

Meskwaki Nation

SAC & FOX TRIBE OF THE MISSISSIPPI IN IOWA

Volume 19 Issue 11b | Powwow Edition

Times



106th Annual

Meskwaki

powwow

On August 13, 2022 Magoo Keahna took 1st Place in the Eugene Kapayou Memorial Cowboy Special



Meskwaki Annual Powwow Returns After Hiatus

The Meskwaki Annual Powwow recently completed its 106th memorable event by holding powwow Thursday, August 11 through Sunday, August 14, 2022. The Meskwaki Annual Powwow Association (MAPA), with help from Tribal Council and Tribal Operations, worked tirelessly to ensure its success. After two years hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, family and friends were excited to come together to dance, sing and gather in celebration.

We are proud of our culture and through our beloved powwow, we celebrate many things. As we take the time to be thankful and prepare for what is next in life, powwow is a time of reflecting, reuniting and rejuvenating. Its purpose: Being there for each other, getting to know our neighbors, and letting them get to know us. These are the things that are truly distinctive about the Meskwaki Annual Powwow and the Meskwaki way of life. Although some events and

features have changed over the years, the framework of the powwow has stayed the same.

From its humble beginnings, known first as the "Green Corn Dance", we danced in celebration during the harvesting of crops, generally in August. The dancing and feasting that accompanied normally lasted two to three weeks and included activities like horse racing, gambling, and playing games like Lacrosse. After all the festivities ended, families would scatter and go their separate ways, returning to their winter hunting grounds. This was the seasonal way of life for the Meskwaki.

Then, in the winter of 1901-1902, a smallpox epidemic broke out through the village and changed everything. That spring, the federal government stepped in and burned the Meskwaki village to the ground, building more permanent structures in their place. Because the government built the houses scattered throughout the Settlement and not confined to a

single area like our traditional villages had in the past, each family began planting and harvesting near their homes, and in their own time frames instead of in one common area. This new living situation eliminated the need for a common harvest, but the tribe still craved times for social gatherings.

From 1902-1912, an event that came to be known as "Field Days" began taking the place of the "Green Corn Dance" and was established at the location near the old village site, north of where the old Stone House is today. It was a social gathering without the harvest held annually each fall. The event is historically associated as the predecessor to our present day annual powwow event.

At that time, Green Corn or Harvest dances were done. They would become the main dances displayed in the coming 100 years. Other dances such as the Shawnee and Swan dances, along with the Buffalo Head dance and pipe dance were notable inclusions.

Because of the festive atmosphere and the Meskwaki friendships occurring with

the outside world, more and more non-native visitors began attending “Field Days”. Tribal leaders realized the event had the possibility of becoming a major commercial enterprise, so the Chief appointed 15 men who planned the 1913 celebration, marking the 1st Meskwaki Annual Powwow. These men changed the name of the event to “powwow” and moved it to its current location at the powwow grounds.

By 1920, the Meskwaki Annual Powwow had grown into an important local event. Fair-like contests such as “Tallest Corn Stalk” and sporting events were included, along with a merry go round, doll racks, and gambling booths. The Tama Indian Band played and the Governor of Iowa spoke. That year, a total of 3,500 automobiles were counted, which had come from all parts of Iowa plus from New York to California. Gate receipts were \$7,000, or in today’s dollars equal to \$90,000.

In Feb. 1923, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs issued a letter to Native tribes stating that celebrations through the practice of singing and dancing were frivolous and implied that annuities and medical services would cease and children would be taken away and sent to boarding schools if our traditional ways continued. In response, the Meskwaki people planned a large celebration to be held. The event was called “The Aboriginal Mesquakie State Fair, Chautauqua, Fourth of July and Thanksgiving all rolled into one”. Exactly 6 months after receiving the letter from the Commissioner, the Meskwaki people held the largest celebration of culture ever seen in the state of Iowa!

By 1930 with the Great Depression well

underway, the Meskwaki Annual Powwow continued to be a significant source of income, not only for the Tribe, but also for local communities and nearby businesses who benefited from the increased visitors to Tama County. Bow and arrow contests, footraces, Lacrosse, Double Ball, hand games, and even a swimming race sometimes accompanied our annual event. But by the end of the decade, the carnival elements, pageants, and drum/bugle corps were eliminated to give way for more native-oriented customs and activities like flute playing and dance contests. Visiting tribes like the Shawnee, Kickapoo, Oklahoma Sac & Fox, Ho-Chunk, Omaha, and Sioux often attended.

The powwow, canceled in 1943 and 1944 due to the war, was reinstated in 1945 and themed “Victory Jubilee” after the defeat of Nazi Germany. Special victory dances were done as tribute to the 47 young Meskwaki men in the armed forces. The Iowa Governor was a guest who gave a speech and also danced.

Throughout the 1950-70’s the Meskwaki Annual Powwow continued to generate revenue for the Tribe while bringing family and friends together for dancing and celebration.

In 1975, the first Meskwaki Annual Princess was crowned. Encouraging positive achievement by helping to nurture and empower healthy living, community involvement, and leadership in our youth, the competition has been held annually ever since. One girl is chosen as MAPA Powwow Princess and one girl is chosen as Jr. Powwow Princess. They begin their reign by helping to lead grand entry during powwow and continue their reign over the next year representing the Meskwaki people at powwows and other special events.

Over the years, the powwow has moved a few times due to flooding on the river and some sessions have been canceled due to inclement weather, but past those few inconveniences, the powwow remained a staple uniting the community and bringing together families and friends for four days of laughing, dancing, singing, and reconnecting all this time.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the powwow committee was forced to shut down the powwow in 2020 and 2021. Since 1913, it was only the 2nd time (the 1st being during WW2) the annual powwow was forced on hiatus. With joy and unity, we were finally able to come together once again this year to share our customs, promote equality, and encourage cultural awareness by sharing in what is truly distinctive about the Meskwaki way of life through our beloved annual powwow. What a delight it was!

The following pages include a pictorial of the entire 106th annual event. Although attendance numbers were slightly down from pre-pandemic levels with 204 dancers and 41 vendors, we made up for that with 171K views on the Tribe’s livestream channels (with help from www.powwows.com who simulcast to their site). It is apparent that our beloved event was missed by many during our time apart.

KINIMIBENA! KINAKAMOBENA!
KIMEMETAYAIBENA! (We will dance.
We will sing. We will have a good
time.) And we did!

The MAPA committee continues to look for members to help with its annual celebration. Please consider doing your part to help in 2023. Contact the receptionist at the Meskwaki Tribal Center to be forwarded to a committee member.

To see more, visit www.meskwaki.org and click on News/Events/Photo Gallery.

We hope you enjoy.

~ Meskwaki Media Services









Singers & the Drum

Keepers of the Songs

Powwow singers are highly regarded as the keepers of our songs. These songs hold significant meaning to those who know them and we appreciate the groups that came out this year. While some of our favorite songs are from colonial times and were written about war, bravery, love and friendship, many are newer and still being composed today.



106th Annual Meskw

Irene Keahna *Wenanegea*

Parents: Sophilia Keahna and Armando Balderas

Grandparents: Nadine Lasley Big Bear and Michael Keahna, Hortensia Lira, and Antonio Balderas

Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Group Speech, Individual Speech, and Drama

My Plans: I plan to represent the Meskwaki Tribe to the best of my abilities and to be a role model for the younger kids.



Meskwaki Powwow Princess



Sade Kapayou 105th Jr. Princess

MAPA would like to send out a very special THANK YOU to Sade Kapayou. She began her reign as Jr. Princess in 2019 and has held her title since! We wish her well as she handed off her title to Irene Keahna at the Meskwaki Annual Princess Contest which took place on Wed., August 10th, 2022.



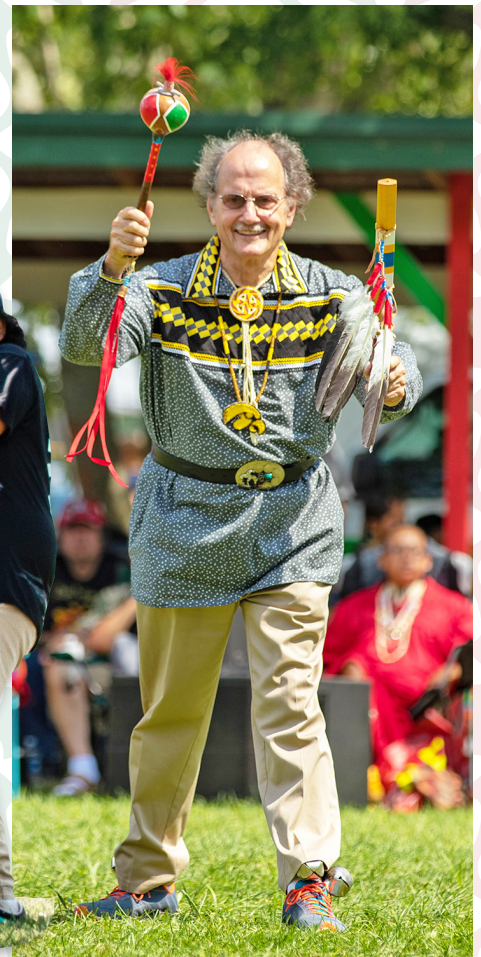


Tug-of-War
Meskwaki Nation Child Support Services hosted the tug-of-war challenge on Children's Day.



Proclamation

MAPA was presented with a certificate of proclamation signed by the Governor declaring August 12, 2022 as Meskwaki Annual Powwow Celebration Day.



Eugene Kapayou Men



Dance Specials

Numerous dance specials were observed over the four day celebration of the Eugene Kapayou Memorial Cowboy Special. Many will remember this event from the Annual Meskwaki Powwow, especially Magoo Keahna who took the



Memorial Cowboy Special



tion, including the Eugene
at as a highlight of the 106th
the top cash prize of the contest.

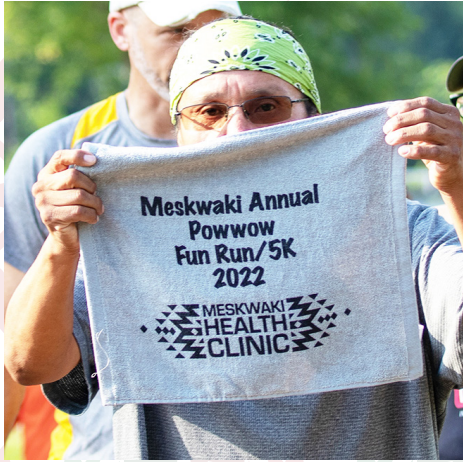




Fun Runs

The powwow community took part in two 5K Fun-Runs over the weekend, sponsored by the Health Clinic and Behavioral Health.







Veterans Observed

Saturday, August 13 was observed as Veterans Day at the 106th Annual Meskwaki Powwow. The 10 am flag raising honored the late Roy Kapayou of the U.S. Army. The Veterans Honor song was performed at both sessions. Robert Morgan Post 701 led the Grand Entries and raised and lowered the flags each day.





MESKWAKI HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Exhibit Tent

Each year the Meskwaki Historic Preservation Department and Museum host an exhibit tent at the annual powwow. Thanks goes out to the Meskwaki Settlement School for providing the tent this year and the Apprenticeship Department for helping set it all up. With the tent's windows, it was a large, bright space for people to learn more about the Meskwaki people. Thanks to Johnathan, Romeo and Suzanne Buffalo for diligently working to provide the learning environment people crave so much.

People from all over the world come to learn about our history and share their stories with us during powwow. So many who visit the exhibit speak of how they are proud to have the Tribe as friends and neighbors and how they are pulling for us to continue to succeed. It is powerful to hear how meaningful the powwow experience is to each of them.

The tent hosts a guest book each year where visitors can write comments and share where they came from and what they enjoy about visiting us. This year's entries included people from Iowa, Oklahoma, Texas, Illinois, Missouri, Colorado, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Arizona, Argentina, Mexico, Ukraine, Sweden and Switzerland. Many wrote powerful and encouraging notes to us including:

I love Meskwaki History!
Very interesting traditions. Great to see important traditions still alive.
Have missed the powwow the last few years. Glad you're back!
Loving it
Like reading the history. I stop by every year to read more.
Interesting.
Love to attend.
Always enjoy.
Very cool.
Wonderful to be here!
Honored to be here.
Love it!
4th visit. Great!
Very wise.
Very interesting!
Looking forward to seeing the powwow for the 1st time.
Amazing. Really interesting.
I always look forward to seeing the displays.
Wonderful.
Very nice display.
Great!
Love Suzanne :-)
Great!
Love this!
Thank you!
Amazing!!
This is so important! Thank you!
Love your history.
Thanks!
Great time.
Thanks for sharing your celebration.
Loves it!
Frybread was awesome!

What a wonderful way to share information.
Thank you for sharing.
Thank you.
Wonderful event!
Nice job, very interesting.
Ketebi :-)
Very interesting.
Frybread is GREAT!
We appreciate.
Always a joy to be here with you.
Thank you!
Thanks for having me.
Aho'
Love to support
Thank you for having powwow :-)
Beautiful!
Beautiful displays.
Great as always!!!
Love everything, especially the people.
Needs more frybread...!
Great atti exhibit
Wonderful display!
Amazing
Beautiful
This is our 3rd time here and love coming.
Very special event. Interesting to learn the history!
Very nice
Thank you for your hospitality
Honored to be here.
Thank you!
Awesome.
Amazing!
Wonderful - Ketebi!
So cool!
Akoi!

Love it.
Super amazing.
Learned a lot!
Very cool.
Absolutely beautiful!
Thank you for sharing.
Your board displays are great!
Love it!
The workers are great!
I like it.
Thank you!
Always love it!
Love the dancing.
Awesome. Thanks!
Awesome history.
Having a great time!
I'm a big Johnathan Buffalo fan!
Awesome. I had no idea!
Amazing
I am so proud of my brothers and sisters.
Amazing expression. Thank you!
Beautiful.
Wonderful.
Amazing experience
We will come back next year!
Wonderful experience.
I'm 80 now 1st visit was in 1958.
I'm 86. My first visit was when I was age 6.
Wonderful vendors!
Amazing dancing, singing, and drumming. Loved the representation of culture and teaching of the youth.
Slay!
Great time!



Photos by Tashina Azure



Cattails Make A Comeback

Historically, bulrush mats and cattail mats were used in the creation of traditional Meskwaki wikiups. As the exterior mat shed water and was soaked by rain, it would expand ever so slightly creating a natural seal between each cattail, which stopped the water from seeping through. It created a natural, thermal barrier which helped keep our people alive through the harshest of winters.

For a period of approximately 50-60 years, Cattail and Bulrush

weaving laid dormant and forgotten by the Meskwaki community. While people still set up their wikiup frames, they began to cover them with canvas tarps because canvas became more accessible and easily obtainable. Because of that, the harvesting and weaving of plant fiber mats became obsolete. For a number of years, our community only had the images of cattail mat covered wikiups to remind us of our older way of life.

For several years now a group of women have been working together to revitalize Cattail Mat weaving and Bulrush Mat weaving in our

community. This year, the group was able to build a cattail-mat covered wikiup at the Powwow grounds during the Annual Powwow, the first one built in our community in approximately 50 years. It is their goal to keep producing these mats, and to recruit more women into their circle of learners.

The group meets each Wednesday evening at 5:30 PM at the Meskwaki MNR building. The door is open to all women from the community. They invite you to meet, to learn and produce, and share in their hope of retaining this tradition.



Photos by Suzanne Buffalo

Exhibit Tent

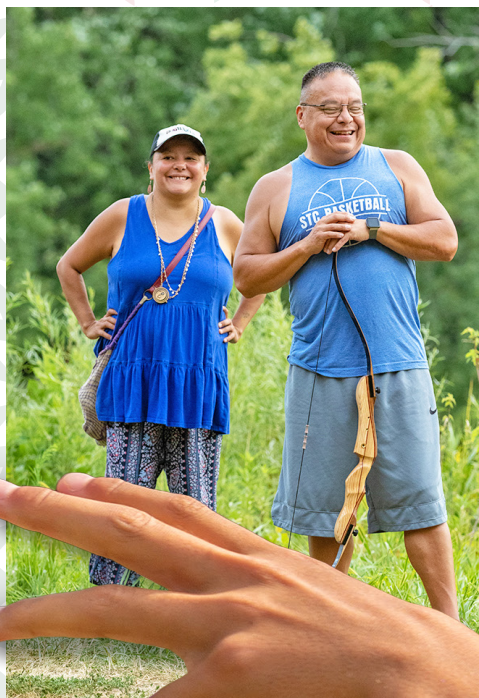
Each year, Meskwaki Historic Preservation hosts an exhibit tent featuring Meskwaki artifacts and historical information about the tribe. It's always a favorite of those in attendance.



Horseshoe Contest

Thanks to the Roy Kapayou Sr. family for hosting the horseshoe tournament on Saturday, August 13.





Archery Contest

On Saturday, August 13 MAPA hosted an archery contest with the help from Meskwaki Nation Police Department and Meskwaki Natural Resources.





MESKWAKI ANNUAL POWWOW ASSOCIATION

Ketebi' (Thank You)

We hope you enjoyed the 2022 Meskwaki Annual Powwow. After missing it in 2020 and 2021, we were so glad to be back. We know there is no way we can remember each and every person who helped put together this year's event, so we apologize to anyone we may have missed along the way. It takes everyone doing their part to make the event successful and we thank YOU for your support! We are always looking for people to help be a part of the committee and would love for you to join the 2023 team! Contact any one of us for more information.

Jerod Pushetonequa

Derice Aragon

Nicole Kapayou

SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO THE FOLLOWING FOR HELPING PROVIDE SUPPORT, DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEER HOURS TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE 106TH ANNUAL MESKWAKI POWWOW...

- Master of Ceremonies - **Sean Keahna, Sr.** and **Larry Yazzie** for putting on a great show
- Arena Directors - **Odie Old Bear, Jr.** and **Trey Keahna** for keeping everyone in line
- **American Legion Robert Morgan Post 701** for leading the way
- **Each man/woman** who volunteered to be a **head dancer** at each of the sessions - Thank you for your leadership
- **Meskwaki Behavioral Health** and the **Meskwaki Health Services** for hosting the fun walk/runs
- **La Carreta Mexican Restaurant** and **Meskwaki Media Services** for providing meals to the community on Friday and Saturday
- **Meskwaki Nation Child Support Services** for hosting the Children's Day Tug-of-War Challenge
- **Meskwaki Natural Resources** and **Meskwaki Nation Police Department** for helping **MAPA** host the Archery Tournament by providing an officer and equipment for the event
- **Roy Kapayou Sr. family** for hosting the Horseshoe Tournament
- The ladies in the community who built and set up the first cattail mat covered wikiup in approximately 50 years! **Mary Young Bear, Nina Young Bear, Bess Scott-Keahna, Brenda Wanatee, LeAnn Morgan, Pat Roy-Trujillo, and Kelly Schott**
- **Historical Preservation Dept.** - **Johnathan** and **Suzanne Buffalo**, along with **Mary Young Bear**, for hosting the History Tent, along with **Meskwaki Settlement School** and **Apprenticeship Dept.** for helping with the tent
- The **Meskwaki Nation Police Department** and **Mary Greeley Medical Center** for helping provide for a safe event
- **Meskwaki Media Services**, along with **Powwows.com**, for livestreaming the entire event and for providing the awesome pictures showcased in this edition, along with the **I.T. Department** for providing wifi/internet service.
- **Public Works, Apprenticeship, and Housing Departments**, along with **Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel's Engineering Staff**, for providing the lights, electricity needs, beautiful grounds and road access. (We super appreciated the daily grading of the gravel roads to the grounds and the use of the Casinos UTV as well!)
- **Char Keahna** who helped with ticket sales, daily punches, program sales and cleaning duties and **Dixie Kapayou** for hosting kids trash clean up.
- **Meskwaki Tribal Council** for providing monetary support
- **Meskwaki Youth Services** for hosting the daily Tiny Tot Specials
- **Families of Samson Keahna, Robert Waseskuk, Roy Kapayou** and **Philip Benson** for hosting flags
- **Sade Kapayou family** for hosting Jr/Teen Girls' All-Around Contest
- **Eugene Kapayou family** for hosting the Cowboy Special
- **Ellsworth "Bucky" Youngbear family** for hosting Men's Grass Dance Special
- **Odie Old Bear Family** for hosting the Scrub Contest
- **Meskwaki Senior Services** for judging the Princess Contest: **Ramona Sanache, Peggy Wanatee, Ardelia Davenport, Marcine YoungBear, and Anita Kapayou**
- All the vendors, singers, dancers, and community members who participated
- Everyone who helped clean up the powwow grounds at any point along the way!

MNT

Meskwaki Nation Times

*Preserving sovereignty,
protecting traditions, promoting
culture and building a stronger
community through information,
communication, and support.*



Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa

MESKWAKI NATION

349 Meskwaki Road
Tama, IA 52339-9634

PRESORTED
STANDARD MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
TAMA, IOWA
PERMIT NO. 7

Web Edition



VISIT US ON-LINE
FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE
INFORMATION POSTED DAILY!



WWW. MESKWAKI.ORG

- Community Calendar
- Career Opportunities
- "In The News"
- & more!

Tribal Council Minutes, Election info, and more is
located in the "Members Only" section of the site.



106th Annual
Meskwaki
powwow