



POTAWATOMI TIMES

Gsenyaniyêk èzhëwébêk — Forest County Potawatomi Happenings



Volume 31, Issue 13 • January 1, 2026 • ktthé mko gizes • Big Bear Moon • FREE

Health & Wellness Celebrates 30 Years



by Amber Haseman

Three decades ago marked a historic milestone for Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) and the surrounding community. The original Health & Wellness Center (HWC), located in the Family Services/IT building, opened in 1995 and became the heart of health care in Forest County. It provided medical, dental, and community health care services to tribal members, residents of Forest County, and neighboring communities.

According to *Potawatomi Traveling Times*, Volume 6, Issue 1, a resolution authorizing the construction of a new HWC was passed by the FCP General Council on Aug. 28, 1999. Construction began shortly after, with a groundbreaking ceremony held on Sept. 3, 1999. The WPC Group, a

Native American general contractor, brought the architect's vision to life, creating a new facility to serve the community.

The new center expanded on existing services, introducing an enhanced radiological facility including the only mammography machine in Forest County. Additional space was added for speech, occupational, and physical therapy. When the facility opened in 2000, it offered a wide range of services, including a pharmacy, dental care, optical services, behavioral health services, radiology, community health programs, diabetes treatment, maternal health services, and chiropractic care.

Over the years, the HWC has continued to grow through several renovations, expansion projects, multi-phase upgrades, open house events, ground blessings, and, most recently, a renovation that provides more services through expanded central registration, pharmacy services, a drive-through pharmacy, additional lab and patient space, and welcomed a mobile MRI unit.

To honor 30 years of service and growth, the HWC celebrated its anniversary on Dec. 11, 2025, welcoming the community from 1 to 5 p.m. Fire Nation opened the event with a powerful performance for the grand entry, while FCP veterans posted their color guard. Health Division Administrator Tom Boelter welcomed attendees and introduced Ned Daniels Jr., who offered opening remarks and a prayer.

"For many years, we didn't have a place like this to heal our people," Daniels shares. "There was no place to get our teeth cleaned, no place to get medicine, and no place for parents to bring their babies when they were feeling sickly." He reflected on how far the community has come, recognizing that the HWC now provides the much-needed services for healing. He continues to share, "What started with a prayer has grown into this facility. Helping the community is a cornerstone of the Potawatomi people."

FCP Tribal Member Brenda Shopodock followed with opening remarks, thanking the creator for the beautiful day and for bringing the community together to celebrate what she described as "30 years of a miracle and a blessing." She shared memories of being born in the Laona Hospital, which no longer exists, and growing up without running water or sewer services. She shares, "Back in those times, we didn't have dental, didn't have a clinic, an executive building, or a community center." She recalls getting everyone into a big van and taking them to a dental school where they received their care. Shopodock further emphasized the importance of hope for the future, expressed her gratitude to Boelter and the Health & Wellness staff, and the facility for helping the community improve and heal.

Health Advisory Board member Donna VanZile shared historical reflections, honoring leaders who have

helped shape the community's health-care services. She recognized Ray McGeshick of the Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe, along with FCP members Delores Mann, Virginia Jacobson, and Mary Daniels. She reflected on the early years of community healthcare, explaining how services were provided by visiting people in their homes, taking the time and effort to understand the types of needs and care people wanted, all in the comfort of their homes. She shared, "What we have and what we didn't have in terms of health care, today is a tremendous and great blessing."

Boelter continued the program, thanking the speakers and recognizing each department within the Health Division for their dedication and the heart they put into their care. He highlighted new equipment, the evolution of the HWC throughout the years, and its ongoing development. He recognized the new autism team and plans for the program, and introduced the Health Advisory Board. Boelter concluded by expressing his honor of serving the community.

Potawatomi Ventures (PV) Tribal Relations Director Heather VanZile and PV Board Director and FCP Behavioral Health Manager Shelby Daniels followed, speaking on behalf of PV. VanZile shares that this is a momentous time for the HWC. She shared the importance of PV's role in bridging the gap between tribal members and business entities, as well as

continued on pg. 3...

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #518
Twin Cities, MN

FCP Up & Coming

by Amber Haseman

Campus Closures: In observance of New Year's Day, campus will be closed on Jan. 1, 2026. In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, campus will be closed on Jan. 19, 2026.

Talking Circle: Everyone is welcome to attend the Talking Circle every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Recovery Resource Center, located at 5460 Kak Yot Lane, Crandon, and hosted by Behavioral Health. For more information, contact Consuela Alloway at (715) 889-6216.

Community Sobriety Feast: All are welcome to join Behavioral Health for a Community Sobriety Feast on Jan. 21, 2026, at 6 p.m. Enjoy food, fun, fellowship, and a featured recovery speaker. The feast will be held in the lower level of the Cultural Center, Library, and Museum. Please bring a dish to pass for the potluck dinner and a donation of non-perishable food items for local food pantries. For more information, contact Consuela Alloway at (715) 889-6216.

Group Training: Many Faces of Autism - Are you a parent, caregiver, educator, or community member interested in learning more about autism? Join for a group viewing and discussion of 'The Many Faces of Autism' - a free online training designed to help understand characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), learn strategies to support individuals with autism, and

build empathy and awareness across all ages and abilities. The training is limited to 30 people per session and will be held in the lower conference room of the Health and Wellness Center. The remaining sessions are on Jan. 22, 2026, or Feb. 12, 2026, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Register today by contacting Case Manager Deanna Collins at (715) 478-4160 or deannam.collins@fc-p-nsn.gov, or Community Health Representative Travis Mullins at (715) 478-4161 or travis.mullins@fc-p-nsn.gov.

Bowling & Lunch: FCP elders and one guest 13+ are invited to join for Bowling and Lunch at Northstar Lanes in Antigo on Jan. 22, 2026, Feb. 15, 2026, and March 22, 2025 at 12 p.m. Top scores for a two-person team win. First prize is a \$100 gift card, second place gets a \$50 gift card, and third place receives a \$25 gift card. There will be a drawing for prizes throughout the event. Limited transportation will be available. To sign up, call Jenna Paradies at (715) 478-4892 or Taylor Saari at (715) 478-4341.

Recovery Book Club: FCP Health & Wellness Center Prevention's Recovery Book Club is open to anyone in recovery or affected by addiction. It is held on Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Recovery Resource Center, located at 5460 Kak Yot Lane, Crandon. To sign up, call (715) 478-4350. The first 10 to register will receive free books.

OBITUARIES

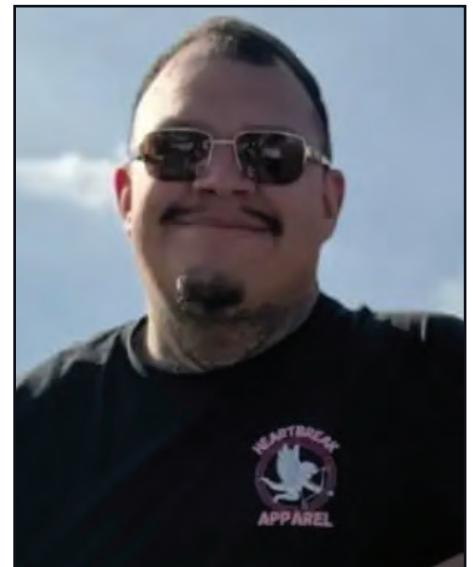
Jesse James Daniels Sr.

Jesse James Daniels Sr. (MÄH-TCHI-YÄSH GONE WITH THE WIND) Born Oct. 30, 1992, to Robert James Daniels Jr. (Peeks) and Cherry DuBray. In his younger years Daniels grew up in Stone Lake where he attended school at the Crandon Elementary until he went to Ashland where he attended Apprentice House. He got into football and boxing during that time.

Later in life Daniels entered into marriage to Shelby Daniels (Cleereman) in 2020. During their marriage they had two beautiful children, Jesse Jr. (Jypse) and Kishke (geesh/tato lynn) and stepchildren who he thought of as his own, Michael and Hendrix whom Jesse loved dearly and were his world.

Daniels enjoyed riding anything with a motor in it; he would often make riding four-wheelers and dirt bikes a family bonding time. He also loved to go camping on the weekends. Daniels graduated from college and earned his degree in business management — an accomplishment he was very proud of. He was on a Historical Preservation board which he loved being part of bringing artifacts back to his Potawatomi Tribe.

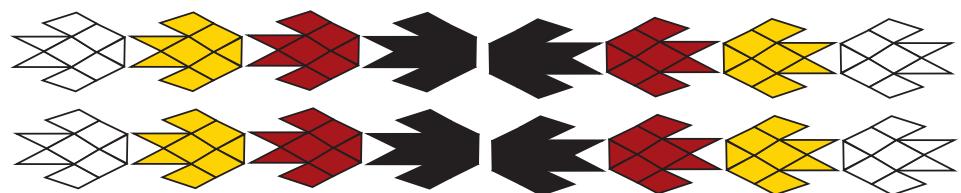
Daniels was a very loving person, caring deeply and protecting the people he loved and cared for. He was always joking and making people laugh — he had a smile that would light up any room. He also attended Native American Church where he loved to sing and drum.



He was preceded in death by his father Robert James Daniels Jr. (Peeks), Grandfather Robert Daniels Sr.; Grandfather Ron DuBray; Great Grandparents: Ned and Josie Daniels; Cherry DuBray; John and Geraldine; Vigil; Uncle George Daniels; Aunts: Candice Daniels, Michelle Daniels, Evette Dubray, Lillian DuBray, and Kari Ann Benson.

He is survived by Wife Shelby Daniels; Children: Jesse Jr., Kishke, Hendrix and Michael; Mother Cherry DuBray; Siblings: Robert Daniels III (Louise), Alyssa Daniels (Dylan), Faith Daniels, Frank Daniels, Brandy Daniels, Jerome Daniels, Jory Daniels, Shane Daniels and Roland Daniels. He had many nieces and nephews that he loved dearly along with aunts and uncles.

Visitation was Dec. 23, 2025, at the Forest County Potawatomi Cultural Center. Native American Services were on Dec. 24, 2025, with Mr. Lance Long presiding.



POTAWATOMI TIMES



5442 Everybody's Road • PO Box 340 • Crandon, WI 54520
(715) 478-7437 • times@fc-p-nsn.gov • www.fcpotawatomi.com

Deadline for the January 15, 2026, issue of the PT is Wednesday, December 31, 2026.

FCP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chairman: BROOKS BOYD SR.

Vice Chairman: KEN GEORGE JR.

Secretary: ALEXANDRIA MCCORKLE

Treasurer: JOSEPH DANIELS SR.

Council Members: DESTINEE ALLOWAY, HERB DANIELS JR.

POTAWATOMI TIMES STAFF

Interim Managing Editor: KRISTAL STATEZNY

Writers/Photographers: VAL NIEHAUS & AMBER HASEMAN

Potawatomi Times (PT) is a twice-monthly publication of the Forest County Potawatomi Community. Editorials and articles appearing in the PT are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of the PT staff or the FCP Community. PT encourages the submission of "Letters to the Editor". All letters must include the signature, address and telephone number of the author. Letters are subject to editing for grammar, length, malicious and libelous content. The PT reserves the right to reject any advertising, materials or letters submitted for publication. The submission of articles, poetry, artwork and photos is encouraged. The Editor makes the sole decision of what is published in the PT and will not assume any responsibility for unsolicited material nor will the PT guarantee publication upon submission. PT will not guarantee publication of materials submitted past deadlines posted in the PT. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor.

FCP Public Works Division is seeking a tribal member-owned business for residential and light commercial cleaning services.

Requirements:

Must have own transportation, cleaning supplies and tools.

Must have knowledge of basic cleaning processes.

Willingness to work weekends and as-needed.

Must provide references and work experience.

Resumes can be dropped-off at:

FCP Public Works Division
8000 Potawatomi Trail • Crandon, Wisc.



Health & Wellness Celebrates 30 Years

...continued from pg. 1

their honor in providing the tree for the day's event. She continued to introduce Daniels, recognizing her leadership and dedication.

Daniels reflected on the significance of this milestone, sharing, "We're witnessing the blood, sweat, and tears that went into creating all of this. A building that has been a pillar of strength for the people for three decades." She shared how the anniversary is not only about honoring the past but also about carrying forward the wisdom of ancestors while protecting the well-being of future generations. "Our traditions teach us that health is holistic – mind, body, and spirit – and that caring for one another is a foundation of a strong community," she shared.

The celebration continued with a tree lighting, celebrating life, growth, and connection. Tribal members were invited to help decorate the tree with ornaments that represent themselves. The ceremony concluded with Fire Nation performing an honor song for all who contributed to the HWC over the past 30 years. Veterans retired their color guard, and attendees were invited to tour departments, enjoy food and refreshments, participate in holiday activities and crafts, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and continue building stronger connections within the Health & Wellness community.



FCP Veterans during the grand entry



Brenda Shopodock



Fire Nation with Santa and Mrs. Claus



Donna VanZile



Fire Nation performing an honor song



Visiting Pharmacy's booth



What does health mean to you?



Lots of activities to do

VETERANS POST 1
REGULAR
MONTHLY
MEETINGS

1st Monday of Each Month
 Old Tribal Hall, Crandon | 3 p.m.
 CONTACT: Jeryl Perenich @ 715-478-4550 with questions.

WILD RICE
2026 GATHERING

DO YOU HAVE WILD RICE AVAILABLE TO SELL?

We need to acquire 200 pounds to support our traditional meal offerings during the Potawatomi Gathering. We are looking for Community Members that have rice available to sell.

CONTACT:

Nicole Huettl at
 715-478-4155/
 715-889-6383



Potawatomi Community Center Christmas Lighting

by Val Niehaus

The third annual First Lighting of the Christmas Light Display was held on Dec. 11, 2025, at the Potawatomi Community Center.

With the temperatures being a bit chilly this night, community members and families came bundled up in their snowpants and scarves to watch the first lighting of the magical light display.

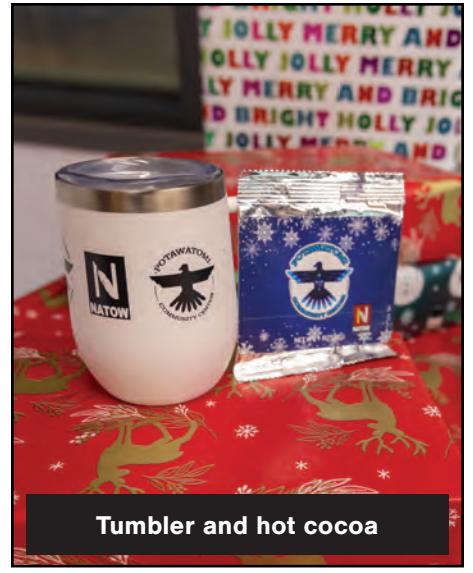
As the moment approached, staff from the Potawatomi Community Center entered the wooded area and turned on hundreds of twinkling lights, transforming the space into a

winter wonderland. Attendees then strolled along the edge of the wooded area, marveling at the intricate displays and sharing comments about the various light installations.

Afterward, everyone gathered inside to enjoy delicious holiday cookies and warm hot chocolate. The hot chocolate, served in insulated tumbler mugs courtesy of Native American Tourism of Wisconsin (NATOW), was the perfect way to wrap up the evening, offering a cozy treat to end a chilly night.



Families enjoying the walk



Tumbler and hot cocoa



The cookies hit the spot



These three enjoyed their cookies and hot cocoa



Santa Biker Gang

VENISON DRIVE
2026 GATHERING

FCP Sustainable Foods needs help in obtaining Whitetail Deer to provide meals for the upcoming 2026 Potawatomi Gathering hosted by Forest County Potawatomi.

CALL TO DISCUSS BECOMING A DONOR
715.478.7222
DONATIONS ACCEPTED FROM ANYONE
FCP Land & Natural Resources
5320 Wensaut Lane, Crandon, WI 54520

gdenwémagnenanék bbon gizhêk
WINTER FAMILY CAMP & ICE FISHING CONTEST @ DEVILS LAKE
OPEN TO FCP TRIBAL MEMBERS, DESCENDANTS & THEIR FAMILIES

Saturday, January 17

7-7:30am **Registration**
8am **Breakfast**
7am-1pm **Ice Fishing Contest**
Winners & Drawings to follow
11am-12pm **Lunch** (while supplies last)

1ST, 2ND, & 3RD PLACE PRIZES
for longest fish in each category:
Perch • Bluegill • Crappie • Bass
BOTH Adult & Youth Divisions (13 & under)

Games & Activities Available!
For info Contact Tyler Lorenz
715.889.2341 • Tyler.Lorenz@FCP-nsn.gov

sponsored by
FCP Land & Natural Resources
FCP Emergency Management
FCP Family Services Division
Potawatomi Community Center

FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
Keeper of the Fire

"Discover Wisconsin" Video Premiere

by Val Niehaus

It was an exciting and anticipated night at Potawatomi Casino Hotel Carter's Rock & Brews restaurant on Dec. 17, 2025, as the community gathered for the much-awaited premiere of "Discover Wisconsin's" Season 38, Episode 16, spotlighting Forest County.

The episode brought Forest County to life, unveiling its one-of-a-kind attractions, thrilling outdoor adventures, rich history, and vibrant local culture for both visitors and residents to discover.

Those in attendance included representatives from the Visit Forest County Chamber of Commerce, the Crandon International Raceway team, and both local tribal communities: the Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) and the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, along with residents and visitors to Forest County.

The night began with everyone gathering at Rock & Brews restaurant, which served up delicious appetizers, including their Honey BBQ and Buffalo Boneless Wings, as well as Southwest and Cheeseburger Egg Rolls. The menu also featured entrees such as Cobb Salad, Ultimate Burgers, and Pepperoni Pizza, along with Rock & Brews Mocktails.



An excerpt from "Discover Wisconsin's" Facebook page.

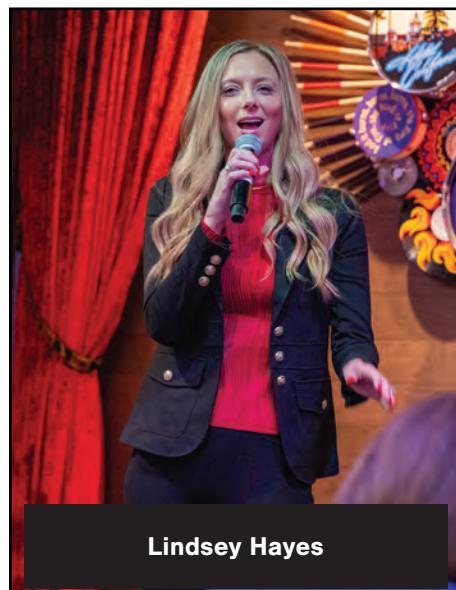
Forest County, Wis., is an outdoor lover's dream!

"In today's episode of Discover Wisconsin, we head to @ForestCounty! Ride with us through over 50 miles of UTV-friendly routes, explore Indigenous culture at Blackwell Farm and the Meno Keno Ma Ge Wen Powwow, and dive into the off-road legacy of Crandon International Raceway. We also highlight two of the region's must-visit destinations: Mole Lake Casino & Lodge, home to the tradition of wild ricing, and Potawatomi Casino Hotel, a cornerstone of the Forest County Potawatomi community.

From scenic campgrounds and trail-side dining to lumberjack lore and powerful cultural storytelling, Forest County shines as a vibrant destination where motorsports, nature, and tribal traditions intersect."



Lisa Meier



Lindsey Hayes

Next on the agenda were speakers, including FCP Vice Chairman Ken George Jr., Chairman of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community Robert Van-Zile Jr., CEO of Visit Forest County Chris Shafer, Destination Marketing Manager at Discover Wisconsin Lisa Meier, and Host of Discover Wisconsin Lindsey Hayes.

When everyone had finished expressing their excitement and thanks, it was time to roll the footage of this momentous show, which highlights many aspects of Forest County, including a segment on the FCP tribe itself. Those featured in the film who were highlighted from the FCP community included Sam Alloway, Nick Shepard, Stacey White, and Brian Jacobson. At the same time, many more familiar faces appeared in the background, capturing the spirit of the community.

It was a night that brought Forest County together, celebrating the shared love for this place we call home and the good fortune of belonging to such a close-knit community.

You can watch this episode on "Discover Wisconsin's" YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuydcMV5W84>



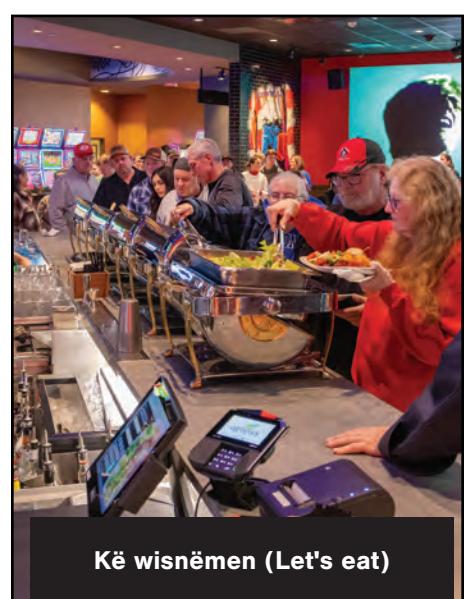
Sam Alloway made an appearance in the show



FCP Vice Chairman chatting with Cliff and Jason Flannery



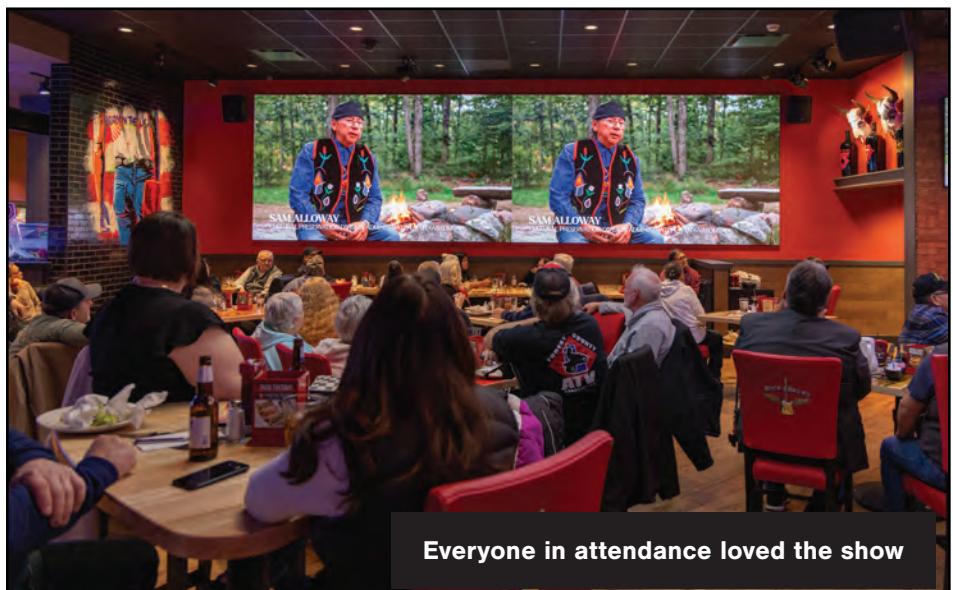
Forest County Sheriff Jeff Marvin talking with Robert VanZile Jr.



Kē wisnēmen (Let's eat)



The show begins!



Everyone in attendance loved the show

FCP Community Christmas Party

by Krystal Statezny

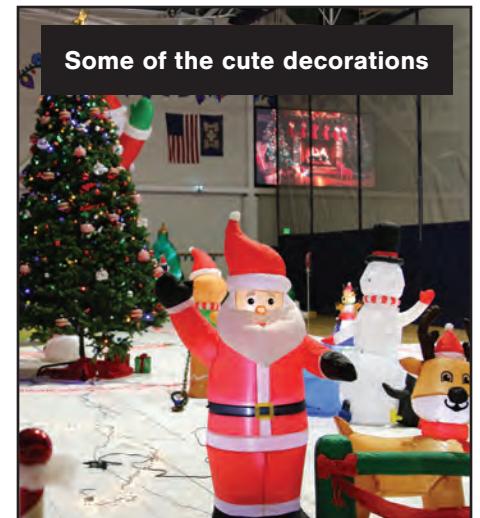
The Potawatomi Community Center (PCC) held the annual Community Christmas party on Dec. 19, 2025. Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) tribal members, descendants and their families enjoyed dinner and desserts while anxiously-awaiting for Santa to arrive. The “Mean One” made an appearance during dinner and offered photo opps to those who were brave enough. The line to see Santa was long, but both the young and young at heart came through the beautifully-decorated plaza with smiling faces to tell him and Mrs. Claus what was on their list.

After gift cards were received by Santa, many others were also winning the plentiful-amounts of raffle items including: ice shacks, televisions, air fryers, headphones, gift cards, and more.

Thank you to the PCC staff for making this evening enjoyable and memorable for the FCP community.



All smiles with Mr. & Mrs. Claus



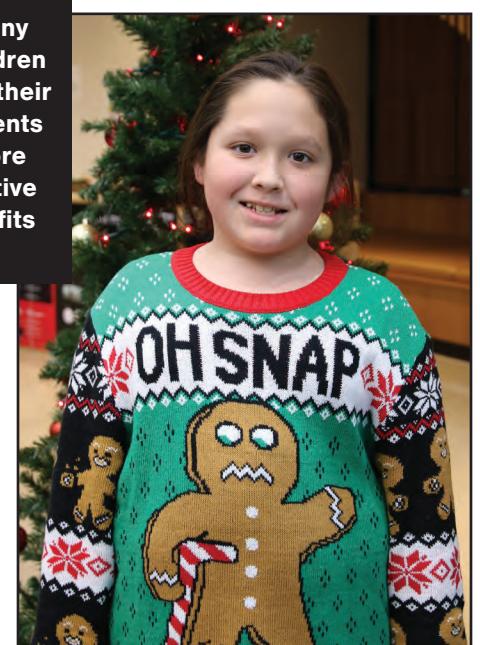
Some of the cute decorations



Mr. Grinch realizes he's famous



Many children and their parents wore festive outfits



Never too old to sit on Santa's lap



FCP Treasurer Joseph Daniels Sr. making sure he tells Santa his wish list

YOUTH Gymnastics

Open to Youth
Grades 4K thru 4

\$40 PCC Members
\$60 Non-Members
\$30 FCP Tribal Members & Descendants

In this fun and exciting class participants will be introduced to the basic fundamentals of gymnastics!

Limited to 15 participants per session.

Thursdays
January 15 thru February 26

SESSION 1: 5:30 – 6:15pm (Grades 4k-1st)
SESSION 2: 6:15 – 7pm (Grades 2nd-4th)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
To register visit our front desk, call 715-478-6500, or online at PotawatomiCC.recdesk.com

POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY CENTER
5471 Thayék Éthé Dnémézék Myéw.
(The Place Where Everyone Plays Road)
Crandon, Wisconsin

For more info contact Recreation Manager
Michael Hill at 715-902-1399,
or email him at: Michael.Hill@FCP-nsn.gov

JOIN THE MISSION TO
KEEP LITTLE FINGERS & HEADS WARM THIS WINTER

Hat & Mitten TREE

Nov. 24, 2025
thru mid-Jan. 2026

FCP Family Services Lobby
5415 Everybody's Road
Crandon, Wisconsin

HATS & MITTENS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO FCP TRIBAL MEMBERS, DESCENDANTS, & THEIR FAMILIES

Sponsored by
FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI ECONOMIC SUPPORT
For more info contact Kathryn Tupper
715-478-4433 | Kathryn.Tupper@FCP-nsn.gov

Let's keep warm this winter!

Class starts February 2nd, 2026

WisDOT HCST
HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION SKILLS TRAINING
CERTIFIED PRE-APPRENTICESHIP

FREE ROAD CONSTRUCTION TRAINING (120/hrs)

OPEN HOUSE EVENT
January 20th,
10am-2pm

LOCATION:
Potawatomi Community Center
5471 The Place Where Everyone Comes To Play Rd.
Crandon, WI 54520

Qualifications:

- Be 18 years of age
- Must have valid Driver License
- NO: OWI/DUI's within the last three years, excessive speeding (20 + MPH over), or Leaving the Scene
- Ability to pass a Drug Screen
- Ability to perform manual labor and physically demanding work
- Ability to pass general aptitude test at min. 6th grade level
- Willingness to travel statewide & work hard
- HS Diploma or GED/HSED Preferred

Call or Email:
NC-Region HCST Coordinator
Caleb M cGeshick Sr
for more details
caleb.mcgeshick.sr@scc-nsn.gov
715-622-0339
www.wisdotapp.org

8th Annual SOBRIETY POWWOW

New Year's Eve
DEC. 31, 2025

4 PM - 12:30 AM
Feast 5PM Grand Entry 7PM

POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY CENTER
5471 thayék éthé dnémézék myéw.
(The Place Where Everyone Plays Road)
Crandon, WI 54520

HOST DRUM: Fire Nation
CO-HOST DRUM: Fire Nation Jrs
HEAD DANCERS: Bambi Shepard & Donna VanZile
MC: Jeff Keeble Sr.
AD: Richard Gouge
VETERANS: Post 1

CRAFT VENDORS ONLY:
CONTACT:
Owen Shepard:
Owen.Shepard@fcp-nsn.gov
715-889-1900

Door Prizes
Cain Recognition
Spot Dances
Committee Specials
\$2500 Drum Split
Firework Show at Midnight!

Sponsored by
FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
KEEPER OF THE FIRE
FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

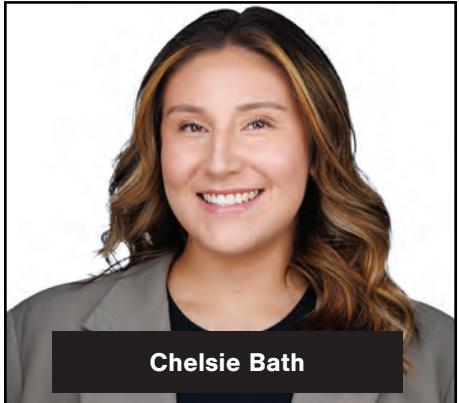
Celebrating Potawatomi Ventures Honored Employees of 2025

This year, we introduced an initiative to honor employees who consistently exemplify our core values: Authentically Humble – Boldly Courageous – Consistently Resilient – Genuinely Kind – Profoundly Visionary.

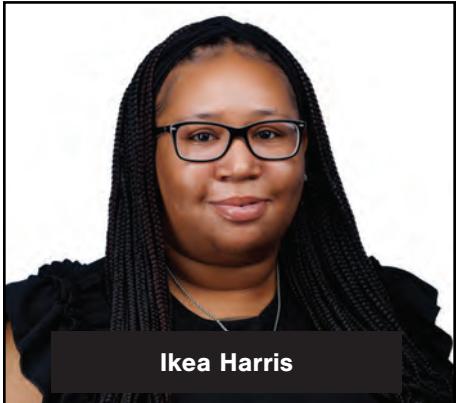
At each quarterly town hall, our leaders proudly nominate and celebrate individuals who live these values every day.

Congratulations to those recognized this year for bringing our values to life. We are Brighter Together.

Consistently Resilient



Chelsie Bath



Ikea Harris



Tina Baker

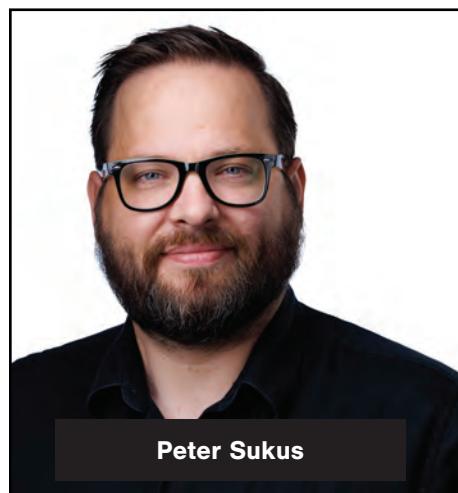


Peter Juzenas

Authentically Humble

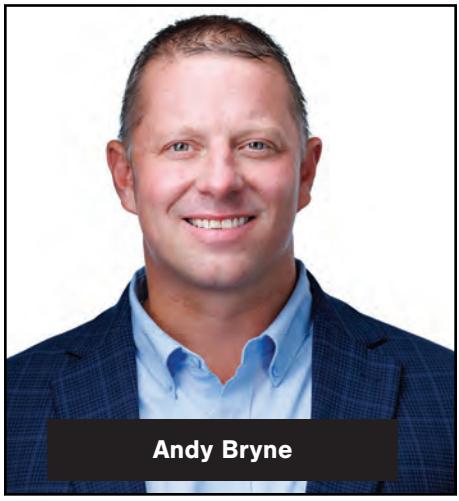


Grant Werner

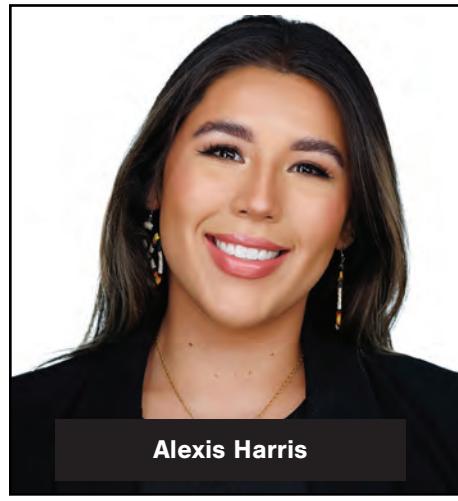


Peter Sukus

Profoundly Visionary



Andy Bryne

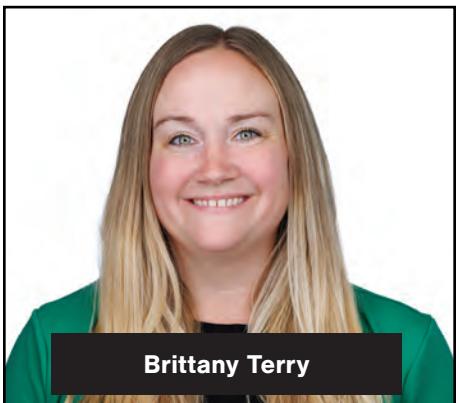


Alexis Harris

Genuinely Kind



Stephen Axtell



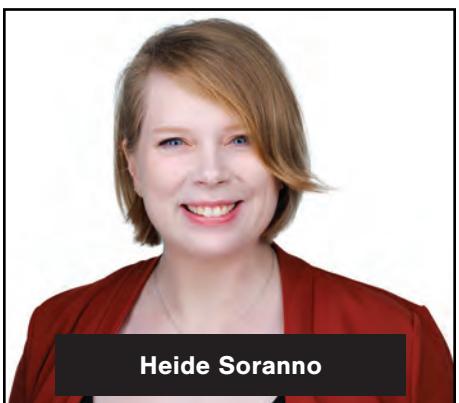
Brittany Terry



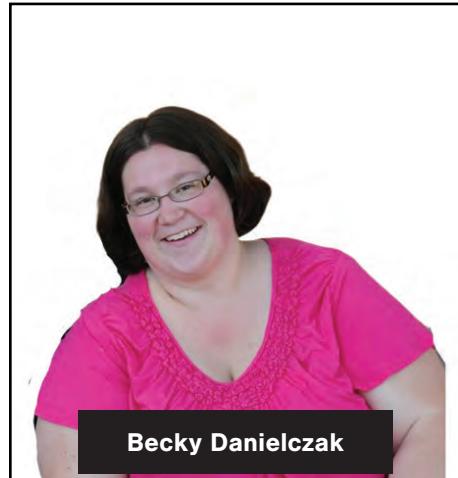
Taylor Lehto



Tarah Thompson



Heide Soranno



Becky Danielczak



Krista Bach



Olivia Xatsombath



Holiday Greetings from Potawatomi Ventures



As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the strength, resilience, and unity of our community. Together, we've honored our traditions, embraced innovation, and built a foundation for generations to thrive.

From all of us at Potawatomi

Ventures, Migwéth (Thank you) for your trust and partnership. May this holiday season bring peace, joy, and hope to you and your loved ones.

Here's to a bright and prosperous New Year — rooted in who we are and visionary in where we're going. Brighter Together!

PV Proudly Sponsors Christmas Tree at Health & Wellness 30th Anniversary



This tree stands as a symbol of unity, life, and hope, honoring our roots while looking toward a bright future.

Potawatomi Ventures (PV) Board Member Shelby Daniels and Tribal Relations Director Heather VanZile, proudly shared this sponsorship and its meaning for our community.

Together, we carry forward the wisdom of our ancestors and protect the well-being of generations to come.

Migwéth (Thank you) for allowing PV to collaborate on this milestone celebration!



TFA Opportunity with Potawatomi Ventures

Help Shape the Economic Future of Our Tribe

The economic future for the Forest County Potawatomi community is strong — and growing. As part of our long-term strategic planning, we are inviting tribal members to help shape the next generation of opportunity for our tribally-owned economic development corporation. This is a unique opportunity to participate in a comprehensive assessment and long-term future planning initiative that will help guide how we invest, grow, and create prosperity for generations to come.

Why Your Voice Matters

Potawatomi Ventures has grown into a diverse portfolio of companies and investments — creating jobs, sustainable revenue, and opportunities for our people. But to ensure our success continues for decades to come, we need the insight, creativity, and lived experience of our tribal citizens. We believe the next generation holds the key to building the future — blending education, tradition, innovation, and purpose.

What to Expect

Participants will:

- Contribute to strategic assessments of our current enterprises
- Identify emerging industries and opportunities for future investment
- Collaborate in small group sessions on culture, innovation, and

sustainability

- Provide input on what economic sovereignty means for the next generation

This initiative is part of a long-term, intergenerational vision to strengthen our tribe's economic foundation and ensure our businesses reflect our shared values: Authentically humble. Genuinely kind. Consistently resilient. Boldly courageous. Profoundly visionary. The committee will be led by Potawatomi Ventures Board Chair Crystal Deschinny, Potawatomi Ventures Board Member Ryan Dyer, and tribal financial advisors, leading Indian Country investment consultant.

Who Should Apply

We welcome tribal members who are interested in:

- Economic development and entrepreneurship
- Tribal governance or policy
- Sustainability, technology, or innovation
- Leadership and cultural preservation

How to Get Involved

To express interest, please submit a brief statement (250–300 words) about your background, education, and why you want to participate.

Deadline: Jan. 5, 2026

Submit to: Tarah Thompson (tarah.thompson@potawatomiventures.com)

Together, we'll plan for the next

50 years of tribal prosperity — rooted in who we are, and visionary in where we're going.

OUR INVESTMENTS LIGHT THE WAY



FOR PEOPLE,
PARTNERS,
AND PROGRESS



We are a portfolio company making strategic investments to grow businesses, strengthen communities, and build a brighter future for all.



FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI

Keeper of the Fire

Community Events **JANUARY 2026**

Elders Christmas Party

by Amber Haseman

It was a crisp, snowy day as Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) Elders and their guests made their way to the Potawatomi Casino Hotel Carter for the annual Elders' Christmas Party. Hosted by FCP Elder Services, the celebration took place on Dec. 5, 2025, from noon to 5 p.m. and featured an afternoon filled with fun activities, delicious food, and holiday cheer.

Upon arrival, guests received a bow to participate in a bow-stealing game. The goal was to collect as many bows as possible throughout the afternoon. There were several winners, but Anthony (Sonny) Shepard took the lead with a total of 40 bows.

Elders and their guests enjoyed a variety of delicious appetizers, includ-

ing veggies and dip, cheese and sausage, BBQ Lil' Smokies, honey BBQ chicken wings, assorted cookies, coffee, hot tea, and a hot chocolate bar. The afternoon was filled with festive games and activities, including a Christmas Scavenger Hunt, a Duck Guess game, Bingo, Snowball Toss, an Ornament Swing Game, and Gift Box Pass.

The festivities kicked off with a classic, Bingo. Winners picked from a wide selection of prizes, including large boxes of candy bars, mini appliances, candle warmers, coffee mug sets, and more. The next game featured Snowball Toss, which involved teams of two: a thrower and a catcher. The thrower was blind folded, while the catcher wore baggy pants designed

to catch the snowballs. Each colored snowball was worth a different point value, and the distance increased as the game progressed, making it more challenging. Scores were then totaled to determine the winners.

The competition continued with an ornament swing game, where participants taped a cup to their waist with an ornament hanging from it. Using only their hips, players swung the ornament into their cup as quickly as possible, racing against the clock. Another game had guests collecting candy canes while holding one in their mouth. The activities concluded with the Gift Box Pass game.

Prizes were plentiful, with lucky winners taking home items such as

camping director chairs, home theater projectors, carry-on luggage, ice makers, portable refrigerators, a bird feeder camera, patio heaters, air purifiers, and so much more. Around 4 p.m., guests took their seats to enjoy a delicious dinner featuring baked ham, sirloin beef tips, blended wild rice, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and bacon, house salads with dressing, dinner rolls, and cheesecake for dessert.

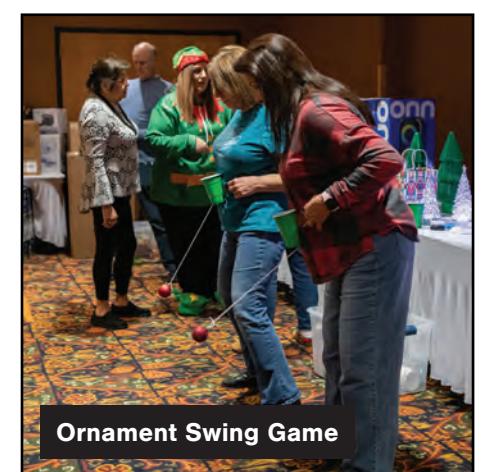
It was a wonderful afternoon for the elder community, joined by family and friends, to gather, share laughter, and create timeless memories. It was truly an afternoon of joy and holiday celebration for the Forest County Potawatomi Elders and their families.



Terri and Sam Alloway playing BINGO



It was a full house



Ornament Swing Game

JANUARY 2026

Elder Meal Route Menu

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>The Daily Menu is subject to change without prior notice due to inclement weather conditions, facility closures and other circumstances beyond our control.</p> <p>Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.</p> <p>- FCP Sustainable Food Services Department</p>				1	2	<p><i>Happy New Year!</i></p> <p>ALL MEALS WILL INCLUDE A SOUP!</p>
	<p>5 Beef Stir Fry w/ rice & egg roll Egg Drop Soup</p> <p>12 Lasagna w/ mixed veggies, garlic bread</p> <p>19 TRIBAL OFFICES CLOSED Meal will be delivered on Thursday's (15th) route</p> <p>26 Meatball Sub, veggie, cookie</p>	<p>6 Chicken Stew w/ peppers, carrots, onions, dinner roll</p> <p>13 Hot Roast Beef w/ au jus, potato wedges</p> <p>20 Chicken Fajitas, Spanish Rice</p> <p>27 Taco Salad</p>	<p>7 Hot Ham & Cheese on Bun, Cheesy Hashbrowns, Broccoli</p> <p>14 Chicken Alfredo, Noodles, Veggie, Dinner Roll</p> <p>21 Meatloaf w/ mashed potatoes, gravy, veggie</p> <p>28 Chicken Parmesan w/ corn, garlic bread</p>	<p>8 Opened Face Turkey Sandwich w/ mashed potatoes, glazed carrots</p> <p>15 Mushroom Swiss Burger w/ american fries</p> <p>22 Cabbage Roll Casserole, veggie, dinner roll</p> <p>29 Italian Sausage & Pierogis, green beans, dinner roll</p>	<p>9 Meal will be delivered on Thursday route</p> <p>16 Meal will be delivered on Thursday route</p> <p>23 Meal will be delivered on Thursday route</p> <p>30 Meal will be delivered on Thursday route</p>	

JANUARY 2026

