



POTAWATOMI TIMES

Gsenyaniyêk êzhewébêk — Forest County Potawatomi Happenings



Volume 31, Issue 21 • MAY 1, 2026 • datbëgon gizes • Leaf Moon • FREE

Elders Prom 2026



Group photo with Tony Rocker

by Amber Haseman

Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) elders and their guests spent the afternoon preparing for a night to remember, getting their hair and makeup done, and finding the perfect outfits to match the evening's '50s, '60s, '70s, and '80s theme.

FCP Elder Services welcomed attendees to the annual Elder's Prom on April 18, 2026, at the Potawatomi Casino Hotel Carter. Doors opened at 5:15 p.m., inviting guests for an evening filled with entertainment, delicious food, sweet treats, laughter, smiles, and memories to last a lifetime.

The room was decorated with white

table settings, accented by pink sequin runners and disco-inspired floral bouquets with microphones, all in line with the theme. An elaborate cupcake display offered a variety of delicious cupcakes from BC Cakes & More in Crandon for all to enjoy. A wide selection of flavors included vanilla, chocolate, lemon poppyseed, raspberry, almond, chocolate peanut butter, carrot, and more.

Guests had the opportunity to capture their special moments with Clarissa Friday Photography, LLC – Native Clarity, while Elder Services displayed a photo booth with fun props, offering keepsake photos to take home. Posters around the room highlighted nostalgic fun facts from the 1950s through the 1980s, featuring popular movies, TV shows, music, and more from each era. Highlights included films like "Star Wars," "Caddyshack," "The Shining," and "Raging Bull," TV favorites such as "The Flip Wilson Show," "Here's Lucy," "Gunsmoke," and iconic songs like "It's Now or Never" by Elvis Presley, "The Twist" by Chubby Checker, "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie" by Brian Hyland, and "Walk Don't Run" by The Ventures.

Dinner was served by Potawatomi Casino Hotel Carter staff at 5:30 p.m., featuring a menu of stuffed chicken with rice and gravy, mashed potatoes, steamed vegetables, fry bread, and wild

rice with fruit.

Raffle prizes were drawn throughout the evening, adding excitement and anticipation. Prizes included car refrigerators, patio heaters, TVs, hummingbird and digital camera bird feeders, oversized folding chairs, gift certificates, digital devices such as Wi-Fi calendars, Amazon Echo Show, and more.

At around 7 p.m., the evening's entertainment featured Tony Rocker from Milwaukee, an award-winning Elvis tribute artist. Rocker engaged the audience with his incredible performance, bringing Elvis Presley's music and spirit to life through songs like "Pocketful of Rainbows," "Stuck on You," "Fame and Fortune," and "Hound Dog." He slowed things down with "Can't Help Falling in Love," inviting couples onto the dance floor to share this special moment together.

A brief intermission brought the drawing of more raffle prizes and a wardrobe change. Rocker returned in Elvis's iconic white jumpsuit to continue his performance. He engaged with guests throughout the night, tossing out stuffed animals and other giveaway items to create an interactive, memorable experience.

Before the evening concluded, everyone gathered for a group photo

with 'Elvis,' followed by the crowning of the 2026 Elders Prom king and queen, Donnie Cornell and Marie Gilligan. The two shared a king-and-queen dance, surrounded by family and friends. It was a special moment as they made their way across the dance floor.

As the night came to a close, elders and their guests left with full hearts, taking home smiles, laughter, cherished memories, and keepsakes from an unforgettable evening. Special thanks to those who made the evening possible and created a memorable event for all to enjoy.



2026 Elders Prom King & Queen
Donnie Cornell & Marie Gilligan

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 203
Eau Claire, WI

FCP Up & Coming

by Amber Haseman

ATV Safety Course: Join the ATV Safety Course hosted by FCP Land & Natural Resources (LNR) on May 4-5 from 5-8 p.m. at the LNR building located at 5320 Wensaut Ln., Crandon. The class welcomes everyone 12+ years of age. Participants must attend both days to receive their certificate. Register at gowild.wi.gov or call Tyler Lorenz at (715) 478-4507. Have your WI DNR Customer ID number ready.

Elders BINGOCIZE: Join FCP Elder Services for BINGOCize, combining exercise with BINGO for a fun way to get moving and socialize. Sessions last approximately 45-60 minutes. A meal will be provided. Join May 6 and 20, or June 10 and 24 at the Turtle House from 12-2 p.m.

Mother's Day Wellness Pop-Up Event: Celebrate the amazing women in your life for the Mother's Day Wellness Pop-Up Event. Enjoy a day of relaxation, renewal, and radiant self-care at Waséya Wellness Lounge at the Potawatomi Community Center. Treat yourself or mom to one-day-only wellness experiences, including free chair massages, facial or scalp massages, bloom bar to create your own bouquet for mom for only \$10, or a Mother's Day glow package for only \$100. The package includes three sessions: Sauna, Red Light Therapy, and Sensory Lounge. The offer runs through May 9, 2026. Questions? Contact the PCC front desk at (715) 478-6500.

End of Year Dance: Join FCP Community Advocacy for an eve-

ning packed with fun and laughter at the End of Year Dance. Come with your family for dinner and enjoy music with your children's favorite after-school programs. Join on May 15, 2026, from 5-8 p.m. at the Potawatomi Community Center (PCC). Everyone is welcome. A meal will also be provided. Visit the PCC booth to sign up for Summer Day Camp. If you have any questions, contact communityadvocacy@fcp-nsn.gov or (715) 478-4433.

Coffee Talk: FCP tribal elders are invited to join FCP Elder Services for Coffee Talk on May 19 from 12-2 p.m. at the Turtle House. A meal will be provided. If you have any questions, contact Jenna Paradies at (715) 478-4892 or Taylor Saari at (715) 478-4341.

Elders Day Trips: FCP tribal elders and one guest 18+ are welcome to attend Elders Day Trips, hosted by FCP Elder Services. Enjoy a trip to the Lake of the Torches Casino on May 13 in Lac du Flambeau. Depart fireside MARKET in Stone Lake at 9 a.m. On June 14, 2026, enjoy BINGO at North Star Casino in Bowler, Wis. Depart fireside MARKET in Stone Lake at 10 a.m. Doors open at 12 p.m., Early Birds at 1:30 p.m., and Regular Session at 2 p.m. The trip includes a standard BINGO package, with a machine and lunch. Limited spots are available. To sign up, contact Jenna Paradies at (715) 478-4892 or Taylor Saari at (715) 478-4341. You are not signed up unless you have a confirmation number.

OBITUARY

John Edwards

John Edwards, who was born on May 7, 1984, in Milwaukee, Wis., passed away on April 10, 2026, in Florence, Wis., at the age of 41.

John lived a life marked by hard work, devotion to his family, and a spirited love of the activities and interests that brought him joy. He was known by those who loved him as an interesting, handy, and adventurous man who approached life with energy and determination. Although his time on earth ended far too soon, the memories he created and the impact he made will remain with all who knew him.

John worked in construction, where his practical skills and strong work ethic served him well. He was the kind of person who could fix, build, and improve with confidence, and he took pride in being useful to others. His hands were often busy, and his heart was especially devoted to the people and places he cared about. He enjoyed taking care of his children and found great meaning in being present in their lives. He was very passionate about yard work and his lawn, and he took satisfaction in keeping things neat, orderly, and well cared for.

In his personal life, John enjoyed golfing and liked to play basketball. He also liked to ride his dirt bike and work out, pursuits that reflected his active and adventurous nature. He was an avid fan of the Green Bay Packers and the Milwaukee Brewers, and he followed both teams with enthusiasm and loyalty. These interests were part of the rhythm of his life and brought him enjoyment throughout the years.

John is survived by his wife, Chelsea (McGeshick) Edwards; his sons, Isaiah Anthony Edwards and Roman Timothy Edwards; his sisters, Lesha Pacala and Montana



Edwards and her husband, Phillip Broomfield; and his brother, Nicholas Pacala; his Auntie Johanna, Uncle Chad and Brian; his in-laws, Dee Dee McGeshick, Mitchell McGeshick Sr, Charles McGeshick III, Jeffery McGeshick, McHenna McGeshick, Montana McGeshick, Charles McGeshick IV, Mitchell McGeshick Jr. and Miles McGeshick and also many nieces, nephews and cousins. His family was an important part of his life, and the bonds he shared with them were deeply meaningful. He will be remembered with love by those who knew him best and by all whose lives he touched.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Lisa Edwards Pacala; his sister, Lasette Pacala; his uncles Earnest Edwards and Timothy (Sonny) Edwards; his aunt, Cheryl Edwards; and his grandmother, Jeanette George. Their memories remained close to him, and their presence in his life helped shape the person he became.

Native American Services were held on April 20, 2026, at the Forest County Potawatomi Cultural Center.

Weber-Hill & Packard Funeral Home of Crandon assisted the family with arrangements.

POTAWATOMI TIMES
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 (715) 478-7437 • times@fcp-nsn.gov • www.fcpotawatomi.com

Deadline for the May 15, 2026, issue of the PT is Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

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FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
 Keeper of the Fire

MEETING STIPEND
 You are required to bring your Tribal ID

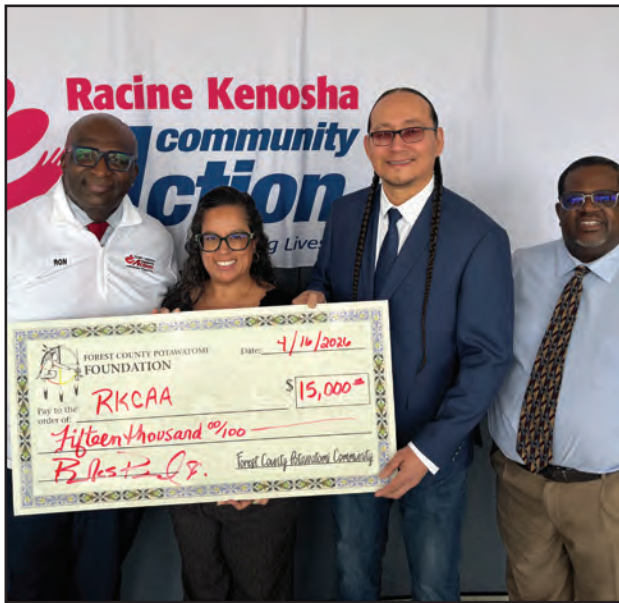
QUARTERLY GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday, May 9, 2026

POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY CENTER
 5471 Thayék Éthé Dnèkmégzèk Myéw • Crandon, Wisconsin

Lunch served @ Noon Meeting begins @ 1pm

Chairman Boyd Presents Foundation Checks



submitted by FCP Executive Assistant Aiyana VanZile

FCP Chairman Brooks Boyd Sr. and the FCP Foundation went to Racine, Wis., on April 16 2026, to present checks to the following organiza-

tions that the Foundation supports: Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency, Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha and Walkin' In My Shoes. "Thank

you, Chairman Boyd, for taking the time to visit. The organizations were excited to meet you, and your presence brought great visibility and positive

attention to the Racine/Kenosha community," stated FCP Foundation Executive Director Brad Kroupa.

Autism Awareness, Advocacy & Appreciation Night



Checking out the booths

by Amber Haseman

The Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) Health Division welcomed the community to their Autism Awareness, Advocacy, & Appreciation Night on April 15, 2026, at the Potawatomi Community Center from 3-6 p.m. FCP staff, parents, family, friends, and the greater community gathered for the event to learn, connect, and gain awareness from the world of autism.

Upon arrival, visitors registered and received a scavenger hunt, designed to guide them through an interactive learning experience about autism, available resources, and community support. Participants were challenged to find items such as something soft, something blue, a sign with numbers, something that lights up, a puzzle piece, and a picture of a rainbow. Once completed, visitors could enter a raffle drawing for a chance to win a prize.

Informational booths filled the gym, featuring departments, community organizations, programs, and support groups, including the FCP

Health Division, Potawatomi Community Center, FCP Family Services, Great Lakes Inter Tribal Epidemiology Center's Together Strong: Brain Health Program, Tall Pines Behavioral Health, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community's Family Foundation Home Visiting Program, Children's Resource Center North, the Autism Society, Lakeland Care, and others. Each booth offered insights into autism through hands-on sensory activities, mealtime strategies, informational resources, guidance and support, and a virtual reality experience.

After visiting each booth, attendees gathered in the Turf Fieldhouse for a 4 p.m. screening of the film "They Are Sacred." The film gives viewers insight into the world of an autistic child, following his father's journey to restore the traditional First Nations perspective of autism in the contemporary world.

Before the showing, FCP Chief Medical Officer Bonnie Samuelson shared remarks recognizing fellow employees, including Community Health Representative Travis Mullins and Case Manager Deana Collins, for their work on the autism support team. She also thanked the many individuals who contributed to the event's success.

Samuelson noted that the film viewing was made possible through special permission from Nikan Productions, as "They Are Sacred" is not currently available in the U.S. The film features Dr. Grant Bruno (Yellow Horse) of the Samson Cree Nation in Canada and his son Anders (Sacred Buffalo Child). Dr. Bruno holds a doctorate in Pediatric Medical Scienc-

es and is a faculty member at the University of Alberta. His work focuses on decolonizing deficit-based views of autism and reclaiming their diversity as a sacred gift. The film centers on his family and their personal journey.

Joining virtually was Potawatomi Citizen Nation tribal member Jessica Kitchens, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Central Arkansas. Kitchens is working alongside Dr. Bruno to replicate his research with Indigenous communities in the U.S. She shared that she has been following Dr. Bruno's work for three years and had the opportunity to see him speak virtually.

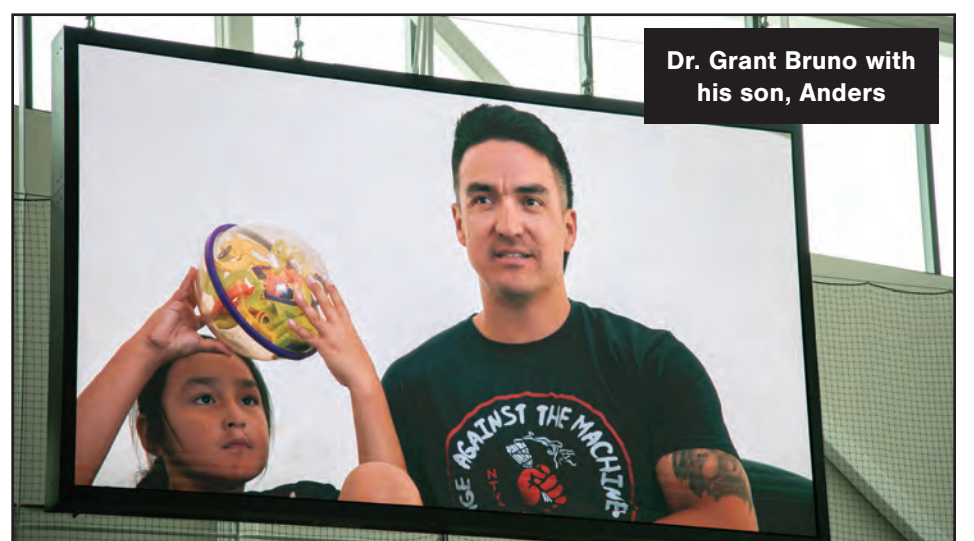
Kitchens' current dissertation, "Potawatomi Perspectives on Autism," follows in the footsteps of Dr. Bruno's work and will be the first of its kind to include participants from the U.S. The research honors the perspectives of two Potawatomi nations, including the Forest County Potawatomi community and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

As part of her research, Kitchens will be a guest at the Potawatomi

Gathering and will begin conducting interviews with tribal members starting July 26, 2026. She is looking to interview 15 individuals, including autistic adults, whether formerly diagnosed or self-identified, parents or caregivers of autistic children, and tribal elders, historians, or knowledge keepers with insights into autism or Indigenous perspectives on people who have been considered different.

In addition to in-person interviews, Kitchens will offer virtual Zoom interviews throughout June and July. She is also interested in hosting a shared circle during the gathering for those who want to share their perspectives. Interested participants may contact Kitchens at jkitchens2@ucb.uca.edu.

As the evening came to a close, visitors left with a greater understanding of the world of autism and gathered resources for themselves or to share with others. The event created a space for learning, reflection, and shared understanding, continuing the conversation beyond the evening itself.



Dr. Grant Bruno with his son, Anders

Understanding the Connection



Signing in before the presentation

by Amber Haseman

Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) employees and local community members recently gathered for an informative and impactful event hosted by FCP Community Advocacy, featuring representatives from the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC). Held on April 15, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. in the Turf Fieldhouse, the presentation, *Understanding the Connection between Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Trafficking in Indian Country*, offered attendees a deeper understanding of how these issues affect Native communities.

As guests arrived and signed in, they received food vouchers, goodie bags, and a raffle ticket for a chance to win prizes. An informational booth was available, providing resources for those seeking support or looking to advocate for change within their communities.

FCP Aging & Disability Resource Specialist Molly Thornton opened the event, welcoming guests and expressing her appreciation for their attendance. Thornton also recognized Jorge Cisneros, who offered smudging to help create a safe space so attendees could engage with the message without carrying the weight of stress or trauma.

Thornton introduced the NIWRC and its goal of raising awareness of critical issues, assisting tribal programs, and fostering resilience, healing, and justice. Leading the presentation was NIWRC Director Paloma Sánchez of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, joined by Program Specialists Kim Zahne (Tewa/Hopi) and Cherrah Giles (Muscogee and Cherokee).

Giles opened with NIWRC's mission statement, "To provide national leadership to promote safety for native women and communities by supporting culturally grounded grassroots advocacy." She also shared the organization's vision: "Collective liberation

through the restoration of sovereignty and safety of Native American women and communities, all over Indian country."

The presentation shared the importance of creating a safe space by speaking with care and communicating with empathy and respect. Statistics show that it can take someone an average of seven attempts, or in some cases up to 17 years, to leave an abusive relationship for good. It's important to help survivors understand that you believe in them and that support is available whenever they're ready to take that next step.

NIWRC houses the National Indian Resource Center Addressing Domestic Violence and Safety for Indian Women under the Family Violence Prevention & Services Act (FVPSA). It also supports the Tribal Safe Housing Center, which addresses the overlap of housing instability, homelessness, and domestic violence among American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians.

Giles continued discussing domestic violence in Indian country, sharing data and covering various forms of abuse. These include physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, spiritual, and traditional abuse, often carried out through tactics such as isolation, gaslighting, denial, blame, intimidation, love bombing, and more.

She also highlighted statistics related to sexual violence and assault, and how it impacts all ages, genders, sexual orientations, and communities. Attendees were invited to reflect on questions such as: Where do you see sexual violence and domestic violence overlap? and as a community member, how can you help raise awareness of these critical issues?

The presentation then transitioned to Sánchez, who addressed human trafficking. She discussed those more at risk and the common warning signs. Individuals at increased risk may include youth who have run away from

home, individuals who have experienced sexual or domestic violence, those facing economic hardship, or individuals struggling with substance use. Warning signs may include isolation from family, friends, or community, minors engaging in commercial sex acts, fearful or submissive behavior, or signs that someone may be controlling who an individual can talk to.

Raising awareness of these issues is more important than ever. The presenters highlighted the importance of collecting data, identifying gaps, and using information to strengthen community response. Collaboration with other communities at both the state and national levels is essential. It's important to integrate traditional spirituality into supportive services, public awareness campaigns, community engagement, and data collection for strengthening prevention and healing.

The presentation concluded with a variety of resources for attendees and individuals seeking support. These include the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, the National Sexual Assault Hotline, and NIWRC resources, including the Speakers Bureau, monthly newsletters, pre-re-

corded webinars, peer-to-peer events, and a specialty institute.

Overall, the presentation provided valuable insight into the connections between domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking, as well as the challenges tribal communities face in addressing these issues. By increasing awareness, sharing knowledge, and connecting individuals to the right resources, meaningful conversations and positive change can begin.



Group discussion during the presentation

MMIP

MISSING & MURDERED INDEGENOUS PEOPLE

Ride

ALL BIKERS WELCOME!

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026

12PM DEPARTURE

Intersection of Kwe Da Kik Ln & Hwy 8
Across from the wayside, lining up on Kwe Da Kik Ln.
Crandon, Wisc.

Held in collaboration with
SOKAOGON CHIPPEWA COMMUNITY
MOLE LAKE BAND

FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI
COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

Questions? Contact us at
CommunityAdvocacy@fcp-nsn.gov
or 715-478-4433

Calling all bikers to join us for a ride honoring Missing & Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) to raise awareness, show support, and stand in solidarity with families and communities impacted. This ride will take place around Forest County concluding near the Stone Lake Fireside Market later in the afternoon.
We invite you to wear red for this event!

Laona School District Honor Roll: Quarter 3

Congratulations to these FCP students for making the honor roll!

HIGH HONOR ROLL (3.5-3.99)
11th
 Precious DeVerney
 Wynter Montgomery
9th
 Molly VanZile
8th
 Waylon Frank
7th
 Brittney VanZile

HONOR ROLL (3.0-3.49)
12th
 Precious VanZile
 Zoey Weso
10th
 Levi Shepard
6th
 Ava Kroening

FCP GRADUATE Spotlight



Class of 2025
JOE SAHPENAIS
 GRANDON HIGH SCHOOL



Class of 2025
ABEY VANZILE
 WOB NIN KOS
 NICOLET COLLEGE

WE WANT TO HONOR ALL FCP HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES by including them in the June 1 & 15, 2026, issues of Potawatomi Times Newspaper.

A banner featuring the Senior will be located at the Potawatomi Community Center

Please scan the QR Code for questionnaire & to upload a photo, or contact us at 715-478-7461 / times@fcp-nsn.gov for a paper form.

NEWSPAPER & BANNER DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2026



Contact us with questions about uploading photos.

FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

ATTENTION FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY!!

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!

Bozho!
 My name is Jessica Kitchens (Bojkwansikwé – Dragonfly Woman), and I'm a citizen of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and a PhD student at the University of Central Arkansas. I'm conducting research study for my dissertation on Potawatomi Perspectives on Autism and Neurodivergence.

This study explores how autism and related traits are understood, experienced, and supported within our Potawatomi communities. It centers community voice and lived experience, and I hope it will contribute to future supports, services, and education that reflect our values.

I'm currently looking for Forest County Potawatomi adults (age 18+) who are:

- Autistic (formally diagnosed or self-identified)
- A parent or caregiver of an autistic individual
- A tribal elder, knowledge-keeper, or historian with insight into how our people have understood difference

Participation Options:
 -Individual interviews or possible Sharing Circle (During The Gathering of the Nations in late July/early August - OR- via Zoom from March-June, 2026)

Contact me @ jkitchens2@cub.uca.edu - You can also join the study by using this Google Form - <https://forms.gle/BCKVHC5J4hQTLcN9>

Feel free to share or tag someone who might want to participate!

Migwetch for considering and supporting this work. Bama pi!

Calling all Honorees!

Graduation - NEW DATE - FRIDAY JUNE 5, 2026 Banquet

Is your child graduating this year?
 (High School, HSED, GED & College)

Is your child on Honor Roll?
 (3.0+ GPA all 4 Quarters)

Make sure they're honored!

To be included contact FCP Education no later than May 22, 2026.

GRADUATES: If you or a loved one graduated recently or will graduate before June 5, 2026, please call 715-478-7355!

FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI EDUCATION DIVISION

209 E. Elm Street
 Crandon, WI 54520
 Education@FCP-nsn.gov
 715-478-7355

Data Holding - Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention



At the beginning of April, the Data Holdings team headed to San Diego to take part in the Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention, one of the most important gatherings for tribal gaming and enterprise leaders.

Throughout the event, the team connected with attendees from across the country at the booth on the show floor, sparking thoughtful conversa-

tions about the evolving role of data in tribal operations. A highlight of the week was Ryan Brooks' session on tribal data centers.

Beyond the sessions and exhibit hall, the conference provided a powerful opportunity to listen, learn, and exchange ideas with tribal leaders, operators, and industry partners.

Honoring Ann LaMarche on Retirement



After nearly eight years of dedicated service, Potawatomi Ventures (PV) proudly celebrates Senior Accountant Ann LaMarche, as she begins her well-earned retirement.

Throughout her time with the organization, LaMarche has been a steady, trusted presence, bringing professionalism, integrity, and care to her work every day. Her contributions have played an important role

in supporting the operations and success of PV, and her impact will be felt long after her final day.

In recognition of her years of commitment and service, LaMarche was honored with a Pendleton blanket, a meaningful tradition that reflects respect, gratitude, and appreciation. The ceremony served as a heartfelt

tribute to the dedication and values LaMarche consistently embodied during her career.

As LaMarche begins this next chapter, we extend our sincere thanks for all she has given to PV. While she will truly be missed, we wish her happiness, fulfillment, and many rewarding moments in retirement.

Potawatomi Ventures – Tribal Relations Communication Corner

submitted by Director of Tribal Relations Heather VanZile

Bosho! As we moved through March and into April, our work continued to focus on strengthening relationships, listening to our membership, and supporting collaboration across the Forest County Potawatomi community. This spring season has provided valuable opportunities for connection, dialogue, and thoughtful engagement, and I am grateful for the continued participation from our tribal members.

Community Engagement

• Winter's End Powwow: Potawatomi Ventures (PV) sponsored \$20 gas card spot dances, supporting community participation and engagement.

• Potawatomi Pilot Program Kick-off: Held on April 2, 2026, marking an exciting milestone for this initiative.

• Potawatomi Pilot Program – Remote Class: Conducted on April 6, 2026, expanding access and participation for tribal members.

• Door-to-Door Survey: Completed April 20–22, 2026, providing direct engagement with tribal members and valuable feedback to help guide future communication and outreach efforts.

Collaboration & Partnerships

• Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Meeting: Participated on March 5, 2026, supporting ongoing economic development collaboration.

• PV Board of Directors Meetings:

o March 6, 2026

o April 2–3, 2026

• PV Employee Town Hall: Held on April 15, 2026, supporting internal communication, alignment, and employee recognition.

• Intertribal Engagement Meeting: Participated on April 16, 2026, continuing relationship-building with Mno Bmadsen, Waséyabek, and Gun Lake.

• FCP Communication Collaboration: Met on March 9, 2026, and April 9, 2026. This collaboration is focused on the development of a history video for the Residence Inn in Washington, DC — an investment jointly made alongside three other tribes, Oneida Nation, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians.

• FCP IT Collaboration: Conducted on April 15, 2026, focused on

developing a tribal member portal/app. This project aims to bridge the communication gap by improving access to information and resources for our membership.

Looking Ahead

• The PV Survey concludes on April 30, 2026.

• Community Outreach Event: Scheduled for May 8, 2026, at We Care in Carter, Wis.

• Save the Date: Data Holdings Tour and Q&A on July 17, 2026. More details to come.

Closing

Migweth to all who engaged, shared feedback, and participated during March and April. Your involvement strengthens our community and guides the work we do each day. I look forward to continuing these conversations and connections as we move into the summer months.

SPRING SPECIALS

**BUY 2
SAVE \$1**

**MIX & MATCH
ANY SANDWICH
OR HOT DOG**



2 FOR \$5

28 OZ. GATORADE





Stone Lake • Carter

Greenfire Helps Spark Young Careers



Greenfire participated in BE THE SPARK: Career Conversations, hosted by the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce at Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design. The event brought together nearly 100 high school students from seven Milwaukee schools for small-group discussions focused on career exploration.

The MMAC team organized the program to connect students with professionals across industries and provide insight into career pathways. The format centered on guided conversations rather than traditional career fairs, allowing for direct dialogue and questions.

Greenfire was represented by Chris Kyte, VP of Project Development, and Simmi Urbanek, Director of Marketing & Business Development. They led three sessions with rotating groups of students, sharing their career paths and current roles. Discussions covered construction and development, marketing within the built environment,

and how different roles contribute to project delivery.

Kyte shared experience across healthcare, corporate facilities, renewable energy, multi-family housing, and hospitality. He outlined the construction project lifecycle and emphasized skills including self-initiative, organization, communication, and collaboration. Urbanek discussed her background in marketing construction and architecture and highlighted skills such as time management, communication, and writing.

Both speakers addressed career entry points and advancement opportunities. Greenfire outlined roles ranging from internships in pre-construction and construction to project engineer, superintendent, and project manager positions. Education and field experience pathways were discussed for each.

Greenfire's participation supports workforce development and introduces students to careers in construction and related fields.

Potawatomi Ventures & firesideMARKET Welcomes Holly Hickey



Holly Hickey started with fireside MARKET and PV as our Sr. Manager Guest Experience.

Hickey comes to us from Kohl's Department Stores where she led teams that did marketing analytics,

loyalty analytics, loyalty strategy, loyalty communications to guests, store communications, store loyalty training, loyalty and marketing promotions, Kohl's Cash and more.

Hickey brings an incredible ability to consistently put both the external and internal guest perspective at the center of everything she does. She's known for creating thoughtful, purposeful strategies that not only meet but exceed KPIs. Hickey has a proven history of leading highly engaged, top-performing teams and using data and insights to inform strong, impactful decisions. I'm incredibly excited about what she's going to bring to our team.

Potawatomi Ventures and the Innovation Center Welcomes Haley Garcia



Potawatomi Ventures and the Innovation Center is excited to welcome Haley Garcia as our Program Specialist. In this role, Garcia will coordinate, co-facilitate, and manage the day-to-day operations of our entrepreneurship training program.

Garcia graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Business and has the

gift of building community and creating connection amongst entrepreneurs.

As an entrepreneur herself, Garcia also founded WrkWith, a remote-first business that bridges efficiency, collaboration, and cultural integrity — helping founders, organizations, and community programs scale their impact through strategic operational support. She has also served as a Technical Assistant Specialist at the National Center for American Indian Economic Development where she supported tribal communities in identifying tourism development needs, designing and delivering training programs all while supporting tribal self-determination and entrepreneurship.

In her free time, Garcia enjoys traveling, whether it's connected to her work in tribal communities or supporting her son and his traveling soccer team. Garcia also collects fountain pens and recently started collecting art.

Potawatomi Ventures Employee's Recognition at April's Quarterly Townhall Meeting



Alana Walkush, Marketing Specialist: Profoundly Visionary



Tarah Thompson, Sr. Executive Assistant: Consistently Resilient



Manny Johnson Sr., Finance Manager: Profoundly Visionary



Anthony Bartolotta, Accounting Manager: Consistently Resilient

Mnomen Restoration Project: Honoring Our Relatives in a Changing Climate

submitted by LNR Air & Water Pr Sup Ryan Siggelkow

On April 14, 2026, staff from the Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) community's Cultural Department and Land & Natural Resources Department gathered with tribal youth along the Rat River to continue the work of restoring mnomen, our sacred "food that grows on water." Near the fasting camp and the bridge on Rat River Road, the group came together in a good way, guided by prayer, purpose, and responsibility.

The river was high and moving fast, shaped by the same changing conditions we have seen more and more in recent years. Even so, the team worked carefully and safely to place seed in shallow, soft-bottomed areas where mnomen has the best chance to take hold. These decisions were not only based on experience, but on adapting to the realities of a changing environment.

This year's effort reflects an important shift in how we care for mnomen. Spring seeding is being used as a response to climate change; an effort to work with the land and water as conditions continue to change around us.

In the past, reseeded often took

place in the fall, shortly after harvest. But today, heavier spring floods, stronger storms, and longer periods of drought are disrupting the natural cycle of mnomen. Seeds that once settled safely into the sediment are now being washed downstream by intense rains and snowmelt, often ending up in waters too deep for rice to grow. At other times, drought conditions lower water levels and stress young plants before they can fully establish.

By holding seed over the winter within the ice cold sediments and planting in the spring after ice-out; we are giving mnomen a stronger chance to root before the extremes of summer weather take hold. This method is a direct response to what we are witnessing on the land: unpredictable seasons, shifting water levels, and increased pressure on our rice relatives.

This approach has been informed by the experiences of the Gun Lake Potawatomi Band, who found success adapting their own restoration efforts in the spring time in response to similar climate challenges. By learning from one another and sharing knowledge across communities, we strengthen our ability to protect what has been

entrusted to us.

This work is part of a larger, ongoing effort to bring mnomen back to the reservation in harvestable quantities. But mnomen is more than sustenance; it is a relative, a medicine, and a central part of our migration story. Our ancestors were instructed to travel until they found this food growing on water, and that journey shaped who we are today.

The loss of mnomen beds during forced removal, and the continued pressures of environmental change, remind us that this work is about more than restoration; it is about renewal and responsibility.

Now in its fifth year on the Rat River, the project has evolved through trial, observation, and persistence. Different seeding methods have been tested, and each season has offered lessons. While success has varied, the commitment has remained strong, even in the face of setbacks like seed loss, wildlife predation, and limited harvest opportunities due to disease in surrounding lakes.

The day's efforts were carried out in two parts. In the morning, staff gathered in prayer, offering thanks and ac-

knowledging the water before heading out by canoe to seed nearly 1,000 feet of river. Later, youth joined as water protectors, learning about our history, our connection to mnomen, and their role in carrying this work forward. After offering tobacco, they paddled out and helped seed additional areas near the bridge on Rat River Rd.

This is how we adapt; not only through new techniques, but by grounding our actions in teachings, ceremony, and community. The FCP community continues to take meaningful steps to protect and restore mnomen in the face of climate change. This work ensures that future generations will not only know the story of mnomen, but will be able to harvest, share, and care for it as our ancestors once did.

Those interested in supporting future efforts, including the fall harvest, are encouraged to reach out. We also welcome knowledge and ideas that will help strengthen this work for generations to come. When we care for mnomen, we are responding to the changes around us while honoring the teachings that have always guided us forward.



Lift Station at Powwow Grounds in Carter



submitted by FCP Capital Projects Division

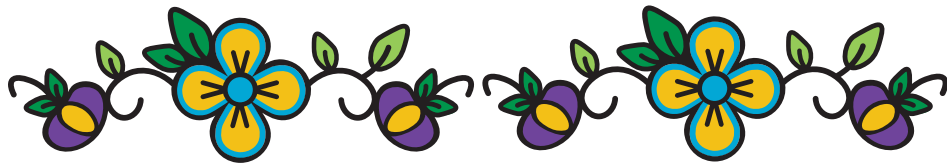
Contractors have mobilized and will be relocating and constructing a new wastewater/sewage lift station to support the grounds and resolve current issues.

This work is scheduled for completion by the end of June, prior to the Powwow and 2026 Gathering. During construction, water and service ser-

vices will be unavailable at the site.

We apologize for any inconvenience as we are unable to accept reservations during this time.

Questions, please contact Michelle Berdan, Capital Projects Division at 715-889-0186.



Potawatomi Community Center Upcoming Events



2025 Color Me Crazy Run/Walk
photo by Potawatomi Times

submitted by PCC

The Potawatomi Community Center (PCC) is gearing up for a busy spring and summer.

Waséya Wellness Lounge is hosting a Mother's Day Event on May 9, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., offering a great opportunity to check out the new space and book a wellness service. During National Prevention Week, events at the center include a Fashion Show on May 13 from 5:30-7 p.m., the Sobriety Feast on May 14 at 6 p.m., and a Recovery Walk on May 15, ending at the PCC with a community potluck.

Summer Day Camp returns this year from June 15-August 13, with sign-ups beginning May 15 at Community Advocacy's End of Year Dance from 5-8 p.m. at the PCC. Additional upcoming events include the Gte Ga

Nēs Graduation Ceremony May 21, Education Banquet on June 5, Veteran's Powwow on June 6-7, and an Autism Acceptance Event on June 16.

Mark your calendars for this year's Color for a Cause 5K Run/Walk! The walk will be held on July 11, supporting Alzheimer's Awareness.

Please note, the PCC will be closed in for Nigansekwe Day on May 12, Chief Simon's Day on May 18, Memorial Day May 25, and Juneteenth June 18-19. Summer hours will begin on June 1.

In addition to special events, the PCC continues to offer group exercise classes, youth programs, birthday parties, and community activities throughout the week. For more information, visit fcplinks.com/cctr or follow the PCC on social media.

POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY CENTER

SCAN THE CODE

to View PCC's
EVENTS, CLASSES, INFORMATION & MORE!

REGISTRATION

NOW OPEN FOR THE

SCAN TO REGISTER

<https://registration.socio.events/e/fcpgathering2026>

Visit the registration page to select your tickets and secure your spot for this special gathering. Remember, each person attending will need their own ticket for each event.

OPEN TO
Enrolled Potawatomi Tribal Members,
Potawatomi Descendants, and
Their Immediate Family Members

Register today, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Community Events MAY 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Recurring Weekly Events					1	2
<p>Mondays: 10am - NA Meeting at Recovery Resource Center 12pm to 3pm - Social Club at Museum Lower Level</p> <p>Tuesdays: 4pm - After School Language Program (Crandon & Laona) 4pm - After School Cooking Club at PCC 4:30pm to 5:30pm - Powwow Club at PCC</p> <p>Wednesdays: 10am to 12pm - Language Class at Museum Lower Level 10:30am to 11:30am - Walking the Spectrum Support Group at PCC 4pm - After School Language Program (Wabeno)</p> <p>Thursdays: 10am - Cradled Connections at PCC** 12pm to 1pm - Support Group at PCC 4pm - After School Cooking Club at We Care 4:30pm to 5:30pm - Powwow Club at PCC <i>** New addition</i></p> <p>Fridays: 9am - Mens Smudge Talk at Recovery Resource Center 2pm - AA Meeting at Recovery Resource Center</p>						
3	4 Veterans Post 1 (VP1) Monthly Meeting Open to all Tribal Veterans Old Tribal Hall - 3pm ATV Safety Course LNR Building 4pm	5 MMIP Event & Walk Kwe Da Kik Lane Pre-walk Prep - 10am Walk Begins - 12pm Awareness Ride - 1pm ATV Safety Course LNR Building 4pm	6	7	8 Pentatonic Uncertainty Live Entertainment Carter Casino Rock N Brews Stage 7pm - 11pm	9 General Council Meeting 1pm Pentatonic Uncertainty Live Entertainment Carter Casino Rock N Brews Stage 7pm - 11pm
10 <i>HAPPY Mother's Day</i> Mothers Day Wellnes Event Waseya Wellness Lounge 9am - 2pm NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK A CELEBRATION OF RESILIENCE	11 Kickball w/ Cops Argonne Ball Field 4pm	 Arlene Alloway Day Nigansekwe Day <i>Campus Closed</i>	13 Autism Awareness Event - 9:30am - 12pm NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK SOBRIETY FEAST - POTLUCK PCC - 5pm Childminding Farm Day - 3pm - 5pm Fashion Show 5:30pm - 7pm	14 Family Fun Night Community Center 5pm - 8pm	15 Recovery Walk Start at Mole Lake Rec Center - 9am End of Year Dance 5pm - 8pm	16
17 Elder Bowling & Lunch Northstar Lanes - 12pm NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK MAY 17-23, 2026	18 Chief Simon Day CAMPUS CLOSED	19 COFFEE TALK Elders Coffee Talk Turtle House 12pm - 2pm	20 Gte Ga Nes- Last Day of School 8:30am - 1pm COMMUNITY SOBRIETY FEAST Museum Lower Level - 6pm	21 Gte Ga Nes Graduation 11am	22 Jacob Fannin Live Entertainment Carter Casino Rock N Brews Stage 7pm - 11pm	23 Jacob Fannin Live Entertainment Carter Casino Rock N Brews Stage 7pm - 11pm
24	25 Memorial Day CAMPUS CLOSED 	26	27 Nutrition Taste Test H&W Test Kitchen: 11am - 1pm PCC Teaching Kitchen: 11:30am - 1pm End of Year Dance FCP Youth & Families 5pm - 8pm	28	29	30
31						





Elders Day Trips

FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI ELDER SERVICES
 To sign up or for more info call Jenna Paradies @ 715-478-4892 or Taylor Saari @ 715-478-4341

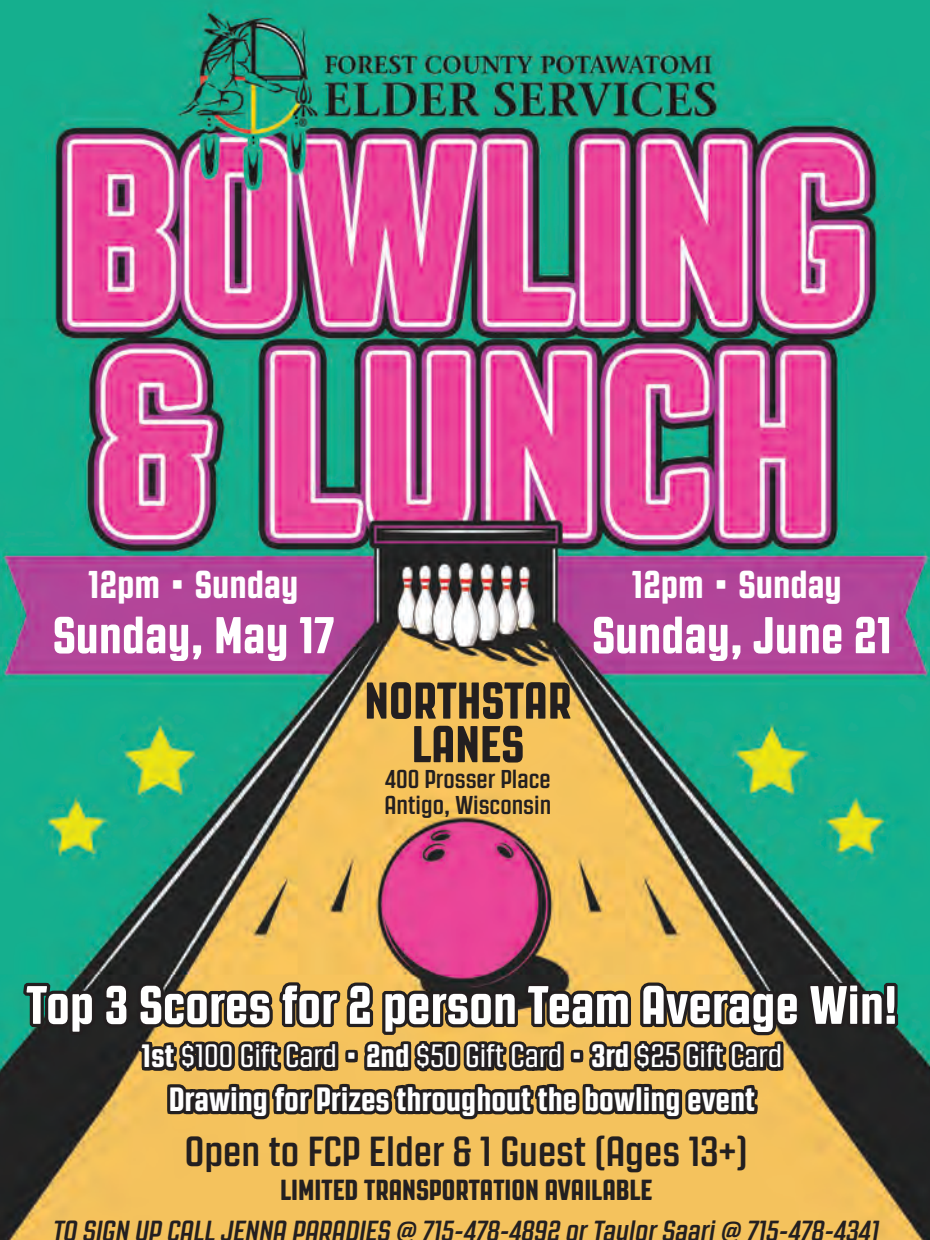
YOU ARE NOT SIGNED UP UNLESS YOU HAVE A CONFIRMATION NUMBER!
 FCP Elder must be present for their guest to attend!

Monday, April 13
Pizza Party @12pm
 Turtle House
 5450 Kak Vot Lane • Crandon, Wisc.

Tuesday, April 28
MOVIES
 Rouman Cinema
 Rhinelander, Wisc.
 Depart Fireside Market SL @3pm
 Open to FCP Elder & One Guest 18+
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

Wednesday, May 13
Casino Trip
 Lake of the Torches Casino
 510 Old Abe Road • Lac Du Flambeau, Wisc.
 Depart Fireside Market SL @ 9am
 Open to FCP Elder & One Guest 18+
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

Sunday, June 14
BINGO
 North Star Casino
 Bowler, Wisc.
 Depart Fireside Market SL @10AM
 Doors Open @12PM
 Early Birds @1:30PM
 Regular Session @2PM
 Open to FCP Elder & One Guest 18+
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE
 Includes a Standard BINGO Package w/machine & lunch.



FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI ELDER SERVICES

BOWLING & LUNCH

12pm • Sunday
Sunday, May 17

12pm • Sunday
Sunday, June 21

NORTHSTAR LANES
 400 Prosser Place
 Antigo, Wisconsin

Top 3 Scores for 2 person Team Average Win!
 1st \$100 Gift Card • 2nd \$50 Gift Card • 3rd \$25 Gift Card
 Drawing for Prizes throughout the bowling event
 Open to FCP Elder & 1 Guest (Ages 13+)
LIMITED TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE
 TO SIGN UP CALL JENNA PARADIES @ 715-478-4892 or Taylor Saari @ 715-478-4341

May 2026 Elder Route Meal Menu

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Italian Sub, Trail Mix, Pickle, Fruit	2
3	4 Sloppy Joes, potato wedges, baked beans, fruit	5 BBQ Chicken, mashed potatoes, fruit cup, dinner roll	6 Chef Salad, Cottage Cheese, dinner roll, fruit	7 Wild Rice & Hominy Soup w/ beef, dinner roll, fruit	8 Tuna Pasta Salad w/ pickle, yogurt parfat	9
10 The 12 th meal will be sent out on the 11 th route.	11 Ham Sub, Pasta Salad, Fruit	12 Tribal Offices Closed - Arlene Alloway Day	13 Pepperoni Pizza, Veggie & dill tray, pasta salad, jello w/ fruit	14 Pork Roast w/ wild rice, dinner roll, fruit, veggie	15 Cold Cut Sandwich, chips, pickles, pepper strips	16
17 The 18 th meal will be sent out on Thursday 14th.	18 Tribal Offices Closed - Chief Simon's Day	19 Wild Rice Casserole, Yogurt Parfait, dinner roll	20 Pork chop stuffing, veggie & dip, fruit cup	21 Spaghetti & meatballs, mixed veggies, garlic bread	22 Chicken Salad sandwich, peanut butter crackers, cottage cheese	23
24 The 25 th meal will be sent out on Thursday 21 st .	25 Tribal Offices Closed - Memorial Day	26 Shepard's Pie, Dinner roll, fruit cup	27 Chili w/ beef, cornbread, pasta salad, fruit	28 Chicken Noodle Casserole, yogurt parfait, dinner roll	29 Bologna Sandwich, cottage cheese, peaches, veggie + dill dip	30
31	The Daily Menu is subject to change without prior notice due, to inclement weather conditions, facility closures and other circumstances beyond our control. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. - FCP Sustainable Food Services Department					

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 3RD ANNUAL RAD DAD CAR SHOW SUNDAY, JUNE 21 FOR MORE VISIT POTAWATOMI.COM/CARTER/EVENTS			 PENTATONIC UNCERTAINTY FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 8-9	 JACOB FANNIN FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 22-23	 1 FLOWER POWER FRIDAYS	 2
 3 Spring Blooms KIOSK GAME	 4 Spin & Win	 5 Cinco de Mayo KIOSK GAME CINCO DE MAYO Buffet	 6 CLUB 50	 7	 8 FLOWER POWER FRIDAYS	 9 PENTATONIC UNCERTAINTY FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.
 10 Mother's Day BRUNCH BUFFET	 11 Spin & Win	 12 5X POINTS	 13 CLUB 50	 14	 15 FLOWER POWER FRIDAYS	 16
 17 Spring Blooms KIOSK GAME	 18 Spin & Win	 19 5X POINTS	 20 CLUB 50	 21	 22 FLOWER POWER FRIDAYS	 23 JACOB FANNIN FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.
 24/31 Spring Blooms KIOSK GAME	 25 MEMORIAL DAY KIOSK ★ GAME Memorial Day Buffet	 26 5X POINTS	 27 CLUB 50	 28	 29 FLOWER POWER FRIDAYS	 30

FLOWER POWER FRIDAYS

\$200-\$1,000 CASH DRAWINGS

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$25,000

Cinco de Mayo KIOSK

TUESDAY MAY 5

WIN UP TO \$1,000 in REWARD PLAY

THE SPRINGS RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

CINCO DE MAYO Buffet

TUESDAY, MAY 5 11 A.M.-7 P.M.

Buffet Features: Chicken Tacos, Beef Tacos, Taquitos, Steak Fajitas, Enchiladas, Elote Bake, Spanish Rice, Refried Beans, Chicken Tortilla Soup, Fresh Cut Fruit, Tres Leches Cake, and more.

MEMORIAL DAY KIOSK ★ GAME

WIN UP TO \$1,000 IN REWARD PLAY

MONDAY, MAY 25