



Prairie Band Potawatomi News

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

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Eshkēnibēk 2023

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Eshkēnibēk
"Spring time
of the year"

This paper contains the
activities and happenings
that took place during the
Spring time of 2023:
April, May,
June

PBPN Emergency Services Train With Area Agencies

On Saturday, February 25th, 2023, Royal Valley School District hosted an active shooter training exercise at the Royal Valley High School in Hoyt.

PBPN Police and Fire joined the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Jackson County Emergency Management, Hoyt Fire Department, Jackson County EMS, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Hoyt Police Department, and other area public safety agencies took part in this training.

PBPN Police Chief Terry Clark said, "These kinds of situations are hard for people to think about because they are some of our worst fears. It's just the reality of the world we live in that, in our line of work, we not only have to think about things like this, but we also have to prepare for them." He added that bringing as many area first responders together to train together is an important step toward making sure that law enforcement and emergency medical services can work together as a team to protect those they serve.

Clark said, "The most recent exercise gave us the opportunity to work as a team and look at those areas needing improvement or additional training. I was impressed with the willingness that all showed to have the cohesive mindset required when responding to



Tribal Police Department, Sergeant Nicole Burdick, a Jackson County Sheriff Deputy and a Hoyt Police officer all participate in the action debriefing session held between drills.

these types of incidents."

PBPN Fire Department Chief Doug Schreiner, said, "It was a great inter-agency training event to help prepare us for something we pray will never happen, but we must be ready for. The cooperation and teamwork were phenomenal. Everyone was glad to see each other there to help and we had a lot of good problem-solving discussions. During the live action scenarios, we all worked seamlessly together as one team regardless of what uniform we wore or what agency we represented. The training was very beneficial."

Royal Valley School District staff and students also assisted in the training adding real-world tension



Left to right: Firefighter/EMT Josh Greenlee, Firefighter/EMT John Debenham, Lieutenant/Paramedic Bruce Coates, Fire Chief/Paramedic Doug Schreiner and a volunteer firefighter with Soldier Fire Department practice providing emergency care and evacuating the injured during the training session.

and urgency to the training day. School staff practiced warning others and sheltering. Students played the parts of the injured and provided real-world distractions for the responders by locking down the school,

Sports Betting Becoming a Reality for Kansans

In a move that promises to generate more revenue for the Prairie Band Potawatomi tribe, the Tribal Council, Gaming Commission and the General Council all approved the addition of sports betting to its existing gaming operations.

The decision comes after Kansas Governor Kelly signed Senate Bill 84 into law last year legalizing digital or in-person sports betting. The US Supreme Court ruling in *Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association* from 2018 made it possible for states to legalize sports betting.

"Legalizing sports betting will bring more revenue to our state and grow our economy," Governor Kelly said. "This is another mechanism that casinos, restaurants, and other

entertainment venues can now utilize to attract Kansans to their establishments."

The Prairie Band Casino & Resort is a popular destination for gaming enthusiasts and with the addition of sports betting, visitors to the casino will soon be able to place bets on a variety of sports, including basketball, football, baseball, and more.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi tribe is one of four tribes in Kansas that operate casinos and is the first to offer sports betting. The decision to add sports betting was made after careful consideration of the potential benefits and risks.

- Continues on page 6

Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick: Report to the Nation



Dear Tribal Members,

Spring has arrived and since our last meeting, it has been a very busy time. State legislatures are in session and now is the time to push items that will benefit our Nation now and in the future. Before I get into our efforts on the state level, I'll briefly discuss Federal issues.

In March, I was asked to testify at the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, "Unlocking Indian Country's Economic Potential." This committee was looking into challenges and obstacles tribes face when building their economies.

The first area I addressed was the restriction on Tribes over placing land into Trust. I asked the committee to support the Land Empowerment Act, which gives Tribes the option to either place land into Trust or allow lands to be classed "Restricted Fee."

Restricted fee has the same protections as Trust lands meaning they are restricted from taxation and are managed by the Tribe. All too often, the Trust process is bogged down by those in the State offering objections, limiting tribes economic opportunities.

I also testified that Congress should clarify language in the Nonintercourse Act and that the Act should not apply to the purchase and sale of Tribally owned fee lands. Many

Tribes have been expanding their economic opportunities into real estate development, but future sale of such land can, and usually is, stopped because of a restrictive interpretation of the Nonintercourse Act.

The Act should not interfere with the sale of Tribally owned fee land within or outside of Reservation boundaries. This restrictive interpretation forces congress to enact separate legislation before a sale occurs.

Many have wondered about our lawsuit against the U.S. Treasury and the distribution of CARES funds. As you may recall, we filed a suit because our Nation and members were not treated fairly and equitably, and our Nation was allocated funds based on a formula called the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) formula. That formula is a needs assessment from HUD that allocates funding for housing. Under the formula we were only given credit for 817 members. We challenged in court the use of the IHBG formula, and all funding should be based on Tribal population. Upon appeal, the Court ruled in our favor to the methodology used by Treasury which was arbitrary and sent it back to the lower court for review.

Many may not understand the impact this ruling has on all of Indian Country, but this will have far reaching effects across the Nation.

Different agencies use the IHBG formula to determine funding as opposed to Tribal population and as a result, we are typically underfunded. The Department of Transportation is one agency that uses this formula, and we are taking the necessary steps to stop the use of IHBG and base funding on population.

Lastly on the Federal level, we have successfully petitioned Congress to re-file our bill filed in the 117th congress, Kansas Indian Country Law Enforcement Improvement Act and now, we have H.R. 1152 – Kansas Indian Country Law Enforcement Improvement Act of 2023. This bill was filed by Representative LaTurner and

cosponsored by Representative Davids and Representative Mann. Later this month I'm meeting with legislators in DC to build support hopefully we can get this bill signed into law.

This bill is not the only one we are working on and as of this writing, we expect the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Shab-eh-nay Band Reservation Settlement Act to be re-filed in the coming days by Representative Garcia and Underwood of Illinois.

On the Kansas State level, met with leadership to try and get an amendment to our compact to allow sports betting. This was a very difficult process and required multiple meetings with leadership on both the House and Senate side to get language in just to allow the Governor to enter negotiations. On April 6th, we finally had a resolution that passed overwhelmingly in both the Senate and House to allow compact negotiations. At the same time, we worked with the Governor's staff on the language to the actual amendment.

As promised, we did not open the compact. Once those negotiations were concluded to our satisfaction, a Special General Council Meeting was called on May 20th to consider the Gaming Compact Amendment and it was passed unanimously. Now it has to be submitted to National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) and once it is approved there, we can begin providing sports betting opportunities through the Casino.

While the talks about sports wagering have been continuing, the Nation has also filed a determination through NIGC by submitting a gaming license for lands outside the 11 x 11 but within the boundaries of our 30 x 30.

The argument has always been that the reservation has never been disestablished and when I assumed this position, I pulled all legislative actions from Congress starting with the 1st congress up to the 117th. I could not find any language in any action that clearly disestablishes our Reservation.

After the McGirt ruling, the Nation retained the services of the historian that provided the analysis used in the argument for McGirt. His analysis confirmed congress never disestablished the boundaries of our 30 x 30 reservation. Because the State of Kansas geo-fenced our 11 x 11, we feel they are violating federal law, by gaming within the boundaries of our 30 x 30 without a compact. Once NIGC has made a determination, that will dictate our next steps to hopefully resolve this issue once and for all.

In Illinois, we successfully supported the passage of two bills in the state. The first bill, House Bill 3414 enhances graves protection and strengthens Tribal consultation. The language included in the bill will allow Tribes to repatriate remains of ancestors in suitable locations including State Parks and provides for more robust consultation.

Currently, based on a report from ProPublica, there are approximately 7,000 individual ancestors identified held in museums and we are hoping to take steps to get them properly taken care of and put to rest. This bill has passed the House overwhelmingly, and we are waiting on the Senate to pass their version.

The second bill we have supported in Illinois, House Bill 1633, provides for increased Native American curriculum and establishes a task force with Tribes focusing on tribal sovereignty and discrimination. This is a positive step in the state where many states are looking at ways to limit what is taught in the classroom.

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

Boys and Girls Club Hosts Soil Conservation Event for National Field Day

PBPN Boys and Girls Club hosted a National Field Day event in March with the theme, "Soil Scientist in Training." The event was sponsored by the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. Volunteers from NRCS and KACD led discussions and performed demonstrations at various educational exhibits outside the Club and in the gymnasium.

Jeffery Olson, Conservation Stewardship Program manager at NRCS, explained how the exhibits functioned and what they could teach the kids about soil conservation.

"In general, we have the stations set up to demonstrate the different ways of looking at natural resources," Olson said. "We have what we call the 'sandbox.' It's a simulated activity that shows you the grade [of the sand-model landscape] based on a

digital format layout."

The sandbox simulation was a popular station because of its hands-on interactivity. The participants were able to mold the sand into river valleys, mountains, and even a volcano, which were then brought to life by the simulated visuals projected down onto the sand.

Other indoor exhibits included an inflatable Earth balloon that participants could go inside, an engineering station that demonstrated how to measure grade and slope, and a soil health station, which showed examples of actions people can take to improve the health of soil. At the soil health station, a volunteer explained that the paths of streams and rivers are carved out by erosion and used a map of the PBPN Reservation as an example.

The NRCS also had an information table with pamphlets and other resources on soil conservation set up in the gym with the indoor exhibits.

The National Field Day event was part of the Boys



Participants at the "Soil Scientists in Training" event held at the Boys and Girls Club examine an inflatable Earth balloon that was one station of the event.

and Girls Club programming for Spring Break, which provides educational lessons, creative activities, healthy eating, and swimming time for students during the Royal Valley USD 337 schools' week-long school break.

Secretary Lorrie Melchior: Report to the Nation



Bozho,
The first quarter ended with the 2023 April General Council meeting and a request of adding the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nations Committees and Boards to our website. This information will be added under the Members Only Portal and any vacancy information related to the

Committees and Boards will be posted with the portion of the requested information and added to the Members Only Portal.
The second quarter began with attending the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) which held its 41st Annual Protecting Our Children Conference April 2023 in Reno, Nevada. Gaining the knowledge in addition to the information that I obtained throughout the conference was a very moving experience. There were many workshops available at the conference. I could not attend all the presentations in the agenda book but would have if given the opportunity.
The presenters shared their experiences and knowledge throughout this conference so that we could understand how important it is to protect our children. All who attended were enthusiastic to educate and learn more about the efforts put forth to support our children and families.
The encouragement to educate more people in protecting our children with listening, healing, and understanding was beneficial and attending this conference was a privilege as well as educational. Everyone I met who work in this field are very passionate about what they do and work endlessly to protect our children and families.
Meetings attended were all scheduled Special and Regular Tribal Council meetings. The Committee meetings attended are the scheduled Land Committee and Royal Valley District Impact Aid Committee meetings.
As of May 9, 2023 we currently have a total of 4,410 of Enrolled Tribal Members. Our office is currently putting together information, to post in our Members Only Portal, to keep our Tribal Members updated.
Tribal Members are encouraged to utilize our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nations website at www.pbpindiantribe.com.
The 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. *Please note you will need your enrollment number when submitting your request for a username and password.
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:
• 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

2023 Ethics Election Coming Up in July

Message from the PBPN Election Board

The Election Board is very excited to inform the Nation of this year’s Election process. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has hired a new Election vendor. The company’s name is MK Elections. On April 18, 2023, the Election Board did a “Test Election. The Election Board is proud to announce that the “Test Election” was a success. This year’s Election will be held on Saturday July 22, 2023. The ballots will be mailed out Wednesday June 7, 2023.
It is never too late to register to vote. If you have not registered yet, please do and you will be able to vote next year.
There is one thing that the Election Board is asking of Tribal Members and that is to please make sure Member Services has your current information. It is important to you as a Tribal member to keep your information updated when your address or legal name changes.

Thank you,
The Election Board

Ethics Commissioner
#1 Candidate

Jessica Burghart

My name is Jessica Burghart and I am running for reelection for the Ethics Commissioner #1 position.

I joined the Ethics Commission in 2019 and have helped with many of the projects within the commission, such as the travel report and the Standard Operating Procedure for Ethics.

I feel like I can still be an asset for the tribe and would like to continue working on improving our Ethics and serving the tribe.

Ethics Commission Vice
Chairperson Candidate

My name is Royetta (Rupnicki) Rodewald, and I am asking for your vote to continue to serve as the Ethics Commission Vice Chairperson.

A key goal of the Ethics Commission is to enhance public trust of our elected and appointed officials by providing external oversight and enforcement of the Nation’s Code of Ethics. My current work experience demonstrates that I have the skills required for this position and that I will continue to do the work needed as a member of this Commission in a fair and impartial manner.

I am currently employed as a Special Investigator for the State of Kansas Disciplinary Administrator’s Office and have been employed there since 2015. The Disciplinary Administrator’s Office works under the direction of the State of Kansas Supreme Court. Our office reviews and investigates complaints of

professional and ethical misconduct against attorneys in the State of Kansas, holds public hearings when appropriate, recommends discipline to the Supreme Court in serious matters, and are also charged with conducting character and fitness investigations into all bar applications filed in the State of Kansas.

As a Special Investigator I work independently and collaboratively with investigative staff, investigate complaints submitted, investigate petitions for re-instatement, and conduct character and fitness investigations for all applicants seeking admission to the bar of the State of Kansas. I prepare investigative reports noting rule violations when applicable, conduct interviews, and when necessary, testify in discipline hearings.

During my previous term, in addition to reviewing and determining the merit of complaints, we updated the

Royetta (Rupnicki) Rodewald

Ethics Commission Standard Operating Procedures and are currently updating the Code of Ethics for general council review and approval.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve our Nation. I respectfully ask that you vote for me as the Vice Chairperson of the Ethics Commission.

Thank you.

Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, hope all is well as spring comes to an end and summer is just around the corner. 2023 seems to be flying by as we have wrapped up many of our audit and tax engagements started earlier in the year. Our primary government audit is just around the corner and we look forward to having all of our auditing completed for FY2022 in the next few months.

Budgeting is always an ongoing process for us given we have multiple funding sources which all have different fiscal years. Our Tribal fiscal year runs on the calendar year but a few of our grants run on Federal (October-September) and State of Kansas (July-June) fiscal years as well as a handful of other grants have their

own unique fiscal years. In the FY2023 Budget section below you will see that our current budget will likely be amended in the upcoming months. While the amendment is in process it will also be time to start to fine tune our projected figures for the FY2024 budget process which will be wrapped up later this year.

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

Tribal Seal officially Trademarked

In May 2023 the Tribe received official notice from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) that our Tribal Seal has now been federally registered as a trademark. Under Tribal Council Resolution No. 2022-108 authority was delegated to the Tribe's Tax Commission to start the process for the official trademark through the USPTO.

In prior years, registrations had been applied for but did not reach the full trademark protection that our Tribal Seal now has. Under these previous registrations the Tribal Seal could appear with marks such as SM (Service Mark) or TM (Trademark). Now with the federally registered federal trademark you will see the Tribal Seal appear with a circled R". The federally registered trademark provides public notice that the Tribal Seal is in fact registered and that the Tribe has nationwide rights to it.

While somewhat rare, we do occasionally see illegal use of our Tribal Seal. This mainly occurs online by groups with no affiliation to the Tribe whatsoever. In order to utilize the Tribe's Seal permission must be granted by the Tribe prior to doing so. A "Request to Use" the Tribal Seal form should be approved by the Tribal Council prior to use. Furthermore, if the Tribal Seal is to be used and sold on goods such as shirts, mugs, towels, hats etc. then a Trademark Licensing Agreement also needs to be entered into with the Tribe.

For more information on the trademark or requests to use the Tribal Seal you may contact the Tribe's Tax Commission @ 785.966.3998 or taxcommission@pbpnation.org.

FY2023 Budget Update

As mentioned in last quarter's article we have started out FY2023 with a conservative approach on the annual budget. As we are now

just a few months in to FY2023 and have actual figures through the month of April it is becoming more apparent that we can begin to plan for an amendment to increase the FY2023 budget.

Through the first four months of the year our Tribal Cash Distributions (TCD) from the Casino are out pacing budgeted figures by just over 15%. Additionally, the current pace puts us on track to have an annual TCD similar to what we saw last year for FY2022. For FY2022 we saw our highest TCD since state gaming came about in 2012.

Additional funds will primarily go towards projects and events that come up throughout the year as well as capital needs can be addressed that were not able to be funded in the initial budget process.

As the Casino, performance continues to hold strong, we also look forward to the start of sports betting. During the recent Special General Council Meeting it was discussed as to how income generated from sports betting would flow through to the Tribe. The simple answer is that the income will flow through the TCD process the same as other income generated by the Casino such as through gaming, hotel, food & beverage, entertainment etc. Once the sports betting funds are received by the Tribe through the TCD process they will then be distributed in accordance with the Revenue Allocation Plan.

The Revenue Allocation Plan is used to allocate funds to the areas of Tribal Government Programs, General Welfare, Economic Development, Per Capita Distributions and Charitable Contributions.

Will & Estate Planning

To provide a brief reminder on the will and estate planning services the Tribe provides through Kansas Legal Services (KLS). Tribal Members and their spouses are able to schedule appointments with KLS to draft their wills and power of attorney documents at their convenience. To apply for the services through KLS an application must be completed and returned to the Treasurer's Office. Applications can be requested by contacting the Treasurer's Office at the information below or by calling 785-966-4005. Additionally, a link is available on the Tribe's website to access information on the Tribe's Will & Estate Planning services provided through Kansas Legal Services (KLS). To access the Will & Estate Planning web page you can go to the Tribe's website @ pbpindiantribe.com, then click on "Departments" – "Member Services" – "Will & Estate Planning." On the page you will also be able to access the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Application for Legal Services as well as resources provided by KLS on Living Wills and Power of Attorney documents. Once the application is completed and returned to the Treasurer's Office it will be forwarded to KLS and they will be in contact with the Tribal Member to set up an appointment. As in the past the will and estate services are available to any Tribal Member, the property included in the legal documents must be in the state of Kansas, and also new documents may be drafted, or existing documents may be amended or updated.

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.

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)

Health Center Expansion Officially Opens, Expands Services

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation held a ribbon cutting ceremony today, on an expansion of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center at 11400 158 Rd, Mayetta. The project adds space and increases services for Tribal Members.

This project includes an expansion adding approximately 15,000 square feet to the existing 36,000 square foot structure and a remodel of the current structure. Dental space has more than doubled with the completion of seven dental stations increasing patient capacity and expanded space allowing for improved patient privacy.

PBPN Chairman Joseph Rupnick, said, "This expansion will allow us to increase our capacity to meet the needs of our members. And it was designed to allow for changes in an ever-growing environment."

The expansion also includes the

installation of additional office space and conference areas for building use, with PBPN Health Center administrative offices being relocated into the new addition. A reconditioning of the vacated offices spaces and remodel of the former dental space will allow those areas to be used by the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) and provide room for future Health Center programming.

The completed project includes space for data and document storage. The area is storm rated and has a dry fire suppression system to protect the contents in the event of most any emergency.

The project includes more efficient use of the parking area with a new paved driveway, additional parking, and an MRI specific pad to accommodate additional radiology services with mobile CT and MRI units used for patients as needed.

The \$13.9 million cost of the project was funded through federal dollars received from the Indian Health Service, an agency within the Department of

Health and Human Services, which is responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives.



Members of the Tribal Council, PBPN Management, and Mar Lan Construction pose in front of an image of one of the dental rooms in the new expansion. From left to right, PBPN General Manager Jonathan Roberts, PBPN Health Center Administrator Jay Mooney, PBPN Assistant General Manager Michelle Simon, Tribal Council Chairman Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick, Council Member Member Ronald "Tony" Wahweotten, Jr., Vice-Chairman Zach Pahmahmie, Secretary Lorrie Melchior, Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie, PBPN Construction Manager Shawn Kelly, Mar Lan Construction Superintendent Randy Frahm, and Mar Lan Construction Vice President Field Operations Brian Lantis

Tribal Council Member Tony Wahweotten: Report to the Nation



Ho' PBPB Members

I'm wishing a Happy Spring to all membership, as we enter the 2nd quarter of 2023. I would also like to offer congratulations to all 2023 graduates for their hard work.

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 all your services.

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 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 January 21, 2023 General Council Meeting, I have attended:

- Five special Tribal Council meetings
- Three Regular Tribal Council meetings
- Seven legal project meetings
- The 5th Annual Renewable Energy and Sustainability conference in Florida
- One follow-up meeting with The DOT
- One presentation meeting with Thundercloud Optical
- Several sport wagering discussions at the KS State Capitol
- Two PBP Tax Commission meetings
- Two Hemp Regulation meetings
- Two Land Committee meetings
- Four Shabbona next step discussions
- Two lobbying efforts at

The Illinois State House

- One meeting with Congresswoman Lauren Underwood in Shabbona Illinois
- Three Energy Task Force meetings
- One Open House Invitation to the Art Institute in Chicago Illinois
- One conference in Tulsa Oklahoma with The Intertribal Agriculture Council on beef processing
- One RES conference and PBP tribal member recognition in Las Vegas

All relating to informational only or the business and welfare of the Nation.

Other meetings relating to the Nation's business and Departments include:

- The Chief Council and legal reviews
- General Manager and Assistant General Management reviews
- Board of Director reviews
- LLC reviews
- Entertainment Board reviews
- The Nations' current budget and funding challenges.

Tribal Council has acted on 98 Resolutions so far during this year of 2023.

At the National, and States levels, the Nation continues to monitor new Bills, 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 continued 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.

We currently have authorized the 1st Phase of full depth replacement in what was identified a priority area.

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-two 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-three 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. New buffalo from Yellowstone National Park and Oklahoma were received during this last quarter. Our next buffalo harvest for the Elder Supplement Programs had been scheduled this spring and new surplus buffalo will possibly be during the fall months.

Since last January's GC meeting, I have had continued 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 goal applying and complying with recently established 2018 farm

bill, final rule, and newly HR 3684, funding opportunities include: Infrastructure Investments and Job Acts, PL 566 cost share opportunities, in respect to new infrastructure development of rural water supply, water sovereignty, flood prevention and damage, erosion and sediment control, new fish and wildlife habitat, wetland restoration, and recreation opportunities. New provisions for the 2023 Farm Bill are currently in the works. Again, with the cooperation of other government agencies, and departments 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, 25 total Current Jobs. Please visit our website, 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**



Elders Visit Holton Elementary, Talk with Students

Holton Elementary School invited PBPB elders Lavera “Babe” Bell and Laverne Hale to visit and speak to the fourth grade class on Friday, April 14, 2023.

Bell and Hale brought cultural items, photos, and informational materials to display and present to the students.

After introducing themselves, Bell and Hale fielded questions from the fourth graders and let their inquiries guide the discussion.

Fourth grade teacher Gretchen Ehrhart coordinated the visit as an experiential learning opportunity for the students.

“This is our first time doing something like this,” Ehrhart said, “They changed the state assessment, and it will ask them questions about their thoughts and experiences, so we’re creating new curricula to address that.”

The discussion touched on topics ranging from current resources and services offered by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation to the history of forced removals and relocation of

Native American peoples across the United States.

“Did they go in wagons?” One student asked.

“Some had wagons or horses, but most people walked,” Hale answered.

Bell and Hale provided the fourth grade students with an engaging, personal learning experience instead of a textbook lesson of only dates and names.

The discussion also highlighted local relationships and events that may benefit the students outside of the classroom.

“You guys know that we’re your neighbors too, right?” Hale asked the fourth grade class.

The visit is an example of a small step forward in the inclusion of Native American culture and history in public school education.

Locally, districts including Royal Valley USD 337 and Kaw Valley USD 321 have implemented Native American history curricula and other resources under Title VI Indian Education programs. Some courses and organizations were



Laverne Hale and Lavera “Babe” Bell (standing left to right) Share information about the Prairie Band Potawatomi People with fourth grade students at Holton Elementary on April 14, 2023. The presentation came about because districts including Royal Valley USD 337 and Kaw Valley USD 321 have implemented Native American history curricula and other resources under Title VI Indian Education programs.

suggested or developed by Native American students. These students’ initiative demonstrates leadership

that benefits Native and non-Native students alike, both within and outside of the classroom.

Sports Betting Clears Most Procedural Hurdles, Moves Closer to Being Hosted Through PBC&R Measure Requires NIGC Approval

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The tribe expects that sports betting will bring in additional revenue and offer more entertainment options for sports fans.

The Tribal Government, Casino and the Gaming Commission consulted with experts in the gaming industry and conducted extensive research on the potential impact of sports betting on the tribe, the surrounding community and took the necessary steps to ensure that the new gaming operation would be conducted in a responsible and transparent manner.

The Tribal Council worked with the State of Kansas to negotiate amendments to the Gaming Compact to include Sports Wagering on the list of expressly permitted Class III gaming pursuant to the Compact. Once those negotiations were completed satisfactorily, Tribal Council called a special General Council meeting on May 20, 2023 where Tribal members were able to make their voices heard and unanimously approved the amendment.

Once it is approved by the National Indian Gaming Commission, the Prairie Band Casino and Resort will be able to offer sports betting options to its guests at the casino and virtually through servers housed at the casino.

Other amendments to the Compact include:



- Permits remote sports wagers to be received at a server located on the Nation’s Common Lands.
- Brick and mortar sports wagering will be immediately authorized at Prairie Band Casino and Resort (PBCR).
- Remote sports wagers initiated within the Nation’s Indian lands and received on a server at PBCR will be immediately authorized.
- If the courts determine that IGRA permits “Hub and Spoke” wagering, remote sports wagers initiated outside of the Nation’s Indian lands but otherwise within the State of Kansas will be authorized.
- Authorizes creation of digital “wallets” to facilitate remote sports wagering.

In addition to generating more revenue for the Tribe, sports

betting is expected to boost tourism in the area. The Prairie Band Casino & Resort is already a popular destination for visitors from across the region, and the addition of sports betting is likely to attract even more visitors.

The decision to add sports betting has been welcomed by many members of the Tribe and the local community. Tribal Chairman Joseph Rupnick praised the decision, saying, “We believe that sports betting will be a positive addition to our gaming operations and will help us continue to provide economic opportunities for our tribe and the surrounding community.”

Successful Easter Egg Hunts Bring People Together to Celebrate the Holiday, Community

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation hosted a Community Easter Egg Hunt event on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at the Prairie Peoples Park campgrounds.

The event was organized by the PBPN Community Events planning group, which is led by Boys and Girls Club staff and is made up of representatives from the Nation's various departments.

Egg hunts for six age categories, ranging from infants to elders, included regular candy-filled plastic eggs along with special gold, foil, or numbered eggs that earned the finder an additional prize.

The event also included raffle drawings for Easter basket prizes provided by sponsoring departments and hot dogs, chips, and drinks available for free will donations.

The Easter event drew a large crowd, creating friendly competition during the egg hunts, which started with a race to the nearest eggs. The eggs were all hidden before the event began, and each age group's hunt was staged in a different section of the campgrounds.

Most of the egg hunts were completed in under ten minutes due to the energy and number of participants. By the time the last egg hunt was finished, all of the hot dogs were sold out as well.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, these types of community events were regularly organized throughout the year.

Since suspending most in-person activities



Community children race to be the first to the eggs filled with candy and prizes during the Easter Egg Hunt held at Prairie People's Park on April 5, 2023. Organizers hope to bring more events like this back after most in-person events such as this were canceled due to Covid-19.

beginning in 2020, this year's Easter event was one of the first large-scale community events successfully planned through interdepartmental collaboration and hosted on the Reservation.

Following the success and popularity of the egg hunts, the Community Events planning group looks forward to returning to the regular organizing of public activities for the community.

'Fried Bread Man' Author Identity Revealed After 18 Years

In December of 2001, long-time readers of this publication may remember, the Fried Bread Man was introduced to the Nation. From January of 2002 until June of 2005, his story was told in the pages of the Prairie Band Potawatomi News. The story began that he was once a man, who wanted to help his people. To be of service to them he asked to be a piece of food that they liked. He turned into a ring of fried bread and he could be called upon when needed.

Mary Young was the editor of the Prairie Band Potawatomi News at the time and she had asked Tim Oliver, an employee of the Nation in the Employee Assistance Program, if he would be willing to help her with healthy recipes for the paper. She said, "I asked Tim if he would be willing to share some of the recipes and he submitted a page of recipes for the Recipe Corner." Mary added, "When he told me about the Fried Bread Man I knew we had a series to work with."

Mary and Tim decided that the Fried Bread Man was the right character to promote healthy eating in an effort to help stem the tide of obesity, diabetes and other health issues. The story of the Fried Bread Man began when two children called on him after they heard a presentation about children being diagnosed with diabetes. They wanted his help.

The story played out over many issues and, although many people asked, Young never told anyone who wrote the Fried Bread Man installments. "He wanted to keep readers interested in the Fried Bread Man's message, in the story, and not the author," Young said.

After Tim Oliver's passing in April of this year Mary finally decided to remind people of the Fried Bread Man, his story, his message and to finally reveal Tim as the author of the series. She said, "Tim was a wonderful man. He always wanted to do everything he could to help those around him and this series was his way



Tim Oliver, former PBPN Employee in an undated photo with his wife Marichu and her son Rocky who was adopted by Tim.

FRIED BREAD MAN

The last issue of the Potawatomi Nation News, and introduction was made on "Fried Bread Man." The character of "Fried Bread Man" has been with the Kickapoo/Potawatomi people

since their arrival to the Great Lakes area. According to elders, "Fried Bread Man" was once a man, who wanted to help his people. He asked the "Great Spirit" that if his services were needed, to call upon him. To be of service to the Tribal people, he asked to be a piece of food that Indian people liked. He turned into a ring of fried bread. This past year "Fried Bread Man" has returned to the Kickapoo/Potawatomi people, two Indian children called for his return.

The two children became alarmed after hearing a presentation at school on diabetes. They heard that children were being diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, and many of them were physically inactive and overweight.

of trying to help people be healthier."

The story of the Fried Bread Man focuses on the children and how they wanted to help their people to live better and healthier lives. Tim's widow, Marichu Oliver, said, "Tim cared about people he especially cared about kids. That was why he loved serving as a social worker."

Tim was described as "a great person" and "a great friend" by both Mary and Marichu. His time as the Fried Bread Man shows what kind of person he was, and the message is still valid today.

Mary said, "I'll always remember that Tim was a very good listener and easy to confide in as well as having a sense of humor."

If you would like to read the Fried Bread Man series, it is still available through the website news archive at www.pbpindiantribe.com/media.

Current Addresses are Important for Members to Receive Prompt Services

All address need to be accurate and up to date for you to receive Notices, Tax or Financial documents, and Election information including ballots. Most information sent to you directly will be time sensitive for an event or program eligibility.

Benefits are an important part of your privileges as a tribal member if you do not have an updated address this can limit or extend the time it takes to help you receive benefits. Our internal departments here at the Nation must verify your membership and address with Member Services. When we do not have accurate information, it slows down or limits the process.

Outside funding from different federal or state programs can be affected. We have different Grants and Financial programs that need accurate address information. This helps the Nation meet the current reporting standards or request additional funding. Grant programs are a big part of funding across

departments and having accurate information is crucial to serve and help our tribal members.

We do have members who are in harsh living conditions at this time and may not have an address to submit or update. In these instances, if we can have communication, we can make note in the members files to document.

The Member Services department requests all listed tribal members to update their address immediately. The Official Change of Address form is available online at www.pbpindiantribe.com/member-services-forms/.

Tribal members can contact Member Services toll-free at 866-277-3722 to request a form, however *No address changes will be accepted by phone* or you can stop by the Government Center to pick up the form.

Please check the following list to see if you, or someone you know needs to make this important update.

..... A	Cadue, Phillip, B. Jr.	Eteeyan, Donald, Criss	Hubbard, Trevor, Reese	Lavier, Mary, Malissa	Mitchell, Tynell, Andrew,
Aguilar-Vazquez, Gabriella,	Camacho, Robert, Westly	..... F	Huddleston, David, Timothy	Leach, Monika, Mari	Paul
Rosalie	Canfield, Timothy, Andrew	Fairman, Asia, Marie	Humphrey, Amber,	Leclere, Jalen, Charles	Moe, Robert, Guy
Aguirre-Rodriguez, Sergio,	Carroll, Eric, Eugene	Ferg, Mandy, Marie	Shopteese	LeClere, Timothy, Leo	Molina, Lori, Lynne
Ramon	Cashman, Leonard, George	Fiddick, Robbin, Leilani	Humphrey, Ebony, W.	Leclere, Zachrey, Dwayne	Molina, Nathaniel, Ross
Ahlgren, Tanya, Lee	Catron, Krista, Gayle	Fields, Angeline, Lynn	Hundertfund, Dustin,	Ledesma, Danielle,	Molina, Nicole, Shale
Aitkens, Gea, Lanell	Charles, Zachariah, Ashley	Figgins, Ethel, Marie	Eugene	Stephanie	Monroe, Dillon, James
Aitkens, Josias, Elliott	Childers, Jeremy, Joseph	File, Connie, Diane	Hurd, Shannon, Rae	Letze, Megan, Leann	Monroe, Georgia, Lynn
Aitkens, Michael, Dean	Cieslewicz, Michael, Conrad,	Fitzherbert, Keaton, Izaiah	Hurst, Bryan, Jamal	Levier, Aiyana, Rose	Monroe, Kelly, Ann
Alcantar, Autumn, Kay	Allen II	Fitzsimmons, Gene, Tommy	Hurt, Sarah, Jane	Levier, Joseph, Marcus	Moore, Dylan, Wayne
Alcantar, Frances, Marie	Clark, Amber, Lynn	Fixico, Rachel, Marie	..... I	Lewis, Andy, Nolan	Moore, Kari, Michelle
Alcantar, Jose, Louis	Clark, Tamera, Marie	Frazier, Raymond, Duane	Ingels, Ramzey, Kalem	Lewis, David, Ray	Morales, Marissa, Kershryn
Palacios, Jr.	Clark, Toniann, Paulette	Fritz, Ja, Nae, Marie	Irving, Akicita, Dorian	Lewis, James, Allen	Moreno, Alexandria, Renee
Alcuran, Jeffrey, Brian	Clement, Chance, Colton	Fuller, Darien, Jade	..... J	Lewis, Jamie, Leigh	Morris, Charles, Joseph
Alejos, Sonja, Marie	Cluck, Deann, Charlee	..... G	Jackson, Clark, Gregory	Lewis, Jaycee, Jarret	Morris, Jane, Lesley
Alexander, Tishana, Lynne	Cody, Kimberly, Dawn	Gabel, Daniel, John Jr.	Jackson, Diana, M.	Lewis, Jody, L.	Morris, Ryan, Casey
Allen, Kiana, Teion Rebecca-	Coffin, Brian, Paul	Garcia, Aliyah, Lorraine	Jackson, Hannah, Nicole	Lewis, Naomi, Renee	Mundell, Christopher, Luis
Ann	Coffin, Erik, John	Garcia, Alyssa, Jolene	Jackson, Jason, R.	Lewis, Sherry, Ann	Mundell, Teresa, Marie
Allen, Marc, Nicholas	Coffin, Gabrial, Maxwell	Gardner, Anthony, Allen	Jackson, Patricia, A.	Lopez, Sharlene	Muniz, Neosha, Ruth
Allen, Megan, Marie	Contreras, Gina, Leonor	Garrett, Preston, Levi	Jacobs, Tyson	Lussier, Jalen, Duane	Murdock, Geryan, Joseph
Allen, Michael, Grant	Cook, Amber, Marie	Gasca, Angela, Flores	Jacobson, Ginny, L	Lussier, James, Brandon	Murdock, Makiah, R.
Allen, Randy, Joseph	Cook, Bradley, Ronald	Gentile, Kathleen, Josie	Jacobson, Joseph, M.	Lussier, Jared, Bud	Murphy, Lisha, Nicole
Allen, Steffany, Nacole	Cook, Cody, Douglas	Gibbs, Robert, L. III	Jacobson, Paul, J.	Lussier, Jarvis, Frank	Mzhickteno, Charles, Eldon
Anderson, Eugene, Michael	Cook, Dustin, Joseph	Gibson, Robert, John	James, Landri, Jorlen	Lussier, Joseph, Dennis	Mzhickteno, Mark, Aaron
Anderson, Jackie, Charles	Coon, Aleshia, Lynn	Gomez, Aaron, Francis	Jensen, Rachelle, Jay	Lyons, Mary, M.	Mzhickteno, Tanya, Lee
Anderson, Mariah, Michelle	Copeland, Tiffany, Ann	Gonzales, Mark, Masquas	Jessepe, Carol, Jean	..... M	..... N
Armendaris, Jody, Sue	Counts, Nancy, Marie	Gonzalez, Erminia, Maria	Jessepe, Julian, Paul	Mahkuk, Juan, Alfredo	Nadeau, Susan, J.
Arndt, Christopher, James,	Courchene, Elizabeth, Marie	Gorman, Claranita, Eileen	Jessepe, Rica, Kenee	Mahkuk, Latosha, Lorelei	Nanez, Donica, Lynn
Arnold, Josephine, Lorraine	Cox, Amber, Renee	Goslin, Clinton, J.	Goslin, Michael	Mahkuk, Vickie, May	Nemeth, Renee, Elizabeth
..... B	Craft, Dustin, Michael	Goslin, Thomas, James Jr.	Jim, Michael, F. Jr.	Mandeville, Glenn, Andrew	Nemeth-Heard, Christa, M
Bailey, Hope, Marie	Craft, Rebecca, Kay	Grant, Christopher, Kenneth	Jim, Thomas, R. Jr.	Marin, Michelle, M.	Nephew, Lisa, Marie
Bailey, Marie, Ann	Craine, Brandon, Matthew	Grier, Antonio, Joseph	Johnson, Ashley, Lynn	Marlow, Steven, Wayne	Nephew, Sherie, Lynn
Baird, David, Aidan	Crawford, Bailee, Creann	Grier, Arianna, Doun	Johnson, Brian, James	Marshno, Teresa	New, Holy, Christiana, Nicole
Baldwin, Arizona, Levi	Cross, Vicki, Ann	Grier, Joseph, Tyrone	Johnson, Damian, L.	Martin, David, Michael	Nickel, Linda, Lee
Bamke, Matthew, John	Cruz, Christopher, Allen	Grinnell, Joseph, Theodore	Johnson, Holly, A.	Martin, Derek, Allen	Nioce, Raymond
Barber, Ian, Jess	Cruz, Sean, Gerald	Grinnell, Sarah, R.	Johnson, John, Henry	Martinez, Kendra, L.	Norwood, Melinda, Sue
Barclay, Kelly, John II	Cueva, Kathleen, Marie	Grinnell, Scott, James	Johnson, Katie, Elizabeth	Martinez, Ricardo Jr.	Novelo, Felicia, Wilma
Barger, Thomas, Wayne	..... D	Gutierrez, Christina, A.	Johnson, Kayla, Beth	Masquat, Devin, Rae	Nozhackum, Potts, Faith,
Barth, Christina, Dawn	Dametz, Michael, Dean	Gutierrez, Gloria, Marie	Johnson, Paul, Gene	Masquat, Elliot, Lee	Danielle
Bass, Tara, Ann	Daubon, Jon, Gregory	Gutierrez, Jordan, Leigh	Johnson, Terri, Dawn	Masqua-Young, Calvin,	..... O
Battese, Paul, Lawrence	Davenport, Nicholas, Curtis	Gutierrez, Maria, Antonia,	Johnson-Malone, Josiah	Morris	Ogden, Jarrod, D.
Beem, Andrea, Lynn	Davis, Jessica, Jane	Kicker	Emmanuel	Matchie, Leland, John Jr.	Ogden, Steven, Michael
Beier, Neyl, Alexander	Davis, Luke, Lloyd	Gutierrez, Rosa, Estefana	Jones, Abigail, Jo	Matchie, Lydia, Jean	Olinger, Dayton, Lee
Belair, Albert, Francis	Dean, Keith, Lee	..... H	Jones, Burton, S. III	Matchie, Nigel, Levi	Orcutt, James, Lee, Happy
Belaire, Dayzunique,	Delanie, Angela, Marie	Hale, Jennifer, Marie	Jones, Jamal, Antwan	Mathewson, Jonathan,	Orcutt, Naomi, Miria
Alanicole	Delg, Christian, Anthony	Hall, Lilybell, Ann	Jones, Keith, R	Bernard	Ortiz, Cody, D.
Belaire, Kimberly, Michelle	Delg, Jennifer, Marie	Harlan, Tab, Francis	Juarez, Rhiannon, Lee	May, Anthony, Orlando	Ortiz, Felicia, M.
Belaire-Serna, Michael, Todd	Delgadillo, Dennis, George	Harness, Jamira, Shanta	..... K	Maybe, George, A.	Ortiz, Sara, M
Bell, Allayna, Lasley	Deltgen, Dexter, Higgins	Harness, Jeff, L. Jr.	Kabance, Gregory, J.	Mcclure, Brenda, Ann	Ownby, Sherry, Ray
Benz, Dawn, Marie	Devors, John, Allen Jr.	Harris, Matthew,	Kabance, Matthew, Dean	Mccracken, Benjamin, Ray	..... P
Bernabe, Carlos, Max	Dinsdale, Brian, Jerome Jr.	Christopher	Kavanaugh, Krystal, Rae	McDonald, Steve, Alan	Padilla, Anna, Marie
Blakeslee, William, Edward Jr.	Dinsdale, Christopher,	Harrison, Josie, Kara	Keesis, Patricia, Lucille	Mcgee, Heather, Michelle	Padilla, Athena, Caitlyn-Ione
Blalock, Trent, Jacob	Edward	Hastings, Mark, D. II	Keilman, Crystle, A.	McIntosh-Earwood, Jordan,	Pahmahmie, Timothy, Daniel
Bliss, Josef, Gene	Dinsdale, David, Michael	Hawke, Lucas, J.	Kelly, Steven, Thomas Jr.	Leann	Palmberg, Regina, Mae
Boberg, Shawna, Marie	Dinsdale, Lewis, Alfred	Hawkins, Nathaniel, Tuffy-	Kievitt, Kathleen	McKinney, Amira, O.	Paniagua, Jennifer, Ray
Borzick, Margaret, Elizabeth	Dinsdale, Nicholas	Lee	Kitchens, Michael, Wayne	McKinney, Jonnah, Dean	Paniagua-Houston, Lindsey,
Bosworth, Emily, Carol	Dodds, Courtney, Ann	Hawkins, Railynn	Kitchkommie, David, Daniel Jr.	Mckinney, Mikelynn, R.	Rae
Brdicko, Jill, Christine	Dolsky, Alexsus, Dene	Heap, Zaya, John	Kitchkommie, Naomi, Ruth	Mckinney, Oran, Larue Jr.	Parkinson, Helen, M.
Brewer, Jessica, Amber	Dominguez, Andrea, Marie	Helmski, Paige, Marie	Kitterman, Jesse, Ray	Mckinney, Sharol, J.	Pedroja, Terri, Jean
Briney, Raven, Marie	Dominguez, Felicia, Marie	Henry, Darren, Logan	Kitterman, Joshua, Allan	Mckinney, Troy, Dean II	Perdue, Rachel, Leigh
Broshear, Tricia, Marie	Dominguez, Myranda,	Hernandez, Andres, Cruz	Knight, Latisha, Rose	Mcmullen, Angela, Ann	Perrote, Benjamin
Brown, Crystal, Lee	Adelaide	Hernandez, Aramis, N.	Knoxсах, Christopher, Dean	Medovich, Clinton, Lee	Perrote, Elijah, M
Brown, Lakeshia, Sherry	Dominguez, Toni, Lee	Hernandez, Christopher,	Knoxсах, Colleen, Marie	Meely, Ellen, Faye	Perrote, Jedediah, Jeremiah
Brown, Rachael, Lynne	Domke, Yvonne, Jeannie	Ryan	Knoxсах, Henry, B.	Meely, Freeman, A. Jr.	Perrote, Sarah, Elizabeth
Brown, Raymond, Allan	Donaldson, Melanie, Kay	Hernandez, David, Paul	Knoxсах, Leonard, Allen	Merritt, Penny, Sue	Perrote, Wallace, Willis
Brown, Sandra, Laurene	Donaldson, Terrill, Eugene	Hernandez, Thomas	Korslin, Cassandra, May	Mesa, Violet, Carmella	Perry, Charles, H.
Burnett, Orlando, Juan	Draper, Carl, Anthony	Herrera, Cherrelle, Rita,	Kreipe, Zoa, Louraine	Messner, Jerome, Howard Jr.	Phillips, Francis, Peter
Burns, Israel	Dudoit, Racheal, Kuulei	Rena	Kwinn, Cheryl, Marie	Messner, Roger, E. Sr.	Pidgeon, Shado, Rose
Burton, Danielle, Nicole	Dunham, Dora, Lynn	Hester, Angela, Dee	..... L	Meyers, David, Allen	Piowski, Stephanie, Rhose
Buskirk, Caine, Tucker	Dyer, Daniel, Taylor	Hester, Austin, Lee	Labranch, Amber, Dawn	Micco, Andrew, Lee-Lloyd	Pompa, Channing, A.
Buskirk, Keith, Joseph	..... E	Hester, Lexi, Ann	Laclair, Brandon, Michael	Michaels, Shawn, W.	Pope, Shain, Tyler
Buskirk, Lance, Walker	Earwood, Jessie, Dale	Hester, Ronny, Lee Jr.	LaClair, #, 163002, Jon, Paul	Miller, Duane, Robert	Potts, Alexand, M.
..... C	Edwards, Shannon, Marie	Hill, Charon, Serena	Lada, Crystal, D.	Miller, Larry, Michael	Potts, Alexandra, Lynn
Cadena, Mario, Louise	Ellis, Karole, Ann	Hodges, Jennifer, Marie	Lake, Betty, A.	Miller, Natasha, Kenyatta	Potts, Joseph, Edwin
Cadue, Angelina, Nicole	Engels, Dorian, Scott	Holliman, Joseph, Ray	Lake, Brittany, E.	Miller, Patrick, Wayne	..... Q
Cadue, Anthony, Paul	Enriquez, Julian	Holtz, Michael, J.	Lake, Jirale, L.	Miller, Scott, J	Quinn, Judy, May
Cadue, Jason, Lee	Enzor, Elizabeth, Marie	Holtzmann, Francis, Edward,	Lake, Kevin, Michael	Milliron, Albert, P	Quiring-Grier, Zachary,
Cadue, Kacee, Mitsuko	Eric, Amy, Elizabeth	Horn, Madelyn, D.	Lange, Tressa, Ann	Milliron, Thomas, E.	Joseph
Cadue, Levi, James	Estep, James, Robert Jr.	Houghton, Valerie	Latka, Allyson, K.	Milton, Bret, William	..... R
Cadue, Michael, Alexander	Eteeyan, Derek, Steve	Hubbard, Daniel, Lee	Latka, Kian, Darian	Mitchell, Christina, A.	Rader, Jeremy, C.
8 | PBP NEWS Eshkenibek 2023		Hubbard, Lorraine, R.	Lavier, Jessica, L.	Mitchell, Gerald, Lee Jr.	Ramirez, Anthony, George

Ramirez, Ariel, Shirelle
Ramirez, Daniel, Mario
Ramirez, Jonathan, Wayne
Razo, Jesse, Louis
Reese, Jennifer, E.
Reese, Rehanna, James
Reinhardt, Joyce, Ann
Reyes, Hector, Paul
Rice, Harlie, Rose
Rice, Jane, Loree
Rice, Joseph, Zowi
Rice, Sherwin, Michael
Rice, Sierra, Skye
Rice, William, A.
Rickert, Adam, Michael
Ritchie, Rachel, Ann
Roberts, Danielle, Alma
Roberts, Edward, Bruce Jr.
Roberts, Migizi, Okadon,
Muck-Wa, Equay
Rodewald, Joshua, James
Rodriguez, David, Leon
Rodriguez, Delores, Danielle
Rodriguez, Matthew, Loyal
Rodriguez, Rebecca
Rogers, Xavier, Joseph
Roloff, Danita, Jo
Roppolo, Angel, Ann
Rosario, Lisa, Ann
Rose, Doris, Valerie, Wynn
Ruesch-Beem, Krystopher,
Thomas
Rupnicki, Jessica, Renee
Rupnicki, Justin, David
Rupnicki, Mamie, Seneace
Rupnicki, Peter, Paul
Rupnicki, Timothy, Joseph
.....S
Satawake, Johnny, Rae
Sato, Rober
Scates, Andrea, Leigh
Schaaf, Randall, Lee
Scheurle, Bradley, J.
Scheurle, Christine, M.
Schimmer, Gail, Lav
Schneiderwendt, Michael, A.
Seymour, Jonathan, Ray
Seymour, Kirsten, Hazel,
Michelle
Seymour, Shamoga, Jessie
Shane, Jeremy, W.
Shane, Sophia, Diana
Shane, Timothy, J.
Shane, Vivian, Marie
Shegonee, Brian, Joseph
Shegonee, John, William
Shegonee, Kelly, Marie
Sheppard, Destiny, James
Sheppard, Nikki, Sue
Sheppard, Richard, Ray
Sheppo, Nelson, Louis III
Shipshee, Talon, Pa-Pah-Mi
Shobney, Russell, Joe
Shobney, Tanner, Jea
Shopteese, Clayton,
Michael, Dee
Shopteese, James, F.
Shopteese, Mariah, Delilah
Shopteese, Ryan, M.
Shopteese, Ty, Jame
Shoptese, Allison, Micha
Shupe, Michael, Edward
Sigo, Shana, Leaschel
Sigo, Timothy, Shane
Simms, Belaire, Jeffrey,
Javonn, Alan
Simon, Harold, L. Jr.
Sims, Jaimie, Lynne
Smith, James, F. Jr.
Snoddy, Gregory, Alan
Snowball, Patsy, I.
Sockey, Justina, Elise
Soto-Meraz, Thomasina,
Rena
Spencer, Peter, Edward
Spradlin, Rebecca, Suzanne
St, Clair, Florence
Starkey, Charley, T.
Stauffacher, David, R.
Steshyn, Letta, Renee
Stone, Victoria, Lynn
Strange, Robert, Allan
Strangeowl, Jace, Tyler
Strangeowl, Jada, Rae
Stump, Patrick, Nelson
Sturm, Keven, E.
Sumner, Susan, A.
.....T
Tanksley, Cheryl, Anne
Thomas, Amonte, T.
Thomas, Jason, Michael
Thomas-Baird, Logan,
Elizabeth
Tinajero, Nue, R.
Tinoco, Michelle, M.
Todd, Rebecca, Lynn
Tomlinson, Melosa
Torain, Yolanda, Marie

Torres, Alicia, Rose
Torres, Jennifer, Leann
Trantow, Brenda, Sue
Treinen, Christopher, S.
Tucker, Franklin, R.
Tuckwin, Marcus, E.,
Tuckwin, Paul, George
Turk, Sean, Anthony
Turner, Trevor, Nelson
Turney, David, Elijah
Turney, Margaret, Ruth
Tuter, Alexandria, Jayde
Tye, Zabrina, Marie
.....U
Ulloa, Jessica, Renee
Uselton, Austin, Tyler
Utterson, Dana, Aleta
.....V
Van, Zile, Doren
Vanderblomen, Krista, Lynn
Vanderblomen, Marion, C.
Vanscyoc, Shelly, Marie
Varela, Ernest
Ventura, Raquel, Merea
Vigil, Christina, Marie
Villareal, Talia, S.
Villarreal, Jodie, Marie
Violett, Angelyssa, Leanne
.....W
Wabaunsee, Clifton, John
Wabaunsee, Jolene, Renae
Wabaunsee, Nicole
Wabaunsee, Ricky, L.
Wabnum, Katelyn, L.
Wabskie, Aaron, Adam
Wadley, Delvin, Wade
Wahquahboshkuk, Leigh,
Ann
Wahquahboshkuk-Kramer,
Chase, Christine
Wahquahboshkuk-Kramer,
Hunter, Douglas
Wahwassuck, Desiree, Louis
Wahwassuck, Ishara,
Danielle
Wahwassuck, Julia, Lyn
Wahwassuck, Mary, Ann
Wahwassuck, Sunny, Aquila
Wahwasuck, Robert, A.
Wahweotten, Karie, Deann
Wahweotten, Logan,
O'Bryan
Wahweotten, Michelle,
Louis
Wahweotten, Tracey
Wahweotten, Yessica,
Rochelle
Walker, Clint, Wallace
Walker, Madeline, Mae
Walrod, Chad, Fennimore
Walrod, Jon, Karl
Walrod, Peter, Thomas
Walrod, Scott, Eric
Wamego, Nathaniel, Zeke
Wamego, Orville, Patrick
Wamego, Tyler, James
Wamego, Zuley, Marie
Ware, Kateri, Ann
Warledo, Amber, Nicole
Warren, Rachel, Marie
Warrington, Jancita, C.
Watchous, Angelo, Luis,
Kabance-Muniz
Watson, Jamie, Leig
Watters, Mary, Frances
Waupoose, Dakota, Wayne
Wehrli, Pamela, K.
Whayne, Chazray, Renae,
Miranda
White, Israel, J.
White, Jolynn, M.
White, Tina, Rose
White, Eagle, Sarah, L.
Wilder, Nicholas, C.
Williams, James, David
Williams, Jayden, J., L.
Williams, Jolie, K.
Williams, Nish-Pok-Qwe
Wilson, Gary, Dea
Wilson, Vicki, L.
Wilson, Zachary, Taylor
Wirth, Elizabeth, Philomene
Wise, Kristi, Rene
Wishteyah, Anthony, S.
Wishteyah, Christine
Wishteyah, Christine, Sophia
Wishteyah, Michael, C.j.
Wishteyah, Norman, Leroy Jr
Wood, Jennifer, Lynn
Wood, Scott, Allen
Wright, Michele, Anne
.....Y
Yazzie, Alyssa, Rae
Yazzie, Stephanie, Alexis
Yellowhair, Major, Neal
Young, Dawn, D.
.....Z
Zephier, Geraldine, Renee



Theo Wahquahboshkuk of Prairie Band Ag displays a portion of the hemp harvest.

Prairie Band Ag Supports Potawatomi Nation’s Economic Development With Industrial Hemp

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By Elizabeth Lunt

In 2018, when the federal Farm Bill legalized the regulated production of hemp after 80 years of prohibition, Theo Wahquahboshkuk was just about to finish his degree in environmental science at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. He had become interested in the environmental applications of hemp, particularly for soil remediation. Meanwhile, the leadership of his Native American tribe, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, was looking into the crop to add to its farming rotation. The tribe had been leasing land for conventional agricultural production of row crops, but excess applications of fertilizers and pesticides had taken their toll. The tribe saw hemp as a way to heal the soil.

“These are our only lands for the tribe – for us – and our children and grandchildren,” Wahquahboshkuk says, citing the need for careful stewardship of the tribe’s acreage.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation sits on 77, 000 acres near Mayetta, Kansas, and owns about half of that land. Only a few thousand acres are available for agriculture, Wahquahboshkuk says, with the remaining land taken up with non-tribal ownership, housing and commercial space, hay ground, and land left idle for wetlands and prairie restoration projects. In addition to agriculture, the tribe has traditionally owned and operated convenience stores and is also involved in health services and casino ownership.

In 2020, after a couple of years of research into hemp farming, members of the tribe’s executive team presented what they had learned to the membership. They won a vote to begin growing hemp under the tribe’s Prairie Band Ag LLC, with a percentage of profits going back to the community. The Nation is a sovereign state and had to write its own hemp plan for approval by the USDA. All compliance is managed by the tribe’s own regulatory body, which conducts testing to ensure crops remain under the 0.3% THC limit set by federal law. The tribe is bound by all federal compliance regulations for testing and transportation.

In 2021, the tribe planted 15 acres of hemp, which grew well but tested above the 0.3% THC limit – which meant the crops had to be destroyed. “We had to slash and burn it all,” Wahquahboshkuk says. Despite this setback, the tribe decided to continue the program.

“We have a lot of community support who believe in the potential of hemp,” Wahquahboshkuk says.

Indeed, the Nation’s hemp program has grown, as have ambitions for the crop. The tribe spent 18 months building a processing facility and installing Fiber Track decortication equipment. Plans for 2023 are to make the facility fully operational so it can break down bales and clean and separate the plant into various sizes of hurd or mill it into powder. The Nation plans to plant 350 acres this year, Wahquahboshkuk says.

In addition, Prairie Band Ag plans to “educate, educate, educate,” Wahquahboshkuk says. Prairie Band holds growers’ meetings for surrounding farmers to teach them about growing hemp. Through meetings and tours of the hemp fields, the tribe seeks to dispel any stigma about cannabis.

At the growers’ meetings, Prairie Band Ag members share their experience, discuss equipment, and describe how to work with the tribe. They also cover seed sourcing and discuss financials, walking other farmers through the economics of growing hemp. Most important, Prairie Band can guarantee purchase for quality bales, thereby addressing the area of most concern for farmers trying a new crop, Wahquahboshkuk says. Prairie Band can evaluate what the farmers grow and conduct field visits to answer questions, he adds.

“We want our farmer partners to feel as comfortable and positive as possible,” Wahquahboshkuk says, adding that 200 acres will be grown by partner farmers outside the tribal lands this year.

Wahquahboshkuk says his focus this year is on enlarging the business and working to find markets for Prairie Band Ag’s raw materials. Observing that the market for hurd is currently limited to manufacturers of animal bedding and kitty litter, he cites a “constant search for customers who need raw materials” and says he is exploring the building market.

Wahquahboshkuk also says he would like to see more grant funding, such as the USDA’s Climate-Smart Commodity grants, go to hemp. Currently, all of the operations at Prairie Band are funded by the tribe and profits go back into the business, he says.

Above all, Wahquahboshkuk says, he wants to see the industrial hemp industry expand and benefit other farmers. The Nation’s plans for the next few years include “putting ourselves out there, being transparent and advocating for the industry,” he says. “We need everyone on board for the hemp industry to grow.”

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



Nicole G.
“Shipshequah”
Hernandez

Nicole G. Dunn Hernandez (Shipshequah), 46, of Milford, PA, began her journey on February 6, 2023. She was born March 13, 1976 in Port Jervis, NY, the daughter of Walter (Buddy) Dunn and Phyllis Pahmahmie Dunn. Nicole was an Enrolled Member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. She was a Member of the Drum Religion located on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation in Mayetta, KS. She was very proud of her Native American Blood, Culture, and Religion throughout her daily life. She was a graduate of Port Jervis High School located in Port Jervis, NY. She had an enormous heart and passion in caring for others. She has worked in various capacities in the healthcare field for many years. Nicole loved animals, dancing, music, nature and the outdoors. Nicole was a loving mother that adored her son and grandson tremendously. She was a caring sister, aunt, niece and friend to many. Nicole is survived by her husband Ramon Hernandez of Scranton, PA; sons, Kyler Hommy Hernandez (Ariana) of Scranton, PA; Ramon Hernandez of Westtown, NY; grandson, Kyri Hernandez of Scranton, PA; a brother, Jeffrey Dunn (Jackie), Milford, PA; a sister, Kathy Dunn Gentile (Menonquah) (Marty), Delia, KS; Nieces, Jessica Viserta, Port Jervis, NY, Mia Gentile, Shohola, PA, Kirsten Dunn, Dominique Dunn, both of Milford, PA, and nephew, Ronin Gentile of Delia, KS; Father and mother -in-law, Steven and Sonia Diaz of Westtown, NY. Aunts, Anita Gail Pahmahmie Evans (Mando), Dolly Richard (Mike), Kathleen Roberts (Bill), Joan Pahmahmie, Phyllis Pahmahmie. Uncles, Richard Pahmahmie Jr. (Pamela), Lawrence Pahmahmie, Alan (Boney) Pahmahmie (Brenda), Patrick Dunn and many sister/brother cousins near and far especially from her homeland on the reservation. She

was predeceased by her parents, grandparents, Richard and Josie Wamego Pahmahmie Sr. and Joseph Dunn and Norma Bloomer Latini. Uncles, Henry Pahmahmie, Albert Pahmahmie, Merle (Tuffy) Pahmahmie, Roy Pahmahmie, and Peter Latini.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Knight-Auchmoody Funeral Home



Joseph “Joey”
Allen Kost

Joseph A. Kost, 51, Kansas City, Missouri passed away February 17, 2023. In lieu of flowers, the family asks those who can contribute to a scholarship fund in his nephew’s honor, Drew Anderson Inspiration in Journalism at The University of Kansas School of Journalism. This scholarship is dedicated to KU students who inspire their peers by overcoming obstacles and demonstrating a passion for their work. Contributions can be mailed to the KU Endowment Center, PO Box 928, Lawrence, Kansas 66044-0928, or online at KUendowment.org. Joey was born on May 13, 1971 and grew up in Kansas City, Kansas attending Piper High School. He was a registered member of the Potawatomie Indian Tribe and was very active within the Tribe. Joey enjoyed decorating for all holidays and spending those special days with his family. He was preceded in death by his father, Richard A. Kost and nephew, Drew Anderson. Survivors include his mother, Frances Dee Kost of Kansas City, Kansas; sisters, Debbie (Todd) Smith of Boerne, Texas and Wendee (Kent) Anderson of Kansas City, Kansas; one niece, Megan Colnar, New York City, New York; and nephews, Derek Colnar of San Antonio, Texas and Tanner Anderson of Kansas City, Kansas.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Chapel Hill Funeral Home and Memorial Gardens



Shirley Ann
“Quish O Qua” Potts

Shirley Ann (Potter) “Quish O Qua” Potts, 63, of Sabetha, KS, passed away Sunday, March 26, 2023 at Sabetha Manor. She was born January 23, 1960 in Topeka, KS the daughter of John William and Rema Julia (Wahweotten) Potter. Shirley earned her GED and worked for Bureau of Indian Affairs in Horton for over 10 years. She had also lived in the Horton and Hoyt communities. She was a member of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the First United Methodist Church. Shirley married Eddy Rae Potts in 1977 at the Kickapoo Reservation. They later divorced. Survivors include her daughter, Lorelie “Lori” Potts of Horton, KS; step-daughter, Becky Lea of Houstonia, MO; adoptive mother, Mary LeClere of Mayetta, KS; sister, Leona Briscoe of Dallas, TX; brother, Frank Parker; 6 grandchildren, Justine, Jace, Jade, Javyyn, Black Thunder and Shashone and 7 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Rema Potter; sister, Penny (Keesis) McCrory and brother, James McKinley Potter. Drum Service was March 29, 2023, at Danceground Building. Burial was March 30, 2023, at Danceground Cemetery.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes



Robert Louis
Holstein

Robert Louis Holstein, 50, of Topeka, passed away Wednesday, March 15, 2023. His legacy will carry on through his courteous donation to

Midwest Transplant as an organ and tissue donor. He was born November 13, 1972, on Andrews Air Force Base in Camp Springs, Maryland, the son of James Thomas and Wilma (Tuckwin) Holstein, Sr. He graduated from Leary School. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe. Robert enjoyed fishing, but also had multiple fish tanks at home that he cared for. He was a lifelong dog lover, especially pit bulls. When he was younger, Robert would tinker on cars and learned the history of different cars. He was a caretaker for his father and took good care of him in the home. Robert is survived by his father, James Thomas Holstein, Sr.; two sisters, Donna Holstein and Millie Holstein; Nephew, Paul Holstein; great nieces, Gabriella Holstein and Izabella Holstein; one great nephew, Dominic Holstein and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Wilma J. Holstein and brother, James Thomas Holstein, Jr.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Penwell-Gabel Cremations, Funerals & Receptions



Verinna Renae
Mitchell

Verinna Renae Mitchell, 37 of Horton, Kansas, passed away with family by her side on March 4, 2023, at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas. She was born June 21, 1985 in Horton, Kansas, to Leo Mitchell and Teresa Kay Jessepe. She was the daughter of Gary Allen, Phyllis and Ron Morris. She graduated from Horton High School. After high school she worked for the Kickapoo Tribe and Sac and Fox Tribe in different positions. Verinna was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Verinna loved spending time with her son the most. She was known for her quick wit, her infectious giggle and her kind and compassionate spirit. Verinna was proceeded in death by her mother, Teresa Kay and dad’s

Gary and Ron. She is survived by her father, Leo Mitchell, her son, Ezekiel, brothers, Solon, Tristan and Shawn. Sisters, Karmeka, Raven, Autumn, Shatah, Ashley, Brenda, Lori and Dawn. Many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Native American Church Services were held on March 8, 2023. Burial was at the Mijissepe Cemetery on the Kickapoo Reservation.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Dishon-Maple-Chaney Mortuary



Marisa Ann
McKendree

Marisa Ann McKendree, affectionately known as “Reesie,” died unexpectedly at the age of 43 on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Marisa was born in Norfolk, Virginia, delivered by her father in her parents’ home before the midwife had time to arrive. She was a delightful child who always chased after her older brothers and loved outdoor sports and activities. Marisa attended the Williams School, Blair Middle, Norfolk Collegiate, and Old Dominion University. As an adult, she was a freelance photographer, had her own spray-tanning business, and crewed on luxury yachts in Florida. She regularly volunteered at the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center, serving her community’s homeless and hungry. She held a strong interest in her American Indian heritage throughout her life and, above all, loved her children immensely. Marisa is preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Lois and William McKendree, her maternal grandparents, Ralph and Alyce Grinnell, and her step-grandfather, Solon R. Hill, to whom she was very close. Surviving Marisa are her children Sol and Ryu, parents Mary and William McKendree, brothers William McKendree and J. Christopher Ledbetter, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and nieces.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Altmeyer Funeral Homes & Crematory



Audrey Ann “Chah-Me-Quah” Oliver

Audrey Ann “Chah-Me-Quah” Oliver, 62, of Topeka, KS, passed away Sunday, April 2, 2023 at St. Francis Hospital. She was born September 30, 1960 in Topeka, KS, the daughter of Howard K. and Melvene Lois (Matchie) Oliver.

Audrey worked for over 35 years for the City of Topeka as a Parking Control Supervisor.

She was a member of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and We-Ta-Se Post 410 Women’s Auxiliary.

Survivors include her father, Howard Oliver of Topeka, KS; 2 sons, Nick Davenport (Lora) of Branson, MO and Kinton Smith (Sarah) of Topeka, KS; 4 sisters, Deb McLinn (Phil), Tina Oliver both of Topeka, KS, Nancy Henry (Roger) of Mayetta, KS and Linda LaBranch of Paola, KS; brother, John Zakar, Jr. of Valdosta, GA; 2 grandchildren, Ronan and Lena Smith and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Melvene Oliver; sister, Leah Zakar and brother, Shaun LaBranch.

She was affectionately known as “Koya” by her grandchildren and “Auntie” by her nieces and nephews. She loved her Chiefs, Jayhawks and bingo.

Che ba qua was on the evening of April 5, 2023, at Nozhackum Hall. Graveside Service was the following morning, April 6, 2023, at Danceground Cemetery.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes



James Allen Vanderblomen

James Allen Vanderblomen, 55, of Topeka, KS, formerly

of Mayetta, KS, passed away Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Advena Living Home in Topeka, KS. He was born August 30, 1967, in Topeka, KS, the son of James Sylvester and Elizabeth A. (Wahquahboshkuk) Vanderblomen.

James graduated from Royal Valley High School and later attended Baker University earning his Certified Nurses Aide Degree. He proudly served in the United States Navy.

James worked as a CNA for Presbyterian Manor. Most recently, he worked as a carpenter and maintenance for VA Hospital both in Topeka.

He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Native American Church.

Survivors include 2 daughters, Kati Ascott of Topeka, KS, and Krista Vanderblomen (Sydney Lopez) of Kansas City, MO; son, Richard Vanderblomen of Kansas City, MO; sister, Celeste Murphy of Mayetta, KS, and 2 grandchildren, Kises Gallegos and Serenity Dell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; an infant brother, Richard Lee Vanderblomen and a daughter, Vanessa Bernie.

Native American Service was held March 20, 2023, at Nozhackum Hall. Burial with Military Honors, presented by We-Ta-Se Post 410, was on March 21, 2023, at Wezo Cemetery.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes

Joseph E. Wabaunsee

First Nation Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal member Joseph Edmond Wabaunsee passed away February 13th, 2023. He was born September 18th, 1957, to Evelyn and James Wabaunsee.

Joe was a man of many words, a person late to everything, a wild child at heart, and the best dinner guest to host. Although Joe would be late to dinner, he’d never failed to complement the cook as he ate every last bite and would say, “This is my favorite!” His big kid heart made him easily humbled with his gifted mind. Joe saw potential in everything. He was continuously invested in all sorts of projects his whole life. From cabinet woodwork to welding and car mechanics. Joe knew how to fix and build about anything and enjoyed adding his creative spins to every project. Joe loved all people and would greet everyone with his classic bright smile and goofy, “Yellow,” before talking an ear off. 40 years of truck ride adventures to the parks, candy stores and feet

tickles were provided by him. As he cherished every moment raising his daughters, son, and grandkids with his wife Janis Wabaunsee. Nothing brought him more joy than being a dad and grandpa. Joseph joins his daughter Anna Helena Wabaunsee in the afterlife. His warrior spirit will be remembered by his wife Janis Wabaunsee, daughters Alina, Alyse, and Angela Wabaunsee, his son Brett Wabaunsee and his grandchildren Lucian Sky Headly, Emunee Keesis Wabaunsee and Lanaa Li Wabaunsee.

Shkodansi

-Reprinted Courtesy of Mueller’s Tri-Cities Funeral Home



Romalda L. Wright

Funeral service for Romalda “Punkin” L. Wright, 68 of Lawton was Feb. 6, 2023, at Comanche Nation Funeral Home, Lawton, with Rev. Juan F. Rodriguez officiating.

Mrs. Wright passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023 in Lawton.

Punkin grew up on the grounds of the Fort Sill Indian School where the Delgadillo’s, members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, were house parents.

She married Anthony “Tony” Wright on May 15, 1970 in Lawton. They had two children, Chad and Keith. She worked as a pharmacy tech at Gibson’s Pharmacy and the Fort Sill Indian Hospital while she and her husband Tony owned and operated Sleepy’s Amusement. She was also Nana “Punky” to Sydney and Chase, her grandchildren.

Punkin is survived by her son, Keith and partner Sunny Brooks, of the home; grandchildren: Sydney Wright and partner Xavier Johnson, Lawton; and Chase Wright, Lawton; daughter-in-law, Melisa Torres, Lawton; sister-in-law, Wendy Tatrout, Lawton; and numerous nieces and nephews in the Wright family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard and Beatrice Delgadillo, husband, Tony Wright, and son Chad Wright, Lawton.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Comanche Nation Funeral Home

Rayetta Fern Butcher

Rayetta was born on January 24, 1936 in Klamath Falls OR and died April 18, 2023 in Medford, OR. Her parents are Ray and Edith Sheppard who proceeded her in death. Rayetta was married to William “Bill” Butcher on December 16, 1960 who proceeded her in death.

Rayetta had 11 children. Janice Ownby of Medford, OR, Ralph and Silvia Ownby of Kennewick, WA, Doug and Donna Ownby of Butte Falls, OR, Sherry Ownby of WA, Ray “Gus” and Cindy Provo, UT, Rusty and Lori Butcher of Beaverton, OR, Parley and Patty Butcher of Richland, WA, Randy and Linda Butcher of Mountain Green, UT, Ron and Donna Butcher of Brookings, OR, and Robin Butcher of Clearfield, UT. Rayetta also has 45 grandchildren, 101 great-grandchildren and 9 great-great-grandchildren.

Rayetta is a very member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

-Reprinted Courtesy of Perl Funeral Home & Siskiyou Memorial Park

Floyd Sylvester Fitzsimmons

11/25/1949

2/6/2023

Marlin B. Jessepe

4/23/1971

4/12/2023

Patricia Louise Phillips

9/13/1935

2/18/2023

Charitable Contributions
2nd Quarter Recipient List
Total Donated \$63,450

- Boys & Girls Club of Manhattan
- Christian Family Services
- Clara Burton Hospital Foundation
- Donnelly College
- Doorstep Inc
- Glacial Hills Resource
- Heart of Jackson Humane Society
- Horton High School Art Club
- Kansas Children’s Discovery Center
- Museum of Kansas Nat’l Guard
- NAMI Kansas Inc
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta
- Rossville Senior Citizens Assoc
- Sertoma Clubs of Topeka
- Topeka Blues Society
- Washburn Alumni Assoc

The Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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*Enibek/Summer Time
2023 Edition
Deadline
August 7, 2023*

Nishnabek Ntewmèn - "Who We Are"



Congratulations, Arianna Wahwasuck! We are all so proud of you for graduating valedictorian from Pyramid Lake High School and for being selected to represent the University of Nevada Reno as the Indigenous Ambassador – you make us all so proud!



Ainsley Sha-Win Schimmel
Topeka West High School
Topeka, Kansas
Parents: Kim (Grinnell) Schimmel and Alfred Schimmel



Congratulations on Graduating High School BeeMur!!
Royal Valley Class of 2023
Love always, Your Fam



Please welcome Meough Gee, Grandson of Edie Wamego, and Norma & Lymon Shipshee



Isaac Yazzie
Horton High School graduate
Congratulations, Weepqwee!
Love you & proud of you.
– mom, auntie & family



Zach,
Congratulations on the completion and graduation from your continued education programs, an Associates degree in Liberal Arts from Haskell and Culinary Arts with induction into the National Technical Honor Society from Washburn Tech.
We watched and appreciate all your hard work and perseverance. Way to go!!
Ttiwenmo eginigiyen, too – 6/6/23
Love you infinity
Dad, Mom, and your family!



Saying Happy 6th birthday, Carsie Scates, love you son! Love mom, Shane, and your brothers. June 30 is his birthday



Congratulations to Marlena Jordan, Ann DeCoteau and Maria Patterson! All 3 ladies play in APA pool leagues and are now headed to the APA World Championships in Las Vegas in August.
Marlena and Ann have qualified to compete in the APA Ladies 8-Ball Championship. Maria Patterson will be competing in the APA Jack and Jill Championship.



Tressa Jim
Royal Valley High School
Daughter of Billy & Stephanie Jim
We're so proud of you! Good luck at HINU!
Love, Mom, Dad and Trulee



Omar Higue – Senior at RVHS
He will be attending Haskell in Fall 2023
Congratulations Omar, Class of 2023 You make your family proud! Stay focused and conquer your dreams!



Mno Dbeshkan Senachwine
Wiskigeamatyuk. We love Sen, Happy 10th Birthday
Love, Mommy and Daddy.



Congratulations to Adria Faye Carter on obtaining her nursing degree! Adria is the daughter of Marlena and Kevin Jordan. She is the granddaughter of Evelyn Jackson Seymour and Melvin 'Sonny' Jessepe. Your family is so proud of you! I know your misho would be beaming with pride.
May you be an inspiration to your son and to others who choose nursing as a career. We love you!



Congratulations to Ethan Vasquez for graduating from Haskell Indian Nations University, with a Degree in Liberal Arts & Business Administration.
Son of Cindy Thomas. Family & Friends are Very Proud of You in this Great Accomplishment, you can do anything you set your mind to.
Love You Alot!!



CONGRATULATIONS on your 5/12/23 Graduation, Dutch Keo! Haskell Indian Nations University, Associates Degree in Health, Sports & Exercise Science.
– Mom, Dad & Ashtyn



Congratulations to Sicario Thomas for graduating from KNS Kindergarten 2023! Parents Jason Thomas & Teah Hale, Grandmother Cindy Thomas. We are Proud of You and Love You Alot!!



Congratulations making it to State times 3 as a Freshman!
Looking forward to your future
Trystan Murata
Love always,
Mom and Bros



Mary Mitchell is proud of her sister Cheryl Nagel's team High Hopes win Billings league championship game! Pictured Lea and Tafuna Tusi, Josh Abby, Cheryl Nagel and Elmer Blackbird