



Prairie Band Potawatomi News

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

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Epok 2023

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Epok

"Winter time of the year"

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

Legislation Filed in Illinois Would Help Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Reclaim Stolen Land

State legislators joined Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation last month in Springfield, Ill in support of a bill that would transfer a state park in DeKalb County to the tribal nation on whose Reservation the park currently sits.



PBPN Council Member Raphael Wahwassuck and 2023 - 2024 Miss Potawatomi Princess, Pannoquah Wahwassuck, watch as Chairman Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick welcomes Illinois State Rep. Mark Walker as he takes the podium during a news conference on February 22nd.

State Rep. Mark Walker (D-Arlington Heights) filed House Bill 4718, giving the state of Illinois the opportunity to right historical wrongs and transfer ownership of the Shabbona Lake State Park – roughly 1,500 acres in total – to Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

"After more than 200 years of unfair, forced, and often illegal dealings with American Indian nations of Illinois, it is about time we started balancing our books and meeting our obligations. We can never fully fix the sins of the past, but we can all acknowledge them and begin to make some amends," State Representative Mark Walker (D-Arlington Heights)

said. "This land transfer of this Illinois state park to the Prairie Band Potawatomi is a simple and direct step that aims to minimize harm to all parties. The time for talk, bureaucracy and politics is over. Let's just do it now."

In the 1830s when Chief Shab-eh-nay traveled from his home Reservation in DeKalb, protected by treaty, to visit his family in Kansas, the U.S. government stole and illegally auctioned off more than 1,121 acres of his land near the village of Shabbona in southern DeKalb County. The state park and houses currently sit on the Reservation land.

"Despite our land being illegally taken from us, we're still here, living and contributing to life in Illinois, while practicing our traditions and serving our country," Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Chairman Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick said. "We may not yet have our Reservation land back in the hands of our Tribe, but we have the truth and increasing acknowledgement that our cause is just, thanks to the legislators standing here today."

No Tribe has entered into more treaties with the United States government than Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. "We have entered into 44 treaties," Rupnick explained, "and every one of them has been broken in one form or fashion or another."

In 2001, the U.S. Department of the Interior confirmed the history and legal status of the Shab-eh-nay Reservation as federally recognized

- Continues: See "Legislation" on page 2

Billboard Artwork Celebrates Bond Between Elders and Youth

A new billboard honoring Native Elders can be found on the east side of Highway 75 between 150th and 158th Roads, facing north. The artwork on display was created by Makkeyo Mahkuk for PBPN Tribal Victim Services' "Love Our Elders" billboard contest, which asked Native youth to submit designs that celebrate the special role of Elders in the community.

"I heard about it from my Auntie Shawna [Williams]," Mahkuk said. "She had brought me a contest paper home because she knows I love to draw. And I submitted one because I thought it would be fun, not expecting to win."

The design contest received 29 entries from youth of all ages, which were displayed at the Elder Center and judged exclusively by Elders.

Tribal Victim Services (TVS) Program Manager Sarah Draper said that the goal for the "Love Our Elders" project was to bring youth and Elders together.

"We want Elders to know they are loved, thought of, and supported by

the youth," Draper explained. "We want young people to have opportunities to slow down their busy lives and show that love to those who have paved the way before them. Elders play an instrumental role in passing on their customs, traditions, and stories to the young. It is important for them to remain connected and grow together as they learn from each other in positive ways."

Mahkuk's winning artwork was inspired by the PBPN Early Childhood Education Center's logo, which depicts two parents and a child.

"Since the topic was Elders, I made the parents Elders with their grandchild and added my own twist to it," Mahkuk said. "I hope people take away from my drawing that our Elders are very important and still play a big part in our lives. Also



PBPN Youth Makkeyo Mahkuk, presents the billboard showcasing her artwork located on Highway 75 near Mayetta.

- Continues: See "Billboard" on page 2

Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick: Report to the Nation



Dear Tribal Members,

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and I wish they receive all the blessing they have asked for.

Many of the normal business activities seem to slow down during this time but I still have attended two events and discuss issues important to the Nation.

In January, we had many days where the Nation was shut down due to weather. It's good we received a lot of snow and moisture, we needed it but work does not stop. I want the members to know that I was in the office every day during that time. There are calls to be made, meetings to attend and documents to sign, all part of this position and doing the Nation's business.

November saw the 80th anniversary of NCAI and while most

of the conference was business as usual, there was one item brought up that the Nation should be made aware of. There was a resolution and consequently a vote to amend the NCAI constitution where state recognized Tribes, while still being allowed to be members, could not hold leadership positions and would not be allowed to vote. This is an important issue for us since, there are financial, and a federal trust responsibility not being met.

If you recall, Congress allocated to Tribes, millions of dollars to combat the pandemic and the formula used in the calculation was based on the Indian Housing Block Grant. This formula is a needs assessment formula based on the amount of dollars received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development or HUD. We sued Treasury and successfully won our case stating that the formula should not have been used since Tribes certify their population to Interior.

What most do not know is that many State recognized tribes also received those dollars and from our vantage point should not. We have a unique relationship with the Federal Government based on all the treaties we have signed and the guarantees. State recognized tribes do not have that status and many times, are just groups claiming Indian Status. There is a process Tribes can go through and once Federally recognized, we should accept them with full

rights in the organization. This also includes those groups here in Kansas. With the start of the new legislative session, I'm sure we will receive a request to support that legislation and again, we should oppose any State recognition.

With NCAI still fresh on everyone's mind, I attended the White House Tribal Leaders Summit hosted by Interior in December. While there, it was refreshing to see the President sign an executive order which included one item I have constantly brought up and that was a revised funding formula to allow Tribes to be competitive on Grants. Just because Tribes are eligible, doesn't mean that they can compete with major metropolitan areas or industries for Federal dollars since many Tribes lack the resources or expertise to remain competitive. This was a win for all of Indian county.

This also gave me time to meet with different law makers, requesting a hearing on our bills filed and bringing up other areas of interest such as supporting the STOP Act, advance appropriations for IHS and expanding criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians who commit drug offenses on the Reservation. These are very important issues for Indian county but given the current state of the House of Representatives, I do not feel we will get anything done with this current Congress. This is why I'll mention again, elections are important

and we need to support and vote in members of Congress who will work and support our issues.

Here in Kansas, the session is underway and we have prepared a list of items we are hoping to accomplish. While I do not think there are any bills that must be submitted by the Nation, we are keeping our eye on one and are working with Rep. Haswood to correct the language and introduce it. That legislation is a State enhancement to ICWA.

On the Reservation, we are still working with the Department of Transportation to release funds from the RAISE grant. Once those funds are released, we can begin to secure a vendor to resurface a lot of our roads. As I've stated before, this is a multi-year project and with any luck, we will have all paved surfaces re-done and then we can start looking at the next project. I do not know what that next project will be but rest assured, we are looking at all options.

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

Migwett
Joseph P. Rupnick, Chairman
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

- Legislation Continued from page 1

Indian Country because the U.S. Government never received the required Congressional approval to auction off land that rightfully belonged to Chief Shab-eh-nay.

"These lands were an integral piece of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's cultural heritage. The inconsideration of tribal land claims has had a long-lasting effect on the Native American community, and it is time that we atone for the mistakes of the past and restore the connection between the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and their land," State Senator Karina Villa, said. "I am honored to be a part of this initiative that will help cultivate a better relationship between indigenous communities and the state. Returning the land, known as Shabbona Lake State Park, will foster a healthier environment benefiting our communities and will support the healing of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation."

"The governor has shown his support conceptually," Walker said. "The details of this deal are not finally settled. But the Department of Natural Resources has been cooperative and helped with this. We're going to get there."

Walker has gained 16 Democratic co-sponsors for House Bill 4718. Although, the plan is still in the House Rules Committee.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has been deprived of its ownership and use of its Shab-eh-nay Reservation in DeKalb County since the 1830s. During this time, the Nation has been denied the cultural, social, and economic benefit of those lands.

Despite this, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has committed to keep the park open to the public, and to improve the infrastructure and experience of the park if the legislation passes and is signed into law.

"Just last year, the Governor signed into law three bipartisan-supported bills that overwhelmingly passed the state legislature, protecting the once disparaged and violated Native culture in Illinois," Rupnick said. "But all of this work, while extremely important, does not address the remaining central problem that must be rectified to achieve true justice for Native people in Illinois."

"Returning our land is a necessary step toward the recognition we deserve as a people and as citizens of Illinois."

- Billboard, Continued from page 1

that they deserve our utmost love and respect and they'll forever love you more than anyone else."

"As we consider these relationships through our victim services lens, we wanted to create a safe space for both groups to learn the vital roles they play in maintaining healthy relationships, to recognize abuse, and how to seek confidential help from local resources," Draper said of the project. "We chose the billboard as a prize to serve as a reminder to us all that we have a vital role to play as we seek and maintain healthy relationships."

Mahkuk's design, along with all the other billboard contest entries, were displayed at the "Love Our Elders" Art Gala held at Fire Keepers Elder Center on October 19, 2023. The Gala served as a culminating event for the "Love Our Elders" project, during which the entries that the Elders had chosen as the first, second, and third place winners were announced.

"All of the submissions were wonderfully created with the spirit of Loving Our Elders and the turnout for the Gala and announcement of the winners was astounding," Draper reflected. "We felt in that moment that our goals were achieved as two events collided to positively impact the community."

TVS often works closely with the Elder Center. In addition to the "Love Our Elders" contest and Art Gala, the two departments have collaborated to facilitate ongoing weekly Healing Through Art sessions, host a community cookout for the Elders, and offer various activities and events throughout the year.

The "Love Our Elders" billboard design will be on display through the end of March 2024. TVS staff hope that the billboard will act as a reminder for passersby to reflect on their own relationships and take the necessary steps to find ways of showing love to others.

If you would like more information regarding the Tribal Victim Services Program or have thoughts for future events to strengthen Elder and family or community relationships, contact Sarah Draper at 966-8398.

Tribal Council Member Tony Wahweotten: Report to the Nation



Ho PBP (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation) Members, I hope all had a great Holiday Season, and wish all a Happy New Year 2024.

As we enter the 1st quarter of 2024, I would like to begin this report with some reminders and personal thoughts for the people of the Nation.

First, cold and flu season is still here, as a reminder, flu vaccines, the updated covid vaccination, and booster shots are available at the Prairie Band Health Center. This Winter has been very cold and dangerous with subzero temperatures, please bundle up and take necessary precautions.

Next, I want to extend

congratulations and say "great job" to our Tribal Council, Entertainment Board and Casino property Management for the completion of the Prairie Band Sports Book Lounge, well done. More continued improvements, and 1st Class upgrades are in the works.

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 registered 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 October 21, 2023, General Council Meeting, I have attended:

- Five special Tribal Council meetings
- Three Regular Tribal Council meetings
- Two legal project and Treaty Nation Defense meetings
- Four consecutive Shabbona next step and Dekalb discussions
- One Four Tribes in meetings at Iowa
- Three PBP Tax Commission meetings
- Three Hemp Regulation meetings
- Two Land Committee meetings
- One Enrollment Committee swearing in ceremony
- One Tribal Judge Swearing in ceremony
- An Invitational Lobbyist dinner in Chicago Illinois
- One Funding Alternatives Analysis Virtual Workshop
- One Kansas Lobbyist discussion
- Attended Fall graduation Ceremony at Haskell University
- Attended the Intertribal Agriculture Council Convention in Las Vegas
- One Soft Opening with the Prairie Band Casino Sports Betting
- One ribbon cutting ceremony at the Prairie Band Casino for Sports Betting

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 Directors reviews
- LLC reviews
- Entertainment Board reviews
- Discussion on the Nation's current budget, 2024 funding challenges and investment opportunities

The Tribal Council has acted on 378 Resolutions for the 2023 year.

With National and State levels back in session, 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 and development
- Continued roads resurfacing and identified

full depth replacement Phase Two

- 150th and 75HWY

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, this phase was completed at 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 forty-one 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 thirty 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. In other Land related business, Tribal Council has nominated me as the Delegate for The Intertribal Agriculture Council and Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie as the Alternate Representative.

No new buffalo were received during the fourth quarter but plans to receive more are in the works. Our next buffalo harvest for the Elder Supplement Program will possibly be during the spring months. Contact LMD for supplemental buffalo meat pick up dates for Tribal Elders at 785-966-2737.

PBP has 24 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 address 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

PBP Approved Holidays Through 2024

All PBP 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.

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

Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, hope all is well as it seems like Spring is here with the warmer weather although it will not be officially Spring until March 19th.

I am sure we will see a few more cold days between now and then but hopefully we do not see any more snow or ice until next winter at this point.

Any time we see wintry weather, especially around the weekends, it usually equates to decreased figures for our gaming operation which I will discuss later in the article.

Towards the latter part of January, we mailed out our 1099s related to the 2023

Per Capita Distributions so hopefully you have received your copy in the mail by now. However, we did reissue quite a few duplicate copies this year so if you still have not received your copy in the mail let me know and we can work on getting a duplicate sent out.

With the 1099s and W-2s wrapped up for 2023 we are now in the process of getting our initial audits completed for FY2023.

All of our fiscal years (FY) run on the calendar year but have varying audit deadlines throughout 2024. Our first rounds of audits cover our low income housing tax credit projects followed by our tobacco compact audits, both of those will be wrapped up within the next month. Once we have those completed, we will roll into our Boys and Girls Club Audit as well as our Primary Government Audit, which we hope to have wrapped up around mid-year.

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

Investment Portfolio

In January 2022 the investment markets peaked at record highs and shortly thereafter dropped significantly. Much of 2022 was dismal to say the least when it came to investment performance.

2023 started out like what we saw for most of 2022 but in the 4th quarter we started to see the markets climb and so our investments also started to recover from most of the losses we endured during 2022.

As noted in previous articles and in our quarterly financial reports presented to the General Council, our investments are broken down into seven different sub-portfolios. The seven different categories for our sub-portfolios include our:

- Main Long-Term Investments
- Tax Commission Investments
- Education Endowment
- Burial Endowment
- Health Center Funds
- Buildings and Roads Funds
- ARPA Funds

Each of the seven sub-portfolios listed has a specific goal and an investment objective tailored towards the ultimate use of those funds.

So far in 2024 we have seen the markets continue to rally throughout the first part of the year. This is particularly good news for our newer sub-portfolios that were opened shortly before the downturn in the markets in 2022.

Those newer sub-portfolios include our Health Center Funds which was opened in 2020 and our Buildings and Roads Funds as well as our ARPA Funds which were both opened in 2021. These newer portfolios did not have the years of investment gains our other portfolios had in order to offset the losses incurred during 2022 and 2023 and generally showed overall investment losses since their inception until recently.

With the positive market performance in the latter part of 2023 and so far in 2024, all of our sub-portfolios show positive results both for recent months as well as for inception to date.

In general, most of our sub-portfolios have long-term investment objectives with the idea that the Tribe will be here forever. The one exception to this is of course our ARPA Funds sub-portfolio. Our ARPA Funds will need to be spent by the end of 2026 so that sub-portfolio will ultimately be closed out shortly after the expiration of the award. With this long-term investment objective in mind, while we always want to see our dollars climb over time, we do understand that we will see downturns occur periodically over the years.

Now that the negative impacts of 2022 are in our rear view mirror

so to speak, we look forward to a period of investment gains that will go towards benefiting the objectives of each of our sub-portfolios.

Tribal Cash Distributions

During the Tribal Council meeting held on Saturday February 17, 2024, the March Per Capita Distribution was approved and will be paid out on March 15, 2024. As was the case with the previous quarter's distribution in December 2023, the upcoming March Distribution will be somewhat lower than what we have seen over the past couple of years now.

Following the brunt of the negative impacts from COVID in 2020, the Casino has turned out Tribal Cash Distributions (TCD's) comparable to those prior to state gaming ever since. Towards the latter part of 2023 however, we did see somewhat of a decrease in our 4th Quarter TCD's in comparison to the past couple of years. Since Per Capita distributions are a direct percentage of the Casino TCD's, they are naturally lower due to the lower TCD's.

Items that generally contribute to lower TCD's revolve around increased operating costs, lower revenues or sometimes a combination of both.

Beginning in 2023, the Casino began repayment of its share of the debt related to the expansion project approved by the General Council in 2018. Essentially there are principal and interest payments associated with the expansion debt that we didn't see prior to 2023.

Throughout the first 3 quarters of 2023 we did see increased revenue that offset the additional costs associated with the expansion debt, however in the 4th quarter we did see some decline in revenue in October when compared to plan and prior year figures. That, followed by a decline in revenue due to snow on Thanksgiving weekend also contributed to a lower TCD in November. Although the month of December held its own from TCD standpoint, we were again impacted by winter weather in January with snow and extreme cold that stretched over a two-week period.

Over the past few weeks, we have seen unusually warm weather, so hopefully most of the winter weather is behind us for the season. In addition to the nice weather in February, it will also be the first full month for the Casino's Sportsbook, so we look forward to getting back to exceeding plan and prior year figures once again as we move forward in 2024.

Elder Assistance Program Eligibility Update

The Elder Assistance Program (EAP) was formed in 2018 to provide financial assistance to elderly PBPB Tribal Members for their medical, dental, vision and other health care expenses. The EAP is administered by the Tribe's Health Center and is overseen by the Purchase/Referred Care (PRC) committee. Unlike PRC benefits, which also provide financial assistance for similar expenses under our Health Center Compact with Indian Health Services, EAP benefits are available to all eligible PBPB Tribal Members nationwide so they are not restricted by a service area, which would be the case for PRC benefits.

Applications for EAP benefits are reviewed by the PRC committee which meets weekly to review applications. Once applications are reviewed, PBPB Tribal Members will be notified of approval or denial of their applications. Successful EAP applicants are awarded up to \$5,000 for EAP eligible expenses which are non-taxable benefits under the Tribe's General Welfare Support Program in accordance with Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act. Since the awards are non-taxable, 1099s will not be issued for awarded amounts. PRC awards also meet the same criteria as the EAP and are also non-taxable benefits.

Recently, the Tribal Council approved EAP Policy updates that became effective on January 1, 2024, through Tribal Council Resolution No. 2023-377. The policy update includes lowering the eligible age from 55 to 50 as well as requiring that EAP assistance must be for costs, items and services provided in the past 12 months. In addition to the eligibility requirements, specialized furniture or household items with a doctor's letter of medical necessity have been added to the list of expenses that can be considered for EAP funding while items such as legal fees, court costs, attorney payments, late fees and fines have been identified as expenses that do not qualify for assistance.

To find out more about eligible benefits under the EAP or to apply for EAP benefits, you may contact the Health Center at: 785-966-8282.

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)**

Winter Weather Forced Closures of PBPN Tribal Government, Services

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal government was forced to close its doors due to severe winter weather conditions that swept through the region in early January. The closure, which lasted for multiple days, disrupted normal operations, prompting a collaborative effort to ensure essential services, particularly healthcare, continued despite the challenging circumstances.

Jonathan Roberts, PBPN General Manager of Operations, said, "Closing the Tribal Government and services for Tribal Members is never an easy decision to make because of the number of people it impacts. In this situation, Tribal Council agreed that the bitterly cold temperatures, wind, and snow came together in a way that could easily have caused harm or the loss of life to members or our employees if we hadn't closed."

Roberts added that the Nation plans for these kinds of emergency situations. "Road and Bridge made sure the roads were kept clear. Fire Keepers Elder Center Staff delivered meals to home bound residents. The Land Management Department made sure the animals received the care they needed. Emergency services were never impeded, and we made sure that nobody went without their essential medications because the pharmacy was closed."

Michael Carpenter, PBPN Director of Pharmacy, highlighted the significant role played by the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department (PTFD) in ensuring the delivery of essential medications to community members.

"The PTFD were a big help in making the majority of the deliveries around the reservation. One day in particular when the clinic had been closed multiple days the PTFD made prescription medication deliveries to nearly 2 dozen homes," Carpenter emphasized.

Jay Mooney, PBPN Health Center Director, outlined the meticulous process undertaken by the health center to manage operations during inclement weather closures. "Our process in an inclement weather

closure is multi-faceted," said Mooney. He explained that the clinic leadership initiates a notification cascade through text, email, and phone calls to staff and patients. Additionally, designated staff members handle patient cancellations and rescheduling remotely, ensuring continuity of care.

Mooney further elaborated on the efforts to maintain medication access for homebound individuals during the closures. "Weekly medication boxes are delivered to homebound individuals on Tuesdays and Fridays. If we are closed one of these days, designated pharmacy staff w/AWD or 4x4 vehicles will make deliveries if necessary but we also enlist PTFD to help," he stated.

The pharmacy also established protocols with the Tribal Police Department (TPD) to address emergency medication situations promptly. "So, for this last round of closures we did do quite a bit of med deliveries and handled some emergency med situations. The pharmacy staff did a great job getting it accomplished, and we enlisted the Fire department for deliveries and worked with both Fire and Police on the emergency calls," Mooney added, commending the collaborative efforts of the various departments.

The closure due to severe winter weather underscores the resilience of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe in ensuring the well-being of its community members even in the face of challenging conditions. Despite the disruptions, the coordinated response from tribal departments ensured that essential services continued unabated, reflecting the Tribe's commitment to serving its members, particularly during times of adversity.

Douglas Schreiner, PBP Fire Chief, said, "The Fire Department worked closely with Tribal Dispatch, Tribal Police, and the Pharmacy to make sure medication requests were received, filled, and delivered appropriately. Mike Carpenter was instrumental in making sure these medications were ready for delivery."

The PBPN Tribal Fire Department



Firefighter / EMT Josh Johnson & Firefighter / EMT Grant Wewenis practice rescue procedures from an iced over pond during the cold snap that closed much of Northeast Kansas in January. Prairie Band Fire Department used the cold weather to practice these techniques while they could

responded to several citizen assists for vehicle jump starts, unlocks, and welfare checks as well as normal emergency calls.

In addition, Administration held twice daily situational awareness meetings with program directors of Fire, Police, Road & Bridge, Lands, Housing, Building Maintenance, & Construction Management. These were effectively Incident Command staff meetings making sure everyone was aware of the various emergency and ongoing situations each program was managing either separately or in conjunction with each other. Communication and awareness at the program level was excellent because of these meetings.

PBP Tribal Police worked closely with all Tribal Departments during the winter weather to ensure the Tribal Community was taken care of during the weather emergency.

Terry Clark Chief of Police, said, "We did constant patrols throughout the Reservation to ensure we kept an eye on roadways looking for vehicle slid offs and accidents. We provided assistance to community members when request which ranged from vehicle jumpstarts to retrieving needed medications from the pharmacy." Clark added, "It was amazing to be part of Tribal employees who put the needs of the community in front of the own. It is nice to see how well each departments work together."

One unexpected situation that occurred at the Fire Station was a failure of a propane regulator that shut down 3 of 4 furnaces that heat

the station. With the help of Building Maintenance, the apparatus bays remained heated as well as one of the main living areas for the department.

Chief Schreiner, said, "Director Robbie Lange and employee Randy Smith responded on Sunday the 7th and late after hours on following days to work on the issue and kept us from freezing. Randy was able to work with one of their vendors to find and fix the problem later in the week. We greatly appreciated their hard work and diligence as we were only one of many buildings with equipment issues, they were dealing with in the extreme cold."

One positive aspect of the severe cold snap was the opportunity for the fire department to practice Ice rescues. Schreiner pointed out that the possibility of someone being trapped on or in a frozen pond in the area does exist when temperatures dip below freezing. If someone were to lose control of a vehicle or misjudge the thickness of the ice, they could end up trapped. Chief Schreiner said, "We train for every situation we can think of to be prepared and pulling someone from a frozen body of water is something we can only practice when it's this cold. So, we took advantage of it."

Roberts said, "We really appreciate how available, responsive, and willing to help our fellow employees were from all the differing programs. It's that kind of willingness to get the job done that sets the Nation and our employees apart."



Department leaders taking Emergency Management courses from FEMA instructors to prepare for incidents like the extreme weather that impacted the Nation in January.

Mobile MRI Service Available at Health Center

As part of its recent expansion, the PBP Health Center now provides magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans for patients through a mobile MRI service. The mobile MRI unit is housed inside a truck that visits the Health Center every other Tuesday.

An MRI is similar to an x-ray or computerized tomography (CT) scan, except it utilizes magnets to create the image rather than radiation.

It also produces more detailed images allowing radiologists to examine soft tissue and nerves, which is not possible with a standard x-ray. This level of detail makes MRI a valuable diagnostic tool, and the addition of a mobile MRI service at the Health Center will be a great asset to the community.

Jenell Kern of the Health Center's Radiology Department handles scheduling for the mobile MRI service, which began on November 21, 2023, and has been in high demand since then.

"So far, we've been full every week," Kern said in early February. "Right now, we're booked out until March."

Before the Health Center began offering the mobile MRI service, patients had to travel to Topeka or Holton for scans. They were also subject to longer delays when scheduling their service.

"Last year, I was needing an MRI myself," Kern said. "I was in an accident, and they put me off for like three months. The MRIs in the area are very backlogged, and it can take a long time. So with the service here, we're getting our patients in a whole lot quicker."

The mobile MRI allows, the Health Center to significantly reduce the timetable for scheduling scans and receiving the results. Once a scan is performed, the images are available to Health Center staff within hours; an off-site radiologist interprets the images and provides a report directly to the Health Center, which can then be added to patients' files for their provider to examine.

PBP Health Center Administrator Jay Mooney explained that choosing to offer the mobile MRI service was a strategic decision that would benefit a large number of patients while staying within the budgetary constraints of the Health Center's expansion.

"The mobile MRI came out of discussions we were having back when we were planning the dental expansion," Mooney said. "As that project was being developed and we were looking at our old dental space, we were coming up with ideas for what that



The mobile magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit that visits the Health Center contains an MRI scanner and separated office space from which staff operate and monitor the scanner.

space would be. The need for an onsite MRI was discussed since getting our patients MRI scans is a challenge due to distance, cost, and other factors."

Although a traditional MRI unit housed within the facility was considered, there were concerns over its feasibility in relation to the overall renovation and expansion of the Health Center.

"We quickly realized that putting a permanent in-clinic MRI facility in the old dental space would increase the expansion project way beyond its scope," Mooney recalled. "However, that led us to looking to the west of the building and deciding to include in the expansion the creation of the right kind of pad and electrical hook-up to support a mobile MRI."

Mobile MRI units are functionally identical to regular MRI units and have all the same capabilities. The only limitations a mobile MRI unit may have would be due to staffing.

For instance, if a patient with a pacemaker needs to have an MRI done, there must be a cardiologist on standby in case the device malfunctions during the scan. Because the Health Center does not currently have a cardiologist on staff, the patient would likely need to be referred to another facility. However, the Health Center has been able to provide the mobile MRI service to many patients without issue so far.

The mobile MRI service was made possible through the PBP Health Center's partnership with Shared Medical Services (SMS), a company that provides diagnostic imaging technology to a network of healthcare facilities primarily in the Midwest.

"The MRI supplier, SMS, is a well-known and highly regarded mobile imaging supplier familiar with Northeast Kansas," Mooney said.

SMS maintains a regular route for its mobile MRI scanner, which ensures the service is reliably available.

Whoever is seen at the clinic can use the mobile MRI service if ordered by their provider, and the Health Center will bill the patient's insurance if they have coverage.

Kern advises patients scheduled for an MRI scan that they may feel claustrophobic because they will have to lie still in an enclosed space. Patients prone to claustrophobia should inform staff of any concerns they may have prior to the scan.

Patients who are scheduled for an MRI at the Health Center should also keep in mind that, because the mobile MRI scanner is housed in a semitruck, they will briefly be outdoors when walking from the Health Center to the scanner.

Patients may request a wheelchair if needed and should dress appropriately for the weather.



The mobile MRI scanner is housed in a semitruck that is owned and operated by Shared Medical Services (SMS). SMS supplies mobile imaging equipment and services to several healthcare facility partners in Northeast Kansas, including the PBP Health Center.

Current Addresses are Critical for Members

We appreciate the response we have had so far to the request for updated addresses. We ARE making progress and hope to bring everyone listed below current as soon as possible. Current addresses 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 to receive benefits could be impacted. 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 member's file to document.

-----A
 Aguilar-Vazquez, Gabriella, Rosalie
 Ahlgren, Tanya, Lee
 Aitkens, Josias, Elliott
 Aitkens, Kenneth, Leland
 Alcantar, Autumn, Kay
 Alejos, Sonja, Marie
 Alexander, Tishana, Lynne
 Allen, Douglas, James
 Allen, Malcolm, Tyon Haron Lee
 Allen, Megan, Marie
 Allen, Michael, Grant
 Allen, Randy, Joseph
 Allen, Steffany, Nacole
 Anderson, Jackie, Charles
 Armell, Robert, Pierre
 Armendaris, Jody, Sue
 Arndt, Christopher, James
 Arnold, Josephine, Lorraine
 -----B
 Bailey, Hope, Marie
 Baldwin, Arizona, Levi
 Bamke, Matthew, John
 Barber, Ian, Jess
 Barber, Victoria, Leigh,
 Barclay, Kelly, John II
 Barth, Christina, Dawn
 Bass, Tara, Ann
 Battese, Paul, Lawrence
 Beem, Andrea, Lynn
 Belaire, Dayzunique, Alanicole
 Belaire-Serna, Michael, Todd
 Bell, Allayna, Lasley
 Benz, Dawn, Marie,
 Blakeslee, William, Edward Jr.
 Blalock, Trent, Jacob
 Borzick, Margaret, Elizabeth
 Bosworth, Emily, Carol
 Boushie, Sarah, Lynn,
 Bradley, Melissa
 Brdicko, Jill, Christine
 Brewer, Jessica, Amber
 Brown, Crystal, Lee
 Brown, Lakeshia, Sherry
 Brown, Rachael, Lynne
 Brown, Raymond, Allan
 Brown, Sandra, Laurene
 Burnett, Orlando, Juan
 Burns, Israel
 Burton, Danielle, Nicole
 Buskirk, Caine, Tucker
 Butcher, Alexandra, Paris
 -----C
 Cadue, Angelina, Nicole
 Cadue, Anthony, Paul
 Cadue, Jason, Lee
 Cadue, Kacee, Mitsuko
 Cadue, Levi, James
 Cadue, Michael, Alexander
 Cadue, Phillip Jr.
 Camacho, Robert, Westly
 Canfield, Timothy, Andrew
 Carbajal, Elisabeth, Ann
 Carbajal, Ilene, Tokeya
 Carroll, Eric, Eugene
 Cashman, Leonard, George
 Charles, Zachariah, Ashley
 Childers, Jeremy, Joseph
 Cieslewicz, Michael, Conrad
 Allen II
 Clark, Amber, Lynn
 Clark, Tamera, Marie
 Clark, Toniann, Paulette
 Clement, Chance, Colton
 Cody, Kimberly, Dawn
 Coffin, Erik, John
 Coffin, Gabriel, Maxwell
 Contreras, Gina, Leonor
 Cook, Amber, Marie
 Cook, Bradley, Ronald
 Cook, Cody, Douglas
 Cook, Dustin, Joseph
 Copeland, Tiffany, Ann
 Counts, Nancy, Marie
 Cox, Amber, Renee
 Craft, Dustin, Michael
 Craft, Rebecca, Kay
 Craine, Brandon, Matthew
 Crawford, Bailee, Creann
 Cruz, Christopher, Allen
 Cruz, Sean, Gerald
 -----D
 Dametz, Michael, Dean
 Daubon, Jon, Gregory
 Davis, Jessica, Jane
 Davis, Luke, Lloyd
 Dean, Keith, Lee
 Delarosa, Luiz, Javier Solis
 Delg, Christian, Anthony

Deltgen, Dexter, Higgins
 DeSpain, Stephanie, Christine Jayne
 Devors, John, Allen Jr.
 Dinsdale, Brian, Jerome Jr.
 Dinsdale, Christopher, Edward
 Dinsdale, David, Michael
 Dinsdale, Lewis, Alfred
 Dinsdale, Nicholas
 Dodds, Courtney, Ann
 Dolsky, Alexsus, Dene
 Dominguez, Andrea, Marie
 Dominguez, Myranda, Adelaide
 Dominguez, Toni, Lee
 Donaldson, Melanie, Kay
 Doty, Brandon, Lane
 Doty, Denise, Lynn
 Draper, Carl, Anthony
 Dudoit, Racheal, Kuulei
 Dyer, Daniel, Taylor
 -----E
 Edwards, Shannon, Marie
 Engels, Dorian, Scott
 Enzor, Elizabeth, Marie
 Eric, Amy, Elizabeth
 Estep, James, Robert Jr.
 Eteeyan, Derek, Steve
 Eteeyan, Donald, Criss
 Eteeyan, Roger, Allen
 Eteeyan, Scott, Nelson
 Fairman, Asia, Marie
 Ferg, Mandy, Marie
 Fiddick, Robbin, Leilani
 Fields, Angeline, Lynn
 Fitzherbert, Keaton, Izaiah
 Fitzsimmons, Gene, Tommy
 Fixico, Rachel, Marie
 Frazier, Raymond, Duane
 Fritz, Ja Nae, Marie
 Fuller, Darien, Jade
 -----G
 Gabel, Daniel, John Jr.
 Garcia, Aliyah, Lorraine
 Gardner, Anthony, Allen
 Garrett, Preston, Levi
 Gibbs, Robert, L. III
 Gomez, Aaron, Francis
 Gonzales, Mark, Masquas
 Gonzalez, Erminia, Maria
 Goslin, Nathan, Curtis
 Goslin, Thomas, James Jr.
 Grant, Christopher, Kenneth
 Grier, Arianna, Doun
 Grier, Joseph, Tyrone
 Grinnell, Joseph, Theodore
 Grinnell, Sarah, R.
 Grinnell, Scott, James
 Gutierrez, Gloria, Marie
 Gutierrez, Maria, Antonia
 Kicker
 Gutierrez, Rosa, Estefana
 -----H
 Hale, John, K.
 Hall, Lilybell, Ann
 Harlan, Tab, Francis
 Harness, Jamira, Shanta
 Harness, Jeff, L. Jr.
 Hastings, Mark, D. II
 Hawkins, Railynn
 Helminski, Paige, Marie
 Henry, Darren, Logan
 Hernandez, Aleeshia, Dawn
 Hernandez, Andres, Cruz
 Hernandez, Aramis, N.
 Hernandez, Christopher, Ryan
 Hernandez, David, Paul
 Hernandez, Leanna, June
 Hernandez, Paul, Edward Jr.
 Hernandez, Vanessa, Estelle
 Hester, Angela, Dee
 Hester, Austin, Lee
 Hester, Lexi, Ann
 Hester, Robert, Michael
 Hester, Ronny, Lee Jr.
 Hill, Charon, Serena
 Holliman, Joseph, Ray
 Holtz, Michael, J.
 Horn, Madelyn, D.
 Houghton, Valerie
 Humphrey, Amber, Shopteese
 Humphrey, Ebony, W.
 Hurt, Sarah, Jane
 -----I
 Ingels, Ramzey, Kalem
 Irving, Akicita, Dorian
 -----J
 Jackson, Clark, Gregory
 Jackson, Jason, R.
 Jackson, Patricia, A.

Jacobson, Ginny, L.
 Jacobson, Joseph, M.
 Jacobson, Paul, J.
 James, Landri, Jorlen
 James, Lisa, Renee
 Jensen, Rachele, Jay
 Jessepe, Carol, Jean
 Jessepe, Julian, Paul
 Jessepe, Rica, Kennee
 Jim, Thomas, R. Jr.
 Johnson, Ashley, Lynn
 Johnson, John, Henry
 Johnson, Katie, Elizabeth
 Johnson, Paul, Gene
 Johnson, Terri, Dawn
 Johnson-Malone, Josiah, Emmanuel
 Jones, Burton, S. III
 Jones, Jamal, Antwan
 Jones, Keith, R.
 Juarez, Bennie, Michael
 -----K
 Kabance, Gregory, J.
 Kabance- Muniz, Angelo, Luis
 Keilman, Crystle, A.
 Kelly, Steven, Thomas Jr.
 Kent, Gilbert, Benjamin
 Kievitt, Kathleen
 Kitchens, Michael, Wayne
 Kitchkonomie, Jed, M.
 Kitchkonomie, Naomi, Ruth
 Kitterman, Jesse, Ray
 Knight, Latisha, Rose
 Knoxsah, Christopher, Dean
 Knoxsah, Colleen, Marie
 Knoxsah, Leonard, Allen
 Korslin, Cassandra, May
 Kripe, Zoa, Lorraine
 -----L
 Labranch, Amber, Dawn
 LaClair # 163002, Jon, Paul
 Lake, Betty, A.
 Lake, Brittany, E.
 Lake, Jirale, L.
 Lange, Tressa, Ann
 Latka, Allyson, K.
 Lavier, Jessica, L.
 Lavier, Mary, Malissa
 Leach, Jan, Marie
 Leach, Monika, Marie
 Leclere, Zachrey, Dwayne
 Levier, Aiyana, Rose
 Levier, Joseph, Marcus
 Lewis, Alexis, Marie
 Lewis, Andy, Nolan
 Lewis, David, Ray
 Lewis, James, Allen
 Lewis, Naomi, Renee
 Lewis, Patricia, Lynn
 Lewis, Sherry, Ann
 Lopez, Sharlene
 Lussier, Jalen, Duane
 Lussier, James, Brandon
 Lussier, Jarvis, Frank
 Lussier, Joseph, Dennis
 -----M
 Mahkuk, Albert, E.
 Mahkuk, Juan, Alfredo
 Mahkuk, Vickie, May
 Mandeville, Glenn, Andrew
 Martin, David, Michael
 Martin, Derek, Allen
 Martinez, Kendra, L.
 Martinez, Rudolph
 Masquat, Devin, Rae
 Masquat, Elliot, Lee
 Masqua-Young, Calvin, Morris
 Matchie, Nigel, Levi
 Matchie, Samira, Leigh
 Mathewson, Jonathan, Bernard
 May, Anthony, Orlando
 Maybee, George, A.
 Mccracken, Benjamin, Ray
 McDonald, Concepcion, Angela
 McDonald, Steve, Alan
 Mckinney, Mikelynn, R.
 McMullen, Angela, Ann
 Meely, Ellen, Faye
 Messner, Jerome, Howard Jr.
 Messner, Roger, E. Sr.
 Michaels, Shawn, W.
 Miller, Duane, Robert
 Miller, Larry, Michael
 Miller, Patrick, Wayne
 Miller, Scott, J.
 Milliron, Albert, P.
 Milliron, Thomas, E.
 Milton, Bret, William
 Mitchell, Gerald, Lee Jr.

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.

Moe, Robert, Guy
 Molina, Lori, Lynne
 Molina, Nicole, Shale
 Monroe, Dillon, James
 Monroe, Georgia, Lynn
 Monroe, Kelly, Ann
 Moore, Dylan, Wayne
 Moore, Kari, Michelle,
 Morales, Marissa, Kershryn
 Moreno, Alexandria, Renee
 Morris, Jane, Lesley
 Morris, Ryan, Casey
 Mundell, Christopher, Luis
 Mundell, Teresa, Marie
 Muniz, Neosha, Ruth
 Murdock, Geryan, Joseph
 Murphy, Lisha, Nicole
 Mzhickteno, Tanya, Lee
 -----N
 Nanez, Donica, Lynn
 Nemeth-Heard, Christa, M.
 Nephew, Sherie, Lynn
 Nickel, Linda, Lee
 Norwood, Melinda, Sue
 Novelo, Felicia, Wilma
 -----O
 Olinger, Dayton, Lee
 Onnen, Liana, Paulette
 Orcutt, James, Lee Happy
 Orcutt, Naomi, Miriam
 Ortiz, Cody, D.
 Ortiz, Dominic, R.
 Kitterman, Sara, M
 -----P
 Padilla, Athena, Caitlyn-Ione
 Palmahmie, Timothy, Daniel
 Palmberg, Regina, Mae
 Parkinson, Helen, M.
 Pedroja, Terri, Jean
 Perdue, Rachel, Leigh
 Perrote, Elijah, M.
 Perrote, Jedediah, Jeremiah
 Perry, Charles, H.
 Phillips, Francis, Peter
 Pidgeon, Shado, Rose
 Pierce, Deann, Charlee
 Pompa, Channing, A.
 Pope, Shain, Tyler
 Postoak, David, E.
 Potts, Joseph, Edwin
 Potts, Keesis, Charges At Them
 Potts, Lorelei, Renee
 -----Q
 Quackenbush, Ira, James
 Quinn, Judy, May
 Quiring-Grier, Zachary, Joseph
 -----R
 Rader, Jeremy, C.
 Ramirez, Gregory, Allan Jr
 Ramirez, Jonathan, Wayne
 Razo, Jesse, Louis
 Reese, James, Matthew
 Reese, Jennifer, E.
 Reese, Rehanna, James
 Reichstine, Tiffany, Suzette
 Reyes, Hector, Paul
 Rice, Harlie, Rose
 Rice, Sherwin, Michael
 Rice, William, A.
 Rickert, Adam, Michael
 Rickert, Joel, Bradley
 Ritchie, Rachel, Ann
 Robb, Makayla, Danaelyn
 Roberts, Danielle, Alma
 Roberts, Migizi Okadon
 Muck-Wa Equay
 Rodewald, Joshua, James
 Rodriguez, David, Leon
 Rodriguez, Matthew, Loyal
 Rodriguez, Rebecca
 Rogers, Xavier, Joseph
 Romesburg, Neko, Sioux
 Roppolo, Angel, Ann
 Rosario, Lisa, Ann
 Rose, Doris Valerie, Wynn
 Rupnicki, Jessica, Renee
 Rupnicki, Peter, Paul
 Rupnicki, Timothy, Joseph
 -----S
 Sato, Robert
 Schaaf, Randall, Lee
 Scheurle, Christine, M.
 Schimmer, Gail, Lav
 Schneiderwendt, Michael, A.
 Seymour, Dathan, Thomas
 Dwayne
 Seymour, Jonathan, Ray
 Seymour, Kirsten, Hazel
 Michelle
 Seymour, Shamoga, Jessie
 Shane, Jeremy, W.

Shane, Shelly, Ann
 Shane, Sophia, Diana
 Shane, Timothy, J.
 Shegonee, Brian, Joseph
 Shegonee, John, William
 Shegonee, Kelly, Marie
 Sheppard, Destiny, James
 Sheppard, Nikki, Sue
 Sheppard, Richard, Ray
 Sheppo, Nelson, Louis III
 Shopteese, Clayton, Michael
 Dee
 Shopteese, Desiree, Kristel
 Shopteese, James, F.
 Shopteese, Mariah, Delilah
 Shopteese, Ryan, M.
 Shopteese, Ty, James
 Shoptese, Allison, Michal
 Sigo, Timothy, Shane
 Simms Belaire, Jeffrey,
 Javonn Alan
 Simon, Harold, L., Jr
 Sims, Jaimie, Lynne
 Snowball, Patsy, I.
 Sockey, Justina, Elise
 St Clair, Florence
 Stauffacher, David, R.
 Steele, Mary, J.
 Stone, Victoria, Lynn
 Strange, Robert, Allan
 Strangeowl, Jace, Tyler
 Stump, Patrick, Nelson
 Sturm, Keven, E.
 Sumner, Susan, A.
 -----T
 Tanksley, Cheryl, Anne
 Thomas, Jason, Michael
 Thomas-Baird, Logan,
 Elizabeth
 Tinajero, Nue, R.
 Tinoco, Michelle, M.
 Tomlinson, Melosa
 Torain, Yolanda, Marie
 Torres, Carlos
 Trantow, Brenda, Sue
 Tucker, Franklin, R.
 Tuckwin, Marcus, E.
 Turner, Trevor, Nelson
 Turney, David, Elijah
 Turney, Margaret, Ruth
 Tuter, Alexandria, Jayde
 Tye, Zabrina, Marie
 -----U
 Ulloa, Jessica, Renee
 Useton, Austin, Tyler
 -----V
 Van Zile, Doren
 Vanderblomen, Krista, Lynn
 Vanderblomen, Marion, C.
 Vanscyoc, Shelly, Marie
 Varela, Ernest
 Ventura, Raquel, Merea
 Vigil, Christina, Marie
 Villarreal, Talia, S.

Villarreal, Jodie, Marie
 Violet, Angelyssa, Leanne
 Violet, Nehemiah, Stephen
 -----W
 Wabaunsee, Gregory, Davis
 Wabaunsee, Nicole
 Wabnum, Katelyn, L.
 Wadley, Delvin, Wade
 Wahquahboshkuk, Sirena,
 Rose
 Wahquahboshkuk-Kramer,
 Chase, Christine
 Wahquahboshkuk-Kramer,
 Hunter, Douglas
 Wahwassuck, Desiree,
 Louise
 Wahwassuck, Draven, M. L.
 Wahwassuck, Ishara,
 Danielle
 Wahwassuck, Mary, Ann
 Wahwassuck, Sunny, Aquila
 Wahweotten, Karie, Deann
 Wahweotten, Logan,
 O'Bryan
 Walrod, Jon, Karl
 Walrod, Peter, Thomas
 Walrod, Scott, Eric
 Wamego, Nathaniel, Zeke
 Wamego, Orville, Patrick
 Wamego, Tyler, James
 Wamego, Zuley, Marie
 Ware, Kateri, Ann
 Warledo, Amber, Nicole
 Warren, Rachel, Marie
 Watson, Jamie, Leigh
 Waupoose, Dakota, Wayne
 Wayne, Chazray, Renae
 Miranda
 White, Israel, J.
 White, Jolynn, M.
 White, Tina, Rose
 White Eagle, Sarah, L.
 Wilder, Nicholas, C.
 Williams, Christopher, Scott
 Williams, James, David
 Williams, Jayden, J. L.
 Williams, Johnny, Lee
 Williams, Jolie, K.
 Williams, Nish-Pok-Qwet
 Wilson, Zachary, Taylor
 Wise, Kristi, Rene
 Wishteyah, Anthony, S.
 Wishteyah, Christine, Sophia
 Wishteyah, Michael, C.j.
 Wishteyah, Norman, Leroy
 Jr
 Wood, Scott, Allen
 Wooley, Christopher, Lowell
 Wright, Michele, Anne
 -----Y
 Yazzie, Stephanie, Alexis
 Young, Agownee, William
 Young, Dawn, D.
 Young, Nebowsekwe, R.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi News

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Eshkenibek/Spring Time
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Deadline
May 6, 2024

Kansas State Capitol Hosts Native American Legislative Day



Madison Wabaunsee, PBPN Member and Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and the first indigenous person to serve as National All-American Miss Jr. Teen addresses the gathered crowd of members of all recognized tribes in Kansas. She received recognition for her achievements from Kansas Representative Christina Haswood - House Minority Policy Chair, pictured in the background.

The Kansas State Capitol came alive with vibrant colors, ceremonial dances, and impassioned speeches on February 7 as Native American Legislative Day brought together Indigenous communities from across the state to celebrate their heritage and advocate for important issues.

The annual event, held at the heart of Topeka, serves as a platform for Native American tribes to engage with state lawmakers, raise awareness about their cultures, and address key concerns affecting their communities.

Distinguished leaders, tribal elders, and members of various Indigenous nations gathered to mark the occasion, adorned in traditional

regalia that reflected the rich diversity of Native American cultures in Kansas.

The day kicked off with a ceremonial procession, led by representatives of different tribes, as the beat of drums echoed through the halls of the Capitol building. Participants carried banners adorned with symbols of their respective nations, creating a striking visual display of unity and pride.

Inside the Capitol, the atmosphere was filled with energy and enthusiasm as attendees convened for discussions on pressing issues facing Native American communities, including healthcare, education, economic development,

and environmental conservation.

Elected officials and tribal leaders delivered powerful speeches, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and mutual respect in addressing the challenges confronting Indigenous populations. They highlighted the need for policies that uphold tribal sovereignty, protect sacred sites, and promote economic opportunities for Native American citizens.

“We gather here today to honor the rich heritage and enduring contributions of Native American peoples to our state and nation,” remarked Governor Laura Kelly in her address to the crowd. “As we work together to build a brighter future for all Kansans, it is essential that we listen to the voices of Indigenous communities and strive for equity and justice for all.”

Throughout the day, attendees had the opportunity to meet with legislators, participate in advocacy workshops, and engage in cultural activities showcasing traditional arts, crafts, and cuisine.

For many participants, Native American Legislative Day served as a reminder of the resilience and strength of Indigenous cultures in the face of historical adversity.

As the event drew to a close, participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to come together, celebrate their heritage, and advocate for meaningful action on behalf of Native American communities in Kansas.

With renewed determination and a shared sense of purpose, attendees departed from the Kansas State Capitol, carrying with them the spirit of unity and the resolve to continue the fight for justice and equality for all Indigenous peoples.

PTFD Firefighters Presented with Outstanding Service Award

Firefighter / Paramedic Jon Gwartney and Firefighter / Advanced EMT Joseph Burghart of the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department (PTFD) were presented with Outstanding Service Awards on January 23, 2024, for recently saving the life of a young person who had suffered sudden cardiac arrest.

Gwartney and Burghart responded to a 911 call for a medical emergency at the patient's home in a neighboring jurisdiction. Local responders had already initiated resuscitation after the patient's heart had stopped, and they were no longer breathing.

As Gwartney and Burghart were the highest trained ambulance attendants present, they guided the multi-agency care team and implemented the PTFD's Advanced Cardiac Resuscitation (ACR) medical treatment protocol. ACR integrates machine-provided cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with a set of proven treatments in a bundled approach to significantly increase neurologically intact survival rates for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

The two PTFD Firefighters, a Hoyt Fire Paramedic, and a Mayetta Firefighter then transported the patient to a hospital in Topeka while continuing to administer advanced cardiac resuscitation care in the ambulance. Five days later, the patient was discharged from the hospital with a positive neurological outcome.

In presenting the award, PTFD Fire Chief / Paramedic Douglas Schreiner noted that this instance of successful emergency medical care is only one of many that Gwartney, Burghart, and their fellow firefighters are responsible for each year.

Chief Schreiner also praised their coordination with other agencies, saying, “It is this type of teamwork that makes the critical life-saving cooperation between the agencies in southern Jackson County and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation possible.”

PTFD was one of the first agencies in the area to provide Advanced Cardiac Resuscitation care. In November 2022, PTFD performed an ACR demonstration



Firefighter/Paramedic Jon Gwartney (left) and Firefighter/Advanced EMT Joseph Burghart (right) of the Tribal Fire Dept. receive Outstanding Service Awards for recently saving the life of a young person who had suffered sudden cardiac arrest.

for Jackson County EMS in Holton, Kan., with the hope that getting other agencies acquainted with improvements and changes to PTFD's equipment and protocols would be useful in a future emergency. This coordination has proven vital to providing the best possible emergency medical care in the area, as shown in this recent call's multi-agency response.

Kambottek

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



Marie A. Bailey

Marie (Jensen) Bailey, 94, of Topeka, KS, passed away Saturday, December 23, 2023.

Marie was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe. Her native name is Note-no-quah. She was born August 1, 1929, in Topeka, KS, the daughter of Viggo and Mary(Hale)(Pah-kish-ko-quah)Jensen. Marie also had two brothers, Edwin(Waubonsie)Jensen of Mayetta, KS, and Francis(Kitch-kum-me)Jensen of Holton, KS. She lived on the reservation in Mayetta, KS, graduating from Mayetta High School. Marie moved to Topeka, KS after she married Raymond Bailey.

Marie married Raymond Bailey on April 30, 1949, in Mayetta, KS. He preceded her in death on April 5, 2015. Survivors include her children, Daryl (Sheri)Bailey of Mount Dora, FL and Carolyn Bailey of Silver Lake, KS; her grandchildren, William Heptig of Topeka, KS, Blair Heptig of Topeka, KS, and Paul (Michelle) Bailey of Grand Island, FL; great-grandchildren, Joshua, Jacob, Julia, Jamie, and Josie Bailey. She was also preceded in death by her great grandchild, Daniel Heptig.

Marie enjoyed her family and church family. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Marie was a living example of God's love and kindness. She was prayerful and faithful, always loving and kind. She positively impacted all those who knew her.

A memorial ceremony was held at Parker Price Funeral Home on Saturday, January 13, 2024.

Reprinted Courtesy of Parker Price Funeral Home



Robert F. Baker

Robert F. Baker (Maqua Bear / Bobby), 59, of Topeka, KS passed away on January 3, 2024. He was born on April 10, 1964 in Manhattan, Kansas to Robert S. and Minnie Lewis Baker. He was the youngest of three children and proud member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi tribe. Whether sharing stories around the fire or participating in tribal ceremonies, Bobby's presence was big and a source of inspiration. Known for his warm smile and kind heart, Bobby was a lifetime artist. His artwork reflected his passion for his culture, the outdoors and vibrant skylines. May each beautiful sunset remind us of him. A private memorial was held by the family. Davidson Funeral made the arrangements and Bobby's ashes were be spread at Our Lady of the Snows Church. Rest in peace, dear Bobby. Your spirit will forever dance among the sacred winds of the Potawatomi lands.

Reprinted Courtesy of Davidson Funeral Home



Maxine Elizabeth Begay (Ttik Ni Kwe)

Maxine Elizabeth Begay, Ttik Ni Kwe, 81, of Mayetta, passed away on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka surrounded by family.

She was born February 28, 1942 at home near Mayetta, the daughter of Peter and Edna Keggmega Wabnum.

Maxine was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, 4/4, served on the enrollment committee for the tribe, a former member of Assumption Catholic Church in Topeka, Kansas and The Benedictines of Mary Queen of Apostles in Gower, Missouri.

She had lived in Denver, CO for many years and worked for Eastwood Printing there. After retiring, she moved back to the Mayetta area.

She married Westley Begay on September 23, 1963 in Los Angeles, CA. He preceded her in death on June 18, 2010.

Maxine was also preceded in death by her parents, a daughter, Michelle

Begay, a granddaughter, Hvwla-Este Coon, three brothers, Irving Shopteese, Eli Wabnum and Reuben Wabnum, and two sisters, Theresa "Osh" Asselin and Lorene "Snooks" Wahweotten.

Survivors include an adopted mother, Voncile Mitchell, Mayetta, a son, Anthony Sandoval and wife, Jamie Sandoval, San Diego, CA, a daughter, Carolyn Begay, three grandchildren, Michelle Alcon, Simone Alcon and Maxine Coon, and four great grandchildren, Aaliyah Madrid, Selena Swaim, Alexis Madrid and Joseph Wesley Robert Sandoval.

In addition to Maxine's loving human family, she leaves behind her devoted wiener dog, Copper, who was a source of companionship and joy. Copper was more than Maxine's puppy; he was a beloved friend whose loyalty and presence provided immeasurable comfort in Maxine's life.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, December 23rd at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church. Burial followed in the Matwe-Shobney Cemetery.

Reprinted Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home



Betty Jean (Bourbonia) Davis

Betty Jean (Bourbonia) Davis, 92, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, passed on October 17, 2023, in her beloved home while surrounded by her entire family.

Betty embodied the best of an almost bygone generation, cherishing being a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was exceedingly gracious and always elegant and was described by many as the person they most admired and hoped to emulate.

Betty was born on March 12, 1931 in Fort Bayard, New Mexico and was raised in Rincon and Hatch, New Mexico, where her heart always remained. As an only child, her bond with her parents, John and Ora Bourbonia, was profound, and she held her family's long and storied New Mexico heritage close

to her heart. Betty's academic prowess shone through as she earned valedictorian honors at Hatch High and graduated with distinction from the University of New Mexico. During her time in college, she fostered life-long friendships as a member of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority. Betty fondly remembered representing New Mexico as the El Paso Sun Carnival Princess and Homecoming Princess at UNM.

In 1953 she married UNM classmate and football star Roger S. Cox, longtime realtor and developer. Later in life, Betty became a successful businesswoman, owning and managing her own company, BJD Realty.

Betty's true legacy goes beyond her personal achievements; it's woven into the fabric of the many organizations to which she dedicated her life. She loved the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and was honored to serve as Grand Worthy Advisor in 1950-51. She remained involved as a member of Rainbow's State Executive Committee, guiding and mentoring countless young women.

She was an early member of the Los Amapolas Garden Club and a patron of many organizations including the NM Symphony Orchestra, UNM's Hodgkin Hall project revitalization committee, the Alpha Chi Omega House building committee, Bosque School, the Junior League of Albuquerque, Adah Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, and many others. She expressed her love of country through active participation in many Republican causes and organizations.

In addition to her numerous accomplishments and roles, Betty's devout Christian faith was the guiding light of her life, illuminating her path with love, compassion, and unwavering strength. Her faith was not just a belief but a testament to the kindness and generosity she extended to everyone she encountered.

Betty is survived by her loving daughters, Janice (Brian) Anderson and Elizabeth Ora Cox. She was a cherished grandmother to John Bourbonia Cummins, Thomas Bourbonia Cummins, and James Anderson; and a doting great-grandmother to Graham Duncan, Lauren Duncan, and Grace Bourbonia Cummins. Betty was preceded in death by her parents, John and Ora Bourbonia; and her granddaughter, Charlotte Plagge.

A funeral service to celebrate Betty's life was held at St. John's United Methodist Church, on Saturday, October

28th, with interment and reception following.

Reprinted Courtesy of French Funerals & Cremations



Lois "Louie" Dominguez

Lois Rue "Louie" Wabaunsee Dominguez, 68, of Wichita, KS, passed away January 8, 2024 at her home; with her husband, Mike Dominguez, by her side. She was born January 1, 1956 in Mayetta, KS, the daughter of Llewellyn "Lou" and Freda J. (Nozhackum) Wabaunsee. She was a sister, wife, mother and grandmother, whom she had a heart full of love for her family.

If you knew Louie, you'd know her family was her everything, she dedicated her life to her son, 2 daughters, 12 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Louie was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. She was truly an unforgettable woman, she will be loved and missed eternally.

She married Michael "Mike" Dominguez on June 13, 1985 in Wichita, KS. They celebrated over 38 years of marriage.

Survivors include her husband, Michael Dominguez of the home; sister, Winifred "Goffy" Wahweotten of Mayetta, KS; son, Ron Wabaunsee Dominguez; 2 daughters, Francine Michael Dominguez and Andrea Marie Dominguez all of Wichita, KS, 12 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lou and Freda Wabaunsee; 4 sisters, Marsha Ferrari, Louella "Henry" Wabaunsee, Mary "Monnie" Wabaunsee and Frances Wabaunsee; 3 brothers, Fred Lew Wabaunsee, Richard Wabaunsee and Ralph Wabnum and a granddaughter, Josephina Lalia Dominguez.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church.

Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes

Kambottek

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



Lea Ella Dudoit

Lea Ella Dudoit, 63, of Horton, KS, passed away Thursday, January 4, 2024 at her home. She was born August 15, 1960 in Holton, KS, the daughter of Thomas Joseph Walker and Celia Mae (Kahbeah) Goslin.

Lea attended school in Powhattan, KS and in Oregon; she later earned her GED. She lived and started her family in Maui, HI. Cooking was both her hobby and profession.

Lea was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Survivors include her mother, Celia M. Goslin of Horton, KS; son, Levi Dudoit (Autumn) of Holton, KS; 2 daughters, Racheal Dudoit of the Kickapoo Reservation and Heather Vaughn of Tahihina, OK; 2 brothers, Michael Goslin (Doreen) of Maui, HI and Daniel Kahbeah of Reserve, KS and 8 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Thomas Walker and a brother, Richmond Walker.

Lea requested to have her ashes to be returned to Maui.

Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes



Robin J. Guerrero

Robin J. Guerrero, 53, sadly left us on November 29, 2023. She passed away peacefully in her sleep. Robin worked for the Prairie Band of Pottawatomi Nation for years. She loved traveling to different places and going to her Victory City Church. Robin enjoyed and loved her two dogs, Bubby and Rosie.

Robin was a twin. She is survived by her mother Roberta Guerrero of Topeka her son, Aiden; her brother Angelo Guerrero; and numerous

nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles.

Robin was preceded by her twin brother, Robert; and her grandparents, Eunice Jones and Robert Torrez Guerrero.

Cremation is planned. Her memorial service was held on Friday, December 15, 2023 at the Davidson Funeral Home. Private inurnment will be held on a later date at Topeka Cemetery.

Reprinted Courtesy of Davidson Funeral Home



Lorane Ingram

Lorane Ingram, 87, of Topeka passed away Jan 4, 2024. Lorane was born Feb. 9, 1936 to Milze and Mary (Lundin) Wilson. Lorane married Jerry Ingram on Jan. 15, 1956, enjoying 67 years of marriage. They had 4 children, Debbie, Doug, Jennifer and Jay. She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

She was preceded in death by her parents, son Doug, and sister Delores Johnson. Lorane is survived by her husband Jerry, children Debbie Robison (Jim), Jennifer Hilderman (Aaron) and Jay. Sister Darlene Ingram. Grandchildren Brad (Misti), and Jordan Robison, Tre (Cassie) Ingram, Mike and Madysen Hilderman. Great-grandchildren Maci, Barrett and Brody Robison. Per Lorane's request no services are planned.

Diana M. Jackson

7/26/1936 - 12/4/2023



Bobby Joe Kelly

Bobby Joe Kelley Jr., 42, passed away

November 25, 2023, in Topeka, Kansas. Bobby was born July 4, 1981, in Bossier City, Louisiana to parents Bobby Joe Kelley Sr. and Katherine Wahquahboskuk. He grew up with his siblings, Richard Ray Sheppard, Joann Sheppard, Walron Sheppard, Tina Kelley and Royce Kelley. Bobby went to school in Waldo, Arkansas and then moved to Louisiana and lived with his grandparents but he could always stay with his sisters Joann and Tina. He did take several classes at Haskell Indian College.

His family had a graveside service on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at the Wahquahboskuk Cemetery in Mayetta.

Reprinted Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home



David D. (Kitchkommie) Lake

David D. (Kitchkommie) Lake, 79, of Mayetta, KS, passed away Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at Encel Health in Topeka, KS, the son of Francis Kitchkommie and Minnie Puckee.

David graduated from Topeka High School and had some college in Aberdeen, SD. David was of the Catholic faith as a child.

He worked many years as a laborer and fork lift driver. He was truly a hard worker and "Jack of all trades". David was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Survivors include his daughter, Kimberly K. Kitchkommie of Mayetta, KS; 3 sons, David Kitchkommie of Topeka, KS, Dean Loveswar of Mandan, ND and Kevin Lake (Heather) of Topeka, KS; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; 2 daughters, Deanna Muniz and Christina Fitzherbert and numerous sisters and brothers.

Burial was, Monday, January 8, 2024 at Shipshee Cemetery.

Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes

Terry Manis

Terry Manis, 67, of Topeka passed away at home on November 23, 2023. Terry was a member of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation. He was born May 13, 1956 the son of Mary and Melvin Manis.

He was preceded in death by his father, Melvin Manis.

Survivors include his mother, Mary Manis; his children, Tabitha (Victor Garrett), Chris Kendall, Jessie (Capp Wood) and Jamie Manis; many grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

Terry's family has chosen to hold a private service at a later date.

"Life was a lot of fun! I had it all. I wasn't the best child but it was fun". Love Dad.

Reprinted Courtesy of Davidson Funeral Home



Brenda McClure (Miksekwe)

Brenda McClure, Miksekwe, 63, of Mayetta, passed away on Monday, January 8, 2024 at the Midland Hospice House in Topeka.

She was born April 1, 1960 in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of Carsie and Elmira Seymour McClure. She graduated from Fort Sill Indian School in Lawton, Oklahoma in 1978. She moved to the Mayetta area in 1994.

Brenda was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and was of the Presbyterian faith.

She was preceded in death by her parents, twin grandchildren, Mia and Sage Scates, who died in 2011, a brother, Martin McClure and a sister, Debra Lynn McClure.

Survivors include a daughter, Stephanie Scott and husband Shane, Mayetta, two brothers, Kelly McClure, Mayetta and Windel McClure, Chicago, a sister, Sophia Peralta, Chicago, and five grandchildren, Sobie Scates, Carsie Scates, Syllas Scott, Lillian Scates and Anna Scates.

Funeral Services were held Saturday, January 13th at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hoyt. Burial followed in the Potts Cemetery.

Reprinted Courtesy of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home



Terrell Moore

Terrell "Terry" Moore, 88, of Topeka, passed away on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. He was born March 19, 1935 in Mayetta, the son of Frank Moore and Ellanor Spitto. Terry graduated from Circleville H.S. and earned an Associate of Arts degree in Social Work from Washburn University and Post Graduate work in Chemical Dependency at the University of Oklahoma Norman, Oklahoma. He was an Army Veteran where he served during the Korean War. He was employed as a Substance Abuse Counselor.

Terry married Mary Ella Orender on October 29, 1982 in Topeka. She preceded him in death on July 1, 2021. He was also preceded in death by one grandson, Harley. Survivors include children, Terrill E. "Terry" (Heather) Donaldson, Jr. of Lawrence, Melanie K. Donaldson of Topeka, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren.

A memorial visitation was held on Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at Dove Southeast Chapel, 2843 SE Minnesota Ave. where Military Honors were provided by the Kansas Army National Guard. Private inurnment took place in Shipshee Cemetery in Mayetta.

Reprinted Courtesy of Dove Funeral Homes

Denise K. Newton

6/22/1952-12/14/2023



Donald C. Pappan

Donald C. "Don" Pappan passed away December 30, 2023 at Midland Hospice in Topeka Kansas with

Kambottek

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

family by his side.

Don was born May 24th, 1951 in Holton, Kansas at Holton hospital to Charles M. Pappan and Goldie I. (Stewart) Pappan.

Don attended schools in Circleville, Kansas and later moved to Hoyt, Kansas where he graduated in 1969 from Hoyt High school. In high school he was active in football, track and basketball. After graduation he worked doing cement work.

He then enlisted in the United States Air Force. After he served his country, he moved back to Hoyt, Kansas. He joined the Topeka Fire Department in 1976 and retired 2006 as Captain. He continued working as a cement finisher part time while active on Fire Department and after his retirement.

Don is a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation tribe. His was so very proud of his Native American history.

Don married Sherry Holder Filbert December 24, 1984 in Topeka, Kansas. They moved to Topeka where they shared their blended family. They celebrated 39 years together.

Other survivors include children, Lisa Pappan of Texas, Lori Pappan Sells of Texas; Tony Filbert (Robyn) of Topeka, Aaron Filbert (Melinda) of Topeka, Josie Filbert of Kentucky, Crystal Nelson (Donnie) of Coleman, Florida, and Tyler Filbert of Topeka; sister, Charlene Anderson of Hoyt, KS; mother-in-law, Joan Justice of Independence, MO; special friends of family, Royce and Shawna Hettinger of Drexel, Missouri; grandchildren, Cheyenne Filbert, Cody Ayers (Dan), Christian Bledsoe, Morgan Bledsoe, Chelsea VanDyke (Marshall), Hailee Colerick, Tyrell Redmond (Tiffany), Cameron Redmond, Rachel Wilson, Cassidy Ghare (Dillon), Gracie Filbert, Lauren Wilson, Duane Filbert, and Oliver Filbert; great-grandchildren, Nova Redmond, Noah Franklin, Abigail Vandyke, and Holden Vandyke; and numerous nephews, nieces, great nephews and nieces and great-great nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sisters, Dorothy Simon, Geraldine Hamlin, Theresa Anderson, Sharon McClane, and Margaret Ann Pappan.

Don was a sports enthusiast, loving NASCAR, Kansas State football and basketball, Kansas City Royals, and Kansas City Chiefs. He was active in Boy Scouts, loved watching the kids play sports and enjoyed time with family. He also loved crossword puzzles and would buy the paper

just for the puzzles.

He was the family 4th of July patriarch, loving to get with the boys to make as much noise and light up the sky with fireworks.

He was a jokester at heart. At one time he had convinced the kids that a particular NASCAR driver was his cousin. He also liked to joke with his fellow fire fighters and over the years played jokes on them.

Don was loved by his wife and family and will be greatly missed.

Visitation and funeral services were held Saturday, January 6, 2024 at Parker-Price Funeral Home. Burial with military honors was at Half-Day Cemetery.

Reprinted Courtesy of Parker Price Funeral Homes



Joseph "Tsaawgih'gwas" Rice

Joe "Tsa gihgwas" Rice, 43 years old, passed away peacefully December 12th, 2023, after a nearly 2-year illness. He was born in Woodruff, WI at Howard Young Medical Center on September 30, 1980, to Sherwin (Tonja) Rice and Lea (Mark) Warrington.

Joe was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation of Kansas and was a talented artist making beautiful beadwork, fans, bracelets, and necklaces. He was a welder by trade and worked for 13 years on oil rigs in Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota. For the last several years he worked as a driller for a company who contracted with the rural internet initiative, until his illness stopped him from work in 2021. Joe was a member of the Native American Church and was a kind and generous man helping and supporting others. He enjoyed fishing, spending time in the woods and with his family, his dogs and helping family with maple sugar camp, wild ricing, feasts, and gatherings.

Joe is survived by his wife, Martina Thomas, and children Rashaun (Alaska), Roman and Joe, at home. He is further survived by his mother and father, sister Lily (Nasiqua) Rice, her daughter Colleen (fiancé

Christopher Soriano), sister Kaluyatatsye and sons Liam and Emerson, and brother Wahake, all of Green Bay, mother and father-in-law John and Faye Thomas, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, sister and brother-in-law Red Day and Jeremy Johnson, and their children Marion and Jennings of Norman, Oklahoma.

He is further survived by Uncles Arnie (Lori) and Bill Rice, Burton (Sandy), Bruce (Janeen) and Winslow Warrington, aunts Luanne (Don), Dawn (Greg) and Becky (Jonesy) Miller. He has numerous cousins who called him brother or uncle, and elders who called him nephew and grandson. He also is survived by lifelong friends Ernie Stevens and Damon Skenandore. He leaves behind his dogs Kutty and Sadie.

Joe was preceded in death by his grandparents Lillian and Kendall Rice and Burton and Colleen Warrington, his uncle Richard Rice, Aunt Mimi Rice, Uncle Richard Lawe, and Uncle Royal Warrington.

Wayne "Tab" Jessepe of Kansas conducted Native American Church Services which began Saturday December 16th at sundown, with funeral Services Sunday December 17th at the Lac du Flambeau Multipurpose Center and burial at the family cemetery at Partridge Lake.

Thank you to those who supported Joe throughout his life, the people of the Hayward and Wittenberg Native American Church communities, and his relatives in Kansas. Charlie and Donnie Carufel and Joe Graveen, Mike Murray, and Michelle Haskins. If we have forgotten anyone, know that we felt your prayers and good thoughts for healing. Ryan Funeral Home of De Pere and Bolger Funeral Home of Woodruff assisted the family with arrangements.

All is forgiven as my spirit returns to where I came from, at rest with my relatives who have passed on, until we meet again.

Reprinted Courtesy of Bolger Cremation and Funeral Services



Matthew Loyal Rodriguez

Matthew Loyal Rodriguez, a beloved member of the community, passed away on February 7, 2024. He was born on April 17, 1965, in Chicago. Matthew worked as a Teamster at Jewel Osco for many years, dedicating himself to his job with unwavering loyalty and commitment. He also worked downtown Chicago on State Street at the famous Palmer House as a cook for many years, doing what he loved most, cooking.

Matthew was known for his strong work ethic and his dedication to providing exceptional service. Always going above and beyond to deliver goods efficiently and on time.

Matthew is predeceased in death by his mother Verna M. Rodriguez (Shegonee), Jose Rodriguez and Sheryl J. Rodriguez along with many aunts and uncles. He was father to Anna and was a loving brother to Donica Nanez, Marie Lozano and Antonio Rodriguez. The bond he shared with his siblings was unbreakable, grounded in love and shared experiences that created memories they will forever hold dear in their hearts. Matthew's presence will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be greatly missed by his many loving cousins, nieces and nephews.

Matthew was kind hearted to everyone he met and had a great sense of humor and a smile always on his face.

Though we mourn the loss of Matthew Loyal Rodriguez, we find solace in the rich tapestry of memories he has left us with. His legacy will continue to live on through the positive impact he made on those around him. Let us remember him with fondness and gratitude for the light he brought into our lives.

Matthew was known to his friends and family by "Dio". He selflessly volunteered his time to helping friends in the Native American community and the American Indian Center of Chicago. You can usually spot him helping set up tents and working in the background at Pow Wows or helping his numerous friends on various projects around town.

His favorite music was classic rock, Led Zepplin, ACDC and many more. You would always find him listening with his headphones on jamming out to his favorite tunes.

Matthew was a proud member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Rest in peace, Matthew.

May your soul find eternal serenity, and may your cherished memories bring comfort to all who mourn your passing.

Reprinted Courtesy of Chicagoland Cremation Options



Larry Dean "Junior" "Wabnomitt" Shopteese, Jr.

Larry Dean "Junior" "Wabnomitt" Shopteese, Jr., 40, of El Dorado, KS, formerly of Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and Kickapoo Communities, passed away Wednesday, February 14, 2024 in El Dorado. He was born December 23, 1983 in Horton, KS, the son of Larry D. Shopteese, Sr. and Lythia J. (Thomas) Shopteese.

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

Junior was a good hearted, giving and loving son, brother, uncle, nephew and friend. He enjoyed joking and visiting with his nieces and nephews, fishing, watching cartoons, drawing and painting.

Survivors include his mother, Lythia Shopteese of Mayetta, KS; sister, Rebecca (Shopteese-Thomas) Harman of Hoyt, KS; 2 brothers, Edwin Shopteese and Spencer Shopteese both of Mayetta, KS; nieces, Hayley, Hope and Myra; 5 nephews, Cheegwah, Alex, Simon, Thomas and Komoah; aunt, Norma Mzhickteno of Mayetta, KS and an uncle, Auggie Thomas of Horton, KS.

He was preceded in death by his father, Larry D. Shopteese, Sr.; maternal grandparents, Hollis Thomas and Minnie Soldier and paternal grandparents, Simon Shopteese and Rebecca Mattwaoshshe.

Burial was Monday, February 19, 2024 at Danceground Cemetery.

Reprinted Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes

Nishnabek N̄ewm̄en - "Who We Are"

PBPN Member Announces the Release of Her First Book



Ashley Bachmann is the author of the new book "Caught Off Guard," released on Jan. 10, 2024, by Trilogy Christian Publishing. It is available in paperback and Kindle Edition through Amazon.

PBPN Tribal member Ashley Bachmann has announced the release of her first book, "Caught Off Guard: A Testimony of Overcoming Suffering Through Trusting God and Embracing Community." The memoir tells the story of Bachmann's personal struggles and how she overcame them through her faith.

"A few short years ago, I experienced a series of traumatic and heartbreaking circumstances," Bachmann said. "I was still in the woods when I heard the Lord whisper, 'You're going to share your testimony.' I didn't know when or what that would look like, I only agreed. I knew after hearing that: I was going to make it. I knew I was going to be okay."

"Some months later, a Word from God was spoken to me, to write my testimony," Bachmann continued. "It became clear it would be a published book. I didn't have the skillset,

resources, or extra finances to fund the writing project. My faith in God and placing my trust in Him was what I relied on."

Bachmann had no previous writing experience, and she described sharing her experiences through writing for the first time as unexpectedly therapeutic. Since the memoir includes serious and personal subject matter, she knew it needed to be handled with care and worked with her publisher to edit her story.

Because everyone experiences suffering at some point in their life, Bachmann believes in testimony as a powerful tool to uplift and inspire others, who can then go on to share the different ways they overcame the difficulties they faced.

"In my book, I share the importance of faith and community," Bachmann explained. "Resilience

and perseverance are native traits in my DNA, both contributed to my determination to overcome."

Since the release of "Caught Off Guard" on Jan. 10, 2024, reviewers have praised Bachmann's honesty and powerful storytelling, highlighting the fact that the book shares a universal message while staying true to Bachmann's unique personal journey.

"[The reviews from readers] have deeply warmed my soul," Bachmann said. "I can't wait to hear their overcoming testimonies!"

Bachmann was raised and lives in Oklahoma, and she holds her faith and family as most important to her. She also shares uplifting stories and news through her blog at <https://ashleybachmann.com>.

"Caught Off Guard" is available in paperback and Kindle Edition through Amazon.



Olivia Pewamo (shown here), Janis Simon and Jackie Keller, KS Rural Center (KRC), popped ten pounds of organic popcorn, purchased from The Community Mercantile in Lawrence, at the Big Bear Moon Powwow at the Old Bingo Hall on New Year's Eve. Cottin's Hardware, also in Lawrence, donated the popcorn machine rental, telling Jackie/KRC, "we don't typically donate the use of our equipment, but this is an event we want to support!"



PBPN Youth, 'Bad Axe,' drum and sing during the Big Bear Moon Powwow on December 31, 2023.



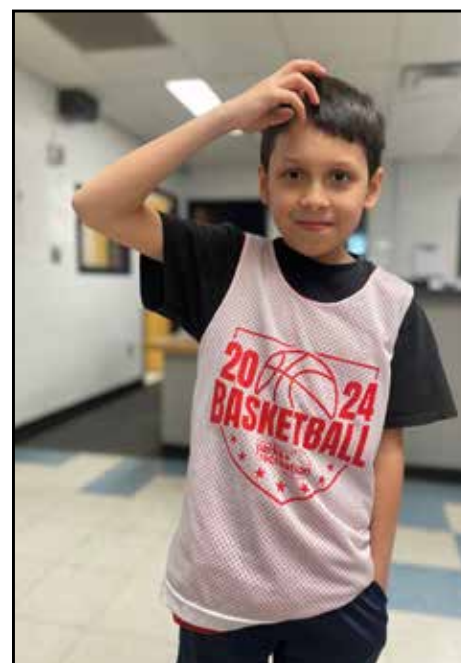
Congrats to Nico Banks son of Vincil and Enedina Banks on becoming an Oklahoma State Champion at the OKUSA State Tournament in Wrestling!!

We are all so proud of all your hard work on and off the mat!



Congratulations Dania Wahwasuck for graduating with your Bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas. We are all so proud of all your endeavors. Reach for the stars!

Love your Mom & Arlan, and the entire Wahwasuck Family.



Ethan, happy 10th birthday- March 2nd. A whole decade! We love you so much, love Mom & Family.



Happy Birthday Gaynell Jessepe From Gil Aitkens.



A rack full of happy birthday wishes to Marlena Jordan! (March 8th) We love you! The best grandma and mom - La Farias Familia.