



Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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

www.pbpindiantribe.com | Facebook: Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Etkwagēk 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Chairman's Report • 2
- 2020 Census • 3
- Treasurer's Report • 4
- Prairie Band Pulse • 5
- Departments • 6 & 7
- We-Ta-Se • 8 & 9
- Elders • 10
- Community • 11, 12 & 13
- Obituaries • 14 & 15

Etkwagēk

"Fall time of the year"

The PBP News will now use the Potawatomi season associated with the edition of the newspaper. This paper contains the activities and happenings that took place during the Fall time (September, October, November) of 2019.

Four Sworn In To Ethics Commission



11.7.19 - Shawna Wabaunsee, Virginia LeClere, Dale Delg and Melinda Cooper-Williamson were sworn into their roles as newly elected Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Ethics Commissioners.

11.7.19 - By: Michelle Simon

At a brief ceremony held on Thursday, November 7, 2019, four newly elected Ethics Commission members were officially sworn into their roles.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Chairman Joseph Rupnick officiated the event at the old bingo hall, swearing-in Dale Delg as the Ethics Chairperson, Virginia LeClere as the Ethics Secretary, and Melinda Cooper-Williamson as Commissioner #1 and Shawna Wabaunsee as Commissioner #2. All candidates ran uncontested. No one ran for Commissioner #3 which remains vacant. The group joins Jean Howley, Ethics Vice-chairperson who was elected in 2018.

This is Delg and Cooper-Williamson's first time to hold an elected position for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, while LeClere and Wabaunsee have both previously served.

Upon the formation of the Ethics Commission in 2008, LeClere was elected as the Ethics Commission's first secretary and served through 2015, in April 2019 she was appointed by Tribal Council to serve as interim Ethics Commission Secretary. Wabaunsee previously

served as a Gaming Commissioner from 1996 through 2000.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Ethics Commission is tasked with addressing the ethical behavior of elected and appointed officials of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation as stated in the Code of Ethics.

Ethics Commission Special Election Results

- Dale Delg: 300 votes
- Virginia LeClere: 331 votes
- Melinda Cooper-Williamson: 299 votes
- Shawna Wabaunsee: 293 votes



11.7.19 - Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Chairman Joseph Rupnick officiates the Ethics Commission Swearing In Ceremony, as the Ethics Commissioners recite the oath of office.

Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick: Report to the Nation



Dear Tribal Members,

During the past quarter in August, I traveled to Denver for the Health and Human Services (HHS) Annual Tribal Budget Consultation meeting. It was a combined meeting with Tribal Representatives from Regions 6, 7, 8, and 9. While the meeting provided a lot of good information, the main concern was funding. Reports from the different area Directors all indicated that the program will have an increase in the next fiscal year's budget. One concern I brought up that was shared by many of the Tribes was the issue of competitive grants. Currently, competitive grants are awarded based on the use of census data numbers to determine need. I expressed that this places Tribes at a huge disadvantage since, historically, Tribes do not fully participate in the census and most reports have current populations far below the actual enrollment. I stated that if the Regional Directors are truly working for the Tribes, a different method of determination needs to be adopted that accurately shows true population numbers. I will continue to follow up with our Director but we as a Nation, have to complete the census to ensure we remain competitive for grants.

Also, in August, I attended the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) Tribal Summit held at Haskell. Since the Stafford Act was amended to include all disaster request from Tribal Nations, two Tribes from Region Seven declared federal disasters this past year. One tribe was successful and the other was still working though the process. The purpose of the August meeting was to introduce Regional Directors and for Tribes to share lessons learned. The information provided was shared with Tribal Council along with links and other information we will need if an emergency affecting the Nation is declared.

I know many are still wondering about the status of our current legislation on the Shab-eh-nay lands. This quarter, most members of Congress were on recess, but our team was working closely with the different Senators' staff to finalize the language of the bill and provide any additional information they requested. We are hopeful it will be introduced in November, despite the ongoing impeachment proceedings. Regarding Shab-en-nay, I have received a lot of inquiries about gaming and why we are not working with the state to start a casino. Under Illinois law, since the land is not in Trust or restricted fee, any gaming operation would be subject to Illinois tax. The current tax is 15% of Adjusted Gross Receipts (AGR) up to \$25 million, and then the rate increases to 22.5% AGR at \$50 million, with the maximum of 50% AGR in excess of \$200 million. AGR is considered the total of all sums including valid and invalid checks, currency, tokens, coupons, or instruments of monetary value, whether collected or not. On top of the tax, Illinois is also charging operators an admission tax of \$3 per person. We feel our first priority is to secure the land. Then if gaming is possible, we will negotiate a compact that is acceptable to both the Tribe and State.

Other inquiries have been asked of Council about the possibility of a

casino in Chicago. That city isn't any friendlier. Chicago has set a limit of 4,000 gaming positions and is charging \$30,000 per position. If all positions are allied for, that would equal \$120 million up front. Additionally, there are application fees, background investigation fees, and a Chicago privilege tax of 33.3% AGR for police and fire pensions. These fees are in addition to the Illinois tax that was previously discussed.

Locally, we continue to work on our jurisdictional issues. We met with the Director of Parks and Wildlife and have agreed upon a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two entities. The Director was agreeable, and we are currently setting up dates for our officers to provide training to their officers about our laws.

On other local issues, we had a Four Tribes meeting on the 26th of September. During the meeting we passed a resolution to support termination of the Kansas Act and a general resolution supporting the expansion of Medicaid in Kansas. When we asked the Governor to provide a letter of support repealing the Kansas Act, she asked if the Tribes would be willing to support expanding Medicaid. Supporting expansion of Medicaid in Kansas will allow the State to access new sources of funding and will help address those shortfalls our members not living on or near the reservation feel.

Around the Nation, we have started working with a group to help us with developing a comprehensive Strategic Plan that will guide us in the direction our members want us to go. We have asked that they solicit information from varying age groups with the hopes that once complete, can be revised and updated as needed. I hope everyone asked will offer their ideas on the direction we as a Nation would like to go. Speaking of plans, Bill Evans has taken the lead on our energy plan. In order for us to receive federal

funding, the Nation has to have a strategic energy plan in place. We have started working with a group, along with the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, to develop the plan and then apply for funding.

Finally, I would like to recognize our health care facility staff. Both the medical clinic and mental health clinic received a certificate of accreditation from the Joint Commission. Those that have worked in the health care industry understand the importance of accreditation, but I'd like to offer my explanation. As many of you know, I worked at the VA Healthcare facility in Topeka for about 10 years. In the VA, preparing for the annual inspection was a year-round task with a dedicated department constantly reviewing environment of care, privacy, and treatment processes. Accreditation by the Joint Commission is considered the gold standard in health care and is accomplished by meeting rigorous standards. This can only be done with doctors, nurses, other medical professionals, and quality and safety experts making recommendations for continuous improvement and following up on those recommendations. Our Joint Commission inspection, like the VA's, was a voluntary inspection to measure ourselves against the standards. This allows us to measure ourselves against other healthcare facilities, with the awarded certificates demonstrating that we have excellent medical and mental health services to offer our People. Congratulations on a job well done!

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.

Upcoming Events

*Native American
Heritage Night
at Royal Valley
12/17/19*

- Boys & Girls Club Indian Taco Sale begins at 4 p.m.
- Games begin at 4:30 p.m.
- We-Ta-Se Post 410 Color Guard
- Special half-time music by DJ Supaman
- Performance by Royal Valley Singers & Dancers

*Community
Bingo in
Potawatomi
12/18/19*

- Come join the PBP Language & Cultural department and bring your family to the Old Bingo Hall for a fun night of Bingo played in Potawatomi!
- Prizes, snacks & drinks provided
- 6:30 p.m.

*Big Bear Moon
Powwow
12/31/19*

- 6 p.m. Grand Entry
- Free entry
- Old Bingo Hall
- This event is a healthy, family-friendly event
- Food vendor will be present
- Dessert donations accepted for the Cake Walk!

*2020
Potawatomi
Gathering
7/27 - 8/1/20*

- Hosted by the Hannahville Potawatomi
- Located in Wilson, Michigan
- For more details visit, www.hannahville.net

2020 Census is Important to PBPB

The U.S. Census Bureau's mission is to provide quality statistical information about the nation's people, places and economy. As a United States citizen, you are required by law to complete the Census. Federal law also protects the confidentiality of all individual responses the Census Bureau collects. No one can access your individual information.

Census numbers are used to help determine how \$675 billion in federal money is spent and establish the size of each state's congressional delegation.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation will use the data for competitive grants, other budgeting, and planning. Census data can help determine the need for new roads and plans for emergencies.

Wherever you are living on April 1, 2020, "Census Day" is the place you use to complete the form. This information is not reported to PBPB Housing, or any other landlord or housing agency. Report everyone living at your residence whether they are on your lease or not.

Regardless of where you live, (on or off reservation) be sure to affiliate your household with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation if you have an enrolled member living in your house.

There will be many options for you to get counted during the 2020 Census. The first option is to go online, by using a computer or mobile phone. For individuals living on the PBPB Reservation you can utilize the Education Lab computers located in the Government Center - Lower Level.

Another way to complete the Census will be by phone. If you do not prefer these options, a paper form will also be available.

If you do not self-report, then an enumerator (a person working for the Census) will come to your home and allow you to respond verbally.

For more information about the 2020 Census visit census.gov.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center Awarded Ambulatory Health Care & Behavioral Health Care Accreditation from The Joint Commission



Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for both Ambulatory Care and Behavioral Health Care Accreditation by demonstrating continuous compliance with

its performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a health care organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite review on August 21 & 22. During the visit, a team of Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with Ambulatory and Behavioral Health Care standards spanning several areas including emergency management, credentialing, environment of care, infection prevention and control, leadership, medication management, performance improvement, life-safety, the 2019 National patient safety goals,

and rights and responsibilities of individuals.

The Health Center has been accredited in Ambulatory Care since 2008 and undergoes accreditation reviews every three years. This recent review served as the initial accreditation review in Behavioral Health Care.

The Joint Commission's standards are developed in consultation with health care experts and providers, measurement experts and patients. They are informed by scientific literature and expert consensus to help health care organizations measure, assess and improve performance. The surveyors also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

"As a private accreditor, The Joint Commission surveys health care organizations to protect the public by identifying deficiencies in care and working with those organizations to correct them as quickly and sustainably as possible," says Mark Pelletier, RN, MS, chief operating officer, Accreditation and Certification Operations, and chief nursing executive, The Joint Commission. "We commend Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center for its continuous quality improvement efforts in patient safety and quality of care."

For more information, please visit The Joint Commission website at www.jointcommission.org.

Benefits of Joint Commission Accreditation

Helps organize and strengthen patient safety efforts – Patient safety and quality of care issues are at the forefront of Joint Commission standards and initiatives.

Strengthens community confidence in the quality and safety of care, treatment and services – Achieving accreditation makes a strong statement to the community about an organization's efforts to provide the highest quality services.

Provides a competitive edge in the marketplace – Accreditation may provide a marketing advantage in a competitive health care environment and improve the ability to secure new business.

Improves risk management and risk reduction – Joint Commission standards focus on state-of-the-art performance improvement strategies that help health care organizations continuously improve the safety and quality of care, which can reduce the risk of error or low quality care.

May reduce liability insurance costs – By enhancing risk management efforts, accreditation may

improve access to and reduce the cost of liability insurance coverage.

Provides education to improve business operations – Joint Commission Resources, the Joint Commission's not-for-profit affiliate, provides continuing support and education services to accredited organizations in a variety of settings.

Provides professional advice and counsel, enhancing staff education – Joint Commission surveyors are experienced health care professionals trained to provide expert advice and education services during the on-site survey.

Provides a customized, intensive review – Joint Commission surveyors come from a variety of health care industries and are assigned to organizations that match their background. The standards also are specific to each accreditation program so each survey is relevant to your industry.

Enhances staff recruitment and development – Joint Commission accreditation can attract qualified personnel, who prefer to serve in an accredited organization. Accredited

organizations also provide additional opportunities for staff to develop their skills and knowledge.

Provides deeming authority for Medicare certification – Some accredited health care organizations qualify for Medicare and Medicaid certification without undergoing a separate government quality inspection, which eases the burdens of duplicative federal and state regulatory agency surveys.

Recognized by insurers and other third parties – In some markets, accreditation is becoming a prerequisite to eligibility for insurance reimbursement and for participation in managed care plans or contract bidding.

Provides a framework for organizational structure and management – Accreditation involves preparing for a survey and maintaining a high level of quality and compliance with the latest standards. Joint Commission accreditation provides guidance to an organization's quality improvement efforts.

May fulfill regulatory require-

ments in select states – Laws may require certain health care providers to acquire accreditation for their organization. Those organizations already accredited by The Joint Commission may be compliant and need not undergo any additional surveys or inspections.

Provides practical tools to strengthen or maintain performance excellence – The Leading Practice Library offers good practices submitted by accredited organizations. The Targeted Solutions Tool, an interactive web-based tool from the Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare, allows accredited organizations to measure their organization's performance and helps them find customized solutions for challenging health care problems.

Aligns health care organizations with one of the most respected names in health care – Being accredited by The Joint Commission helps organizations position for the future of integrated care.

Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, hope all is well as we wind down another year and move into the holiday season. As always, this time of year we are wrapping up our annual budget season and all of our annual audits are now in the books. We are now moving into tax season with the issuance of our W-2's and 1099's in January. The W-2's and 1099's will be distributed in mid-January, they should hit mailboxes towards the latter part of the month.

Work with our strategic planning, feasibility and economic impact studies continues to progress along and we hope to have those projects wrapped up in the first part of the new year. Another exciting venture that is beginning to take shape is a Potawatomi Nation Economic Development Summit, held in October in Milwaukee at the Forest County Potawatomi Hotel and Casino. The Summit was a great first step towards sharing ideas and looking at potential economic development opportunities that all of the Potawatomi Bands can ultimately benefit from by working together as one Nation. We look forward to future Summits with the next one being held on our Reservation in January 2020. Below are a few additional highlights and updates on items of interest in the Tribe's financial area.

Unclaimed Property Update

Back in late August the Unclaimed Property Program took its first step forward in reuniting financial assets with the Tribal Members that they belong to. In this initial step 230 claim letters were sent to Tribal Members notifying them of outstanding checks (checks that had been issued by the Tribe but never cashed or deposited) that the Tribe has been carrying on its books for quite sometime now. These outstanding checks totaled nearly \$157,000 and were related to

payments for Per Capita Distributions, Payroll, and General Operating Expenses. In order to file a claim, the Tribal Member would need to sign a copy of the enclosed claim letter and return the letter to the Tribe's Finance Department. As of the time of this writing roughly 103 claims have been filed totaling nearly \$78,000. Beyond the outstanding checks that we are in the process of reuniting, we also have Per Capita payments for Tribal Members whose whereabouts are unknown and final Per Capita Distributions for Tribal Members who passed away prior to the quarterly distribution but who were eligible for the quarterly distribution. Next steps for the Unclaimed Property Program will be to determine how to address issuing these financial assets to the proper payees and ultimately to adopt an Unclaimed Property Ordinance.

Will & Estate Planning

Just a reminder on the will and estate planning services that the Tribe provides through Kansas Legal Services (KLS) that Tribal Members and their spouses are now able to schedule appointments with KLS to draft their wills and power of attorney documents at their convenience. To apply for the services through KLS an application must be completed and returned to the Treasurer's Office. Applications can be requested by contacting the Treasurer's Office at the information below or by calling 785-966-4005. Once the application is completed and returned to the Treasurer's Office it will be forwarded to KLS and they will be in contact with the Tribal Member to set up an appointment. As in the past the will and estate services are available to any Tribal Member, the property included in the legal documents must be in the state of Kansas, and also new documents may be drafted or existing documents may be amended or updated.

FY2020 Budget Update

In last quarter's article about the FY2020 Tribal Government Budget I had anticipated that the budget would be approved by Tribal Council in October as had been the case in recent years. At the time of the writing of this article the Budget Committee is in the process of making final edits to the FY2020 Budget and anticipate that it will be approved by Tribal Council in late November or early December. Once approved the FY2020 Budget will be made available for review on the Tribal Members Log

In on the Tribe's website or a copy can be requested through the Treasurer's Office. While the FY2020 Tribal Government Budget is still going through the approval process, the Casino and Gaming Commission budgets were approved by Tribal Council in October according to the Charter for the Casino and Title 12 for the Gaming Commission. All in all for the Tribal Government budget we are still expecting a budget much like FY2019 which will allow us to continue to maintain similar services in a year over year comparison.

Online Sales Tax

For this quarter's article I would like to write a little about some changes to Kansas (KS) sales taxes applied to online purchases that you may have noticed in recent months. In many cases in the past if you ordered items online you were only charged KS sales tax if the business that you were ordering from had a store or presence within the state of KS. As of October 1, 2019, that is no longer the case, as all businesses must now collect KS sales tax that are making sales to residents of KS.

Some of the more recent background on the change would begin in 1992 with the United States Supreme Court decision on Quill Corporation v. North Dakota. This decision prohibited states from requiring businesses to collect sales taxes unless the business had a store or presence within the state. So, under that decision if you lived in KS and ordered items online from a business with a store in KS then you were subject to KS Sales Tax and the business was required to collect the tax. On the other hand, if you ordered items online from a business in another state (with no stores in KS) then you were not subject to KS sales tax therefore the business was not required to collect the tax.

Fast forward to 2018 with the United States Supreme Court decision on South Dakota v. Wayfair Inc. in which the Court changed how sales taxes could be collected by states on online sales. Essentially the decision now allows states to require online retailers to collect sales tax on behalf of the state whether they have a store in KS or not. So now the business in the paragraph above that did not have a store or presence in KS would then be required to collect KS sales tax and be on the same footing as the KS businesses. Although the Court decision was made in 2018, KS only recently

implemented the collection of sales taxes as of October 1, 2019.

However, under KS Revenue Ruling 19-2002-1, Tribal Members residing on the Reservation are exempt from KS Sales tax on items delivered to the Reservation. Under Quill Corporation v. North Dakota it would have only been necessary to update your tax status with online retailers if they were operating in KS, but now under the South Dakota v. Wayfair Inc. decision it would be advantageous to update your tax status with all online retailers. Many of the larger online retailers are familiar with the sales tax exemptions that Tribes and their members are subject to and have links on their websites to update your online account. Some of the smaller online retailers may not be as familiar and you may be required to contact their customer service department and speak to a representative about updating your account. Often times you can enter the required information online or upload a Kansas Department of Revenue Form ST-28 to satisfy the online retailer's requirements for your exemption.

For more information on Form ST-28 and KS Revenue Ruling 19-2002-1, you can access Form ST-28 through the following link <https://ksrevenue.org/pdf/st28.pdf>, the link to KS Revenue Ruling 19-2002-1 is fairly lengthy but can be found relatively easily via one of the many search engines. Also in my Fall 2017 article I had written about KS Revenue Ruling 19-2002-1 and completing the Form ST-28, you can access it through the Nation's website www.pbpindiantribe.com/media and select the Fall 2017 news link.

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, 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

Prairie Band Pulse

Membership Full Blooded: 43 Enrolled: 4,573	Language Fluent Speakers: 2	Bison Herd: 132	Employees Government Employees: 311
----------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------------------------

Current Land Holdings

In 2018 the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation purchased 10 acres of trust land and 428 acres of fee land.
So far in 2019, the Prairi eBand Potawatomi Nation has purchased no trust land and 1,636 acres of fee land.

Percentage of Reservation Owned by PBP	On-Reservation		Off-Reservation		Grand Total	
	Tracts	Acres	Tracts	Acres	Tracts	Acres
Allotment Trust - 21.8%	399	16,832	0	0	399	16,832
Tribal Trust - 18.3%	203	14,125	23	1,413	226	15,538
Tribal Fee - 4.9%	69	3,802	18	794	87	4,596
Total - 44.9%	671	34,759	41	2,207	712	36,966

Member Services & REAL ID

The 9/11 Commission recommended that the Federal Government “set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver’s licenses” and in 2005, the United States Congress passed the REAL ID Act which established minimum security standards for state-issued driver’s licenses and identification cards and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for official purposes licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards. These offical purposes include:

- Accessing Federal facilities
- Boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft
- Entering nuclear power plants

Effective October 1, 2020, you must obtain REAL ID. You can update your current driver’s license by visiting your

state’s DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles). Visit your state’s licensing agency website to find out exactly which documenation you will need to bring. At a minimum, you must provide:

- 1) Full legal name
- 2) Date of birth
- 3) Social Security Number
- 4) Two proofs of address
- 5) Lawful status

REAL ID-compliant cards will have a marking with a star.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Member Services department is currently working with Tribal Council to establish REAL ID Tribal Identification cards that will be available in 2020. Details will be made available as they are released.

Tribal Elections in 2020

Tribal Council positions up for election in 2020:

- Vice-Chairperson: Zach Pahmahmie
- Treasurer: Wade Pahmahmie
- Councilperson #2: Shirley Trull
- Councilperson #3: Raphael Wahwassuck

Ethics Commission positions up for election in 2020:

- Ethics Commissioner #1: Melinda Cooper-Williamson

Enrolled Tribal Members, age 18 and up are eligible to vote.
Enrolled Tribal Members can register to vote with Member Services.
Contact 1-866-277-3722 Toll-free

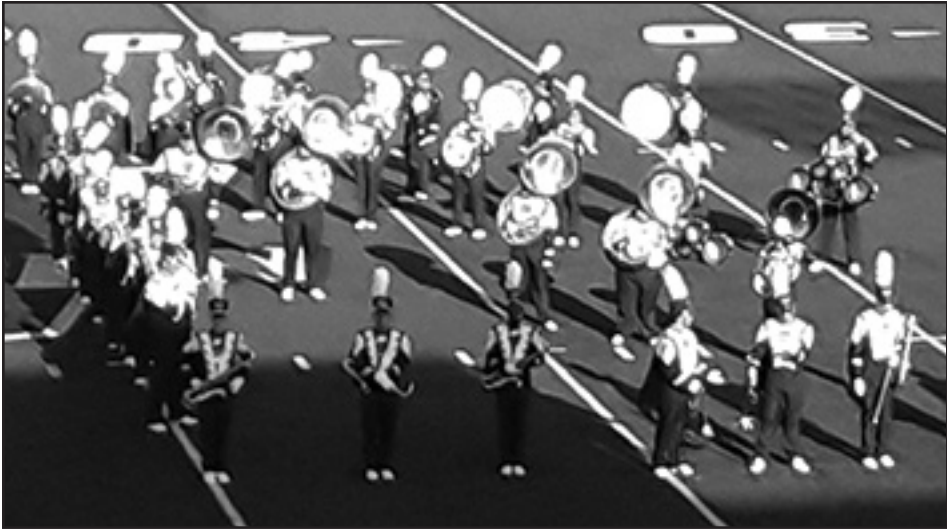
#POTAWATOMISTRONG

The Nation is encouraging tribal membership, especially the youth, to use the hashtag #potawatomistrong on social media! This is an easy way for our people to find out and see what other tribal members are engaged in, no matter where you live. On Facebook, Instagram and other outlets use the search bar and type in #Potawatomistrong to pull up posts that include the hashtag.

Charitable Contributions 3rd Quarter Recipient List - Total Donated \$80,285

- Audio Reader
- Coats for Kids
- Doorstep Inc.
- Emerald City Cosmopolitans
- Habitat for Humanity
- Housing and Credit Counseling
- Junior Achievement
- Kabeah Fellowship
- KVC Health System
- Midland Care Connection

September 2019 - The Charitable Contribution Committee awarded \$15,000 to purchase new band uniforms for Washburn University.



- On Stage Live
- Paxico Blues Fest
- Rossville Grade School
- Rossville Methodist Church
- Royal Valley USD #337
- SLI
- Sole Reason
- Stormont Vail Foundation
- TARC
- Topeka Civic Theatre

2020
General Council
Meeting Dates

January 18 • April 18 • July 18 • October 17

Enrolled Tribal Members age 18+ Only
Sign In begins 8 a.m.
Light breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Meeting begins 9 a.m.
Old Bingo Hall - 16277 Q Road, Mayetta, KS 66509

Moving Past Grief and Loss



10.16.19 - Theda New Breast, Native Wellness Institute Facilitator leads members of the PRairie BAnd Potawatomi Nation in a dialogue about culturally relevant ways to move through grief and loss to wellness.

10.16.19 - By: Michelle Simon

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation tribal members and staff recently participated in a 3-day workshop, “Moving Past Grief and Loss” provided by Native Wellness Institute facilitator Theda New Breast. In conjunction, Native Chef Jason Champagne provided healthy meals and food preparation education throughout the event.

Most individuals will experience grief and loss through the course of living, it might stem from the loss of a loved one, the experience of poverty, or through discrimination, and the experience can be traumatic. The Prairie Band Potawatomi have long been subject to acts such as forced moves, adverse political policies and boarding schools which have disrupted traditional ways of life, creating collective historical trauma and intergenerational trauma legacies affecting multiple generations of families.

According to SAMHSA (US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), “Trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life-threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual’s functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional or spiritual well-being.” Each person experiences trauma differently, however, people who experience repeated, chronic or multiple traumas are more likely to have more pronounced symptoms that include substance abuse, increased mental health issues, sleep disorders and physical health conditions.

The PBPB Social Services Advisory Board sponsored the workshop allowing individual tribal members and service providers in the community to become trauma-informed and learn healthy ways to manage grief and loss. Providing education to service providers in the community, such as the Social Service staff, provides a greater understanding of clients’ behavior and in turn allows staff to deliver better service, which ultimately leads to a healthier community.

Over the course of the 3-day workshop held on October 1, through October 3, 2019, participants discussed the connection between trauma and grief, identified the grief stages and culturally appropriate responses, engaged in team and trust-building exercises and learned tools for moving through grief to healing.

The training was facilitated by Theda New Breast (Montana Blackfeet) a master trainer/facilitator and founding member of the Native Wellness Institute. New Breast is a leading authority on Indigenous Cultural Resilience and has worked with over 500 tribes in 34 years on the subjects of proactive healing from historical trauma, post-traumatic growth, mental health healing and sobriety/recovery/adult child of an alcoholic.

In addition, Jason Champagne, of Native Chef, LLC was on-site providing culturally tailored, healthy breakfast and lunch options during the workshop. Champagne shared with participants the ingredients and preparation techniques and tips for the provided meals.

New Program for Families



By: Michael Steddum, Program Coordinator
KVC Kansas

Recently, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has been partnered with a grant from the University of Kansas called Kansas Serves Native American Families, or KSNAF.

KSNAF is a partnership that serves Native American families with Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, and the private foster care contractor, KVC Kansas. Partners include the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, Kansas Department for Children and Families and Haskell Indian Nations University. The group is running at the Boys and Girls Club in Mayetta, as well as Lawrence and White Cloud.

This grant allows the group to provide a family skills training called Strengthening Families Program, or SFP. SFP is an evidence-based family skills training program to positively impact family bonding, communication and parental supervision adapted to reflect community cultural values.

In collaboration with community members, Haskell and KU students offer the 14-week program for Native children and families. Families meet once a week for classes that include a family meal, small group discussions, activities group for parent and child, and a play group. In addition to the group, the grant provides transportation (either in the form of gas cards, or

a van pickup), childcare (0-5 or 6-12 depending on the age of our group), and incentives to participate throughout the group, as well as a graduation night!

SFP differs from many other parenting classes because it also has content for the children to help bridge the gap between a caregiver’s parenting, and the child’s understanding of why they are asking for different behaviors. Most of the group is activity and discussion based. The program is always looking for more families that may be interested in SFP.

Groups are currently open at the following sites:

Family Camp with Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska (ITKN)/Sac & Fox Nation

ITKN Boys & Girls Club, White Cloud
Site Coordinator: Lindsey Hullman

Family Night with Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPB)

PBPB Boys & Girls Club, Mayetta
Site Coordinator: Verna Simon

Strengthening Families

Haskell Lighthouse, Lawrence
Site Coordinator: Sierra Two Bulls

*Native families may choose which group to participate with and do not have to be enrolled members of the tribe that is hosting.

If you are interested to join one of the current groups listed or want general information, please call/text Michael Steddum at (816) 527-7459.

Splatters That Matter



10.5.19 - The Old Bingo Hall was transformed into an art studio for the PBPB Social Services Tribal Victim Service Program’s annual Splatters That Matter event. The hall was filled with tribal families creating art on canvas and other installations. Each year in the month of October, the TVS program hosts a series of events to raise awareness about healthy relationships and the prevention of domestic abuse and violence.

FEMA Region 7 Tribal Consultation Summit



8.28.19 - Members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation government, including Fire Chief Doug Schreiner, Tribal Land Planner Steve Duryea, Chairman Joseph Rupnick and acting General Manager Anna Boswell attended the FEMA Region 7 Tribal Consultation Summit held at Haskell Indian Nations University.

8.30.19
By: Doug Schreiner

On August 27 and 28, 2019 members of the PBPN government attended a FEMA Region 7 Tribal Consultation Summit held at Haskell Indian Nations University and attended by various Tribes from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri.

Some topics of discussion included Tribal disaster declarations, preparedness and mitigation grant funding, Tribal road repairs and public safety in declared disaster incidents, and discussions of the recent flooding disasters involving neighboring Tribes in Region 7 this spring.

Special guests included Dr. Daniel

Wildcat, Interim President of Haskell, Paul Taylor, FEMA Regional Administrator, and US Representative Sharice Davids of the Kansas 3rd Congressional District.

It was very beneficial to hear from other Tribes in our region how their actual disaster declaration processes played out in the real-world as well as hear them describe in their own words the positives and negatives they experienced when working with FEMA and other agencies involved. Tribal leaders from all of the Nations present held frank and informative discussions with FEMA and state representatives regarding disaster response in Indian Country and the proper roles of various entities in these incidents.

Four Receive Outstanding Service Award

Four Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation personnel received Outstanding Service Awards from Fire Chief Doug Schreiner following a life-saving event. The awards read:

“Recently you responded to a medical call where an individual went into cardiac arrest and you came to their aid. The excellent care rendered by multiple agencies resulted in a “Field Save” where the patient was delivered to the hospital with a heartbeat. A review of the available reports, video, and responder interviews revealed a textbook example of the American Heart Association Chain of Survival in action. The AHA sets the Gold Standard for resuscitation. This includes immediate recognition of cardiac arrest, early quality CPR, rapid application of an Automatic External Defibrillator, and effective advanced life support.

The positive outcome of this call is just one example taken from the multitude you and your fellow emergency responders are responsible for each year. Thank you for your dedication to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Your hard work, perseverance, and exemplary performance is obvious. It is this type of integrated teamwork that makes the critical life-saving cooperation between the agencies in southern Jackson County and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation possible. You are a vital part of our local emergency response community and are to be commended for your actions during this incident.”



11.6.19 - PBPN Fire Chief Doug Schreiner presents PBPN Tribal Police Sergeant Tyrel Askren, PBPN Firefighter/Advanced EMT Anthony Bogowith, PBPN Fire Lieutenant/Paramedic Bruce Coates and PBPN Fire Captain/EMT George Wiecken with Outstanding Service Awards.

PBPN Bison Have Visit from Chinese Family



Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Land Planner Steve Duryea and his family hosted a foreign exchange student from China in 2017, and in August 2019 the whole family traveled back to Kansas for a visit.

During the Ishikawa family’s time in America, Duryea contacted the PBP Nation’s Land department and arranged a tour of the bison. Along with enjoying seeing these large and magnificent animals the group also toured the Konza Prairie, took in fields of sunflowers, shot guns and enjoyed eating beef! Beef is a rare treat for the Ishikawa family.

At left are Steve Duryea, his daughter Katharyn, wife Dawn, and the Ishikawa family visiting from China - the mother Hiromi (in the sun hat), twins Ayano and Soei, and their father Atsunori.

In the summer of 2017, Ayano, and her twin brother Soei visited America through the 4-H International Exchange Program. Ayano stayed with the Duryeas for three weeks during the summer of 2017, while her twin brother Soei stayed with a family in Wisconsin.

25th Annual Veterans Powwow



9.28.19 - American Legion We-Ta-Se Post 410 members bring in the colors at the 25th Annual Veterans Powwow, followed by the Women's Auxiliary members.

The American Legion We-Ta-Se Post 410 held their 25th Annual Powwow on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at Prairie Peoples Park, featuring Honored Veterans Robert "Bob" Hubbard and Irving "Irv" Jessepe.

The event included grand entries at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., an evening meal prepared by the Women's Auxiliary with desserts provided by the community, several specials held by the Powwow Head Staff, and the introduction of Victoria Brossett filling a third term as the We-Ta-Se princess.

Many jamming songs were sung by the drums in attendance, which in turn showcased all the dancers' moves and to conclude the evening the crowd waited anxiously to see if they won any of the raffle drawings.

Although there was a chill to the air, and bouts of misty rain throughout the day, the PBP and Northeast Kansas community turned out to support the veterans. Many attendees shared how good they felt being at the 25th Annual Powwow and were thankful for the We-Ta-Se bringing everyone together. During the celebration there were many good moments that reflected our healthy community.



9.28.19 - Three term We-Ta-Se Princess Victoria Brossett stands inbetween her mother Brande Adame and grandmother Carol Herring.

2019 Honored Veteran Robert Hubbard



9.28.19 - Honored Veteran Robert "Bob" Hubbard stands with a Pendleton blanket over his shoulders, flanked by his grandson Keech Irving and his brother Galen Hubbard as they wait to begin dancing Bob's honor song.

Robert Hubbard was born in Topeka, Kansas. He was the fifth son of Chester and Mary Hubbard. Robert was the third son to serve in Viet Nam.

Robert attended high school in Marty, South Dakota graduating in 1968. He enrolled at Haskell in the fall of 1968. He then enlisted in the US Army in February 1969.

After a brief tour in Germany, he volunteered for duty in Viet Nam. He was stationed at Fire Base Bearkat as a helicopter Electrician. Robert flew in several recovery missions to retrieve downed helicopters from hostile fire. Robert returned to the United States in 1971.

Robert worked at the Haskell Health Center for 34 years from which he retired. Robert is 1 of 2 remaining singers from the original Little Soldier Creek Singers drum group.

Robert is active in traditional services on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation reservation. Robert has 3 daughters, 13 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

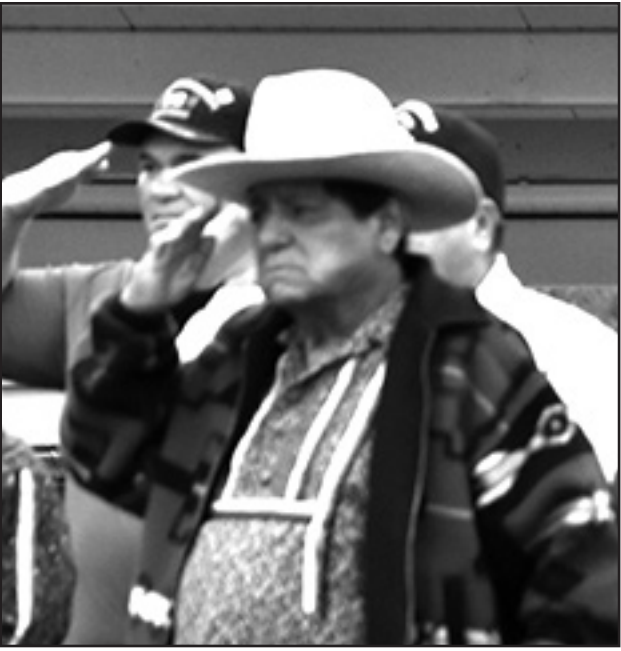
Robert also enjoys riding his motorcycle as escort for fallen soldiers the with Kansas Patriot Guard.

Robert is a proud warrior and loves to serve his fellow human beings and thanks each and every one who prayed for our soldiers past and present.



9.28.19 - Veteran Wishkeno Wakolee dances during an intertribal with his family.

2019 Honored Veteran Irving Jessepe



9.28.19 - Honored Veteran Irving "Irv" Jessepe stands at attention, saluting the flags during a grand entry procession.

Irvin "Irv" Jessepe was the 6th of 11 children born to Paul and Julia Puckee Jessepe in Horton, Kansas. Jessepe lives on the Kickapoo Reservation where he is currently the caretaker and owner of the family residence.

He is an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

He attended St. Paul's Indian Mission in Marty, South Dakota and he was an altar boy during his time there. He was a unionized carpenter and worked at Whiteman Airforce Base in Nobnos-ter, Missouri for 27 years. As most folks know, Whiteman Airforce Base stores the B-2 Stealth Bombers.

Jessepe served in the US Army from 1968 to 1972. He completed 2 tours of duty in Vietnam, where his hearing was damaged. He is the recipient of the following honors:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Army Commendation Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- Expert Badge (M16)
- Expert Badge - .45 Caliber Pistol
- 2 honorable dishcarges
- 3 overseas service bars

Irv is an avid sports fan. He enjoys watching basketball and football, during his younger days he played basketball. Now days is often seen in gymnasiums and ball fields through the Midwest region supporting Native Student athletes.

He is a member of the drum religions and sits on a Kickapoo drum, he supports the Brown County chapter of Native American Church and is the unofficial cook of the pork gravy... he has a secret recipe.

He was adopted by Maynard Potts' family, and has 2 sons and 2 daughters, Voncile Mitchell, Doris Potts-Zyganiuk, Ed Potts and Lloyd Potts, and many grandchildren.

Irv is still living the life of an eligible bachelor, and because of his subtle and good humor he is very enjoyable to be around.

We-Ta-Se on 9/11



9.11.19 - At left, Frank Shopteese, Benny Potts and Roy Hale, along with others members of the We-Ta-Se took part in a 9/11 Remembrance in Holton, Kansas at the corner of 4th and Hwy 75.

10.1.19 - At right, American Legion We-Ta-Se Post 410 traveled to Overland Park, Kansas on the first of October to post colors at the opening of the Regional Census Office. During the opening, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly spoke to attendees about the importance of all Kansans completing the 2020 Census. Afterward, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Chairman, Joseph Rupnick had the opportunity to speak briefly with the Governor regarding the Prairie Band Potawatomi and the census.

We-Ta-Se Posts Colors at Regional Census Office Opening



We-Ta-Se Post 410 Leads 2019 Topeka Sunflower Salute



11.9.19 - We-Ta-Se Post 410 were honored with leading the 2019 Topeka Sunflower Salute Veterans Parade in Topeka, Kansas on Saturday, November 9, 2019. Members of the American Legion and Women's Auxiliary lead the parade from the corner of 10th and Kansas, heading north on Kansas Avenue.

In the procession were Andrew Wahweotten, Larry Shopteese, Byron "BJ" Darnall, Charles Jacobson, Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick, Chuck Wahweotten, Benny Potts, Robert Hubbard and Jim Potts, along with Tori Brossett, Carol Herring, Lisa Wamego, Richele Pahmahmie-Potts, Rose Potts and Robert Jackson, Sr. driving the We-Ta-Se van.

Kabance Receives Daughters of the American Revolution Award



Ms. Julia Kabance of Wamego, Kansas, is the recipient of the DAR Distinguished Citizen Medal. The Polly Ogden Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) nominated Ms. Kabance for this national award that is presented to an individual, who fulfills the qualities of honor, service, courage, leadership, and patriotism. The Polly Ogden Chapter presented Ms. Kabance with the medal at 2:00 p.m. on November 11, at the Good Samaritan Society – Valley Vista, Wamego, Kansas, where Ms. Kabance resides.

Ms. Kabance celebrated her 109th birthday on August 10, 2019. She is the oldest member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the oldest Native American World War II Veteran. Laura Renfro, Polly Ogden Chapter Regent, said, "The NSDAR Polly Ogden Chapter is privileged to have the opportunity to recognize Julia for her wonderful service to our nation and her fellow veterans for so many years. The DAR Distinguished Citizen Medal

was introduced in 2013 to recognize individuals who fulfill distinguished qualities of honor, service, courage, leadership, and patriotism. Julia's life of service exemplifies the heart of this award and it is our greatest joy to share it with her."

The youngest of 12 children, Julia grew up on a farm near Holton, Kansas. She joined the Women's Army Corps on March 17, 1943, St. Patrick's Day, during WWII. Her first station was Fort Des Moines where she worked as a general office worker replacing men so that they could go off to fight. She became a disabled veteran by 1945, due to the loss of her hearing. She remained in the Army until 1946, serving as a clerical worker, primarily in Tacoma, Washington.

Julia worked for the Air Force in Topeka, KS in the late 1940s. From there, she worked in accounting, first for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington state, and then on the East Coast, then back to the Northwest. She retired in 1972 while living in Fort Lewis, Washington.

Kabance eventually moved to St. Marys, Kansas, living within a short drive of where she grew up. Always active as a volunteer, she began devoting more time to it as a retiree with trips to Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka. She was a popular volunteer in the Topeka VA hospital. She volunteered there for 17 years where she served her fellow Veterans in the medical center while representing both the American Legion in nursing services and the Disabled American Veterans in the physical medicine and rehabilitation services, helping with physical therapy patients and whatever else was needed.

She has also devoted much of her life in service to the Catholic Church, especially the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in St. Mary's, Kansas. She is a proud member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and attended the Haskell Institute as a young woman.

Her life has revolved around service. She has served her country in wartime, her family in sickness, her community of veterans, and her family of faith. Her honors and awards include the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and is a Lifetime Member of VFW Post 410.

The DAR Distinguished Citizen Medal may be awarded to emergency first responders; active duty military and veterans of the United States Armed Forces; and citizens who have contributed to the defense and/or security, and thereby the freedom, of the community, state, or nation in an exceptional manner.

Organized in 1912, the Polly Ogden Chapter of the DAR is among the state's largest DAR chapters with more than 120 members. Current Kansas State Regent Susan Metzger is a member of the Polly Ogden chapter. The DAR, founded in 1890, and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.

2019 Honored Elders



10.23.19 - 2019 Honored Elder Vincent Hernandez reflects on reservation life in the days before the casino.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Fire Keepers Elder Center hosted their annual Honored Elders Dinner on October 23, 2019. The 2019 Honored Elders are Vincent Hernandez and Mary Mitchell.

Hernandez was nominated by LaVerne Hale for his helpfulness to others. Hernandez lives in senior housing and regularly assists his neighbors and friends with whatever they need. Hernandez previously worked for the PBPB Planning and Environmental Protection department and Commodities.

Mitchell was nominated by Helen Sumner for her kind nature and years of service to the PBPB community. Mitchell has spent many years serving on the PBPB Education Committee, and served on the J.O.M. Committee and served a term as the PBPB Tribal Council Treasurer. Mitchell recently retired from the Bureau of Indian Affairs - Horton Agency. Mitchell had many fun stories shared about her legacy.

The 2019 Honorees both received a bag of goodies and a certificate of recognition.



10.23.19 - 2019 Honored Elder Mary Mitchell listens as family and friends share stories about their experiences with her.

Séngo Bingo



8.28.19 - Richard Adame, tribal elder tries his luck at Séngo Bingo. The bingo card has images of various items and actions.



8.28.19 - Language apprentices Melvin Lewis and Ella Garcia assist by holding up images as Language Teacher Lyman Shipshee speaks the word in Potawatomi. Other language staff were in the crowd helping elders play Séngo Bingo.

Elders Thanksgiving Dinner



11.14.19 - Fire Keepers Elder Center director Nona Wahweotten welcomes everyone to the Thanksgiving dinner, as Prairie Band Casino & Resort employee and PBPB tribal member Alan Brown stands by to attend to elders.



11.14.19 - Prairie Band Casino and Resort employees Monique Haas, Lan Danielson and Curtis Dreasher dish up Thanksgiving meals to attendees. Master Language Speaker Pom Hubbard waits patiently.

Mayetta Pioneer Days



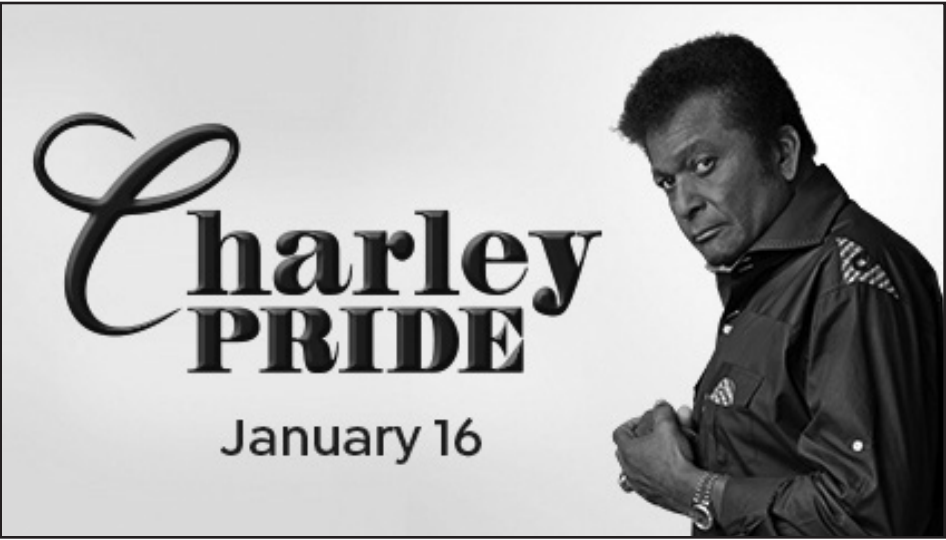
9.14.19 - Velma Wahwassuck was the Prairie Band Potawatomi Elder Queen at the 2019 Mayetta Pioneer Days held in Mayetta, Kan. in September.

Prairie Band Casino & Resort

- Ring in the New Year with Prairie Cash Countdown drawings, Heartland Dueling Pianos in the Lobby Bar, party favors on the casino floor, and a midnight confetti celebration!
- Start the New Year with a new ride! Join us New Year's Day for your chance to win a Jeep® Gladiator!



- Celebrate our 22nd anniversary all month long in January. Every Sunday, is your chance to win big! Come out January 11th for free food and drawings for a special anniversary event!
- Legendary Charley Pride kicks off our 2020 Epic Entertainment on January 16! Follow us on Facebook and check out prairieband.com for upcoming shows and announcements.



- Follow along with Prairie Band Casino & Resort's live link for the on-going construction!

https://app.truelook.com/?u=sp1568311738#tl_live

Introducing Kansas Tribal Food Systems Project

The Kansas Tribal Food System Project is a 3-year project funded by the Sunflower Foundation and Kansas State Research and Extension and managed by the American Heart Association and Kansas Tribal Health Summit Planning Committee.

Janis Simon, has been announced as the new director and will work in partnership with the four Kansas federally-recognized land-based tribes to increase access to culturally tailored nutrition education and healthy food choices. Her ultimate goal will be to develop a Kansas tribal food system plan.

Simon is a member of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas and grew up on the Kickapoo reservation. She has

worked as the on-site coordinator for the Association of American Indian Physicians on a diabetes awareness grant from 2011-2016 and has most recently been the Title IV-E program coordinator for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Simon is excited about working with all of the Kansas Tribes in this new position and re-connecting with coalition partners. She will be based in the AHA-Topeka office.

If you see Simon in the community, take a moment to visit about food sovereignty.

LLC Highlights

Mill Creek

Mill Creek has announced their first awarded project of the season - Lakehurst Naval Health Clinic. It is especially significant because it is the first win for a competitive Initial Outfitting only project and also the organization's first Navy project.

Levier Recognized in Topeka's Top "20 Under 40"

Prairie Band, LLC, Chief Operating Officer Tyler Levier, has been recognized as one of Topeka's Top "20 Under 40." Beyond his duties as COO with oversight of 8 companies at Prairie Band, LLC, Levier is also an active member for the Valeo Behavioral Health Care Board and the Topeka South Rotary. Tyler is dedicated to his work and community.



He said, "My greatest reward comes from seeing others developing professionally, setting goals and achieving them, and improving their lives and the lives of their families as a result. I would not be here today if it were not for this community and all that it has to offer."

Prairie Band Health Services and Prairie Band Capital earn Minority Business Enterprise Certification from NMSDC - National Minority Supplier Development Council

In a move that opens the door to greater client base diversity, PBHS and PBC have both received certification as Minority Business Enterprises from the National Minority Supplier Development Council. Receiving certification as an MBE allows both companies access to the NMSDC supplier database linked to the corporate business industry, and provides both companies with access to networking events and educational programming.

Prairie Band Propane

Prairie Band Propane continues to show growth, bringing in 10% higher pre-buy sales in 2019, over 2018.

Stay Connected!
Visit pbpindiantribe.com,
click "Contact" at the bottom of the home page -
and sign up to get the latest updates
delivered directly to your inbox!

AIHREA Brings Health Education to PBP



11.2.19 - The American Indian Health Research & Education Alliance hosted a 1-day powwow at the PBP Boys & Girls Club, bringing awareness and education of health topics to the community. Some topics included Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Child Birth and Healthy Eating. The organization also gave out a few scholarships to college students in attendance.

Nishnabek Ntewmèn - “Who We Are”



11.2.19 - The Royal Valley High School volleyball team won the Class 3A state volleyball tournament at the Hutchinson Sports Arena on Saturday, November 2, 2019, after defeating Beloit in straight sets, 25-19 and 25-18, earning the first state volleyball title in the school’s history!

Members of the team are shown above with their state trophy and include (front row, from left) assistant coach Kyann Eslick, Maya Ogden (PBP), Kenzie Ogden (PBP), Maddie Saia, Kennedy Bryan and Emily Wurster-Lowe, (back row, from left) assistant coach Samantha Swank, manager KJ Miller (PBP), Emma McKinsey, Morgan Harvey, Tressa Jim (PBP), Hannah Price (PBP), Karlie Albright, Ivy Fink, manager Hadley Gregory, manager Emma Poort and head coach Gary Armstrong.

Photo & information - courtesy of The Holton Recorder/Ali Holcomb - Volume 152, Issue 89 - 11.4.2019

Rice Returns From New Zealand



Colleen “Zhowmkoqua” Rice has made it safely home after her Study Abroad Semester - University of Otago (Dunedin, NZ) Fall 2019 Senior Year.

A sincere thank you to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for their continued support of her education.

And chi’megwatch to all the relatives that prayed for her travel and safe return home. To those that took time to stay n touch with her, it’s much appreciated.

She represented our tribe and native peoples well, as beautiful and enriching as her journey was, she’s happy to be home.

Wamego Wins Seat on Royal Valley Board of Education

In a suprise turn of events, Jacob “Tug” Wamego wins seat on the Royal Valley Board of Education.

Wamego, a PBP tribal member ran against Michael Boswell, a PBP community member, for the position one seat on the Royal Valley Board of Education. Initial results from election night revealed that Boswell was ahead with 207 votes to Wamego’s 203.

After the county commission canvass was complete and 26 provisional ballots were tabulated, the results of the election landed in Wamego’s favor, with the final vote tallying 213 for Wamego and 209 for Boswell.

This is Wamego’s first time to serve on the Royal Valley School Board. He currently oversees Prairie Band, LLC as the President and Chief Executive Officer. During his campaign, Wamego had this to say, “USD 337 is a diverse district. Most of the K-12 citizens of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation are students there. I have witnessed the tremendous growth within the district over the past 20 years, and our community has been a big part of that growth. I want to contribute to a continued positive direction for the school district.”

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.

Send submissions to:
Michelle Simon - Editor

Email: media@pbpnation.org

Mail: PBP News, 16281 Q Road,
Mayetta, KS 66509

Phone: 785-966-3920

Website:
www.pbpindiantribe.com

Follow us on Facebook:
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Deadlines
Winter Time 2019 Edition:
February 7, 2020
Spring Time 2020 Edition:
May 1, 2020

Nishnabek Ntewmèn - “Who We Are”

Featuring: Dr. Jessica A. Rickert

Jessica Ann Rickert, D.D.S. is the first female American Indian Dentist in the world and she is incredibly passionate about dentistry and opening the field to more Native American students.

Dr. Rickert attended the University of Michigan from 1968 to 1975.

In 1975, she established a private dental practice. From 1975 to 1982, she was the director of the dental clinic at the Children's Aid Society, a private agency for foster-care children in Detroit; there she initiated programs in preventive dentistry and orthodontia as well as providing general dental services.

From 2007 to 2010, she has provided general dental services for the Department of Corrections of the State of Michigan. In 2011, she provided general dentistry in the Michigan Community Dental Clinics on a full-time basis.

Currently, she is a clinical dentist at the Family Health Care Organization in Michigan. Most recently she also served on the task force to establish a dental clinic on the reservation of the Grand Traverse band at Chippewa Ottawa Indians and she has served on the board of directors of the Society of American Indian Dentists. She's also an active member of the American Dental Association having chaired the Oakland County Dental society's speakers bureaus, and she served on the Michigan Dental Association's Public Relation committee, along with being a past president of the resort district Dental Society. Dr. Rickert remains active in presenting dental education programs at area schools and volunteers with a Give Kids a Smile program.



10.4.19 - Dr. Jessica A. Rickert, a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation , was the keynote speaker at the Michigan Oral Health Coalition on October 4, 2019. A unique pathfinder, she inspired as she shared her personal journey to become the first female American Indian dentist in the USA. She has a longstanding commitment to strengthen our community by advancing diversity and inclusion in the dental profession.



University at Buffalo to Welcome First Female American Indian Dentist

10.22.19
By: Marcene Robinson

“A dental career is not even a remote consideration for most American Indian young people. This is due, in part, to the fact that most have never even seen an American Indian dentist.”

- Jessica Ann Rickert,
first female American Indian dentist

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Jessica Ann Rickert, DDS, will visit the University at Buffalo to share her journey in becoming the first female American Indian dentist in the world.

During the event, “Change Perceptions... Go Beyond Expectations,” Rickert will also address the alarming shortage of American Indians in dental schools across the United States.

The program, which is sponsored by the UB School of Dental Medicine, is scheduled for Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. in the Harriman Hall ballroom. The event is free and open to the public.

“We at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine are honored to have the first female American Indian dentist, Dr. Jessica Rickert, accept our invitation to speak at our dental school. All of our students, staff and faculty excitedly look forward to this historical event,” says Othman Shibly, DDS, clinical professor and assistant dean for diversity and inclusion in the UB School of Dental Medicine.

Nonexistent in dentistry
Nearly 10,500 students applied to

attend dental school in the United States this fall. Just 16 of those students are American Indian, according to the American Dental Education Association.

The barriers to higher education for American Indian students are numerous: inadequate federal funding of secondary education programs on tribal lands, transportation challenges, a history of social injustices, cultural dissonance and a shortage of American Indian educators.

The result is that American Indians are largely nonexistent in dentistry.

Despite American Indians comprising 3% of the country's population, they make up 0.2% of dentists, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Indian Health Services, an HHS division that provides medical and health services to American Indian and Alaska Native communities, are also severely understaffed.

“I strongly feel that an ideal solution to the shortage of dentists in Indian country is to increase the number of American Indian dentists from federally recognized tribes,” said Rickert.

“I do not believe the American Indian dental dilemma is a hopeless situation. It simply requires all of us involved in the dental profession to step up and help. There are plenty of smart and capable American Indian students who could become marvelous dentists if they were guided in the right direction.”

*Courtesy of Marcene Robinson, News Content Manager, Dental Medicine, Libraries, Nursing, Pharmacy
marcener@buffalo.edu*

11/2019 - (at left) In honor of Native American Heritage Month, Kalamazoo Valley Community College welcomed Jessica A. Rickert, DDS, to its campus. A unique pathfinder, she inspired the students and faculty as she shared her personal journey to become the first female American Indian Dentist. A joyful connection was made with 2 American Indian students in the Registered Dental Hygienist program; KVCC's Registered Dental Hygiene program has had American Indian graduates in the past, including Dr. Rickert's cousin, Kelly Whitepigeon. KVCC's Diversity and Inclusion Officer Trice Batson was pleased to learn Michigan Indian history, because this is not taught in schools. He has begun an outreach to the nearby Pokagon Potawatomi.

10.7.19 - On October 7, 2019, Dr. Jessica A. Rickert was hosted by Howard Farran, DDS, MBA on his show Dentistry Uncensored with Howard Farran. Her segment is titled, “Cultural Competency in Dentistry.” You can watch the video by visiting this link: <https://youtu.be/87-XTh5VfqE>

“There are 407 AIAN dentists in the United States. In order for there to be parity, there should be 3,000. We need more AIAN dentists!” Dr. Jessica A. Rickert.

Kambottek

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



Troy Little Axe Sr.

BARTLESVILLE, OK - Troy Lee Little Axe, Sr., 79 of Bartlesville, Oklahoma passed away Sunday, October 6, 2019 at his home. He was born November 5, 1939 to John and Lillian (Sloan) Little Axe in the Hog Creek area around Norman, Oklahoma.

Troy was raised in Little Axe and attended South Gale Elementary School. He attended Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas where he earned his degree as a certified machinist in 1957. He has been a resident of Bartlesville since 1973. He married JoAnne Kitchkommie (Prairie Band Potawatomi) on December 2, 1962 in Topeka, Kansas. Troy worked for American Indian Enterprises in Kansas City, KS; Barwest Inc., in Bartlesville and Indian Coatings, Inc., in Bartlesville where he retired.

He was a proud member of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Troy was a very fluent Native Absentee Shawnee Tribal speaker and traditionalist; who was willing to share his knowledge. He was a member of the American Indian Activities Club in Kansas City, Indian Club at Benjamin Stables in Kansas. Troy enjoyed Pow-wows, Stomp Dance and was the coordinator for the OU stomp dance for many years with James Squirrel. He was heavily involved in Operation Eagle Program as dance instructor and coordinator and helped coordinate the past Indian Summer Pow-wow in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Lillian Little Axe, 2 brothers, Floyd Little Axe and Jerry Ray Little Axe; and a sister, Delores Johnson.

Troy is survived by his wife of 57 years, JoAnne Little Axe of the home, daughter, Lisa Little Axe and Garry Canard of Bartlesville, OK; sons, Troy Little Axe, Jr. and Claudia Tyner Little Axe of Miami, OK and Dennis and Quannah Little Axe of Bartlesville, OK; grandchildren, Troy Lee III, William, Claude, Jamison, Waskeh, Tara Mitchell, Luis Ortiz, Nawnee and Geramey Cable; great-grandchildren, Shug, Monte, and E.J.; sisters Glenda Sullivan, *Continued*



Rebecca Reddel

OSPREY, FL. – Rebecca Yvonna Reddel, 41, passed away at home, in Osprey, Florida, on Sunday, September 15, 2019. She was a homemaker and is survived by her 15-year-old daughter, Mina Reddel. A Celebration of Rebecca's Life will be held instead of a funeral service.

Rebecca was born in Manhattan, Kansas on June 14, 1978, to William and Alice Beres and was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Kansas. She had three brothers; David Beres of Ocala, FL, William Edward Beres of Sarasota, FL, and Brandon Leigh. She had two sisters; Jaime Michel Conley and Ciara Michel Hennen. Rebecca is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

- Courtesy of Toale Brothers Funeral Home and Crematory

Little Axe, Sr. Continued

Wanda Tiger, Carolyn and Keith Sadongei, Marilyn Little Axe, Sabrina Little Axe; Prairie Band Potawatomi sister Mary LeClere and Donita LeClere; brothers Jerry James Little Axe and Barbara; Danny Little Axe and Georgia; John Al Little Axe and Prairie Band Potawatomi brother Don Don LeClere and numerous extended family and friends.

Tribal rites were held Monday evening October 7, 2019 at Brendle Corner with George Blanchard officiating. Burial was Tuesday morning, October 8, 2019 at Little Axe Family Cemetery in Norman, Ok under the direction of Cooper Funeral Home of Tecumseh.

- Courtesy Cooper Funeral Home

Editor's Note:

Mr. Troy Little Axe, Sr. was married to JoAnne Little Axe, an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi, and he was an adopted member of the LeClere family. Out of respect for his extended family and relatives and his ties to the Prairie Band Potawatomi community, the PBP News placed his obituary.



Edna Forster

HOLTON, KS – Edna J. Forster “Kmono-Quah”, 91, of Holton, passed away Tuesday, September 17, 2019. She was born February 6, 1928, in Mayetta, Kan., the daughter of Floyd Fitzsimmons and Ruth (Wahwassuck) Fitzsimmons.

Edna was a typist and later worked in accounting, but was mostly a stay at home mom. She very much enjoyed cooking, sewing and the outdoors, including fishing, mushroom hunting and gardening. She was an avid bowler for many years. Edna was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. She married Charles Forster in 1959.

Edna is survived by her son Terry, daughter Debra Slocum and step-daughter Kathy Kyser along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles; son Jay; daughter Toka (Sally); sister Evelyn; brothers Floyd (Mark), Joseph, George, and Gene.

No services are planned. Memorial contributions may be made to Beck Bookman Library, 420 West 4th Street, Holton, KS 66436.

- Courtesy of the Forster Family



Angelia Riley

TOPEKA, KS – Angelia Wishteyah Riley, 35, of Topeka, died Friday, September 28, 2019, in Kansas City, KS.

She was born March 22, 1984, in Topeka, the daughter of Juan Hernandez and Lisa Wishteyah. She graduated from Beloit High School and attended Brown Mackie Business School in Salina.

Angelia was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Native American Religion.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Rachel Mae Wishteyah.

Survivors include her mother, Lisa Wishteyah, Topeka, her father, Juan Hernandez, Salina, two sons, Michael Wishteyah and Gabriel Wishteyah, both of Topeka, three daughters, Alanna Wishteyah, Alayiah Wishteyah and Isabella Wishteyah, all of Topeka; two brothers, Thunder Wright, Lawrence and Juan Wishteyah, Topeka, and one sister, Melissa Wishteyah, Topeka.

Visitation will be from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 4th at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hoyt. Wake services will be Saturday evening at the Native American Church. Burial will be 10:00 a.m. Sunday in the O'Bennick Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at chapeloaksfuneralhome.com.

- Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home

Kambottek

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



Claude Grinnell

TOPEKA, KS – Claude Lawrence Grinnell, 74, of Topeka, KS passed away Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at his home. He was born July 13, 1945, in Topeka, KS; the son of Joseph and Nellie Mae (Myers) Grinnell.

He graduated from Topeka High School in 1963 and attended one year at Haskell Indian Nation University (formerly named Haskell Institute). After high school, he proudly served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam era; stationed in Puerto Rico. Claude was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Claude worked many years running a printing press for KSHSAA. He later worked for the Prairie Band Casino as a heavy-duty cleaner.

In 1966 he was united in marriage to Carol Shobney-Heimiller. To this union, they shared a daughter, Kim Schimmel. They later divorced. He later married Susan Mitchell; they later divorced.

Survivors include his daughter, Kim Schimmel of Topeka, KS; a brother, Bob Grinnell of Tiff City, MO; 2 grandchildren, Austin and Ainsley Schimmel and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Nellie Grinnell; 2 sisters, Sara Conner and Lorraine Bales and a brother, Gene Grinnell.

Celebration of Life will be at a later date. Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436 is in charge of arrangements. To leave a special message for the family, please visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home



James Hale

MAYETTA, KS – James O. Hale, 85, of Mayetta, died Friday, November 15, 2019, at the University of Kansas Health System, St. Francis Campus, in Topeka.

He was born May 16, 1934, on the Potawatomi Reservation at Mayetta, the son of James and Elizabeth Kegg Hale. He graduated from Chilocco Indian High School in Chilocco, Oklahoma in 1952. He also attended Baking School at Haskell University in Lawrence.

James was a U.S. Army veteran. He served in Okinawa, Japan in the 1950s.

He had worked at the C. G. Grain Elevator in Topeka and was a Deputy with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. Before he retired he was the Director of the Potawatomi Elder Center Meal Site.

James was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Drum Religion, and We-Ta-Se American Legion Post No. 410 at Mayetta.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Spencer Hale and Robert Hale, and one sister, Thelma Wewenes.

Survivors include two sons, Kabot Hale and wife Paula, and John John Hale, all of Mayetta; two daughters, Jeanette Urista, Mayetta, and Rayne Ann Hale, Horton; two sisters, Judith Wabaunsee, Topeka and Rose Hale, Mayetta; six grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Drum Services and wake will be Monday evening, November 18th at the Dance Ground Building, west of Mayetta. Burial will be Tuesday afternoon in the Matwe-Shobney Cemetery. James will lie in state from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Holton. Online condolences may be made at chapeloaksfuneralhome.com

- Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home



Benjamin Nioce

TOPEKA, KS - Benjamin Franklin "Mzhickteno" Nioce, 56, of Topeka, KS, passed away Friday, November 15, 2019, after complications with diabetes. He was born July 17, 1963, in Holton, KS, the son of Donald Eugene Nioce and Myra Lee Matchie.

Ben graduated from Royal Valley High School in 1981 and had attended a few years of college. He proudly served in the United States Army for 4 years; soon after high school.

He worked as an over the road truck driver for various companies; he retired in 2010.

Survivors include his wife of 31 years, Judy Ray, of the home; 3 step-children, Steven Bouton, Melissa Bouton and Shawna Ray all of Topeka; 3 sisters, Ruta Mendez of Holton, Marji Heim of Topeka and Donna Nioce-Ramirez of Hiawatha; a brother, Raymond D. Nioce of Holton, KS and 10 grand-children, Dominick Ray, Brittnei Grogg, Qamauara Evans, Breonna Bouton, Anthony Whitford, Blake Bouton, Kayce Prchal, Joseph Bouton, Tena Bouton and Rhayn Counts.

He was preceded in death by his parents and 2 brothers, Paul A. Lawrence and Sam Barrow.

Celebration of Life will be at a later date. Mercer Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements. To send a card of sympathy, please mail to Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436. To leave a special message online, please visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes



Dorothy Simon

NETAWAKA, KS - Dorothy Irene Simon, 87, of Netawaka, KS, passed away Friday, November 29, 2019, at her home, with family by her side. She was born January 20, 1932, in Mayetta, KS, the daughter of Charles M. and Goldie Irene (Stewart) Pappan.

Dorothy attended Circleville High School and later earned her G.E.D. In her earlier years, she worked in the library at Powhattan High School and at the Slimaker Dress Factory and as a switchboard operator both in Holton. She worked as a receptionist and assistant at a veterinarian clinic in Wetmore and operated the Buffalo Café on the Kickapoo Reservation. She also served as Director for the Kickapoo Senior Center for many years and worked with her husband, Ralph, for Simon Roofing.

She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and a 65-year member of the Powhattan American Legion Auxiliary.

Dorothy married Ralph E. Simon, Sr. on October 17, 1948, in Hiawatha, KS. He preceded her in death on August 21, 2006, after 58 years of marriage. She was also preceded in death by a son, David Simon in 1970; 3 sisters, Theresa Anderson, Sharon McCrane and Margaret Ann Pappan.

Survivors include 2 sons, Ralph E. Simon, Jr. (Linda) of Manhattan, KS and Daniel Simon of Horton, KS; 2 daughters, Jean Simon and June Simon both of Netawaka, KS; 2 sisters, Geraldine Hamlin and Charlene Anderson both of Hoyt, KS; a brother, Donald C. Pappan (Sherry) of Topeka, KS; 18 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Family will greet friends 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Monday, December 2, 2019, at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Burial will follow in the Kennekuk Cemetery (on the Kickapoo Reservation). In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Holton American Legion Post 1367 or Kennekuk Church c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436. To leave a special message for the family, please visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes



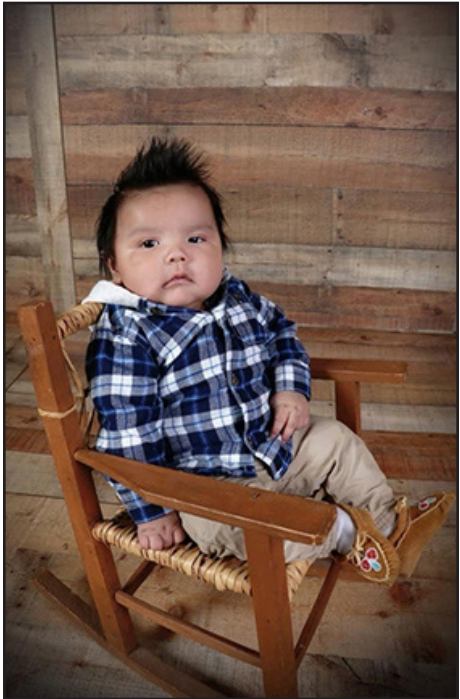
Great season boys! It was awesome to watch you brothers out on the field for one year together.

Edgar was our Kicker (left) and D Tackle for our Varsity Team! Omar finishes as our Kicker, Punter, Running Back, Linebacker, and Cornerback for the JV Team!

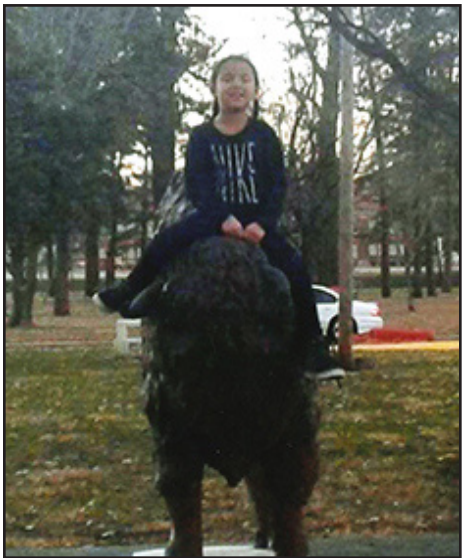
Go Higine brothers!
Go Panthers!
Mom loves you both!



Happy 21st Birthday to Lil' Blake Garrison, 12/6
Son of Blake & Audria Garrison, Hoyt, KS



Happy 1st birthday Webtetek Seymour, 12/11!
We love you son! - Mom & Dad



Onnaliyah Zhane Wahquahboshkuk
Happy 10th Birthday - 2/9!
Love you lots like tater-tots!
- Dad



Happy 12th birthday Ki-Bo-We-Kwe! 12/27
Love you most! Mom



Congratulations on your signing with Haskell Indian Nations Kobe!
You will do great things, and we are all so happy for you!
Love from your family!

Ttiwenmo
eginigyen

Happy day
you were born!



Alvina LaClair
Happy 97th birthday from family and friends!!



Hello,

My name is Michelle Lorene Belair, "Azabee." I am 36 years old, and wanting to find a pen pal. I'm a sports fan and I love music and movies. Everyone has a story. I would love to share mine with you and be a part of your's as well. If interested, please write:

Michelle L. Belair #28659-031
FCI Aliceville
PO Box 4000
Aliceville, AL 35442

Happy Birthday Grandma Rusty!
- Love Always, Azabee

Happy Birthday Marianna Belair - Sept. 12! I love you so much! Mom

Happy 9th Birthday Amaya Lorene Williams - Nov. 2! I love you so much! Mom

Happy Birthday Stephanie Belair. I love you Mom. - Azabee

I am pleased to announce the birth of my 1st granddaughter Lawrencina Belair - June 21, 2019. Grandma loves you!



Happy 2nd Birthda ShipsheQuah, 10/9, Sweet and Sassy Girl! We all look forward to the many fun years to come!

From Mom, Dad, Gma, Papa, Aunties, and Shisha Kobe!



Happy Birthday Meems, 11/7 & Numz, 11/20!
Love you to the moon and back!
- Your family