



# Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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

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## Enibēk 2022

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### Enibēk

"Summer time  
of the year"

This paper contains the  
activities and happen-  
ings that took place  
during the Summer time  
of 2022:  
June, July, August

## PBPN Officials Sworn in, Take Office

The newly elected 2022 Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation officials took the oath of office during a brief swearing-in ceremony held on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at the Old Bingo Hall. PBPN Tribal Council Chairman Joseph Rupnick officiated the event after being sworn in by Tribal Council Vice Chairman Zach Pahmahmie.

The successful candidates were determined during an election held on Saturday, July 23, 2022. These newly elected officials won their races outright, surpassing the 50% + 1 majority vote requirement.

The position of Tribal Council Chairman was retained by incumbent Joseph Rupnick.

Tribal Council Member #1 position was retained by incumbent William Evans.

Incumbent Rey Kitchkumme also retained his position as Gaming Commissioner #3.

Incumbents Shawwna Wabaunsee and Allison Pahmahmie retained their seats on the Ethics Commission as Ethics Commissioner #2 and Ethics Commissioner #3, respectively.

Candidate Lianna Onnen was elected to fill the remaining term of the vacant Ethics Commission Chairperson position.

This is Rupnick's second consecutive term as Tribal Council Chairman. He received 531 votes, equaling 71.18% of the 746 ballots cast for the position during the election.

During the ceremony, Rupnick honored his wife with the blanket presented to him during the ceremony. The offering of a blanket to someone symbolizes making sure they are always protected and cared for.

He said, "I give this on behalf of the Nation to my wife. She's the one who takes care of everything at home while I'm out



**Vice-Chairman Zach Pahmahmie administers the oath of office to Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick, Tribal Council Chairman as he was elected to continue in the position for another term.**

doing the nation's business." He went on to say, "Really this is what we're doing all of this for is for our families, for kids and for those ones yet to come. So, thank you very much."

This is the second consecutive term of office for Evans, who received 427 votes, equaling 58.98% of the 838 ballots cast in his race.

Evans echoed Chairman Rupnick's sentiments in thanking everyone for the support it took for him to be re-elected to his position. He said, "In this position you have to think of what

*Continues - See "Election" on page 2*

## Chouteau Retires From Tribal Council

Members of Tribal Council, friends, and family held a celebration for outgoing Tribal Secretary Camilla Wishkeno Chouteau on August 18, 2022, at the Old Bingo Hall to mark her retirement and a long career of serving the Nation. The celebrants shared memories and jokes at the reception, enjoyed refreshments and cake, and expressed their gratitude for Chouteau's vital work in the Tribal Government and the PBPN Community. Chouteau was elected Tribal Secretary in 2014 and held the position for two consecutive terms. Previously, she had served as Secretary of the Constitutional Drafting Committee in 1974 and was elected Tribal Chairperson two years later in 1976.

One of the major reasons Chouteau became involved in the community and ran for office was because of her Great-Aunt, Minnie Evans. "She wanted us all

to call her 'Grandma.' She assisted in raising my Father because my Father's Mother passed away when he was 12 years old. And then my Father always wanted to keep us close to Grandma Minnie and her husband Bill."

Minnie Evans was instrumental in defeating the U.S. government's attempted termination of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation as a federally recognized tribe and led delegations to Washington, D.C. She also served on the Tribal Council Claims Committee, which was established to address outstanding grievances or claims against the United States for treaty breaches, unauthorized taking of land, unfair dealings, or inadequate compensation. It was this role Chouteau remembers most clearly as influencing her eventual entry into Tribal Government.



**Camilla Chouteau, PBPN Secretary, presents the cake during the celebration in honor of her service to the Nation.**

*Continues - See "Chouteau" on page 3*

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



Dear Tribal Members,

First, I would like to thank the membership for your overwhelming support of my re-election. I know there is a lot to do and I’m looking forward to the challenge. Migwett.

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Omicron cases seem to be declining but we still are experiencing a few breakout cases. I know everyone is tired of this disease and we have done a very good job keeping our families safe, but we might as well realize this is here to stay. As time progresses and science makes advances, this will be another yearly injection we will have to get to protect our families. It’s good to see people still wearing

masks in public, though not as many as before and I encourage those with compromised immune systems, do what you can to keep yourself safe.

We are continuing to make progress on the legislation in Illinois. If you recall, Senator Moran filed a bill on our behalf, S3242, and now we have a co-sponsor to the bill, Senator Roger Marshall. Senator Marshall came to our pow-wow and I believe he is the first sitting U.S. Senator to attend. The purpose of his visit was to learn more about the Tribe and wanted to inform us personally that he was co-sponsoring the bill and is committed to working with us on its passage. We have also received word that Senator Moran is requesting a hearing on the bill in the Indian Affairs Committee in September.

Next, we were recently informed that Thursday, July 14, Congressman Jesus Garcia filed a bill on our behalf in the House Natural Resources Committee, H.R. 8380 “To provide for the settlement of claims relating to the Shab-eh-nay Band Reservation in Illinois, and for other purposes.”

With the filing we already have three co-sponsors, Congresswoman Lauren Underwood from Illinois who

will be our representative, Congressman Danny Davis from Illinois, and Congressman Jake LaTurner from Kansas. Now that the bill has been filed and because of the work Council has done, we have been assured by the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, the bill will be scheduled for a hearing as soon as possible. The bill filed in the House is an exact duplicate of the bill filed in the Senate so now, after 180 years, we may finally see some resolution on this issue.

As many know, Kansas passed sports betting legislation and, in the law, it included language that we have submitted. I want to clarify some misstatement and rumors spreading around. I know there have been many out there saying “Council is opening up the compact.”

That statement is just not true. We are not opening the compact and are just in initial discussions with the state to amend Section 3 paragraph (B) Prohibited Games. This should be a single page amendment striking sports betting with all other elements remaining the same. As I have relayed to our legal team, we should be prepared to walk away if the state does not negotiate in terms that are favorable to us.

We are just in the beginning stages and have a meeting

scheduled with the Governor’s staff. Also, the Governor and her legal team agree that this should be a simple process and have been pushing the state for a one-page amendment. Because of politics and who is the attorney general, the state is making this more difficult than it has to be. We will keep everyone informed of any additional developments, but I fear this will be a long process.

On the reservation, I hate driving on our roads as much as anyone does. During a recent meeting held by Council and Administration, we decided to have the entire road project bid with completion contingent upon an award of a grant we have applied for. The grant should cover all related costs; however, the award date of the grant is in August so it will be a while before roadwork would begin.

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*

## -“Election” Continued from Page 1

you are building for the children. We are building on the foundation of those who came before us while we continue to look forward.”

This is Kitchkumme’s third consecutive term as Gaming Commissioner #3. He ran unchallenged and received 617 votes.

Kitchkumme’s remarks focused on the people he works with every day. He said, “It’s important, especially, for elected officials to respect everyone. They are human beings and that has always been my driving force, to treat those around me and those I serve with respect.

The races for the Ethics Commission positions were also uncontested, with Wabaunsee receiving 566 votes, Pahmahmie receiving 556 votes, and Onnen receiving 545 votes. This is Wabaunsee’s and Pahmahmie’s second consecutive term on the Ethics Commission, and it is Onnen’s first term as Ethics Commission Chairperson.

Chairman Rupnick talked about the dedication and passion it takes for these elected officials to perform the duties of their offices. He said, “You have to have passion, a passion to do what is right for the people, to take care of the things that the nation requires and if you have that passion, that feeds into the next thing, which is purpose. That gives you the purpose to be able to do what has to be done so that we can move forward and we keep making progress. Granted, progress may be slow at times, but with that passion and purpose we will continue to move forward as a nation.”



**Tribal Officers were sworn in on August 2, 2022. From Left to Right - Rey Kitchkumme, Gaming Commissioner #3; Allison Pahmahmie, Ethics Commissioner #3; William Evans, Tribal Council Member #1; Lianna Onnen, Ethics Commission Chairperson and Joseph Rupnick, Tribal Council Chairman**

**No candidate for Tribal Council Secretary position received enough votes to surpass the threshold required to determine who would fill the position left vacant after Secretary Camilla Chouteau announced her retirement.**

**A run-off election was necessary between the two candidates with the greatest percentage of votes in this race: Lorrie C. Melchior, who received 255 votes, or 34.98% of the ballots cast for the position, and Charissa Wahwasuck-Jessepe, who received 207 votes, or 28.40% of the ballots cast. These results were certified by the Election Committee and Melchior was sworn in on September 9, 2022.**

# Prairie Band, LLC CEO and President Jacob Wamego: Report to the Nation



Bozho,  
2021 was an extraordinary year and what our team accomplished in the face of many obstacles is simply amazing. I would like to personally thank our staff and dedicated team members. To all our drivers, retail attendants, construction and design team, business developers, administrative team and leadership, thank you. Also, thank you to

our Board and Tribal Council for your leadership and direction during this challenging time.  
While we continued to experience pandemic related impacts through labor shortages, supply chain issues, inflation and higher material costs this past year, our commitment to fundamental business practices and policies helped to sustain our growth and remain strong.  
In 2021, Prairie Band, LLC expanded by adding two new businesses, Prairie Band Ag and Prairie Band Properties. Prairie Band Ag will focus on the emerging industrial hemp market, while Prairie Band Properties will manage the Highway 75 and 150<sup>th</sup> road development. Both projects have experienced their share of challenges. However, we are committed to the success of these important investments as they will greatly benefit the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, its land and resources.  
Despite the lingering impact from the pandemic, Prairie Band LLC (PBLLC) recorded record

revenue in 2021 of \$36.9 million. PBLLC revenues have consistently increased in prior years, from \$30.2 million in 2020, \$23.6 million in 2019, \$19.9 million in 2018, and \$12.7 million in 2017.  
Net income for 2021 was \$2,149,331, slightly below the 2019 record net income of \$2,183,498. However, PBLLC also funded almost \$250,000 in startup costs for Prairie Band Ag to commence industrial hemp operations. Had PBLLC not incurred the PB Ag startup costs it would have reported record net income of \$2.4 million in 2021.  
Prairie Band Ag has experienced delays and start up issues due to parts shortages, Covid, code updates, and hyper-inflation. Despite these challenges our hemp processing equipment is on site and being installed, while our CBD products rest on store shelves manufactured from Prairie Band grown hemp.  
In the next 30 days, we will begin processing hemp bales into fiber and other by-products, all

grown on Prairie Band soil.  
While industrial hemp remains an emerging market, Prairie Band is quickly becoming a recognized leader and player in this industry. The dedication of our team is helping to define the future of hemp in America and will ensure the success of our investment in industrial hemp.  
Despite our progress there will always be more work ahead. However, we have positioned ourselves for continued success in a very challenging environment.  
We look forward to what Prairie Band will become and are confident in our ability to generate value and improve the quality of life for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Thank you for your continued support of Prairie Band. Stay safe and be well.

*Igwien  
Jacob “Tug” Wamego  
President and Chief  
Executive Officer  
Prairie Band, LLC*

## - “Chouteau” Continued from Page 1

“At night, we’d always have Sunday dinner and, after that, in the evening, she’d turn all the lamps on and we’d have to sit there and listen to her read letters that she wrote to the superintendent up at Horton Agency and the claims attorney in Topeka, Kansas,” Chouteau said. “She’d hitchhike to Topeka at least once a week to go visit the attorney. She did not receive any pay for that. She would walk down probably half a mile to the corner to catch a ride with somebody who was going to work in Topeka, walk down a road with just a flashlight in a rural area, but she’d catch that ride. She’d go all day over there with that attorney, working on the claims for our Tribe. And then in the afternoon, she would call my Parents to come pick her up and bring her back to the Reservation. And that went on for a long time, at least once a week.”  
“I got to listen to her, and I was really interested in it because it appeared to me, as I got older, that there ought to be something a Tribal Member can do to bring about change. Why was this all happening that we couldn’t seem to get ahead as a Tribe?”  
Inspired by her Great-Aunt’s tenacity, Chouteau began her own journey of working for the betterment of the Tribe. Her first role in an official capacity was as Secretary of the Constitutional Drafting Committee, which established the Nation’s current constitutional government. She was then elected Tribal Chairperson and served a three-year term. Afterwards, Chouteau returned to college to earn a BA in Social Work Administration from the University of Kansas, where she would also later earn her Masters degree. She then married and moved to Oklahoma, but only three years after their son was born, her Husband, Lee, suddenly passed away. The loss prompted Chouteau to move back to Topeka with her son to be with her parents. This allowed her to raise her son in the Prairie Band Potawatomi community and slowly become involved with the Nation’s government and business again.  
“I just read a lot, went to General Council Meetings, and tried to learn where our Nation was at that time. But I was dedicated to raising my son myself, so I



**Camilla Chouteau, PBPB Secretary, addresses well wishers during her retirement celebration.**  
waited until he was 17 and then decided to maybe get on a committee or something with the Tribe.”  
She was asked to be on the Nation’s Health Board, and during her six years in that role, she assisted in planning the new Health Center. “It’s the most beautiful facility in Northeast Kansas, and I’m very proud of that because I think our tribal members are most deserving of excellent healthcare.”  
In 2014, Chouteau ran for and won the position of Tribal Secretary. She was reelected in 2018 and is very proud of what the Nation has accomplished during her time serving in the Tribal Government, including the construction of several other facilities. “I just feel real honored that this happened when I was working with that Tribal Council and the Tribal Council we have today,” she said.  
Chouteau has high hopes for the Tribal Council’s future work and how the Nation can develop further as she steps back from Government and Business leadership. “I think there’s a time when an individual needs to make a decision to explore other options in your life, like maybe other jobs or travel. I’m at that age and that’s what I’m going to do, but I wish all the best for our Tribe and Nation and the Tribal Council,” she said. “You have to sometimes yield to people younger than you. You know, they’re probably the most educated age group now, and I think that’s a real positive for the Tribe. Younger people have a lot of energy. Not that I don’t, but this is an energetic position, and it needs to

be attended to.”  
Although she is “retiring,” Chouteau has no plans of slowing down. In addition to traveling and spending time with her son and his Family in Saskatchewan, Canada, Chouteau has already set several goals of what she wants to accomplish in the years to come.  
“I’m going to go volunteer at the Shawnee County election. We have an election coming up and I won’t have a full-time position, so that will give me time to do that,” she said. “And then I’ve already looked at the different boards that they have in Shawnee County, and I’m interested in the Jayhawk [Area Agency on Aging].” The Agency provides information, referrals, and services for older Kansans and their caregivers residing in Shawnee, Jefferson, and Douglas Counties, and offers many volunteer opportunities and ways to get involved.  
In addition to continuing to serve her local community, Chouteau plans to visit with other tribes and travel to meaningful sites across the country. “I have a friend that is working on visiting other tribes to communicate with them and learn from them, and I want to do that too,” she said. “I want to go out to the Heard Museum of American Indian Art in Arizona.”  
While some may imagine retirement as a resting period, She sees it as a way to continue working on her own terms. “A lot of people, when they retire, they just say, ‘Oh, I’m not going to do anything and just sit around. I’m too conditioned. I wake up at five o’clock every day, whether I like it or not, and I’m ready to go. I’m just interested in life.”  
As she enters the next chapter of her life, she offers some advice to the next generation of Tribal leaders: “I think it’s real important, no matter who you are or where you come from, that you always keep in mind your culture, the Native Language, and the Ceremonies we have. Be involved!”

# Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, hope all is well as summer comes to a close and fall is once again just around the corner. As is always the case this time of year, budget season is now in full swing and all our audits are either wrapped up or soon will be.

Casino performance continues to be strong as we look forward to our second highest September Per Capita distribution since the advent of State Gaming in 2012. Additionally, our Tribal Government Budgets benefit from the Casino performance as well and continue to outpace projected figures for FY2022. Below are a few additional highlights and updates on items of interest in the Tribe's financial area.

**Investment in Renewable Energy**

In July, the Tribal Council approved an amendment to our Investment Advisory Agreement to allow for a private equity investment to be incorporated into our Long-Term Investment Portfolio. No additional funds were needed for the amendment as existing funds were reallocated within the Long-Term Investment Portfolio.

So, what is the new private equity investment that was added to our portfolio?

As you can guess from the heading that the investment has to do with renewable energy. More specifically, the new private equity investment is designed to contribute funding towards a low carbon future by providing capital to both construct and operate utility scale energy storage projects. The focus of the investment is on lithium-ion energy storage systems which have response times of milliseconds and are highly efficient when compared to other types of storage systems. Energy storage systems are designed to charge during times of high energy supply, low demand and lower prices and then discharge during hours with low supply, high demand, and higher prices. Also, the storage can be used when grids need backup capacity for reliability.

In the research data provided on

the investment, roughly 24% of the power generated today comes from renewable sources which is about two times more than what it was 10 years ago. The trend towards increased renewable sources is expected to continually increase in future years and renewable sources such as wind and solar could account for up to 65% of power generated by the year 2050. Increased use of renewable energy is being driven by reduced costs, focus on de-carbonization, retirement of aging infrastructure as well as prioritization by government policies.

Additional details on the new private equity investment will be provided on the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial report, if you would like any additional details on the investment in the meantime just give me a call or send me an e-mail at the contact info below.

**FY2023 Budget**

The FY2023 budget season is well under way and our budget figures look to be similar for the upcoming year when compared to FY2022 in a year over year comparison. While this may not sound like exciting news it is certainly a relief compared to the unknowns of the pandemic just a few months ago.

Currently our Tribal Government Programs are working diligently on putting together their operational budgets for FY2023 as well as preparing requests for any capital projects or equipment needs, they foresee for their departments. Capital projects and equipment are generally defined as items exceeding \$5,000 in cost and a useful life spanning multiple years. The capital items that are approved and acquired are then depreciated over the span of their useful life.

As the FY2023 budgets make their way through the annual budget process we expect to have them ready for Tribal Council approval in mid to late October. In addition to the Tribal Government budgets, Tribal Council will also look to approve the Casino and Gaming Commission budgets at that time as well. The Gaming Commission annual budget is due to Tribal Council by August 15<sup>th</sup> of every year according to PBP Law and Order Code 12-3-21. The Casino budget is due to Tribal Council by October 1<sup>st</sup> annually according to the Charter for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation.

Both the Casino and Gaming Commission budget information are considered for the Tribal Government Budget. Once the Tribal Government Budget is approved a budget report will be placed on the Tribal Member website for review. If you have any questions or would like to know any additional details

on the annual budget process just give me a call or send me an e-mail at the contact info below.

**Burial Program**

The Tribe offers several General Welfare Support Programs that provide non-taxable benefits for its Tribal Members in accordance with the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act. These include areas for Housing, Education, Health, Cultural programs just to name a few. One of our longest standing General Welfare programs is our Burial Program.

The current Burial Program offers up to \$6,000 for funeral expenses for Tribal Members. The funding for the Burial Program gets its origins from our Burial Plans approved by the General Council and adopted under Tribal Council Resolutions PBP-81-3 and PBP-95-43. Both Burial Plans were adopted prior to the existence of our Casino and help fund eligible funeral expenses in the amount of \$1,500. Funding for the \$1,500 comes from the proceeds of judgment accounts held in Trust by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (formerly Office of the Special Trustee or "OST"). Once our Casino was established and Tribal Cash Distributions began flowing over to the Tribal Government, additional funding has been allocated to the Burial Program. Under the current program an additional \$4,500 per burial is funded through the General Welfare portion of our Revenue Allocation

Plan. So, the funding breakdown for the \$6,000 is as follows, \$1,500 is funded through Trust Funds and \$4,500 is funded through gaming.

To access the Burial Program funds a Burial Application must be completed and submitted to our Member Services Department within one year from the date of death. Applications are available through our Member Services Department as well as are available through the Tribal Member website. Required documentation for the Burial Application include a copy of the death certificate, obituary, a copy of the invoice from the funeral home and form W-9 for new vendors.

For additional information on the Burial Program you may contact Member Services at 866-277-3722, 785-966-3910 or group-memberservices@pbnation.org.

If you have any questions on any of the topics mentioned in this article or financial questions in general about the Tribe's operations my contact information is: Office: (785) 966-3905 – E-mail: [wadepahmahmie@pbnation.org](mailto:wadepahmahmie@pbnation.org). Also, if you have any specific financial topics that you would like me to write about in future articles let me know and I can incorporate those in. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Tribal Council Treasurer and I look forward to continuing to serve our Tribal Members.

**Respectfully  
Wade Pahmahmie (Wap-tti-ge)**

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Office of National Programs

## Emergency Rental Assistance

WE CAN HELP

**RENT/RENTAL ARREARS   UTILITIES   HOME ENERGY COSTS**

To qualify, applicants must follow the criteria:

- Provide Proof of hardship due to COVID-19
- Meet income requirements
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homeless or housing instability



You can find the application on online at [pbpindiantribe.com](http://pbpindiantribe.com) or call/pickup from Prairie Band Housing. If you have any questions, please give us a call

**Preference given to enrolled renters of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation**

8273 156<sup>th</sup> Lane, Mayetta, Kansas, 66509 Office (785)966-2756 Fax (785)966



# Tribal Council Member Tony Wahweotten: Report to the Nation



## Ho' PBPB Members

As we enter the third quarter of 2022. 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.

I would also like to continue recognizing our front-line Clinical Staff, Emergency Service Responders, TPD 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 create safety for membership and the PBPB workforce.

Once again, 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. I would also like to say congratulations to all the 2022 graduates, from the youngest to the oldest, great job to the 2022 Pow Wow Committee for hosting a great traditional Pow Wow. Best wishes to the those in the 2022 Tribal Elections and those who served.

Every day continues to bring new challenges. 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 birthdays off, seventeen and a half days PTO, and four and a half days of SL.

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

- The Economic Development Strategy Spring Virtual meeting
- A tribal video for scheduled production discussion review
- A trip to Chicago Field museum for the Calumet-Native American Convening and Region Tour
- Annual Dekalb County Economic Development Dinner in Dekalb Illinois
- Five special Tribal Council meetings
- Three Regular Tribal Council meetings
- Seven legal project meetings
- Illinois property visit and review
- Shabehnay lobbying efforts trip to DC
- Four PBP Tax Commission meetings
- Three Hemp Regulation meetings
- Land Committee meeting
- Meeting with Representative Jake LaTurner on property
- Meeting with Dell Technologies Solution Brief
- Four Tribes Quarterly meeting
- Two LLC Board meetings and follow ups
- PBPB Roads Status and updates meeting
- Virtual meeting with Senator Dick Durban on co-sponsoring the Illinois Shabehnay land claim
- Attended the RES Conference in Las Vegas
- Round table discussion with Potawatomi EDC in Vegas
- Virtual White House Briefing on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Playbook
- Meeting with Candidate for 2<sup>nd</sup> District Patrick Schmidt
- Soldier Creek Watershed discussion
- Attended the PBPB Pow Wow
- PBP Casino Expansion tour
- Attended the NNE Conference, covering Economic Development, Healthcare, Housing, Cannabis & Hemp Conference in Pechanga
- Virtual meeting with Representative Lauren Underwood relating to the Shabehnay project
- Meeting and dinner with Goldman Sachs, 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 reviews, and the Nations' current budget and funding challenges.

At the National, and State level, 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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, continued infrastructure 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) and Title 13 (Business Licensing), and Title 32 (Hemp Legalization and Control Ordinance). We are currently monitoring new State Medical Marijuana Bill 560 proposing the regulations for other possible tribal ordinances and Title changes. See tribal website or portal for Tribal Law and Order Codes and Tax Reports.

Since being appointed, I have participated and acted in approximately nineteen 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 eighteen PBP Lands meetings, with three being cancelled due to COVID related and travel 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.

Last March the Tribe received 10 new buffalo from Yellowstone National Park. No new buffalo received during this last quarter. Our next opportunity for new surplus buffalo will be this fall, possibly in the months of October through November.

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. Since last April's GC meeting, I have attended one virtual discussion with USDA, EPA, and Kansas Water Resources representatives to discuss preliminary plans of water resource and uses. 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 newly HR 3684, funding opportunities include: Infrastructure Investments and Job Acts, PL 566 cost share 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 close but still in the process of gathering historical information relating to any study on the SCWP, before a formal letter of sponsorship is submitted.

PBPB Current Job Listings, 41 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. Do the best you can to help others when possible.

*Miigwetch  
Tony Wahweotten*

## PBPB Education Updates

**The Education Department and Computer Lab will be closed October 5-7 for off-site staff training. Availability will be limited to email.**

**Adult Education program is accepting applications for GED preparation classes and testing.**

**All program applications can be found at  
[www.pbpindiantribe.com/education](https://www.pbpindiantribe.com/education)**

# Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Shab-eh-nay Band Reservation Settlement Act of 2021 Moves Forward



**Above:**  
The Honor Guard from WE-TA-SE American Legion Post 410 presents the Colors as the Drum Circle performs The Flag Song before the news conference begins.

**Right:**  
U.S. Rep. Jesús “Chuy” García (IL-04) addresses the gathering as PBPB Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick and U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood (IL-14) look on.

**Below:**  
PBPB Tribal Council Members gather for a photo with U.S. Congress Officials. From left to right: Council Member Raphael Wahwassuck, Council Member William Evans, Council Member Ronald “Tony” Wahweotten, Jr, Illinois State Rep. Tom Demmer, Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick, U.S. Rep. Jesús “Chuy” García, U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood and Illinois State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas.



During a news conference held in Shabbona, Illinois, on August 11, 2022, PBPB Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick and government representatives addressed members of the media and those gathered on Tribal property to announce the most recent developments in the ongoing struggle of the Tribe to regain land that was illegally taken almost 200 years ago.

During the press conference, U.S. Rep. Jesús “Chuy” García (IL-04) and U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood (IL-14) detailed their plan to help right a centuries-long injustice. They announced their filing of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Shab-eh-nay Band Reservation Settlement Act of 2021, which would allow PBP Nation to acquire 1,151 acres of land near Shabbona State Park to compensate for the U.S. Government’s illegal act of selling off its original land.

Chairman Rupnick said, “This is a historical day, and we’ve made much progress in what we’ve worked towards for the last 200 years, trying to reclaim the land that was given to Chief Shab-eh-nay when we signed the 1832 Treaty of Chicago. On that treaty, we ceded 5,000,000 acres of land, and this land was supposed to be given to him and his descendants.”

He went on to note that along with many of the seniors, members of the Tribal Council in attendance, as well as himself, are direct descendants of Chief Shab-eh-nay. “I want to thank Congressman Garcia and Congresswoman Underwood for their leadership in filing the bill in the House and moving this forward to see this injustice corrected,” Rupnick said.

“It has been far too long since the U.S. government unlawfully forced the Potawatomi Nation out of its land and sold it,” Rep. García said during the press conference. “There is absolutely no doubt that the Potawatomi Nation deserves a home in Dekalb County and it’s way past time to return what is rightfully theirs.

“This legislation would address nearly 200 years of injustice by providing a pathway for the Nation to reclaim land that was stolen from them. I look forward to working with Congressman García to advance this legislation through the House,” Rep. Underwood said, whose congressional district borders the village of Shabbona.

Earlier this year, Illinois state Rep. Tom Demmer (R-Dixon) and state Sen. Cristina Pacione-Zayas (D-Chicago) passed a bipartisan resolution in the Illinois legislature urging Congress to take action because Congress is the only governing body that has the authority to designate land titles for native nations.

Rep. Demmer, Sen. Pacione-Zayas, Sen. Karina Villa (D-West Chicago), and DeKalb County Board members were all in attendance to show their support.

When the Potawatomi Tribe signed the 1832 treaty of Chicago with the U.S. Government, most of the tribe moved to Kansas, and in 1846 another treaty with the government saw them purchase land in Kansas where many Tribal Members still reside.

After the move to Kansas, Chief Shab-eh-nay and his family went to visit his people, and that was when the government illegally auctioned off his land, claiming he abandoned it. At that time there were no vehicles allowing him to get there in a day. He had to go on horseback, and the trip was measured in weeks to get to Kansas and then travel back.

Rupnick said, “I think during that time, being the big Indian removal period, this was the excuse they were looking for to say, ‘now is the time when we can take over all this land,’ and that’s what they did.” He went on to say, “Now, it’s up to Congress to correct the actions taken by their predecessors. Congress is the only body that can correct this issue. Working toward this has been my focus and the focus of Tribal Council to get Congress to act so we can fully recognize our rightful claim. I hope that this legislation passes so we can finally be whole again.”

## Senator Marshall Tours Reservation, Cosponsors Legislation

U.S. Senator Roger Marshall (R) representing Kansas’ 117th District visited the Reservation over the summer where Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick and Council Member Raphael Wahwassuck gave the Senator a tour and invited him to the 2022 Powwow.

“I was honored to participate in the PBPB Pow Wow. The celebration was an incredibly moving experience full of rich heritage. Thank you to Chairman Rupnick and Councilman Wahwassuck for being such gracious hosts and tour guides,” Senator Marshall said.

During the tour, Marshall informed

Rupnick and Wahwassuck that he had signed on as a cosponsor of legislation concerning Tribal interests in Illinois.

Chairman Rupnick’s work to educate legislators and gain their support on the Tribe’s efforts to regain control of land in northern Illinois that was sold illegally in 1849 brought him in contact with Senator Marshall and other members of Congress. These educational efforts continue to move the Tribe’s cause forward as Senator Marshall did recently sign on to Senate Bill 3242 as a cosponsor. This bill was introduced by Kansas Senator Jerry Moran (R) in November of last year.

“When I met with Senator Marshall in DC, I had asked for his support

on our bill for Illinois. He has now signed on as a Cosponsor on the bill and now, because of the work we are doing, influential lawmakers are starting to hear about this injustice and are wanting to act,” Chairman Rupnick said.

Rupnick said, “The way we right past injustices done to our people is by educating as many people as we can about who we are and what we have been through. This education may start with elected officials, but it has to extend to all people in general. We are a proud people with proud traditions and by inviting others to our cherished events, like the recent powwow, they can begin to understand who we are.”



**U.S. Senator Marshall addresses the crowd during the 2022 PBPB Powwow.**

# EPA Grant Funds Used for Water Quality Improvements, ‘Buffalo Bridge’ Creation

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Planning and Environmental Protection (PBPEN PEP) received a \$100,000 Clean Water Act Section 319 grant award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. PBPEN PEP’s proposal was awarded the funds for a two-year project that began in January of 2021.

- Overall, the project goals are:
- Improve water quality conditions
  - Reduce sedimentation
  - Support the PBPEN Bison Program in the Soldier Creek Watershed

To achieve these goals, PEP partnered with the PBPEN Road and Bridge and Land Management Departments to install streambank stabilization and best management practices (BMP) on a small area of Soldier Creek referred to as the “Buffalo Bridge.”

Buffalo Bridge received its name because the Tribe’s buffalo herd crosses the stream in an area located below the bridge over N Road. Crossing the stream here allows the herd access to separate grazing pastures as part of rotational grazing practices.

“Moving the buffalo between, different pastures

for grazing, requires less effort for our department because we can move them under the bridge in the fall without having to load them up in trailers. This means we don’t need to have a corral system at each of the pastures to move the buffalo back to the winter pasture,” Michael Boswell, PBPEN Land Maintenance Manager, said.

This reduces equipment needed and staff time to move between pastures but it’s also safer for the animals. “Before the construction there was a four foot tall ledge and the buffalo would walk on it going back in forth from the east and west pastures,” he added.

Virginia LeClere, PBPEN Environmental Manager, said, “The project kicked off with contract preparation and coordination meetings in 2021 and early 2022. Road and Bridge then coordinated with engineers/contractors from Wildhorse Riverworks and Water Resources Solutions, prior to mobilizing in June 2022.”

Once on-site, the crossing was cleared and excavated creating a hardened crossing according to engineered plans. In addition to the on-site operator expertise, Road & Bridge also transported

and delivered nearly 2000 tons of rock needed to complete the BMP.

PBPEN’s Land Maintenance Department will close out the BMP installation by seeding the area with native grass and planting trees.

“With the rock work and vegetation grow-in final, a once degraded crossing will be made safer for the buffalo and result in less sedimentation to Soldier Creek,” LeClere said.

Through this grant award, PBPEN also committed to developing a nine-element based plan. This plan intends to guide staff and Tribal Leadership in making sound management decisions aimed at protecting water quality on the Reservation. It will complement the Middle Kansas Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy.

LeClere said, “The PBPEN land and infrastructure-related departments coordinate frequently for Tribal and federal grant projects of all scopes and sizes. These collaborations allow the departments to share data, pool resources, generate mutually beneficial outcomes for every involved department, and ultimately support the Nation and community in a more efficient and holistic manner.”



*The photos above show heavy machinery being used under the bridge over N Road to reduce erosion and to smooth out the area making it safe for buffalo to cross the stream under the bridge. This allows the animals to move between pastures for rotational grazing.*

## Police Chief, Lieutenant Graduate from Elite Law Enforcement Program

Prairie Band Potawatomi Chief of Police Terry Clark and Lieutenant Derek Wamego graduated from the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command (SPSC) on August 14, 2022.

The SPSC is an intensive police management and leadership program that helps prepare experienced mid- and upper-level law enforcement professionals for success in senior command positions.

Along with the FBI National Academy, the SPSC is one of the two most rigorous and prestigious executive leadership schools for senior law enforcement command staff around the world.

The completion of this training is a notable accomplishment that will help Tribal Police better serve the community. The SPSC offers both in-person and online instruction, which allowed Chief Clark and Lieutenant Wamego to complete the 22-week program remotely.

Through an innovative combination of academic principles and practical applications, the SPSC curriculum equips its graduates with critical command-level skills in areas such as planning and policies, media relations, organizational behavior, budgeting and resource allocation, human resources, and contemporary policing.

Since SPSC’s inception in 1983, law enforcement agencies throughout the U.S. and across the globe have recognized the impact an SPSC education makes on their leadership and management teams.

Chief Clark said, “Their expert instructors teach not only the important topics, concepts, and strategies necessary for leadership and managerial success, but they also discuss how to effectively implement these strategies, apply the concepts, and lead situations where the problems are real and agency performance outcomes are critical.”



*Prairie Band Potawatomi Chief of Police Terry Clark (Left) and Lieutenant Derek Wamego (right) graduated from the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command (SPSC) on August 14, 2022.*

# Intertribal GONA Teaches Youth About Mastery, Interdependence, Generosity, and Belonging

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Wellness Connection Services, the PBPB Youth Outreach and Prevention Program, and the Kickapoo Native Connections Program collaborated to host the first Kansas Intertribal Youth GONA (Gathering of Native Americans) over the weekend of August 12-14, 2022.

The gathering was a huge success and allowed Native youth from various tribes and communities to come together and learn about the program's guiding concepts of Mastery, Interdependence, Generosity, and Belonging. The Youth GONA encouraged personal discovery and built strong connections using conversations, arts and crafts, and group activities in order to help participants explore the cultural components of embracing community and healing.

The GONA framework is an almost four-decade-old proven model developed by the Native Wellness Institute to assist communities in healing from the lasting impacts of colonization.

Lovina Louie, Wade McGree, and Cody Wilson were the visiting Native Wellness Institute facilitators who led this three-day Youth GONA. They engaged participants in many fun activities incorporating fitness and movement as well as important discussions surrounding intergenerational trauma and healing.

Local volunteers also helped make the Youth GONA a success. Skyla Wakole, Independent Living Program Services Coordinator for PBPB Social Services, said, "I chose to volunteer for the Youth GONA as it was a great opportunity for the youth to experience different aspects of growth. I wanted to be involved with the youth who are a part of the Independent Living Program and make them feel welcomed as they attended this special opportunity to learn and grow about themselves as they continue their journey to build strong connections. Seeing all the youth who felt like they belonged and on a personal discovery was absolutely amazing to witness. The Wellness Connection team and the others who helped make this event possible did an amazing job!"

Other local community members came in to share their knowledge and gifts with the youth. Gubba Hale, Mi-Kes Potts, Brennah Wahweotten, and Michelle Simon all volunteered their time to lead sessions on learning to bead, sewing, making stick ball sticks, and hand drum making.

Native chef Jason Champagne prepared a delicious lunch on Friday sponsored by Kickapoo Nation. Amber Shobney, Iva Rank, and their family prepared a traditional-style supper for youth and their families on Saturday evening.



**Facilitators of the first Kansas Intertribal Youth GONA take a moment away from the weekend's activities to pose for a photo with some of the youth who attended the event. Participants from various tribes and communities came together to learn about the program's guiding concepts of Mastery, Interdependence, Generosity, and Belonging.**

"I was amazed to see all the different cultural backgrounds of the Native American youth that attended Youth GONA," Amber Shobney said. "I have two children who attended, and they were so informative of what they learned, and it really impacted them. I created an activity to do with the youth as a member of PBPB Vocational Rehabilitation. It was a fun but educational game that taught disabilities, mental health, and substance abuse in teens. I also cooked the Traditional Meal with my parents, Iva and Dylan Rank. It warmed my heart hearing the feedback from youth who have never had traditional foods. I really look forward to partnering with PBPB Wellness Connection Services again."

Iva Rank expressed how proud she was of her daughter's involvement and commitment to sharing traditions with the youth. "I know she was wanting to prepare a traditional meal for the GONA activity. She is very proud of our Traditional meal that we prepare at our church services (The Native American Church Chapter 1), and she wanted them to experience the traditional foods that we use."

The meal was prepared using the most important traditional foods and ingredients including Water, Kakaswabo (corn), pumpkin, and berries. The rest of the meal was also traditional, using buffalo for the soup, milkweeds, pork gravy and, of course, frybread.

"What was memorable for me is to see my daughter grow into a woman that will help carry this on," Rank said. "It is important that our children know

these ways so we don't lose this for our future children. I think it is an honor to be able to help with this knowledge for our children."

PBPB Casino & Resort provided breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Various programs provided monetary sponsorship to make this event possible, including PBPB Wellness Connection Services, PBPB Social Services, PBPB Social Services Advisory Board, PBPB and Kickapoo Boys and Girls Clubs, Kickapoo Tribe Native Connections, Kickapoo Tribe, PBPB Vocational Rehabilitation, and

PBPB Diabetes Prevention Program.

The Youth GONA organizers wish to thank the committee who helped with the months of planning for the event: Joanna "Dumps" Mitchell with PBPB Boys and Girls Club Outreach and Prevention program, Josh Langi with Kickapoo Tribe Native Connections, and the evaluation team with KU-CPPR.

They also want to thank Kelly Lewis, Skyla Wakole, Jama Bettis, Erin Turvey, and all of the community volunteers who took time out of their weekend to help make this event a success.

**JAMEY JOHNSON**

Thursday, September 29

**TANYA TUCKER**

Thursday, October 6

**THREE DOG NIGHT**

Thursday, November 17

**PRAIRIE BAND**  
CASINO & RESORT

# Recognizing Signs of Domestic Violence

In October, Tribal Victim Services will recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month by providing educational events and community gatherings to bring attention to the issue of Domestic Violence. We will provide resource information for those residing within our service area and will provide people with opportunities to experience healing resources offered by our program at the “Splatters That Matter” event on October 22nd at the Old Bingo Hall. Also, we will host “Walk A Mile at Prairie Peoples Park” on October 1st.

Domestic Violence is a pattern of abusive

and violent behaviors used to gain and maintain power and control over an intimate partner. It is not isolated to any specific race, gender, sexual orientation or economic status. It can include abuse that is emotional/mental, economic, physical, or sexual in nature.

Advocates use the Power and Control Wheel to raise understanding of the patterns of abuse used by perpetrators to exert will and control over their victims.

What follows is a modified list taken from the Power and Control Wheel illustrating some of the ways people experience abuse:



**1. Intimidation:**

Your partner uses intimidation, makes you afraid by using looks, gestures, or actions. Smashing things, destroying property, abusing pets, displaying weapons, punching walls, slamming doors, throwing objects, driving recklessly,

**2. Emotional Abuse:**

Putting you down, constant criticism, belittling your abilities, making you feel bad about yourself, calling you names, making you think that you're crazy, playing mind games, humiliating you, making you feel guilty, withholds affection

**3. Isolation:**

Controlling what you do, who you see or talk to, what you read, where you go, limiting your outside involvement, using jealousy to justify their actions, cutting you off from family and friends, monitors where you go, whom you call and how you spend your time, does not trust you and treats you in a jealous manner

**4. Minimizing, Denying, or Blaming:**

Making light of the abuse and not taking your concerns about it seriously, say the abuse didn't happen, shifting responsibility for abusing behavior, saying that you cause it

**5. Using Children:**

Making you feel guilty about the children, using the children to relay messages, using visitation to harass you, threatening to take your children away

**6. Using Male Privilege:**

Treating you like a servant, making all of the big decisions, acting like the “master of the castle,” being the one who defines men's and women's roles. Expects you to ask permission

**7. Economic Abuse:**

Preventing you from getting or keeping a job, making you ask for money, giving an “allowance,” taking your money, not letting you know about or have access to family income, making you financially dependent

**8. Using Coercion and Threats:**

Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt you, threatening to leave you, threatening to commit suicide, to report you to authorities, making you drop charges, making you do illegal things

**9. Physical Abuse:**

Any act that includes physical contact such as hitting, slapping, kicking, grabbing, shoving, pinching, hair pulling, biting, choking or strangling, denying you medical care, forcing you to take alcohol or drugs, traps you in your home and not letting you leave,

No one deserves to be abused. The Tribal Victim Services program's goal is to raise awareness about Domestic Violence and, most importantly, to assist victims suffering from abusive behaviors.

**If you or know someone you know needs assistance;  
Please contact the Tribal Victim Services department via our 24/7 Hotline at 1-866-966-0173.**

## Breast Feeding Peer Counselor Program Receives Grant

The PBPB Breastfeeding Peer Counselor program received a multi-year “Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country” grant for \$150,000 through the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board and Oklahoma Area Tribal Epidemiology Center.

This grant will be used to address inequities and disparities in breastfeeding rates in the Indigenous community. Stephanie Rupnicki, CLC the tribes Breastfeeding Peer Counselor plans to invest in Indigenous lactation workforce development, increase access to Indigenous breastfeeding peer support, and improve the quality of data related to Indigenous infant feeding practices.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, breast feeding has many health benefits for baby and the mother.

**Breast milk and Baby:**

- Is easier for babies to digest than formula
- Is the best source of nutrition for baby
- Changes to meet the nutritional needs of a growing baby
- Helps protect baby from infection and illness like ear infections by providing immunities from Mom to the baby
- May lower child's risk of overweight, obesity, and asthma
- Can also help lower baby's risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

**Breastfeeding and Mom:**

- Moms who breastfeed have lower rates of ovarian and breast cancer
- Moms who breastfeed have lower rates of high blood pressure
- Moms who breastfeed have lower rates of Type 2 diabetes

Breast milk is a traditional first food and medicine among Indigenous communities throughout history. Unfortunately, current breastfeeding data shows only 80% of Indigenous families in Kansas initiate breastfeeding which is a stark contrast to Kansas' breastfeeding initiation average of nearly 90%. Let's celebrate Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Breastfeeding Peer Counselor program and look forward to a time when breastfeeding is restored as a traditional first food.

**Have you breastfed, currently breastfeeding, or are you passionate about protecting, promoting & supporting breastfeeding in our community? If so PBPNBC would love for you to join our Coalition!**

**Please contact Stephanie Rupnicki Breastfeeding Peer Counselors and PBPNBC Leader and Co-Founder for more information!**

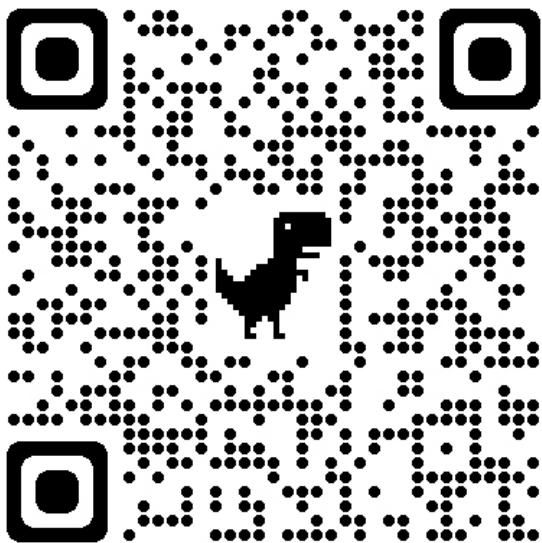
**Stephanne.Rupnicki@pbpnation.org**



# PBPN App Now Available for Smartphones

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has partnered with Straxis Technology to develop a smartphone application that is now available from the App Store for iPhones and the Google Play Store for Android phones. The app is searchable in both app stores under the name “Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.” Once installed, users can easily access many features through the app, including push notifications, group messaging, an events calendar, news, social media, and information from the PBPN website.

The push notification feature will be utilized to better facilitate mass communication for both emergent and non-emergent needs. All tribal members with smartphones are encouraged to install the app and enable push notifications to stay informed and connected.



Scan the QR Code, at left, to be taken to the PBPN website. The linked page will have links to make it easy to find the app.

## Prairie Band Casino & Resort Expansion Progressing

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.



The hotel is getting closer to completion. The pictures shown are of one of the 14 new suites. At Left: Dining and bar area. Top: Entire room view. Directly above: Entire room as viewed from the bar area.

### Charitable Contributions 2nd Quarter Recipient List Total Donated \$53,415

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Gage Park Memorial Society               | • ECKAN  |
| • Kaw Valley Chapter MOAA                  | • Cystic Fibrosis Foundation                     |
| • Mayetta Pioneer Days                     | • Be Filled of South Topeka                      |
| • Paxico Blues Festival                    | • Atchison Art Assoc                             |
| • Royal Valley Recreation Assoc            | • Leid Center of Ks                              |
| • Kansas National Guards Alzheimer's Assoc | • Safe Streets                                   |
| • Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy         | • Third Judicial District & Drug Treatment Court |
| • Kansas Book Festival                     | • Noto Arts & Entertainment District             |
| • Onaga Historical                         |  |

### The Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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

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

Mail: PBP News, 16281 Q Road,  
Mayetta, KS 66509

Phone: 785-966-3920

Website:  
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Etkwagēk/Fall Time  
2022 Edition  
Deadline  
November 7, 2022

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



Timothy Berry

Timothy (“Tim”) Berry, 77, of Powell, Wyoming passed away peacefully June 4, 2022 with his wife by his side. His 15-month battle with cancer is over and he is free. Cremation has taken place.

Tim was born on January 28, 1945 in Topeka, Kansas to Cleetis and Una (Graham) Berry. He graduated in 1963 from Washburn Rural High School, and was a proud member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Tim was also a member of the Army National Guard and served his country in the Vietnam War. While stationed in the Mekong Delta in 1969 he earned two Bronze Stars.

In 1993 Tim married his soul-mate Linda McQuitty. He retired in 2000 after 34 years with Topeka’s Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, then he and Linda fulfilled their dream of moving to the mountains. Tim always loved hunting, fishing and camping with friends and family, so he was in his element. He also honored his Native American ancestry by creating many art pieces from deer antlers and buffalo skulls with inlaid copper and beads. Tim and his wife enjoyed 29 wonderful years together.

Survivors include his wife Linda, brother Ken (Aleda) Berry of Topeka, and a host of beloved cousins and friends. He will be greatly missed.

Reprinted Courtesy of-  
Thompson Funeral Home

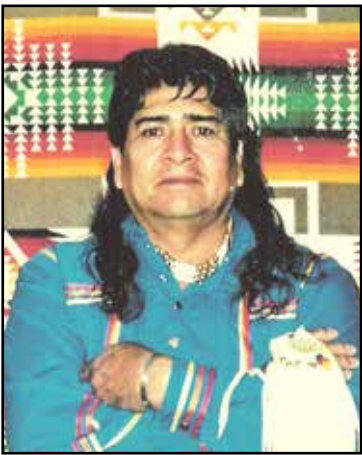


Johnny Gamino

Johnny Edward Gamino, age 63, of Mayetta, died August 7, 2022, at University of Kansas Health System – St. Francis, Topeka.

He was born May 22, 1959, in Manhattan.

He was interred at the Sunset Cemetery Manhattan, KS



Tommy Shane

Tommy “Tom” “Ki sheh meh” Gene Shane, 82, of Mayetta, KS, passed away Monday, August 29, 2022 at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka.

He was born April 20, 1940 in Horton, KS, the son of Sofie Lillie Shane (Keesis) and Bobby. Tom was raised by his grandparents, Dora and Jessie Keesis, until he was 5 years old.

Tom graduated from Haskell High School in 1957 and earned 50 hours of college “on the job training.”

He worked from age 10 to 34 for Mt. Arbor Nursery in Shenandoah, IA and for 27 years at Eaton Corp in Quality Control, building transmissions, also in Shenandoah, IA. After moving back to Kansas, Tom worked for 3 years at Prairie Band Casino.

He was a member of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Tom loved the Lord and was a born-again Christian. He believed in the Holy Trinity. The Father, Son and the Holy Ghost.

Tom’s passion in life was training and hunting dogs. And he loved and respected women.

He married Jo Ellen King; they later divorced. To this union 5 children were born.

Tom adopted his son, Eli, in 2000.

Tom was very proud of all 6 of his kids. He knows that the Lord will look out for them.

Survivors include his 6 children, Michael T. Shane of Holton, KS, Timothy J. Shane (Joei) of Silver Lake, KS, Donald ‘Jim’ Shane (Ronda) of Mayetta, KS, Lisa M. Green (Aaron) of Shenandoah, IA, Shelly A. Shane of Council Bluffs, IA and Eli W. Shane of Mayetta, KS; 19 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sofie and Bobby and his grandson, Dylan.

Graveside Service were. Saturday, September 3, 2022 at the Mason Cemetery on the Kickapoo Reservation.

Reprinted Courtesy of -  
Mercer Funeral Homes



Maurine Shegonee

Maurine Shegonee, age 75, died at home Thursday June 9, 2022 surrounded by her loving family and caregivers.

Maurine was born April 22, 1947 in Wisconsin Rapids, WI to Charles and Mary (Smith) Shegonee. Maurine was adopted at birth and raised in the ways of the Ho Chunk people by her mom, Emmaline Clairra (Wilson) Twinn. It was Emmaline who instilled all the wonderful motherly values and sense of family in Maurine who inturn was a guiding light and special example for her children and grandchildren.

Emmaline was the driving force in who Maurine was to become. Maurine was rich in life; happy in her work and generous to a fault with both her time and talents. Reasons she became such a wonderful stepmom and foster parent as well. She was admired for her lifelong friendships. She was a woman of integrity and honesty. She was and independent woman and strong-willed.

She worked long, second shifts that kept her busy at night, only to come home and work at her weaving or beadwork through the night in order to be up for breakfast before sending the kids to school and then finally finding time to sleep. Relentlessly a hard worker, and a selfless woman sacrificing for her children and others so they wouldn’t have to.

Working at night was also her creative time as Maurine was not only a craftswoman but her designs and ways of expressing herself made her a true artisan; particularly in her weaving and yarnwork as well as her beadwork. She spent alone time reading and doing large print cross word puzzles. Maurine was never simple (though she liked to think so) as she was always humble.

Surviving Maurine are her children John William Shegonee, Christine (Christopher Sweet) Shegonee, Jessica Lynn Stacy, and Daniel Charles Stacy; her stepchildren George Owen Stacy Jr. and Melanie Rose Stacy; her 15 grandchildren Kristopher John Lockman, Gabriel D. Shegonee, Monte Z. Shegonee, Maleana Cloud, Joshua Cloud Jr., Jaret J. Decorah, Abigail M. Shegonee, Jaelyn Cloud, Cecilia Cloud, Dash Alfred

Stacy, Dannika Emmaline Funmaker, George Preston Stacy, Ruby Maurine Funmaker, Zachara Noreen Stacy and Jesse Eugene Stacy, her two great-grandchildren Blake Shegonee and Kiyah Cloud. Further surviving Maurine is a lone sibling her brother Charles Shegonee Jr., as well as her very precious great-grandpup Oliver Mittens.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her other siblings; Bonnie Twinn, Neoma J. (Shegonee) Denning and Rhonda Marie (Shegonee) Burwell.

Burial took place, June 11, 2022 at the UCC Church Cemetery.

Reprinted Courtesy of -  
Buswell Funeral Home



Stephanie Wapskineh

Stephanie Renea Wapskineh, age 40, resident of McLoud, Oklahoma passed away June 6, 2022 in McLoud, Oklahoma. A celebration of life was held Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at the Murdock family home.

Stephanie was born on February 3, 1982 to Marquetta Murdock and Thomas Wapskineh in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Stephanie attended and graduated from Tahlequah High School and worked as a jack-of-all-trades. She loved being around her family and her children were her pride and joy. She also loved spending time with her friends.

In her younger years, she was a very talented softball player and loved the sport. “Boots” admired her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray M. Murdock and Marlene Murdock. They are her rock for which she stood. Boots was the life of the party wherever she was.

She is survived by her children, DeAlva Jones and William Mahtapene of McLoud, sister, Leanna Murdock (Leroy Thomas) and their children, Leroy and Adi-Kus Thomas and Alexis Murdock, sister, Madeline Hoover and her children Xands and Xavier Hoover and their older sister, lysis Rivera. May she rest in peace in her next life and start a new journey.

Reprinted Courtesy of-  
Walker Funeral Service



Jeffrey Youngbear

Jeffrey Scott Youngbear, 37, of Mayetta, KS, passed away Thursday, June 2, 2022 in Topeka, KS, with family by his side. He was born February 1, 1985 in Topeka, KS, the son of Henry R. Alex and Carla Yvonne Youngbear.

He graduated from Penn Foster in 2012 and from Washburn Tech. He was a heavy equipment operator for construction companies.

Jeff was a member of Native Religion and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

He was preceded in death by his step-father, William Smith

Survivors include his wife, Ledgee L. Youngbear of the home; his mother, Carla Youngbear of Mayetta, KS; 5 children, Skyla Youngbear, Lily Youngbear and Dasan Youngbear all of Oklahoma, Stone Smith and Redman Youngbear both of Topeka, KS; 2 step-daughters, Rainin Carreno and Blaze Griffith both of Topeka, KS; brother, Seanbear Youngbear of Mayetta, KS; grandmas; many uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Reprinted Courtesy of -  
Mercer Funeral Homes

Nicholas Ward Bankert

August 5, 1974  
July 1, 2022

Helen E. Cantrell

October 17, 1941  
August 17, 2022

Sherly L. Penland

May 5, 1945  
April 1, 2022

Nishnabek Ntewmèn - “Who We Are”



June 1st: Happy “Sweet 16”  
Ashtyn Raylynn Keo!  
We love you babe!  
-Mom, Dad, & Dutch



June 13th:  
Happy Birthday  
Chief Robert Wahwasuck!

Meet  
PePaMiKwe



August 22nd:  
Happy Birthday  
Shisha Ray Wahwasuck, Jr!

Meet the Interns

MADISON BOSWELL

Yellowstone National Park  
Intern

Hometown: Mayetta, KS  
Prairie Band Potawatomi and Hopi

Welcome Madison as one of the August - October 2022 YNP interns. She is working on her B.S. degree in Environmental Science and has a dream of going into the field of wildlife conservation. She has worked with her Tribe's Lands Department tagging, moving and feeding the Tribe's buffalo herd. She has the honor of being the first female from her Reservation to work with the summer youth program under the Lands Department. Madison is excited about learning and experiencing more behind the scenes work and looks forward to gaining firsthand knowledge to succeed in the world of wildlife conservation and grow as a scientist. Welcome Madison!



**Elaina Kay Lan**  
Kennesaw State University  
Parents:  
**Jim and Jacquelin Lan**  
Bachelor of Business  
Administration in  
Management  
Year: 2022

Potawatomi Gathering  
Makes Triumphant  
Return After Pandemic  
Causes Two-Year Hiatus

After COVID-19 forced a two-year hiatus from the beloved annual gathering, the 2022 Potawatomi Gathering was hosted by the Hannahville Indian Community. The Hannahville Indian Reservation is located near Escanaba, Mich. and the northern end of Lake Michigan. More than 2,000 people from 11 Potawatomi Nations attended the cultural celebration.

The two-day language conference kicked off the week of activity, with nearly 300 hundred participants learning about Potawatomi history, the state of individual tribes' language programs, and experiencing activities geared toward language acquisition. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Language program was instrumental to the conference. The program hosted a game show style language session for attendees and PBPB Language Director Dawn “Sogi” LeClere presented on an informative panel. During the course of the Gathering, Tribal Leaders voted to officially combine the language conference with future Gatherings.

Beginning on Wednesday, the Gathering activities began which included daily sunrise ceremony, lodge teachings, and workshops, along with a youth conference, youth basketball and volleyball tournaments, youth dance party, golf tournaments, an art show, a mentalist/hypnosis show, a comedy performance by Tatanka Means followed by a singing performance done by artists Lil Mike and Funny Bone (regularly featured on FX's Reservation Dogs), a Veterans Luncheon, a Tribal Historic Preservation Officers meeting, a Judicial/Gaming Commission meeting and an Economic Summit for tribal leadership. A few of the workshop topics were:

- moccasin making
- ribbon skirt class
- applique class
- sewing sweetgrass
- plant walks
- lacrosse stick making
- hand drum/rattle making
- making herbal salves

Several PBPB members hosted workshops including Sogi and Cindy LeClere, Josias Aitkens, Maggie Fairman and Maria Fairman. A few PBPB members also set up as vendors during the event including Melinda Williamson, Jona Rupnicki and Melvin Lewis with his wife Tiffany.



Josias Aitkens, PBPB Member, demonstrates how to make Ball Sticks during one of the craft sessions at the 2022 Potawatomi Gathering.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, attendees participated in the traditional powwow, with PBPB member Jason Hale serving as event emcee and Chago Hale serving as arena director. Hundreds of dancers followed the Potawatomi Nations veterans groups with their flags through the new domed arena. Both the Princess and Shkaabewis were selected and announced Friday evening. Gladys Martin from the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe) was crowned as the new Potawatomi Nation Princess and Aspen Kewayosh-Deleary from the Bkejwanong Territory (Walpole Island First Nation) was selected for the role of Shkaabewis.

To close out the event, the ceremonial ashes were presented to the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, located on the Pine Creek Reservation in Fulton, Mich., who will host the 2023 Potawatomi Gathering next summer. Look for more information at nhbp-nsn.gov.