

POKÉGNEK YAJDANAWA

"The Pokagons Tell It"



Vol. III, No. XII

December, 1998



A view of the lake set on the newly acquired property.



A view of the house through the trees. About 75 members attended the Open House.

LAND CELEBRATION

There is a feeling of excitement among many of the members who visited the Band's land purchase near Dowagiac. The Land Open House held following the November 14 Tribal Council Meeting drew about 75+ members to the new Pokagon property. The property is beautiful, and remote with a lake set on its premises.

Members of the Land Committee and the Community Development Department opened up the building on the property and equipped it with heaters. Members ate a meal catered by Jean Mollett, and had an opportunity to explore the surrounding area.

There is about 350 acres of mostly wooded area. There is an old barn on the property, a building and a house. It is the second property purchased by the Band. The land will anchor the initial reservation sites for the Pokagons.

This land has a great potential for a residential area for our membership. It may also serve as land for tribal offices and service centers. There have been no official plans made for the land, so there is much to be done.

As the tribe continues to build its land base, we should expect more land open houses for membership to visit these sites.



COUNCIL CORNER

NO ARTICLE WAS SUBMITTED FOR DECEMBER.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Mike Wesaw went to Notre Dame to speak before a class at his alma mater. Wesaw addressed the Multicultural class at the Business College on campus on Tuesday, November 17. The class consisted of about 15 students.

For many in the class, it was their first experience hearing first hand about an Indian tribe. Although many of the students were familiar with Indian casinos, it was informational for them to hear about a local tribe's struggle to make a better life for their people.

Wesaw discussed federal recognition, the process and what it means to the tribe. For Pokagon Band members, it means an opportunity for access to federal funds and programs that was not otherwise there.

Wesaw did discuss the tribe's intent of gaming, and he explained IGRA and why the tribe even has the right to pursue it under the law.

The class asked many questions ranging from the tribe's plans to the national ramification of Indian gaming on tribes.

It was news to the class that a small number of tribes make a majority of the money. It is always a criti-

cism that gaming foes use to show that tribes are just interested in getting rich. Wesaw pointed out that tribes have no tax base, so gaming is a way to fund the tribal governments.

Another question was the history of the tribe in the area. Wesaw clarified how the federal government establishes the service area or areas where land can be put into reservations. Because all tribes have a historical area, there are only certain areas that newly reaffirmed tribes can establish reservations.

The class also asked questions about Indians and if they fight among themselves very much. Wesaw explained it was like a family. There are many instances when people disagree politically. Because many tribes are small, there is more of a voice from smaller factions. Also, there are family issues to contend with, from families who do not get along, to families who can make a difference politically if they vote together.

Small sessions like this are important to the tribe's efforts to educate the public about our goals and our existence.



TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 12, 1998
10 A.M.
ELDERS HALL**

This is a potluck, and the tribe will provide the meat and the beverages. Please bring a dish to pass. The Saturday meeting includes program and committee reports. The business meeting for Tribal Council will not take place because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

POKAGON HEALTH NEWS

DIABETIC SUPPORT GROUP STARTING SOON

After the Holidays are gone and the New Year comes around, I know we will all be focusing on how we can improve our health. To help do this, we would like to start our first Diabetic Support Group. We are setting up this important program and trying to make sure we make it compatible with your schedules. I would like to hear from our membership, voicing your suggestions on Dates and Times, so we may accommodate you better. This Disease has been a constant threat and fear in our lives. Getting together, learning, sharing and supporting each other may help us as a community in understanding and taking care of ourselves to prevent or maintain better control over this disease. We are anxious to hear from you either in a letter written to Pokagon Health Services, 210 S. Front St., Dowagiac, MI 49047, or give us a call at (616) 782-4141 or 1-888-440-1234. This group will be open to all membership who are concerned and want to help fight back and decrease the problems and complications that arise from this disease

*Submitted by,
Mark Topash*

SUBSTANCE ABUSE NEWS

Craft Fair

On December 5th the Substance Abuse Task Force will hold its 3rd annual craft fair from 9:00 am-4:00 p.m. A light lunch will be available. This year we would like to combine our fair with a bake sale, so if anyone would like to donate goodies, we'll set up a table.

Items for sale...

Needing gifts for Special occasions? Come and look at the new additions in our display case. Our red travel mugs are \$5.00 each. We have wonderful dreamcatcher earrings; gold and silver and some with multicolored beads. They come in both french hook and post styles. While you're there, look at the tiny ceramic moccasins for \$4.00/pair. Little canoes, teepees and drums will be added any day! We have some locally harvested herbs as well as a supply of birch bark available for sale. Larger Native American ceramic pieces will be arriving. All items are made by Native American crafters only.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR BLOOD CHOLESTEROL/GLUCOSE OR HEMOGLOBIN LEVEL?

If not, maybe we can help you. Here at the Pokagon Potawatomi Health Services, we are equipped to measure all these levels and more. With just a simple finger stick, we can monitor your total cholesterol including HDL (good), LDL (bad), triglycerides, total cholesterol/HDL ratio, your glucose (blood sugar), and your hemoglobin (detects anemia or low iron). Knowing these levels can help us to help you understand and learn how to maintain and improve your health.

These are free services. Call and ask for one of our nurses to set up an appointment. The nurses are also available to answer any questions you may have on how we can help you monitor your health. Help us Promote a healthy Pokagon community. Please call 782-4141 or 1-888-440-1234.

AA MEETINGS



AA Meetings are held Tuesday and Thursday at 12:00 p.m. at the Substance Abuse Program offices, 714 N. Front St. Dowagiac, MI. We also hold one evening session on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Please feel welcome to attend. If you have questions, please call (616) 782-1142.

POKAGON SOCIAL SERVICES

Dear Tribal Members,

Please take a moment to read this inspirational letter.
Happy Birthday, Siloman!

The Indian Child Welfare Act - An Overview is included in the newsletter as suggested. Note: this information is from the MICHIGAN CHILD WELFARE LAW JOURNAL (and therefore contains details that pertain to Michigan). Remember that *ICWA is a FEDERAL LAW, which means that it applies everywhere in the United States, as seen in the following letter.*

Thank you for sharing your story with us, Denise Genereaux.

*Sincerely,
Linda A. Mangus
Social Services Director*

YES!! TO ICWA

Today I celebrate a miracle, Siloman, a Pokagon Band member. Together, we observe his fourth birthday and upon this special occasion I wish to extend my gratitude for the ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act).

In the Spring of 1995, I was faced with a life changing opportunity; one which required me to cross all boundaries to find a way to remove my nephew, Siloman, from a foster home in Florida and be placed with my family in Texas. Our prayers were answered within the contents of the ICWA.

Our journey began with contacts made to the Pokagon Band, as well as the BIA in Michigan. Through countless phone calls, letters, and faxes, it became evident that little was known about the ICWA. MY perseverance lead me to a Band in Texas that informed me about the law and forwarded a copy of the ICWA to the case Judge in Florida. This was so that a greater understanding be known, not only of the law, but of the importance and legal privilege that is given to Native Americans within the realm of placement/adoption. We were required to have a home study done and faced the usual red tape. However, five weeks after our first court appearance, Siloman flew to Texas to join our family. I am so glad that the Pokagon Band is becoming aware of the significance of the ICWA and its importance to the welfare of our children. I believe that the children

do belong with their people-us. We owe our children our spiritual blessings.

The Great Spirit knows what we need, before we ask. We give constant thanks each and every day for our Gift, Siloman. We have truly been blessed.

I would like to see a copy of the ICWA published in the Pokagon Newsletter, in order that every member may become aware of the full extent of this law.

Denise Genereaux

ICWA

Why did Congress pass the Indian Child Welfare Act?

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was because the displacement of Indian children had become a national travesty. Congress found before the Act was passed in 1978, that an alarmingly high percentage of Indian families were broken up by the often unwarranted removal of their children by non-tribal public and private agencies. 25 U.S.C. § 1901(4). For example, 40 percent of all adoptions made by South Dakota's Department of Public Welfare involved Native American children, yet Indian children made up only seven percent of the juvenile population. Moreover, many of the children who were removed from their homes lived on the reservation where the state courts and welfare agencies did not have jurisdiction or authority to order the removal of Native American children from their homes.

Cultural and social standards in Indian communities and families were also ignored when hearing Indian child custody proceedings. State courts and agencies frequently found Indian children placed in the care of an extended family member and determined the children were 'neglected' or 'abandoned.' To Native American families, however, such methods of raising children were commonplace because the notion of extended family included the nuclear family and all those related by marriage or other traditional bonds. However, to the non-Native American social worker ignorant of Indian tradition, culture, and child rearing, such behavior was unacceptable.

By 1978, Congress reported that "the wholesale separation of Indian children from their families is perhaps the most tragic and destructive aspect of Ameri-

POKAGON SOCIAL SERVICES

can Indian life today. It is clear then that the Indian child welfare crisis is of massive proportions and that Indian families face vastly greater risks of involuntary separation than are typical of our society as a whole." Congress enacted ICWA to protect tribal jurisdiction over their children and to prevent the breakup of Indian families in state courts by setting uniform federal standards for removal of Indian children from their homes.

Why is ICWA constitutional?

Since ICWA was passed, there have been numerous constitutional challenges arguing disparate treatment of parties in state courts based on race. The Act has been upheld in the face of every challenge for several reasons. The commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution allows Congress to legislate for Indian tribes, and courts have repeatedly found that a rational basis has existed for the purpose achieved by ICWA.

Does the state of Michigan have to comply with the requirements of ICWA?

Yes. The State must comply with every requirement of ICWA. The Michigan Court Rules have adopted several procedures that the Court must follow when applying ICWA. However, the Michigan Court Rules do not address all sections of the Act, so it is important to reference both the state and federal laws when litigating or adjudicating these cases. Void or voidable decisions result when a court ignores any pertinent section of ICWA.

Practitioners should pay particular attention to ICWA's provisions regarding adoptions. Certain provisions of Michigan's direct placement adoption laws contradict ICWA. Invalid adoptions will result if ICWA is not followed.

Who is an Indian Child?

For purposes of ICWA, an Indian child is an unmarried Person who is under age eighteen and is either: (1) a member of an Indian tribe or (2) is eligible for membership in an Indian tribe and is the biological child of a member of an Indian tribe. 25 U.S.C. § 1903(4).

Please keep in mind that every Tribe establishes their own eligibility guidelines. For example, to be eligible for one tribe, a person may need to demonstrate that she has 1/4 Indian blood, while another tribe may only require 1/8 Indian blood for enrollment. Both of these would fall under ICWA, and it must be applied.

What legal proceedings fall under ICWA?

The Act applies to any situation where an Indian child is being placed by a court including termination of parental rights, preadoptive placement, adoptive placement, status offenses, and foster care placement. 25 U.S.C. § 1903(1). Practitioners should note that ICWA's foster care placement definition is broad. It includes any action removing an Indian child from its parent or Indian custodian for temporary placement in a foster home or institution or the home of a guardian or conservator where the parent or Indian custodian cannot have the child returned upon demand, but where parental rights have not been terminated. 25 U.S.C. § 1903(1)(i).

What legal proceedings do not fall under ICWA?

The Act does not include a placement based upon an act by an Indian child, which if committed by an adult, would be considered a crime. The Act also does not include an award of custody in a divorce proceeding to one of the parents. 25 U.S.C. § 1903(1)

Does the Tribe have any rights in these proceedings?

Yes.

1- The tribe has exclusive jurisdiction if the child is domiciled on the Tribe's reservation. 25 U.S.C. § 1911(a); MCR 5.980(A)(1).

2- The tribe must be notified by the state court of the off-reservation proceeding. 25 U.S.C. § 1912(a); MCR 5.980(A)(2).

3- The tribe may ask the state court to transfer jurisdiction to the tribe. 25 U.S.C. § 1911(b); MCR 5.980(A)(3).

- 4- The tribe has a right to intervene in state court proceedings. 25 U.S.C. § 1911(c).
- 5- The tribe has a right to change the prescribed placement priorities of the Act when it applies to their members. 25 U.S.C. § 1915(c).
- 6- Tribal acts, records and proceedings are to be accorded full faith and credit. 25 U.S.C. § 1911(d).

Is there a different standard of proof in ICWA proceedings?

Yes. Foster care placement must be proved “by clear and convincing evidence, including testimony of qualified expert witnesses, that the continued custody of the child by the parent or Indian custodian is likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to the child.” 25 U.S.C. § 1912(e); MCR 5.980(C)(1).

To terminate parental rights of an Indian child, it must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt, including the testimony of qualified expert witnesses that the continued custody of the child by the parent or Indian custodian is to result in serious emotional or physical damage to the child. 25 U.S.C. § 1912(f).

What rights do the Indian parents have in involuntary proceedings?

Parents have the right to appointment of counsel and the right to examine all records or other documents that are filed with the court and used to make a decision. Prior to placing the Indian child in foster care or terminating parental rights, the court must be satisfied that active efforts were made to provide remedial services, rehabilitative programs were designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian families, and that these efforts have proved unsuccessful. 25 U.S.C. § 1912. There is also a higher burden of proof applied to ICWA cases (see above).

What rights do parents have when a voluntary placement is made?

When a parent or Indian custodian voluntarily consents to a foster placement or termination of parental rights, the consent is not valid unless it is placed in writing and executed before a judge. The judge must also certify that the terms and consequences of the consent were fully explained in detail and were understood by the parent or Indian custodian in English or her native language. Any consent given prior to, or within ten days after, birth of the Indian child shall not be valid.

Any parent may withdraw the voluntary consent to foster care placement at any time. In a voluntary termination of parental rights, the parent can withdraw the consent for any reason and at any time, prior to the entry of a final decree of termination or adoption, and the child must be returned to the parent. After the final decree of adoption is entered, the parents may withdraw consent if the consent was obtained through fraud or duress for a period of up to two years. 25 U.S.C. § 1913. There is a higher burden of proof applied to ICWA cases (see above).

What are ICWA's special placement priorities in adoptive and foster care or preadoptive placements?

In any adoptive placement of an Indian child under State law, a preference shall be given, in the absence of good cause to the contrary, to placement with: (1) a member of the child's extended family; (2) other members of the Indian child's tribe; or (3) other Indian families. 25 U.S.C. § 1915(a).

Any child accepted for foster care or preadoptive placement shall be placed in the least restrictive setting which most approximates a family and in which his special needs, if any, may be met. The child shall also be placed within reasonable proximity to his or her home, taking into account any special needs of the child.

In any foster care or preadoptive placement, a preference shall be given, in the absence of good cause to the contrary, to a placement with—

- i- a member of the Indian child's extended family;
- ii- a foster home licensed, approved, or specified by the Indian child's tribe;
- iii- an Indian foster home licensed or approved by an authorized non-Indian licensing authority; or
- iv- an institution for children approved by an Indian tribe or operated by an organization which has a program suitable to meet the Indian child's needs. 25 U.S.C. § 1915(b).

What happens if a Court violates a provision of ICWA?

Any Indian child, parent or Indian custodian from whose custody such child was removed, and the Indian child's tribe may petition any court of competent jurisdiction to invalidate such action upon a showing that such

action violated any provision of sections 1911, 1912, and 1913. 25 U.S.C. § 1914.

Where any petitioner in an Indian child custody proceeding before a State court has improperly removed the child from custody of the parent or Indian custodian or has improperly retained custody after a visit or other temporary relinquishment of custody, the court shall decline jurisdiction over such petition and shall forthwith return the child to his parent or Indian custodian unless returning the child to his parent or custodian subject the child to a substantial and immediate danger or threat of such danger. 25 U.S.C. § 1920.

What procedures must a Court follow if the health or safety of the children are in imminent danger?

A child may be removed from the residence in order to prevent imminent physical damage or harm. However, the emergency removal or placement terminates immediately when such removal is no longer necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child. Further, the court shall expeditiously initiate a child custody proceeding subject to the provisions of this title, transfer the child to the jurisdiction of the appropriate Indian tribe, or restore the child to the parent or Indian custodian, as may be appropriate. 25 U.S.C. § 1922.

What rights do adopted Indian children have after they reach the age of majority?

Upon application by Indian individual who has reached the age of eighteen and who was the subject of an adoptive placement, the court, which entered the final decree, shall inform the individual of the tribal affiliation, if any, of the individual's biological parents and provide such other information as may be necessary to protect any rights flowing from the individual's tribal relationship. 25 U.S.C. § 1917.

Conclusion

In his *Indian Child Welfare Act Handbook*, B.J. Jones eloquently summarizes the rationale and purpose of ICWA. “Whatever one's perspective is on ICWA, one has to marvel at the grand design and ambitious objective sought by its enactment. Its ultimate goal is to preserve a distinct culture by protecting the children of that culture. It is a recognition that cultural attachment is a right of Indian children worthy of congressional protection. It is the children who receive the protections of ICWA who will eventually decide the fate of Native culture and traditions. Whether they embrace their traditions or ultimately reject them will be their decision and not the result of a system that alienates them from their culture.”

NOTES

There are three separate documents evidencing the legislative history behind ICWA. The House Report, H.R. REP. No. 1386, 95th Cong., 2nd Se (1978), reprinted in 1978 U.S. CODE CONG. & AD. NEWS 7530 (Hereinafter House Report) the Senate Report, S. Rep. No. 597, 95th Cong., 1st Sess. (1977); and the Senate Hearings, *Hearing before the U. S. Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, 95th Cong., 1st Sess., on S. 1214. To Establish Standards for the Placement of Indian Children in Foster Adoptive Homes, to Prevent the Breakup of Indian Families, and for other Purposes* (August 4, 1974).

² House Report at 10.

³ House Report at 9.

⁴ U.S. CONST. art. 1, § 8, cL 3.

⁵ The legislative history also discusses the constitutionality of ICWA in House Report pp. 12-19.

⁶ Id at 112

Pokagon Band Youth Programs



Do You Know What the Youth Programs have to Offer?

December may mark the end of the year and the end of the first semester of school, but it can also mark the beginning of becoming involved with the Youth Programs.

If you have not had the chance to be involved with the Youth Programs lately, you may not be aware of the opportunities that exist for the different members of your family. You also may know of the Education Department's desire to work with the needs of the community. The best way for the department to do that is through member input. So please attend the programs and let us know what you think.

An important aspect of the youth programs is tutoring/support services for students from grades K-12. Tutoring is currently being offered on a one-to-one basis. Also, a Thursday night tutoring lab spon-

sored by the Native American students at Notre Dame will begin soon. This lab will offer tutoring and educational games.

If you are interested in having a tutoring program available in your area, please contact Marie Willis at the Education Department. The only way the Education Department would know there is a need and an interest for tutoring in your area is if you call.

So what other programs besides tutoring are offered by the Youth Programs? These programs include youth culture classes on Monday nights, the Keepers of the Fire Youth Council, college visitations, and a stipend reimbursement. Current info for these programs are listed in the next column. More info about these programs will be featured at a later time.

See you soon!

Schedule of Events for December

Youth Culture Classes

*Monday, Dec, 7 6:30-8pm

Elders' Hall

Dowagiac, MI

*Monday, Dec 14 6:30-8pm

South Bend Regional Museum of Art

South Bend, IN



Keepers of the Fire Youth Council

Meetings dates

Wed, Dec 2 7pm

Wed, Dec 16 7pm

Please call Marie Willis
about meeting locations.

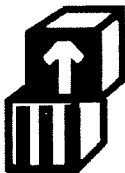
Kid's Computer Crafts

Fridays

3-5pm

Education Department

Dowagiac



INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL
Head Start Program Position Description

Cook



QUALIFICATIONS: Must possess Food Handler Certification (or ability to obtain certification.) Must be able to maintain accurate records for meal attendance and purchases. Must be able to keep a monthly inventory of food and supplies. Preference will be given to a person of Native American descent.

SUPERVISORY CONTROL: Site Supervisor
SALARY RANGE: To be negotiated
STATUS: Non-Exempt

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. The Cook will be directly responsible to the Head Start Teacher and Site Supervisor.
2. The Cook must follow existing six-week menu plan, and prepare the foods stated.
3. The Cook must complete all meal preparation and clean up the cooking area.
4. The Cook will bring the meals into the classroom and remain in the classroom during the meal to complete meal counts of those children who are eating.
5. The Cook will remove food and tableware from the classroom following the meal, wrap and store food, wash and sanitize dishes and eating utensils, and tidy up kitchen area.
6. The Cook is required to complete and send all paperwork required by the Child Care Food Program to the Central Office monthly, no later than the 5th of the following month.
7. The Cook will do the grocery shopping on a weekly basis.
8. The Cook will keep an inventory of all kitchen supplies.
9. The Cook will be required to attend all training sessions deemed necessary by the Site Supervisor.
10. The Cook will perform any other duties related to food preparation/service and nutritional activities, as deemed necessary by the Head Start Teacher and/or Site Supervisor.
11. Must adhere to program confidentiality policy.
12. The cook will work in partnership with the Early Head Start Cook to ensure that all food service related duties are fulfilled.
13. The cook will assist with the food service for the Tribal Child Care Program as well as for the Head Start and Early Head Start Program.
14. The cook will adhere to all requirements as mandated by the USDA/Child and Adult Care Food Program.
15. The cook is expected to work as a team member with all staff to ensure the success of the program and service delivery to children and families.

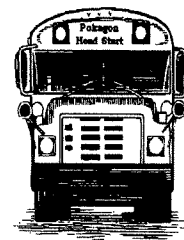
Submit Resume to:
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Head Start Programs,
Attention: Heather Lufkins, Site Supervisor

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION IS DECEMBER 30, 1998

Any Questions? Please contact Marie Willis at 1-888-330-1234



INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL
Head Start Program Position Description



Bus Driver

QUALIFICATIONS: Must have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with a P-Endorsement. Must have good hearing and at least 20/40 vision in each eye or without glasses. Must have a good driving record and be extremely patient with young children. Preference will be given to a person of Native American descent. Employment is contingent upon the result of a Criminal History Background check.

SUPERVISORY CONTROL: Site Supervisor
SALARY RANGE: To be negotiated
STATUS: Non-Exempt
DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. The Bus Driver is directly responsible to the Head Start Teacher and the Site Supervisor.
2. The Bus Driver will drive the Head Start bus on school days or for any scheduled activities. The Bus Driver will transport children and parents to and from their homes daily, and drive for any scheduled field trips.
3. The Bus Driver will set up a transportation schedule/route to insure that no child is on the bus more than one hour.
4. The Bus Driver must be alert to the traffic around the Head Start Center, and pay particular attention to the safety of the students.
5. The Bus Driver will complete the Vehicle Inspection Report daily. If there are any problems or concerns with the bus, the Bus Driver will immediately notify their supervisor. Reports must be submitted monthly to the Central Office, with copies kept on file at the center.
6. The Bus Driver is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the bus. This is to include filling with gas, replenishing oil and windshield fluid, washing and waxing bus, vacuuming inside of bus and washing windows, and scheduling oil changes and tune-ups, as well as scheduling any repairs needed.
7. The Bus Driver must make sure that each child is **delivered to no one other than** his/her parent, legal guardian or authorized care giver.
8. The Bus Driver must be available to and around the center during hours of operation, in the case of an emergency.
9. The Bus Driver must attend all training deemed necessary by the Site Supervisor.
10. The Bus Driver will perform other duties related to transportation and/or bus maintenance, as deemed necessary by the Head Start Teacher and/or site supervisor.
11. Will assist in the classroom during periods of need or when there's a lapse in bus related duties during daily operations at the request of the supervisor.
12. Must adhere to the rules governing ITC's program.
13. Must adhere to the Head Start Drug and Alcohol Policy.
14. Must adhere to program confidentiality policy.

Submit Resume to:

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Head Start Programs,
Attention: Heather Lufkins, Site Supervisor

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION IS DECEMBER 30, 1998



Inter-tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.
HEADSTART
and
EARLY HEADSTART

STARTING
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1999
0-5 YEARS OF AGE



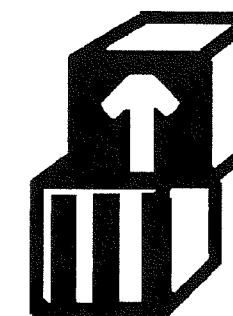
Pregnant Mothers-Call to See How We Can Help!

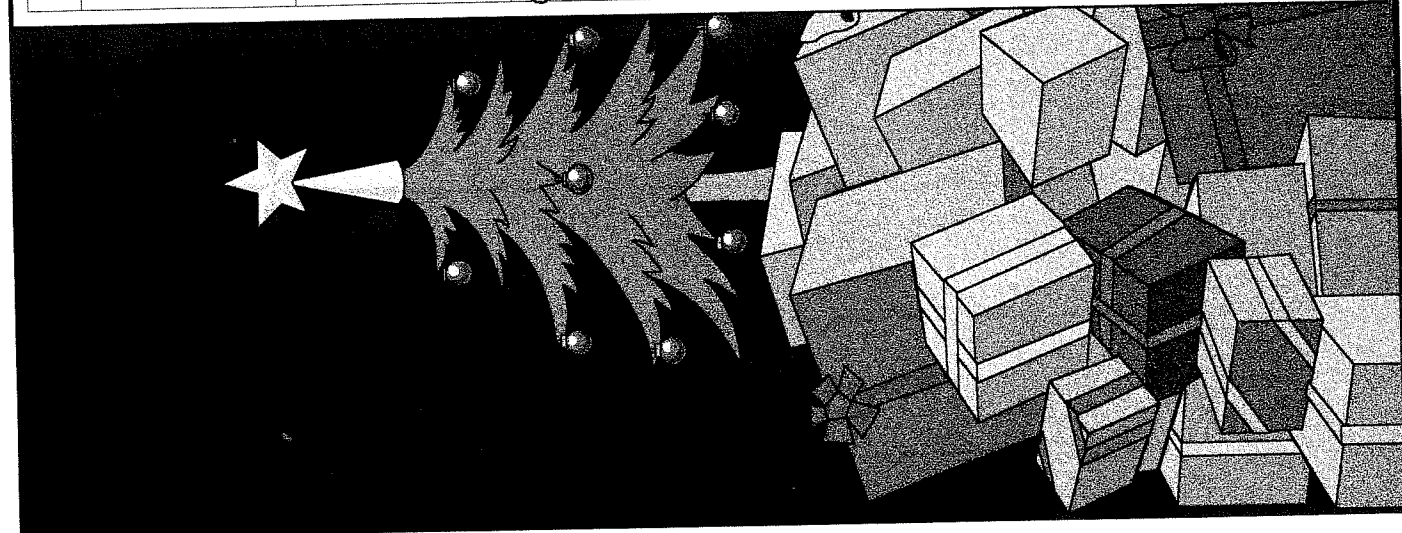
1-800-517-0777

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.

HEADSTART
and
EARLY HEADSTART

for Pokagon Band Members





S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 *Gerobics-E.H. 10-11a/6-7p	2 Strategic Action Plan Mtg. 7p-E.H. Keepers of the Fire Youth Council- 7p	3 Elders Council Mtg. 11a-E.H. Education Comm. Mtg. 7p-Ed. Office *Gerobics-E.H. 10-11a/6-7p	4 *Kid's Computer Crafts Class Ed. Office- 3-5 p	5 Substance Abuse Craft Fair-E.H
6	7 First Aid Class E.H.- 9-5a Youth Culture Class E.H.- 6:30-8p	8	9	10	11 Election Comm. Mtg. E.H.- 5p	12 Tribal Council 10a-E.H.
13 Children's Christmas Party 1-2:30 p.m. Lewis Cass ISD	14 Youth Culture Class- S.B. Regional Museum of Art 6:30-8p	15 Full Staff Mtg. E.H.- 12-2 p.m.	16 Keepers of the Fire Youth Council-7p	17 Elder's Christmas Luncheon 11a-E.H. Christmas Open House Admin Office- 3p	18	19 Basket Co-Op Christmas Party E.H.- 12-5p
20	21 First Aid Class E.H.- 9a	22	23	24 CLOSED!	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 CLOSED!		

December 1998



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 13
1-2:30 PM**

**BROOKSIDE
LEARNING CENTER
LEWIS CASS ISD
61682 DAILEY RD
(6 MILES SOUTH OF
SMC CAMPUS)**

**PARENTS ARE ASKED TO
STAY WITH CHILDREN
DURING THE PARTY AND
SHARE IN THE HOLIDAY
FUN!**

**NEED DIRECTIONS?
ANY QUESTIONS?
CALL MARIE WILLIS AT
1-888-330-1234**

**SPECIAL GUEST
APPEARANCE!**



EDUCATION



Porky Hair Roach for Male Dancers

For those who may have some interest in making a porky roach over the winter, please call 1-888-330-1234 or 616-782-0887 and ask for John Warren or leave a message with Lucinda if one is interested in participating. To order materials the Pokagon Cultural Department needs to know the number of individuals committed in completing this Project.

Flutes

Pokagon Band Cultural Department is planning its Mid-Winter activities and needs to know the interest level in making cedar flutes. Please call 1-888-330-1234 or 616-782-0887 and ask for John Warren or Lucinda, and indicate your interest.

Talking Circles

If one is interested in Participating in some talking circles, please call the Education Department at 1-888-330-1234 or 616-782-0887 and ask for John Warren or leave a message. Talking circles are a good way to communicate and receive Aneshanabe teachings.

*Submitted by,
John Warren*



HEAD START



The Inter-Tribal Council recently received a new grant for Head Start. We are pleased to announce the Pokagon Band will now provide Head Start services to the tribe. We, as a group, consist of a Site Supervisor and four Head Start Home Visitors.

Bozho, my name is Heather Lufkins. I am the Site Supervisor for Inter-Tribal Council. I am from the Bay Mills Indian community. I moved here with my three-year old daughter Madelyn. I have been working for the tribal communities for the past eight years. Inter-Tribal Council provides Head Start services to Hannahville, Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay, Lac Vieux Desert, and Little Traverse Bay Band. I am looking forward to providing services to the Pokagon Band community. Please feel free to contact me anytime, if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach me at the Administrative Office or call me at 1-800-517-0777. I can also be reached at (616)341-2837. Please send the resumes for the two job postings to the Administration Office, P.O. Box 180, Dowagiac, MI 49047.

Bozho, My name is Jennifer Gann Barker. I am one of the four new Head Start Home Visitors for the Pokagon Band. I am looking forward to working with the community and family members to build stronger families and ensure a quality foundation for our children. I feel that it is my job and the job of the whole community to support the development of our children. I have a strong background in education. I am a mother of two and a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. I am very excited about this new program. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 1-888-565-2094. Just enter your number, and I'd be happy to return your call.

Bozho, my name is Andrea (Andy Mollett) Jackson. I was hired by the Inter-Tribal Council to be a Head Start Home Visitor. My job will be to help the parents and children from the ages of infant to three. This is all very exciting for me because I think our young people are our future and need to be educated to the fullest extent. Helping our children is very important to me. I have two daughters of my own, Alicia is 16 and Abbie is 11. I've been married to my husband Michael for almost 14 years, so family means a lot to me. I do hope if you have young children, we will be hearing from you soon. My pager number is 1-888-678-2132.

Bozho, my name is Melissa Vanlandingham. I am one of the four newly hired Head Start Home Visitors for the Pokagon Band. I am looking forward to working with the children in our tribe. I will be working primarily with children ages three to five. I believe this is going to be a very beneficial program to our tribe, and as we all know, our children are our future. If you have or know of children from infancy to five, please feel free to give me a call. My work number is 1-800-517-0777, or you can page me at 1-888-609-3862. I will be more than happy to return your call.

Bozho and good day. My name is Senica Cotman. I am one of the four newly hired Head Start Home Visitors for the Pokagon Band. I am very excited about working with the families in the tribe. I personally will be working with infants to children three years of age. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 1-800-517-0777, or page me at 1-888-520-0036.

TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS

PLEASE BE ADVISED TRIBAL COUNCIL PASSED A RESOLUTION STATING THERE WILL NOT BE A FEE CHARGED FOR LEGAL NAME CHANGES, OR STOLEN, WITH PROOF OF POLICE REPORT. ALL OTHER INSTANCES A CHARGE OF \$5.00 WILL BE LEVIED, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 8, 1998.



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AVAILABLE

There are still fire extinguishers available. Any household who is in need of a fire extinguisher is eligible to receive one. Please come in or contact the Social Services Department at 901 Spruce St., Dowagiac, MI 49047. Call (616) 782-8998 or 800-517-0777.

CAR SEATS ARE HERE

The car seats are here! If you are interested in getting one, please call Becky Price at the Health Office.



(616) 782-4141
888-440-1234



CLEANING BIDS

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians is accepting bids for the contractual cleaning

contract of its offices and Elders Hall.

Sealed bids shall be accepted until

January 15, 1999.

For detailed information, contact Kelly Curran at

**(616) 782-8998
1-800-517-0777.**

ATTENTION MEMBERSHIP

Due to a request put forth at the November 14, 1998 Tribal Council Meeting for a recall election, the Pokagon Band Election Committee will hold a meeting at Elders Hall on

**Friday, December 11, 1998
at 5:30 p.m.**

to discuss procedures for this process. If you are interested and wish to attend, please come to this meeting.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR AN ELDER

To Work In Daycare

Please call Linda Mangus if you are interested.

**(616) 782-8998
or
1-800-517-0777**

POKAGON ELDERS REPORT

POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS ELDERS COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING OCTOBER 1, 1998 - 11:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order by Gerald Wesaw at 11:23 A.M.
Invocation given by Clarence White

Roll Call

Present: Gerald Wesaw, Marge Moody, Clarence White, Mary Jo Morris, Mary Church, Rachel (Rae) Daugherty

Additions to agenda: Appeals Board

Marge Moody moved to approve the agenda-of October 1, 1998. Mary Church seconded the motion. All in favor "aye", opposed 0. MOTION CARRIED
Marge Moody moved to approve the minutes of September 3, 1998.

Rachel Daugherty seconded the motion. All in favor "aye", opposed 0. MOTION CARRIED

Gerald stated that Carlos Nakai, flute player will be at MSU, Lansing, MI on November 15th. Tickets are \$20.00 each.

Resolution for MIEA Conference October 5-8 in Sault Ste. Marie. Resolution #98-025, dated September 28, 1998, made by: Rachel Daugherty, seconded by Mary Church.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Elders Council send our MIEA Treasurer Clarence White; Officer-at-large Joe Winchester; Delegate Mary Church; Alternate Gerald Wesaw; Secretary of MIEA Committee, Marge Moody; and MIEA Committee Members John Wesaw, Jr. and Rachel Daugherty to the MIEA Conference in Sault Ste. Marie, MI on October 5-8, 1998. Elder Members attending are Bonnie Parrish and Fred Klemm. All expenses to be paid out of the Elders General Fund plus a GSA vehicle and Transporter, Larry White.

All in favor: 6 Opposed: 0 RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Gerald opened the nominations for the two-year term for two (2) MIEA Delegates and one (1) MIEA Alternate.

Joe Winchester nominated Henry White (accepted).
Gerald Wesaw nominated Fred Klemm (accepted).

11

Rachel Daugherty nominated Bonnie Parrish (accepted)
Mary Jo Morris nominated Marge Moody (accepted)
Rachel Daugherty nominated Gerald Wesaw (declined)
Pat Klemm nominated Ann Zimmerman (accepted)
John Wesaw, Jr. nominated Joe Winchester (accepted)
Joe Winchester nominated John Wesaw, Jr. (accepted).
Gerald then closed the nominations.

Rae Daugherty stated that nominations are being taken for the Michigan State Advisory Council on Aging. Application deadline is January 8, 1999.

Rae and Marge gave their reports on the National Indian Council on Aging Conference in North Dakota on August 22-25th. Some workshops attended were Elders abuse, Elder Housing and HUD programs for Elders. In two years their Conference will be held in Duluth, MN at the Fond Du Lac Reservation.

Clarence gave a report on the Trail of Death caravan trip that took place on September 21st. The Elders and the caravan met at Chief Menominee's statue south of Plymouth. They visited about five sites.

Gerald stated that Tribal Council is asking for Elders to be on the Housing Committee. Their next meeting is October 7, 6:00 p.m. at Elders Hall.

Marge talked to Membership about having a dress-up Halloween party on October 15th; our regular social luncheon date. We will have prizes and bingo.

Membership agreed to invite staff to our Thanksgiving luncheon November 15, 1998. We'll have a sign up sheet at our next Business meeting November 5th.

Membership agreed to invite the Huron Elders to our Christmas luncheon December 17th. Also a \$5.00 gift exchange.

Announcements:

Leave for MIEA Conference October 5th. 7:00A.M. Dowagiac Train Depot.

Next Elders Council Business Meeting November 5, 1998, 11:00A.M. E.H.

Gerald adjourned the meeting at 1:07 P.M.

*Mary Jo Morris
Elders Council Secretary*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Action Plan Update

The Community Development Department continues to work on a five-year Strategic Action Plan being funded by ANA. As of November 20, volunteers for the SAPC from the following groups have come forward:

Membership - Christopher Ballew, Pat Klemm, Judy Winchester, Miriam Weyant
 Youth Council - Loretta Edwards, Alicia Jackson, Rebecca Morris
 Traditions/Repatriation - Frank Barker, Dan Rapp, John P. Warren
 Pokagon Band Staff - Stephanie Ballew, Christine Daugherty, Loraine Gideon, Jeffery Riley, Maureen Shagonaby
 Tribal Council - none
 Elder's Council - none

These names were submitted to the Tribal Council for approval for the November 3rd special Council meeting. The meeting on November 3 was cancelled, causing the cancellation of the SAPC meeting on November 4th, and the six townhall meetings planned for November. A resolution to approve the SAPC was tabled by the Tribal Council at their meetings on November 14 & 15. The resolution was not dealt with at the Tribal Council meeting on November 18 due to the lack of a quorum. The resolution is scheduled to be taken up at the next Council meeting on November 24.

Due to the delays we've experienced, the Community Development Department has agreed to ask ANA for a three-month extension on the grant completion due date. This will give us until July 1st to complete the process. The next SAPC meeting is scheduled for December 2, at 7:00 p.m. at Elders Hall.

On October 29, a letter was sent to all program Directors and Coordinators requesting that they identify the programs and services that their departments provide the Band including direct services to Membership and support services for Staff. Fifteen letters were sent out with a response deadline of November 13th. Four responses were received as of November 20th.

The department met with Floyd Gallegos on November 19. Mr. Gallegos will be contracted to monitor and review our SAP process for ANA. We discussed the work we have done so far, and our need to promote

the SAP process to gain the support of the Tribal Council and the Pokagon Staff.

Any suggestions or comments on the SAP process should be forwarded to David Alexis or Thomas Morris at the Community Development office on Riverside Drive, Dowagiac or call us at (888) 782-1001 from 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

*Submitted by
 Tom Morris*

LIHEAP NOTICE

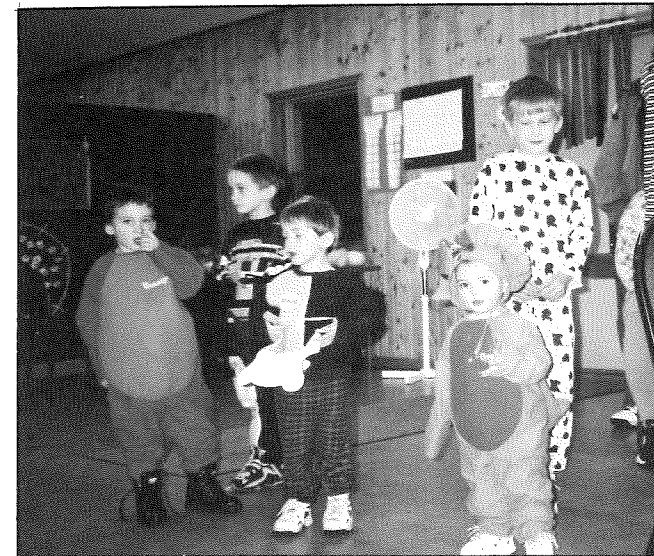
It's that time of year when the cold is setting in and the heating bills are adding up. The tribe has not yet received the funding for energy assistance program, but we anticipate funding sometime in November. It is never too early to get your applications. The eligibility is based on income. People who live in subsidized housing or are on ADC are not eligible for LIHEAP. We are taking applications in preparation of getting the funding.

STAFF NEWS

The Pokagon Band staff meeting is scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month. The offices will be closed down for the time period. This month we will be out from 12-2 p.m. on December 15, 1998.

GRIEVANCES

If you have any grievances you would like to present, please send them to Maureen Shagonaby at P.O. Box 180, Dowagiac, MI 49047 or call her at (616) 782-8998 or 800-517-0777.



Little Pokagon Ghosts and Goblins and Barneys visit Elders Hall



Even the Grim Reaper has to eat sometimes.



ADMINISTRATION REPAIR & RENOVATION SOCIAL SERVICE/JTPA

P.O. Box 180
 901 Spruce St.
 Dowagiac, MI 49047
 (616) 782-8998
 1-800-517-0777
 FAX (616) 782-6882
 FAX: (616) 782-6027 (Soc. Services)

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

210 Front St.
 Dowagiac, MI 49047
 (616) 782-4141
 1-888-440-1234
 FAX (616) 782-8797

EDUCATION

P.O. Box 180
 Dowagiac, MI 49047
 (616) 782-0887
 1-888-330-1234
 FAX (616) 782-0985

ENROLLMENT

104 N. Riverside
 Dowagiac, MI 49047
 (616) 782-1763
 1-888-782-1001
 FAX (616) 782-1964

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

P.O. Box 180
 714 N. Front St.
 Dowagiac, MI 49047
 (616) 782-1142
 FAX (616) 782-1653

FOOD COMMODITY

52366 M-51 North
 Dowagiac, MI 49047
 (616) 782-3372
 1-888-281-1111
 FAX (616) 782-7814

ELDERS HALL

P.O. Box 180
 Dowagiac, MI 49047
 (616) 782-6323
 FAX (616) 782-9625

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kearston J. Taylor
December 25

&

Charles Moses Baker and Grandpa
December 26

May the Creator bless y'all many more moons to come.

Love, your family

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Karen Spicher
December 17

Tim Heffington
December 19

Cindy Barnhouse
December 23

Marcia Brown
December 24

Love, Mom

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Amanda Spicher
December 26

Love, Grandma

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Carol Martin
December 5

Johnny Parker
December 9

Dawn Parker
December 21

Love, Aunt Stella

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

John Hoekstra
December 31

Love, your family

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jennifer Winchester
December 25

Love, Susie and Sarah

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lisa Swieczkowski
December 31

From, Mom, Tracy and Michelle

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

Taylor Falk-November 17
Love, your family

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

Danielle RayAnn Rapp
November 11

Love, your family

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

Grandma Rapp
November 20

Love, your family

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

Megan Heffington-November 12
Keshia Woodard-November 5

Michaela Woodard-November 28

Love, Grandma

HAPPY BELATED SWEET "16" BIRTHDAY

Maggie Parrish

Love Grandma and Grandpa

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

Mark Parrish

Love, Mom and Dad

CONGRATULATIONS JUDY WINCHESTER!

On The Director's Choice Award
Employee of the Year at
Van Buren County FIA!

DECEMBER 18, 1998 DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Please submit the newsletter articles to
Maureen Shagonaby
P.O. Box 180

Dowagiac, MI 49047

FAX (616) 782-6882

Please submit bithdays to appear on the
birthday calendar by the 18th.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 SUSAN BEAVERS	2 MICHELE CURRAN JOHN POKAGON	3 TERRY DAISY	4 KAREN TILLMAN TRACY WESAW	5 CAROL MARTIN
6 ROBERT A. SER II	7 ANITA MARGIOTTA	8	9 JOHNNY PARKER	10 BECKY KIRST	11 GREG BALLEW	12 PHILIP BROWN
13 MARGE MOODY	14 LEE WATTLES	15	16 FRANCES DOSTAL DANIEL RAPP	17 KAREN SPICHER	18 LARRY WHITE	19 CARLY MADDOX TIM HEFFINGTON
20 CAROL LEWIS	21 DAWN PARKER	22 KEVIN DAUGHERTY	23 CINDY BARNHOUSE	24 BRANDY GENEREAUX MARCIA BROWN ADAM KIRST	25 JENNIFER WINCHESTER BOBBY DRAKE	26 AMANDA SPICHER MICHAEL NEWCOMBER
27 DEBRA MOSIER	28	29	30 MIRIAM WEYANT	31 JOHN HOEKSTRA LISA SWIECZKOWSKI ERNIE DAISY		