

# POKÉGNEK YAJDANAWA

*"The Pokagons Tell It"*



Vol. IV, No. V

May, 1999



## RELEASE OF RED TAIL HAWK

A red tailed hawk released into the wilderness did so with the help of some Pokagon Band members. Tribal Elder Clarence White and Cultural Coordinator John Warren assisted with the release of a red tailed hawk on Thursday, March 25, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. The release took place in a field across the street from the Elders Hall on Townhall Road in Dowagiac. About 40 members watched as the bird took flight. He landed in a tree across the street.

The bird is an immature hawk that was dumped at veterinarian clinic. Because there was no information left with it, it could be released anywhere.

Clarence White conducted a small ceremony before the bird's release. Chuck Mehney, Kalamazoo veterinarian brought the bird to be released. Mehney has been active in the attempt to clean up the Kalamazoo River. The river is contaminated with up to 400,000 lbs. of PCB over an 80-mile stretch. Environmentalists and

scientists are requesting clean-up solutions to preserve the wildlife.

The other option is fining companies who dump waste into the river. However, scientists worry that will not actually solve the problems of cleaning the areas. If they remain contaminated, the wildlife in the area will continue to die.



## COUNCIL CORNER

Hello Everyone,

Tribal Council would like to welcome Ralene Butler as our new Executive Director. Ralene officially started on April 12, 1999. We are confident Ralene will give us just the boost we need to positively affect the daily operations of our administration. Ralene has already begun to work with council from a visionary approach. She sees endless opportunities for our Tribe. We anticipate great things working with Ralene. Now don't forget, you have a part in this too. Please come to Tribal meetings, write us or give us a call. We need input from as many Tribal members as possible. We need to know your thoughts, theories and vision. We also need support letting us know we are working for the good of all Tribal members, and when we're not, we need to know that, too. If we stand together as a nation, we stay that way, strong, unified and unbeatable. That is why it is so important for us to know your thoughts. We must work together to remain a Sovereign Nation. Ralene has experience with Indian Nations and knows just what it takes for sustainable growth. Council feels we have made the right choice for the Executive Director. Good luck and welcome aboard, Ralene.

*Submitted by,  
John Miller  
Tribal Chairman*

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MAY 8, 1999

Agenda Topic:  
Gaming partner selection

Southwest Michigan College Theater  
10:00 a.m.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes Impact Week took place in Washington D.C. the week of April 11-15. John Miller and Maureen Shagonaby attended to represent the Pokagon Band. There were 19 tribes from Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota in attendance.

As always, we are reminded of the great importance of a presence in the national Indian efforts. Sovereignty is a concept the many people struggled to understand. That includes members of Congress. This is a fact that should scare members of any tribe across the country.

In the commerce clause of the Constitution, Indian tribes are recognized as one the three sovereigns. The foreign nations, and the several states, and the Indian tribes are all singled out as sovereigns. That allows for the government to government relationship that tribes enjoy with the United States.

However, Congress has the power to diminish that sovereign, and they have tried during the past few years. While much of the focus is currently on the gaming tribes, it does not lessen the need for our tribe to become involved. We must remain vigilant about issues in Washington D.C.

It also showed the real benefit of having a full time chairman. The government to government relationship is one of the most important aspects of sovereignty. It lends real credibility to any meeting when the chairman is on hand to represent a tribe.

This year M.A.S.T. had a goal to visit Midwestern senators and representatives from states with no reservation tribes. Our attempt was to educate lawmakers briefly on tribal government. It is helpful, because we hope it encourages them to think about Indians as they see anti-Indian legislation come through. The 105<sup>th</sup>, 106<sup>th</sup> and 107<sup>th</sup> Congress have attempted to pass legislation that severely limits sovereignty.

Our representatives were part of a team that won the "Doorknocker Award". This award was given to the group that visited the most members of Congress.

One of the tougher visits was to Congressman Roemer's office. Our relationship with the Congressman has improved. This visit proved just how far we have come. Not only were we warmly welcomed; we spent some time with the Congressman. We did have to answer to the allegations of financial impropriety that appeared in the South Bend Tribune during the past three months. It was a reminder that we are always being watched.

It was a successful trip, and it is our hope the tribe will become more involved with the national issues.

## TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

### POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 25, 1999

**RESOLUTION #1** made by Greg Ballew and 2nd by Wayne Holleman.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council appoints Tom Wesaw, Jr., as Acting Treasurer until the July, 1999 election.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 7 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 1 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #2** made by Wayne Holleman and 2nd by Mary Church

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council supports Executive Committee decision to release Mike Wesaw early from his resignation.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 7 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 2 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #3** made by Kevin Daugherty and 2nd by Wayne Holleman.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council approves the submission of the Tribal Management Grant for \$77,750.00 to the National Indian Health Services on behalf of the Pokagon Band Health Services Department. The grant will enable staff to further develop their management structure by implementing new or modified policy and procedure manuals for existing and proposed services. Once complete, the department will have increased the level and quality of services to the membership, maximized reimbursements to the tribe for services tendered, and will meet all federal and state compliance standards.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 9 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #4** made by Kevin Daugherty and 2nd by Wayne Holleman.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council approves the submission of the continuation application for the second year of funding for the Diabetes Program. The grant amount for 1999-2000 is \$38,680.00.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 9 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #5** made by Greg Ballew and Tom Wesaw.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council agrees to move the Request for Proposal deadline from April 5 to April 19. All investors receiving RFP's will be notified.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 9 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #6** made by Kevin Daugherty and 2nd by Wayne Holleman.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council accepts the Housing Plan for July, 1999 submitted by the Interim Housing Manager, prepared by the former Housing Director and as reviewed by Housing Committee.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 9 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #7** made by Kevin Daugherty and 2nd by Maxine Margiotta.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council accepts the Amended Emergency Rental Payment policy as presented by the Interim Housing Manager on 3/25/99.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 9 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #8** made by Kevin Daugherty and 2nd by Wayne Holleman.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council approves for the Interim Housing Manager to seek out three bids and to use the lowest bid for the alarm system at the house on the Gage Street property.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 9 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #9** made by Kevin Daugherty and 2nd by Wayne Holleman.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council approves for the Interim Housing Manager to get three bids and use the lowest bid to have the Gage Street property surveyed.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 9 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #10** made by Kevin Daugherty and 2nd by Mary Church.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council agrees to send Yvonne Boehm to a Fitness Instructor Workshop for American Indians to be held in Stillwater, Oklahoma from April 26-30, 1999. Costs include per diem, hotel registration and airfare totaling approximately \$1,200.00.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 9 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #11** made by Greg Ballew and 2nd by Tom Wesaw

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council establishes the wage and salary commission. The commission shall have five (5) members total. No Tribal employee shall be a commission member. No commission member shall be a candidate for Tribal Council for the July, 1999 Council election.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 4 OPPOSED: 5 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 FAILED.**

**RESOLUTION #12** made by Kevin Daugherty and 2nd by Ernie Daisy.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council establishes the wage and salary commission. The commission shall have five (5) members total. No Tribal employee shall be a commission member. No commission member shall be a candidate for Tribal Council for the July, 1999 Council election. The commission is directed to get three (3) bids for an outside consultant on setting salaries for Tribal Council. The commission shall accept one of the bids and work with the consultants.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 9 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #13** made by Kevin Daugherty and Shannon Hiler.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council appoints Jeannie Mollett, Julie Stauffer, John Wesaw, and Gerald Wesaw to the Salary Commission pending their declaration on whether they are running for tribal Council in July, 1999.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 9 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #14** made by Greg Ballew and 2nd by Tom Wesaw.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council agrees to release Tribal minutes for publication except for any confidential issues deemed sensitive.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 8 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 1 CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION #15** made by Kevin Daugherty and 2nd by Wayne Holleman.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Tribal Council authorizes the Education Department to spend \$800.00 to upgrade the computers in the computer lab.

**ALL IN FAVOR: 8 OPPOSED: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0 CARRIED.**

If you would like a complete set of the minutes, please contact Kelly Curran.

**Elders Hall  
P.O. Box 180  
Dowagiac, MI 49047  
(616) 782-6323**

## POKAGON HEALTH NEWS

May 17-21, 1999—In-Service and Inventory Week for Health Services, Social Services-outreach and Substance Abuse.

During the week of May 17-21, the Health Services, Social Services Outreach and Substance Abuse staff will be in training to update skills or writing program reports. Walk-ins will be discouraged that week. In-coming phone calls will be routed to staff who will take messages.

Some services will not be interrupted that week. Contract Health Services, transports and substance abuse intensive outpatient and limited community health nursing will be staffed throughout the week.

### 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.

### HEALTH NEWS FROM INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL

#### HEALTHY HEART PROGRAM INITIATES IN GRAND RAPIDS

BY JEAN JOHNS AND JOHN ALDRED

Diabetes and heart disease are so common that many Native Americans accept them as a fact of life. However, with more and more Native Americans dying from their long-term complications, this attitude must change. The purpose of the Mmin-nuh-gah-dah Healthy Heart Program is to establish early screening for diabetes and heart disease.

My name is Jean Johns, and I am the new Health Educator for the program. I'm an enrolled member of the Keweenaw Bay Tribe of Michigan. I received my

health education degree from Northern Michigan University in 1993 and have worked as a Health Educator in various community health settings. My most recent position was coordinator for the Wisconsin Women's Cancer Control Program.

I have two daughters, Amy and Susan. I also have two grandchildren, Ashley, who is six years old and Michael, who is two years old.

As the Health Educator, my goal is to reduce cardiovascular disease and diabetes by providing early screening and treatment for Native Americans in Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa counties. Early screening and treatment are important aspects of preventing and treating both diseases. They are prevalent in the Native population.

Aanii, JOHN ALDRED n'dish-nikaaz, the new Health Promotion Disease Prevention Specialist for the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. I am part of the Healthy Heart Program designed to screen Native Americans for diabetes and heart disease. We also refer them to health care services sensitive to cultural traditions of Native Americans, thus making these services user friendly. I intend to teach people about ways to prevent any disease state from happening. It's not just a program about heart disease and diabetes, but about how we, individually, view our surroundings. In future articles, I will address this topic.

I am from the Loonsfoot Clan, residing on the land reserve called Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. I received my formal education and experience from Central Michigan University, majoring in Health & Fitness: *Prevention and Rehabilitation*. For four years, Mt. Pleasant was my home, as well as the home for CMU and the Saginaw Indian Chippewa Tribe. During my school years, I had the opportunity to meet a variety of interesting and intelligent Anishnabeg. From their teachings, I gained a better perception of reality. I have them to thank for expanding my understanding and vision of the Creator's plan for the universe.

So here I am, with you, in this community, waiting to share my ideals and visions, and to learn and to expand my understanding of life. Chi-migwetch, ahead of time for the teaching you have to offer me. Together, we will learn, we will teach, and we will grow. *Baamaapii!*

If you are interested in learning more about the Mmin-nuh-gah-dah Healthy Heart Program, please call the Indian Family Resources and Native American Prevention Services at (616) 458-1641. Our office is located at 615 Turner Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development staff would like to welcome our new Executive Director, Ralene Butler, to the Pokagon Band. She has hit the ground running, not only meeting with people individually, but meeting with each department. One of her goals is to put the departments on track with the strategic planning that is currently being undertaken by the Strategic Action Planning Committee (SAPC). Each department will meet weekly goals and will be developing their long-range plans for programming. This is a positive step forward and seems to be well received. I welcome it.

Corey Price received notice that the Rural Development proposal that he submitted was funded. This will give Housing \$30,000 to do renovation and repairs. Kevin Daugherty has completed the EPA-General Assistance Program proposal that will enable us to hire an Environmental Coordinator to work on the Band's environmental goals. The first year funding will be approximately \$74,514. This is a four-year project and will be funded on a yearly basis for a total of \$300,000.

I submitted two projects on behalf of the Indian Health Service. The Tribal Management Grant, if funded, the \$77,750 will be used to build capacity within the department and to provide policy and procedure manuals for all existing amid. Notification of funding will be in early July. The second year or continuation application for the Diabetes Project was also submitted. The total for the remaining months of this year and for the project year of June, 1999-May, 2000, is \$75,025. Staff will continue to contact each family within the service area for random blood testing to work more closely with members who suffer from diabetes. This is a five-year project.

Tom Morris and the SAPC have done an excellent job on the draft of the mission statement for the Band. They will now convene town hall meetings to get input from the community on the statement and on what the immediate and long-range goals for the Band should be.

Once this is accomplished, the entire membership will receive a survey; the results should enable the Committee to accurately identify priorities and to formulate these goals. The completed document will be sent to all tribal members so that you understand what tasks will be undertaken in the next few years.

First Nations Development Institute awarded the Band \$7,500 to provide food baskets to those who have a need. As part of the contract, the Band must match this amount. When the appropriate approvals are given, there will also be an effort made to provide baby formula and baby foods in some of the family baskets. Watch for notices about the project start-up.

If you have any questions, please call the Community Development Department at (616) 782-0160 or 800-658-9414.

*Submitted by,  
Jo Ellen Leith*

## HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Housing Department is Currently taking applications for:

1. General membership for low rental units.
2. Elders low rental units.
3. Home Ownership mutual help
4. Emergency Rent payment program.
5. Emergency Housing program
6. Repairs & Renovation program

The low rental and home ownership applications are being taken at this time to comply with the performance objectives in the one-year plan. This will start our waiting list for eligible members for the different types of housing that will be available. As with all programs that are funded by the Federal Government, there is certain eligibility.

The Emergency Rent program is available to members in the 10-county service area. It is to help mem-

bers with their rent or mortgage payments after all other resources are used up. You must be a member or legal representative of a Pokagon child to receive assistance. You must also be on the rental or mortgage agreement to receive assistance. Single people are not eligible unless (Exception: Elderly or Handicapped may be single). There is other eligibility criteria also.

The Emergency Housing program is for members who are or will be homeless. This program is designed to give the member six months to live in a clean and decent home. Also, you can look for work. That way you can save enough money up so at the end of six months, you can get your own place. There are six trailers for this program and they are set up in Mishawaka, IN. Currently, there are four families living in them. When they are full, we will set up a waiting list.

The Repair and Renovation program is for members who live in the 10-county service area. The member must own their home and provide proof of ownership with a copy of the deed.

For any members who had work done on your home last year and are still waiting for more renovations, you must send in your current household income information. This will be a copy of a W-2 for 1998 or a copy of your 1040 tax return. This is all we need before any work will be done on your home for 1999. This is a compliance issue for BIA, and NAHASDA funds.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call. I can also give you advice on how you might fix something yourself. Or just stop by and talk about what you think might be needed to run this program better. Or just to talk about what ideas you have for the housing projects for the land. I'm always open to ideas.

*Keith White  
Interim Housing Manager*

### REPAIRS AND RENOVATION

**For those who qualify for any of the funding for repair and renovation there are some restrictions. There is a cap of \$35,000 per home. You may not get all of the funding at once. The funding is spent according to the availability, and the number of members on the waiting list. It may take a year or two to get your priority list done. Please call Keith White if you have questions or concerns.**

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

## GATHERING COMMITTEE

#### GATHERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Gathering committee has accomplished many things in the short time they have been meeting. We will have a portable kitchen which seems well equipped with everything the cooks need to make the many meals they will be preparing for the big event. If anyone is willing to lend a hand with the cooking, please contact Jeannie Mollett (616) 463-5355 or Georgiana Morseau (616) 468-3635.

The flyer has been approved by council to be put on the Internet with information about the gathering. The Committee has been getting calls from members willing to donate crafts for the gathering giveaway. We greatly appreciate all efforts to help with the giveaway. If anyone else is willing to donate crafts, please contact one of the Committee members at the phone numbers listed below.

**Thank you** so much, Elders for your willingness to put together our welcome packets. We will be putting all of you to work as soon as we get the materials for the packets. Also thanks for giving us your time to help with welcoming the many families when they arrive.

Indian Health Services, Mark Topash, along with Mark Wilson, who is a Pokagon member, will be providing First Aid Services. Throughout the time of the gathering, contact Mark with any health needs or concerns at Indian Health Services (616) 782-4141. We are in dire need of lifeguards. If there is anyone who is a certified lifeguard and willing to lend a hand, please have them contact one of the people below.

Activities planned for the children are coming along well, but we still have some things that have to be worked out. The Gage Road property is now in the process of being cleaned up for the gathering. So weather permitting, we will have our meetings on the first and third Sunday of the month at the Gage Road property. If the weather is bad, we will meet at Elders Hall.

We will continue to keep you informed through the monthly newsletter. The Gathering is one event you



and your family will not want to miss. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend July 29 through August 1, 1999. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please feel free to contact one of the people below.

Marie J. Manley 219-288-4345  
Valeria Baker 616-463-3669  
Lucinda Graverette-Smith 616-424-6117

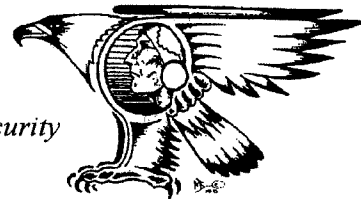
*Submitted by,  
Marie J. Manley  
Gathering Committee Chairperson*

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To All Members of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians:

We are hosting this year's Potawatomi Gathering on Pokagon land. It will take place at the Gage St. property. It is located northeast of Dowagiac. We are asking any and all members who are interested in helping to contact us. We are in need of big men to keep order. We also need a helping hand with the land committee and other. You can sign up at the Education office. We need all Pokagons to come together and keep the fire burning.

*Submitted by,  
Elaine Starrett  
Co-Chairperson of Security*



### Hear ye! Hear ye!

To all aspiring Anishnabe artists. The contest is on. We would like for all "Artists" to submit graphics for our Gathering of Potawatomi Nation's t-shirt. This graphic will be chosen for its simplicity. We would like to see the graphics in a "Woodland style theme with four colors to be used."

All entries must be received by May 15, 1999, in order for us to submit the print to the t-shirt company. We want the shirts printed by the end of May. Please send your graphic to:

Valeria Baker  
C/O Lucinda Graverette-Smith  
Education Department  
P.O. Box 180  
Dowagiac, MI 49047

A prize will be awarded to the person whose entry is chosen.

Thanks,  
Gathering Committee

## 19TH ANNUAL RUSH LAKE INDIAN CEMETARY MEMORIAL DAY LITURGY

May 31, 1999

1:30 p.m.

*Potluck will follow after the mass  
Three Miles Northwest of Hartford*

For Info, Call Art Morsaw  
(616) 621-3371

## TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1999 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.



## HEAD START UPDATE



Boozhoo from the head start program,

Our little ones had a wonderful time during Zisbakdoné-gizes. We were able to learn about the sugaring moon. As always, the children enjoyed singing, dancing and learning with the cultural and language departments. We explored the changes with spring as the Earth renews itself. We tasted Nenteg (maple) sap, syrup, and sugar. We also learned how it was given as a gift to the People.

Which goes something like this: A long time ago, there was an old couple. They had a little boy, which might have been their grandson. Anyway, during that time the Earth was drying up. Water was hard to find and food was getting scarce. People were getting sick. This couple decided to take their boy into the woods and try to find some water and food because he was starting to get weak and sickly. They looked and they looked but they were unable to find anything. The man told his wife that he was getting worried because their boy was getting weaker. The woman replied that she was frightened that he might die. Neither of them was concerned about themselves if they could just find a little something for the boy. The couple were very sad and in despair when a tree spoke to them. The tree told the couple that he had overheard their conversation and was moved by the couple's great love for their child. He told the couple that if they brought the boy near to him, the tree would give the boy something to drink. So, the couple brought their child to the tree. The tree began to seep a liquid; it was liquid nourishment. It leaked sap for the boy to drink. The boy drank and began to get better. Then the tree told the elderly couple that they could also drink from him. After the couple regained their strength, the tree told them to share what they have been given with all the People. The People were able to live thorough this time of hardship. Nenteg means *man tree* because he is the most human like in giving and strength, and life.

**April was also the beginning of our parent committee.**

Next month, Dé'men-gizes (strawberry moon

month) we will focus on exploring the outdoors, strawberries, and the further development of the seasons. If anyone knows the strawberry dance, has stories about strawberries, songs, or further suggestions on activities, please contact us. We are always looking for resources and are open to input from the community.

Lastly, the annual Head Start pow wow in Keweenaw Bay is coming up on Saturday, May 8. Each tribe involved with ITC's head start program is encouraged to participate. We need donated items for a giveaway. Parties interested in donating items may drop off their gift at our office in the administration building or during our center day at Elders Hall. We hope to have a good showing, as this will be our first time in attendance representing the Pokagon Band.

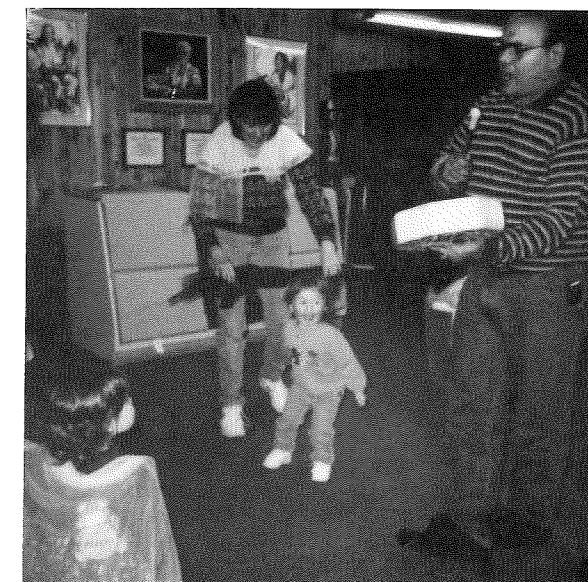
### Important dates to remember

May 8 Head Start pow wow. We need donated items.

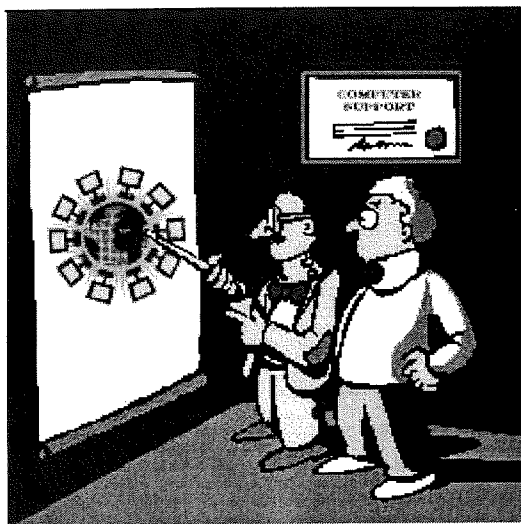
May 14 switch AM to afternoon center day; we will be going to the Women's Traditional Dance Gathering

May 30 Gtegé-gizes (Gardening moon)

*Bamapi,  
Jenn Barker*



Here are our head start children participating in a social dance with parents and community members. From l. to r.: Keith White and daughter Megan; John Warren and granddaughter, Carolina; Andy Jackson and Olivia Bachteal (aka: Punkie).



## **Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians**

### **A Message From Your Pokagon Band Computer Lab Instructor.**

- Robert Willis

# **Need A Computer?**

#### **Computers For Kids**

I would like to ask all Pokagon Band members to help make it possible for every Pokagon family, with children, to have a computer. We can achieve this goal with your support and dedication. This will not be an easy task, but the battle for the education of our children must not be lost. I would like to ask you to join me on Saturday, May 22, for a meeting to discuss how we can achieve this goal. The meeting will be held in the Education Department. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

#### **After-School Computer Lab For Kids**

Children in grades K - 12 have the wonderful opportunity of coming to open-lab after school gets out. The computer lab has games and educational software for children of all ages. The computer lab is located in rear of the Education Department. Please come visit soon!



#### **Pokagon Band Education Department**

901 Spruce Street

Dowagiac, Michigan 49047

Phone: (616) 782-0887 or 1-888-330-1234

Fax (616) 782-0985

Youth Programs: Marie Willis

Language: Frank Barker

Culture: John Warren

Job Training: Tracy Wesaw

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians is looking for someone to do lawn maintenance at the following Dowagiac locations: Food Commodities building at 54964 M-51 North, Elders Hall at 53237 Townhall Road, and one acre at the Gage St. property. Must have own lawn equipment.

Submit bids to:  
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi  
Indians

Attn: Ruth Morsaw

P.O. Box 180

Dowagiac, MI 49047

Deadline is June 1, 1999.

For further information, contact  
Kelly Curran at (616) 782-6323

# **POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS**

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

P.O. Box 180, Dowagiac, MI 49047  
Tx (616) 782-0160 – Fax (616) 782-1028  
Toll Free (800) 658-9414



April 28, 1999

## **Strategic Action Plan Committee**

### **Membership Hearing Notice**

The Strategic Action Plan Committee is providing the Membership updates on the ongoing strategic planning process through six (6) townhall type meetings. The planning process will be outlined and the Committee's proposed Tribal Mission Statement and Tribal priorities will be provided to Tribal Members that attend. Membership opinions, comments, and concerns with the planning process may be expressed at each of the meetings. The meeting dates are:

May 10<sup>th</sup> (Monday) -- 6:00 p.m.  
Benton Harbor Public Library, 213 E. Wall St., Benton Harbor, MI

May 11<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) -- 6:30 p.m.  
Immaculate Conception Church Hall, 63559 60<sup>th</sup> St., Hartford, MI

May 17<sup>th</sup> (Monday) -- 6:30 p.m.  
Northern Indiana Historical Society, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend, IN

May 18<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) -- 6:00 p.m.  
Kalamazoo Public Library, Eastwood Branch, 1112 Gayle St., Kalamazoo, MI

May 22<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday) -- 10:00 a.m.  
Elders Hall, 53237 Townhall Rd., Dowagiac, MI

May 22<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday) -- 3:00 p.m.  
Griswold Auditorium, Hubbard St., Allegan, MI



# Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Basket Co-op 12-4p E.H.
2 Gathering Committee Mtg. 1-6p E.H.	3 Elder's Officers Mtg. 10a-4p E.H. Gerobics 10-11a E.H.	4 Gerobics 10-11a E.H.	5 Chairobics 6-7p E.H.	6 Elder's Council Business Mtg. 10a-4p E.H. Gerobics 10-11a Elder's Luncheon 11a	7	8 General Membership Mtg. Southwestern Michigan College 10a
9 Gathering Committee Mtg. 1-6p E.H.	10 Chairobics 6-7p E.H.	11 Gerobics 10-11a E.H.	12 Chairobics 6-7p E.H.	13 Gerobics 10-11a E.H.	14	15 Tribal Council Mtg. 10a E.H.
16 Gathering Committee Mtg. 1-6p E.H.	17 Chairobics 6-7p E.H.	18 Gerobics 10-11a E.H.	19 Chairobics 6-7p E.H.	20 Elder's Luncheon 10a-3p Gerobics 10-11a E.H.	21 Lead Poisoning Presentation Head Start-E.H.	22 Basket Co-op 12-4p E.H.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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# Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Margaret Mersoreau
2	3 Teka Wilcox Theresa Aloup	4	5	6 Michelle Piper	7 Cecilia Hefington	8 Jill Shagonby
9 Melissa Vanlandingham Michael Lewis	10 Andrea Wesaw	11 Jervany Williams Sharon Shagonby- Wiggins	12 Johnny Miller	13	14 Angela Miller Michael Kasper	15 Candi Anne Wilcox Jackson Little Joe Mursaw Cheri Winchester Mary K. Lewis Ernie Shomaker Ashley Braschler
16 Cory Mersaw Kurti Shagonby Robert Amickel Ashley Braschler	17 Andrew Shepard	18	19 Jimmy Cideon Devery Nelson Mary Watson	20 Michelle Wesaw	21	22 Liz Wesaw
23 Jacqueline Garsow Geri Wesaw Shirley Skiffels Cathy Parlier	24	25 David Scott Rhylic	26	27 Kathy Buckner Lindsey Williams Johnny Wayne Reed	28	29
30 Sonica Coffman Angel Woodard	31 Jordan Williams					

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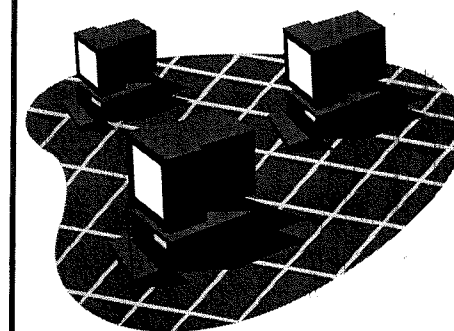
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# Computer Class Schedule



New computer classes will be starting in May. Please be sure to call and sign-up for these classes as soon as you can. We also offer open-lab times for those who wish to use our computers and cannot attend classes at the scheduled times.

Lab Instructor: Robert Willis  
Phone: (616) 782-0887  
Toll Free: 1-888-330-1234  
Fax: (616) 782-0985



## COMPUTERS FOR REAL DUMMIES

**May 17th & 18th, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

- This 2 day class will teach anybody how to start a computer and run programs running under Windows 95. Students will develop a better understand of the computer and how it operates.

## INTERNET FOR NEWBIES

**May 20th & 21st, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

- This class is designed for the computer user who has heard about the Internet, but really hasn't had much experience with it. Students will learn to use Internet browsers to search for information on the Internet. Students will also learn how the Internet can be used for entertainment purposes.

## ADULT EDUCATION NIGHT, OPEN-LAB

Every Wednesday Night, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

This open-lab period is for members who wish to use our FREE G.E.D. software. The G.E.D. software helps learners in reading, math, writing, life and employability skills. You can work at your own pace and feel comfortable knowing that the only students in the lab are individuals just like yourself. We look forward to seeing you soon!

## DAYTIME OPEN-LABS

The Pokagon Band Computer Lab is open EVERYDAY from 2:30 - 5:30. We will be happy to make an appointment for you to use the computer lab during non-lab hours if you request it. Let us know how we can serve you better!

Open-labs are available to any Pokagon Band member or Native American enrolled in any of the Pokagon Band programs. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian when participating in classes or open-labs held after 5:00 o'clock. We have educational software, Internet access, games and more!

The Education Department computer lab provides G.E.D. preparation services for the Pokagon Band membership. We have a software program that can find your trouble spots and teach you the math and reading that you need to pass the G.E.D. exam. The software is also good if you need to brush-up on math or reading before going to college. Call now to get more information about this service. IT'S FREE!!!!!!!



# Bodéwadmí ékyekwet

Potawatomi (Teaching them not to forget)

May 5, 1999 1:00pm-5:00pm

May 6, 1999 6:00pm-9:00pm

Elders Hall 53237 Townhall Rd.

Dowagiac, Michigan 49047

We are honored to be able to bring Jim Thunder, a highly respected Elder from Madison, WI. and a member of the Forest County Potawatomi, to share the teachings of the Bodéwadmí people. Alice Pruitt, daughter of Thunder will share her knowledge about the history of the Bodéwadmí people.

\*\*\*\*\*

May 5, 1999

1:00-2:00PM: Invocation given by Clarence White, introductions, and lunch will be provided by the Pokagon Band Education Department.

2:00-5:00pm: Mr. Thunder will give a talk on language, traditions, spiritual, and historic teachings of the Potawatomi people. Alice Pruitt, will share some of her knowledge of researching history.

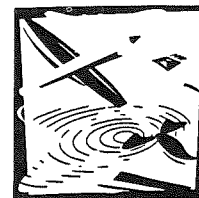
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May 6, 1999

6:00-7:00pm: Invocation given by Clarence White, introductions, and a meal will be provided by the Pokagon Band Education Department.

7:00-9:00pm: Mr. Thunder will give a talk on language, traditions, spiritual, and historic teachings of the Potawatomi. Alice Pruitt, will share her knowledge of researching history.

For more information contact the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Education Department at 1-888-330-1234 or 616-782-0887 and ask for John Warren.



## Pokagon Band Youth Programs



May, 1999

### Open House for Summer Youth Programs

This month, students and their families are invited to come see what the summer holds for the Education Department.

Three opens houses are scheduled. One will be on Wednesday, May 19 at the Education Office in Dowagiac. Two other open houses will be hosted at a South Bend and Hartford location. Anyone interested in the South Bend or Hartford Open Houses should contact Marie Willis for more details.

#### What activities will happen in the summer?

Students are invited to participate in several programs including the youth camp, computer classes, cul-

tural classes, a water study project, and art projects. Also, information will be given about a hoop dance clinic. At the open house, parents can also schedule summer tutoring. Applications will be available for the summer camp and for a summer book reading program. Families will also have a chance to give their input about these programs. Please join us!



**Open House for Summer  
Youth Programs  
Wednesday, May 19  
6-8 pm  
Education Office**

### Keepers of the Fire Youth Council Update

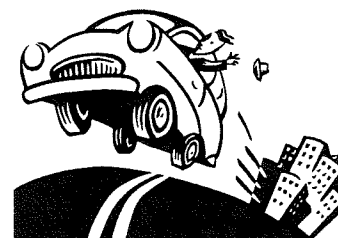
The YOUTH COUNCIL CAR WASH that was scheduled for April 17 has been rescheduled for May 8 because of the bad weather on April 17.

#### Car Wash Location:

Dowagiac McDonald's (back lot)

Saturday, May 8 10:30-4 pm

We will be accepting April 17 car wash tickets. Proceeds will help buy sport supplies for youth activities at the Potawatomi Gathering.



# Summer Programs Available at Several Locations!



The Education Department has information and applications available for the following summer programs:

## **The Seventh Generation Youth Retreat** /University of Michigan

June 20-25  
Grades 9-12  
Program will introduce students to university campus atmosphere and will include such activities as creating web pages and learning how a research library works.  
Application due June 1

## **Dow Jones High School Journalism Workshop for Minorities** /CMU

July 16-25  
Grades 10-12  
For students interested in a writing or a journalism career.  
Applications due May 28

## **Michigan Indian Youth Institute**

Michigan State  
July 18-23  
Grades 6-12  
Program will focus on academic, social, and cultural programs.

## **Anishnabe Future Leaders Conference Camp** Sault Ste.

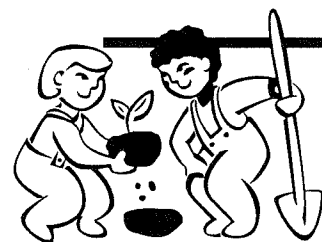
Marie  
July 28-Aug 1  
Ages 13-12th grade  
Activities include talking circles,

ropes courses, warrior games and language workshops.

If you have any questions about these programs, please contact Marie Willis at 1-888-330-1234.



*There's still time to apply for some  
summer college programs.*



## Join us at Medicine Turtle Farm!

Last spring, some of the students started a sweet grass and bergamot garden at the Medicine Turtle Farm in Cassopolis. Both plants are growing well! Come join us and tending these plants. Also, we have just helped plant some trees to make brush shelters for wildlife.

Have you been to the farm yet? Don't think you have a green thumb? Don't worry! Join us in a day of good company and team work. We will be visiting the farm every other week until Fall. If you are interested, contact Marie Willis at 1-888-330-1234. PS- There are animals at the farm too!

## Help Wanted

The Pokagon Band Summer Youth Camps will run from August 1-August 6. We are looking for interested adults who would like to be camp counselors. Applicants must be over 18 and have had experience working with children. A background check will be required for all camp counselors.

Interested? For more information, please contact Marie Willis at the Education Office at 1-888-330-1234 or (616)782-2376

## POKAGON ELDERS REPORT

MINUTES  
APRIL 1, 1999 - 11:00 A.M.

The minutes for the newsletter were unapproved.

Meeting was called to order by Gerald Wesaw at 11:00 A.M.

Invocation was given by Clarence White  
Roll Call

Present: Gerald Wesaw, Marge Moody, Clarence White, Mary Jo Morris, Rachel (Rae) Daugherty  
Absent: Mary Church - excused absence - funeral  
Attendance: 24 Elders 6 Guests

Marge Moody moved to approve the agenda of April 1, 1999.

Clarence White seconded the motion. All in favor "aye", opposed 0; MOTION CARRIED

Rachel Daugherty moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 1999. Marge Moody seconded the motion. All in favor "aye", opposed 0.

MIEA Resolution #99-001, dated March 29, 1999, made by Marge Moody, seconded by Mary Church.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Elders Council send our Treasurer Clarence White; Officer-At-Large, Joe Winchester; Delegate Marge Moody; Alternate Ann Zimmerman, MIEA Committee Members John Wesaw, Jr. and Rachel Daugherty to the MIEA Conference in Watersmeet, MI on April 5-8, 1999. Elder Members attending are Gerald Wesaw, Mary Church, and Henry White. 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 Absent: 0  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Trish Williams gave the health information report in the absence of Becky Price. Becky wants to change the diabetic support group workshop to make it more suitable for us. She is doing this with homebound outreach. There will be a sign up sheet for Elders interested in Adult CPR, Infant CPR, and First Aid Classes, conducted by Mark Topash, R.N. If you have an injury that takes you to the emergency room, IHS has injury forms to be filled out. This helps injury prevention. The

men's health day is May 15, 1999, 10:00-4:00p.m. held at Cass Co. Health Dept., Dowagiac. Trish and Susan Beavers brought examples of eye glass wear. The program can be utilized by members' spouses at a share in cost. Appointments can be arranged by calling Trish Williams or Susan Beavers at the IHS Office. Trish will be attending our Business Meeting May 6th to talk about eye care.

Heather Lufkins, Head Start Supervisor, stated that the Head Start program is coming along real well. They are getting ready to start taking field trips. They will have an annual Head Start Pow Wow at Keweenaw Bay on May 7 & 8. Volunteers are needed for crafts, sewing, field trips, and help planting a garden. There will be a parent orientation April 16th. They need two (2) people from this Band to sit on the Policy Council Committee with Intertribal Tribes. They meet five times a year and Intertribal pays for this.

Butch Wesaw will be the Head Start bus driver. Bobby Linn from commodities and Butch can be hired to drive the bus if the Elders need to use it.

Aging Conference Resolution #99-002, dated March 29, 1999, made by Mary Jo Morris, seconded by Marge Moody.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Elders Council approved the one day Aging Conference held at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI on March 15, 1999. Attendees were Gerald & Evelyn Wesaw, Marge Moody, Mary Jo Morris, Rachel Daugherty and Mary Church. All expenses were paid out of the Elders General Fund. All in Favor: 16 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Critical Issues Conference Resolution #99-003, dated March 29, 1999, made by Marge Moody and seconded by Mary Church.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Elders Council approved sending Marge Moody and Rachel Daugherty to the Critical Issues Conference held in Ann Arbor, MI on March 24-26, 1999. All expenses were paid out of the Elders General Fund. All in favor: 6 Opposed: 0 Absent: 0  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED



Marge Moody made a motion that we accept to hire two people for the luncheon set up/clean up at a flat \$25 fee each. The motion was seconded by Clarence White. A popular vote was taken.

All in favor: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1  
MOTION CARRIED

Gerald asked Membership if we wanted to give something to the Potawatomi Gathering from the Elders.

Marge Moody made a motion that we purchase 500 pens; pay for 500 and get 500 free for the Potawatomi Gathering Giveaway. The motion was seconded by Clarence White. A popular vote was taken.

All in favor: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1  
MOTION CARRIED

Gerald stated that the Rush Lake Singers were host drum for the Red Road Pow Wow. They will here at 11:00 A.M. April 15 to drum and sing for us.

Loretta Brewer was visiting and passed out a questionnaire on Grandparent, child relationship for her Michigan State research

Next Elders Social Luncheon April 15, at 11:00 Elders Hall.

Next Elders Council Business Meeting & Luncheon May 6, 1999 at 11:00 A.M. Elders Hall. Social Luncheon May 20, 1999 11:00 A.M., E.H.

Mary Jo Morris moved to adjourn at 12:17 P.M. Clarence White seconded the motion. All in favor "aye", opposed 0 MOTION CARRIED

*Mary Jo Morris  
Elders Council Secretary*

## ELECTION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

The Election Committee needs two people to serve as alternate Committee persons. If you are interested, send your name, address, and telephone number to:

Election Committee  
P.O. Box 696  
Dowagiac, MI 49047  
Please respond by May 26, 1999

### ADMINISTRATION FINANCE REPAIR & RENOVATION

P.O. Box 180  
901 Spruce St.  
Dowagiac, MI 49047  
(616) 782-8998  
1-800-517-0777

### FAX (616) 782-6882 INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES/ SOCIAL SERVICES

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

### FAX (616) 782-8797 EDUCATION/JTPA

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

#### TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

P.O. Box 180  
53237 Townhall Rd.  
Dowagiac, MI 49047  
(616) 782-6323

### FAX (616) 782-9625

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

P.O. Box 180  
109 Commercial St.  
Dowagiac, MI 49047  
(616) 782-0160  
(800) 658-9414  
FAX (616) 782-1028

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Theresa Shannon Alsup-May 3  
Ashley Nicole Duschaine-May 16

Love you, Auntie

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jim Gideon, Jr.-May 19

Love, your family & Mom

### HAPPY 1st BIRTHDAY

Ronald Dale Heffington, Jr.

From, Grandma

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Beverly Nelson-May 19

Love, your family

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ceaiara Heffington-May 7

Johnny Wayne Reed-May 27

Angel Woodard-May 30

Love, Grandma

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mary Watson-May 19

Ernie Shoemaker-May 15

From Sis Stella

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Michael Kasper-May 14

Love, your family

### HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

Rae Daugherty-March 22

Love, your family

### HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

Christopher Heffington-April 30

Love, Grandma

### HAPPY 39th BIRTHDAY

Carey Lee Morseau

We love you,

Your sister and family

### CONGRATS

Cody Carpenter-Student of the Week at Lincoln Elementary. He is an amazing student and he loves to read.

### CONGRATS

Fabian "Jimmy" Wesaw and Deanna Boyer on the birth of your beautiful angel. Amara Deanna-Marie Wesaw was born Friday, April 9. She weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. and was 20" long. Good luck, you'll need it!

### HAPPY 4th BIRTHDAY

Andrew James Shepard

We love you, Aunt Tina, Corey, Douglas & Christina

### HAPPY 21st BIRTHDAY

Senica "Cuh-Cuh" Cotman

Love, your family

### HAPPY 65th BIRTHDAY

Jacqueline Genereaux

You are the champest Grannie ever! We Love You

Dahfi and family, Browns and Genereauxs

### CONGRATULATIONS

Rhian Nelson-For being the only one in your class on the honor roll. We are proud of you! Love, Mom, Joe, Megan, Joey, Grandma Gew, Grandma Paula & the Browns

### HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

Shannon Liggett-April 22

Kenny Little-April 17

Love, your family

### HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

Jared Price-April 15

Love, the family

### HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

Margaret Linn Mersereau

It ain't just one digit anymore!

**MAY 20, 1999**

### 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 birthdays to appear on the birthday calendar by the 20th.

### PLEASE SUBMIT SENIOR PICTURES BY MAY 20, 1999

With graduation around the corner, we would like to honor those who are graduating. Submit photo and information about the tribal member.