



# Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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

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## Etkwagek 2021

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## Grant Funds Help Save Lives Through Response, Prevention, Education



All throughout this life we need each other.

It's okay to ask for help along the way.

Start your journey to wellness

Call 785.966.8364

Prairie Band Behavioral Health Program

### Etkwagek "Fall time of the year"

This paper contains the activities and happenings that took place during the Fall time of 2021: September, October, November

Social media posts like the image here help reduce the stigma sometimes associated with and opioid addiction. These posts and other public facing messages are part of the program developed to help save lives in the community.

"What we are doing is helping fellow humans to stay alive," Michael Carpenter, Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center Director of Pharmacy said. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has partnered with DCCCA to implement programming in the local community to prevent opioid misuse and provide overdose prevention. The programming is geared toward individuals through messaging, education and resources which includes training and access to Narcan Nasal Spray, and increased access to behavioral health services.

Drug overdose is the leading cause of injury death in the US. Overdose deaths soared to a record 93,000 last year in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the U.S. government reported. A 29% increase from the previous year's 72,000 drug overdose deaths. According to the CDC: Injury prevention in American Indian and Alaskan Native Communities, drug overdose death rates are above the national average in tribal communities across the country. Recent data shows this trend continues to increase.

Potawatomi Tribal Fire Chief Doug Schreiner said, "We haven't seen the kind of increases here as have been reported nationally, but part of this program is to prevent it from happening here."

Carpenter explained that overdoses aren't limited to illegal drug use. "Overdoses can happen to people who need these medicines to legitimately control pain. Any home that contains these types of medication should have Narcan

on hand and trained household members on how to use it," he said.

Narcan is the brand name of the drug Naloxone and it is the first FDA approved treatment for known or suspected victims of an opioid overdose. Narcan, which is delivered as a nasal spray, is a prescription medication used to temporarily reverse the effects of someone who is suffering the effects of an overdose of opioids.

In 2017 House Bill 2217 was signed into law amending the Kansas Pharmacy Act allowing anyone to obtain Narcan from a pharmacy and providing protection from civil and criminal liability for individuals "acting in good faith and with reasonable care in administering an opioid antagonist."

This law makes it possible for anyone to obtain Narcan to help someone who has overdosed on opioids without needing to have the drug prescribed by a doctor. Doug Schreiner, PBPN Fire Chief, said, "First responders have carried Narcan since 2000. But this is the

kind of thing that works best if it's administered as soon as possible to buy a victim the time they need and keep them alive until medical help arrives."

Training in the use of the medicine will save precious seconds when someone needs immediate help. Learning to use Narcan is about a 20-minute process.

Individuals in the community can receive this education through the Prairie Band Health Center Pharmacy, Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department, Behavioral Health department, or two Community Facilitators, Robert Jackson, Sr. or Verna Simon. Additionally, this training can also be accessed directly online at <https://www.dccca.org/naloxone-program/>

KNOWMOREKS.ORG/LEARN-LOCK-LEAD allowing individuals to access the information they need in the privacy of their own home, print out a certificate of completion, and then take that certificate to the PBPN pharmacy to receive a Narcan kit at no cost.

Schreiner said, "Taking the short time needed to train for this kind of event provides the tools needed to keep a victim with us long enough for us to get them to a hospital for more treatment." He went on to say, "Those tools include Narcan; the knowledge of how to use it, when to use it and what to do after it's been administered."

Administering Narcan in an emergency can save a life but preventing the overdoses in the first place is also a major goal of



Continued on Page 2 "Grant"

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



Dear Tribal Members,

Summer is over and now is the time when outside activities will come to an end and many will remain indoors. Since we will be in confined spaces, I ask everyone to take the necessary precautions needed to keep yourselves and the Community safe. Now more than ever, you need to continue to take the steps necessary to protect yourself and your family. Not only are we dealing with the pandemic, but we are also now in the flu season and based on the information from medical experts, it could be worse than years past. Remember, masks

do work and if you are feeling sick, stay home and isolate yourself.

Tribal Council has been working on a past issue that many have expressed concern. That issue is enrollment. Ten years ago, there were 600 members who were 18 and younger the rolls, today, we have less than 400. As the years go on, that number will continue to decrease. Since the membership have expressed a concern, it is up to Tribal Council to help chart a path and allow the members to decide our enrollment. The mailer that went out was the recommendations taken from the minutes of the various town halls that was agreed upon by those that attended. With the mailer, Council is seeking any other recommendations beyond those that are listed. Again, this is not a Tribal Council issue, this is an issue that must be decided by the membership. I understand this is very important to our Nation and we need to consider carefully and thoughtfully what impact any decision made will have on our nation. Once all comments are received, we will call for an amendment meeting, where we will decide what goes on the ballot. I know this will be a long process and may require multiple meeting and multiple votes before any changes are made.

In Kansas, there is nothing to report on the legislative side since the body is out of session. We continue to work with our lobbyist on issues we hope will be considered in the next session. One area we are hoping to have a say in is medical marijuana and have expressed an interest in making sure Tribes are considered on any legislation.

Locally, I have attended two events in the Town of Nicodemus. Since the gathering was canceled this year, I reached out to the community to reconnect and share our history with the town. Our legion, We-Ta-Se Post 410, was invited to participate in the parade and at that time the Tribe received a certificate of appreciation from the town on what our ancestor did to ensure their survival. In October, Tribal Council was invited back for the unveiling of a silhouette of an Indian on horseback, commemorating our contributions.

Nationally, our lawsuit against the U.S. Treasury is still pending final ruling. The judge that is overseeing the case has postponed final arguments since he is heavily involved hearing cases on the insurrection. When the final ruling is made, Tribal Council will inform the membership. While we are not expecting any further distributions

of CARES dollars, our victory was eliminating the use of the Indian House Block Grant (IHBG) by Treasury to determine funding and all future funding will be population based. That was not only a win for us but for all of Indian Country.

In Illinois, we have received a verbal confirmation that the last roadblock has been overcome. Senator Durbin has said that this issue has gone on long enough and will not prevent the Nation from moving forward with our legislation. We are working with Senator Moran's staff to get the bill filed and once filed, scheduled for a hearing. While getting the bill filed is a major accomplishment, there will still be a lot of work to do. We have support on both sides of the aisle, but Tribal Council will still have to make sure all areas are covered both in the House and Senate. After many years, we may come to finally put an end to the question of our land status in Illinois.

In closing, I'll end as I have been for the last year and a half, protect yourself and those of your family, follow established guidelines while we are working through this pandemic. Be safe.

Migwett  
Joseph P. Rupnick, Chairman  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

## Grant Funds Help Save Lives Through Response, Prevention, Education

*Continued from Page 1\**

this program which seeks to increase prevention education and reduce the stigma to getting help if needed.

"All throughout this life we need each other. It's okay to ask for help along the way," said Roy Hale, PBPB tribal member and We-Ta-Se Post 410 member who is featured on a banner as part of this project's messaging campaign. The project's media component seeks to inform community members about the state's Learn, Lock, Lead campaign and

Prairie Band Health Center and other tribal programs to increase awareness of available resources.

Prevention happens when community members safely store all medication and properly dispose of expired or unused medications to prevent access to nonprescribed use. Safe disposal and storage resources are available at the PBPB Pharmacy and medication drop off receptacles are available at the PBPB Police Department and Pharmacy.

Preparing for an overdose emergency saves lives. Through this



Billboards like this one on Highway 75 near Mayetta, KS help encourage people to take charge of their lives in a positive manner.

help reduce any stigma surrounding seeking assistance. The Nation has deployed two billboards on Highway 75, one of which features the Potawatomi language, along with two banners on the reservation and a Facebook campaign through the PBPB Behavioral Health page. Posters have also been distributed in the

program anyone can receive the tools they need to pull someone back from the brink of death.

This program is funded through DCCCA, a subrecipient of grant funding provided through the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) to reach tribal communities in the state with Opioid misuse and overdose prevention.

## More Available Resources

**Prairie Band Health Center Pharmacy**  
11400 158 Road, Mayetta, KS  
Toll free 866-727-6330, Option 2  
**Narcan Training & Kits**  
**Medication Storage Resources**  
**Medication Drop Off Receptacle**

**Prairie Band Behavioral Health Program**  
11386 158 Road, Mayetta, KS  
785-966-8364  
**Narcan Training**  
**Behavioral Health Services**

**Potawatomi Tribal Police**  
16344 Q Road, Mayetta, KS  
**Medication Drop Off Receptacle**  
**Community Peer Resources**  
Robert Jackson, Sr.  
785-966-6182  
Verna Simon  
785-966-8303

### Online Narcan Training

<https://www.dccca.org/naloxone-program/>  
[KNOWMOREKS.ORG/LEARN-LOCK-LEAD](https://www.knowmoreks.org/learn-lock-lead)



**LEARN**  
THE FACTS ABOUT OPIOIDS

**LOCK**  
UP YOUR MEDICATION

**LEAD**  
THE WAY IN SAFE DISPOSAL

[KNOWMOREKS.ORG](https://www.knowmoreks.org)

Every Choice It Matters

## Prairie Band Ag, LLC

Hello!

The potential for what hemp can do is beyond exhilarating with over 25,000 known uses! After 79 years of hemp prohibition, PBPB and Prairie Band Ag are on the forefront of a soon to be booming industry that will provide many environmental, economic, educational and employment opportunities!

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide an update on the current state of the operations for Prairie Band Ag and the floral Cannabis Hemp Farm on O Road. Currently, we are in the process of what the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Hemp Plan refers to as "Remediation". Remediation is a process where we will shred all the biological plant parts into a uniform biomass material. We will incorporate the entire plant into the grinding process of biomass material including the stalks, limbs, and leaves. Initially, the biomass would consist of the floral parts or the "buds" of the Cannabis plant.

Why are we remediating? We are currently in the remediation process due to our hemp testing just slightly over the 0.3% Total THC concentration limitation set by the PBPB Tribal Hemp Plan. Testing slightly over the 0.3% Total THC threshold is a very common occurrence within the cannabis industry nationwide.

Thankfully, with the new rules of the 2018 USDA Farm Bill and the Tribal Hemp Plan update in July of 2021, we can salvage the entire seasonal crop through an additional process where we 'remediate' the biomass. This remediation process will allow us to bring the THC concentration down to an acceptable level that equals less than 0.3% Total THC.

Why did our hemp plants test over the acceptable limit? Cannabis hemp can excessively increase its THC production during very stressful situations for the plants. Some of those reasons and situations include: Environmental stressors (drought, excessive rain, high wind events, hail etc.), pest and disease infestations, too much or too little of basically anything, and more. We have had our fair share of almost every one of those categories this past growing season for sure!

Why are we growing the Cannabis hemp for its floral parts? We are growing the floral hemp to extract the Cannabidiol from the colas or 'buds' that the female cannabis plant produces. Cannabidiol, better known as "CBD", is one of over a hundred cannabinoids that have been identified in the Cannabis plant. CBD is a cannabinoid that shows high potential for many uses and benefits. This CBD will be extracted and utilized in our already existing Prairie Hemp Products and will allow us to produce additional products as well.

This year's growing season has been such a fun, challenging, educational and overall exciting experience for Prairie Band Ag and the PBPB. There have been



**Prairie Band Ag Crew! From left to right: Racheal Deo, Kwaki Spoonhunter, Ninahii Frisby, Wahp LeClere, Kenny Aitkens, Joe Nunez and Nizhoni Woodie.**

many learning lessons that will provide us with the experience and answers to ease those challenges during the 2022 growing season.

We are very thankful for all the support from everyone involved and interested in what we are doing, and to those who have helped us along the way. We are especially grateful to the community and General Council for voting to fund this project. Being one of the few tribes and farms in our region to start growing hemp on the scale that we did this year is an amazing feat.

Stay tuned for a winter article summarizing our summer operations from start to finish!

And follow our Facebook Page @ "Prairie Band, LLC" for more current updates!

Migwett!

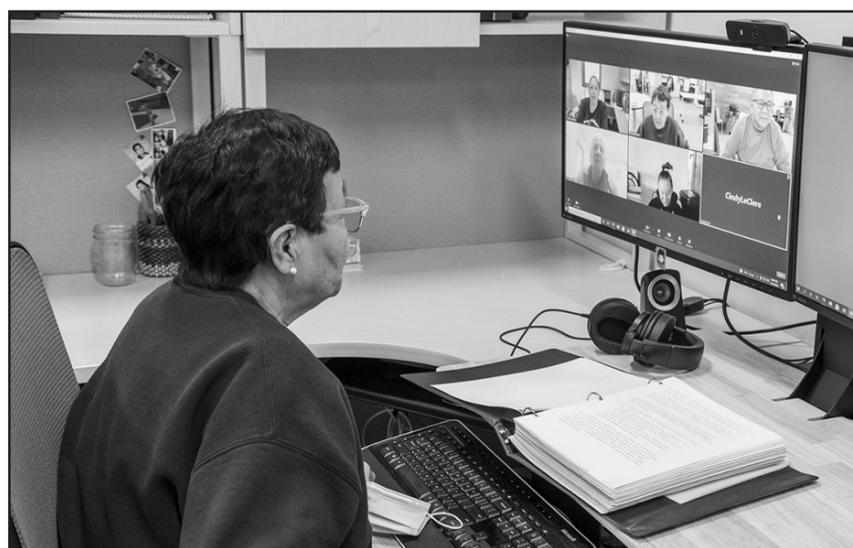
Prairie Band Ag, LLC

## Language Department Grant, Pioneers Revitalization

"Our language is very near extinction." Dawn LeClere, PBPB Language and Cultural Department Coordinator, said, In the 1700s there were over 10,000 speakers of the Potawatomi language and in 1995, the Language Institute at Haskell Indian Nations University determined there were only 50 speakers remaining. By 2002, however, a survey administered by the Hannahville Potawatomi revealed only 25 speakers remained."

In 2019, there were approximately 5 fluent speakers of the Potawatomi language remaining. Today there are four, two of which are Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation members.

The efforts of the PBPB Language and Cultural Department to reverse the trend of language loss have met with some success. In 2012 the PBPB began using a Master-Apprentice model to acquire the language. While this learning method yielded some results, the Potawatomi language is still in peril of being lost to history. LeClere said, "The Prairie Band Potawatomi are like many other tribes who survived government policies of removal, war, disease, and boarding schools, all designed to eradicate nishabemwën (everything about being nishnabe). We are all struggling and scrambling to find a



**Jan Hubbard, Master Speaker, conducts language course via Zoom. Technology plays a distinct role in language preservation and revitalization efforts.**

way to reclaim and revitalize what was lost during the ongoing attempted genocide, including our language and our nishnabe way of life. There isn't a one-size-fits-all solution to revitalizing a language. Languages can have different dialects, and communities are all different. We are in uncharted waters and there isn't a clear path on how to revitalize our language and build speakers outside of immersion. We, along with many other tribes, are pioneering these native language revitalization efforts."

To aid in the revitalization effort

LeClere and Language Department staff developed a grant proposal and were awarded funding from United States Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Native Americans. The grant allows the language department to implement a 3-year project to create well-trained, highly effective teachers of the Potawatomi language. The PBPB proposes to meet their project goal by:

- Increasing the Potawatomi language proficiency

level in 2 new early childhood teachers

- Increasing the Potawatomi language proficiency level in 7 currently staffed Potawatomi language teachers
- Increasing the number of households attending Potawatomi language class

Funding provided through the grant project will also allow the PBPB to bring in expert educators to help increase the proficiency of language teachers and train them in other methods of second language acquisition. Through educational sessions, complete immersion situations and other training techniques these teachers will hone their skills in using the language so they can then teach other members of the community.

With a direct vision of where they want their language to be and abundant knowledge in and use of second-language acquisition methods, the PBPB will be even closer to reaching their long-term goals of educating their own children, on their own reservation, in their own language.

# Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone. I hope all is well during our winter holiday season. As always with this time of year, things are winding down from a financial standpoint. Audits are in the books, the upcoming year's budgets are approved and ready to go for the upcoming year. Now we prepare for tax season which is right around the corner when we issue W-2's and 1099's that will likely be distributed sometime in mid to late January.

Speaking of budgets, with more details below, budgets took a turn for the better throughout much of 2021. Given the negative impacts the pandemic brought, along with the unknown financial impacts of what was to come next, it was impossible to predict what might happen. Fortunately, these financial unknowns turned out to be positive for the most part for 2021. This is not what most would have expected a few months ago given what we had to deal with in 2020. Hopefully, the positive financial trends run well into 2022 as we continue to put 2020 behind us. Below are a few additional highlights and updates on items of interest in the Tribe's financial area.

## FY2022 Budget Approved

On November 4th the Tribal Council approved the FY2022 Tribal Government Budget under Tribal Council Resolution No. 2021-393. While this may seem somewhat uneventful it has been a great relief from a financial perspective by

allowing us to get back to more stable budget figures over the past few months.

With the onset of the pandemic and the temporary closure of our Casino in March 2020, we had to deal with reduced budgets not all so long ago. Fast forward to February 2021 where we saw record cold temperatures that resulted in a low Tribal Cash Distribution from the Casino. This was another financial blow that we certainly could have done without, but remarkably since February, the Tribal Cash Distributions from the Casino have been nothing short of spectacular as they neared record high marks for the property.

Given this upward trend we were able to increase our FY2021 Budget in June 2021 and have even surpassed that mark through October. Additionally, in preparing our FY2022 budget the financial outlook continues to be positive resulting in higher figures than we have seen in recent years. One item that will be unique to the FY2022 is that beginning in FY2022 the Casino will begin the repayment of its share of the Expansion Project. This will be paid as an operating expense but should be offset by the financial benefits of the Expansion itself. The Casino share of the Expansion will be paid off over the next 7 years ending in December of FY2028.

All in all, the FY2022 budget process saw some return to normalcy and we now have a full Budget Committee once again which is key to developing and monitoring our annual budgets. Without the hard work and dedication of the Budget Committee, our budget process would not be the effective financial management tool that it has evolved into over the past several years. Lastly, I'll wrap up by saying that copies of the FY2022 Tribal Government Budget are available for review on the Tribal Member Log In on the Tribe's website.

## ARPA and Infrastructure Projects

On November 15th the President signed the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure and Jobs Act into law providing, roughly, \$11 billion in funding for

Indian Country. Infrastructure needs that are common across Indian Country such as broadband, roads, water and sewer will be addressed through this funding. For the Tribe these are also areas that we are currently looking at utilizing our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars towards. While it is too early to know how much we will be awarded through this new legislation it is good to know that additional resources will be on the way to help address our infrastructure needs.

Thus far from our ARPA funds, projects such as our K Road Sewer, Hotel Expansion, Road Repairs, Broadband and Economic Relief have been approved through Tribal Council Resolution. Although these are some of the initial projects identified to be funded through ARPA, ARPA alone likely will not be able to address all the Tribe's current infrastructure needs. Most likely these additional infrastructure dollars will prove critical to the completion of several projects. Additionally, beyond any of the ARPA or infrastructure funds that are available today, there needs to be additional investment from federal dollars in infrastructure moving forward. It will be interesting to see what federal funding becomes available in the future, nonetheless, the Tribe has set aside a portion of its investment portfolio to help address repair and maintenance of our buildings and roads in future years.

## General Welfare Support Program

In June 2020 the Tribal Council formally adopted the Tribe's General Welfare Support Program through Tribal Council Resolution No. 2020-171. It has since been slightly amended through Tribal Council Resolution No. 2021-213 in June 2021. The General Welfare Support Program officially recognizes programs that the Tribe provides that supports education, health care, housing, public safety and similar needs to promote the personal welfare of our Tribal Members. The General Welfare Support Program also includes our emergency financial assistance payments that were paid out as Special Coronavirus Relief Benefits.

While the Special Coronavirus Relief Benefits are non-taxable and should not be considered as income under the Tribe's General Welfare Support Program, sometimes they do come into question as to whether the funds should be counted as income by various agencies. Again, the answer is, "no" they should not be counted as income but unfortunately there is no standard way that General Welfare Benefits are viewed by outside agencies.

When an agency counts General Welfare Benefits as income the individual Tribal Member is negatively impacted and may lose their benefits provided by the agency. This means that the General Welfare Benefits paid by the Tribe ultimately replace the benefits of the outside agency instead of being awarded in addition to those existing benefits.

What can be done however to address this issue, is if a particular agency is questioning whether a benefit from the Tribe should be counted as income is that a letter can be drafted to address each issue that arises. While this is somewhat of a pain for those impacted to go through, it has proven effective in providing agencies with the necessary information needed as to not count the benefits as income.

If such an instance arises you may contact my office and we can work on providing the agency all of the necessary information so that the General Welfare Benefits are not counted as income.

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. 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)

## PBP Entertainment Corporation Update

As mentioned in our previous newspaper article, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation (PBPEC) had provided updates in addition to a presentation at the informational General Council meeting that was held in October.

Prairie Band Construction has transitioned to the General Contractor and has been working diligently over the last couple of months to complete the last phases of the project ensuring that it is completed in a timely manner.

We are currently anticipating that the entire project will be completed in the first quarter of 2022 and a Grand Opening celebration will be announced at a later date once those plans become finalized. We appreciate everyone's patience as we continue to strive to get this project completed in order to add to the beauty of our facility.

The business levels at the casino continue to perform well and in turn we are seeing higher than normal cash distributions to the tribe and its members. As we have stated at the General Council meetings this year, our market-share continues to grow as we are outperforming the majority of our competitors in our market despite the challenges associated with the

pandemic and staffing shortages.

We are thankful that we have a strong leadership Team in place and are appreciative of the hard work that our Team Members do to make our property successful.

We are still hiring and have many amazing opportunities available. In addition to our great benefits and competitive wages, we are currently offering a sign-on bonus for all positions.

**(To see open positions go to [www.pbpindiantribe.com/careers/](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/careers/))**

As of now, we are still requiring masks for all Guest and Team Members while on property as we remain focused on the health and well-being of those in and around our community.

Migwetch,

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation

**For photos of current construction progress and artist renderings, see Page 5, opposite.**

# Tribal Council Member Tony Wahweotten: Report to the Nation



## Ho' PBPB Members

I first, would like to extend my continued thoughts and prayers out to the families who had suffered losses this year, due to accident, natural causes or of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have witnessed many heartaches during this time. I would also like to continue recognition of our front-line Clinical Staff, Hero and Essential workers during the pandemic quarantine periods of PBPB operations. All departments deserve recognition during this time, and many thanks to the entire PBPB Casino staff for all they do. Tribal Council continues safety for membership and the PBPB workforce.

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 my colleagues, Chairman Rupnick, Vice Chairman Zach Pahmahmie, Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie, Secretary Camilla Chouteau, Councilman William Evans, and Councilman Raphael Wahwassuck.

A special thanks to the Tribal Council Administrative Assistants. Every day brings new challenges, especially during the 2020/2021 pandemic. Tribal Council is persistent through the course of responsibility, and remains diligent, to the PBPB and its members.

Since being sworn into office as Tribal Council on 08/27/20, I have scheduled my birthday day off, nine and a half days of PTO three and a half days of SL.

Since the last July 17, 2021 General Council meeting, I have attended eight special Tribal Council meetings, three third Saturday Tribal Council meetings, one Town Hall informational meeting, three Land Management meetings, three PBPB Tax Commission meetings, seven Legal Counsel and Policy meetings, one quarterly PBPB Gaming Commission meeting, two Tribal Emergency Response Committee meetings with the PBPB Fire Chief, one virtual Potawatomi Economic Summit, attended a three day RES Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, attended one dinner with a Legal Representative, one virtual Four Tribes Conference, one Cannabis Coalition Conference, one Gaming Commission swearing in ceremony, three virtual Broadband Conferences, attended a three day Indian Relays in Grand Island Nebraska, attended a three day NAFOA Conference in San Antonio, Texas, one virtual round table discussion with Kansas State Representative Sharice David's, one virtual conference with the State of Illinois Senator Durbin, all relating to informational only or the business and welfare of the Nation. Other Meetings relating to the Nation's business include, consecutive General Manager, Board of Director reviews, LLC quarterly reviews, the Nation's current budget reviews and funding challenges. At the National

level, the Nation continues Legal and Policy reviews, to address specific concerns and funding that may impact the Nation.

On continued leadership activity, the Tribal Council was invited to the 2021 Semi Annual Envision of Unified Leadership Economic Development Summit, sponsored by the LLC, in October, at the PBPB Casino. Again, this will be a five-year course effort, to steer our Leadership to possible additional enterprise solutions. Since, Tribal Council has appointed a new Economic Development Investment Committee. The investment committees' newest projects will be the 150th and 75HWY Travel Plaza project, and RFP reviews of Solar Array (large scale) Energy, and other plan development.

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, one vacancy has been filled by Michelle Simon. Title 10 (General Taxes) and Title 13 (Business Licensing), Title 32 (Hemp Legalization and Control Ordinance). See tribal website or portal for Tribal Law and Order Codes and Tax Reports. Since being appointed, I have participated and acted in approximately twelve acting Tax Commission meetings. New applications involving the Nation's Tax Authority, are available on the Nations website.

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, Vice Chairman, to the Lands Committee. I have participated in twelve PBPB Lands meetings, one cancelled due to COVID related reasons. As the new Tribal Council Liaison, I have had monthly scheduled reviews of LMD activity reports, the Land Purchasing Office activity reports, Environmental Protection Agency reports and the cooperating USDA Natural Resources Conservation Reports. See the Tribal website or portal for Constitutional declarations under Article II-Lands.

Other continued 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 2018 farm bill and final rule funding opportunities, in respect to new development of rural water supply, flood prevention and damage, erosion and sediment control, fish and wildlife habitat, wetland restoration, and recreation opportunities. Again, we are still in the process of gathering historical information relating to any study on the SCWP, before a formal letter of sponsorship is submitted.

Although there is much more to cover, this is my report to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and its membership. Remember to continue to be safe out there, as we are still in a national pandemic, due to COVID-19 and delta variant. Not all people are vaccinated. Please continue practicing CDC safety guidelines.

Miigwetch

Tony Wahweotten



**Above left: Current construction on the new pool area at the new Native Springs Pool is taking shape.**

**Below left: Artist's conception of what the final Native Springs Pool will look like when completed.**

**Directly above: Current photo of the progress on Sunrise Tower of the Casino expansion project.**



**For more photos and artist rendering of the Cedar & Sage Spa, Sunrise Tower and Native Springs Pool you can log in to the Nation's website at: [www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com)**

# Tuckwin Receives 2021 Duchesne Award



**Prairie Band Potawatomi Member, Jerry Tuckwin accepts the 2021 Duchesne Award from Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas, Joseph Naumann. Tuckwin is the first Potawatomi to receive this award.**

Photo from Facebook by - Michael Martin

On November 21, 2021, the Sunday following the Feast of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne on November 18, the Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas, Joseph Naumann, honored Prairie Band Potawatomi member, Jerry Tuckwin with the 2021 Duchesne Award for his three decades of leadership to native youth.

This award is given each year to an individual/community who promotes Catholic education, vocations to priesthood and religious life and/or devotion to Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne.

Jerry Tuckwin, 79, who is now retired, was a coach at Haskell University, where he spent 32 years guiding Native American youth. Tuckwin not only led youth in sports but he, and his wife, Terry, established a Catholic center in 1970 across street from Haskell so Mass would be easily available for college students to attend. They also held regular “talking circles” about the Bible and other religious topics as well as praying the rosary.

Tuckwin, of Lawrence, Kansas, was nominated for the award by the retired Archbishop of Philadelphia Charles Chaput, who himself is a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation based in Mayetta, Kansas. Tuckwin and his wife, Terry, were guests of Archbishop Chaput in Rome for the canonizations of both Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne and Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

According to Father Barry Clayton, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Mound City, Kansas, Mrs. Tuckman, who is a retired kindergarten teacher, will be recognized along with her husband.

Jerry Tuckwin said that he feels a strong connection between Saint Philippine and his Potawatomi ancestors who marched on the Trail of Death in 1838 from Indiana to northeastern Kansas. Although Philippine was elderly when she arrived there in 1841 and didn't speak the Potawatomi language, her example of constant prayer was a great influence in building the Native peoples' faith, Jerry said. She was known by the Potawatomi as “the woman who prays always.”

“I really feel strongly that she brought Catholicism to the Potawatomi at Sugar Creek,” he said. There were 100 Native Americans baptized when she arrived and another 100 were welcomed into the Church by the time she left a year later due to ill health, he explained.

Janet A. Pearl and Flávia Bader contributed to this article. Photo courtesy of The Leaven/Jay Soldner.

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## Boys & Girls Club Partners With Orphaned Starfish Foundation

The Boys & Girls Club developed a relationship with the Orphaned Starfish Foundation in 2019. The Orphaned Starfish Foundation previously supports orphanages in countries throughout Central and South America, as well as Haiti, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic.

Their goal is to raise funds to supply these orphanages with up-to-date computers, software, and classes so that youth can learn and flourish. In 2019 they decided to reach out to Boys & Girls Club Native Services to branch out to native communities.

Our Club is one of four native Clubs that was chosen to partner with the Orphaned Starfish Foundation. Covid really threw a wrench in to their initial plans to help us upgrade our computer lab and STEM program. However so far, they have provided us two new iMac computers, two iPad, and 5 iPhone movie making kits with tripods and microphones. They also set up three virtual classes with collaborations with Apple, We Make Movies, and Google.

Our first class was a basic movie making class using iPhone. The second class was the BreakBeatCode Hackathon with Google where kids learned to make beats through coding. We are now in the middle of our second iPhone movie making

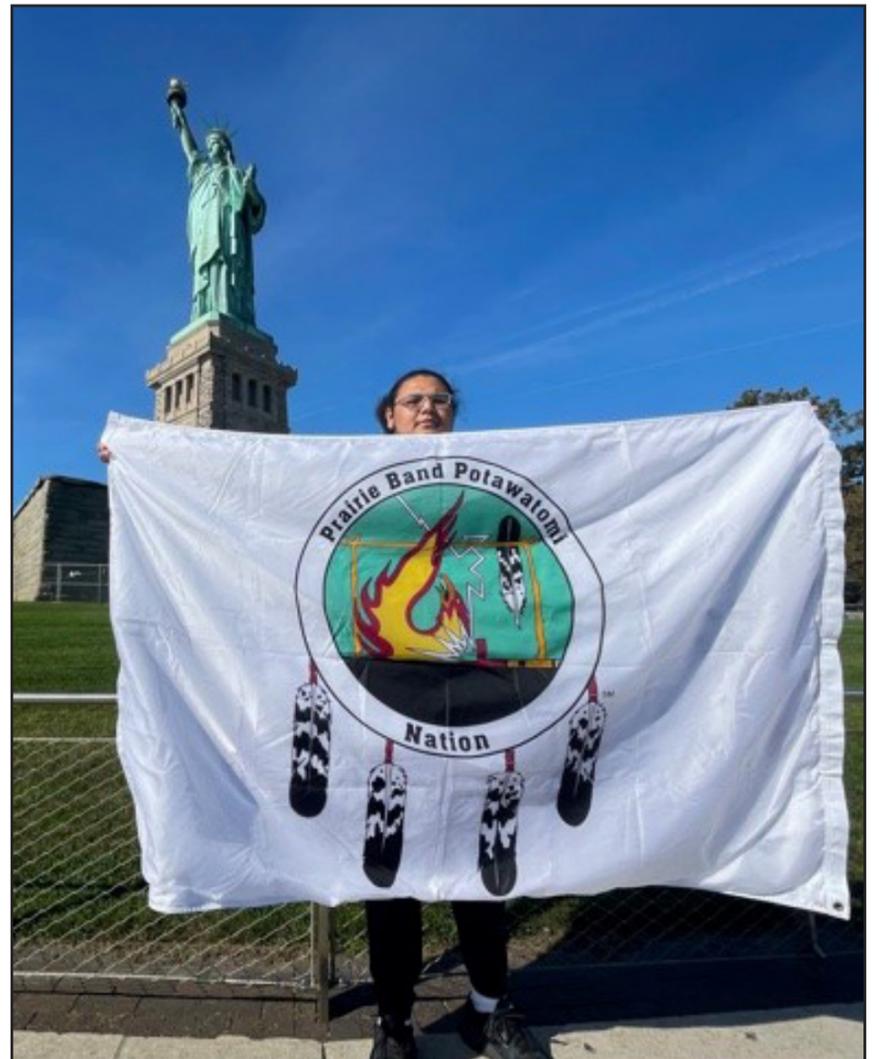
class. Next year they will provide funding to purchase a few more computers and software.

In October Andy Stein, the founder of the Orphaned Starfish Foundation, invited one of our class participants and a chaperon to New York City to highlight their accomplishments at their annual fundraiser gala event.

Alberto Tinajero was selected to represent our Club due to his accomplishments and level of participation in these classes and Club activities. This was an amazing opportunity for Alberto to represent our Club and meet with highly influential people and used that opportunity to not only to share our community, but many people asked him about his medallion that brings attention to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Alberto took advantage of the opportunity and spoke well. I was really proud of him.

Andy and Karla from the Orphaned Starfish Foundation took the kids around to visit several amazing places in New York including a Brooklyn Nets Basketball game. The five days were an amazing experience, and I can't wait to see what other opportunities this partnership will bring to our Club members!

Nathan Hale, Executive Director  
Boys & Girls Club of the  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation



**Alberto Tinajero poses with the Nation's flag in front of the Statue of Liberty in New York City. Tinajero and his chaperon were invited to the city to highlight his participation and dedication to the Orphaned Starfish Foundation's programs teaching youth to learn new skills. Participants attended the Foundation's annual fundraiser event.**

# COVID-19 Milestones Reached



Back Row, from left to right: Jessi Deters – Lab, Gayle Lambrecht – dental, Nola Ahlquist-Turner – Provider, Alaura Lillie - CHR, Tara Mitchell – DPP, Karen Mulanax – DPP, Sharon Wheless - Nursing, Kenn Rogers - Nursing, Matthew Waits – DPP, William Evans – Tribal Council Member, Charles Beals – Dentist, Zach Pahmahmie – Tribal Council Vice-Chairman

Third Row, from left to right: Jennifer Johnston - lab, Rochelle Vale – Provider, Delores Maines – Nursing, Lauren “Dee” Taylor – Business Office/Medical Records , Brenda Nozhackum – CHR, Elyse Hawthorne – Nursing, Ruby Carrasco – Dental, Debra Lowe – dental, Ashley Williams-Hoaglen – Business Office/ Medical Records

Second Row: From left to right: Joseph Rupnick – Tribal Council Chairman, Brenda Catron-Kennedy – Nursing, Marlana Needham – Business Office/Medical Records, Royce Ogden-Nelson - Nursing, Jenell Kern – Radiology, Donna McClane – Health Center Administration, Allison Catron – Dental, Jayme Seifert – Business Office/Medical Records, Emily Caudle - Provider, Abra Friess - Provider, Wade Pahmahmie – Tribal Council Treasurer, Michael Carpenter – Pharmacy

Seated: from left to right: Laury Shopteese – Nursing, Rebecca Harman – Nursing, Kristina Simmons – Health Center Administrator, Verna Simon – HC Administration, Michelle Simon – AGM – Member Services



As of October 26, 2021, Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center staff had delivered more than 5,000 COVID-19 vaccines. In recognition for their hard work and dedication, the Health Center administration and Tribal administration invited them to “Taco bout Teamwork.” They staff was treated to a taco buffet with all the trimmings.

Top of page: Most of the staff gathers for a group photo to commemorate the event.

At left and below left Health Center staff enjoys lunch in celebration of surpassing the 5,000 shot mark.



Joseph Rupnick – Tribal Council Chairman takes a moment during the 5,000 shot celebration to have Ed Gonzalez, Health Center RN, administer his booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Booster doses and the approval of the vaccine for children 5 and up have added to the number of shots provided by the Health Center.

## Development Plan Addresses Growth, Quality of Life



**Joseph Rupnick, PBPN Chairman emphasizes a point during the Annual Economic Summit held in October.**

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation hosted the 2nd Annual Combined Leadership Economic Development Summit this past October. As with the inaugural event last year, this meeting brought together leadership from the Prairie Band government entities and Prairie Band business leadership to revisit the economic development goals for the tribe set previously.

Jacob Wamego, Prairie Band, LLC, President, and CEO, said, “Last year showed how important it is to gather everyone together and be sure we are all pulling in the same direction when it comes to all aspects of economic development.”

In the past, it wasn't unheard of to find that different entities of the tribe were working toward different goals or even that they were working toward similar goals but duplicating efforts.

With this in mind, the Tribal Council, Prairie Band Entertainment Corporation, and Prairie Band, LLC collectively developed this list of goals to guide the development process:

- Promote a safe and secure quality of life that stimulates a strong sense of community, sustains Potawatomi culture, ensures a healthy natural environment, and promotes self-sufficiency.
- Develop a strong and diversified Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation economy providing locally available essential goods and services.
- Provide a private business climate that nurtures entrepreneurship, business growth, and strategic tribal government support.
- Advance for-profit Tribal businesses focused on generating revenue and providing Tribal employment opportunities.

Working toward these goals strengthens and grows the community while promoting positive economic outcomes for the Nation.

Providing a business positive

environment encourages new resources for the Nation to continue to support their own growth and stability. Zach Pahmahmie, PBPN Vice-Chair and Prairie Band LLC Board of Directors Chairperson, said, “By making our reservation a destination for new business ventures, we set the stage for new job opportunities for our people and provide a base for our own young entrepreneurs to start businesses of their own.”

Unemployment rates continue to burden Native American populations, hindering their growth. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, last year the jobless rate for Native Americans and Alaska natives was 11.7%, as compared to the national average of 8.31%.

Three of the goals mentioned above relate directly to fostering new and different businesses that will put people to work and provide opportunities to bring their own goods and services to the marketplace.

Some of the things that make an area attractive to new or expanding business are; availability of workforce, location, good quality of life and leaders who work together to promote development.

This area has an available and effective workforce that is ready for opportunities that don't require that they leave their homes to prosper.

Strategically located in the center of the country, the Nation is perfectly placed to ship goods and products throughout the country.

The quality-of-life part of this equation is being addressed through the goals of the Nation's economic development plan. This will be the most visible part of the process for most members of the tribe. “As you begin to see new and better roads, faster and more reliable broadband Internet connection, new buildings and expanded services for the community, you will be seeing the outward signs of the economic development plan in action,” Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick, PBPN Tribal Chairperson, said.

## Clinic Renovation Begins

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation broke ground today, on an expansion of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center at 11400 158 Rd, Mayetta. The project, scheduled for completion in Spring of 2023, will add needed space and services for Tribal Members.

This project includes an expansion adding approximately, 15,000 square feet to the existing 4,380 square foot structure and a remodel of the current structure. When complete, dental capacity will more than double by adding four chairs with expanded space allowing for improved patient privacy.

Space for future growth and services, such as physical and occupational therapy, is possible with the new space. The plans even include better use of the parking area with a new paved driveway, additional parking, and an MRI specific pad to accommodate additional radiology services with mobile CT and MRI units used for patients as needed.

The \$13.9 million projected cost of the project will be funded through federal dollars received from the Indian Health Service, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, which is responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

“Health and wellness challenges continue to change and evolve over time. Those challenges are best overcome with advances in medicine and medical services. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is dedicated to providing those services to our members so they can remain healthy,” Chairman Joseph Rupnick, said.



**Members of the Prairie Band Tribal Council, Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center and contractors ceremoniously break ground at the Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center on the PBPN reservation. From left: Wade Jueneman, VP of McElroy's, James Allen, Mar Lan Construction LLC, Shawn Kelly, PBPN Construction Manager, Tony Wahweotten, PBPN TC Member, Raphael Wahwassuck, PBPN TC Member, Kristina Simmons, PBPN Health Center Administrator, Dr Charles Beals, DDS, Zach Pahmahmie, PBPN TC Vice-Chairman, Joseph Rupnick, PBPN TC Chairman, Wade Pahmahmie, PBPN TC Treasurer, Bill Evans, PBPN TC Member, Michelle Simon, PBPN Assistant General Manager-Member Services.**

## Commodities Program Expands to Better Serve Participants

Prairie Band Potawatomi Food Distribution Program is expanding to better serve income-eligible Native and non-Native families residing within the PBPN reservation boundaries. This expansion includes an 800 square foot warehouse expansion, electric and propane utility upgrades and a new backup generator for the building. The new addition will house increased freezer and refrigeration capacity to provide more fresh and frozen items offered through the Food Package Review Group, which require more space to house the variety.

The program serves Households in Jackson County that have at least one household member who is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe and meet all eligibility criteria. Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal members residing in Brown County who meet all eligibility criteria are also served.

Once complete, the new area will be a 20 foot by 40 foot add on to the west of the back warehouse and it will have a freezer/cooler combination unit along with more storage space for dry goods. The old walk-in units will be replaced by three reach-in freezers and three reach-in coolers installed in



**Blake Garrison, Commodities Coordinator, unloads new freezers for the Commodities expansion.**

the front warehouse, making it easier for employees and participants to fill orders.

Funding for the \$1.06 M project comes from the USDA FDIPIR CARES Act Facility & Equipment Grant.

“The food distribution program provides one of the necessities for life. People need to eat and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation wants to make sure that none of our people have to go hungry. These changes help to ensure they will have a variety of nutritious food,” Chairman Joseph Rupnick, said.

# Kambottek

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



## Kary Michael Broxterman

Kary Michael Broxterman, 60, of Topeka, KS died Friday, October 8, 2021, at his home.

He was born December 17, 1960 the son of Dennis and Clarice (Mattwashe) Broxterman.

Kary graduated from Topeka High School. He was a member of the Prairie Band Pottawatomi Nation where he worked as the manager of the propane dealership on the reservation. Kary was a proud Potawatomi Indian. His love for the Potawatomi-Nishnabek ways song and dances were insurmountable.

He is survived by his father Dennis Broxterman, his mother Clarice Mattwashe, a sister, Marilyn Kay Broxterman-Roduner, a nephew, Kris Davis and three nieces, Lindsay (RJ) McGuire, Katie (Patrick) Johnson, and Hannah Gross. He was preceded in death by a brother-in-law, William "Bill" Roduner. Kary was a proud son, brother, uncle and great-uncle. He loved his family and serving God.

The graveside service was October 14, 2021 at Mount Hope Cemetery, 4700 SW 17th Street, Topeka.

In lieu of flowers the family suggest memorial donations be made to the Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation sent in care of Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home, 800 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66603.

Reprinted courtesy of - Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home



## Wanda C. Devors

Wanda C. Devors, 63, of Olean, NY, passed away on October 23, 2021.

Services for Wanda were held at Hill Crest Memorial Funeral Home on Tuesday, November 2. Interment followed in Hill Crest Memorial Park.

Wanda was born in Horton Kansas, on July 20, 1958 to Christine & Richard Cruz.

Wanda was a loving mother of seven children and a wonderful grandmother to ten grandchildren. On top of that, she managed a rewarding twenty-five year career with Wal-Mart. In 2019, she was able to transfer with the company, in order to relocate near family that had been stationed in New York State, in Olean, N.Y., after having been a long time resident in Bossier City.

She loved watching her music videos with headphones on. She was a sports fan that also liked going OUT to eat, especially: Mexican Food. She had to adjust, in New York when it came to Mexican Food, but found her spot.

Wanda enjoyed many things life had to offer, but her favorite of all pastimes though, was that of spending time with her beloved family. She loved spending time with us! She was especially excited recently, when she became a Great-Grandmother.

Wanda was preceded in death by: mother, Christine Waqabushkuk Cruz; father, Richard L. Cruz; brothers, Gerald Cruz, Robert Cruz, Paul Cruz, and Felix Cruz; and one sister, Kathy Kelly.

She is survived by: children, Chris Cruz, Charity Cruz, Joanie Phillips, Elliott Cruz, Emily (& Matt) Bosworth, John Devors, Samuel Devors; loving sister, Donna (& Frank) Landry. Also left to cherish Grammy's memory are: grandchildren, Wayne Cadenhead, Brandon Cruz, Leanna Cruz, Bailey (& Andy) Fuentes, Autumn Cruz, Zach Phillips, Lily Bosworth, Avery Cruz, Lincoln Bosworth, and Lucy Bosworth; and those precious little great-grandchildren, Carter Fuentes and Avanna Scott.

Oh, how we all will greatly miss her!

Reprinted courtesy of - Hill Crest Memorial Funeral Home



## Cheryl Ann Draper

Cheryl Ann Draper  
Polson, Montana  
June 6, 1954 - October 31, 2021

Cheryl Ann Draper, age 67, passed away October 31, 2021 at her residence in Pablo, MT.



## Julia Y. Kabance

Julia Y. Kabance, of St. Mary's, KS, received her last rites and died peacefully in her sleep on November 16, 2021, at the age of 111.

She was the oldest living member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, a great source of pride for her. She was also the oldest known female US veteran, having served in both the Army and the Air Force.

Julia was born on August 10, 1910, on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation. She was the 11th of 12 children born to Frank and Mary Kabance. She grew up helping her parents on their farm and first left home to attend Haskell Institute (now Haskell Indian Nations University). In 1943, she joined the US Army as a member of the Women's Army Corps and served in World War II. Julia was a member of We-ta-se American Legion.

After her retirement, Julia served extensively as a volunteer for the VA and the Catholic Church, including a long tenure at the Topeka Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Her faith and volunteer work were most important to her, and she continued volunteering well past her 100th birthday.

Julia is survived by her nephews Galen and Maurice (Carolyn) Kabance and her niece-in-law Betty Kabance (LaRue). She is also survived by dozens of great, great-great, and great-great-great nieces and nephews around the country.

Requiem Mass was Saturday, November 20, 2021, at Assumption Chapel. Interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Emmett.

Reprinted courtesy of - Piper Funeral Home



## Aurora Kay "Pegsha" Knoxsah

Aurora Kay "Pegsha" Knoxsah, 68, of Mayetta, KS, passed away Saturday, October 16, 2021 at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka. She was born December 24, 1952 in Lawrence, KS, the daughter of Henry and Leona (Mzhickteno) Knoxsah.

Aurora was a homemaker and a member of Native American Church and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Survivors include her 5 children, Jennifer Meacham (Zackary) of Lawrence, KS, Melvin Lewis (Tiffany) of Horton, KS, Kelly Lewis-Mills (Patrick) of Mayetta, KS, Dana Lewis (Regina) of Topeka, KS and Jillena Knoxsah of Mayetta, KS; sister, Deena Desjarliat of Mayetta, KS; 2 brothers, Martin Knoxsah of Hutchinson, KS and Clifford Knoxsah of Topeka, KS; 24 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Leona Knoxsah; sister, Vernona L. "Vernie" Lewis and 3 brothers, James, David and Virgil Knoxsah.

Native American Service was held October 20, 2021 at Nozhackum Hall on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation.

Reprinted courtesy of - Mercer Funeral Home in Holton.



## Bernard "Bernie" LeClaire

Bernard "Bernie" LeClaire died peacefully at Swedish Hospital in Edmonds, WA on July 16, 2021.

Continued on Page 10  
LeClaire

# Kambottek

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

*Continued from page 9*

Bernie was preceded in death by his father Leonard LeClere and his mother, Lucy. He is survived by his best friend and companion of 45 years, Dolores Braun of Lynnwood, WA; Siblings, Oliver LeClaire, Harrisburg OR, Gregoriann Hanna, Kirkland WA, Sadie LeClere, Jerome ID, Sydney LeClere, Overland Pk KN, Dwayne LeClere, Creswell OR, Cecelia Worlton, Brookings OR and Tim LeClere, Winston OR.

He attended Marty Indian School and graduated from Elmira High School. Bernie was a Lt Colonel in the US Army and served in Korea. Upon leaving active service he joined the Army reserves. He earned a master's degree in English from the University of Oregon.

For 3 years he taught high school English at Stewart Indian School in Carson City, NV. He then accepted a position as a loan officer for the US Dept of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs in Everett, WA and served in that position for 25 years.

During that time, he bought 5 tree-filled acres in Stanwood, WA. His property was his first love and he spent as much time as he could tending his trees, chipmunks, squirrels, and birds.

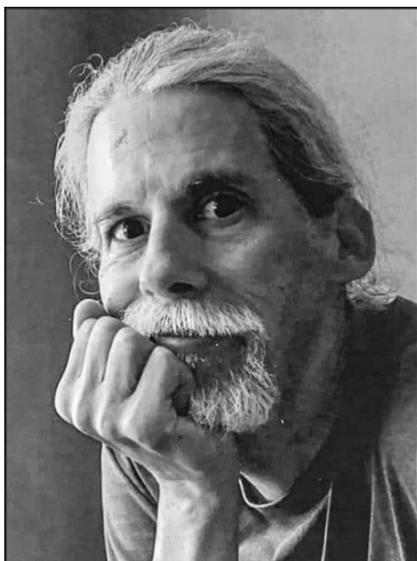
He was a volunteer at the Edmonds Theatre for the Arts, where he worked at building sets for the numerous performances. He had a great love of opera and classical music. Antiquing, finding new restaurants and dining out were his favorite pastimes.

Bernie was a generous man and helped many people, including some on the street who were in need. He donated to St Jude's, Smile Train and The Humane Society.

He had a very dry sense of humor and often teased people, sometimes so subtly that they didn't know he was teasing. He was a very loyal friend to Dolores; they shared many experiences together and cared deeply for each other. He always made sure she had flowers, inside and outside of her home.

Bernie will be sorely missed and has left a big hole in a heart that loved him. May he find the love and peace he deserves. We ask anyone who wishes to honor Bernie to do at least one nice thing in his name for someone in need.

Reprinted courtesy of - Barton Family Funeral Home



**Smokey McKinney  
(Nanimnukskuk)**

After a 4-year journey with pancreatic cancer, Smokey McKinney (Nanimnukskuk), 62, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at his Kansas homeplace surrounded by loved ones.

Smokey was born on April 1, 1959 in Tampa, Florida the son of James Noonan and Olive Agnes (Viers) McKinney. He married his "one," Kristy Louise Scott on November 22, 1980 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She survives of the home.

Other survivors include his daughters, Megan McKinney Todd (Seth) and Lindsay Sayre Pederson (Joseph), all of Lawrence; son, Taylor McKinney (Debi), Lawrence; two grandsons, Luke Sayre, Aaron Sayre; mother, Olive Agnes McKinney, Lawrence; four sisters, Darlene Young (Rodger), Karen Kennedy (Clyde), Leah McKinney, Rebekah Lierman (Richard); and numerous nieces and nephews, whom he treasured. Smokey was preceded in death by his father, Jim (Nanimnukskuk) McKinney.

In 1982, Smokey received a Bachelor's of Music Education from Baker University in Baldwin City, KS, then went on to gain a certificate of ministry from Harding University. Over the next 15 years, he served as youth and campus minister in various locations and worked on preserving the Potawatomi language with his father and the elders. In 1998 Smokey earned his Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Professional Communication from Iowa State University, and joined the faculty at Haskell Indian Nations University. Indigenous education and language were the hallmarks of his career—Smokey cared deeply for each of his students. He was a proverbial and literal trail-blazer, spending a lot of time in the woods, working to make healing in nature accessible to all who would come. He was a teacher, philosopher, poet, linguist, creator, mentor, and warrior. He loved life and truly embraced spirit.

Legacy Celebration for Smokey McKinney was on October 30, 2021.

Reprinted courtesy of - Warren McElwain Mortuary & Cremation Services



**Melvene Lois (Matchie)  
Oliver, "Chuk-sah"**

Melvene Lois (Matchie) Oliver, "Chuk-sah", age 84, of Topeka, KS, passed away Sunday, October 3, 2021 in Topeka. She was born March 2, 1937 in Horton, KS, the daughter of Matthew Matchie and Ida Bernice DuPuis.

She was a homemaker and licensed cosmetologist.

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

She married Howard Kinton Oliver on March 7, 1959; they celebrated over 62 years of marriage.

Survivors include her loving and loyal husband, Howard Oliver of the home; 7 daughters, Leah Zakar (John) of Valdosta, GA, Audrey Oliver of Topeka, KS, Deb McLinn (Phil) of Topeka, KS, Tina White of Topeka, KS, Nancy Henry (Roger) of Mayetta, KS, Misti Burns (Chris) of Wylie, TX and Linda LaBranch of Parkville, MO; son, Patrick Oliver (Alison) of Topeka, KS; 3 sisters, Mary Belle Patterson, Linda Allen and Jane Slater all of Horton, KS; brother, Willie Ogden of Lawrence, KS; 17 grandchildren, Michelle Brown, Candace Zakar, John Zakar, III and Heather Zakar all of Georgia, Shauna, Amber and Stephanie LaBranch all of Mustang, OK, Bryan LaBranch of Camp Lejeune, New River, NC, Nick Davenport of Branson, MO, Kinton Smith of Topeka, KS, Jamie Baumgartner of Auburn, KS, Holly Johnson of Topeka, KS, Kayla Johnson of Topeka, KS, Michelle Manrose of Topeka, KS and Brianna and Taylor Stegman of Mayetta, KS; 24 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Melvene was preceded in death by her mother, Ida Bernice (DuPuis) Ogden; father, Matthew D. Matchie, son, Shaun Alvin LaBranch and grandson, Daniel LaBranch.

Drum Service was October 6, 2021 at Danceground Building. Burial was October 7, 2021 at Danceground Cemetery.

Reprinted courtesy of - Mercer Funeral Home in Holton.



**FARON LEE  
(Pishedwen) SHOPESE**

Faron Lee Shoptese, 61 formerly of Topeka and Kansas City, KS passed away on Saturday, October 16, 2021 in Tulsa, OK. He was born March 4, 1960 in Dallas, TX the son of Peter Joseph Shoptese Jr. and Kathleen Mae (Ross) Pomani.

Faron attended Royal Valley High School and graduated from Bismark, North Dakota Trade School. He worked most of his life in construction where he welded, roofed houses and labored concrete.

He was preceded in death by his parents and 2 half-sisters Leroy Wounded Knee and Werdna Wounded Knee, both of Ft. Thompson, South Dakota.

Faron is survived by his four children, Bret Shoptese, of Kansas City Kansas, Alicia, Mollie, and Trent Shoptese all of Ponca City, Oklahoma, 1 brother, Sonny J. Shoptese of Harveyville, KS, half-sisters Lea Cleveland of Winnebago, NE, Rayna Ross, Glenda Wounded Knee both from FT. Thompson, SD. and Rhea Ross of Sioux Falls, SD. and 7 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews

He was cremated on October, 26, 2021 with private family burial at a later date at Shipshee Cemetery.

Reprinted courtesy of - Mercer Funeral Home in Holton.



**Tammy Lee Shuckakosee**

Tammy Lee Shuckakosee age 50 passed away Saturday, September 25, 2021 in an Oklahoma City Hospital surrounded by her family.

## Kambottek

She was born June 6, 1971 in Pawnee, Oklahoma to LaQuetta Wapskineh and Albert Shuckakosee, Sr. She loved her kids and grandkids and spending time with her family.

Preceded in death by her parents, grandparents Pauline and Andrew Wapskineh, Sr. and one sister, Carie Louise McVea.

She is survived by her three daughters: Amber, Kyla and Railynn Hawkins. One Son: Nathaniel Hawkins. Two Nieces she raised as her own, Justina and Sidney Hawkins. Seven Grandchildren who she called to "Magnificent 7": Maddyx, Ivan, Ivy Jaimyn, Neidaly, Harmony and Dax. She has 4 sisters: Paulette Shuckakosee, LaCretia Grass, Josette Wade and Martisha Wade. One brother: Gary Grass, Jr. and numerous other family members who she loved.

Reprinted courtesy of - Walker Funeral Service Chapel



**Drusa Fay**  
"Kikiqwah" Wabaunsee

Drusa Fay "Kikiqwah" Wabaunsee, 84 of Hoyt, KS passed away Wednesday, September 15, 2021 surrounded by family at the Onaga Hospital in Onaga, KS. She was born March 1, 1937 in Horton, KS the daughter of Robert E. and Carrie (Puckee) Masquat.

She graduated from Topeka High School in 1955. She also attended Haskell Indian Technical Institute and Highland Community College.

Drusa worked as a secretary at the Royal Valley High School in Hoyt. She worked in the soft count room for many years at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort. She also worked alongside her husband Will in his business "Will's Drywall" until his retirement.

She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and descendant of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. She was also a member of the St. Francis Xavier Church and Altar Society. She was also member of the Royal Valley Booster Club, Impact Aid, JOM, Title VII, tribal election board and Hoyt election board.

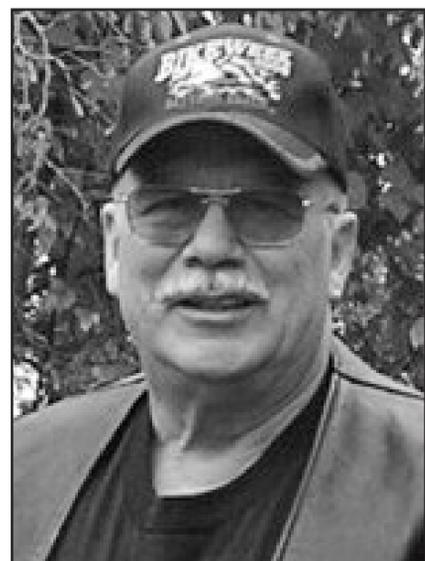
On February 24, 1962 Drusa was united in marriage to Will Wabaunsee at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Mayetta, KS. They shared over 39 years of marriage before Will passed away on May 9, 2001.

Drusa is survived by 1 son, Lil Will Wabaunsee (Amy) of Tulsa, OK; 4 daughters, Carrie O'Toole (Jim) of Mayetta, KS, Elizabeth Wabaunsee-Tye of Hoyt, KS, Shawna Wabaunsee of Mayetta, KS, and Ah-Sha-Ni Wabaunsee of Topeka, KS; 17 grandchildren, Kateri, Christopher, Kavan, Josh, Lara, Wilburn, Zabrina, Pallas, Alston, Quo-Jon, Mimi, Alejandra, Elena, Gloria, Victor, Eric and Xavier; 24 great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband Will; 3 sisters, Val McKinney, Carole Garrison and Yvonne "Tee" Villegas; 1 brother, Eugene "Chub" R. Masquat.

She was buried on September 22, 2021 at the Shipshee Cemetery.

Reprinted courtesy of - Mercer Funeral Home in Holton.



**GALEN R. STEWARD**

Galen Ray Steward, 78, of Auburn, KS, passed away Saturday, October 9, 2021 at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka. He was born December 20, 1942 in Mayetta, KS, the son of Elizabeth Vivian (Moore) Gifford. He was raised by his foster parents, Bob and Lucille Shumway.

Galen graduated Mayetta High School in 1963 and Haskell University after 2 years with an Associates Degree in Physical Education. Galen worked for over 30 years for Josten's in Topeka as a Pressman; retiring in 2008.

Galen was a member of Catholic Religion and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

He married Carol Jean Dinsmore, they divorced. He married Mabel "Kay" Henderson in 1989 at Auburn, KS.

Survivors include Kay Steward of Auburn, KS; son, Keith Steward (Lori) of Ottawa, KS; daughter, Kim Henry (Jerald) of Topeka, KS; 2 step-children, Richard H. Veal and Stephanie K. Jensen; sister, Betty A. Maruska (Marvin) of Glendale, CA; brother, John Gifford of Cambridge, OH; 5 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren 3 step-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Elizabeth Gifford; foster parents, Bob and Lucille Shumway; sister, Juanita Nelson and brother, Paul Steward.

He was interred on Friday, October 15, 2021 at the Shipshee Cemetery.

Reprinted courtesy of - Mercer Funeral Home in Holton.

## Charitable Contributions 3rd Quarter Recipient List Total Donated \$73,800

- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- TARC
- Helping Hand Humane Society
- Midland Care
- Northeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging
- Waconda Cultural Assoc
- Rossville Community Library
- Pathway Family Service
- Capper Foundation
- Royal Valley USD 337
- Junior Achievement of Kansas
- Topeka Civic Theatre
- East Topeka Senior Center
- Coats for Kids
- Rossville Grade School
- American Red Cross

## General Council Meeting ◆ January 15, 2022 ◆

## Enrolled Tribal Members age 18+ Only

8 a.m. | Registration Opens

9 a.m. | Light Breakfast

9:30 a.m. | Meeting Begins

Location Old Bingo Hall

[www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com)

Check email and the website for possible changes  
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## The Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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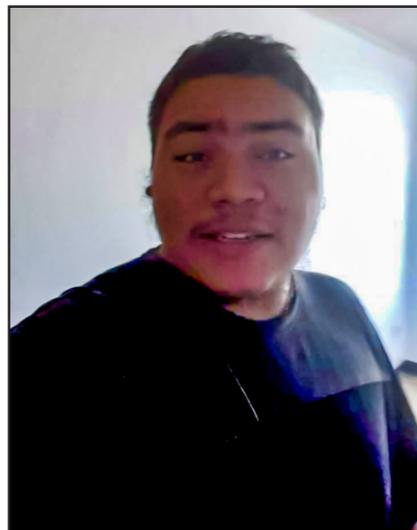
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*Epok/Winter Time*  
**2022 Edition**  
**Deadline**  
**February 7, 2021**

## Happy Birthday to my Fall Babies!! Love Koya and Mom



Congratulations Nathaniel Taylor II. for achieving your Associate of Arts degree and continuing on with your Bachelor's education at Red Lake Nation College. I am proud of you, son.

Love, Mom and Minnie



Congratulations Nidaan Taylor class of 2021! Currently attending the Institute of American Indian Arts. 'You're gonna go far Kid!'

Love, Mom & Minnie



**Onnaliyah Wahquahboshkuk,**  
wishing you a **VERY** happy birthday on Feb. 9, 2022!  
"You're 12, if you forgot!" Love you!  
Mom and Dad

## Outstanding Service Commendations Awarded

Earlier this year these people participated in the department's COVID-19 vaccination surge support program. They assisted the Health Center during the peak of the PBN COVID-19 vaccination effort. This novel and rapidly implemented program included training on vaccines, electronic health records, and on the job training. Overall, these people were responsible for administering 516 Moderna and Pfizer vaccine injections from early February to the middle of May 2021. This critical support not only protected the citizens of the Nation but helped the Health Center continue to provide primary care and vaccinations simultaneously. As they always do, they made a real difference and a positive impact on the Nation.

Thank you to each one of them for dedication to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. The lifesaving care they provide is essential. Their hard work, perseverance, and exemplary performance is obvious. It is this type of dedication and integrated teamwork that makes the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department second to none.

DB Schreiner  
Chief Douglas B. Schreiner, Paramedic  
Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department



Lieutenant/Paramedic  
Bruce Coates



Captain/Paramedic  
Eric Ganson



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Jon Gwartney



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Paul Juedes



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Mark Meinhardt



Lieutenant/Advanced EMT  
Cecil Mercer



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Kristen Radell



Fire Chief/Paramedic  
Doug Schreiner



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Lucas Zeller



Assistant Chief/Paramedic  
Frank Zeller