

Cultural extravaganza planned in Hoyt

(KAIR)--As cultural tolerance dominates the national discourse, a local area school is taking steps to celebrate diversity.

That will happen Friday, in Hoyt, during what's being called "a cultural extravaganza."

The event, being hosted by Royal Valley USD 337, in collaboration with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, will be held in the Royal Valley High School Gymnasium, located at 101 East 1st Street, in Hoyt.

According to a news release, the school district is one of few in Kansas serving the membership of a tribal nation, which allows for the formation of a unique, and special relationship, with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

The release notes that due to a large portion of Royal Valley's basketball players being Tribal members, both the tribe and school agreed that basketball season "is an opportune time to feature aspects of the Prairie Band Potawatomi culture in a positive celebration for the entire community.

According to the release, Royal Valley Lady Panthers Head Basketball Coach Kyle Porter was instrumental in making the "cultural extravaganza" a reality, having been inspired by the Nike N7 fund, which commemorated November's Native American Heritage Month, and provides turquoise uniforms to colleges and universities with significant Native American student populations.

Porter, in the release, said he's excited to see the school find ways to celebrate positive components of the school and support the special partnership with the Tribe.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Chairman Joseph Rupnick, in the release, thanked Porter and the school staff for acknowledging "the Prairie Band Potawatomi culture and providing an avenue for inclusion in the community."

Approximately 221 students within the Royal Valley school district are Native Americans, or descendants, and of those, 60% are Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal members.

Friday evening's events begin at 5:00.

Many Signals Communications