

# POKÉGNEK YAJDANAWA

THE POKAGON S TELL IT

July 2010

## Community Comes Together for Inaugural Oshke Kno Kewewen Eagle Staff Pow Wow

The inspiration for the inaugural Eagle Staff Pow Wow, held at Rodgers Lake over Memorial Day, had been growing for a long while. According to organizers, tribal citizens felt the need for a spring traditional Pow Wow to complement the annual Kee-Boon-Mein-Kaa contest Pow Wow held during Labor Day. At the same time, veterans from the Pokagon Band were becoming more aware of their role within the tribe, organizing and connecting with the community. And so, when the veterans group decided to create an Eagle Staff, the idea for the Eagle Staff Pow Wow coalesced.

An Eagle Staff can be likened to a flag, symbolic of a native nation. The Pow Wow committee decided that Memorial Day weekend, a time when traditionally the U.S. honors its fallen soldiers, would be the

right time to hold a traditional Pow Wow. Called Oshke Kno Kewewen, which means the new Eagle Staff, the Pow Wow brought together veterans and their families to honor their role as warriors, to learn and to create a powerful and meaningful tradition together.

During a sunrise ceremony Saturday, families brought an Eagle feather representing their families' veterans to adorn the staff. Information on each veteran was recorded in tribal records to memorialize the details of his or her service. In all, 95 Pokagon veterans were recognized. Following the smudging of the completed Eagle Staff, participants took part in a feast of walleye, trout, wild rice and berries. The veterans presented the Eagle Staff to the Pow Wow participants during the grand entry at one o'clock. Dancers



photo credit: Hewitt Photography

Above, veterans present the Eagle Staff to the community. Below, Pow Wow organizers put together a lacrosse game for attendees.



and drummers celebrated the Eagle Staff during the rest of the weekend.

"Having the Eagle Staff come out for the first time was empowering," said Kevin Daugherty, a member of the Pow Wow committee. "The first dance was as full as I can remember the arena ever being."

"This was a big step in the development of our community," said Butch Starret, one of the organizers and a veteran.

"It was what we needed it to be," said Andy Jackson, another committee member. "A traditional gathering that brought families together."

U.S. Representative Fred Upton attended Sunday and presented American flags to some of the veterans. The tribe gave him the gift of a kooch, or war stick, in return.

The Eagle Staff Pow Wow will become an annual Memorial Day event.

Clarence White, left, enjoys the day.



Pokégnek Yajdanawa "The Pokagon's Tell It"

Guidelines for Member Newsletter Submissions  
Motedioned by Tribal Council 4-20-05

### Newsletter

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

### Identification

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.

### Communication

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.

### Etiquette

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.

### Where to send submissions:

Newsletter  
C/O Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians  
P.O. Box 180  
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047  
Or e-mail: [newsletter@pokagonband-nsn.gov](mailto:newsletter@pokagonband-nsn.gov)

## VETERANS COMMITTEE NEWS

The Veterans Committee has scheduled monthly meetings to be held on the 1st Thursday of every month at 1:30PM at Elders Hall.  
For more information, contact Butch Starrett @ 269-591-2601

The deadline for membership submissions for the AUGUST 2010 newsletter will be JULY 14, 2010. Send articles and announcements to:  
Pokagon Newsletter  
P.O. Box 180  
Dowagiac, MI 49047

[newsletter@pokagonband-nsn.gov](mailto:newsletter@pokagonband-nsn.gov)

### Cigarette Sales

Cigarettes are being sold at the Tribal Administration offices. We currently sell a full line of Basic, Marlboro, and New Port brands. We also have a limited selection of Benson & Hedges, Camels, Doral, Kools, Merit, Misty, Pall Mall, Sonoma, USA Gold, and Winston. Sales are currently being handled by the receptionist on a daily basis (Monday-Friday) during normal business hours (8-5). You must be 18 years old or older and present your tribal I.D. at the time of purchase. We currently have a maximum of 5 cartons per month per tribal member (increased from 2 originally).

**We are now accepting credit cards!**

### South Bend Area Office Schedule

Monday - Housing staff will be available to provide information on all Housing programs.

Tuesday - 1st Tuesday of the month:	Health Services Social Worker
2nd Tuesday of the month:	Contract Health Services Processor
3rd Tuesday of the month:	Community Health Nurse
4th Tuesday of the month:	Community Health Representative
Each Tuesday:	Behavioral Health Counselor

CHR, CHS, Foot Care, Diabetes Management and Prevention by appointment.

Wednesday - Education staff will be available to assist with scholarship and WIA (Workforce Investment Act) applications.

Friday - Social Services staff will be available to provide information and referral on welfare programs. Applications for the Daycare program will be available.

### ENROLLMENT, IHS, SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING, EDUCATION OFFICES TO BE AT SATURDAY MEETINGS

In order to serve membership more efficiently, please note that the office representatives will be available at the monthly Saturday Membership Tribal Council Meetings from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. At this time you will be able to receive your new enrollment cards, or discuss with the various office representatives. Please note that these meetings are generally held the second Saturday of the month. However, please check the Calendar of Events in the Tribal Newsletter for the exact date every month.



## July 2010 Pokagon Band Elder's Lunch Menu

Please call the day before if you are not a regular attendee for meals  
Meals subject to change 269-782-0765 or 800-859-2717 Meal Service Begins @ 12:00 Noon

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Note: milk, tea, coffee, water, & Crystal Light beverages served with every meal. Also, lettuce, tomato, pickles, and onion served with sandwiches and burgers.			1 <b>Business</b> Buffalo Stew Tomato Salad Jell-O W/ Fruit Cake Roll	2 Grilled BBQ Chicken Baked Potato Broccoli and Cauliflower Blueberries Roll
5 <b>Closed Fourth of July</b>	6 Pork Loin on Grill Red Skin Potato Salad Carrots Yogurt W/ Fruit Roll	7 Turkey Goulash Garden Salad Mixed Vegetables Garlic Bread Italian Ice	8 Walleye Wild Rice Peas/ Spinach Salad Fruit Tray / Roll Carrot Cake	9 Pizza with and Without Meat Garden Salad Fresh Fruit
12 <b>Language</b> Pork Roast W/ Potatoes, Carrots, & Rutabaga Cucumber Salad Apple Crisp Roll	13 Sloppy Joe Potato Wedges Brussels Sprouts Tomato Salad Fruit	14 Buffalo Brats and Cabbage Mashed Potatoes Broccoli and Cauliflower Salad Cottage Cheese W/ Pineapple Roll	15 <b>Elder's Summer Picnic Potluck</b> BBQ Ribs and Chicken Macaroni Salad Squash Salad Fruit Tray / Roll	16 Taco Bake OR Fish Sticks Garden Salad Melon Wedges Jell-O Roll
19 <b>Language</b> Buffalo Meatballs W/ Noodles and Gravy Spinach Tossed Salad Mandarin Oranges Roll	20 Turkey Pot Pie Veggie Kabobs Waldorf Salad Ice Cream Roll	21 Beef Manhattan Mashed Potatoes W/ Gravy Garden Salad Broccoli Fruit Salad Roll	22 Salmon and Potato Dish Green Beans Tomato Salad Applesauce and Cottage Cheese Roll	23 Bean Soup Garden Salad Cottage Cheese & Pears Combread Oatmeal Raisin Cookie
26 <b>Language</b> Grilled Hamburgers & Hotdogs Oven Baked French Fries Assorted Relish Tray Baked Beans Strawberry Angel Food Cake	27 Buffalo Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Asparagus Garden Salad Peach Crisp/ Roll	28 Boiled Dinner (Sausage, Beans, Potatoes, Cabbage, & Corn) Cottage Cheese & Sliced Tomato Cherry Crisp Combread	29 Chicken Salad Pita Baked Chips Veggie Tray Coleslaw Sherbet	30 Salmon Patties Mashed Sweet Potatoes Green Beans Blueberry Pie Roll

### Pokagon Students Win Elders Association Awards

Each April the Michigan Indian Elders Association incentive program awards \$25.00 to native students for each semester they have perfect attendance and/ or straight As.

Congratulations to the following Pokagon students who entered the incentive program and won awards this year: Grant Adams, Chance Bivens, Ilie Bivens, Brea Brekley, Antonio Bogle, MaKayla Bogle, Colin Church, Cassandra Church, Andrew DeRose, Jackson DeRose, Daniel Dick, Robert Dick, Isaiah LeBlanc, Brianne Musel, Adam Walker, Madeline White, and Megan White.

Your Elders are so proud of all of you. Keep up the good work.

### Newsletter Changes In Store

You may notice some changes in *Pokègnek Yajdanawa* over the next few months. The Pokagon Band now has a director of communications, and therefore more resources to spend writing articles, taking photos and keeping readers updated on newsworthy tribal events and stories.

Paige Risser began as director of communications May 10. With nearly twenty years experience in public relations and communication, she has worked for such organizations as the

American Red Cross, the Peace Corps, the Boys and Girls Club and the University of Notre Dame.

Plans are underway to revise the design and augment the content of the newsletter, and we'd like to hear your feedback, suggestions, and story ideas for the future editions of *Pokègnek Yajdanawa*. Please send your comments and ideas to Paige Risser, director of communications, at [newsletter@pokagonband-nsn.gov](mailto:newsletter@pokagonband-nsn.gov). Thank you.

To the Oshke-Kno-Kewéwen volunteers and the Pokagon community:

On behalf of the Oshke-Kno-Kewéwen Pow Wow Committee, we would like to thank everyone who helped make the Pow Wow a success and to make the weekend special for our most honored Veterans. This being our first Memorial Day event, it really hit home about how important it is for us to honor our veterans and our community. We received many praises and many recommendations throughout the weekend,



photo credit: Blue Desert Moon Photography

most of all being that we should do the Pow Wow again next year.

Our Veterans worked very hard making sure they handled their new Eagle Staff in a good way. They received their teachings, feasted the staff, and honored the Pow Wow in presenting the staff to the entire community. It was amazing to see our people come together in such a wonderful way.

We would also like to say a big fat "migwech" to all the volunteers who assisted in making the Pow Wow such a big success. Especially to those of you who helped in the clean-up in the aftermath, you did an awesome job and we really could not have done it without your help.

Wéwéne and chi-migwech,  
The Traditional Pow Wow Committee



## The Election Board Seeks Board Member and Two Alternates

The 2010 General Election is underway and the Pokagon Band Election Board has one vacancy on the Board that needs to be filled. There are approximately nine months left to serve for this position. The Tribal Council is seeking citizens who are interested in serving on the Election Board. The Election Board is a five person Board whose members are appointed by the Tribal Council. Provided below is information regarding the Election Board and how to be considered for appointment.

**Election Board Member Responsibilities.** The Election Board is responsible for conducting Pokagon Band elections, maintaining a list of registered voters, and reviewing membership petitions, initiatives and referendums.

**Qualifications.** To be eligible for appointment to the Election Board, a Band member must:

1. Be an eligible voter of the Band;
2. Be at least twenty-five (25) years of age;
3. Not be incarcerated for any criminal conviction;
4. Not be presently a member of or candidate for Tribal Council, the Tribal Judiciary, the Ethics Board, or the Salary Commission; and
5. Not have been convicted within the last ten (10) years of a crime subject to imprisonment for a term of one (1) year or longer, excepting those crimes determined by the Election Board to relate to the furtherance of the Band's tribal sovereignty rights.

**Appointment Process and Length of Term.** Election Board members are appointed by the Tribal Council and serve terms of office of four years. Prior to any appointment, Tribal Council will make a determination whether the interested person meets the qualifications required to serve on the Election Board. In order to make this determination, all persons seeking appointment to the Election Board must undergo a limited criminal background check performed by the Pokagon Band Tribal Police to ensure that the candidate meets the qualifications to serve on the Election Board. Thus, all persons

interested in appointment must complete an Authorization to Conduct Criminal Background.

**Time Commitment.** The time commitment required to prepare for and attend Board meetings, conduct elections, and perform the business of the Election Board will vary. Election Board members typically are busier during the time leading up to and during the general election in July of each year. The dates and times of Election Board meetings vary, but they typically occur after 5:00 pm. Elections are held on Saturdays. On average, a Board member can anticipate a time commitment of 5 to 10 hours per month, with the busiest time being the months of May, June, and July.

**Stipend.** Each Board member receives a stipend of \$75 per meeting or if they are conducting an election, each Board member receives a \$75 stipend.

**Alternates.** The

Election Code provides for the appointment of two alternates to the Election Board. Currently, there are no alternates serving. The Council is looking to appoint alternates to the Election Board. Alternates are not members of the Election Board and not eligible for the stipend, but alternates do attend Election Board meetings as observers and assist the Election Board in fulfilling its responsibilities (however, they may not vote or exercise the authority of an Election Board member). Alternates must meet all eligibility requirements applicable to members of the Election Board. When vacancies arise on the Election Board, the Council first looks to alternates to fill any vacancy.

**How to Apply and Deadline.** Election Board Member. If you are interested in serving on the Election Board either as a member or as an alternate, you must provide a written statement of interest with

your name, address, and telephone number and a completed Authorization to Conduct Criminal Background to Kelly Curran, the Executive Secretary to the Tribal Council, at the following address:

P.O. Box 180  
Dowagiac, MI 49047

In your written statement, please indicate whether you are interested in serving as a member of the Election Board or as an alternate. These positions will be open until filled by appointment of the Tribal Council.

**Questions.** If you have questions concerning the Election Board, please contact the Election Board offices at (269) 462-4236, (269) 782-9475, or (888) 782-9475. For additional information about the Election Board and the election process, you may also consult the Band's Election Code, which is posted on the Band's website at <http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov>.

Four Winds Casino Resort and the Tribal Development Program are proud to announce:

## *Pokagon Youth Career Day*

**When:** Saturday, July 31, 2010

**Time:** 9:00am-2:00pm

**Where:** Four Winds Casino Resort  
Training Department in Human Resources Building

The purpose of the Youth Career Day is to introduce young adults to the career opportunities at Four Winds Casino Resort. This event will give participants insight and encourage them to follow a path during their high school and college years that will help them become successful in their adult working life.

Interested participants must RSVP— participation is limited to 30 students and is on a first come, first serve basis. Other students will be waitlisted.

Interested in Attending? Contact:

**Torie Winchester**  
Administrative Assistant to  
HR & Tribal Development  
269-926-5244

**Jennifer Lasiewicz**  
Manager of Tribal Placement & Development  
269-926-5306

**Teresa Magnuson**  
Career Development Specialist  
269-926-5228

**Toll Free:** 1-866-4Winds1 ext. 5244



### **Requirements to attend the Pokagon Youth Career Day**

Enrolled member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians.

Enrolled high school freshman-senior.

Interested participants must be accompanied by an adult.

(minimum of one adult to attend per two children)

Due to limited space, only those youth participating in Career Day will be able to attend.

Business casual attire is encouraged.



## Small Business Financing Seminar Shows Business Owners the Money



Tribal entrepreneurs listen to an expert panel discuss small business financing.

On May 26 the Pokagon Band's Community Financial Empowerment program held a business seminar, which focused on finding sources of financing for small businesses. Dave Eifler and Dennis Carpenter of Fifth Third Bank outlined some of the basics of business financing. Angela Eiting of 1<sup>st</sup> Source Bank covered the differences between financing a startup versus existing business and franchises. Finally, Bob Jones of the non-profit Cornerstone Alliance covered whether there are grants available for small business owners.

After the presentations, participants asked a wide range of questions covering various topics which included collateral requirements, legal entities, and

credit scores. The variety of responses from the presenters regarding the types of collateral and credit required really brought home the importance of researching different sources of financing from banks, to credit unions, to non-profits.

"The information will allow me to feel more comfortable when face to face with a lender," said one of the attendees.

Empowering citizens with information to feel more confident in making financial decisions is one of the main goals of the Community Financial Empowerment Program. The next seminar will be July 29 and will cover various aspects of marketing.

### **MARKETING SEMINAR**

**A seminar for Pokagon Band small business entrepreneurs who want to start or grow their business.**

**Presented by**

**Michiana SCORE Chapter #266**

**Coordinated by Chemical Bank  
In Conjunction with BDC and USDA Rural Development**

**DATE:** Thursday, July 29, 2010, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Pokagon Tribal Lodge, Dowagiac, Michigan

**PRESENTED by:** Jerry Marchetti, Bob Gius, Norm Riley, Tom Catanzarite and Fred Schmieler of Michiana SCORE. Over 150 years of professional business experience combined.

Selecting the optimum marketing program to grow a business can be a challenging decision for a budding entrepreneur. This workshop is structured to identify the key considerations for such a selection and the specific questions entrepreneurs should answer approaching such a decision. SCORE counseling can assist the entrepreneur in making the right decisions.

**PROGRAM:** The two-hour seminar will center on the specific marketing and selling considerations that are key to start-up or grow a business:

- 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Attendee registration and refreshments.
- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Marketing Basics
  - Selling Basics
  - Distribution of Products
  - Entrepreneur Success Story
- 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Panel Q & A discussion (Bring your questions)

**RESERVATIONS:** Call Rose Waldschmidt at 269-462-4254. Seating is limited.



## Women Focus on Wellness at Fifteenth Annual Women's Health Fair

"This is my first time attending, and I can't wait to do this again next year," said one attendee.

"Wow, this is great," said another.

Quotes like these were repeated many times May 8 during a Pokagon Band health fair focusing on women's wellness. Forty women attended the event and participated in hearing screenings, blood sugar and pressure screenings and height and weight assessments. Attendees learned about health topics ranging from the benefits of high fiber foods to ergonomic health when working outdoors to massage therapy.

Marie Meyer discussed native healing arts, and there was a time to practice native beading skills. Brandy Arnold, Juanita Wall, and Beth Edelberg each donated ten inches of their hair to Locks of Love after their haircut session. Locks of Love is a nonprofit organization that uses donated hair to create hair prosthetics for financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

A raffle drawing of more than twenty prizes ended the afternoon, and Juanita Wall won the grand prize donated by Four Winds Casino Resort.

The Pokagon Band Health Department wants to thank all of the women who attended and became more aware of ways to promote good health and prevent illness. We look forward to seeing you—and others—next year.



Left, Susan Laursen gets her blood pressure taken by Betty Adams, a community health representative at the health clinic. Above, Melissa Potter and her daughter Molly show off their door prize bag from Four Winds Casino Resort.



### Enrollment Committee Seeking Member

The Enrollment Committee is looking for someone to fill a vacant seat. This person must have an eye for detail. The members are responsible for reviewing all applications and all documentation submitted to determine eligibility of membership.

The committee meets once a month, the second Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the enrollment office located in the administration building at 58620 Sink Road, Dowagiac, MI.

If you are interested, please send a letter of interest including your name, address and phone number to the Pokagon

Band Enrollment Office, PO Box 180, Dowagiac, MI 49047.

### Vendors Welcome at Hartford Farmer's Market

Looking for an affordable place to sell your crafts, produce or plants? The Hartford Farmer's Market in historic Ely Park has no vendor fee, and welcomes Tribal citizens to set up shop at their market. The market runs Sundays from June 13-September 26 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Interested? Call the city of Hartford at 269-621-2477, or e-mail the city treasurer at [citytreasurer@hartfordmi.com](mailto:citytreasurer@hartfordmi.com).

### Citizens Invited to Pamp Memorial Pow Wow

The 34th Annual Leonard J. Pamp Memorial Pow Wow will be held August 14 and 15 at Rodgers Lake in Dowagiac. The doors will open at 9 a.m. both days, and the grand entries are scheduled for 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, and noon Sunday. Entrance fees are \$5 for adults, and \$2 for Elders and children; family and group rates are available. Organizers ask that attendees bring their own chairs. For information call 517-204-3016, or visit the Pow Wow's page on Myspace.com.

Tribal traders, please call 810-459-8258 for more information.

### Join Relay for Life

Four Winds Casino Resort invites you to participate in this year's American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. This event raises money and awareness for the fight against cancer.

This year our Tribal Development Program will be organizing captains and teams for the Relay for Life walk scheduled for July 17 in Dowagiac and August 14 in New Buffalo. We are currently looking for volunteers to be a Team Member for either of the two dates. All Four Winds employees, Pokagon tribal citizens, friends and family are welcome to volunteer their time to participate. If you are interested, please call the Four Winds Relay for Life Hotline at **269-926-5254**.

If you would like further information about the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, you can visit their website at [relayforlife.org](http://relayforlife.org).



## July Students of the Month

Submitted by Kateri O'Toole, Education Associate

**Emily Goodrich** is a fourth grader at Stark Elementary in Buchanan, Michigan. Her parents are Casey & William. She also has a brother named Will. The tribal activities she likes to participate in are the Pow Wows and crafts. Her favorite food is Ramen Noodles; her favorite toy is her stuffed animal, Pink Poppy. Her favorite sports are volleyball and softball. Emily would like to be a marine biologist when she grows up, and live in Florida. She is proud to be Native American because it makes her different, and she loves being unique. She also likes all the trips she gets to go on.

**Maygon Elmer** is 10 years old and a fifth grader at Bellevue Elementary in Bellevue, Michigan. Her parents are George III & Mandy Elmer. Her siblings are Morgan (age 14), Mirian (age 8), Madison (age 2), and George IV at three months. Maygon's favorite foods are green beans, and of course, fry bread. Her favorite toy is her Nintendo Ds and Wii. She enjoys beading, and keeping her bedroom spotless. She is interested in running track when she reaches middle school. Maygon is still thinking about what she would like to do when she gets older but she is leaning toward nursing. She is proud to be a Native American because she likes learning about her culture and language.

**Andrew Davidson** is a senior at Clarkston High School in Clarkston, Michigan. His parents are Dan & Sheila (Wiggins) Davidson and his grandparents are Jim & Dora Wiggins. His siblings are Ian and Reilley. The tribal activities that he has participated in are summer camp and attending the annual Pow Wows. Andrew's favorite things are the Japanese language and culture. He is currently a fourth year Japanese language student; he will be visiting Japan this summer with a group of students from high school. He also studies Korean Karate Tang Soo Do. He would like to be a veterinarian when he gets older.

**Eliana Parker** is 11 years old. She lives in Frazier Park, California and is currently a seventh grader at Valley Oaks Charter School. She is a straight A student and has exceptional state STAR scores. She has participated in six years of dance, three years of gymnastics and was in a recital after each year, and really enjoys swimming in the summer months. She would like to be a photographer, a professional chef, and a Sunday school teacher when she grows up. Eliana is the daughter of Jerold and Ranella Parker, her sister is Esther Parker, and her uncle is Guy Brasmer. Her grandparents are Ramona Peterson and Walter Carlson, Joel and Virginia Parker. Her great-grandparents were Michael and Cecil Wilson. Eliana's favorite foods are stuffed crust pepperoni pizza and kiwi fruit. She enjoys playing many board games and her favorite is the game of Life. Eliana enjoys going to Calvary Chapel Church where she has made many friends. She enjoyed going to a Pow Wow where she learned about her culture and enjoyed dancing in the round dance. "I love to play with my cat Tiger, play Wii games, and listen to Christian music," said Eliana. She is, "proud to be a Native American for many reasons, most of which involve the magnificent heritage of my people."

## Head Start Still Accepting Wait List Applications

Children must be three years of age by December 1, 2010 to be eligible for the 2010-2011 Head Start school year. If you are interested, please contact the office and we will mail you a pre-application. Applications must be returned by June 1, 2010 with proof of all household income, proof of TANF Assistance (if applicable), and a copy of the Tribal ID to be considered for enrollment. Please contact Sarah Hyatt at the center at (269) 783-0026, or (866) 250-6573 toll free, with any questions about enrollment for the upcoming year or to have a pre-application mailed to you.

Our school days are Monday-Thursday from 8:30-2:30. We provide transportation in limited

## Upcoming Events from the Department of Education June

30-July 2 Women's drum and medicine teachings and talking circle with Barb Peltier

30-July 2 Traditional healing appointments with Jake Pine

### July

2 Head Start application deadline

3 Sweat Lodge with Jake Pine

6-29 Summer School for Grades K-6

6-29 Summer Youth Internship

9 Senior Awards Banquet

12-16 Potawatomi Summer Language Immersion Camp, Hannahville

28-30 Traditional healing appointments with Jake Pine

28-30 Women's drum and medicine teachings and talking circle with Barb Peltier

31 Sweat Lodge with Jake Pine

### August

1 Back to School Launch

16-20 Potawatomi Summer Language Immersion Camp, Hannahville

25-27 Traditional healing appointments with Jake Pine

25-27 Women's drum and medicine teachings and talking circle with Barb Peltier

28 Sweat Lodge with Jake Pine

### September

5-6 Backpack distribution

5 Pokagon Alumni Breakfast

5 Gifting of graduate blankets at Kee-Boon-Mein-Kaa Pow Wow

*For more detailed information, please call 269-782-0887.*

areas with central pick-up and drop-off locations. We serve a nutritious breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Potawatomi language and culture are incorporated throughout each day. The program does accept children with disabilities.

### Volunteers welcome

Head Start is always looking for volunteers. You do not have to have a relative attending the program to be a volunteer; anyone can be a volunteer for the program! There are many ways to volunteer: spending time at the center, storytelling, leading a craft activity, chaperoning field trips, riding on the bus, or helping with language and culture. The program also runs male involvement activities for

fathers, step-fathers, grandfathers, uncles, big brothers, cousins, etc. This is a great way for the men to get together and spend time with the children. If you are interested, please call to discuss your ideas and availability.

### Upcoming Events

Friday, July 2, 2010—Application deadline.

Tuesday, September 7, 2010—First day of school for the 2010-2011 year.

### Donations

Donations are greatly appreciated. Items that we are always looking for: play dough, wet wipes, outdoor play toys, sidewalk chalk bubbles, glue sticks, Lysol wipes art supplies, quart and gallon size Ziploc bags, hats and gloves.



## Enrichment Labs Completed for the School Year

By Rebecca Accoe, K-12 Resource Specialist

This year the enrichment labs of the Department of Education's K-12 program were full of new and old faces. Students and staff have wrapped up the labs for the 2009-2010 school year, and they finished with a bang.

Dowagiac K-fifth grade students made time for their studies, checked out books from Pokagon Band's library, and participated in numerous activities held at the Head Start building. There was great participation with kids involved from all four of Dowagiac's elementary schools. This K-fifth lab ended on Monday, May 24.

The sixth through twelfth grade students at the Dowagiac enrichment lab also made use of the Pokagon Band library and the computer lab for their stud-

ies. They enjoyed solving riddles to win Native American or educational prizes. Some students participated in a creative writing project which involved writing in their journals about famous quotes from natives and non-natives alike. They extended this by telling if they agreed or disagreed with the quotes, and if they had ever had any personal experience with the topic being discussed.

The K-12 Hartford lab was held at Red Arrow Elementary. Students there completed their homework on their own, and received extra support when needed. Then each student read accelerated reading books and took guided computer tests to check their comprehension. Each time the student passed a test, they received a Native American prize. The Dowagiac sixth through twelfth and the Hartford K-12 enrichment labs each ended on Wednesday, June 2.



Friends and fun with the game Blokus, what more could you ask for? Left to right: Carson Rice, Sarah Rice, Mijiikwis Wabaninmkee and Inteus Dixon.

All students were effective in extending their studies and relating it to their culture. The

Pokagon Band is so proud of their students' accomplishments, and can't wait for 2010-2011 school year to roll around.



Caleb Jones gets help with his homework from Derek Carpenter.

### Final Reminder for School Supply Reimbursements for 2009 - 2010

Reimbursements for school supplies for the 2009 – 2010 school year are available until July 31. If you haven't applied for the \$50 per student, please contact Connie Baber or Penny Brant (269-782-0887 or 888-330-1234) for the forms. Your child must be registered with the program, and that is a quick process. The original receipts must accompany the form.

### Graduates, Share Your Joy

We will be publishing photographs and write-ups of the 2010 graduates. Please contact Connie or Penny in the Department of Education (269-782-0887 and 888-330-1234) for the forms or information. The deadline is August 2, 2010.

### Enjoy Your Library

New books keep appearing, as do DVDs and CDs. We are so pleased to have this comfortable and inspiring space, a perfect place for you to bring your family, or to steal away a bit of time on your own. Come join us.



## Language and Culture: Medicine Wheel Lessons

### North—Wej-ksenjak

The North is the place of winter, of white snows that remind us of the white hair of our elders. It is the place of true wisdom.

The white polar bear teaches us strength and survival. We pray for the strength that will keep us well, and keep us from sickness. Survival sometimes means physical survival: that there is enough food and wood to keep us warm. We also need to pray that we survive emotionally and mentally: against loneliness or depression, and that our spirit and heart are strong.

The medicine wheel teaches us about the Four Sacred Plants. these gifts are for us to use to help keep us in balance and harmony physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Language classes on July 8 and July 22 will be in Dowagiac in the Administration Building break room from 7-9 p.m. Use the back entrance please.

Language classes on July 1 and July 29 will be in South Bend. The bus leaves at 5:30 pm from the Administration Building if you would like to ride along. Bring money, we will stop for dinner on the way.

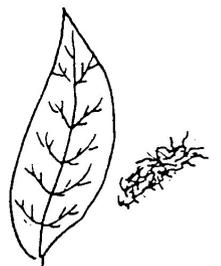
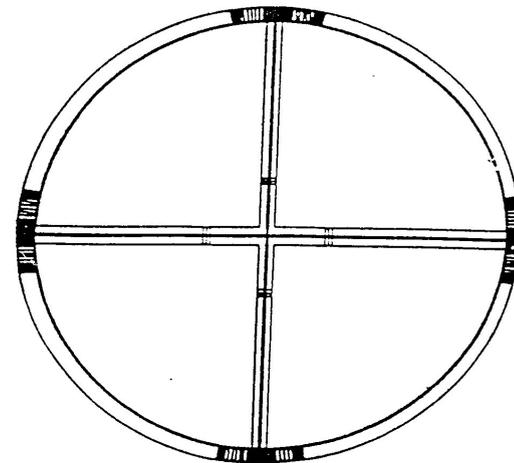
There will be no language class on July 15.

Elders' language classes are held at Elders Hall every Monday at 11am.

sweet grass  
mishkos



sage  
wabshkakbyag



tobacco  
se'ma



cedar  
shkop

### They Graduate - We Celebrate Please Join Us

The Pokagon Band Department of Education Awards  
Banquet honoring our 2009-2010 High School Grads and  
GED Recipients

Friday, July 9, 2010  
6:45 – 9:30 p.m.  
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.  
Awards at 8:00 p.m.

Southwestern Michigan College  
Fred L. Mathews Library and Conference Center East  
58900 Cherry Grove Road  
Dowagiac, MI

Please contact Penny Brant at 888-330-1234  
with any questions.

Skono Gizhguk—Go to School Day  
Sunday, August 1, 2010  
11:30 am – 4:00 pm

Come join us for a creative, informative, and  
energizing family day at Rodgers Lake.

Be a part of celebrating our students with awards  
and recognizing them for their fine work in the 2009-  
2010 school year and in Pokagon summer programs.

Enjoy a meal in honor of our students and families.  
Register for the K-12 Program and get school sup-  
plies. Attend fun workshops. Be a part of the awards.

Tribal Council Pavilion  
58620 Sink Road, Dowagiac, MI



## The Wandering Spirit: Reactive Attachment Disorder

By Judy D. Pamp (Waabanoqua), Assistant Director of the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

Editor's Note: Members of the Family Welfare Commission came across this essay and were inspired by its good teachings. They asked it be reprinted in *Pokègnek Yajdanawa* to remind readers of the importance of our children.

In the teachings of the Anishinabek, we are taught that we are all spiritual beings who asked the creator to have a physical life experience. The creator brings together our spiritual parents and nine months later a new spirit is born in the physical realm. The creator then breathes life into us upon our arrival to the physical realm.

Our birth day is the start of a new journey. We have been given the gift of life as a physical being. What happens to the spiritual being whose physical life is marred by neglect, abandonment, and abuse due to drug and alcohol use by his birth parents? Can the spirit recover to thrive in the physical world?

As an infant and young child you might have been bounced around between family members, you may have been taken in by your grandparents, or like countless others you may ended up a ward of the court placed in foster homes. Some of our lost children are even put into guardianships and adopted out to other families. Do our children ever really recover from the early trauma in their lives?

I cannot speak for all of our disadvantaged children. I will share with you the story of a few. I took in two children who were in need of nurturing seven years ago. Months later we were introduced to their new brother. The children I speak of are victims of the destruction caused by drug and alcohol abuse inflicted upon them by their birth parents. I figured all the children really needed was love and someone who would help meet their needs.

The children will never know their birth fathers. They were born to fathers who were only out to have a good time. The irresponsibility of their birth fathers put them at risk from day one. Unfortunately, the birth mother couldn't meet her needs or the needs of her children.

At first, the older boys would eat garbage and drink from the toilet. The oldest brother

would whimper and moan in his sleep. Nightly they shredded their blankets making a nest where they huddled together. We went through a lot of blankets! The youngest brother would stare off into space, almost as if the spirit had already left his physical body. I would ask the spiritual being to return and promise I would do my best to guide him. Tragically that blank stare stayed with him until age three.

I stated journaling about the different behaviors I witnessed. After working twenty-five years with children it became apparent I was witnessing extreme obscure behaviors. I kept telling everyone involved in the children's lives that something was wrong.



Judy Pamp introduces Tobias, the youngest of the three boys, to the newest member of their family, his niece Clara Blue Sky Begay.

The eldest was only three when we first met. He approached me with caution and sadness. He was looking for a mother for his little brother he told me. He was willing to come along to watch over his brother, but he wasn't going to have any part of being a family nor was he willing to trust anyone. He was quiet and seldom showed happiness, nor could you console him when hurt.

The middle child was a petite, handsome charmer. No matter how long he lived with us, he still had no sense of who he needed to stay close to. Anyone with food or a smile was someone he was willing to leave with. He was quick on his feet and a wandering soul.

It took a long time to figure out what was causing the extreme behaviors. The boys often acted like wild animals. Their idea of problem solving involved the extremities of emotions. Anything could set off the middle son who would then scream thirty minutes or more up to nine times a day. Every time the middle child screamed, the infant would shake uncontrollably. The older brother would watch and pace. Not knowing what was happening, the oldest brother would look on with anger in his eyes towards whoever was near his younger brother.

The older boys were diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder after about four years of searching for answers. They are wounded

damage done to this human being was inflicted upon him while he was still a fetus in the womb. We are not afforded time to be sad or judgmental in our home, nor is that our intent. We are too busy trying to arm the children with life skills, surviving the next tornado of emotional outburst, plus enjoying the happy moments.

So the question we all want answered is, "Is there any hope?" The oldest son is showing signs of bonding. He however uses anger to sabotage the bond and weaken our relationships. The middle son is still a charmer and has fewer emotional outbursts. They still hoard food, steal the most peculiar items, struggle with demonstrating the seven grandfather teachings, and do not believe anyone will be there to meet their needs in life. They have also shown signs of happiness and every once in a while compassion.

I wish I could tell you there is a happy ending to this story, but only time will tell. I hope by sharing our story we can help other young spirits who are about to start their journey in the physical world. If you are pregnant, stay away from drugs and alcohol. What you put in your body, you also put into the baby's body. Please give the young spiritual being a chance for a good life on earth.

If you have been told you might be a father, make the commitment to find the truth, and then be there for your child. You might be the only stability in the child's life. Every new parent should seek help to learn about parenting. Our community has many wonderful grandparents, aunts, uncles, and programs that can help you learn the skills you need to be an effective loving parent, plus prepare you for the stressful parenting moments.

I am concerned about the future of these wounded spirits and all of our children. What kind of a future will we have if we continue to have drug and alcohol babies, children suffering from abandonment issues, or traumatized children? What kind of a future will we have, if we don't stop the cycle of abuse and neglect? It takes the village to raise a child; together we can make a difference.

children traumatized by their birth parents. They not only suffered from the trauma they had lived through, but they also showed no signs of attaching to any human being. They are children who are unnerved by a loving hug or kiss. They would rather cause chaos and destroy a peaceful home than trust that a loving relationship is real. I know you are in disbelief. Some of you might even believe I am exaggerating. I too would not believe it if I wasn't dealing with it every day of our life.

The youngest son shows signs of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. After years of counseling he learned to smile and can use the full range of emotions. It's extremely sad to think the



## 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 have 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 foster 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.

## Changes Made to the Band’s Burial Fund Code

The Tribal Council amended the Pokagon Band Burial Fund Code. For a copy of an amended version of the Burial Fund Code, please visit the Band’s website at [www.pokagonband-nsn.gov](http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov). Provided below is summary of the amendments.

### *Eligibility for the Burial Benefit– Changes to Eligibility Requirements Regarding Children Who Are Not Enrolled*

Children of Pokagon Band members who are eligible for enrollment with the Band, but not yet enrolled, are covered by the Burial Benefit only if they are 5 years of age or younger. The Burial Benefit now covers Stillborn Children.

### *Payment of Burial Benefit – Changes to Payment Structure Regarding Distribution of Excess Funds*

Previously, after the payment of monument, funeral, and funeral luncheon costs, any Burial Benefit funds remaining were distributed. The Burial Benefit of \$10,000 will now be used solely to pay for the cost of a monument, funeral, and luncheon. After the payment of those three expenses, no excess funds will be distributed.

### *Reimbursement for Prepayment of Funeral and/or Monument Expenses – New Provision Permits Reimbursement for Prepaid Expenses Now in Limited Circumstances*

If a Pokagon Band member prepaid the cost of his or her funeral and/or monument expenses via an irrevocable agreement with a funeral home or monument company on or before May 8, 2010, then the Pokagon Band will reimburse the Pokagon Band member the cost of such prepaid expenses, in accordance with the dollar limitations provided for funeral and monument expenses in the Code. Following reimbursement by the Band of the prepayment expenses, the member will not be covered by the Burial Benefit upon his or her death, to the extent the Band previously reimbursed the member for such expenses.

This is only a summary. Please review the Burial Fund Code for more specific details. If you have additional questions concerning these amendments or the Burial Fund in general, please contact the Band’s Department of Social Services at (269) 782-8998 or (800) 517-0777.



## Citizens Take Advantage of Tribal Down Payment Assistance Program

Ruthie and Lee Saldivar both grew up in Michigan, but in 1975 they moved to California. For 35 years they lived and raised their family in the San Diego area, where Mr. Saldivar was a trucker and worked with horses, and Mrs. Saldivar was employed in the hospitality and service industries.

Despite living on the West coast, Ruthie Saldivar always kept up with news from her tribe. When Four Winds opened, her husband suggested the family move back to the area, but she wasn’t quite ready. Eventually their son Ruben Saldivar and their daughter Cindy Gonzalez took positions at Four Winds, and her mind began to change.

“We were getting older,” said Mrs. Saldivar. “And it seemed like this would be a good place for us.”

The many programs and services the Pokagon Band offers to citizens helped her make up her mind. She had read about the down payment assistance available from

the housing department, so she called to get more information.

The Saldivars began working with occupancy specialist Wendy Lipscomb-Hatcher.

Their first step was applying for a mortgage with their bank, and then Mr. Saldivar contacted a realtor in Michigan. He and the agent looked at dozens of houses until they settled on the right one.

According to Lipscomb-Hatcher, citizens need to have a credit rating of more than 620, and any bankruptcy filings must have been discharged for at least two years to qualify for down payment



Ruthie and Lee Saldivar

assistance. Plus, the applicants are asked to attend a home ownership course.

“Studies show that the more potential homeowners know about the mortgage process, the less likely they are to default or get foreclosed on their mortgage,” she said. “It all boils down to the more information you have about homeownership, the more equipped you will be to prevent or handle problems that occur.”

A tribal-approved home inspector is required to examine any property before the purchase. Eligible citizens can receive up to 20 percent to put down and 3 percent for closing costs, all dependent on the

home’s purchase price.

The Saldivars finally closed on their new home in early February, and were able to move in.

“You can’t think you’re going to go into this without any money,” cautions Mrs. Saldivar. “You have to have a backup.”

“It’s a good deal,” says Mr. Saldivar. “The course was a lot of help; I knew exactly how much house I could buy. It was worth it.”

Being back in this area is gratifying to the Saldivars for lots of reasons. Not only are two of her three children and two grandchildren in the area, Ruthie Saldivar is becoming reacquainted with relatives she hasn’t seen in years. And the new energy and cohesion in the tribe is exciting to her. She plans to get involved in activities, and perhaps begin to study Nishnabmowen.

“I think it’s great to see what’s happening, and see what’s changing.”



## Donation of Paper Products from DesignWare Arrives

DesignWare, a division of American Greetings Corporation, has been a generous partner to the Pokagon Band in the past, with a donation of a semi-truckload of paper tableware products. The Kalamazoo-based plant is closing down within the year, and again offered to provide the tribe with a donation, this time two semi-truck loads of paper plates, cups, napkins, children's activity books and table covers.

This useful contribution—valued at \$196,000—provides



supplies for Pokagon Band departments, the Head Start program, the Kee Boon Mein Kaa Pow Wow, the Reaffirmation Day celebration and other community events. Pictured at left with the donation are housing resource developer Valerie Janowski, left, and Tribal citizen Tom Topash, right. Mr. Topash arranged for the pallets of boxes in the shipment to be unloaded and stored at the Inovateus Business Center in Cassopolis, Michigan where his business office is located.



# NATIONAL NEWS



### A First: Obama Adds a Native American Policy Advisor

President Obama has taken the unprecedented step of adding a Native American policy advisor to his Domestic Policy Council. Kimberly Teehee, pictured above, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, was appointed the first White House senior policy advisor for Native American affairs, and will advise the President on issues impacting Indian Country. The President, who has said he hopes to strengthen and build on the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the United States and tribal nations, has asked Teehee, 41, to provide a voice for Native Americans during policy making decisions. "Job creation is a huge priority," said Teehee. "And we're working to address obesity: As many as 50% of American Indians suffer from it." But she says the future is far from bleak; more than \$3 billion was directed to Indian

tribes through the Recovery Act, and the 2011 federal budget provides a 5% increase over 2010.

### Primary Care Physician Shortage Affects Indian Country, Career Potential for Natives

A generation ago, about half of all medical students went into general medicine rather than choosing to specialize. Today it's down to 30 percent. With large medical school loans hanging over their heads, many physicians make that choice based on income potential: specialists earn far more—sometimes more than \$100,000—per year than general practitioners.

According to Mark Trahant, a member of Idaho's Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and a media fellow examining the Indian Health Service and its relevance to the national health care reform debate at the Kaiser Family Foundation, Congress is addressing this shortage of primary care physicians with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. One provision of the act: primary care physicians will be eligible for student loan repayment for working in underserved areas like the Indian health system. The Congressional Research Service has reported that Indian health care has a high vacancy rate in many of its health professions, 20 percent for physicians, dentists, and nurses,

The new law also opens up a number of options for American Indians and Alaska Natives interested in health careers: scholarship and loan repayment programs, incentives designed to encourage health professionals to work in Indian health, funds for continuing education and new demonstration projects using students. There will be new grants for "teaching health centers" and for expanding or creating primary care residency programs. The law also allows for newly accredited or expanded primary care residency programs.

### First U.S. Native TV Channel to Launch

The San Bernardino, California-based KVCR-TV will launch the nation's first 24-hour American Indian television channel next spring. The channel will air programs on the history, culture and current reality of tribes across the country, said James Ramos, chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, whose reservation is nearby and whose tribe donated \$6 million to fund the station for the first three years.

The station will be a PBS affiliate and plans

to expand the channel to national cable and satellite television in 2013. Organizers have already begun talking with executives of other PBS stations about getting the channel on their local cable systems.

A national Canadian Indian channel, the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, has been broadcasting for several years.

KVCR and San Manuel have been collaborating on television programs for several years. In April, KVCR aired a San Manuel-sponsored four-part series on the history of California's Indians. San Manuel-sponsored series in 2006 and 2007 focused on the tribe's history and worldview. Below, San Manuel elder Pauline Murillo is interviewed by producer Frank Blanquette for a recent KVCR television series on American Indian history and culture.





## Tornado Damages Elders Village Homes



No tribal citizens were injured following the severe weather that swept through southwest Michigan late Saturday, June 5. But nineteen of the twenty homes in Kékyaiek Odanek, the Pokagon Band's Elders Village, sustained varied damage.

By Sunday evening, the tribal government had worked with local utilities to restore power and had boarded broken windows, covered damaged roofing, and



cleared the roads. As the repairs continue, the Housing Department will be holding weekly Friday meetings to communicate with the residents on the status of the efforts.

## Per Capita Updates Needed

The following list of citizens have yet to verify their address with the Pokagon Band Enrollment office for Per Capita payment distribution and 2009 Christmas checks. If you or someone you know is on this list, please contact the Pokagon Band enrollment office to verify the address.

- 1499 Peter Cusi Gibbons-Ballev
- 3282 Daniel Sanderson
- 0083 John Dylan Watson
- 0406 Michael Lynn Hewitt
- 0433 Elizabeth Alexandra Gray
- 0434 Thomas Charles Abercrombie
- 0857 Peter John Ramirez
- 1283 Jodi Lynn Burfield
- 1445 Michael David Bush
- 1446 Bobby Marcus Haynes
- 1506 Michaela Lynne Canard
- 2565 Michael James Martin
- 2795 Edward F Cushway
- 2805 Isabel Marie Campos

The following list of citizens have not contacted the enrollment office to verify their valid addresses to receive their 2009 Christmas checks.

- BRANDIE SHENEE ANTISDEL
- RUBY TUESDAY BALEY
- MICHAEL ALLEN BARR
- NICHOLAS RAY BENNETT
- FELICIA CHRISTINE BIXLER
- IAN THOMAS CURREY
- PAUL ISAAC GIBSON
- ELIZABETH ALEXANDRA GRAY

## Mno-Bmadsen Honors Tom Topash

The Mno-Bmadsen Board of Directors recognized Tom Topash for dedication and hard work in his administrative support during start-up of the new economic development enterprise created by Tribal Council.

The Board presented Mr. Topash with a resolution of appreciation and a fish carving that acknowledges Tom's Fish Clan heritage. While the Board recently hired Executive Director Calli Berg to manage operations, the Mno-Bmadsen has much to accomplish and welcomed Tom's continuing support of economic development efforts.

During the presentation, Chairman Eugene Magnuson referred to the first Indian givers—native American ancestors who accepted gifts only when able and willing to return the honor with gifts of equal or greater value. While considered derogatory by many today, the board celebrated the original intent and true spirit of Indian giving by bestowing their gift of appreciation on Mr. Topash for his invaluable gift of service to Mno-Bmadsen.



The Mno-Bmadsen Board of Directors with Tom Topash during their May board meeting in the Tribal Lodge. L-R: Dave Johnson, Kurt Wiesemenes, Treasurer Greg Ballev, Mr. Topash, Chairman Eugene Magnuson, Amy Klemm Verbos, Secretary Julie Farver, and Vice-Chairman Alan Molnar.



## POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS

TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 180, Dowagiac, MI 49047

Telephone: 269-782-6323 / Fax: (269) 783-9625

My last article focused on veterans, but this month I want to mention the Medal of Honor recipients of native heritage. We can be proud, as a people, of the nearly twenty native Medal of Honor recipients who received the U.S. military's highest distinction. The Medal of Honor is awarded for military heroism above and beyond the call of duty, and pays tribute to soldiers who showed extraordinary bravery in the face of the enemy. Some made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. You hear from time to time native service men comment, "We lost our land once. We will not do it again." Considering that native soldiers who served in WWI were not even U.S. citizens, that is quite a statement.

Since the last newsletter I have had the occasion to participate in two great events. The first was our inaugural Oshke-Kno-Kewewen traditional Pow Wow honoring the Eagle Staff. It was a privilege and honor for me to walk the Eagle Staff into the arena for the first time. Thanks to all who participated in making this event happen, and to the families who have an Eagle feather on the Staff, I thank you for the service of that person represented.

The second opportunity was to take part in the "Lest We Forget: An American Veterans Tribute" kickoff event. The day started at Four Winds on Wednesday morning June 15 with a continental breakfast, introductions of the event organizers, opening comments and a motorcycle motorcade with over 300 bikes. Active military, law enforcement, and a few vintage military vehicles accompanied the motorcade. They traveled throughout Berrien County before ending at Dickenson Stadium at St. Joseph High School. The event features

a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in our nation's capital and many other Vietnam era displays. I was honored when asked if I would address the veterans who gathered for this event. It is due to their service that we are allowed to enjoy the freedoms that we have here today. It is very hard for me to understand how we could fail, when we do, to properly care for our veterans.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest employee, Jim Coleman, Director of Housing. Jim comes to us by way of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe in Mount Pleasant. Jim has spent over thirteen years working with Native Americans, and brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding in his fields of expertise. I look forward to working with him as he takes our Housing Department to the next level. Please give him a warm welcome when you see him.

Next month is election time. Please participate and vote for the candidate of your choice. It is your government. In addition, please review our committees, boards, and commissions. If you are interested in joining, talk with someone and place an application. We are always looking for new people to serve and for citizens to gain an understanding of what makes your government work.

In closing, I hope you all enjoy the upcoming holidays, and please remember our veterans and those members of the military currently serving. The freedom we enjoy is a direct result of their willingness to sacrifice. As always, my phone is always on and my door is always open. If you are in the area please stop in and say hi.

Matt



photo credit: Hewitt Photography

Chairman Matt Wesaw, right, with Head Veteran George Martin, left, and the Eagle Staff at the Oshke-Kno-Kewewen traditional Pow Wow over Memorial Day weekend.

### Tribal Council Calendar of Events

#### July

- 6 Gaming Authority, 1 p.m., Four Winds
- 10 Tribal Election Day
- 12 Tribal Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Lodge
- 13 Gaming Authority, 1 p.m., Four Winds
- 19 Tribal Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Lodge
- 20 Gaming Authority, 1 p.m., Four Winds
- 22 Tribal Council Special Session, 5 p.m., Lodge
- 26 Tribal Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Lodge
- 27 Financial Review Board, 1 p.m., Four Winds



## Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

### Tribal Council E-Mail Directory

Office Phone: 1-888-376-9988

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>VICE CHAIRMAN</b>
Matt Wesaw <a href="mailto:Matthew.Wesaw@pokagonband-nsn.gov">Matthew.Wesaw@pokagonband-nsn.gov</a> 517-719-5579	Butch Starrett <a href="mailto:Butch.Starrett@pokagonband-nsn.gov">Butch.Starrett@pokagonband-nsn.gov</a> 269-591-2901

<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>
Faye Wesaw <a href="mailto:Faye.Wesaw@pokagonband-nsn.gov">Faye.Wesaw@pokagonband-nsn.gov</a> 269-635-0948	Troland Clay <a href="mailto:Troland.Clay@pokagonband-nsn.gov">Troland.Clay@pokagonband-nsn.gov</a> 269-591-5205

<b>Members At Large</b>	
Steve Winchester <a href="mailto:Steve.Winchester@pokagonband-nsn.gov">Steve.Winchester@pokagonband-nsn.gov</a> 269-591-0119	Michaelina Magnuson <a href="mailto:Michaelina.Magnuson@pokagonband-nsn.gov">Michaelina.Magnuson@pokagonband-nsn.gov</a> 269-591-5616
Alice Overly <a href="mailto:Alice.Overly@pokagonband-nsn.gov">Alice.Overly@pokagonband-nsn.gov</a> 269-240-8041	John Warren <a href="mailto:John.Warren@pokagonband-nsn.gov">John.Warren@pokagonband-nsn.gov</a> 269-214-2610
Marchell Wesaw <a href="mailto:Marchell.Wesaw@pokagonband-nsn.gov">Marchell.Wesaw@pokagonband-nsn.gov</a> 269-240-1570	Marie Manley <a href="mailto:Marie.Manley@pokagonband-nsn.gov">Marie.Manley@pokagonband-nsn.gov</a> 269-214-2609

<b>Elders Representative</b>	<b>Executive Secretary to Tribal Council</b>
Lynn Davidson <a href="mailto:Lynn.Davidson@pokagonband-nsn.gov">Lynn.Davidson@pokagonband-nsn.gov</a> 269-240-8092	Kelly Curran <a href="mailto:Kelly.Curran@pokagonband-nsn.gov">Kelly.Curran@pokagonband-nsn.gov</a> 269-782-8998

<p><b>Pokagon Band Mailing Address</b> P.O. Box 180 Dowagiac, MI 49047</p>
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**Tribal Council**  
 58620 Sink Rd.  
 (269) 782-6323 /  
 Toll Free (888) 376-9988  
 FAX (269) 782-9625

**Elders Program**  
 53237 Townhall Rd.  
 (269) 782-0765 /  
 Toll Free (800) 859-2717  
 FAX (269) 782-1696

**Administrative /  
 Information Technology**  
 58620 Sink Rd.  
 (269) 782-8998 /  
 Toll Free (800) 517-0777  
 FAX (269) 782-6882

**Social Services**  
 58620 Sink Rd.  
 (269) 782-8998 /  
 Toll Free (800) 517-0777  
 FAX (269) 782-4295

**Health Services /  
 Behavioral Health**  
 57392 M 51 South  
 (269) 782-4141 /  
 Toll Free (888) 440-1234  
 FAX (269) 782 - 8797

**Environmental**  
 32142 Edwards St.  
 (269) 782-9602 Phone  
 (269) 783-0452 Fax

**Education and Training**  
 58620 Sink Rd.  
 (269) 782-0887/  
 FAX (269) 782-0985

**Finance Department**  
 58620 Sink Rd.  
 (269) 782-8998 /  
 Toll Free (800) 517-0777  
 FAX (269) 782-1028

**Enrollment**  
 58620 Sink Rd.  
 (269) 782-1763 /  
 FAX (269) 782-1964

**Commodities**  
 (269) 782-3372 /  
 Toll Free (888) 281-1111  
 FAX (269)782-7814

**Head Start**  
 58620 Sink Rd.  
 (269) 783-0026/  
 (866)-250-6573  
 FAX (269) 782-9795

**South Bend Area Office**  
 310 W. Mc Kinley Ave. Suite 300  
 Mishawaka, IN. 46545  
 (574)-255-2368 /  
 Toll Free (800) 737-9223  
 FAX (574) 255-2974

**Housing Department**  
 58620 Sink Rd.  
 (269) 783-0443 /  
 FAX (269) 783-0452

**Tribal Court**  
 58620 Sink Rd.  
 (269) 783-0505 /  
 FAX (269) 783-0519

**Tribal Police**  
 58155 M-51 South  
 (269) 782-2232 /  
 Toll Free (866-399-0161)  
 FAX (269) 782-7988

**Election**  
 58620 Sink Rd.  
 (269) 782-9475 /  
 Toll Free (888) 782-9475

**Human Resources / Compliance**  
 56862 Sink Rd.  
 (269) 782-8998

### Spouses Of Tribal Members Can Now Apply for The Temporary Staffing Pool

The Pokagon Band Temporary Pool will begin accepting applications not only from Tribal Members but also their spouses. Native American preference still applies, meaning, the spouses will be considered if a Pokagon Band member is unavailable for the position.

The temporary positions pay \$8.50 per hour.

Tribal Members interested in assisting with filling temporary vacancies on an "on-call" basis are encouraged to call Lori Harris at (269) 782-8998 or 800-517-0777. Employment applications are available at the Pokagon Band Administration Office at 58620 Sink Road Dowagiac.

Applicants must pass the following background checks:

- Criminal background
- Motor vehicle report
- Work history
- References
- Tribal membership (spouse of enrolled tribal member)
- DSH clearance (if applicable)

You must submit to and pass a Drug and Alcohol Test.

Temporary personnel will be subject to applicable rules of the Pokagon Band Personnel Policy Handbook.

This is an excellent opportunity for our Membership to occasionally supplement their income, gain experience while, aiding us in continuing smooth delivery of services.

Please call for an appointment today!



## Tribal Council Meeting Cancellations

Please check the Pokagon website at:  
[www.pokagonband-nsn.gov](http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov) to confirm that a  
meeting has not been cancelled  
before attending.

You may also call 1-888-782-2426  
to check for cancellation.

Pokagon Band Administrative Office  
58620 Sink Rd.  
Dowagiac, MI 49047