



Celebrating Culture and Creativity



The talented student artists proudly show their certificates after the reception. Front row (l-r): Brady Shepard, Lillie Daniels, Zoey Weso, Sylus Poler, Kyla Beauprey. Back row (l-r) Troy Soldier, Serena Alloway, Selena Alloway, Frankie Shepard, Abey VanZile, India VanCleve.

by Winda Collins

Eight years ago, the *Potawatomi Traveling Times (PTT)* came up with the idea of celebrating American Indian Heritage Month by asking area tribal youth K-12 to express what their heritage meant to them by way of creating art. Although Native American Heritage Month takes place in November, some may wonder why it is that *PTT* publicly celebrates it in December and January. Mainly, it's because involving the school districts is the

best way to reach more Native youth. But that means that teachers are unable to involve students until September, which only allows three months before projects are due – not a lot of time. This entire endeavor takes a lot of coordination between the *PTT*, school administrators, art teachers, students, and parents. In a nutshell, *PTT* celebrates after the fact because it feels that better late is better than never.

Over the last eight years, 189 projects have been submitted and have included a wide range of mediums: poems and short stories, beadwork and baskets, pottery and paintings, and everything in between. This year, 35 projects from the Crandon and Laona school districts were submitted. Artwork ranged from the traditional using leather and beads to the more contemporary using clay, watercolors and canvas. The art was on display for public viewing from the second week in December to the first week in January at the Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) Executive Building. The celebration of culture and creativity culminates in an art reception, held this year on Jan. 5, also at the FCP Executive Building.

After a delicious dinner of creamy wild rice chicken soup, fry bread and assorted bars prepared by Dewing's Catering, tribal elder Billy Daniels Jr. got the program started with an opening prayer.

On-hand again this year to provide a welcome song, honor song and travel song were the Young Warriors: Benny

Peters, Bondesē Frank, Frankie Shepard, Brady Shepard, Levi Shepard, Reddmen LeMieux, and Riley Bulmer. These young men did a fantastic job! They were assisted by Donald Keeble, Nick Shepard, Jordan Keeble, Richard Gougé, Aaron Bulmer, and Frank Shepard Jr. The program included a male dancer this year: Autry Johnson, whose dance style is men's grass.

FCP tribal member and artist Sam Alloway spoke briefly to the youth, encouraging them to listen to their dreams, to use them as inspiration in their art. Alloway told the young artists that he could see what they were feeling and trying to express when he looked at their work. He went on to talk about how art is an intrinsic part of Native American culture, the high value put on Native art, and the need to copyright one's work.

Mark Mackowski, Crandon high school art teacher, and Rachel Keepers, Laona art teacher, both spoke briefly to those in attendance of the pride they feel for these budding artists and encouraged them to use and hone their talents as a form of positive self-expression.

Each participating artist received a certificate and a \$15 Hobby Lobby gift card. Students who participated this year were:

Abey VanZile (11), Forest County Potawatomi

Alexis Madl (12), Oneida

Brady Shepard (11), Forest County Potawatomi

Burton Polar (10), Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Darlaina Boyd (15), Forest County Potawatomi/Oglala Lakota Sioux

Dayman Lakehouse (17), Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Dion Daniels (11), Forest County Potawatomi

Frankie Shepard (12), Forest County Potawatomi

India VanCleve (9), Forest County Potawatomi

Israel Alloway (17), Forest County Potawatomi

Jeremiah Stewart (13), Chippewa

Joanne Higgins (10), Forest County Potawatomi

Kyla Beauprey (11), Menominee/Potawatomi

Lashay Christenson (16), Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Lavara Gilpin (12), Forest County Potawatomi/Lakota Sioux Santee

Lillie Daniels (8), Forest County Potawatomi

Matthew Christenson (13), Lac du Flambeau

Naganwedek Daniels (13), Forest County Potawatomi

Natalia Tuckwab (11), Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Patrick Daniels (11), Forest County Potawatomi

Precious Pamonicutt (11), Sokaogon Chippewa Community

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OUR MISSION: Potawatomi Business Development Corporation (PBDC) will generate wealth and improve the quality of life for the Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) Community by making strategic investments, acquisitions and prudent asset management and community development decisions. Resources generated by PBDC and its holdings will help diversify the tribal economy that supports FCP’s tribal government and help improve the lives of FCP tribal members. Through trust, support, integrity, and mutual respect, PBDC is committed to building an economic engine that will support FCP for generations to come.

Attention All Tribal Members:
Please join us for a General Information and Q&A Session with PBDC leadership.

Date: Monday, January 30
Time: 3 - 5 p.m.
Location: Executive Building Auditorium, Stone Lake

DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED
Hope you can join us!



GREENFIRE

Greenfire Hires Gene Widenski and Stephanie Atwell

Greenfire recently announced the hiring of Gene Widenski as superintendent. Widenski brings a wide variety of skills to the Greenfire team with over 36 years in the construction industry. As an experienced engineer and construction management leader, he has proven himself to be an asset to any project and team. Throughout his career, he has established collaborative team-working relationships with owners, architects and subcontractors.

“Gene has a great construction mind for pre-planning and as a task-master to achieve results,” said Nate Keller, director of operations. “He is an instant leader in our organization and looks forward to mentoring our younger employees.”

Stephanie Atwell also recently joined the Greenfire team as administrative Assistant. Atwell’s experience includes a background in personnel management, inventory control, and office organization. She will join Greenfire to help with administrative support and clerical needs.

“We’re excited to have Stephanie join our growing team,” said Kip Ritchie, president of Greenfire Management Services. “Stephanie brings an enthusiasm for learning the construction management business and we’re looking forward to her making a long-term impact on Greenfire.”



PBDC Promotes Scott Stephen to IT Manager



Potawatomi Business Development Corporation (PBDC) announced the promotion of Scott Stephen to IT manager.

Stephen has been with PBDC for over two years, previously serving as senior systems engineer. Prior to joining PBDC, he was employed by IProspect, a subsidiary of PBDC, for over three years.

Stephen is responsible for overseeing and managing the Information Technology infrastructure for PBDC and its subsidiary companies and facilitating equipment, services and

accounts for over 200 employees. He also provides system development at Wgema Campus and six other locations throughout Wisconsin, Oklahoma and Missouri.



**Gene Widenski,
Superintendent**



**Stephanie Atwell,
Administrative Assistant**

“Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.”

-Carl Bard

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Judicare is Coming

Judicare is coming to the community sometime in March 2017. Judicare will work with you to create a legal WILL that is fully executed, witnessed and notarized. Look for more info to follow in the next few weeks. Contact Penny Christianson, the Caring Place, at (715) 478-4892 with any questions you might have.

Celebrating Culture and Creativity

...continued from pg. 1

Preston VanZile (10), Forest County Potawatomi

Selena Alloway (13), Forest County Potawatomi

Serena Alloway (13), Forest County Potawatomi

Shauna Christenson (12), Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Sylus Poler (7), Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Tana VanZile (14), Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Taylor Marvin (13), Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Troy Soldier (12), Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Wahsnoday Pamp (17), Saginaw Chippewa Indians

Wynter Montgomery (7), Forest County Potawatomi

Zoey Weso (9), Forest County Potawatomi

Thank you to these young artists for

their hard work and participation. *PTT* hopes that their vision, imagination and quest for creative self-expression will continue for a lifetime! Many thanks to those who had a hand in spreading the word in the community and to those who encourage budding artists every day. Special thanks to Billy Daniels Jr., Sam Alloway, the Young Warriors, Autry Johnson, Mark Mackowski, Gail Spaniol, Rachel Keepers, and Krystal Statezny. The dedication each of these people have shown in what they do makes our community a better place!

PTT considers this reception a success with an attendance of around 60 that included students, parents, family members, school administrators and teachers. A debriefing by staff the following week revealed areas where it can improve upon the event and participation. We're already looking forward to what this year will bring!

A Door to be Admired



by Val Niehaus

Adorning one of the doors at the Caring Place facility is a hand-drawn picture by LPN Michael Silber. Within this drawing is also the Potawatomi language saying, "Christ the Savior is Born" along with "Merry Christmas".

If you have not been able to see this in person, it is a must! Hopefully, this piece of art is still hanging on the door at the Caring Place.


Great job, Michael!

Deadline for the Feb. 1, 2017 issue is Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017.



POTAWATOMI TRAVELING TIMES

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Letter to the Editor

John A. Scocos retired Jan. 7, 2017, after a brilliant and stellar career as the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

As chief veterans officer, John and his department employees have made tremendous impacts in serving the nearly 400,000 veterans and their loved ones.

John served as a reserve officer for 31 years in the U.S. Army. He retired as a full-bird colonel after serving two tours in Iraq, and then at the Pentagon as the military assistant to the U.S. Secretary of the Department of Defense.

John's vast experience only intensified his dedication to serve us best. As the chief clerk and Sergeant of Arms for the Wisconsin assembly, he superbly internalized the complex operation of state government. It is no wonder that he has been and will continue to be highly respected and sought after by all facets of state and federal government leaders.

This was not always an easy task, especially when serving under both Republican and Democrat governors. So often, it is our detractors that only make us stronger and more effective. "In politics as in life, worst enemies at the next moment, the next issue must be best friends." God bless them all!

Wisconsin has bragging rights as having the best state veterans benefit package of all 50 states. So much so, that John and his predecessor, Ray Boland, were elected chairman of the National State Veteran Secretaries Association. Their expertise and dedication was shared with other states, so that their veterans could model after our sterling example.

Gov. Scott Walker, in consultation with the major veteran and auxiliary groups, now makes the decision for his replacement. Eager and pray-fully we are awaiting this decision so that we may give utmost support and guidance.

It is our vow to continue the proud legacy of the three Veterans Homes, the Veterans Museum (considered one of the best of all 50 states), the three cemeteries, and the Veterans Service Representative Claims Office. There are so many more programs, initiatives and daily functions that deserve accolades.

Much is in the works, including six more 72-bed, long-term care facilities modeled after the Chippewa Veterans Home. This is considered one of the absolute best built and operated long-term care facilities in the USA! Target communities include Green Bay, Hayward (targeted for Native Americans – space available for others), La Crosse, Madison and Milwaukee. The Chippewa Veterans Home both needs and deserves a public and private coalition with state and federal leadership to be successful. Working together works best when such coalitions work behind the scenes, beneath the radar screen, and beyond the horizon!

Many veterans and their loved ones consider themselves a Living Legacy Tribute "spiritually transcending the faithfully departed!" Check out the Wisconsin Veterans Tribute/Citizen Soldier Monument at Cadott, Wis. There are 97 unique characteristics in the world! There, you will see a Greek flag, perhaps the only one to fly at a major veterans monument on American soil. It celebrates a WWII veteran and Prisoner of War, John Scocos Sr., the secretary's dad.

All of us have heroes in our midst - not just the veterans. It is the home front heroes who deserve our accolades. They support our military and veterans for a lifetime. During military action, they are the families, farmers, factory workers, public servants, prayer warriors and business owners that determine survival.

Thank you, John A. Scocos Jr., veterans, loved ones and the home front heroes! We are inspired by and emulate your example. May you have hunger in the heart, fire in the belly, and souls absolutely on fire!

God bless you,
Dave Zien

Former State Senator / Million Mile Motorcycle Man
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Honoring Our Veterans: \$250,000 in Grants Awarded

submitted by WDVA

MADISON, Wis. (Jan. 3, 2017) – Gov. Scott Walker announced the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) awarded \$250,000 in grants to 42 nonprofit organizations that will provide financial assistance or other services to Wisconsin veterans and their families.

"Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country and they deserve the best when they conclude active duty service," Gov. Walker said. "These grants will fund things like emergency financial assistance, transitional housing, and service dogs for veterans with disabilities. I thank all of the grant recipients for their commitment to serving Wisconsin's veterans."

This WDVA nonprofit grant program was signed into law by Governor Walker on April 6, 2014 (2013 Act 190), after receiving broad bipartisan support in the State Legislature. The bill, Assembly Bill 805, was authored by Representative Warren Petryk (R-Eleva) and Senator Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon). The law provides a maximum total of \$250,000 for grants up to \$25,000 for registered 501(c)(3) nonprofits.

- Artists for the Humanities, Inc., \$1,000
- Badger Honor Flight, \$1,527
- Camp Hometown Heroes, \$5,000
- Community Action Coalition for South Central Wis., Inc., \$3,000
- Concordia University, \$3,000
- Consumer Credit Counseling of Sheboygan, \$3,000
- Couleecap, Inc. \$2,000
- Custom Canine Service Dog Academy, \$1,000
- Fisher House Wisconsin, \$2,000
- Fox Valley Veterans Council, Inc. - Veterans Emergency Fund, \$20,000
- Heroes' Hunt for Veterans, \$5,000
- HistoriCorps, \$3,000
- Horse Spirit, Inc., \$2,000
- Indianhead Community Action Agency, \$5,000
- Madison Area Technical College Foundation, \$3,000
- Manufacturing Diversity Institute, Inc., \$20,000
- Milwaukee Area Technical College, \$3,000
- Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative, \$15,000
- Neighbor to Neighbor Volunteer Caregivers of Door County, Inc., \$3,175
- North Central Technical College Foundation, \$3,000
- Operation Finally Home, \$3,000
- Porchlight, Inc., \$5,000
- Rock Valley Community Programs, Inc., \$3,000
- Souls of Honor LLC, \$4,000
- Stepping Stone Farms School of Horsemanship, \$4,999
- Veterans Memorial Park, \$10,000
- Trees From Home, Inc., \$4,999
- Trinity Equestrian Center Kids Kamp, Inc., \$10,000
- United Veterans Partnership, Inc., \$2,000
- University of Wisconsin Superior Foundation, \$25,000
- University of Wisconsin Whitewater, \$5,000
- USO Wisconsin, Inc., \$20,000
- Veterans Afield U. A., \$2,000
- Veterans Ceremony – Union Grove, \$10,000
- Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin, Inc., \$3,000
- VFW Post 8216, \$3,000
- War Memorial Center, \$10,000
- Warrior Songs, Inc., \$2,000
- WI Women Business Initiative Corp., \$5,000
- Wilderness Veterans Memorial Flame Foundation, Inc., \$5,000
- Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc., \$5,000
- Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired, \$4,300

Message From FCP Veterans Post 1

We consider it an honor and a privilege to be of service to the Potawatomi community. Membership in FCP Veterans Post 1 is open to all veterans and spouses of Potawatomi tribal members. Meetings take place on the first Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at the old tribal hall located at 8000 Potawatomi Trail in Crandon.

Please join us!

Diabetes and You: Achieving Your Weight Loss Goals Starts with Setting Your Goals

submitted by Community Health

If this is the year you plan to lose weight, congratulations! Losing just five to seven percent of your weight will help you reduce your risk for diabetes. You will have more energy and feel better.

To start losing weight, try setting goals. The key to reaching your weight loss goals is to create goals that are:

Realistic

Talk to your health care provider and choose an amount to lose that you can achieve. Then decide how many pounds you can lose in the first weeks and month. Usually losing 1-2 pounds per week, or about 5 pounds per month, is realistic.

Specific

Develop a very specific plan of action. First set your long term goal: "I will lose 20 pounds." Then set short-term goals so you can keep track of your progress. Next develop specific steps to reach your short-term goal: "I will lose 5 pounds this month by walking three times a week and eating smaller portion sizes."

Measurable

Make sure you can measure your progress often, both your action steps

and your progress towards your goal. Keep a food and exercise journal. Weigh yourself once a week and write down the numbers.

Positive

Make your goals related to values that are important to you. Think to yourself, "I want to be at a healthy weight so I can live long to be with my grandchildren," or "I want to take care of myself so I can be independent and stay active in my community." Always remind yourself why it's important that you lose weight. Think of the benefit to you, your family and your community.

Action Oriented

Write down the exact steps you will take to achieve your weight loss goals. Include what you will do, not just what you won't do.

Losing weight is easier to do if you have support. Ask a family member or friend to join you in setting weight loss goals and making a healthy living plan. Talk and walk with your friends and family members. Make an appointment with health care staff to go over your goals. Attend a weight loss class. There are many people who want to help you achieve your weight loss goal.



Tips to Help You Succeed

Instead of this: I will lose weight.

Do this: I will lose 5 pounds this month.

Instead of this: I will exercise more.

Do this: I will take a brisk walk for 30 minutes after work Monday - Friday.

Instead of this: I will not eat so much fat.

Do this: I will buy lean cuts of meat and fat-free dairy products.

Instead of this: I will not eat so many sweets.

Do this: I will eat two pieces of fresh fruit and drink water instead of soda.

Instead of this: I will stop eating fast food for lunch.

Do this: I will pack my lunch at night and include a fruit and vegetable.

Instead of this: I will improve my eating habits.

Do this: I will meet with a dietitian once a month to develop a meal plan for me and my family.

Source: IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention

Flu Cases on the Rise

submitted by Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Flu cases are on the rise, and health officials are urging people to take precautions. Simple steps, including getting a flu shot, help protect against the flu.

There have been 161 influenza cases to date this flu season, and 95 influenza-associated hospitalizations, including eight children and 78 adults ages 50 and older. Of those hospitalized with influenza, 63 percent were ages 65 years and older.

"Getting a flu shot is still one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family and friends against the flu and potential complications," said State Health Officer Karen McKeown. "There are also many simple steps people can take now to avoid spreading the flu to family and friends, and to keep from getting it themselves, including practicing good handwashing hygiene, covering your cough, and not sharing drinking cups and straws."

Influenza can range from mild to severe, and in some cases can cause life-threatening complications. Symptoms can come on quickly and include fever, headache, dry cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, body aches, and tiredness. If someone does get the flu after getting vaccinated, it is more likely to be a milder case.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), everyone aged six months and older should be vaccinated annually. To schedule a flu shot, contact your health care provider, pharmacy, local public health department or tribal health clinic, or go to the CDC website at www.cdc.gov to find a flu vaccination center near you.

Health officials encourage you to remember these steps for protecting against the flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your upper sleeve and try to avoid touching your face with your hand. If you use a tissue, throw it away after one use.
- Use your own drinking cups and straws.
- Avoid being exposed to people who are sick with flu-like symptoms.
- Eat nutritious meals, get plenty of rest and do not smoke.
- Frequently clean commonly touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, refrigerator handle, telephone, faucets).

If you think you have the flu, call your doctor. Stay home, rest, drink plenty of liquids, and avoid using alcohol and tobacco.



Honoring Health, Healing, and Tradition

FCP Health & Wellness Center's mission is to provide patients with high quality care here at home. Our onsite laboratory services promptly fulfill orders whether from a provider at the Health & Wellness Center or from outside specialists. You no longer need to travel to have laboratory testing done at a high quality, COLA accredited facility with modern equipment. No appointment is necessary. Simply bring your referring providers order for the tests you need. Your provider will receive timely, accurate results!

Appointments can be made by calling (715) 478-4339. Hours: Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Open to the Public

SERVICES OFFERED	
AODA (715) 478-4370	Optometry (715) 478-4345
Behavioral Health (715) 478-4332	Pediatrics (715) 478-4339
Community Health (715) 478-4355	Pharmacy (715) 478-4347
Dental (715) 478-4313	Imaging (715) 478-4339
Lab (715) 478-4339	Rehabilitation (715) 478-4344
Medical (715) 478-4339	Weekend Walk-In (715) 478-4300



**FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER**
8201 Mish ko swen Drive, Crandon, WI
General: (715) 478-4300 • www.FCPotawatomi.com

a participating member of



February is Heart Health Month

submitted by Melanie Tatge, CHES, Community Health

Your breath shortens, you feel discomfort in your chest and upper body, and start to feel light-headed. You may be experiencing a heart attack. Wisconsin is one of the states with the highest death rates as a result of heart attack and stroke. Approximately 17 million people die each year of heart-related issues, and heart disease is the first leading cause of death among American Indians/Alaskan Natives (AI/AN).

There are many contributing factors to heart disease/stroke/heart attack that include one's diet, physical activity, and smoking status. AI/AN are at higher risk (8.1 for AI/AN to 6.2 for non-Hispanic Caucasians) compared to other races/ethnicities given the population's higher rates of diabetes, hypertension, and tobacco use. Deaths as a result of heart disease among AI/AN populations occur more often at a younger age (36 percent die under the age of 65) compared to other populations. It is important to know the signs and symptoms of stroke and heart

attack because acting quickly could save your life.

Heart Attack

- Chest discomfort: You may feel that your chest hurts or feels tight.

- Discomfort in your upper body: One or both arms, your back and/or stomach may hurt. You may also experience some neck or jaw pain.

- Shortness of breath: You feel like you can't breathe.

- You may also feel light-headed, sick to your stomach and have a cold sweat.

Stroke (Remember to act FAST)

- Face: Try to smile - does one side of the face droop?



- Arm: Raise both arms - does one arm drift downward?
- Speech: Repeat a sentence - are you/they able to speak clearly and repeat a sentence accurately?
- Time: If you observe any of these signs, call 911 immediately.

If you are experiencing any signs and symptoms, it is important to call 911! Do not drive yourself to the hospital. Your risk for heart disease/attack and stroke can be reduced and prevented by maintaining a healthy diet, routine exercise, limiting alco-

hol consumption, managing stress, and controlling blood pressure and cholesterol levels. If you feel you may be at risk, ask your primary care provider about the ABCS:

A - Ask your doctor if you should take

an **aspirin** every day.

B, C - Control your **blood** pressure and **cholesterol**. Speak with a primary care provider about how to treat and manage these levels.

S - If you **smoke**, get help to quit. Contact the FCP Community Health Department at (715) 478-4355 for more information on the smoking cessation program.

References: American Heart Association. 2016. *For Native Americans, heart health doesn't come easy*. Retrieved from <http://news.heart.org/for-native-americans-heart-health-doesnt-come-easy/>; Center for Disease Control and Prevention. 2014. *Be One in a Million this American Heart Month*. Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/dhdspl/american_heart_month.htm; National Stroke Association. 2016. *Minorities and Stroke: American Indians and Alaska Natives*. Retrieved from www.stroke.org/understand-stroke/impact-stroke/minorities-and-stroke; Office of Minority Health. 2014. *Heart Disease and American Indians/Alaska Natives*. Retrieved from <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omb/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=34>; United States Department of Health and Human Services. 2006. *Honoring the Gift of Heart Health*. Retrieved from www.nhlbi.nih.gov/files/docs/resources/heart/ak_manual.pdf

January is National Radon Action Month

submitted by Melanie Tatge, CHES, Community Health

What is radon?

Radon is a natural gas that is released from rock, soil and water. This gas cannot be seen or sensed by humans. Radon exists both indoors and outdoors, and approximately 1 in 15 homes have high levels of radon. High levels of this gas can lead to several health complications.

What are the health risks?

Increased level of radon exposure over time can lead to cancer. According to the American Cancer Society (2015), radon causes approximately 20,000 lung cancer deaths in the United States each year. This rate is second only to smoking. Smoking, in addition to radon exposure, significantly increases one's risk of lung cancer.

However, smoker or non-smoker, everyone is at risk for radon since certain amounts exist outdoors and in everyone's home. This gas impacts lungs through the air you breathe. When you breathe air containing radon (at certain levels), cells in your airway can become damaged. This damage over time can lead to lung cancer.

How can I protect myself, my home and loved ones?

Test your home for radon. Radon enters homes through cracks and openings in the building's foundation. Places that commonly detect radon levels are: basements, garages and first-floor rooms. Radon can be found in everyone's home, and neighboring homes can detect different levels of radon.

Radon is measured in picocuries per liter of air or, "pCi/L." The average levels

of radon outdoors is 0.4 pCi/L, and indoors is around 1.3 pCi/L. Even though there is no "safe" level of radon, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (2016), levels below 4 pCi/L are considered acceptable. The only way to know your home's radon level is through testing. You can test your own home for radon using a do-it-yourself kit or by contacting the FCP Housing Department at (715) 478-7270.

Other helpful steps recommend by the Environmental Protection Agency (2016) include:

- Stop smoking and discourage smoking in your home. Smoking significantly increases the risk of lung cancer from radon.

- Increase air flow in your house by opening windows and using fans and vents to circulate air. Natural ventilation in any type of house is only a temporary strategy to reduce radon.

- Seal cracks in floors and walls with plaster, caulk, or other materials designed for this purpose. Always test again after finishing, making sure you've fixed your radon problem.

- Ask about radon resistant construction techniques if you are buying a new home. It is almost always cheaper and easier to build these features into new homes than to add them later.

References: American Cancer Society. 2015. *Radon and Cancer*. Retrieved from www.cancer.org/cancer/cancercauses/othercarcinogens/pollution/radon; National Radon Defense. 2016. *Risks for radon can be higher in Native homes*. Retrieved from www.nationalradondefense.com/about-us/articles/12893-risks-for-radon-can-be-higher-in-native-homes.html. United States Environmental Protection

Agency. 2016. *National Radon Action Month Event Planning Kit*. Retrieved from www.epa.gov/radon/national-radon-action-month-event-planning-kit.

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development & Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control. 2011. *Radon*.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ADVISORY MEETING

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Wednesday, January 25, 2017
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
LNR Building, 5320 Wensaut Lane

Open to Enrolled FCP Tribal Members

The FCP Natural Resources and Forestry departments are here to protect and enhance the FCP lands and waters to meet the needs of the community. We are seeking your input to help guide these efforts. Please come and join us for the first FCPC Conservation Advisory Meeting. Your opinion is very important to us.

On the agenda:

- Forest management & roads
- Beaver management
- Conservation areas

A light lunch will be served.

Please call or visit the Natural Resources Department at (715) 478-7222 for more information.

FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

Play Shoppe - Breakfast with Santa

by Val Niehaus

On Dec. 20, 2016, Play Shoppe had its annual Christmas party hosting Breakfast with Santa. Along with the attendees from Play Shoppe, Rising Sun Daycare was able to come participate as well.

All the children were able to get their photos taken with Santa even though some had a tough time with this.

A festive breakfast complete with snowman pancakes and juice helped fill the bellies of the little ones.

It was a great time for the children to see Santa and have some fun!



Gte Ga Nēs Christmas Program

by Val Niehaus

Gte Ga Nēs preschool had its Christmas program called, “The Littlest Christmas Tree”, on Dec. 21, 2016. The program was held at the FCP Executive Auditorium which was filled with parents, grandparents, family members and friends. It was packed!

Trisha Stefonek, Gte Ga Nēs director, said, “The program portrayed a message of realizing your dreams and making them become something, especially with the help of friends and family.”

Some of the songs sung by the

children were, “I’m a Little Fir Tree”, “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” and, of course, the classic “Jingle Bells” along with a few others. There was also three little naughty elves who kept pulling pranks on people during the program. This was the funniest part of the program!

Christmas programs really set the mood for the holidays for many people. Seeing Christmas through the eyes of young children is the best spirit of Christmas!



Some of the animals portrayed in the program: deer, red birds, and bunnies.



A snowball fight ended the program. Many had fun with this!



“The Littlest Christmas Tree” played by Button Martin.



(l-r) Trisha Stefonek and Abbey Albrecht were narrators.

Rising Sun Christmas Program

by Val Niehaus

Rising Sun daycare held its annual Christmas program on Dec. 21, 2016. This was the highlight of the year for many and for the parents who were able to enjoy a bit of Christmas cheer from their little ones.

Some of the songs sung by the “Little Stars” were, “Dancing Christmas Tree”, “Little Snowflake”, “Jingle, Jingle Little Bell”, the classic “Frosty the Snowman”, with a few other seasonal favorites.

After the program the children were

able to visit with Santa and receive a Christmas gift from him for being such good little boys and girls. Santa also read them two Christmas stories and many of the children loved this treat!

There were then drinks and snacks provided so that everyone in attendance had the opportunity to visit as well as to discuss with each other how well their children did with their singing in the program.



Who could that be? Ms. Mary? No, it’s Frosty the Snowman!!



Aria Johnson did great during the “Little Snowflake” song.



(left) All the children did a great job singing and dancing!

Year in Review 2016



Year in Review 2016



Happy New Year to the FCP Community!

Youth Complete Beading Project

submitted by Keeanna Armstrong, FCP Education Department

Here are some pictures of the after-school program when the beading took place. The grades we invite are 4th-8th grade at Wabeno Schools. It is located at the We Care in Carter from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. every Monday night and open to Natives and non-Natives. Activities are based on the Native American culture, such as the Seven Teachings, which are Love, Respect, Wisdom, Courage, Truth, Humility, and Honesty.

Ruth Pemma was the instructor for the beading classes and is shown with the students that included: Araena Soman, Kelsey Beaber, Ozari Ventura, Bluesky Meshigaud, Aurora Thundercloud, Caydence Ray, Kiana Beaber, Destiny Gilligan, Laney Peters, Paul Davis, Raelen Gwynes and Jordan Kelly.

*Nathan Shepard Jr. not pictured



Updated BIA Guidelines to Strengthen Implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act Announced

submitted by Office of Public Affairs - Indian Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Dec. 30, 2016) – Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Lawrence S. Roberts announced final, updated Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) guidelines for implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA) that will better protect the rights of Indian children, their parents and their tribes in state child welfare proceedings. The guidelines explain the ICWA statute and regulations while also providing examples of best practices for its implementation, the goal of which is to encourage greater uniformity in the application of ICWA measures.

“The BIA’s updated Indian Child Welfare Act guidelines are the capstone of the Obama Administration’s efforts to support the stability and security of Indian families and tribes by providing a more consistent interpretation of ICWA, regardless of the child welfare worker, judge or state involved,” Roberts said. “I want to thank tribal leaders, the Indian child welfare community, and our state and federal partners for their valuable input and assistance with updating the guidelines. The guidelines themselves will help with ensuring the rights of Indian children and their families under ICWA, and in strengthening the cohesiveness of tribal communities everywhere.”

The BIA first published its ICWA guidelines in 1979, shortly after the law’s passage. While the Department updated the guidelines in 2015, it updated them further to complement its recently finalized regulations which became effective on Dec. 12, 2016.

Congress enacted ICWA to address the separation of Indian children from their families at a disproportionately high rate, as a result of state agency policies and practices that placed the children in non-Indian foster and adoptive homes.

Based on 2013 data, Native children nationwide are represented in state foster care at a rate 2.5 times greater than their

presence in the general population. In some states, Native American children are represented in state foster-care systems at rates as high as 14.8 times their presence in the general population of that state.

Since ICWA’s enactment, state courts and state agencies have sometimes differed in their interpretations of the law and been inconsistent in their implementation of it. To address this problem, the updated guidelines provide information for them to consider in carrying out the Act’s and final rule’s requirements, often drawing upon approaches states have already used.

In developing these guidelines, the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs worked closely with the Children’s Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with the U.S. Department of Justice to produce a document that reflected the expertise of all three agencies. Its development was also informed by public hearings, tribal consultations, and more than 2,100 written comments on the March 2015 proposed rule, as well as input received during training conducted on the final rule from July 2016 to November.

The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which is headed by a director who is responsible for managing day-to-day operations through four offices: Indian Services, Justice Services, Trust Services, and Field Operations. These offices directly administer or fund tribally-based infrastructure, economic development, law enforcement and justice, social services (including child welfare), tribal governance, and trust land and natural and energy resources management programs for the nation’s federally-recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes through 12 regional offices and 81 agencies.



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- Kahlil Gibran

New National Monuments Designated by President Applauded

submitted by USDA Office of Communications

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Dec. 28, 2016) – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack applaud the President's designation of the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah and the Gold Butte National Monument in southeastern Nevada. Representing the best of America's natural wonders, the designations complete what tribes, members of Congress, state and local officials, and local business and community leaders have sought for decades, but Congress failed to take action.

The new monuments protect approximately 1.64 million acres of existing federal land in two spectacular western landscapes – 1.35 million acres in Utah and nearly 300,000 acres in Nevada. Both areas contain land sacred to Native American tribes, important cultural sites, and fragile wildlife habitat. The monument designations maintain currently authorized uses of the land that do not harm the resources protected by the monument, including tribal access and traditional collection of plants and firewood, off-highway vehicle recreation, hunting and fishing and authorized grazing. The monument designation also does not affect valid existing rights for oil, gas, and mining operations, military training operations, and utility corridors.

"The rock art, ancient dwellings, and ceremonial sites concealed within these breathtaking landscapes help tell the story of people who have stewarded these lands for hundreds of generations," said Jewell. "Today's action builds on an extraordinary effort from tribes, local communities, and members of Congress to ensure that these treasures are protected for generations to come, so that tribes may continue to use and care for these lands, and all may have an opportunity to enjoy their beauty and learn from their rich cultural history."

"Utahans of all creeds are rightfully proud of the spectacular Bears Ears landscape, treasuring the opportunity to recreate, hunt, ranch and engage in their traditional cultural and spiritual practices. Rather than closing off opportunities to continue those uses, the announcement is a recognition that those activities can continue, and the natural and cultural resources the communities prize are worthy of permanent protection to be shared with all Americans," said Vilsack. "As we move forward with planning for monument implementation, the deep knowledge of the tribal community as well as ranchers, recreationists, archeologists and local community citizens will be heard."

The 1.35 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument protects one of the richest cultural landscapes in the United States, with thousands of archaeological

sites and areas of spiritual significance. These lands are sacred to many Native American tribes today who use them for ceremonies, collecting medicinal and edible plants, and gathering materials for crafting baskets and footwear. To ensure that management decisions affecting the monument reflect tribal expertise and traditional and historical knowledge, the Presidential proclamation establishes a Bears Ears Commission, comprised of tribal representatives, to provide guidance and recommendations on management of the monument.

"President Obama has been consistent in his commitment to work with tribal governments, and this historic designation builds on his legacy," said Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye. "We are particularly pleased that the designation affirms tribal sovereignty and provides a collaborative role for tribes to work with the federal government in maintaining the land. Because tribes will help manage this land, it reaffirms President Obama's fundamental commitment to human rights and equity in voice. Furthermore, while the land will be protected, our local Utah-based tribal members will continue to have access to the land for gathering ceremonial herbs. The land has always been a place of sacredness and fortitude for our people. Now it will be preserved for all future generations."

Abundant rock art, ancient cliff dwellings, ceremonial kivas, and countless other artifacts provide an extraordinary archaeological and cultural record surrounded by a dramatic backdrop of deep sandstone canyons, desert mesas, and forested highlands and the monument's namesake twin buttes. For these reasons, the Bears Ears area has been proposed for protection by members of Congress, Secretaries of the Interior, state and tribal leaders, and local conservationists for at least 80 years. Native American tribes whose ancestral lands include the Bears Ears area advocated for permanent protection, led by the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition made up of the Hopi Nation, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Zuni Tribe. Numerous tribes with ties to the region, including the above tribes, have passed resolutions and sent letters in support of a national monument designation.

The area's tradition of ranching, which dates back to the late 1800s, will continue. Grazing permits and leases will continue to be issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

In July, Secretary Jewell, Agriculture Under-Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie, and other senior administration officials

visited Bears Ears along with staff from Gov. Herbert's office and Utah Congressional delegation staff, and attended a public meeting where the majority of an overflow crowd encouraged permanent protection for this iconic landscape. Input from individuals and groups who raised concerns at the meeting were also considered in the terms outlined in the proclamation. Other national monument supporters include elected officials in Utah, national and local conservation groups, archaeologists, and faith-based organizations. Recreationists strongly support the monument, which will protect the area's world-class rock climbing, hunting, backpacking, whitewater rafting, mountain biking, and off-highway vehicle recreation – activities that will continue to be a source of economic growth for southeastern Utah.

The proclamation also directs the Secretary of the Interior to explore within 30 days a land exchange with the State of Utah, which would transfer Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration land within the Bears Ears boundary in exchange for Bureau of Land Management land outside of the boundary. The BLM and the USFS will jointly manage Bears Ears National Monument. In doing so, both agencies will jointly prepare a management plan developed with maximum public involvement, including tribal, local and state governments, permit holders, other stakeholders and other federal land management agencies in the local area, including the National Park Service.

The Gold Butte National Monument protects nearly 300,000 acres of remote and rugged desert landscape, where dramatically chiseled red sandstone, twisting canyons, and tree-clad mountains punctuate desolate stretches of the Mojave Desert. The brightly hued sandstone provides a stunning canvas for the area's famously beautiful rock art, and the desert provides critical habitat for the threatened Mojave Desert tortoise. Evidence of indigenous communities' remarkable ability to survive in arid conditions here abounds, from ancient rock shelters and hearth remains to agave roasting pits and projectile points.

Today, Gold Butte remains culturally and spiritually important to the Southern Paiute people, particularly the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, who collect water from the mountain springs, gather traditional sources of paint, harvest pinyon pine nuts and other resources, and access ceremonial sites. The area is popular for outdoor recreation, and visitors to the monument can hike to rock art sites, drive the Gold Butte Backcountry Byway to the area's namesake mining ghost town, hunt desert bighorn sheep, or tour

the area's peaks and canyons on horseback.

This presidential designation is the result of Senator Harry Reid's strong leadership along with Representative Dina Titus, as well as support from the Moapa Band of Paiutes and Las Vegas Paiute Tribe. In 2015, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor and BLM Director Neil Kornze attended a public meeting hosted by Reid and Titus to hear from the public about protection and conservation of Gold Butte and other areas in southern Nevada. Supporters of protecting the area include local elected officials and governments, area businesses, hunters, anglers, recreationists, and local land trusts and conservation groups.

Livestock grazing has not been permitted in the Gold Butte area since 1998, in support of Clark County's Habitat Conservation Plan to conserve critical Mojave Desert tortoise habitat.

The Monument will be managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Both the Gold Butte National Monument and the Bears Ears National Monument are comprised exclusively of existing federal lands, and their designations honor valid existing rights. The plans will be developed in an open process with maximum public involvement, building upon the provisions outlined in the proclamations. Both proclamations also establish a local advisory council made up of a diverse array of interested stakeholders including state and local governments, tribes, recreational users, local business owners, and private landowners.

"These monuments will preserve sacred lands and ancient treasures that hold deep meaning for us all, illuminating the history of some of the earliest civilizations on this continent," said Kornze. "Local collaboration is key to the successful management of these incredible landscapes, and the BLM is committed to continuing and expanding our work with community partners."

The BLM and USFS staff will schedule informal open houses on Bears Ears National Monument in January to answer questions from permittees and other interested stakeholders, and as part of the formal management planning process will announce public sessions later this winter and spring. Details of these listening sessions, including dates and locations, will be shared with local newspapers and posted to the monuments' websites. The BLM will also hold public meetings on Gold Butte National Monument. Planning for both monuments will be done with full public involvement, with special emphasis on understanding the ideas and concerns of the local communities.



Land Buy-Back Program Sales Exceed \$1 Billion

submitted by U.S. Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Jan. 5, 2017) – As part of the U.S. Department of the Interior's nationwide tour to highlight the progress that has been made during the last eight years to restore the nation-to-nation relationship with Native Americans and Alaska Natives, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael L. Connor joined leaders of the Navajo Nation announcing that sales from the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations have exceeded \$1 billion.

"The significant accomplishments we are announcing come as a direct result of the close nation-to-nation cooperation we have had with sovereign tribal nations, such as the Navajo Nation," said Deputy Secretary Connor. "We're already seeing the difference this program is making. In addition to the significant resources flowing into Indian Country, returning fractionated lands to tribes in trust has enormous potential to improve tribal community resources by increasing home site locations, improving transportation routes, spurring tribal economic development, and preserving traditional cultural or ceremonial sites."

The Buy-Back Program implements the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement, which provided \$1.9 billion to purchase fractional interests in trust from willing sellers at fair market value. Individuals who choose to sell their interests receive payments directly into their Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts. Interests consolidated through the program are restored to tribal trust ownership for uses benefiting the reservation community and tribal members.

Since it began making offers in 2013, the Buy-Back Program has paid more than \$1 billion to landowners and restored the equivalent of nearly 1.9 million acres of land to tribal governments. Tribal ownership is now greater than 50 percent in more than 11,000 tracts, allowing for more efficient and effective use of the land for the benefit of tribal communities.

There are about 243,000 owners of nearly three million fractional interests across Indian Country who are eligible to participate in the program. The Buy-Back Program's implementation schedule includes 105 locations, which reflects more than 96 percent of all landowners with fractional interests and more than 98 percent of both the purchasable fractional interests and equivalent acres in program-eligible areas.

The department recently released the program's annual Status Report,

which highlights the steps taken to date to strengthen tribal sovereignty, consolidate fractional interests, and provide new opportunities to Native American communities.

Interior and tribal governments work closely to guide implementation of the Buy-Back Program, ensuring that landowners have the information they need to make informed decisions about their land. Thus far, the department has entered into agreements with 41 tribal nations, which outline coordinated strategies to facilitate education about the program to landowners, but are unique in time, scope and responsibilities based on the expressed interests of the tribe.

The Navajo Nation played a significant role in program progress, both in government-to-government coordination and in the engagement of individual landowners. More than 25,000 landowners with fractionated land interests at Navajo received offers from the Buy-Back Program. In total, more than \$108 million was paid to landowners who chose to accept their purchase offers. Interests were purchased in more than 2,800 tracts, consolidating more than 155,500 equivalent acres for the tribe.

"We recognize Elouise Cobell for challenging the government and bringing about a historic settlement that made the Land Buy-Back Program possible," Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said. "Consolidation of land is significant for the Navajo Nation because we have many checkerboard areas. It has been very good for the Navajo Nation to buy land back to turn it into trust land, and we appreciate all the collaboration and hard work that was put into the effort. We have more land that could be sold back and landowners that are willing to sell, and we believe the program needs to be expanded so that additional progress can be achieved."

Offers are also currently outstanding for landowners with fractional land interests at:

- Ponca, Jan. 12, 2017
- Blackfeet, Jan. 17, 2017
- Colville, Jan. 26, 2017

Landowners can contact the Trust Beneficiary Call Center at (888) 678-6836 or visit their local Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) to learn more about the program, update contact information, and discuss financial planning resources. Additional information is available at www.doi.gov/buybackprogram.

Mursau to Chair Committee on Environment and Forestry

submitted by Office of State Representative Jeff Mursau

MADISON, Wis. (Jan 3, 2017) - Representative Jeff Mursau (R-Crivitz) was sworn into office as the 103rd Wisconsin Legislature convened. Mursau will serve on several committees this session including as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Environment and Forestry and Co-Chair of the State Tribal Relations Committee. He served as chair of both committees during the previous legislative session.

"I appreciate the continued support from my colleagues to provide leadership on forestry issues and tribal relations," said Mursau. "I look forward to working with the new members of these committees and building on the improvements we've made over the last few years."

Mursau will also serve on the committees of Agriculture, Education, Sporting Heritage and Natural Resources, and Tourism. This will be his first term serving on the Education Committee.

"It's important to me that the work I do in Madison matters to the people of the 36th Assembly District," stated Mursau. "I asked to serve on these committees because they're the top issues I hear about the most from constituents. I want to be at the table at the beginning of the legislative process to ensure that rural areas have a voice when important policy decisions are being made."

Citizens can sign up for email notifications through the Wisconsin Legislature's website to receive information on proposals being considered by the legislature. You can pick preferences based on subject area, committee, author, etc. To sign up, please visit <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>. To share your thoughts with Representative Mursau regarding his committee work or matters before the legislature, you can contact his office by email at Rep.Mursau@legis.wi.gov or by calling (888) 534-0036.

Natural Resources Policy Needs Bold Change

submitted by Senator Tom Tiffany and Representative Adam Jarchow

Have you ever met someone who wants to destroy air and water? We haven't. Nevertheless, despite air and water quality getting better in Wisconsin, this is the attack consistently leveled against us. We even managed to make a special interest group's "dishonor roll" and have been labeled environmental lightning rods. Why? Because we have the audacity to take on the environmental left. Perhaps it's easier to engage in personal attacks than actually debate the issue at hand.

We both relish a good fight, but that's actually not why we engage in crafting environmental policy. Deep down, the reason we get involved in these fights is because they are incredibly important to the people we represent in rural and northern Wisconsin. While we have an abundance of natural resources, job opportunities can be very limited. Smart policies can have a dramatic impact on economic growth and job opportunities in northern Wisconsin. Why? It's a matter of scale.

Imagine if a new business opened in a suburban Milwaukee community and it provided 100 middle class jobs (loaded wage rates of \$30 per hour). This would be great, but it would barely be a drop in the bucket in a vast urban metropolis. On the other hand, where we live, many communities have less than 1,000 people. Imagine if a paper mill or frac sand facility employing 100 people at that same wage rate opened in that community. It'd be huge!

Just one good business can be the

lifeblood of an entire community. It's not just the direct jobs, but it's the indirect jobs – truckers, electricians, plumbers, contractors, restaurant and gas station owners, bankers, car dealers, realtors. Again, it's a matter of scale.

The reality is that our rural communities live or die with decisions suburban legislators make in Madison. An ill-suited, overly-restrictive rule can literally ruin a community. That's why we are so stridently opposed to Madison and Washington rules and regulations that kill job opportunities in farming, manufacturing, forestry, and tourism.

If you live downstate or in a more urban or suburban community, you may think these issues don't impact you. They do. If people in northern Wisconsin can't find family-sustaining jobs, they will be more dependent on government programs (which your tax dollars will fund) and there will also be a deficiency in our tax base, meaning you will also fund our schools. So, yes, the northern Wisconsin economy matters to you, even if you don't live there.

This session, we will continue to press for legislation that runs afoul of the dogmatic beliefs held by many so-called environmentalists. We intend to further streamline some rules and regulations and repeal those that don't make sense. It's a matter of life and death for our communities. When the attacks come from the self-proclaimed environmentalists, we hope our friends and neighbors across the rest of the state will stand with us, because it matters to you, too.



Census of Agriculture Notice

submitted by WTCAC

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC), in conjunction with its partner U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), encourages Native Americans to participate in the Census of Agriculture, which collects data from Native Americans producing agricultural products on tribal or non-tribal land. Collected only once every five years, the agricultural data provides tribal leaders, government officials, farmers, agribusinesses and others with data to help make informed decisions and allocate resources in Wisconsin. Individual tribal farmers are asked to sign up for the census. The census will gather information through February 2017.

The USDA's definition of a farm is \$1,000 or more a year in sales of agricultural products, which include wild rice,

fish, maple syrup, strawberries and other berries, small gardens (High Tunnels), and other traditional products.

Census results help determine the effectiveness of existing conservation practices and what resources tribal farmers may need to further protect the soil, water and related resources. The results guide USDA conservation policy and program development to budget for resources that help tribes, conservationists, farmers and ranchers more efficiently and effectively conserve natural resources. The privacy of all respondents is safeguarded, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified as required by federal law.

To make sure that Wisconsin tribal farmers are counted, farmers may call (888) 424-07828 or sign up at www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Special Announcement

submitted by WIEA

It is with great sorrow that the Wisconsin Indian Education Association (WIEA) sends its deepest respects to the family and friends on the passing of their father, husband, brother and grandfather, Alan Caldwell. A lifelong supporter of Native education, Caldwell was instrumental in advocating for and developing Wisconsin Act 31, legislation which requires all public school districts to provide historically accurate instruction in the history, culture and sovereignty of the tribal nations in Wisconsin.

Caldwell passed away Dec. 22, 2016, in Neenah, Wis.

"Alan was an icon, and embodied the resilience, determination and dedication we all strive to achieve," said WIEA President Brian Jackson. "His legacy is forever solidified in Wisconsin history, and he will be missed dearly," added Jackson.

Caldwell, a tribal member of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, served 35 years as a classroom teacher, school principal, administrator, youth sports coach, educational consultant and college professor. He also served on the board of directors of the Menominee Tribal Enterprises, College of Menominee

Nation, ACLU of Wisconsin, and National Indian Education Association. He was a gubernatorial appointee to the American Indian Language and Culture Education Board and a retired member of the Wisconsin Humanities Council. Prior to his career in education, Caldwell served in the U.S. Army from 1968-1971.

"Much of the work done in Wisconsin Indian education can be attributed directly to Caldwell's leadership in the area of issue advocacy and policy development," shared Jackson. "We, along with the entire educational community in the state and beyond, are in a state of mourning as we grieve the loss of one of our greatest mentors and allies."

Jackson says the WIEA will carry on Caldwell's memory and his life's work in both furthering the educational opportunities of American Indians and promoting their history and culture in mainstream society.

"Caldwell made his own mark on American Indian history in Wisconsin, and we look to carry on his vision of a better tomorrow for Indian people here and everywhere," said Jackson.



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PERSONALS

Sha bye ya and the Coyotey – Wolf

by Lee White in Dedication to Leland & Tess White

A very long time ago when the early settlers were forming a small town in the deep woods, they often stayed together as a group for safety reasons, and survival. Each family helped one another prosper. This small group of pioneers and farmers had livestock and garden crops, to insure a healthy survival.

During the first years they had become successful and the town was flourishing. Stores were opened, stables, and of course a small saloon.

In all communities problems arose. The farmers noticed missing livestock. Large animals such as a cow, goat, pig, or chickens. This problem seemed to increase. The farm owners had set traps, and went out hunting for the unknown predator. They were unsuccessful, and yet the farm animals still were disappearing. The hunting party had come across tracks and short trails, but they seemed to disappear into the deep forest. And still the problem grew. The farm owners were troubled deeply. They joined together and addressed the town council on this matter, and immediately a five hundred dollar (500.00) reward or bounty for catching and eliminating the problem. Many skilled hunters and trappers came to the area to claim the reward and yet still they were unsuccessful. Another town meeting was called, and at the meeting a cook from a near by logging camp was present. The cook explained he may have a solution to the dilemma which has plagued their little community. The Cook explained their was a Native American tribe called, Bode Wad mi, and a member of that tribe was a highly skilled hunter, a direct decedent of the Medicine men, and Spiritual tribal leaders. The Warrior/Hunter was well known for his success in the big game hunting. The Warriors/Hunter was known as; Sha bye ya. The town council spoke with Sha bye ya and offered the Native American one hundred dollars worth of supplies for his services, and to rid them of the terri-

ble beast that was terrorizing there village. The beast was known to the tribal council and tribal Elders as the Coyotey - Wolf, much like an evil Spirit than animal, they warned; Sha bye ya, this was no ordinary animal. With the advice taken in serious and cautious consideration, Sha bye ya performed several pre hunting rituals. A Sweat Lodge, Pipe Ceremony, Saging Ceremony, a feast, and a tobacco offering to the Great Spirit for allowing him to take the life of the Coyotey - Wolf. The ceremonies are always performed by the hunters prior to the hunt.

The agreement was accepted, and the hunt was on. Sha bye ya started tracking and observing the animals behavior and routine. Sha bye ya was a Patient and thorough hunter, his skills were extraordinary, the village people at times did not notice his presence. Some time had passed, Sha bye ya had formulated a plan, a strategy for the Coyotey - Wolf's demise. Sha bye ya studied the tracks and the trails that the very wise animal had left, before they disappeared. With the knowledge of hunters prey, a luer had been constructed. Sha bye ya developed a clever and unique luer. The technique and strategy consisted of a bucket of deer blood with one of Sha bye ya's Sharpest Knife blades, the blade was affixed to the center of the bucket and the deer blood was poured to the top of the bucket, then frozen, much like a popsickle stick. The Warrior placed the bucket out side of his lodge through out the winter night, to be sure it would freeze. The following day Sha bye ya made his preparations for the hunting trap. He came to an area he had scouted out previously, there he would place the trap, the deadly blood popsickle like treat, for now the Coyotey - Wolf was Sha bye ya's Prey.

Stationed a long safe distance away, yet the area was still visible to the hunter. Sha bye ya settled in for a patient wait, the trap was set. He had anticipated being in his observation spot for a good

while. Eventually the Coyotey - Wolf arrived, with the clever and keen senses, observing the blood popsickle.

Carefully the Wolf pondered the trap, and with no harm presented, the Wolf proceeded to indulge himself, by licking the blood popsickle. The licking continued through out the day and night. Eventually as planned the popsickle wore down from being licked, to the extremely sharp blade, yet the predator continued, knowing full well he was injuring himself. Yet the Wolf persisted and kept devouring the deadly treat. Eventually with greed, and knowingly the Coyotey - Wolf was consumed with his own selfishness, and fell prey to his own demise.

Sha bye ya returned to the town with the remains of the Coyotey - Wolf. The town council thanked Sha bye ya, as well did the towns people. With one Hun-

dred dollars worth of supplies from the grocery, hardware, and clothing stores Sha bye ya returned back to his tribe and presented the supplies to all his tribal members. As part of his agreement with the town, Sha bye ya received the very large pelt from the Coyotey - Wolf, The fur was exquisite and would be traded to a French fur trader for ten times the value of the ordinary Wolf hide or Coyotey fur. The beautiful fur such as this one, were worn only by Royal families who could afford to possess such expensive and fine articles. The furs were worn by Kings and Queens.

Authors Notes: The blood popsickle in the story represent Alcohol and Drugs, and that we as Alcoholics and Addicts consume, knowingly and eventually, will reach the center as did the Coyotey - Wolf.



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Welcome to the world my handsome son. Happy Birthday!

Raymond James Deverney was born Dec. 16, 2016, weighing in at 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Mother is Michelle Rae Deverney. Grandmother is Michelle L. Deverney of Antigo, Wis. Grandfather is George Alloway Sr. (deceased).



A Retirement Celebration to Remember

by Val Niehaus, photos by Autry Johnson

On Jan. 4, 2017, people gathered in the lower level of the FCP Cultural Center, Library & Museum to celebrate a man who has worked extremely hard to preserve not only Native American culture but, more importantly, the Potawatomi culture. This man is Mike Alloway, director of the Cultural Center, Library & Museum.

Alloway started his endeavors over 18 years ago and he has kept his family, culture and tribe in the foreground of any work or decisions he has made in that time. Before assuming his current role, Alloway had worked in tribal security and he was a summer youth supervisor. He also worked as an adolescent counselor for AODA before he assumed his museum directorship. In the role of museum director, he dealt with many preservation organizations such as National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO), Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and the Wisconsin Historical Society and is well respected by his peers.

The celebration on this day started with a prayer from FCP elder, Jim Thunder, blessing Alloway and the people who were present to celebrate with him.

FCP Council Member Brooks Boyd welcomed the crowd and gave some heartfelt personal words about Alloway.

He said, “I, myself, as a tribal member am very proud of what we have here. Over the years I have talked with Mike and as he pointed out, this really is a gem (speaking of the museum) for our people. We need to give this man the utmost acknowledgment for what he has done here.”

Another speaker for this celebration was James A. Crawford, FCP tribal secretary, who spoke to Alloway expressing many thanks for what he has done for this community. He said, “Mike, you have been a leader for a long time in this community. You’ve done things no one knew how to do. We never had a museum before and you stepped up and did those things so we have this museum now. You made it easier for the next generation to come aboard and pick up where you left off. I really appreciate that. I hate to lose Mike but I know he will still be around. I thank you for your leadership and all that you have done.”

Joe Daniels Sr., FCP treasurer, was next to the podium and expressed his thoughts. “As I grew up through the years, I came to realize that Mike had a strong spirit and a strong will that was inspirational as you see today in this facility. I’d like to acknowledge his hard work and desire to reach out through this museum and to continue on with these things we know in our culture and histo-

ry. Being knowledgeable in history is very important for our people today, especially for our young people. With that understanding today, many young people can come to this facility and share some of the beautiful knowledge that is here and kept within. This makes sure our future generations know the history of their identity. Mike, I want to congratulate you on your success for doing the best and putting your best foot forward. I thank you very much, Mike, for preserving and protecting our tribe’s history.”

After council members finished, it was then time for anyone in attendance to speak. Many of the people who spoke did so from their hearts and souls. They expressed a lot of appreciation towards Alloway, not only for all the hard work he put into the museum so that it is even in existence, but also for what he has done as a person. He was a great father, brother and friend to many and with the words spoken from these people’s mouths, it is obvious he will surely be missed. All are very proud of what he has done. Some of the other speakers included his brothers John and Sam and a friend, JR Holmes, who spoke of working with Mike, working on helping with the museum, and the pride he felt with what Mike has done for this tribe. Eugene Shawano, tribal administrator and friend, wished Mike the best on the next step in his life and stated that

he knows he will do well with whatever he does. Friend, Jeff Keeble, relived some early days with Mike which left many with a good chuckle and a bit of a tear in their eye. FCP tribal elder Virginia Jacobson spoke of all the good Mike has done for this tribe and how greatly she will miss his wisdom and dedication. His daughter, Mikiya, also got up and said a few words for her dad—words that only a daughter can say and the meaning of which only she and her father would understand. Last was Thunder, speaking his wise words on what it’s been to have Mike working on preserving this culture.

To show gratitude and appreciation, Alloway received a Pendleton blanket as a gift. After this gift was received, Fire Nation Singers sang the honor song for Alloway.

In closing, this celebration was clearly heartfelt and greatly honored Alloway who has been such a staple in this community. Great appreciation was expressed for the knowledge he has offered and his efforts in preserving this tribe’s history.

When *PTT* asked what his future plans are, he said, “Traveling. I plan on going out to Santé Fe for a while and who knows where I will go from there.” We all wish Alloway the best in his retirement and hopefully we will still often see his face around the community.



Mike with two important ladies in his life: mother Arlene and daughter Mikiya.



Fire Nation Singers honoring Mike with a song.



Mike giving his thoughts and thankfulness to the people who attended this celebration.



Many thanks go to the cooks who provided such a great feast.