



Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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

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Enibēk 2020

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2020 Tribal Election



7.30.20 – PBPB Tribal Council Chairman Joseph Rupnick officiates as newly elected officials Wade Pahmahmie, Allison Pahmahmie and Jessica Burghart recite the Oath of Office.



8.27.20 – Newly elected Tribal Council officials Raphael Wahwassuck, Tony Wahweotten and Zach Pahmahmie recite the Oath of Office as PBPB Chairman Joseph Rupnick officiates.

Enibēk

“Summer time
of the year”

This paper contains the
activities and happenings
that took place during the
Summer time of 2020:
June, July, August 2020.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation 2020 Election cycle revealed 3 incumbents retaining office, 3 new elected officials and one seat remaining vacant. The election process began in April 2020, with 19 tribal members declaring their candidacy for the various available positions. The positions of Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Member #2 and Member #3 were open on the Tribal Council, along with three positions on the Ethics Commission; Vice-Chairperson, Commissioner #1 and Commissioner #3.

All enrolled tribal members age 18 and over are eligible to participate in tribal elections, however they must be registered to vote. Members only need to register once to retain their voting status. The cutoff date for voter registration in this election cycle was May 15, 2020. Of the 4,541 total tribal membership, 4,181 were age eligible with 2,620 members (approximately 62%) registered to vote.

In order to win a seat, a candidate must receive at least 50% plus one vote of those voting. For those positions that did not have a candidate meet the requirement, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes advanced to a run-off election.

During the initial election, which took place on Saturday, July 25, 2020, three seats met the majority vote requirement of the election ordinance. For the position of Tribal Council Treasurer, the incumbent Wade Pahmahmie retained his seat receiving 600 (65.15%) of the 921 ballots cast in that race. His opponent Anna Wahwassuck Boswell garnered 321 (34.85%) votes. This is Treasurer Pahmahmie’s second term in office. He began his first term of office

on April 17, 2017, after winning the 2017 Special Election.

Both Ethics Commissioners seats were also determined. Jessica Burghart ran for Ethics Commissioner #1 uncontested and Allison Pahmahmie ran for Ethics Commissioner #3 uncontested with both candidates receiving 100% wins. Burghart received 747 votes and Pahmahmie received 764 votes. This is the first term of office for both candidates. No candidates filed for the Ethics Commission Vice Chairperson position which remains vacant.

None of the candidates in the races for Tribal Council Vice-Chairperson, Council Member #2 and Council Member #3 met the required 50% +1 majority vote requirement during the initial election, leading to a run-off election which was held one month later on Saturday, August 22, 2020.

Of the four candidates that ran for Tribal Council Vice-Chairperson incumbent Zach Pahmahmie received 392 (42.15%) votes, Liana Onnen received 287 (30.86%) votes, Susie “Nis” Wilbur received 163 (17.53%) votes and Bert Vega received 88 (9.46%) of the total 930 votes cast. Both Pahmahmie and Onnen advanced to the run-off election, with Pahmahmie ultimately retaining his seat. 834 votes were cast in the run-off with Pahmahmie collecting 483 (57.91%) votes to Onnen’s 351 (42.09%) votes. This is Pahmahmie’s second consecutive term as Vice-Chairperson, and his third term of office. He previously served as the Nation’s Chairman from 2002 to 2006.

The Tribal Council Member #2 position had 6 candidates vying for the seat, with no incumbent in the race. In the initial

election Tony Wahweotten received 275 (29.44%) votes, Michelle Simon received 203 (21.73%) votes, William Mitchell received 171 (18.31%), Coleen Thomas received 123 (13.17%), Chris Brewer received 100 (10.71%) votes, and Melvin Lewis II received 62 (6.64%) votes of the 934 votes cast. Wahweotten and Simon advanced to the run-off election, with Wahweotten securing the win with a lead of 16 votes. Wahweotten received 427 (50.95%) votes to Simon’s 411 (49.05%) votes out of the 838 ballots cast. This is Wahweotten’s first term of office for the Nation.

The Tribal Council Member #3 position had five candidates seeking the role. Of the 922 ballots cast in the initial election, incumbent Raphael Wahwassuck received 263 (28.52%) votes, Shirley Trull received 196 (21.26%) votes, Krista Catron received 194 (21.04%) votes, Shawn Walker received 155 (16.81%) votes and Robert Lange received 114 (12.36%) votes. Wahwassuck and Trull both advanced to the run-off with Wahwassuck cinching the win by a difference of 15 votes. Wahwassuck received a total of 424 (50.90%) votes while Trull earned 409 (49.10%) votes out of the 833 cast. This is Wahwassuck’s second consecutive term of office. He initially won a 2-year seat during the 2018 Special Election.

Some tribal members voiced whether the run-off election was held in an equitable manner due to the ballots being mailed out on August 6, 2020, which provided the general membership an approximately two-week window to vote. The situation was also exacerbated during this timeframe as the United States Postal Service was experiencing

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Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick: Report to the Nation



Dear Tribal Members,

Time seems to be flying by. While, I have been sending members short letters either by mail or posted on the Nation’s website, I must add something for the Nation’s newspaper. While this report is like the one posted on the Member’s site, I understand many do not have access to it. Now that the election is over, I am looking forward to working with the new Tribal Council to complete tasks that have become stagnant due to COVID. This past quarter has been nothing but hectic with back to back calls, both on the Federal and State level, and various meetings. This includes calls

we conducted on the Tribal front to continue operations as best we could. While some things have slowed down in the legislative arena, there are still items we had to work on and strategize. One area that shows promise for the Nation is the recent McGirt case.

Some may not know but my great grandma Lisa (Nahgonbe) Claybear was one of the filers to the Indian Claims Commission in 1954 and reclaiming our reservation has been impressed upon me since I was a little kid, “get the land back.” Through my research, reading the acts of Congress from the 30 Congress through the 54 Congress, while the land was sold, there was never any congressional action taken to remove the boundary. Last year, Council approved exploring the claim further and requested a legal opinion due to Council by April 1, 2020. Since April, Council, in consultation with our legal team have been developing a strategy to reestablish our governmental authority over the 1846 Reservation. Council felt the argument was strong and now with a favorable decision from the McGirt case, we feel confident to move forward to start the process. Let me be clear, even though the Supreme Court ruled in favor of McGirt, that doesn’t mean our case will be easy. There will be many obstacles ahead, but we feel

this is a fight we should take on.

While McGirt may have provided us an avenue to reestablish our authority over the lands in Kansas, some may ask, “could we use that for our claim in Illinois?” That is a hard question. The Tribe has spent over 20 years developing a relationship with the local residents in and around the lands in Illinois and it would be very detrimental in our actions there. Currently, we have great local support and unlike other Indian land claims, we have the residents helping us fight our cause. The people there have written many letters of support to their representatives and I feel starting a legal action would set us behind. Council has been briefed that the draft legislation has been reviewed and is in the final revision. Our hopes are Senator Moran will sponsor with Senator Durbin as a co-sponsor. Council has been working hard to get the backing and I feel we are getting close to resolving this issue.

Finally, on the local level, many have noticed that the Lands department has sowed the first couple of fields in hemp. This first year was a test, we had to ensure our law functioned the way it was designed, and all process needed were in place. These processes included application, background

checks, licensing. Now we are in the second phase which will include testing of the plants, lab certification and if necessary, plant destruction if over the THC limit. The final phase will be the actual harvest and selling of product. There have been some glitches and for now, we seemed to have them worked out. We are still in the process of setting up the hemp company and Council has approved the name of Prairie Band Ag. We are still working out the details of how that company will be structured and who it reports to. For now, the test plots are part of the government and we are hoping we can expand from there.

In closing, I’d like to thank the members for their understanding during this difficult time. While I had hoped we could meet in person, these times call for measures to protect everyone. I’m thankful the number of cases on the reservation have remained low, Kansas is increasing at a rapid rate and my commitment to the Nation is we will do what we must protect the members of the Tribe.

Migwett

Joseph P. Rupnick, Chairman
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

2020 Tribal Election Continued

serious delays amid recent operational changes under Postmaster General Louis DeJoy.

Both elections were held at the Old Bingo Hall, with social distancing protocols in place due to the coronavirus pandemic. Attendance was limited to 45 people which included those processing the election and preference given to candidates and their guest. All were required to have a temperature check prior to entrance, wear a mask and maintain 6 feet of space during the ballot counting. Automated Election Services, out of Albuquerque, New Mexico tabulated the ballots electronically.

A Swearing-In Ceremony was held on Thursday, July 30, 2020, for Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie, and Ethics Commissioners Jessica Burghart and Allison Pahmahmie. A second Swearing-In Ceremony was held on Thursday, August 27, 2020, for Vice-Chairperson Zach Pahmahmie, Tribal Council Member #2 Tony Wahweotten, and Tribal Council Member #3 Raphael Wahwassuck. Both ceremonies took place at the Old Bingo Hall with limited attendance.

SCOTUS Affirms Reservation - Upholds Jurisdiction to Protect Native Women

By: StrongHearts Native Helpline Staff

Supreme Court of the Land
Legal experts are calling McGirt v. Oklahoma (McGirt) the most significant Federal Indian Law case of the century. On July 9, the Supreme Court’s McGirt decision upheld the treaty affirmed reservation borders of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The ruling upended previously held legal opinions that jurisdiction over major crimes transferred from federal courts to state courts. Further, that jurisdiction in fact belongs to a federal or tribal court.

“This ruling is critical in the prosecution of domestic violence crimes against Native women,” said StrongHearts Native Helpline Director, Lori Jump (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians). “Jurisdiction or lack of jurisdiction is at the heart of why rates of violence are so high for Native Americans living on trust or reservation lands.”

The reservation boundaries of the Muscogee Creek Nation were at stake, but the ruling has a significant impact on who has jurisdiction over major crimes as they relate to both Native and non-Native perpetrators on tribal land. And, if the Supreme Court had decided to judicially disestablish the Creek Nation’s reservation, the major-

ity of those lands within the Nation’s historical boundaries would no longer be considered “Indian country.”

Violence Against Women Act
Further, that disestablishment of an existing reservation would not only serve to diminish tribal land but also would eliminate the same tribal jurisdiction that Congress recently, and intentionally, reaffirmed with regard to crimes of domestic violence committed by non-Natives in the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. Fortunately, this was not the court ruling.

Major Crimes Act
Previous actions by the federal government, such as the Major Crimes Act of 1855, created a legal framework that resulted in jurisdictional confusion when responding to and prosecuting crimes in Indian country. Through the Major Crimes Act of 1855, the U.S. government assumed concurrent jurisdiction over “serious crimes” committed by a Native American in Indian country. Even basic assistance such as officers responding to 911 calls, was impacted as it could be possible that the law enforcement responding to a call might not be the officer who had jurisdiction over that crime.

In the McGirt case, the State of Okla-

homa wrongly assumed jurisdiction when it convicted Jimcy McGirt for violent sex crimes on the reservation of the Creek Nation’s reservation. McGirt appealed his case asserting that the State of Oklahoma didn’t have authority over a tribal member on tribal land.

Deadlock Tie Breaker
There were two criminal cases brought before the SCOTUS, but in one instance there was a conflict of interest. Prior to his role on the SCOTUS, Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch had presided over Sharp v. Murphy in a federal appellate court. The case involved a tribal member who had committed murder on the Creek reservation. He also contended that a state court didn’t have jurisdiction. In Murphy’s 2018 appeal to the SCOTUS, Gorsuch ultimately had to recuse himself; and without Gorsuch, the potential for deadlock on the SCOTUS prevented its natural conclusion. Thus, the Murphy case was hinged upon the outcome of McGirt.

In the landmark ruling, Gorsuch wrote the majority opinion, “Today we are asked whether the land these treaties promised remains an Indian reservation for purposes of federal criminal law.

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A Few Words From the Prairie Band, LLC

8.5.20 | By Jacob Wamego, CEO & President

It is hard to believe that we are more than halfway through 2020. This year has been challenging to say the least as we are all weathering this pandemic. I am confident that from a personal and professional perspective we will be even stronger after this phase of our lives concludes. I thank all the Nation's departments and enterprise employees, along with tribal leadership for weathering this storm with us. Your dedication and willingness to come to work every day is not unnoticed. This year is a little different than previous years, but we continue to grow and foster opportunities for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

PB, LLC normally presents our Annual Report at the July General Council meeting, this year COVID-19 prevented us from doing that. Prairie Band, LLC's momentum continued throughout our operations in 2019,



7.6.20 - PBPN Lands Manager Mike Boswell plants the first of two hemp fields on the reservation.

and can only be described as a period of tremendous success for Prairie Band, LLC and its family of companies. Our net income was \$2,063,927, a significant increase over prior year and the highest since inception.

All PB, LLC companies improved in 2019, by either increasing revenues, reducing expenses or both. Our federal contracting operations increased their revenues by 52.3%, with Prairie Band Construction increasing revenue by 248%. Considering both Mill Creek and Prairie Band Construction only received SBA 8(a) certification in 2018, this growth is exceptional. Additionally, our local companies continue to be strong performers and remain an important component of our company. Over the past five years, Prairie Band, LLC has generated nearly \$68.8M in revenues because of our collective efforts and hard work. We recently distributed \$436,700 from our net income to the Nation and our companies generated nearly \$440,000 in additional tax revenues to the Nation.

In 2020, our first crop of Prairie Band hemp was planted on the reservation. This crop is fully regulated by the PBPN Tax Commission and the operation abides by all the rules set forth by federal law under the 2018 Farm Bill. PB, LLC will likely add another company to our portfolio later this year to undertake the management of the hemp operation. We are excited about this new venture and the opportunities the hemp plant will provide.

As many of you are aware, the pandemic has highlighted the need



7.6.20 - PBPN Tribal Council and partners were onsite to witness the first planting of hemp on the reservation. Back row: Tribal Council Vice-Chairman Zach Pahmahmie, PBPN Lands staff Jason Davis, PB, LLC CEO & President Jacob Wamego, Tribal Council Chairman Joseph Rupnick, PBPN Lands Manager Mike Boswell, PBPN Assistant General Manager Mark Adame and Tribal Council Member William Evans. Front row: Tribal Council Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie, Tribal Council Member Shirley Trull, Tribal Council Secretary Camilla Wishkeno, PBPN General Manager Peggy Houston and Native Network Consultant Muriel Young Bear.

for better access to food across the country, particularly in Indian Country which has a notoriously high rate of food deserts. The Nation currently has a buffalo and cattle herd and our Tribal Government has asked PB, LLC to partner with them to pursue opportunities such as a meat processing facility to close that gap. PB, LLC is actively engaged in due diligence on a meat processing facility which aligns with our overall goal of turning our agricultural activities at Prairie Band into a business venture. We are exploring every avenue to capitalize on our leadership's foresight to invest in livestock.

Lastly, our government contract division is exceeding expectations. Our construction division is becoming a

force to reckon with, winning several multi-year contracts with the federal government. Additionally, Mill Creek has expanded its reach by adding several new partners and was awarded several new contracts. PB Health Services is also expanding its line of services and is expected to roll out additional IT software solutions to our clients in the coming months.

While this year has been a challenging with COVID-19 always in the background, it has also been an exciting year of growth. Despite the pandemic, we continue to see success in all of our companies. That success would never happen without all of our fantastic staff. Please take care of yourselves, practice social distancing, and stay safe.

Prairie Band Casino & Resort Update



8.25.20 - At left, work on the new tower of hotel rooms continues to progress at Prairie Band Casino and Resort. At right, the installation of an additional porte cochere began on August 10, and is expected to be complete by late September 2020.



The Prairie Band Casino and Resort re-opened their doors on Monday, June 15, 2020, after being shuttered for three months due to the coronavirus pandemic. The property had approximately 100 guests waiting at the doors, while executive team members, PBPN Tribal Council, Gaming Commission and members of the PBP Entertainment Board were on site to greet and welcome them back.

The casino has maximized efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, making it the safest reopening of any casino in the area. All guests and team members are screened for temperature prior to entry and are required

to wear protective face masks at all times while on property. Hand-sanitizer stations are located throughout the gaming floor for additional guest safety.

Plexiglass dividers have been installed in several areas promoting social distancing. They have been installed in between slot machines on the gaming floor along with drink stations which have also been assigned a designated team member to assist guests. Any face to face contact points, such as the players club, hotel front desk and cash out cage have also been outfitted with plexiglass. Additionally, smoking is only allowed in designated areas.

Progress has continued on the hotel expansion project throughout the pandemic and the construction teams have made major headway on the new four-story hotel tower. The tower will consist of 80 new rooms including suites.

On July 13, a job fair was held at the casino to hire on trade workers to assist with completing the interior portions of the project such as the carpentry, drywall, painting and electric to name a few. Approximately 18 community members turned out for the opportunity. Other components of the expansion project include a luxury spa, indoor/outdoor pool and

fitness center.

In August, installation of a new guest enhancement began, a porte cochere at the existing Bingo entrance. The additional covered passage will provide shelter as guests depart their vehicles or bus and enter the casino. This project is expected to be complete by late September 2020. The north parking lot is also being expanded and the entryway signage is being updated.

Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, hope all is going as well as can be expected as we continue to make our way through the COVID-19 pandemic. In some cases, we have been able to get back to somewhat of a regular routine in the past few months but in other cases we must still take precautions to keep both ourselves and others as safe as possible. From a financial standpoint we are starting to see improvements with the reopening of businesses and recovery of investment markets although we are still far from being in the clear so to speak. For my article I will provide some updates as to how we are doing financially during the pandemic similar to last quarter. As always if you have questions on any of the topics below or any other items not covered in the article feel free to contact my office and I will be happy to respond directly to your inquiries. Take care and be safe.

COVID-19 Financial Update

In mid-June our Casino was able to reopen and resume operations on a limited basis, as you may recall it had temporarily shut down in mid-March due to the pandemic which equates to about 3 months all in all. During that time, our Tribal Cash Distributions (TCD's) from the Casino were negatively impacted. We received small sums for the months of March and June in which the Casino was shut down for about half of each of those months, but zero TCD's for the months of April and May when our Casino was completely shut down. Despite being shuttered for nearly half of the months of March and June,

the fact that we still received TCD's from the Casino is a testament to how fortunate we are to have such a successful gaming facility.

Throughout the temporary shutdown and even more so now as we are back up and running on a limited basis, we are continuing to assess both our current year budgets as well as the impact on our planning for our FY2021 budgets. For FY2020 we have been able to cut back in certain areas to help make ends meet while also receiving significant amounts of federal funding from the United States Treasury, Indian Health Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Community Living, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal Transportation Administration as well as receiving funding from the Southern Plains Health Board. Fortunately, many of our third-party revenues have not been significantly impacted by the pandemic. Thus far only our Tribal Taxes including taxes upon sales, tobacco and hotel occupancy have fallen behind budget but only by about 5% through the end of July.

Despite the temporary shutdown and other negative impacts caused by the pandemic, we are still holding our own from a financial standpoint. Through July 31st we have experienced a small net loss just below the break even point. So long as we continue to monitor and control our spending as well as avoid any further temporary shutdowns, we should at a minimum be able to make it through the remainder of the year no worse for wear. From a more optimistic standpoint if we are able to avoid the threat of another temporary shutdown then I would suspect that it is very possible we will wind up with a small gain for operations.

September Per Capita Distribution
With the reopening of the Casino in mid-June we will resume making our quarterly Per Capita Distributions and will make a quarterly distribution in September in accordance with the Per Capita Ordinance. The quarterly Per Capita Distribution in September will absorb the negative impact of the

temporary shutdown so unfortunately the amount will be less than what we have seen in our prior quarterly distributions, however that will be much better than bypassing another quarterly distribution like we endured in June.

Below are examples of a typical September Per Capita Distribution as well as an example of how the 2020 September Per Capita Distribution has been calculated. As you can see in the September 2020 calculation, we must factor in additional information that would generally have been accounted for in the June Per Capita Distribution. As mentioned above the "Actual April TCD" and "Actual May TCD" amounts in the September 2020 calculation would be \$0.00 due to the temporary shutdown. The largest factor for the negative impact on the September Per Capita Distribution is the "March TCD True Up" in which the initial estimate for the month of March was overestimated as and the actual TCD was much lower due to the temporary closure beginning in mid-March.

Example of a typical September Per Capita Distribution

May TCD True Up
+ June TCD True Up
+ Actual July TCD
+ August TCD Estimate
+ September TCD Estimate
= Total TCD's Available for Distribution

Total TCD's Available for Distribution
X 48% / Eligible Tribal Members
= Per Cap Distribution Amount

Example of the 2020 September Per Capita Distribution

February TCD True Up
+ March TCD True Up
+ Actual April TCD
+ Actual May TCD
+ Actual June TCD
+ Actual July TCD
+ August TCD Estimate
+ September TCD Estimate
= Total TCD's Available for Distribution

Total TCD's Available for Distribution
X 48% / Eligible Tribal Members
= Per Cap Distribution Amount

Investment Performance

In last quarter's article I had mentioned how volatile the first few months of the year had been for many investments, fortunately since that time many of our investments have recovered for the year and all now have positive gains. The S&P 500 index has closed at an all-time record high as of August 18, 2020, at 3390 which is a good indicator of performance for those investments driven by stocks especially our Long-Term Investment portfolio. While record high performance of markets and recovery of losses from early in the year are great, they are also reminders that we need to keep our investment goals in mind and not be reactionary when there are sharp drops in the market. For the Tribe's investments, Minors Trust as well as our employees' retirement plans, we rely upon experienced advisors to help us manage our portfolios and achieve our financial goals. While the market has improved for the time being, only time will tell as to how the volatility of the market impacts us financially through the remainder of the year as we stick with our long-term financial plans throughout the pandemic.

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@pbnation.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)

Tax Commission

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tax Commission tentatively will be accepting Producer-Hemp Licensing Applications December 1, 2020. For more inquiries, please contact the Tax Department at 785-966-3998 or email tonyanegonsottrodvelt@pbnation.org.

Healthy Reminder

Pēkwe'an k̄tash mine kton
"Cover your nose and mouth"



Introducing Dr. Blaker



Dr. Scott Blaker, Prairie Band Health Center Medical Director.

The Prairie Band Health Center is pleased to announce Dr. Scott Blaker as the new Medical Director. He began his position on August 3, 2020, and brings over twenty years of family medicine practice experience.

“I am looking forward to getting to know and work with the community,” said Dr. Blaker.

Dr. Blaker grew up in NYC and attended Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons for medical school where he also received a Masters’ in public health. He went on to complete his residency in family medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Since then he has served as medical director at community health centers in NYC and the Seattle area and, most recently, has been working overseas with the US State Department as a regional medical officer taking care of US Embassy employees.

Dr. Blaker has three children ages 21, 23, and 25 and enjoys biking, tennis, and painting.

KDHE Mobile Testing Unit Benefits Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

7.16.20 | By Michelle Simon

Over the course of three days, 153 people in the Prairie Band community were able to receive free COVID-19 testing. A mobile testing unit was established at the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department located on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation reservation in partnership with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Testing was completed by 13 Kansas National Guard medics and two Kansas Department of Health and Environment staff.

Testing began on Thursday, July 9, 2020, in the late afternoon, running from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. with many participants arriving at the end of their workday. Two sessions were held on Friday, July 10, a morning session from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and another late afternoon session from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. which saw the most use. Saturday, July 11, testing was available from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Kansas National Guard medics prepare to swab a community member during the KDHE mobile testing event.

Test swabs were kept onsite in the mobile unit and at the end of each day were taken to the KDHE labs for processing. Results indicated 3 positives and 150 negative tests.

Planning for the event began in early June, when Dr. Farah Ahmed, KDHE State Epidemiologist approached Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation about a new resource, the KDHE mobile testing unit which provides COVID-19 testing to underserved communities. Approximately 1600 people reside within the boundary of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

in a rural setting located within Jackson County, Kansas.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation which had only seen 4 positive COVID-19 cases in the community up until the testing event, were interested in participating due to their ongoing commitment to the health and wellbeing of the tribal members and the local community. Providing free access to testing increases testing numbers, which is an additional tool to help slow the potential spread of COVID-19.

The Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department was instrumental in coordinating the event in conjunction with the PBPB Tribal Council, Administration, Health Center, Tribal Police Department, Kansas National Guard, and the KDHE. Potawatomi Tribal Fire and the Prairie Band Police Departments handled and executed the logistics of the event, which had next to no wait times for participants.

Rupnicki Featured on CDC Cover

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Breastfeeding Peer Counselor and Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition Board Chair-Elect Stephanie Rupnicki (Kickapoo of Kansas) along with her daughter Inara, have been featured on the CDC 2020 Breastfeeding Report Card.

The bi-annual report can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/pdf/2020-Breastfeeding-Report-Card-H.pdf>

Kansas Tribal Health Summit Goes Virtual



8.18.20 - PBPB community members Mary LeClere, Rose Hale and Judy Wabaunsee made use of the PBPB education lab to attend the virtual health summit.

The annual Kansas Tribal Health Summit adjusted to conditions of the coronavirus pandemic by going online. The two day event held on August 17 and 18, 2020, was available via a zoom link or through Facebook.

This year’s summit focused heavily on COVID-19. PBPB Chairman Joseph Rupnick participated and described how tribal leadership has adapted to meet the needs of the tribe during this unprecedented time. Another PBPB tribal member, Ursula Fish, RN detailed her perspective of the impact as witnessed first hand as a healthcare provider. Other topics discussed in-

cluded strategies for successful homeschooling and safeguarding mental health during the pandemic. During the virtual breaks between speakers, the Tribal Nutrition Assistants Jona Rupnicki (PBPB/Kickapoo), Nikki Jackson (Winnebago/PBPB), Hailee Tapedo (PBPB), Becki Roberts (Baxoje/Ioway) and Rachel Kent (Baxoje/Ioway) along with Food System Director Janis Simon (Kickapoo) provided quick nutritional tips and kitchen techniques. The event ended with a special violin performance by Sage Cornelius (PBPB/Oneida/Navajo).

Breastfeeding Report Card United States, 2020

Overview
Breastfeeding has many known health benefits for infants, children, and mothers and is a key strategy to improve public health. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends infants are exclusively breastfed for about the first 6 months with continued breastfeeding while introducing complementary foods for at least 1 year. CDC’s Breastfeeding Report Card, 2020, provides data on breastfeeding practices and supports in all states, the District of Columbia (DC), Puerto Rico, Guam, and the US Virgin Islands. This year’s report highlights data from CDC’s 2018 national survey of Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) that assesses practices and policies affecting newborn feeding, feeding education and support, staff skills, and discharge support.

“I breastfeed because breastfeeding is healing and there are so many health benefits for my baby and me. Breast milk is the first food that gives my babies the healthy start they need in life. While nourishing baby, breastfeeding also creates a bond and teaches human connection. For me, breastfeeding is the biological norm. I’ve breastfed all 6 of my babies and each journey has been different which is why having education, information, and support is important.”

– Stephanie Rupnicki (37) Kansas Kickapoo
Daughter Inara (6mo) Prairie Band Potawatomi & Kansas Kickapoo

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity
www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding
Accessible Version: <https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/reportcard.htm>

911 on Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Reservation

Courtesy of the PBP TPD

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police Department would like to pass on some important information regarding your new 911 telephone service. Effective September 1, 2020, the PBP Tribal Police Department is a 911 dispatch center. None of us want to call 911, but statistically most people have a need, at some time in their life, to make that call.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police Department is the only 24/7 public safety answering point (PSAP) within the jurisdictional boundary of Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Nation. The Communications Center is solely responsible for answering all emergency calls for service and dispatching emergency apparatus for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police, Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Fire/EMS.

Additionally, inbound 911 calls for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Fire/EMS and wireless calls within the jurisdictional boundary of Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Nation will be handled and routed through the Communications Center.

What is 911?

It is the preferred number to call within the jurisdictional boundary of Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Nation to obtain help from police, fire

or medical emergency.

When Should You Use 911?

Only use 911 in emergency situations. An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from law enforcement, the fire department or an ambulance. If you are ever in doubt as to whether a situation is an emergency, you should call 911. It is better to be safe and let the 911 call taker determine if you need emergency assistance.

If a 911 call is made by mistake, do not hang up. Tell the call taker what happened so they know that there really isn't an emergency. If you hang up, law enforcement officers will be dispatched to check on the call. While they are responding, a call taker will try to call you back and find out what's going on. Please help us manage our emergency resources by being careful not to call 911 by mistake.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police encourage you to call 911 to ensure that all databases are working correctly. If you have recently moved into a new residence or have gone through an address change, please dial 911 within 30 days. Let the dispatcher know that you do not have an emergency but would like to confirm that your address is correct in the database. (This applies only to landline phones). It should be noted that this should be the only time you should call 911 for a non-emergency call.

When you dial 911 from a traditional phone or "land line," a dispatcher views a screen that provides:

- The phone number you're calling from.
- The name associated with the phone line.
- The address you're calling from.

The dispatchers will ask you to verify the information so that they can send help to the correct location. If you are calling from a multi-line phone system/Voice over IP (VOIP, usually found in office buildings), it may be difficult for dispatchers to determine your location. Always advise the dispatcher your location within the building.

When you dial 911 from a wireless or cell phone, the dispatchers view a screen that provides:

- The cell phone number and the address of the cell site that your phone accessed.
- In some cases, we can obtain GPS coordinates of your location while you are calling.

Cell phones are convenient and can be very useful if an emergency arises. However, for all that they help, cell phones also come with complications.

If your wireless phone is not "initial-

ized," (you do not have a contract for service with a wireless service provider), and your emergency call gets disconnected, you must call the emergency operator back because the dispatch center will not have your telephone number and cannot contact you.

In the event you are unable to make a voice call from a mobile device, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police Department Communications Center is now prepared to accept texts to 911.

A few possible scenarios where a text to 911 may provide advantages over a voice call are:

- The caller is facing a threatening situation and a voice call could increase the threat.
- The caller is injured or suffered a medical condition and cannot speak.
- The caller is in a remote location and can only send out text messages.

When texting to 911, callers should always include their location and the nature of the emergency in their initial message. Avoid using slang, and abbreviations as this may be difficult for the dispatcher to interpret, and delay response.

For more information, please call the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police Department at (785) 966-3024.

PBPN Tribal Victim Services

By Jessica Wheeler, Victim Specialist

Tribal Victim Services provides support, safety and advocacy for any victims of person crimes within our 7-county service area; which includes Jackson, Pottawatomie, Nemaha, Brown, Atchison, Jefferson, and Shawnee counties. Person crimes include domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking and dating violence. Beyond these services, TVS also offers two programs that promote the safety and well-being of individuals and families.

The Safe Visit Safe Exchange program offers supervised visitation and supervised child exchanges in a safe and neutral environment for families. This program is geared toward families that may have had violent or hostile incidents in the past or during the separation of parents. Separating from an abuser is often the most dangerous time for a family. The goal of the SVSE program is to help families retain and grow their familial relations in a safe environment. A

TVS Specialist is present at every visit and exchange to act as supervisor and mediator. For more information on the SVSE program and eligibility requirements contact Jessica Wheeler at 966-8343.

The Batterer's Intervention Program serves individuals who have used violence and/or abuse in their intimate relationships. BIP teaches offenders to recognize harmful behaviors and to take accountability for those behaviors. BIP also offers tools to change those behaviors to more acceptable ways of communication. For more information on BIP and eligibility requirements contact Melissa Broxterman at 966-8298.

Both programs help TVS make strides toward real changes that promote a safe and healthy community. For immediate assistance for victims in crisis, please call the TVS hotline 24/7 at 1-866-966-0173.

TVS Photo Contest

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Social Services Department – Tribal Victim Services program is hosting the “2020 Captured Moments” Photo Contest. The contest was launched on Thursday, August 20, 2020, and runs through 3 p.m. CST on Sunday, September 20, 2020.

The contest theme, “Stop the Violence...” is geared at promoting a culture of nonviolence through the art of photography that inspires people to reflect, think, and take action. Together we can make a positive impact on our communities to stop the violence.

Visit pbpindiantribe.com/announcing-pbpn-social-services-tvs-photo-contest/ for an official entry packet and photo expectations.

Rules and Guidelines

Entrant must complete the official entry form for all entries. Entries will be accepted from August 20, 2020, through 3:00 p.m. Sunday, September 20, 2020. Entries must also be emailed as an attachment (.jpg or .png) to TVS at PBPNTVS@pbpnation.org. Any entry received after 3:00 p.m. on September 20, 2020, will not be eligible

to enter the contest.

The photos will be continually rotated on the TVS Facebook page @PBPNTVS for the entire month of October to spread awareness for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Entries will only be accepted through the TVS email address PBPNTVS@pbpnation.org. Entries not submitted via email will be deleted. All decisions are final. The prize must be collected by the winner and is nontransferrable. The winner will be contacted via the email address provided during entry. If no response is received after 3 business days, a new winner will be selected, and the previous winner will forfeit all rights to the prize. The contest is void where prohibited or restricted by law. PBPNTVS Program assumes no responsibility for deleted, lost or damaged photos.

There will be 6 winners:
3 adult winners (18+ years)
3 Children winners (6 to 17 years)
Winners will be announced via Facebook (@PBPNTVS) on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

PBPN Road & Bridge Assists Meskwaki Nation

On Monday, August 10, 2020, a rare inland storm known as a derecho passed through Iowa, including the Meskwaki Settlement. The storm produced winds of up to 140 miles per hour demolishing crops, trees and damaging structures in its path. The storm left tens of thousands without power for over a week.

After learning of the intensive damage the PBPN Tribal Council issued a directive to assist. On Wednesday, August 12, 2020, staff of the PBPN Road and Bridge Department traveled north to help the Meskwaki Nation in a time of need.

The Meskwaki Settlement did not

receive much help from state or local authorities according to Chago Hale, PBPN Road & Bridge director. “They were pretty much on their own,” he stated.

A small 7- man crew that consisted of Alan Pahmahmie, Evan Evans, Jr. Wahweotten, Mike Armstrong, Arrow Levier, Andrew Pahmahmie, and Chago Hale took one personal truck, a heavy duty truck, a dump truck, and one medium size track loader on the trip to Iowa.

Upon arriving the first night the crew stayed at a Meskwaki tribal member’s house where they were provided a meal and a place to rest. The house

had no electricity like so many others.

“In the morning when we got to see how much damage was done, the sight was scary and sad at the same time. So many trees down in all directions. Power lines and poles down. In almost every yard, trees were down. Some had limbs down and smaller trees, while others had great big trees blown over,” said Hale.

For 3 days the crew cut and hauled off trees and branches for 10 hours each day. PBPN R&B hauled 39 loads and close to 750 tons of debris.

“That is just what we took care of. We could have had our full crew cutting

and hauling and we wouldn’t be done for weeks. They are still cleaning and cutting trees,” stated Hale. With no power available the families cooked on their fireplaces to provide meals to the crew. After the first night, the crew lodged at the Meskwaki Casino compliments of the Meskwaki Tribal Council.

“We were thankful to be able to help the Meskwakis. We appreciated the food and hospitality. With all that happened, it was good to see everyone together and smiling still. The people came together and helped each other however they could,” said Hale.



8.13.20 - Alan “Boney” Pahmahmie hauls a chainsaw over his shoulder as he heads to cut down more trees, in the background felled limbs are loaded to be hauled away.



8.13.20 - One of the many large trees that were impacted by the excessive high winds of the derecho.



8.13.20 - PBPN staff Jr. Wahweotten and Alan “Boney” Pahmahmie make progress on a downed tree, as a man looks on at the damaged landscape.

New Buffalo from Yellowstone National Park



8.6.20 - The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation received two new bison from the InterTribal Buffalo Council exchange.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation received two new bulls from the InterTribal Buffalo Council on August 6, 2020. The two bison originate from the Yellowstone National Park and were held in quarantine on the Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux reservation for a year prior to their transport to Kansas. Once on-site on the PBPN reservation the bulls were placed in a separate pen for an additional 45-day quarantine.

The two males are approximately 3 to 4 years old and were requested to help diversify the PBPN herd’s gene pool. The Nation’s herd currently stands at approximately 152 head of bison, including the new recruits.

The ITBC is a collection of 69 federally recognized Tribes from 19 different states whose mission is to restore buffalo to Indian Country and reestablish healthy buffalo populations on Tribal lands.

BGC Capital Improvement



7.28.20 - A 150-ton crane lifts a frame high above the PBPN Boys & Girls Club in preparation for the installation of a new Make Up Air-HVAC system.

A 150-ton crane was brought to the PBPN Boys and Girls Club on July 28, 2020, to lift a 5,000 pound custom Make Up Air - HVAC system onto the roof. The MUA controls the temperature and humidity in the locker rooms and swimming pool area.

The installation was the last in a 3-year phased capital improvement project plan which replaced all 3 MUA units, one each year. Due to the location of the units on the roof the enormous crane was necessary to

safely be able to complete the removal of the old unit and installation of the new unit on the roof.

This project was necessary due to the old units reaching the end of their usable life. They had been in place for 18 years and the large mechanical issues were causing the unit to be nonoperational at times waiting on parts as well as the repairs being very expensive.

Wahweotten Retirement Marked with Parade

By Michelle Simon

What began as a temporary assignment lead to decades of service to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation elders and community by Wynona “Nona” Wahweotten. On May 29, 2020, fellow co-workers, family and community members streamed past the Fire Keeper Elder Center in their vehicles during a retirement parade to recognize Nona for her 26 years of service as the Fire Keepers Elder Center director.

One day in the early 1990’s while at the tribal clinic, Nona recalled she happened to run into Ralph “Porky” Tecumseh who was on the Tribal Council at the time. Wahweotten relayed that he stopped her and said, “Do you know how to cook? That’s a silly question. Look at Warren,” referencing Wahweotten’s husband. Tecumseh went on to explain that a cook was needed at the then called “meal site” located in the O’Ketchoshawno Center, now the PBPB Boys & Girls Club. The next day she was hired on.

“After 26 years at Haskell, Warren had taken an early retirement,” Nona explained, “and I had been there for 18 years myself and chose to end my employment too. We both sort of retired in 1993,” she said as she laughed a bit. Since she wasn’t busy, Wahweotten figured she would work in the elder kitchen for a little while to help-out, but life had different plans for the pair. About a month after she started, Warren was recruited and hired as the food delivery driver. He stayed on as the driver for 23 years. About a year later due to personnel changes she was promoted as the director.

“It was different back then,” said Wahweotten recounting how people were recruited for positions not like today’s employment processes. “At that time there were only four buildings on K Road, the Old Fire Department, the white building that housed Head Start and the CHR’s, the O’Ketchoshawno Center and the Tribal Council worked out of what is now the Road & Bridge building, and none of the roads were paved,” she recalled.



5.29.20 - Nona Wahweotten (seated) is surrounded by her staff from left: Sheena Winsea, Anthony “Wahpi” Hale, LaVerne Hale, Janice “Meex” Wilbur and Lyla Jessepe in front of the Fire Keepers Elder Center. The Nation gifted her a Pendleton blanket embroidered with the Nation’s seal as a parting gift.

During Wahweotten’s tenure services to the elders expanded beyond just meals. In 2000, the community elders received their own building named the Fire Keepers Elder Center along with a handicap accessible van. The new building, now 20 years old, is equipped with a billiards room, craft room, sewing room, sitting room, and exercise equipment along with a kitchen and dining hall. In addition to meal service the center sponsors activities and day trips for seniors to stay active.

“I’ve enjoyed my time working here

with everyone and the staff I’ve worked with over the years,” said Nona observing that she wasn’t just serving elders but young people also.

“I see the Center as a starting place for our younger community members,” as she explained how several younger community members worked at the center to get their foot in the door and gain work experience or needed an employer to fit their schedule as they attended higher education. “Within

months or a year or so they are able to move on to something better,” said Wahweotten.

An item Wahweotten hopes to see carried out soon is the establishment of an assisted living facility on the reservation. The Nation sent out a questionnaire in the early part of 2020 to gather tribal members’ input to determine whether or not to build one. Wahweotten has long been an advocate, “I’ve seen many of our tribal members go through a change when they weren’t around the reservation and their people anymore, they give

up, become lonely.” Wahweotten believes having an assisted living center on the reservation would allow these elders to stay sharp and be included remaining a part of the community.

After serving so many people for so many years she has seen their good days and their bad days. When asked how she was able to stay in her role for so many years, she provided some insight, “People’s moods change, it’s a natural part of life, and you can’t take things to heart, don’t let it upset you.” She also shared, “If people want to know something and there is talk going around, the people should go to the source - don’t listen to rumors, go straight to the source and get your questions answered.”

The retirement parade was the first event the Nation held after being in a shutdown during the initial stages of the coronavirus pandemic which began in March 2020. The Nation wished to recognize Wahweotten’s many years of service and in keeping with social distancing protocols having a vehicle parade allowed the community to provide Nona a send-off while everyone stayed safe. During the event Fire Keeper staff donned masks and gloves and handed out cupcakes to parade participants. Some of the parade participants decorated their vehicles with signs that read “Well deserved!” and “It’s time to relax!” while other parade goers shouted their well wishes out as they drove past.

“I am looking forward to being an elder in the community, to be able to associate and attend events, and go to language classes and learn what I can,” said Wahweotten.

2020 Census Update



8.12.20 - PBPB members Edwin and Lythia Shopeese completed the 2020 Census during a mobile site event stationed at the Fire Keepers Elder Center. Regional Tribal Specialist Maria Boyd (far right) and her colleague Frankie assisted 14 households with completing the Census. At the end of August the PBP Nation had a self-response rate of 57.3% compared to the national self-response rate of 64.6%. Enumerators began field operations on the reservation on August 11, 2020.

Native Vote Update



Election day occurs on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. You must be registered in order to vote.

The last day to register to vote in the General Election varies state-by-state. The deadline for your individual state can be found through an internet search or by contacting your local election official. The following deadlines apply to the state of Kansas.

The PBPB Native Vote Committee highly encourages all to exercise your rights and vote!

****October 13****
Last day to register to vote for General Election

****October 14****
Advance voting in person and by mail begin

**** October 27****
Last day for voters to apply for advance ballots by mail

****November 3****
General Election

****November 6****
Deadline for receipt of advance ballots postmarked on/ before election day

Mitchell - 40 Years of Service



July 2020 - The Education Department and Education Committee would like to congratulate and thank Mary Mitchell for her 40 years serving as the Secretary for the PBP Higher Education Committee.

Mary has been a member of the committee since July of 1980 when meetings were held at the Boys & Girls Club, previously known as the O'Ketchoshawno Center. She reminisced of the days of typing out the minutes on a typewriter and traveling the dirt roads to drop the minutes to be mailed at the post office.

JOM School Supply Handout



8.6.20 - The PBP Education department arranged a curbside school supply handout on August 6 and 7, 2020. JOM Coordinator Kristina Matsapto and student volunteers Isaac Hale and Quinton Ogden distributed pre-filled backpacks with school supplies and also handed out disinfectant wipes during the two day event.

Graduation Parade

With the challenges brought about by the coronavirus pandemic, the PBP Education Department and Boys & Girls Club got creative in supporting the local 2020 High School graduates. Eight Graduates participated in the inaugural community Graduation-Parade at Prairie Peoples Park on Tuesday, July 7, 2020. The students received jackets and Pendleton

towels, along with pizza & drinks. Two students were awarded \$1,000 scholarships through donations to the BGC. Several community members drove through to show support and hand out gifts, and the PBP Tribal Police and Fire Departments also participated. Although it was a hot one weatherwise - this event was a success for the participants!!



7.7.20 - The graduates set up tables around the outer edge of the arena and community members rolled past delivering their congratulations and some handing out cards and gifts.



7.7.20 - Dominique Wabaunsee received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Francis Jensen Family donation, and Madison Boswell, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Lucas Family donation.

Walker Masters SCUBA



Top left: Cecil Walker and son JD. Bottom left: JD in SCUBA gear. Right: Joseph "JD" Walker.

Joseph (Sauk-Kwe-Nah-Gah-Ba) Duncan Walker, "JD", the son of Cecil Walker, grandson of Vestina Nonken and great-grandson of Joseph Nioce.

We are proud to announce his accomplishments in SCUBA DIVING over the last year. JD has spent the summer enrolled in PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) SCUBA DIVING courses and recently attained the level of PADI Master SCUBA Diving Instructor. He has spent almost every day in the water whether it be fresh water diving in lakes and springs or diving in the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico and has accumulated over 125 dives over the last 12 months.

- In addition, he holds the following PADI Certifications and licenses:
- Dive Master
 - Technical Diving Instructor
 - Open Water Scuba Instructor
 - Emergency First Response Instructor, Teaching participants how to respond to life threatening situations and use of CPR and triage medical care.
 - Emergency Oxygen Provider Instructor.
 - Peak Performance Buoyancy Instructor.
 - Project AWARE Instructor, teaching

- coral reef conservation.
- Specialty Instructor for: Deep Diving, Wreck Diving, Search and Recovery, Side-Mount
 - Enrich Air Instructor using mixed gas and NITROX.
 - Advanced Open Water
 - Open Water
- To reach the above levels of certification and instruction required a great deal of knowledge in Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Marine Biology, Human Anatomy and Emergency Medical Procedures.

JD is 20 years old and a 3rd year Civil Engineering student at Seminole State College in Florida. After this year he will transfer to University of Central Florida to complete his Civil Engineering degree.

These PADI SCUBA courses and certifications will be an asset to him in his career as a Civil Engineer. JD is currently qualified with his civil engineering education to date and his PADI diving skills to perform underwater inspection on; bridges, dams, sea walls, marinas, pipe lines and coral reef development/study.

His family is very proud of him.

Meet Melinda: Owner & Founder of Morning Light Kombucha

August 2020 | By Michelle Simon

Meet Melinda: Founder and Owner of Morning Light Kombucha
A true self-starter, Melinda Williamson has found success with her business Morning Light Kombucha, which nourishes the community, strengthens local food systems and local economy while remaining environmentally conscious. Williamson is a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the only Native American owned kombucha producer in the United States.

Kombucha, regarded for its health benefits, is a tart, fizzy drink made from fermented, sweetened green or black tea and naturally flavored with fruits, flowers and herbs. Born from her own health experience and initially sold locally to family and friends, Morning Light Kombucha is now on the precipice of expanding into national markets, which has Williamson feeling just fine.

The fruit of Williamson's success finds its roots 10 years earlier at a time when her life was not so peachy. In 2010, Melinda began to notice changes in her health, to the point that she found herself struggling to walk unaided. After receiving medical advisement, she discovered she was experiencing effects of an autoimmune disorder and was diagnosed with pre-Lupus.

"My illness was a catalyst," said Melinda, as she elaborated on the new landscape she was confronting and considering her next moves. "I wanted to do something fulfilling, I wanted to start a business that would help others and I wanted to come home," said Williamson. Called by a desire to be closer to family, she and her daughter Halina, relocated from Oklahoma back to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation in 2012.

In her journey to regain her health Melinda began researching ways to heal with food and discovered the ancient Chinese drink kombucha. "I started phasing out processed foods and began introducing more organic wholes foods into our diet and increasing our intake of fermented foods like kombucha," she said. Both Melinda and her daughter noticed improvements in their health. "I had major stomach issues and kombucha helped me so much," she stated.

"Kombucha is a great alternative to soda and it's good for the body," stated Williamson. The fermentation process of kombucha creates probiotics, organic acids, antioxidants and

polyphenols that are absorbed by the body and offer many health benefits. Probiotics are good for digestive health, repopulating the gut with good bacteria and the micronutrients help with digestion issues, weight management difficulties, diabetes, neurodegenerative disease and cardiovascular diseases.

Once back in Kansas, spurred by inge-



8.12.20 - PBP member Melinda Williamson is the founder and owner of Morning Light Kombucha. She is the only Native American owned kombucha producer in the United States.

nuity and creativity Melinda thought, "I could probably make this," regarding kombucha. Familiar with making her own organic lotions and body butters for personal use she was eager to try her hand at kombucha. In late 2014, she received a starter SCOBY and within a couple months, she had brewed her own batches of kombucha using two 7-gallon fermenters.

At the same time, Melinda was also researching trends for starting her own values driven business. Initially she considered launching a food truck to sell green smoothies and kombucha. "I knew I wanted to do a food-based business and I knew I wanted to include kombucha," she stated. Williamson was determined to sell a healthy product that could help others, while doing so in a sustainable manner.

Williamson, who is highly educated and holds a Master of Science in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Oklahoma State University, along with a Bachelor of Science in Natural History Biology from Kansas State University and an Associates of Science in Natural Resources from Haskell Indian Nations University, embarked on a new learning path for her business. She began taking

business workshops and learned how to write a business plan, all the while saving up \$5,000 in personal seed funding for her business venture.

Through the process, as she shared samples of her home brew with friends and family, she discovered she had also organically created a customer base for her kombucha. This led her to refine her vision to focus

solely on kombucha as her product line and to initiate the process of filing for a business license.

In June of 2015, with the help of a friend she converted a portion of her basement into a fully functioning commercial kitchen in order to meet licensing requirements. At the beginning of 2016, Morning Light Kombucha was an official product sold at the Topeka Farmers Market in downtown Topeka, Kansas. Since then Morning Light Kombucha has steadily expanded.

Within the first year, the company was producing roughly 200 gallons of kombucha, offering a handful of flavorings and gained its first wholesale account at the Burger Stand. Growth continued as her product began to gain traction. More wholesale accounts came on board including her alma mater K-State, along with adding T-shirts and kombucha shampoo bars to her product line.

This past year, in 2019, to accommodate increased sales, the brewery relocated to a 1,700 square foot brew kitchen in Hoyt, Kansas. Morning Light Kombucha also received trademark designation through the Intertribal Agricultural Council's

American Indian Foods Program. This designation allowed Melinda to attend the National Restaurant Association Expo in Chicago, Ill. to promote Morning Light Kombucha to a broader audience. Working with the American Indian Foods Program is also putting her in touch with the potential for international exporting.

Today, Morning Light Kombucha produces approximately 2,000 gallons of kombucha per year, with over 100 flavor varieties. It is available at 12 locations across northeast Kansas, and is soon to be sold in South Dakota. Williamson enjoys foraging for ingredients in the local area, including gathering paw paws, gooseberries and wild blackberries directly from the reservation. She recently shared on social media that gooseberry is her favorite flavor of kombucha.

She has built a supply chain network from local organic producers in the area, which allows her to make Morning Light Kombucha with high quality, fresh ingredients while also supporting local business, two values close to her heart. In looking forward, Williamson is excited at the prospect of collaborating with other tribes and incorporating their traditional foods as flavorings for their own unique, tailor-made blend, mentioning roasted corn as one idea.

The business achieved a major milestone this year. Morning Light Kombucha met one of its long-term goals of creating jobs and brought on its first employee, who happens to be Melinda's sister, Michelle Torres. This is just in time as the company plans to launch a canning line this year, in addition to their well-known, environmentally friendly glass bottles.

Beyond running her own business, Melinda also works for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Language program as an administrative specialist. Williamson is the daughter of the late Phil Cooper and granddaughter of the later Walter Cooper and Augustine Mitchell. Her great grandparents were Jon Cooper, Madeline Jackson Spears, along with John and Fannie Mitchell. Through her ongoing commitment to diet and exercise, she has been able to keep the symptoms of her pre-Lupus diagnosis at bay.

Visit www.morninglightkombucha.com to place a local doorstep delivery order, curbside order or find a location near you. Continue your journey with Morning Light Kombucha's story by following them on Facebook and Instagram @morninglightkombucha.

Nishnabek Ntewmèn - “Who We Are”

Congratulations!



Richele Pahmahmie-Potts has been selected by NAFOA to attend the Harvard Business School Executive Education Program: Leading People and Investing to Build Sustainable Communities, Class of 2020.

However, due to the coronavirus pandemic the course has been postponed until 2021. NAFOA is a 501(c)(3) committed to growing tribal economies and strengthening tribal finance.

Bright Path Strong Initiates Movement

Bright Path Strong is a movement currently focused on restoring Jim Thorpe’s proper status as the sole gold medalist in both the decathlon and pentathlon during the 1912 Summer Olympics held in Stockholm, Sweden. Thorpe’s medals were stripped from him in 1913, and 70 years later in 1983, he was listed in the Olympic record as a “co-champion.”

The Bright Path Strong website www.brightpathstrong.com provides a thorough and detailed account of the tribulations experienced by Thorpe (Sac and Fox and Potawatomi), during his historic and legendary wins along with the link to the online petition, “Take Back What Was Stolen.”

The petition and signatures garnered will be used in support of a resolution introduced by U.S. Congresswoman Deb Haaland, to compel the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to correct Thorpe’s record.

“This petition is an effort to gather over one million names and voices united in support of Jim and American athletic excellence, and Native American resilience,” said Nedra Darling (PBBN), Executive Producer, Pictureworks Entertainment.

“In a time where Americans, and arguably people all around the world are confronting their long-held, discriminatory beliefs and behaviors, this is a tremendous opportunity for the IOC to get on the right side of history.”

Bright Path Strong is backed by Pictureworks Entertainment, in conjunction with several tribal partners, the National Congress of American Indians, and Thorpe’s descendants. This petition is a first in a series of initiatives tied to BRIGHT PATH - the upcoming feature film about Jim Thorpe’s life and legacy from Pictureworks Entertainment slated for production in the fall of 2021.

If any Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal



1912 - Native American athlete Jim Thorpe had his track shoes stolen before his final race at the 1912 Olympics. Being resourceful, he dug two shoes out of a garbage can, with one shoe being too big, so he added an extra sock in order to compete.

members have memories or stories about Jim they would like to share, please contact Nedra Darling at nedra.darling@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday! - Ttiwenmo Eginigyen



Ttiwenmo Eginigiyen to my beautiful baby girl! You have been the brightest light in my life for the past 17 years. I am so proud of the young woman you are becoming. I’m always in awe of your strength, your perspective and your easy-going spirit.

I love you so much, Mom.



Happy 4th Birthday Shime (little sister)!! Koya loves you!!



Happy 110th Birthday Miss Julia Kabance!
~ August 10, 2020 ~
Julia is the oldest living member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
AND the oldest known, living Native American WWII Veteran



Happy Birthday Robert & Thunder Jessepe!



4 Years Old! Happy Birthday Serenity!
With love, Grannie V



Bi-ah-kwe Johnson
Big 15 years old
I love you so much an’ so proud of the little woman your becoming!
Love MOM and Mike

Happy
8th
Birthday

Happy 8th Birthday Albee Masqua - July 7!
Love, Grandma Dawn, G-pa Roger and big sister, Angel

Important Numbers

Government Center
877-715-6789

Human Resources
866-694-3937

Member Services
866-277-3722

Per Capita
785-966-3993

Health Center
866-694-6728

Pharmacy
866-727-6330

Social Services
888-966-2932

Tribal Victim Services
24 Hour Crisis Hotline
866-966-0173

Transportation
866-727-8181

Tribal Court
866-966-2242

**Prairie Band Gaming
Commission**
785-966-3043

Prairie Band Casino & Resort
888-727-4946

Nation Station
785-966-7700

SCOTUS continued

Because Congress has not said otherwise, we hold the government to its word.”

SCOTUS Upends Previously Held Legal Opinions

Although many experts agree that the SCOTUS opinion was accurate and reflected the original intent of the treaties in question, non-Native legislators argued that Native people left Indian territory of their own accord and as such forfeited title to the reservation. Further, that due to the lack of Native inhabitants, the reservation ceased to exist. In reality, Native people were continuously forced out of Indian Territory by white settlers and the U.S. government. Regardless, the crux of it all as pointed out by SCOTUS was that only an act of Congress could disestablish a tribal reservation, see *Solem v. Bartlett* (1984).

StrongHearts Stands with Survivors

StrongHearts Native Helpline recognizes the importance of the McGirt

Per Capita Update

8.17.20 - Based on the ongoing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and concern for the health and safety of tribal members and staff, in-person check pick-up is no longer an option for Per Capita disbursements.

If your per capita distribution is already set to mail or direct deposit this change will not impact your disbursement.

If you were previously picking up your per capita distribution in person you will need to complete the Per Capita Payment Option form and select either the mail or direct deposit option. The form must be completed in full and returned 14 days prior to per capita disbursement.

The form is available at www.pbpindiantribe.com, select “Departments,” then “Member Services,” followed by “Per Capita.”

For any questions email percap@pbpnation.org or call 1-877-715-6789 toll-free and request to speak with Per Capita staff.

Stay Connected!

Visit
pbpindiantribe.com,

► click “Contact”
at the bottom of the home page

► sign up to get
the latest updates
delivered directly to your inbox!

decision for victims and survivors of violence. Tribal nations are one step closer to holding all perpetrators accountable for committing crimes against Native people on tribal lands. StrongHearts’ mission is to restore power to Native Americans impacted by domestic, dating and sexual violence by providing a system of safety, sovereignty and support with a vision to return to our traditional lifeways where our relatives are safe, violence is eradicated and sacredness is restored.

To explore your options for safety and healing, visit strongheartshelpline.org for one-on-one chat advocacy or call 1-844-7NATIVE (1-844-762-8483) daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT. As a collaborative effort of the National Domestic Violence Hotline (The Hotline) and the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center, after hours callers can connect with The Hotline by choosing option one.

2020 General Council Meeting

+++ October 17, 2020 +++
Enrolled Tribal Members age 18+ Only
LOCATION CHANGE:
Prairie Band Casino & Resort
Visit www.pbpindiantribe.com
for Meeting Details

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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Fall Time
2020 Edition
Deadline
November 6, 2020

Hale-Wakolee Legacy Lives On

Bozho! Igwien to all those that have reached out and still reaching out about the passing of our beloved Mother/Grandmother/Sister/Auntie~ Marilyn Kay Hale Wakolee (Num-weh-t’mok), 1939 - 2019. We will eternally miss her smile and friendly heart.

Again thank you all for all of the kind words and support. May you stay blessed!
Children (Pamela, Deanna, Patricia, Angela, Marcus, Anthony) & Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren

Her children and grandchildren have established a Haskell Indian Nations University Scholarship in Marilyn’s name. The first recipient (female) received the award in April of 2020.
Marilyn’s dedication and support to Haskell will live on. Onward Haskell!!!!

Kansas Serves Native American Families



We are accepting families with children for the following age groups:

Birth to 5

6-11

Teen (12+)

Recently, PBPN has been partnered with a grant from KU called Kansas Serves Native American Families, or KSNaf. KSNaf is a partnership that serves Native American families with Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Kansas City Indian Center, and the private foster care contractor, KVC Kansas. Partners include the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, Kansas Department for Children and Families and Haskell Indian Nations University. This grant allows the group to provide a family skills training called Strengthening Families Program, or SFP. SFP is an evidence-based family skills training program to positively impact family bonding, communication and parental supervision adapted to reflect community cultural values. SFP differs from many other parenting classes because it also has content for the children to help bridge the gap between a caregiver’s parenting, and the child’s understanding of why they are asking for different behaviors. Most of the group is activity and discussion based. The program is always looking for other families that may be interested in SFP.

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

Words of Encouragement

Ntēmishkwīs mine ntemnoye

“I am strong and healthy”

Kambottek

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



Jane Phillips

PONCA CITY, OK – Jane Kathleen Hawkins Phillips, 93, a long-time resident of Ponca City, OK, passed away March 20, 2020. Jane was born April 21, 1926, for Archie and Gertrude (Bates) Hawkins in Red Rock, OK.

Jane spent the early years of her life in Red Rock. She moved to Ponca City and married Noah Franklin Phillips. She raised six children; Sheryl, Max, Mike, Terry, Tim and Robin. Jane was born with Native American descent under the Prairie Band Potawatomi and Sac Fox Tribe.

Jane was a housewife and worked as a teacher's assistant at Roosevelt Elementary school in Ponca City. She moved back to Red Rock and continued as a teacher's assistant with Red Rock schools until she retired. Jane moved back to Ponca City, where she resided for the rest of her life.

Jane loved her cats, she liked to go to square dances, Pow-wow's and watching the firework shows. She enjoyed watching westerns, Christmas shows and Joel Osteen.

Jane was an amazing woman. She faced so many paths in life. She was always thinking of and taking care of anyone that needed help, whether you were family or not. She was a devout Christian lady. Jane loved her family dearly.

She leaves behind her sons; Max Phillips of Yukon, OK, Terry Phillips, of Ponca City, Tim Phillips of Ponca City. She loved her 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Her eyes would light up anytime she saw one of them. She is also survived by a niece and many friends who loved her.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, 3 children and 1 grandchild. The family would like to take this time to give special thanks to all of her caregivers.

A Graveside Service will take place at 1:00 PM, Thursday, March 26, 2020, at Red Rock Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Trout Funeral Home and Crematory.

- Courtesy of Trout Funeral Home

Kristen Zimmerman

BELOIT, WI – Kristen E. Zimmerman, 38, died April 1, 2020, in Beloit, Wisc. She was born on May 26, 1981. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

- Courtesy of Daley, Murphy, Wisch Funeral Home and Crematorium



Frank Battese

LAWRENCE, KS – Frank Mitchell Battese born August 2, 1951, in Tulsa, Oklahoma died May 11, 2020 in Lawrence, Kansas at his home. Mitch attended the Institute of American Arts in 1968 and graduated from Pine Ridge Oglala Community High School in 1969 located in South Dakota. He then attended and graduated Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma in 1974. Mitch furthered his education at the University of Utah with a Masters degree in Social Work in 1980. He retired from U.S. Indian Health Services as a Clinical Social Worker in 2014 where he counseled Native Americans to assist in healing and guidance to build healthier lifestyles. Mitch was an artist all of his life and was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Kansas and Chickasaw Tribe of Oklahoma. He promoted public interest in Native American art and encouraged young artists to continue their pursuits in art not only as a beautiful visual experience but to illustrate the importance of culture and interpersonal spirituality so that these aspects of Native Art can be shared with other cultures.

Proceeded in death by Father William Vincent Battese of Kansas, Mother Pearlline Foraker of Sulphur, Oklahoma. Brother Jeffrey Steven Battese. Survived by Brothers James (Emma) Battese of Phoenix, Arizona, Russell (Dorna) Battese of Pawnee, Oklahoma, David Battese of Shawnee, Oklahoma and Sisters Suzanne Battese of Tecumseh, Oklahoma and Theresa Battese of Lawrence, Kansas.

Survived by wife Patty Battese of the home and sons; Ashley (Michelle) Battese, Jeff Battese, Chris (Julie) Lockwood. 4 granddaughters: Jordan (David) Brennan, Jamie (Josh) Edwards, Megan Lockwood, Tallulah Battese. Great-Granddaughter, Lilah Brennan.

Funeral Services: 1:00 P.M., Friday, May 15, 2020, Officiating: Ronnie Brady. Interment: Memory Lane Cemetery, Anadarko, OK. Services under the direction of Smith Funeral Home, Anadarko, OK. Messages of condolences may be sent to www.smithfuneralservices.com.

- Courtesy of Smith Funeral Home Chapel



Randy Jessepe

ANADARKO, OK – Randy Flores "Shawn'ogeish'uck" (Red Dawn) Jessepe, 43, passed away on May 27, 2020, in Anadarko, Ok. He was born to Rito Flores and Mary Jessepe on July 4, 1976. Also, Mother Jennifer Jessepe Bayless.

He graduated from Riverside Indian School in 1995 and attended Haskell Jr Indian College, Lawrence, KS for 1 year. Randy met and married the love of his life, Valda Prentiss in 1996. He enjoyed family gatherings and loved being called PaPa by all of the grandchildren.

Randy's hobbies were BBQ, Chef for family, family gathering with immediate family and grandbabies. He was a devoted husband and father and worked all the way until illness in 2017.

He was an avid fan of KU, Dallas Cowboys, OU and, Thunder.

Survived by: wife of the home, Valda.

Daughters: Lisa Marie and husband Sy Boyiddle; Amylynn and husband Joshua Littlebird, Sr; Kimora Jean all of Anadarko, OK.

Sons: Wesley Michael and Davain Joe both of Anadarko, OK.

Nephew: Daniel Jessepe, Marcel Jessepe, Noam Jessepe.

Nieces: Carly Jessepe, Zorah Jessepe.

Grandchildren: Bryslyn Jay, Braydyn (aka Button) Jay, Brayslyn Jay, Jay Jay and Kymbri Inez all of Anadarko, Ok

Siblings: Marlin Jessepe, Ish Jessepe, Tanya Jessepe, Rica Jessepe, and Rico Jessepe.

Special aunts: Carol Jessepe, Mary Prentiss, Donna Prentiss-Meeks, Laura Prentiss Kocher.

Special Friend: Leo Walkingstick AKA (Lil Mike) whom he loved like a brother.

Preceded in death: parents, mothers, Mary Jessepe and Jennifer Jessepe, Grandmother, Loetta Jessepe; Grandfather Rodold Jessepe, uncle, Dewey Jessepe, Wesley Jessepe.

Continued on page 15



Beverly Brandt

MAYETTA, KS – Beverly Ann Brandt of Mayetta, passed away peacefully on June 2, 2020, surrounded by family at the age of 84. She was born Beverly Ann Fox on January 3rd, 1936, in Topeka, Kansas to William and Helen (Dean) Fox.

Beverly was united in marriage to Arlen K. Brandt on December 31, 1958, in Marlin, Texas. She spent her life supporting the love of her life during his tenure in the Air Force and enjoying everywhere life's journey led them both at work and home.

She was an avid bowler at Meadow Lanes, participating in several leagues and bowling trips where everyone knew her bright and bubbly personality. Beverly's greatest love was her family. She enjoyed spending quality time playing Yatzee with family after Sunday dinners and loving her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren with infinite, immense compassion and devotion.

She is survived by: her daughters, Tana (Joe) Brandt of Hoyt, Arlena (Kevin) Clements of Carbondale; son Billy Brandt of Scranton; grandchildren, Karly (Jennifer) Brandt, Loralie (Jimmy) Brandt, Curtis (Ashley) Rogers, Leota (Christian) Ulsaker, Emily (Ryan) Barrick of Topeka; eight great-grandchildren, Haley, Trinity, Bella, Bentley, Olivia, Nash, Korey, Chandler; and many nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

She is preceded in death by: her parents, William and Helen Fox; her husband, Arlen Brandt; sisters, Donna Amerson and Carole Havner.

Family will receive friends during a Celebration of Life from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM, Saturday, July 18th, 2020, at Lake Shawnee Shelter House #2. Please wear a mask to keep everyone safe. If you have been sick or symptomatic in the last two weeks, please show your support and condolences respects by reaching out to family.

- Courtesy of the Topeka Capital Journal

Kambottek

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



Alvina LaClair

MAYETTA, KS – Alvina “Mee-gis-kee” Wamego LaClair, 97, of Mayetta, KS, passed away Sunday, June 7, 2020, at her home with family by her side. She was born December 21, 1922, on the Potawatomi Reservation, the daughter of Henry and Florence (Walters) Wamego.

Alvina graduated from Chilocco Indian School in OK and also attended school in Pierre, SD and Genoa, NE. She lived most of her life on the Potawatomi Reservation. She also lived in Topeka and Kansas City.

She worked for the Sunflower Ammunition Plant in DeSoto, KS, during WWII and worked for many years for Scotch Dry Cleaners in Topeka.

Alvina was a member of the Drum Religion and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. She was also proud to be a born again Christian.

She married Milton LaClair; this union produced 5 children, they later divorced. Survivors include 1 son, Franklin LaClair (Barbara) of Topeka, KS; 2 daughters, Sara Gartenmayer of Mayetta, KS and Shirley Trull (Paul) of Mayetta, KS; 4 grandchildren, Travis Wanna, William LaClair, Rachael Webster and Caroline LaClair and 6 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Henry Wamego (1936); brother, Paul George Wamego (France 1944); sister, Vivian Arnold Gomez (1966); mother, Florence Wamego (1974); sister, Josie Pahmahmie (1977); son, James LaClair (1977); sister, Lottie Stump (1981); sister, Osie Tuckwin (1986); daughter, Marlene LaClair Wright (1989); granddaughter, Helen Wright (1989); sister, Louise “Cham” Rice (1990); sister, Beverly Nocktonick (1991); sister, Edna Sioux (1994); brother, Floyd Wamego (2004) and ex-husband, Milton LaClair (2016).

Alvina will lie in state Tuesday, June 9, 2020 until 6 p.m. and Wednesday, June 10, 2020 until 6 p.m. at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton.

Continued on page 15



Sammye Starkey

TOPEKA, KS – Sammye Jean Starkey, 72, Topeka, Kansas, passed away at her home Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

Sammye was born March 13, 1948, in Topeka, Kansas, the daughter of Orville “Smokey” and Louise “Cham” Wamego Rice. Sammye graduated from Topeka High School and Stewart’s Beauty Academy. On January 10, 1976, Sammye and Tom Starkey were united in marriage. He survives. Sammye and Tom had their first child, Emmylou Starkey, on February 28, 1979. Emmylou preceded her in death.

Sammye was a member of Mater Dei Assumption Church and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. She worked in several Topeka beauty shops over the years. She enjoyed many road trips with Tom before settling down to start their family. They loved to go out dancing on the weekends with friends and family. She loved to laugh and listen to music. Sammye adored her dogs and granddogs. She was a strong woman who overcame many health obstacles over the years. One of her favorite pastimes was talking on the phone. Sammye dedicated her life to her husband, kids, and family. She was an aunt to several beloved nieces and nephews. Sammye was a special lady who will be missed tremendously.

Also grateful to have shared Sammye’s life are her son, Charley Starkey of Topeka; her daughter, Gloria Honn and her husband, Adam of Topeka; her sister, Elizabeth Bartlett of Topeka; her brother, Raymond Rice and his wife, Jeanie of Topeka; her half-brother, Orville Rice Jr. of Mayetta; and was dearly loved by her nieces and nephews.

Sammye was also preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Lavina Olson, Jeffery Rice, and Sylvia K. Rice.

Sammye’s family will greet friends from 2-4 Sunday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, Kansas 66614. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at Mater Dei Holy Name Church. Burial will follow in Shipshee Cemetery, Mayetta, Kansas. - Courtesy of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home



Ryan Delge

IOLA, KS – Ryan Emery Delge, age 33, of Iola, Kansas, passed away June 23, 2020, at Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Ryan was born September 6, 1986, to Catherine Ingle and step-father Sam Smith.

Ryan graduated from Iola High School in 2005. Ryan attended college at Allen Community College, Iola, Kansas.

Ryan was a sports enthusiast. He loved to give his older brother, Chris, a hard time about the Chiefs since Ryan was a Cowboys fan. Ryan liked to give Chad a hard time because Chad “Earnhardt” Smith thinks he is a Nascar driver. His brother, Eric, was Ryan’s go-getter, and God forbid if he was late. Ryan also loved a good round of golf with his buddies. Ryan always made sure his drinks were safe and seatbelted in. Ryan was a one-of-a-kind and everyone loved him, and he will be dearly missed.

Ryan was preceded in death by grandmothers, Barbara Joann Combest and Linda Jo Smith; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Delge; and numerous other relatives.

Ryan is survived by his mother, Catherine Ingle, LaHarpe, Kansas; step-father, Sam Smith, Iola, Kansas; brothers, Chris Ingle and wife, Cheri, LaHarpe, Kansas, Chad Smith, Humboldt, Kansas, Eric Smith, LaHarpe, Kansas; nephews, Tryston Ingle and wife, Tehya, LaHarpe, Kansas, Ryker Smith, Iola, Kansas, Kirby Leon Emery Smith, Humboldt, Kansas; nieces, Hayden Ingle and husband, Logan Yokum, Humboldt, Kansas, Ryleigh Poore, Iola, Kansas; great-nephew, Nyxxon Ingle, LaHarpe, Kansas, great-niece, Ember Yokum, Humboldt, Kansas; and numerous other relatives.

A visitation will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020, in The Venue at Feuerborn Family Funeral Service, 1883 US Highway 54, Iola, Kansas. A funeral honoring Ryan’s life will be at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at Feuerborn Family Funeral Service. Burial will follow in the LaHarpe Cemetery, LaHarpe, Kansas.

Continued on page 15



Margarete Schneiderwendt

APPLETON, WI – Margarete “Marge” Schneiderwendt, age 88, of Appleton passed away peacefully in the arms of her daughter Tina on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, just as she had wished.

The former Margarete Catherine Smith was born on April 26, 1932, in the Town of Wescott, Shawano County, to Chester and Emilien (Shepard) Smith. Marge lived a full life, working at various jobs in her teens, Stokely VanCamp, Zwicker’s Knitting Mill, Quaker Bakery until settling at Elm Tree Bakery (later known as Rich’s) until she retired in 1993. Not to let the grass grow under her feet, she then worked at Vande Walle’s Candy for a year.

Marge was a proud full-blooded member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. She liked playing the lottery, trips to the casino along with going out to eat, completing crossword puzzles, shopping, and trying her hand at crafts. Marge loved to laugh and had a great smile. Long drives in the country were her favorite pastime and she enjoyed spending time with her family.

In 1951 she married her first husband Lawrence M. Yeager who sadly died in the Korean Conflict just two weeks before coming home. Then a year later Marge met her husband Duane A. Schneiderwendt and they had five children; Clifford Schneiderwendt of Oconomowoc, who passed away in 2007 after a neck injury, Colleen (Gary) Benner of Appleton, Tina (Douglas) Berg of Tigerton, Aaron (Kathy) Schneiderwendt of Appleton, and Nannete Rose Schneiderwendt, who was 14 months only and died in 1963. There are 8 grandchildren: Mandy Ferg, Michael Schneiderwendt, Channing Pompa, Troy Mack, Krystal Kavanaugh, Bradley and Hailey Schneiderwendt, and Heather Benner. There are 4 great-grandchildren: Bailey, Tyler, and Ethan Ferg; and Cheyenne Pompa. She is further survived by a sister, Donna (Carl) Schimmers of Menasha, a brother Jimmy Smith of Fond du Lac, and many other relatives and friends.

Continued on page 15

Kambottek

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



Patricia Harrison

WHITEHOUSE, TX – Patricia Ann ‘Mkoskwe’ Harrison, age 56, of Whitehouse, Texas passed away on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. Patricia was born Friday, August 9, 1963, in Mayetta, Kansas to Butch and Geraldine Harrison.

Patricia was born in Mayetta, Kansas in the and moved to Texas at age 5. She graduated from East Texas Nursing School in 1983 at 20 years old. Patricia worked as a registered nurse at ETMC for over 20 years, and at Home health care for 10 years and Cigna health care for 5 years. Patricia was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and all-around inspiration to anyone that was in her life. Dedicated and hardworking an ideal role model for any son or daughter to look up to and inspire to be like one day. Her Native American name ‘Mkoskwe’ translates to “Little bear woman.” She will be missed by all who knew her.

Patricia is preceded in death by her parents Geraldine and Butch Harrison; sisters Frankie Harrison and Josie Harrison.

Patricia is survived by her loving husband Randy Beasley; daughter Nicole Beasley; son Alex Beasley; son in law Kevin Ciccoli; grandson Cain Ciccoli; sisters Jeanine Johnson, Priscilla Woolly, Jessica Harrison and Katy Casey; brother Stewart Casey; nieces Rachel Amaro, Stormie McCormick, Ferrell Jenkins, Kaycee Valdez, Tessa Jenkins, and Sydney Macky; and nephews Christopher Woolly and Blake Macky.

A memorial service for Patricia will be held Monday, July 20, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. at Lloyd James Funeral Home, 1011 East First Street, Tyler, TX 75701.

-Courtesy of Lloyd James Funeral Home



Della Lowe

LYNDON STATION, WI – Della Charlotte (Wabshoggin) Lowe passed away, peacefully, at St. Clare Hospital in Baraboo, Wisconsin on Thursday, July 16, 2020.

Private family funeral service will be held Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 12:00 noon at Conway-Picha Funeral Home in Lyndon Station, Wisconsin with Joe Young and Fred Camacho officiating. Burial will be at Spring Grove Cemetery, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. Visitation will be held at Conway-Picha Funeral Home on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until the time of service at 12:00 noon.

Della was born, February 18, 1930, in Wittenberg, Wisconsin, the daughter of Eugene and Anne Mae (Boyce) Wabshoggin. She was proud of her Potawatomi/Ho-Chunk culture. She made many contributions to the Ho-chunk Health Department. She began in the Community Health Department as a Community Health Representative, started the Nurse Clinicals/Edgewood College, Madison, Wisconsin, she set up the Mental Health Program and was instrumental in setting up the first Pharmacy contracts in the 14 counties that serve the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Della was Miss Baraboo, 1946. She was one of 3 members that formed the Union for Stand Rock Indian Ceremonial. She served as Union President of the I.L.G. Union for many years, while employed at Sno-White Garment Company, Baraboo, Wisconsin. She was recognized for her accomplishments in the 1971 “Who’s Who in the World Publication.”

She is survived by her sister, Florence (Wabshoggin) Camacho. A special friend, JoAnn Granquist, who, each called each other, sister. Her children: Patricia (Michael) Ennis and Debra J. Lowe, 5 grandchildren: Jason (Celia) Ennis, Gina (Chad) Ennis, John (Jackie) Ennis, Jillian Ennis and Oliver Lowe. 15 great –grandchildren: Paige, McKensey and Madison Van Wie, Braylon and Rylan Peterson, Indya, Amira and Brandon Ennis, Camille, John Ennis III and Noah V. Ennis, Alec, Leslie, Evelyn and Samuel Lonetree. 1- great-great grandchild: Kaia Jay Scanlon. Many nieces nephews and friends who she loved dearly.

Continued



DeCoteau Jackson

TOPEKA – DeCoteau Arthur “Coteau” Jackson, Win bi tuk, 27, of Topeka, died Sunday, August 9, 2020, at his home.

He was born on October 15, 1992, in Topeka, the son of Michael “Rocky” Jackson and Lori Wabnum. He graduated from Tiospazina Tribal School in Sisseton, South Dakota.

Coteau was the full-time caregiver for his father in their home.

He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Drum Religion.

Coteau was preceded in death by a brother, Michael Anthony “Little Rock” Jackson, Jr., and a nephew, Christopher Jackson.

Survivors include two brothers, Shon Jackson (Lisa), Topeka, and LaVoy Jackson, Fargo, SD; four sisters, Dawn Jackson Bailey (Leland) and Janna Marshno and her son, Silver, all of Topeka, Jacqueline Jackson (Jaiden), Sisseton, SD and Mona Carlson (Kobe), Law Vegas, NV; and many nieces, nephews and great-nieces, and nephews.

A supper and wake will be held Saturday evening at the Nozhackum Hall, west of Mayetta. Burial will be 10:00 a.m. Sunday in the Shipshee Cemetery. Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at chapeloaksfuneralhome.com

- Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home

Darlene Gordon

CARSON CITY, NV – Darlene M. Gordon, 85, died June 24, 2020, in Carson City, Nevada. She was born on September 28, 1934. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Arrangements are in the care of Cremation Society of NV- Capitol City.

- Courtesy of Nevada Appeal Lahontan Valley News

Jessepe Continued

Funeral Service: 11:00 PM Monday, June 1st, 2020, Grace Christian Fellowship, Anadarko, OK.

Burial: Memory Lane Cemetery, Anadarko, Ok

Visiting Hours: 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM Friday, May 29th, 2020, 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM Saturday, May 30th, 2020, 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM Sunday, May 31st, 2020.

- Courtesy of Ray and Martha’s Funeral Home

LaClair Continued

Private family burial will be Thursday at Wah-wak-sum Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to any local humane society. To leave a special message for the family, please visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes

Delge Continued

Memorials are suggested to Ryan Emery Delge Memorial Fund, and may be left with Feuerborn Family Funeral Service. Condolences for the family may be left at www.feuerbornfuneral.com.

- Courtesy of Feuerborn Family Funeral Service

Schneiderwendt Continued

Marge was preceded in death by her parents Chester and Emilien; a daughter Nannete; a son Clifford; two sisters, Rachel and Gertrude; and four brothers, George, Robert, Ronald, and Gerald.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 18th from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at Tina Berg’s home, N10908 Mud Lake Rd., Tigerton, 54486. Beil-Didier Funeral Home, Clintonville, is assisting with the arrangements. Go to www.beil-didier.com to sign the online guestbook or to send a card to the family.

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Forever in our hearts, dreams and soul.

- Courtesy of Beil-Didier Funeral Home

Lowe Continued

She was preceded in death by her parents, 10 siblings, her husband, Clifford and daughter, Leslie.

Due to Covid 19, masks will be required and will be provided as needed. Please, respect social distancing.

The Picha Funeral Home and Crematory of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin assisted the family with arrangements. For On-Line condolences and information, go to www.pichafuneralhome.com.

- Courtesy of Picha Funeral Home and Crematory

Art Show Winners

The PBPNC Cultural Heritage Committee hosted an art exhibit at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort on Friday, July 31, 2020. All mediums were accepted. Below are the top 15 of 39 entries submitted. Visit Facebook to view all entries.



Best of Show - Red Roach
Artist: Eddie Joe Mitchell



2nd Place - Applique Skirt
Tracy Potts



3rd Place - Applique Dish Bag
Tracy Potts



4th Place - Beaded Medallion
Joanna "Dumps" Mitchell



5th Place - Beaded Crown
Joanna "Dumps" Mitchell



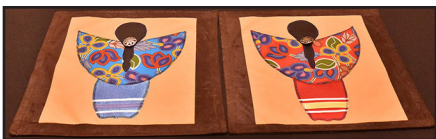
6th Place - Beaded Medallion
Tara Mitchell



7th Place - Painted Hand Drum
Robert "Poneese" Jessepe



8th Place - Acrylic Applique on Wooden Bowls
Rayne Kingfisher



9th Place - Applique Panels
Linda Tecumseh



10th Place - Beaded Floral Bag
Dora Pelkey



11th Place - Medicine Hide
Christina Foster



12th Place - Acrylic Painting
Knowee Potts



13th Place - Finger Weaving Yarn Belt
Amy Johnson



14th Place - Yellow Roach
Eddie Joe Mitchell



15th Place - Acrylic Painting
Amber Shobney