The CPN Eagle Aviary has a new resident: a tawny eagle chick, which is normally found in African countries. After two bald eagles – Kyla and Charlie – were unsuccessful in hatching eggs of their own, aviary staff partnered with another Oklahoma aviary to make them parents. This is the first time on record that bald eagles have raised a tawny eagle chick.

Like all of the birds at the aviary, Kyla has a unique story. She came to the aviary in 2012 from Kyla, Montana, after spending most of the first two years of her life improperly housed. Two months after the aviary opened in 2012, staff got a call from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services after law enforcement confiscated several eagles. When Kyla was found, she had been in a large kennel for an extended period of time. She had worn the feathers off of a portion of her wings and had calluses from turning around in the kennel. After she was injured as a fledgling, a wildlife rehabilitator began to work with Kyla in hopes that she’d someday be able to live on her own again, but she was unsuccessful.

“We weren’t provided with much of the bird’s history because of the situation, but Kyla had likely fallen out of her nest as a chick and had several unrepairable breaks in her left wing.”

Aviary Manager Jennifer Randell said. “After six months, a rehabilitator must make the decision whether to put an eagle down if it cannot be fully rehabilitated or find placement in a long term care facility. The rehabilitator, in this case, probably found it too difficult to put the eagle down. She had good intentions by sparing it too difficult to put the eagle down. However, Kyla had likely fallen out of her nest when she was so young. When she got into the stream, she couldn’t eat whole food,” Randell said. “When we attempted to feed her, she couldn’t eat whole food.”

For the first month, she stayed in a five by five foot square within the enclosure. She had good intentions by sparing the eagle, but was in a very tough situation because her permits had lapsed and she no longer had a place to adequately house the eagles.

“On the trip back, I had to sit in front of the kennel door with her to keep her from becoming overly stressed. When we got her into the enclosure in the aviary, she wouldn’t get out of the cage because she had been living in one for quite some time. Usually when we open pet kennels for birds, they run or fly out immediately, but not Kyla. I had to get on my hands and knees to coax her out and I was overwhelmed with emotion because of the state she was in.”

Randell said. The birds at the aviary get a whole food diet, which means they get fur, feathers and bones like they would in the wild, but for the first two months, staff had to dice Kyla’s food into small portions.

“When we attempted to feed her, she couldn’t eat whole food,” Randell said. “She almost choked at first.”

The tawny eagle is learning how to fly and fend for itself after three months.

A growing family at the CPN eagle aviary

The CNP Family Reunion Festival. Photo provided by Kevin Pyle.
PLP participants get insight into tribal life

By August 1, the Potawatomi Leadership Program students will be packing their bags and heading back to their hometowns after a six-week internship that taught them the ins and outs of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The award-winning summer program brings a group of 10 young tribal members from around the country to Shawnee, Oklahoma to learn about the government, culture and economic development of CPN.

This year the participants came from North Carolina, Virginia, Oregon, Kansas, Arizona, Vermont, California and Oklahoma. The PLP arrived on campus for introductions and the Family Reunion Festival.

At its core, the PLP strives to give young tribal members an accurate perception of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation as a whole and cultivate talent from within to ensure that younger generations are prepared for a role in the future governance of their tribe.

The PLP has a sponsor each year who has been through the program in the past. Isaac Bergeris – a 2014 PLP participant – filled this role for a second year. His duties included creating a schedule for the PLP, taking them to all of their activities and living in the Sharp House with the group. He explained that these 10 students were unified, engaged and asked an abundance of questions.

“They are great leaders. I think they will be sitting in those legislator chairs in the near future and bringing about change in their communities back home,” Morris said.

His advice to incoming participants was to keep an open mind and be ready to learn, urging them that the experience is what they make it. Even though the typical weekday schedule for the students is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., meeting with different departments at CPN, the students also had time to rest and explore the area.

“There was always so much laughter and smiling in the [Sharp] house,” Morris said. “They had a great time!”

Margaret Zientek worked as the PLP house mother during the summer. She moved into the Sharp House, which boasts two flat screen TVs, a pool table and an outdoor pool, and acts as a listening ear, protector and regalia maker. She said she believed that what the students learn as they go around to all of the departments, especially the environmental department.

Matthew Clift, who is a member of both the Ogee and Weld families, had the shortest distance to travel to experience the PLP. His hometown is Cushing, Oklahoma, but he is currently studying history education at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. Clift’s favorite experience from the PLP was the dancing at Family Reunion Festival.

“I wanted to attend the PLP because I wanted to learn more about my tribe and be a part of it,” Clift said. “I hope to make lifelong connections and be influential for my tribe.”

Anderson family member Katherine Smith attends Moorpark College and hopes to become a veterinarian or exotic animal trainer in the future. Following in the footsteps of her brother Nick from Simi Valley, California, Smith wanted to gain appreciation for the tribe that her older brother learned from the program.

“I really enjoyed the eagle aviary; the eagles are amazing and the women who work there are really kind and know so much,” Smith said. “All of the spiritual aspects of the tribe have been great to learn too.”

Alyssa Frey, who has roots in the Denton and Boursaw families, hails from Manhattan, Kansas and attends Kansas State University. Frey is studying social work, theatre and leadership and hopes to become a drama therapist. She sees the PLP as a good networking opportunity to learn about culture and who and why.

“I wanted to come to the PLP because before I got here I didn’t know anything about my Potawatomi culture and heritage. It’s been amazing to learn about it and meet all these cool people,” Frey said. “My favorite part has been learning about the history of our tribe and the language.”

Boursaw family member Sage Hanson is studying supply chain management and sustainability at Arizona State University. His future plans are to assist companies to purchase supplies that are less harmful to the environment. Hanson expected to gain leadership skills and connections with the people in the program with him during his summer in Shawnee.

“I chose to attend the PLP because I was looking for a way to gain leadership experience as well as get in touch with my heritage,” Hanson said. “My favorite part has been the people; I think I’ll be able to keep in contact with a lot of them after wards.”

Oregon State University business student Aden Eilers is a member of the Anderson family. He made the farthest trip to the PLP from Lake Oswego, Oregon. Eilers sees the PLP as a good opportunity that has impacted his future more than other summer internships or jobs could.

“We went to the police station and met all of the officers,” Eilers said. “I was looking for a way to gain leadership experience as well as get in touch with my heritage.”

Howard hopes to work for CPN one day and used this experience to get more familiar with the opportunities available.

“My favorite experience has been making connections with the legislators, directors and fellow PLPs,” Howard said. “I hope to find out how being a Native American in the 21st Century will impact my life.”

Zoe Gustason, who is a Rhodd family descendant, is studying psychology at Sierra Vista Community College and hopes to work with children who have endured traumatic events. She describes her experience living with the PLPs in the Sharp House as a family.

“I wanted to attend the PLP because even though I am Native American, I didn’t know much about my heritage,” Gustason said. “I hope to use what I have learned to share with others when I go back home.”

To learn more about the PLP, please visit plp.potawatomi.org.
Entrepreneur, Dust Bowl rancher and WWII veteran George Hamilton turns 100

For those who have been at the tribe’s annual Family Reunion Festival the last three years, the tradition of honoring the general council meeting’s eldest attendee has been reserved for one tribal member in particular.

At the time of writing, 99 year old George Hamilton of Woodward County was the oldest attendee and had served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II.

While many may know Hamilton from these brief instances, the story of this Citizen Potawatomi’s long life provides a fascinating window into the 20th century.

On July 15, 1916, Hamilton was born on a farm west of the Oklahoma City Stockyards, in an area that today is part of the city’s suburban sprawl.

“It was in the country at the time. I guess it’d be on the east side of Grand Boulevard and north of Southwest 15th Street,” recalled Hamilton.

Like many in that era, Hamilton split time between work on the farm and classes at Bishop John Carroll School, Central High School and Classen High School. However, a stipulation in the latter’s graduation requirements kept Hamilton from getting a high school diploma.

“It got to the end of the year, and I had the credits to qualify to graduate, but they required you be in school year round. I had bought a feed store when I was 16 and worked there, so I never did graduate.”

Hamilton and his brother partnered with a financier in Woodward County, Oklahoma to reclaim some of these abandoned properties and raise cattle.

“That country should have never been plowed,” stated Hamilton. “Some of the old fields were still blowing (away), but a lot of them had grazed over somewhat. Our partner furnished the cattle, and we furnished the grass and we split the profits. We’d just gotten started on that when Pearl Harbor happened.”

The war

Hamilton was one of the first to volunteer in the aftermath of the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, despite being qualified for an agricultural draft exemption.

“In 1942, I volunteered for it, I wanted to go,” said Hamilton.

Following a battery of interviews and examinations, he was sent to Uvalde, Texas as a member of the cadet flying corps. Upon his completion of the primary training school, he had training stints at Randolph Air Force Base – then part of the U.S. Army Air Corps – in Mission, Texas. He completed his basic training in Florida at fighter school before being deployed to the North African theater.

Hamilton concedes he’d never flown before he joined the service, but as he said with a grin, “I wanted a fight plane.”

“He attributes his interest partly to the publicity of units like the First American Volunteer Group, nicknamed ‘The Flying Tigers,’ comprised of American pilots serving in the Chinese Air Force before the U.S. en- trance into the war.”

Hamilton flew a P-40 fighter plane in North Africa, before moving on to the P-47, an upgrade in military technology that he referred to as “a whole new world.”

As a member of the 317th and later the 325th fighter groups, nicknamed “Checkertail Clan” for their distinctive look, he took part in combat missions supporting the invasion of Sicily, including bombing runs on German air bases on the island of Sar- dinia. Once in the P-47s, his unit’s mission almost centrally focused on escorting heavy bombers.

“When they finally got enough real estate in Italy to build airfields, we went there and started really flying with the big boys,” he said. “I finished my tour of 54 missions and came home, but I’d signed up to go back before I left, like a group out of our squadron.”

Upon his return to the European theater, Hamilton flew more combat and escort missions before being promot- ed to an operational officer posting.

In that role, he was responsible for the planning and flying of missions into Nazi controlled air space, a po- sition he says he found extremely interesting due to his access to intel- ligence information. All told, Ham-ilton served the duration of the war.

“I was over there when it ended. I wanted to be. It was with a great group of people and that was an adventure of a lifetime that I thought would never happen again,” Hamilton said.

“Of course that turned out wrong.”

Back in the U.S., Hamilton moved to Dallas on the advice of an aunt who helped him get started in the real estate business before returning to Woodward County to work the ranch.

Hamiton’s father and uncle had originally purchased a building in Oklahoma City’s Packing Town District that would house the feed store for their business as horse traders.

Their interest in that side of the business left the feed store unattended. Hamilton, with his father as a co-signer, took a $300 loan out and opened for business. As a 16-year-old, he would work after school in the feed store’s foot office and attend school, re- calling that he rode the city’s long bus route that went past the stockyards at the time, “It was sparsely populated out south of the stockyards at the time,” he re- called. “People had milk cows and chickens all out in there. That’s what my business was, just small time sales.”

His lucid recollection of the landscape of 1920s and 1930s Oklahoma City provide an intriguing glimpse into the city’s first century, especially for those who only know the metro- politan political as an adult. In that day, sections of suburban sprawl and paved four lane streets, Hamil- ton can tell you the paths and sections lines that he and his family used to drive cattle on.

Later, Hamilton sought his fortunes in the cattle and ranching industry in the wake of the Dust Bowl. For decades, the short grass prairies of western Oklahoma had produced bountiful harvests of wheat and other agricultural products. Yet severe drought in the 1920s combined with the economic collapse of the Great Depression drove many farmers off their land in what had once been known as the Great American Desert.

Hamilton sought fortunes in the cattle and ranching industry in the wake of the Dust Bowl. For decades, the short grass prairies of western Oklahoma had produced bountiful harvests of wheat and other agricultural products. Yet severe drought in the 1920s combined with the economic collapse of the Great Depression drove many farmers off their land in what had once been known as the Great American Desert.

Though the land’s traditional short grasses were unsuitable for farming operations that required annual till- ing, it was perfect grazing country for cattle operations.

“They were aware that we had an In- dian background, and my mother’s mother was very traditional and still had some of the old beliefs and su- perstitions, so we knew that had Potawatomi blood.”

Another drought in the 1950s left land across Oklahoma unattended again. Hamilton’s ties to family in Pottawatomie County brought him closer to the CPN homelands as he bought up property for his agricul- ture operations. His background in ranching, combined with what he had learned in the real estate busi- ness with his aunt in Dallas, helped him succeed.

“There were cases of absentee own- ers due to people having left for California and Oregon, or multiple owners on land, with no one owning more than 160 acres. It was very in- teresting to deal with, but piece by piece I’d put the land together.”

Speaking just a week before his 100th birthday, Hamilton said that in terms of thinking about his age, “there’s no difference at all. They just come on, one day at a time.”

Asked what advice he’d give his younger self, he referred to a princi- ple that appears to have gotten him far in the past century.

“Just do what you say you’ll do, and do your best whether you’re working for yourself or for some- one else. That’s the weakness and cause of failure for a lot of people that get into business for themselves and don’t push themselves like they should. For me, it almost never felt like work, because it’s what I liked doing.”
In May 2016, the Hownik noted the spring graduations of two Citi-
zen Potawatomi from the U.S. Naval Academy. While two graduates of
one of the nation’s service academies is laudable, a third tribal member
who walked with the class of 2016 went unmentioned. The staff of the
Hownik recently spoke with that third Naval Academy graduate, Jac-
que Kennedye, about her experience at Annapolis and plans for the future.

How did you end up at the U.S. Na-
val Academy?

“I initially became interested in the
naval academy because of my father. He had been in the Navy and intro-
tuced me to the academy. I was very
attracted to what it had to offer in
terms of a full scholarship, a guaran-
teed job after graduation and a good
education. But I fell in love with the
school after attending summer semi-
nar, a weeklong session at the acade-
my going into my senior year of high
school. I was blown away by the po-
tential for leadership development,
academy and my career in the Navy
as something cool that I’d do in my
life, but didn’t realize how big of a
role it would play in the rest of my
life. Whether I stay in for my mini-
num commitment or make a career
out of the Navy, I don’t consider that
I do just a job; the Navy is a lifestyle
and one that I embrace and am very
excited for, but also something I take
very seriously.

“I don’t take lightly the trust that the
nation puts on the military and want
to live up to the expectations that the
public has on the military, and espe-
cially an officer.”

Tell us a bit about how and why
you founded the Academy’s first
Native American club?

“When I was a plebe, I got to talking
with one of my professors about being
a leader of sailors and marines.”

Looking back at your time there,
what’s something that sticks out in
your mind that you know now, or
have experienced, that you didn’t
think of when you began as a mid-
shipman?

“Looking back, I don’t think I real-
ized how invested I’d become in my
future career. I kind of thought of the
academy and my career in the Navy
as something cool that I’d do in my
life, but didn’t realize how big of a
role it would play in the rest of my
life. Whether I stay in for my mini-
num commitment or make a career
out of the Navy, I don’t consider that
I do just a job; the Navy is a lifestyle
and one that I embrace and am very
excited for, but also something I take
very seriously.

“I don’t take lightly the trust that the
nation puts on the military and want
to live up to the expectations that the
public has on the military, and espe-
cially an officer.”

“Thus, the first ever Native American
Heritage Club, or NAHC, was estab-
lished. Even though it was a lot of
work to take on during my first year,
I thought the club was important to
both support fellow Native students
at the academy and also to spread
knowledge and awareness about the
culture to other students. Many stu-
dents knew nothing about the culture
and I was surprised at first to see how
interested people were in it.”

Upon your graduation what will
you be doing? Was this something
you always wanted to do or is it
something that has developed since
you began at Annapolis?

“On July 1, I began flight school to
be a Navy pilot in Pensacola, Florida.

“I came to the academy initially
wanting to be a surface warfare offi-
cer, but changed my course after my
2/C year summer training where I
got to do some flying and spend time
in the aviation community. It seemed
like a better fit for me and I’m very
excited.

“Recently got married and my hus-
band is also going to be a Navy pi-
et.”

Jacque Kennedye

Without Your Address,
We Don’t Know You Exist

Is your address information updated with CPN Tribal Rolls? In the next
year, the tribal government will examine population numbers across the
U.S. for legislative redistricting. It is vital that we have your most up-to-date
address information.

Please contact tribal rolls today and update your address information by calling (800) 880-9880.
Collard receives Friend of the Court Award at 2016 Sovereignty Symposium

For several years, tribal Economic Development Director James C. Collard, Ph.D. has led discussion panels at the annual Sovereignty Symposium. Though not Native American, Collard has long been an advocate for economic development in Indian Country, and his panel discussions with high profile speakers are some of the best attended events at the symposium. This year’s panel included U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Jay Williams, Oklahoma Secretary of State Chris Benge and former congressman and current president of corporate development at the Chickasaw Nation, Dan Boren.

Hosted by the Oklahoma Supreme Court “to provide a forum in which ideas concerning common legal issues can be exchanged in a scholarly, non-adversarial environment,” the symposium’s organizers honored Collard at the 2016 event with its Friend of the Court Award.

The award is presented to an individual who is not a lawyer, but who has staunchly supported the efforts and principles demonstrated at the Sovereignty Symposium. Though not Native American, Collard has long been an advocate for Native nations, so to be recognized is humbling.”

Previous recipients of the Friend of the Court include the Honorable Bill Anoatubby, governor of the Chickasaw Nation, Chief Jim Cox and former state legislators Enoch Kelly Haney, Cal Hobson, Jim Glover, Neil Chapman, Stuart Osler and Paul Haley.

Collard holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Missouri – St. Louis, as well as a Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of Oklahoma. He currently serves as the director of planning and economic development for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and is a past board member for the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the CPN Community Development Corporation Small Loan Review Committee as well as the chief of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Police Department.

Collard was the City Manager for the City of Shawnee, Oklahoma from 2004 to 2008. In 2014, Dr. Collard was appointed as the chair of the Oklahoma Governor’s International Team, and also served as the chair of the International Economic Development Council’s Public Policy Action Committee.

Most recently, he was appointed to the International Economic Development Council Board of Directors. Along with his work in economic development, Collard teaches regional and urban planning as an adjunct professor at the University of Oklahoma.

U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of tribal court

Following a 4-4 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, the courts of Native American tribal governments will retain their authority to hear lawsuits brought by tribal members against non-tribal enterprises. The case, Dollar General v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians upheld a decision from the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court. The unanimous ruling affirmed the right of the Choctaws’ tribal court to hear a lawsuit brought by a tribal member against the corporation.

The issue stemmed from a series of sexual assaults by a non-Native Dollar General employee on a young tribal member working there. The store, which is on tribal land, fell under the jurisdiction of the tribal court and Dollar General which bound the store to the jurisdiction of tribal court.

In Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Supreme Court pitted Attorney General Scott Pruitt against several tribal nations. The attorney general’s office filed a brief in support of Dollar General, arguing that some Native American tribal court systems were unqualified to handle cases dealing with non-tribal members. The attorney general’s brief argued that, “the non-member, even after they have hired an attorney, will be walking into a tribal court with none of the jurisprudential certainty that they would have in state or federal court, unaware of the elements of the claims they are defending against, and unaware of what defenses might be available to them.”

Oklahoma tribes including the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee Creek and Seminole nations filed their own briefs in support of the Mississippi Choctaw court system.

Despite the 4-4 decision, which affirms the lower courts’ findings, Attorney General Pruitt told The Journal Record newspaper that the result would not impact Oklahoma because the case was heard in the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court. Oklahoma falls under the jurisdiction of the 10th Circuit Court.

“It’s unfortunate the court wasn’t able to provide more clarity on the important issues in the case, but our primary objective was in ensuring that the 5th Circuit’s incorrect ruling was not given effect in Oklahoma, and we achieved that end,” Pruitt said.

Though the ruling does not set a firm national standard, a defeat for the Mississippi Choctaws at the Supreme Court could have had a negative impact on tribal courts’ abilities to exercise their jurisdiction in civil cases over nonmembers. In this instance, the victim’s family sued Dollar General for monetary damages in tribal court, and the corporation unsuccessfully argued that the tribal court could not exercise jurisdiction over it.
Exhibits take shape at heritage center

More than two years after a broken City of Shawnee water pipe dumped thousands of gallons of water into the CPN Cultural Heritage Center, the new exhibits are coming togeth-er. Many of the visitors who came to Festival and Gathering were able to see the progress while enjoying mu-sic, eagle demonstrations, cultural classes and the Citizen Potawatomi Gift Shop.

With the help of Atlas Fine Art Ser-vices, a Washington-based exhibit design firm, CHC staff came up with new approaches to tell the history and culture of the Potawatomi. Before constructing the museum exhibit, a plan had to be formulated, including big decisions like the narrative and layout to seemingly small details like fonts and colors. Staff focused on what kind of impressions they wanted visitors to leave with and which feelings the exhibits should evoke.

“Working with an exhibit design firm is a new experience for me and Blake Norton, our curator and archi-vist,” CHC Director Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., said. “In the past we’ve done the exhibits by ourselves, which is a lot of work to try to make an idea a finished product on the museum floor. It took us almost three years to get half of the museum finished prior to the flood.”

It was important to Mosteller and Norton to choose a firm that understood cultural sensitivities, was flexible and would allow CPN tribal members to do much of the work. Mosteller explained that tribal mem-bers input and hands-on participation creates an exhibit for the Citizen Potawatomi people, by the Citizen Potawatomi people.

Comanche Nation tribal member Scott Jones is the owner and operator of Atlas. Jones has lived in Oklaho-ma and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Oklaho-ma. He and his wife are both tribal members who received training at the Museum of Indian Arts and Cul-ture.

“Native American museums operate on more of a heartfelt level so that when we need to talk about some-thing that is culturally sensitive, they know they have our full attention and we won’t take any shortcuts,” Jones said. “Their needs come first and the culture’s needs come first.”

Jones and Norton explained the vi-sion of the new exhibits to the Hown-iidan and shared what will be coming in the next year as the project moves into its final stages.

As the introduction to the overall past of the Potawatomi, the first section of the new exhibit is now open. It boasts a spiral design with a structure in the middle. The idea was to start in a central point when the three nations – the Potawatomi, Ojibwe and Otta-wa - were spoken of as one, moving outward towards the second gallery.

The first section also features the Seven Fires Prophecy, explaining the origin of the tribe, mass migrations, historical context, hardships and benefits of western contact, loss of cultural ways and the seventh proph-ecy which tells of how a new people emerge and retrace the steps of elders to regain the cultural ways. This sec-tion is the basis for the rest of the ex-hibit, which will lead chronologically through Potawatomi history and end with the section “CPN Now.”

Festival goers also got the earli-est look at the first five cases of the veteran memorial exhibit lining the outer wall of the long room. These cases featured traditional items car-ried by Potawatomi warriors in the pre-European and early European contact eras. The latter’s display also shows the introduction of items like new weaponry, acculturation in war-fare, the Northwest Indian War - also known as Little Turtle’s War - and the War of 1812.

The heritage center staff hopes to complete construction of the muse-um by June 2017. To learn more and keep up to date with the progress, please visit www.potawatomiherti-age.org and “Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center” on Facebook.

Iron Horse Industrial Park update: August 2016

One of the most critical pieces of a rail-anchored industrial park is currently under construction at Iron Horse. The park is adding 7,000 feet of internal rail lines, which will have immediate con-nections to the Arkansas-Oklahoma and Union Pacific rail net-works. With construction on the rail system progressing, tribal eco-nomic development director James Collard Ph.D. has been working to recruit businesses to the park, which is strategically located in the geographic center of the United States.

His recruitment efforts recently led him to the SelectUSA confer-ence in Washington, D.C.

“I have met with many different individuals and companies about what we have going on here and have made some really good con-tacts,” said Collard. “There were quite a few breakout sessions that helped us learn a lot more about what goes into teaming up with foreign in-vestors. As far as we know, we were the only tribe down there and are looking forward to next year’s sum-it.”

The tribe is showing heavy interest in businesses and entities that manufac-ture renewable energy sources such as geothermal, solar and wind power because it’s consistent with Native American culture for preservation of the environment. Businesses look-ing to become a part of Iron Horse will be issued a HEARTH Act lease.

The leases allow for the authority of federally recognized tribes to develop and implement their own laws governing the long-term leasing of Indian lands for residential, business and other purposes.

To learn more about Iron Horse Industrial Park, please visit www.IronHorseCPN.com, scan this QR code or contact the CPN Office of Economic Development at 405-275-3121.
Improved data management by Tyler Laudette furthers ICW mission to protect Potawatomi families

With approximately 141 children under their supervision, the staff of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Indian Child Welfare Department must keep up to date records for each individual child they oversee. Keeping track of the extensive amounts of paperwork is vital to the department’s mission of monitoring the children and families in their charge. One tribal employee, Tyler Laudette, brings his own expertise from the military and professional sector to this work.

Laudette was born at Ft. Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma, the son of a career U.S. Army soldier. Though born in Oklahoma, the family travelled extensively while his father was stationed at installations across the globe. Upon his father’s retirement from the Army, the family returned to Oklahoma to live closer to his mother’s family, and Laudette graduated from Elgin High School in 1978.

He followed in his father’s footsteps, serving in the U.S. Air Force after his high school graduation.

“I enjoyed travelling the world,” Laudette said. “After the service I moved to Philadelphia and lived there for 27 years. I guess that makes me a Yankee, or so I’ve been told.”

In Philadelphia, Laudette worked as a paralegal and legal assistant in various specialties of the legal field, serving executive level lawyers. In his work, he also handled human relations duties, overseeing the recruitment and retention of staff at the firms he was employed at. Though the paralegal duties were strenuous, Laudette also became a full time student, earning both a bachelor’s of science and a master’s of business administration from the University of Phoenix.

After nearly three decades in the City of Brotherly Love, Laudette began looking for avenues to bring him back to Oklahoma. In 2013, he made the move, in large part to be closer to his 93-year-old father. While highly qualified and possessing a wealth of professional experience, Laudette still beat the pavement – in 21st century terms - in search of employment opportunities in Oklahoma.

“I stumbled upon CPN’s website and saw the posting for a file and scanner clerk,” he recalled. “I applied for the position and was subsequently hired by Janet Draper, our fearless leader in Indian Child Welfare. I intend to do this to be a temporary job while I continued to seek something different – something challenging and rewarding. I had no idea what was about to happen.”

Like many departments in government and commercial offices, ICW staff have spent the past several years transitioning their once cumbersome and space consuming physical records into digital formats. Laudette’s experience with similar challenges in his previous work as a paralegal has been a boon for the ICW Department in this regard.

As he explained about his mission, “I spoke with the case managers about their needs, what they would like to see happen moving forward, and showed them how the files could be adapted to accommodate the varying levels of ICW involvement. Utilizing my MBA I’ve streamlined much of the documents we use which makes the user more efficient and productive.”

“Tyler has a great background and it helps a lot in ICW case work especially legal forms and understanding state laws,” said ICW Director Janet Draper. “Coming into tribal jurisdiction can be confusing but Tyler is adjusting remarkably well.”

As Laudette admits, sorting and organizing stacks of paperwork can appear “mundane” on its face. However, the lives and cases contained in these papers are vitally important to families who fall under ICW’s jurisdiction, as well as the staff members responsible for monitoring them.

“As one you’re on this side of things, what I do matters because it provides the case managers and others with needed information at the touch of a button. One of the duties of this position is to track data – incoming calls, court appearances, number of cases in our tribal court, the State of Oklahoma, and those in other states. The information I track is used to assist in preparing grants – everything from the number of calls to the types of cases, to number of children affected, and we all work very hard to ensure that every eligible child becomes an enrolled member of the tribe.”

It isn’t always paperwork though. With a small but dedicated staff, the CPN ICW Department operates with an “all hands on deck” mentality, meaning even someone with a title scanner clerk may serve as a case manager when needed.

“Those experiences gave me new respect for case managers everywhere and getting to help social workers understand the Indian Child Welfare Act and how it should be implemented to achieve successful outcomes brought its own degree of reward and satisfaction, and something I thoroughly enjoyed doing.”

More than two years after initially joining the department, Laudette says that he is happy to see where ICW has come in terms of its record keeping and organization processes.

“Having to go through stacks and stacks of unorganized papers looking for a document is now a thing of the past here in ICW. Considering where this department was just two years ago and having a vision for where we go regarding data management is an exciting journey to think about,” he said.

Laudette’s move to Oklahoma has panned out in terms of his satisfaction with his work for CPN’s ICW Department, whose work is both challenging but also incredibly important.

“Being a part of this tribe and especially this department has given me a sense of pride I’ve never felt in any other job. It may sound cliché, but I really am proud to be an employee of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Indian Child Welfare Department.”

The 1815 Treaty of Portage des Sioux

July marked the 201st anniversary of the Treaty of Portage des Sioux [July 18, 1815]. The treaty was a means to affirm previous compacts and ultimately draw peace between the Potawatomi Nation and the United States, resulting from the depredations caused and faced by both sides during the War of 1812. Exhibiting his status as an esteemed warrior and leader, Sunowchewone [Swift Water], who also went by the alias Peche-co, was first to sign for the Potawatomi Nation.
A look back at Festival 2016

More than 3,000 Citizen Potawatomi travelled to Shawnee, Oklahoma for the annual Festival, a slightly lower number than usual, due in part to many tribal members choosing to attend the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations which took place at CPN in late July.

As always, tribal activities, both art contests and sporting, took place amidst a flurry of food, family and festivities.

In the Friday afternoon pool tournament, Landon Kellough won the youth competition title while Chris Westmoorland took the adult division.

Friday evening, the moves were more strategic in nature as the chess, checkers and dominoes competitions kicked off. Bud Jeffrey took first place in chess, while Eddie Moore finished as the eventual champion of the checkers competition. Justin Arnegast took the top spot in dominoes.

It took nearly three hours but the Darling Family team of Kenney Reed, Glenda Ivy, Dennis Ivy, Melanie Ivy, David Ivy, Terri Fulton and Victoria Ivy were crowned 2016 CPN Festi- va! Hand Games Champions.

The art competitions had heavy participation as always, with winners in the following divisions:

• 5 – under: Tyson Moore, “Tie Die”
• 6-9 year old: Adam Knight, “Birds of a Feather”
• 10-12 year old: Camber Baca, “Indian Life”
• 13-15 year old: Bryce Peltier, “Self Portrait”

- Adult Painting-Photography: Penny Coates, “Leather Storyteller”
- Adult Other: Laura Weinstein, “Medicine Bandolier”

There were two forms of target competi- tions going on at Festival 2016. In women’s traditional archery, Jessica Burt took the top prize, while in the compound competition, Amber Coffey finished first. In men’s tradi- tional archery, Terry Bower was the top archer. Men’s compound architecture went to Beau Dailey.

In the pistol match taking place at BDC Gun Room, Si Fentress took the men’s open competition title while Chris Farve won the .22 men’s division. Brooke Desrochers became the inaugural women’s open champion, while Marie Parner took first place in the women’s .22 division.

In a testament early morning exer- cise, Thomas Nickou and Melanie Nickou won the annual 5k event in the male and female divisions. The adult basketball competition went to the Peltier Team 3 made up of Da- vid Fuqua, Logan Hubble and Jordan Fuqua. In the softball tournament Team Buckmasters took the title af- ter a close game against Old School.

At the annual general council meet- ing, District 9 Representative Paul Wesselhoft and District 12 Repre- sentative Paul Schmidkofer were both sworn in for four year terms after facing no opposition in the tribal elections. Jennifer Lamirand, an attorney at Crowe and Dunleavy and a tribal member, was sworn in as CPN’s newest supreme court justice. The annual budget was approved with 1,103 for and 51 against.

Keeping with tribal tradition at gen- eral council, the meeting’s youngest, wisest and furthest travelled attend- ees were honored. George Hamil- ton, just two weeks shy of his 100th birthday, was honored as the wisest attendee, while the youngest in atten- dance was Madison Beag Gragg, just 10 days old. Carmelita Talty from Vancouver, Washington was the meeting’s farthest travelled, travers- ing 1,946 miles to visit CPN Festival.

On Saturday evening, dancers from across the Nation converged on the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Powwow Arena for the Gourd Dance, Grand Entry and competitive dance com- petitions. Leading the way into the arena for Grand Entry was the CPN Veterans Organization Color Guard, followed by the elected legislature and honored families. Honored fam- ilies this year were Clardy, Prapp, Kahdot, Juneau, Pappan, Crambo and Muller.

Women’s dance competition finalists were first place finisher Tesia Zi- entek, followed by Margaret Zientek and Candace Painter. In the men’s dance competition, Jayson Lambert took the top place with Lyle Sim- mons and Justin Neely finishing sec- ond and third respectively.

On Sunday morning, the arena is transformed into an open-air volley- ball court, with the Moore Family taking first place in the tournament.

As always, the Festival 2017 is tenta- tively planned to take place the final weekend of June. The honored fami- lies will be Bourassa, Burnett, Melot, Navarre, Peltier, Wamego, Willmet and Vieux.

FireLodge Tribal Youth Update: August 2016

By Darin Greene, FireLodge Tribal Youth Coordinator

The month of August means that summer is coming to an end and school is beginning again. The PLACE Tribal Youth Program’s summer session will end with a trip to Six Flag Over Texas in Ar- lington. This trip will be for the youth who complete 40 hours of community service and keep their grades up.

On the agenda for the GET Native Program involves stickball and lacrosse at the powwow grounds, talking circles about summer break and beginning a new school year and cultural lessons. Tribal youth will take an Intro to Native 101 class, discussing what all Native Americans should know about be- ing an American Indian. They will also learn specifically about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the Potawatomi people.

The GET Smart Program will in- clude a college readiness class, af- ter school homework assistance and team building activities like Scrabic- ble scramble and group pie eating contests. The STEM Program will be back in full swing as the students create Lego robots and race cars.

Fitness is also very important in the program, so we have a lot on the agenda for the GET Fit Program. Tribal youth will play traditional and Navajo kickball. They will also play old-fashioned six-on-six basketball and prepare for the upcoming 5K by walking two miles per day.

With the 2016 Summer Olympics in mind, the tribal youth will be enjoy- ing egg volleyball, hula hoop races, giant water balloon team relays, silly shot put with a sock filled with Fruit Loops and dizzy discus with paper plates.

If you have a tribal youth that would be interested in our FireLodge Tribal Youth or PLACE pro- grams, please call 405-214-5110 or email dgreene@potawatomi.org.
Potawatomi singer releases debut album

The Flint Hills of Kansas are home to a folk band called The Skirts, which is led on vocals and rhythm guitar by tribal member and Ogee family de- scendent Eleaza Dawson. This year her band released their debut full length album titled “Many Moons.”

As the lead singer and songwriter for the whole album, Dawson has let her Native roots inspire the project in many ways.

Dawson grew up in Chandler, Okla- homa and has been performing since the age of five. Dawson attributes her musical interests to her grandparents. All of the songs on the album are originally written and sung by Dawson.

Her Potawatomi heritage stands out the most in one song in particular, a song inspired by her great-grandmother Edith Martin Roberts, who attended Chilocco Indian School.

“‘I did a lot of research of what it would have been like to go to the school to find inspiration for the song,’ said Dawson. ‘I then took what I know about the school from my great-grandmother and wrote a historical fiction type of song about what it would have been like to attend Chilocco.’”

In the lyrics, she uses the Potawatomi word chemokman, meaning “white man.” The word is a reference to the assimilation and Christianization of the children who attended the boarding school.

“I didn’t grow up listening to traditional Native American music, but my interest has grown since I’ve got older,” said Dawson. “At the end of ‘Chilocco’ is a traditional chant I learned from a Native women’s drum group. The chant signifies hopefulness in being a strong woman and I wanted that to be an honor to my great-grandmother.”

Dawson’s band has been together for seven years and is booked nearly every weekend during the summer playing live shows around the state. The band members are all friends and played several years just for fun before deciding to make something more official of their jam sessions.

“We consider ourselves a folk type band that borders on bluegrass,” said Dawson. “There is every kind of instrument you can think of on this album from upright bass and mandolin to banjo and fiddle.”

“‘Many Moons’ was recorded in Law- rence, Kansas, earlier this year by Mike West at the ‘9th Ward Pickin’ Parlour.’ Those interested in learning more information about the band or wish to purchase their album please visit www.cdbaby.com/cd/thetskirts1.

Kyla’s story continued...

takes to hatch, the eggs did not hatch.

On day 35, Kyla brought food to the unhatched eggs, as if she knew she was supposed to have a chick. She went into a mourning process where she didn’t eat and threw her head back and yelled for almost five days. It was then that the staff knew that Kyla needed to be a parent.

Randell contacted William Voelker at Sia: the Comanche Nation Ornitho- logical Initiative, in Cyril, Oklaho- ma. Voelker had a 10-day-old tawny eagle that wasn’t doing as well in the incubator as would naturally happen. Since the bird will soon be fully-flighted and his species is beautiful creature.

support breeding efforts of this beau- tiful creature.

be fully-flighted and his species is nearly as large as Charlie and now nearly as large as Charlie and has begun to fly. Tawny eagles have a 77-84 day fledging period, when chicks learn to fly and fend for them- selves. After that period, there is a plan to remove the eagle from the enclosure as would naturally happen in the wild. Since the bird will be fully-flighted and his species is threatened, it will likely be used to support breeding efforts of this beautiful creature.

Check vcm.newspapervisions.com for updates about this chick, our eagle residents and the visitors that come to see us at the aviary.
2016 FAMILY REUNION FESTIVAL

An aerial image of FireLake during #CPNFest16. Hartman Gursky (Cory family) from Plano, Texas and Dash Hewitt (Cory family) from Bells, Texas at the mini-putt tournament.

The CPN drum group performing during the dancing demonstration.

Billy Cornelius III (Curly family) goes for a point at the volleyball tournament.

Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett at Grand Entry followed by Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale.

Judge Phil Lujan leads the Gourd Dance. The Frapp family was one of six honored families at this years Festival.

Grass dancer Lyle Simmons just before Grand Entry. Justin Neely, Lyle Simmons and Jayson Lambert were the winners of the men’s open dance competition during the powwow.

Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett addresses the crowd at general council.

Margaret Zientek, Candace Bob and Tessa Zientek were the winners of the women’s southern cloth dance during the powwow.

The 2016 PFP participating in the Hand Games Tournament.

Jim Talty and his grandchildren took a break from the heat to check out the Cultural Heritage Center.

McKenna, Charlie and Jordan Zientek from Harrah, Oklahoma of the Anderson family participate in the archery competition.

Rave Clay of the Greenmore family pieces together his choker necklace at one of the classes at the Cultural Heritage Center.

All photos from the 2016 Family Reunion Festival are available online at cpn.news/cpnfest16pics
In 2015 alone, employees donated more than 1,274 pounds of food for full Thanksgiving dinners to 175 families in the CPN service area, which encompass most of Pottawatomie County and parts of Cleveland and Oklahoma counties.

Through these and numerous other examples, the tribal leadership encourages the spirit of partnership and investment in fellow community organizations that benefitted the tribe and its people so many years ago.

For the most recent fiscal year, Citizen Potawatomi Nation donated more than $2.9 million to the local community. Donations from CPN tribal car tag sales to Oklahoma schools were more than $273,000 in this same period. Through the tribal rolls department, more than $5 million in scholarships were awarded.

“Even in the best economic times, the roles that civic and charitable organizations play in a place like Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma cannot be understated,” said Vice-Chairman Capps. “By supporting these organizations, Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the entire community benefit in the long run.”

Tribe honored as one of Oklahoma’s most charitable organizations

Citizen Potawatomi Nation has again been recognized for its charitable influence, receiving an honor at the annual Beacon Awards hosted by the Journal Record newspaper.

With more than 2,400 employees in its commercial enterprises and tribal government programs, the tribe is the largest employer in Pottawatomie County. The vast majority of these individuals live and work in the communities near the tribal jurisdiction, meaning the presence of charitable services and civic engagement directly affects their families, friends and neighbors.

“Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s charitable giving efforts are part of a larger strategy to operate tribal government, commercial and philanthropic efforts for the betterment of the entire community in Pottawatomie County,” added Peltier. “This strategy has been developed in line with Tribal Chairman John ‘Rocky’ Burrett’s ethos that a rising tide lifts all boats.”

“By supporting charitable giving efforts, CPN’s objective is to foster a deeper investment in the people that patronize its businesses, work in tribal programs and grow the overall economy of Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma,” said CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps.

Tribal-owned enterprises make significant charitable contributions in the area, including providing food and grocery donations at cost to area nonprofits including the Shawnee Rescue Mission’s food pantry and the Salvation Army’s weekly soup kitchen. In addition, gaming enterprises such as the Grand Casino Hotel Resort host events such as an annual toy drive and fundraiser with the proceeds and gifts are donated directly to local youth and families that are in need.

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CPN legislative update: August 2016

Following the re-elections of representatives Paul Schmidaufkoefer and Paul Wesselhoft, the 2016-17 CPN Legislature met on June 27, 2016.

Resolutions in support of several issues were fully supported, including the tribe’s grant application to the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development at the Department of the Interior, a funding application for Iron Horse Industrial Park to the U.S. Department of Commerce, and applications for a community services block grant and low income home and energy assistance program. Tribal legislators also passed a resolution supporting the tribe’s grant application to the Department of the Interior’s Tribal Energy Development Capacity Grant Program.

A resolution consolidating employment, training and education services pursuant to Public Law 102-477 passed with all 16 legislators voting in support.

The legislature also voted for a resolution officially designating the tribal seal as the official insignia of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

In tribal membership, legislators approved the voluntary relinquishment of membership for Misti Nicole Buckley and Azurerae Skye Kacura, while conditional relinquishments were approved for Denica Paige McGuire and Julia Kay Simpson.

Legislators also approved the membership applications of 294 new tribal members into the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.
we have not yet met, we would love to share a little bit about ourselves.

Tesia Zientek is a Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal member. With financial help from a prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship, she graduated magna cum laude from the University of Notre Dame in 2009 with her Bachelor of Arts in English. After graduation, Tesia spent two years teaching and running an after school program in Puerto Rico before deciding to pursue her passion for education through graduate study. In 2013, she graduated with her Master of Arts in Education Policy from Stanford University. To celebrate her educational and employment-related achievements, Tesia was recognized in 2013 for the Howard Yackus Memorial Award. In October 2015, she became the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s first director of its new Department of Education. Since 2012, Tesia has also served as Potawatomi Leadership Program advisor, helping to restructure and implement curriculum for the Harvard Honoring Nations Award-winning internship program.

Channing Seikel is a 2010 graduate from Oklahoma Baptist University, where she studied sociology and family science. After graduation, she accepted a job at her alma mater as a senior admission counselor. While at OBU, Channing provided individualized advice to prospective students, developed an in-depth training manual for new admission counselors, planned and executed an annual, highly attended college fair for central Oklahoma and established recruiting and admission best practices. In 2016, she joined the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education team as a senior college advisor. In this capacity, she establishes, maintains, and nurtures effective relationships with Native American students, families, guidance counselors, and Indian education coordinators. In addition, she guides students and families through scholarship opportunities and applications, standardized testing preparation and college search options. A first generation college student, Channing has found her passion in actively serving any student he can to help them find the right university, program and scholarship opportunities. As a first generation college student, Channing developed a love for those who need a helping hand as they begin their college search.

Mindee Duffell has extensive experience in the workforce development field. From May 2009 through April 2012, she worked with the State of Oklahoma’s Employment Security Commission for Workforce Oklahoma, where she organized job fairs, discovered local workforce needs and determined applicant work history, training and education for job placement. In 2012, Mindee joined the Citizen Potawatomi Nation as an Internship Coordinator. She is also a 2010 graduate from Oklahoma Baptist University with an Associate’s Degree in Business and is currently completing her bachelor’s degree. The aforementioned experience prepared Mindee to join the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s first education department in March 2016, where she serves as the internship coordinator. Mindee works with prospective interns and departmental directors to determine best matches, develop internship projects and offer general support to ensure that interns receive a personalized, professionally beneficial experience.

If you would like to learn more about the educational opportunities available through the CPN Department of Education, please visit http://www.potawatomi.org/services/education or email college@potawatomi.org.
By the time you’ve read this, we will have just wrapped up the 2016 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations, which was hosted in Shawnee. For those that may not know, the seven sovereign tribal nations of Potawatomi that are scattered across the U.S. and the two First Nation reserves in Canada meet annually in the late-summer to share our oldest and newest tribal traditions, histories and the issues facing us as governments in our respective home jurisdictions.

It was my distinct pleasure to join with my fellow Potawatomi leaders to name the street in front of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center that connects to Heritage Drive in honor of Neaseno, the Potawatomi name of Don Perrot. It means “Warm Southern Wind”. There is no spent months among us that Don Perrot gave us, no, the Potawatomi name of Drive in honor of Neaseno in the Potawatomi language and traditions. I met Neaseno in 1984 at the Century Center in South Bend, Indiana. To my knowledge, this was the first gathering of the Potawatomi Nations and would not have happened without his participation. He gave me my name, led me through my first sweat, and got through my stubbornness and pride to make me learn and see the “Red Road.” His advice in times of personal crisis as a Potawatomi elected leader was precious to me. I will be grateful all of my days. The Shishibeniwik will be grateful forever.

It is said “one cannot tell where we are going without knowing where we have been.” It was the incredible gift of this knowledge that Don Perrot gave us, and not without personal risk for himself. Neaseno spent months among us giving lectures and teaching Potawatomi tradition and religion. Many outside our tribe thought of us as unworthy to know the old ways and criticized him for his teachings. As a courageous Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal member, a pipe carrier, linguist, scholar and teacher, Don has worked for decades to preserve our shared Potawatomi language and traditions. I met Neaseno in 1984 at the Century Center in South Bend, Indiana. To my knowledge, this was the first gathering of the Potawatomi Nations and would not have happened without his participation. Don Perrot gave me my name, led me through my first sweat, and got through my stubbornness and pride to make me learn and see the “Red Road.” His advice in times of personal crisis as a Potawatomi elected leader was precious to me. I will be grateful all of my days. The Shishibeniwik will be grateful forever.

Igwien, Neaseno.

Don is also a most accomplished professional Potawatomi language speaker and teacher. This work is more important than most people realize. First, he and others like him have helped preserve the language our ancestors spoke before Europeans came to this continent. Secondly, and no less importantly, he has helped keep alive our Potawatomi language, a vital aspect of allowing the Potawatomi tribes to keep their federal recognition as sovereign, dependent nations.

One of the highlights of the Gathering of the Nations was the Potawatomi language conference in the days prior to all of the regular Gathering festivities. Without the work of language professionals like Don Perrot, it is difficult to imagine what our world would look like today as Potawatomi.

It was interesting to listen to my fellow Potawatomi tribal leaders who face similar issues and conflicts in the states and provinces where they reside. One aspect that never seems to cease is local, state and provincial attempts to erode the sovereignty that we as tribal nations have long fought for. While recent court decisions have gone our way here in Oklahoma and at the federal level, the State of Oklahoma, under the malevolent direction of Governor Mary Fallin, has decided to proceed with a strategy that bears resemblance to a war of attrition. Despite being defeated in ruling after ruling at the local, state and federal level, Governor Fallin’s government has no compunction in appealing to the next highest court at a cost of hundreds of thousands of state taxpayer dollars. I can assure you, the sums are excruciatingly obscene on our end as we defend ourselves against these attacks. For tribal members living in Oklahoma, this is a double hit; it’s a waste of tribal tax dollars and their Oklahoma tax dollars. These attacks appear to be a disservice form of pressure for us to sign a “sales tax compact” her staff originated. This is a form of extortion. I encourage you to write and call your elected officials and voice your concern.

Some things may never change, but nor will our resolve to defend what is rightfully ours.

As always, it is an honor to serve as Tribal Chairman.

Migwetch,
John “Rocky” Barrett
Keweoge
“He leads them home.”

Chairman John Barrett and I were both very proud and honored to be asked to be the grand marshals for the McLoud Blackberry Festival Parade on July 2. The McLoud Chamber of Commerce never fails to do an outstanding job organizing the event each year, which occurs during the first weekend of July. The community has had plenty of sport practice making this festival the perfect event of the year! It began in the 1940s, and is one of the oldest continual festivals in the state of Oklahoma. In the beginning years, the festival was combined with the celebration of the annual blackberry harvest, complete with a town picnic and an Indian powwow. I did not realize until I was an adult that the Kickapoo Tribe knew the meaning of the title in the McLoud Powwow.

I particularly remember attending the Blackberry Festival when I was 10 years old with my older brother and sister-in-law. In those days, they had all types of sports competitions, especially for the children. My brother urged me to run in the girl’s foot races, which I declined to do. But he would not let go of that brilliant idea! I suppose there were younger girls than me in the race, but I definitely remember the older girls. For the most part, I did not want to compete because I was embarrassed to run in front of such a large crowd of people sitting in the ball field. In addition, I was not prepared. I had on sandals and socks instead of tennis shoes, I signed up for the race very reluctantly. To this day, I can almost feel the flush on my face from being so mortified to lose a foot race with so many people watching. To add insult to injury, I ran the bases until someone blew a whistle to stop me...the race was supposed to end at first base.

The activities of today’s McLoud Blackberry Festival are numerous and varied. After the parade, there are children’s games, a carnival, a car show, poker run and baking contest. The royalty pageant with crowning ceremonies is Saturday afternoon. There are also entertainment and vendors in the park. There is something for everyone at this wonderful community event!

The McLoud Chamber of Commerce is very helpful to the community. They provide important insights on tourism, community involvement and economic development. Beside the McLoud Blackberry Festival, the other fundraiser that the chamber sponsors is the annual McLoud Chili Cook Off, held the third Saturday in October. To make this year’s festival even more special to our tribal people, FireLake Designs was the successful bidder to provide the 1-shirt for the festival. The criteria for the winning company was to design the shirt emblem and provide affordable pricing. I am very proud of Director Lakisha Meade and her staff members. In fact, I saw two ladies in townee just this past weekend wearing the shirts. Congratulations to FireLake Designs and the McLoud Chamber for their contribution to help make the Blackberry Festival the best ever!

Migwetch,
Linda Capps, Vice-Chairman
District 1 - Roy Slavin

Bozho Nikan, August is here and another Family Reunion Festival is history. As always, it was a great time. We met many new friends, participated in and watched many naming ceremonies and the annual hand games competition, all of which were great fun. It was my pleasure to name five members of the Frapp family.

If you have never been to Festival, put the last week in June on your calendar and save it for next year. You will not regret it.

Another highlight of this Festival was an invite to the Bozho nikanek (Hello my friends)

Quick update: The two cases in the U.S. Supreme Court addressing sovereignty issues that I wrote about previously have now been resolved consistently with tribal interests. I am drafting a follow-up piece for a legal newsletter and will hopefully get Hownikan space for it in the fall.

Ways to contribute: With so much divisiveness in our land and violence throughout the world, I figured devoting land and violence throughout the world, I figured devoting

Potawatomi Leadership Program: Through our PLP, 10 college students each summer serve as interns at our headquarters in Shawnee. The students participate in cultural activities and spend time with the departments and programs operated by the tribe, including those serving tribal elders. They also are asked to develop, in teams of two, a project that the Nation might pursue for everyone’s betterment. I had the opportunity to visit with 2016 PLP students Randy Bazhaw (Tennessee), Tom Brunt (Virginia) and Zoe Gustason (Arizona) during the Family Festival and heard the early thoughts about the projects they may propose. I won’t tip their hands, but the ideas were compelling. I encourage you to alert your college-age family members to the value of participating in the PLP program. More details can be found at http://plp.potawatomi.org/.

Adopt-a-Highway Program: Do you remember the 1970s commercial depicting a Native American man shedding a tear as trash is thrown at his feet from a passing car? (You can find it on YouTube.) Litter remains a blight. The Adopt-a-Highway Program operates in virtually every state and in the District of Columbia. Since I run and walk our Virginia road regularly, I signed up CPN Legislative District 2 to adopt a 2.5 mile stretch of it. I keep the road free of trash and publicize our Nation’s presence in the process. Participating in the Adopt-a-Highway Program honors Mother Earth and is good exercise (but please watch out for passing cars)! It also saves taxpayers’ money. If you, your family or an affinity group are physically capable of doing the work, I hope you’ll look into the program and then adopt a local road. Please let me know if you participate; I’d love to include a photo of your road adoption sign in a future column.

Help for our neediest relatives: A few years ago I learned from a kind relative that she regularly mailed her family’s good used clothing and household items to reservations in South Dakota. We looked into the organization she worked through, the Native American Heritage Association, and learned that since 1993 it has partnered with the Lakota (Sioux) Reservation, where challenges confronted are extreme. Unemployment rates on the reservations are at 80 percent, 70 percent of residents have no transportation, the average life expectancy is 58, infant mortality is 10 times the national average and 31 percent of Native American children under four are obese because of lack of proper nutrition. Per its June 2016 newsletter, NAHA was awarded its 12th 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, an American, independent charity watchdog organization. NAHA reports that 95.5 percent of its total expenses go towards its program services. If you have any gently-used clothing, toys, personal care items, etc., you may ship them to NAHA’s warehouse at this address: NAHA, 12085 Quaal Rd, Black Hawk, South Dakota 57718. You will receive a charitable donation receipt and your items will be put to immediate use. My rule of thumb in donating is that if I can use it in my household, so can my Lakota relatives.

Migwetch (thank you) for the honor of representing you.

Eva Marie Carney
Ojibdikwe Legislator, District 2
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
2200 North George Mason Drive
PO Box 7307
Arlington, VA 22207
eccarney@potawatomi.org
Toll Free: 866-961-6988
evamicarney.com

For eligibility information for those residing in CPN jurisdiction please contact CPN Employment & Training at 405.598.0797.
I recently read about life or assets. ways to access that data and well as institutions, that find Consequently, we have a Internet and our computer number of us rely on the advising he had already filed compromised, but fortunate- federal tax records were fortunate- (hello) Bozho, (hello)

Reminder of District 4 meeting in Wichita, Aug. 27, 2016: I will hold a District 4 meeting at the Mid-America Indian Center in Wichita on Saturday, Aug. 27, 2016 at 10 a.m. The Indian Center is located at the intersection of Seneca and Central Avenues in Wichita. The meeting is open to all CPN members but invitation cards will only be mailed to the members living in the greater Topeka area and the northeast and north central counties of Kansas. I am attempting to add new topics to our meeting agenda, I have invited James Collard, Ph.D., the CPN director of economic development and planning, to speak on economic development of the Nation and in particular the Iron Horse project. It should be extremely interesting. By the way Jim is also the CPN Tribal Police chief. Also I have two additional speakers on the agenda that you should find to be of interest. Please RSVP to me by Tuesday, Sept. 6, if you plan to attend. Finally a District 4 meeting in western Kansas, Oct. 8, 2016: I have finally scheduled a district meeting in western Kansas. I will hold a meeting in the Clarion Inn in Garden City on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016 at 10 a.m. The meeting is open to all CPN members, but invitation cards will only be mailed to the members living in the western counties of Kansas. If anyone would like to give a presentation on their tribal family’s history and how they settled in western Kansas, let me know. I’m attempting to add new topics to our meeting agendas. Please RSVP to me by Tuesday, Aug. 23 if you plan on attending.
HOWNIKAN
AUGUST 2016 17

District 5 - Gene Lambert

The next subject I wanted to address is my LinkedIn and Facebook accounts.

It is a very long story but I will cut it short. Someone keeps hacking them and deleting the accounts.

I have not been able to add the friend and connection requests that come in and wanted to be sure to let you know.

I am not ignoring you.

The same problem has come up with my email accounts. There are three addresses for Gene Lambert or Eunice Imogene Lambert, and two for Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Apologies are in order and it is being worked on as I write. We think we know who it is doing it.

I would love to hear from you.

Thank you each and every day for the trust you put in me.

Personal Regards,
Gene Lambert
(Eunice Imogene Lambert)
Your District 5 Legislator
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

District 6 - Rande K. Payne

It’s no secret that we have been under attack from the State of Oklahoma in their attempt to force CPN to collect sales tax for them. One of the state’s most recent strategies to extort money from us was to shut down the sale of alcoholic beverages at our casinos by holding our liquor license hostage.

By the terms in our gaming compact with the state, the sales tax and liquor license issues went to arbitration. In short, the arbitrator ruled in our favor on both issues. However, we were left with an enormous amount of un-recoverable legal fees.

In the State of Oklahoma’s ongoing assault on CPN’s interests went to determination. The state has launched another attack. This time it is on Pottawatomie County Rural Water District 3’s ability to supply much needed water to those who would otherwise be underserved. The tribe owns the assets and infrastructure of the water district, but it is a state agency, like all other rural water districts.

The state’s water resources board and county commission members confirmed this fact more than a decade ago when CPN took over paying the costs for the water district’s operations. This latest hostility toward our tribe in its infancy. I’m hopeful we will prevail, but again, even if we do, it will have a cost.

In my opinion, this is a fine example of government overreach fueled by personal vendettas, negative emotions and maybe even racism. How could anyone in their right mind be so driven to move the citizens of Pottawatomie County back 40 years economically?

We have proved over and over again that we are generous to the community as a whole in a multitude of ways, by providing good jobs for the citizens of the community that might otherwise find themselves unemployed or even be forced to live somewhere else. This is way beyond bad politics. This is sinister!

As with much of our media today, the news is slanted and reported in favor of the leanings of those in control. In just the short time I was in Oklahoma, I came across several news articles that portrayed CPN as the aggressor because of our support of candidates opposing the current regime running the City of Shawnee. We are being labeled as rich and powerful,” which I’m guessing is written to imply “big and evil” and further accusations of CPN trying to take over the City of Shawnee. This couldn’t be further from the truth. Yes, we have managed our money well, grown and diversified our enterprises to very respectable levels of success and shared the wealth with the community. All we have ever wanted was to be left alone and be separated, de-annexed, from the City of Shawnee. We are completely self-reliant. Yet some politicians in the City of Shawnee continue to demand we pay for services they do not provide. Space is too short here to go into all the details but it makes my blood boil!

We didn’t start any of these battles. We have, once again as Native Americans, been forced to defend and protect our God given rights and those of our children, grand-children and generations yet to come. I deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication of Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Secretary-Treasurer Barrett, Dwayne Trousdale, tribal attorneys Greg Quinnan and George Wright and our Public Information Department of Jennifer Bell and John VanPool.

No matter how any of this turns out, I am confident that future generations will be able to look back to this time and be proud of who our leaders were and what they did for them.

Wisdom from the Word: “The good man wins his case by careful argument; the evil-minded only wants to fight.” Proverbs 13:2

Migwetch!
Rande K. Payne
Mnedo Gabo
Legislator District 6
31150 Road 180
Visalia, CA 93292-9585
(559) 999-3525 office
(559) 999-5411 cell
rande.payne@potawatomi.org

Hownikan
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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All correspondence should be directed to Hownikan, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

Questions: hownikan@potawatomi.org or 800-880-9880

Address changes should be sent to Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801

Hownikan
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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Awesome August to everyone.
The Colorado meeting is coming up soon! Hopefully, we can get together in September 2016.

We have always met in a hotel and we have had a lot of requests to take our meeting outdoors.

I could use some help with that as I live in Arizona and do not know the lay of the land as well as most of you. We could Google it. If you are aware of a place other than the usual hotel event location, I would appreciate your input. Where would you like to meet this year?

Let’s try to make it happen.

If you have an idea, please give me a call at 480-228-6569 or email me at eunice.imogene.lambert@gmail.com with your thoughts. We need to move quickly.

Bozo nikaneek, (Hello my friends)

I want to begin this month’s column thanking the hundreds of CPN employees who helped make this year’s Family Reunion Festival a great and memorable event for everyone in attendance.

I would also like to congratulate this year’s group of PLP students on their selection to the program and thank them for their commitment to learn from all the program has to offer.

Rather than talk about Festival events I would like to give you an outsider’s view, perhaps somewhat narrow, of local Shawnee politics observed during my short visit for the Family Reunion Festival. For those that do not know, Shawnee’s local election cycle concluded with voters casting their ballots on June 28.

Bo Apitz
Deputy Editor:
Jennifer Bell
Editor:
September 2016.
Many of the activities held during the Family Festival in June also take place at Gathering. But at the Gathering, tribal governments have a chance to meet and discuss issues that are ongoing in Indian County. Cultural classes are also held, along with a well attended language conference.

I know it is not possible for all to attend the gatherings that happen in Shawnee, hopefully you can make the trip sometime. You will make memories that will last a lifetime. In the meantime, I thought I would point out some of the opportunities that are available in California in August that you may want to visit. Even though these are not Potawatomi events, they can be well worth spending some time at. No matter what Native American tribe you may come from, we all have somewhat of a common history worth sharing.

August 12 to 14, 2016
22nd Annual Sacramento Contest Pow Wow
Where: 715 Broadway, Sacramento, CA
Contact: 916-804-7326
wailaki10@comcast.net

August 12 - 14, 2016
VIC 20th Annual Pow Wow
Where: Vallejo Waterfront
298 Mare Island Way, Vallejo, CA
facebook.com/vicpowwoweekend

events/1686771834929412/

August 13 - 14, 2016
16th Annual Robert Canada Friendship Pow Wow
Where: Furgeson Elementary School:
22215 Elaine Street, Hawaiian Gardens, CA
Contact: 562-420-2641
http://www.hgcity.org/

August 26 - 28, 2016
Honoring Traditions 9th Annual Pow Wow
Where: Pala Band of Mission Indians Cupa Cultural Center:
10779 Highway 76, Pala, CA
Contact: 760-891-3590
facebook.com/palapw

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always I would like to give you a call or send an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and district.

Migwetch / Thank You,
Mark Johnson / Wisk Mek
(Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA 93611
(559) 351-0078 cell
Mark.Johnson@potawatomi.org

As I’m sure you have heard many times, legislators are not given contact information from tribal rolls. Please reach out to me so you can be on my mailing list for email updates.

Best Regards,
Dave Carney/Kagayshi
dcarney@potawatomi.org
360-259-4027
Michael Patrick Mimnaugh

Michael Patrick Mimnaugh, age 43, of Minnie, Kentucky, died May 23, 2016 in Wheelwright, Kentucky. The son of Phillip and Diane Allen Mimnaugh, he was retired from the Chicago Board of Trade.


Funeral service was held on May 28, 2016 at the First Baptist Church in McDowell, Kentucky. Burial followed in the Lucy Hall Cemetery, McDowell.

Condolences may be made at www.hallfuneralservice.com

Robert E. Spalding Sr.

Robert E. Spalding Sr. passed away on March 27, 2016. He was 73 years old.

He was an Army veteran serving in Vietnam and was honorably discharged. He was a boilermaker and a Teamster. He was very proud of his Native American heritage.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife: Dottie Sue.

He is survived by his children: Robert E. Spalding Jr., David D. Spalding, Mary A. Spalding; grandchildren: Nick Spalding, Jake Spalding, Alan Lockrey, Evan Spalding, Justin Lockrey, Cheyenne Spalding, Haley Lockrey; great-grandchildren: Lorelei and Cayden Spalding.

He meant the world to all of his family. He will be deeply missed and in our hearts forever until we meet again.

Funeral services were private.

Paul E. Courington Jr.

Paul E. Courington Jr. of Wadsworth passed away on May 30, 2016. He was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on Nov. 14, 1934 and spent his early years in Texas and Oklahoma. He moved to Illinois in 1955. Paul married Barbara Sponenburg in 1958 and had four children. Paul graduated from high school in Noble, Oklahoma and attended College of Lake County and graduated from Lake Forest School of Management. Paul worked at Abbott Laboratories where he met many fine people. He was a little league coach and umpire. He also was a junior achievement advisor and worked with the Boy Scouts.

Paul is survived by his wife: Barbara; sons: Harry and John; daughters: Melomie (Mark); grandchildren: John Paul, Robin, Shawn (Sarah), Lisa (Troy), Katie (Carl), and Jeff; great-grandchildren: Alexis, Peyton, Neven, Corbin, Lane, Amelia, Genèveve, and Piper; special friends: Clyde and Jean; a special family; the Spillers; Becky (his cat); many nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

Proceeded in death by precious daughter: Michelle; his father: Paul; mother: Edna; his brother: Ernest; sister: Cecille; a baby sister; and daughter-in-law: Sheryl.

Paul enjoyed spending time with his family, traveling, going to casinos and being outside riding on his John Deere tractor. One of his mottos were “You have to have dreams, so make sure the dream is big.”

Paul was a very detailed person when it came to statistical information and also remembered dates for everything. He will be missed greatly for his personality and kind heart.

Funeral services were private.

Henry Berton Richard Jr.

Henry was born in Los Angeles, California and then spent most of his life in Spokane, Washington. After graduating from high school in 1961, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy to serve in the Vietnam War. After four years of service, he attended Eastern Washington University to study geology.

In 1992, he became a member of the Potawatomi tribe. In 2008, he moved from Spokane to Christiansburg, Virginia with his mother and younger sister.

He will always be remembered by his witty jokes, endless sneezes, and affection for his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Margaret and Henry Richard.

Survivors include: sister and brother-in-law, Ann and Jerry Foster of Radford, Virginia; sister and brother-in-law, Debbie and Albert Slater of Roanoke, Virginia; numerous nieces, nephews and many other relatives.

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Paul was a very detailed person when it came to statistical information and also remembered dates for everything. He will be missed greatly for his personality and kind heart.

Funeral services were private.

A Funeral Prayer

Hau ndenwémagnohk
Ho my relatives

Ébëjë yak shote gnom
We have come here today

Éwë nesh mëyë yak ode wdenwëma
To lay our brother to rest

Ngom she épam sët ode
Today he walks

Ga we žhyë wà gï gambojëk
Among those who have passed on

Jëvé e ñëghëndaya këk ñëgmëwë
That is why we offer this song

Émmo shketot wa je zhyat ìbe ñpëmësegok
That his journey will go well where he goes above

Iw ënj aj moyan
That’s all I have to say

A Potawatomi prayer for a specific loved one who has walked on. By Don Perrot
Cynthia Marie Rhodes
62, of Las Cruces, New Mexico passed away June 2, 2016 in College Station, Texas. Cyndi was born in Summit, New Jersey to Eddie and Reba Faye Showmaker on July 22, 1953. She graduated Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School in 1971.

Cyndi was a kind, gentle, loving soul who enjoyed traveling, cooking, and baking treats for her granddaughter. She loved the outdoors, animals, music, sunsets, objects of beauty and most of all her beloved family and friends.

Cyndi is survived by her son: Avry Rhodes; daughter: Adrienne Rhodes; beloved granddaughter: Jadyn Rhodes; parents: Eddie and Reba Faye Showmaker of Paragould, Arkansas; brother: Jim Showmaker; sisters: Ann Turnbull, Jane Neu, and Mary Bachman; as well as multiple nieces and nephews. Cyndi is preceded in death by her daughter: Softness Rhodes; and nephew: Jacob Neu.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Cyndi’s name to the Brazos Valley Hospice, a non-profit organization, whose support was invaluable during this time. A memorial service was held on May 3, 2016 at Resthaven Funeral Home in Shawnee with burial following.

Joe Allen Lewis, Sr. of Ardmore; sister: Kim (Brent) Wilson of Searcy, Arkansas; brother: Chris (Nikki) Lewis of Batesville, Arkansas; maternal grandmother: Dorothy Cleo Penseoue of Searcy; nieces and nephews: Anna (Buddy) Wilson Ladd and Daniel (Tawny) Wilson of Nashville, Tennessee, Nathan Wilson of Searcy, and Skeet and Sadie Lewis of Munday View, Arkansas; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were held on May 3, 2016 at Resthaven Funeral Home in Shawnee with burial following.

James Robert Sander

James Robert “Jim Bob” Sander, 37, of Seiling, Oklahoma tragically passed from this life too soon on June 4, 2016. Jim Bob was born on June 6, 1978 to Fred and Rebecca Sander in Okeene, Oklahoma. He was raised and educated in the Seiling area, graduating with the Class of 1997. He then attended college earning an Associate’s Degree in Business from Northern Oklahoma College Gateway at Stillwater. He worked several jobs in the oilfield industry, as well as doing landscaping on the side.

Jim Bob was a sports fanatic who closely followed the OSU Cowboys, the Washington Redskins and the Oklahoma City Thunder. He loved the outdoors, spending much of his free time bow hunting and fishing. His favorite fishing hole was along the North Canadian River, and he also enjoyed his Alaskan trips. Jim Bob had a huge heart, especially for his son Jacoby, who he called his “Buddy Boy.”

He was preceded in death by his grandmother: Virginia Sander and substitute grandpa: Bill McNeill. Jim Bob is survived by his parents: Fred and Rebecca Sander; his precious son: Jacoby Sander and mother Debbie; sister: Sarah Sander and her children Gabriel and Avery Garrison; brother: Chism Sander wife Heather; grandmother: Anna Teal; aunt and uncle: Marilyn and Dick Schroeder; and his “Mama Red” Linda Redinger; as well numerous cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Memorial Services were held on June 7, 2016 at the First Christian Church in Seiling with Chism Sander, Pastor Dennis Adair, and Pastor Shane Sander officiating. Maverick Gose, Matt Rogers, Chad Clayton, Sam Navarre, Darrin Redinger, Coach Bruce Hendrickson and Clay Sander were honorary pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Redinger Funeral Home, Box 236, Seiling, OK 73663 to help meet the needs of Jim’s son, Jacoby Sander.

Johnnie Ruth (Evans) Moore

Johnnie Ruth (Evans) Moore of Choc'taw, Oklahoma was born April 17, 1938 and passed away May 2, 2016, from bladder cancer. Johnnie was the only child born to Virgil and Helen (Anderson) Evans; niece of Jesse & Juanta (Gerber) Anderson and Leonard and Ellen (Lundy) Anderson; granddaughter of George W. and Mary (Cannaday) Anderson; and great-granddaughter of Peter and Julia (Hardin) Anderson. Her formative years were most happily spent living on the Anderson family Indian land allotment in Harrah, Oklahoma surrounded by her four cousins: Billie Jean (later Rau), Donnie, Freddie, and Robbie Anderson. She became the step-daughter of Robert J. Wolfe in 1951.

Johnnie graduated from Choctaw High School in 1956 and from the University of Oklahoma in 1960 with a degree in Business Management. She wed Joe R. Moore of Muskogee, Oklahoma on June 12, 1960 and gave birth to her only child, Julie (Moore) Williams on Aug. 8, 1962.

Johnnie was employed by the Federal Aviation Administration for 33 years and had been enjoying retirement since 1993. She was a faithful OU Sooners football and basketball fan.

Johnnie will be missed by many but always remembered as a lovely and loving daughter, wife, mother, aunt, cousin and friend.

She was survived by her husband: Joe of the home; daughter: Julie and son-in-law Mark Williams of Choctaw; grandchildren: Matthew Williams and wife Jenny, Lyndi (Williams) Owens and husband Rob; great-grandchildren: Mason, Matthew, Micah Williams, London and Lylla Owens; and many other family and friends.

A memorial service was held on May 7, 2016 at Hibbs Funeral Home in Choctaw.

“A Mother is she who can take the place of all others, but whose place no one else can take.” Author Unknown.

Submit obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document with no more than 300 words, a 300dpi photo and a contact phone number to hownikan@potawatomi.org.