



# Prairie Band Potawatomi News

+++ A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation +++

- FALL 2019 EDITION -

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## Prairie Band Casino & Resort Breaks Ground on Second Phase of Expansion



7.19.19 – From left: Prairie Band Casino & Resort General Manager Bill Marsh, PBP Entertainment Corporation Board Member Chago Hale, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Council Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie, PBP TC Vice-Chairman Zach Pahmahmie, PBPEC Board Secretary Corey Mzhickteno, PBP TC Chairman Joseph Rupnick, PBP TC Secretary Camilla Chouteau, PBP TC Member Bill Evans, PBPEC Board Vice-President Jona Rupnicki, Prairie Band LLC CEO Jacob Wamego and PBPEC Board President Frank Tecumseh ceremoniously break ground on the 2nd Phase of the Casino Expansion project.

Prairie Band Casino & Resort, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, entered the second phase of a two-year, \$55 million expansion project on July 19, 2019, marked by a groundbreaking ceremony attended by Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council, Casino Board Members and staff, along with members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Community. The groundbreaking was directly followed by a Tribal Grand Opening Celebration of the new Embers Bar & Grille, completed during Phase I of the project.

Currently being developed by general contractor Woodstone and Prairie Band Construction, and designed by the architectural firm TBE, the second phase of the project will include a new four-story hotel tower featuring 74 new guest rooms including two- and three-bay suites. Other amenities include indoor and outdoor swimming pools, full-service spa, dry sauna and steam room, fitness center, patio, game room with virtual Top Golf suite, multi-use rooms for parties and business meetings and an outdoor video screen for sporting events or movies. Renovations are due to

be completed in the fall of 2020.

“The Prairie Band Potawatomi Board of Directors is ecstatic to begin this phase of our expansion project. These new amenities will differentiate us from our competitors and keep Prairie Band Casino & Resort as the premier destination for entertainment, golf and gaming,” said Frank Tecumseh, PBP Entertainment Corporation president. The expansion of the property is part of the company’s strategy to add more entertainment options and be a destination for families of all ages.

In addition to improving the facility for guests, the PBPEC Board has also made a commitment to the employment of tribal membership.

“Our continued vision is to be a premier employer. With this expansion we will be adding positions, which will give current staff career growth as well as offer new opportunities for employment in the area,” said president of PBP Entertainment Corporation Frank Tecumseh.

Two job fairs were held in June and July

2019 to ensure tribal members and native owned companies were given an opportunity to interact with Woodstone, the project general contractor, and were given the opportunity to bid on various projects associated with the hotel, pool and parking expansion.

The first phase of the expansion began in 2018 improving the quality and aesthetic of the Prairie Band Casino & Resort gaming experience. The casino floor received vibrant wall treatments, upgraded lighting, enhanced ceiling décor and a new carpet and floor design along with the installation of a new lobby bar, featuring specialty cocktails and local, craft beers; the Kapi coffee bar; and the Embers Bar and Grille boasting 19 TVs for sports enthusiasts. Phase I also included the addition of a new administration building, leaving room for a new high limit gaming area featuring 50 new machines and four table games.

To witness Phase II from now through completion, follow along on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and by visiting the Prairie Band Casino & Resort website at [prairieband.com](http://prairieband.com).

New!

# SLOTS

18+ Welcome

A new location for gaming is now available on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Reservation! Starting August 7, 2019, Prairie Band One Stop, located at 190 Road and US Highway 75, features Class II gaming machines available for guests 18 years of age and older between the hours of 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 10 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays.



# Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick: Report to the Nation



Dear Tribal Members,

During the past quarter, Council traveled to Washington DC to meet with members of Congress to propose possible legislation to clear the title on the Shab-eh-nay lands. As many of you are aware, the Nation is in the process of getting the 129 acres into trust and our application has been held up with the Department of the Interior. In early June, we were advised the Department’s solicitors are reviewing our application and may be preparing an opinion that is not in favor of the Tribe. This has been our greatest fear - an opinion that differs from the favorable opinions previously issued.

In 2000 and 2001, two opinions were issued in favor of the Tribe that recommended that the “interested parties draft and propose legislation to Congress to settle the claim.” The Tribe would have taken this approach, but the Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, did not want any gaming in his state. His congressional colleagues from the state of Illinois were also not supportive of any legislation that would potentially lead to gaming.

As I reported during the General Council Meeting in July, Tribal Council feels this is the best time to move forward with the recommended legislation. There are a number of bills currently working their way through the Committee on Indian Affairs and we are looking forward to adding ours to the list. The repeal of the Iowa Act is an example of major legislation that was recently passed that is encouraging. While there are no guarantees, we feel we were positively received, and based on the questions we were asked, we feel there is a good possibility our proposed legislation will get assigned a number from the members of Congress we met with.

During our visit, we met with Senators Moran and Duckworth, along with Congressmen Watkins, Cook,

Gallego, and Kinzinger, and Congresswomen Davids and Bustos. We also met with Ray Martin, Policy Advisor on Indian Affairs, Ken Degenfelder Monitory, Staff House Subcommittee for Indigenous People of the United States, and Mike Andrews, Staff Director for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Each member asked some very pointed questions, and all felt that the land issue should have been cleared up a long time ago. While we can tell our story to the members of Congress, they have constituents and expressed an interest in their thoughts and concerns about the proposed legislation. We informed the Illinois representatives we were meeting with them next.

Following the DC trip, Tribal Council members went to Illinois to meet with local leaders, inform them of our proposed legislation, and ask them again for their support. While there, we met with Senator Durbin, who was aware of our situation. We felt the meeting went well. We met with local leaders in Shabbona and the surrounding community. As of this writing, we have received copies of several letters of support which local leaders sent to the Senators and Representatives in the District. This quick response from them demonstrates the excellent relationships past Council members have worked

to establish. This Council feels we must continue to build upon those relationships.

Locally, we continue to work on our jurisdictional issues. We have met with Governor Kelly and her staff and are still working on scheduling a meeting with the Director of Parks and Wildlife.

Another local issue we are working on is the quality of water we receive from Rural Water District 3. We have requested a meeting but, to date, have been unsuccessful in our efforts to schedule one. I want to be assured that the water that is supplied to the Reservation is free and clear of contaminants, as is the case for the rest of the district. We can only be assured of this with frequent and continuous testing of our water quality.

In closing, these are just a few of the items we are working on at the State and local levels while we continue to monitor activity at the Federal Government for any opportunities that will benefit the Tribe.

Migwetch - Joseph Rupnick

## +++ Next General Council Meeting is Saturday, October 19, 2019 +++

### Kansas Documentary to Include Prairie Band Potawatomi Perspective

By: Michelle Simon

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Chairman Joseph Rupnick was interviewed by independent filmmakers Joshua Nathan and Patrick Ross on August 8, 2019, at the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Government Center for their documentary, “Kansas an Eclogue.”

Chairman Rupnick’s commentary, along with accounts from the Delaware, Kaw, and Osage Nations will be incorporated into the documentary that focuses on the past, present and future of the state of Kansas.

“This film will afford the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation an opportunity to educate viewers about our history, status as a sovereign nation, our jurisdiction, and the services provided to tribal members,” stated Rupnick.

The feature-length documentary was initially spurred by the limited perceptions of Kansas encountered by the co-directors after relocating to Los Angeles. “Kansas is viewed in a very stereotypical way,” said Ross, “people think it is flat and not much more

than that.” With their film, the two KU alumni hope to break the American cultural stereotype of Kansas and according to Ross, “bring forth a view of

Kan. respectively, embarked on a 700-plus-mile walk across the state of Kansas filming their journey and the people they encountered along the



Los Angeles-based independent filmmakers Patrick Ross (standing) and Joshua Zev Nathan prepare to interview PBPB Tribal Chairman Joseph Rupnick for “Kansas an Eclogue,” their feature-length documentary about Kansas.

the state that is more representative of reality and the beauty of Kansas.”

In 2015, Nathan and Ross, former residents of Moundridge and Lawrence,

way. The pair zig-zagged across the state using the 8 Wonders of Kansas as a loose guide, but mainly allowed their walking and the serendipity inherent in life to lead them.

The team of two captured the pastoral essence of Kansas and learned a lot about their home state, including a culture of walking inherent in the state. With 35 hours of digital recording in tow, they headed back to L.A. and have spent the past four years editing their content. Through that process, they realized they had not adequately captured the voices of the Native peoples tied to this land.

Nathan and Ross applied for and received a charitable contribution award from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in March 2019. These funds have been used to include the accounts of tribal nations with significant historical roots in Kansas into the film.

The duo hopes to release “Kansas an Eclogue” within the coming year according to Nathan and they intend to show the finished work at film festivals, on a Kansas tour and potentially PBS. To keep up with the status of the film, more can be found on their Facebook page “Kansas an Eclogue.”



# The Prairie Band Potawatomi News

The *Prairie Band Potawatomi News* or *PBP News* is a quarterly publication of the Nation. Editorials and articles appearing in the PBP News are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of the PBP Media staff, Tribal Council, Gaming Commission or the Nation. The PBP News reserves the right to reject any materials or letters submitted for publication, including those submitted past the deadline.

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## Upcoming Deadlines

**Winter 2019 Edition:  
November 1, 2019**

**Spring 2020 Edition:  
February 7, 2020**

## Charitable Contributions 2nd Quarter Recipient List

*Total Donated \$72,500*

- 10th Annual Clays for Kids
- 20-30 Club of Topeka
- Alzheimer's Association
- American Cancer Society
- Breakthrough House, Inc.
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corp.
- East Topeka Senior Center
- Friends of the Topeka Zoo
- Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy
- Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- Mayetta Pioneer Days
- Meals on Wheels
- Morning Star, Inc.
- Parent & Teachers Helping Students
- Shawnee County Allied Tribes
- South Brown County - USD 430
- St. Mary's Food Pantry
- United Way
- YWCA Northeast Kansas

# 2019 Notice of Special Election for Ethics Commission

Members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation are hereby notified that an Election will be held on November 2, 2019, for the purpose of electing five (5) members of the Ethics Commission.

- The Chairperson and Secretary will be seated through July 2021.
- The Commissioner #1 will be seated until July 2020.
- The Commissioner #2 and Commissioner #3 will be seated until July 2022.

This election shall be conducted in accordance with the Constitution and Election Ordinance of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Automated Election Services of Rio Rancho, New Mexico will assist the Election Board with this election.

## Qualified Candidates

A qualified candidate must:  
A) Be an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.  
B) Be 25 years of age or older, as of the date of this election for the following seats: Chairperson, Secretary, or Commissioner #1. Must be 21 years or older for the Commissioner seat #2 and Commissioner seat #3.  
C) Agree to a comprehensive criminal background investigation conducted by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation or an investigative agency deemed appropriate by the Election Board for record clearance.  
D) NOT have been convicted of a felony within the past 5 years.  
E) If elected, agree to the Drug-Free Workplace Policy and consent to drug testing.

F) Submit a Declaration of Candidacy Form and photo for the ballot to the Election Board Office no later than August 30, 2019, at 4:00 P.M.

## Qualified Voters

To cast a ballot in this election you must:  
A) Be an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.  
B) Be 18 years of age or older by September 6, 2019.  
C) If you have never registered to vote you can get the forms from the Member Services Department. In order to vote you will need a voter registration form on file with Election Board no later than Friday, September 6, 2019, at 4:00 P.M.

## Ballot Distribution

Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters no later than September 20, 2019. All ballot distribution packages will contain a pre-addressed return envelope for mailing ballots back to the Election Board. All ballots must be received in the Election Board Post Office Box in Mayetta, Kansas no later than 9:00 A.M. on the date of the special election, November 2, 2019. Please allow one to two weeks for mailing back your ballot.

## Election Results

Ballots will be tabulated in an open meeting for Tribal Members conducted by the Election Board after 9:00 A.M. on Election day, at the Old Bingo Hall. Tabulation of ballots will continue until all ballots have been tabulated and the results of that tabulation have been recorded.

The Election Board shall issue the Preliminary Election Results immediately after the conclusion of the tabulation. Any election protests must be filed three (3) business days following an election, by November 6, 2019, at 4:00 P.M.

Certified Election Results will be posted at the appropriate tribal offices, as well as, being released to all appropriate media at the conclusion of the election.

## Election Calendar

**Candidate Filing Date**  
August 26 to August 30, 2019, 4 P.M. Declaration of Candidacy form and photograph must be returned by this date.

**Candidate Withdrawal Date**  
September 6, 2019, at 4:00 P.M. Last Date for Candidates to withdraw their names from the election.

**Voter Registration Deadline**  
September 6, 2019, at 4:00 P.M. Last Day for members 18 years of age or older to register to receive a ballot for this election, if not already registered.

**Ballot Mailing Date**  
September 20, 2019, ballots mailed to Registered Voters only.

**ELECTION DATE**  
November 2, 2019 (Saturday) at 9:00 A.M. Last day for Ballots to be received at the Mayetta Post Office by 9:00 A.M.

**RUN-OFF Election Date**  
If required, shall occur four (4) weeks after this election, on Saturday, November 30, 2019, at 9 a.m.

# New PBPN Veteran License Plate Available at Motor Vehicle



PBPN tribal member Phillip Jim, Jr. was the first to purchase the newly designed tribal veteran tag on Monday, July 29, 2019.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Motor Vehicle department has begun issuing a new veteran license plate designed by Micki Martinez, Motor Vehicle Coordinator.

To purchase the new tag, PBPN tribal veterans must live on the PBPN reservation and provide the following:

- Submit a copy of form DD-214
- Vehicle
- Vin Inspection
- Certificate of Title, Veteran (and spouse's name if applicable) must be on the title
- Proof of Residency (Utility bill, voter registration)

- PBPN address listed on valid KS Drivers License or KS ID
- PBPN Enrollment Card
- Proof of Insurance

The initial charge is \$15, with a subsequent renewal fee of \$10 annually. The fee can be paid by cash or card.

The Motor Vehicle department is located at the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Police Department, 16344 Q Road, Mayetta, Kansas. For any questions, contact Micki Martinez at 785-966-6673.



# Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Message to the Nation



Good day to everyone, hope all is well as summer comes to an end with schools back in session and fall is just around the corner with cooler temperatures to come. Audit season also winds down as we move through the final summer months and budget season is quickly speeding up as we move into September. In last quarter's article I had written about the acceptance of credit and debit cards in various programs and am happy to announce that several locations are now up and running. We have a few more locations that are to be added to the list so we should be seeing a few more programs installing machines to accept credit and debit cards in the weeks ahead. Below are a few additional highlights and updates on items of interest in the Tribe's financial area.

## Per Capita Update

On August 1st the Per Capita Advance program was released to provide temporary financial assistance to eligible Tribal Members in the form of an advance payment on future Per Capita distributions. To be eligible for the advance a Tribal Member must be at least 18 years old and not have any claims against their Per Capita distributions. To apply for an advance the Per Capita Advance Application Form must be completed and submitted to the Per Capita Office for review, if approved, the advance will be processed within 5 business days in the same manner as with the Tribal Members regular quarterly Per Capita distributions. Per Capita Advances shall be repaid according to the repayment schedule selected on the application and are subject to a \$25 administrative fee. The application period is closed during the 14 days prior the quarterly distributions of March 15th, June 15th, September 15th and December 15th. Additionally, a reminder that all updated

information such as bank accounts, tax withholdings, change of address etc. should be submitted 14 days prior to the quarterly distributions as well. For more information on the Per Capita Advance program as well as our quarterly distributions you may visit the Tribe's website <https://www.pbpindiantribe.com/per-capita/> or Phone: 785-966-3993, Toll Free: 877-715-6789, Fax: 785-966-3917, Email: [percap@pbpnation.org](mailto:percap@pbpnation.org).

## 150 & 75 Economic Development Project Update

Recently the Tribal Council approved moving forward with obtaining updated information on the 150 & 75 economic development project located on the east side of Highway 75 along 150 Road. In order to do this we will be working on an updated feasibility study as well as working on an economic impact study. The feasibility study will help us in evaluating the current project that was approved by General Council in 2008 which included components of a Travel Plaza, Motel, Fast Food Restaurant, Class II Gaming, Strip Retail and a Museum/Cultural Center. The economic impact study will be useful for not only this particular project but also for other discussions that the Tribe has in regards to how much of an economic boost that the Tribe provides to the surrounding area. Both studies will be underway over the next few months and will be beneficial to the Tribe as well as the Casino and the Prairie Band LLC. While progress never seems to move as fast as we would all hope, it is positive that the project continues to move forward to diversify beyond gaming while bringing in amenities that will help complement our casino, provide jobs and provide additional positive economic growth to the surrounding area, the development will also generate additional tax dollars that will be used to maintain infrastructure and fund necessary programs.

## FY2020 Annual Budget Process

The FY2020 Annual Budget Process continues to move along with budgets expected to be approved by Tribal Council in October as in prior years. Preliminary forecasts for our primary funding sources are at similar levels for a year over year comparison between FY2019 and FY2020 but are still subject to change as the budgets are reviewed over the next several weeks. Assuming that the budget approvals

occur in October as anticipated, the Tribe's FY2020 budget will be available for review in early to mid December. In reviewing the Tribe's budget in recent years it can be viewed as being stable, which could be viewed as good in that you know what you have to work around year after year but can also have a downside in that we know that expenses to continue to grow. In the short term the Budget Committee can work with making our expenditures more efficient making our dollars go further and minimizing waste, but long term ultimately we would need to look at restructuring and how our dollars are allocated to different areas, something we must think about as we look down the road and plan for future years.

## Primary Revenue Sources

For this quarter's article I would like to write a little about our Primary Revenue Sources that fund the Tribe's annual budgets. In an earlier section, as well as in previous articles, I have talked about the annual budget process, but where does the funding primarily come from for the Tribe's annual budget? To summarize our various sources of revenue they can be grouped into three primary categories, Gaming Revenue, Special Revenue and Third-Party Revenue.

Gaming Revenue as you may have guessed is by far our largest source of funding providing for nearly 67-70% of our annual budget. On a monthly basis the Casino makes an electronic funds transfer to the Tribe's bank account, the transfer is referred to as the Tribal Cash Distribution (TCD) which is then used to fund Tribal Programs, Economic Development, General Welfare, Charitable Contributions and Per Capita Distributions according to the Revenue Allocation Plan. In the case of the Tribe's TCD, it is basically calculated as the Casino's monthly profit and then is transferred to the Tribe around the middle of each month. The annual TCD is verified as part of both the Casino's and the Tribe's annual financial audits.

Special Revenue sources make up roughly 12-15% of our annual budget and are provided primarily through our grants and contracts. The majority of our funding from Special Revenue sources is provided through recurring awards that we receive annually and have been awarded for several years. Recurring awards are primarily funded through the De-

partment of Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services. Non-recurring awards, while not the majority our grants and contracts, do provide a significant amount of funding for specific projects as well as provide jobs to carry out the specific projects. Special Revenue funding provides for nearly 1/3 of our Tribal Program jobs which equates to about 100 of our roughly 300 employment positions. While grants and contracts are sometimes thought of as free funding, they do also require additional financial and programmatic reporting requirements which must be submitted to the awarding agencies and also require the Tribe to hire a CPA firm to conduct an annual financial audit to ensure compliance with federal regulations.

Third Party Revenue sources make up roughly 17-20% our annual budget and are provided primarily through services provided by our Clinic, Housing Rentals, Land Leases, Tribal Taxes, as well as various services provided by our Tribal Programs. Unlike Gaming and Special Revenue funding, Third Party Revenue utilization is most generally at the Tribe's discretion but is generally used to off set the expenditures of the program that generated the revenue. While Third Party Revenues are not sufficient enough to solely fund any one of our Tribal Programs, they are significant in reducing the amount of Gaming Revenue that must be allocated to our Tribal Programs. By a Tribal Program generating Third Party Revenues, they are able to help their fellow programs by reducing their reliance on Gaming Revenue as well as free up funds that can be applied towards other projects and needs of the Tribe.

If you have any questions on any of the topics mentioned in this article or financial questions in general about the Tribe's operations my contact information is: Office: (785) 966-3905 – E-mail: [wadepahmahmie@pbpnation.org](mailto:wadepahmahmie@pbpnation.org), or you can always stop by my office or set up a meeting to discuss. Also if you have any specific financial topics that you would like me to write about in future articles let me know and I can incorporate those in. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Tribal Council Treasurer and I look forward to continuing to serve our Tribal Members.

Respectfully,  
Wade Pahmahmie (Wap-tti-ge)



# Credit/Debit Cards Now Accepted by PBPB Programs

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has implemented credit/debit card access within the following departments:

- Boys & Girls Club
- Early Childhood Education Center
- Finance
- Health Center
- Housing
- Planning & Environmental Protection
- Police Department
- Motor Vehicle
- Tribal Court

A consumer web portal will be available soon on the Nation's website [www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com), allowing customers to pay online also.

# New Per Capita Advance Policy

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has created a new policy that will allow eligible PBPB tribal members to receive an interest-free, advance payment on quarterly per capita distributions up to two times per calendar year.

The Per Capita Advance Policy was created to assist eligible PBPB tribal members in need of temporary financial assistance and goes into effect on Thursday, August 1, 2019. Interested members will be required to complete an application and pay a \$25 administrative fee for the service.

Eligible PBPB tribal members will be allowed to request up to a \$1,000 advance on the next scheduled per capita distribution. The member shall then repay that amount within the next three per capita distribution dates or sooner.

Eligible PBPB tribal members shall be age 18 or older and have no delinquent debt owed to the Nation.

Members can access the application and policy on the Nation's website [pbpindiantribe.com](http://pbpindiantribe.com), by selecting Departments>Member Services>Per Capita or typing Per capita into the search bar.

For questions regarding the new policy, PBPB tribal members can call toll-free 877-715-6789 and connect to the Per Capita office.

# PBPB Member Services: The Official Hub of Tribal Memberships' Information

By: Michelle Simon

The Member Services department is staffed by PBPB members Jamie Hopkins, Member Services Coordinator and Josette Whitlock, Member Services Clerk. Whitlock joined the department in September 2018, and Hopkins came on board in March 2019. Together they are responsible for maintaining the official records of the Nation's enrollment, addresses and voter registration. The department also assists in tribal government elections, administers the Vision Service Plan (VSP) along with processing burial fund requests and providing membership verification.



Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Member Services staff, Jamie Hopkins - Member Services Coordinator and Josette Whitlock - Member Services Clerk.

The Nation's membership currently stands at approximately 4,570 living members, with about 800 residing on the Reservation. To be a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, one must meet the criteria of possessing at least one-fourth (1/4) degree Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian blood as outlined in the Nation's constitution. New members must file an application and provide all accompanying documentation to the Member Services department for verification. After the staff has completed their process, all enrollment applications and requests for blood quantum reviews are submitted to the Enrollment Review Committee for final determination. The Enrollment Review Committee meets once a month. The Member Services department does not offer assistance for genealogy however the Horton Bureau of Indian Affairs may be able to assist.

Once enrolled in the Nation, mem-

bers will receive a tribal identification card issued through the Member Services department. Minors receive a laminated paper version, while mem-

bers age 18 and over are required to carry a plastic version which includes a photo. The initial plastic card is free and must be updated every 10 years. Plastic tribal I.D. cards can be replaced for a cost of \$10. Plans are also currently underway to add an Enhanced Tribal I.D. card as an option for members. The enhanced tribal I.D. acts like a passport if traveling by land or sea, however, the card cannot be used as a valid passport for travel by flight. The enhanced card is expected to be available by the end of 2019.

Members of the Nation are eligible to vote in tribal government elections at the age of 18, and each member must register to vote with the Member Services department. The Member Services department assists the Election Board with the tribal council, gaming commission, and ethics commission elections.

The Member Services department

maintains all members' official mailing address. To receive all official mail sent by the PBPB government, such as Per capita payments, General Council minutes and voting ballots, it is imperative member's keep their address up to date. Member Services does coordinate with the Per Capita office, so if a member updates their address through the Per Capita office it will be forwarded to the Member Services department.

The Member Services department also administers the VSP program and burial funds which are available to enrolled tribal members. Enrollment into the free VSP program is at each members' discretion. To get registered for the program, PBPB members can call into the Member Service department. To learn more about the coverage and find approved providers, tribal members can visit [vsp.com](http://vsp.com).

In the event of an enrolled tribal member's death, the Nation will assist with burial costs up to \$6,000. Up to \$1,500 can be used toward the funeral service, with the remaining \$4,500 applied to burial. The application for this service is located in the Member Only portal found on the Nation's website, [www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com), or the Member Services department can be contacted toll-free at 877-715-6789 and they can fax the application to the funeral home.

The Member Services department is located at the PBPB Government Center – Lower Level, 16281 Q Road, Mayetta, Kansas.

# Mill Creek Awarded SBA HUBZone Certification

July 15, 2019 – Mill Creek has announced that it has been awarded HUBZone certification by the Small Business Administration (SBA). As part of the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997, the HUBZone program was established to provide qualified small businesses with assistance in pursuit of federal contracts.

"Mill Creek is enthusiastic to add the HUBZone badge to its list of certifications," said Tyler Levier, President and CEO of Mill Creek. "The HUBZone certification is the perfect complement to the 8(a) certification awarded to the company in 2018. Designations

such as these better position the company to provide efficient solutions to our federal clients, allow large firms to meet their small business goals by working with a best-in-class outfitter, and provide additional opportunities to continue the growth of a stellar company."

Annually, the federal government has a goal of awarding 3% of all federal prime contracts to HUBZone-certified small business concerns. More can be learned regarding the HUBZone program at [SBA.gov](http://SBA.gov).

Mill Creek specializes in outfitting of

furniture, fixtures, equipment, and technology (FFE&T), medical equipment planning, space planning, transition planning, move management, interior design, and procurement for healthcare, government, and private sector clients across the nation. Mill Creek is owned by Prairie Band LLC, the economic development company wholly owned by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

For further information, contact Tyler Levier, CEO at [tyler.levier@millcrk.com](mailto:tyler.levier@millcrk.com).



# First Annual Empowerment Fest

By: Michelle Simon



PBPN Tribal Member Sage Cornelius performed his unique sound with his violin.



Diabetes Prevention staff Matt Waits assists event attendees with preparing a healthy smoothie. The riders power the blenders as they pedal the bikes.



Far Left: PBPN tribal member Joneeta “Ttem” Potts shows participants how to make a pair of beaded earrings.



Left: Acclaimed Native American blues rock band Indigenous lead singer Mato Nanji performed as the final act of the 2019 Empowerment Fest.

The 2019 Empowerment Fest was a one-day event that packed a lot of punch! A first for the Nation, the free event was held on Friday, June 28, 2019 at Prairie People’s Park, located in the heart of the Reservation. Over 700 attended from the Prairie Band Potawatomi community and surrounding service areas.

Kicking off at 1 p.m., participants entered the park underneath the Potawatomi arch, at the Registration booth where they received an event “passport.” As attendees visited information booths they collected stickers on their passport which merited event swag such as a water bottle, bag and t-shirt. Event attendees were also able to donate canned items to receive entry into the door prizes which were announced throughout the day.

Along with getting empowered with information, attendees could also take part in cultural sessions which included a planting station manned by PBPN member Benny Potts, a beading station ran by PBPN member Joneeta “Ttem” Potts, a drum stick making station with PBPN member, Adrian “Gubba” Hale, and a dream-catcher station ran by Monica Day Child.

The Fire Keepers Elder Center were also on hand, stationed at Shelter House #3 and they showcased the artwork the elders have been working on over the winter and spring along with being a cooling station for elders in attendance. PBPN member, Mary LeClere taught attendees how to play Indian Dice and Roselyn Hale and Judy Wabaunsee oversaw the “Ask Nokomis/Ask Misho” station - which allowed children and others to ask questions and talk to an elder about the Potawatomi culture. Elder Center staff member, Laverne Hale saved the day for several event volunteers by distributing evaporating cooling towels staving off the heat of the day.

All the while, the arena was a happening spot with performer after

performer taking the stage. First in the line up was PBPN Tribal member and musician SAGE Cornelius, who performed with his violin, sharing his unique sound. He was followed by the Native Blues band, with lead Cecil Gray, out of Oklahoma. In the later afternoon, Ernie Tsosie, a member of the Navajo nation, shared his comedic/motivational performance and then volunteer speaker “Amareedthet-ruth” Jolie Lippitt shared some of her poetry, raising awareness around domestic abuse. To close out the day’s performances was the blues rock group Indigenous with lead singer Mato Nanji, a member of the Nakota nation.

The grand finale of the event was the annual fireworks display. Also, on-site during the day was a bounce house provided by the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department, and a children’s barrel train pulled by a riding lawnmower. A modest meal of hot dogs, brats, chips and cookies were provided from 5 to 7 p.m.

The 2019 Empowerment Fest was spearheaded by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Social Services Tribal Victim Services Program and supported by several PBPN Programs including the Boys & Girls Club, Police Department, Fire Department, Media, Early Childhood Education Center, Education, Health Center, Diabetes Prevention, Food Distribution and other Social Services programs.

Prairie Band LLC, Prairie Band Propane, Prairie Band Casino & Resort, PBPN Tribal Council, AIHREA, KCSDV, United Health Care Community Plans of Kansas, Oklahoma Area Tribal Epidemiology Center, Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 410 and Morning Light Kombucha helped sponsor the event.

For more photos, visit the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Facebook page.



# PBPN Language and Cultural Department: Carrying Our Language and Culture into the Future

By: Michelle Simon

“Our language is very near extinction,” stated Dawn LeClere, PBPN Language and Cultural Department Coordinator, “in the 1700’s there were over 10,000 speakers of the Potawatomi language and in 1995, the Language Institute at Haskell Indian Nations University determined there were only 50 speakers remaining, by 2002, a survey administered by the Hannahville Potawatomi revealed only 25 speakers remained. Today, there are approximately 5 fluent, first-language speakers of the Potawatomi language remaining and two are Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation members: Janice “Pom” Hubbard of Mayetta, Kansas and Don Perrot of Wisconsin.”

While these numbers reveal a dire situation, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Language and Cultural Department staff are committed to keeping the Potawatomi language alive. They do this by learning the language, teaching it and preserving it.

The PBPN Language and Cultural Department utilizes a Master-Apprentice model in the acquisition of the Potawatomi Language. In 2012, Pom Hubbard, became the Master Speaker and from her, Teachers Cindy LeClere, Lyman Shipshee and Language Specialist Billy Matchie acquire the language. The Potawatomi language is a very visual language, where one word can have many subtle meanings depending on context. Hubbard has an extensive Potawatomi/English vocabulary, which allows for the teachers to learn many words, the appropriate structure and dynamics of sentences and the subtle nuances of speaking a living language.

Dawn and her team are also in the process of developing a set curriculum for Tribal Language Teacher Certification. Once established, individuals could receive certification in the Potawatomi language which would then allow them to work in classrooms with kids on a full-time basis.

Establishing this curriculum dovetails with two of the Language departments long-term goals. One goal is to have the state of Kansas recognize the certification process which would allow the Potawatomi language to

be taught in the local high school as a world language. The second goal is for students at the PBPN Early

begins on September 18, 2019. An adult session is also available in the evenings on Mondays from 5:30

The third major function of the department is the preservation and archival of the Potawatomi language.

The department staff are responsible for transcribing documents and recordings and keeping both hard copies and digital records of materials. The department has also created a Potawatomi language app, “Nishnabemwen” available for download in the Apple App Store and can be used with any Apple device such as an iPhone or iPad. The Language Specialist also assists individuals with language translation requests and maintains a language database.

The PBPN Language and Culture Department staff are not alone in their journey to preserve the Potawatomi language, a majority of the other Potawatomi bands are

also deeply committed to preserving the Potawatomi language. In June, the Pokagon Potawatomi hosted a week long Potawatomi language immersion camp, where PBPN staff presented twice. The camp included a tour of the Pokagon’s sacred sites, sharing knowledge of constellations and other culturally relevant material.

The PBPN language department regularly works with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Forest County Potawatomi and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. Where PBPN has focused on language acquisition as our primary avenue for language sustainability, linguists from FCP and CPN have done extensive work collecting and documenting the grammar of the Potawatomi language. While the loss of the last 5 fluent, first-language speakers looms ahead, the Potawatomi people have taken several measures to ensure the Potawatomi language will not be lost.

It is never too late to start learning or sharing. The staff of the PBPN Language and Culture department encourage the community to use their Potawatomi words and language skills each day with their family and friends. LeClere reminds us, “Our language helps us to see the world through the eyes of our ancestors. It ties us to our values, our way of life, our beliefs. Our language helps us see the beauty in everything, the importance in everything, and when you look at our world that way it is a beautiful place.”



**PBPN Language and Culture Staff, L to R: Language Specialist Billy Matchie, Teacher Lyman Shipshee, Apprentice Melvin Lewis, Administrative Assistant Melinda Williamson, Language Coordinator Dawn “Sogi” LeClere, Teacher Cindy LeClere, Master Speaker Pom Hubbard and Apprentice Ella Garcia.**

Childhood Education Center to speak Potawatomi by 2033.

In June 2019, the department added two new language apprentices Melvin Lewis and Ella Garcia. They will be the first to test the initial established curriculum.

And when staff are not learning, they are teaching. The PBPN Language and Culture Department provides approximately 20 classes per week to the Potawatomi Community. The staff visit the Early Childhood Education Center, the Royal Valley Grade School and hosts teen and adult classes at their campus located just west of 158 and K roads on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation. The Language and Culture Department campus includes the language department building that provides a holistic learning atmosphere, along with a language house which is used for language immersion activities, a cook shack and plenty of space outdoors for gardening and playing games.

At Royal Valley, students in kindergarten through 4th grade can opt-in to the Potawatomi language class at the beginning of the school year. The course is open to all children and about 164 students, or three-quarters of the student body, participate.

Teen class is available at the language department on Wednesday nights from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and anywhere from 10 to 30 students show up each week. The next 6-week program

p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the language department with the next 6-week program starting on Monday, September 16, 2019.

If committing to a class seems like too much, the Language staff can also arrange one-on-one sessions for those who are interested, for both language or cultural activities such as learning to make moccasins, dresses, ribbon shirts, belts and other items.

This summer the department hosted four, 2-day sessions for teens aged 13 and up to learn the language and culture. During the sessions the teachers also impart Nishnabek values, explaining why these skills and activities are important. At the first session, young men and women learned about cooking on a traditional fireplace, and all that it entails. The young men gathered wood and took care of the fire while the young women prepared and cooked ninwezheks (milkweeds), wapkon (corn), kakhahzwebo (roasted ground corn) and fried bread.

At the second session participants learned about plants and gardening. The teachers taught the importance of traditional foods and the stories that go along with them. The young men and women were able to spend time in the garden, to take care of it by weeding, watering and talking to the plants.

The third and fourth sessions were focused on fishing and harvesting traditional foods, weaving and sewing dish bags.



# 2019 Potawatomi Gathering

By: Michelle Simon



Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation tribal members and their families gather for a group during the traditional powwow at the 2019 Potawatomi Gathering.

The 26th Annual Potawatomi Gathering was hosted by the Wasauksing First Nation on July 30 through August 4, 2019. The greater Potawatomi Nation converged on Parry Island, located in the Georgian Bay of Ontario, Canada this year to celebrate the Potawatomi way of life, language, culture, art, and environment.

This year's event consisted of a two-day Language and History Conference on Tuesday, July 30, and Wednesday, July 31, 2019, along with a Youth Conference which ran from July 30 through Friday, August 2, with the actual Gathering starting on Thursday, August 1 with an opening ceremony and concluding on Sunday, August 4, 2019, with the passing of the ashes.

The Wasauksing First Nation is headquartered on the second biggest island within the Georgian Bays' 30,000 island region which is the largest concentration of freshwater islands in the world. To reach the Gathering activities all travelers had to cross the Wasauksing Swing Bridge, which opens every hour on the hour to allow larger boats through the South Channel.

Most activities were staged on Geewadin Road near the Wasauksing First Nation Community Complex, or three miles away at Depot Harbour. Both locations were near the island's edge with accessibility to the waters of the bay.

The Wasauksing Rink on Geewadin Road was set up with tables and used for dining throughout the week as catered meals were provided for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Vendors placed their stands to the west side of the rink, while a large white tent was set up on the eastern side. The white tent was utilized for portions of the Language and History conference and cultural classes and served as a general meeting place throughout the week. Beside

it, the baseball field was used to host Zumba and Anishinaabe Lacrosse. And right beside the field, was a small inlet with a dock where children swam throughout the week and fisherman Guy Nadjiwon provided tours of his fishing boat, which was used to catch fish from Neyaashinigiimiing that were served during the Gathering.

Depot Harbour was utilized for the Youth Conference, Gathering breakout sessions, parking and the traditional powwow over the weekend. On Tuesday, youth foraged the area for materials to build a lodge and on Wednesday, they put together an approximately 70-foot long lodge covered by a tarp with the Midewiwin society colors which was also used for Gathering activities during the week. A sweat lodge was also held at the Depot Harbour area.

A few events took place off the island, including a 3-hour boat tour of the shoreline of Parry Island and the Bay's remote outer islands on the Island Queen Cruise ship. On both Wednesday and Thursday, cruises were provided to Gathering attendees allowing them to see the natural beauty and splendor of the area. A hike also took place at Rose Point Trail, just across the bridge on the mainland and youth were shuttled to a Horse Therapy Program off the island on Thursday.

The Language and History Conference began with an impassioned speech by Brian McInnes, "Gaagge Boodewaadmiiwiying" – "We are forever Potawatomi." McInnes is a Wasauksing First Nation member and tenured professor in the School of Human Ecology at the University of Wisconsin Madison. During his talk, McInnes asked not to be recorded while he said a few prayers and kind words in his native language. This set a tone that flowed throughout the Gathering and flows throughout the teachings of Anishnaabe people in general. This sentiment was echoed by Jim Thunder

later in the day, "not everything is meant for the internet." It was a reminder to everyone that some things are meant only for those who are in attendance, those who are present.

The speech was followed by morning breakout sessions on the topics of Embracing dialect differences, the Potawatomi migration, Pokagon language through technology, Transitive inanimate commands, and a Language nest.

In the afternoon, attendees gathered once more under the tent for an honoring of Stewart King-ban. In life, King-ban had been instrumental in the creation of the Potawatomi Gathering and he was rich in culture and Anishinaabemowin, a language blend of Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi used near the Great Lakes and in Canada. King-ban spent much of his life sharing his experiences and traditional knowledge with all peoples, and he was committed to the revitalization of the Bodwewaadmii language regularly presenting at tribal language conferences. King-ban passed away on April 4, 2018. During his honoring, members of the community and those who knew him well shared personal stories of King-ban.

Afterward, the second set of language breakout sessions were held, and the day closed with a language session from Jim Thunder, of the Forest County Potawatomi.

Day two of the Language and History Conference focused on Protecting Potawatomi Plants and Plant Knowledge and was led by a presentation from Dr. Robin W. Kimmerer, of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Dr. Kimmerer is a professor of Botany and Director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment at the State University of New York and is the author of "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indige-



Potawatomi Youth collected the materials and built an approximately 70' lodge.



PBPN TC Member Shirley Trull learns how to make a tulip bag, a small pouch to carry medicines.



PBPN tribal members board the Island Queen Cruise ship to tour the Georgian Bay.



## 2019 Potawatomi Gathering



PBBN member Charlie Valdez and husband Larry take a break from the activities, along with PTFD staff Lucas Zeller and Lance Wishkeno.



PBBN tribal member and artist, Joseph Kabance traveled from New York state to set up a stand during the traditional powwow.



PBBN tribal member Carol Sue Wabaunsee made a pair of baby mocassins during a cultural workshop.

nous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants.”

Kimmerer spoke of plants as teachers and recalled how the Potawatomi have long relied on plants and plant knowledge to survive, and how as the bands migrated, they had to learn new plants and new ways of working with them. She also spoke about the rapid climate change we are currently living in, giving an example based on scientific models that by 2070 the Sugar Maple tree could be extinct. She then called on the group at large to break down into smaller groups and discuss what the Potawatomi people can do to give back and protect culturally significant plants now, in a spirit of reciprocity.

The breakout groups discussed the status of their individual environments, with many sharing stories of increased intense weather and altered precipitation and seasons regardless of their home locale. The groups also brainstormed multiple ways to assist the plant nations, ensuring plant knowledge is being shared in communities was voiced several times. The information generated by the groups was collected and shared at the tribal governance meeting later in the week.

The afternoon session led by Deborah McGregor, “Potawatomi & Climate Change Adaptation,” was very similar to the morning session. McGregor is a member of the Whitefish River First Nation of Birch Island, Ontario and a professor at York University in Toronto focusing on Indigenous knowledge systems and their various applications in diverse contexts including water and environmental governance.

McGregor reminded the crowd that throughout time Potawatomi cultural stories have informed how to deal with climate change and as a people close to the natural world the Potawatomi should expect to experience the impacts of climate change firsthand.

A film screening of “Striking Balance” was held in the late afternoon at the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve. The film about the Georgian Bay explores the struggle to mitigate the impact of cottagers (which is the Ontario way of referencing summer

vacation houses) and a new highway on the region’s endangered species.

Thursday, August 1, was the start of the Gathering which began with an opening ceremony at Depot Harbour and commenced with morning and afternoon cultural workshop sessions, a golf tournament in Seguin Valley, a guided hike with the State of the Bay Report and a trip to a sacred site. PBBN members Cindy and Dawn “Sogi” LeClere taught a workshop on Bias Beadwork. Other workshops included Applique Ribbon Work with Peggy Kinder, Baby Moccasin Making with Deborah King, Genealogy with Clayton King, Tulip Bags with Veronica Rice, Corn Curing with Dan Kimewon and a Wiigwaas (Birch Bark) presentation with Kevin Finney.

Friday, presented another opportunity for friends and family to visit and take part in morning and afternoon cultural workshop sessions, go on a Maple Sugar Bush Walk, visit the museum on Tower Hill in Parry Sound to see an exhibit of quillwork, and watch another film screening, this time for “Sounding Thunder,” a video of a concert performance featuring Brian McInnes and Jodi Baker, with the second half a documentary on making the project. The film is a musical journey into the life of renowned Ojibwe World War I sniper and decorated officer of the Canadian military, Francis Pegahmagabow.

The evening concluded with a Powwow Warm up, with host drum Whitefish Bay Singers, and the selection of the new Miss Potawatomi and the newly created, “Shkaabewis.” Shkaabewis is a new role intended for young Potawatomi males that are helpful in their community. Four young women and four young men vied for each position, including Wyatt Boswell, PBBN. In the end, Kateri Phillips, Citizen Band Potawatomi was selected as the 2019-20 Miss Potawatomi and Cole Green, Wasauksing First Nation, was selected as the first Shkaabewis for the 2019-20 term.

On Saturday, everyone headed to Depot Harbour to take part in the traditional powwow with a grand entry set for noon. Despite a week of temperatures in the mid to upper 80’s, Saturday was hot with the sun high overhead the small arena. At the conclusion of the honor songs, PBBN veterans Benny Potts

and BJ Darnall were escorted out of the arena due to the heat.

The powwow commenced with several exhibition songs. Dancers dressed in full regalia received day-pay of \$30 Canadian. During the session, the 9 bands held their giveaways. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation gifted the Wasauksing community a mounted bison head, along with a bison robe and a couple of bison skulls. The PBBN elders distributed giveaway items to those in the crowd.

Several vendors were set up around the grounds, including PBBN members Joseph Kabance, who traveled from New York state to take part, and Jackie Mitchell, traveling from Prairie Band Potawatomi reservation in Kansas. And for some brave souls that attended, an outcrop of rock referred to as the cliffs were used by young and old to jump off into the cool waters of the Georgian Bay for a swim.

After the traditional powwow concluded, gathering attendees were treated to a concert by Digging Roots, with singer Shoshona Kish and band member Raven Kanatakt. The duo utilizes traditional and contemporary practices and is influenced by a broad and diverse music community, their music can be found on YouTube. The evening ended with a firework display at the rink.

Sunday, August 4, was the final day of the Gathering and a second day for the traditional powwow. During the session, the passing of the ashes occurred announcing the Hannahville Potawatomi, of Wilson, Michigan as the hosts of the 27th Annual Potawatomi Gathering in 2020.

The 2019 Potawatomi Gathering was yet another successful event allowing for the strengthening and revitalization of the Potawatomi people, their culture, language, and ways. As time marches forward, the 9 recognized Potawatomi bands along with those found along Lake Huron, the Georgian Bay, Cape Croker, Christian Island, and Manitoulin Island and beyond can be certain that the Potawatomi will remain forever.

## 2020 Potawatomi Gathering - July 27 to August 1, 2020

Hosted by the Hannahville Indian Community

Wilson, Michigan

Visit [hannaville.net](http://hannaville.net) for more information



# PBPN Planning and Environmental Protection: Protecting the Nation's Resources

By: Michelle Simon



Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Planning and Environmental Protection staff have evolved the Nation's solid waste management program into one of the most advanced tribal programs in the United States. From left: Recycling Assistant Albert Torrez, Environmental Specialist Kyle Miller, Environmental Manager Virginia LeClere, Waste Water Coordinator Marcus Oliveira and Waste Disposal Drive Chris Sims. (Verna Potts & Billie Toledo not pictured).

***The PBPN Planning and Environmental Protection department is the protector of the Nation's land, water, natural resources and public health.***

The stewardship of the Nation's natural resources is the domain of the Planning and Environmental Protection department. Environmental Manager, and PBPN tribal member, Virginia "Osh" LeClere and her staff of eight have streamlined their work into three broad divisions: waste and wastewater management, environmental protection, and land use planning. Within each division are several programs, each with their own planning and management documents. Following is a prime example of how their processes tie together to create impactful change in the community, along with an overview of the department.

The on-going story of the Nation's solid waste management practices perfectly highlight the intersection of how planning impacts the environment, with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation now having one of the most advanced tribal solid waste programs in the country.

In the early 2000's the Nation utilized eight public dumpsters on the reservation. These dump sites, intended for use by community tribal members, were being used by anyone and everyone to dump anything and everything, with 100% of the cost being paid by the Nation. The conditions at the sites became atrocious, with garbage spilling out from the dumpsters and sometimes hazardous chemical waste being left in the open. PEP staff spent a large amount of time cleaning the sites regularly. It was time for a

change.

In 2008, the PEP department began the planning process to change this situation, and over the course of a few years they transitioned from anything-goes open dump sites to individual responsibility with curb-side waste disposal and recycling services in 2012. The success of this service, now in its 7th year, was heavily dependent on the support of past and present Tribal Councils, education outreach to community members by PEP staff and the pride within the Prairie Band Potawatomi community to keep the environment clean. The PEP department made sure customers and Nation employees had the information they needed to be successful at managing their waste and learning what and how to recycle.

The solid waste management plan is not static. It is reviewed on a 5-year term and consistently tweaked.

An integral component of the plan includes the waste stream analysis. PEP staff reviews the percentage of customers' waste to see what is being thrown away versus being recycled. They use the analysis to design an efficient waste reduction strategy for the community. In the last analysis, they recognized a significant amount of food waste in the trash. This spurred the development of the food waste compost program. PEP now collects food waste from the casino for composting and educates the community about composting. A recent education/outreach activity included the distribution of compost containers.

The PEP department has found that implementing a philosophy of encouraging individual responsibility has led to greater outcomes in people practicing better waste habits, which es-

entially results in less waste and less cost to the consumer in the long run. In the near future, the department would like to depart from a blanket cost per container and advance the program, so customers pay for what they are actually disposing of.

The positive changes made in the Nation's approach to solid waste management highlight how essential partnerships are to the department.

"We are really reliant on the support we receive, not only from federal and granting agencies, but from the resources within the tribe, the Tribal Council and the Lands, Construction and Building Maintenance, Road & Bridge, and Finance departments, along with other tribes we work with and our own community. Their support has helped us achieve many things and be successful," stated LeClere.

## Waste and Wastewater Management

In addition to solid waste management, other components of the waste and wastewater management division include recycling, composting, wastewater operation and management, household hazardous waste management, tanks compliance, brownfields, and community services (see sidebar).

Wastewater Coordinator, Marcus Oliveira maintains compliance and on-going operations of two wastewater treatment facilities with 200+ wastewater customer connections and five lift stations on the reservation. While Environmental Specialist, Kyle Miller is involved in the brownfields program (CERCLA 128a

Tribal Response) which assesses and inventories any contaminated sites on the reservation which may require clean up and spearheads the Nation's recycling program which includes 14 tribal departments, 8 commercial and 3 Royal Valley USD 337 recycling locations. Miller also recently provided compliance assistance to ensure the Nation Station will meet the requirements of the required 3-year federal inspection of their underground storage tanks. Chris Sims, Waste Disposal Driver is instrumental in the collection and processing of solid waste for 382 residential waste and recycling customers along with 5 tribal department dumpsters. Sims also maintains the equipment and vehicles for the Department.

## Environmental Protection

Under the umbrella of environmental protection are the Clean Water Act 106 and 319, Indoor and Ambient Air Quality Monitoring and Outreach, the Wetlands Restoration project, along with GIS mapping and natural resources.

Senior Environmental Technician, Verna Potts, a PBPN tribal member, works directly with the water resources on the PBPN reservation. Potts oversees the water quality monitoring program, including the lab, utilizing the same methodology as the state of Kansas. She regularly assesses stream habitats, monitoring the flows, banks and overall conditions. Potts coordinates with engineers and biologists in the development of studies and plans to assist the Nation's water and land management efforts.

Potts also oversees well closures. Many old wells on the reservation



were dug by hand without a proper wellhead to cap them. Capping a well assists in keeping the ground water safe from debris and runoff contamination and helps to keep humans and animals safe from injury. Anyone on the reservation with a well on their property can contact Potts to initiate the process of capping their well.

Billie Toledo, Environmental Technician and PBPN tribal member, focuses on indoor and ambient, or outdoor, air quality on the reservation. Toledo monitors particulate matter found in the ambient air of the PBPN reservation by utilizing stations that collect weather data and conditions. She also works with the PBPN Boys and Girls Club on the Air Quality Flag program. A pennant of five varying colors is flown outside the Boys and Girls Club building which is a way PBPN residents can monitor the quality of air for the day. Colors range from green meaning great air and progress to purple which is very unhealthy air and a reason to avoid outdoor exertion.

For indoor air quality, Toledo provides in-home assessments and education on healthy homes and energy efficiency. She has several cool tools for in-home assessments, such as a moisture meter, particle counter and an infrared camera that delivers information on energy efficiency in homes. Assessments are a tool for residents to make decisions about their homes, not a judgment call. The specifics of the information generated is not shared to the public, however

it is used in an aggregate database to monitor particle counts.

Learning about the quality of your home's indoor air can help decrease pollution from tobacco smoke, pet dander and other particle pollution sources and increase health outcomes for individuals. For instance, particle pollution generated by bugs dries out over time and can then get into the air, which can lead to respiratory ailments, such as asthma and in extreme cases lung cancer.

Toledo can also test homes for moisture and radon. Testing for moisture assists in decreasing the potential for mold in a home as mold can release spores and particles that can negatively impact health and your budget. Removing mold can be costly, a best practice is to change conditions before mold occurs. Radon, which is a naturally occurring gas, does break down over time creating decay products. Radon decay is the second leading cause of lung cancer following tobacco smoke. Testing your home for radon can save your life. The PEP department has recently partnered with PBPN Housing, and has tested 13 homes so far, with one requiring a radon mitigation system.

In addition, Toledo's position allows her to share and learn about air issues at the tribal, regional and national level. Access to boards and officials ensure Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation issues are heard at every level.

In December 2018, the Nation and

the Natural Resources Conservation Service signed off on an Agricultural Conservation Easement Program for a Wetland Reserve on the reservation near I and 134 roads, with the PEP overseeing the project. However, with all the rain received this year the project has been at a standstill as the area was too saturated for the first stages of the project to take place. PEP staff are hopeful for progress on the project in late summer/early fall 2019.

One more feature under the umbrella of environment is the Nation's orchard located at the corner of 150 and K Roads. Growing strong for nearly 20 years under the watchful eye of the PEP staff, the orchard is a natural resource providing free, fresh fruits of apples, berries and grapes to the community.

Land Use Planning

Within the scope of land use planning, the PEP department facilitates the Planning Commission, issues building and zoning permits, along with arranging environmental assessments for tribal infrastructure projects in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970. All of which provides an opportunity for the environmental and related social and economic effects of proposed actions to be thoroughly reviewed prior to any action taken.

The Planning Commission is a 7-member body of officials composed of tribal and non-tribal reservation residents appointed by the Tribal

Council for staggered 4-year terms. The commission reviews zoning codes for the Nation, along with reviewing permit applications and making recommendations for or against permits. The board used to be quite active with people moving to the reservation and building homes when the casino first opened, but as development has slowed so has the activity of the commission.



Currently, the PEP department is working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and consulting firm Ad Astra to develop a long-term integrated land and water management plan that will help to guide the Nation's resources in a sustainable effort for the future. Right now, the Nation's land is used for a lot of agriculture production, like grazing, hay and row crops. As the reservation landscape is impacted by weather phenomena such as droughts or floods brought on due to climate change, the plan will look at constraints and opportunities to best adapt to those changes.

The PBPN Planning and Environmental Protection department is located at 15498 K Road, tucked behind the Nation's Fire department. The department can be reached at 785-966-8032, and they have information available on the Nation's website [www.pbpindiantribe.com/pep/](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/pep/). To stay up to date on PEP happenings follow them on Facebook @PBPNPEP or PBPN Planning and Environmental Protection.

PEP Community Services

PEP provides several services to support the Nation's solid waste management goals for the Reservation. These services are available to Reservation residents only.

- Abandoned Vehicle Program: PEP purchases abandoned vehicles for \$50.
- Request for Assistance: PEP will assist with the removal of large waste items (appliances, electronics, furniture) on an appointment basis. Rates are assessed based on the size of the load.
- Trailer Rental: PEP provides a 14' dump trailer to residents upon request. The trailer may be rented for a period of 7 days for \$80. Customers can use the trailer to dispose of any non-hazardous waste materials.
- Sanitation Assistance: PEP can empty residential septic tanks by appointment for \$80.



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# Nishnabek Ntewmèn - “Who We Are”

## Thompson Attends University at Buffalo Pre-Dental Gateway Program

PBPN tribal member Bella Thompson, was one of five Native American students selected to attend the 2019 Native American Pre-Dental Student Gateway Program at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine in June 2019. The week-long internship provides hands-on, real world experience in the various disciplines and specialties within the dental profession.

The program is geared toward reducing the vast disparity of Native Americans in the field of dentistry. According to the American Dental Education Association, of the 10,500 students that applied to attend dental school in the United States this past fall, only 16 were Native American.

Unbeknownst to Thompson at the time she applied, a fellow Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal member had a hand in the creation of this program. PBPN member, Jessica Rickert, DDS, worked with Dr. Salamon, DDS, program director and dental services director for Seneca Nation Health Sys-



**PBPN tribal member Bella Thompson receives instruction from Program Director, Dr. Joseph Salamon.**

tem and clinical instructor in the UB School of Dental Medicine since early 2019 to set up the gateway program. Rickert is the first American Indian female Dentist in the United States and she is incredibly passionate about her field.

Next year, the program aims to expand availability to 15 students, and increase the age range to students age 15 to 25. For those who may be interested in this program, contact Dr. Joseph Salamon at [joseph.salamon@senecahealth.org](mailto:joseph.salamon@senecahealth.org).

## Meet Michael Tsotaddle

*The following is a reprint from One Gas newsletter, where PBPN member Michael Tsotaddle is employed and was featured in January 2019:*

Michael Tsotaddle has been repairing meters for One Gas in our Shawnee Measurement Service Center for nearly 14 years. In 2017, he began to share his knowledge with co-workers as a Safety Partner responsible for holding weekly safety meetings at this location.

Michael is also a proud member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi of Kansas, the Kiowa Gourd Clan of Carnegie, Oklahoma and a U.S. Army Veteran.

For Michael, sharing Native American culture is a passion and the Employee Resource Group, Native ONE which was established in 2017, gives him an outlet to share that passion. you may recognize him from some of the photos he often share with the membership taken at regional powwows.

Michael often spends his weekends with other tribal members across the state of Oklahoma celebrating Indian culture through traditional dancing and singing.

**Meet Michael - In His Own Words**  
*My wife is my rock and I owe her the credit for all the pictures and videos I can share of our dances. She is an enrolled member of the Iowa Tribe in Perkins, Oklahoma.*

*My mom was an enrolled Citizen Band Potawatomi and my dad was an enrolled Kiowa of Carnegie, Oklahoma. Both have gone to be with our Creator; but they remain a great part of my life. Their love and direction are why I am where I am today.*



*Carnegie is where our annual ceremony is held. In July, Kiowas and selected initiates are allowed in this ceremony. But as years have passed, the Gourd Dance has found its way to other nations. We ask that they respect our Gourd Dance and dress appropriately. We say, dress as if you are going to church because you are with the Creator as you pray and dance.*

*Respect, discipline, love and being one is what the Circle of Life (dance arena) is about, with the drum being the heartbeat. The songs are spiritual and send chills of healing energy through you. We dance to be next to our Creator and for our elders, relatives, friends and our highly respected Veterans, our warriors who are unable to walk or have given the ultimate sacrifice so that we may have continued freedom. Our children and grand children join us in the arena.*

*It is for these reasons and many more that we have dances and ceremonies.*

*I believe this helps make me a good employee and an asset to my wonderful co-workers. We, too, work as ONE. I believe these actions and emotions also are reflections in our company.*

### Community Language Bingo

December 18, 2019  
Old Bingo Hall - 6:30 P.M.  
Prizes, snacks & drinks provided!

PRAIRIE BAND BINGO

**TRIBAL  
— SPECIAL\* —**

FOR PRAIRIE BAND  
POTAWATOMI NATION MEMBERS

18 Years & Older

- Half Price All Inclusive Bingo Combo Pack - available every session
- Includes the Mini Games, Regular Session, Special Session, and the Money Balls - **32 Games Total!**
- Must present Tribal ID to receive special pricing

\*Does not include Friday's Half Price, High Stakes, and Holiday Special Programs

**New! SLOTS**

**18+ Welcome**

**Located at Highway 75  
& 190<sup>th</sup> Road**

Minimum age to play Class II games is 18. Owned by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Getting help is your best bet. Call the confidential toll-free Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700.

**PRAIRIE BAND  
ONE STOP**



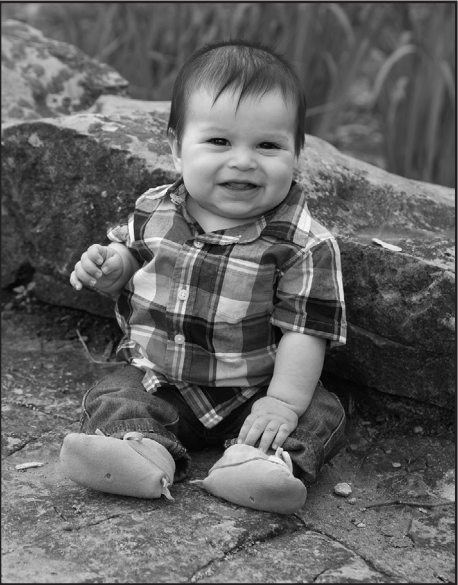
Nishnabek Ntewmèn - "Who We Are"

Happy 109th Birthday Julia!



PBPN tribal members and sergeants Julia Kabance and Roy Hale at the birthday celebration.

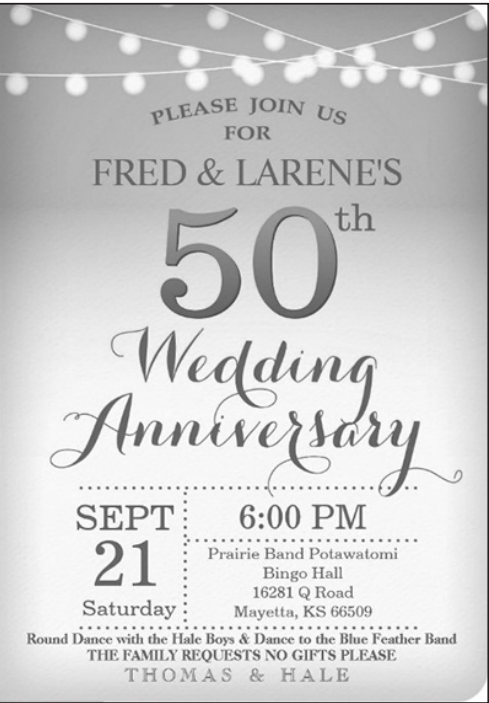
The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's oldest member and veteran, Julia Kabance turned 109 on August 10, 2019. A celebration was held for Kabance at the Good Samaritan Society - Valley Vista nursing home in Wamego, Kansas. Elders from the PBPN community and the PBPN Tribal Council were in attendance, along with local news outlets. On behalf of the PBPN, Kabance was gifted a Pendleton blanket with a turtle design and embroidered with the Nation's seal.



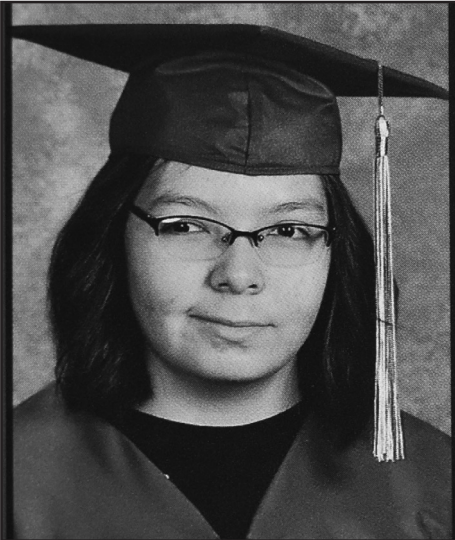
Your smile brings joy to every heart.  
May the same joy follow you  
wherever you go and whatever you do  
in life.  
Happy 1st Birthday Nib-Akwa!!  
We all love you to the moon and back!  
Love Mom, Dad, Ahn-No, Julian,  
Sasmo & Bubba



Happy 3rd Birthday  
Gideon Eugene Frye!  
Love Mom, Dad, and Retta!



Dania Wahwasuck  
Pyramid Lake High School  
Class of 2019 Valedictorian  
  
Western Nevada College ~  
Associate of Art



Maxine Coon  
Sherman Indian High School  
Class of 2019  
Proud Grandparents  
Maxine Wabnum and  
the late Wesley Begay



Daughter of  
Adriana and Arlan Tobey

Kobe Jordan  
Seaman High School  
Class of 2019  
Son of Kevin and Marlena  
Jordan



Brandon Wabagishik "Bubba"  
Rodewald  
Royal Valley Class of 2019  
Son of Royetta Rodewald and  
the late Tracy Rodewald  
Grandson of the late  
Joe and Mamie Rupnicki

2019 TRUNK OR TREAT  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019  
1-4 P.M. PRAIRIE PEOPLES PARK



# Kambottek

**\*\*All postings are reprinted from public obituaries or submissions from the family.\*\***



## Cody Nozhackum

LIVERMORE, CO – Cody Charles “Nek-ti” Nozhackum, 40, of Livermore, CO, formerly of Mayetta, KS, passed away Wednesday, May 22, 2019, as the result of a vehicle accident.

He was born October 22, 1978, in Holton, KS, the son of LeRoy Jessepe and Linda Nozhackum Tecumseh. Cody graduated from Royal Valley High School in 1997. He had lived most of his life in Mayetta and recently moved to Colorado in 2018.

Cody worked for Sac & Fox Casino for a few years. In 2014, Cody completed basic wildland fire training and joined the BIA fire family as part of a type 2 hand crew traveling throughout the United States fighting fires and providing support and emergency relief for communities in need. Being a wildland firefighter is hard, dirty, and rough work; yet Cody stuck with it and quickly became known for his optimism and cheerful attitude. Over the years Cody fought fire from the east coast to the west coast working on hand crews, engine crews, and camp crews; impacting more folks’ lives than can be imagined. No matter how tough things got, you could always count on Cody to be smiling and he will always be remembered for this.

He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Cody was preceded in death by his fathers, LeRoy Jessepe and Ralph “Porky” Tecumseh.

Survivors include his mother, Linda Tecumseh of Mayetta, KS; a sister, Amber Tecumseh (Cody) of Spokane, WA; 4 brothers, Frank Tecumseh (Melissa) of Battle Creek, MI, Nelson Tecumseh (Betty) of Mayetta, KS, Mario Kitchkommie (Nevika) of Mayetta, KS and Paul Jessepe of Topeka, KS. He was known as Shisha Cody to many nieces, nephews and cousins.

T’Tibekwa/Supper and Wake will be Monday evening, May 27, 2019, at Nozhackum Hall west of Mayetta. Burial will be Tuesday morning at Danceground Cemetery.



## Monte Bruhn

SALMON, ID – Monte William Bruhn, age 60, passed away suddenly on Sunday, June 9, 2019, in Salmon, Idaho. He was born in Moscow, Idaho, to Dave and Marlene (Graveen) Bruhn on January 30, 1959. Monte was proud of his Prairie Band Potawatomi heritage. His great grandparents were William and Grace Whitefish and his grandparents were William and Christine (Whitefish) Graveen. Monte adored his Grandpa Bill and the first agromonics company he opened was called “MW Enterprises.”

Monte and his family moved throughout the country many times during his childhood. Once he arrived back in the State of Idaho, Monte didn’t want to leave. He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He lived for a short time in Oregon where he met the mother of his only child.

And then he found Salmon, Idaho, where he could hunt, ride horses, pack mules and know everyone he came in contact with. He married Annabella Plant in Salmon and to this union Jaclyn Christine was born. When career choices precipitated moving, he vowed to return “home” someday. Even though he and Anna later divorced he was always thankful for their child. Monte returned “home” to live in Salmon in 2015. After his return he had two especially proud moments. His only grandson Kash was born and he walked Jaclyn down the aisle to marry Ty Petterson.

Monte leaves behind his daughter; grandson; widow (Diane); mom; three siblings (Tami, Sam and Tony); and his beloved animals.

A Memorial Service was held June 14, 2019, under the direction of Jones and Casey Funeral Home, Salmon, ID.

- *Courtesy of the Bruhn Family*

### **Nozhackum Continued**

Mercer Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements. To leave a special message for the family, please visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com).

- *Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes*



## Peter Asselin

CONCORD, NC – Peter Eugene Asselin, 59, went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Pete passed at his home after 6 months of declining health due to cancer.

Peter was born in Massachusetts to Robert and Theresa Wabnum Asselin on April 10, 1960. Raised in Topeka, Kansas, he was a proud member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Mayetta, Kansas.

Pete worked at IBM for 25 years, then became an OTR truck driver for the past 15 years. He was currently employed by Cardinal Logistics Trucking Corporation.

He adored his 3 grandchildren, and his life was about providing for his loving family. Pete had also honorably served his country 3 years in the US Army. While stationed in Germany, he met his fellow soldier and love of his life, Marion.

Pete was preceded in death by his mother, Theresa “OSH” Asselin; an older sister, Roberta; and a younger brother, Tony.

Pete leaves cherished memories to his wife, Marion Bushey Asselin; his son, Pete Asselin (Amanda Trull); his daughter, Brooke Asselin (Kevin Bost); his father, Robert Asselin (Jan), his much loved grandchildren, Ian, Braylon and Jenna; brother, Kabot Hale; sisters, Sandra Quintana and Melanie Zeller (Jeremy); brothers and sisters in law, Ronald and Barb Bushey, Todd and Pam Cooley and Robert and Monica Bushey; and numerous nieces and nephews, who he dearly loved. Rest in peace our love!

The family will receive friends Saturday, June 22nd from 3:00-4:00 pm at Whitley’s Funeral Home. Services to remember and celebrate Pete’s life will begin at 4:00 pm in the funeral home chapel, conducted by Rev. Marty Payton, Pastor, Charity Baptist Church. Burial will take place at a late date. Words of comfort and memories may be shared with the Asselin family by visiting our website at [www.whitleysfuneralhome.com](http://www.whitleysfuneralhome.com).

- *Courtesy of Whitleys Funeral Home, Kannapolis, North Carolina*



## Nelda Holmes

RHINELANDER, WI – Nelda E. Holmes, 74, of Rhinelander, WI died on Tuesday, July 23, 2019, at Ascension St. Mary’s Hospital in Rhinelander, WI. She was born June 22, 1945. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Traditional Native American services will be held on Friday, July 26, starting at 4:00 pm at the Multi-Purpose Building in Lac du Flambeau, WI with Services on Saturday, July 27, starting at 10 a.m.

- *Courtesy of Nimsgerm Funeral & Cremation Services, Woodruff, Wisconsin*

## Cherise Levier

YERINGTON, NV – Cherise Lynn Levier passed away on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at Carson Tahoe Hospital in Carson City, Nevada with family members by her side. She was 37.

Cherise was born in Kansas, March 6, 1982, the daughter of Art and Ruth (Conway) Levier.

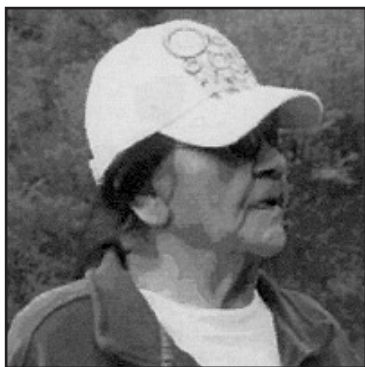
A Memorial service will be held for her on Thursday, June 20, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. at the Yerington Paiute Tribal Community Center. Arrangements and cremation are under the direction of Freitas Rupracht Funeral Home. Family and friends are invited to sign her online guest book at [www.FRFH.net](http://www.FRFH.net).

- *Courtesy of Freitas Rupracht Funeral Home, Yerington, Nevada*



# Kambottek

**\*\*All postings are reprinted from public obituaries or submissions from the family.\*\***



## Irene Henninger

WHITE CLOUD, KS – Irene Mae Ogden Henninger, 83, of White Cloud, KS, passed away July 25, 2019, at her home surrounded by family.

She was born September 12, 1935, at her grandmother's log cabin on the Iowa Tribe Reservation to Burns "Rusty" and Clara Tapsee Ogden.

Irene Lived in White Cloud area all of her life. She worked at Flair Fold in Hiawatha for 10 years, the Iowa Tribe for 20 years, and also worked as a cook for Casino White Cloud for 16 years. Irene embraced her native heritage as she was always helping with something: like with the Pow Wow Club as a cook for many years, and helping to prepare meals for funerals. She had a personality that was contagious, great sense of humor, and always concerned about the other person.

Irene is survived by her brother Larry Ogden of Independence, MO, one sister Cass Marlow of Capay, CA, her daughters: Darnett (Gary) Jipsen of Red Oak, IA, Dawn Miller of Tyler, TX, Johanna (David) Moore of Blue Springs, MO, Dana Utterson of White Cloud, KS, her sons: Dwain (Cindy) Pelzer of Malvern, IA, Donald (Cheryl) Pelzer of Raymoir, MO, Douglas Pelzer of Griswold, IA, with numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents, son Dennis, daughter Deborah, brothers: Roy, Herman, Lyman Ogden, sisters: Mildred Rohr, and Cora Humm.

Drum services are to be held at 10 a.m. Sunday, July 29, 2019, at the George Ogden Building on the Iowa Reservation at White Cloud. Interment will follow at Tesson Cemetery, nearby.

The family will meet with friends from 6 until 8 Saturday evening at the Ogden Building.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorial contributions be made in her name to be used at a later date.

*- Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, Hiawatha, Kansas*



## Tommy Tuckwin

HOYT, KS – Tommy "Numquat" Gene Tuckwin, 74 of Hoyt, KS passed away Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka, KS. He was born October 8, 1944, in Mayetta, KS, the son of Louis and Elizabeth (Blandin) Tuckwin.

He graduated from Haskell Indian School in Lawrence, KS in 1962. He also attended Wichita State University and graduated with an Electronics Degree from the University of Puerto Rico.

Tommy worked for over 25 years for Retail Data Systems as an Electronics Technician. He later was a Gaming Commissioner for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for 6 years. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and a member of the Enrollment Committee. He served in the United States Navy from 1965-1969.

On July 12, 1969, he was united in marriage to Leida Iris Ramos on the U.S. Navy Base Sabana Seca in Puerto Rico. They shared 50 years of marriage.

Tommy is survived by his wife Leida of the home; 3 daughters, Leslie M. Tuckwin-Haynes (Robert) of Brandon, FL, Lisa A. Tuckwin of Topeka, KS and Karen L. Tuckwin of Topeka, KS; 1 brother, Gerald "Jerry" Tuckwin (Terry) of Lawrence, KS; 8 grandchildren, Blake, Dario, Nikko, Mikoda, Tommy, Jericho, Jaden and Mylia; 2 great-grandchildren, Chloe and Avalyn.

He is preceded in death by 4 sisters, Mercedes Degand, Wilma Holstein, Rosemary Smith and Patty Jo Tuckwin; 5 brothers, Ralph Tecumseh, Lewis "Mitch" Tuckwin, Paul Tuckwin, Lyle "Brub" Tuckwin and Marvin Tuckwin.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 A.M. Saturday, August 3, 2019, at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Mayetta, KS. Burial with military honors to follow at Shipshee Cemetery. Celebration of Life Service will be 6:00 P.M. Friday, August 2, 2019, at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton, KS with visitation to follow until 8:00 P.M.



## Desiree Rodriguez

TOPEKA, KS – Desiree T. Rodriguez, 40, of Topeka, went to be with her Lord on Saturday, August 10, 2019. She was born February 3, 1979, in Topeka, the daughter of Marvin L. Quarles and Judith Rodriguez.

Desiree was employed as an In-Home Care Aide. She was a member of the To Increase Your Faith Church of Christ.

Survivors include her father, Marvin L. Quarles, step-father, Oscar Conley, adopted mother, Lesley Lewis, her children, Dominique McMillon, Stephen Rodriguez, Kahliyah "Rae Ellen" Henderson, Titus Rodriguez-Anderson, Dezron Rodriguez-Anderson, Zion Womack, one grandson, Amarion, her siblings, Rae Conley, Natalie Quarles Patton, Leondray Sanders, Tamara Brown, Telissa Brown, Ebony Porter and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family and friends.

Desiree was preceded in death by her mother, Judith Rodriguez and her aunt, JoEllen Mines.

Services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, August 17, 2019, at Dove Southeast Chapel, 2843 SE Minnesota Ave. Cremation will follow the service and private inurnment will take place in Topeka Cemetery. Desiree will lie in state and the family will receive friends from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 16, 2019, at the funeral home.

*- Courtesy of Dove Cremations & Funerals, Topeka, Kansas*

### ***Tuckwin Continued***

Memorial contributions may be made to the Boys & Girls Club of PBPN c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436. To leave a special message please visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com).

*- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes*



## Greg Ramirez, Sr.

OMAHA, NE – Gregory Allen Ramirez, Sr., 68, passed away on August 15, 2019. He was born May 27, 1951.

He was preceded in death by parents, George and Mary Rose (Puckkee) Ramirez; sister, Joan (Edward) Ventura, niece, Mary Alcuran; niece-in-law, Jeanette Ernestine Ventura and nephews, Sonny and James Desautels.

Survived by wife, Sandra (Maguire) Ramirez; daughters, Marine (Sergio) Bustillos, Danielle ( fiancé Gabriel) Ramirez; sons, Gregory, Jr. (Tracy), Vicente (Jessica), Maximilian Ramirez.

Grandchildren, Courtney Ramirez, Geronimo Ramirez, Fernando Bustillos, Crystal Bustillos, Dominick Ramirez, Alexis Ramirez, Reese Taylor, Jaedyn Ramirez, Jaxon Ramirez, Roman Chavez, Andreas ( fiancée Aliana) Ramirez; great-grandson, Andreas Ramirez, Jr.

Sisters, Rosemarie Desautels, Loretta Ramirez, Georgiana (Frankie) Alcuran, Geraldine(Ross) Martinez and Ramona Ramirez-Alvarez.

Many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

*- Courtesy of Korisko Larkin Staskiewicz Funeral Home, Omaha, Nebraska*



# Summer Fun



Tonya Jim's son sports a smoothie mustache, and little-bitty Mayme Cadue (right) attend the 1st Annual Empowerment Fest.



Gilreath Aitkens, Jeanette Little Sun and her granddaughter take part in Grand Entry at the Annual Potawatomi Powwow.



Women's Auxiliary Post 410 members Carol Herring, Lisa Wamego, Kate Adame and her granddaughter Kyra dance during Grand Entry at the Annual Potawatomi Powwow.



PBBN Tribal members Mzzhickkehahbah Thomas, Naseka, Mshewe, Gubba, Kwake and Chago Hale, along with Tug Wamego sing at the BGC Golf Tournament.



Social Services Child Support Manager Kelly Hopkins pulls a train load of children at the 1st Annual Empowerment Fest.



A small contingent of the Royal Valley Singers and Dancers performs at the Annual Boys & Girls Club Golf Tournament Fundraiser.



The new Language Apprentices Melvin Lewis and Ella Garcia, have fun with Teacher Lyman Shipshee at the Elder's Bingo game played in the Potawatomi language.



The PBBN community enjoyed Sunday Funday at Prairie Peoples Park, here participants use their upper body strength as a form of exercise.



PBBN TC Members Camilla Chouteau and Shirley Trull snap a selfie with Congresswoman Sharice Davids at the 2019 Kansas Tribal Health Summit.

