



# Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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

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## Eshkēnibēk 2022

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### Eshkēnibēk

"Spring time  
of the year"

This paper contains the  
activities and happenings  
that took place during the  
Spring time of 2022:  
March, April,  
May

## PBP Fire Department First Responders Save Patient From Cardiac Arrest

~ 'My name is not Frank'

Kevin Blandin was part of a work crew that was rebuilding a home on the Reservation that had partially burned in winter of 2021 when he began having chest pains. He decided to have his son take him to the PBP Health Center as a precaution.

Blandin said, "I thought the clinic would have everything they needed to take care of me. The pain would come and go so I wasn't sure what was happening."

The Health Center called the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department to transport him to Topeka. When Firefighter / EMT Joseph Burghardt and Lieutenant/Paramedic Bruce Coates arrived, Blandin said that he was in one of the up swings and wasn't feeling too bad but they recommended he go to the hospital to get checked out.

During the ride to Topeka, near the Jackson and Shawnee County line, Blandin suddenly went into cardiac arrest. His heart stopped and he stopped breathing.

Coates was alone in the back of the ambulance with Blandin and immediately began emergency care. Through his actions he was able to restart Blandin's heart.

Blandin said, "I pretty much died on him. I could hear him and, for some reason he started calling me Frank."



Lieutenant / Paramedic Bruce Coates (Left) Kevin Blandin (Center) and Firefighter / EMT Joseph Burghardt (Right) pose for a photo during a ceremony where Coates and Burghardt received Outstanding Service Awards for their efforts to save Blandin after he suffered cardiac arrest.

'Come on Frank! Stay with me Frank!' I remember thinking, who is Frank? And then I remember looking down at myself wondering why this guy was on top of me doing compressions."

He added, "Then he got me back and the next thing I knew, we were at the hospital and I wanted to tell him my name is not Frank."

Chief Doug Schreiner, Paramedic, Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department, said that Coates and Burghardt performed admirably, followed procedure and provided the critical treatment needed to help Blandin pull through. "While Coates was alone in the back of the ambulance,

*Continues on Page 2 - First Responders*

## Message from the PBPN Election Board

Bosho Tribal Members,

The members of the Tribal Election Board remind you of the importance of the upcoming elections. This is YOUR chance to have a say in the future of our Sovereign Nation by playing your part and exercising your right to vote.

We, as Prairie Band Potawatomi People, choose leaders to represent us, not only with the Federal Government, but also with county, state and local governments too.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation can only be the driving force behind positive change for our people and our communities when you let your voice be heard through voting for the people who represent you. So please let your voice be heard by voting.

If you are not registered to vote, you won't be able to vote in the current election because the deadline has passed. You can still register at any time to make yourself eligible to vote in future elections.

If you aren't sure if you are registered for this upcoming election, or would like to register for future elections, call Member Services @ 785-966-3910 or 866-277-3722. They will be happy to answer your questions.

Please remember that it's very important for Tribal Members to keep their address and phone number current. If you aren't sure if your correct information is on file, you can contact

Member Services to be sure. All of the contact information and forms you need to update your information can be found on the Member Services Page of the website at <https://www.pbpindiantribe.com/member-services/>.

The current election is on July 23, 2022. Be sure to vote so you can make a difference in our future. When you do vote, please make sure your ballot is completely filled out and put in the envelope correctly.

If you have any questions you may reach us through Member Services or email at [TribalElectionBoard@pbpnation.org](mailto:TribalElectionBoard@pbpnation.org).

Igwien,

The Election Board



For more on the candidates see page 9



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



Dear Tribal Members,

Spring is upon us and now things are finally starting to open up. We saw an increase in the Omicron variant but across the state infections have finally started to decline.

This is not to say that we can completely forget about COVID-19 and stop taking steps to protect ourselves. Recently in the news, Philadelphia reinstated its indoor mask mandate due to the BA.2 subvariant of omicron and its high transmission rate. Again, it will only be a matter of time before it reaches our area. We will continue to monitor the situation and will take the appropriate steps to ensure our safety.

Since our last meeting, we have reached some significant milestones in our Illinois Claim. As you recall, Senator Moran filed a bill on our behalf, S3242, and we have been working hard to get this bill scheduled for a hearing on the Indian Affairs Committee. After the bill was filed, I have made multiple trips to Illinois to build support. I have met with many individuals including residents on the current

reservation to explain the bill and how this legislation benefits them as well. We have received support from many individuals and have asked different levels of government to support our claim.

I made two trips to meet with the Dekalb county board and asked for a resolution to support our claim. The first meeting the resolution was voted to move to committee for review. The second meeting, the resolution was voted out of committee but was voted down by the board. That was disappointing news and since it was along party lines, there appears to be a lot more education needed on Tribal State relations.

If you recall, Representative Demmer (R) had filed a resolution on our behalf supporting our claim in November but it was tabled since the Federal Bill was not filed. In March, while the Illinois General Assembly was in session, I traveled back to meet with Representatives and ask for support of the resolution. While meeting with the representatives, Senator Pacione-Zayas (D) asked to meet with us. After our meeting, she indicated that she was supportive of our claim and intended to file a resolution in the senate. This was welcome news indeed and while there, we held a news conference with both Senator Pacione-Zayas and Representative Demmer. After the news conference, Council Member Wahweotten and I were escorted to the Representative Chamber to be officially recognized. I would say we are probably the first Federally Recognized Tribe to be received in the Illinois Chamber. On March 15, 2022, HR 504 was adopted. The Senate resolution was referred to committee and

on April 9, 2022 SR 896 was adopted. These two resolutions along with letters of support will be passed to Senator Durbin and we will be waiting on the hearing in Indian Affairs Committee.

While things are progressing in Illinois, here in Kansas it's a different story. I do not need to remind everyone of the comments made by Kansas Board of Education Commissioner Randy Watson but we also saw the same sentiment in the Kansas House.

When commissioner Watson made those comments, we called for a meeting with the Governor and Board members, and while the outcome is not what we asked for, we may be able to still use this to our advantage. As of the time of this report, Council is scheduled to meet with the Kansas Association for Native American Education. This meeting will discuss strategies to approach the Kansas Board of Education and ways to enhance recognition for all Native American students.

On the Kansas House Side, I attended a meeting along with Vice Chair Pahmahmie and Council Member Wahweotten with the Speaker of the House Ron Ryckman Jr. about the comment made to Rep. Victors. We expressed our displeasure on how the situation was handled and asked for steps to be taken to prevent this in the future.

One area was education for all legislators over Tribal State relations. I looked at other states and the information they provide to their lawmakers and asked if this was something that we could incorporate in Kansas. I also brought up the need to re-visit eliminating racial mascots within the state and what the actual cost

would be. In the end I think there was some progress made but we will have to wait and see. On the legislative side, there seems to be some progress made in sports betting and language we proposed remains in the bill. Since legislators are out for Easter break, we will have to see if that is voted on during the veto session, though we have been told it is expected to pass. The other major piece of legislation that did pass was the expansion of law enforcement jurisdiction. In the bill it allows Tribal Officers fresh pursuit and really helps our claim to repeal the Kansas Act. Our bill to repeal has just got back from legislative review in the U. S. Congress and we are trying to set up a meeting with Rep. LaTurner to file. More to follow on those issues.

On the reservation, I know as many do that our roads are in terrible shape. We have completed our construction estimate and core samples which was shared with the State. Under the federal Infrastructure and Jobs Act that recently passed, states must work with Tribes before they are eligible to receive funding. This includes broadband. With construction plans complete for both broadband and roads, as soon as the money is released, we are hoping we can start getting our infrastructure started.

In closing, I'll end as I have been for the last two years, protect yourself and those of your family, follow established guidelines while we are working through this endemic and maybe someday, we will see the end of this. Be safe.

**Migwett**  
**Joseph P. Rupnick, Chairman**  
**Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation**

## ~First Responders From Page 1

he provided the emergency care needed to sustain the patient's life. This is something he could not have done without his partner, driving the ambulance carefully and skillfully.”

Burghardt made sure the patient made it to the hospital to receive further care quickly and safely. Schreiner said, “He handled the radios, the traffic on the road, and communication with his partner during the ride into Topeka. He contacted the hospital to update them on the critical status of the patient so they could take over treatment as soon as they arrived.”

Upon arrival at the emergency room, the patient suffered another episode of sudden cardiac arrest and Coates assisted the ER staff with further emergency treatment. Blandin was resuscitated again and treated at the hospital. By the end of the day he

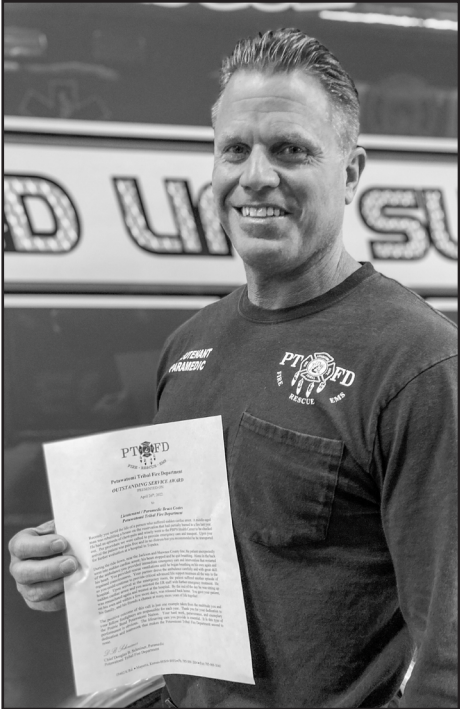
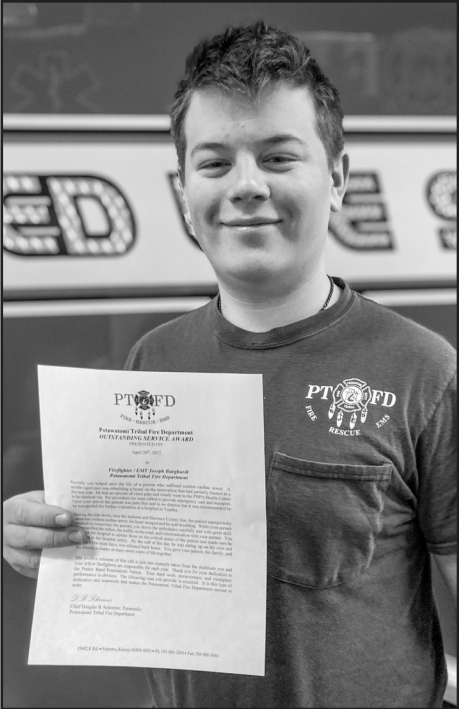
was sitting up on his own and, within a few more days, was released back home.

Schreiner said, “This team gave their patient, his family, and his friends a chance at many more years of life together.”

In April, Coates and Burghardt received Outstanding Service Awards from the Department for their work and Blandin's heartfelt gratitude.

Blandin said, “These guys saved my life that day. No doubt about it.”

Schreiner added, “The positive outcome of this call is just one example taken from the multitude our firefighters are responsible for each year. I thank them and the Nation thanks them for their dedication. It is this type of dedication and teamwork that makes the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department second to none.”



**April 16, 2022 - (Left) Firefighter / EMT Joseph Burghardt and (Right) Lieutenant / Paramedic Bruce Coates of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Fire Department display the Outstanding Service Awards they received for saving a patient they were transporting from cardiac arrest. The patient's heart stopped twice on the way to the hospital but this team was able to resuscitate him and get him to the hospital safely for further treatment.**



# New Tribal Identification Cards Make Travel Easier For Members

In 2019, the Potawatomi Gathering in Parry Sound, Ontario, exposed issues experienced by Tribal Members when crossing the Canadian Border. Canada and the US have a long tradition of being good neighbors to each other. At one time, US citizens could cross the border with nothing more than a driver’s license. However, since June 1, 2009, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) has required that Americans traveling to Canada by land or by sea carry one of the following documents as proof of citizenship:

- A US passport book
- A US passport card
- A NEXUS card, SENTRI or FAST card
- An enhanced driver’s license (only available in certain states)

Once the gathering exposed the problems of Tribal Members having issues using their Tribal I.D.s to cross the Canadian Border, Tribal Council Member, William “Bill” Evans began searching for a workable solution to the issue.

Evans said, “We needed to make it easier for our people to cross the borders, and through my research I found another tribe issuing I.D.s that served as a passport card.” He reached out to a contact who was a member of that tribe and set up a meeting to find out the details of how they were able to issue a WHTI compliant document, known as the Enhanced Tribal Card or ETC.

The subsequent meeting revealed that the process of setting up an ETC program required a Memorandum Of Understanding between the Nation and the Office of Homeland Security. Homeland Security defines such a card as a tribal membership card issued by a federally recognized United States Native American tribe which also meets the other requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) Final Rule for acceptance at a land or seaport of entry.

WHTI is the implementation of the requirement to show a passport or other acceptable document to enter the United States, for nationals of certain North American jurisdictions who were previously exempt from it when traveling within the Americas. The requirement was mandated by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, enacted in 2004 in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and implemented in phases between 2007 and 2009.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland

Security, with so many other things, was delayed during the pandemic.

Evans said that they were focused on making this card happen, and the group continually met to share progress and to keep the momentum of the project flowing.

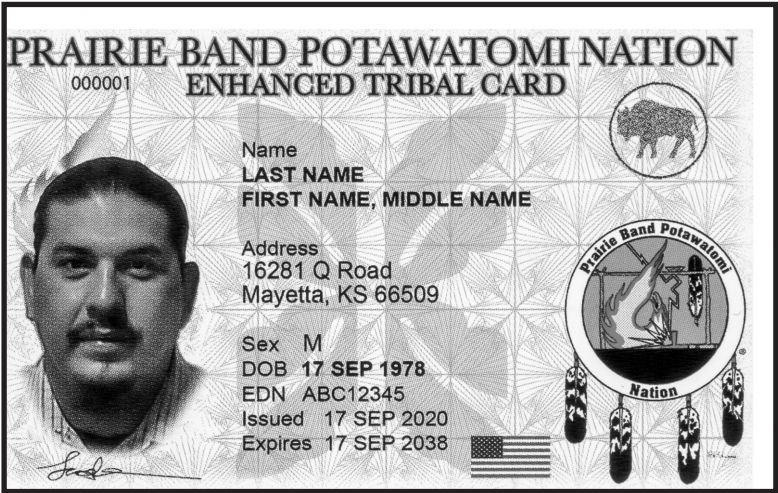
Member Services worked to ensure the program fit the structure of the Nation. The IT department made sure that the technology to make this program successful was in place. Administration made sure all required documentation was approved and in place. The Cultural Heritage Committee worked together to design the ETC to be representative of the Prairie Band Potawatomi People. Through the dedication and hard work of the team, The Nation now has an ETC program in place.

This new ETC complies with the WHTI requirements, acting as a passport card, allowing for travel into Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean by land or sea. It also complies with the Real ID requirements, allowing it to be used at Airports as an acceptable form of identification for air travel within the United States.

“Our ETC is a document that demonstrates the sovereignty of the Nation. Only the Nation has the authority to issue a Tribal I.D.,” Evans said.

The ETC can only be issued by the Tribal Government. As a sovereign nation, they decide who is eligible to receive one of these cards, not the Federal Government. Tribal members’ information is never shared with any other government.

Evans said, “We worked with the Federal government to be sure the ETC fits all of their requirements. We have an agreement with them for safety and security, and now this card allows our membership to travel across the borders of North America as our ancestors before us.”



Security, the purpose is to strengthen border security and facilitate entry into the United States for both U.S. citizens and foreign visitors.

“As you can see, this was no small task we had taken on, but it wasn’t something we had to invent on our own. We were referred to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe out of Tucson, Arizona, who offered consulting services for setting up an ETC program,” Evans said.

A great deal of work and effort went into bringing this project to life. Member Services played a significant role in completing the project along with IT, Administration and the Cultural Heritage Committee.

The work on this project began in 2019 and, as

## A ‘How To’ Guide On What It Takes To Receive Your ETC

Switching to the new identification card is not required. For those who wish to obtain the new card, Member Services provides this information.

The Enhanced Tribal Enrollment Card (ETC) is available to Tribal Members only. Initial card cost is \$25, then \$10 to replace if lost or stolen. The process is started when the member calls in or stops by Members Services to pick up an Enhanced Tribal ID application or has one mailed to them.

### ***Filling out the application:***

Must be filled out in black or blue ink

No whiteout or scribbling out mistakes. If a mistake is made a simple line through the mistake and initial will do the trick. **Example** SW

Please complete all questions to the best of your knowledge. If the question does not apply write “N/A” (not applicable) or if it is unknown write “Unknown”.

Once the application is completed by the member, please return to Members Services along with your original documents of identification. The staff will check for completion of the application, as well as retain the original documents of identification and the payment has been made. The Members Services staff will then schedule an in-person interview to go over the application information. Interviews will NOT be taken on a walk-in basis.

***Original Documents of Identification can be any of the following (3 or more & must be originals. NO COPIES) We can NOT use documents from members enrollment file:***

- Birth certificate
- U.S. military identification card (if available)
- A Valid State-issued drivers license or identification card (excluding temporary i.e. paper printout or learners permit)
- Social Security Card
- Recent utility bill
- Complete statement on ETC application verifying principal address (check with Members Services to make sure the correct address is on file)
- Federal, state, or municipal government-issued documents depicting marriage, divorce, and/or other name changes

### ***Interviews:***

After all necessary steps have been successfully carried out, staff will need a minimum of 2 business days to gather information for the in-person interview. Interview can not be taken on a walk-in basis, no exceptions!

Once interview information is completed by staff, a reminder call of appointment will be made to the applicant.

The interview will take approximately 1 hour. However, if you are in further need of assistance or filling out your application, please inform staff and we will gladly assist you, but also plan for the interview to take anywhere from 1 hour to 2 hours depending on the extent of assistance needed. During this time, staff will ask questions pertaining to the member’s identity. It will be at this time that the original documents of identity are returned. After the successful interview is completed the ETC timeline will generally follow:

1 day to input interview information

1 to 7 business days for card production

3 to 5 business days Mailing time from ETC company to Members Services

Completed Enhanced Tribal Cards will be mailed directly to Members Services. Once received by the department, staff will call the applicant to either set up a time for pick up or verify the mailing address. Enhanced tribal cards will only be mailed certified mail to the address saved in the member’s file. The member must be available to sign for certified mailing as a form of receipt of ETC.

At the time of receipt of the enhanced tribal card, we ask the Member to examine the card carefully to make sure everything is correct and true to their knowledge. There will also be information enclosed about the applicant’s responsibilities as far as changes of information, card renewal, and what to do if a card is lost or stolen.

Enhanced Tribal Cards are valid for eight (8) years from the date of issuance, unless the cardholder is a minor. A member may apply for a replacement card(s) that shall not exceed a total of two (2) lost or stolen issued cards from the period when the card was issued. Replacement cards will be \$10 without a card to exchange, however, if card is exchanged due to name or address changes, cards become illegible, or damaged this will be done free of charge.

If you are in need of further assistance in locating your birth certificate, or federal, state, or municipal government-issued documents depicting marriage, divorce, and/or other name changes please contact the Vital Statistics office in your area.

For Kansas vital statistics: (785) 296-1400

Division of motor vehicles: Telephone (available Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm)

785-296-3671 • Email: KDOR\_dl@ks.gov • Social Security Administration: 600 Sw Commerce Pl, Topeka, Kansas 66615 • Social Security Office Phone Number. 1-888-327-1271

Any further questions or request for further information may be directed to Members Services. Thank you and safe travels!



# Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, hope all is well as we move closer to mid-year for 2022.

If you haven't received your June Per Capita yet, you should receive it soon and it looks to be a higher distribution than we have seen in recent years. This is due to the continued strong performance of our Casino. Month after month the Casino continues to produce near record high Tribal Cash Distributions.

Also, this month, our new Tribal Government CFO, Sue Goldsworthy, will be on-site. The CFO position has been vacant since September of last year and Prairie Band LLC has once again come through and assisted us with filling a key upper management position. Sue has more than 20 years of financial management experience with over 5 of those years serving as a CFO. I look forward to working with Sue on several projects that have been on hold in previous months as we continually look to improve upon our current processes and controls for the Tribe's finances. Additionally, I would like to thank the Finance staff for stepping up during the CFO vacancy and helping keep the Tribe's finances in order. Below are a few additional highlights and updates on items of interest in the Tribe's financial area.

### Elder Assistance Program Eligibility Update

The Elder Assistance Program

(EAP) was formed in 2018 to provide financial assistance to elderly PBP Tribal Members for their medical and dental expenses. The EAP is administered by the Tribe's Health Center and is overseen by the Purchase/ Referred Care (PRC) committee.

Unlike PRC benefits, which also provide financial assistance for similar expenses under our Health Center Compact with Indian Health Services, EAP benefits are available to all eligible PBP Tribal Members nationwide so they are not restricted by a service area which would be the case for PRC benefits.

Applications for EAP benefits are reviewed by the PRC committee which meets bi-weekly to review applications. Once applications are reviewed PBP Tribal Members will be notified of approval or denial of their applications. Successful EAP applicants are awarded up to \$5,000 for EAP eligible expenses which are non-taxable benefits under the Tribe's General Welfare Support Program in accordance with Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act. Since the awards are non-taxable, 1099's will not be issued for awarded amounts. PRC awards also meet the same criteria as the EAP and are also non-taxable benefits.

One of the eligibility requirements for PBP Tribal Members is age. Recently the EAP eligibility age was updated from age 60 to 55 along with a few other amendments to the EAP policy which is approved by Tribal Council. To find out more about eligible benefits under the EAP or to apply for EAP benefits you may contact the Health Center @ 785-966-8282.

### Investment Portfolio

Over the past several years the Tribe has grown its investment portfolio with the aid of a handful of investment advisors. Currently the Tribe's portfolio is broken down into seven different sub-portfolios which include our:

- Main Long-Term Investments
- Tax Commission Investments
- Education Endowment

- Burial Endowment
- Health Center Funds
- ARPA Funds
- Buildings and Roads Funds

Each sub-portfolio has a different purpose and an investment objective tailored around that purpose.

In January of this year, investment markets peaked at all-time record highs. Since then markets have dropped significantly and there has been much in the news about the markets, inflation, rising gas prices and so on.

Unfortunately, news stories can cause opinions to be formed out of fear and perception and not necessarily fact. As mentioned above, each of our sub-portfolios are invested with objectives and are invested with the idea that the Tribe will be around forever.

Our ARPA sub-portfolio is the exception to this case and will be dissolved most likely by the end of 2026 which is when all ARPA dollars must be expended.

Back to the investment objectives for the Tribe. With each of these sub-portfolios it is important for us to look at long term performance and to not get too caught up in the past few months. For instance, our Main Long-Term Investments at the time of this writing is still up about 72% since its inception in 2013. Yes, it is down about 12% so far in 2022 but in the long run if we had not stuck to our investment goals we could have potentially cost ourselves in our overall gains and made our 72% gains lower than what they are today.

Currently the outlook from our investment managers is that a recession has a low probability in the next 12 months. Another key takeaway is, they feel that inflation has peaked and we will see lower inflation factors over the next few months. Our Main Long-Term Investments are our most aggressive and market driven sub-portfolio but at this time I do not expect that we will move away from market risk as we again look towards the long term and not short-term horizons. We will, however, continue to rely on our investment managers

to guide us through the ups and downs of the investment markets.

### Minors Trust Investments

Much like the Tribe's investments, the Minors Trust Funds are also subject to the volatility of the investment markets. The level of risk for the Trust Funds are associated with by age categories or sub-portfolios consisting of the groups of 0-6 years old, 7-12 years old, 13-16 years old and 17+ years old. The younger the age group the more risk that each sub-portfolio takes on.

Also much like the Tribe's investments, an investment manager/trustee is hired to assist with the prudent investments of the Minors Trust Fund. The Minors Trust Funds must also be invested in accordance with the Tribe's Per Capita Ordinance. Similarly, to the Tribe's investments, the Minors Trust Fund investments are invested with a long-term outlook of up to 21 years. The Minors Trust Funds could probably be thought of as being similar to an employee's 401K program in the way their investment objectives are structured.

While the sub-portfolios above are a default for each account based upon the age of the minor, the investment objective can be changed by the parent/guardian of the account. In addition to the default categories of 0-6, 7-12, 13-16 17+ there is also an aggressive sub-portfolio to choose from which provides more exposure to the investment markets, but is not a default portfolio and must be selected by the parent/guardian. At the time of this writing there is currently discussion on the development of a preservation sub-portfolio which could be attractive to those with accounts that are receiving their final age-based distributions which would provide the least amount of exposure to the investment markets.

For more information on the Minors Trust you may contact the trustee, Providence First Trust Company @ 800-350-0208 or 602-952-2300 or [pbpn@providencefirst.com](mailto:pbpn@providencefirst.com)

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.

**Member's service offers much more than tribal enrollment, family lineage, member records, and elections. We also offer such services as:**

- **Burial assistance-** For enrolled tribal members up to \$6000 (at time of passing)
- **Photo Tribal ID for members 18 years and older-** The first one and expired IDs are free. As well as if your ID becomes illegible or broken, bring it back in and we'll exchange it for a new one. Thereafter, there will be a \$10 charge for the replacement.
- **VSP vision insurance-** this is only available to the individual tribal member, not the member's family. There is no card required to carry, simply fill out the form and return to Members Services, you should then be able to log into the VSP website using your social security number.

**We are currently in the works of providing you, our tribal members, with even more services so keep an eye out for further information.**

**If you have any additional questions, please feel free to check out the tribal website at: [www.pbpindiantribe.com/member-services/](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/member-services/) or call us at (866)277-3722 / (785)966-3910**

Respectfully  
Wade Pahmahmie (Wap-tti-ge)



# Tribal Council Member Tony Wahweotten: Report to the Nation



Ho’ PBPB Members

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

and follow current CDC guidelines for membership and the PBPB workforce.

Secondly, many miigwetches to PBP voting membership for selecting me as your new PBP Tribal Council Representative and allowing me to serve in this capacity for the Nation and alongside my colleagues Chairman Rupnick, Vice Chairman Zach Pahmahmie, Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie, Secretary Camilla Chouteau, Councilman William Evens, and Councilman Raphael Wahwassuck. It truly is an honor. A special thanks to the Tribal Council Administrative Assistants.

Every day continues to bring new challenges, especially during the 2020/2022 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 off, thirteen and a half days PTO, and four days of SL.

Since the last January 16, 2022 General Council Meeting, I have attended:

- Three TERC meetings
- One ARPA Funds review discussion
- One Infrastructure Legal review
- Seven special Tribal Council meetings
- Three Regular Tribal Council meetings
- Seven legal project meetings
- Two Illinois property management reviews
- Six PBP Tax Commission meetings
- Two Hemp Regulation meetings
- One Swearing in Ceremony for Mary Wabnum Mitchell-Alternate Election Board Member
- One Swearing in Re-Appointment Ceremony for Gilreath Aitkens to Enrollment Review Committee
- Three Land Committee meetings
- One trip to city of DeKalb, Illinois, to meet with the County Commissioners and Executive committee to brief in support of S.3242 ( failed)
- One trip in March to the Illinois State Capitol to brief State Representatives and Senators in support of S.3242 (both parties and bodies passed separate Resolutions unanimously)
- One trip to the Shabbona properties for further property management and a meeting with supportive local residents
- One meeting with Shabbona town residents to brief in support of S.3242
- One trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the Twenty-Fourth National Intertribal Tax Alliance Conference
- One round table discussion with BIA Horton Agency staff
- One CFO interview for PBP Finance
- One virtual Kansas School Board discussion
- A Four Tribes meeting with the Kansas State Capital House panel
- A virtual White House briefing on President Biden’s FY 2023 Budget
- One PBP Casino Expansion tour
- One trip to Seattle Washington to the 40th Annual NAFOA Conference
- A Tribal leadership Broadband round table discussion,

All relating to informational only or the business and welfare of the Nation. Other meetings relating to the Nation’s business and Departments include the General Manager, Board of Director reviews, LLC quarterly reviews, and the Nations’ current budget and funding challenges.

At the National and State levels, the Nation continues Legal and Policy reviews and new House/Senate Bills to address specific concerns and funding that may impact the Nation.

On continued leadership activity, the LLC and Investment Committee continues to work on the 150th and 75HWY Travel Plaza project, RFP reviews, and other plan development. Other leadership activity involving Tribal Council, General Management, Prairie Band Construction and

Tribal Attorneys are broadband planning and development. Outside of my specific duties as Tribal Council, I have been appointed as one of the Tax Commissioners for the Nation. There are currently no vacancies within the Tax Commission that regulates Title 10 (General Taxes), Title 13 (Business Licensing), and 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 eighteen Tax Commission meetings. New applications involving the Nation’s Tax Authority are available on the Nation’s website. In our Prairie Band Potawatomi Constitution, it is 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 following our Nation’s policies. Tribal Council has appointed me as an additional Liaison, Vice Chairman, to the Lands Committee. I have participated in seventeen PBP Lands meetings, with two being 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. I will add at the midnight hour of October GC meeting of 2021, the Tribe had received 15 new buffalo from Wind Cave, South Dakota. And, last month in March, we received ten more buffalo from Yellowstone.

Leading into other continued news and interests, I will provide knowledge and updates regarding a sought-after project delegated to my position called the Soldier Creek Watershed. This project consists of early assessments in water resource planning, natural resource conservation, and environmental protections within and outside our current boundaries. Our goal for the Soldier Creek Watershed Plan, complying with recently established 2018 farm bill, final rule, and new HR 3684 funding opportunities include: Infrastructure Investments and Job Acts, funding opportunities, in respect to new infrastructure development of rural water supply, water sovereignty, flood prevention and damage, erosion and sediment control, fish and wildlife habitat, wetland restoration, and recreation opportunities. Again, with the cooperation of other government agencies, 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.

One of the PBPB Mission Statements is to practice Indian Preference, exercise and promote employment opportunities, training and development of individuals to their full potential in a climate of growth. Below, see the Nation’s 1.25 for 2022 Employment Demographics.

|                                       |                                    |  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Total Number of Employees: 332</b> |                                    |  |
| <b>Female: 55.72%</b>                 | <b>Male: 44.28%</b>                |  |
| <b>Tribal Member: 44.58%</b>          | <b>Other Tribal Members: 5.96%</b> |  |
| <b>Caucasian: 36.75%</b>              | <b>Hispanic: 1.81%</b>             |  |
| <b>African American/Black: 0.60%</b>  | <b>Asian: 0.30%</b>                |  |

PBPB Current Job Listings, 32 total Current Jobs. Please visit our website, <https://www.pbpindiantribe.com> to learn more about openings and other information.

Although there is much more to cover, my current report is submitted with the goal of creating and maintaining transparency and communication with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation membership. Remember to continue to be safe out there, as we are still in a national pandemic, due to COVID-19, delta, and omicron variants. Not all people are vaccinated. Please continue practicing CDC and your state’s safety guidelines, take care of yourselves, and do the best you can to help others when possible.

*Miigwetch  
Tony Wahweotten*

## Charitable Contributions 1st Quarter Recipient List - Total Donated \$63,500

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| • Donnelly College                   | • Our Lady of Guadalupe                 |
| • Emporia State University           | • Rossville Senior Citizens Association |
| • Kansas Children’s Discovery Center | • Safe Kids Kansas                      |
| • KU School of Journalism            | • Sertoma Great Topeka Duck Race        |
| • March of Dimes                     | • Sunflower State Games                 |
| • Museum of National Guard           | • Three Rivers Inc.                     |
| • NAMI Kansas Inc.                   | • Topeka Blues Society                  |
| • On Stage                           | • Washburn University                   |



# Concepts for Healthy Relationships

In beginning a discussion about healthy relationships, it seems appropriate to discuss it in historical terms. Before the arrival of European ideals, Native women were never considered inferior to men in most tribal communities. There was a mutual honor and respect amongst men and women; they were partners and had a balanced relationship with each other.

Historically, amongst many tribes, Native women played a vital role, not only within families, but also in the tribal community as a whole; performing roles that contributed to spiritual well-being, health, and survival of all tribal members. Tribal women were viewed as both caretakers and givers of life. They were responsible for the upbringing and primary socialization of the family’s children. Tribal men traditionally respected women for this sacred gift that was bestowed upon them.

Indigenous women, men, and their children have further suffered unrestrained victimization brought about by European colonization. The forced assimilation of new values, cultural principals, and social and economic changes introduced by the colonizers brought destruction to the balanced relationship of tribal men and women. The assimilation was further pushed by denying Native children the right to speak their Native language, to practice their religious beliefs, and to learn traditions that would have been passed down by their parents by forcing Native children to attend boarding schools. This forced Native people to suddenly adhere to European ways of life and had a drastic effect on Native attitudes towards women and their role within the family.

Healthy relationships are based on the following concepts:

- Respect-**
  - Accepting and validating the right for your partner to have their own opinions, thoughts, and choices
  - Using peaceful and non-threatening ways to get your needs and wants met
  - Talking and behaving in a way that makes others feel safe
- Integrity, Honesty and Accountability-**
  - Simply doing what you say you

- are going to do
  - Accepting responsibility for your own behavior and accepting responsibility for changing your behavior when necessary (Past, present, and future)
- Introspection-**
- Reflecting on our own emotions
  - Examining the impact of cruelty that you’ve experienced and its impact on others
- Negotiation and Fairness-**
- Seeking ways to resolve conflict that work for both you and your partner
  - Having a willingness to find ways to compromise
  - Considering your partner’s interests
  - Accepting requests for change
  - Standing up for our own wants/rights without violating the wants/rights of others
  - Communicating and setting healthy boundaries in an honest and non-threatening way
- Trust and Partnership-**
- Valuing our partner’s interests
  - Accepting both our own and our partner’s strengths and weaknesses
  - Supporting the dreams of our partner
  - Owning our own insecurities
  - Embracing independence
- Parenting with Respect-**
- Ensuring safety and security for our children
  - Ensuring that our interactions with our children are focused on the child’s needs and wants; not our own
  - Supporting our partner’s parenting
  - Separating children issues from our partner issues
  - Using respectful discipline
  - Sharing equally in nurturing our children
  - Being a positive, non-violent role model
  - Acceptance of child
- Sexual Respect-**
- Valuing both social and sexual intimacy in your relationship



- Treating people with equal respect regardless of sexual orientation or gender
  - Valuing the rights, thoughts, and feelings of others
  - Engaging in only consensual sexual activity
  - Informing partner of safety risks
  - Understanding the harmful impact of objectification
- Healthy Family Relationships-**
- Having a fair distribution of responsibilities
  - Sharing the making of decisions
  - Valuing your partner as your equal
  - Making money decisions together
  - Making family decisions together
  - Recognizing role conflicts for self and partner
  - Respectful problem solving with one another

This perspective on finding ways to have healthy relationships could go far in restoring some of what were once common traditional beliefs within many Indigenous communities, beliefs that may have somehow become lost and forgotten due to the colonization of Indigenous people. The balance between Native men and women, that was once important and essential within most tribal communities, can be brought back to life and revive that belief that women should be honored and respected, and hopefully revive this mindset in our children and our future, as well.

By: Kent Miller-TVS Program Manager

## Tribal Engagement Kicks Off Resilience Plan Development

In the next 2 to 3 years, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPB) intends to develop a comprehensive Tribal Resilience Plan. The plan will build the foundation for the Nation to Integrate natural and human systems to mutually strengthen these systems and capitalize on nature’s regenerative potential. Resilient communities that work with nature are better able to stand against nature in times of crisis and adapt to changing conditions; are more efficient, livable, prosperous, and sustainable during normal times and across generations.

Recent studies of the Reservation identified a trend of increasing temperatures and precipitation in the region that will result in more extreme storm events. These climate extremes will also magnify periods of wet or dry weather resulting in longer, more severe droughts and larger, more extensive storms.

The first and most crucial step is to engage the community and

specific stakeholders in all aspects of the development process. Project Manager Verna Potts is excited about the plan and the chance to engage the public. She said, “By engaging leaders in many facets within the tribal government, casino, and Prairie Band LLC, it is our objective to prepare the PBPB to plan, strategize, and become resilient in the face of natural or human hazards.”

Their input will be invaluable, guiding the vision, assessing threats and opportunities, and finally choosing strategies that will help manage future risks

while improving prosperity. Potts said, “It is our goal to educate and engage tribal leaders about their role in this planning effort, provide professional development on the latest trends in climate change adaptation policy and visualization tools critical for decision making.”

Planned engagement includes several community workshops during the spring of 2022, interviews with elders on the wisdom of Traditional Ecological Knowledge over the summer, and numerous meetings with the Tribal Council and staff.



The effort builds on a preliminary plan prepared by graduate and undergraduate students from the University of Kansas Edwards Campus (KUEC) in 2019 and 2020. The students had limited opportunity to educate and gather information from Tribal staff, but not from the broader Tribal community. The project will also build on several current and previous planning efforts, including a recently completed Land and Water Management Plan and planned updates to the Agriculture Resource Management Plan and Natural Resource Management Plan, among others.

The engagement work is funded through a FY2020 BIA Tribal Resilience Program Funding - Category 6: Capacity Building for Resiliency Scoping Efforts grant.

For more information contact Verna Potts, Senior Environmental Technician, Division of Planning & Environmental Protection (785-966-8031, or VernaPotts@pbpnation.org).



# Tribal Police Officers Now Certified to Enforce Federal Laws Across Jurisdictions

Indian Country Law Enforcement Coordination – BIA Special Law Enforcement Commission (SLEC). An SLEC allows Tribal officers to enforce federal criminal statutes and federal hunting and fishing regulations in Indian Country.

In an effort to make special commissions available to tribal, state, and local law enforcement, the BIA encourages cross-commissioning so that Federal, tribal, and state authorities can make arrests for each jurisdiction.

For instance, BIA offers qualified tribal and state law enforcement officers Federal Special Law Enforcement Commissions (SLEC) so they can enforce federal law. This closes loopholes and allows police to focus on investigating the crime instead of sorting out jurisdictional details, which can be done later with the assistance of legal counsel.

Supplemental training is provided by the BIA and, more recently, through the offices of the United States Attorneys to utilize both tribal and state law enforcement officers in Federal and tribal policing as authorized under the Law Enforcement Reform Act. The Office of the Solicitor and the United States Department of Justice offices determine extension of Federal Tort Claim coverage as authorized under the Reform Act.

With the passage of the TLOA, primary responsibility for delivery of CJIC training shifted to the Department of Justice. Over the last several



May 23, 2022, PBPN Chief Clark poses with officers after seven of them receive their Special Law Enforcement Certification. Left to right: Chief Terry Clark, Sergeant Tyrel Askren, Officer John Williams, Officer Darby-Zackery Comer, Officer Maverick Ohlde, Officer Jesse Cannon, Wildlife Sergeant Chris Swenson, Officer Erik Heape, Officer Jacob Schuetz, Sergeant Jordan Byers.

years, U.S. Attorney’s Offices across the country have begun to host regionally-based CJIC training in addition to the sessions hosted by BIA at its training academy.

While the SLEC is still issued by BIA, Section 213 of TLOA states that tribal liaison duties shall include providing technical assistance and training regarding evidence gathering techniques and strategies to address victim and witness protection and conducting training sessions and seminars to certify special law enforcement commissions to

tribal justice officials and other individuals and entities responsible for responding to Indian country crimes.

- Seven officers receiving their SLEC are:
- Sgt. Chris Swenson (Wildlife)
  - Ofc Jesse Cannon (Patrol)
  - Ofc Erik Heape (Patrol)
  - Ofc Darby Comer (Casino)
  - Ofc John Williams (Casino)
  - Ofc Jacob Schuetz (Tribal Court)
  - Ofc Maverick Ohlde (Patrol)

## Social Services - Here to Meet the Needs of the Community

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPN) Social Services is open and ready to meet the needs of our community.

PBPN Social Service’s vision is “Maintaining a healthy, safe community that respects and participates in traditional values.” Administrator Sara Rust-Martin came on board in February and leads the team of eight distinct, but related, programs to meet this vision.

Wellness Connections: Available to Tribal Youth ages 10-24 and their caregivers by providing culturally relevant services through both prevention and direct services.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR): Provides employment services to assist those affected by disability to achieve and reach goals of self-determination and self-sufficiency who are members of a federally recognized Indian tribe living in Jackson, Brown, Jefferson, Atchison, Doniphan, Douglas, Shawnee, Pottawatomie, or Nemaha counties in Kansas.

Tribal Victim Services (TVS): assists any person who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, teen dating violence, or other forms of abuse/violence. Contact Victims’ Services using the TVS Hotline at 866-966-0173.

Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TTANF): Provides help and assistance to families who



May, 12, 2022, PBPN Social Services staff pose for a photo during their department meeting. Back row (L to R): Terrance Feathers, Paul Eastman, Robin Santos, Terryn Evans, Jeanie Combs, Jamie Sova, Jaimie Leis, Kent Miller, Kelly Lewis, Stacy Schmelzle, Sara Rust-Martin, Sarah Cowan, Jamie Kile, and Amber Shobney. Front row (L to R): Tyra Wanatee, Jessica Wheeler, Kelly Hopkins, Audrey Holmes, Samantha Wahwassuck, and Thelma Simon.

meet income requirements and are struggling to make ends meet and who live in Jackson County, Kansas.

Adult Services Programs (ASP): Provides support to vulnerable adults who are or have the threat of becoming a victim of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation or to elders and others in the community who need extra support.

Three Rivers, Inc.: Provides empowerment to any individual affected by disabilities through education, advocacy, training, and support.

Children and Family Services (CFS): Supports children and families to promote healthy and safe homes.

Child Support Services (CSS):

establishes Child Support Orders, enforces orders on behalf of children and parents, and assists with modification of orders so families have the resources they need to provide for their children.

Social Services is a dedicated team of staff aimed at providing wellness and care to PBPN members. While some changes have occurred over the past few years, the vision of Social Services has not changed through staff turnover and the pandemic. Now, as the world is re-opening, Social Services is also open and available to assist anyone in the community through services, referrals or support. Through the re-opening of our office,

Ms. Rust-Martin anticipates an increase in visitor traffic as we are now available to clients for in-person meetings. When asked about the reopening of the office, Ms. Rust-Martin stated, “It’s difficult to assist the community when the community isn’t able to come to our office space where we are located every day. Now that we are open and accessible, we want to welcome anyone who needs or could benefit from our services to call, email, or come by.”

PBPN Social Services programs will also continue to coordinate events specific to our vision. Just this past month, Social Services hosted a “Take Back the Night” event and a ceremony to honor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). Later this month, we will host a Cultural Nature Walk through our Wellness Connections program. Community members are strongly encouraged to attend any of these events.

If you need us, please stop by. You can also reach Social Services by calling 785-966-8331, or toll-free 1-888-966-2932. You may visit our webpage at <https://www.pbpiniantribe.com/social-services/>, and stay up to date on our most recent news and activities by liking “PBPN Social Services” on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PBPNSocialServices>.

We look forward to continuing to partner with you in ensuring PBPN is a thriving community!



# A Nursing Life

Alumna finds no such thing as retirement when you have passion for your craft

**From The Ichabod - Winter 2022**  
**Reprinted with Permission**

By Annie Flachsbarth

Arlene Wahwasuck, bsn '76, always wanted to be a nurse. As the youngest of six children, she often felt left out and looked to her imagination to fulfill her nursing fantasies.

"I didn't have anyone to play with except mean brothers, and they wouldn't play 'girl' games with me," Wahwasuck said. "Luckily, my mother always had chickens, cats and dogs. I mixed up salt water as pretend medicine and put bandages on them like they were people. They were my first playmates and patients."

Eventually, Wahwasuck's nursing dreams became a reality, and she's spent the past 67 years nursing and educating fellow Native Americans – proving that if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life.

Wahwasuck graduated as a registered nurse from St. Margaret Hospital School of Nursing in Kansas City, Kansas, in 1954. Not only was she the school's first nursing student graduate, but she was also the first Native American graduate. She worked in several hospitals in northeast Kansas as a staff nurse for 15 years before starting her career as a clinic nurse with Indian Health Services in Holton, Kansas, in 1969.

While at IHS, she earned a degree from Washburn University in 1976 – becoming one of the University’s first bachelor of science in nursing graduates – and then took a role in public health nursing at Holton and Haskell IHS. Part of Wahwasuck’s responsibilities focused on cancer



**(Arlene Wahwasuck, bsn '76. Photo by Michael Snell)**

detection, including assisting with a mobile health center to provide breast and cervical cancer education to the Native American community.

“I talked to women about how to take care of themselves and how to do breast self examinations,” Wahwasuck said. “A lot of women were scared to get mammograms – so I would try to reassure and encourage them by explaining the procedure.”

She continued to grow and earned a master of science in nursing at the University of Kansas. She served as a nurse officer with the U.S. Public Health Service and went on to

serve as the area nurse consultant at the Nashville, Tennessee, IHS office, and then as the public health consultant and community health representative coordinator at the Sacramento, California, IHS office.

“As nurse officer, I advocated, educated and promoted health and wellness among Native Americans,” she said. “I loved helping educate people to be healthier and assisting nursing staff to deliver quality nursing care.”

Her many years of service earned her multiple awards for her outstanding contributions in raising the health of Native Americans. She

was honored as a Washburn Alumni Fellow in 2002.

Even after retiring, Wahwasuck's passion has kept her going. She's now the chair of the Social Services Advisory Board for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation – with the goal of helping develop a healthier community.

“We’re training people about problems like substance abuse and trauma,” Wahwasuck said. “I’m coordinating all of the groups within the tribe that have anything to do with health – and it’s an honor to be involved with helping my tribe be healthier.”

- ALL -  
**AMERICAN**  
**F-150**  
*giveaway*

**FINALE DRAWING:**  
Sunday, July 3

At 6PM, one guest will win a  
**FORD® F-150!**

**TRACY MORGAN**  
Thursday, **July 7**

**JUSTIN MOORE**  
Thursday, **July 21**

**ANN WILSON**  
**OF HEART**  
Thursday, **August 18**

**PRAIRIE BAND**  
CASINO & RESORT

## Preserving the Past



*March 29, 2022 - Roy Hale, PBPB Member, visits the remains of Blandin School where he attended primary school on the Reservation. Tribal Members are sharing their memories of the schools that were located on the Reservation and other memories they want to preserve. The Fire Keepers Elder Center is coordinating efforts to record interviews with those who would like to share. Contact the PBPB Media Department for details on how to participate. Email [leonardallen@pbpnation.org](mailto:leonardallen@pbpnation.org) or call 785-966-3920.*

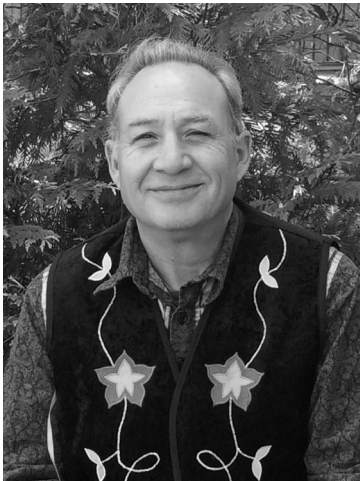


# Election 2022

**Editor’s Note: Candidates are grouped by the position they seek and they appear in the order in which they were received.**

## Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick

## Tribal Council Chair Candidate



My name is Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick, and I am asking for your support to continue as your representative as the Tribal Council Chairman. It has been an honor for me to serve as your Chairman and to represent the Nation during this time when we are experiencing an unprecedented emergency. My background and foundation have helped lead the Nation as I considered all possibilities, then petitioned Council to consider and act on the safest options for our community during each phase of the pandemic. This required constant evaluation and fluid leadership to help us navigate through a complex and everchanging environment. It could not have been done without compromise and teamwork. We must be willing to listen to each other and work together. By working together, we will continue to move forward and face any new threat that comes our way. We have witnessed many great accomplishments over the years and with your support, I feel we will continue

to achieve great things. All this could not have been done without the support of the People and I want to say Igwiën for giving me a chance.

I have always been told to do whatever you can for the betterment of the people and for the past four years, that is what I have been trying to achieve. As Chairman, I feel it is my responsibility to ask the hard questions when considering options that are presented to Council for consideration. These questions must take into account our constitution and laws by which our Nation operates and what impact that has for our overall community. Perhaps because of those questions, we have been able to meet the challenges presented to us and have allowed us to fight for the betterment of the people. Just when we think we are making progress, it appears many want to hold us down. We have witnessed repeated attempts by the federal government and its agencies to re-engineer the government-to-government relationship between tribes contrary to longstanding norms and federal case law. Now more than ever, we must remain vigilant and hold the government accountable and preserve our rights under federal law. During these last four years I have been a loud voice for the Nation at all levels of Government to advocate for our rights and to ensure the trust responsibility is maintained.

During my time in office, my years of experience working in different industries proved to be an asset to understand the impact we as Leaders have when making decisions to provide for our community and the people. I have been able to draw from my experiences to work with various

leaders on all levels, to improve the quality of life we have, and I am proud of the work I have done to date. However, there is still much more to do. As many know, I have been actively pursuing our claim in Illinois. I feel we are now closer than we have ever been to having this issue finalized. All the meetings to date with various leaders in Illinois have resulted in bipartisan support in the General Assembly supporting our claim. This work has resulted in the passage of two resolutions, one in the House and one in the Senate, encouraging the federal government to enact legislation to address the ownership of the reservation and to support S.3242 which is a bill filed in the U.S. Congress.

If this pandemic has shown us anything, it has made clear the need to diversify and look at other areas that can provide revenue even during down times. Two areas that I have advocated for are the start of the 150/75 highway interchange project and our new hemp facility. The 150/75 project was passed by General Council and has been sitting idly for far too long. We looked at the previous feasibility study and compared that to the study recently done to ensure that what will be built there enhances amenities offered at the casino and will not compete with them. I’m proud to say things are starting to move and I’m looking forward to the day when things are actually being built. I am also proud to support the work the LLC has done with the creation of our Prairie Band AG business and our hemp facilities. This is an industry that is just starting, and with support, I feel it can expand into other areas that will help provide for the Nation and its members.

These are just two of the areas we have made progress in and I am continuously looking at other industries to bring to the table.

Again, this pandemic has also shown us vulnerabilities in our infrastructure. While it is good to expand beyond our casino in other ventures, we still need systems to support them. With the recent passage of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act, there will be funding available to Tribes to enhance broadband and I have been pushing to get this started. We currently have a plan in place and as soon as funding is released, we will begin this project.

I take my job very seriously and I believe it is my responsibility to represent the members of this Nation as best as I can by thoroughly reading, researching, and asking questions, to ensure I understand the issues at hand. My experience and my education have provided me with the ability to be a successful Tribal Council Chairman, but really, it is my devotion to our future, the future of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, that has driven me to be an effective member of our Tribal Council. I look forward to another opportunity where I can bring my ideas and knowledge to our Council which will contribute to our continued successes and future endeavors. I want to thank you in advance for your support. It would be an honor for me to serve this Nation as the Tribal Council Chairman. Thank you for your consideration.

Mijwetch  
Joseph P. Rupnick

## Peggy Nioce Houston

## Tribal Council Chair Candidate



Peggy Nioce Houston “Comma kwe” BOSHŌ! I was blessed with my traditional Potawatomi name of Comma kwe with the meaning of it being first born girl or leading lady, given by my Grandfather Sauk Nioce. I am the first-born girl of his only son, Edgar Lee Nioce. I was the last child born to the late Edgar Lee and Patricia Kahbeah Nioce. I am the proud mother of two children and grandmother of three grandchildren. My children are enrolled members of Prairie Band Potawatomi.

My commitments in serving the Nation are:

1. Move enrollment forward.
2. Evaluate Tribal policies for fairness in implementation.
3. Develop a Tribal Government internship program.

4. Provide additional Mental Health and Behavioral Health Services.
5. Increase and Improve resources for our Elders.

### MOVE ENROLLMENT FORWARD

Children are the sacred flame of our hearts; children are a daily motivation; and children are our future. We must work for our next generation. We know our Membership is decreasing. Many of us participated in community conversations and completed a survey. It has not progressed in eight years, and we are shortchanging our children of the Membership

benefits to which they are entitled. Let’s finalize this process of approval and enroll our next generation with an updated plan that meets the needs of our Membership. Let’s work to improve benefits to All Members.

### EVALUATE TRIBAL POLICIES FOR FAIRNESS IN IMPLEMENTATION

Let’s improve policies and implement revisions for effective delivery of services to Tribal Members. Let’s listen before we act; and do so fairly. Let’s stop paying for unnecessary investigations and decrease our law expense.

### DEVELOP A TRIBAL GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

We have Talented, Educated Tribal Members, let’s utilize our resources, providing employment. We have internships in our enterprises; however, we have little formal internship development within

the Government. Let’s recruit and identify members to intern for the Government for succession planning. We have opportunity for improvement; let’s offer this and accept their knowledge at the table to grow our Nation.

### PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Our Victim Services programs have done a respectable job of helping our people stand up and acknowledge their trauma and pain. We have only begun to initiate our wellness journey. Let’s keep families together for healing through avenues that are aligned with our Culture. There is no shame in what our people have suffered from generation to generation.

Let’s forgive and improve, Family to Family.

### INCREASE AND IMPROVE RESOURCES FOR OUR ELDERS

Our ELDERS are the foundation of our Culture. They have provided our basic needs throughout our life and more importantly they are our teachers of Our Language, Our Mentors, Our Strength in guiding us with Potawatomi values from generation to generation. There are no books that can teach us what they have lived, what was passed to them through previous generations in our ever-changing society. We still have much to develop in caring for them through their final

days. Let’s work to develop an Assisted Living Program; Hospice, Respite Care and Nursing Home Care so they may stay on our homeland.

### PROFESIONAL LEADERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

I completed my Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Anthropology with a minor in Rehabilitation Counseling in 1980 from Emporia State University and my Master of Science in Management as a non-traditional student in 2005 from Friends University. I have over 20 years of executive level experience working in Indian country; with eight years working in Tribal Government, five years serving on the PBP LLC Board of Directors. I have served in a leadership role during our

Nation’s most critical times that includes: the opening of Harrah’s Prairie Band Casino, the successful transition to selfmanaged Prairie Band Casino, the re-opening of the Tribal Government post pandemic shut down and more recently the initial trial implementation of the Prairie Band Hemp Project, evaluating the regulations developed. I am committed to serving the Membership with Pride and Integrity, to run a Fair and Honest Government with Open Communication.

Vote PEGGY HOUSTON! A vote for the people! IGWIEN!



# Election 2022

## Blake Garrison

## Tribal Council Chair Candidate



Dear Prairie Band Potawatomi Members,  
Please allow me to take a few moments of your time to introduce myself. My name is Blake Garrison, and I am running for

Chairman of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. I have been married to my wife Audria Garrison for 25 years, we have five children and 9 grandchildren.

I have been a resident of our community for 25 years. During this time I have been committed to employment with the Nation, 19 years in the Casino Operation and the past 3 years as a Government employee of the Nation. My dedication to the Nation has been proven as I have had a devoted working relationship on behalf of the Nation. In addition, I served as an Ethics Commissioner for a short term in 2016. I have long worked for the Nation and now feel that the time has come for me to seek elected office. I want to bring fresh ideas and positive solutions to the Tribal Council table by running for Chairman.

- An important issues:
- First and foremost our Tribal Membership/Enrollment
  - Public Health issues Cancer/Diabetes/Drugs & Alcohol/Suicide/Mental Health
  - Discrimination/racism/trauma
  - Protecting Tribal Sovereignty
- We need to find ways to:
- Keep the doors open to have continued discussions
  - Develop a plan to address the many issues we are facing on our Reservation and Nationally
  - Develop ways for protecting, preventing and preserving our Membership
- To succeed in this effort:
- Dedication towards bringing positive change
  - Strong belief to providing clear

transparency in governance to our Membership

- Committed to open avenues of Communication
- Proven integrity, Leadership and work ethic

I am committed to the growth and vitality of this Nation and our communities.

Integrity, competence and diligence are qualities that I do possess. I believe in quality and commitment! I guarantee to you that I will serve to meet the best interests of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

I am respectfully asking for your vote in this upcoming election, thank you in advance.

Blake Garrison

## Coleen Thomas

## Tribal Council Secretary Candidate



COLEEN THOMAS My goal is simple, EMPOWER our People and Leaders to be the best that we can be – evidenced in results made by transparent game-changing decisions.

MASTERS OF SCIENCE  
IN MANAGEMENT  
Baker University 2006

BACHELORS OF BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION

Washburn University 2004

My drive is directed at working with and for others. I have a strong intuitive understanding of and am responsive to others' needs and concerns. I find great fulfillment in accomplishing tasks and ensuring opportunities for others, for the Teams that I work with, for my Community, and for our Nation. My commitment to servant leadership can be demonstrated through my participation throughout the past 20+ years on numerous PBPB committees and initiatives including Enrollment, Language, Planning Commission, Environmental organization, Youth organizations, and the Pow-wow/Gathering Committees.

Professionally, I have worked with the Prairie Band Casino & Resort for 12+ years in a leadership role. My current role as the Purchasing Manager requires top-notch negotiation skills, establishing policies and ensuring compliance with federal/state/tribal regulations, and high attention to detail to ensure records and reports are accurate. My current position, my

- volunteer roles, and previous employment have provided me with the following core competencies that I will bring to the table:
- Tribal Human Resources Professional Certification
  - Mentoring & Development
  - HR Foundational Knowledge & Experience
  - Grant Writing & Management
  - Complex Project Management
  - Inventory Management
  - Multi-level Professional Communication
  - Office Integrity & Responsiveness with utilization
  - Accounting Principals of Technology to Communicate in a timely manner
- Leadership Goals
- Enrollment, Economic Development, Sovereignty, and Cultural Preservation remain atop of the Nation's priorities and requires constant discussion and action to ensure the future of our Nation-while navigating other developing issues.
- I will remain actively engaged through reading, research and transparent

discussion as a constructive and productive member of Tribal Council.

Goals specific to the Office of the Secretary include:

- Providing Articulate&Accurate Minutes
- Electronic Records Organization
- Tribal Member Request(s) Process
- Office Integrity & Responsiveness with utilization of Technology to Communicate in a timely manner

There are many great Leaders within our Nation: some who have taken the initiative to sit at the table and provide insight and direction; and those who provide equally valuable leadership from the sidelines.

Both are vital and offer significant and indispensable lessons.

I am grateful to serve in the best way I can contribute.

Igwien.

"Ktam 'mē 'ton ote gete nishnabe kenomagewen"

## Lorrie Melchior

## Tribal Council Secretary Candidate



Lorrie Melchior, "Qua-Shee" (Wahwassuck)  
Bozho,

My interests as elected Tribal Council Secretary are positivity, organization, accountability, and communication. Expressing interests in positive and healthy ways create consistency and accountability for our Nation. Communication is key, especially with our Tribal Members. The importance of our health, enrollment, and

education of Tribal Members is essential for posterity. Continuing governance, structure, and moving forward with solutions that benefit all.

Familiar with Nation's organizational operations of our government and business processes. Practicing the duties of our Nation's Constitution, policies, and procedures have been a broad experience. Roles as appointed Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Enrollment Review Committee, Chair and Employee Disputes Tribunal, Chair enlightened me to understanding our governmental operations and Judicial Council. Consistency, commitment, and understanding are important for future generations to come. With that, it helps to keep the flow of our government, businesses, and operations positive and open to innovative ideas

• 19 year's work experience with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, I have become familiar with our Nation's organizational operations of our government, business, departments, as well as understanding the duties of the Tribal Council Secretary elected position. Presently my duties as

the Legislative Assistant of our PBPB Tribal Council Secretary benefits the practice of the elected position. Knowledge of our Nation's Constitution, policies, and procedures have been a rewarding experience while appointed to our Nation's Enrollment Review Committee, Chair and Employee Disputes Tribunal, Chair. Worked 2 years at Prairie Band Casino in Customer Service as a Players Card Representative.

• Growing up and living in the community of our Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation, raised under Drum Religion, I was taught by my parents and relatives to respect many religious practices. I am married, have the support of my husband, Jonathan, of four children and four grandchildren. Joined the Army National Guard as a Heavy Equipment repair person 62B. Volunteered 19 years as a member of our We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410 having dedicated veterans' status, served as a Vice Commander and Commander of our Legion & later joined our American Legion Auxiliary Unit 410.

• As a parent, volunteering for our Prairie Band Potawatomi Head Start and Early

Head Start Policy Council and the Title VI Indian Education Committee, which are especially important involving our children's education, well-being, while participating in various School District functions.

• Graduate with my Master of Business Administration Degree, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Degree, and Management of Applied Science Degree from Bryan University. Utilizing my degrees previously as Director of our We-Ta-Se Department and presently with our Nation's committees I serve providing experience. Along with my education and secretarial background, I've excelled in our Administrative Department possessing excellent computer skills with all program software which come with the Tribal Council Secretary role.

I humbly ask for your vote, support, and look forward to the opportunity to serve you as Tribal Council Secretary.

Igwien,  
Lorrie Melchior



# Meet The Candidates

## Paul Vega

## Tribal Council Secretary Candidate



### COMMITMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

My name is Paul Vega (No-ten), son of Ralph Vega and Phyllis Nozhackum Vega. Member of the Thunder Clan and I obtained a Master of Business Administration from Baker University.

I am writing this letter of interest to let you know that I am seeking the position as Tribal Council Secretary and I believe that the position on Tribal Council is an important position within our government structure because it is through the responsibility of the management the Nation's Documents and communicating all issues with the Tribe. I understand and respect the responsibilities that come with the position on Tribal Council and will uphold these responsibilities with integrity and pride. I have a varied background that I believe provides me with the skills, education and experience to successfully hold the position. I served over three years in the United States Army Airborne Infantry and received an honorable discharge at the end of my service to our country. Through the assistance of the Nation's Education Program, I have obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Washburn University and I have a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Baker University. In addition to my service to our country and my education, I have had the

honor of working for both our Casino and our Tribal Government. While at the Casino, I worked as a Table Games Supervisor and was promoted to Table Games Manager. I worked for the Tribal Government in Member Services, but I have also worked for the Road and Bridge Program and as an Accountant in the Finance Department.

This background and work history provides me with first-hand knowledge of Casino Operations as well as Government Operations, both of which I believe are beneficial to the success because our casino revenues directly fund the major portion of our Tribal programs. Understanding how these two are connected and interdependent is important in understanding the roles, responsibilities and functions of the position on Tribal Council. My background as a Finance Accountant allows me to come into the position of Tribal Council already knowing the financial structure of the Nation. I have direct, hands-on experience working with the actual budgets of the Nation. I believe that we have done a good job of

managing the Nation's finance and at the same time, I also believe that that there is always room for improvement. I have heard concerns of the membership regarding the Minor's Trust Fund, the Nation's investments, and Economic Development progress. I believe that there are ways to improve these areas and am willing to listen to the membership and the current staff to find solutions to the concerns that continue to resurface regarding these issues. I know that there are solutions and I believe that through a coordinated effort we can find those solutions. If I am selected to the position of Tribal Council Secretary, I promise to always work for what I believe is in the best interests of the Nation and all its members and to listen to those members when they have concerns or suggestions. We are all Prairie Band Potawatomi and I believe that by working together, there is nothing we cannot achieve. Please feel free to contact me via email at pvega2896@yahoo.com if you have any questions and thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
Paul Vega

## Charissa Wahwasuck-Jessepe

## Tribal Council Secretary Candidate



"Caring for people in a good way. Listening with a kind heart. Leading with a strong spirit."

Bozho PBPB Members, my name is Charissa Wahwasuck-Jessepe and I'm asking for your consideration for the position of Tribal Council Secretary in the upcoming Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation 2022 Election. I am the granddaughter of Arlene Wahwasuck (Shipshee) and the late Francis "Big Man" Wahwasuck. My maternal grandfather was the late Thurman "Dutch" Shopteese. My paternal grandparents were the late Sarah (Pemma) Jessepe and Francis "Bud" Jessepe. My roots are strong with our Potawatomi heritage. My given name is Zii-Bii-Kwe. I'm the first-born daughter of Carol Shopteese and Kenneth "Shon" Jessepe. My color is Blue and I'm Fish Clan. As a Tribal member, I feel a deep responsibility to use my experience, knowledge, and network to help our people, and to advance and strengthen our Nation. As your next Tribal Council Secretary my hope is to ensure that the future we're creating for our ancestors is one where they are cared for and thriving.

### A Rez Kid

Growing up on the Kickapoo Reservation, I've been fortunate to learn and live by many of our Traditional lifeways from drum doings to Native American Church, and still actively participate in Kennekuk church services. I'm proud of the fact that I grew up a Rez Kid. My story, my being, my Spirit, all comes from that place – Home. We all know that being Indigenous is hard, but what I hope to contribute to our Nation is to find ways to help amplify, resonate, and grow the parts of being Indigenous that are beauty – our resilience, our strength, our grace, our collective power.

### Mission and Vision

With my background in Cultural Anthropology, I'm experienced and knowledgeable in using cultural values and Traditional knowledge as an asset and foundation for how I approach my work. In my master's program in Public Administration at

the University of Kansas, I was able to gain tools to ensure the work I'm doing is effective, efficient, and equitable. This combined background allows me to create and inform systems and policies that are grounded in cultural values while also evaluating whether those systems are working. My passion has been and will continue to be - to build pathways that are created by our People, for our People – caring for people in a good way. Far too long have outsiders told us that they 'know best' and come in with impractical and bad ideas. Far too long has Western society silenced us, told us to get back in our place, and forced us to do it their way. As Tribal Council Secretary, I would seek to elevate the solutions and tools we already have to help each other – I would seek to be a resource, a tool, to help envision and create a future where we put community, Traditional values, and ancestral wisdom first! I believe our Nation can be a model for how Indigenous People can thrive using our own lifeways, knowledge, and values as a guide – and I have the experience to help us achieve just that!

### Walking the Walk

With over ten years' experience across private, public, and not-for-profit sectors I'm confident I can help us achieve our goals. Most recently, as the Co-Director of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, I successfully managed a coalition of five southwestern Tribes to petition the Biden Administration to designate the 1.36 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument, set a precedence for Tribal sovereignty as the first Tribal led effort to achieve equal decision-making powers over off-reservation lands, and led the organization through several trying circumstances including the COVID-19 pandemic, a hostile political environment, and executive and staff turnover.

Leading with a strong spirit enabled me to directly oversee and manage 15 program budgets including a 2-million annual organizational budget. My responsibilities and accomplishments are as follows:

Manage 20 internal processes including: (1) quality and assurance control, (2) communications with elected Tribal leaders, Foundation staff, congressional and advocacy allies, and collaborating partners, (3) facilitation of decision-making including budget, strategic planning, and programming.

Oversee 50 external processes: (1) public relations including a national ad campaign and monument restoration activities, (2) fundraising with a personal portfolio of over \$500,000 in committed annual funding, (3) 20+ partner relationships including Native American Rights Fund, Udall Institute, Americans for Indian Opportunity, and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and (4) political and advocacy

portfolios in the areas of: Tribal governance and self-determination, conservation and environment, cultural and natural resource management, and intergovernmental relations.

Lastly, I built and managed programming in: (1) youth and peer mentoring, (2) community engagement and education, (3) marketing and merchandise, (4) budget preparation and approval, (5) information technology, (6) development and strategic planning, (7) human resource management, and (8) contracting and procurement services.

My experience in start-up development in the private sector has made me into a well-rounded operations and management professional, as I assisted in the ramp-up and opening of a first-of-its-kind 17-acre health and wellness campus in Liberty, Missouri. While there, I supported the creation and implementation of organizational policies and procedures and co-led community acquisitions and compliance control for other Action Pact properties. This experience built upon my skills as an already fast-learner, but also made me adept at looking at issues from the larger picture and connecting the dots so that on-the-ground activities are aligned to meet the larger vision. This ability has fostered a strong sense of strategic planning and visioning as a key tenet to my leadership style; always ensuring that what we're doing today benefits those tomorrow.

Lastly, I wouldn't have come as far as I have today without listening with a kind heart. Another key tenet of my leadership is extending and reciprocating what's given to me. Mentoring is a large part of my leadership and I wholeheartedly believe in reaching back and helping our younger Relatives succeed. Our Traditional teachings tell us to not have an ego about ourselves and that, 'what we do is never for us, it's always for seven generations ahead.' I could not be where I am today if others had not extended their hand and walked with me to learn, grow, and heal. I carry that value with me and would look to instill this is my time serving the Nation. Our Nation is only as strong as our young ones – let's help them thrive!

If elected, I would humbly serve you and our Nation, leading with authenticity, transparency, and dedication, always ensuring that my decisions and actions are in the best interest of our Nation. My term would not be filled with checking boxes, empty 'yeses,' or ivory tower politics where I'm inaccessible or can't be reached.

-Authentic- My term would not be a popularity contest. I recognize that change does not come easy, and from that I have come to thrive in a place of discomfort. I'm adept at navigating complex situations and am keen at facilitating complicated spaces with diplomacy and grace.

I'm not afraid to have hard conversations, be the naysayer, or to critique an idea until I'm sure it's the right choice. Conversely, I know when it's advantageous to listen and take a back seat to evaluate the issue objectively. My promise is to have an open-door policy, welcome spaces of dialogue and differing opinion, and evaluate the issues and decisions placed in front of me from an impartial perspective, a place that benefits the Nation and not myself as an individual person. Lastly, I'm not afraid to admit when I've made a mistake and view them as an opportunity to learn and grow. When I mess up, I won't make an attempt to cover it up or hide it, I will be honest and remain committed to fixing or bettering my mishap until the issue is resolved.

-Transparency- I hope to bring more transparency to our governing body by increasing access to information such as showing how we vote as individual Tribal Council Members and ensuring the Minutes accurately reflect discussion of issues. I would evaluate the effectiveness of our communications to our Tribal members and ensure that you have better access to how decisions are made. I would make community engagement and education a priority and meet with people to listen to challenges, suggestions, and ideas. I would host information sessions regarding specific issue areas and would implement a regular meeting time so that Tribal members have better access to myself and could get answers and solutions – think 'Coffee with Charissa' and/or 'Third Thursdays' where we can come together over lunch and discuss what's on your mind.

-Dedicated- My collective work experience demonstrates my qualities of dependability, dedication, organization, critical thinking, and creativity as evidenced by my leadership roles. If I tell you I'll do something, I'll do it and if I can't we'll brainstorm ideas on how to move forward. I'm hardworking and often go above and beyond what is expected of me. I've become a dynamic worker that excels in different environments, from manual labor working on a fence for conservation to representing my organizations at venues such as NCAI and the U.S. Congress; I'm comfortable getting my hands dirty and wearing a blazer when the times call for it. When I agree to take something on, I stick with it from start to finish.

My hopes are that my term leaves my people better off, and with the knowledge and satisfaction that I did everything in my power to serve my people to the best of my ability – I hope I can count on your vote to hold me to it!

Let's connect, have coffee, or catch up over Potawatomi stew: charissa.jessepe@gmail.com. Miigwech! Zii-Bii-Kwe (Charissa Wahwasuck-Jessepe, MPA).



# Election 2022

## William “Bill” Evans

## Tribal Council Person #1 Candidate



To the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, I would like to introduce myself, and provide you a little bit about my background. My name is William “Bill” Evans, and my Nish-Nah-Bah name is Beh-Meh-Skeh, which means Everlasting Light. I belong to the Thunder Clan. I am married; my wife’s name is Ashley, and we have five children together. My parents are Mando Evans and Anita (Pahmahmie) Evans, and my great-grandmother was the late Minnie Evans. Minnie Evans was a strong advocate of the Prairie Band Potawatomi people, who fought courageously to prevent the Termination of our Tribe. The passion and dedication she felt for her people are the same feelings I carry. I hope that I can be the same type of leader that she was by bringing unity to our people. It has always been a goal of mine to contribute to the success of our Tribe. Over the years I have had the honor of listening and watching various leaders of the community. Those leaders have instilled traditional values and respect into our community, a significant foundation that our people can grow from.

An issue that has been brought to light

during the pandemic is the need to diversify our revenue streams. The main source of income for the Nation is the revenue generated from our Gaming Enterprise. The Gaming Enterprise has been successful over the years and has helped progress the tribe to be in a positive position. I believe it would be in the best interest of the Nation to work towards diversification. I have been a strong advocate of the Nation exploring the different options within the Hemp industry. I also believe there is an opportunity for the Nation to enter in to the Cannabis Industry. Illinois is a Recreational Cannabis State and Cannabis Legislation has been introduced in Kansas. The profits from the Cannabis Industry are similar to that of Gaming and would provide diversification.

During my term I have taken the lead on incorporating renewable energy within the Nation. The Nation has a Strategic Energy Plan in place which creates a foundation when applying for grant funding. The dream of a renewable energy project began to grow bigger, we went from working on a small scale energy project that would supplement a few buildings to looking into creating a Tribal Utility. The Nation would benefit from establishing a Tribal Utility, where we would be able to purchase energy at a whole sale cost and potentially collect a tax to support the program. There is a substantial amount of funding being set aside from the Federal Government for Tribes specifically for energy projects. As this type of funding does not happen very often, I believe it would be in the Nations’ best interest to take full advantage of this opportunity.

The Enhanced Tribal I.D. is another project that I have been working on over the past couple of years. The pandemic has really delayed the process, The Nation has officially completed the necessary steps

in order to bring this program live. The Enhanced Tribal I.D. has helped strengthen the sovereignty of the Nation, with the Enhanced Tribal I.D., members are able to use the I.D. to cross the borders of Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean by land or sea. Members are also able to fly within the United States by using the Enhanced Tribal I.D. as their form of identification.

I started my higher education at Haskell Indian Nations University, then I went on to complete my Bachelor of Business Administration program at Friends University. I was offered an internship at Prairie Band Casino and Resort; I worked under various managers spending time in each department of the Casino. The internship was a valuable experience; I have a better understanding of the Tribes primary funding resource and what it takes to run a successful Company. I continued my career at

Prairie Band Casino and Resort, I become a Supervisor in the Cashier’s Cage, creating a positive experience in refining my work ethic, accountability, and time management skills. I worked my way up, and accepted a promotion to become a Shift Manager in the Security Department. I was faced with adversity on a daily basis, and was required to make difficult decisions that impacted our daily business.

I moved on from a promising career in the gaming industry to work for our Nation. I worked as the Part C Coordinator at the Ben-no-tteh Wigwam Early Childhood Education Center. My role as the center was to coordinate the necessary services to support infants and toddler with special needs. I was also the Farm and Ranch Manager of the Lands Department where I was able to work with our Buffalo Program as well as the Farming program. The Nation

owns a significant amount of acres, working at the Lands Department has helped gain a better understanding of how to better utilize the land within the reservation.

Working with both entities of the Tribe, I understand the importance of our Tribal Businesses and how they affect our people. The hard work and dedication of our Tribal Businesses pave the way for our services and programs of the Tribal Government. As Potawatomi people, we value our culture and family, which has no monetary value; existing programs and benefits provide that same value. The preservation of our culture and language is what makes us strong and unique. We should be working together to make sure our way of life carries on. We need to invest more time and care for our children, who will one day lead us. We need to guide them and teach them to be responsible adults, which is vital to our future. We need to care for our elders, who cared for us and continue to guide us, to make sure they don’t have to go without basic needs. We need to support and honor our Veterans, who made a sacrifice to have the life we have today. We should not lose sight of what we truly hold of value as Potawatomi people.

As a devoted Tribal Member, it would be an honor to serve you on Tribal Council. I respectfully ask for your vote to represent the Prairie Band Potawatomi People. Together, as people, we can make positive change! Together, we can do it! Please consider re-electing me, William “Bill” Evans, for Tribal Council Person #1.

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at:

William\_Evans\_55@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your time and support.

## Anna M. Wahwassuck Boswell

## Tribal Council Council Person #1 Candidate



My name is Anna “Man-Pwah” (Wahwassuck) Boswell and I am running for the position of Tribal Council Person #1. I would like to ask for your support as well as your vote in the upcoming Tribal Council election. I am the daughter of Merriell “Meatball” & the late Belva (Coochise) Wahwassuck, and the granddaughter of Jacob & Beulah (Naha) Coochise and Jon Paul & Josette (Nahgonbe) Wahwassuck. I have 5 children and am happily married to Michael Boswell, for over 28 years.

I was born in Holton, Kansas but, spent most of my childhood in Arizona where I graduated from Buckeye Union High School, in Buckeye Arizona and returned back to Mayetta in 1996.

My employment background is very diverse and each area has given me the tools and experience to be successful in my career. My employment history, while not inclusive, includes working at Palo Verde

Nuclear Generating Station (document specialist), Freemont Compensation (managing workers compensation), Prairie Band Potawatomi Gaming Commission (Compliance Officer), Prairie Band Casino and Resort (previously Harrah’s Prairie Band Casino for 13 years) which include Hr. Training Assistant, Database Analyst. I then moved on as the Assistant General Manager – Member Services for the Nation’s government for 9 years and currently at Prairie Band Casino & Resort as a Human Resources Generalist. Throughout each of these areas with emphasis on the Database Analyst and Assistant General Manager, financial accounting is one of the major areas of concern and importance. However, this does not negate the importance of the Human Resources aspect of being Fair and Consistent. Each of these positions have required a high degree of confidentiality, professionalism, knowledge of rules, regulations and attention to detail. This has also allowed me to be a team player, where I not only have input but I can also pull up my sleeves alongside my coworkers, friends and family to get things accomplished. As previously mentioned, my employment for the Nation as the Assistant General Manager – Member Services is where I oversaw eight (8) departments and also served as Interim General Manager on a number of occasions. I feel this internal and diverse experience working hands on with regulatory requirements, casino processes, HR, General operating policies and governmental operations is what makes me an ideal candidate for the position of Tribal

Council Member #1.

As for my education, I started later than most in working towards a degree. Currently I have my Associates of Arts in Business and am just shy of my Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Baker University which has been on a hiatus as my priority has been my children. I truly believe that education is of utmost importance and have searched out many avenues to broaden my knowledge in all aspects of my career. Some of the certificates I have received throughout my career are the NAHASDA & Low Income Housing Tax credits Certification, the Tribal Human Resources Certification (THRP) as well as SQL (Structured Query Language) Certification. However, I also believe that education does not solely mean formal education through College. I want our youth to be proud of whichever path they choose. Whether it be technical training, informal training such as on the job training or the Services. Everyone has something to bring to the table and we should encourage them every step of the way.

Outside of work, I have been involved within the community and those involvements have been serving on various committees including Head Start Policy Council (3 years) and currently serving on the Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors (12 years) and the PBPN Pow Wow Committee (15 years). I was also a proud member of the Women’s Auxiliary for 3 years. While each of these activities requires an immense amount of time and commitment, I am committed to doing my

part not only within my family but within our community as well.

I feel that a time for change is past due, and I am prepared to be an active part of that change. There continues to be many opportunities for our entire Council to step up and be that voice for all or put their skills to work in helping the entire Nation reach our goals. I also feel that those on council should not use their positions as a way to influence or demand their own personal vendettas or agendas to be enacted upon. Transparency has always been a thorn in the proverbial side of the membership. This along with integrity is not something that I take lightly. The role of the council is to act within the best interest of the Nation and that is something that I follow with every decision that I make or have made. I have never been one to shy away from hard work or offering to help in any situation. I have always said that I will not make any promises that I cannot keep. However, I will continue to work hard every step of the way and expect the same of my counterparts. I also know there are times when everyone will not be happy with choices or decisions that are made and would be open to discussing the decision making. But, that should not define or change the course of action with any decision making if, those decisions are made in the right way. However, I will always look at what is best and what is right for our Members and Nation as a whole.

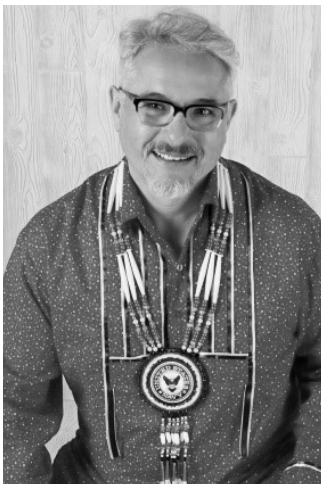
Igwen for consideration and your vote.



# Meet The Candidates

**Rey Kitchkumme**

**Gaming Commissioner #3 Candidate**



Remaining Objective and Guided by Principles

I am grateful to be a candidate in the 2022 Gaming Commission Election. Come July I'll

have represented our tribe for 24-years. It's been quite the experience packed with ups and downs, negotiations, acceptance, letting go and always moving forward. As no one elected official is an island unto themselves. A healthy elected official right or wrong must remain part of a team, the elected body. Each one of us have been put in these positions by the people and never to fulfil our own agenda.

Every day I know my constituents expect me to abide by and explain the laws and policy which are approved by either General Council or internal policies approved by the elected body. Explaining the approved rules to a person or a group is easy but occasionally difficult with individuals who may expect that is outside the scope policies. Clearly, rules/policies can change but must be done for the good of all members. One of my beliefs has always been stay out of the "gray areas"

and follow policies and procedures. If a precedence has been set by the elected body, then we must provide equally to all members. When I refrain from entering a gray area, I have nothing to worry about and can freely continue with elected duties. I've witnessed individuals play politics, it was pointed it out to them, then these abhorrent times they created eventually caught up with them and their time as an elected officials ineffective or shortened

Team player. This has always been the best part of my elected duties. I am always interested in hearing how my counterparts view things; it tells me where they are at on that "Learning Curve" in which each of us go through if we are lucky to continue our work for the nation. It also tells me where I am and to adjust my thinking and remain open to change. One of the greatest gifts I've been

giving as an elected official is to work with the people (employees and members) who surround me. They are our busy bees keeping our operation running. Each deserving daily respect for what they do for the nation. Our jobs could never be fulfilled without them!

Well, this platform is different from all my previous ones because I have grown with years of experience and have become humbled in age. I thank you for leading me in this direction and giving me the opportunity to represent our nation.

I thank you for your confidence in me and grateful for your vote in the 2022 Gaming Commission Election.

Respectfully,  
Rey Kitchkumme  
PBPTGC Chairman

**Liana Onnen**

**Ethics Chairperson Candidate**



Bozho. My name is Liana Onnen, and

I am running to fill the remaining term of the Chairperson seat for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Ethics Commission.

I have decided to run for this seat because it is important that the ethics complaints and questions that arise regarding our Tribal Council and other elected/appointed officials need to be addressed and should be addressed in a timely manner.

The timeline for processing Ethics concerns has taken too long for many years. Most of this has been due to a lack of a full Ethics Commission that can act and report. With the vacancies and resignations, many issues are not addressed in a timely manner and a result is that members are not informed of these concerns or activities, sometimes for years,

due to the inability of the Ethics Commission to act due to a lack of members.

I have 20 years of experience in Indian Country, 18 of those years working directly with and for the Nation. I am currently serving as the Housing Department Director and am entering my third year in that role. As many of you know, I have also served on the Tribal Council and as General Manager of Tribal Operations.

It is my hope that my experience within our Tribal Government for 18 years will help to continue to grow the Ethics Commission and improve upon what others have already worked to build.

Accountability is more important than ever, and ethical concerns can be complicated and

without clear cut answers. With a dedicated, full Ethics Committee, I believe we can only improve upon what has been built by those who have come before us and find answers and provide fair and equitable guidance on issues not only to our people, but also to our Tribal Council.

The Ethics Committee is another voice for our people to express their concerns and I believe valid concerns should be reviewed and addressed not so that we can punish or "catch" our officials, but so we can help one another to grow and become better.

I appreciate your consideration and would appreciate your vote for Ethics Chairperson.

Igwien.

**Shawna Wabaunsee**  
**Ethics Commissioner #2**



No bio submitted.

**Allison Pahmahmie**  
**Ethics Commissioner #3**



No bio submitted.

## Prairie Band Casino & Resort Board of Directors Report

Bozho, business performance at Prairie Band Casino Resort (PBCR) has been very successful so far into 2022. Despite the challenges in the national economy and geo-political turmoil, we've been able to exceed our current budgeted expectations. The expansion construction continues and we are hoping to announce a formal grand opening very soon. We are looking forward to adding the new 74 hotel rooms with 10 suites, additional parking, indoor and outdoor pool, a spa with amenities such as salon, hot & cold spas and masseuses. In addition, the TopGolf swing suites, arcade and additional party rooms will further enhance our property. Once this project is fully completed we will continue to grow our customer markets and keep us as the premier gaming destination in the Midwest.

Another project that the Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation Board of Directors and PBCR has been closely monitoring and preparing for is the legalization of sports betting in Kansas. Recently the Kansas Legislature passed a Senate Bill 84, legalizing sports betting and Governor Kelly signed it into law on May 12, 2022. The Board of Directors has been working with Tribal Council, Gaming Commission and Legal Counsel to review the process and steps that we would need to undertake in order to offer this new gaming amenity at PBCR. While nothing is finalized at this time we wanted to make sure that membership is aware that we are aggressively working on this new opportunity.

In closing, while we have worked through challenges over the past few years one key component of that success is the team at PBCR. The board is very proud of every team member in every department at PBCR and our successes could not be done without them. We are seeing financial numbers that we haven't seen for quite some time and we believe the best is yet to come at PBCR. Miigwetch'

Frank Tecumseh  
PBP Entertainment Corporation  
Board of Directors





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



Quentin Cantrell

Quentin Cantrell, 50, of Topeka passed away at his home on Monday evening, May 9, 2022. He was born July 30, 1971 in Topeka the son of Cleo S. and Helen Jury Cantrell.

He enjoyed collecting antiques, family barbecues, taking care of his family, summertime, keeping his yard up, Indian Tacos and music. Some of his favorite songs were “Kentucky Rain” and “Seven Spanish Angels”. He enjoyed joking around and being the life of the party. He was a member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation.

Survivors include his wife, Tammy Cantrell; his mother, Helen Cantrell; brother, Chris Cantrell and wife Joy; sister, Joann Rucker and husband Lee, all of Topeka and four nephews which include Victor and Thomas. He will be missed by his pets, Baby, Lil Bit and Claudia.

Reprinted courtesy of - Davidson Funeral



Jack C. Franz

Jack C. Franz, age 61, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 24, 2021. He was born on November 16, 1960 in Milwaukee, WI. He grew up in Milwaukee/ Greenfield and graduated from Martin Luther High School in 1978. After graduation he enlisted in the US Army. He relocated to Madison in 1980 where he met the love of his life, Sheila Horan. They married in Madison on October 25, 1986. Jack went back to school and finished his bachelor’s degree and started a successful career in information technology. Although he enjoyed his work, his true passion was coaching his sons in all sports and the highlight

of his career was his tenure as a Warner Park football coach. Jack was an avid fan of the Packers and especially the UW Whitewater Warhawks. In his second go-around he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and watching them play sports. He will be greatly missed by the many lives he touched throughout the years.

Jack is survived by his wife of 35 years, Sheila; sons, Ryne (Aubrie), Josh (Megan), and Zach (Haley); grandchildren, Myles, Nolan, Finley, and Zoey; siblings, Jeri (Glen) Nagy, Tim (Kathye), and Tracy (Andrae) Dukes. He is further survived by nieces, nephews, other family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Wallace (Ruth) Franz; and sister, Teri.

Reprinted courtesy of - Ryan Funeral Home & Cremation Services



LaDonna Garcia

LaDonna Marie Garcia, 51, of Toledo, passed away Sunday, May 8, 2022 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. Visitation will be held Monday, May 9, 2022 from 1-2 PM at Kruse-Phillips Funeral Home in Tama. A Traditional Wake will be held Monday evening at the Fox Clan Ceremonial Building on the Meskwaki Settlement in rural Tama. Traditional Graveside Services will be held Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 2:00 PM at the Morgan Cemetery on the Settlement with Michael Keahna as Speaker and O.J. Lasley as Head Pall Bearer.

LaDonna was born on February 22, 1971, in Marshalltown, Iowa, the daughter of Lloyd Potts and Deborah Lasley Douglas.

She was employed at the Meskwaki Bingo and Casino. LaDonna had a passion for cooking and baking which was self-taught and made with love. She gifted many people with her homemade food. Her hobbies included riding bikes with her grandkids and True Crime Podcasts. She was open minded, nurturing, an eccentric mother, grandma and friend to many. Her greatest pride and joy were her grandchildren. Survivors include

her mother, Deborah (Richard) Lasley-Douglas; daughters, Jaylen Padilla, A Shania Bull Shoe, and Athena Padilla; grandchildren, Dreymis Lasley-Douglas, Theotis Schrader, Draven Arnoux; brothers, Dion Youngbear (Amy See) and Marland (Shelia) Sanache; sisters, Shelley Kapayou and LeAnn Morgan; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and other close relatives she grew up with.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lloyd Potts; sister, Nyree Celeste; maternal grandparents, Ada O. Lasley and Victor Lasley; paternal grandparents, Maynard and Coralene Potts; uncles, Orlando Lasley and Wayne Lasley.

Reprinted courtesy of - Kruse-Phillips Funeral Home



Lawrence “Emery” Hale

Lawrence “Emery” Hale, 91, of Mayetta, KS, passed away tragically due to a house fire, Sunday, February 20, 2022 at his home on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation. He was born November 30, 1930 in Mayetta, KS, the son of Joseph P. Hale and Jane Blandin Puckkee.

Emery graduated from Circleville High School in 1948. He attended 2 years at Highland Community College and Haskell University earning his Associates Degree in Liberal Arts for heating and air conditioning. He proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War.

He worked for Orkin Extermination and later for Potawatomi Housing Authority in maintenance.

Emery was a member of Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. He was an active member of We-ta-se Post 410 for many years.

He married Barbara Marie Marshno in 1954. She preceded him in death in 1969.

Survivors include his son, Martin Hale (Donna) of Holton, KS; brother, Roy Hale of Mayetta, KS; granddaughter, Megan Hale of Denver, CO, and many extended family members.

Reprinted courtesy of - Mercer Funeral Homes



Linda Jackson

Linda Lou Jackson, Kitch-kum-me-quah, of San Jose, California passed away Thursday, February 24, 2022 at St. Louise Hospital in Gilroy, CA.

She was born December 22, 1951 in Oklahoma City, OK, the daughter of Robert Jackson and Lorene Alexander Jackson.

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

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, Johnny Jackson and Michael Jackson, a sister, Roberta Jackson, and her former husband, Larry Berryhill.

Survivors include a son, Duane Berryhill, Concord, CA; three daughters, Tanya Berryhill and Tina Berryhill, both of San Jose, CA, and Dawn Berryhill, Topeka, KS, a brother, James Jackson, Mayetta, KS; four sisters, Evelyn Seymour, Lucy Jackson and Janice Holmes, all of Topeka, KS and Beverly Goslin, Mayetta, KS; four grandchildren, Jessica Ulloa, Tracy, CA, Alana Solis and Marina Solis, both of San Jose, CA and Alyvia Polanco, Topeka, KS, and five great grandchildren, Aiden Ulloa, Jesse Ulloa, Nalani Ulloa, all of Tracy, CA, Ritchie Parrales and Amerie Parrales, both of San Jose, CA.

Reprinted courtesy of - Chapel Oaks Funeral Home



Joanne LittleAxe

Joanne Kitchkommie was born October 3, 1941 in Topeka, KS to Agnes Wabski and Joseph Kitchkommie. She attended Haskell Institute in Lawrence, KS where she met Troy Lee LittleAxe. They were married for almost 58 years at the time of Troy’s passing in 2019.

Joanne was a proud member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation of Kansas. She spent many years dedicating her time and concern to the Shawnee ceremonial life that her husband and eventually her family followed. Joanne was always supportive of her husband and family’s endeavors whether it was through ceremonial life, powwows, stomp dances, academia, or sports.

Troy and Joanne later relocated to Bartlesville, Oklahoma where they continued their involvement in the local community. Joanne was an avid supporter of education and spent much of her life alongside her husband helping to educate Native youth in cultural knowledge.

She was recognized by the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women as the 1995 Mother of the Year.

Joanne was preceded in death by her husband Troy LittleAxe Sr., her parents Joseph Kitchkommie and Agnes Wabski, sisters Mary Lou Kitchkommie and Marilyn Brewer, and brothers, Joe Wabski and Michael Kitchkommie. She is survived by her children Lisa (Gary) and Dennis (Quannah), and Troy Jr. (Claudia); grandchildren Waskeh (Ashley), Nawnee (Geramey), Tre, Will, Claude, and Jamison; great-grandchildren Julisa, Monte, Elias, and Matayu; sisters Joyce Guerrero, Theresa Kitchkommie, and Laverne Hale and one brother Rick Wamego.

Reprinted courtesy of - Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory



Betty Nioce

Betty Lou Barger Nioce, 81, of Horton, Kansas, passed peacefully surrounded by her family at Mission Village Living Center in Horton, Kansas, on March 11, 2022. Betty was born on June 15, 1940 in Humphrey, Arkansas, to Roy and Mary (Vanderblomen) Barger. She was the only daughter of four children. Betty and her family moved to Hoyt, Kansas, in 1955. She married Charles L Nioce Sr. (deceased in 1991) and later divorced in 1972. She later worked at Jostens School Yearbooks as a Stripper, where she worked with pictures. This specific job led to many laughs and teasing moments over the years from her family as they



Kambottek

reminisced on her past occupations. After leaving Jostens, she took a job with Mayetta Elementary School as a teacher’s assistant.

After completing Clarkson Business School, Betty took a job with the Federal Crop Insurance Agency working with local farmers in Horton, KS. She worked there for several years. She later took a job with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the realty department and filled in as the assistant superintendent. She retired from the BIA in 2007 with more than 30 years of dedicated service, to care for her companion, Gale Ingwerson (passed 5/22/2007). After his passing and needing to fill her time, she started a new career with the Kickapoo Health Center. She stayed at this position for a few years and then decided to become a full-time grandma and great-grandma.

Preceding her in death is her infant daughter, Donna Lynn Nioce; her parents, brothers, James LeRoy Barger, Robert Richard Barger and Billy Wayne Barger. Betty is survived by her daughters: Janet (Sam) Nazario, Christi (Darrel) Ingels, and son, Chuck Nioce.

Reprinted courtesy of - Dishon-Maple-Chaney Mortuary



David Reynolds

David Edmond Reynolds, 54, of Fort Smith Arkansas passed away March 25th, 2022. He was born October 31, 1967 in Mayetta Kansas. He was a firm believer in God; he spent his life working alongside his father in running the family business, Reynolds Seamless Guttering. He loved his family, his Harleys, fast cars, and loud music. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Diane Reynolds. He is survived by his wife Deanna Reynolds, of Fort Smith, Arkansas, his 5 beautiful children, and 7 grandchildren. Son David English and fiancé Amy, daughter Dana Conley and husband Brandon, son Austin Carlisle and fiancé Brea, daughter Natasha Garcia and husband Miguel, son Cody David Reynolds, and grandchildren: Brock, Melanie, Bryson, Asher, Journee, Miguel III, and Kingxton.

Reprinted courtesy of - Lewis Funeral Chapel



Loyal Shegonee

Age 76, passed away Friday, March 4, 2022. He was born in Laona, WI on March 20, 1945. A Service was held on Thursday, 17, 2022, in Albuquerque, NM.

Reprinted courtesy of - Daniels Family Funeral Services



Cora Sheppo

Cora Sheppo passed away peacefully in Minnesota on March 24, 2022. She is preceded in death by her mother, Agnes (LaBarge) Sheppo; father, Nelson “Cecil” Sheppo (Shepard); siblings Eli “Chief” White, LeRoy “Knute” White, Emmadelle White, Nelson Sheppo Jr., Ruth Chentis, Gayle Bernerd, Lawrence Sheppo, Shirley Davidson and Nelda Holmes. Survived by her sister, Rachel Sheppo; daughter, Patricia Shepard; sons, Tomas Mackrie and John Wiggins; and many grand and great-grand children, nephews, nieces and cousins.

Reprinted courtesy of - Bolger Funeral Home



LaVeda Wahweotten

LaVeda Lorene Wahweotten, 83, of Mayetta, KS, passed away Saturday, April 30, 2022, at the St. Francis Hospital in Topeka, KS. She was born April 18, 1939, in Delia, KS, the

daughter of Charles K. and Lillian C. (Shoptese) Thomas. LaVeda worked for many years at the Jostens Yearbook in Topeka. She was a Gaming Commissioner for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Casino, retiring in 2005. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and a member of Drum Religion.

LaVeda was united in marriage to Ron Wahweotten on May 8, 1963, in Topeka, KS. They shared over 58 years of marriage. She is survived by her husband Ron of the home; 5 children, Mark Lopez, Tina Wahweotten, Tony Wahweotten (Angie), Ray Wahweotten (Nancy), Charles “Chuck” Wahweotten (Erlinda); 9 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Gerald Thomas; 2 sisters, Etheleene Chenault and Lorene Thomas; 7 brothers, Melvin, Dale, Kenneth, Charles, Marlin, LaVerne and Alex Thomas.

Reprinted courtesy of - Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes



Leah Zakar

Leah Louise (Matchie) Zakar “Gagimi” age 67 of Valdosta, GA, passed away peacefully Friday, March 25, 2022. Leah was born on November 15, 1954 in Topeka, KS the daughter of Howard and Melvene Oliver. She met John Henry Zakar, Jr. at Forbes AFB in Topeka, KS. They were married on July 13, 1973 and celebrated over 48 years of marriage devoted to each other. Her favorite thing to do was spending time with family especially her children, her grandchildren, going to garage sales, and she loved the Atlanta Braves. Leah was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother and a devout Catholic Leah was first and

foremost a loving homemaker to her husband John and their 4 children. In the meantime, she spent many years working in South Georgia Medical Center’s Emergency Department as a biller for the emergency room. The ER doctors loved her as she chased them down to sign their charts. Leah is survived by the love of her life, John; daughter and son-in-law, Michelle Lee & Dean Brown; daughters, Candace Marie Zakar, and Heather Renee Zakar & partner Shan; and son and daughter-in-law, John Henry Zakar III & Deidre Nicole; father, Howard Oliver; sisters, Audrey Oliver, Debbie McLinn (Phil), Tina White, and Nancy Henry (Roger); grandchildren, Autumn, Joseph, Brooklynn, Brayden, Briton, Brenlynn, Erika, Noah, Catherine, Mason, and Dyson; and great grandchildren, Daniel, Esther, David, and Charlie. Leah was preceded in death by her mother, Melvene Oliver, two special people, Patrick & Nancy Matchie, and her brother, Shaun. Courtesy of Carson McLane Funeral Home

Kambottek

Sue R. Golden  
July 20, 1933  
February 28, 2022

Galen Nephew  
March 26, 1963  
February 20, 2022

Guy Edward Grinnell  
September 18, 1954  
January 10, 2022

Loving father of Shynowa Lertjuntharool and David King Nephew. Grandfather of Eva and Hunter. Brother of Carol Bulson, Sharie Nephew, Dawn Barnes and the late James Nephew and Yvonne Nephew. Son of the late Charles and Dianne Nephew. Best friend of Sandra Redeye. Also survived by nieces, nephews and friends.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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

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Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Enibēk/Summer Time  
2022 Edition  
Deadline  
August 8, 2022



# Nishnabek Ntewmèn - “Who We Are”

## Grinnell Graduation

Sarah R. Grinnell, daughter of the late Michael S. Grinnell and granddaughter of the late Ralph F. Grinnell of Mayetta, KS, graduated from the University of Montana in December 2021. She was awarded a bachelor's degree in psychology and had a perfect 4.0 GPA her final semester, placing her on the prestigious President's list.

She will attend Grand Canyon University in Phoenix in the Fall semester this year to work on obtaining her master's degree in Divinity. Her goal is to be a youth outreach specialist or a Christian School teacher or counselor.

Congratulations Sarah, your father would be so proud of you; and so is your Tribe and Grinnell family!



## CONGRATULATIONS Ashtyn Keo!



Ashtyn Keo, Sophomore at Horton High School, 2022 Inductee - HHS Chapter of National Honor Society.

\*1st Place - “Squat” in NEK League Powerlifting Competition  
\*2nd Place - “Bench” in 1A High School State Powerlifting Competition (3/26/22)

-Mom, Dad, & Dutch Keo



Congratulations to Horton Girls Powerlifting Team, 2022 State Champions!



Graduate: Hunter Jones Jackson  
Parents: Paul and Rose Jackson  
School: Ottawa High School



Happy 8th grade promotion Ki-Bo!  
Good luck in high school next year!  
Love you most, Mom



Congratulations!  
Marcus Kern, Holton High School Graduate  
Love Dad, Rusty, Grandma Tutti Kern



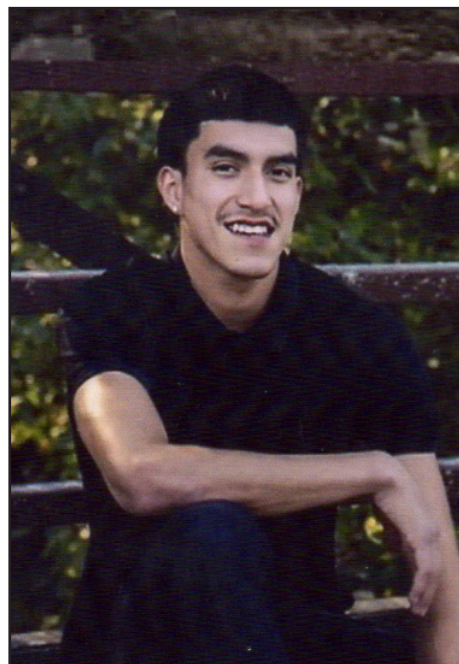
Happy 19th Birthday Dutch Keo!  
(March 14th)  
Love, Mom, Dad & Ashtyn



Royal Valley High School Class of 2022  
Congratulations, Shanokwe!  
From Mom & Family.



Graduating Senior: Mileena Shipshee  
Ellsworth High School  
Parents: Cody and Nichole Shipshee



Mason Thomas  
Happy Birthday – 4/28  
Wishing you many more.  
Love You! Misho and Grandma Rainey

Congratulations Grandson!  
Class of 2022  
From your Hale and Thomas families.



Congrats to Sidha Evans, from Mayetta, Kansas, she earned the 8U 85LB Girls Kansas State Wrestling Championship on March 13th and went on to become the 10U 80LB Champion spot at the USA Wrestling Girls Folkstyle Nationals.



Pictured here with Marissa Irizarry who also graduated.

Congrats to son, brother, shisha, nephew on his graduation from the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM. He graduated with high honors May 14, 2022. Bachelor of Arts and Fine Arts in Cinematic Arts & Technology.

You are loved and we are proud of you.



Zaid Awwad, son to Candi Lewis. He graduates May 30th from Reagan High School in San Antonio, TX.