



Prairie Band Potawatomi News

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

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Enibēk 2023

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Enibēk

"Summer time
of the year"

This paper contains the
activities and happenings
that took place during the
Summer time of 2023:
July, August, September

Illinois Governor Signs Three Bills Honoring Native Ancestry and History

New laws allow: burial of Native remains on state land, Native history to be taught in Illinois public schools, schools to permit students to celebrate their cultural identity during graduation ceremonies

CHICAGO – On August 4, 2023, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signed into law three bills that overwhelmingly passed the state legislature with bipartisan support, bringing long overdue honor to past, present and future Native communities in Illinois.

The three newly signed laws will:

- Allow the state of Illinois to create cemeteries protected from public use on state lands for the reburial of repatriated Native American remains and materials
- Allow for the expansion of Illinois public school curriculum to include Native history
- Require schools to permit students to celebrate their cultural or religious identity during graduation ceremonies, including wearing traditional Native American regalia

"Illinois has made tremendous strides this year in its work to repair the centuries-long injustices that started with colonizers doing everything they could to extinguish our people and the origins of this land on which the United States of America was constructed," said Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Chairman Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick. "Illinois today proved that a government is capable of reflecting on its past injustices and planning for a future that respects and celebrates our interconnectedness."

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation was integral in the advocacy efforts for all of the new laws signed today, particularly HB 3413 which allows for the burial of Native remains on state lands. Illinois possesses the remains of thousands of Native people – some dug up by the Department of Transportation during highway construction and unceremoniously housed in desk drawers – but that's set to change as the state is on track to return 1,100 of the 7,000 Native American remains the state currently holds.

"Native tribes have existed since before colonization, and our land and culture are the foundation of our society. Yet the remains of thousands of our ancestors have been in the hands of governments and institutions, just as our Native lands have



been for centuries," Chairman Rupnick said. "By signing this bill today Governor Pritzker is undoing a modern-day extension of colonization. This new law will bring respect to our ancestors the way they should've been respected centuries ago."

Despite the progress in Illinois this year as it relates to the state's Native origins, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation still faces the reality that its identity in Illinois remains diminished due to an overreach by the United States government.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has roots in Illinois with DeKalb County being home to a Reservation that belongs to Chairman Rupnick's great grandfather four generations removed. However, the U.S. Government in 1849 illegally auctioned off more than 1,280 acres of Chief Shab-eh-nay's home Reservation near the village of Shabbona in southern

- Continues: See Bill Signing page 2

Prairie Band Potawatomi Elders Excel During National Senior Games 2023 in Pittsburgh

A group of four esteemed Prairie Band Potawatomi Elders recently showcased their sporting prowess and Tribal pride at the National Senior Games 2023 held in Pittsburgh, PA. Elders, Lavera Bell, Mary LeClere, Gina Anthony, and Cindy Degand, formed "Team Elderberries" and participated in the highly competitive shuffleboard tournament, leaving an indelible mark on the games.

With over 12,000 participants from across the nation, international competitors and spanning 12-days of spirited competition, the National

Senior Games 2023 proved to be a monumental event. For Team Elderberries, the shuffleboard competition featured eight days of intense practice and games.

Gina Anthony partnered with, a competitor from New Mexico, securing an impressive 7th place in the Doubles Tournament for the 50-64 age bracket. Meanwhile, Mary LeClere and Lavera Bell formed a formidable partnership, earning 10th place in the Doubles 70+ age bracket. Cindy Degand teamed up with a competitor from Topeka, achieving the



Team Elderberries, (left to right) Lavera "Babe" Bell, Cindy Degand, Mary LeClere and Gina Anthony take a break during the 2023 Senior Games in Pittsburg.

- Continues: See Elderberries page 9

Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick: Report to the Nation



Dear Tribal Members,

Summer is upon us and hopefully it will go easy on us. Weather reports show this will be a very hot summer and I want those that must work outside or if there are activities outside, do so smartly. Drink plenty of water and watch out for each other. Heat related injuries are just as deadly as many other conditions and without monitoring, may not show any symptoms until it's too late. If you're not sure, call someone. Now that the warning is given, I'll briefly discuss issues on the Federal level.

We are still working toward getting a hearing on the two bills we have in Congress. The first bill is the Kansas Act repeal and I have met with Representative Hageman, Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources and a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, on two different occasions specifically about this bill. She has committed to working with the Nation and, given how the U.S. House is currently structured, I'm hopeful we can schedule a hearing this year.

Our second bill, which seems to be gaining more traction, is the Shabeh-nay Reservation Settlement Act of 2023, HR 3144. This Act also has a companion bill in the Senate, S1492 and as of today's report, we have been told that Senator Duckworth is signing on as a co-sponsor. With bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate, I am feeling better than I have in a long time. As soon as a hearing is scheduled, we will let membership know. This time of year, most members break for the summer and I'm sure things will start back up and I'll keep pushing the needs of the Nation.

On the Kansas State level, now that the session is over, Council is starting to work with our members to prepare the next round of bills to move through

the State Legislature. Most know that the Supreme Court has upheld ICWA and that is a huge win for all of Indian Country. We have been looking at what other States have been doing to enhance ICWA and our Reps seem receptive to changes we have proposed. This will take a lot of work and Council will continue to work on language that will help fill in any gaps in the law.

Last spring the Nation 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. Given the complexity of the issue, NIGC has asked to pull the application. We pulled and filed again after addressing the issue they had. We are waiting on the determination and depending on which way it is decided, this will not be resolved quickly, there will be court challenges before it is done. As soon as we hear, we will keep the members informed.

In Illinois, The Nation has been working hard with all levels of government on the issues impacting the Nation. We are scheduled to have a signing ceremony on the two bills recently passed in August. Once the burial legislation is signed, Illinois Department of Natural Resources has agreed to release some of our ancestors to us immediately and once released,

we will find a suitable location and put them to rest. This seems like it has been a long process, but we could not have done it without the help of the local state leaders, specifically, Representative Walker. Representative Walker has been key, making sure the Nation's interest are met over the issue we have brought before him. He is an ally in the State and as of July 14, 2023, filed a bill requesting the Department of Natural Resources turn Shabbona State Park over to us. This is a recent development and as of today, it has not been published on the state site. As soon as we see it published, we will let membership know. There will be a lot of discussion and Tribal Council has to talk though the process and decide what our next steps will be. When this was first brought up three years ago, I really thought this was a dream and here we are today, on the cusp of having 1,550 acres returned to the Tribe.

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



From Left: Tribal Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick, Council Member Ronald “Tony” Wahweotten, Jr., Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, and Council Member Raphael Wahwassuck PBPB Tribal Council members congratulate Governor Pritzker after he signed three bills into law honoring Native culture and history.

Bills Honoring Native Heritage, Culture Signed Into Law

- Bill Signing Continued from page 1

DeKalb County when he traveled to visit his family in Kansas. Illinois is the only state in the Midwest – one of just 15 states nationwide – without a federally recognized Tribe.

Legislation recently filed in the House by state Rep. Mark Walker (D-Arlington Heights) would return state-owned lands comprising the Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Although the U.S. Congress is the only governing body that has the authority to designate land titles for Native nations, the state of Illinois owns and operates a state park on a portion of Prairie Band's 1,280 acres, they have the agency to return that to Prairie Band with legislation or through executive action.

“Although our land was illegally taken from us, we're still here, living and contributing to life in Illinois, all while practicing our traditions and serving our country,” Chairman Rupnick said, a U.S. Army Veteran who served for 13 years. “We may not yet have our Reservation land back in the hands of our Tribe, but we have the truth and increasing acknowledgement that our cause is just.

“Thanks to Governor Pritzker, state Representatives Mark Walker (D-Arlington Heights), and Maurice West (D-Rockford), state Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs), former state Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas, and Republicans and Democrats in the Illinois legislature, today is an important day for policy changes that put Illinois on a path to break down oppressive structures and the lingering effects of colonization that upended our Native communities.”

U.S. Supreme Court Affirms Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in Victory for Tribal Sovereignty

The United State Supreme Court issued its ruling on the *Haaland v. Brackeen* case today, June 15, 2023, which protects tribal sovereignty and the rights of Native American families in regards to the adoption and fostering of Native children.

The Supreme Court's opinion on the case upholds the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), a law enacted in 1978 to address generations of harm caused by the systemic removal of Native children from their families. The intergenerational trauma still felt today stems from many instances of removing Native children from their families, including the loss of language and culture, enforced assimilation, and physical harm inflicted through boarding schools, as well as aggressive foster care and adoption policies which placed Native children in non-Native households, often to the detriment of their cultural identity and overall wellbeing.

Introduced in 1978, ICWA is considered the “gold standard” of child welfare policy because it gives tribal governments exclusive jurisdiction over Native children who live on reservations. In effect, this allows tribal governments to place children in households where they are most likely to thrive, whether that is with immediate relatives or another family in their respective tribe.

The Supreme Court's ruling that upholds and affirms ICWA has been met with joy from tribal governments and child welfare groups across the country. Many organizations and individuals who took part in the Protect ICWA Campaign leading up to the decision have issued celebratory statements online, but also note that there is still work to be done in addressing tribal sovereignty as well as the rights and needs of Native American individuals.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick made the following statement upon hearing of the ruling:

“Today's Supreme Court decision upholds the sovereignty of Native Tribes and allows us to continue to give our children, no matter their family circumstances, the opportunity to embrace their Native culture and history – so much of which is learned in our family homes due to centuries worth of attempts to erase us. The Supreme Court preserved the integrity of federal law and by doing so preserved our culture for generations to come.”

Secretary Lorrie Melchior: Report to the Nation



Greetings Tribal Members,
I hope everyone has been able to cope the high heat and continue to stay hydrated.
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Committees and Boards all have very important roles within the Nation's day-to-day operations. Departments such as Gaming and PBP LLC entities contribute to necessary functions for the Nation. Everyone who joins these committees and boards makes room on their schedules and gives their time, effort, and dedication because they know it serves the Nation's best interests.
Soon, the plan is to get information for the committees and boards

added to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's website within the Members Only portal. With this information readily available for Tribal Members, we hope it will make it easier for those interested in serving to see what is required from each of the committees. Open positions and information on when each group meets will also be available in this section.

I encourage Tribal Members to utilize our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation website at www.pbpindiantribe.com. Our website includes news and events that can be viewed by anyone as well as our Members Only Portal, which includes Tribal Council meeting minutes and resolutions. If you haven't signed up for access to this section of the website, I encourage you to do so. Only those who are Tribal Members are able to see the information we include and that requirement will continue as we expand the section.
As always, if you have any questions or would like to request information from the Tribal Council Secretary's office you may call my office at (785)966-4022 or if I am unavailable, you may contact Deanna Brewer, Legislative Assistant at (785)966-4023. All contact information for Tribal Council is located on our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's website.
The 2023 General Council meetings will be held at our Prairie Band Potawatomi Casino & Resort 12305 150th Road Mayetta, Kansas 66509. The date of our Fourth Quarter 2023 General Council meetings is October 21, 2023.
Everyday proceeds with challenges that are addressed in collaboration with fellow Tribal Council members. This experience is fulfilling, and it is a pleasure to serve our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in a professional and humble manner.

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

Prairie Band Casino & Resort Tribal Team Members Attend National Leadership Development Conference

For the fifth year Prairie Band Casino & Resort sent a group of Tribal team members to the National Leadership Development Conference (NLDC) in Hinkley, MN.
The conference focused on "Embracing the Leader Within." NLDC includes a total of 450 participants, with 106 tribal members representing nineteen tribes from 23 states. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) hosted this conference. Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures first offered the National Leadership Development Conference in 2013 as their way of giving back to the other tribes, communities, and partners they do business with.

Their mission is to teach three things: engagement, knowledge transfer and networking. They want to provide what we have been fortunate to do within MLCV and continue to do. Joseph Nayquonabe, CEO of MLCV, said, "When we all work toward a common goal of servant leadership, the world is a better place allowing all of us to grow personally, professionally, and spiritually."
Nayquonabe encourages participants with these words of advice, "When you begin by acknowledging the deep value each of us holds as individuals, it is then you can truly open your heart to embrace the leader within."

Andrea Bolin, MLCV's Chief of Staff and Chair of the NLDC Committee, describes the conference as a chance to give back. "It's a gift back to other tribes to share about Servant Leadership and help them with their development."

The tribal leaders participating and representing Prairie Band Casino & Resort were Sarah Ortiz (HRIS Analyst), Tamara Pahmahmie (Hotel Supervisor), Jacob "Tabosh" Kent (Hotel Supervisor), Coleen Thomas (Purchasing Manager), Lan Danielson (Assistant Financial Controller) Amber Tecumseh (Financial Controller) and Ruth Vega Harjo (Director of Human Resources).

Sarah Ortiz, was excited to experience the conference, "Conversations with casino team members who've attended in the past made it clear that the NLDC is a top conference to attend. I can confidently say that this event lived up to its hype."
Coleen Thomas, a two-time attendee, said, "The National Leadership Development Conference remains the most inspirational and motivational



Pictured Left to right: Ruth Vega Harjo, Coleen Thomas, Amber Tecumseh, Lan Danielson, Joe Nayquonabe, Tabosh Kent, Tamara Pahmahmie, Sarah Ortiz pause for a photo during the 2023 National Leadership Development Conference in Hinkley, MN.

conference I have ever attended. There are so many viewpoints and unique ways shared at the conference through the engaging speakers and the social/networking events to reignite, re-energize, and refresh my leadership commitment."
Lan Danielson said, "At this conference, I witnessed the true essence of leadership – the kind that empowers, uplifts, and forges a path towards collective greatness. This transformative experience reminded me that my journey to becoming a leader is all about learning and growth, where inspiration fuels our purpose, and our actions create a vision for the future."
Tamara Pahmahmie shares the enthusiasm, "The conference was an inspirational experience. It was a great opportunity to listen to empowering and motivational speakers providing valuable leadership skills and knowledge."
Amber Tecumseh was inspired by the devotion to not only professional leadership, but commitment to family and community, "This conference was insightful, in that, we learned about tools to further develop "who we are" as leaders to our teams, to our families, and to our communities."
Pahmahmie, furthered her commitment to being a leader by claiming, "This has been an encouraging experience to motivate me to become a more involved and influential leader."
Kent, shared his enthusiasm, "This conference inspired and rejuvenated me to be a better leader."

He said that during Jason Hunt's session, "Becoming a Person of Influence," was intrigued by the concept, "When you focus on weakness, the best you can expect is average." Kent's takeaway from this session was, "I think in general; the population focuses on what is wrong. There is not enough encouragement nor praise for accomplishments. People like to be celebrated for doing something that makes a positive change."
Thomas said, "My favorite take-away this year is "Self-care is NOT selfish," and "if you aren't getting better, you are getting worse." So, with that, I have begun taking a closer look at what my "Brand" is, creating goals for myself, and getting to it."
Sarah Ortiz also shared her top takeaways, "Always remember that consistency is the key to success, not perfection. Truly inspired by the keynote and breakout session delivered by Cecilia Stanton Adams on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). This reaffirmed the importance of DEI and the need to constantly reexamine the thinking and behavior toward the DEI topic both as an individual and company."
Ruth Vega Harjo, views NLDC as an inspirational learning tool, said, "The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Lac's conference provides the type of inspiration we all want to see from our leaders. I don't know of a single team member who attended who wasn't inspired by the experience."

Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, I hope all is well and everyone is staying safe during the extended heat wave we experienced recently. Hopefully by the time you are reading this article we are seeing much cooler temperatures as fall nears.

Currently, we are deep into the annual budget process as we are looking at proposed budgets for the Tribal Government for FY2024 as well as the proposed budgets sent forth by the Casino and Gaming Commission. All in all, we hope to have all FY2024 budgets ironed out and approved in October.

Additionally, our Tribal Cash Distributions from the Casino continue to outpace our FY2023 budget by just over 11% at the time of this article, so we are continuing to look at items to include in an upcoming amendment to increase our FY2023 Tribal Government budget.

Audits and Indirect Cost Proposals are also wrapping up this time of the year. Our Primary Government Audit is due to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC) annually by September 30th.

Once the audit has been completed and uploaded with the FAC then we can proceed with finalizing our annual Indirect Cost Proposal and get it sent off to the Department of Interior's Interior Business Center (IBC) for negotiations. Once we have a negotiated Indirect Cost Rate, we can apply that rate (percentage) to certain grant expenditures and recover a portion of our overhead costs (i.e. administration, accounting, HR, legal, building maintenance etc.). As mentioned, that is also an annual process, so each fiscal year has its own Indirect Cost Rate.

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

General Welfare Support Program Update

Over the years the Tribe has provided various General Welfare Benefits to the Membership that are considered to be non-taxable and not included as

income when filing your taxes.

Early on, General Welfare Benefits primarily consisted of Education and Burial Benefits but over the years additional benefits have been added under the General Welfare umbrella. Some of these additional General Welfare Benefits include Health Programs, Historical and Cultural Preservation Programs, Housing Assistance and Coronavirus Relief Programs to name a few. In 2020, the Tribe formally adopted a General Welfare Support Program to solidify its position on the General Welfare Benefits that it considered to be within the parameters of the General Welfare Exclusion Doctrine.

Recently, the Tribe has engaged a firm to help bring additional benefits into our General Welfare Support Program. This will allow the Tribe to continue to provide benefits to the Membership but will relieve the tax liability of such benefits. Additional information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks but I wanted to mention that now so you can be on the lookout.

While we are in the planning stages with the firm, we look forward to progressing along with expanding our General Welfare Support Program. The more programs and services we can provide under the General Welfare Support Program ultimately means more dollars that can stay in the pockets of our Tribal Members vs those dollars going towards income taxes.

For additional information on the upcoming changes to the General Welfare Support Program or question in general on the Program you may contact my office using the information below.

PBPN Tribal Hemp Plan Amendment

In 2019 the Tribe's Hemp Plan was approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) allowing the Tribe to regulate Hemp production within its jurisdiction. The Tribe's Hemp Plan has been amended in the following years, 2021, 2022 and once again in 2023. Amendments have been necessary to keep the Tribe's Hemp Plan up to date with the ever changing USDA regulations.

Our most recent amendment

adopts Performance Based Sampling into the Hemp Plan which will be beneficial to both the areas of production and compliance.

On July 20, 2023 the Tribe was notified by the USDA that our Tribal Hemp Plan was the first in the United States to be approved with the Performance Based Sampling component amongst all the Federally Recognized Tribes. The hard work and dedication of our hemp compliance staff is much appreciated and without them the Tribe's Hemp Program would not be at the forefront in Indian Country that it is today.

So, what is the benefit of incorporating Performance Based Sampling into our Tribal Hemp Plan you might ask?

For hemp to be considered legal for use it has to have a Tetrahydrocannabinol (aka THC) level of 0.3% or less which requires the compliance staff to test crops prior to harvest. Early in the program testing requirements were quite stringent and burdensome for both the producer and the compliance staff. Through Performance Based Sampling, testing requirements become less stringent for producers who have a history of compliance with their crops as defined in the Tribe's Hemp Plan. This is ultimately beneficial to both the producer and compliance staff where unnecessary testing of proven crops can be eliminated.

For more information on the Tribe's Hemp Program you may contact our Compliance Specialist, **William Mitchell @ (785) 966-4042** or by **e-mail williammitchell@pbpnation.org**. William also served as a panelist at the 8th Annual Native American Cannabis & Hemp Conference in Temecula, CA this past June. The Tax Commission is proud of the hard work and dedication that William puts forth and are fortunate to have him on board.

Kansas Sales Tax Exemption Reminder

I wanted to put a reminder out for those who may be exempt from paying Kansas Sales Taxes since it has been awhile since I have included the topic in my article.

As noted previously there is

now a link on the Tribe's website with information on the Kansas Sales Tax Exemption is available to Tribal Members under Kansas Revenue Ruling 19-2002-1. The information can be accessed by going to the Tribe's website at **www.pbpindiantribe.com** and clicking on the **Government tab** and then going to the **Tax Commission** and then clicking on **Kansas Sales Tax Exemption**.

The link provides information that has been provided in previous newspaper articles as well examples of forms that must be filled out in order to claim the Kansas Sales Tax Exemption.

Basically, to be exempt from Kansas Sales Tax a Tribal Member must reside on the Reservation and the items purchased must be delivered to the Reservation. Kansas Revenue Ruling 19-2002-1 applies to all four Tribes located within the state of Kansas. Local businesses will most generally require completion of Kansas Department of Revenue Form ST-28 to apply the exemption. Some online retailers will also require the completion of Form ST-28 while other larger online retailers may have their own sales tax exemption program for you to complete.

For more information on the Kansas Sales Tax Exemption you may contact my office at the information below or the Tribe's **Tax Commission** office at **785-966-3998**.

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)

Need help paying for medical, dental, vision or other health care expenses not otherwise paid for by insurance or PRC?

PBP Elders Assistance Program

NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR AGES 55 AND UP

Please contact Tiffany, Hattie or Heather to learn about recent guideline changes and updates

785-966-8282, 785-966-8245, 785-966-8270

Tribal Council Member Tony Wahweotten: Report to the Nation



Ho' PBPB Members

I hope all had a great Summer and wish everyone a great harvest, as we are halfway through the 3rd quarter of 2023. Congratulations to the 2023 team Elderberries in the Senior Olympics games and welcome back to all the students who are returning to school. Miigwetch to all who made the trip up to the Potawatomi Gathering in Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Lands.

I first, 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 PBPB voting membership for selecting me as your PBPB Tribal Council Representative and allowing me to serve in this capacity for the Nation and alongside my colleagues Chairperson Rupnick, Vice Chairperson Zach Pahmahmie, Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie, New Secretary Lorrie Melchior, Councilman William Evans, 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 April 15, 2023 General Council Meeting, I have attended:

- Six special Tribal Council meetings one excused
- Three Regular Tribal Council meetings
- Seven legal project meetings

- The 41st Annual NAFOA (Native American Finance Officers Association) Conference in Washington DC along with legislative lobbying efforts with six key level Congress Representatives
 - Two General Welfare Exclusion follow up meetings
 - Attended the student recognition night banquet at our Casino Events property
 - Three PBP Tax Commission meetings
 - Three Hemp Regulation meetings
 - Two Land Committee meetings
 - Consecutive Shabbona next step discussions
 - One County Commissioners meeting in Dekalb Illinois
 - One Four Tribes meeting
 - One Potawatomi Economic Summit at the PBP Casino
 - The Calumet-Native American Convening at the Field Museum in Chicago Illinois
 - One Native Nations Cannabis Conference Temecula California
 - One visit to an Industrial hemp farm next county over
 - One Entertainment BOD Luncheon
- 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, and the Nations' current budget and funding challenges. The Tribal Council has acted on 204 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.

Other leadership activities involving Tribal Council, General Management, and Tribal Attorneys are broadband, continued infrastructure planning development, roads resurfacing and identified full depth replacement. The Nation has received additional grant funds targeted strictly for our roads and trails. We currently authorized the 1st Phase of full depth replacement just west of K-Road and 158th, and another short phase section east of K-Road and 150th, in what was identified a priority area, soon to be completed by early October. The approval of new road projects is currently in the works for 2024.

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 in and acted in approximately thirty-five Tax Commission meetings. New applications involving the Nation's Tax Authority, are available on the Nation's website. In our Prairie Band Potawatomi Constitution, it is stated under Article II-Land, Section 2. The Tribal Council shall establish a Standing committee vested with the responsibility of protecting and preserving our land rights following our Nation's policies.

The Tribal Council has appointed me as an additional Liaison, Vice Chairperson, to the Lands Committee. I have participated in twenty-five PBP Lands meetings. As the new Tribal Council Liaison, I have had monthly scheduled reviews of LMD activity reports, the Land Purchasing Office activity reports, Environmental Protection Agency reports and the cooperating USDA Natural Resources Conservation Reports and By-laws. See the Tribal website or portal for Constitutional declarations under Article II-Lands. No new buffalo were received during the second quarter but plans to receive more could be in the works. Our next buffalo harvest for the Elder Supplement Program will possibly be during the fall months.

PBPB Current Job Listings, 21 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

Prairie Band, LLC Expands Portfolio with Acquisitions

Prairie Band, LLC, the economic development company wholly owned by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, is excited to announce the successful acquisition of Burgos Group and Get Volts®, further bolstering its presence in the federal government contracting sector. The move aligns with Prairie Band's mission of maximizing the unique sovereign status of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation to expand and diversify the economic portfolio of the Nation.

Jacob Wamego, CEO of Prairie Band, LLC, said, "The addition of Burgos Group and Get Volts® to our portfolio aligns perfectly with our long-term vision. This move enables us to expand our range of services and enhance our ability to provide industry leading construction solutions to our clients. We are confident that the integration of these exceptional companies will fuel our growth and position us at the forefront of the industry."

Mario Burgos, former CEO of Burgos Group, will assume the role of Chief Strategy Officer at Prairie Band, LLC. Reflecting on the acquisition, Burgos said, "We are thrilled to join forces with Prairie Band, a dynamic organization that shares our commitment to excellence and service."

David Burgos will continue leading these companies as Chief Operating Officer for Construction Services. Looking forward, Burgos said, "This

acquisition validates the hard work and dedication of our team and allows us to strengthen our position in the market and expand our capabilities in the construction industry."

Burgos Group has an exceptional track record of delivering successful projects across the United States for 14 different federal agencies. Burgos Group has established itself as a trusted partner for federal agency clients, consistently delivering high-quality projects for its customers.

Get Volts® is a commercial electrical contractor with both public and private sector customers. More than 80% of Get Volts® business comes from repeat customers and the company has had operations in New Mexico for over 40 years.

The acquisition of Burgos Group and Get Volts marks a significant milestone in Prairie Band's growth strategy, strengthening its position as a growing player in the federal construction space. By integrating the expertise and capabilities of these two exceptional companies, Prairie Band is poised to offer comprehensive, end-to-end solutions that meet the demands of

an ever- changing construction landscape.

For more information about Prairie Band, LLC, please visit **www.prairiebandllc.com**.

Native Youth Gather at 2023 UNITY Conference in Washington DC to Restore and Empower

The 2023 UNITY conference, with the theme “Restoring the Spirit of Native Youth,” has concluded in Washington DC, leaving a trail of inspiration, empowerment, and camaraderie among over 2400 attending Native youth and advisors. The event brought together a diverse group of young individuals to learn, share, and celebrate their heritage and potential.

This year’s conference was marked by the enthusiastic participation of 14 members from the PBPB Firekeepers Youth Council, accompanied by five chaperones. The PBPB Boys and Girls Club, along with the PBPB Wellness Connections Program, joined hands to ensure the youths’ presence at the event. This collaborative effort ensured that the young attendees had the opportunity to be part of this transformative experience.

A particularly outstanding highlight of the conference was the involvement of Victor Organista, a PBPB youth, who auditioned for and secured the role of News Anchor for the event. Victor’s charisma and talent shone through as he pre-recorded segments from Phoenix, Arizona, and these were later aired during the conference. This marked a significant achievement for the PBPB community and showcased the immense potential within the Native youth.

The UNITY conference commenced with a special video message from Vice President Kamala Harris and Congresswoman Deb Haaland. Both influential figures encouraged the youth to continue their pursuits of learning and growth, emphasizing the importance of building a brighter future for their tribal nations and fellow youth.

Throughout the conference, the attendees had the opportunity to engage with a range of activities. The daily schedule included UNITY News segments led by Victor Organista, followed by keynote speeches from esteemed individuals like Matika Wilbur, author of Project 562, as well as representatives from the NDN Girls Book Club, Kinsale Drake and Lily Painter. The conference further offered a diverse array of workshops, area caucus meetings, cultural nights, talent showcases, and a grand GALA event, where Norma Flying Horse’s clothing line was modeled by enthusiastic youth.

The event wasn’t just about entertainment and cultural enrichment; it provided invaluable learning and networking opportunities as well. The National UNITY Council Business meeting allowed representatives like Victor and Gish Hale from the Firekeepers Youth Council to present their activities



PBPB Attendees of the 2023 Unity Conference pose for a photo in front of a Unity event banner. From left: Back Row - Joanna “Dumps” Mitchell, Paul Eastman, Pizi LeClere, Zizia Lewis, Savanna Hess, Gish Hale, Pana LeClere, Kristina Throssell, Victor Organista, and Persia Johnson. Middle Row Bending - Kibo Throssell, Katti Hale, Nagos Hale, MaeShayla Tye, Biakwe Johnson, Tanaya Mahkuk, Makkeyo Mahkuk. Kneeling - Tyra Wanatee.

for the year, 2022-23, and participate in the selection of regional representatives and executive council members.

Educational and career aspirations were nurtured at the career and educational day, with various college booths, including the presence of Haskell Indian Nations University, offering insights into higher education options.

The conference also promoted social consciousness and activism. Attendees dedicated days to raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW/MMIP), wearing red attire to represent solidarity and orange to honor every child’s importance. The youth’s commitment to such vital issues was visible through their active participation and the beautiful ribbon skirts worn to showcase their heritage.

In the words of Victor Organista, “Unity is an experience I’ll never forget.” His sentiments resonated with others like Gish Hale, Kibo Throssell, Savana Hess, and Makkeyo Mahkuk, who all expressed their gratitude for the enriching experience of cultural



Victor Organista, PBPB Youth Representative, served as news anchor for the Unity Conference. He pre-recorded segments from Phoenix, Arizona, and these were later aired during the conference.

exchange, networking, and personal growth. As the 2023 UNITY conference came to a close, the unity, resilience, and enthusiasm displayed by the Native youth attendees left an indelible mark, promising a brighter future for their communities and the generations to come.

Walker Introduces Legislation to Give Ancestral Native American Lands Back to Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill. – Helping to correct a historic injustice, state Rep. Mark Walker, D-Arlington Heights, on July 10, 2023 filed House Bill 4107 to return state-owned lands comprising the Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

“By federal recognition, much of the land making up Shabbona Lake is legally owed to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation,” Walker said. “However, the land was taken and sold illegally nearly two hundred

years ago. Because the state now owns much of the Nation’s ancestral lands and the surrounding area, I believe it’s high time we correct this injustice and return the lands to their rightful owners.”

Signed in 1829, the Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien gave sections of land in Illinois to Chief Shab-eh-nay of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

In 1849, however, the U.S. General Land Office illegally sold this land at a public auction and passed title to non-Indians. Illinois began

purchasing some of those lands in 1965 and has been operating the lands as the Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area since.

“The legislation filed this week would give Illinois an opportunity to right a historic wrong,” said Prairie Band Chairman Joseph Rupnick, the fourth generation great-grandson of Chief Shab-eh-nay and a U.S. Army veteran. “Illinois has been a national example lately for what justice truly looks like and it’s our hope that continues with the return of our land. We’re rooted in

the community and after more than 170 years, we’re finally on a path to having this issue resolved.”

The U.S. Congress is the only governing body that has the authority to designate land titles for Native nations. However, because the State of Illinois owns and operates a state park on a portion of Prairie Band’s 1,280 acres, they have the agency to return that to Prairie Band with legislation or through executive action.

PBPN Builds Resilience in the Face of Climate Changes

For more than a decade, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has worked to make the Nation and its people more climate resilient and ecologically sustainable. Recent efforts build upon past planning and documents that provide an excellent foundation for moving the Nation forward with future planning and project implementation.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Reservation was established in Northeast Kansas by treaty in 1846. The Reservation lies within the transition zone between the eastern deciduous forest and the tallgrass prairie ecological regions or ecoregions. These ecoregions are determined by the soils, vegetation, topography, and water and directly influence land use and management. As with the ecoregions, the Reservation is almost equally divided by two stream networks: the Big and Little Soldier Creek watersheds, with Big Soldier on the western half and Little Soldier on the eastern half.

Integrating key planning documents is critical to implement a consistent vision for the future that is economically, socially, and environmentally sensible and feasible. Many recent planning efforts focused on water resources because water is one of the Nation's most important natural and cultural resources. Protecting aquatic and adjacent terrestrial resources provides tangible biological, cultural, and economic benefits because fish and wildlife are essential to our way of life. Changes in land use and agricultural practices cause the loss of stream (riparian) and wetland habitats, streambank erosion and failure, and excessive sediment in waterways. Some of the integrated plans include:

- **Land and Water Management Plan:** A watershed- and ecosystem-based plan for natural resource management, incorporating both the natural and human environment.
- **Ecosystem Restoration Plan:** This ongoing project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers aims to restore unstable and degraded streams, floodplains, and riparian habitats resulting from land use changes throughout the Big Soldier Creek watershed.
- **9 Critical Element Plan:** This water quality plan provides a vision and 20-year implementation program to improve land management practices and reduce sediment and other pollutants in our waterways

through coordinated actions by the Nation and Tribal agencies, agricultural enterprises, and Tribal and non-tribal landowners, with support from state and Federal partners.

- **Agricultural Management Plan:** Provides in-depth information and guidance for conservation practices, vegetation, and grassland management.
- **Preliminary Tribal Community Resilience Plan:** A vulnerability assessment and resilience screening helped illustrate where the Nation's

strengths and weaknesses lie and develop strategies to improve infrastructure, services, institutions, and our natural and social resources for greater short-term and long-term resilience, sustainability, and prosperity.

- **Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Helps Tribal leaders understand risks from natural and human hazards and provides short- and long-term strategies for the community to better resist, withstand, and bounce back from the impacts of future events on people, property, and the environment.

By unifying and strengthening these efforts and plans, the Nation builds resilience in the face of climate change and global warming. Tribal leadership, staff, and community members have attended national conferences and training and participated in local workshops about climate change. Conversations with leadership and community members provided insights into how

climate change is already impacting the Reservation, and several innovative efforts and many opportunities to improve energy and resource efficiency and reduce environmental and climate impacts. It is critical for the Nation as a whole to understand the implications and to prepare for and adapt to a rapidly changing climate.

Planning continues, with a future focus on preserving and enhancing tribal sovereignty, developing a tribally controlled public and agricultural water supply, and promoting regenerative agriculture and local food production. These and other efforts will come together in a climate resilience plan for achieving food, water, and energy sovereignty, giving the Nation the ability to protect and sustainably manage community welfare for current and future generations.



Planning and Implementation Works Best When Everyone Works Together

Successful planning and implementation require a coordinated effort enhanced by partnerships. Over the years, staff across departments have built relationships with more than 30 local, state, and federal agencies, institutions, for-profit and non-profit partners to tap into a wealth of knowledge, technical, and financial resources. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) provide consistent technical and financial support for water quality monitoring and land and water management that makes many of these plans possible. Funding from other Federal agencies and numerous partners build on these efforts with data collection, implementation grants, and financing for focused plans that help the Nation work towards food, water, and energy sovereignty.

Nishnabek Ntewmèn - “Who We Are”



Dasan Blaise Scholfield
Graduated June 8, 2023
Redding Collegiate
Academy HS
We love you,
Congratulations!



Happy 17th Birthday!
Ashtyn R. Keo, June 1st
Love you lots!
Enjoy your Senior Year!
-Mom, Dad & Dutch



Happy 7th Birthday Shime
(Kyra)! Love your Koya



Happy Big
18 Birthday
Biahkwe !!!!!
I love you so
much and wish
you nothing
but the best
as you venture
into your
adulthood.
But no matter
what you will
always be my
baby girl
Love MOMMY



Happy 1st Birthday to Cora
“Mejishkee” Young!



I want to wish my daughter Falicity Wishkeno-Garner Happy Birthday June 7th. She is the one in on the left. “There’s not a day that goes by that we don’t pray for you. Today we pray even harder because it’s one of the most special days of the year. Happy birthday, beautiful girl Falicity.”
From Dad, Our Lucy and Wishkeno/Martinek family.



I also wish my niece happy birthday Jordan Glassel Happy Birthday June 18th and she is the one in the family picture on the right. “I pray that your special day brings an abundance of happiness to you today and always.” From Uncle Lance and Aunt Lucy Wishkeno and Wishkeno family.

Incorrect Addresses Cause Delays in Services

Current address are crucial for members to receive important information including ballots. Anything sent via traditional post is time sensitive for an event or program eligibility.

Without a current address member benefits may be limited or the time required for you to receive benefits could be extended. Outside funding from different federal or state programs may also be affected. For example Grants and Financial programs need accurate address information. This helps the Nation meet reporting standards and is required to request additional funding. Grant programs are a big part of funds departments use to serve Tribal members.

Members who are in harsh living conditions and may not have an address to

submit or update and in these instances, 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**
Aguilar-Vazquez, Gabriella, Rosalie
Ahlgren, Tanya, Lee
Aitkens, Josias, Elliott
Aitkens, Michael, Dean
Alcantar, Autumn, Kay
Alejos, Sonja, Marie
Alexander, Tishana, Lynne
Allen, Douglas, James
Allen, Marc, Nicholas
Allen, Megan, Marie
Allen, Michael, Grant
Allen, Randy, Joseph
Allen, Steffany, Nacole
Anderson, Jackie, Charles
Anderson, Mariah, Michelle
Armendaris, Jody, Sue
Arndt, Christopher, James
Arnold, Josephine, Lorraine

-----**B**
Bailey, Hope, Marie
Bailey, Marie, Ann
Baird, David, Aidan
Baldwin, Arizona, Levi
Bamke, Matthew, John
Barber, Ian, Jess
Barclay, Kelly, John, II
Barger, Thomas, Wayne
Barth, Christina, Dawn
Bass, Tara, Ann
Battese, Paul, Lawrence
Beem, Andrea, Lynn
Begay, Carolyn, Dee
Belair, Albert, Francis
Belaire, Dayzunique, Alanicole
Belaire-Serna, Michael, Todd
Bell, Allayna, Lasley
Benz, Dawn, Marie
Bernabe, Carlos, Max
Blakeslee, William, Edward Jr.
Blalock, Trent, Jacob
Borzick, Margaret, Elizabeth
Bosworth, Emily, Carol
Brdicko, Jill, Christine
Brewer, Jessica, Amber
Briney, Raven, Marie
Brown, Crystal, Lee
Brown, Lakeshia, Sherry
Brown, Rachael, Lynne
Brown, Raymond, Allan
Brown, Sandra, Laurene
Burnett, Orlando, Juan
Burns, Israel
Burton, Danielle, Nicole
Buskirk, Caine, Tucker
Butcher, Alexandra, Paris

-----**C**
Cadena, Mario, Louise
Cadue, Angelina, Nicole
Cadue, Anthony, Paul
Cadue, Jason, Lee
Cadue, Kacee, Mitsuko
Cadue, Levi, James
Cadue, Michael, Alexander
Cadue, Phillip, B., Jr.
Camacho, Robert, Westly
Canfield, Timothy, Andrew
Carbajal, Elisabeth, Ann
Carbajal, Ilene, Tokeya
Carroll, Eric, Eugene
Cashman, Leonard, George
Charles, Zachariah, Ashley
Childers, Jeremy, Joseph
Cieslewicz, Michael, Conrad
Allen II
Clark, Amber, Lynn
Clark, Tamera, Marie
Clark, Toniann, Paulette
Clement, Chance, Colton
Cody, Kimberly, Dawn
Coffin, Brian, Paul
Coffin, Erik, John
Coffin, Gabrial, Maxwell
Contreras, Gina, Leonor
Cook, Amber, Marie
Cook, Bradley, Ronald
Cook, Cody, Douglas
Cook, Dustin, Joseph
Copeland, Tiffany, Ann
Counts, Nancy, Marie
Courchene, Elizabeth, Marie
Cox, Amber, Renee
Craft, Dustin, Michael
Craft, Rebecca, Kay
Craine, Brandon, Matthew
Crawford, Bailee, Creann
Cross, Vicki, Ann
Cruz, Christopher, Allen
Cruz, Sean, Gerald
Cueva, Kathleen, Marie

-----**D**
Dametz, Michael, Dean
Darling, Joseph, Edward, Jr.
Daubon, Jon, Gregory
Davis, Jessica, Jane
Davis, Luke, Lloyd
Dean, Keith, Lee
Delanie, Angela, Marie
Delarosa, Luiz, Javier Solis
Delg, Christian, Anthony
Delg, Jennifer, Marie
Delgadillo, Dennis, George
Deltgen, Dexter, Higgins
DeSpain, Stephanie, Christine Jayne
Devors, John, Allen, Jr.
Dinsdale, Brian, Jerome, Jr.
Dinsdale, Christopher, Edward
Dinsdale, David, Michael
Dinsdale, Lewis, Alfred
Dinsdale, Nicholas, Dodds, Courtney, Ann
Dolsky, Alexsus, Dene
Dominguez, Andrea, Marie
Dominguez, Felicia, Marie
Dominguez, Myranda, Adelaide
Dominguez, Toni, Lee
Donaldson, Melanie, Kay
Doty, Brandon, Lane
Doty, Denise, Lynn
Draper, Carl, Anthony
Dudoit, Racheal, Kuulei
Dyer, Daniel, Taylor

-----**E**
Earwood, Jessie, Dale
Edwards, Shannon, Marie
Ellis, Karole, Ann
Engels, Dorian, Scott
Enriquez, Julian, Enzor, Elizabeth, Marie
Eric, Amy, Elizabeth
Estep, James, Robert, Jr.
Eteeyan, Derek, Steve
Eteeyan, Donald, Criss
Eteeyan, Roger, Allen
Eteeyan, Scott, Nelson
Evans, Paul, James

-----**F**
Fairman, Asia, Marie
Ferg, Mandy, Marie
Fiddick, Robbin, Leilani
Fields, Angelina, Lynn
Figgins, Ethel, Marie
Fitzherbert, Keaton, Izaiah
Fitzsimmons, Gene, Tommy
Fixico, Rachel, Marie
Frazier, Raymond, Duane
Fritz, Ja Nae, Marie
Fuller, Darien, Jade

-----**G**
Gabel, Daniel, John, Jr.
Garcia, Aliyah, Lorraine
Gardner, Anthony, Allen
Garrett, Preston, Levi
Gibbs, Robert, L., III
Gomez, Aaron, Francis
Gonzales, Mark, Masquas
Gonzalez, Erminia, Maria
Gorman, Claranita, Eileen
Goslin, Clinton, J.
Goslin, Nathan, Curtis
Goslin, Thomas, James, Jr.
Grant, Christopher, Kenneth
Grier, Antonio, Joseph
Grier, Arianna, Doun
Grier, Joseph, Tyrone
Grinnell, Joseph, Theodore
Grinnell, Sarah, R.
Grinnell, Scott, James
Gutierrez, Gloria, Marie
Gutierrez, Jordan, Leigh
Gutierrez, Maria, Antonia
Kicker
Gutierrez, Rosa, Estefana,

-----**H**
Hale, Jennifer, Marie
Hale, John, K.
Hall, Lilybell, Ann
Harlan, Tab, Francis
Harness, Jamira, Shanta
Harness, Jeff, L., Jr.
Hastings, Mark, D., II
Hawke, Lucas, J.
Hawkins, Railynn,
Heap, Zaya, John
Helminski, Paige, Marie
Henry, Darren, Logan
Hernandez, Aleeshia, Dawn
Hernandez, Andres, Cruz
Hernandez, Aramis, N.

Hernandez, Christopher, Hernandez, David, Paul
Hernandez, Leanna, June
Hernandez, Paul, Edward, Jr.
Hernandez, Vanessa, Estelle
Hester, Angela, Dee
Hester, Austin, Lee
Hester, Lexi, Ann
Hester, Ronny, Lee, Jr.
Hill, Charon, Serena
Hodges, Jennifer, Marie
Holliman, Joseph, Ray
Holtz, Michael, J
Horn, Madelyn, D.
Houghton, Valerie, Hubbard, Lorraine, R.
Humphrey, Amber, Shopteese
Humphrey, Ebony, W.
Hurst, Bryan, Jamal
Hurt, Sarah, Jane

-----**I**
Ingels, Ramzey, Kalem
Irving, Akicita, Dorian

-----**J**
Jackson, Clark, Gregory
Jackson, Diana, M.
Jackson, Hannah, Nicole
Jackson, Jason, R.
Jackson, Patricia, A.
Jacobs, Tyson,
Jacobson, Ginny, L
Jacobson, Joseph, M.
Jacobson, Paul, J.
James, Landri, Jorlen
James, Lisa, Renee
Jauregui-Perez, Lucille, Louise
Jennings, Ethan, Storm
Jensen, Rachelle, Jay
Jessepe, Carol, Jean
Jessepe, Julian, Paul
Jessepe, Rica, Kenee
Jim, John, Michael
Jim, Thomas, R., Jr.
Johnson, Ashley, Lynn
Johnson, Brian, James
Johnson, Damian, L.
Johnson, Holly, A.
Johnson, John, Henry
Johnson, Katie, Elizabeth
Johnson, Paul, Gene
Johnson, Terri, Dawn
Johnson-Malone, Josiah, Emmanuel
Jones, Abigail, Jo
Jones, Burton, S. III
Jones, Jamal, Antwan
Jones, Keith, R.
Juarez, Bennie, Michael
Juarez, Rhiannon, Lee

-----**K**
Kabance, Gregory, J.
Kabance, Matthew, Dean
Kabance- Muniz, Angelo, Luis
Keesis, Patricia, Lucille
Keilman, Crystle, A.
Kelly, Steven, Thomas, Jr.
Kievitt, Kathleen,
Kitchens, Michael, Wayne
Kitchkommie, Naomi, Ruth
Kitterman, Jesse, Ray
Knight, Latisha, Rose
Knoxсах, Christopher, Dean
Knoxсах, Colleen, Marie
Knoxсах, Leonard, Allen
Korslin, Cassandra, May
Kreipe, Zoa, Louraine
Kwinn, Cheryl, Marie

-----**L**
Labranch, Amber, Dawn
Laclair, Brandon, Michael
LaClair # 163002, Jon, Paul
Lake, Betty, A.
Lake, Brittany, E.
Lake, Jirale, L.
Lake, Kevin, Michael
Lange, Tressa, Ann
Latka, Allyson, K.
Lavier, Jessica, L., #170822103
Lavier, Mary, Malissa
Leach, Jan, Marie
Leach, Monika, Marie
Leclere, Jalen, Charles
LeClere, Timothy, Leo
Leclere, Zachrey, Dwayne
Letze, Megan, Leann
Levier, Aiyana, Rose
Levier, Joseph, Marcus
Lewis, Andy, Nolan
Lewis, David, Ray
Lewis, James, Allen
Lewis, Jamie, Leigh
Lewis, Jody, L.

Lewis, Naomi, Renee
Lewis, Patricia, Lynn
Lewis, Sherry, Ann
Lopez, Sharlene,
Lussier, Jalen, Duane
Lussier, James, Brandon
Lussier, Jared, Bud
Lussier, Jarvis, Frank
Lussier, Joseph, Dennis
Lyons, Mary, M.

-----**M**
Mahkuk, Juan, Alfredo
Mahkuk, Latosha, Lorelei
Mahkuk, Vickie, May
Mandeville, Glenn, Andrew
Marlow, Steven, Wayne
Marshno, Teresa,
Martin, David, Michael
Martin, Derek, Allen
Martinez, Kendra, L.
Masquat, Devin, Rae
Masquat, Elliot, Lee
Masqua-Young, Calvin, Morris
Matchie, Lydia, Jean
Matchie, Nigel, Levi
Matchie, Samira, Leigh
Mathewson, Jonathan, Bernard

May, Anthony, Orlando
Maybee #B17416, George, A.
Mcclure, Brenda, Ann
Mccracken, Benjamin, Ray
McDonald, Concepcion, Angela
McDonald, Steve, Alan
Mcgee, Heather, Michelle
McKinney, Amira, O.
Mckinney, Mikaelyn, R.
Mckinney, Sharol, J.
Mcmullen, Angela, Ann
Meely, Ellen, Faye
Meely, Freeman, A., Jr.
Mesa, Simon, David
Messner, Jerome, Howard, Jr.
Messner, Roger, E. Sr.
Michaels, Shawn, W.
Miller, Duane, Robert
Miller, Larry, Michael
Miller, Patrick, Wayne
Miller, Scott, J.
Milliron, Albert, P.
Milliron, Thomas, E.
Milton, Bret, William
Mitchell, Christina, A.
Mitchell, Gerald, Lee, Jr.
Moe, Robert, Guy
Molina, Lori, Lynne
Molina, Nicole, Shale
Monroe, Dillon, James
Monroe, Georgia, Lynn
Monroe, Kelly, Ann
Moore, Aaron, Wayne, Jr.
Moore, Dylan, Wayne
Moore, Kari, Michelle
Morales, Marissa, Kershryn
Moreno, Alexandria, Renee
Morris, Jane, Lesley
Morris, Ryan, Casey
Mundell, Christopher, Luis
Mundell, Teressa, Marie
Muniz, Neosha, Ruth
Murdock, Geryan, Joseph
Murphy, Lisha, Nicole
Mzhickteno, Charles, Eldon
Mzhickteno, Mark, Aaron
Mzhickteno, Tanya, Lee

-----**N**
Nanez, Donica, Lynn
Nemeth-Heard, Christa, M.
Nephew, Lisa, Marie
Nephew, Sherie, Lynn
Nickel, Linda, Lee
Norwood, Melinda, Sue
Novelo, Felicia, Wilma
Nozhackum Potts, Faith, Danielle

-----**O**
Olinger, Dayton, Lee
Orcutt, James, Lee Happy
Orcutt, Naomi, Miriam
Ortiz, Cody, D.
Ortiz, Dominic, R.
Ortiz, Sara, M.

-----**P**
Padilla, Athena, Caitlyn-Ione
Pahmahmie, Timothy, Daniel
Palmberg, Regina, Mae
Paniagua-Houston, Lindsey, Rae
Parkinson, Helen, M.
Pedroja, Terri, Jean
Perdue, Rachel, Leigh
Perrote, Elijah, M.
Perrote, Jedediah, Jeremiah
Perrote, Wallace, Willis

Perry, Charles, H.
Phillips, Francis, Peter
Pidgeon, Shado, Rose
Pierce, Deann, Charlee
Pompa, Channing, A.
Pope, Shain, Tyler
Postoak, David, E.
Postoak, Denise, M.
Potts, Joseph, Edwin
Potts, Lorelei, Renee

-----**Q**
Quackenbush, Ira, James
Quinn, Judy, May
Quiring-Grier, Zachary, Joseph

-----**R**
Rader, Jeremy, C.
Ramirez, Jonathan, Wayne
Razo, Jesse, Louis
Reese, James, Matthew
Reese, Jennifer, E.
Reese, Rehanna, James
Reyes, Hector, Paul
Rice, Harlie, Rose
Rice, Jane, Loree
Rice, Joseph, Zowi
Rice, Sherwin, Michael
Rice, William, A.
Rickert, Adam, Michael
Ritchie, Rachel, Ann
Roberts, BreAnna, M.
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
Romesburg, Neko, Sioux
Roppolo, Angel, Ann
Rosario, Lisa, Ann
Rose, Doris Valerie, Wynn
Rupnicki, Jessica, Renee
Rupnicki, Mamie, Seneace
Rupnicki, Peter, Paul
Rupnicki, Timothy, Joseph

-----**S**
Sato, Robert,
Scates, Andrea, Leigh
Schaaf, Randall, Lee
Scheurle, Bradley, J.
Scheurle, Christine, M.
Schimmer, Gail, Lav
Schneiderwendt, Michael, A.
Seymour, Carolyn, Ann
Seymour, Dathan, Thomas
Dwayne
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
Shobney, Russell, Joe
Shopteese, Clayton, Michael
Shopteese, Dakota,
Shopteese, James, F.
Shopteese, Mariah, Delilah
Shopteese, Ryan, M.
Shopteese, Ty, James
Shoptese, Allison, Michal
Sigo, Timothy, Shane
Simms Belaire, Jeffrey
Simon, Harold, L., Jr.
Sims, Jaimie, Lynne
Smith, James, F., Jr.
Snoddy, Gregory, Alan
Snowball, Patsy, I.
Sockey, Justina, Elise
Spencer, Peter, Edward
St Clair, Florence,
Starkey, Charley, T.
Stauffacher, David, R.
Steele, Mary, J.
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, Jason, Michael
Thomas-Baird, Logan, Elizabeth
Tinajero, Nue, R.
Tinoco, Michelle, M.
Todd, Rebecca, Lynn
Tomlinson, Melosa,
Torain, Yolanda, Marie
Torres, Alicia, Rose
Torres, Carlos,
Torres, Jennifer, Leann
Trantow, Brenda, Sue
Tucker, Franklin, R.
Tuckwin, Marcus, E.
Turner, Trevor, Nelson
Turney, David, Elijah
Turney, Margaret, Ruth
Tuter, Alexandria, Jayde
Tye, Zabrina, Marie

-----**U**
Ulloa, Jessica, Renee
Uselton, Austin, Tyler

-----**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
Violett, Nehemiah, Stephen

-----**W**
Wabaunsee, Jolene, Renae
Wabaunsee, Nicole,
Wabaunsee, Ricky, L.
Wabnum, Katelyn, L.
Wadley, Delvin, Wade
Wahquahboshkuk, Leigh, Ann
Wahquahboshkuk, Sirena, Rose
Wahquahboshkuk-Kramer, Chase, Christine
Wahquahboshkuk-Kramer, Hunter, Douglas
Wahwassuck, Desiree, Louise
Wahwassuck, Draven, M. L.
Wahwassuck, Ishara, Danielle
Wahwassuck, Mary, Ann
Wahwassuck, Sunny, Aquila
Wahweotten, Karie, Deann
Wahweotten, Logan, O'Bryan
Walker, Clint, Wallace
Walrod, Jon, Karl
Walrod, Peter, Thomas
Walrod, Scott, Eric, #11788010
Wamego, Nathaniel, Zeke
Wamego, Orville, Patrick
Wamego, Tyler, James
Wamego, Zuley, Marie
Ware, Kateri, Ann
Warledo, Amber, Nicole
Warren, Rachel, Marie
Warrington, Jancita, C.
Watson, Jamie, Leigh
Watters, Mary, Frances
Waupoose, Dakota, Wayne
Wayne, Chazray, Renae
Miranda
White, Israel, J.
White, Jolynn, M.
White, Tina, Rose
White Eagle, Sarah, L.
Wilder, Nicholas, C.
Williams, Christopher, Scott
Williams, James, David
Williams, Jayden, J. L.
Williams, Johnny, Lee
Williams, Jolie, K.
Williams, Nish-Pok-Qwet,
Wilson, Vicki, L.
Wilson, Zachary, Taylor
Wise, Kristi, Rene
Wishteyah, Anthony, S.
Wishteyah, Christine, Sophia
Wishteyah, Michael, C.j.
Wishteyah, Norman, Leroy Jr.
Wood, Jennifer, Lynn
Wood, Scott, Allen
Wooley, Christopher, Lowell
Wright, Michele, Anne

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Yazzie, Stephanie, Alexis
Yellowhair, Major, Neal
Young, Agownee, William
Young, Dawn, D.
Young, Nebowsekwe, R.
Young, Siyo, Eyangandoksekwe

Coates Wins Two Gold Medals at World Police and Fire Games

Bruce Coates, 53, Lieutenant-Paramedic for the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department, won two gold medals in bodybuilding at the Winnipeg World Police and Fire Games, held July 29–August 6, 2023, in Winnipeg, Canada.

The World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) are designed as an Olympic-style sporting event to honor and celebrate public safety officers from around the world and have been held biennially since 1985. This year, more than 8,500 athletes from over 50 countries competed in 60 unique sports, ranging from table tennis to triathlons.

Coates, who previously won the gold medal for the “Toughest Competitor Alive” combined-sport category at the Fairfax WPFG in 2015, entered two bodybuilding competitions this year. In both Men’s Bodybuilding and Men’s Physique, Coates placed first and received gold medals.

Bodybuilding is a competition that emphasizes size and mass, while Physique is concerned with achieving an ideal overall appearance.

“It’s like 4-H for humans,” Coates joked, referring to livestock judging.

Coates plans to enter the Toughest Competitor Alive category again at the 2025 WPFG in Birmingham, Alabama, and he has aspirations to become a professional bodybuilder.

The Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department (PTFD) partially funded Coates’ travel for the competition this year, as they did for the 2015 Fairfax Games. EMS Director/Fire Chief Doug Schreiner noted that Coates had been training hard for the event and commended him for his work with the PTFD.

“Bruce is a great employee, a good Lieutenant, and a highly capable



PBP Tribal Fire, Lieutenant-Paramedic Bruce Coates displays the two gold medals he won at the Winnipeg World Police and Fire Games, July 29–August 6, 2023, in Winnipeg, Canada. Coats took gold in both the Men’s Bodybuilding and Men’s Physique categories.

Paramedic who has served the Nation since 2011,” Chief Schreiner said. “He is dedicated to both the department and the [Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation].”

The PTFD is a 24-hour service that provides emergency medical care, rescue, and fire suppression. It is staffed by 21 full-time firefighters, EMTs and paramedics who are housed in a state-of-the-art fire station located at 15482 K Road on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBP) Common Land near Mayetta. The PTFD has been in operation for over 40 years and serves the PBP and surrounding communities.

For more information about the PTFD go to www.pbpindiantribe.com/fire

Elderberries Represent Tribe at National Tournament

- Elderberries Continued from page 1

same commendable ranking in the Doubles 65-69 age bracket.

These achievements were a source of immense pride for Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, as the Tribal Elders demonstrated their dedication and skill in the sporting arena. “Our elders went in thinking that we would be some of the only tribal elders in our sport. We were humbled to find that there was about 1/3 of the participants who were native, mostly from New Mexico,” shared LeClere.

Beyond their competitive success, Team Elderberries also represented the Tribe in other activities. They took part in the National Senior Games Parade of Athletes, symbolizing their Prairie Band heritage, and enjoyed exploring Pittsburgh’s rich history and iconic landmarks.

Team Elderberries’ journey began in the summer of 2022 when a group of fifteen Prairie Band Elders started playing floor shuffleboard at the Fire Keepers Elder Center. Their passion for the game led to

the creation of Team Elderberries, which went on to win medals at the Kansas Senior Games. The team’s dedication and achievements garnered support and fundraising efforts, enabling them to participate in the prestigious National Senior Games.

As the tournament unfolded, Team Elderberries gained valuable experiences and made lasting memories. “I found the sport of shuffleboard much more complex and learned a lot while I was there supporting our elders,” said Anthony.

Elder Center Director Dawn Matchie-Harjo, said, “The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is immensely proud of Team Elderberries’ accomplishments and their representation of the tribe on a national stage. The Elders’ determination, camaraderie, and sportsmanship have set an inspiring example for the entire community, reminding everyone that age is no barrier to achieving greatness and making cherished memories.”



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- Tribal Leadership Development Program
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jnioce@pbpgaming.com
or.jobs.prairieband.com

Please contact:
Jeremy Nioce
Tribal Development Program Coordinator

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



Peter Engels, Jr.,

Peter Joseph Engels, Jr., age 54, of Wabeno passed away at home while under the care of Compassus Hospice with his family by his side.

He was born January 29, 1969, to Peter J. Sr. and Mildred (Whitefish) Engels in Rhinelander.

He was employed with the Potawatomi Carter Casino as a grounds keeper for several years.

Peter enjoyed hunting and fishing as he got older in his free time.

He really enjoyed spending most of his time with his two girls, Sadie and Destiny. Overall, his family was of utmost importance to him.

He is survived by his children, Sadie, Destiny and Dorian Engels, father, Peter J. Engels Sr., Sisters, Tina (Thomas) Leonard, Denise Huettl, Sylvia (Harold) Moss, Debbie (Doug) Danielson, Florence St. Clair, Pam Daniels, Susie Wakeman, brothers, David Engels, Dean (Eunice White) Whitefish as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Peter was preceded in death by his mother, Mildred, brothers, Arlen and Orville Wamego, sister, Annette Whitefish, and nephew Phillip Wamego.

Burial was on August 17, 2023 at the Potawatomi Tribal Cemetery in Blackwell.

Reprinted courtesy of Weber-Hill & Packard Funeral Home



Delmar Fairchild

Delmar Thomas Fairchild, age 66, of Manhattan, KS, died August 22, 2023, at St. Luke's Hospice in Kansas City, Missouri.

He was born January 7, 1957, in Manhattan, the son of Reece and Phyllis Delores (Lewis) Fairchild.

He worked for the City of Manhattan in Public

Works from 1974 until his retirement in 2009.

He was talented with his hands, resourceful and had a relentless work ethic. Delmar also had an ornery side that made gatherings and holidays fun – especially the 4th of July

Survivors include his companion of 24 years Juli Welliver of the home; two children: Damon Fairchild and his wife Raven and Danielle Fairchild all of Manhattan; Juli's three sons: Zachary Tilton of Manhattan, Chad Tilton and his wife Ashley of Wamego, and Skyler Tilton of Colorado Springs, CO; three siblings: Donna Hensley of Mayetta, KS, Delores Mulanax of Mayetta, KS, and Denise Fairchild of Manhattan; six grandchildren: Avery Torrey (Nicole), Reece, Jude and Zane Fairchild, Jaxen and Stella Rose Tilton.

Delmar was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers: Douglas and Dusti Fairchild.

He was buried on August 31st, at Sunrise Cemetery, Manhattan.

Reprinted courtesy of Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Chapel



Merle Jessepe

Merle Patrick "Wapsah" Jessepe, 61, of Netawaka, Kansas, passed away on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at his sister's home in Hoyt, Kansas.

He was born on September 20, 1961 in Horton, Kansas the son of Nelson and Mary Shipshee Jessepe. Merle worked as a printer for Hallmark cards, in culinary arts, as a carpenter and as a cook for the Kickapoo Senior Citizens.

He married Lori Wabnum in Horton, Kansas. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe.

Survivors include his wife, Lori Wabnum Jessepe; two sons, Stryder Keo and Sobie Banks; three daughters, Taylor Keo, Lea Mae Jessepe and Jade Jessepe; two sisters, Gaynell Jessepe and Gilreath Aitkens; four brothers, Louie Aitkens, Lyman Shipshee, Kevin Aitkens and Robert Jessepe and numerous grandchildren.

Burial was June 29, 2023 at the Mason Cemetery on the Kickapoo Reservation.

Reprinted courtesy of Dishon Maple Chaney Mortuary



Sylvia Johnson

Sylvia Jean Johnson, Meeks-Ah-Quah, 62, of Topeka, passed away on Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at her sister's home in Oskaloosa.

She was born July 27, 1960 in Topeka, the daughter of Orville Rice, Jr. and Betty Mahkuk Rice. She graduated from Seaman High School in 1978.

Sylvia had worked for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe since 2002.

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

Sylvia married Jay M. Johnson on August 17, 2002 at Lake Shawnee in Topeka. He survives, of the home.

She was preceded in death by her father, Orville Rice, Jr., and two brothers, Bradley Orville Rice and Kevin Hicks Rice.

Other survivors include a step-daughter, Autumn Johnson, two brothers, Chris Rice, Nedrow, NY and Calvin Masqua, two sisters, Shirley Mitchell (Tom), Oskaloosa and Jeanette Little Sun, Hoyt, two grandchildren, Brody and Blaine Weyand, and nieces and nephews.

Burial was July 30th in the Mahkuk Cemetery.

Reprinted courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home



James Jurey

James L. "Pack-Chaa-bee" Jurey was born on November 10, 1965, in Topeka, Kansas to parents Lucy Jackson and Homer Jurey, maternal grandparents Lorraine Alexander and Robert Jackson, paternal grandparents were Angeline Jessepe and William Jurey who raised Jimmy. They proceeded him in death as well as his sister Lisa Jurey.

He was a proud member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation as well as the Choctaw Nation. He was in the Bear Clan and of the Tribal Drum religion. James passed away on June 9th, 2023, in Mayetta, Kansas. He attended Wichita High School and graduated from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas where he received his degree in social work. James worked

at the Prairie Band casino and was a counselor for people with addictions.

James had a passion for New Age music, he loved video games and learning the latest computer technology.

A burial will be held at the Dance Ground cemetery at a future date.

Reprinted courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home



Martin Knoxsah

Martin "Mnee-kaw" Knoxsah, 64, of Topeka, KS, passed away December 23, 2022.

He was born January 9, 1958 in Holton, KS, the son of Henry and Leona (Mzhickteno) Knoxsah.

Martin was a member of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Survivors include 2 sons, Leonard A. Knoxsah of AZ and David Knoxsah of NY; 3 daughters, Leona Knoxsah of TX, Alexa Knoxsah of NY and Lisa Knoxsah of NY; sisters, Deena Desjarlait of Mayetta, KS and Marty Serl of Topeka, KS; 2 brothers, Clifford Knoxsah and Henry Knoxsah both of Topeka, KS and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Leona Knoxsah; daughter, Larosa Knoxsah; infant son, David Knoxsah; 2 sisters, Aurora Knoxsah and Vernona "Vernie" Lewis and 3 brothers, James, David and Virgil Knoxsah.

Burial was May 20, 2023 at Kennekuk Cemetery on the Kickapoo Reservation.



Margaret Lockman

Margaret B. Lockman, Kee-wad-no-qweh, affectionately known as Marge, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family after a short battle with a glioblastoma on May 19, 2023, in her hometown of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin.

Marge was born on March 15, 1954, in Wisconsin Rapids to Roy Sr. and Nellie (Young) Arndt. She was an enrolled tribal member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Marge dedicated 32 years of her life working in

the Paperboard Products Division of Consolidated Papers Inc. in Wisconsin Rapids, where she built a strong work ethic and developed lasting friendships with her colleagues.

Marge married Randy Lockman on May 5, 1979 and together they welcomed three children: Sarah, Randy, and Michael. The marriage later ended in divorce.

Marge's number one love in life, was her grandchildren. She lived for them, always making an effort to be present in their lives and share special moments with them.

Marge's love for her family extended beyond her grandchildren, as she cherished her relationships with her siblings, nieces, and nephews.

Marge is survived by her son, Randy (Miranda) Lockman Jr. of Wisconsin Rapids; daughter, Sarah Lockman (Anson White Eagle) of Wisconsin Rapids; grandchildren: Avery, Allius, Aric, Aidan, Christiana, Caden, Trevor, Sandra, and Isabelle; siblings: Joanne Arndt of Wisconsin Rapids, Laurie (Duke) Ross of Bancroft, Roy (Rosann) Arndt Jr. of Wisconsin Rapids, and Lawrence (Julie) Arndt of Nekoosa; brother-in-law, Victor Bertotto of Wisconsin Rapids; sister-in-law, Barbara Arndt of Nekoosa; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Marge will be missed by her cherished dog Kooper who was at her side through the very end, just as he was for her son Michael.

She is preceded in death by her parents; son, Michael Lockman; sisters: Linda Bertotto and Ruth Ann Arndt; brother, Harlan "Butch" Arndt; sister in law Rose Porter; niece, Shelly Keith; and nephew, Mark Hesso.

Burial was on May 24, 2023 at Forest Hill Cemetery.

Reprinted courtesy of Herman-Taylor Funeral Home



Mathew Persinger

Mathew Dillon Persinger ("Pah-Nah"), 35, of Topeka passed away on June 2nd, 2023. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomie Indian Tribe.

Matt was born on

Kambottek

June 27th, 1987, in Topeka, Kansas to Marshall Persinger and Sarah Persinger. They both survive. He is also survived by his half-sister, Cassandra Persinger, his wife, Morgan Lothert and many aunts, uncles and cousins. He is preceded in death by all 3 sets of grandparents.

Mathew attended Shawnee Heights schools. When Matt was 14, he purchased professional lighting equipment and for several years he ran lights for many local metal bands. In his junior year, he took his GED and passed with one of the highest scores in the state of Kansas. Matt went on to work in the field of I.T. as a Computer Technician and Network Engineer.

On October 29th, 2021, he married his longtime girlfriend, Morgan Lothert. Mathew was intelligent, charming and known for his big smile. He had a curious nature and from a very young age his favorite activity was taking apart electronics to see how they worked. Then he moved on to fixing them. His first successful fix was a broken toaster his grandma bought him at a garage sale at age 4. When he got a little older, Matt spent countless hours reading, researching, and learning about anything and everything. He loved knowledge and debates but hated conflict. Matt lived life to the fullest and just wanted everyone to be happy.

He will be dearly missed by his wife, family, and friends.

Burial was June 9, 2023 in the MaryAnn Matchie Cemetery west of Mayetta.

Reprinted courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home

Michael Edward Shupe
4/21/1957 - 7/20/2023



Timothy Ray Tracy, 52, passed away at his home in Topeka, Kansas on Monday, July 24, 2023. A proud member of the Potawatomie Nation,

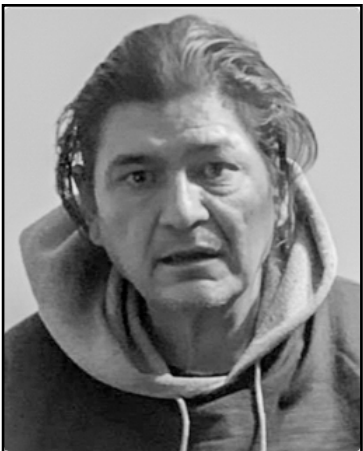
Timothy (Tim) was born April 14, 1971 in Hiawatha, Kansas, the son of Jere Tracy and Bonnie (Tracy) Maschler. Tim lived with his grandmother, Mervene Tracy in White Cloud, Kansas before coming to live with Bonnie Maschler in Lincoln, Nebraska. Tim was born with Prune Belly Syndrome; a rare disease he battled with his entire life. Having endured nearly 60 surgeries in his lifetime, a kidney transplant, chronic pain, multiple years of dialysis, and later in life, cancer that was currently in remission. He is described by those who knew him as “the strongest man they have ever known”. He was a talented video creator and artist who had an obsession with hats, and has quite the collection.

Tim’s greatest love was his dogs. Having owned, loved and cared for multiple dogs in his lifetime. In his final years, Tim came to find an even greater love in Dellene Williamson. It was this love that brought Tim to peace.

Tim is survived by his girlfriend Dellene Williamson, Topeka, KS; his precious pups, Susie and Frank; his father Jere Tracy of White Cloud, KS; siblings Kari Tyree (Dave Churnesky) of Lake Hubbard, MI, Traci Wykert of Kansas City, MO, DeAnn Cluck of St. Joe, MO, Julie Bayless (Shaun Bayless) of Lake Havasu City, AZ, Jason Vietz (Brandee Vietz) of Liberty, MO and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by mother Bonnie (Tracy) Maschler and sister Kelli Wykert.

Reprinted courtesy of Midwest Cremation



Edmund Varela Jr. age 58, passed away Saturday, February 11, 2023. Loving brother of Margaret, Ernest and the late Jesse. Kind uncle of many nieces and nephews. Dear nephew of many aunts and uncles. Preceded in death by parent: Geneva M. (nee Levier) Varela.

Reprinted courtesy of MKD Funeral Homes



Jennie Wicker

Mrs. Jennie Whitepigeon Rickert Wicker, aged 91, peacefully fell asleep in Jesus and eternal rest at home on Sunday, July 9, 2023 after a courageous fight with cancer. She was preceded in death by her parents, Levi and Ellen Whitepigeon; husbands, James C. Rickert and Carl E. Wicker; sisters, Delores Whitepigeon, Lorraine Bessemer, Vivian Whitepigeon, and Norma Tolsma; brothers, Levi Whitepigeon, Jr. and James Whitepigeon; sons, Garrett J. Rickert and Dennis J. Rickert; son-in-law, Michael Bloom; granddaughter, Caitlyn Elizabeth Bloom; grandson, Chad Michael Rickert; and great-grandson, Michael Levi Rickert.

A devoted daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt, Jennie was a member of the Apostolic Faith Church, a woman who lived her faith the vast majority of her life.

Jennie was a proud tribal citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, located in Mayetta, Kansas.

Surviving are her children, Dr. Jessica Rickert (William Strait), James L. Rickert, Levi (Sheri) Rickert, Deborah Bloom and Nancy (David) Krogmann; 14 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters, Marlene Wade, Ruth (Robert) Carlton, and Yvonne Whitepigeon; several nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to daughters Deborah and Nancy who provided her with loving personal care for the last years of her life. The family would also like to thank the staff of Faith Hospice for their dedicated service and care provided.

Burial was held at Salem Township Cemetery in Grand Rapids Michigan on July 14, 2023.

Charitable Contributions
2nd Quarter Recipient List
Total Donated \$91,000

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- Arthritis Foundation
- Be Filled of South Topeka
- ECKAN
- Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy
- KU Endowment & KU School of Journalism
- Let’s Help
- MANA de Topeka
- Mayetta Pioneer Days
- Association
- Paxico & Beyond Community & Economic Development
- Paxico Blues Festival
- Rossville Community Service
- Rossville High School Alumni Scholarship Foundation
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- TFI Family Service
- The Project 2 Restore
- Three Rivers

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Elder Center and Tribal Victim Services

cordially invite you to...

WHERE ART AND LOVE COLLIDE GALA

PBPN Elder Center @ 5:00 pm Thursday, October 19, 2023

“CELEBRATING THE LIVES OF ELDERS THROUGH THE ART OF THE YOUTH”

– More information to follow –

The Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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Etkwagek/Fall Time 2023 Edition Deadline November 6, 2023

Potawatomi Citizens Gather for Annual Potawatomi Gathering 2023 at Pine Creek Indian Reservation

The Pine Creek Indian Reservation in southwest Michigan became a hub of cultural celebration as over 2,000 Potawatomi citizens representing 11 Potawatomi tribal nations convened for the much-anticipated Potawatomi Gathering 2023. The event, hosted by the Nottawasseppe Huron Band of the Potawatomi, took place near Battle Creek and the Tribe’s renowned Firekeepers Casino Hotel.

The Potawatomi Gathering kicked off its week-long festivities with engaging and informative language workshops, aimed at preserving and promoting the Potawatomi language. As the week progressed, Potawatomi leaders from various tribal nations gathered on Thursday to engage in discussions about common issues affecting their communities. The highlight of the gathering was the Potawatomi Economic Summit held on Friday, where leaders shared insights into the diverse strategies employed by each tribe to enhance their tribal business enterprises.

The inception of the Potawatomi Gathering dates back to the summer of 1994 when the Wasauksing First Nation established the event with the aim of revitalizing the Potawatomi culture, language, and identity. Since then, the gathering has grown in significance, with this year marking the fourth occasion where the Nottawasseppe Huron Band hosted the annual event.

A slight disruption due to rainy weather on Friday led to the relocation of the planned powwow from the Pine Creek Indian Reservation’s powwow grounds to the grandeur of the Firekeepers Casino Hotel. Despite the change in location, more than 800 attendees were treated to a spectacular showcase of Potawatomi heritage, featuring more than five drum groups and numerous dancers adorned in vibrant traditional regalia.

The powwow also saw the participation of Potawatomi Tribal



Jacob “Tug” Wamego (left) and Gubba Hale (right) take a break between performances with Little Soldier at the powwow during the Gathering.



PBPB members Pannoquah Wahwassuck, Tara Mitechell and Nagos Hale gather and share a happy moment while waiting for the Grand Entry at the Firekeepers Casino Hotel.

Honor Guards, comprised of veterans from various parts of the country.

Under the clear blue skies with temperatures hovering in the low 80s the following day, the powwow resonated with the warm welcome extended by Nottawasseppe Band of the Potwatomi Chairman, Jaime Stuck. Expressing his gratitude, Chairman Stuck welcomed the Potawatomi Tribal Nations to his Tribe’s ancestral lands, fostering a sense of unity and belonging among the attendees.

Looking forward, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi in Dowagiac, Michigan, will take on the responsibility of

hosting the Potawatomi Gathering in 2024, promising yet another enriching cultural experience for the participants.

As the gathering embraced the cultural diversity and talents within the Potawatomi community, the 2023 Miss Potawatomi contest showcased contestants from across the nation. The crowned winner, Pannoquah Wahwassuck from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, was celebrated for her representation of the Potawatomi heritage and values.

Wahwassuck said, “Each of the contestants did great, it was a good

experience in preparing and then competing. I am very thankful for the ones who have helped and support me in this. I think the next year will be a great opportunity to learn more and share with others what I learn. I just want to encourage all girls and help them believe that you can do whatever you put your mind to. I am very grateful to be Miss Potawatomi 2023-2024.”

Her parents, Raphael and Adele Wahwassuck, said, “We are very, very proud of Panno. She is highly dedicated to her studies, sports, dancing, and her ability to learn our language. We are thankful for all our family and community’s support and encouragement.” They went on to say, “We’re looking forward to seeing her grow throughout the year. For her to be selected as Miss Potawatomi and to represent the Bodewadmi Confederacy, It’s a once in a lifetime experience!”

The celebration extended beyond traditional practices, with the 2023 Art Gala displaying an array of artistic talent. Among the recognized participants, Tara Mitchell emerged as the recipient of the prestigious “Best of Show” award.

The event showcased various artistic mediums, including Textile/Appliqué, where Dawn Leclere claimed the first position, and Beadwork, where Tara Mitchell secured first and Cindy Leclere took second.

In the realm of sports, the Potawatomi Gathering Basketball Tournament saw the Prairie Band securing the third position, adding a touch of friendly competition to the cultural festivities.

The Potawatomi Gathering 2023 left an indelible mark on both participants and observers alike, reinforcing the strength and unity of the Potawatomi tribal nations as they continue to preserve and celebrate their rich heritage.



Left to right: Lavera “Babe” Bell, Anita Torrez, Vicki Wahquahboshkuk and Arlene Ling view and vote on artwork during the Art Gala held during the Gathering. PBPB members took several awards from the Gala. Tara Mitchell took “Best of Show” and first place in Beadwork. Dawn Leclere claimed first in Textile/Appliqué, and Cindy Leclere took second in Beadwork.



Pannoquah Wahwassuck, left, attends her first Grand Entry as Miss Potawatomi 2023 with Eviana Evans, together with We-Ta-Se Princess, right.