



POTAWATOMI TIMES

Gsenyaniyêk êzhewébêk — Forest County Potawatomi Happenings



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Hunting Moon Powwow



Friday night Grand Entry to kick off the weekend



FCP Royalty representing during Grand Entry

by Val Niehaus

The Hunting Moon Powwow was held on the weekend of Oct. 17-19, 2025. This three-day celebration was filled with fast-paced energy from the dancers, phenomenal drumming, and plenty of laughter as friends, both old and new, gathered together. This year marked the largest Hunting Moon Powwow to date, with 800 dancers in attendance. The event was streamed live on powwows.com each day, attracted a remarkable 430,000 viewers from 68 different countries, showcasing the beauty of Native American heritage.

Blessed with beautiful weather, the powwow took place at the Baird Center in downtown Milwaukee. It draws dancers and drum groups from across the country, all eager to compete for

substantial prize earnings. Spectators at the powwow experienced the rich culture of Native peoples, admired the vibrant regalia, enjoyed traditional singing and drumming, and even had the opportunity to participate in inter-tribal dance sessions.

Throughout the weekend, numerous food vendors offered a variety of delicious options. Attendees could satisfy their frybread cravings or seek out more traditional options, such as wild rice or corn soup. In addition to food, a range of arts and craft vendors were present, selling items such as beadwork, regalia pieces, t-shirts, hats, hides, moccasins, and ribbon shirts and skirts.

The powwow featured competitions in a variety of dance styles, including Tiny Tots (ages 5 and under), Men's Traditional, Grass, Fancy & Woodland, Junior Boys (ages 6-12), Teens (ages 13-17), Adults (ages 18-34), Senior Men (ages 35-53), Golden Age Men's Combined (ages 54-64), Platinum Men's Combined (ages 65+), Women's Traditional, Jingle, Fancy, & Old Time Scrub, Junior Girls (ages 6-12), Teens (ages 13-17), Adults (ages 18-34), Senior Women (ages 35-53), Golden Age Women's Combined (ages 54-64), Platinum Women's Combined (ages 65+), and a Chicken Special. In addition to the

dance competitions, there were also drum and singing competitions.

A special highlight for the FCP community was an honorary event for Velma "Gisokwé" Frank, organized by her granddaughter, Sarah Gougé, out of her own initiative and love, along with the help of Frank's children. The turnout was remarkable, with woodland dancers honoring a woman who was well-known on the powwow trail and in various communities far and wide. Gougé did an excellent job commemorating her Koko. While there were a few tears, it was a fitting tribute to a woman deeply rooted in her traditions, community, and her family.

The head staff for this year's powwow included Master of Ceremonies Jackson Rollingthunder Tahuka and Michael Medawis; Arena Directors Chaske La Blanc and Dakota Schrock; Head Male Dance Judge Darrell Hill; Head Female Dance Judge Grace Hill; Head Drum Judges Marcus Denny and Pwagen Frank; Head Male Dancer Richard Gougé; Head Female Dancer Sarah Jane Gougé; Head Veteran Walker Stonefish; and the tabulating team from C&T Tabulating, with sound provided by Hokah Sound.

The Host Drum was Blackstone, the Co-Host was Lil Soldier, and the Tribal Drum was Fire Nation. Addi-



Head Dancers, father and daughter, Richard and Sarah Jane Gougé

tional drums that participated in the powwow included Bull Horn, Mottown, Black Bear, Blacklodge, Showtime, Cozad, Southern Cree, Fort Peck Sioux, Sharpshooter, and Ribbon Town. We apologize in advance if any drums were missed.

This year's powwow attracted participants from near and far across the country, and with a record-breaking number of dancers, one can only imagine how next year's Hunting Moon Powwow will turn out. Chi Migwétth to everyone who contributed to making this fantastic weekend of camaraderie, dancing, and singing a success!

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FCP Up & Coming

by Amber Haseman

Elders Day Trips: FCP Elders are invited to join for Elders Day Trips. One guest 18 years and older is welcome to join. Limited spots are available. To sign up or for more information, contact Jenna Paradies at (715) 478-4892 or Taylor Saari at (715) 478-4341. The days are November 18 - Movies at Rouman Cinema in Rhinelander. Depart fireside MARKET in Stone Lake at 3 p.m., December 9 – Christmas Lights Tour at Rondele Ranch in Harshaw, and Hodag Park Christmas Lights in Rhinelander. Depart fireside MARKET in Stone Lake at 4:30 p.m. on December 11, take a Shopping trip in Rhinelander, visiting various stores and shops. Depart fireside MARKET in Stone Lake at 9 a.m.

Shisibe! (BINGO!): FCP tribal members, descendants, and their families are invited to join the Language crew for Shisibe! Stop by the Potawatomi Community Center on November 20 at 5 p.m. There will be food, games, and prizes. For more information, contact Language and Culture Advisor Pwagen Frank at (715) 478-7374 or pwagen.frank@fcp-nsn.gov.

Coffee Talk: FCP tribal elders are welcome to join FCP Elder Services on November 24 from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Potawatomi Commu-

nity Center for good company, great conversation, and lunch. If you have questions, contact Jenna Paradies (715) 478-4892 or Taylor Saari (715) 478-4341.

Campus Closure: Campus will be closed on November 27 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

Holiday Craft Fair: The 4th annual Holiday Craft Fair will be held on November 29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Potawatomi Community Center. Please bring a non-perishable food item or a donation for general admission. Local vendors, crafters, baked goods, jewelry, home décor, holiday gifts, and more will be there. If you're interested in being a vendor, register at <https://forms.office.com/r/qyG7vQmszQ>. Contact (715) 889-6893 with any questions.

Breakfast with Santa/Holiday Open House: The public is invited to join Bodwéwadmí Ktēgan for Breakfast with Santa and their annual Holiday Open House event on December 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children and their families can enjoy breakfast with Santa from 9 to 11 a.m. There will be a variety of activities, including make-and-take crafts, wreath making, and cookie decorating, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy a gift with a minimum purchase and take advantage of in-store sales.

Executive Council Swearing In

by Krystal Statezny

The new two-year terms for Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) chairman and two council members began on Nov. 3, 2025. Swear-ins took place at FCP Tribal Court beginning at 9 a.m. with Judge Christian Daniels welcoming the elected officials which were all held by the previous incumbents: Chairman Brooks Boyd Sr., Council Member Destinee Alloway and Council Member Herb Daniels Jr. The prayer was given by Vice Chairman Ken George Jr.

Chairman Boyd was sworn in by Judge Daniels. Chairman Boyd expressed his gratitude and how he loved serving and giving back to people. He wants to hold his service to a high-quality standard. Chairman Boyd then congratulated all candidates.

Judge Angela Moe swore in Coun-

cil Member Alloway for her third term. Afterwards, she thanked her family for the support she's received from them, especially her mom who always helps her with her children while she's traveling. Council Member Alloway stated she's grateful to be re-elected and to continue making positive impacts.

Judge Daniels swore in Council Member Daniels. He thanked everyone for trusting him, and that he was present to speak for the children and elders. Council Member Daniels would like for everyone to work together on a variety of topics.

Congratulations to all the newly-elected officials and for their service. Good luck to you in your new term!



Chairman Brooks Boyd Sr. being sworn-in



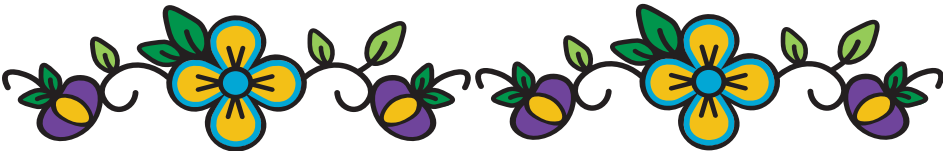
Council Member Destinee Alloway being sworn-in



Council Member Herb Daniels Sr. being sworn-in



FCP Executive Council (l-r): Council Member Destinee Alloway, Treasurer Joseph Daniels Sr., Vice Chairman Ken George Jr., Chairman Brooks Boyd Sr., Council Member Herb Daniels Jr., Secretary Alexandria McCorkle





POTAWATOMI TIMES

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Deadline for the December 1, 2025, issue of the PT is Wednesday, November 19, 2025.



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.

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Hunting Moon Powwow



Travis Thelen



Ira Frank



Juanita Alloway



Chairman Boyd and Ira Frank



Fire Nation



Velma Frank Special



Donna VanZile



Sarah Jane Gougé



Nick Shepard



Starla Thompson



Bambi Shepard



Waiting on that shuttle

Rock Your Mocs



by Amber Haseman

Each November, Native Americans across Turtle Island come together to celebrate a powerful yet symbolic event called Rock Your Mocs. This movement honors Indigenous heritage, identity, and resilience through the simple act of wearing moccasins. Mocs, for short, are traditional footwear that have protected Native feet for generations against harsh surfaces

and cold, wet weather while continuing to connect them to Mother Earth. According to the Native American Social Work Studies Institute, the movement began in 2011, when Jessica “Jaylyn” Atsyé, a member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe in New Mexico, imagined a day for Native people to wear moccasins and share their pride on social media. Her goal was to create a positive and fun way for In-

digenous communities to express their culture, connect across different tribes, and educate the public about the diversity of Native traditions. What started as a single day has become a week-long celebration, observed annually from November 12-18, with its original day of November 15. Moccasins are more than protective footwear; they symbolize cultural identity, ancestral connection, and resilience. During Rock Your Mocs week, Native Americans wear moccasins or other culturally significant items everywhere, whether at school, work, or community events. They share photos and videos on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and X (formerly Twitter) using the hashtag #RockYourMocs. This creates a virtual community of stories, experiences, support, and inspiration among the Indigenous community. The Rock Your Mocs movement allows Indigenous people to honor their ancestors, celebrate their heritage, raise awareness of native issues, challenge

stereotypes, and express their pride in their identity. It’s more than just a social media event; it’s a cultural and educational experience. Across the country, schools, organizations, and communities host events such as workshops, presentations, performances, art exhibits, and fashion shows. These activities welcome opportunities for Native and non-Native people to engage in meaningful dialogue, learn about the history and traditions, and celebrate the diversity of Indigenous cultures. Rock Your Mocs celebrates the past, recognizes the present, and encourages a vision for the future. It reminds us that although Indigenous people are diverse in their language, tradition, and culture, they are united in strength, spirit, and identity. This year, consider joining the movement. Wear your moccasins, share your story, and celebrate Indigenous culture. But most importantly, #RockYourMocs.

Young Warriors Hide Tanning Camp

by Amber Haseman

The Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) Cultural Preservation Division hosted FCP youth ages 12 and older and their families for a weekend at the Young Warriors Hide Tanning Camp. The event, held on October 24-26 at the Potawatomi Community Center wood shop, taught the traditional brain tanning process before the start of hunting season. Cultural Programming Coordinator Lawrence Mann led the camp, sharing his knowledge of hide tanning and explaining what the hides are used for. Throughout the weekend, participants got hands-on experience in each step of the process.

On Friday, they fleshed and de-haired hides. On Saturday, they brain-tanned the hide using the animal’s brain to preserve it. This produces soft, durable, and water-resistant leather. On Sunday, the group stretched their hides in preparation for the final smoking process. The camp was a great introduction to the upcoming Young Warrior Hunting Camps. It offered participants the experience of brushing up on their tanning skills or learning for the first time. The camp allowed them to share stories, strengthen their skills, and continue to keep the culture alive.



Indigenous Foods - In Celebration of NAH Month

by Val Niehaus

Native American cuisine is rich and diverse, with food traditions closely tied to the land, the seasons, and the natural resources surrounding their homelands. The cuisine reflects not only creativity and resilience but also a profound respect for the environment and community.

In the Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) community, members take great pride in their traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, which they use to feed their families and the broader community.

Within North America, many Native communities rely on the Three Sisters — corn, beans, and squash. These three plants thrive when grown together because they support one another in the soil. The corn provides a stalk for the beans to climb, the beans add nitrogen to the soil, and the squash’s large leaves shade the soil, conserving moisture and keeping the area weed-free. Many dishes can be made from these three ingredients; they can be added to soups, ground into flour to make bread, or turned into sweet treats.

Wild rice (Manoomin) is a traditional food for Indigenous peoples of the Great Lakes region. This aquatic grass grows in lakes and can be used in various forms and dishes, offering a high level of protein, fiber, and minerals that sustain for hours those who eat it. It can be incorporated into soups, hot dishes, and salads.

In addition to these plants, hunting and fishing are significant means of sustenance throughout the years. In the FCP community, many local tribal members hunt deer for venison,

utilizing the animal’s hide and other parts for various cultural practices or re-purposing them for different uses. A variety of game animals are used for food, too, or for other purposes that inhabit the local woods.

Fishing is also a highly practiced activity within the community, with two local lakes that consistently yield fresh catches of trout, bluegill, northern pike, and other species. The fish can be used to feed families and the community.

Bison, which was once a staple source of protein when they roamed North America, is making a comeback in the community thanks to the local Bodwéwadmī Ktēgan.

Maple syrup is another important staple, harvested at the local “Sugar Camp” on the reservation. The season typically runs from mid-March to mid-April, depending on the weather. Once the sap is boiled into sweet, golden syrup, an annual pancake breakfast is held in the community, and the remaining syrup is distributed to elders and local residents.

The gathering of local berries, roots, and plants also plays an essential role in the community, providing food and traditional medicines. Local areas are rich with wild berries, ginseng, mushrooms, bergamot, sage, sweetgrass, and cedar, to name a few.

This food is more than just sustenance — it serves as a way to pass on stories, traditions, and respect for the earth. Indigenous foodways teach us about balance, gratitude, and the importance of living in harmony with nature.



Squash with wild rice & berries, fish, bison



Wild rice



Venison being processed



Bison processing



Corn mush with maple syrup and corn soup



Dirt mounds for planting the three sisters



Fishing for trout



The final product of maple syrup

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY, THE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION THANKS ALL UNITED STATES VETERANS. THE FOLLOWING LIST INCLUDES THOSE IN THE FCP COMMUNITY WHO SERVED.



George Alloway
U.S. Army 1962-65



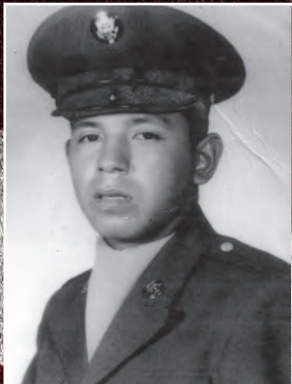
John C. Alloway
U.S. Army 1958



William Alloway
U.S. Army



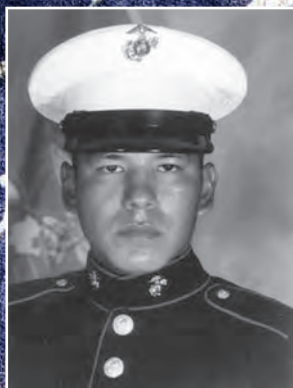
John Anwash
U.S. Army 1980-85



Fredrick Biddell
U.S. Army



Joel Biddell
U.S. Marines



Jordan Biddell
U.S. Marines



Otis Biddell
U.S. Army



Jesse Cook
U.S. Army



Gary Crawford
U.S. Army 1971-74



Howard Crawford



Billy Daniels Jr.
U.S. Marines 1953



Frank Daniels
U.S. Marines 1964-70



Harold "Gus" Frank
U.S. Army 1962-65



Darrell G. Genett
U.S. Army 1976-98



Steven J. Genett
U.S. Navy 1987-93



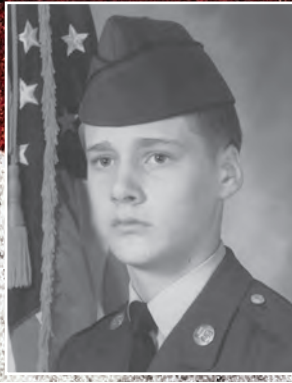
Warren D. Genett
U.S. Air Force 1977-81



Ken George Sr.
U.S. Marines 1965-72



Ken George Jr.
U.S. Marines 1988-92



John Gibbons
U.S. Army National Guard/
U.S. Air Force 1978-80



Donald Gilligan
U.S. Army



JR Holmes
U.S. Army 1967-69



Jayson Jackson
U.S. Army



John Jackson
U.S. Army



Jerry Jacobson
U.S. Army



Charlie Jim
U.S. Army



Kezick
U.S. Army 1944-46



Mike Konaha
U.S. Army 1973-77Max



Johnny Mann
U.S. Army 1962-65



Archie Nesaukee
U.S. Army 1967-70



Henry Pemma
U.S. Army Air Corps 1939-60



James Patterson
U.S. Army 1979-82/83-86



Judy Phillips
U.S. Navy 1989-92



Ruth Ritchie
U.S. Army



Eugene Shawano Jr.
U.S. National Guard 1986-93



Hartford Shegonee
U.S. Air Force



Julia (Nashanany) Reeves
U.S. Army 1942-45/51-52



Fred E. Ritchie
U.S. Navy 1924-28



Anthony Shepard
U.S. Army 1980-86



Bruce J. Shepard
U.S. Army 1980-86



Frank A. Shepard Sr.
U.S. Army 1952-54



Louis A. Shepard Sr.
U.S. 20th Army Air Force
1944-46



Louis E. Shepard
U.S. Army 1966-69



Brenda Shopodock
U.S. Army



Ryan Siggelkow
U.S. Air Force 2010-18



Daniel "DJ" Smith
U.S. Navy 1973-76



Alan Sparks
U.S. Army National Guard



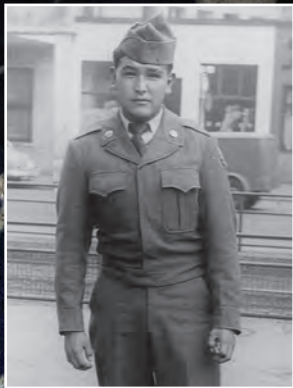
Louie Spaude
U.S. Air Force 1963-68



Ed Tawah
U.S. Army



Charlie Thunder
U.S. Army



George Thunder
U.S. Army



James "Duke" Thunder
U.S. Army



Jim Thunder
U.S. Army 1955-58



Louie Thunder
U.S. Army



Nelson Thunder
U.S. Army



Tom Thunder
U.S. Army



Norman Tribbett
U.S. Army 1960-70



Harvey "Buck" Tucker
U.S. Navy 1944-51



Calvin Tuckwab
U.S. Army



Stuart Tuckwab
U.S. Army 1955-58



Verol (Ritchie) Tyler
U.S. Army Cadette 1943-45



Gordon Waube
U.S. Army



George Waubenom
U.S. Army



Edward Waubiness



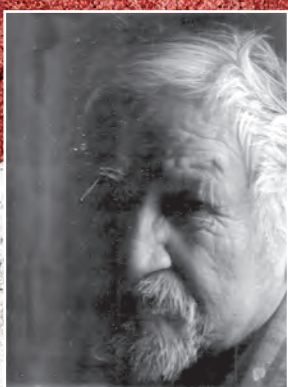
Harry Waubiness



Ernest Wensaut
U.S. Army 1966-68



Alvin Weso Sr.
U.S. Army 1950-51



Joe Wewasson



Raymond Wewasson
U.S. Army



Harvey White III



Johnny Williams
U.S. Army



Ray Williams
U.S. Navy 1965-68



Penelope Peters

P's Creations



Crandon Mine Purchase Anniversary - 22 Years



by Val Niehaus

In celebration of the Crandon Mining Project's acquisition, the Sokaogon Chippewa and Forest County Potawatomi communities came together, Oct. 28, 2025, to mark the 22nd anniversary of this significant purchase.

The event began with FCP Chairman Brooks Boyd Sr. offering a few words and a prayer to ensure everything went smoothly. Members of the Fire Nation, along with the veterans from FCP Post I and the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, participated in posting the staffs and flags to mark the commencement of the event.

Among the guest speakers was Tina VanZile, a dedicated and knowledgeable member of the Sokaogon Chippewa community who has fought tirelessly for this cause over the years. She spoke about her experiences and her unwavering determination. VanZile also recognized Fran VanZile and others who have passed away, honoring their long-time contributions to the struggle.

VanZile expressed her desire to continue this event annually, so that future generations, like her grandchildren, will remember the hard-fought battles that were waged to preserve their heritage and lands. It was a deeply emotional day for VanZile and many others who have been involved in this fight against corporate interests that threaten their lands and the surrounding area.

Sokaogon Chippewa Chairman Robert VanZile Jr. shared his memories from the 1980s, 1990s, and beyond, emphasizing the importance of teaching children about the mine issue and the sacrifices made by those who fought before him.

Chairman Boyd was also invited to speak and said, "I want to say 'migwétth' to the many people from that generation who helped push out

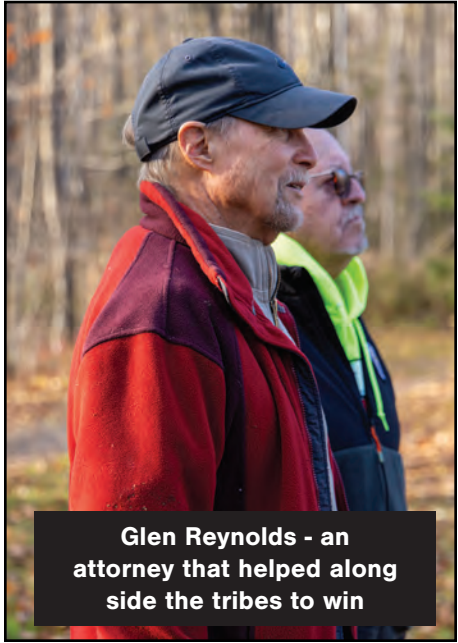
the Exxon Mine. This generation preserved everything that we see here today. I also want to say 'migwétth' to all our non-Native relatives who advocated for the tribe and for Mother Earth."

After the speeches, a potluck meal was served, allowing attendees to share stories about the past and reflect on their victory.

This event showcased the strength and resilience of both tribes and several others as they worked together to protect the air, water, and land in their communities. It has been a struggle requiring immense effort and sacrifice to ensure that these lands remain protected for future generations.

The celebration will occur annually to ensure that this fight is never forgotten and to help prevent similar challenges in the future. By uniting as Anishinaabe people, we can continue to protect and care for Mother Earth.

A heartfelt "chi migwétth" goes out to Tina VanZile, Jessica Jacobson, and many others for initiating this event and ensuring its continuation for years to come, celebrating and remembering the past to prevent it from happening again.



Locals Warming Up To fireside MARKET



by CPS Daily News Steve Dwyer

Underpinned by the motto “Convenience Without Compromise,” Potawatomi Ventures (PV) debuted its third Wisconsin c-store in August. fireside MARKET, a subsidiary of PV, had previously established that “uncompromising” reputation, witnessed by its successful c-store forays in the northeastern Wisconsin communities of Crandon and Carter. With that experience under their belt, the team unveiled its Slinger, Wis., retail gem located along I-41 and northwest of Milwaukee.

According to Executive Vice President of fireside MARKET David Lloveras, “Convenience Without Compromise encapsulates the brand’s commitment to delivering exceptional experiences through quality food, where its people are “empowered,” and “innovative technology” is at the root of its operations.”

PV is a relative newbie to convenience retailing, establishing a foothold in 2021. “Adding a new industry (convenience) to the portfolio supports our strategy to diversify the tribal economy and create new paths to shared prosperity for generations,” said Lloveras. “We saw an opportunity to create a new concept to combine high-quality food, innovative technology and community-centered design.”

Built on 5.1 acres in Merchant

Village, a 130-acre hub that’s currently being developed to attract new businesses and generate jobs, fireside MARKET Slinger is big on sustainability in addition to EV charging. Slinger places an emphasis on procuring locally-sourced products to make it easier for customers to shop sustainably.

Wisconsin had a lot of locally-sourced options about which to boast. The store and fueling station is celebrating its grand opening on Oct. 2, 2025, after a soft open phase in September, offering such signature specialties as Pastrami Bacon Jam Burger and a BLT with Guacamole.

Fort Worth, Texas-based Paragon Solutions acted as a branding and design partner on the project.

Other fireside MARKET locations are on the drawing board, including one planned in Brown Deer, Wis., on a two-acre site. PV espouses a “people-first culture” at what it considers “modern, food-forward c-store markets that emphasize hospitality and community connection, especially for families and seniors,” said Lloveras.

fireside MARKET Chat:

Read ahead for a conversation with David Lloveras about fireside MARKET’s continued goals to build and grow throughout the Badger State.

Q: How would you describe the clientele at the new Slinger store?

A: This store attracts a commuter-heavy, urban demographic. Guests include local families, seniors and highway travelers seeking fresh meals and quick service. There are nearby attractions with visitors we look forward to welcoming such as Slinger Speedway, Holy Hill and Little Swiss. The store is designed to meet modern expectations with drive-thru, EV charging and grab-and-go options.

Q: How long of a process was it to debut this location starting with groundbreaking?

A: The Slinger store broke ground in October 2024 and opened in August 2025, an approximately 10-month process. Planning included extensive collaboration across PV, Sagewind Development and Greenfire Management Services.

Q: How would you describe the clientele at the Crandon store in northern Wisconsin?

A: Crandon serves a more rural and tribal community. The store’s offerings are tailored to local needs, with a focus on essentials, traditional convenience items and tribal member fuel discounts. Enhancements are being evaluated to reflect learnings from Slinger.

Q: System-wide, what are some in-store food/beverage/general merchandise categories that have become destination items to customers?

A: fireside MARKET offers made-to-order food, including signature sandwiches, soups, salads and rotisserie-fired meat prepared in a 1,500-square-foot professional kitchen. On the general merchandise side, our curated selections of beer, wine, snacks and locally-sourced products are displayed in a market-style layout that elevates the shopping experience.

Q: What is the best part of the job that keeps the team motivated?

A: The team is driven by the opportunity to build something lasting

and meaningful for the tribe and the community where our stores operate. There’s a deep sense of pride in creating a venture that blends innovation with tribal values, and in seeing how fireside MARKET becomes a gathering place for families, seniors and travelers alike.

Q: What’s your management team’s approach to finding and retaining solid workers?

A: We emphasize a “Welcome Home Culture” that aligns with brand values. The team uses competitive compensation, KPI-driven bonuses, spot recognition and robust training programs to attract and retain talent. Annual reviews and career development opportunities are central to building loyalty and high performance. PV is recognized as a “Best Place to Work,” and that carries through to all their portfolio companies, including fireside MARKET.

fireside MARKET Factoids

Fuel forecourt: Slinger features 10 Anthem-branded dispensers for 4-wheel customers and three diesel islands for professional drivers. EV DC fast chargers are on site: competitively priced, fully commissioned, canopy-covered with buttoned-down safety protocols. Fuel discounts are integrated with its budding loyalty program.

Food: fireside MARKET offers a breakfast menu as well as lunch and dinner. Featured items are the Pastrami Bacon Jam Burger, Salmon Salad, Slam Jam Turkey Melt, Farmhouse Breakfast Bowl and rotating daily soups. The brand also plans to offer grab-and-go and take-and-bake meals, gourmet coffee and gelato.

Potawatomi Nation: Known as the “Keepers of the Fire,” the Native American nation has a stated goal of “looking forward to building meaningful connections and creating something special together.”

fireside MARKET Attends NACS 2025



Fired up and future-focused—members from the fireside MARKET team brought the heat to NACS 2025 last week. From exploring cutting-edge retail tech to championing data-driven innovation, we’re proud to be shaping what’s next in convenience.

Tom Boelter Retires from PV Board



After years of dedicated service, Tom Boelter is retiring from the Potawatomi Ventures (PV) Board of Directors, marking the end of an era defined by visionary leadership, community commitment, and unwavering integrity.

Boelter, who served as both Chairman and Director, helped guide PV through transformative growth and cultural evolution. His tenure was marked by strategic foresight and a deep-rooted belief in the power of tribal enterprise to uplift the Forest County Potawatomi community.

“Tom’s leadership has been a steady force for progress,” said CEO of PV Kip Ritchie. “His commitment to

our mission and his ability to connect business strategy with community values have left a lasting imprint on our organization. We are grateful for his wisdom, his heart, and his years of service.”

Boelter’s retirement was commemorated with a dinner and blanket ceremony, honoring his contributions and the relationships he cultivated across the enterprise. The event reflected the respect and admiration he earned from colleagues, tribal leaders, and employees alike.

Crystal Deschinny was named Chairwoman of the Board earlier this year; she brings a fresh perspective and a deep understanding of PV’s evolving identity. “I’m honored to step into this role and build on the strong foundation Tom and the board have laid,” Deschinny shared. “PV is at a pivotal moment, and I look forward to working with the board and leadership team to drive meaningful progress for the Forest County Potawatomi community.”

As PV looks ahead, Boelter’s legacy will continue to inspire the organization’s path forward — one rooted in shared prosperity, cultural pride, and bold innovation.



PV Appoints Brittany Lambright to the Board of Directors



We are delighted to welcome Brittany Angela Marie (LaMere) Lambright to our Board of Directors as an enrolled FCP tribal member. Lambright is a dedicated education professional with over a decade of experience in school counseling, tribal education leadership, and career development. She has served in key roles

supporting Native American students, including as K–12 Education Director and Occupational Leadership Director for the Forest County Potawatomi community. Lambright specializes in culturally responsive programming, academic advising, and post-secondary planning, with a strong background in grant management, policy development, and student advocacy. The ASCA model, along with a deep commitment to equity, empowerment, and lifelong learning, guides her work.

CEO of PV Kip Ritchie said, “We’re honored to have you join our Board of Directors and look forward to your insight and experience as we nurture new paths to shared prosperity for generations. Your perspective and connection to our shared values will be an invaluable part of our ongoing work to strengthen the economic future for the Forest County Potawatomi community.”

NOVEMBER SPECIALS

Buy Any Roll of Moist Chew (5-can bundle)

Save \$1.50

Warning: Smokeless Tobacco Is Addictive.

We Card Everyone Because We Care.

fireside MARKET

16 oz. Monster

2/\$5.50

\$3.49 Each

Energy made easy.

fireside MARKET

Chip and Dip Deal

\$9.99

When you purchase these items together

Frito-Lay Tostito 15.5 oz. Salsa OR Queso Dip

Frito-Lay Tostito Original Restaurant Style Chips 12 oz.

Snacking made easy.

fireside MARKET

Stone Lake * Carter

FCP Health Department Maintains National Accreditation Status Through PHAB



submitted by FCP Community Health Department

The Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) Community Health Department is proud to announce they have successfully completed a review process to maintain national accreditation status through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). By maintaining accreditation for another five years, Community Health has demonstrated that it meets national standards for quality and remains committed to advancing and improving health for everyone in the FCP community.

Community Health is honored to be one of only eight tribal health departments in the entire country to earn national accreditation.

“We are so pleased to again be recognized for achieving national accreditation by continuing to meet the rigorous standards set by PHAB,” said Community Health Manager Jacee Shepard. “This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication of the community health staff and FCP administration, and to the invaluable support of our tribal partners, as well as our collaborators at the local, state, and federal levels.”

The community health department’s mission is to provide quality healthcare in a professional and traditional way for Native Americans, their families, and surrounding community in a trusting, respectful, and confidential manner, for the wellness and future of the community. If you would like to learn more about the programs and services available in Community Health, please contact us at 715-478-4355.

National Homeless Youth Awareness Month



submitted by FCP Community Advocacy

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month, a time to think about the challenges faced by around 4.2 million people without homes in our country. Many of these youths find themselves homeless due to family problems, financial difficulties, or other obstacles, often forced to leave unsafe situations or age out of the foster care system.

Being homeless can seriously disrupt a young person’s education and can lead to feelings of loneliness, as well as mental health issues and struggles with substance use. However, many young individuals show incredible strength and determination to overcome their situations.

Many organizations are working hard to provide homeless youth with shelter, counseling, and educational help. We all need to support these efforts, which tackle the underlying issues causing youth homelessness.

This month, here are some ways to show your support and compassion:

- **Learn and Share:** Take the time to understand youth homelessness and share what you learn with others. Understanding can lead to action.
- **Volunteer:** Get involved with organizations that work with homeless youth. They often need extra hands to help.
- **Speak up:** Contact your local leaders and let them know you support policies that help homeless young people.
- **Donations:** Give items like clothing and food to local shelters that support those in need.

Let’s raise awareness, push for change, and create a community where every young person feels valued and has a chance to succeed. Together, we can ensure no young person faces homelessness alone.

National Family Caregivers Month



submitted by FCP Community Advocacy

November marks National Family Caregivers Month, a time to recognize the essential work of caregivers. In Native American communities, caregiving is deeply rooted in tradition, with elders held in high regard. Family members often take on care-giving roles without compensation, filling gaps left by limited healthcare access.

A 2022 study surveyed 225 American Indian and Alaska Native caregivers in the Pacific Northwest, highlighting high levels of stress, depression, and health issues among this group. These caregivers frequently face barriers such as:

- Limited access to culturally-appropriate healthcare
- Lack of respite care and caregiver training
- Navigating complex systems that don’t reflect tribal values

Despite these challenges, Native caregivers provide critical physical and emotional support, often without formal recognition or assistance. Their work preserves cultural heritage and ensures the well-being of elders.

This month is an opportunity to advocate for better resources, including mental health support, respite services, and caregiver education tailored to Native communities. Supporting these caregivers strengthens families and honors traditions.

Reference: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10900-022-01156-7>

Domestic Violence Awareness Walk

by Amber Haseman

The Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) Community Advocacy joined the Sokaogon Chippewa Community on October 30 for a Domestic Violence Awareness walk at Cardinal Park in Crandon. The walk, hosted by Brighter Days and the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa Community, brought together community members to support survivors and raise awareness about domestic violence.

Brighter Days, a dual agency program for domestic violence and sexual assault, provides emergency shelter and advocacy services for individuals affected by domestic violence, including victims of crime. Services include safety planning, restraining orders, legal and court accompaniment, and medical advocacy. These services are offered in a secure building, providing a private space for each family, one-on-one support, case management, and transportation. Hours of operation are 24/7. For more information, contact Director Kerry Fox at (715) 478-6451.

On a cool afternoon, participants dressed in purple and arrived to show their support with survivors. Attendees signed in, received pins, bracelets, and T-shirts. Fox shared her personal story and a poem: “If your self-esteem has been deformed due to a lifetime of abuse, look around for someone who has some that they can share with you. If your courage has been weak-

ened by constant visual responsibility, look around for someone who has the strength you need.”

FCP Community Advocacy Manager Michelle Peterson spoke about the collaboration between the tribes, highlighting that the FCP program offers two advocates, a tribal ADRC, and a 24/7 hotline, which can be reached at 715-478-7201 for those in need of support, resources, or simply someone to talk to.

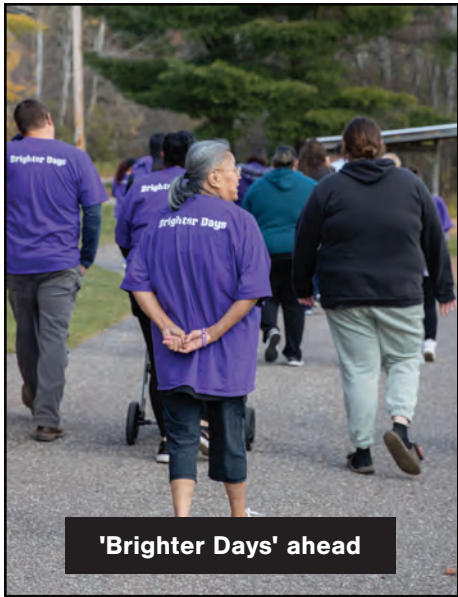
An honor song marked the beginning of the awareness walk, with signs and purple ribbons lining the path. Each shared important facts about domestic violence, including:

- Survivors are six times more likely to have a substance use disorder.
- 30 - 60 percent of intimate partner violence perpetrators also abuse the children in the household.
- More than four in five Native American women have experienced violence in their lifetime.
- People aged 18-24 experience relationship violence at the highest rate.
- 75 percent of intimate partner homicides occur after separation or while the victim is trying to leave.

The walk offered community members the opportunity to come together, stand with survivors, help spread awareness, and strengthen community support systems against domestic violence.



Brighter Days Director Kerry Fox



'Brighter Days' ahead



Everyone joining the walk

Books for Native American Heritage Month

submitted by FCP Library

Grab a great book at the FCP Library:

- *Gathering the Potawatomi Nation: Revitalization and Identify*, by Christopher Wetzel
- *Original Local: Indigenous Foods, Stories, and Recipes from the Upper West*, by Heid E. Erdrich
- *Native American Stories For Kids: 12 Traditional Stories Told from Indigenous Tribes Across North America*, by Tom Pecore Weso
- *Sisters of the Wind (Fiction/3rd installment)*, by Angeline Boulley
- *Dancing For Our Tribe: Potawatomi Tradition in the New*

- *Millenium*, by Sharon Hoogstraten
- *The Power of Style: How Fashion and Beauty are Being Used to Reclaim Cultures*, by Christian Allaire
- *Indigenous Cultures Today: Protecting Native Families and Protecting Cultural Traditions*, by Cayla Bellanger DeGroat
- *Indigenous Ingenuity: A Celebration of Traditional North American Knowledge*, by Deidre Havrelock
- *Turtle Island: The Story of North America's First People*, by Eldon Yellowhorn



Thoughts of an Elder

There was a time when older people
Were looked to for words of wisdom.
Some young people ignore their elders, the old.
The old must have dementia they say.

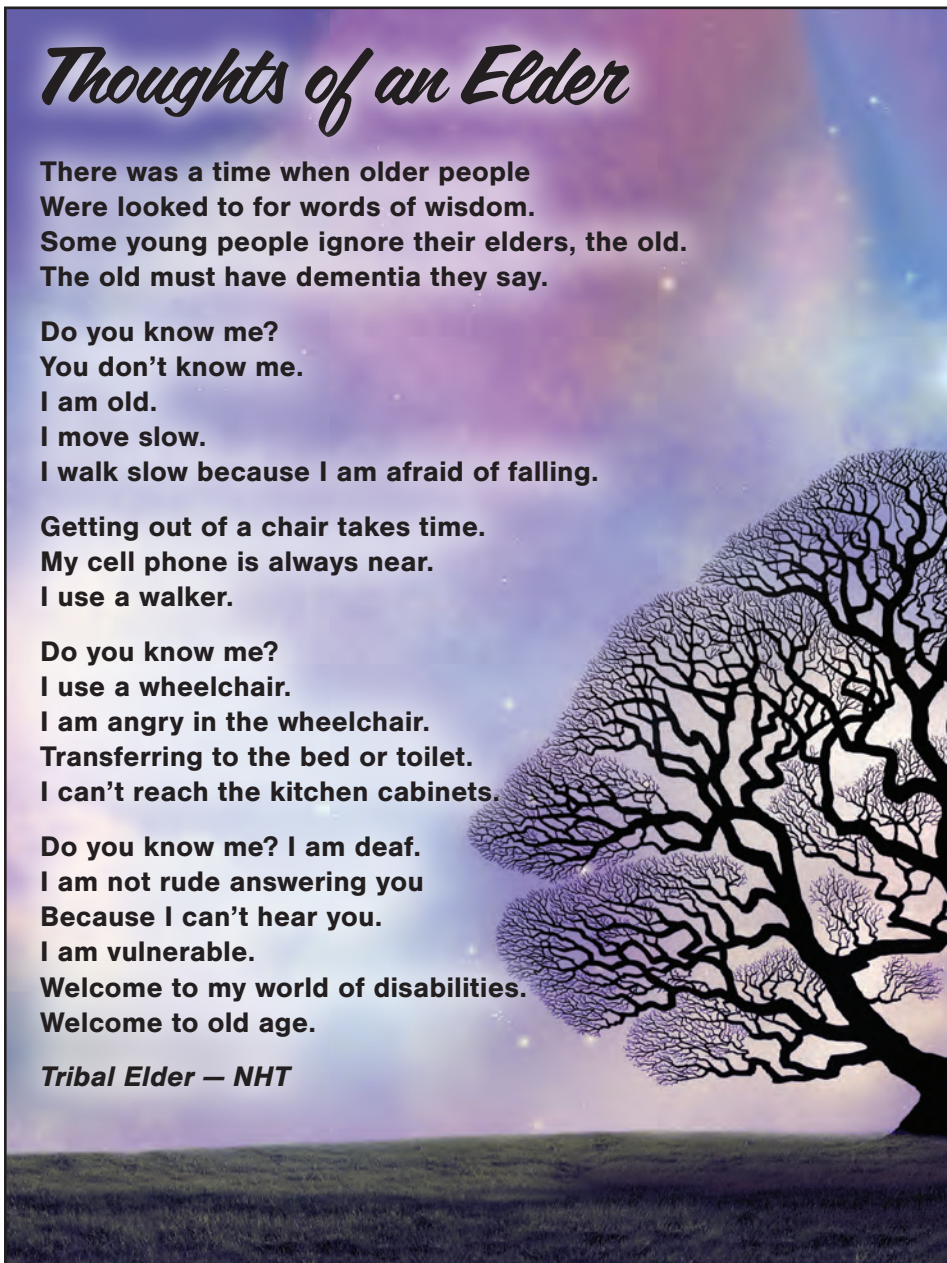
Do you know me?
You don't know me.
I am old.
I move slow.
I walk slow because I am afraid of falling.

Getting out of a chair takes time.
My cell phone is always near.
I use a walker.

Do you know me?
I use a wheelchair.
I am angry in the wheelchair.
Transferring to the bed or toilet.
I can't reach the kitchen cabinets.

Do you know me? I am deaf.
I am not rude answering you
Because I can't hear you.
I am vulnerable.
Welcome to my world of disabilities.
Welcome to old age.

Tribal Elder — NHT



Community Events
NOVEMBER 2025

Diabetes Awareness Month

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2

9

16

23

30

Mondays:
NA Meetings
RRC - 10am

Powwow Club
4:30pm - 5:30pm

3

10

17

24

Tuesdays:
After School
Language Program
Crandon & Laona

4

11

18

25

Wednesdays:
Language Class
10am - 12pm

After School
Language Program
Wabeno

Pick Up Games
6pm - 9pm

5

12

19

26

Thursdays:
Support Group
PCC Commons
12pm - 1pm

6

13

20

27

Fridays:
Men's Smudge Talk
RRC - 9am

Alcoholics Anonymous
RRC - 2pm

7

14

21

28

1

Tribal Elections
Chair & Council
Members

Halloween Party
4pm - 9pm

Adam Trask Band
Free Entertainment
Carter Casino
7pm - 11pm

8

15

22

29

Swearing-In
Tribal Court
9am

11

18

25

Veterans Day
Honoring Those
Who Served
Campus Closed

COFFEE TALK
w/ Elders @ PCC
12pm - 2pm

12

19

26

Elders
Day Trips
Rouman Cinema
Movie - 12pm
LNR's Annual GIS Day
3pm - 6pm
Healthier Holiday
Workshop
6pm - 7:30pm

13

20

27

Nutrition Taste Test
H&W Test Kitchen
11am - 1pm
CC Teaching Kitchen
11:30am - 1pm
COMMUNITY
SOBRIETY FEAST
Museum Lower Level
6pm

14

21

28

Diabetes Luncheon
H&W Large
Conference Room
12pm - 1:30pm
Tribal Elder Food Box
Distribution
12pm

SHISHIBE! BINGO!
PCC - 5pm

15

22

29

Deer Hunters
Breakfast Buffet
Carter - The Springs
5am

16

23

30

General Council
Meeting
1pm
Communications
Exhibit
11am - 3pm
Information Booths
11am - 3pm

17

24

31

Deer Hunters
Breakfast Buffet
Carter - The Springs
5am

18

25

31

Happy Thanksgiving
Campus Closed

19

26

31

4TH ANNUAL
HOLIDAY
Craft Fair
#Open2Everyone
9am - 5pm

20

27

31

GENERAL INFORMATION

COMMUNITY CENTER

POWWOW GROUNDS

BODWÉWADMI KTĒGAN

HEALTH & WELLNESS

MUSEUM

LOCAL SCHOOLS

10/21/2025

4TH ANNUAL

HOLIDAY

Craft Fair

Saturday, November 29, 2025

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY CENTER

5471 Thayék Êthë Dnêkmëgzêk Myéw • Crandon, Wisconsin

#Open2Everyone

LOCAL VENDORS & CRAFTERS • BAKED GOODS • JEWELRY

HOME DECOR • HOLIDAY GIFTS • & MUCH MORE!

Interested in being a vendor?

Scan this QR Code to register!

GENERAL ADMISSION:

Please bring a non-perishable food item or donation for local food pantries.

POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY CENTER

Don't miss the Deadline!

Tribal Members

Open Enrollment for the Non-Tribal Dependent Health Plan

You have from November 1st, 2025 until December 15th, 2025 to enroll your Non-Tribal Member spouse and/or dependents up to the age of 26.

Please contact the Forest County Potawatomi Insurance Department at 715-478-4455 or email us at FCPIDEligibility@fcp-nsn.gov for details or to get an application.

A note from the Forest County Potawatomi Insurance Department

The Non-Tribal Dependent Health Plan has recognition as Minimum Essential coverage (MEC) from the Department of Health & Human Services.

Elder Meal Route Menu

November 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3 Creamy chicken wild rice soup, Side salad, dinner roll, fruit, cottage cheese	4 Beef stroganoff w/ egg noodles, carrot, broccoli, cauliflower blend, fruit delight cup, milk	5 Pork chop, cranberry wild rice stuffing, green beans, mixed berries, milk	6 Meatball sub, roasted potatoes, veggies w/ dip, yogurt cup, milk	7 Grilled chicken salad, cottage cheese w/ fruit, dinner roll, dressing, milk	8	9
10 Ham & scalloped potatoes, green beans, zucchini muffin, orange, milk	11 Veteran's Day - Tribal Offices are closed - meal will handed out Monday 10 th .	12 Loaded potato soup, small salad, grilled cheese, brownie w/ berries, milk	13 Baked breaded cod, sweet potato wedges, fruit salad, coleslaw, rye bread, milk	14 Egg salad sandwich, chips, fruit, cottage cheese, milk	15	16
17 Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, wg dinner roll, jello cup w/ fruit, milk	18 Baked chicken w/ rice pilaf, roasted carrots, broccoli, zucchini, yogurt, fruit, milk	19 Chili w/ noodles, cornbread, side salad, fruit, milk	20 Pork roast w/ sauerkraut, boiled potatoes, marble rye, cottage cheese w/ berries, milk	21 Italian sub (hard salami, ham, cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion w/ Italian dressing) creamy cucumbers, mixed berries, milk	22	23
24 Cheeseburger Mac, veggies w/ dip, fruit, milk	25 Lemon pepper cod, wild rice w/ onions & mushrooms, coleslaw, mixed berries, milk	26 Roasted turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, apple crisp, milk	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28 Cobb Salad, fruit, baked chips, milk Sub sandwich, fruit cup, cottage cheese, veggies w/ dip, milk	29	30

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

Autumn Action

**SELECT FRIDAYS
IN NOVEMBER**

CASH DRAWINGS | 5-8 P.M.
TWO WINNERS EACH HOUR

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING | 9 P.M.
ONE WINNER RECEIVES **ALL FOUR**
OF THE REMAINING CASH PRIZES!

**\$29,700
IN CASH PRIZES**

Thanksgiving Buffet

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27
11-6 P.M. | BUFFET ONLY 2-6 P.M.

Includes oven roasted turkey, honey pit ham, beef tips, wild rice pilaf, stuffing, green bean casserole, assorted pies & much more...

\$25 PER PERSON | \$13 12 & UNDER

THE SPRINGS
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

FALL'N CASH

**SCORE UP TO \$1,000
IN REWARD PLAY**

Just earn 500 same-day tier credits playing with your Potawatomi Rewards card to unlock the "Thanksgiving Day" game at any kiosk.

**THURSDAY,
NOV. 27**

FOOD drive

**SUNDAY-TUESDAY
IN NOVEMBER
10 A.M.-9 P.M.**

Bring in **FIVE** non-perishable, non-expired food items in original, unopened packaging and receive **\$10 REWARD PLAY!**

Fall Into Winter Winnings

**SATURDAY
DEC. 27**

**FOUR \$5,000
CASH WINNERS**

DRAWINGS 6-9 P.M. | ONE WINNER EACH HOUR

All of your October, November and December promotion entries roll over as entries into the big Fall Into Winter Winnings.

ATTENTION HUNTERS

OPENING WEEKEND

Breakfast Buffet

OPEN EARLY | 5-11 A.M.
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 & 23

**\$14⁹⁵
Per Person**
**\$9⁹⁵
Kids 5-11**

THE SPRINGS
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

