



# Prairie Band Potawatomi News

A Report to the People of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

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## Etkwagēk 2024

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*Etkwagēk*  
"Fall time  
of the year"

This paper contains the activities and happenings that took place during the Fall time of 2024: October, November, December

## President Biden Offers 'Historic Apology' for U.S. Indian 'Boarding Schools'

On October 25, 2024, President Joe Biden issued a historic apology to Indigenous communities for the pain and cultural loss inflicted by U.S. Indian boarding schools.

Speaking at the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona, Biden acknowledged the federal policies that forcibly separated Indigenous children from their families for over a century, aiming to erase Indigenous cultures and assimilate them into Western society.

"These policies were a stain on our nation's soul," Biden stated, addressing survivors and descendants of boarding school students. He recognized the intergenerational harm suffered: the disruption of family ties, suppression of language, and pervasive physical and emotional abuse endured by Indigenous children in boarding schools for over 150 years. Biden also acknowledged the countless children who lost their lives in the process and the continued struggle of Native families to rebuild their cultural heritage.

The apology followed an investigative effort led by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the first Native American to serve in the Cabinet. Her department organized the "Road to Healing" tour, which collected testimonies from Native survivors and communities. Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna, shared her own family's experience with the boarding school system. "My ancestors and many of yours endured the horrors of the Indian boarding school assimilation policies carried out by the same department I now lead," Haaland said. She emphasized the need for national recognition and accountability. As she stated during



Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the first Native American to serve as Secretary, addresses those gathered at the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona to hear President Biden's official apology for the pain and cultural loss inflicted by U.S. Indian boarding schools. ~ AP Photo

the tour, "This is not just a Native issue; it is an American issue."

The apology marks a significant federal acknowledgment of the dark legacy of Indian boarding schools. It aligns with broader efforts to address historical injustices against Indigenous peoples. Advocates hope it will pave the way for more substantial restorative actions and strengthen partnerships with Tribal Nations toward healing and cultural revival.

- Continues: See "Apology" on page 9

## Elders Honor Two of Their Peers as Elders of the Year for 2024

On October 24, the Prairie Band Potawatomi community came together for a commemorative dinner at the Fire Keepers Elder Center to honor two extraordinary individuals. The event space swelled with soft conversations and gentle laughter as those in attendance testified to the altruistic spirits of Jeanette Little Sun and Roland Matchie - this year's Female and Male Elders of the Year.

The Elder of the Year award seeks to honor the invaluable wisdom and service of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Band elders. The award was originally implemented by Laverne Hale, the Elder Center's previous staff, who believed that the nation could benefit from honoring the elders' motivating influence. Each year, the elders elect, from their peers, who they believe have uniquely impacted the community.



Jeanette Little Sun, seated, smiles as Laverne Hale, at the podium reads the nominations that helped in choosing Little Sun and Roland Matchie as "Elders of the Year"

After collecting nominations, the Elder Advisory Committee pours over the suggestions, before convening to select the final two recipients.

After careful consideration, the committee found Jeanette Little Sun

and Roland Matchie to be exemplary representatives for 2024's Female and Male Elder of the Year. Dawn Matchie-Harjo, Elder Center manager, said in a

- Continues: See "Elders" on page 8

# Chairman Joseph “Zeke” Rupnick: Report to the Nation



Dear Tribal Members,

This past quarter has been a very busy time for members of Council. We attended the annual Gathering, which I would consider a success, and our host made it an enjoyable time. It was good to reconnect with family and friends and it offered a small amount of time just to get away from everything. Once we got back, the work of the Nation continues.

This time of year, we go through the annual budgeting process, meeting with the different department heads to hear their concerns and looking for ways to fund everything. I know that is an unrealistic expectation and I hope the members understand that. We must make decisions based on need. Limited funding often makes it very challenging to try to ensure members and the departments are funded. During the budget process, we still had to decide which courses of action were needed to retain our Tribal sovereignty while looking for ways to improve our economic footprint.

As I reported last quarter, the Illinois senate adopted SB 867. This bill will convey the Shabbona State Park to the Nation. Given the timing, we are looking to have the bill introduced in the House sometime in January. With some luck, our land in Illinois will be expanded. We still have work to do on the bill, and that will require time in Springfield in November and January to meet with lawmakers for the final push.

While waiting on the bill, we have made contact with the water reclamation district and other key players. This is an area that needs to be improved before an economic development happens. During the last call, initial construction could begin as soon as a year and a half. This will allow us to plan properly and present it to the council.

We are making progress in Illinois, but it will not be easy. We have already met fierce opposition from residents and, as progressive as Illinois legislature has been on Native issues, there are still many that oppose the measure. This opposition is very similar to

what we are facing in Kansas.

In July, the Nation filed a suit against Jackson County Sheriff's office for interfering with the Nation's civil regulatory authority. This case is progressing along, and while I cannot get into the details here, I wanted to inform the members that Council takes the infringements seriously and will do what is needed to protect our rights. Shortly after, the Chair for the Kansas Joint Committee on State Tribal Relations requested a special meeting, which the Council attended.

While the agenda did not address anything specifically, it appeared the committee wanted to understand the Tribes' positions on various items and to understand the unique relationship between the State and Tribes. My testimony centered on our history and how we came to occupy the Kansas territory. I stated that per our 1846 treaty, we purchased a 900 square mile reservation, or 30 mile by 30 mile. The current 11x11 reservation was considered common lands, and no one was to hold claim to them. The northeast corner of the 11x11 is roughly the same northeast corner of the 30 x 30. I also stated per Art VI of the U.S. constitution, "This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land;" and that Art I section 8 outlines the Government-to-Government relations with the U.S. I further went on to the quote the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 that laid the groundwork for H.R. 23 An Act for the Admission of Kansas into the Union. Both Acts addressed the status of Tribes in the area, and I read the excerpt from the Act:

"Provided, That nothing contained in the said constitution respecting the boundary of said State shall be construed to impair the rights of persons or property now pertaining to the Indians in said Territory, so long as such rights shall remain unextinguished by treaty between the United States and such Indians, or to include any territory which, by treaty with such Indian tribe, is not, without the consent of such tribe, to be included within the territorial limits or jurisdiction of any State or Territory; but all such territory shall be excepted out of the boundaries, and constitute no part of the State of Kansas, until said tribes shall signify their assent to the President of the United States to be included within said State, or to affect the authority of the Government of the United States to make any regulation respecting such Indians, their lands, property, or other rights, by treaty, law, or otherwise, which it would have been competent to

make if this act had never passed."

I reiterated that the Prairie Band Potawatomi has never signified their assent to the State, and that the Kansas constitution did not need to refer to the Tribes since it was already in the Act of admission.

Also in July, I was notified that S.3249 became law. S.3249 is a bill that will designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas, as the "Captain Elwin Shopteese VA Clinic". I worked with Senator Moran's office, and, when I was in DC, met with different lawmakers to introduce the bill. It was passed by both bodies by unanimous consent. While we are not the first Tribe to have a VA clinic named after a member, it is still an honor and a win for the Nation. I think we should send our thanks to all that worked on this project. I was hoping to have an official re-naming ceremony in the near future. We were trying to lock in Nov. 11, Veterans Day but that plan fell through since congress only passed a CR. We are now looking at the beginning of the new year when an appropriation

is passed and funding is available. We will let the members know the date and time as soon as we can.

I hate driving on our roads as much as anyone, but I assure you we are working through all the regulatory requirements needed before actual funds are expensed. In total, we have been selected for 32 million in RAISE grant funds, which should completely resurface and repair all the paved roads on the reservation. We will keep the members informed of the progress and look forward to bringing our roads back to a safe and acceptable level.

In closing, I need to remind everyone that COVID is still out there. I failed to follow my own advice and let my guard down. As a result, I tested positive for COVID in June. I have also heard from some of our members that they too have tested positive. We need to make sure we are still following all precautions and be safe.

**Migwett**  
**Joseph P. Rupnick,**  
**Chairman,**  
**Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation**

## Add Your Voice to the PBPN Internet Service Survey

*Your voice is crucial in bringing high-speed Internet service to the area.*

*By completing the PBPN Internet Service Survey, you are helping us understand the current Internet needs of our community and laying the foundation for a stronger, more connected future. The better the data we have, the stronger our case will be for connecting our community to the opportunities that come with fast, reliable Internet.*

*Your participation will directly impact the future of our community. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey. Together, we can build a more connected, resilient community.*

**Scan the QR code below to take the survey.**



## Secretary Lorrie Melchior: Report to the Nation



Greetings fellow Tribal Members,

I hope everyone is staying warm and cozy in preparation for this winter. To end this productive 2024 year, I would like to reestablish how my position as Tribal Council Secretary contributes to Tribal Council. The Tribal Council Secretary's duties are stated in the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Constitution located on page 7, Article VIII - Officers of The Tribal Council, Section 3. The following paragraph is restated from a previous report that was submitted in our Nation's newspaper of my other duties.

Since September 2022, I have

been immersed in several roles. I was appointed as Land Committee Secretary. Information on the Land Committee is in the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Constitution, and meetings are currently held monthly. I have also been enrolled as a member of the Royal Valley District Impact Aid Committee. The Impact Aid benefits the Nation's local school districts that have both lost property tax revenue and experienced increased expenditures due to the enrollment of federally connected children, including children living on Indian lands. For more information on Impact Aid, visit the department of education: <https://oese.ed.gov/>.

Finally, I was appointed to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB) as Tribal Council Liaison. The SSAB benefits the Nation by offering input to the Tribal Council on policies that affect the delivery of social services to Indian children and their families. The Social Services Advisory Board makes recommendations, consults with, and reviews, as needed and requested, the policies and procedures of the programs within the Nation's Social Services Department. For more information on the SSAB, please see the Prairie Band

Potawatomi Nation Organizational By-Laws of the Social Services Advisory Board Article I Section 1.1 Purpose. I attend scheduled meetings of these three commissions, so long as they do not conflict with scheduled Tribal Council meetings.

A Social Services Advisory Board Member and Social Services representative set up a Foster Care Informational Booth at our last General Council meeting held on October 19. According to their report, it was a good turnout.

In the third quarter, I travelled to the 2024 Potawatomi Gathering in Dowagiac, Michigan July 27-August 4 and the Democratic National Convention August 18-23 in Chicago, Illinois. I also attended the National Congress of American Indians 81st Annual Convention & Marketplace in Las Vegas, Nevada October 27-30. If you would like a copy of my report from the October 19 General Council meeting, you may request it through my office.

Currently the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is seeking an Alternate position for our Election Board. The Election Board handles election processes, initiatives, referendums, and constitutional amendments.

Tribal Members are encouraged to submit their letters of interest to the Office of the Tribal Council Secretary, 16281 Q Road, Mayetta, Kansas 66509 for designated postings on the Nation's website.

I also encourage Tribal Members to use our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation website at <https://www.pbpindiantribe.com>. Our website includes news and events. Our Members Only Portal is located here. It can be used for information on Tribal Council meeting minutes and resolutions.

The 2025 General Council meetings will be held at our Prairie Band Potawatomi Casino & Resort, 12305 150th Road Mayetta, Kansas 66509. Dates of 2025 General Council meeting tentatively scheduled:

January 18, 2025/April 19, 2025/  
July 19, 2025/October 18, 2025

Every day we overcome challenges through collaboration with fellow Tribal Council members. The experience has been generous. It is a pleasure to serve our Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

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

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



### Prairie Band, LLC Shows Growth in 2024

Prairie Band, LLC, the tribally owned enterprise of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, reported significant strides in 2024, expanding its shifting government contracting portfolio, advancing strategic investments, and focusing in-depth on economic development for the Nation.

Updates presented in November underscore Prairie Band's achievements, ongoing projects, and future plans as the organization continues

to strengthen its position in federal and commercial markets.

#### **Financial Success and Federal Contract Wins**

From January to September 2024, Prairie Band generated \$46.6 million in consolidated revenue, with a net income of \$850,851, demonstrating strong financial health. The organization secured \$40 million in new federal contract work, with an additional \$130 million in pending bids. Subsidiaries under Prairie Band's umbrella, such as Prairie Band Health Services and Prairie Band Construction, have led the charge in bidding for and executing government projects.

"Our federal contracting strategy is working well, with consistent growth in award counts and expanding service offerings," Ernest Woodward, EVP of the Federal Group, said.

#### **Investments in CMMC Compliance and Partnerships**

To maintain compliance with CMMC 2.0 standards, required for federal contractors, Prairie Band invested in Egnyte's secure data management platform. This tool enhances security and positions the organization as a capable partner for federal agencies. Additionally, Prairie Band established joint ventures with entities such as North American Security Services, Venergy Group, and Hefler Contracting Group. These partnerships aim to diversify capabilities, facilitate market entry, and bolster Prairie Band's federal service offerings.

#### **New Entity Formation to Expand 8(a) Opportunities**

To maximize its SBA 8(a) program opportunities, Prairie Band created three new entities currently undergoing 8(a) certification: Soldier Creek Solutions, Get Volts II, and Prairie Band Construction

LLC. These entities are expected to drive government contract growth and expand the company's reach within the federal sector.

#### **Infrastructure Projects: The 150/75 Project and Travel Plaza**

Prairie Band is developing the 150/75 Project, a multiphase infrastructure initiative including building an independent travel plaza. This two-year project features site infrastructure such as wastewater systems, rural water access, and potentially a traffic signal at the highway off-ramp. Once completed, this development will bring added convenience and services to the community while supporting local employment.

#### **Commercial Division Growth and Gaia Eco's Success**

The commercial division has also seen substantial progress, notably through Gaia Eco, Prairie Band's Brazil-based operation. Gaia Eco's headcount has grown by over 137% in the past 21 months, with the division on track to exceed \$10 million in sales by 2025. Gaia Eco has secured new clients across diverse sectors, including retail, hospitality, and food distribution, reflecting strong potential for long-term growth.

#### **Community and Workforce Development**

Prairie Band remains dedicated to creating opportunities for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Nearly 20% of the company's current workforce identifies as American Indian, demonstrating the commitment to tribal employment and leadership integration. This dedication aligns with broader goals supporting the Nation's economic development and tribal self-sufficiency.

#### **Engagement and Transparency Through Tribal Member Meetings**

On November 6, Prairie Band held a tribal member informational meeting at the Old Bingo Hall to share updates, answer questions, and foster transparency. The meeting provided an opportunity for community members to learn about recent achievements and ask questions directly to Prairie Band leadership. Another such meeting is planned for January 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM at Old Bingo Hall. Members are encouraged to attend with questions and a willingness to learn more about ongoing initiatives and future goals. Prairie Band is committed to transparent communication and values ongoing community engagement as a vital part of its mission.

Prairie Band's leadership is grateful for the continued support from the board and Tribal Council, are committed to executing our 10-year revenue growth plan and expanding both locally and federally. As 2024 draws to a close, Prairie Band is positioned for even greater impact, driven by core values of resilience, innovation, and community empowerment.

# Treasurer Wade Pahmahmie: Report to the Nation



Good day to everyone, hope all is well as 2024 is almost in the books as we move into the winter holiday season once again. The weather has been fairly mild so far this fall, but colder weather finally made it here for the Thanksgiving holiday much like we saw a year ago.

FY2025 Budget approvals have all been squared away for the year for the Tribal Government, Gaming Commission and Casino budgets. In general, we are looking at similar figures year over year with a few minor adjustments. Similar budgets year over year are still much better than how budgets were trending prior to COVID, so financially the Tribe continues to do very well, nearly as well as we saw prior to state gaming.

In addition to the budgets being squared away we have also wrapped up all of our auditing requirements for the year. Over the past few years audit preparation has improved which is critical in meeting audit report deadlines, it also helps to improve our financial reporting to the membership, financial reporting to granting agencies, improves turnaround time on our indirect cost agreements as well as helps the Tribal Council in making financial decisions throughout the year.

W-2s and 1099s as always are due to be mailed out by the end of January so the Finance Staff will be busy preparing those and getting them filed and mailed out to the recipients. If you do not receive your tax forms or should happen to need another copy let me know so we can help arrange to have a duplicate sent out. Last year there were delays in receiving the W-2s and 1099s after they were mailed out so don't hesitate to reach out if you need a copy sooner than later.

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

## RAP Amendment Update

Following last quarter's article on the General Welfare Support

Program update as well as the October General Council meeting, the Tribal Council plans to move forward with proposing an amendment to the Tribe's current Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP). Under the current RAP, the Tribe is restricted to how much can be distributed as non-taxable benefits. By amending the RAP, more benefits can be placed under our General Welfare Support Program which will result in the issuance of fewer 1099s if the amendment to the RAP is approved. Essentially, this means that you would get to retain more of your benefits vs having to pay a significant percentage to income taxes.

The current timeline to amend the RAP would be somewhere along the lines of: mid-December, Tribal Council adopts a TC Resolution to direct the Election Board to start the referendum process, preferably by mail, to amend the RAP so that the decision is made by the majority of the membership. Then at the January General Council meeting there can be further Questions and Answers on the proposed amendments to the RAP. Following the January General Council Meeting the Election Board conducts the referendum election which would be completed prior to the 2025 Gaming and Ethics Commission elections beginning in April. If the amendment is approved by the membership, then the amended RAP would be sent to the Department of Interior (DOI) for Approval. Once approved by the DOI then the Tribe would implement the changes likely in mid-late 2025. Once TC approves the resolution mentioned above more definite dates will be determined.

For more information on the proposed RAP amendments, you may contact my office with questions as well as there is additional information currently on the Tribal Member Log In which can be accessed through the Community page on the Tribe's website or app.

## FY2025 Budget

On October 24, 2024, the Tribal Council officially approved the FY2025 Tribal Government Budget through TC Resolution No. 2024-309. While Tribal Cash Distributions (TCDs) from the Casino slightly trail budgeted figures for FY2024, adjustments were made to the Casino Expansion debt financing for FY2025 that will help increase the TCDs for FY2025. Monthly payments made toward the payoff of the debt from the recent expansion are recorded as operating

expenses and therefore impacts the monthly TCDs from the Casino.

TCDs from the Casino are allocated for expenditures on Tribal Programs, Economic Development, General Welfare, Charitable Contributions and Per Capita Distributions based upon the Tribe's current RAP. Since COVID, grant funds have picked up a larger portion of the Tribe's overall budget. Currently about 50% of the Tribe's annual budget is funded by the TCDs with the other half of the budget coming from grants and third-party revenues. Once all of our COVID grant funds have cycled through in the next couple of years it is likely that we will see a similar breakdown of the budget where prior to COVID about 65% of our budget came from TCDs and the remaining 35% was made up of grants and third-party revenues. However, the Tribe has established a very good grant management program which may help us maintain a higher percentage of the Tribal Government Budget being funded by grants in years to come.

A copy of the FY2025 Tribal Government Budget is available on the Tribal Member Log In that can be accessed through the Community page on the Tribe's website or mobile app. For any questions regarding the FY2025 Tribal Government Budget you may reach out to my office at the contact information below.

## ARPA Grant Fully Obligated

During the September 12, 2024, Tribal Council meeting the location for the Food Sovereignty building was officially selected. The location of the building will be at the southeast corner of the intersection of 158th and Q.4 Roads on the Tribe's Trust Land. Several sites were considered for the location of the building but in consideration of cost, availability of utilities and a handful of other factors made the 158th and Q.4

location the most feasible location for the Food Sovereignty building.

Once the location was determined, site costs could be finalized allowing the Tribal Council to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) contract on October 24, 2024, through TC Resolution No. 2024-153A. With the approval of the GMP contract, this obligates the final amounts of our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) that were due to be obligated by December 31, 2024. ARPA FRF funds must be fully expended by December 31, 2026, or they would have to be returned to the Federal Government.

Construction of the Food Sovereignty building is expected to commence in mid-2025 and wrap up in 2026. Components of the Food Sovereignty building will include Meat Processing, Warehouse and Office Space, Commercial Kitchen, Classrooms, Loading Dock, Pavilion, Animal Holding Pen as well as a Mercantile for sale of products. The focus of the Food Sovereignty building will be on the processing of cattle and buffalo and is just the first step in the Tribe's Food Sovereignty project with produce to come in the future.

If you have any questions on any of the topics mentioned in this article or financial questions in general about the Tribe's operations my contact information is:

Office: (785) 966-3905

E-mail: wadepahmahmie@pbpnation.org

Also, if you have any specific financial topics that you would like me to write about in future articles let me know and I can incorporate those. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Tribal Council Treasurer and I look forward to continuing to serve our Tribal Members.

Respectfully

Wade Pahmahmie (Wap-tti-ge)

## 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.

Christmas ..... TUE 12/24/2024,  
..... WED 12/25/2024  
..... & THURS 12/26/2024  
New Years Eve ..... TUE 12/31/2024

# Tribal Council Member Tony Wahweotten: Report to the Nation



Ho' PBP (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation) Members, I hope everyone is having a wonderful fall season so far and your harvest is safe and plentiful.

As we enter the 4th quarter of 2024, I will begin this report with some reminders and personal thoughts for the people of the Nation.

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 and for hosting a great Veterans Powwow and feast.

This past November 11th we celebrated, as we always do, Veteran's Day and I want to emphasize my gratitude to the men and women of all branches of our armed forces. Those who have served, currently serve and who will serve one day deserve our praise, respect, thanks, and to be held in a place of honor in each of our hearts. Never let their sacrifices be forgotten.

In November we also recognized National Native American Heritage Month. Each year, November is designated to honor the rich culture and history of our people, our Tribe, and the history and traditions of all our brothers and sisters across Indian Country. This one month is a good reminder, for everyone, of the sovereignty of all Tribes as we continue to celebrate our heritage, our traditions, our language and our strength throughout the year.

Part of our strength as a nation comes from our ability as a people to decide what path we take moving forward. Our Tribal members choose that path, in part, by participating in the election of Tribal Council members as they did in the recent PBP General Election.

Since my last report the results of that election were ratified, and I would like to extend my gratitude and 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 to serve our people, and I look forward to my second term. Miigwetch for your continued support in the recent PBP General Elections.

I never want to forget to offer special thanks to all The Tribal Council Administrative Assistants for your services and dedication. They help us to stay on track and keep things running smoothly.

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 dedicated to the responsibilities entrusted to us by, you, the people of the Nation.

Each Council Member continues to work toward outcomes serving the best interests of our 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 20, 2024, General Council Meeting, I have attended:

- Six Special Tribal Council meetings
- One Tribal Council Swearing in Ceremony
- Three Regular Tribal Council meetings
- Three legal projects and Treaty Nation Defense meetings
- Three Shabbona next step and Dekalb discussions
- Five PBP Tax Commission meetings
- Three Hemp Regulation meetings
- One Motor Fuel Inspections Washington State
- Two Land Committee meetings
- One Potawatomi Language Conference in South Bend, Indiana
- One Annual Potawatomi Gathering at Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
- Attended the DNC 2024 in Chicago, Illinois
- Attended General Welfare Exclusion discussions
- Two ERC Swearing in Ceremonies
- Attended The NAFOA Fall Conference in San Diego, California

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, 2025 funding challenges and investment opportunities

The Tribal Council has acted on 301 Resolutions for the 2024 year.

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

- Broadband
- Continued infrastructure planning and land use development
- Continued full depth asphalt replacement Phase Two
- 150th and 75HWY
- Food Sovereignty

Tribal Council continues to search for all funding opportunities available to the Nation. We finished the 1st Phase of full depth replacement at the end of October 2023. The next phase-2 yet to be approved, is scheduled to start next spring of 2025.

Outside of my specific duties as Tribal Council, I have been appointed as one of three 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 fifty-five 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-seven 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 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. Contact LMD for supplemental up to 4lbs. buffalo meat pick up dates for Tribal Elders at 785-966-2737.

PBP has 22 total Current Job Listings. Please visit our website, [www.pbpindiantribe.com](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com) to learn more about career opportunities with the nation and information on the status of the Nation. Please contact Member Services and Finance if you have relocated and need to update your new location and contacts.

With our recent election in mind, I feel the need to address the results of the national elections this past November. The run up to the election showed some fierce and contentious campaigning from both sides of the aisle with topics concerning our Nation not really addressed.

With the change of every administration, we are left with mostly questions having no obvious answers. We know how the previous Trump Administration dealt with Tribal Nations but that history is no guarantee of what we face in the coming years. In the past four years we have made positive strides forward and we hope to build on that momentum going forward.

At times it may seem like we take two steps forward and with one step back but you can be sure that every member of the Tribal Council will continue to work with allies in state and federal government to fight for the best outcomes for our People and we will keep moving forward.

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**

# PTFD Rescues Man Trapped in Grain Silo

On September 2, 2024, members of the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department (PTFD) rescued a man who became trapped in a grain silo engulfed in soybeans in the northwest part of the PBPB Common Lands near the area of 174th & G Road. The man's wife called PTFD directly at the fire station requesting help. The team provided the trained assistance and critical equipment needed for a successful technical rescue.

The PTFD team were the first to arrive on scene. As the highest trained and most experienced technical rescue technicians present, the crew took primary responsibility for the rescue and guided the multi-agency team and successfully extricated the trapped farmer.

Using their aerial ladder as a stable high point anchor, the team utilized rope rescue equipment and neighboring agencies' grain rescue equipment to implement a safe and effective rescue plan. PTFD, Hoyt Fire, Mayetta Fire, and Delia Fire personnel all worked together for an hour to free the trapped man. Due to their efforts, he was able to come to the Tribal Fire Station a few days later and thank the crew in person.

For their efforts

- Acting Officer / Paramedic Jon Gwartney
- Senior Firefighter / Advanced EMT Anthony Bogowith
- Firefighter / Paramedic Staci Munoz
- Firefighter / EMT John Debenham
- Captain / EMT George Wiecken

were presented with Outstanding Service Awards.

The positive outcome of this call is just one example taken from the multitude that PTFD firefighters are responsible for each year. This type of integrated teamwork makes the critical life-saving cooperation between the agencies in southern Jackson County and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation possible.

Potawatomi Tribal Fire Chief Doug Schreiner, said, "The lifesaving care our personnel provide is essential. It is this type of integrated teamwork that makes the critical life-saving cooperation between the agencies in southern Jackson County and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation possible."

He added, "these people are a vital part of our local emergency response community and are to be commended for their actions during this incident. Our people's dedication makes the Potawatomi Tribal Fire Department second to none."



(Above Left) Captain / EMT George Wiecken and Firefighter / Advanced EMT Anthony Bogowith work in the grain silo to extract the trapped man. (Above Right) Bogowith and Acting Officer / Paramedic Jon Gwartney use the aerial ladder as a stable high point anchor for the rescue as Tribal Police and Jackson County deputies stand by to assist.



(Left to Right) Firefighter / EMT John Debenham, Acting Officer / Paramedic Jon Gwartney, Firefighter / Paramedic Staci Munoz, Senior Firefighter / Advanced EMT Anthony Bogowith, and Captain / EMT George Wiecken all received Outstanding Service Awards for rescuing a local man who had become trapped in a grain silo.

# A Call to Action: Revitalizing Peacemaking in Our Nation

## The Challenge

Let us drum up the peacemakers! It's time to revive our ancestral wisdom, unite and foster harmony.

## Peacemaking Wisdom

1. Dialogue over division.
2. Choice over judgment.
3. Healing hurts, strengthening hearts.

## Unity in Diversity

Our differences unite us through peace drawn from:

1. Wisdom and spirit of great grandmothers
2. Seven Grandfathers Teachings
3. Sacred Medicine Wheel

## Guiding Principles

1. Seek first to understand, then to be understood.
2. Begin with the end in mind.

## A New Path Forward

Breaking free from burnt bridges, we create:

1. New beginnings
2. Brighter tomorrow
3. Empowerment, replacing powerlessness

## Paving the Way For future leaders

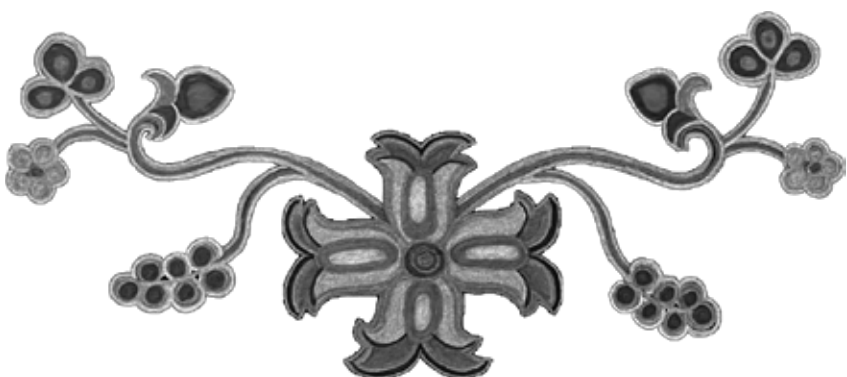
Honoring the next seven generations, as our ancestors did before us

## Call to Action

Join me in nominating fellow peacemaking committee members at January's General Council Meeting; we need five new members.

## Together, Let's Rise to the Challenge!

Thank you, Lysette "Kimi" Morris



## Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police Officer Commended for Heroic Actions During Training Emergencies



**Police Officer Nathan Ayres**

October 28, 2024 – Officer Nathan Ayres of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police Department has been recognized for his quick-thinking, medical expertise, and dedication to his colleagues' well-being after providing critical aid during two recent training incidents. His actions have garnered appreciation from fellow officers and staff.

Officer Ayres's first act of heroism occurred on October 3, 2024, during a Defensive Tactics training exercise when a fellow officer suffered a concussion. Recognizing the severity of the situation, Ayres, who has an emergency medical background,

immediately provided essential first aid until emergency medical services arrived. His timely response ensured that the injured officer received appropriate care without delay.

Just two weeks later, on October 17, Ayres again demonstrated his medical acumen by assisting a fellow student during a training session who appeared to be experiencing a hypoglycemic event. Swiftly identifying the symptoms, Ayres administered necessary aid to stabilize his classmate until further medical assistance could be provided.

In a letter of commendation addressed to Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Police Chief Clark, Nef Torres, Senior Police Instructor and Class Coordinator, praised Officer Ayres's commitment to his colleagues, noting that his emergency medical knowledge and quick responses made a critical difference in both situations.

"Officer Ayres's actions not only reflect his high level of training but also his dedication to the well-being of his colleagues," wrote Torres. "His presence is a significant asset to our team, and I believe his contributions merit recognition."

Chief Clark said, "Officer Ayres is new to the department but came to us with a lot of first responder experience and his actions demonstrate the importance of having well-trained law enforcement professionals dedicated to protect and support the Nation, the department and his colleagues."

A collage of four event posters. Top left: 'Tucky New Year Prairie Cash Roll' with a drawing of a cash roll and dice, dates Saturday, December 28 and Tuesday, December 31, and 'Win up to \$2,500 PRAIRIE CASH!'. Top right: 'RICKY SKAGGS @ KENTUCKY THUNDER JANUARY 23' with a photo of Ricky Skaggs playing a guitar and 'Tickets on-sale now!'. Bottom left: 'FEBRUARY 20 TIFFANY HADDISH Tickets on-sale now!'. Bottom right: '38 SPECIAL MARCH 6 Tickets on-sale now!' with a photo of the band members and the 'PRAIRIE BAND' logo at the bottom.

# Positive Indian Parenting Classes Help to Create Stronger Bonds, Stronger Families

Written By Tannis Simon - WCS Cultural Advocate

Traditional Parenting is an issue of cultural loss and Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) seeks to address this and reconnect parents to traditional child rearing practices. Traditionally Native education has emphasized learning how to live rather than how to make a living.

Responsibility for teaching others was a community responsibility, not left to one person. It's designed to restore the healthy child-rearing that colonization attempts to strip away. It rejects the falsehood that Native parenting ways are less valuable than settler-colonial and contemporary American approaches.

PIP curriculum is designed to provide a brief, practical, and culturally specific training program for native parents and caregivers.

1st goal: Help Native parents explore the principles, values, and attitudes expressed in traditional child-rearing practices and then apply those values to the present.

2nd goal: Help parents develop positive and satisfying attitudes, values, and skills that have roots in their cultural heritage.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Wellness Connections Program successfully completed a full course this past Fall and the parents, not only gained knowledge from the course but also learned cultural crafts as well. The parents made bone necklaces, earrings and breast plates and learned how to make ribbon shirts with Tina Neiss as their wonderful instructor. There are many crafts and ideas for the future!

Children have crafts and activities to do while parents are in session. We LOVE to do potluck every time we meet but it is not required if unable.

The best thing about this course is that once a parent completes it fully, they receive a certificate that can be used if the state requires someone to take a parenting class. The course is free and is designed specifically for native families and cultures.

We plan to begin our next round of classes in January and this class is open to ANYONE who wants to learn some positive parenting skills and learn some crafts along the way.

Follow us on our Wellness Connections Services Facebook page for future updates.



## Course Outline:

### Session I: Traditional Parenting

- Gives parents a sense that Indian and/or Native Parenting has a unique history and that there are cultural strengths on which they can rely when rearing their children.

### Session II: Lessons of the Storyteller

- Helps parents understand a part of Native heritage which traditionally was central to parenting. By understanding the role of storytelling in the past, parents begin to develop their own sense of the role of parents in communication, teaching values and observing.

### Session III: Lessons of the Cradleboard

- Helps parents understand the needs of children for nurturance by examining models of good nurturing in our Native heritage. By learning about nurturing and child development, parents will gain realistic expectations for themselves and their children.

### Session IV: Harmony in Child-Rearing

- Gives parents an opportunity to learn how to structure their family life so things can run more smoothly. By looking at the examples of the old ways parents can be better prepared to avoid problems before they start.

### Session V: Traditional Behavior Management

- Provides parents a sense of cultural strengths in traditional child management and an appreciation of how their role as parents can be enhanced by providing an environment that is kind and provides guidelines and limits.

### Session VI: Lessons of Mother Nature

- Allows parents to gain a sense of the ways in which cultural teachings in the past encouraged living skills. By applying these ideas to modern life, parents can help their children grow strong and at peace with the world around them.

### Session VII: Praise in Traditional Parenting

- Gives parents the ability to encourage the behavior they like to see in their children. By relying on the cultural strengths exhibited in the old ways, parents can begin to be positive parents through the appropriate use of praise.

### Session VIII: Choices in Parenting

- Provides parents an opportunity to plan realistically and to consider traditional parenting under modern conditions. By developing a realistic picture of where they come from, what they face, and where they want to be, parents can be better equipped to use Positive Indian Parenting values, principles, and skills.

*PIP accepts people where they are.*

*PIP is strength based.*

*Positive Parenting is a cultural birth right.*

## Little Sun, Matchie Honored as 'Elders of the Year' During Ceremony

*"Elders" - Continued from page 1*

speech commemorating their nomination that Jeanette and Roland "mean a lot to so many of our elders, community members and our staff."

Ashley Sowers, the Elder Center's caregiver and activities coordinator, added that "They have pure hearts. (...) They take care of their community when they see need and share their knowledge with younger generations so that our ways may continue."

When community members speak of Jeanette Little Sun, their words overflow with admiration. "She sees people who need help and gives without hesitation," one nomination read. As a nurse at Haskell Indian Health Center, Jeanette has, and continues to, dedicate herself to the needs of others. In 2019, Jeanette served on the Enrollment Review Committee, keeping careful stewardship of Potawatomi Prairie Band membership. Matchie-Harjo elaborated, "She really is an active voice for the community."

As a great-grandmother, Jeanette represents more than familial connection. She is a keeper of the nation's culture, a preserver of traditions who shares her knowledge through sewing and storytelling. In a speech commemorating her unwavering contributions, it was said "she knows forgiveness and unconditional love for her people." Whether she is helping fellow elders, relatives or strangers, Jeanette Little Sun embodies a spirit of compassion.



**Gea Aitkens, standing, shares her account of why Jeanette Little Sun, seated, deserves to be the female "Elder of the Year" during a gathering honoring her and Roland Matchie for their efforts in the community.**

Roland Matchie has a widely held reputation as a kind and dedicated leader. When asked of, Roland is always prepared to share his knowledge of family genealogies and the history of the Potawatomi Nation. "He is a teacher of our ways by heart," one nomination noted. His contributions span decades, from his pivotal work on the Tribal Council in 1985 – where he championed the tribe's state tax exemption – to his ongoing mentorship of younger generations.

Outside of his history as an accomplished leader with multiple degrees, Roland is a teacher who believes in hands-on learning. During recent community construction projects on the clusters,

he took the opportunity to teach interested youth about contractor trades. Fellow elders describe Roland as a "positive example for our men (...) to look to for guidance."

As the Elder of the Year ceremony concluded, the community expressed their gratitude for Jeanette and Roland's unwavering commitment to the Prairie Band Potawatomi community. The recognition of their outstanding achievements illuminates the profound role of elders in the Nation. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation extends their deepest appreciation for their wisdom, generosity, and guidance.



# Biden Calls Indian Boarding Schools ‘a Stain on Our Nation’s Soul’

*“Apology” - Continued from page 1*

Indigenous advocacy groups, such as the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, and leaders within the Native community expressed gratitude for Biden’s words but stressed the need for legislative action to accompany them. They are urging Congress to pass the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act, which would create a commission to investigate the full extent of the boarding school policies and aid in healing efforts. Organizations like The Wilderness Society also called for further commitments, including the reclamation of school lands for Indigenous communities and resources to support survivors and their families.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation issued the following statement in response to President Joe Biden’s apology:

“Genocide, institutional racism, abuse in all forms, cultural disconnection, alienation and pressure to assimilate away from Native culture and identity have haunted our people for generations, with Native American boarding schools serving as the epicenter.

“President Joe Biden traveling to Arizona to formally apologize for the federal government’s responsibility for years of mental, emotional and physical violence intended to eliminate



**President Joe Biden delivers a historic apology addressing survivors and descendants of boarding school students. He apologized for the pain and cultural loss inflicted by U.S. Indian boarding schools on October 25, 2024. He called the policies a stain on our nation’s soul. ~ Photo Gage Skidmore, Surprise, AZ**

Tribal nations, our language and our culture is a moment in history that gives us hope for the future of Native communities throughout this country — a country that was built on our land and at the expense of our future.

“We cannot deny, however, that it’s impossible to forgive the government for these houses of horror-masked-as-schools that affected generations before us and still affect us to this day as we work through the trauma of it all — but we appreciate

today’s historic message and the accountability President Biden carried out on behalf of the United States government.

“We’re still fighting for our freedom, our identity and our land, and the reality is only until we have greater justice in the “land back” movement will we realize true sovereignty.

“Until that happens, we’ll continue to appreciate and welcome the federal government’s strides toward progress.”

## Connect, Share, and Thrive with the Connections App!

At Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, we understand that recovery is a journey best traveled with others by your side. That’s why we’re proud to offer the Connections app—a comprehensive support tool designed to help you navigate through every step of your recovery.

With features like discussion forums, coping tools, and access to a supportive community, you’ll find the encouragement and resources you need to thrive.

Whether you’re celebrating victories or facing challenges, the Connections app is here to support you.

Start your journey towards a brighter tomorrow—download the app now and join our community of hope and healing. Recovery isn’t always easy, but it’s worth it.

With the Connections app, you’ll find the support and resources you need to stay strong.

Together, we can overcome any challenge. Start your journey with us now!

**Connections App**  
With Connections, you’re never alone.

“I love the support we get from this app each day. This has become such a part of my life, I really look forward to reading and engaging with people on here.”  
MIKE6, A PATIENT IN RECOVERY

The image shows a smartphone displaying the Connections app interface. The screen shows a welcome message for a user named Zenith, a progress bar for "My Recovery" at 80 days, and various community features like "Start Daily Check-in", "View Community Achievements", "Community Get & Give Support", "Meetings", "Plan", "Library", and "eTherapy".

### Welcome to Connections.

A free recovery-focused app with 24/7 peer support, a supportive recovery community, and tools to help you track and celebrate milestones!

Scan to enroll:



Or, text 610-488-2461 with the following information to receive a link for the Connections App download:

Full name, date of birth and provider name

Technical difficulties? Get in touch: [onboarding@chess.health](mailto:onboarding@chess.health)

Connections is a free resource made available by:  
**Prairie Band Potawatomi  
Nation**

If you need technical support in getting started, please contact PBP Behavioral Health Program at (785) 966-8364 or stop by anytime!

# Kambottek

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



## Judith Darnell

Judith Ann Darnell, 81, of Mayetta, KS passed away Tuesday October, 15, 2024 at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka, KS. Judy was born June 16, 1943 in Holton, KS the daughter of Charles and Virginia (Delgadillo) Jacobson.

Judy graduated from Mayetta High School in 1961. She was a very active member of the Mayetta community. She founded the Mayetta Pioneer Days in 1993, as well as the Mayetta Business Association.

She and her husband, Eldon, owned and operated Native Essence Trading Post in Mayetta. Judy worked for Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Enrollment Services, and also for the Royal Valley School District as a Secretary.

She was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Potawatomi United Methodist Church.

Judy married Eldon Lee Darnell on July 4, 1982 in Mayetta. They celebrated over 42 years of marriage.

Survivors include her husband, Eldon, of the home; a son, Alan Scott Anderson of Kansas City, MO; 2 daughters, Sharon Jean Anderson and Vicki Armstrong (Mike) both of Mayetta, KS; 2 sisters, Shirley Jacobson and Carol Kern both of Topeka, KS; a brother, Chuck Jacobson (Sharon) of Mayetta, KS; 4 grandchildren; Sophie

Jean and Oliver Jean Anderson, Sarah Graham and Rebecca Anderson; 2 great-grandchildren, Delilah McCoy and Wyatt McCoy all of Burden, KS; 4 step-children, Kristine, Bobbi, Theresa, and Eldon, Jr Darnell all of Horton, KS.

Judy is preceded in death by a granddaughter, Rachael Anderson-McCoy, and a brother-in-law, Roger Ortega.

Courtesy of Mercer Funeral Homes



## Eileen Flusche

Eileen Suzette (Hearod) Flusche was born in Inglewood, California on the 15th of April, 1966 to Jolene Cecilia McDonald and Charles Daniel Hearod.

Eileen held many impactful sales positions and taught dozens of children throughout her career. Above all she was a dedicated Mother and Grandmother (Mimi) as well as a fiercely loyal Daughter, sister, and friend to any and all.

Eileen was preceded in death by her father, Charles Daniel Hearod; Grandson, Alexander Charles Green II.

She is survived by her children, Timothy Alexander Flusche II and his wife Rebecca of Muskogee, OK, Anna Victoria Green and her Husband Alexander of Plano, TX, Aric Matthew Flusche and his significant other Andrea Griggs of

Allen, TX.

Funeral was, October 19, 2024 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Plano, TX.

Courtesy of Allen Funeral

## Michael Wayne Kitchens

1/28/1947- 7/6/2024

## Dominic Luiz Rice

Dominic Luiz Rice, 61, of Oxnard, passed away Wednesday, July 31, 2024. He was born October 24, 1962 in Hermosa Beach, CA and had been a Ventura County resident for 25 years.

Dominic proudly served our country in the United States Coast Guard. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Courtesy of Channel Islands Cremations



## Gregory Shopteese

Gregory Owen Shopteese, 71, passed away Saturday September 28, 2024 at his home in Amarillo, Texas. He was laid to rest with his father and mother during a private family ceremony.

Greg was born September 1, 1953 in Abilene, Kansas. The son

of Francis T. Shopteese Sr and Margarette Childs. He was a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian Nation. Greg loved going to Powwows, collecting relics and painting. He spent most of his life working for Wal-Mart. Greg was an avid Kansas City Chiefs fan. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his father, Francis T. Shopteese; his mother, Margarette Shopteese; his wife of 13 years Joann "Star" Shopteese.

Survivors include his son, Christopher Shopteese of Amarillo, Texas; brother, Francis T. Shopteese Jr and Arleine of Mayetta, Kansas; brother, Michael J. Shopteese and wife Nancy of Amarillo, Texas; Dawn Tyra of Amarillo, Texas; his nephews Eric and Brandon Shopteese of Borger, Texas; neice Amber Shopteese also of Borger, Texas; cousins, Pam, Yvonne, Terrie all of Oklahoma and Jody Shopteese of Indiana.

Courtesy of Cox-Rowley Funeral Home

## Carlisle Jane Valente

5/27/1937- 9/26/24



## Elizabeth Young

Elizabeth Ann Young,

Courtesy of family

Sha Note, (68) was born on November 13, 1954, in Wisconsin, Rapids, Wisconsin at Riverview Hospital to Delores E. Young, adoptive parents Rebecca M. (Simon) and Amos J. Young. Elizabeth passed on May 24, 2023.

She had previously lived in Wisconsin, California and Arizona.

Elizabeth studied Elementary Education at AZ State University. She believed in the importance of penmanship lessons in the curriculum.

Elizabeth coordinated the Family and Child Education program at Casa Blanca Community School in Bapchule, Ariz. until she obtained a new job in 2014.

She was an avid student and received several Associate degrees, one as a paralegal. All her studies helped her in various life situations. She was instrumental in organizing powwows in the Phoenix area.

Elizabeth loved to laugh as well as cry at the drop of a hat! She was a strong believer in Jesus Christ and prayer. Elizabeth's favorite hymn was "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow."

Elizabeth is a Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal member.

Elizabeth is survived by her sister Mary L. Young, Mayetta, Kan., 3 children and many grand and great-grandchildren, Kan., uncles Warren Young, Calif., and Edwin Young, Virg.

She was preceded in death by her mother Delores E. Young, Rebecca and Amos J. Young, sisters Alfreda, Carol Jean Young and a brother in infancy.

Elizabeth was cremated in Heritage Crematory, El Mirage Ariz., June 10, 2023.

## Charitable Contributions 3rd Quarter Recipient List Total Donated \$70,200

- Community Village in Lawrence
- DCCCA Inc.
- Delia Community Pride
- Friends of Banner Creek
- Helping Hands Humane Society
- Kansas City Public Library
- Mayetta Pioneer Days
- Morning Star Inc.
- Paxico Blues Festival
- SLI
- TARC
- TFI Family Service Inc.
- The Valeo Foundation
- Third Judicial District
- Waconda Cultural Assoc.

## The Prairie Band Potawatomi News

The *Prairie Band Potawatomi News* or *PBP News* is a quarterly publication of the Nation. Editorials and articles appearing in the PBP News are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of the PBP Media staff, Tribal Council, Gaming Commission or the Nation. The *PBP News* reserves the right to reject any materials or letters submitted for publication, including those submitted past the deadline.

Send submissions to:  
Email: [media@pbpnation.org](mailto:media@pbpnation.org)

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

Phone: 785-966-3920

Website:  
[www.pbpnation.com](http://www.pbpnation.com)

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Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

*Epok / Winter Time*  
2025 Edition  
Deadline  
February 7, 2025

## General Council Meeting

Saturday  
January 18, 2025  
Prairie Band  
Casino & Resort  
12305 150th Rd, Mayetta, KS

Registration - 8:00 a.m.  
Light Breakfast - 9 a.m.  
Meeting Begins 9:30 a.m.

Enrolled PBP  
Members,  
18 or Older are  
Encouraged  
to Participate in  
These Meetings

# Review Committee Declares Members 'Inactive'

## Current Addresses are Critical for Members

The PBPB Enrollment Review Committee met on April 16, 2024, and declared 71 Tribal Members to be "inactive." They re-affirmed this decision on May 1, 2024.

Inactive means those individuals will no longer receive per-cap or be entitled to any back pay that might have been held for them.

Section 15 of the PBPB Constitution defines an inactive member as a tribal member who has not had any contact (meaning all correspondence to the

tribal member has been returned to the Nation and there is no current address on file) with the Nation for seven (7) years, shall be declared to be in "inactive" status.

**For the full notation on this status and action, please visit the PBPB Website at: [www.pbpindiantribe.com/enrollment-review-committee-declares-71-members-inactive/](http://www.pbpindiantribe.com/enrollment-review-committee-declares-71-members-inactive/)**

### Inactive members as of this publication were:

Arnold, Josephine Lorraine	Johnson, Ashley Lynn	Pedraja, Terri Jean
Barber, Ian Jess	Johnson-Malone,	Quinn, Judy May
Coffin, Erik John	Josiah Emmanuel	Reese, Jennifer E.
Dean, Keith Lee	Kabance- Muniz,	Rickert, Joel Bradley
Dinsdale, Nicholas	Angelo Luis	Rodriguez, Rebecca
Estep Jr., James Robert	Levier, Joseph Marcus	Shane, Jeremy W.
Eteeyan, Derek Steve	Mathewson, Jonathan	Stone, Victoria Lynn
Garrett, Preston Levi	Bernard	Trantow, Brenda Sue
Grinnell, Sarah R.	Messner Sr., Roger E.	Turner, Trevor Nelson
Gutierrez, Maria	Miller, Duane Robert	Uselton, Austin Tyler
Antonia Kicker	Mitchell Jr., Gerald Lee	Williams, Christopher
Jackson, Clark Gregory	Norwood, Melinda Sue	Scott
Jackson, Patricia A.	Orcutt, James Lee Happy	

Members listed below do not have a current address on file with the Member Services Department. The Official Change of Address form is available online at [www.pbpindiantribe.com/member-services-forms/](http://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.

----- A	----- D	Hester, Robert, Michael	----- M	Quackenbush, Ira,	Ulloa, Jessica, Renee
Aguilar-Vazquez,	Dametz, Michael, Dean	Hill, Charon, Serena	Mack, Troy, Ryan	James	Uselton, Austin, Tyler
Gabriella, Rosalie	Davis, Jessica, Jane	Hirsch, Jeffery, Alan	Madrid, Crystal, Lee	Quinn, Judy, May	----- V
Aguirre-Rodriguez,	Davis, Luke, Lloyd	Holtz, Michael, J	Mahkuk, Juan, Alfredo	Quiring-Grier, Jacobe,	Van Zile, Doren ,
Sergio, Ramon	Dean, Josetta, Kay	Hood, Rosalie, Marie	Mandeville, Glenn,	Calvin Jeffery	Vanderblomen, Andrew
Aitkens, Josias, Elliott	Dean, Keith, Lee	Hopkinson, Irene,	Andrew	Quiring-Grier, Zachary,	Vanwagoner, Jessica,
Aitkens, Kenneth,	Delarosa, Luiz, Javier	Renee	Joseph	----- R	Alexandra
Leland	Solis	Horn, Madelyn, D.	Rader, Jeremy, C.	Reese, James, Matthew	Varela, Ernest ,
Alcantar, Autumn, Kay	Delg, Christian,	Horton, David, Wayne	Ramirez, Daniel, Mario	Reese, Jennifer, E.	Ventura, Raquel, Merea
Alcantar, Candelaria,	Anthony	Houghton, Valerie ,	Razo, Jesse, Louis	Reese, James, Matthew	Villarreal, Jodie, Marie
Angel Palacios	DeSpain, Stephanie,	Hubbard, Trevor, Reese	Reese, James, Matthew	Reese, Jennifer, E.	Violet, Angelyssa,
Alcantar, Frances, Marie	Christine Jayne	Humphrey, Amber,	Reese, Jennifer, E.	Reese, Rehanna, James	Leanne
Alejos, Sonja, Marie	Devors, John, Allen, Jr.,	Shopteese	Reyes, Hector, Paul	Rice, Harlie, Rose	----- W
Alexander, Tishana,	Dinsdale, Nicholas ,	Humphrey, Ebony, W.	Rickert, Joel, Bradley	Ritchie, Rachel, Ann	Wabaunsee, Brett, B.
Lynne	Dolsky, Alexsus, Dene	Hundertfund, Dustin,	Roberts, Danielle, Alma	Roberts, Edward,	Wabaunsee, Ricky, L.
Allen, Douglas, James	Dominguez, Andrea,	Eugene	Bruce, Jr.,	Roberts, Migizi Okadon	Wabnum, Katelyn, L.
Allen, Megan, Marie	Marie	Hurt, Sarah, Jane	Muck-Wa Equay ,	Mccracken, Benjamin,	Wabskie, Aaron, Adam,
Allen, Michael, Grant	Dominguez, Toni, Lee	Hyatt, Kristina, E.	Christine	Ray	Jr.,
Allen, Randy, Joseph	Donaldson, Melanie,	----- I	Roberts, Edward,	McDonald, Concepcion,	Wabskie, Gary ,
Anderson, Jackie,	Kay	Ingels, Ramzey, Kalem	Bruce, Jr.,	Angela	Wadley, Delvin, Wade
Charles	Doty, Brandon, Lane	----- J	Roberts, Edward,	Mckinney, Mikelynn, R.	Wahquahboshkuk-
Anderson, Kevin, James	Draper, Carl, Anthony	Jackson, Clark, Gregory	Bruce, Jr.,	Meely, Ellen, Faye	Kramer, Chase,
Anderson, Tanina,	Dyer, Daniel, Taylor	Jackson, Jason, R.	Roberts, Migizi Okadon	Meely, Freeman, A., Jr.,	Christine
Renee	----- E	Jackson, Patricia, A.	Muck-Wa Equay ,	Messner, Roger, E., Sr.,	Wahquahboshkuk-
Anwash, Cory, John	Edwards, Shannon,	Jacobson, Ginny, L	Rodriguez, Antonia,	Meyer, Judy, Ann	Maria
Arnold, Josephine,	Marie	Jacobson, Janell, R.	Rodriguez, Rebecca ,	Michaels, Shawn, W.	Rodriguez, Rebecca ,
Lorraine	Engels, Dorian, Scott	Jacobson, Paul, J.	Rogers, Xavier, Joseph	Miller, Christopher,	Roppolo, Angel, Ann
----- B	Engels, Sadie, Lynn	James, Landri, Jorlen	Rosario, Lisa, Ann	Allen	Rosser, Jennifer, Nicole
Bailey, Hope, Marie	Enzor, Elizabeth, Marie	James, Lisa, Renee	Rupnicki, Timothy,	Miller, Duane, Robert	Joseph
Baldwin, Arizona, Levi	Eteeyan, Derek, Steve	Jensen, Rachelle, Jay	----- S	Miller, Larry, Michael	Sato, Robert ,
Bamke, Matthew, John	Eteeyan, Roger, Allen	Jessepe, Carol, Jean	Schaaf, Randall, Lee	Miller, Patrick, Wayne	Schaaf, Randall, Lee
Barber, Ian, Jess	----- F	Jessepe, Julian, Paul	Scheurle, Christine, M.	Miller, Scott, J.	Scheurle, Christine, M.
Barclay, Kelly, John, II,	Fairman, Asia, Marie	Jessepe, Rica, Kenec	Schimmer, Gail, Lav	Milliron, Thomas, E.	Schimmer, Gail, Lav
Barth, Christina, Dawn	Ferg, Mandy, Marie	Jim, Thomas, R., Jr.,	Schneiderwendt,	Milton, Bret, William	Schneiderwendt,
Bass, Tara, Ann	Fiddick, Robbin, Leilani	Johnson, Ashley, Lynn	Michael, A.	Mitchell, Gerald, Lee,	Michael, A.
Battese, Paul, Lawrence	Fields, Angeline, Lynn	Johnson, John, Henry	Seymour, Dathan,	Jr.,	Seymour, Dathan,
Belaire, Dayzunique,	Fitzherbert, Keaton,	Johnson, Katie, Elizabeth	Thomas Dwayne	Mitchell, Tynell, Andrew	Thomas Dwayne
Alanicole	Izaiah	Johnson, Terri, Dawn	Paul	Moore, Dylan, Wayne	Thomas Dwayne
Belaire-Serna, Michael,	Fitzsimmons, Gene,	Johnson-Malone,	Moe, Robert, Guy	Moore, Kari, Michelle	Seymour, Jonathan, Ray
Todd	Tommy	Josiah, Emmanuel	Monroe, Georgia, Lynn	Morales, Marissa,	Seymour, Kirsten, Hazel
Benz, Dawn, Marie	Fixico, Rachel, Marie	Jones, Astasha, Denise	Moore, Dylan, Wayne	Renee	Michelle
Bird, Ernestine, S.	Fritz, Ja Nae, Marie	Jones, Burton, S., III,	Moore, Kari, Michelle	Morris, Jane, Lesley	Shane, Jeremy, W.
Blakeslee, William,	----- G	Jones, Keith, R.	Morales, Marissa,	Morris, Ryan, Casey	Shegonee, Brian,
Edward, Jr.,	Gabel, Daniel, John, Jr.,	Juarez, Bennie, Michael	Renee	Mundell, Christopher,	Joseph
Blalock, Tarin, James	Garcia, Aliyah, Lorraine	----- K	Morris, Ryan, Casey	Paul	Shegonee, Gabriel,
Blalock, Trent, Jacob	Garcia, David, John	Kabance, Gregory, J.	Mundell, Christopher,	Moe, Robert, Guy	David
Bosworth, Emily, Carol	Andrew	Kabance- Muniz,	Luis	Monroe, Georgia, Lynn	Shegonee, John,
Boushie, Sarah, Lynn	Gardner, Anthony, Allen	Angelo, Luis	Mundell, Teresa, Marie	Moore, Dylan, Wayne	William
Brown, Lakeshia, Sherry	Garrett, Preston, Levi	Kent, Gilbert, Benjamin	Muniz, Neosha, Ruth	Moore, Kari, Michelle	Shegonee, Kelly, Marie
Brown, Raymond, Allan	Gonzales, Mark,	Kievitt, Kathleen ,	Neosha, Ruth	Morales, Marissa,	Sheppard, Nikki, Sue
Brown, Sandra, Laurene	Masquas	Kitchkemie, Jonathan,	Nemeth-Heard, Christa, M.	Renee	Sheppard, Richard, Ray
Burnett, Orlando, Juan	Gonzalez, Erminia,	David	----- N	Morris, Ryan, Casey	Shopteese, Clayton,
Burton, Danielle, Nicole	Maria	Kitchkemie, Naomi,	Nephew, Sherie, Lynn	Mundell, Christopher,	Michael Dee
Buskirk, Caine, Tucker	Goslin, Thomas, James,	Ruth	New, Anita, Jean	Shopteese, Mariah,	Delilah
----- C	Jr.,	Knight, Latisha, Rose	Nickel, Linda, Lee	Delilah	Shopteese, Ryan, M.
Cadue, Angelina, Nicole	Grant, Christopher,	Knight, Lynell, Joyce	Nioce, Raymond ,	Shopteese, Ty, James	Shoptese, Allison,
Cadue, Anthony, Paul	Kenneth	Knoxah, Leonard,	Norwood, Melinda, Sue	Shoptese, Allison,	Michal
Cadue, Levi, James	Grier, Arianna, Doun	Allen	Novelo, Felicia, Wilma	Shoptese, Allison,	Simms Belaire,
Canfield, Timothy,	Grinnell, Joseph,	Koehn, Sherrey, Ann	----- O	Shoptese, Allison,	Jeffrey, Javonn Alan,
Andrew	Theodore	Korslin, Cassandra, May	Orcutt, James, Lee	Shoptese, Allison,	#22572730,
Carbajal, Elisabeth, Ann	Grinnell, Sarah, R.	----- L	Happy	Shoptese, Allison,	Sims, Jaimie, Lynne
Carbajal, Ilene, Tokeya	Grinnell, Scott, James	Labranch, Amber, Dawn	Ortiz, Naomi, Miriam	Shoptese, Allison,	Sockey, Justina, Elise
Charles, Zachariah,	Gutierrez, Gloria, Marie	LaClair # 163002, Jon,	Ortiz, Cody, D.	Shoptese, Allison,	Stone, Victoria, Lynn
Ashley	Gutierrez, Maria,	Paul	----- P	Shoptese, Allison,	Strangeowl, Jace, Tyler
Childers, Jeremy,	Antonia Kicker	Lake, Betty, A.	Parkinson, Helen, M.	Shoptese, Allison,	Sturm, Keven, E.
Joseph	----- H	Lake, Brittany, E.	Pedroja, Terri, Jean	Shoptese, Allison,	Sumner, Susan, A.
Cieslewicz, Michael,	Hall, Lilybell, Ann	Lange, Tressa, Ann	Perrote, Jedediah,	Shoptese, Allison,	----- T
Conrad Allen, II,	Harlan, Tab, Francis	Lavie, Jessica, L.,	Jeremiah	Shoptese, Allison,	Thomas, Amonte, T.
Clark, Amber, Lynn	Harness, Jamira, Shanta	#170822103,	Perry, Charles, H.	Shoptese, Allison,	Thomas, Jason, Michael
Clark, Tamera, Marie	Harness, Jeff, L., Jr.,	Lavie, Mary, Malissa	Phillips, Francis, Peter	Shoptese, Allison,	Thomas, Qua-Tow, Sky
Clark, Toniann, Paulette	Hawkins, Railynn ,	Leach, Jan, Marie	Pidgeon, Shado, Rose	Shoptese, Allison,	Tinajero, Nue, R.
Cluck, Deann, Charlee	Henry, Darren, Logan	Leach, Monika, Marie	Pompa, Channing, A.	Shoptese, Allison,	Trantow, Brenda, Sue
Cody, Kimberly, Dawn	Hernandez, Aleeshia,	Dawn	Pope, Shain, Tyler	Shoptese, Allison,	Tuckwin, Marcus, E.
Coffin, Erik, John	Dawn	Leclere, Zachrey,	Postoak, David, E.	Shoptese, Allison,	Turner, Trevor, Nelson
Coffin, Gabriel, Maxwell	Hernandez, Andres,	Dwayne	Potts, Alexandra, Lynn	Shoptese, Allison,	Turney, David, Elijah
Contreras, Gina, Leonor	Cruz	Levier, Joseph, Marcus	Potts, Joseph, Edwin	Shoptese, Allison,	Turney, Margaret, Ruth
Cook, Amber, Marie	Hernandez, Aramis, N.,	Lewis, Andy, Nolan	Potts, Lorelei, Renee	Shoptese, Allison,	Tye, Zabrina, Marie
Cook, Cody, Douglas	#149-031,	Lewis, David, Ray	----- Q	Shoptese, Allison,	----- U
Cook, Ian, Jonathan	Hernandez, Christopher,	Lewis, James, Allen		Shoptese, Allison,	Thomas, Amonte, T.
Copeland, Tiffany, Ann	Ryan	Lewis, Naomi, Renee		Shoptese, Allison,	Thomas, Jason, Michael
Counts, Nancy, Marie	Hernandez, David, Paul	Lewis, Sherry, Ann		Shoptese, Allison,	Thomas, Qua-Tow, Sky
Cox, Amber, Renee	Hernandez, Paul,	Lopez, Sharlene ,		Shoptese, Allison,	Tinajero, Nue, R.
Craft, Rebecca, Kay	Edward, Jr.,	Lussier, Jalen, Duane,		Shoptese, Allison,	Trantow, Brenda, Sue
Crawford, Bailee,	Hester, Austin, Lee	Lussier, James, Brandon		Shoptese, Allison,	Tuckwin, Marcus, E.
Creann	Hester, Jimmy, Lee	Lussier, Joseph, Dennis,		Shoptese, Allison,	Turner, Trevor, Nelson
Cross, Benna, Elaina				Shoptese, Allison,	Turney, David, Elijah
Cruz, Sean, Gerald				Shoptese, Allison,	Turney, Margaret, Ruth

# Happy 95th Birthday Roy A. Hale! October 19th



## Language Department Reaching Out in New Ways

### Pokmènesèn Kisès Cranberry Moon November



Find the hidden Potawatomi words in it.  
You can find the list of words below along with their meanings.

w	s	f	w	p	k	i	y	s	r	m	k	t	n	o	s
u	a	l	t	a	u	e	k	i	k	a	w	i	t	'	m
b	n	p	n	m	n	o	s	ṭ	w	w	e	b	s	e	v
o	i	d	k	p	n	e	h	é	y	ṭ	y	t	h	k	l
w	ṭ	i	x	ī	ṭ	m	tt	t	c	m	i	m	b	w	o
a	h	s	s	s	n	x	ā	p	p	w	o	t	j	y	q
t	o	f	h	k	n	o	t	ī	ē	x	'	t	a	k	u
a	k	d	i	ē	y	r	s	ś	c	e	h	ē	ē	m	k
y	m	n	x	s	m	p	k	e	y	k	ē	k	o	k	u
e	w	ē	n	i	m	a	w	y	k	s	n	o	w	n	k
r	h	ē	n	n	e	d	g	é	e	w	a	t	e	y	z
e	ṭ	ē	j	a	o	n	s	n	g	f	e	e	i	w	n
s	h	k	m	k	i	s	c	e	ī	m	o	s	k	a	q
i	w	m	ē	s	w	s	h	b	v	s	b	h	u	p	y
n	m	o	s	h	w	e	k	é	g	e	h	i	s	k	a
k	k	s	s	a	e	k	g	n	p	t	n	ē	b	o	u
o	m	n	é	n	g	e	y	k	ē	t	t	i	k	n	t
r	k	ā	á	f	z	'	y	e	n	k	e	a	m	é	r
e	r	k	s	a	e	o	k	t	o	é	j	k	i	g	e
c	s	k	x	n	é	y	a	y	e	n	o	s	s	a	w

- yayeno—he/she laughs
- tēkyegnèn—quilts
- ṭētpīseyèn—tires
- shēmagnishēk—soldiers
- pīskēsi—goose
- pne—turkey
- settken—blouse
- mttēkote—dress
- moshwe—shawl
- kēkok—buckets

bošho ttayek etkwagēk oṭopi  
Hello everyone. It is fall time right now.

We hope that your summer went well and that you are settling nicely into this new season. This fall we have tried something different and offered some Lunch & Learn courses. For the first session our students learned some greetings and introductions. And the second session which we are currently teaching covers office words and phrases. Both sessions had approximately 30 students, some new and some returning.

On Tuesday November 5, 2024, our department collaborated with the PBP Native Vote Committee's Watch Party. We presented a round of bingo games using boṭewatmimwèn while election coverage played in the background. There was a total of about 80 people that attended. It was a lot of fun for all ages!

It has been inspiring to hear boṭewatmimwèn being used daily by the PBP workforce and community! Keep up the good work, and as always, our department welcomes any questions that you may have regarding language and/or culture. You can reach out to our team at [language@pbpnation.org](mailto:language@pbpnation.org) or call 785-966-2138.

Follow PBP social media channels, as well as the website to see announcements on future language classes, and/or any other special language events that may occur!

migwett ttayek  
pama mine

Language Department employees include:

- Dawn "Sogi" LeClere, Director
- Robert Lewis, Jr, Curriculum & Instruction Manager
- Jan (Pom) Hubbard, Master Speaker
- Cindy LeClere, Instructor
- Ella Garcia, Instructor
- Jayme "Sas" Mitchell, Apprentice II
- Cole "Nomkiwash" Potts, Apprentice II
- Brennah Wahweotten, Apprentice I
- Alberto "Mentoke" Tinajero, Apprentice I
- Erin Hubbard, Digitization Technician
- Wakiyan Wi Irving, Intern

