

58620 Sink Road  
P.O. Box 180  
Dowagiac, MI 49047

POKÉCNEK YAJDANAWA

*"The Pokagon's Tell It"*

58620 Sink Road, P.O. Box 180, Dowagiac, MI 49047

Vol. VII, No. 2

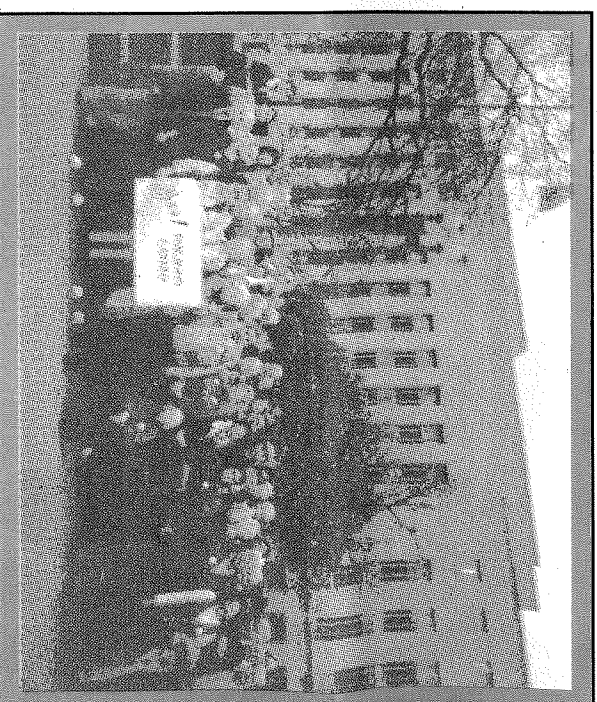
February 2002

## Casino Supporters head to D.C.

On December 14, 2001 a devoted group of supporters from New Buffalo, along with many Elders from the Band, endured a lengthy bus ride to Washington, D.C. to attend the oral argument segment of the lawsuit pursued by TOMAC against the U.S. Government regarding the land-in-trust issue for the casino site in New Buffalo Township. The presence in the courtroom by this supportive group was well recognized by Judge Robertson and duly noted by the legal team for TOMAC as there were no supporters on their behalf. The looks on their faces as our group exited the bus and headed toward the courthouse were definitely "Kodak" moments.

Although the Judge has yet to announce a decision in this matter, optimism is very high that the decision will be in favor of the Department of Interior's decision to place the land in trust. The BIA has notified us that they are ready to do what has to be done to make this happen, just as soon as the decision is made. We are all praying for a positive outcome.

On a side note, there were many friendships that developed as a result of the interaction between those that made the arduous journey. Those friendships are the foundation of neighborly relations with our supporters from New Buffalo for many years to come.



Dear Tribal Citizens,

I am pleased to inform you of the following movements within your organization:

- Pre-application with USDA was approved for the construction project of the Tribal Operations Center at Rodgers Lake.
  - BIA has committed funding for road improvements and parking areas at Rodgers Lake.
  - Received initial response from the BIA on the Non-Gaming Land-in-Trust applications for the consolidated sites.
  - Research is being conducted on expansion of Health Care Services for all Tribal members, not just those in the service delivery area.
  - A series of meetings have been held with Pokagon and LaGrange Township officials to develop Local Cooperation Agreements for land usage.
  - It was necessary to temporarily relocate the Indian Health Services staff out of the Front Street office location due to unsanitary conditions.
  - Behavioral Health staff has been temporarily relocated to the Group Transition Home site on M-51 in Dowagiac.
  - Agricultural leases have been signed for the consolidated sites which will generate revenues for the Tribe.
  - An Elder's Feeding grant is being pursued and upon award will be implemented later in the year.
- Unfortunately there has not been a decision from the Judge regarding the TOMAC lawsuit against the Department of the Interior, but optimism runs high with all concerned. The Gaming facility site has been prepared for building construction and the BIA is anxiously awaiting a positive decision to place the land in trust immediately following the decision.
- Thank you for allowing me to serve you.
- Sincerely,  
Michael L. Zimmerman Sr. -- Acting Chairman



## Talking Circle



Native American Community Services  
"The Healthy Start Program"

**FOR WHO:** Community and Family Members who are interested in increasing the health of native babies and their mothers.

**WHEN:** February, 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
(Dinner will be provided, please RSVP by 2/15/02)

**WHERE:** N.A.C.S. Office - Community Room  
671 Davis NW, Grand Rapids

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome  
Leading cause of death among Native babies.  
What everyone should know about SIDS.

For more information or to RSVP for lunch, please feel free to contact the Healthy Start Staff: Darlene VanOveren, Tina Horne or Stephanie Snyder at 458-4078.

*We would appreciate your help planning future Women's Circles.*

## PROTECT OUR CHILDREN, PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

The Michigan Indian Child Welfare Agency (MICWA) is a non-profit child placing agency that serves Native American families who have had their children placed in the foster care system.

MICWA's goal is to always keep Native American families together. However, there are times when the State decides that the children need to be placed in foster care. To preserve the child's cultural identity and promote the future of the Native American community, it is vital that these children be placed in Native American foster homes.

However, there is a tremendous shortage of Native American foster homes. The Grand Rapids office of MICWA, which serves the entire West Side of the State, currently has 42 Native American children in care. Twenty-seven of these children are members or eligible for membership in a federally recognized tribe, while most of the remaining children are either eligible for State Historical tribes or do not meet their tribe's enrollment requirements. Due to the shortage of Indian homes, many Native American foster children are being placed in non-Indian homes.

MICWA needs your help. Our children need the support of the Native American community. If you are interested in becoming a licensed foster home or would like more information, please contact Jennifer Neill at 1-800-880-2089.



## The New Year's Eve Party Rush Lake Cemetery Benefit Has been rescheduled

Saturday, February 16, 2002  
at the Lodge at Rodger's Lake at 5pm.

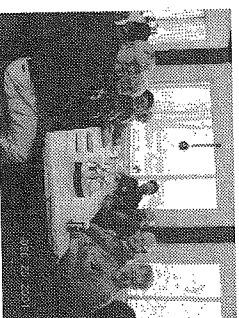
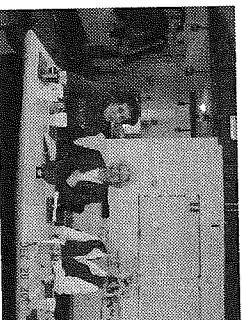
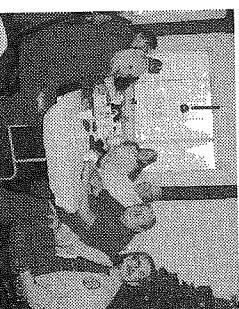
DINNER - AUCTION - 50/50 - DOOR PRIZE

Meat, drinks, and table service provided.

Bring dish to pass, white elephant item, friends and relatives.

## ELDERS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Elders Christmas Luncheon was held on Thursday December 20th in the Lodge at Rodger's Lake. A Great time was had by all that attended. The Lodge was decorated festively which really helped to put everyone in the Christmas Spirit!





# ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT

## Misplaced your birth certificate???

If so, check the list of County Clerk offices where a certified birth record may be obtained.

### Michigan

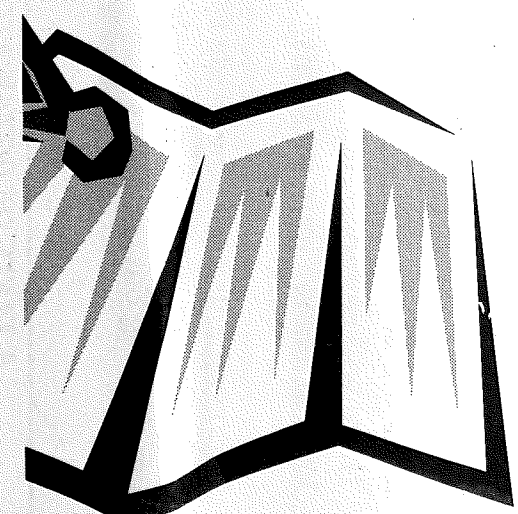
Cass County, 120 N. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI  
 Berrien County, 701 Main St., St. Joseph, MI  
 Van Buren Clerk, 212 Paw Paw St., Paw Paw, MI  
 Kalamazoo County, 201 W. Kalamazoo Ave, Kalamazoo, MI  
 Kent County, 300 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, MI

Or you may write to the State of Michigan.

### Mailing Address

Vital Records Request  
 PO Box 30721  
 Lansing, MI 48909

Cost  
 \$15.00/\$5.00



### Indiana

St Joseph County  
 Clerk 101 S. Main St., South Bend, IN 46601

Cost

\$9.00/\$7.00

St. Joseph County Health Dept.  
 County-City Building. Rm. 825.  
 227 W Jefferson Blvd., South Bend, IN 46601.  
 (No personal checks)

Indiana State Dept. of Health, 2 N. Meridian St, Indianapolis MI 46204

\$6.00/\$1.00

J. Augusta

### Photo ID Cards

- New Members ages 14 and Older will receive a Photo ID.
- New applicants of Enrollment, or replacement cards will not have the option to choose whether they want a Photo ID or not.
- Members living outside the service area must submit a notarized picture and signature to be scanned. (call the office for a form).
- Members must *schedule an appointment* to replace a card. Appointments at the discretion of the Enrollment office.
- Members 60 and Older will receive a scheduling preference, but must surrender the existing card.
- All existing cards must be returned when receiving a replacement card.
- A fee of \$5.00 levied for all lost cards as resolved 08/08/98.

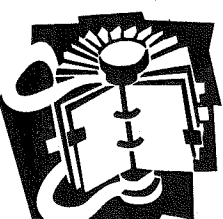
Call (616) 782-1763 or 1-888-782-1001 to schedule an appointment.

### Address Changes

Before any updates can be made the office must receive:

A *notarized* statement signed by tribal member or his/her duly authorized guardian, agent or representative. It is the duty of the member to provide a current mailing address to the Band's Enrollment Office. All correspondence from the Band will be mailed to the last address the member supplied to the Enrollment Office.

If you would like one of our forms please call at (616) 782-1763 or 1-888-782-1001.





# EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## COLLEGE FAIR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

1:00 - 5:00 PM

AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

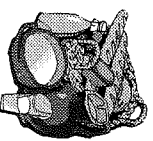
Education staff will be available to help with scholarship applications and filing your FASFA.

College applications will be on hand for you to fill out at the event or take home with you. There will be representatives from local colleges to answer your questions.

Arrangements are being made to have someone available to help parents who need assistance filling out tax forms.

### A TASTE OF POTAWATOMI

Frank Barker will teach you how to say the Potawatomi words for some traditional foods while you enjoy the tastes.



Thursday, February 21, 2002  
4:00 - 6:00 pm  
Tribal Council Lodge  
Rogers Lake

## COMPUTER LAB

The computer lab is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. There's lots to do, you can:

- Search the web
- Send e-mails to friends and relatives
- Work on your resume
- Work on school reports
- Practice typing
- Study for your GED



There are six computers in the lab. The Education Staff is available to help with any problems.

If you can't make it to Dowagiac there are two computers in the South Bend office for those living in Indiana.



**HIGHER EDUCATION  
FOR ELDERS**



Now you can finish your degree, take those courses that have always interested you, or go to college just to see what it's all about! If you are 60 years or older and living in Berrien County or Covert Township, Lake Michigan College does not charge tuition for its courses. You will be charged eight dollars and fifty cents per credit hour.

### Language Classes

#### Beading Class

Attend eight-weeks of

**Saturday, February 16**

Potawatomi Language class.

**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Pokagon Band Education**

**Department**

(in Dowagiac across the parking lot from the drive-in window at Burger King)

Classes begin April 8, 2002  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Mondays at the Education Department in Dowagiac  
Wednesdays at the South Bend Office

**Mark your calendar now!**

### YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

**Who:**

Pokagon Band Youth  
Grades 7 - 12

**What:**

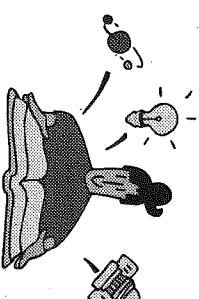
Membership Drive

**Where:**

Join others for pizza and pop  
Tribal Council Lodge  
Rogers Lake

**When:**

Sunday, March 3  
1:00 - 3:30



### Study For Your GED

The Education Department has purchased new GED videos and workbooks. To study for the test you will watch videos, read, take tests and work on the computer. You won't be bored by hours of reading. The program we have meets the requirements needed for the tests now being given.



# B o d é w a d m i m w e n M z e n e g e n

(Potawatomi Language Page)

by JP Montano and Frank Barker

a - like ah in "swan" é - like eh in "sap" i - like ee in "sweetgrass" o - like o in "snow"

e - like ih in "dish", or like uh in "sun" oo - like oo in "soup"

Review of January newsletter:

Gi-niskadet.  
Wi-bonimget.  
Gi-noden.  
Wi-ksenyamget.

It was stormy.  
It will snow.  
It was windy  
It will be cold.

Gi-niskadet wnago.  
Wi-bonimget wabek.  
Gi-noden wnago.  
Wi-ksenyamget wabek.

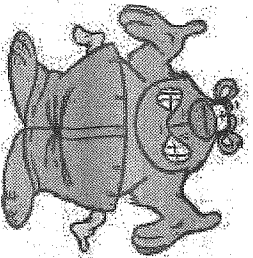
Yesterday it was stormy.  
Tomorrow it will snow.  
Yesterday it was windy.  
Tomorrow it will be cold.

## Verbs

• Verbs are words that express action or feeling. Some ex verbs in the English language are: "to eat", "to walk", "to speak", "to be happy", "to be hungry", "to gamble".

• Potawatomi verbs are complete sentences. We can use "yadi" for example, to say "She is gambling." The Englis does not work like this. In English, we cannot use the ve gamble" without adding other words to make a complete

• We cannot translate word-for-word from Potawatomi to E English to Potawatomi. For example, there is no part of that can be translated to mean "He" or "She", or to mean mean "sick". A single Potawatomi verb, like "yaknoge", the complete idea that "He (or, She) is sick."

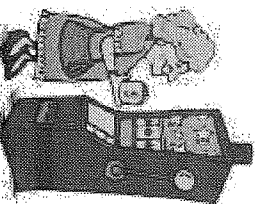


He is broke.

He is sick.



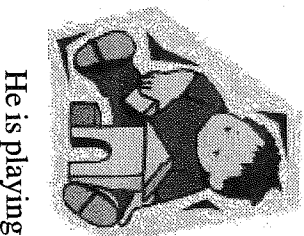
He is hunting.



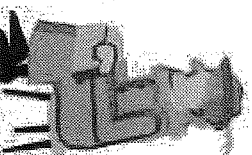
She is gambling.



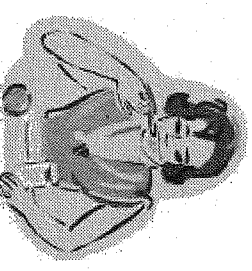
He is happy.



He is playing.



She is sitting.



She is eating.

Can you translate these sentences into Potawatomi?

- 1) She is happy. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) He is sitting. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) He is eating. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) He is broke. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) He is hunting. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) He is gambling. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) She is playing. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) She is sick. \_\_\_\_\_



# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

## What about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD/ADD)?

First, What's going on with our children? The world renowned psychiatrist Karl Menninger, founder of the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kansas spent his "retirement years" in a second career serving homeless children. Quoted in "The Seeds of Discouragement" he described "children without belongings, mistreated, abandoned, rejected and wounded".

All of us know that as children develop, they find increasing difficulties in social and emotional adjustment. When parents or caretakers fail to meet a child's most basic needs, the child learns that he/she is unreliable, not important, undesirable, not loved from their most important emotional and physical support, their parents. Children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) need more social and emotional support from their parents or caretakers than children without ADHD.

Now, why they do need more? Because ADHD is generally considered to be a brainbiological disorder. Researchers believe that the symptoms of ADHD are caused by chemicals in the brain not working properly. It is characterized by the inability to sustain focused attention, impulsivity and hyperactivity.

ADHD is a diagnosis applied to children and adults who consistently display certain characteristic behaviors over a period of time. The most common core features include: distractibility (poor sustained attention on tasks), impulsivity (impaired impulse control and delay of gratification), and hyperactivity (excessive activity and physical restlessness). In order to meet diagnostic criteria these behaviors must be excessive, long-term and pervasive. The behaviors must appear before age 7, and continue for at least 6 months. A crucial consideration is that the behaviors must create a real handicap in at least two areas of a person's life, such as school, home, work, or social settings. These criteria set ADHD apart from the "normal" distractibility and impulsive behavior that characterizes childhood, or the effects of a hectic and overstressed lifestyle prevalent in our society.

Some common symptoms of ADHD include: failing to give close attention to details or making careless mistakes; difficulty maintaining attention; not listening when spoken to directly; failing to follow instructions carefully and completely; losing or forgetting important things; feeling restless. Also, fidgeting with hands or feet; running or climbing excessively; talking excessively; blurting out answers before hearing the whole question; difficulty awaiting turn. It should be kept in mind that the exact nature and severity of ADHD symptoms varies from person to person. For example, approximately one-third of people with ADHD do not have the hyperactive or overactive behavior component. Now you can understand why I mentioned at the beginning that ADHD children need more social and emotional support from their parents or caretakers.

It is very important that you understand that ADHD is **NOT** caused by poor parenting, family problems, poor teachers or schools, or too much TV. Scientists do not have a clear idea what causes ADHD, but one still heard in the media, is that refined sugar and food additives make children hyperactive and inattentive. Scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) concluded that this may apply to only about 5 percent of children with ADHD, mostly either very young children or children with food allergies. However, **ADHD IS**

very likely caused by biological factors which influence brain activity in certain parts, and which have a strong genetic basis. Also, there is a great deal of evidence that ADHD runs in families. If one person in a family is diagnosed with ADHD there is a 25 percent to 35 percent probability that any other family member also has ADHD, compared to 4 percent to 6 percent probability for someone in the general population.

Clinical experience has shown that the most effective treatment for ADHD is a combination of medication (when necessary), therapy or counseling to learn coping skills and adaptive behaviors, and ADHD coaching or counseling for parents or caretakers. Prescription medication is often used to help normalize brain activity. Stimulant medications (Ritalin, Dexedrine, Adderall) are commonly used because they have been shown to be most effective for most people with ADHD. However, many other medications may also be used at the discretion of the physician.

Therapy is often helpful to modify certain behaviors and to deal with the emotional effects of ADHD. Many parents or caretakers also benefit from working with an ADHD coach or counseling to help manage problem behaviors and develop coping skills, such as improving organizational skills and improving productivity, in order to help their children develop those skills at home. It is very important that you as a parent or caretaker stay informed about your child's condition, keep in touch with your child's teacher and school officials, and supervise his/her friends and behavior. Also, it is very important to find professional help for your child/children's condition and for yourself to be prepared to help them. As much information as you can get, the more prepared you are going to be to help, support, guide, love, and give them the tools they need to deal with our society.

Don't wait, find help for your children and yourself right now. Our children are our future and it is our responsibility, as adults, to help them find their purpose in life with acceptance, love, direction, structure, good relationships, develop school skills, trust, affection, and safety. **Don't let your children get lost in the presence of ADHD symptoms. Find HELP TODAY.**

### Places to find help:

-Behavioral Health Services Pokagon Band  
-E-mail  
-[www.add.org](http://www.add.org)  
-[www.adhd.com](http://www.adhd.com)  
-[www.mentalhealth.org](http://www.mentalhealth.org)  
-[Drlaksa@aol.com](mailto:Drlaksa@aol.com)

Don't miss our next month article: **"ADHD Parents Tips"**

Daisy Casasnovas, MA  
Counseling Psychology  
Behavioral Youth Counselor



# SOCIAL SERVICES

## *Indian Child Welfare*

## *Child Care Development Fund*

The Social Services Department monitors the well being of Pokagon Band children and families within state protective services and foster care programs. The department has become increasingly involved and takes an active role in these cases through the provision of a variety of outreach services, as well as working closely with state and private agencies. Outreach services, through the Social Services Department, work in conjunction with community prevention services to ensure continued family progress and stabilization. The department also provides a variety of services to individuals and families residing in the service area, to those temporarily residing in emergency housing units, and to tribal elders. While family reunification and stabilization are always the primary goals with Indian Child Welfare cases, at times reunification may be judged by a court to not be in the best interest of the children or parents. As such, family, extended family and tribal members are looked to for the care of these children. The Social Services Department is actively involved with public and private child welfare agencies to aid in locating both foster and permanent homes for these children, and is capable of providing referrals to individuals interested in providing care. There is an active need for Native American foster and adoptive homes. Anyone interested in helping to provide this needed care should contact the Social Services Department at (616) 782-8998.

### *Indian Child Welfare Commission*

The Tribal Council of the Pokagon Band has recently established the Pokagon Band Indian Child Welfare Commission. Whereas the care and custody of Pokagon Band children are vital to the continued existence and integrity of the Band, the welfare of its children are of paramount importance to the Band. Therefore, the Pokagon Band Indian Child Welfare Commission has been established for the purpose of working with the Pokagon Band Tribal Council, Tribal Court when established, Social Services Department, and when appropriate, state judicial and administrative bodies, with regard to child welfare matters. Anyone interested in learning more about the Commission or becoming a member of the Commission is encouraged to contact the Social Services Department for information at (616) 782-8998.

The Child Care Development Fund is off to a great start and members throughout the service area are encouraged to apply for this unique program. Members are encouraged to contact the Social Services Department for an application. The purpose of this program is to enable parents to receive child care payment assistance while participating in productive employment, an approved educational plan or while training for employment.

#### General Requirements:

1. Parents must be participating in a job training or education program, employed, or actively involved in documented job searches.
2. Children must be 12 years or younger. Those with 3 or more children will be given priority.
3. Must reside within Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Elkhart, Kosciusko, La Porte, Marshall, St. Joseph, Starke, or Van Buren counties.
4. Parent must be a member the Pokagon Band.

#### Verification Eligibility

#### For Education Purposes:

1. Must have proof of registration in a post-secondary school or proof of involvement in a high school or GED program.
2. Must have a copy of official class schedule listing courses being taken, including times and days of classes.

Grades must be submitted at the end of each quarter to continue to be eligible for the next term. Preliminary verification and official number of hours to be paid for child care may be established as soon as the student registers for new classes.

#### For Employment Purposes:

1. Documentation of employer, job site, telephone number and name of immediate supervisor. Information provided on application must be verifiable.
2. Salary and length of scheduled training time must be provided in the case of a training program.

The Social Services Department has a list of licensed providers for each area. The providers will include center-based and group home care for full-day and before-and-after school care. In-home care will not be covered as yet. A sliding fee scale will determine each family's contribution to the cost of child care based on income and the size of the family. The Social Services Department will work with each family to facilitate the program application process and aid in locating licensed childcare. For more information, please contact the Social Services Department.





### Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): REOPENED

The Social Services Department is reopening the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to assist eligible members meet their heating needs through the 2001-2002 winter season. Those who have not applied to this program are encouraged to do so now. All members within the entire service area are encouraged to apply even if they have already received services. Eligible members will be able to again receive assistance with their general heating needs for a second time, as well as receive assistance with shut-off notices. The department is currently accepting applications from income eligible members. Applications are available at the Social Services/Administrative Office. Applicants will need to bring the heating bill and a copy of their most recent filed income taxes for processing. Payments will be made for the amount of the heating bill up to the maximum amount allowable through the program. Payments will not be exceeding the amount due the utility provider.

A staff member from the Social Services Department will be available in the South Bend Office every Wednesday. Members are encouraged to stop by and fill out applications for LIHEAP and Child Care Assistance if they have not already done so. A staff member will be available to help with completing these applications and to answer any questions regarding the department and available services.

### Food Commodities Program

Commodities are now being ordered through a new distributor with the program receiving all name brand products. Recently, more shelving/storage area was installed to allow even more efficiency when filling orders for the membership. In an effort to better serve Band members who work during the day, the hours of operation are from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday. These hours will hopefully allow members to better utilize this service after work.

A staff member from the food commodity program will visit the South Bend Office every week and visit the Allegan area once a month. Members are encouraged to stop by and fill out an application for this program if they have not already done so. Those residing in the Allegan area should call the office and request an application and to place food orders. Once enrolled in this program, participants can fax, mail, or call in their orders to the Food Commodities Office at (888) 281-1111. Their orders will then be transported to the South Bend Office and Allegan area and made available for pick up.

Due to program changes and in an effort to better serve members throughout the entire service area, those who may have previously applied for food commodities and been turned down due to their area of residence are encouraged to reapply. These changes will allow a greater number of members to receive commodities throughout the entire area.



### Parenting Pointers:

- Value the uniqueness of each child. Avoid comparisons and work at finding out who your children are instead of trying to get them to live up to a picture of who you think they should be.

- Work on your own self-esteem. The better you like and accept yourself with all your mistakes and shortcomings, the better model you give your children about self-acceptance. (Nelsen, Lott & Glenn: 1999)





# ELDERS PROGRAM

## MINUTES

### POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS ELDERS COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING JANUARY 3, 2002 - 11:00 a.m.

The minutes for the newsletter were unapproved.

Meeting called to order by Gerald Wesaw at 11:25 A.M.

Invocation given by Clarence White.

#### Roll Call

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

Quorum Present

Attendance: 15 Elders

Communications: MIEA Committee Meeting with directors January 11, 2002 9:00 A.M. Rodgers Lake

Marge Moody moved to approve the agenda of January 3, 2002. Seconded by Clarence White. All In Favor: "Aye" Opposed: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

Marge Moody moved to approve the minutes of December 6, 2001. Seconded by Clarence White. All In Favor: "Aye" Opposed: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

Becky Price, RN informed us that the Women's Health Fair date was changed to March 2, 2002, to be held at the Hartford Public Health Building. There will be a prize for anyone who registers for the walk program. Cindy Rapp is still doing the Optical Program. Joy Duff would like to change the location for the foot clinic to the lodge at Rodgers Lake. Health day in South Bend is still on Thursday's at 2705 Mishawaka Avenue.

Kevin Daugherty was here to present and discuss a first draft budget proposal he prepared for the Title VI Grant. The grant is an Elders nutrition and social services support program. The program would focus on nutrition, one luncheon a day, transportation, and legal assistance. It also could pay the Elders Specialist salary. Kevin will meet with the Finance Director, Joe Ciba, and then present the budget to Tribal Council on January 12, 2002. The grant proposal is due January 19, 2002.

Marge Moody informed us that some of our MIEA Committee members will attend a meeting with the Little River Band MIEA Committee January 24, 2002 at 10:00 A.M. at Little River. This meeting concerns our co-hosting the April MIEA Conference at Little River. They will come down here in February if a second meeting is still needed. We need to think about a theme for the conference. Marge read a list of recommendations made by MIEA Delegate, Bonnie Parrish.

Gerald asked membership to bring their ideas for the conference to the luncheon January 17, 2002, to take up to the MIEA Committee Meeting January 24, 2002.

Resolution #01-020, dated December 3, 2001, made by Marge Moody. Seconded by Clarence White. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Elders Council approves giving \$10.00 gift certificates to each of the following: Yvonne Boehm, Marchell Wesaw, Debbie Mosier, Kathy Blevins, and Brandy Jack. All In Favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution #01-021, dated December 27, 2001, made by Marge Moody. Seconded by Clarence White. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Elders Council is proposing an amendment to Elders Council Resolution #01-020 dated December 3, 2001, hereto attached. A name being added to read: Chris Diamond. All In Favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1 **Absent: 0 RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Announcements:

Elders Social Luncheon January 17, 2002 Elders Hall, 11:00 a.m.

Open Officers Meeting on February 4, 2002 at Dowagiac City Hall, 10:00 a.m.

Elders Council Business Meeting on February 7, 2002 at Elders Hall, 11:00 a.m.

Rae Daugherty moved to adjourn at 12:35 p.m. Seconded by Marge Moody.

All In Favor: "Aye" Opposed: 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

Mary Jo Morris, Elders Council Secretary, January 8, 2002

## YOUR 1099 IS IN THE MAIL

By: *John Coupe, District Manager*

If you are a Social Security beneficiary, you can look forward to getting your Social Security Benefit Statement for Tax Year 2001 (SSA-1099) soon. The statement shows how much you received in Social Security benefits for the year and may be used when you complete your federal income tax return to find out if any of your benefits are subject to tax. If you lose or do not receive your SSA-1099, you can request a replacement online from Social Security's website, at <http://www.ssa.gov/1099/>. You will need your name as it appears on benefit checks and/or letters and your Social Security number. You may also need your date and place of birth and your mother's maiden name (to help identify you). If you request a replacement on behalf of a deceased beneficiary, you will need the beneficiary's name and his or her Social Security number. (You may only request on behalf of a deceased beneficiary if you have received benefits on the same record.) For more information on taxation of Social Security benefits, call the Internal Revenue Service's toll-free number, 1-800-829-3676, to ask for Publication 554, Tax Information for Older Americans.



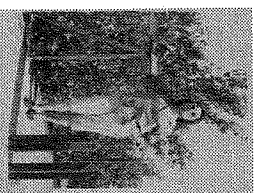
## Elder of the Month

*Luella Lewis  
nee Wesaw*



Luella is the daughter of Louis and Mary (Pantobee) Wesaw. She is the 9<sup>th</sup> of 12 children: Francis (Speed), John, Florence Augusta, Stella, Sylvester, Levi, Joseph, Matilda Shagonaby, Martin, Earl, and Nelson. Ella is the only surviving of all her siblings. She grew up in Hartford near the Toquin area. She attended the Mt. Pleasant Indian school. Ella was a domestic assistant in Chicago, IL when she was younger. She married Morris Lewis, Sr. and raised five children; Paul Dehke (deceased), Darlene (Dehke) Tate, Mary (Lewis) Drake, Morris Lewis, Jr. and Bonnie (Lewis) Drake. She has 15 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and one great great grandchild. Ella retired from Midwest Timer, Inc., Benton Harbor, MI in 1979.

Ella still resides in Hartford where she owns her own home. Luella Lewis is one of our last elders who can speak the Potawatomi language fluently. During her retired years she has enjoyed traveling all over the United States to attend the Kateri Tekakwitha conferences. She is a member of the Immaculate Conception Church in Hartford. She enjoys going to garage sales, watching game shows, MTV and spending time with her family.



Ella, always in style



Ella with her brothers Martin (l) & Thomas (c)



Ella looks fashionable by a shiny car.

### HOW MUCH WORK IS NEEDED FOR BENEFITS?

By: John Coupe, District Manager

**Q.** How much work do I need to qualify for Social Security benefits?

**A.** The amount of work needed for benefits to be paid on your earnings record depends on the type of benefit and the age at which you apply. Generally, for retirement benefits, a person needs no more than 10 years. To receive survivors benefits, the worker needs to have worked one and one-half years in the past three years. To receive disability benefits, the amount of work needed ranges from one and one-half years out of the last three years for workers under age 24, to five out of the last 10 years for workers age 31 and older. For more information, log onto our website, [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), for a copy of the booklet, How You Earn Credits.

**Q.** I've heard some people say that Social Security benefits are "weighted." What does that mean?

**A.** Although the higher your earnings, the higher your benefit, Social Security uses a method of figuring benefits that replaces a higher proportion of the earnings of workers with low average lifetime earnings because they have less of an opportunity to save or invest for their retirement. Workers with low wages receive a replacement rate of about 53 percent of their earnings and average wage earners receive about 40 percent.

**Q.** What do I do if I do not receive my Social Security check?

**A.** If you are receiving checks by mail, wait 3 days after the date you normally receive your check. If you still haven't received your check, contact us at 1-800-772-1213. Follow this guide to determine if your check is late:

Social Security benefits are paid on	If your birth date is on
Second Wednesday	1 st - 10 th
Third Wednesday	11 th - 20 th
Fourth Wednesday	21 st - 31st

All Social Security beneficiaries who were receiving benefits before May, 1997 will continue to receive benefits on the 3rd of the month. For a schedule of check payment dates for 2001, see <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/2001calendar.htm>.

John Coupe is the district manager of the Social Security office in BentonHarbor. You can write to him c/o Social Security Administration, 455 Bond St., Benton Harbor MI 49022. You can also call the national office at (800) 772-1213 from 7am to 7pm weekdays. If hearing impaired, call (800) 325-0778.

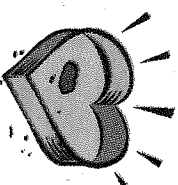
# FEBRUARY 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am	2
3	4 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am	5 Optical Day@IHS	6 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am	7 Tribal Council Mtg Lodge@ 7:00 pm IHS/CHS @ South Bend Office	8 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am	9 Tribal Council Mtg. Lodge@ 10:00 am
10	11 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am	12 Optical Day@IHS	13 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am  Foot Care Clinic@ Beh Health Home by Appointment	14  IHS/CHS @ South Bend Office	15 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am	16 Ruch Lake Benefit Lodge@ 5:00 pm
17	18 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am	19 Optical Day@IHS	20 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am	21  IHS/CHS @ South Bend Office	22 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am	23
24	25 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am	26 Optical Day@IHS	27 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am	28  IHS/CHS @ South Bend Office	March 1 Gerobics@ E.H. 10:00 - 11:00 am	2 Men's Health Fair @Dowagiac Health Department 9:00 am-3:00 pm





# February Annou



Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

John Mix

From- Susie & Reta in Los Angeles

Who "like" you a lot!

Happy Belated Birthday & Anniversary

Rachel & Jacoba West

Good luck with the baby on the way!!

Love you Both,

Mom

(Vickie Perez, the happiest Grandma-to-be)

**Happy Belated 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthdays**  
**Maxim Race 1/25**  
**Love-Mom, Dad, Jordan,**  
**Brodrick & Kendall**

Happy Birthday Charisty Sue Swisher  
February 10<sup>th</sup>  
Love Always- Mom, Dad, Grandpa & Uncle



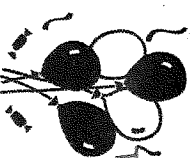
Happy Birthday Tessa Maleski  
2/6- 7years old in Hot Springs, AK.  
We love you-Granny & Papa

Happy Birthday February 7<sup>th</sup> Theresa Wesaw

Happy Belated Birthday  
Isabella Miller 1/7  
Steven Miller 1/26  
We love you-Mom, Dad & Kathryn



Happy 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Alexis Horner  
2/15  
Love- Your Family



Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday  
Thomas Nelson Wesaw III  
2/24  
Love Mom & Dad

Happy Birthday Melissa Newcomer 2/17  
Love Rachelle

Happy Birthday

- 2-3 Dawn Rummage
- 2-4 Bill Lewis
- 2-7 Justin Lee Lewis
- 2-8 Shelby Lynn Thomas
- 2-9 James Watson Lewis
- 2-10 Hailey Elizabeth

Love-Your Family

Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday 2/8

Joseph Guillermo

Love-Mom & Dave



Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday 2/6  
Ja'Selle Lorenz  
Love-Mom & Dad

Congratulations Andrea Deasari!

On the birth of your twin boys

William & Andrew



Happy B-Lated Birthday

Rick Lewis 1/3

Love- Your Family

A Big Super-Duper Thanks

To Kim Wheelley in all of her

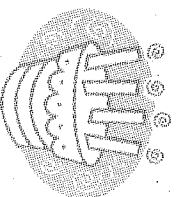
Efforts at the Housing Office

Great Job! Vickie Perez

Welcome to the World!!  
Shyenne Nicole Newcome



Born: 9-1-2001  
Father: Victor Newcome  
Daddy loves you!!



Happy Birthday  
David Daniel Swisher  
February 18<sup>th</sup>  
Love Always- Mom,  
Dad, Grandpa & Uncle

Wishes for a speedy recovery go out to  
Lorraine Gideon & Family  
You are in our hearts & prayers!  
Love- Sarah & George McWhorter



Happy Belated Birthday 1/22  
Tommy (Genevieve) Hernandez  
Love- Mom Family