga Funeral Chapel, 3131 S. Division Ave. Interment Burnips Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Life Center Church. Memories and condolences to Norma's family may be shared at www.stegengafuneralchapel.com.

(Courtesy of Stegenga Funeral Chapel, Grand Rapids, Mich.)

Kenneth Tolsma

Mr. Kenneth Tolsma, aged 48, of Wyoming, passed away Thursday, June 16, 2011. He was preceded in death by his mother, Norma J. Tolsma; father, James Tolsma; brother, Jim Tolsma; grandparents, Levi and Ellen Whitepigeon; aunt, Vivian Whitepigeon; uncles, Levi Pigeon, James Pigeon. Surviving are his sister, Kim (Doug) Whitepigeon-Ingersoll; brother, Brian Tolsma; Nieces and nephews, Tiffany Mitchell, David (Jessica) Mitchell, Joshua Tolsma, Aiyana Tolsma; great niece, Madyson Mitchell; half brothers and sisters and their families, MaryJo (Tom) Tolsma-Gosselin, Pat Tolsma, Bill Tolsma, Jerry Tolsma, Michelle Cerajewski, Kate Tolsma; aunts, Lorraine Bessemer, Jennie (Carl) Wicker, Marlene Wade, Ruth (Robert) Carlton, Yvonne Whitepigeon and Laura Pigeon. Ken worked at Hayworth for over 16 years. A time of sharing will be held 12:00 Noon Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at the Ronan-Vanderpool-Stegenga Funeral Chapel, 3131 S. Division Ave. The family will greet relatives and friends one hour prior to the service on Tuesday. Interment Burnips Cemetery. Memories and condolences to Ken's family may be shared at www.stegengafuneralchapel.co.



(Courtesy of Stegenga Funeral Chapel, Grand Rapids, Mich.)

Norwood Frank "Woody" Nocktonick (M-zhnauck)

DELIA- Norwood Frank "Woody" Nocktonick (M-zhnauck), 72, of Delia, KS passed away Thursday, November 3, 2011 at Hospice House in Topeka. He was born December 16, 1938 in Mayetta, KS the son of John and Louise (Masha) Nocktonick.

Woody graduated from Mayetta High School and Haskell Indian Nations University. He had lived in the Mayetta community for 20 years and had also lived in Topeka. He was a professional small engine mechanic for Price Equipment and for R&K Lawn & Garden.

Woody was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and a long time member of Alcoholics Anonymous; which included 31 years of sobriety.

He married Lucille Armell on December 22, 2006 in Mayetta. She survives. Other survivors include 3 daughters, Joelee Charles (David) of Topeka, KS, Janeal Lovejoy (Lawrence) of Topeka, KS and Marilyn Zavala of South Sioux City, NE; a son, Jeffrey Lenzini of Delia, KS; 2 sisters, Ramona Cole (Larry) of Plano, TX and Linda Yazzie of Mayetta, KS; a brother, Terry Cross Bear of Topeka, KS; a sister-in-law, Kay Nocktonick of Easton, KS; a niece, Tammy Martindale (Dean) of Mayetta, KS; 9 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; special friends, Fred Mahkuk, Gerald McKinney and Jodie McIntosh.

He was preceded in death by a son, Michael Nocktonick, sister, Verna Mae Nocktonick and a brother, George Donald Nocktonick.

Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Interment will be in the O' Bennick Cemetery southwest of Mayetta. Family will greet friends at 6:00 p.m. with an AA Meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evening at the funeral home. To leave a special message for the family, visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

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



James "Jimmy" Nephew

James "Jimmy" Nephew, 44, of Topeka, died Thursday, October 6, 2011 at his home.

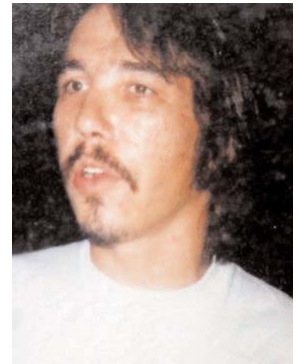
He was born May 4, 1967 at Gowanda, New York and lived most of his life in Topeka.

Jimmy was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Catholic Faith. He worked for Fisher Roofing in Topeka.

Survivors include his mother, Berdina Marshno, of the home; a daughter, Shari Allison, Iola, KS; two sisters, Dawn Barnes and husband Tim, and Sherie Bowers and husband Jimmy, all of Topeka; and several nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, just west of 166 & I Rds. on the Potawatomi Reservation. Burial will follow in the Old Dance Ground Cemetery. Jimmy will lie in state from 2:00 p.m. Sunday until 3:00 p.m. Monday at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hoyt, where family and friends will meet from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday. There will be a Rosary prayed at 7:00 p.m. on Monday at Our Lady of the Snows Hall, followed by visitation. The casket will remain closed. On-line condolences may be made at chapeloxksfuneralhome.com

(Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, Hoyt, Kan.)



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.

