



# Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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

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## Etkwagēk 2020

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### Etkwagēk

"Fall time of the year"

This paper contains the activities and happenings that took place during the Fall time of 2020: September, October & November 2020.

### 1st Annual PBPB Economic Development Summit



10.20.20 – Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation leadership convened at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort for the 1st Annual Economic Development Summit.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation hosted the 1st Annual Combined Leadership Economic Development Summit bringing together the Prairie Band government entities and Prairie Band business leadership to envision and develop a unified roadmap to economic development for the tribe over the next five years.

The continued need for economic development and diversity escalated in 2020 in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic, when the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation temporarily closed the Prairie Band Casino and Resort, the primary revenue generator of the Nation, for approximately three months. While the Nation has managed to navigate its financial responsibilities, the pandemic has highlighted the tribe's on-going reliance on gaming revenue for self-sustainment.

The summit sought to engage and develop a team mentality between the PBPB Tribal Council, Prairie Band Gaming Commission, Prairie Band Casino and Resort Board of Directors and management staff, along with the Prairie Band, LLC Board of Directors and leadership staff in order for the diverse group to create a cohesive mission for sustainable growth and economic diversity for the Nation.

"There's a lot of intelligent and talented people in our governing bodies

and boards, with a lot of great ideas," said Frank Tecumseh, Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation Board of Directors Chairman.

Over the course of two days the leadership group, led by facilitator Rick Tucci of Leap Technologies, utilized the Rapid Action process to share and hone a variety of concepts designed to increase revenue, maximize job creation and diversification while also remaining feasible. Overall, 30 opportunities were discussed, categorized, and prioritized, with entering the cannabis market in Illinois and the 150/75 Interchange listed as two of the top contenders based on capability and capacity.

"Some of these opportunities are quick-hitting," said Jacob Wamego, Prairie Band, LLC, President, and CEO, "being able to access capital is critical," underscoring the significant role of the PBPB general council, which is charged with approving capital exceeding \$500,000 for the Nation. The PBPB has many avenues it can take to fund future ventures including taking advantage of grants, partnering with outside investors, taking out a loan, accessing the Nation's investment funds, starting a holding company or self-funding projects directly.

"Debt is not a bad thing, if we are making more revenue than the debt we incurred, then that is not a bad thing. We have to be willing to make some

sacrifices in order to be stronger in the future," noted Tecumseh.

"Before we move forward with any business venture," stated Joseph Rupnick, PBPB Tribal Chairman, "communication with the general membership is key."

Rupnick stressed the importance of transparency in communicating the overall plan with the PBPB general membership to ensure they are able to comment on, or question the viability of the plan and ultimately make informed decisions. The information gathered during the summit will be encapsulated into a presentation and shared with the general membership at a future general council meeting.

The last time the Nation diversified was in 2010, with the creation of the Prairie Band, LLC. Since its inception the PB, LLC has added to the Nation's long-term economic stability, and in 2019, provided a 22% return on the \$10MM vested to the company.

The Economic Development Summit was held on October 19 and 20, 2020, and hosted at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort.

A follow up statement, with additional information regarding the summit is available on page 3.



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



Dear Tribal Members,

Since July, this last quarter has been a challenge to say the least. The Nation and its members are still in the pandemic and we all have had to readjust our lives to deal with this situation. It seems almost daily where we are notified that someone may

have been exposed. Earlier in the year, we took steps to ensure the safety of those we serve but allowed programs to operate under recommended guidelines. These have helped but we are still seeing increases in positive test results and persons under investigation. I am asking everyone to do their part and remain safe because, for the foreseeable future, we will be living with this virus until an approved vaccine is available.

Even while we are coping with the virus and its effect, the government is still operating but we have been limited in what we are able to do. The virus and the National election have really slowed down all the items we had hoped would be in committee this year, still, we are working hard to make sure the Nation's interest remains in Congress.

Council is currently reviewing all our claims with the recent McGirt ruling and are looking at ways we can leverage that opinion to our advantage

here in Kansas and Illinois. During a recent call, Council, along with our legal team will develop a strategy within the next month to outline our steps to move these items forward. Our hopes are to have a solid plan in place and the steps we need to take to bring any action before Congress beginning January 20, 2021, immediately after the election.

Locally, I know the roads are in horrible shape. Every email I receive where funding is available, I pass on to our Grants Manager, Jason Fizell. While we have been aggressive with grants, funding for roads appears to be limited. Given the limited Federal resources, we are looking at repairing the roads funded by the Nation. Bids are coming in and we are hoping that some of the sections that are very bad can be repaired before winter with the final overlay happening in the spring.

Those that live here know we have been repairing the roofs on many buildings and here at the Government

Center, that includes some foundation work. In August, the Government building flooded with a section in Member Services appearing to have leakage for a few years. Repairs are an ongoing issue and steps must be taken to protect the Nation's assets.

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 measure to protect everyone. I know this will be a learning process and we are looking at ways where we can provide safety for our Members and continue to provide information concerning the Nation. I ask that we take a moment to think about all the ones we have lost and pray for the ones that have become infected. Again, follow the recommended guidelines and be safe.

Migwett  
Joseph P. Rupnick

## PBP Nation & COVID-19

Throughout the fall of 2020, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation continued to navigate the obstacles and challenges presented by the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

PBPN Boys & Girls Club director Nathan Hale, established a partnership with Harvesters Community Food Network to minimize food insecurity to the Praire Band community. Food distribution is available on the first Friday of each month (except for January 2021) on a first come first serve basis. The first distribution took place on September 4, 2020. Staff from the BGC, PTFD, Social Services and Administration have been instrumental in executing the events, serving 128 families in September, 123 families in October and 146 families in November.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Council determined, after careful consideration, to transition the October 17, 2020, General Council meeting from in-person to an informational call-in meeting. Approximately 43 people participated, including the Tribal Council, Gaming Commission, PBP Entertainment Corporation Board of Directors, and PB LLC. The last in-person General Council meeting was held in January 2020, but was also considered an informational meeting due to lack of quorum.

Multiple departments have dealt with staffing shortages due to positive COVID cases and necessary quar-

antining, while still doing the utmost to maintain expected service delivery. This has led to a few temporary building closures on the reservation, changes in department protocols, and an overall increase in the use of technology to do business virtually.

On October 23, the Government Center and Early Childhood Educa-



**10.2.20 - Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department staff prepare to assist in the Harvesters food distribution event for October 2020.**

tion center closed for one day, while the Motor Vehicle department closed through November 1, 2020. Additionally, the Tribal Court closed its building to the public while still maintaining all of its essential functions, including holding court through Zoom.

Two weeks later, the Behavioral Health building closed to the public on November 6, 2020, for one week. Upon return the facility began limiting in-person group therapy and increased the use of telehealth methods.

On October 19, 2020 the PBPN General Public Transportation

Program ceased to provide rides for individuals seeking coronavirus testing in order to limit an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 for staff drivers.

Effective November 16, 2020, Member Services has implemented walk-ins to 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, and 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Thursdays, with all

other business by appointment only. Guests will need to call the department at 785-966-3910 to gain access to the department during walk in times, or to schedule an appointment.

The Housing department has also transitioned to an appointment only format, with the exception of in-person rent payment by cash or credit/debit card transactions available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the 1st through the 5th of each month, All check or money order payments, along with applications and additional paperwork should be placed in the drop box located outside the front door of the Housing office. Tenants can also utilize the online payment option

available on the Nation's website.

The PBPN Social Services department announced the new General Assistance Program which can provide a montly grant payment intended to supplement wages lost as a result of COVID-19. The funding was made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Interested individuals can visit the Social Services webpage at [www.pbpindiantribe.com/social-services](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/social-services) for the full details or call 785-966-8331 for more information.

In a move to increase the flow of communication during this precarious time, the PBPN Tribal Council announced two virtual town halls. The first being held on November 18, 2020, with approximately 31 participants.

Tribal Council provided a briefing on the state of the Nation in regard to the pandemic, economic development, and released the December per capita amount. Treasurer Pahmahmie gave an overview of the Nation's financial status and answered questions about the welfare benefit distribution given to both adults and minors, noting that it is not a source of taxable income so members will not receive a 1099 for that disbursement.

The next virtual town hall is set for December 16, 2020, with log in instructions available in the Members Only Portal on the Nation's website [www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com).



## PBLLC participates in PBPN’s First Annual Combined Leadership Economic Development Strategic Planning Session

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPN) held its first annual strategic planning session for economic development on October 19th and 20th.

“This is something we have wanted to do for some time” said Prairie Band, LLC (PBLLC) President and CEO Jacob Wamego.

PBLLC Board Member, Corey Mzhickteno, who also serves as a Board Member for the Prairie Band Entertainment Corporation (PBEC) and oversees the Nation’s gaming and resort activities, was also a strong supporter for an economic development strategic plan and petitioned Tribal Council to support a planning session. His efforts were reinforced by a strategic planning study commissioned by the Tribal Council which recommended formation of an economic development committee to assist in creating a comprehensive strategic plan and help oversee the Nation’s long term economic development activities.

PBPN primarily engages in economic development activities through initiatives taken by Tribal Council, PBLLC and PBEC. Despite the understanding that Tribal Council should be the final arbitrator for economic development decisions, there was no formal process to identify, prioritize and coordinate economic development activities for these combined entities.

The goal of this first strategic planning session was to establish agreed upon objectives for economic development, develop a process for evaluating and prioritizing economic development projects and identify the parties to be accountable for each project. Tribal Council members, PBPN Gaming Commission members, as well as senior management staff from PBLLC and PBEC all participated in the strategic planning session.

Rick Tucci, Managing Partner and Founder of LEAP Technologies served as the facilitator for the successful strategic planning session. Mr. Tucci has worked directly with several large Fortune 500 companies on strategic planning initiatives, including Motorola, Toyota and General Electric. He has also led engagements for strategic planning with several government sector clients, including the Nashville Metropolitan Airport Authority, Broward County Aviation Department, Erie County New York, Alameda County California, Asian Health Services, the Home Centered Care Institute, the Internal Revenue Service, Small Business Administration, the U.S. State Department, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The session included a “Vision for Change” for economic development activities, noting what currently happens and then listing those changes that must occur for future economic development activities to be successful. Participants also took part in a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) type analysis to identify various “Strengths” and “Constraints” that impact economic development at PBPN. The first day ended identifying performance metrics (i.e., Balanced Scorecards) and aspirational goals for these metrics. The Facilitator noted, “If you are not measuring it, how do you know you are improving?” Some performance metrics identified included Total Revenue; Net Income growth, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA); New Jobs Created; Years to Recoup Investment (Payback Period); Growth in Tax Revenues; as well as many others.

The second day was focused on developing an initial “inventory” of economic development projects for the Nation to consider. Participants were encouraged to “dream” and submit any project they deemed

worthy of consideration. More than 30 unique projects were submitted for evaluation. Participants then voted to place each project in one of four categories: Act-Now, Invest Long, Selectively Risk, and Hold. Act-Now are projects where PBPN has existing capability & capacity to pursue and execute and we can expect a positive ROI (return on investment) within 5 years. Invest Long are projects PBPN has the capability & capacity to pursue and execute, but it will take longer than 5 years to achieve a positive ROI. Selectively Risk are projects for which PBPN does not have existing capability & capacity to pursue but expects a positive ROI in less than 5 years. Hold are projects which PBPN does not currently have the capability & capacity to pursue and execute and is expected to take longer than 5 years to achieve a positive ROI. It was noted that as a project are evaluated, it’s category can change based on the evaluation’s findings and outcomes.

As a demonstration, three projects were selected to develop a draft for a Business Case. The Business Case is the formal process that will be used to evaluate the merits and priority to be assigned to each project. Ideally, each project considered will be subjected to a “Business Case” evaluation. The outcomes of each Business Case will help establish a ranking and funding decisions that best meet the PBPN economic development objectives and performance metrics identified.

The Facilitator also noted that a team or committee was important to oversee completion of the business case evaluations for the remaining inventory of proposed economic development projects, to identify and help secure any necessary funding, as well identify the person(s) charged with leading each economic development project. The following persons were proposed for the formation of the Nation’s Economic Development

Investment Committee:

- Zach Pahmahmie (Tribal Council - Vice Chair)
- Wade Pahmahmie (Tribal Council - Treasurer)
- Bill Evans (Tribal Council)
- Corey Mzhickteno (PBEC and PBLLC Board)
- William “Bill” Marsh (PBCR - General Manager)
- John Sexsmith (PBCR - CFO)
- Jacob Wamego (PBLLC - CEO)
- Stan Van Ostran (PBLLC - CFO)

The meeting concluded with participants very pleased with the outcomes from the First Annual Strategic Planning session.

Some participants provided a caution that we ensure the momentum from this meeting is maintained and we follow through on the meeting objectives and deliver on the expected meeting outcomes. To that end, a draft report of the planning session outcomes has already been received and the final report should be available soon. The report will provide more additional information about the Nation’s economic development objectives, projects considered, and the business case process used to evaluate economic development opportunities.

The Investment Committee is scheduled to have its first meeting in mid-November to prioritize and identify economic development projects to be funded and commenced in calendar year 2021. They expect to remain busy throughout 2021 as they follow through on the economic development opportunities identified in the First Strategic Planning session and are already looking forward the 2nd Annual Strategic Planning Session.

## Governor Kelly Seeks Inclusivity with Kansas Tribes



10.2.20 - Governor Laura Kelly seeks to include tribal governments.

Governor Laura Kelly recently disclosed one of her high priorities is that all Kansans feel included, and specifically for Kansas tribes to feel they have a seat at the table when it comes to working with the governor.

Gov. Kelly revealed that this fall she intends to extend an invitation to all Tribal governments located within Kansas to come together and discuss issues of concern as related to the Kansas legislature, and how her administration may be able to advocate on the tribes’ behalf.

“The Kansas tribes are sovereign nations that we want to partner with,” said Gov. Kelly during an October 2, 2020, sit-down interview with the PBP News.

Executive Director of the Kansas Native American Affairs (KNAA) Office/Tribal Liaison for Gov. Kelly, Chris Howell noted that during Governor Kelly’s tenure she has started using the phrase, “All Kansans,” which is a subtle nod of recognition to the three levels of government retained by tribal members at the tribal, federal and state levels.

Within the framework for re-opening the state during the coronavirus pandemic, Gov. Kelly acknowledged the sovereignty of the local Tribal governments in Executive Order No. 20-29 dated April 30, 2020. In which it states, under Essential Functions, “The Four Tribes of Kansas (Iowa Tribe, Kickapoo Nation, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and Sac & Fox Nation) retain any author-

ity to regulate through their respective tribal councils for the health and welfare of their population.” The language was added after consultation with the tribes during on-going, state-wide weekly emergency management calls, wherein county government officials, state officials and tribal officials coordinate information and strategies in managing the coronavirus pandemic.

“I want to represent [the tribes] as much as any other Kansan,” stated Gov. Kelly, “I want to ensure that all of the tribes feel they have a connection here and know I am open and listening.”



# Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, hope all is well as we wind down 2020 and move into the holiday season in this unprecedented time of the pandemic. As with other years, from a financial standpoint, we have wrapped up all of our audits and are in the process of finalizing budgets for 2021. Budgets for 2021 will be planned rather conservatively as the ongoing pandemic negatively impacts many of our operations. With careful planning and monitoring of spending however, we expect to continue to provide services as close to normal as possible. Also, with year-end quickly approaching we will be distributing W-2's and 1099's in mid-January so you should receive yours towards the end of the month.

In mid-October we held our first Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Combined Leadership Economic Development Strategic Planning Workshop in which representatives from the Tribal Council, Casino, Prairie Band LLC and Gaming Commission attended. It was good to get everyone together to share ideas and perspectives on Economic Development for the Tribe. Additionally, a smaller focus group termed as the Economic Investment Committee is in the process of formalizing and will most likely look to spurring along the development of the area located at 150/75 just east of the Casino that was approved by the General Council in July 2008.

Below are a few additional items of interest that have come up in the financial area in the past few weeks. As always if you have any questions on the items below or have

any other questions about the Tribe's finances feel free to contact my office and I will get back to you as soon as I can. Take care and be safe.

### Will & Estate Planning

We have received a few inquiries about the Tribe's will and estate planning services that are provided through Kansas Legal Services (KLS). Despite the pandemic, the services are still available to Tribal Members and their spouses. Appointments are available via phone call or if you would like to make an in-person appointment those can still be accommodated as well. To apply for the services through KLS an application must be completed and returned to the Treasurer's Office. Applications can be requested by contacting the Treasurer's Office at the information below or by calling 785-966-4005. Once the application is completed and returned to the Treasurer's Office it will be forwarded to KLS and they will get in contact with the Tribal Member to set up an appointment. As in the past the will and estate services are available to any Tribal Member and their spouse with no age requirements, the property included in the legal documents must be in the state of Kansas, and also new documents may be drafted or existing documents may be amended or updated.

### Kansas Sales Tax Exemption

A new link has been added to the Tribe's website with information on the Kansas Sales Tax Exemption available to Tribal Members under Kansas Revenue Ruling 19-2002-1. The information can be accessed by going to the Tribe's website at [www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com) and clicking on the Government tab and then going to the Tax Commission and then clicking on Kansas Sales Tax Exemption. The link provides information that has been provided in previous newspaper articles as well as examples of forms that must be filled out in order to claim the Kansas Sales Tax Exemption.

Basically to be exempt from Kansas Sales Tax a Tribal Member must reside on the reservation and the items purchased must be delivered to the reservation. Local businesses will most generally require completion of Kansas Department of Revenue Form

ST-28 to apply the exemption. Some online retailers will also require the completion of Form ST-28 while other larger online retailers may have their own sales tax exemption program for you to complete. For more information on the Kansas Sales Tax Exemption you may contact my office at the information below or the Tribe's Tax Commission office at 785-966-3998.

### Hemp Applications for 2021

In February of this year the Tribe's Hemp Plan was approved by the USDA in accordance with the 2018 Farm Bill allowing the Tribe to administer a domestic hemp program. Also this past year the Tribe planted two test plots of hemp in order to help refine our processes and regulations for the upcoming years. Beginning on December 1, 2020 the Tribe's Tax Commission will begin accepting Hemp Applications from those planning to grow hemp on the reservation in 2021. The Tax Commission has been delegated the regulatory authority over hemp grown on the reservation by the Tribal Council under the Tribe's Law and Order Code, Title 32. The Tax Commission employs two individuals to handle both tax and hemp matters. Fees to apply for hemp licenses include an application fee based upon the size of the plot as well as a fee per acre. Application fees are non-refundable, acreage fees are refundable. For more information on hemp you may contact the Tax Commission at 785-966-3998.

### General Welfare Support Program

Earlier this year the Tribal Council adopted TC Resolution No. 2020-171 which formally recognizes our General Welfare Support Program. Prior to the formal adoption of the General Welfare Support Program, we already administered various General Welfare programs which provided certain benefits to Tribal Members free of income tax liability such as burial, education and housing benefits just to name a few.

In 2014 when the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act became law, we were also able to issue corrected 1099's to Tribal Members who were previously taxed on their housing benefits. This affected Tribal Members who received housing benefits

for the years of 2011-2013. By issuing the corrected 1099's Tribal Members were able to claim refunds on the taxes that were paid on their housing benefits for those years.

Essentially the adoption of the General Welfare Support Program helps identify and solidify the programs that Tribal Council has determined to be free of income tax liability under the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act. In other words, any payments issued under the programs specifically identified in the General Welfare Support Program will not result in the issuance of a 1099. Additionally, because payments under the General Welfare Support Program are specifically tailored to fit the requirements of the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act and are non-taxable, it is our opinion that the benefits should not be reported as income for any purpose such as when applying for assistance or loans, etc.

The list of approved benefits under the General Welfare Support Program are: Educational Support Program, Elderly Support Program, Health Program, Historical and Cultural Preservation Program, Housing Assistance Program, Housing Disaster Assistance Program, Burial Assistance Program and the Special Coronavirus Relief Program. If you have any questions on the tax liability of the General Welfare Support Programs you may contact my office or contact the Tribe's Chief Financial Officer who has been appointed as the Benefits Coordinator for the General Welfare Support Program at 785-966-3976.

If you have any questions on any of the topics mentioned in this article or financial questions in general about the Tribe's operations my contact information is: Office: (785) 966-3905 – E-mail: [wadepahmahmie@pbpnation.org](mailto:wadepahmahmie@pbpnation.org). 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)

## New AT&T Tower Installed on Reservation

In tandem with the new 911 service provided by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police Department, a 320' AT&T tower has been installed near the middle of the reservation to the northwest of the L4 Lane Housing subdivision (2nd Cluster). The tower went up on November 11, 2020.

In 2015, AT&T was awarded a contract to upgrade existing analog 911 infrastructure to digital technologies for public safety answering points (PSAPs) in Kansas. The new internet protocol system is known as Next Generation 911. The utilization of NG911 will enhance emergency number services to create a faster, more resilient system along with managing call overload, natural disasters, and proper jurisdictional responses based

on location tracking.

Additionally, the tower will also utilize FirstNet, a broadband network specifically geared for first responders. In 2017, AT&T was also selected as the contractor for this service. This digital communication tool will ensure cell service to first responders at all times, preventing it from being overwhelmed during natural disasters or other significant crises, allowing

public safety measures to continue unimpeded.

The PBP Road and Bridge department also won a bid on the tower project to construct a passable gravel road for the contractors installing the tower. PBP Road and Bridge staff turned a ½ mile of L Road, previously designated as a minimum maintenance dirt road, into a gravel road.



# Tribal Council Member Tony Wahweotten: Report to the Nation



## Ho' PBPB Members

I first, would like to extend my thoughts and prayers, go out to the families who had suffered losses this year, due to natural causes or of the Covid19 pandemic. I would also like to recognize our front-line Hero and

Essential workers during the pandemic quarantine periods of PBPB operations.

Secondly, many miigwetches to PBPB voting membership for allowing me to be selected as your new PBPB Tribal Council Representative, I am truly honored to serve at this capacity for the nation, and alongside with Chairman Rupnick, Vice Chairman Zach Pahmahmie, Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie, Secretary Camilla Chouteau, Councilman William Evans, and Councilman Raphael Wahwassuck. Since being sworn into office as Tribal Council on 08/27/20, I have had orientations with Mr. Chairman Rupnick, and been through process with human resources, etc. for new hiring purposes. I also have had greetings, along with preliminaries from the other Tribal Council members, TC Assistants and Administrations.

Directly, after swearing in, on my first

day, I went into Tribal Council chambers for my first special Tribal Council meeting session. I have attended many special Tribal Council meetings and discussions relating to the business and welfare of the nation.

Outside of my specific duties as Tribal Council, I have been appointed, as one of the new Tax Commissioners for the Nation. This position was formed by Tribal Council as the Tribes, one out of three, designated taxing authority. Title 10 (General Taxes) and Title 13 (Business Licensing). See tribal website or portal for Tribal Law and Order Codes and Tax Reports.

Under our Prairie Band Potawatomi Constitution, it stated under Article II-Land, Section 2 Tribal Council shall establish a Standing committee vested with the responsibility of protecting and preserving our land rights in accordance of our policies of the Nation. Tribal Council has appointed

me as an additional Liaison to the Lands Committee. See the Tribal website or portal for Constitutional declarations under Article II-Lands.

Other news and interest I have been delegated to follow up on, is a sought-after project called the Soldier Creek Watershed. This project consists of early assessments in water resource planning, natural resource conservation, environmental protections within and outside our current boundaries. Our goal for the Soldier Creek Watershed Plan, cooperation with newly established funding opport unities, in respect to new development of rural water supply, flood prevention and damage, erosion and sediment control, fish and wild-life habitat, wetland restoration, and recreation opportunities.

Miigwetch,  
Tony Wahweotten

## Kansas Sales Tax Exemption Reminder

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tax Commission would like to remind qualified tribal members of the Kansas Sales Tax Exemption.

The Kansas Revenue Ruling 19-2002-1 states that “Individual tribes within the state of Kansas are exempt from state sales tax. Items delivered to an enrolled tribal member living on the enrolled tribal member’s reservation are also exempt from Kansas sales tax, i.e. an enrolled PBPB member living on PBPB Reservation qualifies for exemption.”

However, this ruling does not apply to vehicles purchased from Kansas

dealerships but does apply to vehicles purchased from individuals and out-of-state dealerships.

To exercise the right to state sales tax exemption, an individual enrolled tribal member will need to complete the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR) Form ST-28.

A permanent link to specific information regarding the Kansas Sales Tax Exemption has been added to the Tax Commission webpage, [www.pbpindiantribe.com/government/tax-commission/](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/government/tax-commission/). The Tax Commission webpage can also be accessed by selecting Government, Tax Commission from the home page.

## News from Native Vote

The PBPB Native Vote Committee organized an Advance Voting Station for the 2020 election on October 21, 2020, in coordination with the Jackson County Election office. The Advance Voting Station was available to all registered voters in Jackson County, Kansas and a total of 178 ballots were cast.

This Advance Voting Station held a record turnout, more than doubling the turnout of the previous two Advance Voting Stations held on the reservation. The first Advance Voting Station held in 2016 during a presidential election yielded 87 voters, and the 2018 Advance Voting Station held

during a midterm election netted 80 voters.

For 15 voters it was either their first time to vote ever or first time to vote in a presidential election. For the younger first-time voters, many came to the voting station with their parents, sibling or another relative making voting a family event. According to Kansas Secretary of State Charles Schwab, parents are the primary influencer of young voter turnout.

To accommodate the social distance requirements due to the coronavirus pandemic, the event was held at the Old Bingo Hall, next to the PBPB Government Center.



11.18.20 - At left, the new 320’ AT&T tower will provide improved coverage for 911 and first responder services on the PBPB Reservation. Above, a 1/2 mile of L road was upgraded from a minimum maintenance dirt road to a gravel road in order to complete the tower project.



## Prairie Band Health Center Operations Update

11.17.20 - The Prairie Band community and larger surrounding communities have experienced a recent surge in COVID-19 cases, with the Prairie Band Health Center averaging 9.5 positive cases per week over the last two weeks.

The Prairie Band Health Center, under the advisement of Medical Director Dr. Scott Blaker, has elected to reduce preventive care appointments over the next month to lower the potential for patient or staff exposure to the coronavirus, and allow for staff to focus their time and resources on COVID-19 testing and contact tracing efforts.

Additionally, the Dental Clinic is limited to emergency care only and Behavioral Health is optimizing the use of telehealth services while limiting in-person group therapy to further

minimize the possibility of transmission.

As of today, 594 tests have been administered at the Health Center, with an additional 153 tests administered at the mobile KDHE testing event in July, resulting in 85 positive cases of COVID-19 in the community since testing began in May 2020.

The Prairie Band Health Center, in conjunction with the Prairie Band Tribal Council and Indian Health Service, is currently working on a plan for the distribution of a coronavirus vaccine and anticipates having detailed information available in mid-December 2020.

The Prairie Band Health Center remains committed to providing the greatest care to the Prairie Band community.

## COVID-19 Data in the Prairie Band Community

11.20.20 - The Nation has received inquiries as to the percent positive rate and the mortality rate of COVID-19 in the Prairie Band community but reporting accurate data in a meaningful context is next to impossible.

The PBP Nation does report the number of COVID-19 tests performed at the Prairie Band Health Center and the resulting cumulative positive cases. However, that data is only reflective of the individuals that are tested at the Prairie Band Health Center. The Health Center tests PBPN government and casino employees, tribal members, along with IHS eligible patients, any of whom may not live on the reservation. Additionally, not all

reservation residents, whether native or non-native use PBHC as their testing site. This makes the available data insufficient for providing an accurate percent positive rate for the Prairie Band community. Reporting a percent positive rate from this limited sample could be construed as misinformation in a larger context.

Once an individual has received a positive COVID-19 diagnosis there is no standardized system in place to collect information on the patient outcome, whether that be death, hospitalization, or full recovery. Due to family follow-up, the Nation is aware of at least four deaths attributed to the coronavirus, but the actual number may be higher.

## PBPN BGC Receives Kansas Prevention Award

10.22.20 - The Boys & Girls Club of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is a recipient of the 2020 Kansas Prevention Connected Community of the Year award, presented by the Kansas Prevention Collaborative during the 2020 Kansas Prevention Conference in late October 2020.

The program was nominated by Deanne Armstrong, Community Support Specialist with DCCCA. Following is her nomination:

"I would like to nominate the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPN) Boys and Girls Club for the Kansas Prevention Connected Community of the Year Award. The PBPN Boys and Girls Club are a KDADS (KPCCI) Kansas Prevention Collaborative Community Initiative grantee. Under the coordination of Joanna Mitchell from the PBPN Boys and Girls Club they have identified the need for implementing a strengths-based approach for prevention that includes the fact that culture is prevention for their tribal community.

sew cultural clothing, make moccasins, dance and drum. They plan and host family activities where cultural traditions can be demonstrated and experienced with elders in the community.

The Boys and Girls Club adapt programs being implemented by using their Native American traditions for best fit practices when implementing the evidence-based strategies. They teach points of culture such as; their language, symbolism, names, traditions, values, and spirituality. Reclaiming lifeways rooted in their tribal values empowers prevention and promotes wellness.

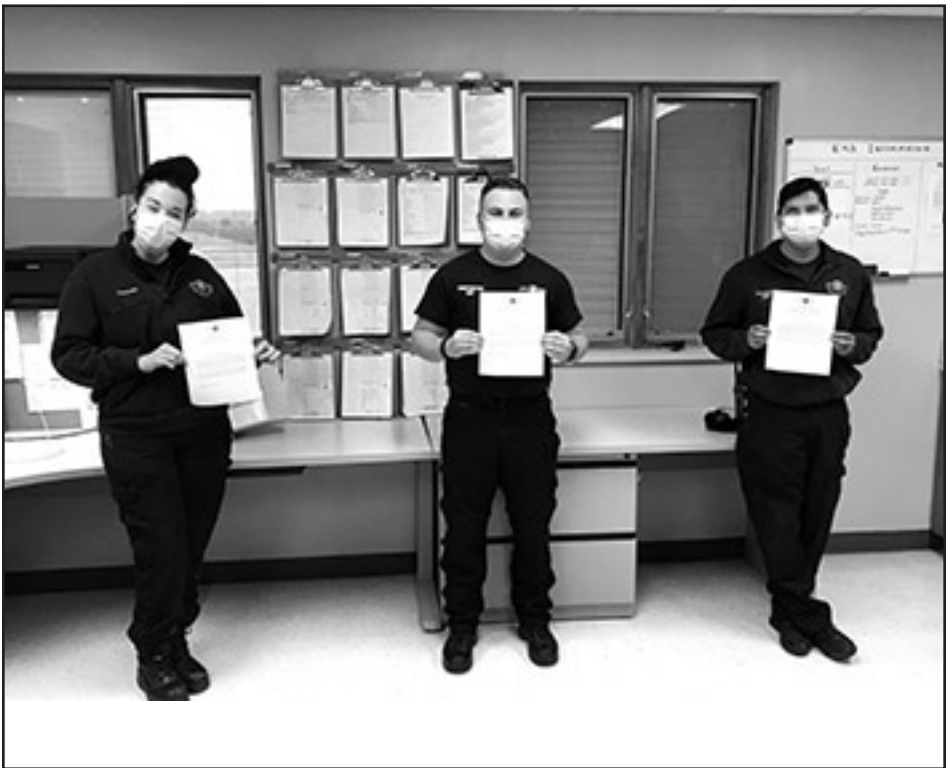
The Boys and Girls Club recently directed their efforts to meeting the food needs in their community during the beginning of the pandemic by providing approximately 200 meals a day to tribal families. They now are partnering with Harvesters to continue meeting the needs and are collaborating with the Royal Valley School to deliver meals to tribal children that are participating in schooling at home.

Their current project includes building a designated place for the youth Firekeepers, and others, to meet around a fire and participate in traditional ceremonial practices. They will partner with the tribal elders to teach the meaning, purpose and traditional ways of the fire as a spiritual practice for wellbeing.

The PBPN Boys and Girls Club have led the way in increasing collaboration efforts in their tribal community as they partner with other agencies to plan and implement activities and prevention efforts. The readiness of the community to work together and implement prevention practices has increased since the strategic prevention planning has taken place."

The PBPN BGC also utilizes the Youth Outreach and Prevention Coalition to achieve its prevention outreach. The coalition consists of various members of the PBPN government staff, including Tribal Council members and community members.

## Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department Staff Recognized for Outstanding Service



10.16.20 - Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department staff Kristen Radell, Chris Porter and Manuel Gracia hold their Outstanding Service Commendations.

10.16.20 - Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department staff Kristen Radell, Chris Porter and Manuel Gracia, received an Outstanding Service Commendation on October 16, 2020, for successfully delivering a baby while in the field.

Their commendation, bestowed upon them by PTFD Chief Doug Schreiner states, "While the natural process of childbirth itself is not automatically a critical emergency, proper management of the delivery and care of the mother and child immediately afterward is critical. The excellent care you rendered resulted in a happy, healthy, and successful outcome. As you always do, you made a real difference

and a positive impact that will truly last a lifetime. The lifesaving care you provide is essential."

Radell started with the department in July 2017. She serves as a Firefighter/paramedic and has over 11 years of EMS experience.

Chris Porter serves as a Firefighter/EMT and has been with the organization since January 2020. Porter is also a volunteer fireman in his off time.

Manuel Gracia (PBPN) is a Firefighter/EMT and joined the department in June 2019. Gracia is also a decorated combat veteran having served in the United States Army.

Joanna and the Boys and Girls Club are passionate about teaching youth their Native American heritage and providing cultural activities and opportunities for tribal youth and their families to participate in. They have partnered with the Royal Valley Schools to implement programs within the school for drumming, Native American dancers and educational programs that include beading and other cultural practices. Connecting the Native American traditions within the school environment has increased understanding and awareness of cultural beliefs and values.

Joanna and the Boys and Girls Club staff understand that successful prevention efforts need to be able to hold the complex truths and beliefs of their culture. Knowing that historical trauma has been experienced and continues to have an impact on their Native community, healing continues to be needed and cultural practices allow for this to take place. The Boys and Girls Club have been instrumental in teaching youth how to bead,



Nishnabek Ntewmèn - “Who We Are”



PBPN member Lance Wishkeno, US Army veteran, married his highschool crush, Lucy Ann Martinek, on October 10, 2020, at Acorn Resort by Milford Lake shore at Milford, Kansas. The ceremony is available at [https://youtu.be/\\_2kG6d\\_luZY](https://youtu.be/_2kG6d_luZY). Wishkeno’s parents were the late Nettie and Wesley Wishkeno.

To the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation,

It is with great humility and pride that I appreciate the support that PBPN has given me in my pursuit of higher education. As of August 17, 2020, I achieved my goal of obtaining a Master of Sustainable Peacebuilding degree from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee (UWM). This endeavor has given me great insight into the issues of the world and how now is the time to move into a holistic paradigm with new creative and innovative processes for a better tomorrow. As we seek equality, justice, and equity within our Indigenous Nations, we are in the midst of the dominant culture, understanding that colonial practices may not be the way to secure our earth for all who inhabit this planet. Slowly, we are being represented at the table of discussion to bring traditional holistic practices in the future of sustaining the livelihood of all. It has been my observation that the young generation of cultures are in tune with what many Indigenous people worldwide have been saying for centuries that money is not everything. The community, love for our children, and what we can preserve in this world for our youth to take us into a new Anthropocene. We need our leaders to take us to the next level of wellbeing of our creator’s creation to be included in the wellness of spirit, health, and equality to overcome the injustices that have been with us for centuries.

Again, I thank the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for its help and support that has been afforded me, and I will represent our Nation with my best efforts in a continual advocacy for sovereignty, health, and wellbeing. Thank you, PBPN members, Government Center, and PBPN educational department; it is always my pleasure to speak of our Nation.

Your Brother,  
Steven Daubon Pena, MSP  
Master of Sustainable Peacebuilding  
Prairie Band Potawatomi/Lac du Flambeau Chippewa/Mexican

Stay Connected!  
Visit [pbpindiantribe.com](http://pbpindiantribe.com),  
  
► click “Contact” at the bottom of the home page  
  
► sign up to get the latest updates delivered directly to your inbox!

Healthy Reminder



Pĕkwe’an kĭtash mine kton  
  
“Cover your nose and mouth”

# MORE WAYS TO PLAY



View our progress on the Construction Cam!  
<https://app.truelook.com/?u=sp1568311738>

WIN A CHEVY BLAZER!

NEW YEAR  
NEW WHEELS  
January 1  
3PM - 8PM



Holiday Pie GIVEAWAY  
December 25

Receive a **free** holiday pie!  
(While supplies last.)

Sundays in January  
12PM - 4PM

Your chance to win  
**\$210,000 CASH!**



**PRAIRIE BAND**  
CASINO & RESORT  
\$23K ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

January 16  
11AM  
FREE Anniversary treats in the Events Center  
1PM to 6PM  
Drawings for your chance to win your share of \$23K!

**BIG GAME TV GIVEAWAY**  
February 6  
1PM to 7PM

Win **\$500 PRAIRIE CASH**, a television, and a sound bar!

12PM  
The first 1500 guests to swipe their Players card at the Players Club will receive a FREE box of Russell Stover's chocolates.

2PM to 6PM  
Drawings every 30 minutes for **\$500 PRAIRIE CASH!**

**Chocolates & Prairie Cash**  
February 13

Visit [prairieband.com](http://prairieband.com) for more details!

Don't have a Prairie Band Players card? Sign up for FREE with a valid I.D. All new members in 2019 can spin the New Member Rewards Prize Wheel for a **guaranteed prize up to \$500 Prairie Cash!**

Must be 18 years of age or older to gamble. Owned by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Getting help is your best bet. Call the confidential toll-free Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700.



**PRAIRIE BAND**  
CASINO & RESORT  
1-888-PBP-4WIN | [prairieband.com](http://prairieband.com)



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



## Olive “Jean” Werner

MARQUETTE, MI – Olive Regina “Jean” Werner, age 80, of Marquette, walked on into eternal life Saturday, August 22, 2020, at home, in the loving, comforting care of her family and UP Home Health and Hospice.

Born June 26, 1940, in Oneida, Wisconsin, a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Young) Jackson, Jean was raised in Milwaukee. She left school before graduating, utilizing her time babysitting, caring for children, and working for a clothing manufacturer in Milwaukee.

It was in Milwaukee that she met Marquette native, Karl Werner, introduced through a total stranger at a Greek restaurant. The couple married on August 2, 1958, together making their first home in Milwaukee where they began raising a family. In 1966, the family moved to Marquette where Jean preferred a safer and slower pace and Karl returned to his roots. At first, the family lived with Karl’s mother while building their own home next door. Jean was employed at a variety of jobs including waitressing at the Northland Hotel and doing house-keeping and child care for several local families. Jean returned to the classroom through the Adult Education Program and completed her requirements for graduation in 1976, at Marquette Senior High School, delivering the valedictorian address.

Throughout the years, she served her community in numerous capacities. Being of Potawatomi-Ojibwa Indian heritage, she worked with the Marquette Public Schools in promoting Native American identity among native students, teaching customs, making sure the students were going to school regularly, and finishing their education. She always loved working with children and for years taught Sunday School and enjoyed the outings, ice skating, picnics, home visitations, and leading people to the Lord.

Jean was an avid Red Wings fan and would often don her Wings hat while enthusiastically cheering them on. She enjoyed collecting recipes and cookbooks, keeping busy, and looking for opportunities to be of service. *Continued on page 11*



## Lois Thomas

HORTON, KS – Lois Eileen “N-Shuck-Kah-Quah” Thomas, 63, of Horton, Kansas, passed away on Thursday, August 28, 2020 at the Select Specialty Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas. She was born on November 21, 1956 in Horton, Kansas the daughter of Paul and Julie Puckee Mijessepe.

Lois was a homemaker. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe, Native American Church and the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. She loved her dachshunds Betty & Budson.

Survivors include her husband, William A. Thomas Sr. of the home; two daughters, Adrienne Thomas of Mayetta, Kansas and Alexis Thomas of Horton, Kansas; five sons, Ferris Jessepe, Lucas Thomas and William Thomas Jr. all of Horton, Kansas, Anthony Thomas and Travis Thomas both of Mayetta, Kansas; five sisters, Adeline Horn of Parkville, Missouri, Nancy Smartlowit of Toppennish, Washington, Betha Hale of Hiawatha, Kansas, Ruth Anne Ramirez of Mayetta, Kansas and Linda Yazzie of Mayetta, Kansas; three brothers, Irvin Jessepe and James Jessepe both of Horton, Kansas and adopted brother, Lester Sumner of Mayetta, Kansas and numerous grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Teresa Jessepe.

Native American Church services will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at Wayne Jessepe’s home, 165 K-20 Highway on the Kickapoo Reservation. Burial will be at 10:00 A.M. on Friday morning at the Swah-Kah-Ah family cemetery on the Kickapoo Reservation. A special message may be sent to the family at [www.dishon-maple-chaney.com](http://www.dishon-maple-chaney.com).

*- Courtesy of Dishon Maple Chaney Mortuary*



## Michael Wahweotten

LAWRENCE, KS – Michael A. “Blur” Wahweotten, 56, of Lawrence, KS, passed away on September 6, 2020, at his home. He was born on January 28, 1964, in Holton, KS, the son of Warren Wahweotten Sr and Wynona Harrison Wahweotten.

Mike worked from home as a scorer for several Universities.

He was a proud veteran of the United States Army. Michael graduated from Lawrence High School in 1982. He also achieved a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Kansas University.

Mike was a dedicated fan of KU Jayhawks, KC Royals, and KC Chiefs. Mike had an extreme love for music and a special love for Punk Rock. He enjoyed attending live shows and was known personally by many of the bands. Mike had an extreme knowledge of music with some calling him a music encyclopedia, and was also referred to as the “Lawrence Punk Rock Legend.” Mike wrote about his own fanzine called “The Blur”. He also enjoyed DJ’ing for 90.7 FM KJHK. He had a vast knowledge of trivia and astronomy.

He was a member of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Warren A Wahweotten Sr; a sister, Tammy Wahweotten; and a nephew, Timothy Wahweotten.

Survivors include his mother, Wynona Wahweotten; one brother, Warren Wahweotten Jr (Gina) of Mayetta. Several cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

A private family Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Mercer Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements. To leave a special message for the family, please visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com).

*- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home*



## Phyllis Dunn

MAYETTA, KS – Phyllis Lynn “Sha ne gish go kwe” Dunn, 73, of Mayetta passed away September 9, 2020, at a Topeka Hospital. She was born September 17, 1946, in Holton the daughter of Richard “Dick” and Josie (Wamego) Pahmahmie.

Phyllis graduated from Mayetta High School in 1964 and later from Albuquerque Indian Nursing School as an LPN. She worked as an LPN at Topeka nursing homes, Staten Island, NY Veteran’s Hospital, Sunny Side Hospital, and Bon Secour in Port Jervis, NY, and retired in 2008. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

On August 16, 1969, she married Walter William “Buddy” Dunn in Milford, PA. He preceded her in death on March 25, 2007; after 38 years of marriage.

She is survived by her daughters, Kathleen “Kathy Jo” Gentile (Martin) of Mayetta, KS and Nicole Hernandez (Ramon) of Scranton, PA; her son, Jeffrey Dunn (Jacqueline Viserta) of Milford, PA; her sisters Dolly Richard (Mike) and Anita Evans (Mando) both of Mayetta, KS; her brothers, Richard Pahmahmie, Jr. (Pam), Lawrence Pahmahmie, Alan “Boney” Pahmahmie (Brenda) all of Mayetta, KS; her grandkids, Mia and Ronin Gentile, Kyler and Ramon Hernandez and Kirsten and Dominique Dunn; in-laws, Phyllis Pahmahmie of Topeka, KS, Joan Pahmanmie of Mayetta, KS, Bill and Kathleen Roberts of Hawley, PA, Patrick Dunn of Port Jervis, NY; many nieces and nephews and her dog, Zip.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Merle “Tuffy” in 1995, Roy in 2001, Albert in 2009, and Henry in 2009 and sister-in-law, Joy Pahmahmie.

Celebration of Life will be held 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Burial will be 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 18, 2020, at Wahwaksum Cemetery. To leave a special message for the family, please visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com).

*- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home*



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



## Delphine Knoxsah

TOPEKA, KS -Delphine Lavina “Kesh ko quah” Knoxsah, 81, of Topeka, passed away Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at Midland Hospice House in Topeka.

She was born June 1, 1939, in Manhattan, KS the daughter of Frank and Martha (McKinney) Lewis. Delphine graduated from Manhattan High School and later lived in Topeka for many years. She worked at the VA Hospital at the Docking Building in data entry and had also worked as a cook at many establishments in Topeka. Delphine proudly served in the United States Army. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and was a member of the Native American Church.

She is survived by her daughters, Ethel Figgins and Martha Serl both of Topeka, KS; her sons Jeff Lewis and Henry Knoxsah both of Topeka, KS; her sister, Gale Atkins of Horton, KS; her brothers, Jeff Lewis of Virginia, Roger Lewis, Lyman Shipsees and Kevin Aitkens all of Mayetta, KS; her 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her four brothers, Joe Lewis, Melvin Lewis, Frank Lewis and Gerald “Jerry” Lewis.

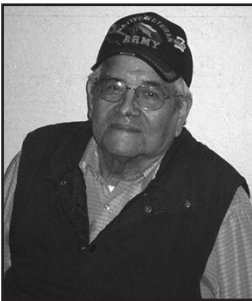
Ttibekwe will be Saturday evening, September 12, 2020, at the Native American Church west of Mayetta. Burial will be in Shipsees Cemetery Sunday morning. Mercer Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements. To leave a special message for the family, please visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com).

- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home

## Julian Draper

PABLO, MT – Julian Michael Draper, 33, passed away on Sunday, September 6, 2020. He was born on August 23, 1987. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Funeral arrangements by Lake Funeral Home, Polson, Montana.



## Orville Rice, Jr.

MAYETTA, KS – Orville Rice, Jr., Ohn-Wah-Sah, 87, of Mayetta, died Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at the Colmery-O’Neil VA Hospital in Topeka.

He was born October 18, 1932, at Mayetta, the son of Orville Rice, Sr. and Elsie Wahwassuck Rice. He was blue color and Thunder Clan.

Orville was a member of the Native American Church and We-Ta-Se American Legion Post No. 410 at Mayetta. He loved to ride motorcycles and work on cars until his health declined.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, having served during the Korean Conflict.

In his early years, he had worked in construction and manual labor jobs. He retired from Haskell Indian Nations University after thirty years.

He married Betty Mahkuk in 1957. She survives.

Orville was preceded in death by his parents, two sons, Bradley Rice, Cleo Masqua and Kevin Rice, two brothers, Edward Wahweotten and Jeffrey Rice, and five sisters, Lavina Olsen, Sammye Starkey, Sylvia Rice, Inez Dodds, Claudette Masqua and Mary Brown.

Other survivors include two sons, Chris Rice, Nedrow, NY and Calvin Masqua, Lawrence; three daughters, Shirley Rice, Oskaloosa, Sylvia Johnson, Mayetta and Jeanette Little Sun, Hoyt; three brothers, Raymond “Butch” Rice, Topeka, Larry Wahweotten, Augusta and Ronald Wahweotten, Mayetta; three sisters, Cheryl Wahweotten Walker, Mayetta, Lorene “Snooks” Wahweotten, Denver, CO and Elizabeth Bartlett, Topeka; fifteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

Native American Church Services will be Saturday evening, September 19th at the Native American Church, west of Mayetta. Burial with military honors will be Sunday afternoon in the Mahkuk Cemetery. Orville will lie in state from 10.00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Saturday at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hoyt. Online condolences may be made at [chapeloaksfuneralhome.com](http://chapeloaksfuneralhome.com).

- Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home



## Robert Padilla

TOPEKA, KS – Robert “Naotuk” Padilla, 60, of Topeka, KS passed away Saturday, September 19, 2020, at his home. He was born June 3, 1960, in Topeka, the son of Al Padilla and Marcella Nozhackum.

Bobby graduated from Bishop Ward High School in Kansas City. He worked as a printing press operator and in publication for Mainline Printing in Topeka. He proudly served in the United States Air Force.

Bobby was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and We-ta-se American Legion Post #410 in Mayetta, KS.

He is survived by his father, Al Padilla of Kansas City, KS; his children, Daylan Mzhickteno of Topeka, KS, Jon Jessepe (Tonya) of Horton, KS, Levi Nozhackum, Lillian Jessepe and Gavin Jessepe all of Mayetta and Summer Padilla of Topeka, KS; his sisters, Dolly Potts (Jeff) of Keshena, WI and Nina Hinds of Mayetta, KS; his brother, Vincent Hernandez of Mayetta. He was preceded in death by his sister, Patricia Matchie.

Ttibekwe will be Tuesday evening at Nozhackum Hall west of Mayetta. Burial will be Wednesday morning at Shipsees Cemetery. He will lie in state until 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton and Tuesday evening at Nozhackum Hall. To leave a special message for the family, please visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com).

- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes

## Priscilla Wooley

FORT WAYNE, IN – Priscilla Wooley, 56, of Fort Wayne, passed away Sunday, November 1, 2020, at Lutheran Hospital. She was born June 15, 1964. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Funeral service is 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, 2020, at Midwest Funeral Home & Cremation Society, 1415 W. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN, 46808, with visitation two hours prior.

- Courtesy of Legacy.com



## Byron Darnall

MAYETTA, KS – Byron J. “B.J.” “Ti Kē Si” Darnall, 68, of Mayetta, KS passed away Friday, September 25, 2020, at Stormont Vail Hospital. He was born October 17, 1951, in Pawnee, OK, the son of Garnett D. Potts and Gladys Cadue Potts.

B.J. attended schools in Sedan, Kan. and served in the United States Navy. He had lived on the Potawatomi Reservation for over 25 years. He retired from PBP Road and Bridge. B.J. was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and We Ta Se Post #410.

Survivors include his son, James Minnick of Muncie, IN; twin brother, Myron “Jim” Potts and brother, Benny J. Potts both of Mayetta, KS; 2 sisters, Alice Potts and Rose Potts both of Mayetta, KS; 5 half-sisters, Micki Martinez and Evie Hopkins both of Mayetta, KS, Loretta Cashman of Topeka, KS, Lola Cashman of Soldier, KS and Ruth Freeman of Sedan, KS; 4 granddaughters and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a half-brother, Terry Woodruff.

Family will greet friends from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Monday evening, September 28, 2020, at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Wake and dinner will be Tuesday evening at the Potts Homeplace-13862 O. Rd., Mayetta, KS. Traditional Native American Burial will be Wednesday morning at Potts Cemetery. To leave a special message for the family, please visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com).

- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home

## Seneca West

TULSA, OK – Seneca West, 44, passed away Sunday, November 1, 2020, at St. John’s Hospital in Tulsa, OK. He was born November 24, 1975, and was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Arrangements handled by Lanman Funeral Home of Cherokee, Oklahoma.



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



## John McCrary, Sr.

TOPEKA, KS – John William McCrary, Sr., of Topeka, KS passed away at the age of 69 on Saturday, September 26, 2020, due to end-stage kidney renal failure.

John was born on December 3, 1950, to Cedric McCrary and Rose Belair McCrary in Kansas City, KS.

John was a beloved brother, father, grandpa, great-grandpa, cousin, and friend. His family was his life. There wasn't anything he wouldn't do for those he loved. His heart was huge, his smile mischievous and his laugh infectious. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed hearing and telling a good joke.

He worked many years for the City of Lawrence Kansas in the water treatment plant. John was loved by all his fellow employees. He retired in 2005.

He is survived by his daughter, Rose McCrary of Kansas; his sons, John William McCrary, Jr. "Dooner" (Eva) of Wyoming and Vincent Harding of Kansas. Mr. McCrary is also survived by his grandchildren whom he loved, Jasmine and Larissa (Rose), Corrin, Kayla, Kira, John III, Monisa, and Joseph Lee (John, Jr.) and his great-grandchildren, Kai, (Jasmine), Zyla (Larissa), Mauriano William (John III), and Eliseo Candelario Cabrales (Monisa).

Other living family members of Mr. McCrary's include Duane McCrary (Marianne) of Wisconsin; his sister, Linda Hamuud and her family (all of Kansas); his brothers, Robert (Shirley) and Cedric McCrary and their families (all of Texas). John had many cousins, nieces, and nephews, all of whom he loved to see. He also had many good friends.

John was preceded in death by his father, Cedric McCrary; his mother, Rose Belair McCrary and his siblings, Randy Miller, Cynthia Miller, Deanie Miller, and Rosebud Miller.

John will be missed by everyone that knew him. He leaves a huge hole in many hearts and lives.  
*Continued on page 11*



## Katherine Flood

MOUNT MORRIS, MI - Katherine M. Flood (Myers), of Mt. Morris, age 79, went to her heavenly home on October 1, 2020. Funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, October 9, 2020, at Fellowship Baptist Church. Pastor Darrel Manning officiating. Burial at Flint Memorial Park. The family will receive visitors on Thursday, October 8, 2020, from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and on Friday from 10:00 a.m. until time of service at Fellowship Baptist Church. Memorial contributions can be made to the Old Newsboys of Flint.

Katherine (Winnie-Guy) was born in Douglas County Kansas July 21, 1941, the daughter of Claude and Minnie Myers of Lecompton, KS. Katherine (Gish-ko-quah) was a proud member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation located near Mayetta, KS. She graduated from Lecompton High School in 1960 and married John D. Flood of Mt. Morris in Lecompton, KS in 1962.

Katherine attended North End Baptist Church in Mt. Morris. She made friends easily and loved them all but not as much as she loved and doled over her grandchildren. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend.

She liked to spend time at Old Orchard Campground with family and friends and was a super customer of K-mart, Wal-mart, and all rummage sales along the way. She liked reading, walking, and visiting friends and neighbors at the picnic table. Katherine was just a plain good ol country girl that never forgot from where she came. She loved her family and friends where ever they may be. Special thank you to Dr. Peter Moody and his staff for their many years of kindness.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory her son Scott (Amy) of Virginia Beach, Va., daughter and best friend Jo Lynn (Mike) Allen of Mt. Morris, five grandchildren, Jeremy (Kaye) Flood, Anna (Samuel) Gilbertson, Chad Flood, Jake Allen, Paige Allen; great-grandchildren, Westin Flood, Dace Flood, Graham Gilbertson, Walker Gilbertson. Sisters Mary  
*Continued on page 11*



## Darlene Fairbanks

BALL CLUB, MN – Darlene Jo (Wahweotten) Fairbanks, 80, linwahkwe', of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Thunder Clan, and Ball Club, Minnesota journeyed to the spirit world on Saturday, October 10, 2020, peacefully from her home with her family and in-home hospice care. She was born in Holton, KS on July 3, 1940, the daughter of Evelyn (Fitzimmons) and Joseph Wahweotten.

Darlene was cherished and loved by family and her community. She will be greatly missed. Her greatest passions in life were her family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and the family of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Early Headstart Program. She loved and served many throughout her employment with LLBO Early Headstart Program and her six-year supervisory position at the Bug School Childcare; in all 25 years of caring for precious children. Darlene enjoyed attending pow-wows, family events, and going to the casino. She took much pride and joy in the many Headstart graduation ceremonies throughout the years. One of her greatest accomplishments, along with the rest of the staff, was the preservation of the Anishinab'ek language, their culture, song, and dance. The many teachings of culture and language were and are incorporated in everyday life of the many children she so loved and cherished.

Gi-zaagi'in....Giga-waabamin Menawaa.

Family that welcome Darlene to the spirit world are her husband, Charles E. Fairbanks; mother, "Shonote" Evelyn M. Wahweotten; father, "Wabansi" Joseph B. Wahweotten; sisters, Carol Robinson and Juanita Wahweotten; brother, "Weezo" Gary Wahweotten and grandparents, Floyd and Ruth Elizabeth (Wahwassuck) Fitzimmons.

Those she leaves behind to cherish her memory are her daughters, Sherry S. Schaaf of AZ, Rhonda M. Schaaf of MN and Brenda J. Schaaf of MN; son, Randall L. Schaaf of MN; 17 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, other family members, and her friends.  
*Continued on page 11*



## Evelyn Hopkins

Evelyn "Evie" "Byed Wedmokwe" Kelty Hopkins, 79, of Mayetta, passed away Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at her home in Mayetta with family by her side.

She was born May 5, 1941, in Tomahawk, WI, the daughter of Garnett Potts and Lillian Kelty. She attended high school in Tomahawk, WI, and later obtained her degree in Canada as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor. Evie had worked at Rainbow Casino in Nekoosa, WI for 11 years, was a Drug and Alcohol Counselor at PARR House for 7 years, and most recently for Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Gaming Commission as a Gaming Inspector beginning February 2011 until present.

She married William Hopkins and he preceded her in death in 1991.

She is survived by her children, Carla Youngbear of Tama, IA, Bill Hopkins, Sr., Darrick Hopkins, Ronnie Hopkins and Tony Hopkins (Lana) all of Moraviantown Ontario, Canada, Paula Hopkins, Scott Hopkins (Kelly) and Cheryl Hopkins all of Mayetta, and Sheila Eichinger (Tom) of Olathe, KS; her sisters, Yvonne Kelty of Black River Falls, WI, Alice Potts, Rose Potts, and Micki Martinez all of Mayetta; her brothers, Ronald Kelty of Lac Du Flambeau, WI, Myron "Jim" Potts and Benny J. Potts both of Mayetta; and her 31 grandchildren and 49 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was also preceded in death by her sister, Rosemond Tecumseh, her brothers, Ralph "Porky" Tecumseh and Byron J. "BJ" Darnall and her grandson, Nigel Hopkins.

Evie will lie in state at Mercer Funeral Home in Holton, beginning Thursday, October 15, 2020, until 6:30 p.m., through Saturday, October 17, 2020, until noon. Private services will be held at a later date. To leave a special message for the family, visit [www.mercerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mercerfuneralhomes.com).

*- Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home*



Kambottek Continued

Werner Continued

Westerns, especially Gunsmoke, working puzzles, and a love of animals, especially golden retrievers, were other leisure-time pursuits.

Jean is survived by her husband of 62 years, Karl; her children, Karl Werner, Jr, and Clarissa Lancour both of Marquette; grandchildren, Sierra ( fiancée, Alex Morse) Lancour and Jeremy ( fiancée, Kelsey Fulsher) Lancour; great-granddaughter, Payton Morse; sister-in-law, JoAnn Jackson of Cudahy, WI; numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Jean was preceded in death by her sister, Margaret (the late Verlin) Dohm; and brothers, Joseph (the late Grace) Jackson, Thomas Jackson, Richard Jackson, and Lawrence Jackson.

A Celebration of Life, honoring Jean, will be held at First Baptist Church, Marquette, on Friday, September 11, 2020, at 3:30 pm. The family will receive relatives and friends at the church beginning at 3:00 pm until the time of service. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, masks and social distancing are required.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Department 142, Memphis, TN 38148.

Fassbender Swanson Hansen Funeral and Cremation Services is serving the family, where condolences may be expressed online at [fassbenderswansonhansen.com](http://fassbenderswansonhansen.com).

- Courtesy of Fassbender Swanson Hansen Funeral and Cremation Services

McCrary Continued

In lieu of flowers, the family is accepting donations to help with the funeral costs or donations can be made to the American Diabetes Foundation or the Kidney/Dialysis Foundation.

- Courtesy of Peaceful Rest Funeral Chapel

The Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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

Send submissions to:

Email: [media@pbpnation.org](mailto:media@pbpnation.org)

Flood Continued

Rose Manis of Topeka, Ks, Regina Andrew of Stull, Ks and a brother, Claude of Topeka, Ks. She is also survived by Brother-in-law, Jim Oldham of Leocompton KS, Sister-in-law Linda Salter of Mt. Morris. Katherine had many friends, nephews, and nieces. Katherine has joined her husband, parents, infant brother Jerome, sister Claudette (Teenie) Oldham, Brother-in-law Melvin Manis, Brother-in-law Floyd (Red) Andrew, nephew Jerry Oldham, and special friend Polly Carlile in God’s Heavenly Kingdom. Please sign our guestbook or share an online condolence with the family at [www.oguinnfh.com](http://www.oguinnfh.com).

- Courtesy of O-Guinn Funeral Home

Fairbanks Continued

An overnight wake for Darlene will begin at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, October 15, and continue until her 10:00 a.m. traditional services on Friday, October 16, all to be held at the Ball Club Community Center in Ball Club, MN. Waa-maajaa’iwed is Steve Jackson. Helping to lay Darlene to rest are Jeremy M. Schaaf, Israel J. White, Christopher Schaaf, Elijah B. Matrious, Nichalos C. Beaulieu, and Brandon L. Schaaf. Alternate pallbearer is Wade Monroe. Her honorary pallbearers are Randall L. Schaaf and the Staff of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Early Headstart Program. Interment will be in the Olivet Cemetery at Deer River, MN immediately following her Friday services.

Darlene’s care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be left at [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com).

- Courtesy of Northern Peace Funeral Home

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

What is a Peacemaker?

The PBPN Peacemakers Circle can assist you in resolving conflicts.

We will assist you in coming to a mutual understanding that is beneficial to both parties.

You will be empowered to determine the outcome.

In these trying times, it is best to have some control over difficult decisions that affect our lives.

For more information contact:  
PBPN Judicial Center  
785-966-2242 or  
Chris Brewer  
785-966-4000

Charitable  
Contributions  
3rd Quarter  
Recipient List  
Total Donated  
\$48,200

- 20/30 Club of Topeka
- Coats for Kids
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- Delia Community Pride Fund
- East Topeka Senior Center
- ECKAN - East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corp.
- Friends of the Topeka Zoo
- Haskell Alumni Association
- Helping Hands Humane Society
- Junior Achievement of Kansas
- Kansas Children’s Discovery Center
- KSDS Assistance Dogs
- Midland Care Connection
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta Mexicana
- PATHS
- Rossville Grade School
- St. Mary’s Food Pantry
- TARC, Inc.
- USD 497 Lawrence Public Schools



ALL NATIONS  
BREATH OF LIFE

The All Nations Breath of Life (ANBL) quit smoking program is currently enrolling participants who want to quit smoking or are thinking about quitting smoking. ANBL is a culturally tailored 12-week group-based quit smoking program that has been developed for American Indians.

American Indians have the highest smoking rates of all racial/ethnic groups in the U.S. and double the mortality rate of other ethnic groups due to smoking.

The program will be administered virtually through Zoom. Program components include group-based support sessions, American Indian facilitators, individual telephone counseling, an educational curriculum, and possible incentives.

Please contact Edie Wamego at [EdithWamego@pbpnation.org](mailto:EdithWamego@pbpnation.org) or 785-966-8355 for more information or to get enrolled.



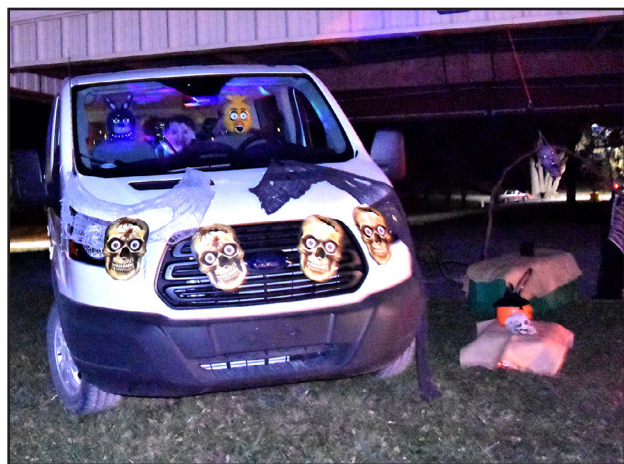
## 2020 Trunk or Treat Parade



The Fire Keeper Youth Council delivered quite the scare! And tied for First Place in the contest for best set up.



DPP Staff Tara Mitchell, in her blow-up dinosaur costume assists her mom, BGC Staff Joanna "Dumps" Mitchell, in handing out treats.



A department van decorated inside and out, adding to the Halloween festivities.



BGC Staff Shobwas Ceja distributes candy and toothbrush/toothpaste sets during the parade.



A fire breathing dragon (smoke machine) haunted Prairie People's Park.



BGC Staff Cheryl Hopkins surprised parade goers with her granny get up and also tied for First Place.



Sweet as can be! Education Staff Reina Rodriguez and Kristina Matsapto dressed up as S'mores during the Trunk or Treat Parade.



Social Services staff turned a car into a kitten to support the Trunk or Treat Parade.



Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department Staff Grant Wewenis and Josh Johnson kicked the parade route off with safety instructions & a map.

## Happy Birthday! - TTIwenmo Eginigyen



Wishing a happy 1st birthday to Meelo Mitchell Ortiz!  
Lots of Love, Grandma Dumps and family



Big Happy 8th Birthday to my little Amorianna Reynoso, November 7!  
We wish you nothing but the best of the best!!!  
Love Mom and Mike and Sisters



The boys and I would like to wish an awesome young man a very happy quarter century mark!! 12-12-95 sure changed our lives for the better!  
To: Tarin | From: Ma and the bros

*Happy  
18th  
Birthday*

Happy 18th Birthday to Yessi Wahweotten!  
Yessi, We are very proud of you! Don't ever lose sight of your dreams. The world is yours!  
We love you very much!  
Love, Jessica, Izzy, Daisy Mae and Melii

Wishing our brothers and sister  
Very Happy Birthdays!  
Darrick Hopkins Dec 7, Paula Hopkins Dec 16,  
Scott Hopkins Dec 27, Ron Hopkins Dec 29 and  
Bill Hopkins on Jan 2!  
Love from all your sisters and brothers

We would like to wish our Auntie and Uncles  
a Very Happy Birthday!  
Darrick Hopkins Dec 7, Paula Hopkins Dec 16,  
Scott Hopkins Dec 27, Ron Hopkins Dec 29  
and Bill Hopkins on Jan 2!  
Love, all your nieces and nephews