Pokagon Band World War II Veteran Shares Experiences as a Prisoner of War in Germany

By Jennifer Dougherty

The majority of tribal citizens learn about World War II in history classes. Others may hear first hand accounts of the war experience from family members. And a select few tribal citizens are WWII veterans themselves. Richard Rider is one of those veterans, but his story has a different twist. Not only did Rider serve overseas, but he also endured 14 months as a prisoner of war in Germany.

On March 16, 1943, just few months after his eighteenth birthday, Rider was drafted into the military. He was inducted at Fort Custer in Michigan and was sent to Camp Butler in North Carolina where he received infantry training. In November 1943, Rider found himself heading off to the warfront. He boarded a ship in Newport News, Virginia and landed in Oran, North Africa seven days later. Though he had traveled thousands of miles from his home already, his long journey was just beginning.

Rider’s unit traveled by boxcar to Bizerte, Tunisia. They were promptly sent by landing ship tank to Salerno, Italy where Rider was assigned to the 157th Regiment, 45th Division. His outfit was assigned to take the beachhead.

Please turn to page 2.
Pokagon Band World War II Veteran Shares Experiences, continued

at Anzio. Unfortunately, his group was surrounded and captured by German forces on Feb. 22, 1944.

The Germans held his group in a small camp in Italy, but later moved them farther north. They were loaded on 40 x 8 foot boxcars, on hundred men per car, and were sent to Stalag VIIIB in Memmingen, Germany. Because of Rider’s private first class rank, he was assigned to work detail. They repaired railroads and buried the bodies of dead Germans who had been deceased for days.

“Anyone who ranked below a staff sergeant had to work. We worked long days, and had very little food,” recalls Rider. The prisoners survived on a small cup of broth and slice of bread per day.

“The bread was mostly sawdust,” said Rider. “I lost 43 pounds during my time in captivity.” Prisoners had no access to showers and developed body lice. Despite the horrific conditions they were exposed to each day, every member of his unit survived incarceration. After a grueling 14 months, the men were liberated on April 14, 1944.

Prior to his capture, Rider sustained injuries that damaged his hearing and one of his eyes. “I was standing guard at the entrance to a cave, and a bomb hit overhead,” said Rider. “A commissioned officer happened to be there, and he took all of my information.” Because his injuries were documented, he received awards after the war. Rider was awarded a Purple Heart, European Campaign 2 Battle Stars, a Bronze Star, a World War II Medal, a Good Conduct Medal, and the Prisoner of War Medal, and an American Campaign Medal.

“It is very common for POWs to not remember anything from their experience,” explained Rider. “I spent 14 months with thirty men, and I couldn’t tell you one of their names.” Rider belongs to an ex-POW group through the VA Hospital. Members have access to counselors who can assist them with applying for compensation and disability. “The VA has been very helpful, and there is a beautiful new hospital being built,” said Rider.

After returning from war, Rider worked for General Motors in Flint, Michigan until he retired in 1974. He and his wife of 52 years, Katheryn, have three sons, and Rider has one daughter from a previous marriage. He has two grandchildrens and twin great-grandchildren. Rider and all of his descendants are enrolled citizens of the Band, however he did not find out that he was Native American until later in his life.

“My father never told me I was Native American. I didn’t find out until he passed away,” said Rider. He has memories of his grandmother—who was full-blooded Native American—having very dark skin.

“She was a beautiful woman. I remember her always wearing a hat and covering her arms whenever she worked in her garden so that her skin wouldn’t get any darker.” Rider suspects that his father didn’t reveal his heritage because Native Americans were treated like second-class citizens at the time. Rider’s connection to the tribe dates back to John Mix, who was assigned the enrollment number one.

He now lives in Leesburg, Florida, near Orlando, where he is enjoying his retirement and getting some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

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**Pokagon Band of Potawatomi**

**Third Annual Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament**

Benefiting the Pokagon Potawatomi Veterans Society | Military Emergency Relief Fund

**Friday, May 27**

**Hampshire Country Club**

29592 Pokagon Hwy.

Dowagiac, MI

**4-Person Scramble Schedule**

8:00 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. Shotgun Start

**Prizes**

1st, 2nd, 3rd Place

Longest Drive

Closest to the Pin

**Special Veteran Team Prizes**

1st, 2nd, 3rd Place

**Entry:** $60 per person

includes green fees, 18 holes of golf, shirt, soft drinks, lunch, dinner, team picture CD, goody bag, prizes

**Special Guest Sponsors**

Chairman Matt Wesaw, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

SSG Matthew Martin, USMC

**Red, White and Blue Sponsorship:** $500

includes one hole sign, entry fee for four players, special sponsor prizes, special recognition, and sponsors’ pre-event reception at Four Winds Buffet, May 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Local veteran groups will be honored. All veterans are encouraged to participate. Public is invited.

For more information, or for a registration form, please contact Ervin “Butch” Starrett at 269-591-2901 or email at butch.starrett@pokagonband-nsn.gov
Oshke-Kno-Kewéwen Pow Wow

Honoring the New Eagle Staff
Presented by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

Memorial Day Weekend
Saturday and Sunday
May 28 & 29

Rodgers Lake
58620 Sink Road
Dowagiac, Michigan

Saturday, 7:00 a.m.
Ceremony and feast for
Pokagon Band veterans
honoring the new
Eagle Staff

Grand Entries
Saturday
1 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m.

Head Veteran: George Martin
Head Female Dancer: Rachael Topash-Tone
Head Male Dancer: Tom Topash
Junior Dancers: Onyleen Zapata & Gabriel Tone
Invited Drums: Ribbon Town,
Sons of Three Fires, Southern Straight
and Painted Rock
Co-MCs: Jason Wesaw and Roger Rader
Arena Director: Carl Wesaw
Fire Keeper: John Winchester and
the Firekeepers Society

This is a family event. No drugs, alcohol, firearms, or tribal politics.
Pokagon Band Citizen to Lead Tribal Government Staff

Jason Michael Wesaw joined the Pokagon Band team last month, taking on the newly-created position of government manager. A native of Otsego, Michigan, Wesaw recently retired from the U.S. Army after serving 22 years—13 years in the Army and nine years with the Michigan Army National Guard.

Wesaw joined the Army after graduating from high school, looking for both higher education funding and experiences around the world. Drawn to serving in an elite unit, he became a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and served in the Gulf War and as an Army Ranger instructor.

“Our body can only handle colliding with the earth so many times,” Wesaw says of his transition from paratrooper to recruiting manager. In 2003 he began his service in the Michigan Army National Guard, eventually managing the recruitment and retention of incoming soldiers from an area spanning Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and the western part of the state. He also earned a bachelor’s degree in management.

But as he traveled the world and continued his career in the Army, Wesaw says he always watched his tribal government from afar, hoping to one day assume a leadership role and serve the community. When he saw the government manager position, it seemed the time was right.

Jason Michael Wesaw

Jewelry

By Jennifer Dougherty

Esiquio “Russ” Garza always felt a spiritual connection to the world around him. He holds nature and wildlife in high esteem, and now he has found a way to pair his love for the world around him with his artistic gift for jewelry making. With help from his wife, Barb, they own and operate RBG Designs, a small business specializing in the design and sale of jewelry.

Three years ago, the Garzas began taking classes on the art of jewelry making. They purchased DVDs that taught them the basics of design, texture and color schemes. It wasn’t long before their small business was up and running.

“Our jewelry emphasizes the Turtle Stone, also known as the Petoskey Stone, combined with other semiprecious stones,” said Barb Garza. “The turtle is very sacred to the Native people.”

The Garzas sell their jewelry online and at various art shows. This year, they will be selling their items at the Ship & Shore Festival in New Buffalo, Michigan, at Amish Acres in Nappannee, Indiana, and at Artbeat in South Bend, Indiana. Many of their high-end pieces are for sale in the gift shop at the Four Winds Casino Resort.

“The casino has been a real asset,” said Barb. “People have been coming in and asking about new pieces.”

The Garzas also sell copper rings and necklaces. Russ’s nephew, Mikey, helps make these items and they are their biggest seller. “We sell them as fast as we can make them!” said Barb. “Copper is a sacred metal, and we like to use that in our pieces.”

“Most of our pieces have a theme,” explains Barb. “Esiquio recalls walking with his grandfather as a child, and he draws from those memories when designing jewelry.” Pieces may represent wind, water, or even a cluster of leaves.

The business has provided great opportunities for the Garzas to spend quality time together. They have a studio in their basement, and they often lay their beads right out on the table and go to work with their designs. They also spend a significant amount of time researching trends and pricing in the jewelry business.

RBG Designs
Jewelry

TRIBAL CITIZEN-OWNED BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: RBG Designs Create Contemporary Jewelry

Attributions:

• TJ’s Monster Guitars
• Custom-made guitars, repairs, set ups, and modifications
• 574-298-1169
• tjmonster@hotmail.com

The artists of RBG Designs draw their inspiration for their work from nature.

They are dedicated to offering their buyers the best prices possible. If they find

their supplies at discounted prices, they pass that savings on to their customers.

Like his mother before him, Russ has found his inner artist later in life. “I have always been timid about developing the artist in me, but when something just feels right, you just can’t deny it,” said Russ. Jewelry-making provides him with a creative outlet and is also a source of self-expression.

The Garzas recently caught the attention of Susan Street, a New York jewelry designer who will soon interview them for a feature article. It is unusual to find a husband and wife team in the jewelry business, and she is eager to share their story. The Garzas are currently featured on Magpie Gemstones website, www.magpiegemstones.com, under the “client” link.

The Garzas work hard to grow their business with the long-term goal of mentoring family and other tribal citizens on jewelry making. The business would eventually be passed on to them.

With warmer weather on the horizon, the Garzas are getting ready for business to pick up. Their jewelry can be viewed online at www.rbgdesigns.etsy.com, and they also have a showroom in the front of their home in the Elders Village at 57598 Kekyajek Odanek, Dowagiac. Pokagon citizens receive ten percent off of their purchases while supporting this tribal citizen-owned business.

• RBG Designs
• Jewelry
• 57598 Kekyajek Odanek, Dowagiac, or at various art galleries and shows in the area
• 231-350-2302
• www.rbgdesigns.etsy.com
Learn Some Salt Shaker Savvy

By Susan Gundersen, RD, CD, Public Health Nutritionist

Many of you may have heard the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s recent announcement of their 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and are wondering what the hoopla is about. During the next few months I will share highlights of those changes.

Many such chronic diseases as diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease, and stroke center on blood pressure. Luckily, many food manufacturers have made a decision to lower the sodium content of foods, and restaurants are listening to patrons and the medical world and reducing sodium in the foods prepared in their kitchens.

No one is expecting that we stop using salt entirely. Salt is made of sodium and chloride which are very important nutrients and, with potassium; they are the main regulators of the body’s water-balance system. In the United States, the average person consumes one tablespoon of salt a day. This is about twenty times the amount of sodium we really need. For people under the age of 50 who do not have high blood pressure, the guidelines are 2200 milligrams a day. For a person over 50, or someone with heart disease and/or high blood pressure, the new recommendation is to eat no more than 1500 milligrams a day.

What can you do to lower your family’s daily salt intake? Here are some ways to keep salt intake under control:

- Cook without salt. Taste the food before adding it.
- Use a coarser type of salt like sea salt of kosher salt, as you will sprinkle less on your food automatically.
- Retrain your taste buds. This takes about three weeks.
- Use herbs and seasonings in place of salt.
- Read the food labels on the foods that you buy at the store and, whenever possible, choose low-salt, reduced-salt, or no-salt-added versions of a product. Tomato products and soy sauce are loaded with sodium, and many lower sodium products are available.
- Eat more potassium-rich foods, such as oranges, mangos, cantaloupe and you will excrete more sodium in your urine. However, do not take potassium supplements unless your doctor prescribes them, because too much potassium can cause an irregular heart beat.

Here is an easy-to-make seasoning that can replace salt in your shaker:

**Sodium-Free Herb Seasoning**

2 tablespoons crushed dried basil
1 tablespoon dried dill weed
1 tablespoon crushed dried mint
1 tablespoon crushed dried tarragon
1 tablespoon crushed dried thyme

Combine all ingredients. Store in a spice jar away from heat and light and use within one month.

Please call Susan Gundersen, health services dietitian, at 888-440-1234 or at 269-782-4141, if you would like more information on lowering salt in your diet.

**Coming in May**

Family Fun Walk
Walk the Path: Saint Lawrence Seaway River, our final destination on the Great Lakes walk east.

Get Real. Get Tested.
April is STD Education and Awareness Month

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that there are approximately 19 million new cases of STDs—sexually transmitted diseases—each year in the United States, almost half of them among young people ages 15 to 24. In 2008, there were more than 1.5 million total cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea reported to CDC—making them the two most commonly reported infectious diseases in the United States. Untreated STDs can lead to serious long-term health consequences, especially for adolescent girls and young women. CDC estimates that undiagnosed and untreated STDs cause at least 24,000 women in the United States each year to become infertile. Vaccines offer protection against two common sexually transmitted infections: hepatitis B and human papillomavirus (HPV).

These vaccines can prevent health problems, such as liver disease and cervical cancer.

To reduce the impact of STDs, it is important to increase knowledge about sexually transmitted infections and make STD testing a part of routine medical care. Because many STDs have no symptoms, those at risk need to get tested and find out if they are infected. Chlamydia is one of the most common STDs, especially among young women. CDC recommends that all sexually active women younger than 26 years of age get tested for chlamydia once a year. Women who are older than 26 years of age should be tested if they have a new or multiple sex partners.

Getting tested and treated for chlamydia can reduce new cases of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) by as much as 60 percent. Women with PID can experience pregnancy complications, infertility, chronic pain, and irreversible damage to their reproductive organs. Reducing the impact of PID among women also requires men to be tested and treated for chlamydia to reduce new cases. Recent studies have shown that many young women who have been diagnosed with chlamydia may become re-infected by male partners who have not been diagnosed or treated. The CDC’s sexually transmitted diseases treatment guidelines recommends that sex partners of infected patients be treated to prevent re-infection of the patient and transmission of the infection to others, and those with chlamydia be re-tested for the infection approximately three months after treatment.

Being sexually active with more than one partner puts you at increased risk for developing STDs. Parents should talk to their children about abstinence or using protection. People of all ages should be aware that even though there are no physical indications of a partner or themselves having an STD, they can still be infected. You cannot see an STD, and some STDs have no signs or symptoms associated with them. Asking a partner about their STD status will not provide you with accurate information, as they may not know they are infected. Being open with your partner about current and past sexual partners will give a better understanding of their possibility of being infected.

If you have had several sexual partners, have any questions, concerns, or would like to be tested for STDs, please contact the health clinic or behavioral health offices at 269-782-4141 or 1-888-440-1234.
April Students of the Month
by Susan Doyle and Sue Johnson, Education Associates

Marcus Puehler is a 14-year-old eighth grader at Whitehall Middle School in Whitehall, Michigan. Marcus’ parents are Brian Puehler Sr. and Dorothy Updyke. He has one brother, Brian Puehler Jr. Marcus likes to play football at school with his friends and wrestle with his brother Brian. He would someday like to be the star running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Marcus is proud to be Native American because, “our ancestors were the first people in the United States of America and they traveled all around the country.”

Alissa LeBlanc is a 12-year-old seventh grader at JKL Bahweting Anishnabe School in Saulte Ste. Marie, Michigan. Alissa’s mother is Jennifer LeBlanc. She has two brothers, Isaiah and Josiah. Alissa has participated in drum dance socials at school as well as local pow wows and tribal family craft days. Alissa keeps busy with volleyball, basketball, soccer, track, skating, skiing and playing the cello. She also enjoys hamsters and watching movies as well as macaroni and cheese. She plans on becoming a doctor or veterinarian when she grows up. Alissa is proud to be Native American because, “it gives you a sense of support, community, and family: someone to go to.”

Aubrey Cooper is a 9-year-old fourth grade student at Lincoln Park Elementary School in Muskegon, Michigan. Her parents are Luanne and Bryan Cooper. Aubrey has four sisters, Kristin, Miranda, Ashley, and Madison. Aubrey loves tacos and her Wii. She loves to draw, play Narnia for DS, Guitar Hero, as well as basketball and soccer. She wants to be a designer and own her own store someday. Aubrey has been involved in making dream catchers and going to the pow wows with her grandmother to dance. She is proud to be a Native American because she loves to dance in the pow wows.

Darrin Goodrich is a 16-year-old junior at Buchanan High School in Buchanan, Michigan. His parents are Pat and Bobbie Goodrich and his grandmother is Patricia Topash. Darrin has two siblings, Blaine and Hunter. Darrin loves pizza and playing Black Ops as well as football, basketball and baseball. Darrin is proud to be a Native American because, “I get to experience so many things that other kids my age don’t. I love our culture and how interesting it is.”

Inteus Dixon is a 9-year-old fourth grader at Woodside Elementary in Hartford, Michigan. His mother is Melody Dixon and his grandparents are Terry and Adeline Dixon. Inteus’ siblings are Azhani, Ignacia, Analisa, Alyssa & Gloria. He enjoys playing soccer, baseball, basketball and PlayStation, as well as the Wii. Inteus also enjoys Sorry, Uno, Monopoly, wrestling toys and skateboarding. When not involved in these activities, Inteus loves to eat pepperoni pizza, tacos, burritos, and tamales.

He would like to be a professional soccer player when he grows up. In the meantime, he would like to learn how to sing and drum. Inteus has attended pow wows, drum making and copper bowl making classes. Inteus is proud to be a Native American because, “If it weren’t for my ancestors, my family and I wouldn’t be here today. Our people would be extinct.”

Michigan Indian Elders Association Offers Incentives for Straight-A Students

The Michigan Indian Elders Association (M.I.E.A.) is offering a student incentive program to recognize students who achieve all A’s and perfect attendance in a marking period. A minimum of $3,000 is available to fund this program this year. Twenty-five dollars will be awarded for each qualified entry, up to the minimum available funds in the program. In the event that the number of qualified entries exceeds the funds available, the winners will be determined by lottery. Here are the conditions to qualify:

• The student must be an enrolled member or be a direct descendant of an enrolled member of one of the M.I.E.A. constituent tribes/bands.
• The student must be in grades K-12 at a public or private school. Home schooling is not eligible.
• A student must be in grades 4–12 to qualify for the straight A award. (A-, A, A+)
• For a school system that uses a grading system based on numbers, the equivalent to straight As will be acceptable.
• A student must be in grades K–12 to qualify for the perfect attendance award.
• Perfect attendance means exactly that. A student must be in school or at a school-sponsored function each day of the marking period. Excused absences for anything other than a school sponsored/approved function do not constitute perfect attendance.
• The first two marking periods of this 2010/2011 school year will be used to determine the winners for this lottery.
• A student can qualify for both the perfect attendance and straight As for both marking periods. For example, straight A’s and perfect attendance for both marking periods would mean four chances to win.

Continued on next page.
Incentives for Straight-A Students, continued

- A parent of the student must complete and sign the Student Incentive Program Application Form in order for the student to qualify for an award.
- A copy of the child’s report card signed by the parent, or a letter from an administrator of the student’s school, must be submitted with the completed application form to verify the achievement of straight A’s and perfect attendance.

The drawing to determine the winners will be held at the April, 2011 meeting of the Michigan Indian Elders Association hosted by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

You must follow these directions for your child to be considered for an award. The completed application form, a signed report card or verification letter of achievement from a school administrator, and copy of student’s or parent’s tribal identification card must be received at the following address not later than 5:00 p.m. on April 11, 2011:
Sheligh Jackson, Coordinator
c/o Michigan Indian Elders Association
7070 E Broadway
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

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**Michigan Indian Elders Association**

2010/2011 Student Incentive Program Application Form

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Please attach the following documents to this completed application in order for your student to qualify and be considered:

1. A copy of the student’s report card signed by his/her parent and/or a letter from an administrator in his/her school stating the marking periods for which he/she have had all A’s or perfect attendance; (note: student must be in grades 4 through 12 to qualify for all A’s and K through 12 for perfect attendance)

2. A copy of the student’s tribal membership card; (If the student doesn’t have a card please include a copy of a parent’s tribal card)

3. NOT REQUIRED, however, if a photograph of the student is available which could be used in promotion of the program please enclose with the completed application. Please write the student’s name on the back of the picture.

I certify that all the information given is true and correct. I understand that this information is being given for the receipt of funds and the Michigan Indian Elders Association program coordinator may verify the information on the application with my child’s school. I further give consent for the use of my child’s name and/or likeness for the promotion of this program.

Parent’s Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Please mail the preceding information to: Sheligh Jackson, in-care of: Michigan Indian Elders Association, 7070 E Broadway, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858.

All information must be received by **5:00 p.m. on April 11, 2011** to be eligible for the program.
Department of Education Announcements and Events

Employment Training Labs

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Vocational GED programs will be offering Employment Training Labs for individuals in these programs. Employment Training Labs will be offered in a group, open environment, and work at your own pace setting. The workshops will provide appropriate breaks, however, it will not provide meals.

The Employment Training Labs will provide assistance for those interested in work employability skills, such as:
- learning more about planning to work
- taking Career Assessments
- creating and updating resumes and cover letters
- job searching
- learning more about the Pokagon Band ABE-GED program
- taking the GED Pre-test Assessments

It’s always a good idea to call ahead to let us know you’re coming, or to confirm a closure in case of inclement weather. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you call at least 24 hours before the lab you are planning on attending to let us know, so we may pre-enroll you into the program, collect your contact information, and learn more about your specific needs so that we may better serve you.

APRIL

Labs are being offered on:
- Lab 10 — Wednesday, April 6, from 8–4:30*
- Lab 11 — Saturday, April 9, from 10–2 (instead of 9:45–2:15)
- Lab 12 — Tuesday, April 19, from 8–4:30*

MAY

- Lab 13 — Wednesday, May 4, from 8–4:30*
- Lab 14 — Saturday, May 14, from 10–2.
- Lab 15 — Tuesday, May 17, from 8–4:30*

You must call ahead to schedule Saturday and late night sessions.

* Late night sessions may be offered as an extension of the planned Wednesday and Tuesday labs until tentatively 6 p.m. upon request. Please note that Saturday’s times have changed from 9:45–2:15 to 10–2.

If you are interested in learning more about this lab or wish to sign up, please contact Traci Henslee at the Pokagon Band Department of Education at 269-782-0887 or 888-330-1234.

Career and Education Day at the Pokagon Band

The Department of Education will be hosting a Career and Education Day for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors, their parents, and all adults attending college or interested in exploring career opportunities.

Friday, April 29

Pokagon Band Tribal Lodge, Rodgers Lake

Keynote speaker: Chairman Matthew Wesaw

- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. visit with college representatives from universities and community colleges
- 12:00–1:00 p.m. lunch

Pokagon Band Summer School

Summer School registration is open for Pokagon children and children registered in the K-12 Program who are entering kindergarten through 6th grades in the fall, 2011. We meet with the students Monday through Thursday from July 11 until August 4. This is a great opportunity to keep the students’ minds active while spending valuable time together. Classes are held in the Pokagon Head Start building during the morning, and afternoon activities take place around the Rodgers Lake campus. Limited transportation is available. Please contact Connie Baber, Department of Education’s administrative assistant at 888-330-1234 for an application. The deadline is April 15.

Afternoon workshops:
- Kevin Leonard and Allard Teeple of Michigan State University on a multicultural business summer program for high school citizens
- Success stories from and information about the dual enrollment program and the higher education scholarship

There will be drawings for prizes for all students and parents who pre-register for this great event. If you have any questions please contact Higher Education Specialist Joseph Avance at 269-782-0887.

Native Foster Parents Needed

Our traditions tell us the most sacred beings among our Anishnabe people are our children and our Elders. Our children have just come from being with the Creator in the Spirit World, and our Elders are facing the West on their way to the Spirit World to be with the Creator again.

As a Tribal nation, we recognize our responsibility “to provide for the welfare, care and protection of the children,” through our Child Protection Code. “The care and custody of the Pokagon Band children are vital to the continued existence and integrity of the Band, as such the welfare of its children is of paramount importance to the Band” says our Family Welfare Commission Ordinance.

There are no words in the Potawatomi language for the term “foster parents.” Native people had to adapt, and the use of this term is now a necessity. Sometimes within our family framework there is turmoil and our children suffer. Some of our children need care and protection. Do you have in your spirit and your home a place for a child who needs a temporary family? Have you ever thought about being a foster parent?

We realize you will have many questions about fostering parenting and we urge you to contact our Social Services Department at 269-782-8998 and ask for Mark Pompey, Director, or Kathleen McKee, our Indian Child Welfare Worker.
Newly-Appointed Youth Cultural Coordinator to Create a Tribal Youth Council

By Jennifer Dougherty

The Department of Language and Culture recently hired Katy Morseau as the youth cultural coordinator. This is a newly-created position, and Morseau will be responsible for organizing a Youth Council for the tribe.

“The Tribal Council has been asking for a Youth Council,” said Morseau. “We want to teach our youth about how tribal government works, and provide them with professional training and cultural experiences.” Once the Youth Council is established, they will report to the Tribal Council, and members will attend monthly business and cultural meetings.

Opportunities for Youth Council involvement may be open to tribal citizens as young as age 12. “We are having preliminary discussions about having a Junior Council for members ages 12 through 17. A separate Senior Council would be for those members who are 18 to 24 years of age.”

The Junior Council would provide members with the opportunity to visit college and university campuses, receive college prep support, and attend a unity conference. The United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc puts on unity conferences to help tribes organize their own youth councils, and provide opportunities for young Native Americans to interact with others with similar backgrounds, heritage and interests. Senior Council members would attend the annual National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Conference, receive professional training and work directly with the Pokagon Tribal Council on youth-related issues.

The Department of Language and Culture is hosting a Youth Social on Saturday, April 9 to kick off their new endeavor. They will have door prizes and will be serving refreshments. Morseau hopes to recruit new student and showcase tribal opportunities for youth. Those attending the event will have time to socialize with others interested in Youth Council, and they will have the opportunity to discuss their future plans and goals. Youth Council Alumni also will be on hand to talk about their experiences and to answer questions.

Prior to accepting this position, Morseau spent five years as a stay-at-home mother. She attended Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas and continues to work toward her Bachelor’s degree in elementary education at Southwestern Michigan College.

Morseau is up to the challenge of creating the Youth Council, and is eager to get started. With such a large number of minors in the tribe, it is important to pass on tribal values and culture as well as to educate them. Citizens interested in more information on the Youth Council or the upcoming social may contact Katy by phone at 269-462-4254 or by e-mail at katy.morseau@pokagonband-nsn.gov.

Call for Pokagon Culture Camp Counselors

The Department of Language and Culture is looking for people interested in being counselors for the 2011 Pokagon Culture Camp. The camp dates are Thursday, June 24 –Thursday, June 30 with a mandatory orientation and training on Wednesday, June 23.

Counselor Requirements:
• At least 18 years of age
• Culturally knowledgeable
• High school graduate
• Physically capable to participate in most camp activities
• Available to from June 23 – 30, 2011
• Able to pass a criminal background check, drug screening, and fingerprinting

If you are interested in being a part of the 2011 Culture Camp team, please call Teresa Magnuson, director of language and culture, at 269-462-4296 to request a counselor application. All applications must be returned by April 20.

Native Nations Youth Council Planning Trip to MSU Native American College Day

Native Nations Youth Council will be traveling to Michigan State University for a Native American College Day visit. The day-long event will be held on Thursday, April 21. The program is open to Native Nations Youth Council members who are Pokagon citizen high school students. The Native American College Day visit will include information about college life, the Eli Broad College of Business’ Multicultural Business Program, and presentations from the North American Indigenous Student Association (NAISA) and the Native American and Hispanic Business Students (NAHBS). Students will also be given an opportunity to learn about admissions and the financial aid process.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the Katy Morseau, youth cultural coordinator, at 269-462-4254. Transportation and meals will be provided.

Gage Street Property Clean Up Day

Gage Street is a beautiful and spiritual place for our people. To take good care of it, we have to be respectful and responsible. The lake and the area around it have been neglected and need our tender loving care. When we work as a community to help heal Mother Earth, we all benefit from the medicine she gives back.

Please bring your family and join us Saturday, April 16 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to clean up garbage at the Gage Street property and help us restore the natural beauty. Bring a dish to pass at the potluck following clean-up.

Call for Pokagon Culture Camp Counselors

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If you are interested in being a part of the 2011 Culture Camp team, please call Teresa Magnuson, director of language and culture, at 269-462-4296 to request a counselor application. All applications must be returned by April 20.
April 2011
Department of Language and Culture
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi • 32142 Edwards Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047
(269) 462-4296 • Teresa.Magnuson@PokagonBand-nsn.gov

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Central Michigan University Pow Wow - CMU Events Center, Mt. Pleasant, MI
Co-ed Sweat with Jake Pine - Teaching Cabin, 6pm-8pm
Elders Language Class - Elders Hall, 11am – 12pm
Emerald Ash Borer/Black Ash Basketry Symposium - Plainwell, MI
Gage Street Clean-Up - Gage Street, Dowagiac, MI, 1pm - 4pm
Language Class with John Winchester - Tribal Lodge, 6pm - 8pm
Language Class with Walter Johnson - Tribal Lodge, 6pm - 8pm
Lunch-and-Learn - Tribal Lodge, 11am - 12pm & 12pm - 1pm
Men & Boys Drumming - Teaching Cabin, 6pm-8pm
MSU Native American College Day - MSU Eli Broad College of Business, East Lansing, MI
Native Healing with Traditional Healer, Jake Pine – Teaching Cabin, 9am-12pm, 1pm-5pm
Native Nations Youth Council, Youth Council Social - Language & Culture Office, 12:30pm - 5pm
Traditions and Repatriation Committee’s Meeting - Admin. Bldg., Finance Conf. Rm., 6pm-9pm
Womens Hand Drumming - Tribal Lodge, 6-8pm

The Gaming Authority moved to allow Pokagon citizens a 50 percent discount at all Four Winds New Buffalo and Hartford restaurants, effective May 7. This applies to all the restaurants: Copper Rock, Willowbrook, the Buffet, Timbers and the Kiosk.

Four Winds Casino Resort Offers Summer Internship Opportunities

Four Winds Casino Resort’s Tribal Development Program is pleased to offer a paid internship program for Pokagon Band citizens and spouses who are currently enrolled in college full time and at least 18 years of age. The eight-week program is for students with future goals of permanent employment at Four Winds Casino or as a means to build valuable work experience.

Our internship program will provide you with on-the-job training and practical experience in the casino industry, preparing you for employment positions in the casino and/or business fields. As a participant, you will also gain knowledge of tribal gaming while developing career-specific skills and participating in professional development activities. Tribal gaming is an industry that is growing nationally, and the professional skills you will learn will help you for a lifetime in any career path you may seek. This is a paid internship; you will earn an hourly wage and, if needed, lodging will be provided at no cost to you. With an official request, your participation in the program may qualify for college credit.

Employment is subject to the completion of a satisfactory background check, pre-employment drug screening, and licensure by the Pokagon Gaming Commission.

If you, or someone you know, is eligible to participate in the internship program and would like more information, please contact Dana Binder, career development specialist at: 269-926-5228 or dbinder@fourwindscasino.com or Torie Winchester, manager of Tribal Placement and Development at: 269-926-5244 or twinchester@fourwindscasino.com.
Chairman’s Column

For those of you who may have missed the Annual Meeting we are still working to make sure the information is available to everyone. Our intent is to video and make available all meetings to our citizens. This should be the last meeting we will have to hold off our campus of facilities. In July of this year we will be opening the Community Center which will be large enough to hold our bigger meetings and also provide the needed technology to show most of our meetings live. If you get the opportunity, I would encourage you all to visit the offices and see what is new. I would also encourage you to get a copy of the Annual Report and see what has happened in the last year. I think you will be as proud as I am.

In addition to having each of our departments represented at the meeting, we also included an update by our directors on the Band’s vision, guiding principles, desired outcomes and strategic initiatives. We as a government are always mindful of our responsibility to provide services to our citizens in the best way possible and with the respect you all deserve. You will note many changes in our system of service delivery as we work to meet our vision and guiding principles. I ask for your continued patience as we continue to work to find ways to provide better services to all of our citizens. I would be remiss if I didn’t thank all of our employees and staff for their efforts in this regard. We have held several meetings between staff and council to discuss and fine tune the strategic plan and exchange ideas on how we can work better to provide that needed service. Thank you all again.

The Minors Trust folks were in town to answer any and all questions from our citizens. If you forgot your question or have a new one, they are very accessible and would be happy to speak with you. Feel free to contact our finance department for specific contact information.

Probably the more exciting parts of the meeting were the updates on casino expansion, financing, and Four Winds Hartford. Some of you may have heard us talk of Four Winds North, and I want you to know that the name has been changed to Four Winds Hartford. This change ultimately was a business decision, and based on the potential, this is a sound decision. You will see more soon as we get closer to opening this property. Invitations should be mailed out as soon as we identify the exact date of completion. We are ahead of schedule on the projected October 1 opening date, so as you can see, things are moving smoothly. You can view the webcam by going to the Four Winds Casino website and click on webcam. A new picture is shown each day. We have many citizens employed in the construction phase and job fairs will begin soon for our citizens who wish to work at Four Winds Hartford.

The final plans for expansion at Four Winds New Buffalo are almost complete. Things have not changed much and this will be an important step in making Four Winds the Casino and Resort we market. I think everyone will be very pleased with the final plan and I’m sure we are all excited to see a finished project.

The more critical component is the refinancing of our debt. This has been a work in progress for nine months and we are just about to the point of a final decision. Consistent with the philosophy of Council, there is a debt reduction plan/date contained in this refinancing. We can now make future financial decisions with the knowledge of a payoff date. I believe in future expansion talks we will be in a position to finance based on our bottom line, and not have to go through this process anymore. This is a major step for our future and places us on sound financial footing. The details aren’t final but again I believe everyone will be pleased with the outcome. Our projections are conservative and the only place to go is up. As soon as we have reached a final decision we hope to convene a community meeting so that everyone can ask questions about the structure. We will have our finance team in attendance.

On a closing note, I would like to welcome our new Government Manager Jason Wesaw. In the past we have had a tribal operations officer, and as you can see we have changed the title. Jason is a tribal citizen who is recently retired from the military. We made a few changes to the job description and I think we have hit a home run with the new structure. Please stop in and say hi to Jason if you are in the area. You will find him very approachable, and dedicated to problem solving and building a standard of excellence from all of us.

Matt

Representatives of the Pokagon veterans group traveled to Sacaton, Arizona in February to participate in the annual Iwo Jima flag raising event at the Ira Hayes Post of the American Legion. Anthony Foerester carries the Eagle Staff,above, with Carl Wesaw, Ken Rader, Jerry Campbell and Jackie Trux is marching in regalia.

Ira Hayes was a Pima Indian from Sacaton who served in the Marines during WWII. During the battle on the tiny island of Iwo Jima in February 1945, an American flag was raised on a high point of Mount Suribachi. Ira went to help his comrades raise the flag and became a part of one of the most famous photographs in history. This photograph of six men raising the flag went on to become a symbol for rallying the American public towards victory, and the model for the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia.
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
Department of Language and Culture

April Language Classes

We are honored to invite John Winchester and Walter Johnson to be guest presenters for April’s language classes. John Winchester (Pokagon Potawatomi) will incorporate the 200 Words to a Community project to teach demonstratives on April 7th (ex: this/that, these/those). Walter Johnson is a first language speaker and Forest County Potawatomi elder will be joining us to teach questions — how to ask and answer questions — on April 14th and 15th.

Dates:
- John Winchester’s Class
  - Thursday, April 7, 2011
  - Topic - Demonstratives
- Walter Johnson’s Classes
  - Thursday, April 14, 2011
  - Friday, April 15, 2011
  - Topic - Questions

Time:
- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location:
- Tribal Lodge
  - 58620 Sink Road
  - Dowagiac, MI 49047

Everyone is Invited!
If you are interested in learning about Anishnaabe life ways, then you are welcome to attend. This event is not exclusive to Pokagon citizens. 

Contact Information:
Teresa Magnuson, Director of L&C
(269) 462-4296 office • (269) 783-6372 cell.
Teresa.Magnuson@PokagonBand-nsn.gov

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
Department of Language and Culture

Native Healing

Jake Pine, traditional healer, will be visiting our community for healing and wellness assistance. Traditional healing is the restoring of balance to the mind, body, spirit, and emotions. 

Please call Andy Jackson to schedule your individual appointment (remember to bring tobacco). Jake will wrap-up his visit with a co-ed sweat lodge on Thursday night at 6:00 pm.

Everyone is Invited!
If you are interested in learning about Anishnaabe life ways, then you are welcome to attend. This event is not exclusive to Pokagon citizens.

Contact Information:
Andy Jackson, Cultural Specialist
Office: (269) 462-4261 • E-mail: Andy.Jackson@PokagonBand-nsn.gov

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
Department of Language and Culture

Elders Language Class

Elders language classes are taught by Pokagon Potawatomi citizen, John Winchester. John uses the 200 Words to a Community Project’s resources to teach beginner level Potawatomi language. New and seasoned students are welcome to attend.

Dates:
- Every Monday
  - April 4, 2011
  - April 11, 2011
  - April 18, 2011
  - April 25, 2011

Time:
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location:
- Elders Hall
  - 53237 Townhall Road
  - Dowagiac, MI 49047

Everyone is Invited!
If you are interested in learning about Anishnaabe life ways, then you are welcome to attend. This event is not exclusive to Pokagon citizens.

Contact Information:
Teresa Magnuson, Director of Language & Culture
(269) 462-4296 • (269) 783-6372 cell.
Teresa.Magnuson@PokagonBand-nsn.gov

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
Department of Language and Culture

Women’s Hand Drumming

Drumming classes are offered to share drum teachings, practice drumming and singing, and to learn songs. The ladies will learn hand drum songs and are encouraged to wear a long skirt. John T. Warren is leading the men’s class where participants will practice on a pow wow drum and learn pow wow songs. A sharing feast will follow, so please bring a dish to pass. We hope you can join us for drumming, singing, food, and friends. All ages are encouraged to participate.

Everyone is Invited!
If you are interested in learning about Anishnaabe life ways, then you are welcome to attend. This event is not exclusive to Pokagon citizens.

Contact Information:
Andy Jackson, Cultural Specialist
E-mail: Andy.Jackson@PokagonBand-nsn.gov
Office: (269) 462-4261
Per Capita News

The Enrollment Office needs for the following individuals to update their addresses so that these payments can be mailed. If there is an X in the column(s) by your name, you have either a Christmas check and/or per capita payments due to you. Please contact Beth Edelberg in the Enrollment office at 269-782-1763 or Julie Farver in the Finance Department at 269-782-8998.

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Elders Council Business Meeting

March 3, 2011

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Jeanette Mollett, 11:02 a.m.

INVOCATION: Clarence White


AGENDA: Audrey gave an update on the jackets, the first shipment will arrive Friday March 4. These are for the people that live in Dowagiac and the surrounding towns. The next shipment will be the ones that have to be mailed. Lee Salvador will drive the van to the MIEA conference. Petey explained that the LIHEAP and supplement heating will end March 14, 2011. LIHEAP serves the service area, supplement serves all over.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:
• Stanley brought some information on a possible trip to Branson, MO. Elders Council is going to set up some trip procedures before any more are taken.
• Hannahville rooms have been booked for the August Gathering.
• A one-day casino trip was talked about. No decision.
• Ernie LaPointe, great grandson of Sitting Bull, will have lunch with the Elders on April 8, 2011.
• Not sure when the cook will be back.
• Wellness gathering was very interesting.
• Jeff Ballew would like the Elders support for the language program. A sheet was put out to sign if you were in support of the program. Many persons signed in support.

MINUTES: The February minutes were read, Ken moved to accept the minutes, Ruth supported, (5) yes, approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: Audrey moved to accept the Treasurers report with corrections, Ken supported, (5) yes, approved.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
• Language classes are held every Monday at Elders Hall, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.
• Active Living has resumed, every Friday 10:00 am.
• Basket making will be held March 23, 1:00 to 3:00 pm.
• Social luncheon is St. Patrick’s Day, so everybody get out your green and wear it.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS: Jim Topash, Gerald Wesaw, Evelyn “Cookie” Wesaw, Ila Jean Wolff, Carol Klemm, Pat Kleem, Ann Zimmerman, Essye Kirvan, Kittie Collet, Jo “Shear” Spichtig, Majel DeMarsh, Bonnie Daisy, Carol Minard, Charls Tindell.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Ken moved to adjourn, Ruth supported, (5) yes, Adjourned at 1:08

Guidelines for Pokégnek Yajdanawa Submissions

Enrolled citizens of the Pokagon Band are encouraged to submit original letters, stories, pictures, poetry, and announcements for publication in Pokégnek Yajdanawa. Submissions shall be the views and product of the submitting member. Submissions written by or to a third-party, such as the governor or a congressman, and copied to Pokégnek Yajdanawa are not original.

Anonymous or “name withheld” submissions will not be published. Members shall include their tribal enrollment number, full name, and mailing address with all newsletter submissions. Tribal enrollment number and mailing address will be used for verification purposes and will not be published, unless member specifically requests to have it published.

Newsletter staff will contact members should any reason arise that may delay or prevent posting of newsletter submissions. To ensure timely communication with members regarding their newsletter submissions, members may choose to provide additional contact information such as a phone number or e-mail address. Phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and other provided contact information will not be published, unless member specifically requests to have it published.

Not all submissions are guaranteed publication upon submission. Newsletter staff reserves the right to refuse submissions based on the following criteria;
1. False, misleading, or defamatory;
2. Discriminatory, sexist, racist, demeaning, insulting, or otherwise offensive to another;
3. Threatening, harassing, intimidating, or otherwise may tend to produce fear;
4. Profane, obscene, pornographic, indecent, or patently offensive to the average user;
5. Disruptive to the office, undermining of the Band’s or a supervisor’s authority, or impairing of working relationships; and
6. Absolutely no political campaigning is allowed.

Tribal Council April Calendar of Events

4 Tribal Council Meeting, Lodge, noon
5 Gaming Authority, Four Winds, noon
9 Tribal Council Meeting, Lodge, 10 a.m.
11 Tribal Council Meeting, Lodge, noon
12 Gaming Authority, Four Winds, noon
18 Tribal Council Meeting, Lodge, noon
19 Gaming Authority, Four Winds, noon
25 Tribal Council Meeting, Lodge, noon
26 Gaming Authority, Four Winds, noon
28 Tribal Council Meeting, Lodge, TBA

Please check the website, www.pokagonband-nsn.gov or call 1-888-782-2426 before attending to confirm that a meeting has not been cancelled.
Pokégnek Yajdanawa
April 2011

Elders Council Directory

Jean Mollett, Chair
269-463-5355

Kenneth Rader, Vice Chair
269-876-7797

Audrey Huston, Secretary
269-591-4519

Clarence White, Treasurer
269-876-1118

Ruth Saldivar, Member at Large
269-409-8283

Elders Hall
800-859-2717
269-782-1696

Tribal Council Directory

Chairman
Matthew Wesaw
517-719-5579 or 574-591-9806
Matthew.Wesaw@pokagonband-nsn.gov

Vice-chairman
Butch Starrett
269-591-2901
Butch.Starrett@pokagonband-nsn.gov

Treasurer
Troland Clay
269-591-5205
Troland.Clay@pokagonband-nsn.gov

Secretary
Faye Wesaw
269-782-1864
Faye.Wesaw@pokagonband-nsn.gov

Members-at-Large
Michaelina Magnuson
269-591-5616
Michaelina.Magnuson@pokagonband-nsn.gov

Tobacco Sales

Cigarettes are sold at the Tribal Administration offices. We sell Basic, Marlboro, and Newport brands and a limited selection of Benson & Hedges, Camels, Doral, Kools, Merit, Misty, Pall Mall, Sonoma, USA Gold, and Winston. Sales are handled by the receptionist Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You must be 18-years-old or older and present your tribal I.D. at the time of purchase. Maximum of five cartons per month per tribal citizen. Credit cards accepted.

AA/NA Meetings

Tuesday nights 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Friday nights 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Health Services building II
Use the side door for entry.
Happy Birthday

Pete Joseph Wesaw
Have a very happy 34th birthday
April 18!

Lotus Kay Wesaw
Happy 5th birthday March 6
I love you with all my heart,
Grandma

Happy Birthday, Kennedy
Love, The Colletts

Happy birthday, Isaiah Mix
Love, Your Family

Happy 2nd Birthday, NeNe

Happy belated birthday to a
wonderful son, brother and uncle,
Dean Orvis, and congratulations on
a great finish in the Tough Mudder
competition. Out of more than 5,000
participants, Dean came in 7th place
and was invited to the World Tough
Mudder competition. We love you
and are proud of you! Good luck!
Love, Mom, Dad and family

Happy Birthday April 12 to my son-
in-law, Cory Livingston. Love, your
mother-in-law, Martha McConnell

Pokégnek Bodéwadmik • Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
Administrative Office
58620 Sink Road
Dowagiac, MI 49047

Youth Council Social
Native Nations Youth Council

Date:
Saturday
April 9, 2011

Time:
Refreshments−12:30
Activities−1:00−4:00
Dinner−4:00−5:00

Location:
Language and Culture
Department Office
32142 Edwards Street
Dowagiac, MI 49047
(Old Enrollment Office)

Door Prizes!!

This will be the initial gathering to establish our new Native Nations Youth Council. All Pokagon students between the ages of 12-25 are encouraged to attend. A discussion on the past, present and future of the program will take place. This event will give us the opportunity to hear your ideas for future trips and activities. We will also review the roles and responsibilities of youth council members.

Contact Information
Katy Monseau, Youth Cultural Coordinator
(269) 462-4254 office • (269) 783-6773 cell
katy.morseau@pokagonband-nsn.gov

Congratulations, Kenneth Antisdel,
on your new job as property
manager at Four Winds Hartford!
We are all so very proud of you.
Love, Martha, Jackie, Mary, Shirley,
Bob, Sue, Brian and Bill

Happy Birthday, Derrek Collett
April 3
Love, all your family & friends