



Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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

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Eshkēnibēk 2020

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Eshkēnibēk

“Spring time of the year”

This paper contains the activities and happenings that took place during the Spring time of 2020: March, April & May 2020.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation & the Coronavirus Pandemic



In an unprecedented measure, gaming operations were suspended at the Prairie Band Casino and Resort at 11:59 p.m. on March 17, 2020, under the direction of the PBPB Tribal Council. The action was taken to ensure the safety of patrons, staff, tribal members and the local community in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation began preparing for the impact of COVID-19 the first week of March 2020, and within weeks were confronting the new realities brought about due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Nation is currently engaged with establishing a new normal as the re-opening process is deployed in a series of phases. The Nation’s highest priority throughout the pandemic has been and continues to be ensuring the safety and well-being of the membership and the local community.

In the first week of March 2020, the PBPB Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) began actively preparing for the oncoming threat of the coronavirus. Facilitated by PBPB Fire Chief Doug Schreiner, TERC is responsible for coordinating and responding to emergency management situations in the Prairie Band Potawatomi community. The committee reached out to Prairie Band Casino & Resort and Prairie Band, LLC management to ensure all operations would be coordinated.

In a fortuitous turn of events, the Nation leadership staff were already scheduled to attend an on-site Continuity of Operations (COOP) training on March 5 and 6, 2020. The training provided guidance on the operation of essential functions

under a broad range of circumstances such as natural or man-made emergencies, dovetailing with the conditions of the pandemic. On March 7, 2020, the state of Kansas confirmed its first case of COVID-19.

Just five days later, on March 12, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly issued an emergency declaration in response to COVID-19 authorizing the use of state resources and personnel to assist with response and recovery operations. That same day, the Nation began canceling upcoming community events, including the Enrollment Amendment Meeting and suspended travel for tribal council and government employees.

On Monday, March 16, the PBPB Tribal Council declared a state of emergency because of the public health and economic threats from the COVID-19 pandemic (Resolution 2020-081). This allowed the Tribal Council to take any necessary action and have all necessary power as authorized under the Nation’s constitution to provide for the welfare of the tribal government, organizations, assets, lands and members to ensure their safety and health for the duration of this emergency. The Nation closed the Early Childhood Education Center, Boys & Girls Club and the Elders Center for normal service operations and reconfigured them as food distribution centers for their respective

clients. The local school system, Royal Valley USD #337 notified the community school would be closed for one week as a precautionary measure. The closure ultimately extended to the end of the school year and resulted in no graduation ceremony for the senior class of 2020.

In an unprecedented measure the PBPB Tribal Council suspended gaming operations at Prairie Band Casino and Resort on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, in an effort to protect the Prairie Band Potawatomi, the local community, casino patrons and team members. The Nation also closed the Prairie Band Dental Clinic, except for emergency consultation.

Following on the heels of the casino closure, the Nation deemed only essential government employees would report to work effective Thursday, March 19, 2020. All non-essential employees were placed on administrative leave. The directive initially set to last through the end of March, remained in effect until May 31, 2020. Essential services remained available by appointment only, with the public required to call in to gain access to respective buildings.

On March 25, the Prairie Band Health Center adjusted hours of operation from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and adjusted services to assist in flattening the curve of the pandemic.

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Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick: Report to the Nation



Dear Tribal Members,

Since January, the Nation has gone through some dramatic changes and most recently, Tribal Council has had to make some tough decisions for the protection of the Nation and its members. With the recent COVID-19 pandemic, Tribal Council had to suspend casino operations and suspend some operations of the government. While essential services were provided, changes had to be made by all to limit the spread of the virus and to ensure the health care systems were not overloaded. I feel we have achieved those goals and as of the time of this writing, there have been no cases on the reservation. Now is the time for the Nation to start the slow process of resuming operations and to start some semblance of normal activities. I do not know if we will ever go back to the way things were and for now in the foreseeable future, we will still have to maintain some distance and limit our activities amongst ourselves. This will be a

slow process since there is, to date, no known cure or vaccination to prevent the disease. Keeping the community safe was and is my main priority and I want to thank everyone for following the guidelines and practicing social distancing, including activities at the casino.

Suspending the operations at the casino was a hard decision but one that I feel had to be made to limit the spread. As some of you may have heard, Kansas Governor Kelly issued guidelines for the state to resume operations. Phase two (2) included resuming activities at all state-run gaming operations. During a call with the Governor and the Tribes at the end of April, her plan asked for guidance from county health officials to determine who and what should be allowed to operate. I objected to that plan since we do not report to the county nor should we follow their directives. I asked for specific language in her executive order to recognize the jurisdiction of the Tribes and allow the Tribes at their discretion, to decide when and how they were to resume gaming operations. In Kansas Executive Order 20-29, she included “The Four Tribes of Kansas (Iowa Tribe, Kickapoo Nation, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and Sac & Fox Nation) retain any authority to regulate through their respective tribal councils for the health and welfare of their population”. This was great progress in our relationship with the State of Kansas, something that has been long overdue. Since we determine when and how to open, we will look at a phased-in approach considering the effects on the community and our members.

This pandemic has identified vulnerabilities within our Nation, with the first being our casino and our reliance on it. I was at the groundbreaking of our facility and I believe it was Jimmy Potter that said, “there may come a day when our casino no longer operates and per cap will cease to exist”. I hope and pray every day that this prophecy has not come to pass but here we are today; our operation is suspended and who knows how long before we can fully resume. I feel now is the time to look to the future and diversify. We need to look at other opportunities and be willing to take risks in other industries. Council has approved the hemp plan and while it will take time to build that business, that is just one area that may help. I doubt we will ever see one industry that produces the revenues the casino provides but each one can help contribute to the Nation’s needs. The second vulnerability is our infrastructure. Since there are now no classes at school and with the possibility of a second wave in the fall, we must work hard to improve our internet accessibility through broadband and wireless services. This will create an environment which will allow our children the ability to attend school remotely if needed. A third vulnerability is our overall operations plans. Our Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) are complete but there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. In the past few years there have been numerous diseases that have not affected us but have been in the United States, including H1N1, Swine Flu, SARS, and now COVID 19. We cannot prevent all diseases from entering the community, but we can plan and prepare for the next out-

break. Our plans must have some specific detail while remaining flexible to allow the government and our operations to continue to serve the community. I have been reviewing all the plans and will continue to work with leadership to ensure the community needs are met.

One example of meeting our community needs during this global health crisis was the establishment of the commissary. At my request, the Prairie Band Casino & Resort general manager, William Marsh, worked with vendors to provide some services to our community to reduce the risk of heading into town. Bill and his team developed the commissary and curbside meal pick-up, and I would like to thank him and all the casino staff for providing those services. My thanks are not limited to the casino staff. All employees have been doing their part in ensuring our Nation’s success during these unprecedented times, whether by providing essential services onsite, working remotely, volunteering their services where needed, or simply maintaining social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID 19. Everyone has contributed and we should be thankful to all that have come together during these trying times.

Finally, I want to re-emphasize the need to continue following safeguards as the Nation resumes operations. Protect yourselves and your families. Stay well!
Migwett

Joseph P. Rupnick, Chairman
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

PBPN & the Coronavirus Pandemic Continued

Continued from page 1
The Pharmacy remained open for normal operation hours but was accessible by drive through only, this protocol remains in place until further notice.

Nationally, the United States Congress passed the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) on March 27, 2020. Of the \$2 trillion package, \$8 billion of funds were earmarked for tribal governments and tribal entities.

To close out March, Governor Kelly issued Executive Order 20-16, a temporary, statewide stay-home order that went into effect on Monday, March 30. Kansans were directed to stay home unless performing essential activities which included reporting to an essential job, seeking medical care or medication, obtaining food and household goods or caring for children, family and vulnerable friends. Everyone was directed to maintain 6 feet of social distance and limit gatherings to 10 people at most.

On April 3, under the guidance of Tribal Council, Prairie Band Casino & Resort opened a temporary commissary providing access to needed food and paper supplies locally. Initially it was opened to PBPN tribal members only, and increased availability to casino team members, and membership of all Kansas tribes. The service was done through curbside pick-up as an additional means to limit contact with the public.

For most of April, the PBP Nation remained still as the coronavirus pandemic continued to evolve and impact different areas of the globe and the United States. Locally tribal members adjusted to the new safety measures involved in everyday living. Many in the community began making masks for their families and friends. People supported each other by staying socially distant and following suggested safety protocols.

As the effects of coronavirus continued more events were canceled or postponed.

The Nation’s April General Council meeting was initially postponed to May, and ultimately canceled. At this time, the July General Council meeting is still scheduled to occur. The Annual Potawatomi Gathering has been canceled for 2020 but will continue to be hosted by the Hannahville Community in 2021. The Nation’s annual powwow, usually held in June, has been postponed with hopes that conditions will improve and allow for a traditional powwow in fall 2020.

The PBPN Tribal Council and government leadership continue to maintain essential operations and remain in communication with granting agencies ensuring compliance. The Nation has also began seeking additional funding sources such as through the CARES Act, IHS, FEMA and other available means.

In late April, Peggy Houston (PBPN) came onboard as the Nation’s General Manager of Operations. One of her first tasks is safely bringing tribal operations back online using a phased approach.

Throughout May, government staff worked on detailing the phases, and creating safety protocols and procedures to allow the Nation to re-open. Work settings have been outfitted with safeguards like plastic barriers as needed. Specific details will be available on the Nation’s website, pbpindiantribe.com.

PBPN Tribal members are strongly encouraged to continue practicing preventive actions, including washing hands frequently, wearing masks in public, social distancing and limiting interaction with the public.

To date, there have been zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the PBPN reservation, however at least one PBPN tribal member who lived off the reservation has died due to complications with the illness.

Vice Chairman Zachariah “Zach” Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Greetings! I hope that this finds you doing well and staying safe during these uncharted and uncertain times. I wanted to take a moment to provide insight in to what has been happening at the Nation for the past few months. Although we have made changes to daily staffing, the Nation continues to provide services to the membership and other work at the government level continues as well. These days the common denominator in how the Nation's government functions is keeping our employees and community safe and healthy in light of the pandemic.

In just a few weeks, the world has

experienced tremendous change that has stressed the local, national and world economy and led to many changes in our day-to-day activity. In mid-March, the Nation began altering how to conduct business as did much of the country. One of the biggest and most notable events was the closure of Prairie Band Casino & Resort. There have been only a few instances of the facility having to take precautions and suspend activity due to weather events such as tornadoes but never a complete shutdown. This coincided with the closure of state-owned casinos.

As mentioned, the Nation's government continues to operate and provide services but the delivery has changed somewhat while we are under stay-at-home orders. Overall, the Nation has closed its buildings to the public and reduced personnel to those deemed essential and with limited on-site work to reduce person-to-person contact as much as possible. As for Tribal Council, our work continues without much interruption. We continue with our regularly scheduled meetings with appropriate social distancing-- we meet as necessary in order to address matters that arise due to the pandemic. As the pandemic continues to spread,

the federal government works to find solutions to the issues that result from the conditions created by the virus. Many federal agencies are increasing services and funding to address the challenges facing the country. Tribal Council often participates in conference calls with federal agencies, White House updates, and weekly calls with the governor as the situation evolves. We also worked with our Washington, D.C. lawyers and lobbyists to ensure that tribes were included in the CARES Act legislation that helped provide economic relief from the impacts of the coronavirus.

We continue to make progress and are complete or nearly complete with some significant items—those include an updated market study on the impact of our casino on the regional economy, an updated feasibility study on the 150/75 highway interchange development project, an energy assessment and energy plan, and a strategic plan for the Nation. Much of this work was possible through a tremendous amount of effort and high level of cooperation between different entities of the Tribe.

Like most, we hope that daily life can return to a state that somewhat resembles what existed before, but

we know we will continue to contend with the perils of the virus with the goal of having a vaccine as soon as possible. We are now witnessing states unveil their re-opening plans that will require weeks more of restrictions on gatherings and hygiene practices to maintain safety. Not all industries will return to operation at once and will be limited in capacity in a phased-in approach. As of this writing, the Governor of Kansas just released her plan—of particular interest was the opening of state owned casinos and where they fall in her plan. At the earliest, the state's casinos will not open until May 18. That assumes that there are no significant resurgences of the virus.

I want to conclude by saying 'thank you' for those that continue to put their lives at risk everyday so that our world continues to function and help keep the rest of us safe. That list includes but by no means is limited to first responders, medical professionals, the food industry, retail workers, and sanitation, just to name a few.

Thank you for the honor and opportunity to serve as Vice-Chair for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Zach Pahmahmie

Prairie Band Casino & Resort Update

Upon reviewing State, Federal, and NIGC recommendations concerning the COVID-19 virus, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council proactively decided to temporarily suspend business operations across the Reservation on March 18, 2020 at 11:59pm. This was done to ensure the safety of reservation residents as well as casino employees and guests.

During this closure, Prairie Band Casino and Resort has taken extensive measures to expand sanitization of the facility beyond normal levels and perform unique maintenance which typically cannot be done while open for business. Additional social distancing and precautionary measures continue to be evaluated and implemented to ensure a safe environment for all people in the facility when a re-opening is determined possible. Additionally, the construction project continues to take shape at the property during the closure period. The construction teams have been able to maintain workplace safety and work in respect to Coronavirus concerns. Spring weather can also provide better temperatures for pouring concrete, which recently took place on the new hotel tower. These efforts will enhance the guest experience, ensuring the casino provides the most memorable and rewarding

entertainment destination in the Midwest.

To further demonstrate dedication to the community, a Commissary was also opened. This service utilized the casino facilities, food storage capacity, supply chains and dedicated food & beverage teams to provide curbside and drive-thru service to a variety of people. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Elder Center and Boys and Girls club were prioritized in the local community, receiving dedicated time periods solely for servicing their needs. After servicing the needs of those people at higher risk or less ability to travel to crowded stores in April, the Commissary services were expanded to PBPB and Casino Employees, any residents on the PBPB Reservation and when capacity allowed, to other Tribes located in Northeast Kansas. The items available for purchase included various perishable and non-perishable foods, toilet paper which was in short supply in grocery stores and prepared meals, all provided at wholesale cost without markup. This offering not only reduces the travel required for local area Natives but is a testament to the hospitality and commitment the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has to their communities and employees.

During these unprecedented times also came difficult decisions for Prairie Band Casino & Resort. With over 700 employees and closed doors, difficult employment decisions had to be made. Employees were kept on payroll for two weeks after closure, while company leadership carefully discussed possible courses of action, evaluated Federal Government Aid and programs being offered, examined cash on hand and discussed obligations to the PBPB Tribal Government. After two weeks of discussions and many government organizations extending their closure periods, the decision was made to implement a series of furloughs for the majority of the organization. Furloughs are temporary in nature where employees retain their jobs (such as during a closure period) and are allowed to return to work when business can resume. This enabled employees to not only collect unemployment but benefit from the Federal Government Aid available, which in many cases resulted a higher level of income for employees. During furlough, the company continued to pay for many benefits available to employees despite the business closure to ensure health coverage. A small number of layoffs also took place, which generally applied only to employees with less than 90 days of employment

(the typical "probationary period" based on company policies) or those with certain employment situations. All layoffs (which is a removal from a job position) were conducted in a fashion which still enabled individuals to benefit from State unemployment and Federal Aid programs. Additionally, typical company policies require a 6 month waiting period for re-applying at Prairie Band Casino and Resort. This waiting period has been waived for all people impacted by this decision so they are able to more quickly return to work at the casino if they desire to re-apply.

As of the creation of this article in early May, we look forward to re-opening the gaming facility and returning employees to work as soon as possible. As always, the employees of Prairie Band Casino & Resort have shown exceptional resilience, commitment to help one another, their communities, and creating memories for guests at the casino and resort. This employee dedication, hospitality and guest service skills are the foundation of our business. Please continue to stay safe, keep your families safe and we will see you soon.

PBP Entertainment Corporation
Board of Directors

Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, hope all is well during these challenging times brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. During this unprecedented time, we have seen investment markets at all-time highs early in the year followed by drastic ups and downs in the market. Unemployment continues to grow week by week while many businesses have been forced to shut down temporarily or limit services and, in some cases, even file for bankruptcy. The list goes on and on unfortunately with financial impacts brought about during the pandemic. For my article this quarter I have focused on providing information on how the pandemic is affecting the Tribe from a financial perspective. I know not everything can be crammed into a few paragraphs in an article so feel free to contact my office if you have any questions on the topics below or also if you have questions on other items not discussed in this article. Take care and be safe.

COVID-19 Funding

In mid-March our Casino operations were forced to temporarily shut down due to the pandemic. What this meant financially for the Tribe was that the revenue stream that provides nearly 70% of our annual budget came to a halt. Despite the temporary closure in March, the Casino was still able to provide some funding to the Tribe for the month, but only about 14% of what was planned for.

So, you may ask how are we doing financially during the crisis? For the short term, we are handling the loss in gaming revenue much better than expected, but it has been tough to maintain services other than those deemed essential from both a financial and operational perspective.

There are several Federal funding sources that you may have heard of in the news such as the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act” (CARES Act) and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which is a component thereof. Many of the

Federal funding sources that we have received so far have created a challenge in order to translate those dollars into helping the Tribe offset the loss in gaming revenue. Basically, there are too many restrictions on how funds can be used limiting the discretion of the Tribes to help their Tribal Members and communities.

I am confident that we will get all the Federal funding sources aligned and incorporated into our overall budget. For the CARES Act dollars, we have received our initial payment from Tribal Relief Fund, in which the U.S. Department of the Treasury released 60% (\$4.8B) of the 8 billion dollars to the Federally Recognized Tribes, the remaining 40% (\$3.2B) will be released at a later date. This is also the funding in which there is ongoing litigation as to whether Alaska Native Corporations (ANC’s) are eligible to receive part of the \$8B, some funding has been held back for the ANC’s pending the outcome. Additionally, from the CARES Act we have received substantial grants from the Indian Health Service, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Community Living, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Federal Transit Administration to date. For the PPP funding, so far only our Boys & Girls Club and Prairie Band, LLC have been eligible, leaving out the Tribal Government, Casino and Gaming Commission.

One source of funds that all our entities will be eligible for is the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) which is claimed when filing each entity’s quarterly employer Federal Tax Return, a max credit of \$5,000 per employee may be claimed under the ERC. Additionally, the Tribe has filed a claim through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in which FEMA would pay 75% of the eligible expenses leaving the Tribe with 25% of the balance. FEMA has also provided the Tribe with various Personal Protective Equipment. While the 75/25 split is less generous than other Federal funding sources and would be utilized once all other Federal sources have been exhausted, it does still help mitigate the necessity to utilize funding from our Reserves.

Reserve funding for Tribal Programs, Economic Development, General Welfare and Charitable Contributions have been built up over the years through our budgeting process as well as the progression of spending outside dollars from grants and third-party revenues prior to spending our own Tribal funds. Per Capita distributions are paid in full through our quarterly distributions and therefore do not accumulate any Reserve funding. I will discuss Per Capita distributions

in the section below and the impact of the temporary Casino closure on the quarterly distribution.

Finally, the Tribe is still able to utilize our Federal and State grants and contracts which make up roughly 15% of our annual budget. Nearly a third (approximately 100) of our Tribal Government staff are directly funded by Federal and State grants with a handful of staff that are funded through Indirect Costs that are included in our Federal awards. While this summary covers the primary sources of income that we currently have secured to date, we will continue to monitor funding opportunities as they become available over the next few months.

June Per Capita Distribution

As you may be aware our quarterly Per Capita Distributions will be negatively impacted by the temporary closure of the Casino. Per Capita Distributions are generated from 48% of the net gaming revenues of the Casino or otherwise referred to as the Tribal Cash Distribution (TCD).

Due to the temporary closure of the Casino, there will be no June Per Capita Distribution. This was a tough decision made by the Tribal Council but was made in accordance with the Per Capita Ordinance.

The quarterly Per Capita Distribution for the month of June is primarily based upon second quarter (April, May and June) TCD’s from the Casino along with true ups for estimates used to calculate the March Per Capita Distribution. Those estimates are for the months of February and March. Since the Casino was closed for the months of April and May there will be no TCD’s for either of those two months.

Although we may potentially see some revenue from the Casino for the month of June, those TCD dollars will most likely be negated by the impact of the closure in mid-March where we only saw about 14% of the planned TCD. This shortfall from the month of March would then need to be accounted for on a future distribution such as for June.

While we did have a positive TCD true up for February, it too would be negated by the mid-March closure much the same as any positive TCD figures for June.

The typical June Per Capita Calculation would be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{February TCD True Up} + \\ &\text{March TCD True Up} + \\ &\text{Actual April TCD} + \\ &\text{May TCD Estimate} + \\ &\text{June TCD Estimate} = \\ &\text{Total TCD's Available for Distribution} \\ \\ &\text{Total TCD's Available for Distribution} \\ &\text{X 48\% / Eligible Tribal Members} = \\ &\text{Per Cap Distribution Amount} \end{aligned}$$

The lack of a June Per Capita Distribution will disrupt payments for Tribal Members on items such as personal loans, bills, and other voluntary garnishments that are generally taken from the quarterly Per Capita Distributions. For those Tribal Members who have such payments automatically taken out of their quarterly distributions, they should contact their financial institution or vendor to address such disruptions in their payments. Additionally, the Per Capita Office should be contacted for updated income verification letters for those who may qualify for certain income-based programs. Lastly, the Per Capita Advance Program (aka Per Capita Loan Program) remains open for those Tribal Members who are eligible for an advance.

Investments and Minors Trust Performance

The first few months of the year have been very volatile for many investments. The Tribe’s Investments and Minors Trust Funds have not gone unscathed by the volatility of the market. While fears from the COVID-19 pandemic have affected our investments, the oil price war between Russia and Saudi Arabia has not as we do not invest in oil or gas.

Despite the volatility of the market, our Long-Term Investments still hold a gain of roughly 36% since inception in 2013 but are down about (8%) Year to Date (YTD) and down about (2%) over the last 12 months.

Similarly, our Tax, Burial and Education Portfolios have performed well in the long term, and even have better short-term results than our Long-Term Investments as they take on less risk. Their performance is as follows: Tax has a gain of roughly 16% since inception in 2014, down about (3%) YTD and up about 2% over the last 12 months. Burial and Education both have a gain of roughly 16% since inception in 2015, up about 1% YTD and up about 5% over the past 12 months.

Our newest portfolio for our Health Center Funds saw healthy gains early in the year when the markets were at

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Prairie Band, LLC Update

We are tough, resilient and able to endure the fight when we work as a team. Those are the words our Prairie Band, LLC team have adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to heed those words and move forward, despite these challenging times.

Many of us remain concerned how COVID-19 will impact our families, community and work environment. Prairie Band, LLC and its family of companies remain committed to supporting our employees, their families, our clients and the community during this latest crisis and time of uncertainty. We are focusing on what we can control. We have remained a cohesive team while working remotely and social distancing. We connect by phone, use Microsoft Teams video conferencing and find other ways to innovate so we can continue to provide first in class services and goods to our customers. We work together toward the common goal of creating economic opportunities for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and our tribal citizens.

I assure our tribal citizens that Prairie Band, LLC family of companies and their employees will continue to be a model of resilience and strength. Our workforce has shown considerable grit and tenacity, remain committed to our mission and are dedicated to moving Prairie Band forward. All the Prairie Band, LLC companies are considered “essential businesses” and have remained open during the pandemic. Many of our employees help provide necessary goods/services

to the community and are unable to work remotely. They are heroes and I want to acknowledge their efforts. If you see our staff, know they take pride in their work and please be sure to thank them.

I am also pleased to announce we recently applied with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to move forward on a Mentor Protégé Agreement. Under the agreement, Prairie Band Construction will be mentored by Medvolt CS, LLC, a Tewa 8(a) certified company with extensive experience with large construction projects serving numerous state, local, tribal, and federal agencies. The Mentor Protégé Program is a business development program in which companies can develop their capabilities, enhance their competitive advantages, and see mutual benefits while pursuing growth opportunities. Tewa, LLC is the economic development company wholly owned by the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Tribe based in Northern California. The groundwork for this relationship has been years in the making. Medvolt CS, LLC was one of three Tewa Companies named 2017 8(a) Business Development Program Company of the Year in the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Kansas City District. Medvolt, Tehama and Tukah (all TEPA subsidiaries) were honored with the award after securing a combined \$100 million-plus worth of federal contracts during fiscal year 2016 with the support of the SBA. Our government contracting division anticipates immediate results from this fantastic opportunity to partner

with Tewa and its family of companies.

Our Construction Division also recently won a large contract for roofing repair, replacement, and maintenance for the United States Air Force Guard and Reserve installations, U.S. Army, and U.S. Navy. As part of this contract, Prairie Band Construction will be providing roofing services to the Air Force on a recurring basis and services on an as-needed basis for the Army and Navy. The projects will be at various locations in the Midwest Region including North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois. The Kansas City SBA office advised this was the largest contract they have ever awarded. Although the final contract value is dependent on the number of task orders assigned to Prairie Band Construction, our share could be as much as \$55 million. We continue to expect great things out of construction division.

We are all aware of the unprecedented times we face in the months and potentially years ahead. Our goal is to continue to increase the economic opportunities and ensure the long-term growth of Prairie Band, LLC. In those efforts, Prairie Band, LLC is participating in the SBA Paycheck Protection Program. This program provides a forgivable loan that will cover 8 weeks of our payroll. The program was one of the first initiatives passed by Congress to assist small businesses like Prairie Band, LLC and its family of companies. In addition to

the Paycheck Protection Program, we revised our budgets to decrease our expenses for 2020. Although we made some difficult decisions, we have approached the current pandemic as an opportunity to grow our companies, especially those providing goods and services to the health care industry. There will continue to be an increased focus on healthcare and the world is witnessing an unprecedented spend in this area to combat the pandemic. Mill Creek, Prairie Band Construction, and Prairie Band Health Services have a significant pipeline now open to obtain more business and bring increased revenue to the Prairie Band, LLC. We do not take the pandemic lightly and have not stalled our efforts to continue to look for opportunities to grow our company.

Over the past several years we have positioned our organization to be responsive to new opportunities and threats, including the current pandemic. Our partnership with the tribal government and Prairie Band Casino & Resort has never been stronger. We all work together to assist PBPB and will continue to do so. I am thankful for their leadership in the face of the difficult times and decisions to be made up ahead. Today’s actions are tomorrow’s history – the steps we have taken to this point have well situated the company to not only weather this storm, but to thrive in the years to come.

Jacob Wamego,
President & CEO
Prairie Band, LLC

Treasurer’s Report Continued

all-time highs in February but have dropped by roughly (4%) since that time, its inception date is February 2020.

For the Minors Trust, we switched to the current investment and trustee services in 2015. Since that time, our Minors Trust funds have seen a gain of roughly 25% since inception in 2015. Each of the age-based portfolios have seen similar results in the long term with investment risk based on the age of the minors.

Our 0-6 year-old Minors Trust Portfolio has seen an inception-to-date gain of roughly 32%, 28% for the 7-12 year-old Minors Trust Portfolio, 26% for the 13-16 year-old Minors Trust Portfolio and 22% for the 17+ year-old Minors Trust Portfolio. The Annualized return for the aggregate of the Portfolios is at roughly 4%. All performance figures for the investments and Minors Trust are as of 4/30/2020.

While volatility in the market will continue throughout the next several

months, we must keep in mind that as the Tribe, we are long term investors and in it for the long haul and should not get caught up too much in short term gains and losses. Similarly, for the Minors Trust, as individual accounts are managed by the Trustee over a 21- year period, in the long run each minor will receive substantially more by investing than otherwise not.

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@pbpna-tion.org. 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)

Charitable Contributions 1st Quarter Recipient List - Total Donated \$73,500

- American Legion Post 410
- Camp Quality
- Capper Foundation
- Donnelly College
- Family Service & Guidance Center
- Gage Park Memorial Inc.
- Heart of Jackson Humane Society
- Kaw Valley Chapter MOAA
- Kickapoo Head Start
- Lawrence Arts Center
- Museum of KS Nat’l Guard

- Race Against Breast Cancer
- Rossville Community Library
- Rossville High School Alumni
- Rossville Senior Citizens
- Rossville United Methodist Church
- Sertoma Topeka Duck Race
- Sunflower State Games
- The Arthritis Foundation
- Three Rivers
- Topeka Blues Society
- Washburn Athletics

Prairie Band Health Center

The Prairie Band Health Center is committed to providing the best care in the safest way possible to the PBP Nation Community and began expanding the scope of available services effective Monday, May 18, 2020, in the transition back to full operations. The Health Center had adjusted service hours during the most critical phase of the pandemic, and is now back to the regular 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m, Monday through Friday. All patients will be given a symptom assessment prior to entry to the building.

The Health Center has obtained an Abbott Rapid Molecular Analyzer and can now provide COVID-19 testing on-site as directed by a provider with results available in approximately 15 minutes. The testing process will allow symptomatic patients to stay in their vehicle for the duration of their visit. As of May 18, the Prairie Band Health Center has identified 9 PUI's (persons under investigation), with all returning negative results.

Other services that will be available at the discretion of providers include scheduling patients for lab work, radiology, and utilizing Zoom which is HIPAA compliant for patient care.

This is a breakdown of Health Center processes and additional services:

- Patients coming to the Health Center are required to call 785-966-8230 upon arrival, at that time they will be given a symptom assessment.
- Health Center staff will conduct a screening and symptom check on all patients at the main entryway.
- If a patient presents with COVID related symptoms, they will be directed to the Med bay located on the west end of the building for testing.

Appointments

- At this time, there will be no access to a waiting room.
- The Health Center will use extended appointment slots, to decrease interactions between patients and allow for increased cleaning processes.
- Walk-in appointments are not available. If you feel you need to be seen, you must call ahead to 785-966-8230.
- You may be able to be seen the same day, pending availability.

Medication

- The Pharmacy will continue to remain open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- The Pharmacy will continue to be accessed through the drive-up window only.

Dental

- The Dental Clinic is open, however walk-in appointments are not available.
- Anyone with a dental emergency can call 785-966-8230 for further instruction.

Diabetes Prevention

- The Wellness Center (gym) located in the Health Center remains closed.
- DPP is offering information and content via Facebook "PBP Nation – Diabetes Prevention Program" and can be reached at 785-966-8272 for additional questions.

Behavioral Health

- The Behavioral Health Department will begin to widen the scope of services and will directly inform patients of changes specific to their situation.
- Behavioral Health will provide a symptom assessment to all guests prior to entry into the building.

Moving Forward

- The Health Center is recruiting for more essential staff, including a Physi-

cian and Nurse Practitioner.

- The Health Center facility is installing structural modifications to the lab, ambulance bay, and creating enclosure areas as needed, along with implementing sliding doors and sneeze guards in high traffic areas.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to be an ongoing and evolving situation. Individuals should continue to social distance and wear a mask in public spaces. Preventive actions have proven to slow the spread of COVID-19 and everyone is still highly encouraged to:

- Stay home and limit contact with the public.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw away in the trash.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth with unwashed hands.
- Refrain from handshakes or hugs.

The best source of updated information continues to be the CDC, www.cdc.gov or your state health department. For Kansas residents' visit www.kdheks.gov.

Introducing Dr. Vale



Dr. Rochelle Vale has joined the Prairie Band Health Center as a Family Practice Physician. Dr. Vale began in her new role in December 2019.

She was born in Seneca, KS and spent most of her formative years in Topeka. She graduated from Shawnee Heights and spent several years working and taking classes. She started Washburn University full time and received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She was a nurse in pediatrics at Providence Medical Center in Kansas City, MO and at St. Francis in Topeka for 5 years and then returned to Washburn to finish pre-requisites for medical school. She was accepted to Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences where she received her

degree of Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine. Family medicine residency was completed with University of Missouri at Kansas City. After residency, Dr. Vale practiced in the underserved areas around Lake of the Ozarks. She was named Best Family Medicine Physician in the Lake Sun's readers choice awards in 2015. Dr. Vale spent 6 years in the lake area taking care of the health care needs of the community which included clinic, hospital care, nursing home care and hospice care.

In February 2017, she was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer. At this time, she chose to move back to Topeka to receive treatment surrounded by family and friends. She spent the year receiving chemo, having surgery, 3 bouts of sepsis, and 30 radiation treatments with a result of no further evidence of disease. In December 2017, she slowly returned to full time practice of Family medicine at Stormont Vail Hospital. She is the medical director for Avalon Hospice. She is excited to continue her Family Medicine practice at Prairie Band Health Center.

One of her favorite quotes is from Patch Adams, "You treat a disease, you win, you lose. You treat a person, I guarantee you, you'll win, no matter what the outcome."

In Memoriam



Unrelated to COVID-19, but during the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, Prairie Band Health Center Medical Director Dr. Terry Harter passed away on April 21, 2020. He provided 17 years of service to PBHC patients.

Dr. Harter was hired by John Holtz, who served as the clinic director at the time and now leads Prairie Band Health Services, a division of Prairie Band, LLC. Holtz had this to share:

It was a sad, sad day when Dr. Harter died.

Dr. Harter was a highly regarded and successful Holton Community Physician when he joined the Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center as the Medical Director in 2005. Terry had a crucial role the early days of directing the Clinic's transition from the US Government Indian Health Service in Holton

to the state-of-the-art PBPHC on the Reservation which he helped design. Terry proved to be a game changer with his dedicated focus to improve the health and well-being of the historically, medically under-served Native Americans in the area.

Terry revitalized PBPHC's commitment to providing the highest quality of patient care utilizing best practice and quality management processes; he championed the expansion of Clinic services advocating for dental, behavioral health and increased diabetes management services; he improved access to care by implementing same day and walk-in appointments; and he streamlined the referral process for appointments with outside physician specialists and increased the network of specialist physicians and hospitals available to Clinic patients.

Terry's role as a physician-leader was integral in the Health Center achieving the rigorous Joint Commission Accreditation which is the gold standard for healthcare accreditation. PBHC was one of, if not the first, Native-American clinic in the country to be awarded Joint Commission Accreditation.

Terry was respected by his PBHC team for his inclusive leadership style and genuine personality. He nurtured long-term relationships with his patients who appreciated his medical expertise, approachability and sense of humor.

Terry Harter, M.D. you will be greatly missed and long remembered.

Dr. Harter's obituary is available on p.16.

PBPN 2020 Election - Vice Chair Candidates



Zachariah Pahmahmie

My name is Zach Pahmahmie and I am seeking re-election for the position of Tribal Council ViceChairperson. My parents are Cheryl Simon (Kickapoo) and Richard Pahmahmie, Jr. (Prairie Band Potawatomi). My paternal grandparents were Josie (Wamego) and Richard Pahmahmie. I have lived on both the Kickapoo and Prairie Band Reservations for a significant part of my life. I received my undergraduate degree from Stanford University in 1996 and my law degree, with an emphasis in Tribal Law, from the University of Kansas School of Law in 2001. Shortly after law school, I served as Tribal Council Chairperson in the early 2000's.

An essential part of the day-to-day workings of tribal government and the exercise of tribal sovereignty, whether that be in business or elsewhere, is an understanding of the law. With each passing day, the demand for legal knowledge is becoming increasingly obvious and a necessity. I believe my experience and legal education will continue to serve the Nation well in the capacity as Vice-Chair in all settings requiring input or representation on behalf of the Nation's government. When I previously served as the Tribal Council Chairperson and presently, possessing this legal knowledge proves invaluable to representing the Nation in instances of meeting with local, state, and federal officials. One particular instance was testifying before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on the benefits of Indian gaming. More recently, Native people have witnessed repeated attempts by the federal government and its agencies to re-engineer the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government contrary to longstanding federal case law and the United States Constitution. Now more than ever, Tribes must remain vigilant to hold the federal government accountable and preserve our

Continued on page 12



Liana Onnen

Bozho, nikanek!
My name is Liana Onnen. My Potawatomi name is Nahkwakishkokwe. Today, I ask for your consideration for the position of Vice-Chairperson in the upcoming Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation 2020 Election.

Many of you already know me from my time most recently, as Chairperson of the Nation. It was an honor and a privilege to serve as the Chairperson, and serving as your representative was one of the most satisfying responsibilities. I have ever held. I have worked for our Nation for nearly 18 years, most recently returning as Housing Director for the Nation. Others may know me better from positions within the Nation such as the Housing Director, but also as the General Manager of Tribal Operations as well. To say that I have a deep historical knowledge and understanding of our Tribal Government and structure would definitely be true. For many years, I have had a front seat to the changes happening within our Nation, and at times was responsible for managing that change within our government.

The time I have spent working for the Nation has given me the experience and knowledge to continue to represent you with a position on our Tribal Council. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to use that knowledge and experience to serve our members and communities in a new role on our Council. I would bring with me not only my successes, but the lessons I have learned from my failures. I would bring a sincere effort to do the best job I can for all of you, and I would endeavor to not make mistakes again, and when those mistakes happen, as we know they will, I would do all I could to never repeat those mistakes again.

While I was away from employment with the Nation, I was able to work as an independent consultant
Continued on page 12



Gilbert "Bert" Vega

I am writing this letter to let you know that I am seeking the position as Tribal Council Vice-Chairperson. I believe that a position on Tribal Council is an important position within our government structure because it is through the responsible fiscal management of the Nation's finances that we are able to provide the programs and services that allow us to continue to improve the quality of life for all tribal members. I understand and respect the responsibilities that come with a position on Tribal Council and will uphold these responsibilities with integrity and pride. I have a varied background that I believe provides me with the skills, education and experience to successfully hold the position. First, I served in the military with 3 years as a Fixed Station Technical Controller in the US Army, 3 years with the Kansas National Guard in Communications, 3 years in the Kansas Air National Guard as a Driver and received an honorable discharge at the end of my service to our country. Through the assistance of the Nation's Education Program, I have obtained a bachelor's degree from Friends University. In addition to my service to our country and my education, I have had the honor of working for the Nation's Casino for 22 years. While at the Casino, I worked in the Slot Department working my way from a Slot Technician to becoming the Slot Performance Manager.

This background and work history provides me with first-hand knowledge of casino operations which I believe are beneficial to the success because our casino revenues directly fund the major portion of our tribal programs. Understanding how the Casino and Nation are connected and interdependent is important in understanding the roles, responsibilities and functions of the position as Tribal Council Vice-Chairperson. I believe that we have done a good job of managing the Nation's finance
Continued on page 12



Susie "Nis" Wilbur

Thank you for considering me for the position of Vice Chairman of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. I chose to run for many reasons, primarily because I've disagreed with some of the policies, practices, and decisions made by our government officials during the last six years. Hopefully, my personal ethics, professional experiences, and education can win your vote.

Our reservation is my childhood home and I moved away only for academic pursuits. All of my core values were created, and continue to be influenced, by our tribe. My driving principal is that all families are valuable. I was taught that no one is better than anyone else, and I really believe that to be true. We all deserve to be represented and heard, regardless of religious belief, income, or place of residency.

Our tribe has given me so much to be grateful for: a belief system, education, a home, and an incredible family; but throughout my life, it's also given me reason to be frustrated. Unfortunately, I've seen inequitable access to our public resources and services, unethical and unsafe actions get swept under the rug, and unequal application of policies. That is why I was excited to participate in the strategic plan survey and am eager to learn what we consider to be the most pressing issues. Only through cooperation, transparency, and accountability are we going to achieve our goals. Our collective voice set an agenda and it's the responsibility of our elected officials to get that job done. Also, our media, General Council reports, and public news should report our accomplishments and acknowledge areas needing continued improvement. All great athletes know that champions must be open to receiving both the coach's critique and applause and know when it's time to pass the ball.

Continued on page 13

PBPN 2020 Election - Treasurer Candidates



Wade Pahmahmie

Re-Elect Wade Pahmahmie as Tribal Council Treasurer

Hello everyone I am Wade Pahmahmie and I am currently seeking re-election as the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Council Treasurer. In April 2017 I was elected through a Special Tribal Council Election to fill the vacant Treasurer position. I feel that it is my duty as a Tribal Member to use my experience and education to help our Tribe whenever possible. Shortly after graduating from Washburn University I came to work for the Tribe serving in the Finance Department for 17 years until I was elected as Treasurer serving the past 3 years. In those 20 years as both an employee and elected official I have had the fortunate opportunity to be a part of the tremendous financial growth of our Tribe.

Unfortunately, this Spring we have seen the COVID-19 pandemic cause us to close down our Casino and limit other business and government operations to only essential functions. Decisions to close our Casino which provides roughly 70% of our annual budget and to restrict other operations are tough decisions to say the very least. Those are however decisions that we must make together as Tribal Council and must be made to protect the health and welfare of our Tribe and its members despite the economic impact of doing so. Fortunately, for our Tribe we have been able to save and invest over the years and now have the resources to sustain those essential functions which will help us get through this unprecedented crisis.

During my time as Treasurer I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with our Casino, Gaming Commission and Prairie Band LLC on various financial projects as well as the annual budget process. My prior experience in Tribal Finance has allowed me to

Continued



Anna Boswell

No profile submitted.

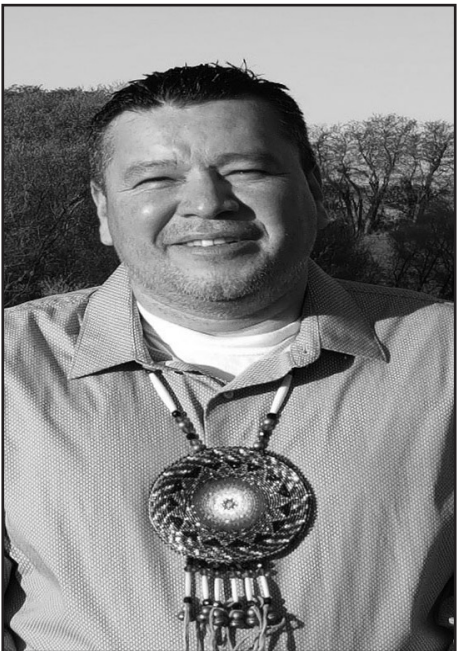
W. Pahmahmie Continued
communicate effectively with the three entities and understand their financial needs. While gaming will always be our largest source of income, I also understand the need to diversify and hope to continue to help move the economic development project at 150 Rd & Hwy 75 forward. Recently, we have worked together with the LLC and Casino on updating the feasibility study for the 150/75 project. Additionally, I have also been honored to have the opportunity to provide financial reports at our quarterly General Council Meetings as well as working with Tribal Members on Will & Estate Planning, various Tax Matters and the distribution of Unclaimed Property to name a few.

To wrap things up I respectfully ask for your vote on election day July 25, 2020. As a Tribal Member growing up in the local area and living on the Reservation, I have always had a great interest in the Tribe's current events and culture as well as understand the importance of exercising our Tribal Sovereignty. Being able to work for the Tribe over the past several years has been a very meaningful and fulfilling experience for me. Despite long hours on the job, the work I am able to accomplish is much more satisfying knowing that I am positively contributing every day to help the Tribe. With this being said I look forward to serving the Tribe for many years to come in whatever opportunity passes my way and hope that you consider me on election day for Tribal Council Treasurer.

Thank you and I look forward to talking with you all later, Wade P (Wap-tti-ge).

Contact Info:
wpahmahmie@hotmail.com

PBPN 2020 Election - Tribal Council Member #2 Candidates



Melvin Lewis II

mnogishget nikanek mine tenwegmanek

Bosho

My name is Melvin "Nanoki" Lewis II, I am honored to be an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. My parents are Aurora Knoxsah, Potawatomi/Kickapoo and Melvin Lewis, Potawatomi (deceased). I am married to a wonderful woman, Tiffany "Kittkabowe" Lewis (Meskwaki). We have 9 loving children between us that are being raised with a strong cultural background in Mshkotani, Kiikaapoa, and Meskwaki heritage. We are strong supporters and participants of our cultural ways. Through this, I have gained extensive qualities to become more open minded, passionate, caring, and loving for all walks of life.

I would like to touch on a few important thoughts that I believe in. We as Nishnabek, should take care of everything that was given to us including our culture and heritage. We believe in protecting our ways of life, the ground we walk on, the air we breathe, the water of life and most importantly, through Prayer. Without any of this we could not raise our families as we do today. This is the balance we live in today, between two worlds.

I have worked in many fashions of jobs. The most rewarding was being a supervisor firefighter/EMT in our tribal fire department for almost twenty years. Here I had the opportunity to gain professional management knowledge of Federal, State, Local and other Tribal entities. One of the most important aspects of this job was the caring for our people, and protecting the tribe's infrastructure through emergency services on the reservation and assisting surrounding communities. I was also offered the opportunity to manage as the Fire Chief/Director. Critical thinking and

Continued



Ronald "Tony" Wahweotten

No profile submitted.

Lewis Continued
multitasking is a necessity.

Today, our people and others around us are faced with a deadly silent killer known as Covid-19. This virus has caught all off-guard and crippled everything we know to be our normal. This will take a great amount of planning efforts to adapt and overcome. One of the most important qualities I have learned in my career in Emergency Management is to be prepared, respond, mitigate and recover. We are resilient.

Other issues raised today are of importance, such as sovereignty, national court cases, housing, land issues and many others to name but a few. With your help, we could help raise other important issues for the future generations to come, such as blood quantum, economic development, jobs and job security. Also keeping in mind, our tribal constitution to be upheld in our work ethics.

Through my experiences, training, and knowledge gained, I am very positive I can serve you, as the Potawatomi people's choice.

"Let me be your voice, let me be your vote" Vote Nanoki for Tribal Council Member 2.

Please feel free to contact me, I would enjoy a conversation with you.

Melvin "Nanoki" Lewis II
Fireboss88@gmail.com
(785) 288-1523
Igwien Iw

PBPN 2020 Election - Tribal Council Member #2 Candidates



William Mitchell

My name is William Gary Mitchell, and I am running for Tribal Council Person #2. My father is Eddie Joe Mitchell and my mother is Mary Wabnum Mitchell. I have two sons, Andrew and Samuel Mitchell, who are named after my late grandfather and their maternal uncle to honor each of them following family tradition.

Having grown up on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation reservation, I was able to learn our Tribal traditions and culture by participating in Big Drum ceremonies and sweat lodge, and have attended various community events hosted by the Tribe. I have lived on or near our PBPN reservation my entire life. My family still resides on the original allotments, and this community is where I want my kids and grandkids to grow up. Because of this, I will always be connected to this land and understand the needs of our people. I am proud that my sons live in this community, and will be able to benefit from all of the Tribal programs and services as I have.

We are fortunate to have had many great Tribal leaders fight to preserve our rights of self-government, our lands and cultural identity. We should insist that our elected officials continue their efforts and expand upon our programs and services to provide more economic opportunities for our children and grandchildren.

In 2013, I graduated with my Bachelors of Science in Business Administration from Haskell Indian Nations University. I am currently 8 credits away from receiving my Masters in Business Administration from the University of Kansas. I have also completed certification in industrialized hemp from America's Hemp Academy in my spare time. Education is very important to me and continues to be a major part of my life. As an avid reader, I keep current with local, state, and federal policies that affect Indian Country.

Continued on page 13



Christopher Brewer

Progress, Strength & Communication

These are the qualities that I will bring to the Tribal Council office to enhance the guidance that drives our Nation. The Tribal Council is a very honorable position with tremendous responsibility. I will fulfill this responsibility a work with each member of Tribal Council and continue moving our Nation forward.

I currently work with our governments' Administrative team. I am also a proactive member of three different social committees. These are the Social Services Advisory Board, Peacemakers Circle, and the Charitable Contributions Committee. The mission of these teams is to make a positive impact on the community.

I have been witness to fantastic positive changes and improvements in our Nation and services to our community. I know that by working with Tribal Council, I will learn more and contribute new ideas to benefit the Nation and continue progressing forward. One example is, there needs to be more access to information for the Elders, so they are more informed of the resources available that will benefit their health and welfare. I can work with Tribal Council on a plan, to develop a way to make this feasible and possible.

One aspect of governing is continual collaboration with outside governments and the four tribes. Working and collaborating with outside entities is very important to the forward progress of the Nation. A few years ago, I facilitated a workshop at the Health Conference in our Casino, with the other members of the 4 tribes. We talked about what all the Tribes had in common with healthcare problems and other issues in general. This was just one way that Tribal Council can use communication as a tool to continue moving forward and makes real

Continued on page 13



Michelle Simon

Greetings Everyone,

I hope this message finds you and your family well and in good spirits as we face the changes and challenges brought by the coronavirus pandemic.

My name is Michelle Simon and I am running for Tribal Council Person #2.

My anishnabe name is Mis-No-Quah. I carry the name of my paternal grandmother Delores Pahnahmie Wilson (PBPN). I am fish clan. My parents are Janis Simon (Kickapoo) and Gary Wilson (PBPN). I am a mother, daughter, sister, aunt and a proud member of the PBPN Community. I enjoy sewing, beading and teaching these ways to people in our community along with attending services ensuring our culture will continue for many more generations. I hold our culture, language, land, veterans and elders in high regard. I carry myself through life with the values of stay humble, do your best, help the People and be kind.

I have a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in Change Management and an undergraduate degree in Communication. I am a seasoned leader within both the tribal government and the casino with a combined 20 years of experience, developing valuable operational knowledge and becoming well versed in the laws, ordinances and policies that provide guidance and oversight to both. For the past four years I have served as the Nation's Media Relations Specialist keeping the Nation informed while maintaining objectivity. I possess a keen awareness of the issues impacting the Nation at the local, state and federal level. These skills and insights will be critical as the Nation navigates the on-going impacts created by the coronavirus pandemic, along with the on-going issues the Nation faces.

Continued on page 13



Coleen Thomas

No matter which hat I am wearing, my goal is simple – **empower our people and leaders to differentiate themselves by being the best that they can be and implement measurable results through game-changing decisions.**

Known for tireless work ethic, organizational skills, and a hands-on approach, I remain unassuming, unselfish with a genuine interest in the wellness of our people. I have a strong intuitive understanding of and am responsive to others' needs and concerns. My drive is directed at working with and for others. Cooperative and willing, I receive particular satisfaction from accomplishing tasks and ensuring opportunities for others, the Team, the Community, and the Nation. I am committed to serving others and have served on numerous committees for many years such as Enrollment, Youth organizations, Environmental organizations, and Powwow & Gathering Committees.

I have worked with the Prairie Band Casino & Resort in a leadership role for the past 10 years, and currently serve as the Purchasing Manager. Readily approachable, I have remained an effective communicator while working at a faster-than-average pace paying close attention to details, as well as being both quick and accurate.

A natural multi-tasker, I completed my education while working as a single mother of 4 and a second mother to my 3 nephews. I have a Masters' degree from Baker University and undergraduate degrees from Washburn University and Highland Community College. I have also successfully completed the Tribal Leadership Development program. My passion is to coach and mentor, as I have played an integral role in shaping the lives of many young talents in the community over the years. I do my best to

Continued on page 13

ELECTION
DATE

Saturday
July 25, 2020

Last day for ballots
to be received at the
Mayetta Post Office
by 9 a.m.

Ballot count
at Old Bingo Hall
16277 Q Road,
Mayetta, Kansas

*** Majority vote is
required. If no
candidate receives
the support of at
least fifty (50%) plus
one vote of those
voting, then there
shall be a run-off
election for that
position between
the two candidates
receiving the highest
number of votes.**

- PBP Election Ordinance,
Section C, Vote Required for
Elected Positions

RUN-OFF
ELECTION
DATE

***If required**

Saturday
August 22, 2020

Ballots must be
received at the
Mayetta Post Office
by 9 a.m.

Ballot count
at Old Bingo Hall

PBPN 2020 Election - Tribal Council Member #3 Candidates



Raphael Wahwassuck

Always do the best you can for the betterment of the people. We are currently enduring an unprecedented emergency, and this continues to be the mindset that I utilize when considering the safest options for our community at this time. This lesson from my childhood is part of the foundation of who I am and how I approach my life today. I firmly believe that it's possible to compromise to achieve goals for all our people, so long as you know the principles that can never be compromised; and so long as we're willing to listen to each other. Working together helps us to move forward.

My name is Raphael Wahwassuck. I am asking for your support to continue as your representative in Tribal Council seat #3. I have lived most of my life here on our reservation and continue to raise my family here. I have also been privileged to witness and participate in many of our great accomplishments over the years and it has been an honor to serve as a representative for our people, for YOU. Igwien for giving me a chance. During my time in office, my years of experience working within our Tribal government proved to be a benefit towards understanding the impacts we as Leaders can have on our community and people. I have been able to draw from my experiences of working with national organizations and other Native communities to improve the quality of life for our people. I am proud of the teams that I have worked with and the developments that I have taken the lead on as a Council member for our people. Over the past year and a half, some of those items include:

- Collaboratively spearheading the first ever "Native Recognition Night" with our tribal programs and local school district and continuing for a second year, with plans to make this an annual event.

Continued on page 14



Krista Catron

Bozho,

My Potawatomi given name is "Wawiatnokwe", and my English-given name is Krista Catron. I am an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and I also represent Kickapoo ancestry. My color is blue and I am of the Fish clan. I am one of many proud grandchildren of Ronald and LaVeda Wahweotten and Maxine and Benny Catron. My parents are Tina Wahweotten and Darold Catron. I also have three sisters; Racheal Deo, Robin Deo, and Abby Boeckman. I do not have children but I am a proud auntie to five beautiful nieces and nephews that I consider my own.

Beginning in 2014, I served the Nation as a PBPN Peacemaker and also worked as a Foster Care Case Manager. In the Spring of 2019, I graduated from Washington University's Brown School of Social Work and Public Health in St. Louis with a Masters of Social Work (MSW) graduate degree, concentration in American Indian and Alaskan Native Studies and specialized in Sexual Health and Education. Since then, I have returned home and am currently serving as the Assistant Social Service Administrator for the PBPN Social Service Department. In this capacity, I have overseen 7 programs, 16 budgets, 22 grants, and nearly 30 staff. I have the ability and skills to effectively manage a variety of projects, and I believe that these skills are transferable to the position of Tribal Council Member #3.

I come from a strong line of leaders. I have only ever witnessed persistence and resiliency in the form of strong Indigenous people, but especially the women in my life. But as I've written this, I am faced with the impending question of "what is leadership?" A few things may come to mind as one thinks of leadership: accountability, effective communication, integrity,

Continued on page 14



Shawn Walker

My name is Shawn "Kack-Te-Ah-be" Walker. I am the son of Cecil "Key-O-Kum" Walker Jr., the grandson of Vestina "Mah ne" Nonken (Nioce), Great grandson of Joseph "Suak-Kwe-Hah Gah-Ba" Nioce and Alice "Paton-naw-Kwa" Nioce (Lasley). My grandmother proudly served on the Tribal Council throughout diverse years between 1976 to 2000, to include the development and start of the Nation's casino. Her legacy is remembered within our community.

I am currently working on my Educational Doctoral Degree from Walden University. I completed my Master in Business Administration with a focus on Change Management from Friends University and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Washburn University. I have been a law enforcement instructor for over 19 years, which included the following topics over the years: leadership, management, basic/advanced technical skills, and active threat training.

I proudly represent our Nation as a Military Veteran with over 21 years of service. In 2012, I retired from the Kansas Army National Guard with three overseas tours, which included two in Iraq and one to Bosnia. Which over that time, I managed over 28 million dollars, supervised maintenance operations of 12 medical aircraft responsible for the south half of Iraq, managed four aircraft technical shops, and perform down aircraft recovery missions.

Over the last 24 years, I have served within law enforcement. Starting my career in tribal law enforcement with the Kickapoo Nation, and then being a part of the starting up of our Nation's tribal police department in September 1997. I left the department in 1999 to expand my law enforcement knowledge. I spent ten years with the Mission Police Department, a suburb of Kansas City. I served as a Police

Continued on page 14

Tribal Council Member #3 Candidates



Robert Lange

Hello,

For those who don't know me, I offer this small Bio. My full name is Robert William Lange. I live in Mayetta, KS on the reservation; I have three sons, two granddaughters and one daughter-in-law of whom my wife and I are so very proud. I currently manage the PBPB building maintenance program and have been with this department going on fourteen years. If not elected, it will be my privilege to continue serving the Nation in my current role for years to come.

I was given my name in Potawatomi when I was a baby and have been told about it by my family ever since I can remember. If you'd like to know about my family or my name, religion, accomplishments, or any other facts about me feel free to contact me at my home phone number shown at the end of this Bio. Please call. I would be very glad to speak with you.

Now, what I ask for is a vote for common sense, for fairness for all, for productivity, for confidentiality, for separation of powers, for the PEOPLE. I could go on about what I can promise, what I can do and what I have done for the Nation over the last 14 years, but people who know me will confirm I'm here to help and I care. So, please call me if you'd like to talk over anything that I've learned during the time I've been so fortunate to live here on the reservation and work for the Nation. I do humbly ask that if you don't vote for me, that you DO vote for someone you believe in. Not because they are part of the family, or because of what they can do for you. Vote for them for what they can offer the entire Nation.

Sincerely,
Robert W. Lange
785-966-3147



Shirley Trull

I am Shirley Trull, the daughter of Alvina (Wamego) LaClair and the late Milton LaClair. My parents taught me the meaning of hard work and encouraged me to reach my goals whether personal or professional. It has been an honor to serve as a current Tribal Council Member, as I was appointed to the position in May 2019.

For nearly 5 years, I was the Financial Officer for Social Services. This position allowed me to understand the operations of our Nation (i.e. budgeting, planning, workflow).

Additional experience includes 3 years at Prairie Band Casino & Resort. I began as an Executive Intern, learning front and back of house casino operations. I became the hotel Housekeeping Supervisor, supervising over 60 employees, which eventually led to a promotion to Executive Housekeeper, managing housekeeping and laundry operations.

Prior to the casino, I worked 3 years at the IRS as a Tax Examiner; then moved to processing Federal Income Tax Transcript requests. Most of my work time was spent at Honeywell for 27 years as an Electronics Inspector, which enabled me to realize manufacturing processes and federal guidelines, as the company was a subcontractor for the Department of Energy. During the mid-2000's, I returned to the classroom and obtained both my bachelor and master's degrees in business administration.

I was elected as the first Ethics Chairperson for our Nation. I was proud to be a part of the Ethics Commission as we wrote our Nation's Code of Ethics, which was approved by the General Council in 2010. I adhere to the ethical behaviors that are necessary for elected and appointed officials. Confidentiality always remains a priority and that council should be working together even when we

Continued

Ethics Commission Candidates

Commissioner #1
Candidates



Jessica Burghart

My name is Jessica Burghart and I'm looking to fill a seat in the Ethics Commission. A little about me...

My family is Prairie Band and some of them are located on the reservation and off the reservation. I currently live in Lawrence, KS. I work two jobs; my fulltime job is at KCNSC as a Small Business Advocate and the second is as an adjunct professor at Haskell Indian Nation University. I have one son that just turned 18 and will be going to Haskell in the fall.

The reason why I would be a good pick for the Ethic Commission is this...integrity, open-minded, and respectful. Integrity is a quality that I hold dearly. I believe that honesty is a must and doing right should always be done no matter what! I keep an open-mind to situations and scenarios because there are always three parts of a story: theirs, mine and the truth. And lastly, respect for all people. I respect the future of the youth, respect for the adults and utter respect for the Elders.

Thank you,
Jessica Burghart

Commissioner #2
Candidates



Allison Pahmahmie

My name is Allison Pahmahmie. I have been employed with the Nation for 8 years in Human Resources. I started as the HR front desk clerk and then transferred to Benefits Coordinator, my current position. I enjoy working in HR because I get to work with everyone.

I would like your vote for Commissioner #3. I believe in confidentiality, having a good work ethic, accountability, and honesty.

Vice-Chairperson
Candidates

No candidates filed for the Ethics Commission Vice-Chairperson.

The Ballot Count
will adhere to
Social Distancing
protocols.

Trull Continued

disagree. My various work experiences and ethical obligations have aided my decision making in council chambers and everyday life.

I currently serve on the Tax Commission. Our Tribe is working on possible future hemp operations plus other potential taxable opportunities as we expand business outside gaming. I also serve on the Constitution Committee. We will decide on changes for our Tribal Constitution's Article III (Membership, specifically blood quantum) and Article IX (Ethical Responsibilities of Officials) which will require general council approval.

Finally, I am also a Land Committee member. During Tribal Council meetings, I have been able to address and question the difficult issues that face our Nation. The voice is not just my agenda; it is for the advancement of our Nation. I am seeking your vote for Tribal Council Member #3 so that I may continue our Nation's work with knowledge, honesty, and empathy.

PBPN 2020 Election - Candidate Profiles Continued

Z. Pahmahmie Continued

rights under the law. When tribes signed the multitude of treaties giving up millions of acres of land in exchange for certain monies and services, tribes paid in full and expect the government to uphold its end of the bargain.

In addition to serving the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in a tribal government capacity, I have previously worked in the Nation's gaming enterprise for approximately 7 years. I have also worked in an administrative role in a tribally run health care facility. These experiences were valuable in gaining insight from both the government and enterprise perspectives of the Nation.

Like all previous professional experiences, my current position as Vice-Chair has allowed me to play a role in

shaping the Nation's future, especially concerning the health and well-being of the membership. In the past in my role as Chairperson, the proposal to build and operate our own health clinic advanced. More recently, the Nation opened its own behavioral health facility that not only serves the Nation's members, but all tribes in Northeast Kansas. I have also continued to serve in a role as a member of the Tribal Health Summit Planning Committee and have taken on the role as Committee Co-chair for the past few years. In this role, I have assisted in the organization and planning of the annual Health Summit. During the Summit and through other programming, the committee works to strengthen tribal communities' health and well-being through health promotion and education. In the absence of these types of efforts, our Nation and tribal communities

around the country for that matter, risk the loss of valuable knowledge of elders and shortened lifespans of the younger generations due to high incidences of illnesses like diabetes. The recent pandemic has underscored to need to continue this work as people with certain underlying health conditions many of which are all too common among Native communities. Certain underlying medical conditions create a higher risk of complications amongst Native populations as evidenced by the high death rate on the Navajo Nation that is higher per capita than three of the most affected states.

In my role as Vice-Chairperson, I have advocated for a recommitment of efforts to further economic development. In addition to ideas and initiatives under review by Tribal Council, such as soliciting proposals for the

recently completed feasibility study for 150/75 highway interchange project, I currently serve in the role as Chair of the Board of Directors of Prairie Band LLC since shortly after my election in 2016. During this period, the LLC has grown year over year and continues becoming more sophisticated in its work and expertise with each passing day. Three of the companies now qualify for bidding on major federal government contracts.

I thank you in advance for your support in the upcoming election. It would be an honor to continue serving the Nation as Tribal Council Vice-Chairperson. I will continue to serve as a partner and advocate for the Nation's membership to advance on a path to greater prosperity and success in all matters facing our Tribe.

Onnen Continued

for several tribes, particularly in the Midwest and Northern Plains. I found this to be one of the most valuable experiences I have had in my professional career. The opportunity to continue to work for tribal communities was a gift. It was also an education for me. I was able to help tribes with my experience in managing tribal governments and entities, but I was also able to learn from their structures and their constitutions and laws and programs. I also learned about their cultures and sometimes even the historical ties between our peoples. It brought me a new perspective which I know brings value to the Nation.

I believe in our Nation and our people. I always have. I am not running to serve for my own reasons, I am running for all of you. Serving on Tribal Council is tough and I am ready for that. I am ready to dig in and do the work that needs to be done, because I know we can do better and be better. I also know, that the way things are in the world today, we will have to be better. We will have to be visionary in a way only Prairie Band Potawatomi People can be visionary. Every one of us, as members, deserves leadership who works hard for them. Leadership that doesn't show up, or speak up, or only speaks up when it affects them, is not leadership. It is certainly not representation. And at the end of the day, that is what Tribal Council is first and foremost: Your representatives, elected to act in the interests of the membership.

In the coming weeks leading up to the ballot mail-out and election, I will have a website up and running that

will delve further into the following key issues and outline actual plans to address the deficiencies in these areas or at a minimum and analysis of the issue and why it is important. Each will be given its own, in-depth look.

TRIBAL COUNCIL
ACCOUNTABILITY/
TRANSPARENCY/REPORTING

We all know there have been issues for many years in this area. Every election cycle we talk about it. Why? Because nothing is ever done. Because the promises are made, the research starts, and suddenly people find out two things. 1. It is work. 2. It will truly make them accountable. Both of those things become negotiable and then even if they are brought to the table, no action is taken. I watched this happen time and again as both General Manager and Chairperson. In my new position I will bring forward revised policies, reporting requirements, proposals for open/streaming meetings. You deserve to know which Tribal Council members show up on time and stay for the duration of meetings. You need to know how many times members miss meetings and why. You need reporting of a week's work, especially if it is "out of office" or "work from home." Tracking hours is tedious, not impossible. This will be the first issue/plan I roll out on my website and other electronic outlets. Because I have experience with policy and ordinance development, I have the skills necessary to complete this work and the drive to bring it to the table for action. As a voting member, I would even be able to make a motion so that the Council is forced to act, because letting an issue die for

lack of second is action. Then you can truly see who wants to be accountable and who doesn't.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Casino, LLC, and beyond.... What is next? We need to explore more and we need to do this now. If the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought home no other lesson, it has to be that we can no longer rely solely on our Tribal Casino to carry us through. We must focus on new economic development opportunities and invest our dollars more wisely as we move forward. We also need to take a hard look at our Land and plan for the future. Land is one of our most valuable resources for economic development as well as regaining our land and preserving sovereignty. We need to know why we are buying land, how much it costs, and in the instance of Thunder Hill, what did we spend? What are we going to do with it? What will the Return on Investment be for that property? We must be judicious in our land purchases and not dip into reserves to make purchases we have no plans or use for. Now more than ever, sound, experienced fiscal management matters. The current crisis is the "rainy day" our reserves were meant for. Do we have enough to sustain? For how long? We do not know as members. That is because there is another key area we must work on.

COMMUNICATION

The Tribal Council must do better in keeping its membership informed about tribal government business. Program coverage is important,

but we need the membership to be informed before they get misinformation or before they get to General Council and are expected to make huge decisions. It is the 21st Century, we can make this happen. Let's find a way and move forward. Streaming meetings will help, but a communication plan is needed so that access to official Tribal Council action is simple for our membership no matter their access to internet or distance from our home reservation in Mayetta, KS. Our membership deserves to know what Tribal Council is doing at the table and how those decisions can impact them. We can do better and I can develop a communication plan as a starting point.

Other topics I plan to dig deeper into are:
ENROLLMENT
CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM
TRIBAL PREFERENCE & TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT
STATE/FEDERAL RELATIONS

I invite you to engage with me via social media and email for now and to look for more info on my website through those avenues. Find me on Facebook Liana Onnen Public and email me at voteliana@gmail.com. I can also be reached at 785-608-7873 for phone or text message. I will get back with you as soon as I can! I appreciate your consideration as we move forward and encourage you to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to engaging with you!

PBPN 2020 Election - Candidate Profiles Continued

Vega Continued

and at the same time, I also believe that that there is always room for improvement. I believe in the next few months that the Nation will have to make some hard decisions when comes to the Nation’s future. I have heard concerns of the membership regarding the Minor’s Trust Fund, the Nation’s investments, and Economic Development progress. I believe that there are ways to improve these areas and am willing to listen to the membership and the current staff to find solutions to the concerns that continue to resurface regarding these issues. I know that there are solutions and I believe that through a coordinated effort we can find those solutions. If I am elected to the position of Tribal Council Vice-Chairperson, I promise to always work for what I believe is in the best interests of the Nation and all its members and to listen to those members when they have concerns or suggestions. We are all Prairie Band Potawatomi and I believe that by working together, there is nothing we cannot achieve. Your vote in this year’s election would greatly be appreciated.

Mitchell Continued

My professional experience includes various employment opportunities from Prairie Band Casino & Resort, Prairie Band, LLC, Kickapoo Housing Authority, and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation government. I held positions in management in the Cashier Cage and Security Departments at PBC&R, as well as internships at the Prairie Band, LLC and PBC&R that has given me valuable experience within the Nation’s businesses. My most relevant experience was my position as the Assistant General Manager and the interim General Manager of Tribal Operations for our Nation where I was able to learn an intimate knowledge of operations, the tribal, state and federal laws that apply to the Nation, and how to maintain budgets for each of the Tribe’s unique departments.

Our Tribal programs rely on supplemental revenues generated from our casino, and funding from state and federal programs which are in a state of decline due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. This event has shown us that PBPN needs

Brewer Continued

change happen.

I have received my Bachelors of Arts in Applied Behavioral Sciences and will have my Masters in Psychology in June, 2020. Both of these were done online while I continued working for the Nation. I worked in many leadership positions for different employers previously.

Wilbur Continued

My name is Nis Wilbur and I have a bachelor’s in Youth, Culture and Social Justice and a Leadership credential from Washburn University. I also earned a Master’s in Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University, where I was awarded a fellowship with the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research. Prior to that, I was a Leadership Associate at Brazelton Touchpoints Center and, many years ago, was a Presidential Academic Fitness scholar at the University of Minnesota. For years I’ve led tribal and state programs with documented success and am a member of multiple boards that focus on improving the lives of children and families. My pride and joy, though, is my daughter Petannokwe. I want better for her than I had for myself, just like I want better for us all. Migwetth.

to diversify our economic opportunities to keep our programs and services solvent. Also, it is equally important for us to make strides to become a food sovereign Nation.

I believe that the Nation should explore the use of new technologies, such as renewable energy, industrialized hemp, and aeroponics farming, to provide additional sources of income and provide more employment opportunities for our people. Through my experience and education, I can help lead this effort.

When combined with my understanding of our Tribal Culture and Community, I believe that I can bring a unique perspective to our Nation. If elected, I would be proud to represent the cultural views and government interests of our Tribal Nation and people. I ask for your vote to be the Tribal Council Person Elect.

Igwien,

William Gary Mitchell “Sektuk”

I believe that with your vote in this election, I can make a positive impact on our lives and keep us moving forward. I was taught to do what is right and what is best for others. My goal is to make a positive impact on the lives of others by my actions. We are living through difficult and different times now. We are still here, and we as a people will survive this together. I am here to listen, act, and serve our community.

Simon Continued

I carry a commitment to the care and wellbeing of our tribe on all levels, from individual tribal members to the tribe as a government entity. I have provided 20 years of service on multiple committees, advocating for our tribal members and assisting in community events. I maintain active participation in our Nation’s government, which has provided me with a comprehensive knowledge of our Constitution and By-Laws. It is extremely important that leadership understand and uphold the foundation of our government.

I believe in a tribal government for all, on-rez, in-state, or out of state and have been a leading voice in promoting access to information through the leverage of technology to make our government more equitable for all tribal members. I am in support of recording meetings, providing greater transparency and increasing access to services. I look forward to implementing the Nation’s 5-Year Strategic Plan, that was created with input from the general membership along with many hours put in by PBPN directors and managers to achieve our common goals.

As a Nation, we need to expand our economy at every level including

Thomas Continued

encourage all ages to continue their education all while pursuing their own personal goals, just as was afforded to me by my personal and professional mentors.

While the Nation faces a multitude of issues, there are a few that require immediate attention such as Enrollment, Economic Development, and Sovereignty. The current Federal administration continues to threaten our inherent Sovereign rights and it is imperative that we protect our Nation and our people in the battles on the federal, state, county, and local levels. It is crucial that continued support of our Language initiatives and Cultural activities remain a priority, as these define who we are. Our current Enrollment policy jeopardizes the future of our Nation with dwindling enrollment numbers. We need viable enrollment options to safeguard the future of our people while providing the needed support for all members. With the current state of affairs, the COVID-19 Pandemic has made it evident that we need to broaden our Economic Development opportunities to ensure the sustainability of our Nation. Eager to be sure that things are done exactly right, I will follow-up carefully and closely, especially if work requires delegating details to others. When it is necessary to be critical, I

small business by individual tribal members and creating business opportunities outside the boundaries of our reservation. I think the Topeka and Kansas City markets hold opportunities to create new revenue streams that could benefit our membership. I am equally excited to see the outcome of our venture into hemp production and the opportunities we can create through the Potawatomi Economic Development summit. I also have more ideas in the areas of internet connectivity, food resources, and recreation.

In my years of service to our tribe, I have proven myself to be capable, committed, and able to work cooperatively with a wide range of personalities to achieve real results. Most importantly I have the confidence in our ability to stand together and lead our Nation through the social and political landscape set before us.

I would appreciate your vote in this election. Let’s visit! Give me a call at 785-608-8851, shoot an email to misnoquah@gmail.com or check me on Facebook at Michelle Simon for PBPN TC 2020.

Igwien,
Michelle Simon

will try to do that in a constructive, supportive manner. With a combined sense of urgency and a sense of duty, I will remain actively engaged with the timeliness and correctness of any work for which I am held responsible.

There are many great leaders within our Nation: some who have taken the initiative to sit at the table and provide insight, guidance, and direction; as well as those who chose to provide just as much valuable leadership and support from the sidelines. Both are equally important and offer many significant, notable, and indispensable lessons. No matter the outcome, I will always be happy to continue to play my role, which ever it may be.

I would very much like to discuss opportunities, concerns, and issues with each of you. Thank you for taking the time to review my candidacy for Tribal Council Member #2. I look forward to talking with you.

Phone: 785-939-6597
Email: coleen_thomas@hotmail.com

PBPN 2020 Election - Candidate Profiles Continued

Wahwassuck Continued

• Improved relationship with the local school district to improve the overall Native Student experience by way of serving on the USD 337 district site council and the RVHS site council, attending numerous meetings and providing educational settings with staff members about Potawatomi history and culture.

• Increased communication with local, state, and federal elected officials. This includes regular meetings with the Jackson County Commissioners discussing collaborations to benefit the PBPN community.

• Meeting with Governor Kelly and her cabinet to educate state officials and promote legislation at the state level for the benefit of all Kansas tribes.

• Our Council has made a conscious effort to have our voices recognized with our federal officials. Through the introductions made in D.C., it has

opened communications with many of the policymakers at the Federal level, with the hope of bringing resolution to PBPN’s interests that have been working their way through Federal offices for many years.

• A huge initiative in progress is the development and planning of a museum to preserve our history through the Tribal Historic Preservation Office/NAGPRA duties.

• One of the initiatives that I am most proud of, is the coordination with other Potawatomi officials to conduct the Economic Summit to find ways to bring together our resources and strengthen all our communities. Again, working together helps us to move forward.

Our Tribal Council hold the most crucial offices for our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and through its leadership, can come a more vital

life for our people. Leadership comes with great responsibility; a responsibility to listen and to be an advocate for the people. It is our responsibility as members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation to ensure that we have the right people in these positions to be our advocates. I take my ability to represent our people to heart, and utilize a very conscientious approach by thoroughly reading, researching, asking questions, and reflecting on all the decisions requested of me. I am always available to meet with any Tribal Member who would like to discuss the future of our people as this is why I am here: to be a voice for all our people.

I look forward to another opportunity to bring my ideas and knowledge to our Council to contribute to our continued success and future endeavors. My experience

serving as a Tribal Council Member, my education, previous work experience, and most importantly, my devotion to our future, the future of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, will continue to enable me to be an effective member of our Tribal Council.

Leadership does not come without sacrifice, and I thank my family and friends for supporting and encouraging me to continue to be a representative for the people. Thank you for your consideration.

Křamikřřewitwak wiřř nish-nabeyěk mine křashěwenmak.

Respectfully,
Raphael J. Wahwassuck

Catron Continued

and commitment. While these are all very important traits of a leader, I believe it is very important and necessary to understand that there is no one “right” definition for leadership. Nor, is there one “blanket” approach to leading people, especially Indigenous people. Why? Although we live in a binary world that forces us to “pick and choose” or place definitions and meanings to things, we are also a multidimensional and tenacious group of people that cannot be defined by one standard. Most times a linear standard that is foreign to the relational ways of living within tribal cultures.

As Angela Bunner, the Dean of Academic Affairs for College of the Muscogee Nation states, “*there are as many definitions for leadership as there are Indigenous nations.*” For me, leadership is rooted in and based on communities’ need to address challenges and take on bold new ventures that sustain our culture, language, and beliefs, while propelling us forward to an innovative and sustainable future for generations to come, in honor of generations before us. I am guided by a purpose to serve others and address and dismantle existing

and potential barriers our community faces.

My leadership approach requires me to be aware of my own strengths and vulnerabilities and how these are interrelated, while maintaining an ever-evolving awareness of the community to which I belong. My personal vision for our community is to sustain Potawatomi culture, address health and wellness concerns, expand education outreach and programs for social well-being, promote alternative economic ventures that supplement or supersede our gaming revenue, and environmental sustainability and stewardship. As the needs of our community shifts to adjust to the world at large, so should our vision and ventures that we take on as the Nation. I appreciate any and all support during this time. Do not hesitate to contact me at kristaforcouncil@gmail.com for any questions, comments, or concerns. I take your insight and perspective seriously and I want to be your voice.

Chi Migwett Igwien,
Krista Catron

Walker Continued

I have been concerned with our direction these last few years, and have decided to run for the council member’s third seat on the Tribal Council. I want to see our Nation taking steps forward and supporting the growth of all our people. I feel a government should remember they work for **all the people**, should be **open with the people**, and **take accountability** to fix issues within the government. If elected to Tribal Council, here are a few of the things I would like to place my focus.

Stop the bleeding of our Nation. We are losing more members on the Nation’s rolls then we are gaining. In addition, it seems each general council meeting when finance gives their report fewer enrolled children are showing up on the tribal rolls. A Band-Aid will not fix this bleeding, so as a Nation will have to come together for this issue. There is no reason we cannot take responsibility to solve the problem for the long-term. I think we owe it to our children who cannot be put on the rolls and their future children. I know many underlying issues that come with this problem. We need to solve these together, as a Nation is not a Nation without people.

our people can come back with their families to share and remember the Nobility of our Nation. A place where the following can be shared; traditional ways, songs, hunting, fishing, tribal services, our history, etc.

• We need to save our history before its lost. I would like to see about developing a way to record the history, stories, and wisdom from all of our elders and to share it with our Nation. As we have seen with COVID-19, it is possible to lose that wisdom before its time.

I would like to expand our Nation’s resilience programs, to provide help to those to overcome those issues they are facing. Over the years, our Nation has suffered many hardships, which have left scars on our Nation. We could have let that define who we are and played the victim, but we did not. We used each of these hardships and challenges to come closer together, which allowed us to discover new growth for our Nation. Nation’s scars only shown what we have endured, but we determine who we are as a Nation.

If you would like to learn more about me, you can visit my website at www.walker4tc.com, send me an email at walker4tc@gmail.com, or call 913-481-7380. I look forward to talking to you.

Thank you for your time, and I hope that you will support me in representing our Nation with your vote.

Shawn Walker

Walker Continued

Mentor in Afghanistan as part of the CIVPOL mission to training Afghan Board Police in Khowst Province. Before returning to the Nation as Chief of Police in 2013, after being Chief of Police in Pleasanton, Kansas.

In 2015, I had the opportunity to expand my ability to teach and provide training to other law enforcement officers within the United States. I left the Nation and joined the Federal Law Enforcement

Training Center in Glynco, GA. In the last five years, my territory has been Alaska, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Tribal Nations. Within that area, I have delivered training to over 1,900 law enforcement officers within the state, local, and tribal agencies. In February of 2020, I was appointed as a part-time deputy with the Jackson County Sheriff Office in Kansas.

Continued

Thank You For Your Service



Three staff of the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department marked twenty years of service to the Nation in April 2020. At left, Lieutenant/Emergency Medical Technician/Firefighter Lance Wishkeno, Captain/Paramedic/Firefighter Eric Ganson and Assistant Officer/Paramedic/Firefighter Paul Juedes.

By: Lance Keesis Wishkeno,
Lieutenant/Medical Technician/
Firefighter

Time marches on, and 20 years passed in the blink of an eye. I thought on April 29, 2000 my first day; always have the perspective that it is “Game Time!” I kept saying to myself that day just do the best you can.

I think every day, from the first day to the present, of the military motto: “Adapt and overcome and remember your training.”

The person I was when I started is long gone; a different, more somber at times, not knowing if I am ready because civilian world is way different from military. Eight years of being a 91B10 US Army Medic as one of my two Military Occupational Specialties that I have been trained and knowing that I have been trained one way and now have to learn a new way. Its been an incredible ride and hoping for another decade or more...

I know 2 of my fellow firefighter brothers who walked in my boots that have service for 20-years, knowing from experience that 20 years in firefighter-time is a long, long time. They also knew, as one who lived the life will ever know, living a third of their lives for 20 years serving Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department for Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and Jackson county and surrounding communities.

I want to thank my fellow brothers and C-Shifters Captain/Paramedic/Firefighter Eric Ganson and Assistant Officer/Paramedic/Firefighter Paul Juedes! It has been boomsauce levels of 20 years of serving together here. With all the ups, downs, excitement,

adventures, numerous hours of training and honor working and living with one another for these 20 years. God bless you both and your family. All those days of missing birthdays and holidays from your loved ones. I thank you from me - a fellow Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation member for my nation! I cannot express in words for both of your service and beyond definition how much you have put in the time and efforts in the total success of the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department. I gwi en.

Lastly, 20 years ago Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department needed to shift from traditional emergency responses services and transition into a combination of emergency responses services with a primary focus on being a community reduction team focusing on public safety in a multidimensional approach of safe buildings through code enforcement, building requirements, environmental impact, community safety, responder safety, community health and wellness and community risk reduction through research and education. Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department has become the mother ship that guides critical thinking in all aspects of safety throughout Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and assist surrounding communities.

“The Fire and EMS service here at 20 years ago needed to focus on assembling a set of best practices in risk reduction and work diligently to manage risk via educating our communities, proactive engineering practices and code enforcement. Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department had to transition to being very analytical of collecting certain complete and accurate quantifiable data based upon a standard data model for comparative

benchmarking studies. The battle is won however on the proactive side through risk reduction and risk management. The long term impacts will benefit everyone. Our success will be determined by not solely the retrospective data but community and family buy in. This relates to the true potential risk that exists, verses how it has been reduced.” Battalion Chief Dan McKinney.

Late Battalion Chief Dan McKinney told me this 20 years ago when he had me take over the public relations areas and overall what he thought what was needed here for the success of the fire department.

One other fun mannerism from the late Dan McKinney expressing about the new fire apparatuses, fire department building being built and ambulance service established, “Whew... If we only had that back in the days,” Battalion Chief Dan McKinney.

This year marks the 40 year anniversary for the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department, in service for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation since 1980.

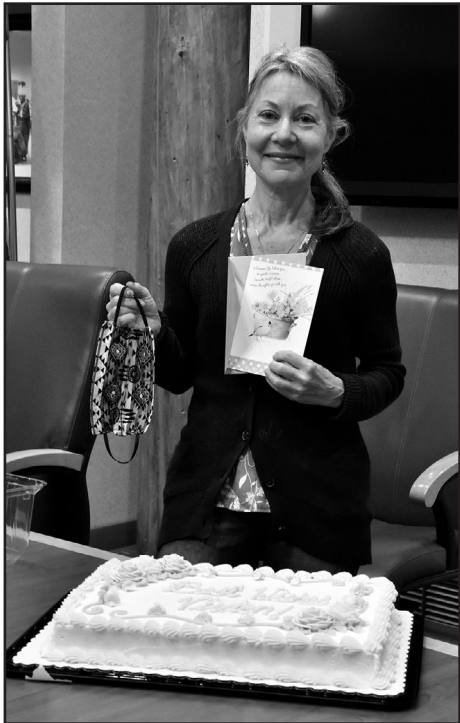
I want to thank all the fellow past and present Firefighters, Officers, Chiefs, and Administrative staff that came, gone and present staff now. Without you all, none of this would of happened and the service is bar none the infinite best. Excellent foundation by all and for the coming future of the fire department and staff!

One major shout out for our Mom/Chief for the Fire department, Mary LeClere. I gwi en for all that you have done and service for the Fire department and major part for this well oiled department and still continuing.



Thank you Micki!

Micki Martinez recently retired from the Nation after 22 years of employment with the tribe. Micki began in 1998, as a secretary for the Tribal Police Department, before advancing to Motor Vehicle Manager in 2000. In 2010, she transitioned to Motor Vehicle Coordinator. Martinez was instrumental in establishing the Nation's license plates and the transportation department. Martinez was celebrated during a reception held at the Tribal Police Department on March 13, 2020.



Thank you Vivien!

Vivien Olsen served as the Nation's Lawyer, providing legal counsel for the past 13 years. Olsen began in June 2007 and departed in May 2020.

Asked about her time with the Nation, Olsen said, “I remember the first month I worked for the Nation- I was surprised with a birthday cake from the Tribal Council! I thought that was the nicest thing since I had only just started working that month.”

During her service to the Nation Olsen represented the tribe on ICWA cases and was able to help start the Indian Law Section of the Kansas Bar Association and facilitate the creation of the Tribal State Judicial Forum in Kansas.

Nishnabek N̄ewm̄en - “Who We Are”

Congratulations! Well Done!



Kishno Bell has been attending Baker University on a bowling scholarship the past two years. This past season she held a collegiate average of 188.4 for 66 games. Kishno had 3 top ten finishes individually and finished 1st at a SWIBC tournament in Plano, Texas with an average of 209.7. At the end of the season Baker University teammates and Kishno won the Heart of America Conference and were on the way to nationals! To finish the season Kishno was named 1st Team All-Conference. Outside of school, Kishno also bowled in a Topeka adult league and bowled her first 300 in November! Kishno is the daughter of Angie Wahquahboshkuk Masquat and Troy Bell. She is the granddaughter of Jackie Mitchell and Kathy Knight.



Congratulations to Nahconbe Wahwassuck for earning the following post-season basketball awards for your sophomore season:

- ◆ Big 7 All-League First Team
- ◆ Sports in Kansas 3A Player of the Year Finalist
- ◆ Sports in Kansas 3A First Team All-State
- ◆ Wichita Eagle 3A First Team All-State
- ◆ CJOonline 3A First Team All-State
- ◆ Kansas Basketball Coaches Association 3A Second Team All-State
- ◆ Holton Recorder All-Area First Team
- ◆ 2020 Best of Kansas Preps Boys Basketball All-Star award.

Your family is beyond proud of you! Kiwiges!

TTiwenmo Eginigyen



Happy Birthday Arlene Lingo, June 1!

Love you always,
Leslie, Anthony, and Kayla
(granddaughter)



June 19th - Happy 11th Birthday son, I love you!

Love, Mom and brother

Learn the Language!
► Iphone users can download the PBP
NishnabemwenLanguage App
from the App Store.

Kambottek

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

Dr. Terry Harter

HOLTON, KS – Dr. Terry Lee Harter, 62, of Holton, beloved husband, son, brother, and uncle passed away peacefully at his home on April 21, 2020 after a brief illness. He was born in Humboldt, Nebraska on June 17, 1957, the son of Eugene and Sally (Anderson) Harter.

He attended elementary school in Onaga and Westmoreland, graduating from Westmoreland High School in 1975. Following high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he developed a passion for the healing arts serving at Naval hospitals in Oakland, CA, New Orleans, LA, and Norfolk, VA. Upon discharge he returned to Kansas, enrolling at Kansas State University, Manhattan. He graduated with honors with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry with Honors in 1983 and was accepted at the University of Kansas Medical School, graduating in 1987 with his Doctorate. Dr. Harter served family practice residencies in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and the University of Kansas Medical School. Upon completion of his residencies he joined West Side Family Practice in Holton where he served, until he found his true calling as Medical Director at the Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center near Mayetta in 2005 where he continued to work until his death.

Dr. Harter was appointed the position of Health Officer on January 1, 1996 for NEK Multi County Health Department by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. Since that date, Dr. Harter was a part of the health department by functioning as either the health officer or the medical consultant. He was currently Medical Director for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Fire Department since the inception of the PBPB advanced life support ambulance service in July of 2000. He worked closely with the staff, he approved the ambulance service medical protocols, supported the EMS training program and oversaw the patient care quality assurance system for the department. Dr. Harter made sure the Prairie Band Nation's Paramedics and EMTs had the right procedures, training and oversight to provide the high-quality medical care expected of them. His easy-going pragmatism coupled with his vast medical knowledge enabled him to cooperatively guide the ambulance program to the exceptional service it is today. He was also a life member of the Kansas State University Alumni Association.

Terry enjoyed living life fully. He cared deeply for family and friends no matter how they entered his life. That compassion extended to friends and most especially to members of the Potawatomi Nation who he served faithfully and cared for as if they were family. All who knew him will miss his quick smile and hearty chuckle; both of which he shared often.

On June 2, 2018, he married his soulmate Tamah Boyce in Valley Falls. She survives of the home. Other survivors include his parents, Eugene and Sally (Anderson) Harter of Westmoreland; three brothers, Jerry Harter (Karen) of Salina, KS; Garry Harter of St. George, KS; Barry Harter of Philadelphia, PA, one sister, Kerri Ebert of Lawrence, KS; two nephews, Ryan Harter (Allison) of Castle Rock, CO, Nicholas Harter (Kylie) of Colorado Springs, CO; two nieces, Christine Ebert of Lawrence, KS and Monica Ebert of Cape Town, South Africa; step son, Craig Gunther of Lawrence, KS; father and mother-in-law, Wilbur and Mary Boyce of Valley Falls, KS; brother-in-law, Mark Boyce of Valley Falls, KS; sister-in-law, Sharon Ramsey (Rich Heuertz) of Valley Falls and her daughters, Lacey Darveaux, Sarah Jones (Jett) and four great nieces, Lillian, Isabella, Gretchen and Dahlia.

He was preceded in death by an infant brother, Perry Leslie Harter; his maternal grandparents, E.A. and Mildred Anderson and his paternal grandparents, Howard and Sylvia Harter.

Memorial Graveside Service will be at a later date at Valley Falls Cemetery. A guest book will be available at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Memorials may be given to the Terry Harter Memorial Fund to be designated at a later date towards the benefit of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation. Due to the critical situation our country is in, please remember the families during this difficult time and consider sending a card of condolence or posting on our website. Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436. www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes



Sandra Mitchell

PBPN RESERVATION – Sandra “TeNes” Mitchell, 59, of Mayetta, KS passed away Sunday, January 12, 2020 at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, KS. She was born October 24, 1960 in Holton, the daughter of Melvin Twin and Alberta Marie Nagmo.

She graduated from Royal Valley High School in 1978. She later graduated from Washburn University in Topeka, KS.

Sandra lived on the Potawatomi Reservation most of her life and worked at various places. She enjoyed reading, gardening, cutting wood for her woodstove and D.I.Y. projects. Most of all she enjoyed being a grandma. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

She was married to Larry Fairman, later to Clifford Knoxsah and then to Bradley Orville Rice, who preceded her in death in 2015.

Sandra is survived by her adopted mother, Judy Wabaunsee of Topeka, KS; her 4 daughters, Maria Fairman (Jose) of Topeka, KS, Nickolasa Jackson (Robert), Maggie Mae Fairman (Josias) and Pamela Kay Knoxsah all of the Potawatomi Reservation; her son, Dale Knoxsah of the Potawatomi Reservation; her 4 sisters, Jackie Mitchell of the Potawatomi Reservation, Shirlene Seymour of Winnebago, NE, Lisa Wamego and Edie Wamego both of the Potawatomi Reservation; her 6 brothers, Eddie Joe Mitchell of the Potawatomi Reservation, Leo Mitchell of Valley Falls, KS, Randy Mitchell, John LeClere, Mando Evans and Lavern Hale all of the Potawatomi Reservation and her 14 grandchildren, Asia, Kenneth, Felicity, Shanokwe, Daffodil, Maria Jose, Nagmo,

Kambottek

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



Lora Ray

TULSA, OK – Lora Ann Ray, 54, of Tulsa, Oklahoma passed away on January 16, 2020. She was born on April 15, 1965. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Visitation for Ms. Ray will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at Butler-Stumpff & Dyer Funeral Home, 2103 East 3rd Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104.

A Rosary will be held on Wednesday, January 22, at 7 p.m., at Church of the Madalene, 3188 East 22nd Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, January 23, 11:00 a.m., at Church of the Madalene followed by the interment at Floral Haven Memorial Gardens.

- *Courtesy of Butler-Stumpff & Dyer Funeral Home, Crematory, Cemetery*

Mitchell Continued

Esteban, Oliver, Elsa, Larry, Miksekwe, Josias and Alberta.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Melvin Twin, Alberta Marie Nagmo Wamego; her step-father, Algernon Wamego; her 4 brothers, Gary Mitchell, Larry Mitchell, Andrew Mitchell and Mike Wamego and her nephew, Clint Wahquahboshkuk.

Drum Services will be Wednesday evening, January 15, 2020 at the Danceground Building. Burial will be Thursday afternoon at Takako Cemetery. Sandra will lie in state Wednesday until 2:30 p.m. at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. To leave a special message for the family, please visit www.mercer-funeralhomes.com.

- *Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes*



Billie Jessepe

TOPEKA, KS – Billie Lois Jessepe, 58, of Topeka, passed away Thursday, February 27, 2020.

She was born December 27, 1961, in Topeka, Kansas, the daughter of Phillip and Angeline (Belaire) Jessepe.

Billie was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Billie married Anthony Marshno. He survives in Topeka. Other survivors include five children, Qua-Tow Thomas, Ron Thomas and his wife, Michelle Yoshida, Tah-Sheena Alcantar, and her husband, Francis, Ethan Jennings and Tah-Vayah Alcantar-Law; her grandchildren, Cesar, Julio and Sergio Regalado, Tah-la-Quah and Tah-Lea Law, Malakai Rice, Sabriel Thomas, Jeffery, Vincent, Lincoln and Naomi Jennings; all of Topeka.; and five siblings, Elvon Belaire, Karen Jessepe and her husband, Ben, Boyce Jessepe, Ewart Jessepe and Francis Ray Jessepe.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Billie enjoyed spending time with family, going to the casino, fishing, cooking and playing card games.

Honoring her request, cremation is planned. A private family ceremony will take place at her home. Dove Cremations and Funerals, Southwest Chapel in Topeka is assisting the family. Memorial contributions may be made to Anthony Marshno.

- *Courtesy of Dove Cremations & Funerals*



Frank Dahlsten

SIOUX CITY, IA – Frank Wishteyah Dahlsten, 54, of Sioux City, Iowa passed on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

Frank was born on October 14, 1965, in Topeka, Kan. to Barbara and Steve Wishteyah. Frank was adopted with brother Steve in 1969, by Paul and Norma Dahlsten and siblings Beverly and Judy Dahlsten of rural Lindsborg, Kan.

Frank was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. A member of the All Nations of Sioux City, Iowa. Frank enjoyed worship and liked to help people whenever he could. He was a hard worker and jokester! He loved Larry, his dog.

Frank is survived by his son Zachary and daughters Lindsey and Megan. he has three grandsons and two granddaughters. He is also survived by brothers Roger Eteeyan and Steve Wishteyah, and sisters Christine Wishteyah, Hildreth Green, and Nicole Parker, along with numerous nieces and nephews and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his biological parents and his adoptive parents and his wife Kim.

A graveside service was held March 10, 2020, at Prairie Peoples Cemetery, Mayetta, Kan. Arrangements were held by Munderloh-Smith Funeral Home.

- *Courtesy of the family*



Laverne Pirnie

KANSAS CITY, MO- Laverne Irene (Swamp) Pirnie, 65, of Kansas City, MO, passed away Friday, March 6, 2020, at her home with family by her side. She was born October 6, 1954, in Claremore, OK, the daughter of Irvin Swamp and Sarah Harrison. Laverne lived most of her childhood on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation, before moving to Kansas City, MO.

Laverne graduated from Van Horn High School in Independence, MO and went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree at the University of Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia, MO. She also earned a degree in Computer Science from DeVry University in Kansas City, MO.

She worked various Federal Government positions in Kansas City, ending her career as an Analyst for the Department of Treasury.

She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Laverne married Christopher L. Pirnie on June 12, 1993, in Kansas City, MO; while both worked for the Department of Treasury, they remained married for 26 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Clyde Swamp and a sister, Nadine Johnson.

Survivors include her husband, Christopher L. Pirnie of the home; 3 sisters, Sallie Barker of Kansas City, MO, Janet Swamp of Independence, MO and Juanita Robinson of Independence, MO and many nieces, nephews and cousins in Kansas, Missouri, Florida, and Wisconsin.

Visitation will be 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 8, 2020, at Highland Park Funeral



Kimberly Kitchkommie

NORFOLK, VA – Kimberly Anne Kitchkommie, 52, of Norfolk, VA, passed away surrounded by family and friends on February 29, 2020.

Born in Norfolk, VA, she was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Kimberly was preceded in death by her son, Adam Kitchkommie and mother, Judith Pipkin.

Left to cherish her memories are her husband, Gary Kuder; two daughters, Sarah Scarborough of Norfolk and Lindsay Daske of New Hampshire and son, Alijah Johnson of Norfolk; and granddaughter, Jasmine Kitchkommie.

The family will receive friends in Celebration of her Life at Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home, Tidewater Drive Chapel on Saturday, March 14, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- *Courtesy of Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home & Crematory*

Pirnie Continued

Home, 4101 State Ave., Kansas City, KS for relatives and Kansas City residents. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the International Myeloma Foundation (myeloma.org).

A Native American dinner and wake will be Sunday evening, March 8, 2020, at Nozhackum Hall on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation, with dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. Burial will be Monday morning, March 9, 2020, at Dance Ground Cemetery, next to her brother and near other family members. Mercer Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements. To leave a special message for the family, please visit www.mercer-funeralhomes.com.

- *Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes*

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



Orville Thomas

SEATTLE, WA – Orville Lee Thomas “Zah-Wan-Quat”, age 76 passed away peacefully, Monday, March 16, 2020, at home in Lake Forest Park, Seattle, WA.

He was born to Hollis and Minnie (Soldier) Thomas in Horton, KS, August 10, 1943. Orville was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and a Kansas Kickapoo.

He was a Vietnam Veteran, having served in the United States Army, and a retired Heavy Equipment Operating Engineer for King County and locals 302 and 612.

Orville had a varied life and so was a good storyteller. His teasing wit with the sparkle in his eyes will be deeply missed.

Orville is survived by daughters; Irene Hopkinson and Lorinda Thomas, both of Seattle, WA. A sister, Lythia Shopteese of Mayetta, KS and brothers; John Thomas, William “Augie” Thomas and Jim Keo, all of Kickapoo reservation. He is also survived by 6 grandchildren in Washington State and numerous nieces and nephews, all of whom he loved very much.

Orville was preceded in death by his parents, sister Ramona Cadue, brothers; Ted “Nacko” Thomas, Edwin “Coke” Thomas and infant granddaughter, Olivia Angeline.

An inurnment service will be held in Kansas at a later date. To leave remembrances please visit www.AcaciaFuneralHome.com.

- Courtesy of the Thomas family



Hylwa-este Coon

MAYETTA, KS – Hylwa-Este “Coonie” Coon, Pa Ba Ma Si Kwe, 17, of Mayetta, died Sunday, March 29, 2020 at the Stormont-Vail Health Center in Topeka surrounded by her family.

She was born March 20, 2003 in Topeka, the daughter of Carolyn Dee Begay. Hylwa-Este was in her junior year at the Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, CA but had returned home due to the Corona virus pandemic.

She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Drum Religion. She was also a member of the National Honor Society, the White Rose Singers, President of the Drama Club, and participated in track at school.

Hylwa-Este was preceded in death by her grandfather, Wesley “Pops” Begay, grandmother, Bessie Kay Wise and an aunt, Michelle Renee Begay.

Survivors include her mother, Carolyn Dee Begay, of the home; her grandmother, Maxine Begay, Mayetta; three sisters, Maxine “Pudge” Coon, Mayetta, and Michelle Alcon and Simone Alcon, both of Denver, CO; one brother, Anthony Sandoval (Jamie), Mayetta; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, all her family in New Mexico and her Sherman Indian High School family.

Hylwa-Este will lie in state from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, April 2nd at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hoyt. A supper will be held Thursday evening at the Dance Ground, west of Mayetta. Burial will be Friday in the Matwe-Shobney Cemetery. On-line condolences may be made at chapeloaksfuneralhome.com

- Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home



Terence Butler

LAWRENCE, KS – Terence Thomas “Terry” “Wamego” Butler, 52, of Lawrence, KS, passed away April 10, 2020, at his home after a sudden illness. He was born April 21, 1967, in Oklahoma City, OK, the son of John Thomas Butler and Margaret Mahkuk.

Terry graduated from Royal Valley High School in 1986 and from Ventura College in California with his Associated Degree. He proudly served in the Army National Guard.

He worked as a customer service representative in Medicare for over 5 years.

Terry was a member of the Native American Church and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

He married Charlene Louise Lewis on September 12, 2009, in Las Vegas, NV. They celebrated over 11 years of marriage.

Survivors include his wife, Charlene Butler of the home; mother, Margaret Mahkuk of Mayetta, KS; father, John T. Butler of Cinnaminson, NJ; son, Bryce Butler of the home; 2 step-daughters, Pamela Sanchez and Chelsea Lewis both of Topeka, KS; 2 step-sons, William Matchie and Brandon Sage both of Topeka, KS; sister, Nevika Mahkuk of Tulsa, OK and several step-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister Tracy Mahkuk.

Private Graveside Service will be at Mahkuk Cemetery on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation. Terry will lie in state from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday, April 13, 2020, at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Due to the critical situation our country is in, please remember the families during this difficult time and consider sending a card of condolence or posting on our website,



Ronald Cook

BISMARCK, ND – Ronald H. Cook, 55, entered his eternal life on Sunday, April 12, 2020, in Bismarck, ND. He was born July 9, 1964, in Quantico, VA, to Michael and Kay (Rabideaux) Cook Sr. Ron graduated from Sheboygan Falls High School in 1982 and shortly after enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served for 12 years. He was a talented singer -a “karaoke singer” and enjoyed being at the lake-lot with his family and friends. Ron enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his Mumma. He was family famous for his comedy, jokes and his Freddie Fender singing. Ron will always be remembered by family and friends for his vibrant character and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Ron is survived by his mother, Kay Cook of Keshena. His children, Jason, Bradley, Chrystin, Max and his baby love Ava all of Bismarck, ND. His siblings, Michael Cook Jr, Kenneth Cook, Melissa Cook, Christopher Cook, Melinda Cook, and Tricia Broshear. He is further survived by his six grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.

Ron was preceded in death by his father, Michael Cook Sr. and his brother, Steven Cook.

A private family service will be held with a funeral mass at St. Michael's in Keshena, WI. Burial will be held at a later date. A family memorial service and celebration of Ron's life is planned for a later date when COVID restrictions are lifted.

- Courtesy of Swedberg Funeral Home

Butler Continued
Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436 or www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes



Bradley Hodgson

EUFULA, AL – Mr. Bradley Eugene “Brad” Hodgson, 57, of Eufaula, Alabama, died Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at Southeast Health in Dothan. Burial was held in Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery with Chapman Funeral Home directing.

Born March 6, 1963, in Oxnard, California, Brad was the son of the late Byron and Donna Jean Fox Hodgson. Brad was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps where he received the Purple Heart during the Beirut bombing.

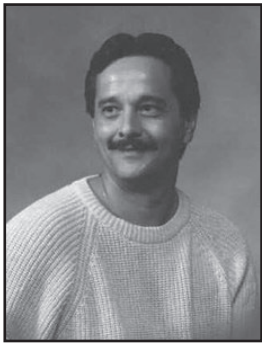
Brad was preceded in death by a granddaughter Adalyn Faith Williams, his father-in-law Don Tyson and 2 nephews, Brad Williams and Cody Hodgson.

Survivors include his wife: Lisa Hodgson; his children: Amanda Jean (Jon) Pilgrim, Jacob Eugene (Nicole) Hodgson, Kasey Lynn Williams (Steven Helms), Joshua Allen (Elizabeth) Williams; 7 grandchildren: Brooklyn Pilgrim, Hayden Helms, Bella Grace Williams, Selah Joy Williams, Emerson Hope Williams, Bradley Hodgson, Dixie Hodgson; 1 sister: Denise (Jim) Newton; 2 brothers: Bill (Shelly) Hodgson and Mike (Mary Ann) Hodgson; his mother-in-law: Dot Milan; 1 brother-in-law: Todd (Sherry) Tyson; 1 sister-in-law: Pam (Jamey) Williams; many nieces and nephews.

- Courtesy of Eufala Tribune

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



Minot Davis, Jr.

TOPEKA, KS - Minot F. Davis, Jr., 67, of Topeka, passed away Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

He was born July 28, 1952, in Topeka, Kansas, the son of Minot F. and Evelyn (LeClere) Davis, Sr. He attended Highland Park and Topeka High Schools.

Minot was employed by the Colmery-O'Neil Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Topeka, retiring in 2007. After retiring he was employed by Aldersgate Village in Topeka.

He was a member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Topeka.

Minot married Annette L. Von Soosten on November 22, 1989 in Miami, Oklahoma. She survives in Topeka. Other survivors include his daughter, Michelle Jackson of Parker, CO; his step-son, Corey Von Soosten of Topeka; four grandchildren, Corri Grenz, Landen Harbaugh, Ivan and Aurora Von Soosten; his sister, Winona St.Arnaud of Tulsa, OK; and his brother, Robert Ray of Kansas City, MO.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother, Eddie Ray.

Minot's Christian faith was very important to him. He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and his dogs and cooking. He was an avid KU Basketball fan, Sprint and NASCAR fan and an avid Harley Davidson Motorcycle enthusiast.

A private funeral service will be held at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Penwell-Gabel Cremations, Funerals & Receptions in Topeka is assisting the family. **Continued**



Mike Grinnell

IDAHO FALLS, ID – Michael Scott Grinnell, 57, of Idaho Falls, unexpectedly passed away and was called home to heaven on April 24, 2020.

Mike was born on October 21, 1962, in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Ralph Francis Grinnell and Alyce Rose Monette Grinnell Hill. He was the youngest of nine children. Mike could accomplish anything he set his mind to, and early on in his life, he developed a strong passion for athletics. When Mike was nine years old, his family moved to Lawrence, Kansas, where he attended school and became an outstanding multiple sports letterman. When he was in the 11th grade, his family relocated to Blackfoot, Idaho where he graduated in 1981. Following a highly decorated high school career, he went on to play baseball at Lewis and Clark College in Lewiston, Idaho. Mike later transferred to The University of Georgia to play football as a linebacker but was an overall dynamic versatile utility player. One of his favorite sports memories was playing in the Cotton Bowl against Auburn in 1983 (Go Dawgs!). Eventually, Mike went on to graduate from St. Cloud University with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. In 1995, Mike returned to Idaho to be closer to his beloved family.

In 1996, he married Suzanne (West) Grinnell in Elko, Nevada. Mike and Suzanne raised five children together. He made his home in Idaho Falls, Idaho. With a strong pride in his career, Mike was very dedicated to his position and worked for over 20 years as an IT Director for Shoshone Bannock Tribes in Fort Hall.

Mike was a faithful devoted member of the Catholic Church in Idaho Falls, ID. He enjoyed everything about the outdoors and was very active

Continued



Carole Garrison

EAST HARTFORD, CT – Carole Rae “Macoke” (Masquat) Garrison, 81, of East Hartford, loving wife of over 44 years of the late Edward J. Garrison, entered into eternal rest on Friday, May 8, 2020, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Topeka, KS on March 16, 1939, a daughter of the late Robert and Carrie (Pukee) Masquat, she had been a resident of East Hartford for the past 61 years. Prior to her retirement, she was employed by Photo Mat Film Lab, East Hartford for over 20 years. Carole Rae was proud of her Native American heritage and was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and had a passion for attending “Pow Wow’s” with her family. Most of all, Carole Rae was a proud devoted mother and grandmother who cherished her time with her entire family. Carole Rae is survived by her daughter, Megan Garrison of East Hartford; two sons, Edward Robert Garrison of East Hartford, Blake Garrison and his wife Audria of Hoyt, KS; ten cherished grandchildren, Corey Garrison of East Hartford, Storm Garrison of Denver, CO, Derek Garrison, Carrie Garrison, Cody Garrison, Lil Blake Garrison, Bryce Garrison all of Kansas, Rodney Johnson, Jr, Destinee Rae Johnson, and Daunte Johnson all of East Hartford; and ten adored great-grandchildren. She also leaves her sister, Drusa Wabaunsee of Hoyt, KS; her best friend, Pam Brazalovich of East Hartford; a special friend, Chris Jackson of East Hartford; several nieces, nephews, and friends. Besides her beloved husband and parents, she was predeceased by a daughter, Anna-Leah Garrison of East Hartford; and a grandson, TyCody Dzikiewicz of Colchester. Due to the current health crisis, private funeral services and burial at Hillside Cemetery, East Hartford will be held at the convenience of the family. **Continued**

Grinnell Continued
with many hobbies such as camping, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling, scuba-diving, windsurfing and so many more. Some of his fondest memories involved fishing for Bass, Northern Pike and Walleye all across the country. As of recent, one of the proudest moments of his life was becoming a grandfather for the first time to Henry Cam Grinnell. With an infectious loving upbeat personality, Mike was a larger-than-life family man who enjoyed spending as much time as possible with siblings, children, grandson and loved ones. He will be forever missed for always putting family above all else.

Mike Grinnell is survived by his seven loving children, Derek (Deann) Grinnell; Ryan Grinnell; Brennen Grinnell; Scott Grinnell; Joseph Grinnell; Sarah Grinnell; Jacob Grinnell; ex-wife, Suzanne Grinnell; siblings, Elise Lyon; Ralph (Chris) Grinnell; Fred Grinnell; Ted Grinnell; Jim (Barbara) Grinnell; Mary (Billy) McKendree; Alicia (Bill) Carroll; and one grandson, Henry Grinnell.

He was preceded in death by mother Alyce R. Monette Grinnell Hill; both husbands, Ralph Francis Grinnell and Solon Matthew Hill; and a sister, Josephine Francis “Babe” Zoret.

Graveside services will be held at 12 Noon Monday, May 4, 2020, at Grove City Cemetery in Blackfoot, Idaho. A live broadcast will be available on this website and through The Wood Funeral Home Facebook page.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to The Grinnell Family at [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com), “In Loving Memory of Mike Grinnell.”

- Courtesy of the Grinnell Family

Davis, Jr. Continued
Memorial contributions may be made to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 901 SW Fillmore, Topeka, KS 66604 or to Phoenix Hospice, 2945 SW Wanamaker Dr., Ste B, Topeka, KS 66614.

- Courtesy of Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home

Garrison Continued
In honor of our First Responders, memorial contributions in Carole Rae's name may be made to East Hartford Emergency Management, 31 School Street, East Hartford, CT 06108. The D'ESOPO-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford has been entrusted with the care of the funeral arrangements. For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family please visit www.desopoeh.com.

- Courtesy of D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel

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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Phone: 785-966-3920

Website:
www.pbpindiantribe.com

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Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

**Summer Time
2020 Edition
Deadline
July 3, 2020**

Congratulations Class of 2020!



Halli Schneiderwendt
Hortonville High School
Hortonville, Wisconsin
Daughter of Aaron and Kathy
Schneiderwendt



McKenzie Lee Ogden
Royal Valley High School
Hoyt, Kansas
Daughter of Mikki Bell & Jarrod Ogden



Ahshoni McKinney
Royal Valley High School
Hoyt, KS
Daughter of Fred & Rose McKinney



Edgar R. Higin Jr.
Royal Valley High School
Hoyt, Kansas
Son of Reina Rodriguez



Dane R. Spoonhunter
Royal Valley High School
Hoyt, Kansas
Son of Virginia LeClere &
Roy Spoonhunter, Jr., grandson of John
& Cindy LeClere and Lisa Shilow

Attending Highland Community
College on a football scholarship.



Jaiden Lan
Carlton J. Kell High School
Marietta, Georgia
Son of Jim & Jacquelin K. Lan

Accepted to Kennesaw State University,
pursuing a degree in Computer Science.



Marissa Mahkuk Compton
Juris Doctor with a certificate in Federal
Indian Law from the Alexander Blewett III
School of Law at the University of Montana
and Masters of Business Administration from
the University of Montana College of Business

Daughter of Fred & Christine Mahkuk



Brayden "Pamsot" Booker
Lowndes High School
Valdosta, Georgia
Son of Candace Zakar,
Grandson of John & Leah Zakar
Great-grandparents Howard & Melvine Oliver

Brayden is an honor graduate (straight A's all
through out high school), active in AFJROTC,
earned two national awards & through much
hard work & sacrifice was rewarded with
a flight scholarship through the Air Force
worth over \$24,000. He will go on to attend
Valdosta State University in hopes to become
a pilot in the USAF.



Congratulations Torres Twins on your
promotion from 8th grade to High School!
We are so very proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Preston, Justin and Tony



Maverick Uhl
Holton High School
Holton, Kansas
Son of Thedi and John Uhl,
Grandson of Hedy and Jr. Noland
and George and Janice Uhl



Nicole Tyre
Bachelors of Science in Nursing
Magna Cum Laude
Chamberlain University

Daughter of Cecil Walker Jr.,
Granddaughter of Vestina Nonken

Currently works as an Emergency Department
Registered Nurse at Ascension St. Vincent's
Riverside Hospital in downtown Jacksonville,
Florida. Pictured with brother Joseph Walker,
handsom son Brendon, father Cecil Walker Jr.,
and sister Maddie Walker.



Madeline Mae Walker
Bachelor of Fine Arts
Musical Theatre and Dance Minor
University of Central Florida

Daughter of Cecil Walker, Jr. (pictured),
Granddaughter of Vestina Nonken