



Prairie Band Potawatomi News

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

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Epok 2022

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Epok

"Winter time
of the year"

This paper contains the
activities and happenings
that took place during the
Winter time of 2023:
December, January
February

Royal Valley Singers and Dancers perform at Battle of the Plains, Native American Heritage Night

The Royal Valley Singers and Dancers had an eventful January, winning first place at the Battle of the Plains competition in Bartlesville, Okla., on Jan. 7, 2023, and then showcasing their skills for the local community during Native American Heritage Night at Royal Valley High School on Jan. 20.

Singers and Dancers sponsor Anita Evans said that, although some dancers were unable to travel to Bartlesville for the Battle of the Plains, this year's competition was a great success, thanks to the help provided by the Boys and Girls Club staff and students' parents who were able to accompany the group.

At the Battle of the Plains, dancers from schools with Title VI programs compete in four age groups to separate the older dancers from the younger ones. The groups were boys and girls ages 5-7, 8-10, 11-13 and 14-18. All participants danced their style of dance in contests to earn points for their group. When a dancer placed first, second, or third, their dance group received points toward winning the competition, and the school with the most accumulated points at the end of the competition was announced the winner. As reigning champions of the Battle of Plains, the Royal Valley Singers and Dancers and their supporters were thrilled to see the group win first place again this year.

Upon their return from Bartlesville, the Singers and Dancers rehearsed for their upcoming Native American Heritage Night performance. With only 20 minutes to showcase the various dance styles, the group practiced their timing and utilized signs to help ensure the performance went smoothly.

Eight grader, Shawnot Evans, who is also the We-Ta-Se Princess, has been dancing with the group since she was in kindergarten and was excited for the Singers and Dancers



to return to Bartlesville for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We didn't have as many dancers as we usually do, but we still won, we still danced our hearts out and everything," Evans said. "Once we got there, I was nervous, but then I started feeling the beat and the music and all the good feelings and stuff. You feel it in your heartbeat, and it makes you want to dance even more."

Aven Mitchell served as Head Boy Dancer and said the experience "felt good to the soul. It just made me realize how much I was appreciated by my community and my peers and my family in general. And it just made me have a different outlook on life."

Several dancers mentioned that they were nervous before the competition but felt better as they danced.

"I see people's footwork so I try to practice them, and I'll learn new footwork and try it out to see if I can do it," Sapphira Wishteyah said. "Once I start to dance, I get nervous, but once it's in the middle, I don't get nervous anymore because I'm getting used to it."

Julien Otero is a new member of the Singers and Dancers, and this was his first year competing at the Battle of the Plains. "I was pretty nervous and scared," he said, "but when I was dancing with everybody, it was fun."



Top: Leo Wahquahboshkuk and Pittko Potts (Grass), Scarlet Mitchell (Jingle), No-Nop Thomas (Woodland), and Geneva Thompson (Fancy Shawl); Center: Aven Mitchell (Grass), Nagmo Jackson (Chicken Dancer), and Leo Wahquahboshkuk (Grass); Bottom: KiWe Miller (Women's Fancy)

Continues – See "Singers and Dancers" on page #5

Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick: Report to the Nation



Dear Tribal Members,

We have made it through the holidays, and I hope the holidays were pleasant for everyone. I know people are tired of hearing me repeat myself, but we must remain ever vigilant. There have been cases of the virus and with so many gatherings occurring, thankfully, here on the Reservation, they have been limited in numbers. It's good to still see people taking the precautions by wearing masks in public, we need to continue to take those extra steps to protect ourselves. Please do your part and get vaccinated.

We finally made it through the election cycle and now that there is a new congress and with this new congress, we will see many new challenges and new fights to take up.

We will continue to work with our Federal Legislators and in December, Representative LaTurner filed H.R.

9684 – Kansas Indian Country Law Enforcement Improvement Act. This Act will repeal the Kansas Act which gave the State criminal jurisdiction over Indians on the reservation and will allow us more say in policing within the boundaries.

While this bill was filed in the 117th Congress, Rep. LaTurner has committed to refile under the new 118th Congress. This is a very good first step since the bill has gone through legislative review and we will work hard to get it introduced and hopefully passed.

Also, in the session, U.S. Congresswoman Underwood has been working with Department of Interior to finalize H.R. 8380 the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Shab-eh-nay Band Reservation Settlement Act of 2022. This bill will have to be re-introduced in the 118th Congress and Rep Underwood has committed to us she will file the bill. We will keep everyone posted on the status of these bills and any court cases we should be keeping an eye on.

As you know, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the Brackeen v. Haaland in November. One of the challenges the lawyers for Brackeen made was that the Indian Child Welfare Act is un-Constitutional since the law is based on race. Depending on ruling, we may see 50 years of Indian Law be completely overturned.

Another case that is worth noting is Maverick Gaming v. Washington. Again, the central argument is against “race-based” federal law favoring

Indians and goes directly at the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The Maverick case is sitting in District Court and is awaiting a ruling but regardless of the ruling it may go to the Supreme Court. Cases such as these are an attack on Tribal Sovereignty and Tribes must come together to fight all these cases when they arise.

Finally, we are monitoring a resolution introduced in Montana asking Congress to study alternatives to reservations. The resolution argues that reservations are not in the best interest of the Indians inside their borders or citizens in common. The cases above and the resolution being considered is all the reason we should need to continue fighting for our rights, protect our sovereignty and hold the government accountable to their trust responsibility.

While there are some at the State and Federal level that believe in Tribal sovereignty, there are many that oppose our status and are working to pass any form of resolution or law to diminish our lands and right. Therefore, it is so very important to vote in the elections and elect those who value Tribal Sovereignty at all levels of government.

The elections also brought changes to the state of Kansas and with it, new challenges will occur. We are still in negotiations with the State on sports betting and since any changes to the compact requires endorsement from the legislators, we need to actively persuade them to pass an amendment to the Compact. An amendment must be

passed before the Governor can sign it and we are working to hopefully finish this during this session.

Also, on our list of items for the state is medical marijuana but it may be a while before we see any movement on that. The Kansas House has passed legislation 3 different times supporting medical, but the Senate is very reluctant to take up the measure. Now, since the election, the Chair of the Committee in the Senate is very opposed to any legislation on medical and I fear unless there is a new election or change, this will remain where it currently sits, in committee.

Finally, many are aware of the oil spill that occurred in December in Washington County, KS and once we were made aware, I started calling asking questions. On the 19th I was asked to attend a briefing in Washington County and during that time I expressed my concerns. While I know that leak occurred 2 hours from us, all the water is connected, and any contamination could eventually make its way into our supply. I am still in contact with the EPA and TC Energy and will continue to do so until the spill removal is complete.

In closing, I'll end as I have been for the last three 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

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



Bozho,

Prairie Band, LLC reported another record performance in 2022 with total revenue exceeding \$47 million. It is an exciting time in our company's history, and we are all proud to be a part of this growing organization. In only three short years our workforce has grown 81% percent. We at Prairie Band, LLC recognize and appreciate the tremendous responsibility we have to our owner, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Our government contracting companies continue to lead the success for Prairie Band, LLC. We increased our contract awards and continue to gain trust with our biggest client, the federal government. Our Business Development team has made progress marketing our services by putting together a strong marketing plan. In 2022, we received the benefits of all their work. The professional services group, Prairie Band Health Services (PBHS), more than quadrupled its awards. We received contract awards at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center, Blackfeet Service Unit, IHS Northwest and IHS Bemidji Area. PBHS has strategic teaming arrangements with multiple companies providing solutions to multiple health facilities across the U.S. The company also saw the departure of its inaugural CEO, John Holtz. John has been with the Nation for over 18 years and was instrumental in building the runway of work for PBHS. Our new CEO, Trey Strecker will take over the company and will continue our growth trajectory.

Our construction services group, Prairie Band Construction and Mill Creek also had a successful 2022. We increased our bonding limit and took on many complex jobs. This group's primary focus is on military health facilities but also provides services to the IHS, BIE, and DoD. Our team has strong relationships at Haskell and Fort Leavenworth which allow us to utilize tribal citizens from our community. Prairie Band Construction recently hired Josh Shinneman to lead the company as its General Manager. Additionally, our long-time team member Rockell Otero (formerly Controller) was promoted to Vice President at Mill Creek. Samantha Mellies is now our Controller at the holding company. Moving forward, we will look to self-perform more work, bringing greater opportunities for revenue growth and more jobs.

Prairie Band Propane and One Stop are two of our local companies that are absolute work horses. Despite our geographic challenges, both teams continue to grow and add income to our portfolio of companies. Both Propane and One Stop are managed by tribal citizens and most of the staff are tribal preference employees. Prairie Band Ag processed its first bale of hemp fiber in 2022 and will continue that operation in 2023. The CBD market has collapsed, which has challenged our ability to be profitable on that side of the operations. However, our grow team at the O Road farm operations has gained capacity and the PBPB will be well positioned when the cannabis market opens in our jurisdiction.

Prairie Band enjoyed an excellent year in 2022 and prospects remain bright. Our existing businesses are growing, local activities are at an all-time high, and we are actively exploring new business opportunities. Our board, management, and staff are working in unison to further both the business and social objectives of the company. This year, we are going to continue to build our incredible past successes and keep up this momentum.

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

Secretary Lorrie Melchior: Report to the Nation



Greetings Tribal Members,

I hope everyone is ready for Spring to arrive, with revitalization and a hearty prospect for the Nation.

Since September 2022, I have been appointed as Land Committee Secretary, added to the Royal Valley District Impact Aid Committee as a member, and appointed to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Social Services Advisory Board, (PBPNS SAB), as Tribal Council Liaison. I have attended two meetings of the Land Committee, one meeting with the Royal Valley District Impact Aid, and one meeting of the Social Services Advisory Board. I also attend all scheduled meetings that Tribal Council have scheduled and our monthly Regular Tribal Council meetings.

All meetings benefit the Nation regarding the Land Committee-protecting and regaining national land; preservation of culturally significant sites; conservation of the natural environment; protection of land use for agriculture and

assistance in the social and economic development of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Impact Aid benefits the Nation with our local school districts that have lost property tax revenue and have also experienced increased expenditures due to the enrollment of federally connected children, including children living on Indian lands.

Social Services Advisory Board benefits the Nation with its purpose to provide recommendations and input to the Tribal Council on regulations and policies affecting the delivery of social services to Indian children and their families. This board makes recommendations, consults with, and reviews, as needed, the policies and procedures of the programs within the Nation's Social Services Department.

The Jay Treaty Border Alliance Conference was knowledge gained by the presentation of travel between United States and Canadian Border for Federally recognized tribes in the United States and Canada. This alliance is an agreement between the United States and the British Crown, hence The Jay Treaty. The right to entry- is discussed to be recognized and allow Federally recognized tribes to pass freely on to their homelands. As of now Federally recognized tribes are to provide information or prove they are a member of a Federally recognized tribe. How does this benefit the Nation? We have Tribal Members who reside in Canada. Another benefit, while attending the Potawatomi Gathering. Going to and from our Potawatomi Gathering, would be beneficial in transporting gifts and goods. Educating both

United States and Canada in the cultural awareness of not only our Tribe, but other Tribes that have problems crossing the Border.

I also attended the Inaugural Ball and Swearing In for the Governor of Kansas along with fellow Tribal Council Members and two of the Firekeepers Youth Council. Governor of Kansas has selected Tribal Liaisons as communicators to reach out and conduct Tribal Government business. Governor of Kansas is truly an inspiration in betterments of all communities.

Enrollment was the topic of discussion during the General Council meeting on January 21, 2023 and continues to be consistent in current General Council meetings. There were many comments, opinions, and ideas. This is good for all our Tribal Members to continue expressing their perspectives on this important matter. The "Enrollment Options Open for comments" were posted on our website in the folder "Enrollment Discussion" and mailed out on July 29, 2021 for responses through September 30, 2021.

Currently the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has 26 Operational Boards and Committees and is 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 2 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.)

- Peacemakers Circle 1 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.

I encourage Tribal Members to utilize our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nations website at **www.pbpindiantribe.com**. Our website includes news and events. Also on the website, located is our Members Only Portal, is the information which includes Tribal Council meeting minutes and resolutions.

The 2023 General Council meetings will be held at our Prairie Band Potawatomi Casino & Resort 12305 150th Road Mayetta, Kansas 66509. Dates of 2023 General Council meetings:

April 15, 2023
July 15, 2023
October 21, 2023

Each day I serve in this position has many challenges that I work, in collaboration with fellow Tribal Council members, to overcome. The experience is educational and it is a pleasure to serve our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in a professional manner.

Respectfully,
Lorrie Melchior
(QuaShee), Secretary
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Holtz Retires from Prairie Band Health Services after 18-Years



I retired effective December 31, 2022. This past year was my 50th and final year in healthcare administration and my 18th and last year working for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. I am incredibly grateful for the many opportunities PBPNS has provided for my family and me. It has been a privilege to work with you and your organization.

Prairie Band Health Services is in good hands with my replacement, Trey Strecker, who has outstanding healthcare executive experience at Stormont Vail Health. Trey is supported by a professional

team including Kathy Jones, Director of Recruiting; Ron Broadnax, Director of Business Development; Richele Pahmahmie and Brandi Davis provide administrative support. Prairie Band LLC provides stellar support for PBHS and has experienced dramatic growth and success under the leadership of Jacob Wamego, Tyler Levier, Stan Van Ostran, Rockell Otero, Samantha Mellies, and Emma Carreno.

Attached is a revised contact list for PBHS. Please do hesitate to contact any of our talented team members for assistance. If you need to reach me after December 31, don't hesitate to contact me at jh@everestkc.net or 913-269-4475.

Best wishes,
John Holtz
Prairie Band Health Services CEO

Prairie Band Health Services Points of Contact as of January 1, 2023

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Project Management | 2. Contract Administration | b. Brandi Davis, (Secondary), |
| a. Trey Strecker, (Primary),
Vice President, 816-743-4490; trey.strecker@pbhealthservices.com | a. Ron Broadnax, (Primary), Business
Development Director, (C) 703-895-2230;
ronald.broadnax@prairiebandllc.com | Administrative Coordinator,
785-380-5621; brandi.davis@pbhealthservices.com |
| b. Kathy Jones, (Secondary),
Executive Director of Recruitment,
785-260-4098; kathy.jones@pbhealthservices.com | b. Trey Strecker, (Secondary) | |
| | 3. Recruiting/Onboarding/
Credentialing/Clearances | 4. Accounting/Finance/Payroll |
| | a. Kathy Jones, (Primary) | a. Samantha Mellies, (Secondary),
Assistant Controller, 785-380-5225;
samantha.mellies@prairiebandllc.com |

Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, hope all is well as we navigate through the first quarter of 2023. As always, this time of the year we are busy working on year end processing including our W-2's and 1099's as well as some of our FY2022 audits are underway currently. Should your W-2's or 1099's not have made it you by now you can contact my office and coordinate a copy being sent out to you.

For 2022 we have transitioned CPA firms and currently working our way through our Tax Compact as well as our Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Project audits. Engagements for both areas are generally due to be complete

around the end of March. Once those engagements are complete, we will then move onto our Primary Government and Boys and Girls Club audits likely around the April and May timeframe. More detailed information in regard to our audits will be provided during our General Council Meetings.

Below are a few additional highlights and updates on items of interest in the Tribe's financial area.

IRS Issues Guidance on State General Welfare

On February 10, 2023 the IRS issued guidance on special state tax payments issued by 21 states in 2022. The guidance says that the IRS will not challenge the taxability of payments related to general welfare or disaster relief. So essentially the payments would not be considered as income for federal tax purposes so therefore would not need to be included on 2022 tax returns.

The issuance of the IRS guidance is not directly related to the general welfare benefits made by tribes throughout the pandemic but does show how the IRS has taken a stance on making government benefits non-taxable. The Tribe issued similar payments to all Tribal Members in 2020 and 2021.

Our Special Coronavirus Relief Benefits issued to Tribal Members are non-taxable and should not be considered as income under the Tribe's General Welfare Support Program in accordance with the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014. However, in some instances you may have benefits such as those received from Social Security negatively impacted by general welfare benefits provided by the Tribe. In those instances, you may contact my office and we can assist in providing information that helps explain how the general welfare benefits should not to be included as income.

While the IRS guidance may not be directly related to tribal general welfare benefits it is ultimately a step in the right direction for the taxability of future general welfare benefits. To read more about the IRS guidance it can be accessed online at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-issues-guidance-on-state-tax-payments-to-help-taxpayers>.

FY2023 Budget Available for Review

On December 17, 2022 the Tribal Council approved the FY2023 Tribal Government Budget through Tribal Council Resolution No. 2022-329. Copies of the budget can be found on the Tribal Member Log In located on the Tribe's website or you can contact my office for copies as well.

For FY2023 we have started out with a conservative budget amount in which we hope to review and increase mid-year as funds permit. This approach is based upon our Casino performance continuing to out pace both budgeted and prior year figures over the past several months. In terms of dollar amounts the FY2023 is fairly similar to the FY2022 Tribal Government

Budget which was approved through Tribal Council Resolution No. 2021-393.

New for FY2023 is the Casino's repayment of its share of the Expansion project. Repayment of the Expansion is a direct reduction of the Tribal Cash Distribution calculation; however we should experience increased revenue as a result of the Expansion. Repayment of the Expansion by the Casino is spread out over multiple years and will be factored into the budgeting process accordingly.

In addition to requesting copies of the FY2023 Tribal Government Budget you may contact me through the information below for any questions you may have in regard to the budget.

Tribal Business License

From time to time a question will come up as to whether or not a business license is needed for an individual or business to operate within the Tribe's jurisdiction. I hope to cover some of the high points to this question in this section of the article. Generally, the short answer to the question is yes you do need a business license issued by the Tribe but there are a few exemptions that may apply to your operation.

So, being that the answer is, generally, yes you do need a license then where do you go to get a PBPB issued business license? Under Title 13 of the PBPB Law & Order Code all powers have been delegated to the Tribe's Tax Commission for business licensing. The Tribe's Tax Commission is located at the PBPB Government Center, which is located at 16281 Q Road, Mayetta, KS 66509. Applications can be picked up from the Tax Commission or can be downloaded from Tribe's website under the Tax Commission's homepage under the Government section.

The type of business license that you may need is dependent upon the type of operation your business may be operating under. Most businesses will likely need an "Annual Business License" while others may need a "Seasonal Business License" which is good for a duration of 3 months or a "Temporary Business License" which is good for a duration of 4 days. Fees for the various types of licenses range from \$10 to \$50. Additionally, Food Vendors are required to provide proof of completion of a basic food handling principles course that has been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

So, who is exempt from needing to obtain a PBPB Business License? Under Section 13-2-5(A) those who are exempt from the business license requirement include Government Entities, Tribal Members engaged in traditional activities and their employees. Furthermore, under Section 13-2-5(C) the following are required to obtain a PBPB Business License but are exempt from payment of the fees mentioned above. Those who are exempt from the fees include religious organizations, schools, clubs, athletic organizations, pow wow vendors, and Tribal Members, who are not a corporation, or other entity.

In addition to obtaining a business license your business may be subject to the collection of sales taxes. Information on the Tribe's sales tax can be found in Title 10 of the PBPB Law & Order Code under section 10-3. For more information on Tribe's Business License or Taxation you may contact the PBPB Tax Director @ 785-966-3998 or taxcommission@pbpnation.org or visit the Tax Commission homepage on the Tribe's website.

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

Respectfully

Wade Pahmahmie (Wap-tti-ge)

Committee Member Takes Oath of Office

Saida Mahkuk was sworn in as the newest member of the Enrollment Review Committee On February 9, 2023.

Pictured left to right: Secretary Lorrie Melchior, Vice-Chairman Zach Pahmahmie, Saida Mahkuk, Member Raphael Wahwassuck, Chairman Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick, Member William Evans and Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie



Tribal Council Member Tony Wahweotten: Report to the Nation



Ho' PBPB Members
Happy New Year to all membership. As we enter the first quarter of 2023, I would like to extend my continued thoughts and prayers to the families who have suffered losses this year and miigwetches to all the We-Ta-Se for your services.

Tribal Council continues to prioritize 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 Pahmahmie, Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie, 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 for your services and dedication.

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 October 15, 2022 General Council Meeting, I have attended:

- Eight special Tribal Council meetings

- Three Regular Tribal Council meetings
 - Two legal project meetings
 - Four Tribal Operations and Gaming Commission budget meetings
 - One ribbon cutting ceremony for The Casino Hotel Expansion Project
 - One Kansas Governors proclamation signing ceremony at the State Capitol
 - A virtual IMLS Nation to Nation Listening Session
 - One virtual Potawatomi Economic Summit and Leadership Meeting
 - Five PBP Tax Commission meetings, four Hemp Regulation meetings
 - One Land Committee meeting
 - Four Shabbona next step discussions
 - Two annual reviews with the Treasurer's Office
 - Five PBPEC BOD Interviews
 - Numerous PBPB Roads status and update meetings with Transportation and Grant agencies
 - Three Energy Task Force meetings
 - One retirement reception for NP. Nola Ahlquist-Turner and John Holtz, thank you for your years of service
 - One Christmas dinner with the PBP Elders
 - One 25th Anniversary ceremony at The PBP Casino
- All relating to informational purposes only or the business and welfare of the Nation.
- Other meetings relating to the Nation's business and Departments include the General Manager and Board of Director reviews, LLC reviews, Entertainment Board reviews, and the Nations' current budget and funding challenges. Tribal Council has acted on 346 Resolutions during the year of 2022.
- At the National and State levels, the Nation continues to monitor Legal and Policy reviews to address specific concerns and funding that may impact the Nation.

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). See tribal website or portal for Tribal Law and Order Codes and Tax Reports.

Since being appointed, I have participated and acted in approximately thirty 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-one 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. Two Yellowstone National Park Bulls were received during this last

quarter. Our next opportunity for buffalo harvest is scheduled and new surplus buffalo will possibly be during the spring months.

Since last October's GC meeting, I have attended discussion with NRCS, EPA, and Land Committee representatives to discuss preliminary assessment plans of water resource and uses. This consists of early assessments in water resource planning, natural resource conservation, and environmental protections within and outside our current boundaries.

Our goals applying and 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 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: 29 total Current Jobs. Please visit our website, <https://www.pbpindiantribe.com> to learn more about openings and other information. Please contact member services and finance if you have relocated and need to update your new location and contacts.

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**

Royal Valley Singers and Dancers Performances

"Singers and Dancers" Continued from page 1

Native American Heritage Night

Royal Valley USD #337 collaborated with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation to host the fourth annual Native American Heritage Night on Jan. 20, 2023, at Royal Valley High School. The event featured the Royal Valley Singers and Dancers' performance between varsity games as well as the presentation of the flags by We-Ta-Se Post 410.

The first Native American Heritage Night was held at Royal Valley High School in 2019 to recognize the special relationship the school district has with the PBPB Nation. USD #337 is one of the few districts in Kansas that serve the members of a tribal nation, and the Royal Valley Singers and Dancers are the only school-sponsored Native American singers and dancers group in the state.

While the Royal Valley Singers and Dancers often travel to perform at other schools, competitions, and special events, Native American Heritage Night gives them an opportunity to perform for their local community.

Singers and Dancers in the Community

The students in the Royal Valley Singers and Dancers group have a deep appreciation of the community that supports them, and they are quick to highlight how the best aspects of dancing extend beyond themselves.

"You're dancing for all your Elders, and you're dancing for the ones that can't dance,"

Shawnot Evans said. "I've been the We-Ta-Se Princess for about three years now," Evans continued. "And I just want to thank all the veterans in my community and my family for teaching me in this way and keeping me in this way."

Aven Mitchell said that his favorite thing about dancing is "the youth that come out, and the energy, and just the vibes in general, because at powwows you feel the people's presence and you feel the love."

Anita Evans, who has sponsored the Singers and Dancers for 28 years, has seen many kids who participated in the group go on to become community leaders and parents who encourage their own children to join Singers and Dancers. Many of the adults who sing and drum with the group are also alumni.

"For the kids, I think it gives them a sense of pride and, I think, just a sense of wellbeing for themselves. I think about all the kids that are out here and I just think it makes them feel good about who they are," Evans said.

The longevity of the group—which was established several years before Evans became a sponsor—has allowed the Singers and Dancers to become a common experience across generations in the community. Evans noted that the stability provided by the Singers and Dancers is a great benefit to its young dancers: "I don't want them to have to worry about it not being here next year or the year after. If I don't do it next year, I want to make sure that I find somebody, whoever takes over this program after me, that they're going to have their full heart into it and they're going to be here for the kids."

Social Services, Active in the Community

In January 2023, we've had quite a few staff join our amazing team:

Tribal Victim Services (TVS): Cassidy Powell joined our team as a TVS Specialist.

Child & Family Services (CFS): Keirsten Hale joined our team as the Child & Family Services Program Manager. Also, Sheri Hase, Rhonda Deters, and Angela Aguilar joined us as Child & Family Services Social Workers.

Wellness Connection Services (WCS): Alex Wang joined our team as the Wellness Program Support Specialist.

That's a lot of new faces!

They will all be out and about over the next few months at our events and meeting our community.

Events are Happening!

Winter Round Dance: On Saturday January 14, 2023, PBPW WCS hosted the Winter Round Dance. The theme of the round dance was "get moving for the health of it" encouraging youth to be active, especially during the winter months where physical activity tends to slow down.

We had over 215 attendees for the event. Community youth were asked to take on roles of emcee, stick man and whipman.

Various contests were held during the event: including side-step contests; biggest earring contest; loudest hoop/lulu; and, spot dances throughout the night. Attendees were encouraged to bring a dish as a potluck style meal was served



Cassidy Powell



Keirsten Hale



Sheri Hase

before the dance started.

This was a collaborative event co-sponsored by Kickapoo Native Connections and PBPW Boys and Girls Club Youth Outreach. PBPW Diabetes Prevention and Kickapoo Nation BGC also contributed resources to the event to make it successful.

Film Screening of *Imagining the Indian*: On Sunday, January 22, 2023, WCS collaborated to hold a film screening for *Imagining the Indian* at the Prairie Band Casino. Thirty attendees arrived for the film screening and following panel discussion around Native American imagery and mascots and how they affect youth mental health and wellbeing.

While the attendees were of varying opinions regarding the Kansas City Chiefs, there was a collaborative discussion around what the community can do to better teach Potawatomi history and values while fighting discriminatory practices and bullying that affect Native youth. The event was highly informative, engaging for participants, and worked as a good way to start difficult conversations in the community about representation and youth mental health.

Upcoming Events by Social Services:



Rhonda Deters



Angela Aguilar



Alex Wang

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month: our Wellness and Tribal Victim Services (TVS) programs released a video podcast on the Nation's YouTube channel to provide more information about this important issue and conducting healthy relationship workshops in schools.

March is Disability Awareness Month: our Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program will be releasing a video podcast to share more information about those living with disabilities and our VR program will hold classes for those working with VR.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month: our TVS program will be scheduling events to highlight this important issue! Please stay tuned through email and our Facebook page for more information as it becomes available.

May is Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls (People) Awareness Month: Save the date for May 5, 2023 as this is MMIW awareness day. Social Services will be holding an event on this date to highlight and bring awareness to this important issue.

Over the summer, in June we will be co-hosting our second annual Community Block Party (details to come) and in August we will hold our second annual Youth GONA (details to come).

Please follow us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on all of our upcoming events and activities!



Veterans from all eras of service gathered at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort on February 7th to learn about healthcare resources open to them. This event covered the new PACT Act as well as offered veterans the opportunity to find out what other benefits they were eligible for.

VETERAN HEALTHCARE YOU HAVE EARNED IT

Eligibility

- Served 24 months or full period called to Active duty, AND meet Enrollment Priority Group
- Disability compensation for Veterans determined by VA to be disabled by injury/illness incurred/aggravated

Locations

2200 SW Gage Blvd
Topeka, Kansas 66602
Phone: (785) 350-311

4101 4th St. Trfwy
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048
Phone: (913) 682-2000

U.S. Veterans Administration Offers Assistance to Veterans

We-Ta-Se partnered with the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) to host a PACT Act Meeting at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort on February 7, 2023. This meeting was the second in a series of six sessions hosted by the VA providing information for all U.S. Military Veterans concerning eligible benefits.

While the 2022 PACT Act was the main focus of the event, the VA had resources available to help all veterans get answers to questions they have concerning benefits afforded to them through the VA.

The PACT Act is a new law expanding VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

VA representative, Sarah Dervonvish said, "The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions assumed (or "presumed") are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve."

Veterans and their families can find out more about the PACT Act by visiting www.va.gov/PACT. This page will help answer your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call us at 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711). And you can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.

Mill Creek Obtains MBE Certification

HOLTON, Kan. – Mill Creek, LLC has obtained certification as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) granted by the Mountain Plains Minority Supplier Development Council. The MBE certification is a program, benefiting for-profit businesses that are at least 51% owned by a racial or ethnic minority. Mill Creek is eligible for this certification as a subsidiary of Prairie Band, LLC, wholly owned by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.



The MBE certification gives Mill Creek access to corporate purchasing agents, networking events, searchable supplier databases, affordable consulting services, technology programs, and introductions to nationally known corporations. This status will also help Mill Creek continue to build on its current success, as corporations seek out business partners with MBE certification to help meet supplier diversity goals.

"Mill Creek is ready to take full advantage of the opportunities MBE certification offers. Over our years of experience, Mill Creek has established itself as a leader in the initial outfitting and transition planning industry, and we will continue to do so moving forward," said Mill Creek Vice President Jennifer Hansford.

In addition to MBE status, Mill Creek is a certified 8(a), HUBZone small business.

Program Helps People Work Toward Wellness

Led by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Health Center and Diabetes Prevention Program the Metabolic Health and Wellness Program helps you understand your body, metabolism, nutrition, and exercise. With personalized session, access to up to date technology creates a personal routine for your best health.

Understanding Metabolic Syndrome

Metabolic syndrome is an all-encompassing term for a cluster of conditions that occur simultaneously. It is also sometimes known as Syndrome X, dysmetabolic syndrome, hypertriglyceridemia, waist, insulin resistance syndrome, and obesity syndrome.

Patients with metabolic syndrome are at an increased risk for developing heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes. These conditions all involve increased blood pressure, excess body fat around the waist, high blood sugar, and abnormal cholesterol or triglyceride levels.

While having just one of these conditions does not necessarily mean a patient will have metabolic syndrome, it does mean that the patient is at an increased risk of developing serious disease. One's chance of complications also goes up after developing one of these conditions. The syndrome is increasingly common, affecting up to one-third of U.S. adults

Symptoms of Metabolic Syndrome

The vast majority of disorders associated with metabolic syndrome do not have any apparent signs or symptoms. However, a large waist circumference is often a telltale sign of metabolic disorder. High blood sugar is also often associated with diabetes symptoms. Patients who know they have at least one component of metabolic syndrome should consult with their doctor about whether they require testing for other components of the syndrome.

According to the National Institutes of Health, an official diagnosis of metabolic syndrome necessitates that the patient has at least three of the following:

- A large waist (at least 35 inches for women and 40 inches for men)
- Elevated fasting blood sugar
- High triglyceride levels
- Increased blood pressure
- Reduced "good" or HDL cholesterol

Causes of Metabolic Syndrome

While the causes of metabolic syndrome are not widely known, patients with this condition are frequently obese, overweight, or inactive. Metabolic syndrome is also closely linked to insulin resistance, a condition in which the digestive system has trouble breaking down foods into sugar. When this occurs, the cells have a hard time letting glucose enter, and the blood sugar levels rise despite the rising insulin levels.

According to Mayo Clinic, some populations are at higher risk for metabolic syndrome than others. This includes older adults, adults who are obese, and patients with other diseases (such as diabetes, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, sleep apnea, or polycystic ovary syndrome).


Preventing Metabolic Syndrome

Preventing metabolic syndrome necessitates a lifelong commitment to a healthy lifestyle. This involves getting at least 30 minutes of physical activity on most days, eating a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, lean protein, and whole grains (and limited in saturated fat and salt). It can also help to maintain a healthy weight and cease smoking.


For more information contact: Matthew W Waits M.S., Diabetes Prevention Program Manager, Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center via email: matthewwaits@pbpnation.org.

METABOLIC SYNDROME


Cluster of health conditions



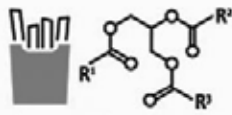
VISCERAL OBESITY




HYPERTENSION



INSULIN RESISTANCE



HIGH TRIGLYCERIDES



LOW HDL-CHOLESTEROL

Prairie Band Casino and Resort Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Prairie Band Casino and Resort marked its 25th year in operation with a small celebration in the hotel lobby on Friday, January 20, 2023. Members of the Casino's administration and members of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Tribal Council gave remarks on the Casino's growth and success at the recognition event, and then recognized 18 employees who have been with the Casino for 25 years or more for their service.

"I want to thank everybody for coming out today for our 25th anniversary," John Tuckwin, Director of Marketing for Prairie Band Casino and Resort, said to those in attendance. "Just think, 25 years ago we would be standing in the



Tribal leaders cut the cake at the Casino's 25th Anniversary event. Pictured left to right: Zach Pahmahmie, Jona Rupnicki, Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick, William Evans, and Wade Pahmahmie.

parking lot. We would be standing next to a big metal building—full of slot machines—but we have come a long way in those 25 years."

The Casino originally opened as Harrah's Prairie Band Casino on January 12, 1998. The Harrah's Entertainment company managed the Casino until 2007, when the Nation assumed operations

and reopened the Casino as Prairie Band Casino and Resort. Most recently, the Casino completed a major expansion to its hotel portion in November 2022 that features new luxury accommodations, a full-service spa, and Topgolf Swing Suite bays, among other new amenities.

"We have come a long way," Tribal Council Chairman Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick said at the celebration. "This Casino has helped us improve our Nation and improve the certainties that we have for our members and to take those steps. And I can't wait to see what the next 25 years will bring us."

The Prairie Band Casino and Resort operates 24 hours a day and employs over 700 people, including approximately 120 tribal members. The Nation uses revenue from Casino operations to repurchase lands within Reservation boundaries, provide employment to tribal members and the surrounding community, improve infrastructure, strengthen the Nation's programs, fund education, and improve the quality of life for all tribal members.

4 ZERO-TURN TRACTORS PER WEEK!

SUNDAYS IN MARCH



MOWERS, MONEY - & MORE -





Food Truck FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

12 FOOD TRUCKS & LIVE MUSIC!

Open to all ages!

DAVID KOECHNER

APRIL 6



RONNIE MILSAP

APRIL 20



JORDAN DAVIS

MAY 18





Councilmembers and representatives from the four Tribes in Kansas attended the Inauguration and Swearing-In Ceremony of Kansas Governor Laura Kelly on January 9, 2023. In attendance were Chairman Joseph Rupnick and Vice Chairman Zach Pahmahmie of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation; Chairman Timothy Rhodd and Secretary Tony Fee of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska; Chairman Lester Randall of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas and Kickapoo Pow Wow Princess 2022 Aubrey Thomas; and Chairwoman Tiauna Carnes of the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Tribal leaders and other attendees were invited to Governor Kelly's "open house" event in the statehouse.



PBPN Tribal Council Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick and Vice Chairman Zach Pahmahmie present Kansas Governor Laura Kelly with a Pendleton blanket featuring the PBPN seal on behalf of the Nation at the Inauguration and Swearing-In Ceremony at the Kansas Statehouse.

For the first time in her 12-year history, Kelly McNeil (Wabaunsee) will be playing for Team Indigenous Rising roller derby team to compete in the Y'Allstars Roller Derby Tournament.

The tournament will feature a total of 15 teams competing within three divisions: Adult Women's, Adult Open, and Juniors (aka kids' roller derby). YAllstars marks the first event of its kind in Louisiana. For more details about venue, schedule, teams and more, visit www.yallstars.com.

She said, “Skating with Team Indigenous Rising has been a goal of mine since 2018, after seeing them go to Manchester UK for the Roller Derby World Cup. Seeing such representation is something special, and I just really wanted to be a part of that.”

During the hiatus of Covid, all roller derby was paused, but as it slowly returned, many teams relaxed their requirements and allowed skaters to become members of multiple leagues. This allowed Wabaunsee to skate for teams with multiple rule sets, which included WFTDA, and MRDA, and earned her a bronze with her team Violet Crown Roller Derby from Austin, TX at the USARS Roller Derby Nationals.

Team Indigenous announced that they would be having virtual try-outs, and with footage from her practice at Team Free Radicals, from Austin, TX and recommendations from her captain at Rockin' City Roller Derby, she was admitted and was so excited to be accepted on to the roster for 2023-2024.

Wabaunsee has also been selected to be on the roster for both tournaments, including Battle of the All Stars being held in Scranton, PA.


"I'm most excited about BOTAS, since my family will be traveling from all over the country to come and watch me play roller derby for the first time," Wabaunsee said.

Kelly is a fan of “all the roller derby”, and hopes that she continue with the pace of skating on multiple teams and leagues. “Being an older skater, people are often surprised when they learn my age, but this is such a unique contact sport, it keeps my mind and my body active. The community of roller derby has allowed me to meet amazing people I may never had come into contact with,” she said.


Team Indigenous Rising is fundraising to defray the costs of traveling for their skaters and coaches.

To date, their online silent auction campaign has earned support, with over \$3000. If you would like to donate or purchase merchandise to support Team

WE ARE
STILL
HERE



SMUDGE
FIRST
ROLLER
DERBY
AFTER



We represent Turtle Island in Flat Track Roller Derby


Team Indigenous Rising Roller Derby is showing other athletes and community members what is possible for Indigenous sports across tribes, borders and nations. We embrace our community everywhere we exist.


We are not defined by geography or the borders arbitrarily imposed upon us. We embrace our community everywhere we exist and are a single borderless nation.

The mission of Team Indigenous Rising is to provide a space for Indigenous roller derby athletes to play a sport and share experiences together where they are seen, heard and represented 100% of the time.

We're continuing to realize this vision by further growing and inspiring others to claim their space in the roller derby community and we've formed some incredible partnerships and powerful friendships along the way.


512-983-1812


teamindigenoussrollerderby@gmail.com



Wabaunsee
aka Kelarella de Vil #101


Prairie Band Potawatomi

Current league affiliations (it's a magical year!)

- Texas Rollergrits skater
- Roller City Roller Derby trainee and up
- Violet Crown Roller Derby USARS skater
- Austin Anarchy Roller Derby skater
- Team Free Radicals skater
- Austin Short Track Roller Derby founder

Former Teams:

- Central Coast Roller Derby
- Central California Area Derby
- Roller Roadsters Roller Derby

 Skates + Nothing

Indigenous Rising, please visit them at <https://teamindigenousrising.square.site>
To book an interview with skaters or coaches please email teamindigenousrollerderby@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page where they're posting progress and fundraising videos facebook.com/teamindigenousrollerderby

‘Imagining the Indian’ Film Screening Sparks Discussion on Native American Mascots



The “Imagining the Indian” panelists respond to questions after the film screening. Pictured left to right: Co-director and producer Ben West, film subjects Rhonda LeValdo and Gaylene Crouser, and producer Yancey Burns.

The Prairie Band Casino and Resort hosted a film screening of “Imagining the Indian: The Fight Against Native American Mascoting” on January 22, 2023. Following the screening, there was a panel discussion during

which attendees were able to ask questions and discuss the film with members of the production team. The panelists were Ben West (Cheyenne), co-director and producer; Yancey Burns, producer; and Rhonda LeValdo

(Acoma Pueblo) and Gaylene Crouser (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe), who were featured in the film.

PBPN Tribal Council Member Raphael Wahwassuck and Tribal Council Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick are both members of the Kansas Advisory Council for Indigenous Education Working Group, and they introduced the film by relating it to the Working Group’s previous presentation to the Kansas State Board of Education on the impact of Native American imagery in school mascots.

LeValdo and Crouser are both members of Not In Our Honor, a coalition formed in 2005 by a group of Native American students at the University of Kansas and Haskell Indian Nations University. Since then, Not In Our Honor has continuously advocated against the use of Native American imagery in sports. LeValdo is also a faculty member at Haskell, and Crouser is the Executive Director of the Kansas City Indian Center.

Following the film screening, audience members were able to ask

the panelists questions or provide feedback on the film. Some attendees voiced doubts as to the negative effects of Native American mascots, while others agreed that the mascots were harmful or offensive and praised the filmmakers for their work.

As shown in the film, many teams have already retired their Native American mascots and culturally offensive team names or traditions. However, several teams refuse to rebrand and have instead made adjustments to their use of Native American imagery. The topic can be divisive among sports fans, including Native fans, and the debate is far from settled.

Last November, the Kansas Board of Education recommended the removal of American Indian-themed mascots and branding from Kansas school districts, saying American Indian students deserve to feel comfortable in schools across the state. However, the Board only has authority to make suggestions to local school districts, and more than 20 Kansas schools have retained their Native American mascots.

Mitchell Appointed to Advisory Council

REDW LLC, one of the Southwest’s 10 largest advisory and CPA firms, also recognized as the national leader serving tribes and tribal enterprises, is honored to recognize the appointment of Hattie Mitchell, CPA, CFE, CVGA, to the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council (GASAC). Mitchell, a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPN), is based in REDW’s Phoenix office and will serve a two-year term with the GASAC.



Hattie Mitchell

The GASAC is responsible for consulting with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) on technical issues on the Board’s agenda, project priorities, matters likely to require the attention of the GASB, selection and organization of task forces, and such other matters as may be requested by the GASB or its chair.

“I thank the Native American Finance Officers Association, who nominated me for this national role, as well as REDW for its support of and commitment to excellence, innovation, and the highest level of ethics as it relates to the accounting profession,” says Mitchell.

In addition to her GASAC appointment, Mitchell serves on the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Tribal Finance and Accounting Advisory Board, which works to enhance the financial acumen of tribal leaders and tribal employees through virtual and in-person certification programs and conferences. Its Introductory Tribal Finance and Accounting Certificate program won the prestigious 2021 Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) Education Program of the Year award.

Mitchell is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), and a Certified Value Growth Advisor (CVGA). She was elected Tribal Treasurer of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation from 2012 to 2016 and currently serves as the Treasurer for the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA). Mitchell has been honored for her leadership, including being named among the Jayhawk Area Council – Topeka’s “Top 20 Under 40” in 2014. She also received the 2013 Native American “40 Under 40” award from the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED). She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in Accounting and Finance from Washburn University and was recognized by The Washburn Alumni Association as the “Graduate of the Last Decade.” In addition, Mitchell studied abroad, both International Politics at Cambridge University in Cambridge, England, Spanish Communication at Cantabria University in Santander, Spain, and both studied and applied case-study method emphasis to make business decisions about real businesses at Harvard Business School’s Summer Venture in Management Program.

Tribal Member Opens Mental Health Practice

Brian Jones, member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, recently announced the opening of his mental health private practice BK Jones Healing.

Jones is a Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker (LSCSW) and Licensed Addiction Counselor (LAC) with the state of Kansas and a graduate from Haskell Indian Nations University (AA) and the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare (BSW, MSW).

He has been a licensed practicing clinical therapist since 2013. Jones said, “I’ve spent five years working on the front lines as a Clinical Therapist in several Kansas Community Mental Health Centers and another five years working as a Clinical Therapist in two Indigenous Tribal Health Care Clinics in the state of Oregon.”

The mental health disorders that he treats include: Anxiety (Panic, Social, GAD), Substance Use Disorders, Co-occurrence Disorders, Depression, Grief, Trauma, Indigenous Historical Trauma, Emotional Dysregulation and Men’s issues.

He described the primary modalities he uses include: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Solution Focus Brief Therapy (SFBT), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), 12-Step Recovery Model, Relapse Prevention Strategies, and Motivational Interviewing.

He said, “I enjoy practicing from a strength’s perspective. I believe we all possess internal and external strengths that facilitate healing and spiritual growth. As Indigenous people, I promote the utilization of our tribal culture and ceremonial practices to walk in a balanced journey of holistic healing and harmonious living.”

Jones is currently accepting new clients for individual therapy ages 13 and up. His office is located at 5040 SW 28th St B, Topeka, Kansas 66614 (Shunga Creek Mental Health Building).

He can be contacted at 785-969-2843 during his office hours, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.



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



Darrell Edwards

Darrell W. Edwards, 72, of Topeka, passed away Sunday, November 27, 2022 in Topeka, Kansas. He was born April 11, 1950, in Oklahoma, the son of Don Edwards and Augustine Hale. Darrell attended a carpentry program at the Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. Darrell served in the United States Army from 1970-1992. While serving in the service, he was wounded and received the Purple Heart and the Army Commendation Medal with Valor. Due to his injuries, he spent most of his later life disabled and living in long term care facilities. He will be missed by the staff and residents at Brighton Place West and the Topeka VA Hospital. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribe in Kansas. Darrell was preceded in death by his mother, Augustine Marie Hale and one brother, Kirk Allen. A graveside service with military honors was held January 18, 2022 at Memorial Park Cemetery, 3616 SW 6th Ave., Topeka, Kansas 66606.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home



**GALEN "SAL" HUBBARD
NA GA HA**

Galen E. "Sal" Hubbard, Na ga ha, 77, of Horton, passed away on Monday, January 2, 2023 at the Stormont-Vail Health Center in Topeka. He was born November 3, 1945 in Topeka the son of Chester and Mary Laclair Hubbard. He graduated from Netawaka High School and from Haskell Business School. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and served in Vietnam.

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Sal was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Seneca Tribe. He was also a member of We-Ta-Se American Legion Post 410 at Mayetta and a member of the Christian Faith. He was Superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Horton Agency, retiring in January of 2008. Sal married Sue Samuel on May 28, 1965 in Topeka. She survives, of the home. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Delmar Hubbard, and a sister, Mayme Mattwaoshshe. Other survivors include two sons, Sean Hubbard (Robin), Carbondale and Duane Hubbard, Topeka; two daughters, Galenna Nelson (Darrin), Topeka and Miriam Hubbard (Mark), Horton; a sister, Antoinette Smith, in Ohio; three brothers, Clifford Hubbard, Kansas City, and Robert Hubbard and Hardy Eteeyan, both of Mayetta; fourteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Funeral services were January 7th at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Holton. Burial with military honors followed in the Shipshee Cemetery, west of Mayetta.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home



Max Phillips

Max Franklin Phillips, 71 of Yukon, OK passed away November 25, 2022. Max was born January 15, 1951 to Noah and Jane Phillips in Ponca City, OK. Max was born of Native American descent to the Prairie Band Potawatomi and Sac Fox Tribe. Max joined the U.S. Army in 1969 and served in the 173rd Airborne Brigade as a 12B2P Combat Engineer until he was wounded in combat and honorably discharged in 1970. Max was known to his fellow soldiers as Sooner. Max was decorated with the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Parachutist Badge. After returning home from Vietnam, he returned to Ponca City. Max attended Junior College in Tonkawa, OK, before moving to Norman, OK to attend college at the

University of Oklahoma, while in college at OU and working nights at Tinker AFB, Max became a father of a baby girl, Kristie Ann on April 30, 1977. Max graduated from OU with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. While working at Tinker AFB, Max met Terry Carmack in 1981 in the Aircraft Division. Max and Terry were married June 30, 1984 in Oklahoma City, OK. On June 29, 1987 Max became a father of his Son, Sean Edward. Max retired from Tinker AFB January 2006 with 34 years of civil service. Max was a 32nd degree Mason, and was a member of the Nicoma Park Masonic Lodge #541. Max and his beloved wife Terry were married for 38 years. Max loved his family deeply. He always had a sparkle in his eye when he saw his wife, children, and grandchildren. Max had four grandchildren, Karleigh, Sawyer, Olive and Piper. Max would always say that Terry was the Love of his life and his soulmate. They were inseparable from the day they met, until the day he was called home. Max was preceded in death by his father Noah and his mother Jane Phillips, Sisters Cheryl Wright and Robin Bernabe, and Brother Mike Phillips. Max was survived by his wife Terry Phillips of Yukon, OK, son Sean Phillips, his wife Kari Phillips and children Karleigh and Sawyer Phillips, of Piedmont, OK. His daughter Kristie Gormley, her husband Jim Gormley and children Olive and Piper Gormley of OKC, OK. Max's brothers Terry John Phillips and Tim Phillips of Ponca City, OK, along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Resthaven Memorial Gardens Funeral Home



Kelly Rosevelt

On Sunday, January 8, 2023, Kelly Ann Rosevelt, beloved mother, passed away at the age of forty-nine. She was born in Topeka, Kansas on February 22nd 1973, the daughter of Luella Ann Wabskie. Kelly was a homemaker. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi

Nation Tribe. Kelly retired from the National Guard in 2001-2002. She enjoyed her time learning about spirituality, being with family and friends, and caring for animals. Kelly was known for her warm energy and bright smile along with her wit and humor. Kelly had a gentle soul that could soothe anyone. Kelly is survived by her children, Kian Latka and Allyson Rodriguez both of Topeka, her aunts and uncles, Ray Lee Wabskie of Topeka, Gary (Sabrina) Wabskie of Mayetta, KS, Donna L. (Francisco) Vega of Topeka, Carol Lemonte of Russell, KS, Diane Wabskie Arnold of Russell, KS, her cousins, Aaliyah Garcia of Topeka, Shelly Lemonte of Topeka, Mathaniel Soliz of Russell, KS, Monica Soliz of Topeka, and Matthew Soliz of Russell, KS. Kelly was preceded in death by her mother Luella Wabskie on November 16, 2016. There was a Celebration of Life on January 26th 2023.



Dorothy VanDeWiele

Dorothy Darline VanDeWiele, 84, of Mayetta, passed away Tuesday, November 8, 2022, in Topeka, Kansas. She was born March 2, 1938, in Mayetta, the daughter of James Wamego Sr. and Edith (Thompson) Wamego. Dorothy attended the Marty Indian School in Marty South Dakota. She worked as a housekeeper for the United Methodist Home and Aldersgate Village for 15 years. Dorothy was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. She married Bernard Eugene VanDeWiele in St. Mary's Kansas. He preceded her in death. Survivors include daughters, Diane VanDeWiele of Topeka, Donna Jornov of Holton, Debbie Dyche of Topeka, Darlene VanDeWiele of Holton; 7 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; son, Bernie VanDeWiele; and brothers; Algernon Wamego and James Wamego Jr.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Angels Above Cremation Services



Ray Wabskie

Ray Lee Wabskie, 68, of Topeka, passed away on January 26, 2023, at KU Medical Center, St. Francis Campus. He was born in Topeka, Kansas on August 6, 1954, the son of Donald and Marjorie (Shopteese) Wabskie. Ray worked for Falley's and Bliers Grocery as a manager. He was a tribal member of the Prairie Band of Pottawatomi Nation. He also enjoyed working on his car. He was preceded in death by his parents and two siblings, Luella Ann Wabskie and a brother Donald "Junie" Wabskie Jr. He is survived by his siblings, Gary Wabskie, Donna Vega, Carol (Bradley) LaMonte and Diane Arnold. He was buried Saturday, February 4th, at the Shipshee Cemetery.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home

Kevin Eugene Dizmang

3-II-1959

II-I5-2022

Vernice Metcalfe

8/19/1925

12/14/2022

Heather Anne Siegmund

10-I-1970

12-25-2022

Jacqueline Watkins

8/14/1957

10/8/2022

Romalda Lorene Wright

7-29-1954

I-3I-2023

Kambottek

April McKinney

April Tina McKinney, 50, of Topeka, passed away on December 10, 2022.

She was born on July 19, 1972 to Gerald McKinney Sr., and Marlys (Augilar) Bearstail in Kansas City, Missouri.

After April graduated high school, she pursued different jobs before settling down and starting her family.

April enjoyed arts and crafts, painting, drawing, and making piñatas. She loved spending time with all of her grandchildren. She would spoil them to no end.

April loved to be outside and walk, she couldn't sit still for too long before she needed to get going again.

Her grandchildren remember April taking them to hotels and going swimming, watching movies together, and just spending time together.

She had a very giving heart, making food for people in need and helping them any way she could.

She instilled so many morals and values in her children. She was an amazing mom that never gave up on her children.

April would always throw the best birthday parties, and would always go "overboard" with every Christmas. Her family will miss her greatly.

April is survived by her loving children, Ariel McKinney, Frederick (Rose) Dillon, Corianne McKinney, and Koylen McKinney; sister, Sharol McKinney; nephew, Bryan McKinney; 17 grandchildren; and her adopted grandparents, Chief and Pam Pahmahmie.

She was preceded in death by both of her parents; and her brother, Gerald "Jube" McKinney, Jr.; and nephew, Waoquin McKinney.

- Reprinted Courtesy of Parker-Price Funeral Home

Paul Wabaunsee

Paul Emory Wabaunsee, 79, of Topeka, KS, passed away Saturday, January 28, 2023 at Plaza West in Topeka, KS.

He was born September 10, 1943 in Lawrence, KS, the son of Albert Wabaunsee and Katheryn Merry Kelly.

Paul grew up in

Washington State, living in Darrington and Port Angeles. After graduating Port Angeles High School in Port Angeles, WA, he joined the United States Army and served in the Vietnam War.

Upon his return, he attended college, but the early influences of logging called him away from school and to a life of an adventure as a logger.

Paul loved his profession as a Hook Tender and was proud of the work, traveling to remote logging camps in Washington and Alaska. Paul settled in Craig, Alaska, where he had many friends and enjoyed fishing and hunting.

After retirement, he moved to Kansas, where he remained until his passing.

Paul was a member of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

He was preceded in death by his parents and 1 sister, Kay Kelly.

Survivors include his two daughters, Merry Alix Kelly and Emma Kelly Irish; grandchildren, Ainsley Irish and Hart Irish and a niece, Harriet Wadley of Craig AK.

- Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home

Charitable Contributions 4th Quarter Recipient List Total Donated \$81,046.00

- Altrusa of Lawrence
- Bee the Blessing Inc
- Boys & Girls Club of Topeka
- Capper Foundation
- Family Service & Guidance Center
- Friends of Wamego Public Library
- Haskell Indian Nations Univ AIBL Club
- Holton Community Hospital
- Holton/Jackson Co Chamber of Commerce
- Jackson Co Historical & Genealogical Society
- Jackson Co Ministerial Alliance Incop
- Leid Center-Lawrence
- Morning Star
- Ms. Wheelchair of Kansas
- Salvation Army
- Topeka Civic Theatre
- Topeka North Outreach

Reminder to Housing Rental Applicants

The Housing Department would like to remind all applicants to keep their applications updated. We are actively screening for several units and need to have current mailing address and updated applications on file.

All applicants are responsible for keeping the information on their application current. Applicants are required to update their application annually and their mailing address when needed. Failure to update your application at least once a year will result in your application being placed on an inactive list

The Housing Department will be mailing out reminder letters and an application to update to all applicants currently on the waiting list. We will be using the address we have on file, so if you have not contacted us to update your mailing address in a while, please do so as soon as possible.

Contact the Housing Department at 785-966-2756 if you have questions or would like to have an application to update mailed to you. You can also download the applications on the Nation's website under Housing.

Thank you!

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

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

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Eshkēnibēk
SpringTime
2023 Edition
Deadline
May 1, 2023



PAID TRIBAL INTERNSHIP OPENING 2/1/23

PRAIRIE BAND CASINO & RESORT is looking to recruit five tribal paid interns this summer!

JOB POSITION QUALIFICATIONS:
-Must be enrolled into a federally recognized tribe.
-18+ years and older.

Deadline for applications: April 25, 2023



MORE INFO & TO APPLY
785-966-7763
jnioce@pbpgaming.com
or jobs.prairieband.com

Nishnabek Ntewmèn - “Who We Are”



Blake J. Garrison reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego CA on January 16, 2023. Proud Parents Blake and Audria Garrison. Boot Camp 13 weeks - MOS Engineering.



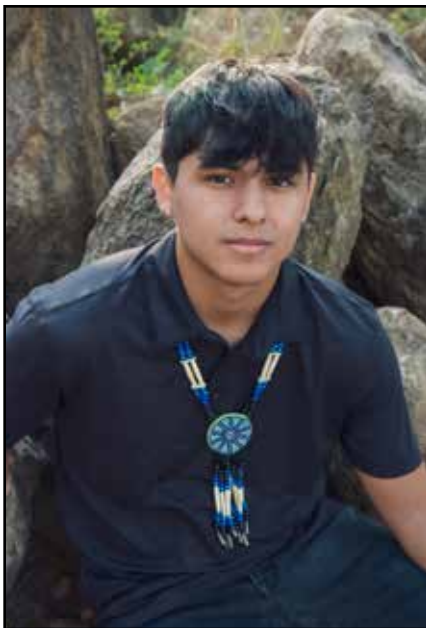
Ttwenmo Mnodibiscon - Happy Birthday to sibs, February 23 and 24.



Congrats to Nico Banks son of Vincil and Enedina Banks placing 5th at Oklahoma State in Wrestling!! We are so proud of all your hard work on and off the mat.

Happy 18th Birthday Omar (March 2nd). I am so proud of all your accomplishments you have made during your 18yrs of life, you have gifted talent, run with it!

You make your mother proud, keep reaching for the stars Son! Hugs and Loves-Mom and Family-



Bosho friends and family! Ndeshekas Skepgongokwe Wahwasuck. Ne Mishom se bin (belated Misho) Badger Wahwasuck, Noco (grandmother) Karen Wahwasuck. I am very excited to announce that I am officially running for Miss Indian World 2023-2024.

Myname is Dania Wahwasuck. I am 22 years old. I am enrolled Prairie Band Potawatomi and a descendant of the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe. I graduated Valedictorian in 2019 from Pyramid Lake Jr. Sr. HS. In 2019, I was also able to graduate with my Associates in Art from Western Nevada College through the Pyramid Lake Jumpstart program. I am now a current student at the University of Kansas where I am working towards my Bachelors in Elementary Education.

I absolutely love public speaking and more specifically motivational speaking. I care greatly about our youth, their mental health, education, and our native communities. I am running for MIW because I want to use the platform to make a difference.

As a contestant I am selling tickets for \$2.50 each. Please contact me if you'd like to purchase any. I would incredibly appreciate your support!

I look forward to sharing this journey with you!