



Prairie Band Potawatomi News

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

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Etkwagēk 2022

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Etkwagēk
"Fall time
of the year"

This paper contains the
activities and happenings
that took place during the
Fall time of 2022:
September, October,
November



The We-Ta-Se Color Guard stands at parade rest in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. after marching in the Native Veterans Procession on Nov. 11, 2022. From left to right – Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick, Chuck Wahweotten, Robert "Mimis" Jackson, and Charles "Wishkeno" Wakole.

We-Ta-Se Color Guard Participates in Dedication of the National Native American Veterans Memorial

Members of We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410 spent Veterans Day weekend in Washington, D.C., to participate in the dedication of the National Native American Veterans Memorial. On Veterans Day, the We-Ta-Se Color Guard joined more than 1,500 Native veterans representing nearly 125 tribes and communities to march in the Native Veterans Procession on the National Mall. The procession route began at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and ended directly east of the Capitol. Following the procession, We-Ta-Se members attended the Memorial's Dedication Ceremony, which featured a blessing by Vietnam veteran Robert Short (Kiowa), musical performances, and addresses from speakers including Cynthia Chavez Lamar (San Felipe Pueblo/Hopi/Tewa/Navajo), director of the National Museum of the American Indian; Rep. Sharice Davids (Ho-Chunk), U.S. representative from Kansas' 3rd congressional district;

and Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne and Arapaho), designer of the Memorial.

The National Native American Veterans Memorial was completed and unveiled on Nov. 11, 2020, but the official dedication was delayed until this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Pratt's design concept for the Memorial, entitled "Warriors' Circle of Honor," was selected from more than 120 submissions. The Memorial features a large stainless-steel circle elevated above an intricately carved stone drum, with running water, a ceremonial flame, and four lances on which veterans, family members, tribal leaders, and others can tie prayer cloths. Pratt said that his design utilized the four elements of earth, air, water, and fire because of their universality.

"We know that if my grandfather came here, he would recognize these elements," Pratt said during the Dedication Ceremony. "And our warriors today recognize these elements,



Visitors view the National Native American Veterans Memorial in front of the National Museum of the American Indian after the Dedication Ceremony on Nov. 11, 2022. The ceremonial flame is lit on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and other occasions that honor the sacrifice and service of Native veterans.

and my grandchildren's grandchildren will recognize these elements."

Pratt, like many other speakers at the Dedication Ceremony, is a veteran himself, having served in Vietnam from 1962 to 1965 as a U.S. Marine in Air Rescue and Security stationed at Da Nang Air Base. Throughout the Dedication Ceremony,

speakers emphasized the unique, complex history of Native American military service, highlighting that Native Americans serve at higher rates than any other ethnic group and have also served in every major conflict since the Revolutionary War. Sen. Daniel Sullivan of Alaska

-See Dedication on Page 3

Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick: Report to the Nation



Dear Tribal Members,

This past quarter has been a flurry of activity for me and the Nation. Right after General Council, I left to attend the Annual Potawatomi Gathering. Since the COVID outbreak, it was good to see all the family and friends in attendance. And while the mood was light, there still was the concern of COVID. While we have seen a decrease in the number of positive cases here, it was reported some may have contracted the virus while attending the Gathering.

I would like to thank the membership for their diligence in receiving the vaccination and boosters when available. We still must be mindful that the Omicron virus is still among us and will remain a threat for the future. I know everyone is tired of hearing me talk about this disease, but we need to do everything we can to keep our families and community safe. It's good to still see people taking the precautions by wearing masks in public, and now that we are in the flu season, we need to continue to take those extra steps to protect ourselves. We have boosters available and at the time of this report, Flu vaccinations will be available. Please do your part and get vaccinated.

This past quarter we also witnessed the submission of the bill H.R. 8380 filed in the House's Natural Resources Committee by Congressman Jesus Garcia. On August 11th we had a Media day at the request of Congressman Garcia and Congresswoman Underwood, co-sponsor of the bill in Shabbona, Illinois. Members of Tribal Council, We-Ta-Se Legion Post 410, the Women's Auxiliary, and singers from Kansas attended. Also in attendance were State Senators and Representatives who had submitted the resolutions of support for our claim. It was a good day to kick off our bill and bring awareness for our cause.

September 14th, I testified before Congress on H.R. 8380 in front of the Subcommittee for Indigenous People of the United States. Prior to testifying, Members of the

Subcommittee were visited and briefed on the bill and questions were answered, working out a possible timeline for passage. I want to emphasize that we still have a long ways to go and we are working with committee members to get the Bill marked up and on the floor next month. I feel we have done a good job building bi-partisan support which will be needed if we hope to get this bill passed, and from conversations with the Committee Chair, Teresa Leger Fernandez, she is hoping for a submission in November. We will keep everyone posted.

Since the passage of the Kansas sports betting legislation, Council is still in discussion with the State. Again, I want to reemphasize that we are not opening up the compact. We are seeking an amendment to Section 3 paragraph (B) Prohibited Games. This should be a single page amendment, striking sports betting, with all other elements remaining the same. Right now, we are caught in an election cycle and most talks have been stalled for the time being, mostly due in part to see who would be the next Governor. Now that the election has been decided, we still have a lot of work to do. It is as good a time as any to push support in the coming election. Our efforts would continue or start over depending on who was elected. And even though the current Governor Kelly was elected to a second term, the fact remains that no amendment will pass unless the Kansas Legislation approves it, which will be when they are in session the next year. We are working with our friends in the Capitol to make sure the language is correct, and our interests are protected. This, like many other issues, are a “hurry up and wait.”

To secure funding for our roads, in July, I was contacted by Richard Backlund with the Federal Highway Administration asking if I would like to meet with Christopher Coes, Assistant Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation. Not wanting to miss an opportunity, myself and members of Council met with Secretary Coes, and I expressed my displeasure over the Infrastructure and Jobs Act. This Act forces Tribes to work with the State on infrastructure needs instead of funding directly through the Interior. I explained that the Act undermines our Sovereignty, placing us below the State, and as many know, Tribal interests are not the priority for States and our members are only considered when it's favorable to them. This meeting resulted in multiple other meetings with State representatives surveying our roads, and I felt that they were committed to working with us on repairs. While these meetings have not resulted in funding yet, I'm hopeful that we can

work together to repair our roads.

Finally, I spoke to the Kansas Board of Education during their October meeting with the hopes of the Board passing a resolution supporting our efforts to eliminate racial mascots. This effort, as many know, started with the comments made by Commissioner Randy Watson. Because of his comments, a working group was established, the Kansas Advisory Council for Indigenous Education – Working Group.

This group has met multiple times and as a result of the working group, a resolution was adopted by the four Tribes and presented to the Board, who then provided comments and feedback on the resolution. At their November meeting, the members of the Board of Education passed the Resolution with seven

members voting in favor of the recommendation. Members Jean Clifford and Ben Jones abstained from the vote, while Michelle Dombrosky was the only member who voted against the resolution.

While the Board does not have the authority to dictate mascots, they do have influence to help with a legislative change needed in the state.

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 pandemic and maybe someday, we will see the end of this. Be safe.

Migwett
Joseph P. Rupnick, Chairman
Prairie Band
Potawatomi Nation

TVS Shares Healing with Community Through Art

PBPN Tribal Victim Services (TVS) hosted their Splatters That Matter outreach event on October 22, 2022, at the Old Bingo Hall. TVS provided several different art stations and materials for community members to create their own artwork, along with raffle prizes and pizza. Splatters That Matter was part of a series of events put on by TVS throughout the month of October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Participants were able to paint on canvasses, make collage magnets, create Shrinky Dinks crafts, fingerpaint, draw, and color.

Jamie Wabaunsee, TVS Victim Specialist, headed the event. She helped participants sign in, invited them to rotate through the stations to make different types of art, and helped serve the pizza and raffle off prizes. The TVS team ensured that everyone felt welcome and had fun throughout the evening.

TVS Lead Specialist Kent Miller has been helping organize Splatters That Matter events for many years. He began painting in 2009 and did training for healing through art programs in 2010.

“I never would have thought there could be healing through art until I started doing this,” Miller said.

“We actually gain a lot of clients through these events because they help build trust,” TVS Victim Specialist Audrey England said. “They feel like they can't talk to their family or anybody, but they come to these events and meet us and learn about our work, and they trust us to listen to their problems and help.”

Splatters That Matter is an outreach event that allows community members to learn about PBPN's Tribal Victim Services program and get involved in an engaging and creative way. It has been provided to victims and clients, PBPN employees, and foster children groups.

TVS had previously hosted Splatters That Matter for eight consecutive years, and this year was the first time they were able to hold the event since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. When they first organized the event, it lasted 24 hours, but they scaled the duration back in following years.

Although the Splatters That Matters event was limited to three hours, Tribal Victim Services provides a 24/7 hotline for anyone in need. If you or someone you know could use support, you can call 1.866.966.0173 at any time to talk to a TVS team member.



Secretary Lorrie Melchior: Report to the Nation



Dear Tribal Members, Included here is a partial accounting of the events that I have attended in the past few months.

Meetings attended:

- September, October, November, and December Tribal Council meetings.
- Broadband and other opportunities meeting
- General Council meeting
- FY23 Budget meetings
- Title VI meetings
- The Advance Voting Station @ Old Bingo Hall
- Royal Valley Impact Aid meeting

- Quarterly Ks Residential Tribes and DCF information exchange.
 - Land Committee Meetings
 - We-Ta-Se November meeting.
 - PBPB Economic Investment Semi-Annual meeting
 - Potawatomi Economic Summit & Tribal Leaders meeting
 - FEMA BRIC Presentation
 - Broadband and other opportunities meeting
 - Casino Annual Budget meeting
- Travel:**
- October 11, 2022, I attended the Advisory Councils for Indigenous Education Working Group presentation addressing the concern of the impact of Native American imagery used as school mascots to the Kansas Board of Education.
 - October 26, 2022, DeKalb, Illinois, to attend the Vanishing Workforce conference.
 - The experience of the travel to DeKalb, Illinois, on attending the Vanishing Workforce conference was informational and a positive learning experience. The presenter of the conference was invigorating and interesting. There was a discussion of many generations of the workforce and how each generation is

- perceived in today’s workforce.
- October 28, 2022, I attended the Proclamation Ceremony Approval for Native American Heritage Month held at the State Capital in Topeka-Governor Laura Kelly.
 - Attending the Proclamation Ceremony Approval for Native American Heritage Month was monumental and a step forward for Indigenous People. Governor Laura Kelly was pleasant as she had signed the Proclamation. PBPB has 26 Operational Boards and Committees. The Nation is currently asking Tribal Members to fill vacant member positions:
 - Employee Disputes Tribunal 1 Elected and 1 TC appointed. (Potawatomi Law and Order Code-Title 22 Employment Code-Chapter 22-4 Employment Disputes Tribunal.)
 - Enrollment Review Committee 3 Members and 1 Alternate. (By-Laws for the Tribal Enrollment Committee of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Section 1. The Tribal Enrollment Committee: (Committee) letter A. and Section 2. Alternate Members letter A.)
 - Social Services Advisory Board 2 Members appointed by Tribal Council. (Organizational By-

- Laws of the Social Services Advisory Board Section 1.3 Tenure and Vacancies.)
- Peacemakers Circle 1 Member approved by General Council. (Potawatomi Law and Order Code-Title 2 Courts-Chapter 2-5 PEACEMAKERS 2-5-1 (B).)
 - Tribal Members are encouraged to submit their letters of interest to the Office of the Tribal Council Secretary, 16281 Q Road, Mayetta, Kansas 66509 for designated postings on the Nation’s website.
 - Please utilize our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation website. Our website includes news and events. On the website, located in our Members Only Portal, is the information which includes Tribal Council meeting minutes and resolutions. The 2023 General Council meetings will all be located at our Prairie Band Casino & Resort.
- Those dates are:**
- January 21, 2023
 - April 15, 2023
 - July 15, 2023
 - October 21, 2023
- Stay safe and warm!**
- Igwien**
- Lorrie Melchior, Secretary**
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation**

National Native American Veterans Memorial Dedicated in DC

-Dedication from Page 1 referred to Native veterans’ service in his address as an example of “special patriotism” for a country that has not always accepted or respected them.

In attendance at the Dedication Ceremony was Thomas H. Begay (Navajo), a 98-year-old veteran who served as a U.S. Marine and Code Talker during World War II. The Navajo Code, which was used to convey encrypted messages in the Pacific Theater and played a vital role in defeating Japan, is the only military code in modern history that was never broken.

“In both World Wars, Native American language tangibly helped the U.S. to victory,” Lonnie Bunch, Secretary of the Smithsonian, said in his address. “These were the same Native tongues that the United States government tried to eradicate in boarding schools.”

The National Native American Veterans Memorial and its Dedication Ceremony represent the long-overdue recognition that Native veterans deserve for their service and sacrifices. Pratt said he envisions the Memorial as a place for “gathering, remembrance, healing, and reflection.”

Although the day was rainy, at one point during the Dedication Ceremony, a rainbow broke through the clouds above the Capitol.

“I do want to acknowledge that, during the invocation, while Mr. Short was blessing all of us, the Creator blessed us with a rainbow above the Capitol,” Rep. Davids said at the beginning of her address. “And I think that’s really fitting, because it’s such an honor today to celebrate our veterans from all of our Indigenous, Native communities in this country. Thank you for your service.”

Apart from the Native Veterans Procession and the Memorial’s Dedication Ceremony on Veterans Day, the National Museum of the American Indian offered additional programming over the weekend to honor and celebrate Native veterans, including extended museum hours, film showings, and hands-on activities. The Museum also hosted events throughout November for Native American Heritage Month.

On Saturday, Nov. 12, members of We-Ta-Se visited Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place for over 14,000 veterans, and viewed the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The following day, the group toured the National Mall to see the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the White House.

Members of We-Ta-Se previously had the honor of leading the procession for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation at the public opening of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 21, 2004. The We-Ta-Se Color Guard performs at approximately 45 events annually, often traveling all over the state of Kansas and to some functions nationwide.

We-Ta-Se member Chuck Wahweotten, who marched in the Native Veterans Procession as part of the Color Guard, said, “We’re able to do all of this because of our Tribe’s casino and leadership. We’re very fortunate to have those resources and support.”



The We-Ta-Se Color Guard prepares for the Native Veterans Procession in Washington D.C. on Nov. 11, 2022. From left to right – Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick, Chuck Wahweotten, Robert “Mimis” Jackson, and Charles “Wishkeno” Wakole.

Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, hope all is well, as 2022 comes to a close in the next few days.

This has been a rather challenging year financially in many respects. We saw the financial markets hit all-time highs in January followed by significant drops in the markets throughout the year. Although the financial markets have rebounded some in recent weeks, many investments will likely close significantly lower by year end.

In addition to the volatile financial markets we saw high fuel prices along with record high inflation.

On a much brighter note the Casino's financial performance continues to rival figures that we have not seen since State Gaming came about nearly a decade ago now. FY2023 Budgets are in the process of being finalized and look to funded at similar levels when compared to FY2022. Also, tax season is fast approaching in which W-2's and 1099's will be distributed in the latter part of January. Below are a few additional highlights and updates on items of interest in the Tribe's financial area.

COVID-19 Disaster Payment Notices from SSA

At the Native American Finance Officers Association's (NAFOA) Fall 2022 Finance and Tribal Economies Conference this past October there was a presentation during the General Session put on by the Social Security Administration (SSA). During the presentation it was announced that SSA had established a new Office of Native American Programs (ONAP). ONAP has been created to help ensure that Tribal Members eligible for Social Security benefits receive them as well as provides Tribes with more representation in developing policies that will affect Indian Country.

In certain instances, benefits provided by Tribes may result in

Tribal Members temporarily losing their Social Security benefits. In 2020 and 2021, the Tribe provided Special Coronavirus Relief Benefits to the membership which were non-taxable and not considered to be income according to the Tribe's General Welfare Support Program in accordance with Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014. In some cases, we were able to provide documentation for SSA on a case-by-case basis to ensure our Tribal Members maintained their Social Security benefits. Unfortunately, there may have been cases where Tribal Member Social Security benefits may have been negatively impacted if our Special Coronavirus Relief Benefits were counted as income.

Below is a slide from the NAFOA Fall 2022 Finance and Tribal Economies Conference. In the slide is an excerpt from a letter that was recently recirculated by the SSA. If your Social Security benefits were in fact negatively impacted or denied because of the Special Coronavirus Relief Benefits you may be eligible for back pay. The contact info for SSA is in the slide below or you may contact my office for additional details, and we will be happy

to assist as much as possible.

Title 10 Amendment to Sales Tax

During the Tribal Council meeting held on November 3rd, the Tribal Council approved an amendment to the Tribe's General Revenue and Taxation law and order code, Title 10, following a 60-day public comment period. The amendment to Title 10 will increase the Tribal Sales Tax rate from 5% to 6%. The rate increase is not yet in place but will become effective on January 1, 2023.

The Tribal Sales Tax is collected within the Tribe's jurisdiction and is primarily collected on sales at our Tribally owned businesses. The Casino and Prairie Band LLC are the primary businesses where the Tribal Sales tax is collected with a handful of other businesses also collecting and remitting the Tribal Sales Tax to the Tribe's Tax Commission. Sales to the Tribe, sales made by small retailers (i.e. pow wow vendors, concession stands, fundraisers to name a few) and sales of propane as defined by Title 10 are exempt from the Tribal Sales Tax.

The Tribal Sales Tax increase

will go toward helping fund functions such as our road maintenance and infrastructure needs as well as help to fund the administrative functions of the Tribe's Tax Commission.

For more information on the Tribe's taxes you may contact the Tax Director, Tonya Negonsott-Rodvelt @ 785.966.3998 or read more about Title 10 and the Tribe's other Law and Order codes @ <http://www.codepublishing.com/KS/Potawatomi/> which can also be accessed on the Tribe's website under Government – Law and Order Codes.

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

Respectfully
Wade Pahmahmie (Wap-tti-ge)

Covid-19 Disaster Payment / Mailed notices

How can you help provide benefit awareness?

- Notices were mailed November, December 2021, and
- Mailed notices again to the same persons August, September 2022

We may have denied your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claim because you received financial assistance due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Please contact us to see if you may now be eligible for SSI, including back payments.

What You Need To Do

Please call us at 1-800-772-1213 and request a phone appointment with your local field office about your claim. Our phone lines are open on weekdays from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may contact our TTY number at 1-800-325-0778. Please have this letter with you when you call.

Governor Declares November Native American Heritage Month

On November 1, 2022 Kansas Governor Kelly signed a proclamation declaring November to be Native American Heritage Month.

At left members of the PBP Tribal Council and members of other Kansas tribes joined the governor when she signed the proclamation.

The full text of the proclamation is included on the following page.

Tribal Council Member Tony Wahweotten: Report to the Nation



Ho’ PBPB Members

As we enter the fourth quarter of 2022, I first would like to extend my continued thoughts and prayers to the families who have suffered losses this year. 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 PBP Tribal Council Representative and allowing me to serve in this capacity for the Nation and alongside my colleagues Chairman Rupnick, Vice Chairman Zach Pahlmahlmie, Treasurer Wade Pahlmahlmie, New Secretary Lorrie Melchior, Councilman William Evens, and Councilman Raphael Wahwassuck. It truly is an honor.

A special thanks to all The Tribal Council Administrative Assistants and former Secretary Camilla Chouteau for her past years of services and dedication, best wishes in her retirement.

I would also like to say congratulations to all the 2022 graduates and those who chose to further their education to a whole new degree level, from the youngest to the oldest, and great job to the 2022 WE-TA-SE Pow Wow Committee for hosting a great traditional Pow Wow.

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

- Five special Tribal Council meetings
- One emergency Tribal Council meeting
- Two Regular Tribal Council meetings
- Five legal project meetings
- A swearing in ceremony for the newly elected
- One trip to the Hannahville Potawatomi Gathering
- One Illinois press/Media Blitz and property visit
- One Shabehnay lobbying efforts trip to DC Hearing
- Six PBP Tax Commission meetings
- Three Hemp Regulation meetings
- Two Land Committee meetings
- One meeting with Representatives on property
- One Four Tribes Quarterly meeting
- One PBPB Roads Status and updates meeting
- One trip to The Flandreau Tribal operations

All related to information 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, Entertainment Board 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, including Sports betting and Medical Cannabis.

On continued leadership activity, the LLC and Investment Committee is nearing groundbreaking work on the 150th and 75HWY Travel Plaza project, and other plan development. Other leadership

activity involving Tribal Council, General Management, Prairie Band Construction and Tribal Attorneys are broadband, continued infrastructure planning development, roads resurfacing and identified full depth replacement.

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 twenty-five 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 twenty PBP Lands meetings. 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 and By-laws. See the Tribal website or portal for Constitutional declarations under Article II-Lands.

No new buffalo received during this last quarter. Our next opportunity for buffalo harvest is scheduled and new surplus buffalo will possibly be

this fall, or during the winter months.

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 July’s GC meeting, I have attended discussions with NRCS, EPA, and Land Committee representatives to discuss preliminary assessment 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 (SCWP), complying with recently established 2018 Farm Bill, final rule, and new 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, new 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: 35 total Current Jobs. Please visit our website, **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**

Governor Kelly’s Proclamation Declaring November Native American Heritage Month TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, since time immemorial, Tribal Nations have resided on and enriched this nation with their vibrant and diverse cultures - safeguarding our lands, resilient spirit, knowledge, and traditions across multiple generations; and
WHEREAS, the history and culture of our great nation and the State of Kansas was founded and significantly influenced by Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, American Indian veterans continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces with distinguished commitment and valor in defense of this country; and

WHEREAS, Tribal customs and traditions are to be respected and celebrated as part of a rich legacy throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, during the month of November, Kansas proudly joins with communities, and other municipal and state governments across the country in recognizing, celebrating, and promoting awareness of the invaluable

contributions and resilience of Tribal Nations; committing to honoring the Tribal sovereignty and government-to-government relationship of all Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, in honor of Native American Heritage Month, community celebrations, as well as numerous cultural, educational, artistic, historical, and contemporary activities, have been planned throughout the state; all citizens of Kansas are encouraged to strive to learn more about the rich and diverse Tribal cultures of Kansas by visiting historic sites, museums, and archives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS do hereby proclaim November 2022, as NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH in the state of Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observations.

By the Governor

PBPN Firekeepers Youth Council Members Attend 2022 United National Indian Tribal Youth Conference in Minneapolis

Five youth from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Firekeepers Youth Council attended the 2022 United National Indian Tribal Youth Conference, this past July in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Almost 2000 youth members attended this year's conference.

Some of the keynote speakers at the event included:

- Chef Stephanie “Pyet” De Spain, PBPN Tribal member, who won the Next Level Chef competition with Gordon Ramsey.
- Kiowa Gordon, Hualapai Native actor who has a role in AMC TV series Dark Winds.
- Stormee Lee Kipp of the Shoshone-Bannock and Blackfeet people, who recently starred in the Predator movie Prey.
- Mato Wayuhi, an Oglala Lakota multidisciplinary artist originally from South Dakota. He works in film/TV both as a producer and musical composer, as well as writing his own music, garnering critical acclaim. Most notably, Mato is the composer for the award-winning FX/Hulu series Reservation Dogs.
- Winona LaDuke is a Harvard-economist, environmental activist, author, hemp farmer, grandmother, and a two-time former Green Party Vice President candidate with Ralph Nader. LaDuke specializes in rural development, economic, food, and energy sovereignty and environmental justice.

The youth attended their Southern Plains Regional Area Caucus meetings which included Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. They represented PBPN by carrying in the Tribal Flag during the

Parade of Nations.

Other Activities included: Cultural night where youth councils shared songs and dances from their tribal culture, and a Talent Show where several youth shared a talent such as singing, instruments, poems, comedy and dancing.

The GALA is always the best part of the conference, a nice five-course meal and opportunity for the youth to wear formal, casual, or traditional styles with awards and recognitions of youth councils and youth. A dance followed the GALA, and the youth enjoyed the music from EMCEE One, a member of the Citizen Band of Potawatomi, a Youth Advocate, & National Speaker, currently an official DJ for Nike N7, International DJ/Tour Support for Taboo (The Black Eyed Peas), MTV Video Music Award Winner, a member of newly formed group #Mag7, CEO of One Innertainment Inc. & Co Founder of an outreach program called One Chance Leadership.

The PBPN Youth said that what they liked most about the Conference was that they enjoyed being with other Native youth from around the country, making nice and new friends and learning about their communities. UNITY allowed them to see different view-points of their people as a whole. The UNITY fire was sacred. Those who spoke did so with emotion when they talked. The participants learned to cheer for others and do the best they can.

The PBPN Members all agreed that youth should attend and have this experience at the UNITY conference.

Victor Organista said, “I liked meeting new people from different communities around the country. Most of the people I met brought different perspectives to my life. Don't be afraid to be yourself. People like



Victor Organista, Kaelan Burgess, Kendra Hale, Cruz Pahmahmie-Arteaga, Tanaya Mahkuk pose for a photo before they head to the airport after the United National Indian Tribal Youth Conference in Minneapolis. These five represented the PBPN Firekeepers Youth Council during the event.

the genuine you, so don't try to be someone you aren't. I learned that if you are having a hard time in life, don't resort to illegal substances. There are people that care about you and they want to help you. If you ever feel the need to do illegal substances, don't do it. Try and keep yourself busy by going out into the community and helping others out.”

He went on to say, “I met some amazing people while at Unity that really inspire me to go out and help my community and be kind to others. You never know what someone has gone through or what they are going through. So be kind to everyone, you could end up making someone's day by being nice to them.”

The adults weren't left out of all of the activities as chaperon training was offered, giving them the opportunity to network with other advisors and meet new people working with native youth.

JoAnna “Dumps” Mitchell, PBPN Youth Outreach & Prevention Specialist at the Boys & Girls Club, said, “It was great to be able to attend the UNITY conference again after the pandemic. The youth have enjoyed going for the past years, fundraising to pay for the costs of the trip. This year we were very fortunate to be funded through the PBPN Native Wellness Connections program. We would like to say Igwien for this opportunity for our youth to attend.”

Vocational Rehabilitation: Making a difference in our community/Letter from a VR Counselor



Wulf James

Chukma, hello! As a new member of the PBPN Social Services team, I wanted to take the opportunity to share my experiences as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor over the past several weeks. My name is Wulf James. I'm a Chickasaw Nation tribal member originally from rural Oklahoma. Having worked as a VR Counselor for several years for my own tribe, as well as other roles in social services, I gladly accepted a position as a counselor here at PBPN. Since late August, I have met many community members and have seen some amazing successes with the tribal vocational rehabilitation program. As a result of a job interviewing skills class for those who have previous legal history, one client was able to land a job within a week. Other clients have persevered through substance use disorders and treatment, putting in work to get on track and also seeking support to maintain sobriety. Other clients have made huge progress managing complex health conditions with resources not just from VR, but also other social services and non-tribal programs—several of whom

are either ready to return to work or are already in employment.

The thing that makes tribal vocational rehabilitation unique from other employment supports is that we have staff and leadership who understand the native experience. Connection to indigenous ways of thinking can make all the difference to a client's experience and outcomes. I saw that first-hand back in Oklahoma and it is just as true here at Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

The vocational rehabilitation program is funded by a federal grant to provide employment related services to members of federally recognized tribes with a disability that makes it hard for them to get or keep a job. Services for each client are individualized and planned with a counselor one on one. If you or someone you know would like to see if VR is a fit for you, you can find more information at: www.pbpindiantribe.com/social-services/vocational-rehabilitation/ or reach out to us at 785-966-8331 or email vocrehab1@pbpnation.org.

**Chi pisa la cho/See you later
Wulf James, MSNAL
PBPN Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor**

Bark House and Encampment Dedicated at Ward-Meade Park

The recently completed bark house and Native American encampment in Ward-Meade Park were formally dedicated in a recognition ceremony on Friday, October 14, 2022.

The bark house and encampment are the newest additions to Old Prairie Town, located at the Ward-Meade Historical Site in Topeka, Kan., which hosts recreations and replicas of several other 1800s-style structures.

The bark house was built in the traditional Potawatomi style, and its construction was led by PBPB Tribal Member Mi-Kes Potts. Citizen Potawatomi Nation Legislator Jon Boursaw also had a lead role in developing the encampment project and provided expertise to guide historical accuracy and respectful representation of tribal cultures.

The encampment includes a campfire area, a Medicine Wheel, and a garden. The recognition ceremony consisted of remarks from those involved with the development of the encampment project and public officials, a blessing of the encampment in the form of smudging by Boursaw, and performances by the Royal Valley Native American Singers and Dancers.

The Ward-Meade Historical Site was developed to preserve and teach the story of pioneer and wheelwright Anthony Ward and related early Kansas history.

Ray Schroeder, a long-time Shawnee County Parks and Recreation employee highlighted the importance of the addition at the ceremony, saying, “We at Prairie Town tell a story, and for the most part, I think we’re pretty good at it. But that story has obviously been incomplete.”

During the welcoming remarks, John Bell, Recreation Program Supervisor for Old Prairie Town, described Native American representation as “the missing link” at the park.

“For the past 46 years, most of the history told at this site only focused on the Ward-Meade family, specifically life after 1854 when Anthony [Ward] purchased 240 acres of land from Kaw tribesman Joseph Jim for 140 dollars,” Bell said. “The history of the site, of course, predates that by many transactions. Today, we’re putting one of the missing puzzle pieces in place, so we are able to tell the rich history of this land that we stand on today.”

Shawnee County Commissioner Bill Riphahn echoed this sentiment, saying, “It’s impossible to tell the history of an early Kansas town without telling the story of Native Americans.”

Although the land on which Topeka was built has been home to several tribes, including the Potawatomi, Kaw, Shawnee, and Osage, Native Americans’ stories had previously been unrepresented at Ward-Meade Park. Native Americans have often had to fight for representation on two fronts: first, to have their histories told without distortion, and second, to be recognized as present-day peoples who continue to keep their cultures and traditions alive today.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick illustrated Native Americans’ struggle with examples from Potawatomi history during his speech in the recognition ceremony.

“One of the things that a lot of folks don’t realize is that where we come from and how we got here is through a series of treaties,” Chairman Rupnick said. “The Potawatomi people have the most treaties ever signed with the United States government. We have over 40 treaties that were signed. Every one of them had been broken in one form or fashion or another.”

He went on to describe the series of treaties that led to the Potawatomi people being removed from their ancestral land and forcibly relocated, with the Prairie Band eventually arriving at their current Reservation north of Topeka on what had originally been Osage land.



Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Elders Lavera “Babe” Bell (left) and Mary LeClere (right) pose for a picture in front of the bark house. They were recognized during the dedication ceremony for their contributions to the encampment project.

He pointed out that the new bark house was very similar to the first semi-permanent structures that the Prairie Band Potawatomi built on their Reservation before constructing more permanent dwellings.

“I know that—talking with some of the Elders that we had—they were a little apprehensive about being able to build one of these and share it and share our history, just because, anymore, we mostly use these for some of our religious and ceremonial services,” Chairman Rupnick explained. “So it was good that we progressed beyond that to allow us to share our story.”

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Legislator Jon Boursaw discussed the development of the encampment project. He said that, when he was first consulted for the project, the initial request was for a teepee, but that the Potawatomi “were not teepee people.”

After adjusting plans accordingly, he brought Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation tribal members Mary LeClere and Lavera “Babe” Bell into the project, who in turn reached out to Mi-Kes Potts because of his knowledge of traditions and construction experience.

Potts said that the request to build the traditional structure struck a chord with him. “Our people need this. The people need this. We need to show the world who we are.”

“Our people were known to adapt. We adapted a little too much, lost our old ways,” he went on to say. “You get the opportunity to do something like this—do it! Help people with the knowledge.”

While the construction of the bark house will help preserve traditional knowledge for the Potawatomi people, the encampment will also educate non-Natives on Native American culture and history. There are three signs with information about the Medicine Wheel and Native American history at the encampment site.

Boursaw spoke to the importance of consulting tribal members in the development of the encampment project and foregrounding the true histories of tribes in Kansas by relating the story of a Kansas Historical Society event he attended, during which a speaker referred to “wild Indians” living in the Topeka area when Cyrus Holiday helped found the town.

“Did you know that during that period of time, we had two schools?” Boursaw asked. “We had the school at the Baptist Mission, which is



Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation tribal member Mi-Kes Potts speaks about his experience building the bark house. His knowledge and experience was a key factor in completing the project.



Citizen Potawatomi Nation Legislator Jon Boursaw fans the smoke with eagle feathers while smudging. The herbs burned in the shell are the same found in the Medicine Wheel: sweet grass, tobacco, cedar, and sage.

basically now the Kansas Historical Society. And the Catholics had a school at St. Mary’s, and the town followed after the school was established. We weren’t running wild through what is now West Topeka. We lived here. This was our land. And I’m proud to bring back part of our land.”

Following the remarks from the speakers, Boursaw blessed the encampment by smudging. Afterwards, the Royal Valley Native American Singers and Dancers closed out the recognition ceremony with a performance of several songs and various dance styles, ending with an intertribal dance that friends and family were invited to join.

Dustin Goslin Named Economic Development Professional of the Year



Dustin Goslin

sustainable investments in business, workforce housing, and planned infrastructure to benefit the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the communities in which MLCV does business. Goslin is leading these sustainable investments with this team. The investments prompting Goslin's award have included Red Willow Estates and the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy Business Incubator.

"I have been privileged to be connected to supportive family, friends, co-workers, and organizations that help ignite my passion," said Goslin. "I am honored that our efforts in economic development were recognized through this award."

Goslin is a member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation of Mayetta, Kansas and of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Wisconsin. In addition to his work, Goslin is part of numerous community leadership roles including serving as a board member for the Entrepreneur Fund and as a trustee for the Blandin Foundation.

"The type of projects MLCV has initiated for tribal communities has afforded me the opportunity to continue my passion by leveraging my networks to support and grow others," said Goslin. "I am grateful that the projects we are involved in are a natural extension of that."

Red Willow Estates is MLCV's second affordable workforce housing project that includes 30 townhome units. The project features numerous amenities including a connection to a recreation trail, Ojibwe-inspired landscaping themes, community garden area, basketball court, playground, and an outdoor community gathering area with grills and a fire pit, benches, picnic tables and a covered shelter. The project was the first in the country to be built by a tribal corporation to grow the regional economy, house tribal and non-tribal tenants, and leverage unique sources of capital.

With the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy Business Incubator, MLCV partnered with two well-respected non-profit organizations in Minnesota to bring their model to the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy, which encompasses the three districts of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in Census tracts 9504, 9505, 7704, 9703, 9701, 9702. The model was built around revitalizing urban communities from within, and Goslin and his team helped reformat the concept to apply to rural tribal communities. The pilot concept has now grown to four cohorts and launched an impressive diversity of businesses including a concrete crafting business that specializes in tribal-inspired headstones and a media business that links traditional Ojibwe ways with contemporary technology. MLCV recently received the 2022 Project of the Year Award from the Economic Development Association of Minnesota for the innovative project.

This article was first printed June 28, 2022 in Indian Gaming Magazine. Reprinted here by permission.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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GARY
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Tribal Member Inducted Into International Organization

Cecil Key-O-Kum Walker, Owner of CW Construction, Inc., a privately held Native American company, incorporated in the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation with a 30-year history of excellence in construction, has been acknowledged for his U.S. and international work in his nomination and acceptance to membership in The Worshipful Company of Constructors, a City of London Livery Company.

The Livery has a history of over a thousand years in England going back to the days of trade guilds. Entry to the Livery requires recognized professional qualifications, relevant experience, and seniority in the industry.

Walker is one of only four people from the United States to have ever received this honor. The Constructors' Company recognized Mr. Walker for his breadth of knowledge and experience in executive program management, large-scale development, design-build construction, general contracting, disaster recovery, energy solutions, and environmental services in both the public and private sectors.

Having worked on five continents under a variety of project delivery types, Mr. Walker has brought together the talent necessary to meet many challenging projects.



Cecil Walker

The Constructors' Company's recognition of his excellence comes as much from Mr. Walker's dedication and enjoyment for building as it does from his expertise.

Cecil will be traveling to London in December to accept the honor, appearing before the Livery. Mr. Walker was nominated to The Worshipful Company of Constructors through John Darling, CMG Clean Tech SA, with operations in London and Paris. Mr. Walker is a co-developer with Steve Minard and works with many of Darling's companies as well. Current projects under way are in Central Florida, Texas, Illinois, California, Lake Como, Italy, and Madagascar.

Tribal Fire Department Saves Lives with Advanced Cardiac Resuscitation Program

The PBPB Tribal Fire Department implemented new cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) procedures recently.

Advanced Cardiac Resuscitation (ACR) integrates machine-provided CPR with a set of proven treatments in a bundled approach to significantly increase neurologically intact survival rates for out of hospital cardiac arrest. Since receiving two AutoPulse mechanical CPR devices, Tribal Fire spends many hours training and refining their ACR protocol. Early results from the ACR program show great success—patients from three separate cases of cardiac arrest responded positively and were transported to the hospital with a pulse. One patient recovered without any apparent neurological impairment and was able to walk out of the hospital within a few days.

“The national average for out of hospital cardiac arrest survival rate is about 7.1 percent,” Fire Chief / Paramedic Doug Schreiner said. “Since implementing ACR here, our current save rate is 75 percent, with 25 percent neurologically intact.”

One of the first patients treated with ACR by Tribal Fire sustained no neurological damage, demonstrating the incredible impact that the technology and protocol can have on saving lives.

“We got called for someone having a seizure at the casino,” Lieutenant / Paramedic Bruce Coates recalled. “While myself and the ambulance were en route, they came back and notified us that the patient was in cardiac arrest, and the casino EMS staff was working the code blue.”

The patient went into cardiac arrest and collapsed on the casino floor



Fire Chief / Paramedic Doug Schreiner leads the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department’s Advanced Cardiac Resuscitation (ACR) demonstration at the monthly training meeting for Jackson County EMS in Holton, Kan., on November 15, 2022.

in front of the EMS staff and Tribal Police. When the ambulances arrived on scene, the patient had received early defibrillation, oxygenation, and compressions from the casino paramedic and police officers.

“We arrived, Tribal officers continued compressions, and the guy was being ventilated. We got the AutoPulse ready, I told the officer to stop, and I grabbed the patient and picked him up by the arms, put the AutoPulse behind the guy, and got it going, just as we trained,” Coates said.

The patient was delivered to the hospital with a pulse, and Tribal Fire was later informed that he had fully recovered, appeared neurologically

intact, and was discharged shortly afterward. The combination of the early action taken by the casino staff and Tribal Police with the implementation of ACR equipment and protocol created the best possible chances for the patient’s survival.

Tribal Fire is one of the first agencies in the area to provide this premier level of resuscitation care. Chief Schreiner became interested in ACR after learning that the Douglas County Fire Department in Lawrence, Kan., adopted the approach and saw a dramatic increase in their rate of survival for out of hospital cardiac arrests. The results from Douglas County, as well as the early results from Tribal Fire, are consistent with national data showing ACR improves sudden cardiac arrest survival rates by tenfold.

ACR combines several elements and techniques into a high-level package of care approach: continuous, uninterrupted compressions utilizing an automated CPR device, passive oxygenation, regulating pressure to increase blood flow to the heart and brain, heads-up CPR, delayed defibrillation, and administering epinephrine when appropriate. This holistic approach results in higher rates of patient survival.

“I think one of the most exciting things about this new advanced cardiac resuscitation program is that it builds on the foundation that we already had built,” Chief Schreiner explained. “For multiple years now, we have had 911, we have had Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) trained dispatchers that can tell you how to do CPR over the phone, taught CPR here both in the community and within the government sector, we trained with advanced cardiac life support,

we’re certified, we have paramedics—and even with that, our out-of-hospital cardiac survival rate was the national average, roughly 7 to 8 percent. The game-changer has been adding that bundle of care that we were able to put together with continuous machine-provided CPR. It’s perfect CPR, it never shuts off, and it maintains excellent pressures.”

In November, Tribal Fire also performed an ACR demonstration at the monthly training meeting for Jackson County EMS in Holton, Kan. Chief Schreiner led the demonstration and discussed past and future opportunities to work together in the field, both on and off the Reservation. The Tribal Fire Department works with Jackson County EMS through neighborly mutual cooperation, assisting each other when able. The ACR demonstration allowed Jackson County EMS to get acquainted with improvements and changes to Tribal Fire’s equipment and protocols, which could be useful in a future emergency.

In addition, some Jackson County EMS personnel expressed interest in potentially acquiring ACR equipment and training for their agency in the future.

As ACR continues to be implemented by the Tribal Fire Department and other agencies nationwide, cardiac arrest survival rates are expected to rise. Chief Schreiner pointed out that, even if only a few more lives are saved every year, the difference made by ACR will have a huge impact on a small community like the PBPB Reservation.

“I don’t see how this doesn’t become the standard in ten years,” Chief Schreiner said.

Charitable Contributions 3rd Quarter Recipient List Total Donated \$87,564

- Arthritis Foundation
- Coats for Kids
- East Topeka Council on Aging
- Harvester
- Helping Hand Humane Society
- Midland Care
- Morrill Public Library
- Royal Valley USD # 337
- SLI
- TARC
- The Project 2 Restore
- Topeka Symphony Society
- Topeka United A Movement
- Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center
- Turning Point for Elders

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



Harlan Arndt

Harlan L. “Butch” Arndt, age 72, of Nekoosa, WI passed away Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at his residence surrounded by his loving family.

Harlan was born November 18, 1949 in Wisconsin Rapids, WI to Roy and Nellie (Young) Arndt Sr. He graduated from Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids with the class of 1968. He served his country in the United States Navy from 1968-1972. He was a proud member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Harlan was united in marriage to Barbara Herman on December 5, 1970 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Wisconsin Rapids. They were blessed with over 51 years of marriage and two children, Chris and Tonya.

He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping. He was a skilled woodworker and crafted many gifts for family and friends.

He treasured time spent with his granddaughters and traveling with Barb, including a special trip to Alaska.

Harlan is survived by his loving wife, Barbara; son, Christopher (Tiffany) Arndt of Wisconsin Rapids; daughter, Tonya (Keith) Amundson of Nekoosa; five granddaughters: Ciara, Mikayla, Makenzie, Ashley, and Mataya; sisters and brothers: Joann Arndt, Roy (Rosann) Arndt Jr., and Margaret Lockman all of Wisconsin Rapids, Lawrence (Julie) Arndt of Nekoosa, and Laurie (Duke) Ross of Bancroft; sister-in-law Ann Reber of Mesa, AZ; brothers-in-law Alfred Herman of Cary, NC and Victor Bertotto of Wisconsin Rapids; and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Linda Bertotto and Ruth Ann Arndt; father and mother-in-law, Charles and Anna Herman; and brothers and sisters-in-law: John (Karen) Herman, Delores (Robert) Munro, Walter Herman, Lawrence (Betty) Herman, Al Reber, and Rose Porter.

- Reprinted Courtesy of Herman-Taylor Funeral Home Wisconsin Rapids, WI



Dwayne Barber

Dwayne Charles Barber, 55, of Delia, KS, passed away Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at the University of Kansas St. Francis Campus. He was born August 19, 1967 in Holton, KS, the son of Willis Lee and Julia Ann (Cook) Barber.

Dwayne graduated from Rossville High School in 1985. He was a heavy equipment operator for road construction and was also a carpenter.

He was a member of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Survivors include his son, Aaron Barber (Jericka) of Delia, KS; 2 step-sons, Cody Wilson of Topeka, KS and Lance Buskirk of Mayetta, KS; step-daughter, Brooklyn Gama of Rossville, KS; 3 sisters, Nancy M. Counts (Harvey Slover) of Mayetta, KS, Lori L. Molina of Topeka, KS and Lynda Webster of Horton, KS; 2 brothers, Jeffrey S. Barber of Delia, KS and Tony D. Barber (Kim) of Delia, KS; 4 grandchildren, Kiera, Easton, Bowen and Ryatt and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willis and Julia Barber; son, Adrian C. Barber; sister, Emily Aitkens and brother, William L. Barber.

Funeral Service were held September 26, 2022.

- Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home

Joe graduated from Central High School in Tulsa, OK and attended Oklahoma State University and Northeastern State

University. He proudly served in the United States Air Force and was honorably discharged as Staff Sergeant.

He was a member of the Methodist religion and a citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Joe married Anne Hughes, they divorced. He married Rita Doreene Jackson, they divorced.

Survivors include 3 sons, Joseph “Joey” Darling, KS, Robert Darling (fiancé, Delilah Trager) and Thomas Darling all of Mayetta, KS; daughter, Lisa Darling of Tulsa, OK; sister, Nedra Darling (Bowman Cox) of Alexandria, VA; 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Marcell and Cherie Darling and 3 sisters, Marcella Postoak, Wilma Whitaker and Rochelle Lepp.

- Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home



Cornelia Donahue

Cornelia Irene Donahue, Meskwabnokwe, 90, formerly of Mayetta, entered eternal life in heaven on Friday, September 30, 2022 at the Maple Heights Nursing Home in Hiawatha.

She was born July, 1932 in Mayetta, the daughter of Charles Harrison, Sr. and Minnie Nozhackum Harrison. She graduated from high school in Marty, South Dakota and from Clarks Business School in Topeka.

She was a member of Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Cornelia worked in the office of the Secretary of State for Kansas for the duration of 19 years from 1974 to 1993.

She married Paulino Jim, Sr. who passed away in 1995. She married Donald Donahue and they were later divorced.

Cornelia was preceded in death by her parents, two sons, Michael Jim, Sr. and Paulino Jim, Jr., a grandson, David Jim, a granddaughter, Mahne Jim, a great granddaughter, Ellie Mae Jim, and siblings, Geraldine, John, Edward, Sarah, Lloyd, Floyd, Kenneth, Charles Jr., William and Franklin.

Survivors include a sister, LaVera “Babe” Bell, Mayetta; four sons, William Jim, Sr. (Lea), Thomas R. Jim, Sr. (Sandi) and Philip Jim, Sr. (Debbie), all of Mayetta, and Ron Jim, Kansas City, MO; two daughters, Mary Tiscareño, Topeka and



Joseph Darling

Joseph Edward Richard Darling, 79, of Mayetta, KS, passed away Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at his home. He was born May 26, 1943 in Claremore, OK, the son of Marcell Joseph and Cherie Adair (Cochran) Darling.

Cecily C. Jessepe (Robert C.), Hoyt; and a multitude of grandchildren and great grandchildren. She leaves behind many cherished memories and a legacy of resilience.

- Reprinted Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home



Phyllis Mitchell Flores

Phyllis Jean “Kotch-Chee” Mitchell Flores, age 81 of El Paso, Texas passed away on November 8, 2022.

Phyllis was born the daughter of Fannie Madageekwe Peeknuk Mitchell and John Se’Nog-Win Mitchell on April 22, 1941. Phyllis is 100% member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. She was one of approximately 75 full-blooded Tribal Elders of the enrolled Prairie Band Potawatomi members today.

Phyllis was preceded in death by parents Fannie Peeknuk Mitchell, John Se’Nog-Win Mitchell, Siblings Isabelle Crossbear, Cecelia Mitchell, Augustine Cooper, Leroy Mitchell, Abraham Mitchell, Lucian Mitchell, Wilbur Mitchell, Ernest Mitchell, loving husband of 57 years Robert Flores, and daughter Yolanda Dinsdale.

She is survived by daughters Gina Anthony (Madageekwe) Mayetta, KS, Angela Gasca (Art) Murrieta, CA, And Valentina Flores El Paso, TX. In addition, she has 8 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 1 great great grandchild, and her loving dog Piggles.

Provided by the family



Johnny Gamino

Johnny Edward Gamino, age 63, passed away on August 7, 2022, in Topeka, KS, with family by his side.

Johnny was born on May 22, 1959, in Manhattan, KS, the son of the late Alvena (Belair) Gamino and Guadalupe Gamino. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Mayetta, KS.

John attended local schools in Manhattan. He was also taught how to do upholstery and leather work and even dabbled in making knives out of deer antlers just for fun.

John worked as a construction laborer for most of his life, some of those years were with Blackhawk, Inc. going out of town putting up grain bins.

His accomplishments in life worked for him, he always put his best foot forward.

Johnny was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters: Delores Blanks and Ramona Gibson.

Survivors include two sisters: Marita Saunders and Tammy Gamino; three brothers: Anthony Gamino, Ronald Gamino, Lupe Gamino, Jr, and a large extended family and friends.

- Reprinted Courtesy of Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home



Keith Gaylord Jr.

Keith Gaylord was born July 29th, 1999, in Topeka, KS. He was preceded in death by his Paternal grandmother Lavina Gaylord, Eunice Jones, and Grandfather Burton Jones Sr.

Keith was employed by Target distribution center and graduated in 2018 from Topeka High school. He was pursuing his Postgraduate education through Allen County Community College online studies. Along with his work and school duties he was also a proud member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Keith is survived by his loving mother Tracy Jones, Keith Senior Gaylord, stepfather Arthur Stano, Sisters Latoya Gant, Honesti Gaylord, Katelyn Frick Keira Gaylord, and Danika Killingsworth. Brothers Keenan Jones, Jonte’ Porter, Justice Gaylord, and extended brother, JaCory Porter. Niece’s Amouri, Zanay Ze’Mira Gaylord, Ka’Mia Miller Nephew Elijah, and his loving Godparents Peggy & John Nave who lovingly call him “K.J.” Keith also leaves to cherish his memory and will be missed by a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and many amazing friends.

His mother, Father, stepfather, and siblings called him “Keithy.” In his short twenty-three years, “Keithy or KJ” was a force of nature with his capable ways and brilliant mind - touched so many people.

He was known for his friendliness and never hesitated to let people

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

know that he loved them. Whatever he set his mind to he was determined to achieve his number one goal to get a business degree and become THE “model” successful entrepreneur.

As a health-conscious individual, he understood the importance of proper nutrition, and his passion for working out in the gym was a priority. He loved playing basketball and listening to music.

KJ was proud to work along-side his mentor and best friend, his Uncle John, from whom he learned the importance of communication, relationships, and family.

The family is grateful for the outpouring of loving and generous support. We wish to thank the local and state community, friends, and family near and far.



Ignacio Guerrero

Ignacio Joseph Guerrero “Poncho” Azon, 58, passed away peacefully in his sleep on July 22, 2022 in Omaha, Nebraska. He was born June 12, 1964, in Topeka, KS.

His parents were Ignacio Torrez Guerrero and Joyce Kitchkommie. He attended schools in Topeka and later after moving to Omaha, Nebraska, he attended Culinary school. Poncho loved fishing and being outdoors, cooking for others and being with family and friends.

He worked for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation where he was a member.

He was preceded in death by son Justin Flowers and father Ignacio T. Guerrero. Poncho is survived by his mother, Joyce Guerrero of Topeka, sister, Shelly Guerrero, Topeka, his nephew and godson, Aaron Guerrero (Sarah) with whom he was close, of Wichita, KS, a daughter Katelyn Addington, Kansas City, KS, stepmother, Donna Guerrero, Topeka, a brother, Michael Guerrero, Topeka, and several aunts and numerous cousins.



Jeannie Howley

Jeannie Marie Howley, 54, of Mayetta, KS, passed away Monday, October 10, 2022 at her home with family by her side. She was born September 20, 1968 in Wisconsin, the daughter of David and Georgia (O’Bennick) Perry.

Jeannie graduated from Highland Park High School in 1986. She attended Haskell University, Baker University and earned her Master’s Degree from University of Phoenix.

Jeannie was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church. She worked as a CNA for various nursing homes and was the former Director of North Star Group Home on the Reservation.

Jeannie was married to Alen Ray Howley December 19, 2000 in Topeka, KS. He survives of the home. She is also survived by her son, Charlie Perry of Los Angeles, CA; her daughter, Mary Alice Howley of the home and her sister, Valerie Grokey of Mayetta, KS. She was preceded in death by her brother, David Perry.

- Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home



Jack Meyers

Jack Thomas Meyers, age 74 of Grand Rapids, Michigan, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Friday, September 9, 2022. He was preceded in death by his parents Angeline and Steven Meyers Sr. and brothers James and Steven Meyers Jr.

He leaves behind his children Peter (Sarah) Meyers and Angel (Beau) Brummel; and sister, Sandra Hawke. Nothing brought him more joy than seeing his grandchildren Desirée Meyers, Beau Brummel Jr., Chase Hicks, Alex Brummel, Bailey Borst, Djoura Meyers, Harper Meyers, Ella Brummel, and Peter Meyers II; and great-grandchildren Parker Sumner, Penelope Sumner, Jonathan Brummel, Nash Brummel, Callum White, and Grady Bond Jr.; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Jack was a walking cautionary tale, but the moral of his story isn’t “Be careful.” He would tell you to live loud. To do what you want to do. To make the most of your days and your nights. To spend your time with those who bring you the most joy, and to always be true to yourself.

- Preprinted Courtesy of Cook Funeral Home Byron Center Michigan



Kathleen Nemeth

Kathleen A. Nemeth, 79, of Manhattan, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Monday, November 7, 2022.

She was born on November 29, 1942, to Andrew Mattwaoshe and Stella A. (Whitefish) Mattwaoshe in Holton, KS.

Kathleen was a proud member of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation as a full blooded tribal member.

On June 19, 1964 she married Gyorgy Nemeth, in Crosswicks, NJ, by Justice of the Peace. They renewed vows in Fridberg, Germany, for their 10 year anniversary. They were married for fifty-eight years. Kathleen also dedicated over forty-five years to her civil service career at the Staff Judge Advocate, on Fort Riley military installation in Fort Riley, KS.

Kathleen is survived by her loving Husband, Gyorgy of the home; her four daughters, Falene Nemeth of Manhattan, KS, Carroll (Clay) Sesnon of Menlo Park, CA, Gorgina Nemeth of Manhattan, KS, Renee Nemeth of Manhattan, KS; three grand-daughters, Christa Nemeth-Heard, Emma Sesnon, and Adeline Sesnon; and her two sisters, Clarice Broxterman of Topeka, KS, and Ramona “Monie” Micco of Lawrence, KS.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Warren L.”Jack” Mattwaoshe.

A graveside service with military honors was held on Friday, November 18, 2022 at Kansas Veterans’ Cemetery.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Johnson Funeral Home



Victoria A. Rice

Victoria A. Rice, age 67, of Hayward, died Saturday, November 5, 2022.

Victoria Ann Rice was born February 23, 1955, in Phelps, WI, the daughter of Kendall & Lillian (Johnson) Rice. She graduated from Eagle River High School. “Uncle Mimi” worked for Robbinsdale School District 281 in New Hope, MN for 30 years as a tutor and Indian Advocate.

She is survived by her son Richard Rice, Ronald (Nash) Rice, Jimmy Northrup & Joe Graven; eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren; sister Myrna Medicinehorse; brothers Arnold (Lori) Rice, Sherwin (Tonja) Rice, Bill Rice; “Uncle Mimi” had many nieces & nephews. Victoria was preceded in death by her parents; brother Richard; infant sister Rose; grandparents Rose & Pete Johnson and Edith Rice & John Dick.

- Reprinted Courtesy of Pineview Funeral Services Hayward, WI



Garrett Rickert

Garrett Jay Rickert, 68, of Grand Rapids passed away peacefully with family members at his side at Faith Hospice at Trillium Woods. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Levi and Ellen Whitepigeon; along with several aunts and uncles; his father, Carl E. Wicker; brother, Dennis J. Rickert; nephew, Chad Michael Rickert; niece, Caitlyn Elizabeth Bloom; and great-nephew, Michael Levi Rickert. A proud tribal citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Garrett’s home was decorated with many Native American items.

Garrett has left a legacy of generosity, loyalty, diligence, humor, and joy. Surviving are his mother, Jennie Wicker; brothers, James Rickert, and Levi (Sheri) Rickert; sisters, Dr. Jessica Rickert (William Strait), Deborah Bloom, and Nancy (David) Krogmann, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins; and special friend, Linda Ellis.

The family wishes to thank Faith Hospice at Trillium Woods staff for the care they gave to Garrett during his final days.

-Reprinted Courtesy of MKD Funeral Home Kentwood, Michigan



Annette Wahquahboshkuk

Annette Marie (Soto) Wahquahboshkuk, 57, of Mayetta, KS, passed away Saturday, October 29, 2022. She was born December 25, 1964 in Topeka, KS, the daughter of Wallace Leon Wahquahboskuk Sr. and Olivia K. (Marshno) Wahquahboshkuk.

Annette attended Royal Valley schools and was a member of Native American Church and Peyote Religion and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Survivors include her children, Julian Enriquez (Ashley) of Topeka, KS, Concepcion “Connie” McDonald of Colorado, Michelle Decker (Kevin) of Mayetta, KS and Marcus Wahquahboshkuk of Mayetta, KS; sister, Diana Wahquahboshkuk of Topeka, KS; brother, Wallace L. Wahquahboshkuk, Jr. (Lori) of Topeka, KS; 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wallace, Sr. and Olivia Wahquahboshkuk and a sister, Renae L. Soto.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home

Lisa A. Jurey

Lisa A. Jurey, (Pemas-nok-kwe), 55, of Topeka, passed away on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka.

She was born February 27, 1967 in Topeka, KS, the daughter of Lucy Jackson and Homer Jurey.

Survivors include her mother, Lucy Jackson; brother, James Jurey; daughter, Kasey Brown; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Lisa was preceded in death by her father Homer Jurey; grandparents, Robert and Lorene Jackson, and William and Angeline Jurey.

- Reprinted Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home

Nishnabek Ntewmèn - “Who We Are”



Graduate:
Mileena Shipshee
Ellsworth High School
Parents:
Cody and Nichole Shipshee

Please help my family and I congratulate Colleen Clair “Zhowmkoqua” Rice on her acceptance to The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Master’s program.

Colleen began her higher education journey at Haskell Indian Nations University and graduated from The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay with her Bachelor of Science in Psychology, June 2022.

She currently resides in Green Bay with her companion, Christopher Vera Soriano, and their 5 pets. She is also working two jobs while attending her graduate program. She works for the Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College as a Success Advisor for students. She also works for a private clinical mental health practice as the Administrative Assistant and Intake Coordinator.

We are proud that she represents the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation wherever she goes and is pictured here with our Nation’s flag which was part of the procession for Spring Commencement 2022 at UWGB!



Nasiqua Rice



At left: Community members carve and paint pumpkins at Tribal PD’s Pumpkin Carving Contest event on October 26, 2022. The pumpkins were donated by the PBP Diabetes Prevention Program.



At right: The Firekeepers Elder Center held a Halloween party with refreshments and activities on October 20, 2022.

PBPN Tribal Member Stephanie Rupnicki has been elected to the U.S. Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) Board of Directors for 2022-2023.

The USBC is an independent nonprofit organization that was formed in 1998 as a multisectoral national breastfeeding committee comprised of representatives from relevant government departments, non-governmental organizations, and health professional associations to coordinate national breastfeeding initiatives. The USBC is now a powerful coalition of more than 100 organizations that work collaboratively to drive efforts for policy and practices that create a landscape of breastfeeding support across the United States.

Stephanie Rupnicki also serves on the KBC (Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition) board of directors (current past chair) and is a Co-Founder and Leader of PBPNBC (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Breastfeeding Coalition) and a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Rupnicki said in a statement following the election, “I serve on the USBC Board of Directors to be a continued voice and advocate for Indigenous people on Turtle Island.

“The USBC helps advocate for those voices not seen and heard and USBC’s passions help drive for change and to improve policies for families.”



STEPHANNE RUPNICKI
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ELECTED DIRECTOR

2022-2023 USBC Board of Directors



Tiana Pyles
Chair



Paulina Erices
Chair Elect



Lindsay Groff
Secretary



Scott Hartman
Treasurer



Sekeita Lewis-Johnson
Elected Director



Tina Sherman
Elected Director



Amber Granite
Elected Director



Stephanne Rupnicki
Elected Director