Tribal economic impact surpasses $500 million once again

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation had a $540 million impact in Oklahoma for 2014. CPN directly supported 2,100 jobs and paid $78.6 million in wages and benefits. CPN indirectly supported thousands more jobs and boosted local economies by making purchases of more than $212 million on goods and services.

Tribal economic impact has grown nearly $500 million since 2002. CPN is the largest employer in Pottawatomie County, having created 70 percent of the new jobs locally for more than a decade.

In addition to wages and purchases, CPN also pays taxes and gives to local charitable organizations. In 2014, CPN made $28.9 million in tax payments and payments in lieu of taxes while contributing more than $2.2 million to local community organizations. Oklahoma schools received $252,000 and CPN awarded $4.1 million in scholarships.

The impact of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation doesn’t end with dollars. Tribal programs provide health and human services to many citizens, Native and non-Native alike, in its local community. CPN Health Services provided more than 160,000 physician, dental and wellness center visits and filled 171,000 prescriptions in 2014. More than 20,000 meals were served to elderly and CPN programs helped more than 20,000 families with training, education and nutrition services. These services help to ease the burden on the State of Oklahoma, which saw a $600 million budget shortfall in 2015.

CPN recently signed an agreement to provide 911 dispatch for all of Pottawatomie County and fields nearly 30 tribal police, increasing the safety of local communities. Pottawatomie County Rural Water District 3, operated by CPN, service area includes 60 percent of the county and serves towns and schools throughout rural Oklahoma. Pottawatomie County Rural Water District 3 investments have allowed towns like Dale, Okla. to improve education and safety by updating infrastructure and school districts.

CPN Community Development Corporation has also contributed to the impact in the local community. Since 2003, it has made $32.6 million in commercial loans and created or retained 1,154 jobs. CPCDC has also provided $4 million in employee loans and 17,900 hours for financial education and business development assistance.
Citizen Potawatomi on hand to celebrate Sacred Heart centennial

By Dr. Kelli Mosteller, Director of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center

On Sun., June 14, 2015 Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Konawa, Okla. celebrated its centennial with a Mass and potluck reception. Sacred Heart Mission and the associated school has a history in Pottawatomie County that dates back to 1876, when Fr. Isodore Robot, a French Benedictine arranged with the Potawatomi to establish a Catholic presence among them in Indian Territory.

The present-day church building was dedicated on June 11, 1915 by Bishop Rt. Rev. Theophile Meerchaert.

I was honored to attend the celebration because my family, like many Potawatomi, has a historical tie to Sacred Heart. My great-grandfather, Oliver Kelly Weld, attended Sacred Heart School along with his two sisters. He learned masonry at Sacred Heart and worked as a mason for the rest of his life.

I also wanted to attend the celebration to support three young tribal members, Anna Brimm, Abby Brimm and Jaylin Whitley, who hand drummed and sang three traditional Potawatomi songs during the celebration. These girls are members of Potawatomi families that have lived in the south Pottawatomie County area and been parishioners of Sacred Heart for many generations.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation will provide free bus travel to the Annual 'Gathering of the Nations' hosted by the Forest County Band of Potawatomi in Carter, Wisconsin, for CPN members and their immediate families. A chartered bus will leave the Citizen Potawatomi Nation headquarters, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive in Shawnee, at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2015. The bus will leave the Gathering on Sunday, August 16, 2015 to arrive back in Shawnee the afternoon of Monday, August 17, 2015.

A $50 per passenger refundable deposit is required. Tribal members who attend the Gathering will be responsible for their own food, lodging, and incidentals expenses.

To reserve a seat on the bus or obtain more information, please call Cathie Hanson at 275-3121 x 1434 or 800-880-9880. You may also send an email to chanson@potawatomi.org.
IRANIAN-MEXICAN-CITIZEN POTAWATOMI WRITER FINDS AN AUDIENCE IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Fueled by an oilfield boom, the Oklahoma City metropolitan area largely weathered the Great Recession that inundated other parts of the country. The recent drop in energy prices has slowed the economy somewhat, yet the city and its surrounding areas continue to grow. Where its younger residents once took flight for professional opportunities in surrounding states, Oklahoma City has become a thriving locale for homegrown residents and out-of-staters alike. One local website, www.TheLostOgle.com, has captured this younger audience’s attention during this time.

One of its leading contributors is Marisa Mohi, a Nadeau-family descendant who bills herself as “a Gen Y Oklahoma writer with two master’s degrees and a bad cake habit.”

Mohi is originally from the northern Oklahoma City suburb of Edmond and describes herself as “one of two Iranian-Mexican-Citizen Potawatomi Nation people.”

Her father originally came from Iran to the U.S. in the 1970s for college, while her maternal grandfather came from Mexico and maternal grandmother was Citizen Potawatomi, a descendent of Mary Nadeau. Currently a business writing instructor at the University of Oklahoma, Mohi describes her work as teaching future professionals how to write business reports and memos.

“I basically try to teach them how to write professionally in the corporate world,” she explained.

Like many of her generation who graduated college in the aftermath of the Great Recession, Mohi’s path to the front of the classroom wasn’t laid out before her as it appears today. “In undergrad I did English writing and then I went to grad school, because when you get a writing degree in the middle of the recession, you immediately go to grad school,” she said.

By the age of 27, she had two master’s degrees, one in professional writing and another in library and information studies, the pursuit of the latter she attributes to being “a weirdo.” Her writing background has served her well in her role as a regular contributor to one of Oklahoma City’s popular online sites, The Lost Ogle. Proudly proclaimed as an “obscure” local social blog, the site’s longevity since its 2007 inception is due in large part to its satirical and sometimes biting coverage of topics relevant to younger segments of the city’s population, many of whom feel neglected by the coverage in The Oklahoman, the state’s largest newspaper. An avid reader of the site for years, in 2010 Mohi submitted a contribution poking fun of her home town.

“I don’t hate Edmond, I swear,” she cautioned. “It just iritates me sometimes.”

The success of that initial submission turned into a permanent place at The Lost Ogle. After founder Patrick Riley asked her to become a regular contributor. Even now, as Mohi continues her fifth year of writing for the site, she admits that the reactions to her posts occasionally catch her off guard.

“I can never tell when I’m going to get good or bad feedback. I wrote a post once about a proposed third Wal-Mart being built in Norman, saying that the town didn’t need it because it was going to be down the street from a different Wal-Mart. I got so many positive comments from it and all I could think was ‘People can’t take this seriously, I wrote that in 20 minutes!’”

Her love-hate relationship with her hometown has also proven to be a lightning rod.

“When I wrote an article about the nine grudges I would always hold against Edmond, there were well over 100 comments and 50,000 page views, and I don’t even know why.”

“We all love Oklahoma, but we are kind of burnt out on it at this point,” she admitted. “There are so many marketing campaigns about how great everything is, and it is better than it used to be. But we can’t just sweep everything under the rug.”

Mohi’s association with the site has also filtered into her professional life. During an interview with the marketing department of OPUBCO, the corporate entity of The Oklahoman, she kept being introduced as Marisa from The Lost Ogle.

“The head of the department shook my hand and told me that it was really interesting what I did, and that they were watching,” said Mohi with a laugh. “I didn’t get the job.”

She’s unconcerned about the impact of her work on her professional aspirations however. “It has shaped my career, and I’ve been turned down for jobs because of my association with it. But I also don’t want to work for a company that tells me what I can do in my free time. It’s shaped me politically in that I’m less accepting of views that I can tell aren’t sincere. We say things people see or that they don’t want to see. Whether you read The Lost Ogle because you love it or you hate it, you’re still reading it.”

Her writing doesn’t solely revolve around the website though. Along with a partner and fellow writer Kathryn Trattner, Mohi is working on the creation of a prairie gothic literature magazine called Dominion House.

“We wanted to tell some of the darker stories about Oklahoma. I think that we have a really interesting history, but we also have a really gruesome history. Whether you’re talking about Native American tribes, or the Girl Scout murders or how there are six or seven Crybaby Bridge stories in the state. I think there is a lot of creepy stuff that can be told about the Oklahoma landscape.”

An avid short story writer “with a folder full of rejection letters,” Mohi has also worked as a reporter for publications like The Oklahoma Gazette.

“I should probably get back into it,” she admitted, “but it’s not as fun. I have to be a normal person and I can’t write about ghosts or make outrageous claims or whatever else I feel like writing about that day.”

Like all critics, Mohi has taken heat for her views. This doesn’t mean that her love for her home state or its people isn’t sincere though, and she offers a cautiously optimistic look for its future despite the current uncertainty of another year of fiscal shortfalls in the state budget and a cratering energy industry.

“I think there is hope for Oklahoma, but I think it’s going to get worse before it gets better,” she said. “It’s going to take more time and more people calling politicians and corporations out for their actions before things improve.”

With voices like Mohi’s there offering a counter-narrative, that better future might be closer than it appears.
Bowden retains District 13 seat and Tribal budget passes overwhelmingly

Though officially three legislative seats were on the June 27, 2015 ballot, absentee voters and those casting in-person ballots during the 2015 CPN Family Reunion Festival only had two decisions to make.

For Oklahoma voters, the contest between incumbent Bobbi Bowden and challenger Samuel Navarre was up for grabs, while Potawatomi from all districts voted on the proposed annual Tribal budget.

In District 13, Bowden emerged the victor with 284 total votes to Navarre’s 190.

“I would like to begin by congratulating Mr. Navarre on a great campaign. I admire his knowledge of our language and traditions and I look forward to continuing to learn from him in the future,” said Bowden. “With a grateful and humble heart I would like to thank the members of our great Nation for their votes and believing in and voting for me to continue as your District 13 legislative representative. I will do my best to continue to serve to the best of my ability. I look forward to the growth and great things that are in store for the future of our Tribe. Please do not hesitate to contact me at Bbowden@potawatomi.org with any questions or concerns.”

District 13 opponent Samuel Navarre thanked his supporters for their encouragement throughout the race.

“Kché migwetch to all who participated in this election!” commented Navarre. From the voters who reached out to me, you don’t know how much your support has meant, and to our winner, Bobbi Bowden, who ran a classy campaign. It has been my honor to speak for our Tribe and the needs of our People. I will continue my work to help our Tribe develop, grow, and embrace our sacred heritage, so in the words of Evita, ‘Don’t cry for me...the truth is I never left you.’ ‘Here’s to our success in the future!”

The annual Tribal budget was also affirmed, with a vote of 1,346 for and 105 against.

District 10 and 11 elections for incumbents David Barrett and Lisa Kraft were won by those incumbents with no opposition. Judge Phil Lujan and Court Clerk Junia Climer swear in legislators Bobbi Bowden, David Joe Barrett and Lisa Kraft.

CPN Veterans report: August 2015

By Daryl Talbot, Commander of the CPN Veterans Organization

Bozho,

Attention veterans: the Department of Veterans Affairs is announcing four new studies that will use genetic and other data from VA’s Million Veteran Program, or MVP, to answer key questions on heart disease, kidney disease, and substance abuse (high priority conditions affecting veterans).

More than 390,000 veterans have enrolled so far, and is becoming the nation’s largest database linking genetic, clinical, lifestyle and military exposure information. The newly funded studies are among the first to use MVP data to try to answer key questions on heart disease, kidney disease, and substance abuse (high priority conditions affecting veterans).

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The newly funded studies are among the first to use MVP data to try to answer key questions on heart disease, kidney disease, and substance abuse (high priority conditions affecting veterans). The new studies include the following:

• Cardiovascular risk factors
• Multi-substance use
• Pharmacogenomics of kidney disease
• Metabolic conditions.

For more information about MVP and VA research in general, visit www.research.va.gov.

Remember our Vietnam Veterans Banquet is 26 September at 5 p.m. at the Grand Event Center inside the Grand Casino Hotel Resort in Shawnee, Okla. You do not have to be a veteran of the Vietnam Era to attend, but the meals will be paid for (plus one guest) for the Vietnam Era Veterans. It should be a grand event honoring our Vietnam Era Veterans.

Remember the CPN Veterans Organization meets every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. or as soon as you can get there, in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN veterans and their families are welcome. You do not need to be a member of the organization to attend these meetings, just come and visit with us and see what we are about. A meal is provided.

Migwetch.

Head over to Firelake Gift Shop for those morning coffee accessories

We’ve got a whole new set of coffee mugs and custom to-go cups for your morning commute, all showing that Potawatomi pride.

Don’t miss our FireLake Gifts featured item featured each week on our Facebook page.

FACEBOOK.COM/FIRELAKEGIFTS • GIFTSHPOTAWATOMI.ORG
Tribal member Michelle Slavin teaching conservation in Uganda

For more than six years, a Citizen Potawatomi Tribal member has worked in Uganda to promote conservation efforts in one of Africa’s fastest growing countries. Michelle Slavin spoke with the Hownik about her journey from Washington State to Africa, what she is doing there and what it was like having her father, Clyde Slavin, travel over this past year to visit her and provide free optometry services to the local communities.

Where is your hometown?

“*I am originally from Vancouver, Wash. but often claim Seattle as my hometown. It’s easier than explaining Vancouver or Washington.*”

Where did you graduate from?

“I graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle with a BS in Wildlife Science, American University in Washington D.C. with a Masters in International Affairs and the United Nations mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica with a Masters in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development.”

You’re currently UNITE’s Conservation Education Trainer in Uganda, can you give a description of what you do there?

“I started as UNITE for the Environment’s Conservation Education Trainer and in 2011 was promoted to director. I oversee the day-to-day management of the program on the ground in Uganda. This includes budgeting and reporting, grant writing, partnership development, communications, developing and facilitating teacher trainings, and developing and implementing an evaluation plan. Most people think I’m out having adventures on a daily basis but the reality is I spend about 80 percent of my time behind a desk.”

How does a Slavin from Washington State end up in Uganda?

“It wasn’t a straight line, that’s for sure. After university I wanted to gain work experience outside the U.S. so I joined the Peace Corps and worked in the Philippines for over two years as an environmental educator. It was there that I really fell in love with community conservation work and decided I wanted to make a career of it.

“I went back to Seattle to work and spend some much needed time with my friends and family before going to graduate school in Washington D.C. and Costa Rica. After getting my master’s I began working at the Smithsonian doing science education reform work in the Gulf States but it wasn’t long before I realized I really wanted to go back to working internationally. I saw an opening with the North Carolina Zoo to work with UNITE for the Environment in Uganda and I applied. I interviewed over the phone, got the job and within five weeks was on a plane heading for Uganda. Six years later, I’m still here!”

Why is your work there important?

“Conservation is the core of our well-being, and the well-being of wildlife living near these great ape habitats are linked to conservation without being consulted or educated about why it is so important. UNITE for the Environment trains teachers to integrate conservation education into Uganda’s national curriculum so that conservation becomes a daily message and habit instead of a special activity students take part in once or twice a month after school.

“During the training we also promote the use of student centered teaching methods to encourage students to think more critically about the conservation problems they face and are able to better able to address them. UNITE for the Environment doesn’t stop with the teachers though, we also take students on field trips to natural areas that align with the national curriculum.”

What are some of the challenges you face in trying to educate both those in Uganda and those of us farther afield about conservation?

“I think one of the biggest challenges educating people about conservation in both Uganda and elsewhere is the behavioral change component, which is essentially the goal of conservation education. Both Ugandans and Americans need to make changes in the way they view the environment and approach conservation, but they each face very different challenges.

“In the US I think a lot of the focus is on the consumption of energy and ‘stuff’ while in Uganda the focus is more on deforestation, waste management and poaching. A lot of it comes back to making the connection between our actions and the environmental impact, both now and in the future.

“Evaluating these behavioral changes is also a huge challenge, it’s difficult and expensive to evaluate behavioral change so people don’t always do it, or don’t put a lot of effort into it. UNITE for the Environment has a pretty thorough evaluation component and we are constantly assessing the best methods to use. Currently UNITE for the Environment staff are visiting teachers and students at home to see if our messages are making it out of the classroom and into the home.”

What is it like having your father Clyde Slavin come over and conduct his optometry clinic for local residents there in Uganda?

“Having chosen a rather untraditional career it means a lot to me when my friends and family take an interest in learning about where I live and the challenges I face both personally and professionally and there is no better way to do that than coming for a visit. I’m really lucky that my dad is so adventurous and willing to donate his time to helping others in less than ideal conditions.

“After one of the UNITE for the Environment trainings last year my dad provided free vision screenings and reading glasses for the teachers and they were so happy. The majority of the teachers live very far from any town that has an optometrist and even if they lived closer it’s unlikely they could afford to go see one. These teachers are my heroes—they go above and beyond and whatever they are required to do so being able to see my dad helping them out was amazing.”

If you would like to learn more about Michelle Slavin’s work with UNITE, please visit their website (nrczoo.com/UNITE) or follow them on Facebook (UNITE for the Environment), Twitter (@NCZooUNITE) or Instagram (UNITE4theEnvironment).
Behavioral Health Services offering support for those suffering from grief

The loss of a loved one can be a devastating experience, and in many instances can result in a normal time of grieving. Yet for some, that time of mourning may be prolonged and difficult to move past. Assistance in working through these feelings to a sense of normalcy is available through the CPN Health Services Behavioral Health Clinic. The Hownikan spoke with Dr. Kenneth Bond about a new support group offering treatment for those suffering from grief.

Tell us a little bit about grief support in terms of the differences between it and something like depression?

“A treatment approach for depression typically attempts to focus on unhealthy or distorted thinking processes that people engage in that contribute to depression. A therapist tries to identify how the person’s thinking is flawed and correct those flaws to alleviate depression.

“In grief, the depression is not the result of distorted thinking but is instead the natural response to significant loss. A grief support group offers the individual a means to address their hurt and pain in a supportive and encouraging environment.”

What is this new grief support group’s purpose in terms of what it will do and address?

“Grieving the loss of a loved one is an incredibly painful experience. It is natural for people to isolate for a time and withdraw from pain and hurt. Sometimes when people experience loss, they can get stuck in unhealthy coping responses such as isolating or shutting down emotionally.

“The most powerful function of a grief support group is that it offers us a place where we can not only feel safe and supported to acknowledge and deal openly with hurt, but also to re-connect to others in emotionally fulfilling ways. A grief support group also should provide individuals with information that explains the difficult stages of the grieving process. This helps people to understand not only where they are in the process, but can give them hope that things will get better.”

What are some of the signs that individuals should look for in themselves or loved ones who might benefit from joining this grief support group?

“Depression is actually a normal and even necessary response to loss. There is no fixed time limit to how long grief is ‘supposed’ to last. A good rule of thumb for considering reaching out for any kind of therapeutic support is whether or not emotional issues are so severe or persistent that they are interfering with the person continuing with their regular daily activities. Are anger, guilt, sleep, or socializing problems continuing to limit your ability to move back out into the world?”

Who is eligible or who might be best served by attending this group?

“The Grief Support Group is available for all Tribal members eligible for health services or spouses of Tribal members. It meets every Monday at 4 p.m. at the Behavioral Health Clinic at 26 Father Joe Murphy Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801. If people would like to learn more, please call CPN Behavioral Health Services at 405-214-5101.”

To join the support group contact CPN Behavioral Health Services at 405-214-5101.
Imagination Playground inspires all ages

Today, while more American youth seem to be captivated by the latest technological advancement than the neighborhood playground, one company is working to change that perception. National non-profit company, KaBOOM!, focuses on providing youth a balanced and active childhood. The FireLodge Tribal Youth program received one of KaBOOM!'s Imagination Playgrounds through a donation from Blue Cross and Blue Shield and KaBOOM!

According to the company’s website, Imagination Playground provides an innovative play opportunity that can be instantly activated through an innovative design in play equipment that encourages creativity, communication, and collaboration. It’s custom-designed, oversized blue foam parts provide a changing array of elements that allow youth to turn their playground into a space to be built according to what they imagine.

“The kids have really embraced using the Imagination Playground,” said Darin Greene Coordinator for FireLodge Tribal Youth. “We have 12 to 18 year olds here and we weren’t sure how much it was going to be used. I’m just really thankful we got it because it has really been a great thing for the kids here.”

Academic Support Specialist for the P.L.A.C.E., Ben McAlister, has found different uses for the Tribal youth to use the Imagination Playground in their weekly activities.

“We use the Imagination Playground for an assortment of team building exercises,” said McAlister. “We like to see who can build the most elaborate car, staircase, really anything they come up with we try and all make it together. We assumed that it was only going to be used by the youth but the high school kids have really found ways to use it as well.”

Vice-President for the FireLodge Youth Council, Duncan Hoffman, immediately saw it as a great and exciting experience to do something new with his friends.

“Today we created an obstacle course and we put blindfolds on one person and their partner helped guide them through the course by telling them where to step,” said Hoffman. “We use the Imagination Playground for team building exercises, friendly competitions and of course fun.”

For more information on the KaBOOM! Imagination Playground please visit their webpage at www.kaboom.org.

FireLodge Tribal Youth update: August 2015

By Darin Greene, Coordinator

FireLodge Tribal Youth

We survived an action filled summer. The Tribal youth will be attending an end of year trip to Arlington, Texas where they visit Six Flags over Texas and Hurricane Harbor. They’ll also take a tour of the Dallas Cowboys football facilities.

With summer ending and school beginning though, it’s down to business.

To get the school year off right, each Tribal youth will meet with our staff to put together a game plan for academic and personal success. Called “My Success Plan,” it will help the youth identify their needs from staff and set some long term goals. It’s based off a three part focus:

• Intellectual and academics
• Social and emotional
• Physical and health

One of the new aspects of the FireLodge program is that Tribal youth will be asked to step up more in helping in their communities. Community Service hours have increased to 40 hours, where as last year it was only 20.

The Tribal youth start their community service hours by working the FireLake Arena Championship Boxing show by helping usher and keeping the arena clean.

Each month there is an opportunity to earn community service points for the youth. They will also join up with the local Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club and The Oklahoma Department of Human Services to help assemble back-to-school backpacks for other students in need this year.

Our Tribal youth young ladies held a cheer camp, which was a big success, each camper was taught several cheers and a dance.

We’ll also be hosting a Back-to-School Bash, which involves a number of games and activities, including the ever popular extreme inflatables, free food and refreshments.

If you would like to learn more about FireLodge Tribal Youth Program or the P.L.A.C.E., please contact me at dgreene@potawatomi.org.

Dakota Clock and Hosea Ramirez discuss the upcoming school year over basketball and breakfast.
Heupel youth camp and golf tournament mark another impressive year of participation at CPN

Marking a decade of partnership with Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Day of Champions Football Camp expanded its offerings this year to include a wider range of participants. For the first time, a dual-sport camp was held with football instruction for boys and softball instruction for girls.

“The camp was a huge success this year,” commented Sarah Lawerance, CPN Fitness Instructor and coordinator of the camps. “We had 150 campers ranging in age from 5-13, with 75 percent of those being Native American.”

The camp was hosted by Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Day of Champions Inc., which was founded by former collegiate football coach Ken Heupel and son, Josh, the 2000 national champion from the University of Oklahoma and current offensive coordinator at Utah State University.

Last year around 90 campers participated, and with each year the numbers continue to grow. The first day of camp consists of drills, instruction and small games led by collegiate and professional coaches.

On day two, campers are allowed to bring a parent or guardian to participate with them in the day’s drills. Sixty adults participated this year, including 10 members of the 2015 Potawatomi Leadership Program class.

Another facet of the #14 Foundation partnership with CPN is the annual golf tournament at FireLake Golf Course. According to Lawerance, the tournament is the only fundraiser the foundation undertakes specific to leadership development.

“It’s vital to the work that is done in meeting the needs of the children the foundation serves,” explained Lawerance.

The funds raised from the tournament help pay for scholarships for children to attend camps focused on academic improvement, including math, science camps and academic year tutoring.

If you would like to learn more about the #14 Foundation or the Day of Champions Football and Softball Camps, please contact Sarah Lawerance at 14foundation@ gmail.com. If you would like to learn more about hosting a fundraising tournament or event at FireLake Golf Course or FireLake Ballfields, please visit their websites at www.FirelakeGolf.com or www. TheBallfieldsatFirelake.com.

A look into the past: David Pumunkatuc Johnson at Carlisle Indian School

In another look into the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center archives, we examine a piece of history from the Indian School era of the late nineteenth and earlier twentieth centuries. This “footlocker” was given to Tribal member David P. Johnson upon his arrival at Carlisle Indian Industrial School in 1899. Johnson is pictured here with friends during his time at Carlisle.

Carlisle Indian Industrial School was an Indian boarding school in Carlisle, Penn. One of the first of its kind, it was founded by Captain Richard Henry Pratt at an abandoned military post. The so-called ‘noble experiment’ was a failed attempt to forcibly assimilate Native American children into white civilization.

One of the main principles of the school, as Captain Pratt famously said, was to “ Kill the Indian and save the man.”

Because of Pratt’s “success” at shaping the Indian’s identity, it later spawned 26 other Indian boarding schools across the country and quickly became a part of U.S. Indian policy. As part of the recruiting process, Pratt would convince the parents of the Indian children that the reason why the white men were taking their land was because Indians were not educated enough.

In the beginning, parents were voluntarily allowing their children go. However, over time, parents would coerced and often forced to send their children to Carlisle. After the new recruits arrived at the school, the Indian children would take before and after pictures, primarily to show the progress of the school and its success at assimilating the children.

Carlisle was modeled on the military lifestyle with Indian boys wearing uniform and girls Victorian style dresses. They marched to and from class and the dining halls. The boys and girls were organized into companies with officers who took charge of drill while discipline at the school was strictly enforced.

Carlisle was structured with academics for one half of the day and instruction in trades the other half. In the summer months, rather than letting the children go back to the reservations, the school implemented what was known as an ‘outing system’, where the students would work for a non-Indian family for the summer and return back to Carlisle to begin the new school year.

This was yet another part of the detribalization process. By the time Carlisle closed in 1918, over 10,000 Indian children had gone through its doors. The results of this era presented ever-lasting negative effects on the Indian student’s sense of cultural identity. Subsequently, the opposition of their Indian identities often could not be reversed and they ultimately entered a world outside of Carlisle confused and lacking self-worth. Although the negative experiences among those Native Americans who attended Carlisle often outweighed the good, Carlisle, today is now famously associated with Olympic great and Citizen Potawatomi member, Jim Thorpe.

The United States Army War College now occupies the site of the former Indian boarding school.
Wadase update: August 2015

January 23, 2015 was the last positive sighting of Wadase Zhabwé at the aviary. However that’s not to say she hasn’t been in the area. On several occasions she has roosted overnight in an old, favorite spot of hers where Squirrel Creek meets the North Canadian River just north of the aviary. She has even flown over the aviary half a dozen times, but we did not see her. After studying the telemetry it is easy to understand why, because she was flying 2,000 feet in the air or higher when she passed over. Wadase had returned to the Salty Fork of the Arkansas River just south of Ponca City, just as she did this time last year. She didn’t stay long though, with the weather possibly being a contributing factor.

Since the opening of the aviary in 2012, the surrounding landscape has never been so lush and green, we have the extraordinary rainfall of this spring to thank for that bounty. This May we received as much rain in a month as we should for an entire year. Three times this year we have seen the aviary surrounded by flood waters. While many people in Oklahoma and surrounding states had devastating damage, we were fortunate and did not take on water in any of the buildings or enclosures, although it was closer than we would have liked. During that flooding, we felt positive we would see Wadase return to the aviary for food as a result of the overflowing rivers and creeks. She made her way back from the Salt Fork to an area along the North Canadian River just south of Lake Arcadia near Spencer, Okla. just 30 miles from the aviary. But each flood came and went without a sighting. Anxiously checking telemetry as soon as it became available we learned she was hunting in the flooded fields adjacent the river. From the last storm of this winter season to the worst flooding she’s experienced since her release, she continues to meet each challenge with no more support than our prayers. After this year’s molt we suspect she will have a mostly white head and tail and her beak should have changed from dark brown to yellow along with her eyes. She is nearly mature, as a sub-adult; over the next two years she will continue to learn the best places to hunt and hone her skills. By fall next year she could be looking for a potential mate. We are in “double bonus time” with her telemetry. Initially, we were told any data we received from the GPS unit itself was considered a bonus and now we are headed into year three with consistent telemetry. We can only hope the cotton stitching on the thin backpack straps lasts as long as the GPS unit itself. “Quadruple bonus time” would hopefully take us into her first nesting season. But for now we continue to check telemetry and note patterns as they emerge each season.

Knowing Wadase is in the vicinity we continue to keep an eye out for her on the property. One early morning, just after sunrise, watering the plants out in front of the aviary, we were startled as we looked up to find a large juvenile bald eagle perched on the upright posts of the small enclosure. We had almost walked right underneath her. How long had she been sitting there watching us? The first thing we thought was that it was Wadase. But this bald eagle was dark, much like Wadase was when she first arrived at the aviary. Quickly and as calmly as we could, we made our way to the aviary office to peek out the window of the small enclosure but she was gone. However, she hadn’t gone far; we spotted her on Wadase’s favorite perch out front. Once we were able to get a better look at her we were positive that she is a fledgling from this year’s nesting eagles, probably little more than five months old. After some discussion and time spent observing her we agreed that we should offer her food on Wadase’s platform. We wanted to assess her hunting ability and be sure that she was not struggling to find food and that she wasn’t injured. Once we had placed food on the platform it wasn’t long before she made a flyby to see what was on the platform. She was wary, but curious. After several flybys she landed. She ate on the platform and never tried to carry food away. She hasn’t yet mastered taking food in flight or even carrying her catch back to her favorite spot of hers where Squirrel Creek meets the North Canadian River just north of the aviary. She has even flown over the aviary half a dozen times, but we did not see her. After studying the telemetry it is easy to understand why, because she was flying 2,000 feet in the air or higher when she passed over. Wadase had returned to the Salty Fork of the Arkansas River just south of Ponca City, just as she did this time last year. She didn’t stay long though, with the weather possibly being a contributing factor.

The rest of the day she stayed close, perched in one of the big pecan trees on the property. The second morning she returned just as she had the first day. The third morning she had brought company. It appeared to be a nest mate, a smaller male, who was much more wary of our presence around the aviary. He never came to the platform to eat and we never spotted him after midday. Several times throughout the day we would leave the big pecan and take several long flights around the aviary and follow the creek to the river and return. She continued this for a week and this morning as we finish up this article, we have yet to see her. Seeing her was not only a great reminder of how fortunate we were to spend time with Wadase after her release but how thankful we are for Wadase’s telemetry. Today we only know the young eagle wasn’t here at sunrise. We hope that she only needed the support of a few meals and continues to thrive, as Wadase has, on her own. We were taught that guests should always feel welcome and offer food and water, but we were told never to carry food away. Hopefully we got that right.

As always we encourage you to keep your eyes out for Wadase. To follow her movements with us you can visit www.arcgis.com/home and search for “Potawatomi eagle.” Send your encounters with Wadase or any other eagles in Oklahoma or wherever you may be to Jennell.randell@potawatomi.org. For more information or to read previous updates please visit www.potawatomi.org and search for Wadase or visit http://www.potawatomi.org/about-wadase.
2015 Family Reunion Festival

Co-winner of 'Youngest' at General Council, Sadie Painter, held here by Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett.

'Travelled Furthest', Lisa Weldfeld (left) of San Diego, Calif.

'Wisest' at General Council, George Hamilton, at 98 years old.

Randy Schlachtun, Sam James and Jeyson Lamberti

Emmaline Barrett during Grand Entry.

Emelia Zientek, held by Vice-Chairman Cotter, was co-winner of 'Youngest' at General Council.

Cultural Activities Coordinator Michael Logan leads a beading instruction at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center.

Youth pool champion Triston Hargrove lines up a shot.

Tribal members face off in the opening rounds of the chess tournament.

Eddie Moore makes a move during the checkers tournament.

Honored Veteran at Grand Entry Don Anderson, USAF and Oklahoma Air National Guard (Ret.).

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Obama highlights efforts to improve lives of Native Americans during visit to Indian Country

By Kristi Eaton

Saying he couldn’t make up for broken treaties or years of broken promises to Native Americans, President Barack Obama traveled to Indian Country last week to meet with tribal members and announce a new initiative meant to close the digital divide among low-income residents.

Obama, who spoke at Durant High School in the Choctaw Nation, announced ConnectHome, a program to ensure that everyone in American has access to high-speed broadband Internet. ConnectHome builds upon an earlier initiative ConnectED that is connecting 99 percent of K-12 students to high-speed Internet access in their classrooms and libraries over the next five years.

The Choctaw Nation is one of the communities selected for the ConnectHome pilot program, which is expected to reach more than 275,000 low-income homes, including 200,000 children, according to the administration.

“While high-speed Internet access is a given, it’s assumed for millions of Americans, it’s still out of reach for too many people -- especially in low-income and rural communities,” Obama said, noting that more than 90 percent of households headed by a college graduate use the Internet but fewer than half of households with less than a high school education are plugged into the Internet.

A child’s ability to succeed should not be based on where he or she lives or how much money their parents make, Obama said.

“That’s not who we are as a country,” he said. “We’ve got a different standard. We’re a people who believe we should be able to go as far as our talents and hard work will take us. And just because you don’t have money in your household to buy fancy technology, that should not be an obstacle.”

In addition to the Choctaw Nation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development selected the following cities for ConnectHome: Albany, Georgia; Atlanta; Baltimore; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Boston; Camden, New Jersey; Cleveland; Denver; Durham, North Carolina; Fresno, California; Kansas City, Missouri; Little Rock, Arkansas; Los Angeles; Macon, Georgia; Memphis, Tennessee; Meriden, Connecticut; Nashville, Tennessee; New Orleans; New York; Newark, New Jersey; Philadelphia; Rockford, Illinois; San Antonio; Seattle; Springfield, Massachusetts; Tampa, Florida; and the District of Columbia.

Obama started his speech by highlighting some of the work he has done with tribes across the U.S., including hosting the annual Tribal Nations Conference in Washington D.C. and the first-ever Tribal Youth Gathering, which more than 1,000 young people from 230 tribes attended earlier in July.

“Michelle and I believe we’ve got a special obligation to make sure that tribal youth have every opportunity to achieve their potential not just for the benefit of themselves and their communities, but for our entire nation; that all of you young people have a chance to succeed not by leaving your communities, but by coming back and investing in your communities, and that you have a whole range of options that can lift us all up,” he said.

Obama also noted that strengthening the sovereignty of tribal nations has been key to the nation-to-nation partnerships.

“We can’t reverse centuries of history -- broken treaties, broken promises. But I did believe that we could come together as partners and forge a new path based on trust and respect. And that’s what we’ve tried to do,” he said, listing several examples: giving increased power to tribal courts and police, restoring hundreds of thousands of acres of tribal trust lands, reauthorizing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and moving forward with renewable energy projects in Indian Country.

In Oklahoma, the administration earlier selected the Choctaw Nation as the first tribal community to be declared a “promise zone,” which allows for tax incentives and competitive advantages when applying for federal grants, among other things.

Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton said Obama has shown he’s a great partner for Indian Country and is a leader who is governing in a way “that heals wounds.”

Chelbie Turtle was among several Native youth who traveled to Durant to hear the president’s speech. The 14-year-old Turtle, who is a member of the Cherokee Nation and the current Jr. Miss Cherokee, called Obama’s speech “inspiring.” Turtle said she has not had issues with accessing high-speed Internet but knows people who have. She said her friend used to come to her family’s house in order to sit in the driveway and use wifi because the signal was stronger. “Having access to wifi is almost a necessity. Technology is important,” said Turtle, who had just returned from the Tribal Youth Gathering in Washington D.C.

Before his speech at the Choctaw Nation, Obama met with several Native youth from tribes across Oklahoma to learn about their backgrounds and give them the opportunity to ask him questions.

This was Obama’s second trip to Indian Country. Last summer, he and Michelle Obama traveled to the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation in North Dakota. The trip to the Choctaw Nation was part of a two-day trip to Oklahoma. He also toured the El Reno Federal Correctional Institute outside of Oklahoma City, becoming the first sitting president to visit a federal prison.

Hownikan wins several awards at Native American journalism conference

The Native American Journalists Association is dedicated to supporting Native American journalism and recently held their annual awards ceremony for excellence in reporting in Indian Country. In the category of tribal publications with more than 8,000 readers, the Citizen Potawotomi Nation’s Tribal newspaper, the Hownikan, brought home seven awards.

Communications Coordinator Bo Apitz submitted several entries for the best feature photo and swept the category, winning first, second and third place.

Assistant Director of Public Information, John VanPool, won third place for his profile of CPN District Court Judge Phil Lujan in the best feature story in print and online publications.

The Hownikan also won several awards in the Division III category:

• Second Place – Best Digital Publication
• Second Place – General Excellence Print
• Third Place – Best Layout Print

To see the full list of award winners please visit www.naja.com/news/2014-native-media-awards/associate-category.

President Barack Obama speaks at the Choctaw Nation.

(Photograph courtesy Choctaw Nation.)
CPN Legislative update: June 2015

With a full audience comprised of Tribal employees and Tribal members, as well as the 2015 class of the Potawatomi Leadership Program, the CPN Legislature met for the first meeting of the 2015-16 legislative session.

Derek Valdo, CEO of AMERIND Risk Management, made a presentation to the legislature, before a resolution approving a memorandum of understanding between CPN and AMERIND Risk Management Corporation was approved by a unanimous vote. The MOU will offer property and casualty insurance products to persons residing within the former reservation boundaries of the Tribe.

The CPN Self-Governance Department also made a presentation on the Tribal Court and Employment and Training Program also received small one-time increases as well. While contract health services and Tribal environmental health projects did receive funding increases, a five percent cut in base funding for those two programs was lost due to the 2013 sequestration implemented by Congress. These funds will never be restored.

Overall, 32 of the 40 Tribal Self-Governance Office’s 2014 Fiscal Year applications were awarded for a total of $13.9 million, a 25 percent increase in the number of applications submitted and a 15 percent increase compared to the number applied for and awarded in the previous fiscal year.

A resolution accepting a proposed settlement between CPN and Glaxo Smith-Kline, LLC was also approved with 16 in favor and none opposed. Legislators also approved CPN’s membership into the United Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas, including the confirmation of delegates and payment of membership dues. In Potawatomi Gathering news, the legislature approved transportation costs for Tribal members attending the twenty second annual gathering of the Potawatomi Nations hosted by the Forest County Potawatomi in Carter, Wis. In addition to transportation costs, the resolution also appropriates monetary support for the host nation or a scholarship fund.

In membership news, the legislators approved a voluntary relinquishment of Tribal citizenship by Gabrielle Kay Nackdolls.

If you would like to learn more about the CPN Legislature or watch the recordings of the meetings, please visit www.potawatomi.org/government/legislature

Lankford-backed bill seeks to clarify tribal sovereignty from NLRB overreach

Challenges to tribal sovereignty come in many shapes and sizes at the local, state and federal level. A recent trend in Indian Country has been jurisdictional claims from the Washington D.C.-based National Labor Relations Board. Since 2004, the NLRB has claimed it has jurisdiction on tribal commercial enterprises, despite nearly 70 years of precedent. Court cases throughout the U.S. have come up with different opinions on the matter, and barring Congressional action, the issue looks likely to end up in the docket of the U.S. Supreme Court.

“NLRB’s decision to expand their jurisdiction to include tribal employees under the National Labor Relations Act undermines tribal sovereignty and threatens continued economic development throughout Oklahoma,” wrote Senator Lankford. “S. 248 will reaffirm a tribal exemption to NLRB jurisdiction, an exemption already shared by states and the federal government and given in practice to tribes for over 60 years. I’m glad to co-sponsor this bill to remove burdensome red tape that hinders economic growth for Oklahomans.”

According to the NLRB, the board has statutory jurisdiction over private sector employers whose activity in interstate commerce exceeds a minimum level. Specifically with regards to Indian tribes, the NLRB asserts jurisdiction over commercial enterprises even if they are located on tribal land.

However, according to an article in The National Law Review, the NLRB never assumed this jurisdictional overreach in the nearly 70 years since its creation under the 1935 Wagner Act. In 2004 though, the NLRB ruled that it did have jurisdiction over tribal-owned commercial enterprises, even those on trust land, in a case brought by a California hotel and restaurant workers union against the San Manuel Casino, owned and operated by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

In 2014, the NLRB has requested that the Chickasaw Nation recognize the board’s jurisdiction in tribal casinos in Oklahoma through the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court, which the tribe opposed citing the importance of gaming revenues to its sovereign duties. The NLRB does not assert jurisdiction over enterprises that carry out traditional and tribal government functions. In June 2015, the NLRB itself ruled the tribe’s casino workers were exempt from the federal agencies protections, citing the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek between the U.S. and Chickasaw Nation as having strong pro-sovereignty language.

In pushing for a legislative fix, such as the NLRB did not have jurisdiction over tribal gaming enterprises in a case bought by the board against the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

Chickasaw Nation as having strong pro-sovereignty language. Just days later though, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court ruled that the NLRB did have jurisdiction over tribal gaming enterprises in a case bought by the board against the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. The decision’s justification has been used in similar cases in the Second, Seventh and Eleventh Circuit Courts, though the decisions handed down by the Tenth and Eighth Circuit Courts rejected this position. In the Eighth Circuit’s ruling, the court specifically held that laws of general applicability are not applied to tribes save a specific congressional intent to make it so.

In pushing for a legislative fix, such as Senator Lankford has done, the Congress appears to be moving to take the issue completely out of the courts’ hands.
Another young winner was Sadu Painter, also under one year of age. She is a young woman who traveled the longest distance to come to General Council, Lisa Weidfeldt, was presented with a Pendleton travel bag, which allows me to tell the same joke each year that we “furnish a bag” for the winner to assist in taking home their casino prize money. See their photos on page 10 and 11.

The primary topic of our presentations on the state of our Tribal nation was a positive mixture of good news and some negative expressions of growing concern over the racist and aggressive behavior of State of Oklahoma officials towards the Citizen Potawatomi, with Steven Mullins, Chief Counsel for Governor Mary Fallin’s office.

The financial condition of our Tribe continues to be very strong, with earnings yielding a 14 percent growth of Tribal assets and a six percent growth in profits from our Tribal businesses. First National Bank continues its record of excellent growth and has the highest safety and soundness ratings from federal banking regulators. The CPN continued its record of Awards of Excellence in reporting from the National Association of Public Accountants. The CPN Community Development Corporation has record growth this year with lending capital nearing $14 million.

On the disappointing side, the State of Oklahoma and the local municipality, Shawnee, continued their wasteful and illegal pursuit of money through the courts in trying to force the Tribe to be its tax collector. Using despicable tactics, Steve Mullins is trying to get the Oklahoma Tax Commission to revoke our tax number in order to force the renovation of the Grand Casino liquor license as punishment for refusing to collect state taxes from non-Potawatomi customers at all of our businesses – a demand rejected by the federal courts and in violation of federal law.

Even so, the state and the Tribe continue to waste money, now nearing $1 million, on this disgusting, greedy and racist conflict. It is most damaging in creating doubt and risk, which hurts our growth and progress. Given the history of the governor’s behavior towards the 30 tribs in the state, we will have to be very careful.

In that light, the Nation is studying new and more secure ways to earn revenue to provide Tribal services, which cannot be attacked by the State of Oklahoma. One of these is electrical generation, specifically wind power. Since we consume more than five megawatts of power each day in our business and government uses, we would be our own best customer. Wind power also is a fit with our investment in geothermal heating and cooling, which has yielded great savings for us these past five years.

Congratulations to Representative Lisa Kraft and Representative David Barrett for their unopposed reelection. Thank you for the privilege of serving as Tribal Chairman.

Sincerely,

John “Rocky” Barrett
Keweoge
“He Leads Then Home”
Tribal Chairman

The July Hownikan announced and adequately covered the Vietnam Veteran Banquet taking place on September 26, 2015. Hopefully, my article will be an enrichment of the information that has already been published. I suppose you can consider it my “two cents worth” on the preparations that are in progress.

First, I would like to acknowledge my support of the CPN Veterans Organization, which was founded January 27, 2007. What fine ladies and gentlemen we have working as members of that organization! I am fortunate to personally know the officers of the organization and them not only by name and handshake, but I know most of their family members as well. I am proud that they represent all the veterans of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation throughout the country. Whenever the executive team of the legislature travels to other states, we often originate veterans of our Nation to join the organization regardless of where they live.

The officers of the CPN Veterans Organization are: Daryl Commander; Rowdy Yates, Vice-Commander; Bill Wano, Secretary; and David Barrett, Treasurer. These gentlemen are responsible for the up-coming Vietnam Veterans Banquet. No doubt, they will incorporate the assistance of the other organization members and their spouses in preparation for the banquet. September 26 falls on a Saturday, and the event will be held at the Grand Event Center in the Grand Casino Hotel Resort. What an exciting occasion it will be!

Potawatomi author Robert Sander will be the guest speaker at the banquet. A descendant of the Navarre family, he was a commissioned officer in the famed 101st Airborne Division. His book published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 2014, “Invasion of Laos, 1971: Lam Son 719” is now in its third printing. Navarre family members all across the country are extremely proud of Robert.

Other attractions at the banquet will be the Potawatomi women’s drum group, Dewegen Kwek. There will also be a segment for individual recognition of several veterans who will be awarded special gifts. Of course, there will be a gift for all the Vietnam Veterans that are in attendance. The most important aspect of the entire evening will be the veterans and their families having some precious time together to reflect and celebrate the significant years from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975. I know that I speak for thousands of our Tribal members when I say that I am grateful to all of our veterans for their service to the United States of America. I believe this particular banquet will be one that will bring not only deep appreciation for the Vietnam Veterans, but also for those veterans who have prepared for the special event.

A hand “thank you” in advance goes out to the officers of the CPN Veterans Organization. In addition, I know that Paul VanRaamdonk, Director of the Grand Hotel and Food and Beverage Services worked closely with David Barrett, District 1 CPN Legislator for Oklahoma and the Treasurer of the CPN Veterans Organization to make the event happen.

In closing, I cherish the opportunity to serve as CPN Vice-Chairman. I am proud of all our tribal members and especially those who served their country.

Migwetch,
Linda Capps
405-275-3121 office
405-650-1238 cell
lcapps@potawatomi.org

Get the Hownikan via email!
If you would like your newspaper via email, please email your name and address to hownikan@potawatomi.org and let us know.
teach attendees quill earring making, beadwork and fringe, appliqué, moccasin making, and include Potawatomi language immersion classes.

If you want to stay active, a 5k walk takes place Saturday morning and the swimming pool and wellness center is open. This is just a small sample of all the activities because it would take another page or two to list everything. These are mostly physical or skill-based activities, but if your interests are less physical, there is also a talking circle.

I had the honor and privilege of naming four year old twins during this Festival. These twins are the grand children of my younger brother, William “Bill” Slavin who walked on after enduring a heart transplant.

According to Potawatomi folklore, the Creator knows where you are and what you are doing but until you receive your Potawatomi name he cannot see your face. With the help of Justin Neely our language director, I chose the names Nagishke (Center of the sky) for Kyson and Nagishgokwe (center of the sky woman) for Kinley. These names seemed appropriate since I am sure they are the center of the universe for their mother and grandparents.

I will close this article as always with a plea for your contact information. If you do not receive email or snail mail from me it is because I do not have your contact information. Due to privacy issues the Nation cannot provide me with that information. Send information to rslavin@potawatomi.org or Roy Slavin 6730 Tower Dr., Kansas City, Mo. 64151. Or call toll free 1-888-741-5767.

Bozho nikaneke/Hello friends,

Another prize-winning entry in the District 2 Story Contest: I hope you enjoyed Suzie’s Bretler’s story, “Grandmother and the Library,” in the June column – it is posted to my website if you missed it. Here’s another interesting story, submitted by father and daughter Bob and Janet Pearl from District 1. The Pearls received a book about Potawatomi artist Woody Crumbo as their prize.

The Wrong Road Leads to a Miracle on the Trail of Death

It was a rainy late September night in 1993, the year of the big flood on the Mississippi River. The raging water had destroyed billions of dollars of property and crops throughout the Midwestern United States that summer. A commemorative caravan was retracing the Potawatomi Trail of Death on the original route taken 153 years before.

The group of vehicles

Bozho Nikanek, Hello friends,

The group of vehicles turned down the wrong road as the occupants, who included descendants of the Potawatomi who were part of the original forced removal in 1838, were nearing the end of the Trail after journeying for a week from Indiana to Kansas. This caravan was in search of the Sugar Creek area near Osawatomie, Kansas. That’s where, in 1838, the Potawatomi had been forced to settle at the end of their 600-mile walk. The tribal members were marched at gunpoint, with their leaders locked in a jail wagon, out of their homes and land to a place unknown to them. A number of deaths from sickness and exposure occurred along the way.

When the survivors arrived it was November and very cold. Promises of food and shelter at the end of the Trail proved empty. Oral history has it that the only shelter they found was shallow caves. The Potawatomi hung animal skins over the entrances to block the wind and snowy weather. Many more died during the decade they inhabited the Sugar Creek area until the group was removed again to eastern Kansas, near Topeka.

A missionary priest, Father Benjamin Petit, had come from St. Louis in 1838 to minister to the Potawatomi. He prayed with them along the way until he, like many of the Potawatomi, became ill and walked on at the age of 27. His diary of the Potawatomi daily travels greatly contributed to what we know of that dire time in Potawatomi history.

Some have declared Father Petit worthy of sainthood for his dedication to the spiritual well-being of the Potawatomi. However, miracles related to sainthood must be documented before that status is bestowed by the Catholic Church. According to some, the story we relay here demonstrates such a miracle indeed occurred.

Beginning in 1988, descendants of those who endured the Trail began retracing the route. Shirley Willard, a retired schoolteacher and local historian in Rochester, Indiana, organized the first modern caravan and interested persons decided to repeat the trek every five years. The 1993 caravan was just the second to follow the Trail. Shirley’s husband, Bill, helped to map out the route that began near

Pawassanie legacy, courtesy of David Reece (Ga.),"},
near St. Marys, Kansas. That’s where the Pearl siblings, including Jim, Bob and Sister Virginia, were born and raised. A rather descendent, Tom Hamilton, was coaching the caravan along the route by CB radio.

As the caravan proceeded that evening along the increasingly impassable road, a pickup truck came into view, engulfed by the rising water in the creek. There had been a flash flood and the vehicle was trapped. In the bed of the truck stood a man waving his arms.

Bill Willard stopped the caravan. Some of the men waded to the disabled vehicle to bring the stranger to safety. The slight man, shivering from the cold, was wrapped in a warm blanket and bundled into one of the RV’s in the caravan.

He was, as it turned out, Paxico Wabaunsee, 77 years old. He was frigid from four hours of exposure to the weather, afraid of snakes and did not know how to swim. As the water rose, he fired his gun four times in an effort to get someone’s attention, but no one had heard him in the desolate area. He had resorted to huddling in the bed of his truck, terrified for his life, and had continued praying for a rescue party to appear. Miraculously, he saw the line of headlights coming and mistook the dark shapes for a group of boats approaching in the water.

When Bill Wamego went to meet the man, Bill Wamego’s cousin,known as “Puckie,” now in tow, the caravan obtained further CB radio instruction from Tom Hamilton as to the correct route, backtracked and found the right road to the Sugar Creek Memorial Park campground.

So what was Puckie doing on the wrong road to the Trail of Death? A resident of Mayetta, Kansas, he had read a brief newspaper article about the Potawatomi caravan coming to Sugar Creek. His curiosity led him to set out for the Trail. When he got off track, a move that nearly caused him his life.

It’s been more than two decades since the cousins’ family with several family namings, have lunch with Vice-Chairman Capps and a few other legislators at the Nation’s new fry bread restaurant, share dinner with the legislators and some spouses at the Nation’s campus of Mayetta, Kansas, he had read a brief newspaper article about the Potawatomi’s faith in prayer. The tremendous power of a thing is clear: Puckie’s fervent prayers for help were answered in the face of nearly impossible odds.

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Many who witnessed his rescue said it was a miracle that the caravan likewise ended up on that same wrong road that night. One thing is clear: Puckie’s fervent prayers for help were answered in the face of nearly impossible odds.

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For those of you who were not able to attend Family Festival, you missed a very good opportunity! In addition to the routine programs we have had in the past, there was an archery event for the children as well as for the adults. I believe about 30 children participated with the youngest being around five or six years old. For anyone that has an interest in this sport, I urge you to start practicing for next year. Those participating this year were very talented and accurate bow people in both the adult and children competition. Cash awards are given to the top prize winners by our Vice Chairman, Linda Capps.

During the time spent at Family Festival, a number of us had the opportunity to see the new sushi restaurant that is about ready to open at The Grand Hotel Casino Resort. It looks great and if you’re in the area in the near future and like this type of food, give it a try! The facility also recently opened Flame Brazilian Steakhouse, which is a Brazilian restaurant where they come around with skewers of various kinds of cooked meat. I had dinner there, and found the leg of lamb and lamb chops outstanding. They have roughly twelve to fourteen different cuts of meat on the skewers that they bring around and serve you right at the table. If you have never tied this kind of dining, I highly recommend you give it a try. They continue serving, until you signal that the feast is over!

Grand Entry again was a real treat! We are seeing more and more of our citizens making their own regalia and getting involved in the dancing. From past experience, it takes time to make your own or to even find someone to help you in getting something made. As I mentioned a few months ago, a ribbon shirt or sash is all that is needed for males, and a shawl for females. All three of these items are available for purchase at FireLake Gift Shop in the Cultural Heritage Center or online at giftshop.potawatomi.org.

There were also vendors at Family Festival with booths, and several were selling ribbon shirts, shawls, and sashes at very reasonable prices.

I had the pleasure of naming Nancy Cleveland Vann shortly after I named Nancy. While at General council, I had a couple of constituents inquire about being named. We can do that in the coming months if you send me an email or call. I will then send you the documents on the protocol and a copy of the form used to develop the name.

After the naming on Sunday, there is a service at the small church next to the Absentee Shawnee grounds. Justin Neely, our language director, held a spiritual song session in Potawatomi after the church service. He distributed a CD containing seven songs along with the words on separate sheets. He plans to put these on www.potawatomi.org for downloading.

The songs include, “How Great Thou Art”, two versions of “Amazing Grace” and “Will the Circle Be Unbroken.” This is another opportunity to learn some of our native tongue.

After our visit to Shawnee School, I was looking for something to read and found that these two paperbacks, which are published by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, are “Watchekee (Overseer) of the Absentee Shawnee” and “Watchekee’s Destiny.”

Mary Cleveland, a Potawatomi female living in the period (1810 - 1873), was an archery event for the Barsaw and Bergeron families, I urge you to consider reading these two paperbacks, which are available at FireLake Gift Shop.

Before closing, I wanted to let you know that I am planning to hold the north Texas area meeting on Sat., October 24. The south Texas meeting is planned for Sat., November 14, possibly in College Station. Postcards announcing the details will be sent out in mid-September.

The time I spend on Tribal matters is personally very rewarding to me. I am honored and proud to be your elected representative. I thank you deeply for affording me this privilege and honor. I am here to serve you and assist if you find you need help on a tribal matter. Either call or email me and I will get back to you as quickly as possible.

Miss wetch (thank you)
Bob Whistler
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
District 3 Legislative Office
112 Bedford Rd., Ste 116
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801
817-299-6711 Cell
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Address changes should be sent to: Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.
**District 4 - Jon Boursoew**

Alaska took first place. We were blessed with relatively cool temperatures and sunny 80s for the Saturday night Grand Entry and subsequent dance competition. Honored families that year were Acton, Bergeron, Curely, Delonais, Greemore, Levier, Nagahumpet and Pambogo.

As we continue to build the District 8 community we have lots of interaction with Indian tribes that are indigenous to the Northwest. Two tribes that have been to our Fall Feasts are the Colville Tribe from the lower Columbia River area and the Duwamish Tribe in the Seattle area in Washington. Ironically, both are struggling for federal recognition.

On July 2, 2015 Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn issued final determinations for two petitioners under the existing federal acknowledgment process. The decisions include a final determination to acknowledge the petitioner known as the Pamunkey Indian Tribe (Petitioner #323) as a federally recognized Indian tribe, and a final determination on request to decline acknowledgment for the petitioner known as the Duwamish Tribal Organization (DTO) (Petitioner #25.) To Quote:

“The Pamunkey Indian Tribe, located in Virginia, was found to have met all seven mandatory criteria for Federal acknowledgment as set forth in 25 CFR Part 83.7. This is the second federal acknowledgment to take place under the Obama Administration.”

“This work reflects the most solemn determinations for two tribes, both out of Virginia, to be recognized as Indian tribes by the federal government. It is a great honor to have been the one to make this determination.”

**District 10 - David Barrett**

this year from Aug.13-16, 2015. There will be eight other Potawatomi tribes in attendance.

Just a note to refresh your memory of the other Potawatomi tribes are:

- Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Oklahoma
- Forest County Potawatomi, Wisconsin
- Hannibalville Indian Community, Michigan
- Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi (Gun Lake), Michigan
- Nottawasagee Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Michigan
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Michigan
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Kansas
- There are two First Nations in Canada as well:
  - Walpole Island First Nation, Walpole Island, Ontario, (an unceded island between the USA and Canada)
  - Wasaasking First Nation, Parry Island, Ontario

My favorite time is attending the All-Conference Meeting during the annual gathering where all the nation’s leaders discuss the problems they are having with the U.S. government, internal issues tribes are experiencing with different programs, accomplishments of each tribe through sharing this information with all the other nations and listening to what each leader has to say in order to gain their knowledge to share with our own respective Nation.

Being a Citizen Potawatomi Veteran, it is a grand sight to be among all of the Potawatomi nations when we bring in the eagle staffs and flags of each individual tribe at Grand Entry.

Also at the Gathering I allow myself time to really enjoy the Native Art Pavilion, where the artists have tried to do this in regard to sign up to participate in one or more of the classes that are being offered during the gathering.

I enjoy learning and observing how different groups of Potawatomi have evolved since the late 1880s near Blackwell and Wabenoe as well as in the Carter and Grandon areas of Wisconsin.

By pursuing a diverse set of business models, the Forest County Potawatomi of today are the largest employer in Forest County, as are the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Pottawatomie County.

It goes without saying that it is an honor to serve you and our great Nation.

Migwetch David Barrett/Mnodox (Sits with the Spirit)
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. Shawnee, OK 74801
405-275-3121
Okahoma Legislator District #10 (at large)
DBarrett@potawatomi.org

Good work does not go unnoticed: I recently received a very nice note from a Tribal member expressing her appreciation for the work being performed by our Senior Support Network staff in Rossville. In her note she said:

“Thank you for all the wonderful services that the Rossville Center and the home health nurses have provided to my parents...It is such an incredible blessing to have Tracy and Pam call on my dad to assist with anything he needs. It has helped him maintain a tremendous quality of life. In addition, my mother loves to attend the dinners (potluck lunches) at Rossville. It gives her a wonderful outing to look forward to...”

This is an example of the comments I regularly receive regarding the services being provided to our Tribal elders by Tracy and Pam. If they can be of assistance to you or members of your family, don’t hesitate to contact them at 785-584-6171. The Elderly Services Department at the CPN Community Center in Rossville on the second Friday of every month. Please call the Senior Support Staff for details.

Offered to serve you: It is an honor to serve as your district representative. Thank you to those members who have shared their thoughts and opinions on the issues of the Nation.

Migwetch, Jon Boursoew, Wzetzé Mdkah CPN District 4 Legislative Representative
(785) 861-7272
2007 SW Gage Blvd Topeka, KS 66604 jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org
Office Hours: Tuesday 9-11am Thursday 3-5pm
Other times - Please call

Bocho, friends

The Family Festival was very fun and well attended this year. As we have in past years, our district fielded a good looking team for games. We were also represented by cousin, Johnny Schwartz from Anchorage. I also had my year-end meeting with Roy and I want to tell those attending from other tribes what the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has already done through its efforts to record the individual stories of the American veterans can be captured and made available for others to hear and see.

Dawishaw chair Cecile Hansen declared today that they will continue to fight.

In District 8 news, we will hold our November Fall Feast at their Long House in the city that bear the name of one of their chiefs, Seattle. Alana pi, Dave Carney dcarney@potawatomi.org www.dave-carney.com 360.259.4027

Office Hours: Tuesday 9-11am Thursday 3-5pm
Other times - Please call

A District 4 meeting will be held in the CPN Community Center in Rossville on Sept. 19, 2015.

Put Oct. 31, 2015 on your calendars: A District 4 meeting will be held on Oct. 31, 2015 at the Indian Center in Wichita at 10 a.m.

HOWNIKAN

District 8 - Dave Carney

Looking back at our Festival, we had the most enjoyable weather in a long time. It was a busy week and hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.

However, I always look forward to going to the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations which will be hosted by Forest County Potawatomi in Carter, Wis.

Also at the Gathering I allow myself time to really enjoy the Native Art Pavilion, where the artists have tried to do this in regard to sign up to participate in one or more of the classes that are being offered during the gathering.

I enjoy learning and observing how different groups of Potawatomi have evolved since the late 1880s near Blackwell and Wabenoe as well as in the Carter and Grandon areas of Wisconsin.

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Migwetch

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The History of Citizen Potawatomi Health Aids and Recent Amendments

The history of the Citizen Potawatomi Health Aids fund began in 1976 with the settlement of Potawatomi Tribal land claims by the Indian Claims Commission. The Indian Claims Commission, or ICC, was created in 1946 to settle land claims between American Indian nations and the United States. The Potawatomi tribes collectively received this settlement for a portion of traditional lands taken from them throughout Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. The ICC split the settlement money five ways between the Citizen Band, Prairie Band, Hannahville, Forest County and the scattered descendants. The Citizen Band received the largest portion due to having the largest membership (1,718). The Prairie Band had 809 members, Hannahville 457, and Forest County 272.

As part of the 1976 settlement, the Citizen Potawatomi Business Committee passed Resolution #77-3 formally creating the Health Aids and Higher Education Scholarship trust title to the lands between Shawnee and Tecumseh.

The CPN Health Aids Program provides annual reimbursement, up to $750 per member, for prosthetics and "appropriate substitutions" such as dentures, eyewear, hearing aids, and mobility aids. From 1982 through February 2015, the Nation processed 26,989 applications from Tribal members for a total of $6,863,150.

That averages to $208,000 a year.

In comparison, we spent over $4 million alone last year for 3,092 college and/or vocational scholarships.

In the years of administering these two programs, Citizen Potawatomi Business Committees have amended the Health Aids Program seven times by resolution and one time administratively, to my knowledge. The Business Committee first amended the Health Aids program in 1977 to open program benefits to "all tribal members whether urban or rural, young or old, no matter what the blood quantum—treated in a like manner with equal access—,” not just the 1,718 enrolled members.

The second change came in 1978 (Resolution # 78-32) confirming the health aids and scholarship programs were open to all enrolled members regardless of location.

Formal Health Aids guidelines were adopted in a second change to the program before the General Council on June 24, 1978. A fourth amendment was made at a General Council meeting on December 5, 1981 (Resolution #82-23) to budget the annual program funding and make some adjustments to the guidelines. In 1989, a fifth resolution (#90-02) requested a drawdown of $40,000 in interest on the original trust funds.

Remember in 1989, our constitution allowed for the blood quantum criteria to be dropped and opened Tribal enrollment to descendants of enrolled members. This is the year I was enrolled with the Tribe by a very active grandmother, Ara Mae O’Bright O’Connor.

Twelve years later, the Citizen Potawatomi Business Committee amended the Health Aids program a sixth time, in 2003, via Resolution #04-7. This time the Business Committee put a restriction on the Health Aids eligibility. This change made the Health Aids program available only to tribal members born before December 31, 1971. It also created an Indian blood exemption. If a member had at least 1/8 blood degree,. he or she would be eligible for the Health Aids benefit regardless of when they were born.

Approximately 12,500 tribal members are eligible for annual Health Aids reimbursement, but less than 1,000 members a year request assistance.

Then on May 31, 2012, the 16-member legislature approved a seventh change to the program. Resolution 12-69-HHS extended Health Aids benefits to members born before December 31, 1976. This allowed another 2,000 members to become eligible for the Health Aids reimbursement benefit.

Unfortunately, an administrative change to this long-standing benefit was made outside of a resolution. This happened over a year ago. Oklahoma members utilizing Health Aids reimbursements are now required to get their glasses through the tribe in Shawnee at a reimbursement of no more than $250 every other year. The program capacity of our new optometrist is off to a great start, but is not entirely in place yet. Members are waiting upwards to three months for an appointment rather than being allowed to use their established eye doctors. All Tribal members utilizing Health Aids are now limited to the eyewear reimbursement ceiling and contacts are no longer reimbursable.

From March 2014 to March 2015 with the administrative changes, there have only been 273 funded Health Aids eyewear benefit payments in Oklahoma totaling $63,941. The average cost of glasses was $234. For 125 members living outside of Oklahoma it was a total of $24,265.

The number of eyewear reimbursements to outside Oklahoma tribal members is down from 658 reimbursements a year earlier.

Members in Kansas, Texas and California make up the majority of members utilizing the Health Aids eyewear benefits outside of Oklahoma. As a Tribal leader and Tribal member, I would encourage you to write your representative and voice your opinion on these changes. I have confidence that our legislature’s health committee will take a closer look at the administrative changes before our annual budget meeting later this month. Changes to these 39-year-old member benefits should only be made via resolution by consideration of the legislature. I firmly believe that all changes made by the legislature for Health Aids and Higher Education Scholarships should go before the vote of the Tribal membership at General Council since the principal of these funds are rooted in the Tribal trust.

No words can be spoken about the Health Aids Program without appreciation to the very dear, late Joyce Abel, the Health Aids Program Director for the majority of its existence. She was so proud of her talented grandson, Chris Abel. Joyce would also be pleased for Amber Brewer to be continuing the work she so loved.

As always, I am thinking about the Tribe.

Lisa Kraft
Zihikwe
Oklahoma Tribal Legislator
(District 11 - Statewide)
Lisa@CopperBearConsulting.com

HOWNIKAN
AUGUST 2015 19

District 11 - Lisa Kraft

Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Employment and Training Program

would like to thank the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center workers for donating time to fill more than 200 backpacks for the 2015 back-to-school distribution.

For eligibility information for those residing in CPN jurisdiction please contact CPN Employment & Training at 405.598.0797.
Jerry William Lewis

Jerry W. Lewis lived a full and colorful life for nearly 76 years. He loved the United States Marine Corps and had an unbridled passion for the Potawatomi people. He was a strong friend and ally to all Native peoples and causes. He was a teacher of many, as a professional and in general life. His teaching impact touched people in the Chicago Public Schools, South Suburban College, Governors State University and Chicago Heights School District 170. He enjoyed teaching sports as well, coaching Little League in Midlothian, Ill. and wrestling in Palos Heights, Ill. An avid student, he attended schools and universities in Chicago, Harvey, Ill., University Park, Ill., Ann Arbor, Mich. and State College, Penn. He was a Bremen Brave through and through, established in 1953.

As the fourth of 11 children, he learned at an early age that hard work and dedication to task are important tools for getting along in a wild, ever-changing world. These traits are woven into lessons taught to the people whose lives and paths were touched by his strong presence. Some of the many left to continue on their journeys include his wife of 54 years, Anita (Jazo), AnnMarie Cobb and her husband David, Jerry Lewis Jr. and his wife Joni, grandson Timothy Schoeckel and his friend Linda. There are siblings Kay, Gwenyldyn, Robert, Dorothy, Maida, Dale, Lester, Keith and Cheryl. There are numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews descending from the Lewis and Jazo families. He now joins his parents and his brother Mike.

A celebration of life was held on July 19, 2015 with military honors at the Crete Township Fire Protection District Station 1 in Crete, Ill.

In lieu of flowers, consider donations to causes that benefit Native peoples. Have good thoughts and be kind to someone today.

Ruth Lavern Lewis

Ruth Lavern Lewis, 84, was born on Nov. 30, 1930 in Shawnee, Okla. to the late E. B. Hardin and Blanch (Bergeron) Hardin. Ruth passed away on June 1, 2015 at her residence Wilson, Okla. residence. Private family services will be held at a later date.

She was a resident of the Ardmore and Wilson areas for the past 53 years after moving here from Shawnee. Ruth was raised in Shawnee and graduated from Wynnewood High School and then the NEFF Business School. While living in Ardmore she had worked at the Daube's Department Store and with the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital in the accounting departments. Ruth enjoyed crocheting.

Survivors include her son, Steve Lewis and wife Deanna; daughter Sherry Loper and husband Dennis; grandchildren, Stephen Richard Lewis and Matt O'Dell; granddaughter, Maudie Loper; step-granddaughter, Alina Goldsmith; step-grandson, Grant Goldsmith; three great-granddaughters, Tyla and Allie Lewis and Aurora O'Dell; step great-granddaughter, Lillie O'Dell and a sister, Laura Oaks. Preceded in death by her parents; husband Bill; brother, Bruce Harding; great grandson, Stephen Lewis III; sister Mary Ann McMahan.

Consonences may be made to the family online at www.hdouglasfuneralhome.com

Patricia “Pat” Reynolds

Patricia (Pat) Reynolds, 84, passed away November 21, 2014. Pat was born December 7, 1929 in Asher, Okla. Pat graduated from high school in 1946 and began working at China Lake Naval Station in 1947.

Pat married at the age of 20 and raised two sons: John Alan and David Lynn. In 1956, Pat began working at MEVA Corp. She later transferred to Hughs Aircraft Corp. and retired after 34 years. She began her career as an executive secretary and retired as an engineering section manager.

Pat lived a long and prosperous life and is survived by her two sons, John Alan and David Lynn. She has entered the Pearly Gates of Heaven and shines upon us all.

Jerry William Lewis