



## Native Americans in the Military Vietnam War (1959-75)

by Val Niehaus

The reasons behind American involvement in the Vietnam War were unclear to many but for the 2.5 million Americans who served, the one thing that was clear was that it could be a challenge to stay alive.

In the beginning of American military involvement, in 1964, fewer than 50 percent of Americans had ever heard of Vietnam. What they had heard about the country was about the battle between democracy and communism that was taking place in that small Far Eastern nation. Communism was one thing that most Americans were aware of as a result of the Red Scares of the 1950s and the domino theory was prominent—the thought that if one nation became communist, those surrounding that country were also likely to follow. Despite that knowledge, and although most Americans were aware of the threat of communism, the attitude seemed to be that this situation was so far away that there should be no reason to worry about it.

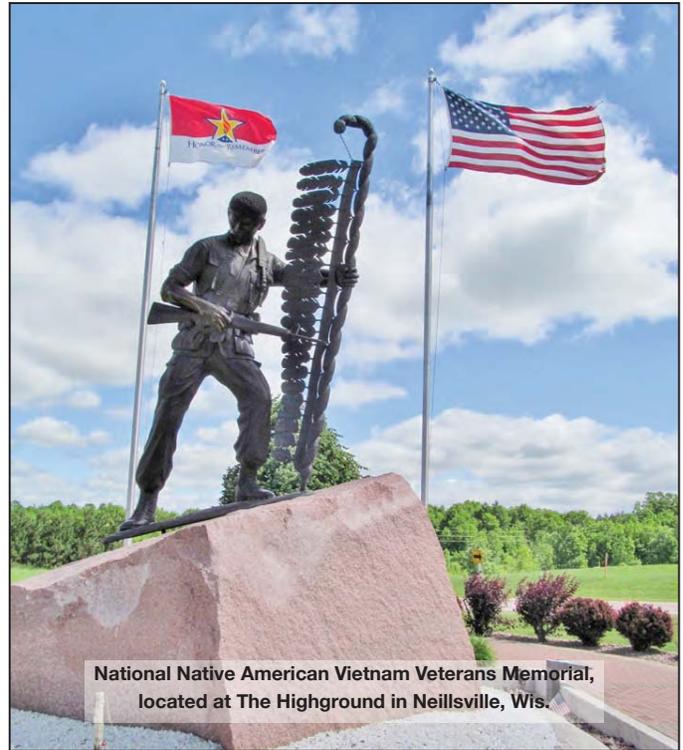
It was in 1954 that the United States started helping out in Vietnam when a treaty divided the country in two with communist China and the Soviet Union supporting the North and the United States supporting the South. The fear of the spread of Communism resulted in U.S. presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and eventually Johnson, sending support to South Vietnam in the form of military and fi-

ancial assistance and this gradually escalated over the years.

By 1964, the North Vietnamese (NVA) and the Viet Cong (VC) were becoming ever more aggressive in attempts to overthrow the South Vietnamese government and the conflict escalated from there. As August 2, 1964, approached, things within this conflict were soon to change with this being the date of an alleged attack on the USS Maddox by three North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. Another attack supposedly followed and the United States saw this as an act of war from the North Vietnamese. The result was that on August 7, 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution authorizing President Johnson to take all steps necessary in Southeast Asia to protect American interest.

There is a great deal of controversy about these “attacks” and what really happened but suffice it to say, they were supposedly the rationale behind the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and history then happened. The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong saw this resolution as a statement of war. The result was attacks on American air bases which resulted in the killing of American soldiers as well as the wounding of numerous others. Johnson authorized the bombing of North Vietnam to show American power, and many actually thought this war would be over in a matter of eight weeks. But with these bombings, troops that were located within South Vietnam became susceptible to VC attacks. To protect them, Johnson allowed ground troops to enter South Vietnam. It quickly became apparent that the conflict was growing into something larger than originally anticipated. And as we all know, this conflict became known as the Vietnam War. It lasted for years resulting in the deaths of 55,000+ Americans by the time it ended. Needless to say, the entire chain of events was much more prolonged and complicated than has been summarized here. Regardless of these several decades of events, America was in a war in Vietnam.

With that said, as in previous wars that have been discussed, Native Americans were very involved, having



National Native American Vietnam Veterans Memorial, located at The Highground in Neillville, Wis.

### National Native American Vietnam Veterans Memorial “The Forgotten Warrior”

This memorial statue was envisioned to serve as a touchstone where the quiet tears of unresolved grief from mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends could be shed in an honorific setting and be strengthened by the groundswell of pride that their departed loved ones stand in an elite company of Native American Warriors who fought in America's longest and costliest undeclared war. “The Forgotten Warrior” stands forth symbolically to uphold and memorialize the honor of those Native American warrior casualties as a lasting tribute to their sacrifices made in the script of commitment commingled with uncertainty, and strength empowered by purity.

Dedicated September 16, 1995

had the highest record of service per capita of any ethnic group serving in this war. More than 42,000 Native Americans served in Vietnam. While looking at a website ([www.californiaindianeducation.org/wall\\_of\\_faces](http://www.californiaindianeducation.org/wall_of_faces)), *PTT* found that there are 232 names that identify American Indian and Alaska Native service members who were killed in action (KIA) or missing in action (MIA) during the Vietnam War. Out of these 232, six of these men were from Wisconsin.

One man who knows about Vietnam and who can explain the harsh re-

ality of what war is really like is FCP tribal member, Ernie Wensaut. *PTT* had the honor and privilege of hearing Ernie's story, and being from a generation who had only heard of this war in school and from books and movies, there are no words to explain some of the horror experienced, the sacrifices made, or the courage shown by this man as he served his country during this war.

*continued on pg. 4...*

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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.

## Overview of Potawatomi Business Development Corporation's Employees and Locations

The Potawatomi Family of Companies currently consists of 207 employees located in 14 states, including 10 independent contractors:



## Historic Milwaukee Inc. Recognizes Forest County Potawatomi for Ambitious Restoration of Historic Wgema Campus

Historic Milwaukee Inc. held its annual Remarkable Milwaukee Awards on Thursday, March 12 at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino's Woodland Dreams Ballroom. Each year the awards honor both an individual and an organization committed to historic preservation in the city of Milwaukee.

The event featured a 30-minute presentation from Potawatomi Business Development Corporation's own Tom Devine, depicting the history of the campus and the vision and mission the Tribe has for its future. The Young Fire Keepers performed for guests as they made their way to their seats for the dinner and presentation.

Historic Milwaukee Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing awareness of and commitment to Milwaukee's history, architecture, and the preservation of our built environment through education and advocacy. HMI is an affiliated member of the Wisconsin Historical Society, a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Visit Milwaukee.



The Young Fire Keepers perform for guests



Tom Devine presents to the guests

### April Elder Menus

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Monday, April 20</b><br/>Ham &amp; Turkey Sub w/Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle, Baked Sun Chips, Apple</p> <p><b>Tuesday, April 21</b><br/>Hot Roast Beef Sandwich, Gravy, California Blend Veggies, Peanut Butter Cookie, Apple Juice</p> <p><b>Wednesday, April 22</b><br/>Creamed Chicken over Biscuits, Peas &amp; Carrots, Jello® w/Mandarin Oranges</p> <p><b>Thursday, April 23</b><br/>Baked Fish, Baked Beans, Broccoli, Dinner Roll, Watermelon</p> <p><b>Friday, April 24</b><br/>Cream of Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Crackers, Yogurt, Fruit Cocktail</p> | <p><b>Monday, April 27</b><br/>Pasta Ham Salad, Crackers, Carrot &amp; Celery Sticks w/Dip, Cottage Cheese, Blueberry Yogurt</p> <p><b>Tuesday, April 28</b><br/>Chicken Cheese Wrap w/Lettuce &amp; Tomato, Sweet Potato Fries, Plums</p> <p><b>Wednesday, April 29</b><br/>Hamburger Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Asparagus, Carrots, Strawberries</p> <p><b>Thursday, April 30</b><br/>Fish Sandwich w/Lettuce &amp; Tomato, Broccoli &amp; Cauliflower w/Dip, Banana Nut Muffin</p> <p><b>Friday, May 1</b><br/>Chili, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Ice Cream, Cranberry Juice</p> |
|---|--|

Milk, juice or coffee with every meal. \*Menus subject to change.

### FCP Caring Place April Activities Calendar



**EVENTS IN THE ACTIVITIES ROOM:**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays - Exercise at 9 a.m.

**SPECIAL EVENTS (RSVP REQUIRED):**  
April 14: Bingo  
April 17: Rouman Cinema

The elders who signed up will take part in the trip to Albuquerque April 21-28. The activity room will be open for others to come in and do activities with our other aide.

### Welcome to These New Employees

Keith Smith, HWC  
Traditional Medicine Practitioner  
Hire date: 3/12/2015

Valerie Smith, HWC  
Traditional Medicine Practitioner  
Hire date: 3/12/2015

### • 2015 Graduation Notice •

To all FCP Tribal and Community High School, College, GED, HSED Technical and College Graduates for the year 2014-2015, this message is for you!

Please contact the *Traveling Times* office to obtain a questionnaire to be put in our special graduate section of the newspaper. Deadline for the June 1 issue is Wednesday, May 13, 2015; deadline for the June 15 issue is Wednesday, June 3, 2015. You may obtain a questionnaire by stopping at our office Monday - Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 8000 Potawatomi Trail, Crandon, call us at (715) 478-7437, or email us at times@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov.

We hope to hear from all graduates so we may congratulate them in the June issues of the *Traveling Times*!

### Virtual Dementia Tour

Wednesday, April 15, 2015, Best Western Inn, Crandon, Wis.

There will be an Alzheimer's Association representative available to answer questions; books and brochures will be available to participants. Please allow 20-30 minutes for the tour. The event is FREE and OPEN to all community members.

Please RSVP by April 13, 2015, by contacting Penny Christianson, Elder Services Coord., at (715) 478-4892.

**Potawatomi Traveling Times**  
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**Deadline for the May 1, 2015 issue is Wednesday, April 15, 2015.**

### Thank You...

On behalf of the Zachary Shawano family, we would like to thank everyone for the many gifts that were given and received during a very trying time. As I have always been told to share often - gifts are not to be kept, but when possible, they should be shared. We were given that gift and as we found out during our grief, he was shared with many. In the short time that he was here, he touched many and he will forever be remembered through his family, wife, and especially his newly-born son. So we thank God for the time we had, and selfishly we would want more, but that is not happening. So today, we rejoice and look forward to the day when we will see his smiling face again, and God will share why he needed our special angel. Our family wishes all who shared condolences peace, and please keep praying to God, for he hears you and sends his comfort to us.

# Return of Nearly 300 Native American Remains

Reprinted with permission from *Columns*, the newsletter of the Wisconsin Historical Society

After three years of dedicated work, the Wisconsin Historical Society repatriated nearly 300 sets of remains and associated funerary object.

This represented the successful completion of a National Park Service grant the Society received in 2011 through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Passed in 1990, NAGPRA outlines a legal process for museums, universities, and other institutions that receive federal funding to return, or repatriate, human remains and certain types of artifacts to Native Nations who make a valid claim for them. It requires these institutions to report what is in their Native American collections and to consult with the appropriate Native Nations about the identification, cultural affiliation, and repatriation of these cultural items. For many

native people, these collections represent a painful part of their history; NAGPRA attempts to rectify this.

The Society's 2011 NAGPRA grant focused on eastern and southern Wisconsin. It required staff from two of its Divisions — the Museum and Historic Sites and the Historic Preservation Division — to work closely. Society Native American Liaison and Director of the Historical Museum, Jennifer Kolb, and Leslie Eisenberg, Compliance Archaeologist, spent nearly three years in consultation with tribal representatives to work through the complicated issues to arrive at agreements as to how the remains should be cared for, and ultimately returned, to the appropriate tribe(s). NAGPRA representatives from three Tribes were critical to the successful return and reburial of these remains: Mr.

Michael Alloway Sr. (Forest County Potawatomi), Mr. George Garvin (Ho-Chunk Nation), and Mr. David Grignon (Menominee Indian Tribe). The guidance and information shared by the NAGPRA representatives during these frank, and often difficult, conversations were invaluable. In addition to reaching the goals of the grant, the consultation process also worked to strengthen relationships between the Society and Wisconsin's Native Nations and Tribes. It also heightened awareness among the Historical Society's staff and Board of Curators, particularly its Stewardship Committee who reviewed all of the documentation related to claims and agreements before making recommendation to the full Board.

Working through the legal processes of NAGPRA also brought

other issues and concerns, important to Native Nations and Tribes, in front of the Society. In October 2014, the remains of nearly 300 Native Americans were reburied in two separate locations, marking the end of a process that began at the Society more than 20 years ago. The success of this grant demonstrates the Historical Society's ongoing commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities under NAGPRA and to improving and sustaining its relationships with tribes. It also lays the groundwork for the recently awarded 2014 NAGPRA Consultation and Documentation Grant, which will focus on remains from sites in Wisconsin's northern and western regions.

## Vietnam War

...continued from pg. 1

Wensaut was drafted into the service. Of course, this means he did not volunteer to be a part of this, but as he said, "I didn't want to go but I had no choice." This, unfortunately, was the way for many young American men during this time. Wensaut was in Vietnam from October 1966 to October 22, 1967. During this year he experienced what only those who have been in combat can explain and understand.

His age at the time was 21. At this age, most young men of his generation were out of school and starting their lives. They were finally able to get into a bar and drink legally, and it was a period of good times with buddies and girlfriends. When he was 21, Wensaut wasn't doing those things but was fighting to survive and to keep the buddies who were with him alive. It is truly impossible for those of us who have never been there to understand war and all it involves for the individual. As Wensaut said, "It's not fun being in a war; it's not like it's portrayed on TV. It's something you live and then have to live with the rest of your life and that's the hardest."

Wensaut was part of the Co C 2nd Battalion 10th Infantry 1st Division (a.k.a Big Red One). He was an M-60 machine gunner, which meant he was a part of a team of two to three men who would work together in firing this massive gun. This gun earned the nickname "The Pig" due to its size, and it would fire 500-650 rounds per minute. There was the gunner (Wensaut), the assistant gunner (AG military slang), and the ammunition bearer though sometimes there would only be the gunner and an assistant.

You can imagine what a feat it was to even get this machine gun set up and ready to fire. One recollection Wensaut has is how important it was to him to always keep his gun clean no matter what. He said that if it got wet, dusty, or dirty in any way, it could easily jam, so he was compulsive about keeping it clean so it would always be operational. He describes this very thing happening to many other M-60 machine gunners and those men never got to come home. Wensaut's AG always told him, "I'm sticking with you, Ernie, because you always keep your gun clean—I will always be with you." That was one of the known flaws of this gun, which was an iconic image of the Vietnam War. Though it was large and had great fire power, it was known for jamming easily if not kept free of dirt and moisture and this fact cost lives.

While in Vietnam, Wensaut was in the area known as War Zone C in the highlands along the Cambodian border. Wensaut's infantry would go into the jungle to replace troops that were already fighting in there. Once that troop was either weaned out or had their time put in, Wensaut and his buddies would head in to help. Can you imagine walking yourself into an area where you see extreme injuries to men, as well as deceased men being carried out? When first entering this area, Wensaut remembers how hot and humid it was and describes remembering seeing the paths of the tracer bullets. He remembers the feeling of not being buckled into the helicopter and just hanging on.

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## MILITARY VETERANS

Veterans Post 1 - We consider it an honor and privilege to be of service to our Potawatomi community. Membership 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. Please join us!

**IMPORTANT:** We are no longer accepting checks as a form of payment. Cash, Debit or Credit Cards only.

## "DA WE WGE MEK" (GIFT SHOP)

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## LARGER SELECTION OF BEADS!

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- Smokeytown: 40th Anniversary
- Young Bear: Live
- Northern Cree: Ewipihihk Round Dance Songs

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- Songs of the Native American Church
- Grandfather Peyote: Creators Gift
- Louie Gonnie: Spiraling, Ascending with Prayer

**FLUTE**

- Marina Raye: Return to Innocence
- Duncan & Yazzie: Singing Lights

# Community CHIP Article

submitted by **Stephanie Mattson, B.S., C.D., L.P.N., FCP HWC Nutritionist**

Pineapples have exceptional juiciness and a vibrant tropical flavor that balances the tastes of sweet and tart. They are second only to bananas as America's favorite tropical fruit. Although the season for pineapple runs from March through June, they are available year-round in local markets.

### How to Select and Store

Look for pineapples that are heavy for their size. While larger pineapples will have a greater proportion of edible flesh, there is usually no difference in quality between a small and large size pineapple. Pineapples should be free of soft spots, bruises and darkened "eyes", all of which may indicate that the pineapple is past its prime. Pineapple stops ripening as soon as it is picked, so choose fruit with a fragrant sweet smell at the stem end.

Pineapple can be left at room temperature for one or two days before serving. While this process will not

make the fruit any sweeter, it will help it to become softer and juicier. Yet, as they are very perishable, you should still watch them closely during this period to ensure that they do not spoil. After two days, if you are still not ready to consume the pineapple, you should wrap it in a plastic bag and store it in the refrigerator where it will keep for a maximum of three to five days.

Pineapple that has been cut up should be stored in the refrigerator in an airtight container. It will stay fresher and retain more taste and juiciness if you also place some liquid, preferably some juice from the pineapple, in the container. Although pineapple can be frozen, this process greatly affects its flavor.

### Health Benefits

Pineapples are a great source of Vitamin C, which is vital for the proper function of the immune system.

## Orange, Pineapple and Papaya Salad

This is a beautiful and refreshing fruit dish that takes only as much time as it takes to cut the fruit. And you can enjoy it as a salad or a dessert. Enjoy!

Prep and cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients: 1 medium sized pineapple, cut into one-inch pieces  
4 oranges, segments cut out from membrane  
1 large papaya, cut into pieces  
2 Tbsp. sliced almonds

Directions: Cut fruit and mix together; sprinkle with sliced almonds.

**Healthy Cooking Tips:** Cutting the orange segments as suggested will eliminate the bitterness and rough texture of the membrane without the segments falling apart. (Source: *whfoods.org*) See suggestion below for cutting pineapple.



### Cutting Instructions

- Step 1: Twist off top
- Step 2: Cut into quarters
- Step 3: Core and peel skin
- Step 4: Cut into cubes

## Child Development Day

April 21, 2015 • 1 - 4 p.m.

Health & Wellness Center (lower large conference room)  
Join MCH Team and Birth-to-Three for Vision Screenings, Hearing Screenings, Ages & Stages Developmental Assessments. Open to MCH Families & Community Members. Call (715) 478-4355 for more information.

### Why is it important to eat fruit?

• Nutrients: Most fruits are naturally low in fat, sodium, and calories. None have cholesterol. • Health benefits: Eating a diet rich in vegetables and fruits as part of an overall healthy diet may reduce risk for heart disease, including heart attack and stroke.

source: [www.choosemyplate.gov/food-groups/fruits-why.html](http://www.choosemyplate.gov/food-groups/fruits-why.html)



### AROMATOUCH® TECHNIQUE

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The doTERRA AroMaTouch Technique is a clinical approach to applying essential oils along energy zones on the back and feet to help put the body back into balance.

#### AroMaTouch® Procedure

The AroMaTouch Technique includes four primary steps designed to minimize systemic stressors to the body. The oils are gently stroked in with specific light touch. Each step includes the application of two essential oils or essential oil blends specifically formulated to support healthy emotional and physiological functions for wellbeing.

The technique requires 30 minutes per application and can be added to any massage session.

#### STRESS MANAGEMENT:

- **Balance** - Creates a sense of calm and well-being.
- **Lavender** - Lavender is widely used and acknowledged for its calming and relaxing qualities.

#### INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE:

- **AroMaTouch® Massage Blend** - Relax muscles, calm tension, soothe irritated tissue, increase circulation, and smooth limbs.
- **Deep Blue® Soothing Blend** - Ease achy joints and sore muscles.

#### HOMEOSTASIS:

- **Peppermint** - Useful to ease breathing and as a digestive aid.\*
- **Wild Orange** - Excellent for energizing and revitalizing.

#### IMMUNE SUPPORT:

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For all your massage needs, contact:

Anna Lopez, FCP Health & Wellness Massage Therapist  
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## Honoring Health, Healing, and Tradition



### ANNA LOPEZ, LMT MASSAGE THERAPIST

Anna completed her training at the Institute of Massage Therapy in Hancock, Mich., and has been a practicing massage therapist since 2009. Anna provides a variety of massage therapy techniques including AroMaTouch Technique. She strives to provide a caring and vibrant session, leaving her clients with a positive experience. Outside of her duties as a massage therapist, Anna's focus is on her family. We are pleased to have her as part of our team.

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## Pemma Family Donates to Golf Team in Honor of Brother

by Val Niehaus

The Second Annual Pete Pemma Pool Tournament was held Feb. 7, 2015, at "R" Place in Carter, Wis. With a great turnout this year, and a few things done differently than the first annual tournament, a generous donation was raised for the Wabeno/Laona High School golf team. If you knew Pete, you would know he had a passion for the game of golf, so to honor his life and a sport he loved, the Pemma family felt it most appropriate to make a donation to the golf team.

*PTT* had the opportunity to talk with Coach McCann, Rebels' golf coach, before the presenting of the check took place. He was very grateful for the gift last year and excited about all they had been able to do with it. With that donation, the team was able to buy two indoor putting greens, two hitting nets, golf bags with the Rebels' logo on them, and some umbrellas so the kids can take on any weather—rain or shine. McCann said, "Without the Pemma donation, getting these things wouldn't have been possible because the budgets in schools are becoming tighter. It's great to get support back from the community in the form of this donation." *PTT* asked Coach McCann what his plans were for this year's donation. He replied, "We are hoping to get the athletes some rain/cold weather gear since last year they definitely could have used it. Weather in Wisconsin can be very unpredictable. We are also hoping to use it for traveling expenses so we can head down south, such as to Wisconsin

Dells, so we can find some of that nicer golf weather."

Following our conversation, the Pemma family arrived and there were three of the golf athletes present from the school to take part in the presentation of the donation. Coach McCann told the family about the purchases made with last year's donation, and he was more than gracious in expressing the team's gratitude to the Pemma family for the help. After expressing their appreciation for what had been accomplished with last year's donation, the Pemma family announced this year's total donation, a figure that likely resulted in Coach McCann and the team member's hearts racing a bit. A total of \$4,270 was the final sum presented in this year's donation! This donation came from the pool tournament and from Pete Pemma Sr., who wished to honor his son. The first things *PTT* heard were, "Wow!" and "Awesome!" from the athletes present, and then there were hugs all around. The golf team and Coach McCann thanked the Pemmamas for the huge donation and, needless to say, they were thrilled to be the beneficiaries of a family's efforts to honor the memory of their brother and son.

Wabeno District Superintendent Kim Odekirk was also there for the presentation, and she, too, was in shock at the size of the donation. She said, "It's so wonderful having this family's (Pemmamas) support for our community. It's just wonderful!" She also said with a big smile to the athletes, "Make sure you golf well this

## Play Shoppe Celebrates Easter with Big Bunny!

by Val Niehaus

On March 31, 2015, Play Shoppe celebrated Easter with a delicious breakfast with all the fixings to fill everyone's bellies. Along with this, there was also an Easter egg hunt for the children. With the number of children down this year, those that were there made a killing in collecting tons of eggs! Not only was there a fun egg hunt, but the Easter bunny was there to pose for photos with the children.

Thanks to the Play Shoppe staff for such a nice gathering for the children and thanks to Craig Collins, United Native AmeriCorps Associated, for the help with the celebration.



Zander Weso taking a photo with the Easter bunny.

### Child Care

#### • Certification Training •

*Are you interested in becoming a Certified Child Care Provider?*



Classes will be held on May 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 and 21, 2015. Students must attend all days. Cost is \$60 for Forest County residents; \$85 for all others. Materials, text and lunch are included. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required by April 30, 2015. For more information, contact Billie at (715) 478-7358 or Una at (715) 478-4964, Forest County Potawatomi Child Care.



Standing (l-r): Brenda Pemma, Zyon Pemma, Bernice Pemma, Ruth Pemma, Mike Pemma holding Negon Pemma, Coach McCann, Cherie Pemma, Betty Jo Keeble, Kim Odekirk. Kneeling athletes (l-r): Maggie Warner, Zachary Dinkelman, Lindsey Dinkelman. Not pictured: Lateachia Pemma, Trisha Pemma, Gabrielle Gutierrez, Marcos Gutierrez, Ian Waubanasum, Joe Jarvis, Pete Pemma Sr.



## Photo Volunteers Needed

The *Potawatomi Traveling Times* wants to photograph FCP tribal members and their family for use in various print media/advertising. A family portrait will be given as a thank you to participants.

Volunteers can call us at (715) 478-7437, email: [times@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov](mailto:times@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov), or stop at our office: 8000 Potawatomi Trail, Crandon, WI 54520



# Tribal Youth Competes in 5K

submitted by Crystal Deschinny

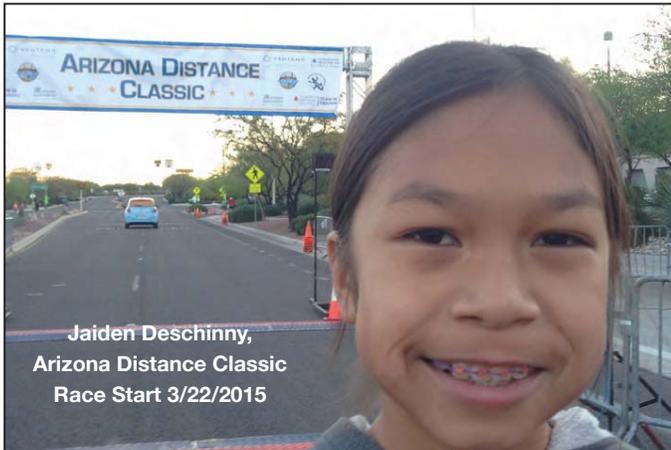
With plans of only running a 5K as a "practice & training run", 12-year-old Jaiden Deschinny placed 15th out of 295 runners overall at the Arizona Distance Classic in Oro Valley, Ariz! The sanctioned-race course was hilly with a long, drawn out 1 1/2 mile incline in direct sun with 72 degree temps.

We strategized early and knew the course was tough and that he'd be competing against the 20-30-year-old competitive athletes. Given that, we knew it wasn't about winning, but running his best race and making sure

he stayed on task with his track coach's training schedule. With the upcoming middle-school track season underway, staying on his training schedule has been important to Jaiden as is keeping up on his grades to make competition eligibility.

We are incredibly proud of the decisions Jaiden is making to put forth his "best race" and for having the courage to try. We look forward to what the track season brings. Good luck to this young athlete.

I am so proud! With a lot of excitement - Crystal Deschinny



Jaiden Deschinny,  
Arizona Distance Classic  
Race Start 3/22/2015

## Watch Out For... Garlic Mustard

**DESCRIPTION:**

- ▶ Leaves are heart-shaped and have wavy edges, smell like garlic or onions when crushed
- ▶ White flowers with four petals
- ▶ First year plants grow low to the ground and can be mistaken for violets
- ▶ Second year plants grow two to four feet tall
- ▶ Native to Europe

**IMPACT:**

- ▶ One of the earliest plants to come up in spring, crowding out native species like mskwe-wjebek (bloodroot), hgech-zhegagosh (wild leek), and nmépen (wild ginger)
- ▶ Spreads rapidly – a single plant can produce thousands of seeds
- ▶ Puts chemicals in the soil that makes it hard for other plants and tree seedlings to grow
- ▶ Doesn't provide good food for wildlife

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- ▶ Report sightings to FCP Natural Resources at (715) 478-7222
- ▶ When enjoying the outdoors, clean mud and plant material from your shoes, clothes, pets, and vehicles before moving on
- ▶ Walk around patches of garlic mustard instead of through them

Photo credits: (top) Steven Kotovich, USDA Forest Service, Bismarck.org, (bottom) Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, Bismarck.org

**DOOR PRIZE**

## Child Abuse Awareness Month Training

Come join us for a two hour continuing education training on Child Abuse.

**April 28, 2015**  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

We will be serving dinner at 5:30 p.m.  
Family Service Building upper conference room

This training is directed for Child Care, Foster Care and Family Placement providers.

If you are interested attending this training, please call our office at (715) 478-4964 or (715) 478-7358 to sign up by April 23, 2015.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Indian Child Welfare Specialist, Val Loduha, Deanna Collins, Sally Kalkofen and Maline Enders

# There is no excuse for abuse!

Thursday, April 30  
6 p.m.

FCP Museum and Cultural Center lower level

IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR THE QUARTERLY...

# Sobriety Feast

We will have a speaker. There will be door prizes, but you must attend the entire event to be eligible for the door prizes.  
Please bring a traditional dish to pass.

Sponsored by:  
FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER AODA SERVICES

If you have any questions about this event, please call (715) 478-4370.

# Ten Essential Homeowner Crime Prevention Tips

submitted by Linda Thomaschefskey, FCP Emergency Management Program Mgr.

1 – Walk around your home with the eyes of a burglar. Look for weaknesses: sliding doors that can be jimmied off track, window unit air conditioners that can be easily removed. Keep pricey item out of sight (boats, RV, ATV, etc.).

2 – Lock the door. Use double cylinder locks (deadbolt); remember to lock the door leading from the garage to the house.

3 – Don't hide keys.

4 – Don't label your keys or mailbox.

5 – Secure windows and sliding doors. Place a strong steel bar or two-by-four in the back groove, or install a

nail in the frame to prevent windows from opening more than a few inches.

6 – Be modest. Keep expensive items in the garage/storage shed.

7 – Create the illusion you're always home. Leave on a light or radio (use a timer). Arrange for someone to pick up your mail, mow the lawn, shovel snow and set out trash cans regularly.

8 – Secure the area around your home. Trim bushes and trees; add outside lighting.

9 – Get to know your neighbors – people look out for each other.

10 – Install an alarm system or at least a sign.

# April is Alcohol Awareness Month - Pay Attention to Your Alcohol Use

submitted by Wisconsin Department of Health Services

The use and misuse of alcohol remains one of Wisconsin's most serious public health issues, the State Department of Health Services announced today, the first day of April Alcohol Awareness Month.

"This is a time for all state residents to be mindful of how they use alcohol and how alcohol may impact their life, their family, and their community," said DHS Secretary Kitty Rhoades. "Deaths, injuries, and property damage from drinking alcohol are preventable. If you are over 21 and drink alcohol, consider the health and safety consequences, and drink in moderation."

According to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, moderate alcohol consumption is defined as having up to one drink per day for women and up to two drinks per day for men. This definition is referring to the amount consumed on any single day and is not intended as an average over several days. Individual reactions to alcohol vary, and people can have problems drinking less than these amounts, particularly if they drink too quickly or combine alcohol with over-the-counter and/or prescribed medications. Women who are pregnant or plan on becoming pregnant should refrain from drinking alcohol.

Wisconsin's rates of annual alcohol consumption per person and binge drinking are well above national averages.

In 2012, Wisconsin's alcohol consumption rate was equivalent to 346

servings of beer, 73 servings of wine, and 241 servings of liquor or 660 standard drinks. The national average was 513. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism defines a standard drink as 12-ounces of beer, 5-ounces of wine, or 1.5-ounces of distilled spirits or liquor.

Twenty-three percent of Wisconsin adults binge drink, the second highest rate in the country. The national rate of adult binge drinking is 17 percent. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism defines binge drinking as a pattern of drinking that brings a person's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 grams percent or above. This typically happens when men consume five or more standard drinks, and when women consume four or more standard drinks, in about two hours. Wisconsin binge drinkers often consume two to five drinks over these thresholds during a binge, according to the Wisconsin Epidemiological Profile of Alcohol and Other Drug Use, 2014.

To be more aware of the role of alcohol in your life, consider taking these steps this month:

- Keep track of how much you drink. Don't drink when you are upset. Avoid places where people drink a lot.

- If you are worried that alcohol may be harming your health or that your drinking patterns are putting you at risk, help is available. Treatment works and people can and do recover.

## FCPC Gte Ga-Nēs Preschool

We are currently recruiting children for the 2015-16 school year. Enrollment is open to children who are 3 years of age by September 1, 2015.

For more information please contact Leslie Howen at (715) 478-7359 or Kathy Berkes at (715) 478-7350.

## Forest County Potawatomi Tribal Child Support Agency

(FCP-TSA) would like to help you – employees and tribal members of the FCP Community - with any concerns you may have, to answer all questions, and offer the services of our agency to:

- Work with you and your child support agency to ensure your order is correct under the current guidelines.
- Assist anyone receiving or paying child support by answering questions you may have and provide proper referral services.
- Keep up-to-date information in order to determine appropriate child support obligations and ensure that you remain current in your payments to avoid arrears.

FCPC-TCSA will work with you to achieve the best results and ensure child support for the most important people: your children.

Please be advised that FCPC-TCSA may not provide any legal advice.

For more information, please call (715) 478-7260.



## POTAWATOMI STONE LAKE C-STORE/SMOKE SHOP/DELI

Located 3 Miles East of Crandon off of Hwy. 8  
5326 Fire Keeper Rd., Crandon, WI • (715) 478-4199  
Open 7 days a week: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.



## POTAWATOMI CARTER C-STORE/SMOKE SHOP

Hwy. 32, Carter (Across from casino/hotel) • (715) 473-5100  
Open 24 hours/7 days a week

## GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

- Ethanol-Free Premium Gas • Blended Diesel • 24-Hour Pay-at-the-Pump Fuel
- In-House Deli Food • Coupons Welcome • Self-Serve Smoke Shop • Low & Discount Cigarette Prices • Ample Parking • Groceries • ATM • Ice



## Honoring Nations 2014 Semifinalists Announced

submitted by Jessica Packineau, The Harvard Project

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (March 26, 2015) – The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development's Honoring Nations program is pleased to announce the selection of 19 semifinalists for the 2015 cycle of the prestigious Honoring Nations awards. Honoring Nations identifies, celebrates and shares excellence in American Indian tribal governance. At the heart of Honoring Nations are the principles that tribes themselves hold the key to generating social, political, and economic prosperity and that self-governance plays a crucial role in building and sustaining strong, healthy Indian Nations.

This year's applicants included 70 outstanding tribal programs representing 110 tribes and five tribal consortia. Nineteen of the most innovative and successful programs were selected as semifinalists. These programs have demonstrated tremendous impact in their communities and evidenced great effectiveness, significance to sovereignty, transferability and sustainability – the criteria by which Honoring Nations assesses applicant programs. Each of these programs will be presented to the Board of Governors, and the Board will select six applicant programs to receive site visits. In October, the Honoring Nations Board will select three programs as High Honors and as many as three other programs will be selected as Honors. Awarded programs provide models of success. By sharing their best practices, all governments – tribal and non-tribal alike – can benefit.

"The Harvard Project's Honoring Contributions in the Governance of American Indian Nations celebrates our peoples, not only as survivors, but as innovators and designers for our next generations," said Chief Oren Lyons, Chief and Faithkeeper of the Onondaga Indian Nation and chairman emeritus of the Honoring Nations Board of Governors.

Honoring Nations is the flagship program of The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and is a member of a worldwide family of "governmental best practices" awards programs. As the program's Director, Megan Minoka Hill (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin) explains, "By recognizing success, Honoring Nations gives a voice to outstanding examples

of innovation and excellence in tribal governance and serves to transform and inspire local governments across Indian Country and beyond."

### Semifinalists Programs:

- Academic Readiness Effort, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, California
- Comanche Nation Funeral Home, Comanche Nation, Oklahoma
- First to Implement HEARTH Act-Residential Leasing, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Michigan
- Flathead Finance Program, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Montana
- GeoSpatial Information, Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma
- Healthy and Whole, Suquamish Tribe, Washington
- Ho-Chunk Village, Winnebago Tribe, Nebraska
- Kenai Peninsula CASA, Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Alaska
- Khapo Kidz Initiative, Pueblo of Santa Clara, New Mexico
- Menominee Model of Long-Term Care, Menominee Indian Tribe, Wisconsin
- Meskwaki Food Sovereignty Initiative, Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
- Native American Drug and Gang Initiative, Bad River, Ho-Chunk, Lac Court Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Menominee, Oneida, Red Cliff, St. Croix, and Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Communities, Wisconsin
- New Home Construction Program, Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma
- Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Department, Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho
- Ohero:kon "Under the Husk" Rites of Passage, Mohawk Nation/Akwesasne, New York
- School Based Health Centers, Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, Montana
- Tiny Turtles Preschool Program, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, North Dakota
- Witaya Care, Shakopee Mde-wakanton Sioux Community, Minnesota
- Yurok Tribe Sustainable Forest Project, Yurok Tribe, California

For more information about Honoring Nations, please visit the Harvard Project's website at [www.hpaided.org](http://www.hpaided.org) or phone (617) 495-1480.

## 30th Annual NIGA Tradeshow and Convention

### Steve Ortiz Honored With The Chairman's Leadership Award

submitted by National Indian Gaming Association

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (March 31, 2015) - The National Indian Gaming Association's (NIGA) Chairman's Leadership Award Luncheon was held during the 30th Annual Indian Gaming Tradeshow and Convention. With culture woven throughout the tradeshow, the Oneida Nation Smoke Dancers greeted attendees with traditional Oneida songs. The Pueblo of Pojoaque Hoop Dancer entertained attendees with a live presentation.

During this year's well-attended luncheon, Chairman Stevens welcomed the hundreds of attendees and MarjaRia, a ten-year-old Oneida Nation youth, provided a traditional Oneida opening in her Native language.

Billy Mills, the only 10,000 meter Gold Medalist Olympian in the western hemisphere, was the day's keynote speaker. Mills, of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe, proudly shared his story from his days in the Pine Ridge Indian community to running at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., to winning the 1964 Olympics. The spokesman for Running Strong for American Indian Youth spoke of the healing of his broken spirit through his dream of being an Olympic champion. Mills stressed the importance of inspiring our youth to have a dream, to have healthier spirits and to have hope.

Following Mills was the presentation of the Chairman's Leadership Award to Steve Ortiz, former chairman of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. For 15 years, Ortiz served on tribal council and was chairman from 2007 to 2014. During his acceptance speech Ortiz said, "To me, this represents a lifetime achievement award. It recognizes 15 years of hard work that have preceded me to this point. I just want to tell each and every one of you that it's a tough job being on tribal council leadership. Best job I ever had! If you can survive on council that long, you know you're listening to your people and leading in the right direction."

Marisa Mendoza, executive director of the Haskell Foundation, also re-



(l-r) Ernie Stevens, NIGA Chairman, and Steve Ortiz, former Chairman Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

ceived recognition for her work in Kansas with the foundation. Working hand-in-hand with Haskell Indian Nations College, the Haskell Foundation provides resources to the Native American population allowing them to reach new heights. Mendoza thanked NIGA and reminded us that, "Students who attend Haskell are representatives of our tribal communities and it's my hope and goal of the foundation to support our student population for the future of Indian Country."

The Chairman's Leadership Award Luncheon continued with the Spirit of Sovereignty Christmas Drive Donors Recognition by the Spirit of Sovereignty's Chairman and NIGA treasurer, Andy Ebona. The Spirit of Sovereignty's efforts are two-fold. They do an annual Christmas drive for tribes in need during the holidays as well as provide scholarship assistance to Native students and colleges. Chairman Ebona thanked all the sponsors, for without them they could not do what they do.

Before the luncheon concluded, BMM Test Labs presented Chairman Ebona with a \$2,500 check to support the Spirit of Sovereignty as part of their Next Generation Initiative.



## U.S. Attorneys Appointed to Lead Native American Issues Subcommittee

submitted by U.S. Department of Justice

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 30, 2015) – Attorney General Eric Holder announced the appointment of U.S. Attorney Michael Cotter for the District of Montana and U.S. Attorney Damon P. Martinez for the District of New Mexico as the chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the Native American Issues Subcommittee (NAIS) of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee of U.S. Attorneys (AGAC).

"Throughout my tenure as Attorney General, the Native American Issues Subcommittee has been a critical source of expertise, guidance and inspiration in addressing the department's goals of reducing crime and strengthening communities across Indian country," said Attorney General Holder. "As public servants from districts with significant responsibilities related to tribal nations, Mike Cotter and Damon Martinez possess a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will serve to promote the mission of the NAIS and benefit Indian country as a whole. I am confident that, with their dedication, their vision, and their leadership, we will continue to deliver on this department's important work and to fulfill this nation's historic relationship of trust and cooperation with Native American and Alaska Native people."

U.S. Attorney Cotter was appointed to the NAIS in 2009. He replaces U.S. Attorney Timothy Q. Purdon of the District of North Dakota. The District of Montana has served as a successful example of the Attorney General's 2010 Indian Country Initiative. Prosecutors are assigned to individual reservations and travel monthly for meetings with tribal and federal partners. The strategy includes utilizing tribal Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys, tribal prosecutors who focus on domestic violence matters. Prosecutors also participate in bi-monthly case meetings with tribal prosecutors and law enforcement, as well as develop cross-disciplinary trainings, such as presentations to first responders on the new federal strangulation statutes in Indian Country.

As part of ongoing Initiative efforts, Assistant U.S. Attorneys facilitated the creation of and continuing work by the Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs), which are comprised of prosecutors, law enforcement, as well as medical and social service

providers. The SARTs represent a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to responding to sex crimes that occur on reservations.

U.S. Attorney Martinez, who was appointed to the NAIS in May 2014, has continued and expanded the implementation of the Attorney General's 2010 Indian Country Initiative and other federal initiatives in New Mexico which is home to 22 Indian pueblos and tribes. Through the Tribal Special Assistant U.S. Attorney (Tribal SAUSA) Pilot Project, sponsored by the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women, federal prosecutors train tribal prosecutors and officers in federal law, procedure and investigative techniques so that every viable sexual and violent offense against Native women is prosecuted in either federal court or tribal court, or both. Working with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and the BIA's Office of Justice Services, New Mexico has established one of the first HIDTA drug task forces in Indian Country. It also supports two Indian Country Project Safe Neighborhood programs that focus on reducing gun violence in tribal communities. Under the Attorney General's Smart on Crime Initiative, the District of New Mexico has been working with an interdisciplinary team to develop one of the nation's Indian Country reentry programs which will be launched in May of this year. Prosecutors also partner with BIA to train tribal, local and state officers so that they may be commissioned as special federal officers of the BIA and enhance public safety in the District's tribal communities by enforcing federal law.

The AGAC was created in 1973 to serve as the voice of the U.S. Attorneys and to advise the Attorney General on policy, management, and operational issues impacting the offices of the U.S. Attorneys. The NAIS is made up of U.S. Attorneys from across the United States whose Districts contain Indian Country or one or more federally recognized tribes. The NAIS focuses exclusively on Indian Country issues, both criminal and civil and is responsible for making policy recommendations to the Attorney General of the United States regarding public safety and legal issues that impact tribal communities.

### FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI TRIBAL COURT

IN THE MATTER OF  
CHANGE OF NAME OF:

NOTICE OF HEARING

Bronda kay Ambrose

Case No.: 13-NC-0116

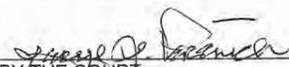
DOB: May 31, 1966

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-captioned matter shall be heard in the Forest County Potawatomi Tribal Court on the matter of the application of Bronda Kay Ambrose for permission to change her name and legal designation to Bronda Kay Waube and for the consideration and determination of any further relevant matters. PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

WHEN: 3:00 PM on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

WHERE: Tribal Courtroom  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, FCP Executive Building  
5416 Everybody's Road, Crandon, Wisconsin

DATED THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF March, 2015

  
BY THE COURT  
Associate Judge Jeryl L. Perench  
FCP Tribal Court

## ••• PERSONALS •••

Happy  
Birthday,  
J.R!  
Lots of love  
from L.A.,  
grandsons,  
and family.



## Welcome to the World...

Virgil Duane (Wagnitz/  
Honkala) was born March 9, 2015,  
weighing 8 pounds, 6.2 ounces,  
and was 20 inches long.

Parents are Olivia Wagnitz and  
Dale Honkala of Crandon, Wis.

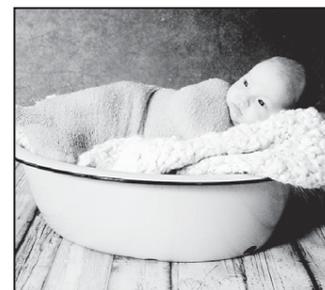
Grandparents are Sylvia Olds  
(Kevin Wagnitz) and Karen  
Honkala.



Olivia Lorelei Jane Shepard  
was born Oct. 13, 2014, weigh-  
ing 5 pounds, 14 ounces, and  
was 19 1/2 inches long.

Parents are Frank and Katie  
Shepard of Laona, Wis. Grand-  
parents are Frank and Lorrie  
Shepard and Rus and Jane  
Yaeger. Great-grandma is Patsy  
Shepard.

Olivia's siblings are Frankie  
(11), Brady (9) and Levi (4).



# NOTICES

## CULTURE

**Neshnabemwen** - The Potawatomi language has endured through the passage of time. At one time, it is said that we all spoke the same language. Later on, we started speaking different languages and forming tribes based on who was able to understand each other. The Bodewadmi, Ojibwe and Odawa were all one tribe and spoke the same language. As the differences in the language grew, they each formed a separate entity. However, they maintained a close bond and formed the "Council of the Three Fires" to deal with any issues that might affect them. The Three Fires signified the alliance between the three, while their individual fires proclaimed their own identity. Every Tuesday & Wednesday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., for FCPC and members, FCP Cultural Center, Library and Museum. Open to all Potawatomi students, Language & Culture Class every Thursday, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Transportation for youth provided.

### Beading Group -

Open to all community members ages 13 and up from 5 - 8 p.m. in lower level of museum on Tuesdays. RSVP required.

## EDUCATION

**Crandon Indian Education Committee** - Monthly meetings held the first Wednesday of each month, 5 p.m. at HWC. Contact these committee members with questions or concerns:

**Margaret Konaha - Chairperson**

(715) 478-7347 (work)

**Hazel George - Member**

(715) 478-5612 (home)

**Shari Alloway - Member**

Number not available at time of print.

**Brenda Cornell - Secretary**

(715) 649-3936

**Guadalupe Cisneros - Member**

Number not available at time of print.

**Myra VanZile - Home School Coord.**

(715) 478-6175 (home)

(715) 478-3723, Crandon School

VANZILEMYR@crandon.k12.wi.us

**Wabeno Indian Education Committee**

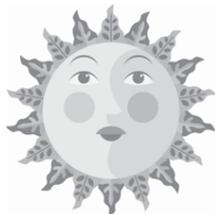
- Meetings held every second Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m. at Potawatomi Carter Casino Hotel.

## EVENTS

**Earth Day** - April 22, 2015, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Health & Wellness Center lobby. Games, prizes and raffles.

**Community Baby Shower** - April 29, 2015, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Crandon Community Building. Prizes, food, valuable resources! For more information, contact UWExtension Office at (715) 528-5490.

**Mish ko swen - Strong/Healthy 5K** - June 13, 2015. Registration and starting point at Rec Center. Registration from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Event starts at 10:30 a.m. Prizes, snack, light lunch. Timing system available. Call (715) 478-4317/4383/4320 for more information.



## EVENTS

**Smoking Cessation Incentive Program** - Open to FCP tribal members and individuals eligible for Alternative Care Program. Services include: appointments with nurses and CHR's to determine a quit plan, kit filled with items that aid in the quitting process, educational materials and products, plus a reward upon completion of third smoking cessation appointment.

To learn more about the program or to schedule an appointment, contact Sara Cleereman, R.N., at (715) 478-4889.

**SPARKS Weight Management Program** -

By appointment. S - Support; P - Program; A - Get Active, Stay Active; R - Reap the Rewards: feel better, be healthier; K - Know the basics of good nutrition; S - Stay focused on being healthy. Please call Lisa Miller, RD, CD, at (715) 478-4320.

**Diabetes Education** -

By appointment. Including blood glucose monitoring, making healthy changes, psychosocial, complications, sick day and travel, planning for pregnancy, hypoglycemia, medications, diabetes in general, insulin and goal setting. Please call Anne Chrisman, RN, at (715) 478-4383, or Cathy Chitko at (715) 478-4367.

## HEALTH

**Women's Healing Circle** -

Tuesdays, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., Family Resource Center. Open to Native American women. Sponsored by FCP DV/SA Dept.

**Al-Anon Meetings** - Wednesdays, 5:19 Kak Yot Lane, Crandon, 5:30 p.m. Why: Al-Anon is primarily for those who have known a feeling of desperation concerning the destructive behavior of someone very near to them, whether caused by drugs, alcohol, or related behavior problems. When you come into this room you are no longer alone, but among others who have experienced similar problems. We will respect your confidence and anonymity, as we know you will respect ours. Please call (715) 478-4933 for more information.

**AA Meetings - Lost Marbles**

Saturdays at 9 a.m., Wabeno Fire Dept. Contact Donald at (715) 889-6709 or Ryan at (715) 850-1265 for more information.

**Wellbriety - 12 Step Meeting**

Held every Monday at 6 p.m. in the lower level of the FCP Cultural Center, Library & Museum. ANYONE who is in recovery and searching for a sober way of living is more than welcome to attend! If you have any questions, contact Brooks Boyd at (715) 889-4902 or FCP Health & Wellness Center Behavioral Health at (715) 478-4332.

**Do You Feel Like No One Understands You?** You're not alone! Let your voice be heard! Let someone share your pain! If you are thinking of committing suicide or know someone who is, please get help! Help is only one touch or a phone call away.

*Crisis Line:* 1 (888) 299-1188 (Serving Forest, Vilas & Oneida counties: 24 hours a day/7 days a week); *Kids in Need:* 1 (800) 622-9120; *The Get-2-Gether Peer Support Drop-In Center:* (715) 369-3871; *Run-Away Hotline:* 1 (800) 621-4000; 1 (800) 273-TALK; TTY: 1 (800) 799-4TTY or visit suicide-hotlines.com.

## HEALTH

**FCP Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Program** -

The FCP Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Program is available 24/7. Crisis phone line is (715) 478-7201. Office hours are Monday - Thursday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., or as needed for crisis intervention. Office phone numbers are (715) 478-4991 or (715) 478-7203 with confidential voice mail.

Work cell phone numbers are checked periodically after hours and holidays: (715) 889-3037 or (715) 889-0278. All services are free and confidential.

We are able to provide services to FCP enrolled members and tribally-affiliated members who have experienced past or present DV/SA. We will assist other victims in finding appropriate resources to meet their needs to the best of our abilities.

## SERVICES OFFERED

**Employment Skills Program**

FCP Economic Support has an employment skills program for tribal members with resources/tools to help them overcome employment barriers. We are here to coach and encourage individuals to recognize their skills and to find occupations related to those skills and interests.

**Resource Room — New Location**

Now located in the Family Resource Center (Old Tribal Hall), the room has four computers that are open to the community. *continued in next column...*

## SERVICES OFFERED

These computers are equipped with the following software to assist in improving your job skills, completing or updating your resumé, brushing up on computer and typing skills, and for completing correspondence.

- Turbo Typing - interactive, fun practice available to increase your hand/eye coordination and typing speed.

- Quick Skills - hands-on, self-paced to learn and enhance your computer skills of Microsoft programs such as Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Access.

- WinWay Resumé Deluxe - it's easy to develop a resumé with more than 14,000 ready-to-use templates, more than 100,000 job-winning phrases and more than 350 different design themes. When complete, the auditor will evaluate your resumé.

- WisCareers Website - career exploration guide and opportunities on computer programs. Complete a variety of assessments based on interests, work values, career skills and workplace skills; help coordinate your work values into an exciting career; check out a variety of technical schools and colleges; use a guided program to set up your portfolio.

The FCP Economic Support staff is also available to assist with any of these computer programs. For additional assistance, please contact us at (715) 478-7206, 7292, or 7295.

## APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Community Health

- April 14, WIC (HWC): 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- April 21, Child Development Day (HWC): 1 - 4 p.m.
- Women's Exercise Classes (yoga) @ Rec Center Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Youth on the Move, Wednesdays @ Wabeno School, 3:15 - 4:15 p.m., Thursdays @ Rec Center, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

### FCP Family Resource Center

- Play Shoppe: Tuesdays, April 14, 21, 28, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Women's Healing Circle: Tuesdays, April 14, 21, 28, 3:00 p.m.
- Life Skills Group: Wednesdays, April 15, 22, 29, 1 - 3 p.m.
- Positive Indian Parenting: Thursdays, April 16, 23, 30, 10 a.m. - noon.
- 2nd Annual Native American Responsible Fatherhood Day: Date TBA - watch for flyers! Call (715) 478-4837 with questions about any programs.

### CHOICES Program

- Life Skills with FRC (10-12): Mondays, April 13, 20, 27, 3:30 - 5 p.m.
  - Fitness & Healthy Living (13-17): Tuesdays, April 14, 21, 28, 3:30 - 6 p.m.
  - Team Building (7-9): Wednesdays, April 15, 22, 29, 3:30 - 5 p.m.
- CHOICES program will be picking up the youth from school.

### Recreation Department

- Get Fit & Stay Active - fitness equipment available at We Care in Carter Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) and at Rec Center Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Open to FCP tribal members, their immediate families and FCP employees. Hours subject to change based on scheduled activities. For information on Rec Center activities, call (715) 478-7420.

## Vietnam

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He recollected that while the helicopter was turning to land in the “hot LZ” (landing zone), he looked straight down into the jungle and saw and heard the acts of war. He stated, “I knew where I was.” During this interview, Wensaut went into some depth about situations he remembers which were very emotional for him as he recalled men right next to him being shot through the chest and face. Many of these men were his friends, his buddies, and they were feeling the same way he was. All any of them wanted to do was to survive and make it home to their families. Wensaut recalls, “I made friends with these men... then I didn't see them ever again.”

One occasion he remembers: “There were so many bullets flying around us as we were trying to get the dead and wounded into a basket lowered by a helicopter that we couldn't do it because the VC shot the basket off the helicopter.” As a result, they then had to call in the jets to drop napalm so they could get themselves and the wounded/dead out of that area. Out of the seven men who went into this specific fight, only three came walking out of it with Wensaut being one of them. As he says, “It was no picnic.” Wensaut in large part gives credit for his safety to his spiritual beliefs and to his father and mother who prayed for him every day he was over there. His father held a ceremony for him before even going to Vietnam and Wensaut says, “He gave me a gift to keep me safe there, and I believe that's what kept me safe.”

For most of these men, this war was just as confusing as it was to the American public. Coming home from war during that time was not what you would expect to see today when soldiers return. Today, we often have huge homecomings for the men and women who have fought for our freedoms—welcoming them home with signs, cheering, and hugs all around. But for the Vietnam veterans, it was a very different story. Wensaut recalls getting off the plane to be welcomed home with words such as “baby killer”. Imagine spending a year of your life trying to stay alive while fighting in a war you didn't understand, only to come home and be ridiculed, dishonored, and disrespected. Wensaut says, “We weren't that, we were survivors.”

Home was tough for many men and women returning from Vietnam. Most were not praised or thanked; many had and continue to have horrible realistic nightmares of being in the jungle witnessing their friends being killed. Many lost families because their loved ones could not understand what they had been through and had seen in their time there. Many turned to alcohol and drugs to help cope with their physical and emotional pain. The number of Vietnam Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is felt to be about 15 percent. Fifteen of every 100 Vietnam veterans carried the diagnosis of PTSD at the time of the most recent study in the late 1980s. (Found on U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website.)

Wensaut is very thankful to his wife, children, and tribal people for helping him



**Ernie Wensaut, getting his gear ready to go out on patrol. You can see the M-60 machine gun sitting in front of him.**

through these tough times in his life and for always giving him hope and as much happiness as he could have. Vietnam will be a part of Wensaut as long as he lives; it is part of his life. He says, “You don't forget it.”

Wensaut earned the Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Service Star and a National Defense Service Medal.

FCP tribal member Ken George Sr. also knows of this horrific war on a personal level. George also honored *PTT* by allowing time to sit with him and talk about his time in Vietnam and about some of the things he went through.

George was in the 3rd Marine Division, Lima Co, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, and 3rd Recon. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at the age of 19 in 1965. His reasoning behind enlisting was that during those days, there wasn't much for a young man to do around this area. He felt by enlisting he would be able to do something with his life. He knew that by enlisting during this time, in all likelihood he would eventually be sent over to Vietnam but that thought really didn't bother him. He said that his good buddy Frank Daniels and he were planning to go over there together. Unfortunately, something got in the way of that happening, though eventually they hooked back up on the East Coast.

George was also a machine gunner with the M-60 machine gun. He said that a typical day consisted of being on watch and maybe getting a couple hours of sleep at a time. While you were getting those few hours sleep, someone else would watch your back. But in reality, everyone was always on watch. He recalls the darkness in the jungle where he was. He said, “It was so thick in that jungle that during the daytime, it was like nighttime.” George was on the 3rd recon team which meant that he and five other men would go out into the jungle and gather information at certain check points. He and his team would go out for four to five days at a time or for however long the mission took. If they found something suspicious, they would call in an aerial observer (AO) to bomb the

area. George also recalled the heat that most veterans of this war remember. He said the sun was probably about 120 degrees, and the humidity was almost 100 percent with no breeze. Because of this heat and humidity, he said that the smell of the dead was intense. It was something that never went away or goes away. He also mentioned that there were two seasons in Vietnam—the hot season and the rainy season. During the rainy season he said it would get so cold at night you would think it was going to snow. Just imagine sitting in the jungle soaking wet from head-to-toe with temperatures that are comparable to what we may see here in winter.

George also talked a bit to me about the Vietnamese guerrillas saying, “They could be friend during the day, but at night they were your worst enemy.” He also stated, “The reason these men were so good at what they did was because they were in their own backyard.” This certainly made sense, and a person has to wonder how they would have fared in “our” woods in northern Wisconsin were things reversed.

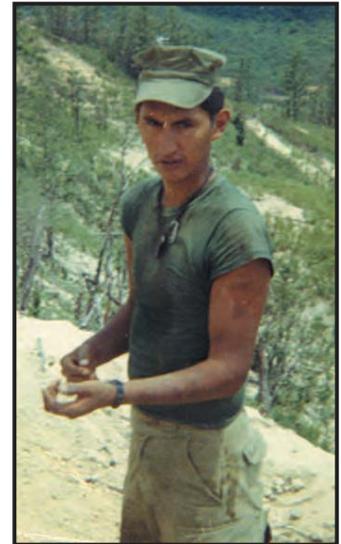
Speaking of the woods, George chuckled about an incident he had with one of Vietnam's mammals while he was in the jungle. In our area, we have deer running free in the woods and we are used to that. However, Ken told me the story of how he was in the jungle and heard a loud pounding and could feel the ground shaking and all of a sudden, “A tiger ran right past me!” Yes—a real tiger—a huge animal bigger than any bear we would see here. We had a great laugh over this part of the interview though it was likely not too funny at the time.

George remembers his closest call during combat occurring while being in hand-to-hand combat with an NVA soldier. Relaying the story of this incident in detail would be a sensitive subject. Let's just say that George is a very lucky man. George's story of the battle he has been in is relayed in the book called “Con Thien” which means “Hill of Angels”. Anyone interested can pick the book up and can read about what these men have seen and been through.

George's homecoming was very similar to Wensaut's. He said, “Those darn hippies would be out there throwing eggs at you and calling you “baby killers”. These men fought to stay alive and they didn't kill babies because a baby couldn't shoot a gun at you.” It is incredibly sad to think that these men put their lives on the line only to be welcomed home as they were. It makes your heart hurt to hear such things. George feels very fortunate to have gone through what he did and to be where he is today. He told me, “I have a purpose here; that's why I feel I'm still here after all of that.” He's right—George has gone on to be a chairman for the tribe and also vice chairman. He is still working as FCP Gaming Commissioner for the tribe.

Ribbons George has earned are the Bronze Star with Combat V, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Vietnamese Service, Vietnamese Campaign, Presidential Unit Citation, Firewatch, Combat Action, Good Conduct, Recon Wings, and two Purple Hearts.

It should be mentioned that both of



**Ken George Sr. standing on Hill 861 West of Khe Sanh, 1968. He said he was training other men on how to use the machine gun in case something happened to him.**

these men have seen at least 10 times more than has been relayed in this article. If everything they shared was included in this piece, it would be too horrific for many of our readers. It was a horrifying war and *PTT* has great respect for their personal sacrifices and sincere appreciation for their willingness to share their experiences as part of this article.

A number of other FCP tribal members served in combat during this war, though I did not have the opportunity to sit down with them and hear their personal histories. A few others of which *PTT* is aware are JR Holmes, U.S. Army, Specialist 4, who served in Vietnam from 1967-68; Archie Nesaukee, 1st Calvary Division (Air Mobile) served 1967-70; Daniel “DJ” Smith, U.S. Navy, serving in 1973; and Frank Daniels, U.S. Marines. Unfortunately, we at *PTT* don't have an updated list of veterans, so many apologies for not being able to specifically note others who were involved in this war. But, no doubt there are others with many stories of their own.

The Vietnam War was considered to have ended in April 1975 with the fall of Saigon and the subsequent reunification of North and South Vietnam into one country. It was a complicated war and one which the United States did not win. But the men who fought the battles of that war did so with distinction and courage unrivaled by those of any other war. As with the other wars that have been discussed in this series, the Native Americans answered the call to service without hesitation and in numbers per capita that were higher than any other ethnic group in the country. This war seems more personal to many of our generation because we know people personally who are friends and family who took part in combat during this time, and these individual recollections really bring the horror of war home. The Vietnam War marked a change in attitudes in this country about war and left a lot of deep scars in individuals and the country as a whole. And without question, the rest is history.