



Prairie Band Potawatomi News

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

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Etkwagek 2023

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Etkwagek
"Fall time
of the year"

This paper contains the activities and happenings that took place during the Fall time of 2023: October, November December

Mayetta Pioneer Days Celebrates Community, Honors PBPN Elder Queen

The town of Mayetta, Kansas, came alive on a beautiful fall day for the 30th annual Mayetta Pioneer Days. This beloved event, celebrated on Saturday, October 7, 2023, was a testament to the community spirit area residents have cherished for generations. The Mayetta Pioneer Days planning committee played a pivotal role in orchestrating this day of festivities, uniting townspeople and visitors from near and far.

One of the highlights of the event was the participation of the Prairie Band Potawatomi (PBPN) members, who added a special touch to the celebration. The We-Ta-Se Post 410 Color Guard led the parade bearing the U.S. Flag, the flag of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, the Eagle Staff of the Nation and the POW/MIA flag honoring the fallen and missing.

The day's royalty included Helen Sumner, who was honored as the Mayetta Pioneer Day PBPN Elder Queen. A member of the Nation, Sumner was born and raised on the Reservation,



Helen Sumner, PBPN Tribal Member waves to the crowd during the Mayetta Pioneer Days parade. She was named PBPN Elder Queen for the event.



We-Ta-Se Post 410 Color Guard leads the annual Mayetta Pioneer Days Parade with the U.S. Flag carried by Steve Rhodd, the Eagle Staff of the Nation carried by Zeke Rupnick, the flag of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation carried by Chuck Jacobson, the POW/MIA flag honoring the fallen and missing carried by Richard Adame, and followed by Chuck Wahweotten, post commander.

the daughter of the late Cleve and Josephine Rice Sumner. Helen, along with her late husband, Don Cornelius, has two sons, Charles (Chuck) and David Cornelius, and one daughter, Carrie Cornelius. The family holds a special connection to their maternal grandmother, Katherine Rice Jessepe, who bestowed upon them their PBPN and Kickapoo Nishnabe names.

Helen's educational journey was marked by dedication, attending schools like Neive Grade Center on the Reservation, Delia Grade School, Haskell Institute in Lawrence, and Bethany Hospital School of Nursing, where she graduated in 1962. She continued her pursuit of knowledge at Washburn University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in 1982.

Her education led to a successful professional career, with employment at notable institutions such as the United States Public Health Service, Haskell Health Center in Lawrence, Bemidji U.S.P.H.S Division of Indian Health Service Area Office, Red Lake Indian Health Service Hospital in Minnesota, and the

- Continues: See "Parade" on page 3

Honoring Community Pillars: PBPN Elders Recognized for Outstanding Contributions

In a heartfelt ceremony held on October 24, 2023 at the Fire Keepers Elder Center, the Prairie Band Potawatomi community came together to honor two esteemed individuals, Vicki Wahquahboshkuk and Billy Matchie, as the Female and Male Elders of the Year, respectively. The event, organized under the initiative "Honor the Elder," seeks to celebrate and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of community members who go above and beyond in preserving cultural heritage and serving the Tribe.

Dawn Matchie-Harjo, Fire Keepers Elder Center Manager,



Vicki Wahquahboshkuk (left) and Billy Matchie (right) PBPN Elders of the Year for 2023, take a moment to pose for a photo during the event celebrating them for their contributions to the community.

said, "The elders choose their peers to receive this award each year and you can see the love and respect the put into their choices." She added,

"Vickie and Billy are both people who are near and dear to my heart and I know we are all made better people for having them in our lives."

The roots of "Honor the Elder" can be traced back to the initiative's founder, Joy Yoshida, the former Caregiver Coordinator and Nona Wahweotten, the center's previous Director, as they recognized the need to celebrate individuals and presented the idea to the Senior Advisory Committee. The result was a heartfelt initiative that became an annual event recognizing outstanding community members who make a significant impact on those around them.

- Continues: See "Elders" on page 2

Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick: Report to the Nation



Dear Tribal Members,

This past quarter I hoped there would be more to report on the different activities and initiatives we have going, but that was not the case. While we had a very good gathering, I hoped that the bills we have filed in Congress would begin to move and testimony would be given. Unfortunately, that is not going to happen in the foreseeable future. Before I get into that, I'll briefly discuss the Gathering.

During the Tribal Leaders portion of the conference, the host tribe presented and proposed the Potawatomi Articles of Confederation. All bands present voted to support the initiative and while the document itself was

not endorsed, due to changes in language, each agreed on the concept to move this forward and to develop the Potawatomi Confederacy.

Some may ask how this will benefit the Nation and what does it really do?

As a Confederacy, there is power in numbers. The preamble states that the organization promotes each nation's general welfare, conserves our land and exercises our right to self-government. When we look at each nation's general welfare, I think back to a recent case that all nations signed on to, Brackeen. Tribes across the Nation signed the amicus which says a lot but as a confederacy, with a total population of more than 50,000 members, that sends a powerful message.

Not only would we want the confederacy to support major cases in the courts, but also support each band's initiatives or bills working through Congress. For years we have been conducting the gathering and since I have been elected there have always been discussion on ways, we, the Potawatomi People should work together. I think this is an exciting first step and I am looking forward to working with the other bands to get this started.

I had really hoped we would have testified on the bills we have in Congress by now but as many know, Congress is in disarray. Earlier in the

year, after meeting with members, we were given a tentative timeline on possible hearings and were assured we would be there this September.

Congress took their summer break and upon their return things got chaotic. There was a funding issue to sort out and for an extended period the House was without a Speaker. We are still pushing the Senate to hold hearings, but their focus is funding and the disfunction in the House. I wish I could provide better news, but this is where we are today with no hope of any changes in the near future.

In Illinois, toward the end of the month, I traveled there to participate in the first re-burials since the new law was passed. I do not know if everyone understands the significance of this, but we must remember, these are our relatives, locked away in cabinets and drawers and we must do everything we can to lay them to rest. This includes all items that were with them.

Here in Kansas, we are preparing for the next legislative session. One of our goals is to introduce legislation that would enhance The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Once the lawsuit was filed, we started drafting legislation in anticipation the Supreme Court would overturn ICWA, thankfully that didn't happen, but we need to prepare for the future,

and I know there are cases waiting to challenge the decision and steps we take now will ensure protection of the law, at least on a local level.

On the Reservation, we have started our phase-one road project and next year will be working on phases two and three with the funds we have received from the RAISE grant. Please keep in mind this is a multi-year and multi-phase project with the goal of repairing all paved roads including the housing areas.

The first phase corrected portions of the road needing complete depth replacement, requiring a new base and asphalt. While there are other sections of the roads that will need a new base, they are smaller portions and should last until the next phase where they will be dug out, new base and then milled with a new layer of asphalt. The Council has set aside dollars for the future to cover maintenance and repairs and I hope with continued resealing, we can protect these roads for many years.

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**

Elders Honored During Ceremony at Elder Center

-Elders Continued from page 1

Vicki, currently one of two Community Health Representatives, was lauded for her unwavering dedication to her role. For nearly four years, she has been a lifeline for community members, ensuring they receive necessary medications and transportation to appointments. Vicki's commitment extends beyond her professional duties, as she has opened her home to numerous children over the years, earning her the endearing title of "Grandma" throughout the Reservation.

Accolades poured in from elders and community members alike, emphasizing Vicki's exceptional care for children during more than 20-years at Childcare, her role as a driving force for those in need, and her sense of humor that brings joy to those around her.

Billy, a humble man who prefers the term "old guy" to "elder," was honored as the Male Elder of the Year. Despite his modesty, Billy is a pivotal figure in the elder community, offering well-rounded advice and positive relationships. Described as selfless, Billy spends his time teaching and volunteering, sharing his knowledge of the Potawatomi language without expecting anything in return.

Elders commended Billy for his perpetual smile, kind words, and willingness to share his wisdom. His commitment to teaching the Potawatomi language and serving elder lunches has not gone unnoticed, and the community expressed gratitude for his dedication.

In a poignant ceremony, the Fire Keepers Elder Center staff expressed their gratitude



Friends, family and community members gather at the Fire Keepers Elder Center on October 24, 2023 to celebrate Vicki Wahquahboshkuk and Billy Matchie as PBPN Elders of the Year for 2023. This annual event allows Tribal Elders to choose the recipients of the award honoring the invaluable contributions of community members who go above and beyond in preserving cultural heritage and serving the Tribe.

to Vicki and Billy, emphasizing their roles as role models, teachers, and pillars of the community. The heartfelt sentiments shared by the community underscored the importance of recognizing and celebrating those who embody the spirit of the Prairie Band Potawatomi tribe.

As the event concluded, the community extended a collective "thank you" to Vicki and Billy,

acknowledging their lasting impact on the tribe and the inspiration they provide for future generations.

Matchie-Harjo expressed the love and commitment she and the center's staff have for all the Elders they serve. She said, "These people, our elders, are the reason we come here every day and they are the reason we laugh; we smile and thank the Creator for letting us learn from them and enjoy their company."

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



Dear Tribal Newspaper Readers,
I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As the CEO of our tribal economic development organization, Prairie Band, LLC I am writing to provide you with a quarterly update on our initiatives and address some challenges we have encountered in meeting our performance expectations.

First, I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated team members who work tirelessly to drive economic growth and prosperity within the Prairie Band Potawatomi

Nation. Their unwavering commitment and passion for our mission are instrumental in our progress.

With a sense of responsibility, I must acknowledge our recent performance has not met the expectations we set for ourselves. Despite our best efforts, we faced challenges hindering our ability to achieve the desired outcomes for our recently organized company, Prairie Band Ag. I want to assure you, we are actively working to address these issues and realign our strategies to ensure future success.

One of the primary challenges we face is the unexpected decline in market demand for Cannabinoid (CBD) products produced from hemp. This downturn impacted our revenue streams and hindered our ability to show positive income for Prairie Band Ag. We are currently conducting a thorough analysis of market trends and consumer preferences to identify potential areas for diversification and growth.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented obstacles for our agricultural and hemp development efforts. The necessary restrictions and safety measures disrupted supply chains, limited travel, and affected the overall economic landscape. We closely monitored the situation and adapted our strategies to the new normal. However, the supply chain disruptions increased our timelines to have our industrial hemp processing equipment up and running. This delay also decreased our revenue generation efforts.

Despite these challenges, we made significant progress in other areas.

We initiated collaborations with external partners to explore joint ventures and investment opportunities to bring opportunities to our ag operations.

- We successfully harvested 200 acres of industrial hemp in 2023.
- We contracted with farmers in Kansas and Indiana for hemp, boosting our hemp inventory by over 500%.
- 341 acres of corn were harvested.
- 415 acres of soybeans were harvested.

These operations were all completed on Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation land, utilizing a minimum farm team. We are hindered by the lack of farm equipment, barn space, grain storage, small pool of workers, and weather (drought). However, we do see light at the end of the tunnel and look forward to having financial and operational success in the very near future with our ag operations.

Moving forward, we are committed to implementing an action

plan to address the challenges we face. This plan includes:

1. Conducting a thorough review of our existing initiatives and identifying areas for improvement and optimization.
2. Strengthening our market research capabilities to better understand consumer needs and preferences.
3. Exploring alternative revenue streams and diversifying our product and service offerings.
4. Enhancing our partnerships with external organizations to leverage their expertise and resources.
5. Investing in training and development programs to empower our team members and equip them with the necessary skills to navigate the evolving economic landscape.

Update on the 150th and 75 Construction Project

We are pleased to announce that the much anticipated 150th and 75 construction project is finally underway. This marks an exciting chapter in the development and growth of our community.

Design Phase: As we continue this journey, the first step is the design process. Our team of architects and planners are already brainstorming and drafting preliminary designs. Engaging with experts, we are focused on ensuring the finished project is not only functional but also aesthetically pleasing and a reflection of our values and vision for the community.

Groundbreaking: The buzz of excitement is in the air as we prepare to break ground. Stay tuned for details on this momentous occasion. We invite the community to join us as we lay the foundation for what will be a landmark project.

Quarterly Updates at General Council Meetings

Transparency and consistent communication are of utmost importance to us. To keep everyone informed, we will provide quarterly updates on the progress of the project during the General Council meetings. We encourage all members to attend and share their thoughts and suggestions.

Website Launch in 2024

Recognizing the need for a dedicated platform where our tribal citizens can get real-time updates, we are in the process of creating a website for the 150th and 75 construction projects. Slated for a 2024 launch, this website will be your go-to place for all news, updates, photos, and important announcements related to the project.

We are excited about the path ahead and are committed to keeping everyone informed at every step. We thank you for your patience and support and look forward to creating a project we all can be proud of.

Your support and feedback are invaluable to us, and we encourage you to share your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns with us.

Together, we will overcome the challenges of today and build a thriving and sustainable economic future for our community. We remain committed to our mission of fostering economic development, creating employment opportunities, and improving the quality of life for all Tribal Members.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Sincerely,

Jacob "Tug" Wamego

President & CEO, Prairie Band, LLC

PBPN Members Participate in Mayetta Pioneer Days

-Parade Continued from page 1

Topeka Veteran Administration Medical Center.

After dedicating 30 years to nursing, Helen found new purpose in her work with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Economic Development Department. In a significant way, she contributed to the health care of United States Armed Forces Veterans during her tenure at the VA Medical Center.

In retirement, Helen enjoys her time at the PBPN Fire Keepers Elder Center, participating in Tribal activities, and volunteering for Potawatomi Gatherings. Her interests range from gardening to spending quality

moments with family and friends, all of which speak to her enduring commitment to community and her cultural heritage.

Pioneer Days kicked off at 7 a.m. with a spirited 5K Fun Run, setting the tone for a day filled with activities that captured the essence of the old west. The 9:30 a.m. Wagon Train brought participants together as they journeyed westward from 2nd and Main, embracing the pioneer spirit.

Throughout the day, attendees enjoyed a range of events, including a boot lacing contest, dipper race, rope spinning demonstration, car show, craft fair, touch-a-truck, live music, family activities, and assorted contests.



Kiwe Miller, We-Ta-Se Princess, left, and Miss Potawatomi 2023 Pannoquah Wahwassuck, right, pass out candy to eager children as they follow the We-Ta-Se Post 410 Color Guard during the annual Mayetta Pioneer Days Parade.

Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, I hope all is well this holiday season and everyone is staying warm as we have seen our first snow for the year over the Thanksgiving weekend. This past year has seemed to pass by without many of the major financial ups and downs we saw in 2022. Inflation is still a little high but nowhere near the record highs we saw in 2022. Fuel prices here locally are below \$3 a gallon and the financial markets have recovered somewhat from their drops in early 2022.

With year-end comes a bit of a break from our audits and budgeting activities as current year activities are being wrapped up and we are getting ready for the upcoming year's activities

to begin. Right around the corner audits, tax returns and other compliance engagements will be back in full swing beginning in January. The first of our audits on our low income housing tax credit projects will begin towards the latter part of January and our annual tobacco tax compact audit will occur shortly thereafter.

W-2s and 1099s, as always, are due to be mailed out by the end of January, so, staff will be busy preparing those and getting them filed and mailed out to the recipients. In the event that you do not receive your tax forms or should happen to need another copy let me know we can help arrange to have a duplicate sent out.

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

FY2024 Budget Approval

On November 21, 2023 the Tribal Council approved the FY2024 Tribal Government Budget through Tribal Council Resolution No. 2023-327. Copies of the budget will be made available on the Tribal Member Log In located both on the Tribe's website or app. Additionally, you can contact my office for copies of the report as well.

For FY2024, the total Tribal Government Budget was approved at a level on par with the projected final Tribal Cash Distributions (TCD's) from the Casino for FY2023. As was the case with the FY2023 budget, the FY2024 budget will be reviewed throughout the year with hopes to amend to a higher figure in the event TCD's significantly outpace budgeted figures. Most likely by mid-year we will have a good idea if a budget modification would be appropriate or not.

At the October General Council meeting there was some discussion about the level of burial benefits provided by the Tribe. As part of the FY2024 budget process the level of benefits was approved at the same level in prior years, so the overall benefit from the burial program remains @ \$6,000 for the time being. The burial benefit level will continue to be monitored in the future along with other general welfare benefits provided by the Tribe.

In addition to requesting copies of the FY2024 Tribal Government Budget you may contact me through the information below for any questions you may have in regard to the budget.

ARPA Funds Update

In 2021, the Tribe received its share of the U.S. Department of Treasury's Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF's) under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through two distributions occurring in June and August of that year. As of today, roughly half of the dollars have been expended on items such as Special Coronavirus Relief Benefits as well as Road Resurfacing, Broadband and Economic Development projects. The remaining ARPA FRF's must be obligated by the end of 2024 with projects fully completed and paid for by the end of 2026.

While the end of 2024 is a few months away it will be here before we know it. In recent Tribal Council discussions two projects have been prioritized for the remainder of the funds. Those two projects

are food sovereignty and wastewater upgrades on K Road.

Food sovereignty is a concept where we as the Tribe would be able to produce and distribute food here in the local community. During the pandemic this came to light even more so as we are heavily dependent upon local stores for the majority of our food. With the ARPA FRF's we would look to be able to begin the development of our own infrastructure to produce our own food sources locally. Initial concepts could include a processing facility for our local meats as we currently send our buffalo and cattle to local processing facilities. For produce, those goods could be grown locally and distributed vs being highly dependent on outside vendors. Funding through the ARPA FRF's for food sovereignty would be a start, but would likely be something that we would build upon for years to come to lessen our reliance on outside sources.

For the wastewater upgrades on K Road, this infrastructure project is significant as it would help prepare our current facility for future expansion on K Road. The upgrades are something that would likely need to occur before we could proceed with constructing an assisted living facility on K Road. Right now, our existing wastewater facility is sufficient, for the most part, but future construction projects in the K Road area would eventually max out the capacity of the current facility.

The assisted living facility is on the radar for the future but first we must upgrade our infrastructure as well as work through some administrative details to ensure we can properly fund the operations of the facility once established. In addition to the assisted living facility, future growth on K Road would potentially include additions to existing government facilities, new construction of government facilities as well as additional housing projects.

For additional details on the ARPA FRF's you may contact my office through the information below as well as there will be periodic updates during the quarterly General Council Meetings on the ARPA FRF's.

RAP Amendment Process

In my last article I had written about the Tribe looking to provide additional general welfare benefits to the membership in the future. Benefits that the Tribe is able to provide under our General Welfare Support Program would be considered non-taxable and not includable as income when filing your taxes. This ultimately means that the money that would otherwise be paid out in income taxes gets to stay in your pocket.

From discussions on the topic with staff and the outside firm the Tribe has engaged on the matter, it appears there is a possibility that the Tribe may need to amend its Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) in order to achieve the expansion of its general welfare benefits. The RAP ultimately determines the percentages of our TCD's from the Casino that are allocated to Tribal Government Programs, Economic Development, General Welfare, Charitable Contributions and Per Capita Distributions. The RAP is housed within the Tribe's Per Capita Ordinance so that document would technically be amended to change the RAP percentages.

The RAP was last amended in February 2008 although the process to make the change started in early 2007. According to the Per Cap Ordinance it may only be amended by a majority vote of the General Council. In the situation of providing additional general welfare benefits, percentages from the other categories would need to be allocated to the general welfare category.

Details about the additional general welfare benefits can be provided by contacting my office as well. I also hope to have additional details at the January General Council Meeting on January 20, 2024.

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 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)



Chairman Rupnick Presented During KU Tribal Sovereignty Speaker Series in November

At left: Chairman "Zeke" Rupnick discusses tribal sovereignty from a governance perspective with his presentation "Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Governance – Indian Self-Rule."

This presentation began the KU Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Tribal Sovereignty Speaker Series during the month of November in celebration of Native American Heritage Month.

Tribal Council Member Tony Wahweotten: Report to the Nation



Hó PBP (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation) Members, I hope all had a great harvest and have a safe hunting season this fall.

As we enter the 4th quarter of 2023, I would like to begin this report with some reminders and personal thoughts for the people of the Nation.

First, flu season is here again and, as a reminder, flu vaccines, the updated covid vaccination, and booster shots are available at the Prairie Band Health Center.

Next, I want to extend congratulations and say “great job” to our Entertainment Board and Casino property Management for the completion of the over-all Hotel Expansion and new parking lot resurfacing, well done.

As always, 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.

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 Chairperson Rupnick, Vice Chairperson Zach Pahmahmie, Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie, 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.

Tribal Council continues to create safety for membership and the PBP workforce. Every day continues to bring new challenges for our people, but Tribal Council persists and remains diligent to the responsibilities entrusted to us by the people of the Nation. Each Council Member continues to work toward outcomes serving the best interests of the Nation. To demonstrate that, I always like to provide a general overview of the activities and issues I’ve focused on since my last report. Since last July 15, 2023 General Council Meeting, I have attended:

- Seven special Tribal Council meetings

- Three Regular Tribal Council meetings
 - Two legal project meetings
 - Ten consecutive Shabbona next step and Dekalb discussions
 - Two GAIA Highway Project meetings
 - A Billy Caldwell movie screening
 - The Potawatomi Gathering at Nottawaseppi Huron Band in Michigan
 - * Attended the Tribal Council Summit at the Potawatomi Gathering
 - * The Potawatomi Economic Summit during the Potawatomi Gathering
 - Three PBP Tax Commission meetings
 - Three Hemp Regulation meetings
 - One special Hemp Regulations meeting
 - Three Land Committee meetings
 - One Ethics Committee swearing in ceremony
 - One Enrollment Committee swearing in ceremony
 - A Governor JB. Pritzker Bill signing in Chicago Illinois
 - One investment opportunity proposal with a cannabis group
 - One Kansas Infrastructure Hub meeting
 - Six budget review presentations
 - One finance level evaluation review
 - Four District Court Judge Interview sessions
 - One meeting with the Mayor of Topeka Mike Padilla
 - One meeting with Kansas District One Representative Tracey Mann
 - One Planning and Environmental Partner presentation proposal
 - The Inauguration of Frank Arpan, president of Haskell University
 - One scattered PBP housing tour with Prairie Band Management
 - One Prairie Band Casino 2024 budget review
 - Three Kansas road and broadband funding outlet discussions
 - One ribbon cutting ceremony with the Prairie Band New Asphalt Road project
- All relating to information only or the business and welfare of the Nation. Other meetings relating to the Nation’s business and Departments include:
- Chief Council and legal reviews
 - General Manager and Assistant General Management reviews
 - Board of Director reviews
 - LLC reviews
 - Entertainment Board reviews
 - Discussion on the Nations’ current budget, 2024 funding challenges and investment opportunities
- The Tribal Council has acted on 304 Resolutions so far this year.
- At National and State levels, the Nation continues to monitor new Bills with Legal and Policy reviews to address specific concerns and funding that may impact the Nation. Other

leadership activities involving Tribal Council, General Management, Prairie Band Construction and Tribal Attorneys are:

- Broadband
- Continued infrastructure planning development
- Continued roads resurfacing and identified full depth replacement

No new funds have been received during the last quarter for roads, trails or broadband, but Tribal Council continues to search for all funding opportunities available to the Nation. 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 as a priority area, soon to be completed by the end of October. The next phase, yet to be approved, is scheduled to start in March of 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), Title 13 (Business Licensing), and Title 32 (Hemp Legalization and Control Ordinance). See the 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-eight Tax Commission meetings. New applications involving the Nation’s Tax Authority are available on the Nation’s website.

Article II-Land, Section 2 of our Prairie Band Potawatomi Constitution reads, “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 and in this capacity, I participated in twenty-eight 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 third quarter but plans to receive more are in the works. Our next buffalo harvest for the Elder Supplement Program will possibly be during the winter months.

PBPN has 29 total Current Job Listings. 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

PBPN Approved Holidays Through 2024

All PBPN Offices and services will be closed on the following dates. This includes the Health Center and the Pharmacy. Please plan ahead and be sure you have necessary medications on hand for these dates.

New Years Eve	FRI 12/29/2023
New Years Day	MON 1/1/2024
Martin Luther King Day	MON 1/15/2024
President’s Day	MON 2/19/2024
Good Friday	FRI 3/29/2024
Memorial Day	FRI - 1/2 Day 5/24/2024 & MON 5/27/2024
Juneteenth.....	WED 6/19/2024
Independence Day.....	THURS 7/4/2024 & FRI 7/5/2024
Labor Day FRI.....	1/2 Day 8/30/2024 & MON 9/2/2024
Native American Day	FRI 9/27/2024
Indigenous Peoples’ Day.....	MON 10/14/2024
Veteran’s Day	MON 11 /11/2024
Thanksgiving.....	WED 1/2 Day 11/27/2024
.....	& THURS 11/28/2024
Native American Heritage Day	FRI 11/29/2024
Christmas	TUE 12/24/2024, WED 12/25/2024
.....	& THURS 12/26/2024
New Years Eve	TUE 12/31/2024

Secretary Lorrie Melchior: Report to the Nation



Greetings Tribal Members,
Please remember it's the time of year to stay warm and remember to take care of each other as the cold weather settles in.

Following are events I attended this past few months, which are beneficial to our Nation.

The 2023 Potawatomi Gathering: Attending our Potawatomi Gathering is a good

reminder to get to know relatives of the Potawatomi Bands. I found in the Gathering a most positive atmosphere with good food and character. There were a lot of creative arts and regalia bringing the bands together for the festivities of the Gathering. During the Tribal Council Summit there was much discussion of the Bodéwadmi Articles of Confederation. The seven Tribal Councils attending, voted in favor of the resolution of the Bodéwadmi Articles of Confederation to be ratified later. (From the Tribal Gaming and Hospitality magazine.)

Signing of Bills: HB1633 Native American History Curriculum, HB3413 Native American Remains, SB1446 Dress Code Policy for Graduation in Schaumburg, Illinois at the Trickster Cultural Center. The Governor of Illinois was very kind and supportive in signing the Bills.

6th Annual Conference on Native American Nutrition: This conference provided insight on Tribal Nations Sovereignty of

food and nutrition. There were many different perspectives from many different tribes on Native food and nutrition. There was also discussion of how Global Warming influences future endeavors on food and nutrition, such as farming. The common goal of this conference was "Improving health and well-being of Native American Communities." The presenters were a mix of researchers, tribal leaders, leaders of non-profits, and educators who provided great perspective and insight on continuing the importance of food sovereignty and expanding for the future.

I continue to encourage our Tribal Members to use our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation website at www.pbpindiantribe.com which includes news and events. Also, on the website, you will find the "Members Only Portal," containing information pertaining to our members including Tribal Council meeting minutes and resolutions.

As always, if you have any questions

or would like to request information from the Tribal Council Secretary's office you may call (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.

Dates for our 2024 General Council meetings will be January, April, July, and October on the third Saturday of those months. Meeting location is at our Prairie Band Potawatomi Casino & Resort 12305 150th Road Mayetta, Kansas 66509.

Everyday proceeds with challenges 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**

Member Business Selected for Apple Program

Elite Energy Distribution, a Prairie Band Potawatomi Member-owned business, was selected as one of the 12 participants in Apple's Impact Accelerator program. The company, based in Brookfield, Wisconsin, specializes in battery and electronic scrap recycling and is known for its dedication to ethical recycling practices and environmental responsibility.

David Lee Strange, President of Elite Energy Distribution and a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, expressed gratitude for the opportunity presented by Apple's Impact Accelerator. "This has been an exciting opportunity for our small company. Apple was looking for Black/Brown-owned innovators in the environmental renewable space," Strange said.

The Impact Accelerator program is a pivotal component of Apple's Racial Equity and Justice Initiative, a global effort aimed at expanding equity and opportunity for marginalized communities. Lisa Jackson, Apple's vice president of Environment, Policy, and Social Initiatives, expressed enthusiasm about supporting businesses "whose innovations are paving the way to a greener, more equitable future."

Elite Energy Distribution's services go beyond traditional recycling. The company provides solutions for spent electronics and batteries, offering services such as custom packaging, data sanitization, fire prevention, reuse of viable products, and more. The company also focuses on educating consumers and businesses about recycling and environmental impacts.

Strange shared the inspiration behind his work, citing his upbringing on a farm and the influence of his mother, Karen Sue Strange (Marshno), who was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. He emphasized the importance of preserving her legacy and the values instilled in him during his childhood.

"My love of the outdoors, love for the land, passion for environmental issues and conservation was instilled in me during those early years. Our people have always believed, 'If we take care of the land, the land will take care of us,'" Strange explained.

Elite Energy Distribution's journey began in 1993 when Strange started the company out of the back of his 1987 Honda Prelude. The company's commitment to sustainability led to the creation of the e3 green battery, emphasizing energy

efficiency, consumer affordability, and environmental friendliness.

Over the years, Elite Energy Distribution has expanded its operations, specializing in electronic scrap and various battery chemistries. The company holds certifications such as R2v3, ISO14001, and ISO45001, demonstrating its adherence to the highest industry standards for responsible and ethical recycling, as well as environmental, occupational, and health and safety practices.

With 30 years of experience, Elite Energy Distribution serves the Greater Milwaukee region and extends its services across the United States and eight other countries. The company's recognition by Apple reflects its continued dedication to sustainable practices and innovation in the recycling space.

The 12-week program offers participants targeted trainings, executive coaching, skills development, one-to-one mentorship, and access to Apple subject-matter experts. The alumni receive ongoing professional support, including access to Apple experts and invitations to networking events through Apple's Supplier Success community. Moreover, companies involved may be considered for business opportunities with Apple as it strives for carbon neutrality across its entire manufacturing supply chain by 2030.

The Impact Accelerator is designed for late-stage start-ups or mature businesses headquartered in the United States and operating in the environmental sector. Companies must be at least 51 percent owned, operated, and controlled by an African American, Hispanic/Latinx American, or Indigenous American individual.

Preference is given to those with innovative environmental solutions that align with Apple's environmental priority areas, including climate change, resources, and smarter chemistry.

Elite Energy Distribution's selection highlights the company's commitment to ethical recycling practices and environmental responsibility. With a focus on battery and e-waste recycling, the company plays a crucial role in the fight against climate change and aligns with Apple's goal of carbon neutrality by 2030.

As part of the Impact Accelerator program, Elite Energy Distribution, alongside other innovative businesses, is expected to contribute significantly to the global shift towards sustainable and equitable environmental solutions.



David Lee Strange, President of Elite Energy Distribution and a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation poses with his son Jonathan Strange, Elite Energy Distribution's Corporate Financial Officer.

New Identification Requirement Deadline Coming Soon

‘REAL ID’ Compliant Cards Will Make Travel Easier After New Rules Go Into Effect

Beginning May 7, 2025, anyone 18-years and older will be required to possess a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or another acceptable form of ID to board domestic flights within the United States. Additionally, a REAL ID will be necessary to enter federal facilities where identification is currently required for entrance, excluding places like courts, post offices, and Social Security offices, which do not require identification for entrance and are thus exempt from this requirement.

The State of Kansas has made substantial progress in its efforts to comply with the Real ID Act and the PBPB Tribal Government also introduced an Enhanced Tribal Card (ETC) that complies with both Real ID and the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) requirements. This development aligns with the 9/11 Commission's recommendations and the federal standards established by the REAL ID Act of 2005.

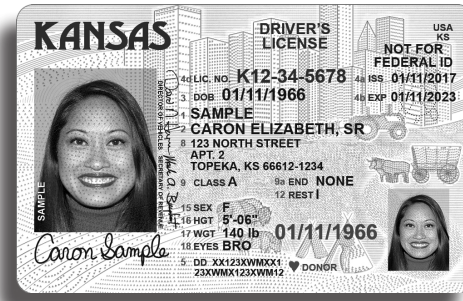
Tribal Council Member, William

Evans said, "May of 2025 sounds like it's along way off but it's actually only about 17 months away." Evans added, "Whether our members decide to get a state issued ID or the ETC offered through the Tribal Government, this is something they need to start thinking about, so they don't have problems when the deadline arrives."

The ETC now serves as both a passport card, allowing for land or sea travel into Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean, in compliance with the WHTI requirements, and as a Real ID-compliant card, making it acceptable for air travel within the United States.

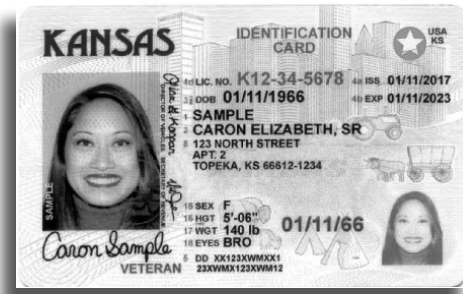
"Our ETC is a document that demonstrates the sovereignty of the Nation. Only the Nation has the authority to issue a Tribal I.D.," Evans said. The ETC can only be issued by the Tribal Government, emphasizing the sovereignty of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. As a sovereign nation, they determine eligibility for these cards.

Evans highlighted the collaborative



The examples, left, show a standard Kansas driver's license and the new "REAL ID" card. While they look almost identical there are some specific differences.

The standard license, on top, specifically says "Not For Federal ID" at the top right corner of the card. T



he "REAL ID" compliant example, bottom, has the gold star symbol at the top right corner.

For answers to common questions about the REAL ID program, visit the Kansas Department of Revenue at www.ksrevenue.gov, call them at 785-296-3671 or email them using KDOR_DL@KS.GOV.

effort with the Federal government to ensure that the ETC meets all their requirements, emphasizing that the ETC now allows tribal members to travel across the borders of North America, mirroring the journeys of their ancestors.

With this dual accomplishment, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

has not only contributed to national security and identity verification but also affirmed its sovereignty in the issuance of tribal identification. This initiative serves as a significant step towards embracing modern identification standards while preserving tribal heritage.

How to Obtain An Enhanced Tribal Enrollment Card

Switching to the new identification card is not required. For those who wish to obtain the new card, Member Services provides this information.

The Enhanced Tribal Enrollment Card (ETC) is available to Tribal Members only. Initial card cost is \$25, then \$10 to replace if lost or stolen. The member must contact Members Services for an Enhanced Tribal ID application.

Filling out the application:

Must be filled out in black or blue ink

No whiteout or scribbling out mistakes. If a mistake is made a simple line through the mistake and initial will do the trick.

Please complete all questions to the best of your knowledge. If the question does not apply write "N/A" (not applicable) or if it is unknown write "Unknown".

Once the application is completed by the member, please return to Members Services along with your original documents of

identification. The staff will check for completion of the application, as well as retain the original documents of identification and the payment has been made. The Members Services staff will then schedule an in-person interview to go over the application information. Interviews will NOT be taken on a walk-in basis.

Original Documents of Identification can be any of the following (3 or more & must be originals. NO COPIES) We can NOT use documents from members enrollment file:

- Birth certificate
- U.S. military identification card (if available)
- A Valid State-issued drivers license or identification card (excluding temporary i.e.

paper printout or learners permit)

- Social Security Card
- Recent utility bill

Complete statement on ETC application verifying principal address (check with Members Services to make sure the correct address is on file)

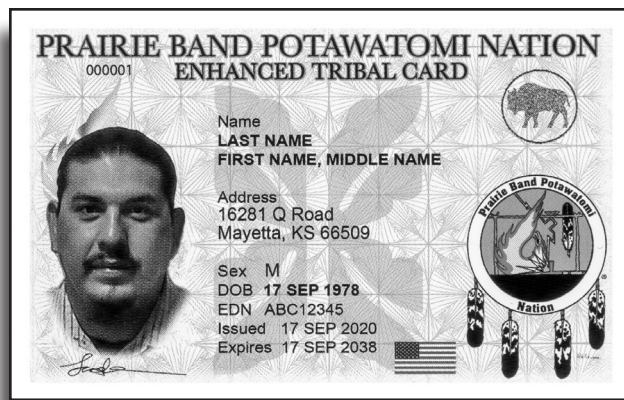
Federal, state, or municipal government-issued documents depicting marriage, divorce, and/or other name changes:

After all necessary steps have been successfully carried out, staff will need a minimum of 2 business days to gather information for the in-person interview and the interview will take approximately 1 hour. During this time, staff will ask questions

pertaining to the member's identity. Original documents of identity are returned at this time. After the successful interview is completed processing the ETC can take up to 3 weeks for the printed ETC to come back to Members Services.

Once received by the department, staff will call the applicant to either set up a time for pick up or verify the mailing address. Enhanced tribal cards will only be mailed certified mail to the address saved in the member's file. The member must be available to sign for certified mailing as a form of receipt of ETC.

Enhanced Tribal Cards are valid for eight (8) years from the date of issuance, unless the cardholder is a minor. A member may apply for a replacement card(s) that shall not exceed a total of two (2) lost or stolen issued cards from the period when the card was issued. Replacement cards will be \$10 without a card to exchange, however, if card is exchanged due to name or address changes, cards become illegible, or damaged this will be done free of charge.



Documents Needed to Receive a Real ID

1.) You will need to provide proof of lawful presence. Please select ONE from the list below:

- State Issued Birth Certificate
- Unexpired U.S. Passport
- Unexpired Permanent Resident Card
- Unexpired Employment Authorization Card
- Naturalization Certificate
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad (FS-240)

2.) You must provide proof of your Social Security Number. Please select ONE document from the list below:

- Social Security Card
- Current W-2 or 1099 showing full Social Security Number
- Current pay stub showing full Social Security Number

3.) You MUST provide two proofs of current Kansas residential address. Proof must be dated within the last year. Junk mail or personal letters will not be accepted. The following are examples of documents that can be used to prove Kansas residency:

- Rent or Lease Agreement
- Renewal Postcard
- Vehicle Registration
- Utility Bill
- Financial Institution Documents (Bank Statement, Deed, or Mortgage)

4.) If your name is different than documents in number one above, (due to adoption, marriage, divorce, court ordered name change, or is not the same on all of your documents) you MUST provide proof of the name change. The following are a few documents that will be accepted to prove a legal name change:

- Certified State Issued Marriage Certificate
- Court Ordered Divorce Decree
- Any Court Ordered or Legal Name Change Documents
- Legal Adoption Paperwork

Mitchell, Other Community Members Take On 'The Hawk' Marathon

Five community members completed a marathon at the 13th Annual Hawk race event in Lawrence, Kan., on September 9, 2023. The Hawk consists of four races: the marathon, the 50-mile, the 75-mile, and the 100-mile.

This marathon, which was a trail race, was the first marathon for Joe Mitchell, who is a PBP member, Potawatomi Tribal Gaming Commissioner, and Royal Valley USD 337 Board of Education member.

"Trail running is its own beast," Mitchell said. "In any other race, you run on a flat surface—it's easy. You don't trip over trees and rocks. With trail running, you run up hills and back down them, so it was a lot harder."

"I knew it was going to be hard, but I didn't know how hard, because I'd never run that trail," Mitchell continued. "Some runners, they'll go run the course before. In my opinion, that makes it easier. I don't look to do anything easy in my life."

Mitchell mostly trained by running on flat surfaces, but he would dedicate one day a week to running hills. "Evidently, I was not running enough hills," Mitchell joked.

Mitchell was joined at the Hawk by Grant Wewenis, Kickapoo member and firefighter/EMT with the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department (PTFD); Robert Lewis, Citizen Band member and an instructor with the PBP Language Department; and Garrett Simon, Potawatomi and Kickapoo. This was the first marathon for all four community members.

Alongside the four newer runners, Jon Gwartney, firefighter/paramedic with PTFD, also competed in the race.

"Jon has been running for 5 years. He's who it all started with," Mitchell said after the race. "He ran alongside Grant Wewenis the entire time, helping him finish. He inspired Grant and Garrett [to start running] about two years ago, then Grant inspired me last year. Then me and Grant inspired Robert Lewis this past summer."

"It all started with Jon, which is pretty cool if you ask me," Mitchell continued. "I never met Jon before that day but knew of him from Grant. He was pretty emotional to hear that we were all there because of him. He didn't want to take credit. He said it was too much. But I assured him it was the truth and so did the others."

In addition to the inspiration and encouragement from his friends, Mitchell had his own personal reasons for taking up running.

"It all started because of my daughter. She's nine years old now, and she has Down syndrome. She was my first child, so I didn't know what to expect, and I didn't know what that meant," Mitchell explained. "I had to take care of her, not like everyone else who can just push their kids out the door and say, 'Good luck.' That can't be me—I'm going to have to take care of her as long as I can, and while I'm here, I want to be healthy. I still carry her like she's my baby, and she's nine years old, so I better be strong."

Although Mitchell told himself that he would try to be healthier, it took several years for him to dedicate himself to running and pursue a healthier lifestyle. Eventually, he got tired of making excuses for himself and ran his first full mile since high school.

"That first day, I was so proud of myself," Mitchell remembered. "A couple days later, I saw an acquaintance. He asked how I was doing, and I said, 'I feel good. I finally ran for the first time. I ran a mile all the way through.' And he had already been



From left to right: Grant Wewenis, Robert Lewis, Joe Mitchell, Garrett Simon, and Jon Gwartney commemorate their participation in the 13th Annual Hawk race event in Lawrence, Kan., on September 9, 2023, with a photo in front of the event backdrop. This marathon, which was a trail race, was the first marathon for Joe Mitchell, who is a PBP member, Potawatomi Tribal Gaming Commissioner, and Royal Valley USD 337 Board of Education member.

running a year—I didn't know that at the time."

"He said, 'Oh, wow... Why don't you do a 12k or a 25k?' And I said, 'How about you let me do three miles first before you start talking crazy like that?'" Mitchell said. "Like, I had just done a mile, first time since high school like 20 years ago, but it was funny because he planted a seed."

Afterwards, Mitchell's friend checked in on his progress and encouraged him to continue trying to run longer distances, convincing Mitchell to try a 12k race. Following that first 12k, Mitchell ran two half marathons, and his latest race is his first full marathon. Giving himself less than two months to recover and train, Mitchell has already planned his second marathon.

"I have unfinished business. I want to do a four hour and 15-minute marathon or better," Mitchell said. "This is why this is so important. This isn't just running—this is a metaphor for life. Pushing past that limit and just doing something, and doing something great! There's nothing I can't do because of this."

Mitchell sees running as more than just physical exercise. He says that the mental and spiritual dimensions of running are what appeal to him most and can have the biggest impact on someone's life.

"I love it because I think, and I solve my problems in my life when I run," Mitchell said. "I had a profound moment in running. My legs were hurting in the first mile, and this was only like a five-mile run. I felt pain in my legs for the first time during my training, because I've been lucky that I haven't had any injuries. But on this particular day, I felt pain."

"So I was talking myself into it and running at a faster pace," Mitchell continued. "Running is meditation. Running is praying too. I used this chant, in rhythm with each step: Not my body, not my mind. I said that over and over to get through the pain, and then eventually I started saying, Not my pain. I felt like I was feeling my spirit."

Mitchell is confident that the current group of runners in the community will attract others to take up running or another activity that can enrich their lives.

"I was very surprised, because now [my other friend] got the bug. Now my wife does, and her two nieces are going to do a 5k," Mitchell said. "It's the ripples—I can see it already. There's going to be a lot of people running now because of this. Not because of me, but because of all of us. That's why I'm excited about it."

There are already some local youth runners in the community, and Mitchell says that running can be especially beneficial to younger people because of the mental and emotional benefits that come with physical health and activity.

"They were already running, but I encouraged them, and I'm still trying to do that. I told them that running can give you confidence once you pass that threshold," Mitchell said. "Like I used to be self-conscious about running with my shirt off. I'm fifty pounds lighter than I was last year. If people see a fit guy running on a trail, they think, 'Oh, that's easy,' but they didn't see him when he started. So I wish I would've started way earlier, because I'm going to lose another 40 pounds in the next year easily, so they'll see the process. But the road to 10,000 miles starts with one step. That's all you have to do—just put your shoes on."

Just as Jon Gwartney encouraged Grant Wewenis to start running, who in turn encouraged Mitchell, running can help build community around a shared interest and hobby. It can also serve as a positive example for others when a healthy lifestyle seems difficult or even impossible to achieve.

"I ran initially for my daughter, and then along the way, I thought of my people here, and I was running for them. It was motivation. I wanted to show them that you can be healthy," Mitchell said.

"We're all role models, or teachers, you could say. Everyone's a teacher. Some people are bad teachers but that's okay too, because you show me what not to do and I'll learn from your mistakes. Or you can be a good teacher," Mitchell reflected. "But we should all realize that we're role models or teachers, whether you like it or not. There's someone who looks up to you, and you should take on that responsibility and try to be a good person."

Correct Addresses Needed for 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	Cruz, Sean, Gerald	Ryan	Lussier, Jared, Bud	Joseph	Torain, Yolanda, Marie
Aguilar-Vazquez, Gabriella, Rosalie	-----D	Hernandez, David, Paul	Lussier, Jarvis, Frank	-----R	Torres, Alicia, Rose
Ahlgren, Tanya, Lee	Dametz, Michael, Dean	Hernandez, Leanna, June	Lussier, Joseph, Dennis	Rader, Jeremy, C.	Torres, Carlos
Aitkens, Josias, Elliott	Darling, Joseph, Edward, Jr.	Hernandez, Paul, Edward, Jr.	-----M	Ramirez, Gregory, Allan Jr	Trantow, Brenda, Sue
Alcantar, Autumn, Kay	Daubon, Jon, Gregory	Hernandez, Vanessa, Estelle	Mahkuk, Juan, Alfredo	Ramirez, Jonathan, Wayne	Tuckwin, Marcus, E.
Alejos, Sonja, Marie	Daubon, Katrina, Sue	Hester, Angela, Dee	Mahkuk, Vickie, May	Razo, Jesse, Louis	Turner, Trevor, Nelson
Alexander, Tishana, Lynne	Davis, Jessica, Jane	Hester, Austin, Lee	Mandeville, Glenn, Andrew	Reese, James, Matthew	Turney, David, Elijah
Allen, Douglas, James	Davis, Luke, Lloyd	Hester, Lexi, Ann	Marshno, Teresa	Reese, Jennifer, E.	Turney, Margaret, Ruth
Allen, Megan, Marie	Dean, Keith, Lee	Hester, Ronny, Lee, Jr.	Martin, David, Michael	Reese, Rehanna, James	Tuter, Alexandria, Jayd
Allen, Michael, Grant	Delarosa, Luiz, Javier Solis	Hill, Charon, Serena	Martin, Derek, Allen	Reichstine, Tiffany, Suzette	Tye, Zabrina, Marie
Allen, Randy, Joseph	Delg, Christian, Anthony	Holliman, Joseph, Ray	Martinez, Kendra, L.	Reyes, Hector, Paul	-----U
Allen, Steffany, Nacole	Delg, Jennifer, Marie	Holtz, Michael, J.	Martinez, Rudolph	Rice, Harlie, Rose	Ulloa, Jessica, Rene
Anderson, Jackie, Charles	Deltgen, Dexter, Higgins	Horn, Madelyn, D.	Masquat, Devin, Rae	Rice, Joseph, Zowi	Uselton, Austin, Tyler
Armell, Robert, Pierre	Devors, John, Allen, Jr.	Houghton, Valerie	Masquat, Elliot, Lee	Rice, Sherwin, Michael	-----V
Armentaris, Jody, Sue	Dinsdale, Brian, Jerome, Jr.	Humphrey, Amber, Shopteese	Masqua-Young, Calvin, Morris	Rice, William, A	Van Zile, Doren
Arndt, Christopher, James	Dinsdale, Christopher, Edward	Hurt, Sarah, Jane	Matchie, Nigel, Levi	Rickert, Adam, Michael	Vanderblomen, Krista, Lynn
Arnold, Josephine, Lorraine	Dinsdale, David, Michael	-----I	Matchie, Samira, Leigh	Ritchie, Rachel, Ann	Vanderblomen, Marion, C.
-----B	Dinsdale, Lewis, Alfred	Ingels, Ramzey, Kalem	Mathewson, Jonathan, Bernard	Roberts, Danielle, Alma,	Vanscyoc, Shelly, Marie
Bailey, Hope, Marie	Dinsdale, Nicholas	Irving, Akicita, Dorian	May, Anthony, Orlando	Roberts, Edward, Bruce, Jr.	Varela, Ernest
Baird, David, Aidan	Dodds, Courtney, Ann	-----J	Maybee, George, A.	Roberts, Migizi Okadon	Ventura, Raquel, Mere
Baldwin, Arizona, Levi	Dolsky, Alexsus, Dene	Jackson, Clark, Gregory	Mccracken, Benjamin, Ray	Muck-Wa Equay	Vigil, Christina, Marie
Bamke, Matthew, John	Dominguez, Andrea, Marie	Jackson, Diana, M.	McDonald, Concepcion, Angela	Rodewald, Joshua, James	Villareal, Talia, S
Barber, Ian, Jess	Dominguez, Myranda, Adelaide	Jackson, Jason, R.	McDonald, Steve, Alan	Rodriguez, David, Leon	Villarreal, Jodie, Marie
Barclay, Kelly, John, II	Dominguez, Toni, Lee	Jackson, Patricia, A.	McKinney, Amira, O.	Rodriguez, Delores, Danielle	Violet, Angelyssa, Leanne
Barger, Thomas, Wayne	Donaldson, Melanie, Kay	Jacobson, Ginny, L.	Mckinney, Mikelynn, R.	Rodriguez, Matthew, Loyal	Violet, Nehemiah, Stephen
Barth, Christina, Dawn	Doty, Brandon, Lane	Jacobson, Joseph, M.	Mcmullen, Angela, Ann	Rodriguez, Rebecca	-----W
Bass, Tara, Ann	Doty, Denise, Lynn	Jacobson, Paul, J.	Meely, Ellen, Faye	Rogers, Xavier, Joseph	Wabaunsee, Gregory, Davis
Battese, Paul, Lawrence	Draper, Carl, Anthony	James, Landri, Jorlen	Messner, Jerome, Howard Jr.	Romesburg, Neko, Sioux	Wabaunsee, Jolene, Renae
Beem, Andrea, Lynn	Dudoit, Racheal, Kuulei	James, Lisa, Renee	Messner, Roger, E. Sr.	Roppolo, Angel, Ann	Wabaunsee, Nicole
Begay, Carolyn, Dee	Dyer, Daniel, Taylor	Jensen, Rachelle, Jay	Michaels, Shawn, W.	Rosario, Lisa, Ann	Wabnum, Katelyn, L.
Belair, Albert, Francis	-----E	Jessepe, Carol, Jean	Miller, Duane, Robert	Rose, Doris Valerie, Wynn	Wadley, Delvin, Wade
Belaire, Dayzunique, Alanicole	Edwards, Shannon, Marie	Jessepe, Julian, Paul	Miller, Larry, Michael	Rupnicki, Jessica, Renee	Wahquahboshkuk, Sirena, Rose
Belaire-Serna, Michael, Todd	Ellis, Karole, Ann	Jessepe, Rica, Kenee	Miller, Patrick, Wayne	Rupnicki, Mamie, Seneace	Wahquahboshkuk-Kramer, Chase, Christin
Bell, Allayna, Lasley	Engels, Dorian, Scott	Jim, Thomas, R., Jr.	Miller, Scott, J.	Rupnicki, Peter, Paul	Wahquahboshkuk-Kramer, Hunter, Douglas
Benz, Dawn, Marie	Enriquez, Julian	Johnson, Ashley, Lynn	Milliron, Albert, P.	Rupnicki, Timothy, Joseph	Wahwassuck, Desiree, Louise
Bernabe, Carlos, Max	Enzor, Elizabeth, Marie	Johnson, Damian, L.	Milliron, Thomas, E.	-----S	Wahwassuck, Draven, M. L.
Blakeslee, William, Edward Jr.	Eric, Amy, Elizabeth	Johnson, John, Henry	Milton, Bret, William	Sato, Robert	Wahwassuck, Ishara, Danielle
Blalock, Trent, Jacob	Estep, James, Robert, Jr.	Johnson, Katie, Elizabeth	Mitchell, Christina, A.	Schaaf, Randall, Lee	Wahwassuck, Mary, Ann
Borzick, Margaret, Elizabeth	Eteeyan, Derek, Steve	Johnson, Paul, Gene	Mitchell, Gerald, Lee Jr.	Scheurle, Bradley, J.	Wahwassuck, Sunny, Aquila
Bosworth, Emily, Carol	Eteeyan, Donald, Criss	Johnson, Terri, Dawn	Moe, Robert, Guy	Scheurle, Christine, M.	Wahweotten, Logan, O'Bryan
Brdicko, Jill, Christine	Eteeyan, Roger, Allen	Johnson-Malone, Josiah, Emmanuel	Molina, Lori, Lynne	Schimmer, Gail, Lav	Walrod, Jon, Karl
Brewer, Jessica, Amber	Eteeyan, Scott, Nelson	Jones, Burton, S., III	Molina, Nicole, Shale	Schneiderwendt, Michael, A.	Walrod, Peter, Thomas
Brown, Crystal, Lee	Evans, Paul, James	Jones, Jamal, Antwan	Monroe, Dillon, James	Seymour, Carolyn, Ann	Walrod, Scott, Eric
Brown, Lakeshia, Sherry	-----F	Jones, Keith, R.	Monroe, Georgia, Lynn	Seymour, Dathan, Thomas Dwayne	Wamego, Nathaniel, Zeke
Brown, Rachael, Lynne	Fairman, Asia, Marie	Juarez, Bennie, Michael	Monroe, Kelly, Ann	Seymour, Jonathan, Ray	Wamego, Orville, Patrick
Brown, Raymond, Allan	Ferg, Mandy, Marie	Juarez, Rhiannon, Lee	Moore, Dylan, Wayne	Seymour, Kirsten, Hazel	Wamego, Tyler, James
Brown, Sandra, Laurene	Fiddick, Robbin, Leilani	-----K	Moore, Kari, Michelle	Michelle	Wamego, Zuley, Marie
Burnett, Orlando, Juan	Fields, Angeline, Lynn	Kabance, Gregory, J.	Morales, Marissa, Kershryn	-----T	Ware, Kateri, Ann
Burns, Israel	Figgins, Ethel, Marie	Kabance, Matthew, Dean	Moreno, Alexandria, Renee	Seymour, Shamoga, Jessie	Warledo, Amber, Nicole
Burton, Danielle, Nicole	Fitzherbert, Keaton, Izaiah	Kabance- Muniz, Angelo, Luis	Morris, Jane, Lesley	Shane, Jeremy, W.	Warren, Rachel, Marie
Buskirk, Caine, Tucker	Fitzsimmons, Gene, Tommy	Keesis, Patricia, Lucille	Morris, Ryan, Casey	Shane, Sophia, Diana	Watson, Jamie, Leigh
Butcher, Alexandra, Paris	Fixico, Rachel, Marie	Keilman, Crystle, A.	Mundell, Christopher, Luis	Shane, Timothy, J.	Wayne
-----C	Frazier, Raymond, Duane	Kelly, Steven, Thomas, Jr.	Mundell, Teressa, Marie	Shane, Vivian, Marie	Wahweotten, Karie, Deann
Cadena, Mario, Louise	Fritz, Ja Nae, Marie	Kievitt, Kathleen	Muniz, Neosha, Ruth	Shegonee, Brian, Joseph	Wahweotten, Logan, O'Bryan
Cadue, Angelina, Nicole	Fuller, Darien, Jade	Kitchens, Michael, Wayne	Murdock, Geryan, Joseph	Shegonee, John, William	Walrod, Peter, Thomas
Cadue, Anthony, Paul	-----G	Kitchkommie, Jed, M.	Murphy, Lisha, Nicole	Shegonee, Kelly, Marie	Walrod, Scott, Eric
Cadue, Jason, Lee	Gabel, Daniel, John, Jr.	Kitchkommie, Naomi, Ruth	Mzhickteno, Tanya, Lee	Sheppard, Destiny, James	Wamego, Orville, Patrick
Cadue, Kacee, Mitsuko	Garcia, Aliyah, Lorraine	Kitterman, Jesse, Ray	-----N	Sheppard, Richard, Ray	Wamego, Tyler, James
Cadue, Levi, James	Gardner, Anthony, Allen	Knight, Latisha, Rose	Nanez, Donica, Lynn	Sheppo, Nelson, Louis III	Wamego, Zuley, Marie
Cadue, Michael, Alexander	Garrett, Preston, Levi	Knoxah, Christopher, Dean	Nemeth-Heard, Christa, M.	Shobney, Russell, Joe	Ware, Kateri, Ann
Cadue, Phillip, B., Jr.	Gibbs, Robert, L., III	Knoxah, Colleen, Marie	Nephew, Lisa, Marie	Shopteese, Clayton, Michael Dee	Warledo, Amber, Nicole
Camacho, Robert, Westly	Gomez, Aaron, Francis	Knoxah, Leonard, Allen	Nephew, Sherie, Lynn	Shopteese, Kristel	Warren, Rachel, Marie
Canfield, Timothy, Andrew	Gonzales, Mark, Masquas	Korslin, Cassandra, May	Nickel, Linda, Lee	Shopteese, James, F.	Watson, Jamie, Leigh
Carbajal, Elisabeth, Ann	Gonzalez, Erminia, Maria	Kreipe, Zoa, Louraine	Norwood, Melinda, Sue	Shopteese, Mariah, Delilah	Wayne
Carbajal, Ilene, Tokeya	Goslin, Nathan, Curtis	Knwinn, Cheryl, Marie	Novelo, Felicia, Wilma	Shopteese, Ryan, M.	Wahweotten, Karie, Deann
Carroll, Eric, Eugene	Goslin, Thomas, James, Jr.	-----L	-----O	Shopteese, Ty, James	Wahweotten, Logan, O'Bryan
Cashman, Leonard, George	Grant, Christopher, Kenneth	Labranch, Amber, Dawn	Olinger, Dayton, Lee	Shoptese, Allison, Michal	Walrod, Jon, Karl
Charles, Zachariah, Ashley	Grier, Antonio, Joseph	Laclair, Brandon, Michael	Orcutt, James, Lee Happy	Sigo, Timothy, Shane,	Walrod, Peter, Thomas
Childers, Jeremy, Joseph	Grier, Arianna, Doun	LaClair # 163002, Jon, Paul	Orcutt, Naomi, Miriam	Simms Belaire, Jeffrey, Javonn Alan	Walrod, Scott, Eric
Cieslewicz, Michael, Conrad	Grinnell, Joseph, Theodore	Lake, Betty, A.	Ortiz, Cody, D.	Simon, Harold, L., Jr.	Wamego, Nathaniel, Zeke
Allen, II	Grinnell, Sarah, R.	Lake, Brittany, E.	Ortiz, Dominic, R.	Sims, Jaimie, Lynne	Wamego, Orville, Patrick
Clark, Amber, Lynn	Grinnell, Scott, James	Lake, Jirale, L.	Ortiz, Sara, M.	Snowball, Patsy, I.	Wamego, Zuley, Marie
Clark, Tamera, Marie	Gutierrez, Gloria, Marie	Lake, Kevin, Michael	-----P	Sockey, Justina, Elise	Ware, Kateri, Ann
Clark, Toniann, Paulette	Gutierrez, Jordan, Leigh	Lange, Tressa, Ann	Padilla, Athena, Caitlyn-lone	St Clair, Florence	Warledo, Amber, Nicole
Clement, Chance, Colton	Gutierrez, Maria, Antonia	Latka, Allyson, K.	Pahmahmie, Timothy, Daniel	Stauffacher, David, R.	Warren, Rachel, Marie
Cody, Kimberly, Dawn	Kicker	Lavier, Jessica, L.	Palmberg, Regina, Mae	Steele, Mary, J.	Watson, Jamie, Leigh
Coffin, Erik, John	Gutierrez, Rosa, Estefana	Lavier, Mary, Malissa	Parkinson, Helen, M.	Stone, Victoria, Lynn	Wayne
Coffin, Gabriel, Maxwell	-----H	Leach, Jan, Marie	Pedroja, Terri, Jean	Strange, Robert, Allan	Wahweotten, Karie, Deann
Contreras, Gina, Leonor	Hale, John, K.	Leach, Monika, Marie	Perdue, Rachel, Leigh	Strangeowl, Jace, Tyler	Walrod, Peter, Thomas
Cook, Amber, Marie	Hall, Lilybell, Ann	Leclere, Jalen, Charles	Perrote, Elijah, M.	Stump, Patrick, Nelson	Walrod, Scott, Eric
Cook, Bradley, Ronald	Harlan, Tab, Francis	Leclere, Zachrey, Dwayne	Jeremiah	Sturm, Keven, E.	Wamego, Nathaniel, Zeke
Cook, Cody, Douglas	Harness, Jamira, Shanta	Levier, Aiyana, Rose	Perry, Charles, H.	Sumner, Susan, A.	Wamego, Orville, Patrick
Cook, Dustin, Joseph	Harness, Jeff, L., Jr.	Levier, Joseph, Marcus	Phillips, Francis, Peter	-----T	Wamego, Zuley, Marie
Copeland, Tiffany, Ann	Hastings, Mark, D. II	Lewis, Andy, Nolan	Pidgeon, Shado, Rose	Tanksley, Cheryl, Anne	Walrod, Peter, Thomas
Counts, Nancy, Marie	Hawke, Lucas, J.	Lewis, David, Ray	Pierce, Deann, Charlee	Thomas, Jason, Michael	Walrod, Scott, Eric
Courchene, Elizabeth, Marie	Hawkins, Railynn	Lewis, James, Allen	Pompa, Channing, A.	Thomas-Baird, Logan, Elizabeth	Wahweotten, Karie, Deann
Cox, Amber, Renee	Helmski, Paige, Marie	Lewis, Jamie, Leigh	Pope, Shain, Tyler	Thomas-Baird, Logan, Elizabeth	Walrod, Peter, Thomas
Craft, Dustin, Michael	Henry, Darren, Logan	Lewis, Naomi, Renee	Postoak, David, E.	-----U	Walrod, Scott, Eric
Craft, Rebecca, Kay	Hernandez, Aleeshia, Dawn	Lewis, Patricia, Lynn	Potts, Joseph, Edwin	Ulloa, Jessica, Rene	Walrod, Scott, Eric
Craine, Brandon, Matthew	Hernandez, Andres, Cruz	Lopez, Sharlene	Potts, Lorelei, Renee	-----V	Walrod, Scott, Eric
Crawford, Bailee, Creann	Hernandez, Aramis	Lussier, Jalen, Duane	-----Q	Van Zile, Doren	Walrod, Scott, Eric
Cruz, Christopher, Allen	Hernandez, Christopher,	Lussier, Jared, Bud	Quackenbush, Ira, James	Vanderblomen, Krista, Lynn	Walrod, Scott, Eric
		Lussier, Jarvis, Frank	Quinn, Judy, May	Vanderblomen, Marion, C.	Walrod, Scott, Eric
		Lussier, Joseph, Dennis	Quiring-Grier, Zachary,	Vanscyoc, Shelly, Marie	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Varela, Ernest	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Ventura, Raquel, Mere	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Vigil, Christina, Marie	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Villareal, Talia, S	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Violet, Angelyssa, Leanne	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Violet, Nehemiah, Stephen	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				-----W	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wabaunsee, Gregory, Davis	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wabaunsee, Jolene, Renae	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wabaunsee, Nicole	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wabnum, Katelyn, L.	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wadley, Delvin, Wade	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahquahboshkuk, Sirena, Rose	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahquahboshkuk-Kramer, Chase, Christin	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahquahboshkuk-Kramer, Hunter, Douglas	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahwassuck, Desiree, Louise	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahwassuck, Draven, M. L.	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahwassuck, Ishara, Danielle	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahwassuck, Mary, Ann	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahwassuck, Sunny, Aquila	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahweotten, Karie, Deann	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahweotten, Logan, O'Bryan	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Jon, Karl	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Peter, Thomas	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Scott, Eric	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Nathaniel, Zeke	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Orville, Patrick	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Tyler, James	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Zuley, Marie	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Ware, Kateri, Ann	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Warledo, Amber, Nicole	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Warren, Rachel, Marie	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Watson, Jamie, Leigh	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wayne	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahweotten, Karie, Deann	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahweotten, Logan, O'Bryan	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Jon, Karl	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Peter, Thomas	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Scott, Eric	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Nathaniel, Zeke	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Orville, Patrick	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Tyler, James	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Zuley, Marie	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Ware, Kateri, Ann	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Warledo, Amber, Nicole	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Warren, Rachel, Marie	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Watson, Jamie, Leigh	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wayne	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahweotten, Karie, Deann	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahweotten, Logan, O'Bryan	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Jon, Karl	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Peter, Thomas	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Scott, Eric	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Nathaniel, Zeke	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Orville, Patrick	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Tyler, James	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Zuley, Marie	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Ware, Kateri, Ann	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Warledo, Amber, Nicole	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Warren, Rachel, Marie	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Watson, Jamie, Leigh	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wayne	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahweotten, Karie, Deann	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahweotten, Logan, O'Bryan	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Jon, Karl	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Peter, Thomas	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Scott, Eric	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Nathaniel, Zeke	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Orville, Patrick	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Tyler, James	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wamego, Zuley, Marie	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Ware, Kateri, Ann	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Warledo, Amber, Nicole	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Warren, Rachel, Marie	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Watson, Jamie, Leigh	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wayne	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahweotten, Karie, Deann	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wahweotten, Logan, O'Bryan	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Walrod, Jon, Karl	Walrod, Scott, Eric
				Wal	

Kambottek

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



Matilda Alexander

Matilda "Tillie" Alexander, 93, passed away Thursday, September 14, 2023, at her home.

Tillie was born April 13, 1930, in Mayetta, Kansas to Willie and Lenora Wabskie Simon. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and began her education in a one room schoolhouse on the reservation and then attended Native American boarding schools in North Dakota, South Dakota and graduated from the Chilocea Indian Agricultural School in Chilocea, Oklahoma. On March 5, 1952, Tillie and F.S. "Jack" Alexander were united in marriage, enjoying more than 71 years together.

Tillie was employed by the Topeka State Hospital as a psychiatric aide for many years. She worked for the State of Kansas for several years before leaving to accompany her husband on his political circuit as well as others' political campaigns.

Tillie enjoyed sports. Among her favorite teams were the Dallas Cowboys and the Los Angeles Dodgers but none trumped her KU Jayhawks.

Left to cherish Tillie's memory are her husband, Jack Alexander; her children, Jack Alexander, Jr. (Jenny), Stephanie Alexander and Terrell Alexander (Lisa); her grandchildren, Shannon, Uler III, Alexandria Simone, Tishawna, Michaela and Marissa; great-grandchildren, Walter "Trey", Tasia, Uler IV, U'Zyah, U'Niese, Udonis, Usiris, U'Launi, Jason, Bryanna, Akkina, Cionna and Canyon; seven great-great-grandchildren; her sister Mary Frost; many nieces and nephews; and a host of dear friends.

Tillie was preceded in death by her daughter, Patricia Alexander, granddaughters, Lori Ann Alexander and Kori Lea Alexander and her seven brothers.

Entombment was September 23, 2023 in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Reprinted Courtesy of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home.



Vivian Kitchkumme-Gonzales

Vivian Kitchkumme-Gonzales left this world on September 2023, at the age of 99. She was born July 23, 1924, on the Potawatomi Reservation near Mayetta, Kansas, and brought joy to those around her from the very beginning.

P-quo-tah is preceded in death by her parents Francis "Wab-shaw" Kitchkumme and Dora "P-quo-tah" Nah-quah-be, Siblings: Jacob Willard, Francis Leroy, Joseph Alfred, Ernestine Virginia Robedeaux,, Bernadette Cecilia Miranda, Ellen Imogene Gokey-Hernandez-Harris. Sons: Rudolph "Sah-geeka" Gonzales, and Daniel Mario "Na-gon-kouck" Gonzales

Vivian was a woman with an infectious zest for life and an unwavering love for her community. Her warm smile and contagious laughter brightened countless days, making her a beloved figure in Chicago, Southern California, Topeka, and Potawatomi Reservation. Whether she was working full-time until her retirement at age 75 volunteering, attending community events or selling her breakfast burritos, Vivian's dedication to helping and feeding others was an inspiration to all..

She leaves behind her four loving children, - Daughter Mary Campos & husband Ruben, and their three children, John, Joseph, and Jennifer Dambrose. Sons - Luis Gonzales; Francis Gonzales & wife Brenda, 5 children, Veronica Strange, Charles Gonzales, David Gonzales (Naomi), Amber Griffiths & Angelo Gonzales (Gladys). Son - Rey Kitchkumme. The late Daniel "Na-gon-kouck" Gonzales', Daughter In-Law Peggy Gonzales and three children; Gina Roxas, Jessica Gonzales, and Daniel Gonzales Jr.

She is a devoted mother and cherished every moment spent with her children, 11-Grandchildren, 31-Great Grandchildren, and 3-Great-Great Grandchildren creating treasured memories that will forever be held close.

Vivian retired from Harrah's Prairie Band

Casino at age 75. In her retirement she traveled visiting her children, went to annual Potawatomi Gatherings, Vatican City Italy, swam in the Dead Sea, and even rode a camel.

Mass of Christian Burial was held September 16th Burial will be at a later date in the Komisanan Family Cemetery.



Danita J. Roloff

Danita J. Roloff, age 58, of Tomahawk, WI, passed away on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay, WI. Danita was born in Tomahawk, WI, on May 23, 1965, to Duwayne Waubiness and Florance Kuester. She was married to Scott Roloff on April 6, 1991; he passed away on December 20, 2022.

Danita was a lifelong resident of Tomahawk and a 1983 graduate of Tomahawk High School.

She attended Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, WI, where she received her degree in the Administrative Professionals program.

Survivors include her son, Jeremy (Heidi) Roloff, of Ringle, WI; her daughters, Jenny (Jason) Shidell, of Birnamwood, WI, and Brittney Roloff (Ben Smith), of Tomahawk; her brothers, Robbe Welch, of Tomahawk, Henry Welch, of Merrill, WI, and Scott (Tyra) Welch, of Gleason, WI; her sisters, Lori Welch, of Tomahawk, Mickey Hanson, of Tomahawk, and Dianne (Ken) Zubke, of Wausau. She is further survived by her grandchildren, Paizley Smith, and Conrad, Waylon, Spencer, and Liza Roloff.

Danita was preceded in death by her father, Duwayne Waubiness; her mother, Florance Welch; her husband, Scott Roloff; her sister, Colleen Welch; her father and mother-in-law, Lawrence and Sue Roloff; her niece, Tanya Welch; her nephew, Jesse Welch; and her sister-in-law, Barb Welch.

Reprinted Coutesy of Generations Funeral Home & Crematory.

Debra Kay Stanfill
6/11/1955 - 9/8/2023



Terry Stewart

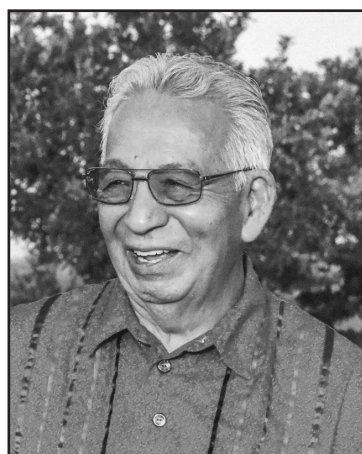
Terry Lee Stewart, 52, of Edwardsville, KS, passed away Thursday, September 21, 2023 in Edwardsville. He was born February 2, 1971 in Wichita, KS, the son of Larry Wayne and Betty Jo (Eteeyan) Stewart.

Terry was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Larry and Betty Jo Stewart and a brother, Jerry Stewart.

Internment took place on September 27, 2023 at Prairie Peoples Cemetery on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation.

Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home



Merriell Wahwassuck

Merriell V. "Mat we" "Meatball" Wahwassuck, 78, of Mayetta, KS, passed away Saturday, September 16, 2023 at his home with family by his side. He was born August 26, 1945 in Delia, KS, the son of Johnnie P. Wahwassuck, Jr. and Josette P. (Nahgonbe) Wahwassuck.

Merriell retired as a Boiler Maker and member of Local 627 in Phoenix, AZ. He also worked for Road and Bridge on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation.

He was a member of Drum Religion and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Merriell married Belva Linda Coochise on September 24, 1966. They celebrated over 50 years of marriage, before her passing on July 3, 2017. He was also preceded in death by his parents, Johnnie and Josette Wahwassuck; 4 sisters, Florence "Gumpy" Ross, Twila "Charlie" Lee, Nancy Conboy and Mamie Rupnicki and 6 brothers, John "Doc" Wahwassuck, Jr, Jewett "Swede" Wahwassuck, Sr., Raphael "Chief" "Buzzer" Wahwassuck, Pete Wahwassuck, Henry Wahwassuck and Norman Wahwassuck.

Survivors include 6 children, Merriell V. Wahwassuck, Jr. (Mechelle), Anna M. Boswell (Michael), Cosette Wahwassuck, Jon Wahwassuck, Brandon Wahwassuck and Michael Wahwassuck (Dawn) all of Mayetta, KS; brother, James Wahwassuck of Mayetta, KS; 15 grandchildren.

Internment took place on September 18, 2023 at the Prairie Peoples Cemetery on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation.

Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Home



Ronald Wahweotten

Ronald "Ron" Wahweotten, 81, of Mayetta, KS, passed away Monday October 30, 2023, at his home on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation in Mayetta, KS. He was born December 27, 1941, in Mayetta, KS the son of Ray Wahweotten and Elsie Wahwassuck.

Ron was a master craftsman and business owner for many years throughout northeastern Kansas. He worked at J.F. McGivern Incorporated for over 30 years. He was owner/operator of Ron's Painting. Ron was an avid billiards player, and considered by many as a pool shark.

He was a citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Ron proudly served in the United States Marine Corps from 1959 - 1963

Ron was united in marriage to LaVeda Wahweotten on May 8, 1963, in Topeka, KS. They shared over 58 years of marriage before her passing on April 30, 2022.

He is survived by a brother, Larry Wahweotten of Augusta, KS; a sister Cheryl Walker of Mayetta, KS; 5 children, Mark Lopez of Delia, KS, Tina Wahweotten of Mayetta, KS, Tony Wahweotten (Angie) of Mayetta, KS, Ray Wahweotten (Nancy) of Delia, KS, Charles "Chuck" Wahweotten (Erlinda) of Topeka, KS; 9 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents; a son, Gerald Thomas; 3 sisters Inez Shopteese, Mary Brown and Lorene Wahweotten, and 2 brothers, Edward Wahweotten and Orville Kice, Jr.

Internment took place on November 3, 2023, at Wahwassuck Cemetery (O Road between 134th and 142nd rd.)

Charitable Contributions 3rd Quarter Recipient List Total Donated \$98,555

- Banner Creek Science Center
- Coats for Kids
- East Topeka Council on Aging
- Harvesters
- Helping Hands Humane Society
- Holton High School
- Kansas Book Festival
- Midland Care
- Prevention & Resiliency Services
- Ronald McDonald House
- Royal Valley High School
- SLI
- Sole Reason
- Sunflower State Games
- TARC
- The 20/30 Club
- The Project 2 Restore
- The Salvation Army
- Third Judicial District Drug Services Treatment Court

The Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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Etkwagēk/Winter Time
2023 Edition
Deadline
February 9, 2024

Send submissions to:
Email: media@pbpnation.org

PBPN Health Clinic Welcomes New Physician

Along with renovations and expansions to the facility, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Health Center is also expanding services and capacity, including bringing in new staff and providers. This fall, the Health Center welcomed Dr. Denise D. Tollefson as the newest addition to their Medical Clinic team.

"They're making moves to increase the care to the entire Nation and make sure we do the best we can for prevention as well as disease management," Dr. Tollefson said. "I'm a full-time family physician, and I'll be providing preventive care, diagnostic, and disease management. I'm just waiting for some things to be finalized so I can start seeing patients."

Dr. Tollefson is from Hiawatha, Kansas, and trained at Duke University Medical Center. After living in North Carolina for 25 years, she returned to Kansas and previously worked at the University of Kansas Health System St. Francis Campus in Topeka before arriving at the PBP Health Center.

"I've been working with Dr. Jacobsen, the [PBP Health Center] Medical Director, for the last three years at St. Francis," Dr. Tollefson said. "When she mentioned that they needed to expand, I was like, 'Wow, this could be a really great opportunity.'"

After practicing medicine for over thirty years, and drawing on her own experiences as a patient, Dr. Tollefson explained that she sees a clear need to prioritize understanding and collaboration between providers and patients, and to encourage people to take control of their own health and treatment.

"My motivation to get into medicine was because I had a lot of bad experiences as a patient, as a child and a young adult. I found that I was really jumpy and anxious after those experiences," Dr. Tollefson said. "Later on in life, I realized that if someone had just communicated with me, simplified it, made sense of it, then I wouldn't have been so overwhelmed by it. So my idea has always been to try to communicate in a way that you understand."

"I tell people that treating congestive heart failure is like a sump pump in a basement that's flooding—we've got to control the fluid balance," Dr. Tollefson continued. "I try to communicate in a way that uses everyday terms. I tell people that being a doctor is not very different from being a mechanic—that you have to make an assessment of what's going on, and you have to understand the vehicle you're working on."

Dr. Tollefson noted that many people have fears or concerns about medical treatment due to past negative experiences. Rather than thinking of these individuals as "difficult" patients, Dr. Tollefson hopes to meet people where they are and work together to create a plan for improving or maintaining their health.

"I'm nobody's boss, but I could be a guide or a coach," Dr. Tollefson said. "A coach could tell you not to shoot your layups with your right hand, yet you get to choose whether you use your right or left hand. Likewise, if I could just coach you in the things that will help you control your disease, then maybe we can collaborate and come up with a happy medium, because none of us are perfect."

"I'm hoping that my patients give me honest feedback and tell me what I need to do to make it easier for them," Dr. Tollefson went on to say. "If I'm not making sense, I want my patients to feel comfortable to tell me or tell my nurse that they didn't understand. I'm not going to belittle or minimize that—I'll see if I can find another way to do a comparison or analogy that makes sense to you."

Although Dr. Tollefson has not started seeing patients yet, she says that she has already gained an appreciation of the sense of community both at the PBP Health Center and across the Nation.

"The beauty of this community—it's palpable when you first walk in [to the Health Center]. From my perspective, you just feel the hearts of all the community," Dr. Tollefson said. "The people are great—they all have an immense sense of service to their community. There's also this wonderful feeling in the building, where they have lunch activities together, and they make sure people are a team and that you don't feel ostracized. And wouldn't life in general be better if everyone felt like they were part of some sort of team?"

"It's so important for people to understand that health is about so many different layers, and that the healthier the individual, the greater capacity for their enjoyment of life—but also their capacity to contribute to others," Dr. Tollefson continued. "I haven't been here very long, but I've driven by the buffalo and the park, and I've walked by the Veterans' Memorial, and I just think about all the efforts made to maintain the strength of the community, and I really haven't had that in my life. I really respect that and honor that, and the thing that I understand is that the healthier are you as individuals—mentally, physically—then you are also healthier as a community."

The PBP Health Center opened its new Dental Clinic wing expansion and renovated several other spaces in the facility this year. More repairs, renovations, and expansions are planned for the future as the Health Clinic continues to grow to meet the needs of the community.



Dr. Denise D. Tollefson

Building Cultural Relationships Through Art

By: Mados Potts-Zyganiuk

Living in Canada has its drawbacks when your family lives 1300+ miles away. That doesn't lessen the pride one has when learning that your grandson is the fancy feather youth dancer showcased on the 32 x 16 feet mural on Delia Elementary School. There was no doubt it was Knowee Potts as I had just made the breastplate he is wearing in that mural which was gifted to him for his April birthday. My heart was pounding with pride the day I saw that photo!

Knowee's mother, Tracy, shared the WIBW television coverages and there was an attempt at viewing the Holton Recorder article. PBP News was asked if they would be doing an article as there is more than just a big beautiful mural now situated adjacent to the Potawatomi Rez. What is behind this mural? Who did this mural? How were these young people selected to be in the mural? Tracy provided the information needed to begin putting the loose ends together – the artist is a former teacher to Knowee Potts and Mshewe Hale and his name is Garrett Larson. Garrett stated that ever since he was young he was fascinated by Native American culture which is clearly demonstrated in the colorful and moving masterpieces.

In January 2023, the Department of Tourism of Jackson County began working on an art project idea for Delia, approaching Garrett Larson in April. "This artwork celebrates young people that are continuing the traditions of their heritage and culture. Native Americans use vibrant colors to represent their practical, social, and spiritual aspects of life. This work is meant to symbolize the continuation and spreading of traditions through ceremonies such as in their song and dance," said Garrett. Continuing, he said they wanted to showcase people that live in the area and the good things they do. The youth painted in the mural are Mshewe Hale who is a Nationally-recognized pow wow and traditional singer, Knowee Potts is a fancy feather dancer, and Kiwe Miller is a fancy shawl dancer.

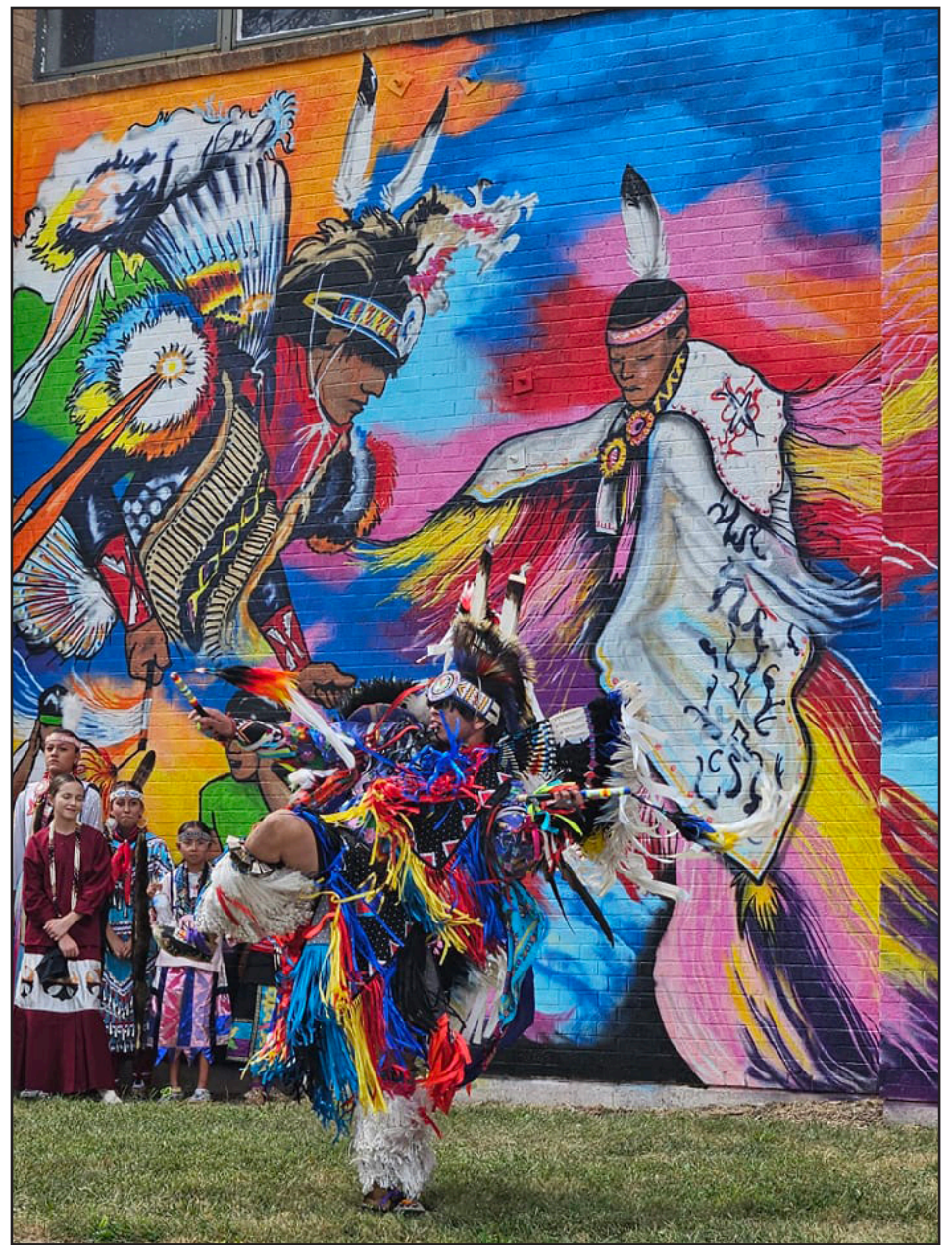
Mshewe Hale grew up in the big drum ways and pow wow trail alongside his big Hale family. The Hale men make up a whole circle of singers when they are all together - well known throughout Indian Country for their powerful voices and love of their ways and powwows.

Knowee Potts began fancy feather dancing in his mid-teens, creating and making much of his own pow wow regalia. Recalling when Knowee told me he was going to begin pow wow dancing, I tried to encourage him to start slow with traditional style dancing. His response was that he was going to fancy feather dance! Thinking back, Knowee rarely did things slow.

Garrett recalls Knowee and him having similar passions - being a car enthusiast and having artistic talent – following in his dad's (Willie) footsteps. Knowee was always ready to share his dancing videos, his beliefs about his culture and world views, and blew Garrett away with his video of him doing the splits at the end of the dance. For these reasons, Knowee quickly came to mind when deciding who he would include in the mural.

Kiwe Miller, the young fancy shawl dancer in the mural, was recently chosen as We-Te-Se Princess. According to Garrett, Kiwe was selected as her pictures were full of movement with her face focused and strong – details an artist would seek. It is said that she is an excellent fancy shawl dancer and athlete.

Garrett and his life-long friend, Dillon Shoffner, also created a metal buffalo sculpture which complemented this art project in more ways than one. Prairie Band Potawatomi respectfully care for a large herd of buffalo directly north of this location. Buffalo are a part of our traditional ways of survival for the medicinal foods they provide. Buffalo meat is harvested and distributed on a monthly basis to the Elder on the Reservation. It can also be requested for special ceremonial purposes. Garrett pointed out that there are 250 pieces of steel that were hand-rolled and bent into 1.5 inch tubing in creating the 15 x 15 foot metal buffalo structure. High quality paints were used for the mural and



The PBP Native American Singers and Dancers perform during the mural dedication in Delia.

outhouse; and, a special coating will be applied prolonging the mural life to 20+ years. A painted outhouse is also part of this amazing project. Showcasing two different art mediums in the same location was a great experience for Garrett.

On September 10th, the Department of Tourism of Jackson County brought together the community of Delia and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, honoring and dedicating the beautiful artwork created by artisan, Garrett Larson. The ceremony was filled with live, vivid colors and patterns of Potawatomi traditional dress - the expression through dance proudly demonstrating their uniqueness of self from face painting to the regalia worn by each participant. Mshewe Hale, Knowee Potts, and Kiwe Miller are just a few who will make our people proud in acknowledging cultural awareness!

Garrett Larson and his dedicated crew along with funders have created a monumental structure which reminds everyone about respecting one another's cultures and learning from one another. He stressed that the relationships that he forged with fine young people like the ones depicted in the mural makes teaching worthwhile – sharing special relationships! Garrett shared that 'the best part of painting was seeing the young kids that would come by and look at the mural. Some of the kids were relatives of people that were in the mural or had family members that also participated in pow wows. Seeing the kids light up and idolize performers in the mural was special!'



Arlene Wahwahsuck's family would like to wish her a very happy 90th birthday!

We wish you continued good health, higher bowling scores and all our love. Thank for always being here for us.

In honor of her 90th year we are having a card shower. Please feel free to send Arlene a birthday note/card through the month of January.

**You can send them to:
Arlene Wahwahsuck
1106 Golden Eagle Road
Horton, KS 66439**

