Tribal member sets sail

Bertrand family member Brandon Savory checks in from his trip around South America

Symbolism behind the CPN tribal seal

Learn how each piece of the tribal seal stands for a significant piece of Potawatomi heritage and history.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation sues Indian Health Service over unpaid costs

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has sued Indian Health Service over nearly $800,000 in costs associated with the operations of its health services, including the facility costs at the tribes’ health clinics, behavioral health center and wellness center.

Treaty obligations require the federal government to provide medical care to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and it does so through the Indian Health Service. The federal government may enter into a contract with a tribal government to provide those services, which it would typically be obligated by law to provide. CPN has contracted with Indian Health Services to operate tribal health services since 1998.

“The tribe has taken on the responsibility of the federal government to provide health services and is owed for the costs associated with providing those services,” said Lloyd Miller, who is the counsel for the tribe on this matter.

“The government owes what it owes under the contract,” added Miller. “It’s not a blank check. The amount must be reasonable.”

Prior to a 2012 decision by the United States Supreme Court, and congressional action in 2014, Indian Health Service was not fully funded. Budget shortfalls meant that many tribal health clinics were without the funds necessary to provide adequate care. “Everything changed in 2015,” said Miller. “Before, Indian Health Service hadn’t paid even what they thought they owed because they didn’t have the funds. Tribes didn’t seek funding for things like facility costs because they weren’t even getting what they should have in direct care dollars.”

A recent NPR article called Indian Health Service chronically underfunded; noting that IHS receives a set amount of funding regardless of how much care is needed. According to a report from the National Congress of American Indians the spending per patient in 2013 for patients receiving care from IHS facilities was $2,849 per person, compared to $7,717 for health care spending nationally. This is despite the fact that Native Americans typically suffer from diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer at rates higher than any other race or ethnicity.

“Prior to 2015, we’d taken funding for administrative and facilities costs from the overall budget,” said Rhonda Butcher of the CPN Office of Self-Governance. “That meant a decrease or limit in the services we could offer.”

Citizen Potawatomi Nation has increased its health services to meet the growing demand for healthcare in Oklahoma. The Affordable Care Act and a decrease in state funding has led more Native Americans to seek care at tribal facilities. In 2015, CPN provided 133,926 physician visits, 7,245 dental visits and filled more than 200,000 prescriptions.

CPN Health Services are open to all Native Americans in the CPN jurisdiction despite the refusal of Indian Health Services to pay for the costs.

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Tribal members and employees decorated a Citizen Potawatomi Christmas tree for the second annual Red Earth Treefest in downtown Oklahoma City. Treefest is an event to celebrate the diverse Native American tribes in Oklahoma during the Christmas season.

“Last year we presented our first Red Earth Treefest to the city and state - and the public loved it,” said Teri Stanek, president of the non-profit Red Earth board of directors. “I know our guests will thoroughly enjoy the Christmas trees featured at Treefest, adorned with beautiful ornaments that represent our tribal cultures so well. This year many of the tribes created additional ornaments that we will offer for sale to the public.”

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Tribal newspaper staff takes home four awards at Native American Journalism Association conference

The staff of the tribal newspaper of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Hownikan, recently picked up four awards at the annual Native American Journalism Association conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The newspaper’s impressive visuals, specifically those photos captured by staff photographer Bo Apitz, resulted in two first place finishes. Apitz took home the top awards for both the best print news photograph and best featured print photograph categories for monthly and semi-monthly publications.

Trey DeLonais, who is responsible for many of the graphics and overall page layout of the paper, won third place in the best print layout category for monthly and semi-monthly publications.

The paper also took second place in the semi-monthly and monthly print publications for general excellence.

NAJA received more than 600 entries and recognized only 200 winners overall.

The Native American Journalists Association serves and empowers Native journalists through programs and actions designed to enrich journalism and promote Native cultures.

For more than 30 years, NAJA has remained committed to increasing the representation of Native journalists working in media, while encouraging both mainstream and tribal media to attain the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and responsibility.

CPN gives to Maud Public Schools music department

Maud Public School students are able to participate in a newly-formed school band because of a generous donation from Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

“We were extremely excited to return the music program to our school in 2015-16,” Maud Public Schools Superintendent Jerry McCormick said.

“The music program has provided more extracurricular opportunities for our students as well as enhanced school spirit and community involvement. CPN has also donated 30 hand drum kits which requires our students to make the drums. What a great cultural experience!”

CPN donated $1,560 which enabled Maud to purchase music curriculum for the entire school and will allow students greater accessibility in connecting with music through technology. In addition to assisting with the music program, CPN has also given the school district two maintenance trucks, a mini bus, a forklift, a generator, classroom supplies and a $10,000 donation to repair lights at the softball field.

“In a period of time in which all schools in Oklahoma have suffered greatly due to loss of funding, Citizen Potawatomi Nation has been very gracious in their giving to Maud Public Schools,” Superintendent McCormick said. “The generosity of Citizen Potawatomi Nation has allowed us to expand the educational experiences and opportunities of our students of which we are forever grateful.”

“Starting a band program is giving students who have no other outlet an option.” Maud Band Instructor Danyele Minton said. “Being in a band has challenges and rewards which are different than being involved in sports programs. Students are responsible for pushing themselves while simultaneously learning how to work as a unit. There is no bench in band, so each student has to uphold their part. Every part is equally necessary and important.”

Although the band is only in its second year of existence and making great progress, there is more to be done. The school administration is proud of their 30 students participating in the program, but up to three of them share one instrument.

“One of the main challenges we are facing is having enough instruments to serve the students who have an interest in band,” Minton said. “We are now primarily lacking in quality percussion instruments, specifically auxiliary percussion instruments like crash cymbals, tambourine and triangle.”

People can help schools like Maud by donating gently-used instruments to a school music program in their hometown and can also receive a tax deduction for the donation.

If an Oklahoma student needs financial assistance to afford a band instrument, the CPN Employment and Training Department could help. To learn if a student qualifies for the Johnson O’Malley scholarship, please visit cpn.news/omalley.
Tribal youth attends final White House Tribal Nations Conference of Obama Administration

By Trae Trousdale

In September, I had the opportunity to attend the White House Tribal Nations Conference and the White House Tribal Youth Gathering as a delegate from Citizen Potawatomi Nation. My experience in Washington D.C. was unlike any I have ever had.

While there, we heard from various tribal leaders, tribal youth, secretaries in President Obama’s cabinet, and from the president himself. It was exciting to hear about different issues that Native Americans are facing. There was a reception at the White House on Sunday afternoon. Chance Rush and Billy Mills were keynote speakers that night, but I was excited to hear about different individuals I had met during the summer.

Following the reception, I was able to take my grandmother, who was my chaperone, to the George Washington University campus where I showed her my dorm room and my classroom from the INSPIRE Native Youth Program. At the Tribal Nations Conference, there were a few panel discussions with the secretary of the interior, the director of the environmental protection agency, and the secretary of education, just to name a few. At lunch, I was able to locate Mrs. Eva Marie Carney, the CPN District 2 legislator, and had the opportunity to introduce my grandmother to some of the individuals who I had met during the summer.

There were more panel discussions between tribal leadership, tribal youth from across the country and the secretaries of agriculture and housing and urban development. To top it off, the afternoon we were addressed by President Obama! Following the president’s speech, we were released for the evening and Mrs. Carney, my grandmother, and I headed down to the National Museum of the American Indian, where Mrs. Carney and I were able to show my grandmother the Potawatomi Treaty exhibit. Following our educational excursion, we went to dinner at Old Ebbitt Grill and headed back to our hotel room.

At the Tribal Youth Gathering the next day, we were addressed by various cabinet secretaries, the special assistant to the president and multiple agency directors. All of their speeches concerned tribal youth, and we were allowed to ask questions and provide feedback. The highlights of the day were hearing from the Chief of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and having the opportunity to teach the secretary of the interior and the surgeon general traditional dances. Attending the conference and gathering at the White House exposed me to situations I do not face on a daily basis, furthered my education of Native American issues, and prepared me to help guide the future of Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

CPN Veterans report: December 2016

By Daryl Talbot, Commander Bozo

I have been informed of a service for veterans that could be of great benefit to many.

Have you had an appeal to a Veteran’s Administration benefit denied by the Board of Veterans’ Appeals? If so, you probably have the right to appeal that decision.

An attorney, Legislative Director Carol Wild Scott, Esq., has offered her assistance without charge. The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program is dedicated to providing every qualified veteran and their family with free legal representation before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Their services are 100 percent free. No one from the Pro Bono Program will ever ask you for money.

You have 120 days from the mailing date your BVA decision to file an appeal. You won’t get an extension, so you have to act fast.

How to file an appeal:

1. Go to the Court’s website www.uscourts.cavc.gov/appeal.php (or call the Court at 202-501-5970 and request forms 1 and 4).

2. Complete the Court’s Form 1 – “Notice of Appeal.” http://cpn.news/vetclaims

3. There is a $50 fee to file. You can ask the Court to waive the fee by filing the Court’s Form 4 – “Declara- tion of Financial Hardship.”

4. Mail your completed form(s) to:
Clerk of the Court
U.S. Court of Appeals
for Veterans Claims
265 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 900
Washington, DC 20004-2950
Phone: 202-501-5970
Fax: 202-501-5848
e-submission@uscourts.cavc.gov
(Note: Forms 1 and 4 must be at- tached as separate PDF files if you file both at the same time.)

Special case notice:

If you are getting close to the deadline, you can simply print your name, address and telephone number on a piece of paper and write: “I want to appeal my BVA decision dated __________.”

Then mail or fax that paper to the court. (The postmark will be the filing date, so don’t use FEDEX or UPS under these circumstances!)

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions you can call toll free at 888-838-7727. This information was passed to me by District 3 Representative, Bob Whistler.

Megwetch.

Our CPN Veterans Organization’s Christmas and Thanksgiving Dinner will be Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016 in the North Reunion Hall at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) on the CPN Powwow Grounds. All CPN and spouse veterans and their families are welcome. Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year.

Red Earth continued...

Staff members from the education and public information departments decorated the tree with cultural-ly-significant ornaments, including medicines, birch bark canoes, moc- casins and eagles from the CPN Eagle Aviary. The Potawatomi lan- guage and Great Lakes culture were incorporated into the ornaments, as well as traditional regalia on the tree topper.

“Everything on the tree has some kind of cultural relevance to our na- tion.” CPN Department of Education Director Tesa Zientek said. “One of the main differences between our tree and the others is our use of pur- ple. It is a very important color for our tribe because of the trailing arbu- tus, or mayflower. This is a great oppor- tunity for the public to see the dif- ferences between each of the tribes participating.”

There are more than 15 trees represen- ting different tribal nations, in- cluding CPN’s nearby neighbors the Abenewte-Shawnee, Sac & Fox and Seminole. Some of the ornaments made by the tribes will be for sale to visitors, but the event is free to the public.

To see Treefest for yourself, visit Red Earth Art Center at 6 Santa Fe Plaza, Oklahoma City on Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until January 13, 2017. There will be special viewings on December 3, 10 and 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more in- formation, please visit https://www. redearth.org/events/treefest/.
Q&A with Rekindling 7 Generations program participant Anna Rhodd Brimm

By Lakota Pochedley, CPN Cultural Education Specialist

This month I wanted to give you a first person point of view from one of our program participants, Anna Rhodd Brimm. She is a member of the Rhodd family and has Citizen Potawatomi, Ponca and Sae & Fox tribal affiliations. Currently a student at Konawa High School, she hopes to graduate and attend to St. Gregory’s University or another great college and become a veterinary technician.

We encourage everyone to like our Facebook Page, https://www.facebook.com/R7Gen/ to stay up to date about all our workshops, classes, and community events. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lakota Pochedley at Lakota.Pochedley@potawatomi.org or 405-878-5830. All our programs are Potawatomi and Native preference.

Migwetch!

What does being Potawatomi mean to you?

“It means a lot to me because as I learn more about my culture and heritage I am able to share it with my younger relatives so our traditions continue to live on. Knowing more about my culture makes me a stronger person and know myself better.”

Why did you get involved with Rekindling 7 Generations (R7G)?

“I got involved with R7G so I could learn more about my cultural traditions.”

What is important about R7G?

“It’s important because we are keeping our Potawatomi traditions alive, and it allows us to share our different Native cultures with fellow Native youth. It’s important to remember all the different aspects of our culture like our traditional games, sports and foods. It is important to visit with other Native youth so we can learn about all our cultures and traditions, especially living here in Oklahoma. When we get to share our cultures, we can understand each other’s backgrounds, it brings us closer together, and it creates a shared respect for everyone’s traditions because you can remember, ‘so-and-so told me about that and that makes sense now.’ R7G creates an open space so all of us can work towards keeping our traditions alive and supporting each other while we do it.”

Do you think it’s important to include all generations for cultural education programs? Why?

“Yes, it is important because then our families know what we are doing and also they can learn with us. I think it is important to get our families and communities involved with everything we are doing.”

Why is family and community important to you?

“My family and community are important because without their help our traditions wouldn’t survive. My family and community helped me start learning about my culture and keep encouraging me to learn more things.”

What has been your favorite part about R7G?

“I love learning everything, especially learning how to bead our turtle medallions and cook meals that include traditional Potawatomi foods like squash casserole and menom-in (wild rice) and berries. I enjoy getting to meet new friends. I have been able to meet friends from all over central Oklahoma at the Native Sports Workshop, and I was able to meet other Potawatomi friends at the Gathering through the Youth Summit and running for Potawatomi Princess. I have also been able meet a lot of Native youth through United National Indian Tribal Youth as a member of the Etem Omvlkusen UNITY Council. R7G has helped me get more involved with my community, and has made me a more outgoing person.”

What are you looking forward to with R7G?

“I look forward to learning more about myself, culture, and language. I am excited to start learning how to sew and working on my ribbon skirt. I look forward to meeting more Potawatomi and Native youth, and also encourage them to participate in R7G!”

UPCOMING EVENTS

• December 5, CHC, 6-7:30PM – Adult/Child Cultural Class
• December 7, CHC, 6-7:30PM – Shawnee Area, Boys’ Drumming and Girls’ Talking Circle
• December 9, Konawa Schools, 3:30-5PM – South Pottawatomie County, Boys’ Drumming and Girls’ Talking Circle
• December 26-30, CHC, 9-4PM – Winter Arts Workshop, Ages 8-15
• Family Community Day, TBA, follow Facebook page for more information

Anna Rhodd Brimm at the 2016 Miss Potawatomi contest during the Potawatomi Gathering of Nations.
A gifted loom turns into full-time hobby for Potawatomi beadwork artist

Gift giving is a longstanding tradition in Native American culture. Communities view it as a means of sharing and survival, a practice that still holds importance to this day. For Bourassa family descendant Laura Hewuse, a simple gift from a family friend sparked a passion and led her to become an artist.

Hewuse was gifted a loom about 12 years ago and decided to bring it to CPN Legislator Roy Slavin’s District 1 meeting in Kansas City, which happened to be hosting a craft night. She credits that evening as being when her passion for bead working began.

“My cousin Peggy Kinder once told me that our family needed a beadwork artist,” said Hewuse. “Some of the aspects that drive my passion for creating unique pieces, pushing the envelope and bringing the pieces to life through color and tradition.”

The first piece she made was a beaded sash for her father, which she gifted to him on Father’s Day. The pattern is an old eastern woodlands design which she was inspired to mimic after seeing it in an old photo. Altogether Laura has made about 20 different pieces including hat bands, hair accessories, storytellers and bandolier bags. All the pieces are custom-made to fit the personality of the person they will belong to.

Out of all those she’s made, the women’s storytellers are her favorite. “I love being able to make something beautiful for dancers that helps express who they are,” said Hewuse. “I’m currently working on the third storyteller as of now.”

A storyteller is a long and elaborately beaded accessory that drapes behind the dancers back and tells a story about them. CPN education director and southern cloth dancer, Tessa Zientek, reached out to Laura in 2014 to have one made.

“My cousin Peggy Kinder once told me that our family needed a beadwork artist,” said Hewuse. “Some of the aspects that drive my passion for creating unique pieces, pushing the envelope and bringing the pieces to life through color and tradition.”

Hewuse “The pattern is based off who she is, her life story, and something special that happened in her life.”

Laura gives the recipient options and helps them decide what will go into it. “I find out their passions in life, who has helped them along the way, pretty much anything about them helps decide what will go into it,” said Hewuse.

“The process to start a storyteller for Laura begins by meeting with the person she is making it for and finding out the specifics of the story they want tell. “I find out their passions in life, who has helped them along the way, pretty much anything about them helps decide what will go into it,” said Hewuse.

After the final pattern is created, she inputs the design into a computer program on her laptop called BeadTool 4. The program takes the design and develops a row by row pattern that she can follow bead by bead. There are times, however, that she will need to hand-draw a specific part in.

Storytellers are long and elaborate, which makes creating one a tedious and time-consuming process. Each row can take up to 10 minutes, which includes loading the beads on the needle, tightening and running it through the loom.

“With it being a bad day, I won’t work on my bead work,” said Hewuse. “I don’t want to put that bad energy into a piece, so there’s a lot of love that goes into it. If I see a color I don’t like, I’ll back up 20 rows and completely change the whole piece because I want it to be done right. It’s frustrating at times but the final product is well worth it.”

Hewuse explained her process, saying “I like to have at least eight months to create a piece.”

Bandalier bags take up to eight months to one year, depending on how long the strap is, and a storyteller can take six to nine months, depending on the length.

As Hewuse grows as an artist, she continues learning to bead different ways and on different types of material. “I find out their passions in life, who has helped them along the way, pretty much anything about them helps decide what will go into it,” said Hewuse.

Her clientele has grown through word of mouth and social media. Current-ly Laura is involved in four different projects. Her advice for those interested in having a piece made is to not wait until the last minute.

“Start thinking ahead as much as possible and gather up your ideas and expect it to be a long and thorough process,” said Hewuse. “I like to have at least eight months to create a piece.”

“Seeing the two aspects of tradition-al ways mesh together with modern styles fuels my passion to continue to create,” said Hewuse. “My father always told me to always do the best I can and make a name for myself. I think I’ve accomplished that and can’t wait to see where it takes me.”

Laura Hewuse. Two of Hewuse’s storytellers worn by CPN members.

Pictured is a birch bark basket that has found a home in the CPN Cultural Heritage Center’s ethnology collection. The basket, constructed in 2001 from wigwam [birch bark], wishkemishkis [sweet grass] and gavey [porcupine quills], was originally commissioned as a present for a spiritual leader among the Three Fires communities of Walpole Island, Ontario, Canada. It was designed to honor the leader’s clan – the Bear clan – and the various types of food bears eat like strawberries, blueberries and the Coho salmon. The clan’s role was to be the keepers or protectors of the medicine.
Sharon Catlege, better known as the Crane Woman, is a Potawatomi artist whose work is featured at the Citizen Potawatomi Gift Shop. She is a descendant of Delilah Bourassa, daughter of Joseph Bourassa. Catlege sat down with the Hownikan and talked about her art.

What kind of art do you create?

“I enjoy working with different mediums and experimenting with different materials. I started out painting in oils on canvas then I moved to acrylics. I also enjoy watercolor, driftwood, clay, paper, fabric and mixed media paintings. I love vibrant colors and textures and enjoy painting a variety of subjects, but mainly people, trees and birds.

“I took a gourd workshop at the Mebee-Gerrer Museum about six years ago and enjoyed it so much that I started making gourd art. I love working with gourds because our ancestors used gourds to hold water, food, seeds, medicine and as musical instruments. Decorated gourds were used in ceremonies and played an important part in stories, including the creation stories.”

What inspires you to create your art?

“I am inspired by the ancient wisdom and cultures of our ancestors, nature and my travels. Many of my paintings come from my photographs. My wish is to creatively express the beauty I see around me and its connection to our Earth Mother.

“Growing up in rural Oklahoma, visiting grandparents who lived on their allotment and listening to stories of our ancestors have peaked my interest and my continual research in not only our CPN history, but Native American history.”

Where can people view and purchase your art?

“I have some gourds and paintings for sale at the gift shop and Birds of a Feather Art Gallery on Main Street in Shawnee, Oklahoma inside The Owl Shoppe Cafe. I also have gourds on display at the CPN Housing Department and CPN West Health Clinic next to the Grand Casino. My gourds are signed as ‘Crane Woman’ because my Potawatomi name Jejakwe means Crane Woman.”

What does being Citizen Potawatomi mean to you?

“Being Citizen Potawatomi means having connections to our cultural traditions and history. Knowledge of our ancestry enables us to pass on this information to our future generations. I am thankful to CPN and our cultural heritage center for preserving our treasures and creating a renewed interest in our culture.”

Catlege’s work is available at the gift shop or online at giftshop.potawatomi.org.

Three different pieces made by Catlege titled Grandmother sculpture, Coyote feathers and shop shifter.
Rhonda Butcher

‘Rainmaker’ honored at the 2016 Woman of the Year awards

Longtime Citizen Potawatomi Nation Self-Governance Director Rhonda Butcher was recognized by The Journal Record newspaper as one of Oklahoma’s most influential female professionals. Butcher, nicknamed the ‘Rainmaker’ by Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett for her astuteness in securing federal funding opportunities for tribal programs, has served in her position since 1997, and helped CPN transition into a self-governance tribe.

“The important part of self-governance was always about providing services to our tribal members,” said Butcher. “It is the process whereby we obtain funding from the federal government, prioritize and plan for needed services, and implement programs that serve our people. I’m honored to be recognized for this work on behalf of the Nation.”

Tribal members, employees and neighbors from the community have likely been impacted by Butcher’s work in developing the self-governance office. Whether a patient at the CPN Health Services, a commuter on the streets paved and maintained by the tribal roads department or a small business financed by the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation, the self-governance office and Butcher has been responsible in finding funds for those and many other programs during the past two decades.

“Without her passion, skills and keen intellect applied with consummate skill as a manager, it is difficult to picture what the Citizen Potawatomi Nation would look like today,” said Tribal Chairman Barrett. “Finding money is only part of the job. Managing and monitoring these funds, as well as correct and timely reporting of the grant resources, is the key element to the success of the CPN.”

A registered nurse and former healthcare consultant from Shawnee, Oklahoma, Butcher joined the Citizen Potawatomi Nation as the tribe prepared to negotiate self-governance compacts with the federal Indian Health Services and Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1998. In the years since Butcher joined the Tribe, CPN Health Services have expanded to two full-service clinics for Native Americans of all tribes, including spouses of Potawatomi and CPN employees. She holds an MBA from Oklahoma Baptist University and had previously worked for Blue Cross and Blue Shield as a Medicaid claims appraiser. Prior to that, she worked as a burn center nurse.

Looking back on her long, diverse career, Butcher reflected that an ethos passed on by her grandmother, “My personal philosophy is based upon the first passage of the Serenity Prayer written by theologian Reinhold Niebuhr and personified through the life of my grandmother. ‘Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.’”

Skillings inducted into PBA Southwest Region Hall of Fame

If you’ve attended one of the many professional bowling events taking place in Shawnee, Oklahoma in the past few years, it’s largely because of the work of FireLake Bowling Center Director Chris Skillings. A longtime member of the Professional Bowlers Association, he has worked tirelessly in recent years to bring professional events like the PBA Summer Swing and the PBA FireLake Tournament of Champions to his hometown of Shawnee, Oklahoma. In recognition of these efforts, Skillings was recently inducted into the PBA Southwest Region’s Hall of Fame.

“[Skillings] has always been a valuable member of the PBA and the southwest region is a huge honor,” said Skillings. “We’ve worked really hard to help develop the sport through partnerships with Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the PBA and our school and amateur bowlers in the Shawnee-Tecumseh area. I’m just happy to see where it is today.”

Skillings graduated from Shawnee High School in 1982, and is a well-known member of the local community. He has been a member of the Professional Bowlers’ Association for almost twenty years, and since 1980 has bowled in the PBA’s Southwest Regional Tour events and other professional competitions. His association with the sport of bowling, Skillings has inducted the highest rated PBA telecast of the broadcaster’s 2015-16 season, and was a 17 percent viewer increase over the previous year’s tournament.

The 2017 tournament is expected to draw similar numbers and will take place on February 17, while details for a summer tournament continue to develop.

Skillings was a longtime bowler and member of the PBA. A chronic shoulder injury has cut down his time on the lanes in recent years, and he announced his retirement from competition during his induction to the hall of fame.

In addition to his work promoting the sport of bowling, Skillings has had an extensive career in the healthcare sector. In spring 2016, he was named director of CPN Health Services and has served in that capacity, as well as his role as director of FireLake Bowling Center.

“Chris has been an asset to the tribe in many ways in recent years,” said CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps. “On behalf of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation want to congratulate him on his induction to the hall of fame, it is a well-deserved honor for a great individual.”
Five years of multimillion dollar growth at the CPCDC

By Shane Jett, Director of the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation

Five years ago, I was in Des Moines, Iowa interviewing for an executive position at an institution that wanted me to open a manufacturing plant in Brazil. I had no idea of the impending adventure that awaited me back home in Oklahoma. I left Iowa with a promise that I would receive a formal job offer forthwith and a request that I not accept any other job offer before first discussing it with them. After the interview, I took a red-eye flight back to Oklahoma so I could teach a world geography class at St. Gregory’s University the next day. As I was preparing my notes for class, I got a call from the tribal chairman of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He had a “business proposal” for me and wanted to meet immediately. I told him where he could find me in the main administration building at St. Gregory’s, the one that looks like a medieval castle of red brick.

He had a job offer for me to become the executive director of the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation. I told him that I had never heard of it. He explained that the CPCDC was a community development financial institution that created jobs in low-income communities that didn’t traditionally have access to capital. Their job is to create a credible team. We’ve come a long way since 2011 and are like a family.

At that time, we had about $14 million under management, most of which was for lending money to Native-owned businesses across the United States. Start-up businesses are very high risk, meaning most banks will not finance them. Even if they would, traditional banks require a 20-25 percent down payment before they will finance. CDFIs are much more flexible than banks are allowed to be, making organizations like the CPCDC a fantastic resource for small business.

We have business loans in the state of Maine, a stone quarry in Washington State, a shrimp processor in Houston, Texas and a chiropractic clinic in Puerto Rico. In 2011, we were the second largest Native-owned commercially focused CDFI in the United States. We have since become the largest financial institution of our kind in Indian Country.

We were the only Native CDFI to be approved for the CDFI Fund’s Guarantee Loan Program under the United States Treasury in 2016, and were awarded $16 million. In October 2016, our team went to Berea, Kentucky to meet with the Secretary of Agriculture who announced that we were a recipient of $25 million in funding for rural Oklahoma communities.

Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation will close this year with funds in excess of $65 million! This has been an incredible five years. We have been able to help hundreds of clients making a real difference to regular Oklahomans to whom banks have said “no” to their small businesses financing needs. I have learned a tremendous amount about economic development and finance. I have a great team who are dedicated to our mission and some of my closest friends. I love my job, my team.

I still haven’t opened that factory in Brazil. Life has taken many interesting twists and turns. This is not what I thought I would be doing five years ago. Yet here I am. Looking forward to seeing what the next five years have in store.

Avoid holiday debt with these five steps

By Tina Pollard, CPCDC Consumer Lending Manager

Are you, like most of Americans, afraid of racking up holiday debt? Do you wake in a panic because you forgot in the holiday rush to buy a gift for your mother? Here are a few tips to help avoid a holiday spending hangover and help relieve the stress of the season.

Create a list: Write up a list the people who you’d like to buy a gift for and reach out to those individuals for ideas on what they’d like. You can ask them to make their Amazon wish list public or at least give you a few items they want or need. Once you decide what to buy, don’t deviate from the list.

Give of your time: The holidays are when we usually feel the most generous. However, if financial giving is being to put a strain on your budget, consider giving your time. For instance, instead of contributing to every bell ringer you see, perhaps you can be the one to ring the bell. Nursing homes are an especially lonely time for a lot of our elders, so why not donate a few hours to visit with the elders of your community? You never know what you might learn. You will want to call ahead for visiting hours and ask to be connected with someone who would appreciate your company.

Pay cash: While it is tempting to buy Christmas gifts with your credit card, it could have long-term consequences. Remember every time you swipe a credit card, you are agreeing to a loan. If you do not like to carry cash, please consider acquiring a debit card which is accepted anywhere credit cards are. With a debit card you can spend money you already have instead of creating debt that can haunt you all for the rest of the year.

Make and implement a plan: This year the plan may be to cut back holiday spending to your available cash supplies or maybe to obtain a seasonal job to pay for the holidays. This is a great time to devise a strategy for next year. Add what you would like to spend for Christmas, birthdays, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, anniversaries, etc. onto one lump sum then divide that number by 12 to arrive at the amount you need to save every month. You may be pleasantly surprised with how much further that money will go when you have the funds available throughout the year to take advantage of sales when they become available.

These are just a few ideas to help you develop your own family’s holiday spending plan. If you have any questions or need help creating a family budget please feel free to call the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation at 405-878-4697 to arrange a free appointment with one of the CPCDC’s three certified credit counselors. If you are not in Oklahoma, we can still help via a telephone appointment. Learn more at www.cpcdc.org.
FireLodge Tribal Youth update: December 2016

By Darin Greene, FireLodge Youth Coordinator

December has come in like a bear, a baby bear. With the cold weather arriving here, its indoor season at the PLACE.

The Get Native Program started and we are beginning the 10-week Next Generation Program. This is a youth leadership program will build leadership skills applicable to school, family and community.

In December the youth will learn the foundations for a balanced life. The instructions will include developing the power of positive thinking, Native youth wellness and teach about the warrior shield. The youth will learn how to properly recognize and honor their ancestors and themselves. Part of this instruction will be to convey that - and many of our older readers will know this - is that life is a journey.

Our cultural heritage staff will also teach traditional values of Native youth. After this the youth will make a “My Values” poster to put down on paper their thoughts and ideas to reflect on them later.

While looking forward, we’ll also reflect on the past by teaching the youth about the about the impact of historical trauma on the lives of Native American people, its effects on attempts to build a successful life and ways to heal from its impact.

Our December program of events will also involve an IQ test, developing self-respect and self-confidence and using conflict resolution techniques. Amanda Champin from the CPN House of Hope will be leading these activities in a 4-week program.

The Get Smart Program will involve those FireLodge participants interested in post-secondary education opportunities the chance to visit several of our state’s colleges. We’ll also continue to offer ACT pre-tests and working with students in the after school homework program.

In the Get Fit Program, we’re beginning a new fitness program that will run until February, and we’ll also be taking trips to Warren Theater in Moore, the Bricktown Snow Slide and Freddie’s Frozen Custard.
Bertrand family descendant Brandon Savory sails the world

More than 32,000 Citizen Potawatomi live in counties around the world, each leaving their own unique footprint. One such individual, Brandon Savory, is nearing his second year in such a journey as he sails around the world with two friends and a "cat-sized dog" on a vessel named Cool Change. The Hownikan caught up with Savory as he was nearing the Amazon River in South America to discuss where he’s from, when he’s been and why he decided to pursue this journey.

Tell us a bit about yourself in terms of where your hometown is and what you did before hopping on the Cool Change.

“I am a 35-year old Oklahoman boy born in OKC, but just months after my birth, my mother, father, sister and I took to the road. We moved to the Pacific Northwest, then the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee and beyond. My mother and father went their own ways in my early years. Mom kept to her drifting ways, moving from town to town and my dad settled deep in woods of Missouri on a 2,000 acre plot of wooded land. This was where I learned to live in the arms of Mother Nature and my father showed me the ways of his Potawatomi spirit. We spent years on end roaming the hills, hunting, trapping and fishing. I wasn’t sure how these skills would become relevant to my life but I knew I felt free as a bird in that timber.

“When I was 16, I took the opportunity to try my hand in Hollywood, packed my bag and headed west on a Greyhound bus to Studio City. I found work in the silverscreen. In my down time from auditions and acting classes I fell in love with photography. My focus shifted from being in front of the camera to the magic made behind the lens. I was completely head over heels in love with filmmaking.

“College wasn’t really for me. In my mind I believed that I could learn more just by making films with my team rather than sitting in a classroom learning from a professor. We hit the ground running making motorcycle films in 2002 and traveled the world for eight years with our passion for filmmaking guiding the way. It was bliss and I thought this was it for me.

“As we all know, nothing is forever and our band of brothers all went our own ways and the saga came to an end when I was 25. At this time my sister had begun breaking into the production of commercials in Hollywood. When I was ready to branch out of my motorcycle world she welcomed me into the commercial world there in Los Angeles as a camera operator. I quickly consumed my life.

“Living in California I spent countless days in the ocean and soon developed a love affair with the sea and the wanderlust experiences it gave. It reconnected me with Mother Nature and reminded the fire that lit my life up when I was a kid in the timber. My free time now was spent in the cool waters of the Pacific spearfishing, surfing and just exploring the sea floor by diving. I would stand at the shore’s edge and look out to that endless blue horizon just wondering. I again felt an overwhelming force that beckoned me further. It came in the form of an all-white ship on the horizon. I always looked at the early sailors as the original adventurers. So there was only one thing left to do.”

Did you have training on a sailboat before this?

“I bought my first sailboat in February of 2009 and spent the next seven years sailing the coast of southern California with my dog, lovely girlfriend and my water loving mates. I spent those years learning the craft from a 75-year old man named Captain Bob. He has taught me almost everything he has learned from his 50 years of crossing oceans in sailing vessels. He’s my mentor in many aspects of life now.”

What makes a guy decide to hop on a 44-foot sloop with two other friends and a cat-sized dog?

“A hunger for life and liberty. In January 2015, I stepped foot on a 1984, 44-foot cutter rig sloop in Fort Lauderdale, Florida named Cool Change. She was perfect for the voyage that lay ahead but was way out of my budget at the time. The owner Gary and I sat around the boat for three hours as I listened to his stories of the places he’s seen with his old sailboat. I was in love with her.

“I flew back to California and before I knew it, a year and a half had passed since I looked at Cool Change. I would send an email to Gary every few months with a sharper focus in my life, so I set off for the next several months with a sharper focus on making films with my team rather than sitting in a class room learning from a professor. We hit the ground running making motorcycle films in 2002 and traveled the world for eight years with our passion for filmmaking guiding the way. It was bliss and I thought this was it for me.”

How can three young guys afford a trip like this?

“I slept on the boat the night I bought it and my mind raced with the thoughts of all the places and experiences Cool Change and I would have together in the years to come. I woke up the next morning knowing that there was a huge shift happening in my life, so I set off for the next several months with a sharper focus and a real drive for embarkment. I flew back to the west coast and started selling, packing and diminishing my life as I knew it. My entire world changed in a matter of months. The car, the girlfriend, the household and all the clutter that we called ‘life’ all vanished. I was now a man with no ties and a footloose feeling of something pushing me onward in that magnetic direction. The one thing from my old life that I wasn’t going to just chuck up was my best mate Peanut. At this time he was only a year and change, but was a barn sailer.

“With me throughout the seven years of dreaming this adventure was my mate Scott. He loved sailing with the same fire as me. My next call was to a friend through filmmaking, Andrew Tompko. We had worked together in Russia and Australia a few years back and had the same drive and passion for adventure filmmaking. Andrew is one of the most talented filmmakers I have ever had the pleasure to work with.

“We spent the next eight months living and working on Cool Change day and night to outfit her for this voyage to achieve this goal. It all came through hard work and saving our pennies, but without the kind hearts and guidance from all the amazing people in our lives we would still be tied to that dock.

“It’s not about how much money you have in your pocket but more about the amount of passion you have for something in life. I believe if you work hard enough and stay focused on what you want your life to be, you will make it happen.”

Brandon in a small Suramerician village in Suriname.

Brandon in a small Suramerician village in Suriname.
House of Hope readies for opening of domestic violence shelter

Despite the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, domestic violence continues to plague tribal people across the U.S.

A May 2016 report from the U.S. Department of Justice reported startling numbers: 84 percent of Native American and Alaskan Native women have experienced violence, while another 46 have experienced sexual violence. Of the more than 2,000 Native women surveyed in the report, 90 percent experienced violence at the hands of non-tribal members, who are notoriously hard to prosecute in tribal court systems due to jurisdictional issues.

In Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s domestic violence prevention program, the House of Hope, is one of several area organizations specifically dedicated to ending this scourge. For years its small staff has worked to get women and their families out of abusive situations.

In 2015 alone, the House of Hope recorded an 80 percent increase in victims served compared to previous years.

CPN House of Hope Director Tiffany Barrett explained that the rise may not simply be attributable to more instances of domestic violence occurring, but may rather be a result of increasing awareness in the community about the tribal program.

“In the past years we have been fortunate in funding to advertise on billboards, movie theaters and radio,” noted Barrett. “We also work a great deal with fellow agencies in the community, so we get a lot of referrals, especially when they run out of money.”

Barrett also attributes the program’s increase in victims served to its other community engagement efforts, from throwing t-shirts with the House of Hope name on them at local high school football games to its staff’s attendance at job fairs and other community gatherings. Staff members also work closely with social support and law enforcement agencies in the tribal jurisdiction, including the CPN’s FireLodge Tribal Youth Program, CPN WIC, the Tecumseh Police Department and the Pottawatomie County Sheriff’s Department.

This increase in “clients,” the term used by HOH staff, compounded with the State of Oklahoma’s limited investment in its own emergency shelters, resulted in the program’s investment in its own emergency shelter through the utilization of grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice.

“It was always a goal of mine to open a shelter for the tribe. Opening ours will help take some burden off Protect Safe in Shawnee as well. Until now they have been the only refuge for women in this area,” said Barrett. Victim advocates like Barrett, who operate in some of the most trying circumstances imaginable, have long discussed the possibility of their program running its own emergency shelter.

“It is an endeavor we do not take lightly and we are working hard to make sure it is one of the best shelters. We want to make the community, as well as the leadership and members of Citizen Potawatomi Nation, proud.”

As the shelter’s completion nears, the anxiety that many HOH staff members feel when they’re unable to place these victims in a shelter is reassuring. The lack of emergency shelters in central Oklahoma results in programs like the House of Hope having to find funding to place victims in local hotels, but the costs of those stays can quickly add up.

“There have been many instances we could not put someone in shelter,” recalled Barrett. “More times than not, shelters are full in the metro area and most women, although fleeing, do not want to be more uprooted than they already are. This is especially true if they have children with them.”

The new shelter run by her program, though serving a limited number of families, hopes to provide a transition point for those seeking to escape.

While the shelter will only serve women and children, Barrett is adamant that men also experiencing domestic violence are not out of the norm. She encourages anyone who finds themselves in such a situation to reach out to the tribal program regardless of sex or ethnicity, as her staff can find resources or partners who can help.

“The main point we drive home is our door is open to all victims of domestic violence. If you reach out, we will help you in the best way we can.”

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation House of Hope Program can be reached by phone at 405-275-5176 or by visiting http://cpn.news/cpnhoh.

Symbolism behind CPN tribal seal more than a casual decoration

Many Americans are familiar with the symbolism of the American flag, the thirteen red and white stripes standing for the original 13 colonies and the white stars on a field of blue symbolizing the 50 states in the union. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s seal has its own particular symbolism, with each piece standing for a significant piece of Potawatomi heritage and history.

Originally the Potawatomi were part of a larger group of tribal nations including the Chippewa and Ottawa, sometimes referred to as Odawa. Upon their moves out of Canada to the shores of the Great Lakes, these three people formed separate tribal nations. The Chippewa went west to Lake Superior, the Ottawa eastwards to Lake Huron and the Potawatomi moved south to the shores of Lake Michigan. Despite the diversions, the Potawatomi kept their original role of protectors of the “council fire” of the three nations, resulting in their status as “Keepers of the Fire.”

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation are so called because after being removed to Kansas by the U.S., they elected to take the United States government’s offer of citizenship and allotments in Indian Territory, or modern day Oklahoma.

Despite these removals and dual citizenship, the Potawatomi kept their traditions alive as Keepers of the Fire, a facet of their existence most evident in the CPN Tribal Seal.

The outer band of the seal is a circle signifying the sacred circle of life.

The colors of the tribal seal are white, yellow, red and black representing the four sacred directions and the four races of mankind.

The words across the top of the outer band give the name of the tribe, the Chipewa and Potawatomi of the Great Lakes.

Described as “Nishnabe” is the singular form of the Potawatomi word for “person,” usually translated as “Indian.”
The CPN Department of Education received its first grant from the Of- fice of Indian Education this fall. The Native Youth Community Project Competition is a highly competitive grant-writing process focused on college and career readiness for middle and high school students. Employees in the departments of education and self-governance put together a project called the Whi- tawaun College and Career Readi- ness Program, which won more than $650,000 over four years to help pre- pare youth in Pottawatomie County for future careers and educational opportunities.

“We whitawaun means he or she pre- pares in Potawatomi. With this grant, we want students to feel prepared for whatever path they choose after high school,” CPN Department of Edu- cation Director Tesia Zientek said. “We want to encourage students to evaluate their own strengths and pas- sions to arrive at a postsecondary path that is right for them, and we will promote this mindset throughout career exploration, college visits and consistent mentorship from a culturally-relevant perspective.”

The project will focus on four public school districts in south Pottawato- mie County, including Maud, Wa- nette, Asher and Macomb. These schools were chosen because they have large Native American student populations and a severe lack of funding. The school districts only have part-time counselors or none at all. For most middle and high schools, the counseling department is typically tasked with preparing students for college and career.

“We performed a needs assessment based on interviews and data from the local community, county, state and nation. Through this analysis, we noticed a startling trend; stu- dents in this region were attending college but were not completing it within four years,” Zientek said. “We surmised that this showed a lack of preparation for what comes after high school. We ultimately selected these four schools because with the severe Oklahoma budget cuts we discovered that there was a gap in college and career readiness that we could provide resources to fill.”

To fill this gap in resources, college advisors at CPN will take students from grades eight to 11 on college visits, bring in advisors from a vari- ety of colleges to assist those apply- ing to colleges or picking out courses, and buy packages through ACT for age-appropriate practice tests.

“We are excited about implement- ing this tool to change the culture at Maud and expose our students to col- lege and career readiness,” said Maud Principal Darrell Reid. “We’ve had successful programs that have only reached a portion of our students in the past, but we are thrilled that this program will reach all of our students and that advisors will be here weekly to work with our students.”

The need assessment also found that some schools district are technology starved. To combat this, the funding will also provide department of ed- ucation employees with 15 laptops, which will serve as a portable com- puter lab so students will have access to relevant digital resources and soft- ware. This also allows more flexibil- ity for the college advisors, as they will not take away valuable com- puter time from other classes during school hours.

CPN already has two college and career advisors, Joshua Bullock and Channing Seikel, but the grant will allow another advisor to be hired in the third year of the program.

“I am most excited about the opportu- nity to get out in the community and meet students,” Seikel said. “This is going to be a wonderful program for students who do not have the re- sources for college and career readi- ness at their schools. I am thrilled to be able to be part of something like this for south Pottawatomie County students, schools and parents.”

One of the more significant chang- es is hole number 12, where the trees and foliage that sat direct- ly south of the tee box have been completely cut back.

“Our maintenance department cut that back to allow the back nine holes to receive more air flow. This should help with our growing and hole maintenance on holes 12-15.”

The course will also have one timelapse addition when golfers tee off in 2017; a new clock donated by the Grand Casino Hotel Resort.

Chesser said that, weather per- mitting, the back nine holes may be ready to play by CPN’s annual Family Reunion Festival in June 2017. The front nine, whose ren- ovation began a few months after the back nine, should be open in late summer.

“It’s been a long process, and we know we have a lot of people ask- ing about re-opening. We want to get it right the first time, have good grass down and a playable course from the get go. Until then, we en- courage those wanting to see some of the progress to visit our pro- shop and new clubhouse.”

During the summer months, a men- torship program will be created, training students to be mentors for younger students to keep the pro- gram going and create a readiness culture in south Pottawatomie Coun- ty that lasts long after the short-term grant is finished.

“I think the program will help young adults by encouraging them to think about their future in a way that is beneficial and values who they are,” Bullock said. “In other words, stu- dents in this program should be able to envision themselves on a college campus working toward the goals and dreams they want to accom- plish.”

To learn more about how the CPN Department of Education can assist you or your child, please contact them at college@potawatomie.org.
Tribal Chairman - John “Rocky” Barrett

Hello,

I would like to start off by wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Second off, as you may no-
tice on page 9 of this paper, we have a new batch of high school and college graduates upgrade its Internet infrastructure. Trib-

al employees worked for months to get the schools’ new wireless Internet net-
work up and running, includ-
ing completing the high school pur-
chased by the school through a grant program for student use. Wanette Schools, which live outside our tribal his-
torial jurisdiction, has a Native American student population of 47 percent and many ties to the community, including employment or membership. Wanette is a small and rela-
tively poor community that has been helpful to regain its former self-sustaining status.

On Super Bowl Sunday, FireLake Arena “made the big time” in national televisi-

cation coverage when it hosted the 2016 Bowlers Association Tour-

nament of Champions. The event, which aired prior on ESPN Sunday Night on a recently acquired one million viewers, was the highest rated ESPN live broadcast of the 2015-16 season. The final capped off a week of qualifying tour-

nament hosted right across the parking lot at FireLake Bowling Center, while sev-

eral longtime bowlers were inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame at a ceremony at the Grand Casino Hotel Resort.

April 2016 marked the third year since the release of Wadasé Zhabwé, the Amer-

ican bald eagle rehabilitated by the CPN Eagle Program in 2013. Initially discovered with a wing injury in the wild, Wadasé was rehabilitated and eventually allowed to live in a partnership between CPN, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Raptor Research Foundation and Spain: The Comanche Nation Ethno-Omnithological Initia-
tive.

May was a happy time at CPN, with the first class of Citizen Potawatomi gradu-

ates walking across the stage at St. Gregory’s University through the use of scholar-

ship funds paid for by the tribe. Megan Malouf, Ginger Johnson, TaTrena Reece and Stacy Bennett were the first graduates to use the five mil-

lion CPN-SGU scholarship program signed in August 2015.

As it always does, the annual Family Reunion Festival fell on the last weekend of June with approximately 2,000 members in attendance. We had a wonderful time with many new and familiar faces seen around the tribe’s FireLake complex. In elec-

tion news, attorney Jennifer Lamirand was sworn in as the final member of the CPN Supreme Court, setting a precedent never achieved by the tribe’s highest judicial branch. With Justice Lami-

rand’s swearing in, the court was comprised entirely of Citizen Potawatomi Nation judges for the first time in its history.

In tribal legislative news, District 9’s Paul Wessel-
höff and District 12’s Paul Schmidikofer were re-elect-
ed to four year terms after facing no opposition.

Just one month later CPN hosted fellow Potawatomi tribes and first nations for the July 2016 Gathering of Potawatomi Nations. For four days, approxi-

mately 3,000 tribal mem-

bers from the Prairie Band Potawatomi, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Match-E-

Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians, Notta-
wasooop Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Forest County Potawatomi, Winnebago-

ville Indian Community, Walpole Island First Nation and the Wasauksing First Nation at-
tended events taking place at the CPN’s FireLake com-

plex.

The Journal Record news-
paper recognized Citizen Potawatomi Nation as one of Oklahoma’s most charitable organizations at its August 2016 Beacon Awards. With more than 2,400 employees in its commercial enterpris-
es and tribal government programs, we are the largest employer in Pottawatomie County. Many of our em-

ployees live and work in the communities near the trib-
al jurisdiction, meaning the presence of charitable ser-

vices and civic engagement directly affects our families, friends and neighbors. For the most recent fiscal year, Citizen Potawatomi Nation donated more than $29 mil-

lion to the local community.

Donations from CPN trib-

al car tag sales to Oklaho-

ma schools were more than $273,000 in this same peri-

od. Through the tribal rolls department, more than $5 million in scholarships were awarded.

The tribe’s impressive eco-

nomic impact stood out again this year. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation had a $513 million impact in Okla-

homa during 2015 and di-

rectly supported 2,245 jobs and paid $82 million in wag-
es and benefits. We indirect-

ly supported thousands more jobs and boosted local econ-

omy by making purchases of more than $193 million.

One of the bigger events in the state’s Indian Country communities involved two Citizen Potawatomi tribal members in November. The AARP Indian Elders ban-
quet recognized Hownikan founder Beverly Hughes and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps for their service to their tribe and Native Americans across the Oklahoma.

Be sure to keep our old Potawatomi tradition of tell-
ing family stories during the gatherings of Thanksgiving and Christmas. These stories are the most precious gift that that tribe can give. They are the basis for our tribal culture. We are all related to each other, and the stories passed from genera-
tion to generation are what bind us together as a tribe and family. Keep these sto-

ries close to heart throughout the holidays as you spend time with your loved ones. Our tribe is a force for pos-

tive change – both for our members and neighbors – and we will continue to do so in 2017.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your tribal chair-

man.

Migwetch,

John “Rocky” Barrett

Keweoge, leader and member of our tribe.

Tribal Chairman
We have all read news articles about the DAPL, or Dakota Access Pipeline, and their intent to run two oil pipelines under the Missouri River. The town’s people there protested, fearing the pipe lines would leak and contaminate the drinking water. The river also supplies drinking water for millions of people downstream.

Breakneck speed and pacing oneself: We write our columns a month out from their publication in print. It’s crazy to consider what will have occurred between November 6, today, and the time I am writing this, and the beginning of December, in particular that the presidential election will have been decided at long last. By the time you read this in print, moreover, the 2016 Districts 1 and 2 Fall Feast (with the help of the gracious and talented Leslie Deer, teaching traditional Potawatomi applique design) will have taken place – we are expecting close to 60 attendees. And not only will countless turkeys have been stuffed, roasted, carved, and devoured on Thanksgiving Day, but we will have celebrated Native American Heritage Day the day after Thanksgiving and put a serious dent in holiday gift lists, hopefully. In the past I’ve felt that the last part of the calendar year speeds by, but this year in particular the speed seems to be breakneck. I hope everyone will pace themselves and do their best to stay physically and mentally healthy at what can be a stressful time.

Meeting up at the NMAI Holiday Art Market: After all November’s activity, I hope that, early in December, I will be able to meet up with a few Potawatomi at the National Museum of the American Indian Holiday Art Market, held December 3-4, 2016 at the NMAI on the National Mall in Washington D.C. Citizen Potawatomi artist Paulette Melot, who makes exquisite pots in clay and bronze, will be there, as will Pokagon Potawatomi Jamie Brown and Jennie Brown, who weave traditional black ash baskets. Detailed information about the market in D.C., and about the market also taking place in Omaha the weekend at the American Indian Museum in Manhattan, is at http://nmai.si.edu/artmarket. Attending the Art Market is a terrific way to speak to Native artists about their work and traditions. Please send me a note if you are thinking of attending and let’s see if we can visit some of the artists and perhaps have coffee together.

Language resources available: Over Christmas break, if your children or grandchildren are getting restless or bored, you might consider introducing them to the Potawatomi language materials for children that are available at https://www.potawatomi.org/lang/cwres. They’re fun and games – including some Tetris-like games – that seem to be a fun way to acquire Potawatomi language skills. I have gotten good feedback on the children’s resources, as well as on the adult online, self-paced language course, which is housed at the Archives of the NMAI, the Archives of the NMAI, or https://www.potawatomi.org/lang. As our excellent CPN Language Department tells us, “[our] language is a living breathing entity and can only continue to be such as long as we speak and use our language.”

Updated calendar on my website: I recently was asked for the District 2 schedule for 2017. I’ve updated my website calendar with the most current information I have, including dates for the 2017 Family Festival, the list of honored families for 2017 (Bourassa, Burnett, Melot, Navarre, Peltier), and the time frame and location for the Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations. Please note that I am still planning to visit Arkansas and Florida next year, and still hoping for some help with information on a good venue (church hall, private room at a local restaurant, etc.) so please help me if you can. You can visit my website at any time at www.evamariecarney.com/calendar.php for the most current information.

RSVPs for the NMAI Archives Tour in February: There are just 10 slots for the next scheduled visit to the Archives of the NMAI, housed at the NMAI Cultural Resources Center, 4220 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746. The tour goes from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 or 4 p.m. The plan will be to have lunch before at Sweet Dee’s (a small lunch spot in the Resource Center Complex), starting at 12:30 p.m. (lunch will be my treat). I’m excited to introduce you to view Potawatomi beadwork, weavings, household goods and more. Please let me know if you are interested in participating.

Winter Stories: Please accept my best wishes for the winter holidays to you and your families. If you did not receive a hard copy of the Winter Stories booklet I put together last year and would like one, please send me a note with your full mailing address so that I can mail you a copy. Alternatively, I can send you an electronic copy if that would better suit you. Because it includes some of our traditional stories that are told only in the winter time, this is a short-term offer!

Thank you for the honor of representing you. Please continue to share your thoughts with me and to contact me for any assistance you might need.

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe
Legislator, District #2
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
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P.O. Box 7307
Arlington, VA 22207
evamariecarney.com
Toll Free: 866-961-6988
envmariecarney.com

JOIN US FOR A DISTRICT 2 MEETING

to learn CPN information, visit with fellow Potawatomi, and enjoy coffee, desserts, and all day breakfast!

On arrival, please ask for the private meeting space reserved by CPN Rep. Eva Marie Carney

JAN. 15TH, 2017
2 TO 4 PM
Perkins Bakery & Restaurant
1502 Cape Coral Parkway
Cape Coral, FL 33904

Please RSVP with the names of attendees and their ages (if under 14) to ecarney@potawatomi.org or toll free at 866-961-6988.

Can’t wait to see old friends and meet new ones!
In last month’s column, District 5 Legislator Gene Lambert and I both mentioned that we would host a joint meeting in Lubbock on November 5. Lubbock was a central city on the early cattle drives from south Texas in the 1800s to the buyers in the north each year. Basel upon this history, Texas Tech University created the National Ranching Heritage Center on their campus very close to their football stadium. We held our meeting there in the Anderson room with a very nice attendance. Gene secured a copy of the presentation the chairman used at general council at this year’s Family Festival which was shown. She also went around the room and gave out gift cards and held a drawing to give those away. There were several very happy winners.

We mentioned that Gene and I represented the Nation in Phoenix in late October at the National Congress of American Indians. At the congress, we met an attorney who will represent veterans in Shawnee. He may include that information in his column. We mentioned that Gene and I represented the Nation in Dallas, Chicago, New York City, or Los Angeles, yet Houston does not have an HIS clinic or facility for these Native Americans, yet those cities do. I stated that the federal government needs to make Houston the next city to receive any new HIS facility to be built.

Given that our weather this time of year can change dramatically and the National Ranching Heritage Center had many outdoor exhibits, the decision was made to have a craft program ready to use should we have a rainy day. Just after lunch we opted to have a beading choker class even though the weather was holding off a real rain. Several of our attendees were able to master this craft and had a completed choker in about 45 minutes. We saw many wearing their new chokers as they left our meeting as well as selfies being taken.

Photos of the wisest, youngest, furthest travelled and some beading shots are being submitted for publication. Since several districts held meetings this same weekend, the Hownikan may not be able to show all that were sent in with our columns.

Between now and January 11, applications to run for chairman or to be a representative for districts 1, 2, 3 or 4 need to be submitted to the election board along with the appropriate fee. I will be submitting an application to be a candidate for another four year term. The position at times may look like it can be challenging. However, I find being your elected representative extremely rewarding. I am grateful each time I have been able to help an individual or bring something new and beneficial to the Nation.

In conversation with Gene, we both mentioned that we each have constituents that are either gravely ill or who have recently walked on. Richard Mabry in our district was diagnosed with ALS in July and I had the opportunity to visit him en route to our Lubbock meeting. Please keep him and all of the others in your prayers.

In closing this month I wish to emphasize a comment that I made at our meeting on November 5, that you should be proud that you are a Native American!
District 4 - Jon Boursaw

Holiday greetings: Peggy and I would like to sincerely wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that your holiday season is safe and only filled with joy and happiness. 2016 has been a very active and rewarding year for me and I look forward to 2017 with great anticipation and enthusiasm as I continue to foster the awareness of the history and presence of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Kansas and my endeavors to connect with and serve CPN members across the state. This coming year is also important to me as I have announced that I will seek re-election in 2017.

Potawatomi Trail of Death Signs in Johnson County: I have been informed that new signs marking the route of the Potawatomi Trail of Death through Johnson County, Kansas have been installed. Several months ago I had the opportunity to accompany the director of parks and recreation for Johnson County as we attempted to identify the most practical route our tribal ancestors may have traveled in the fall of 1838. This was not easy considering all of the housing developments found in Johnson County today. The route travels west from approximately 121st and State Line following the Santa Fe Trail until arrives at Morse near 155th and Quivira, where it turns south towards Heritage Park where there is a Trial of Death plaque. It then follows county and city roads from that point south through Springhill and then on to the county line.

CPN Member makes it to the NBA: CPN member Ron Baker, previously a star at Wichita State, is now a member of the New York Knicks in the NBA. We wish Ron all the best in his professional career. I've never really followed the Knicks before, but I guess I will now. Ron is from Scott City, Kansas and a descendant of the Navarre family.

Kansas Historical Foundation: On November 4 I had the honor of becoming a member of the Kansas Historical Foundation Board of Directors, which is the non-government organization affiliated with the Kansas State Historical Society and Museum. I look forward to representing the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and all Native Americans in Kansas in this role. At that meeting we were asked when and how our families came to Kansas. Several told about their family arriving by covered wagon, horseback, the railroad, and more recently bus, car or plane. The board members present were somewhat taken back when I announced that my family has been in Kansas for 178 years and it was by an all expenses paid trip made possible by President Andrew Jackson, and we walked into Kansas.

Finally, it has been a pleasure to serve as your legislative representative this past year and I am looking forward to the coming year with enthusiasm.

Migwetch.

Jon Boursaw, Wotase Mkh CPN District 4 Rep.
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2007 SW Gage Blvd
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Office Hours:
Tuesday 9-11 a.m.
Thursday 4-5 p.m.
Other times - Please call

District 5 - Gene Lambert

Becho Nikanek,

Another busy year went by in a flash. It’s like watching a movie in your mind as we look forward to the Christmas holiday remembering those of the past. There are aspects of seeing family and friends, special sharing and gift giving, depending on how you were brought up, and the traditions that have been passed on for generations.

We were young and excited about a visit from Santa Clause as I recall. Then there was the reminder of what Christmas was all about. The spiritual side was as heart-warming then as it is today when we realize the stories of what took place on Christmas Day. It was the birth of a baby Jesus.

How exciting having your first baby (or second and third) was. Can you just imagine for a moment how honored, emotional and overwhelmed the parents Mary and Joseph were at the idea of being given such a gifted baby? Then to realize they would have to let this child be given to the world.

While in Lubbock, Texas in November I saw an older man holding a newborn in his arms. Of course I could not resist the temptation of charging over to see the brand new baby.

He was in his 50s and just had his first child. He shared his story to a stranger (me) with tears in his eyes as he never dreamed he would ever become a father. As he looked down at this wonderful gift he could feel the love from where I stood. The baby girl had to know she had a loving father. He gave her his grandmother’s name.

This means we have a loving father.

By the grace of God, your beginning may be humble but you decide your future. You were given the gift to choose at birth.

Thank you all for allowing me to share and be a small part of your lives as Citizen Potawatomi. Be strong, be brave, and above all be proud of who you are.

Please let me hear from you.

Have the very best of holidays.

Gene Lambert
euniceelambert@gmail.com
480-228-6569

Furthest travelled at Garden City, Mary Amos.

Alex Ortiz, youngest at the Garden City meeting.

Wanda Smith, wisest in attendance at Garden City.

Jim Coder, wisest attendee at the Rossville meeting.
I hope you had a great Thanksgiving holiday and had an opportunity to celebrate Native American Heritage Month in some fashion or another. November was the month that became the “End of the Trail” so to speak for those ancestors that made the arduous journey from their homeland to Kansas. Not exactly something to be celebrated but certainly worthy of remembrance and respect.

Representative Mark Johnson and I had our Potawatomi Heritage Festival in early November and since the deadline for this column was the day after the event I will be writing about it in January. There is simply too much to share. Therefore, additional time to gather thoughts, information and pictures is needed. I do want to thank all those that attended for making the event special. I woke up Monday morning physically exhausted, but the wheels in my head were running wild with ideas for next year. Now that we have the first one under our belt, we believe we can make next year’s Festival even more enjoyable for everyone of all ages. I will say that children love the outdoors and leave it at that. Parents, you know what I’m talking about!

This is the year that was. When I start to think that there is no way this year is nearly gone, I look back at all of the events, all of the accomplishments, all of the beginnings, all of the endings and everything in between, I soon realize that there just isn’t much room for anything else in this block of time. So it is; a new year about to dawn. I’m thankful for the many blessings in my life over the last year. I wouldn’t change a thing. My cup is full. I am honored to serve as your Representative, and, of all the things I do, serving our great nation is one of my greatest sources of fulfillment.

We are entering the winter season and I would encourage you to stay warm by holding your loved ones near. Find forgiveness, be bold and generous with time, help someone less fortunate than yourself and seek wisdom for there you will find warmth, happiness and joy. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. Again, I consider it a privilege and an honor to serve as your Representative. Thank you for your support and encouragement. What a blessing you all are!

Igwien. (heartfelt thank you)

Wisdom from the Word: “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 2 Corinthians 9:6

Bama pi,
Rande K. Payne
Mneda Gabo
Legislator District 6
31350 Road 180
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Franchise Mexican eateries, like Azteca.

Jerry’s true passion and interests were all things Potawatomi, and he made a point to attend every meeting and was especially interested in any crafts of physical projects that were being made. He jumped into making hand fans, and took great pride in decorating them with unique painted designs. Jerry built a great collapsible wooden stand for the “big drum” for the district with little direction and just a few measurements. Jerry was a business man, and worked in the restaurant supply business for a number of years. I seem to remember that his primary clients were

Displayed at the celebration of his life, recognized by his Potawatomi name, Ogema Kseo.

Jerry was cremated and his ashes will eventually be sent to the Nation, where a niche wall structure will be created to be a final resting place for many Potawatomi. The chairman and vice-chairmen have been planning this project for some time, and I believe it will be ready sometime in 2017. Jerry’s daughter contacted me, looking for information on Chief Ogama’s headress. This was a project that Jerry had talked about his desire to recreate it. Asking the folks at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center was a quick way to get information, thought to be lost. Mr Blake Norton of the CHC wrote:

“I believe the headman Ms. Whitehead is looking for is Misengomogaw [To float or rest like a fish], abbreviated Gomo. He was also known by the probable nickname Matchiwokama [Big Chief]. This may be the source of the Chief Ogama reference. He was a headman among the Muskodan or Illinois Potawatomi. Phonetic and abbreviated misspellings have led people to mispronounce his name. Records in our collection indicate that Gomo is an ancestor to John Whitehead. Unfortunately, no images of Gomo exist. Will more information about this headress come to light in the future?”

Please have a blessed Christmas and a safe New Years’ celebration.

Migwether,
Dave Carney/Kaganqghi
dcarney@potawatomi.org
360-259-4027

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DECEMBER 2016

HOÎNİKAN
My son has grown up in a hunting household and knows the responsibility of feeding the family with meat for another year. He knows how to process a deer and the grueling work of cutting up the meat for grinding. We mix our deer meat with seasoned wild hog meat and freeze it into small dinner size portions.

Loving on a ranch teeming with wildlife, our family has purchased lifetime hunting licenses from the State of Oklahoma. There are many other options here in the state. If you live in Oklahoma and are over 65, the state offers a lifetime hunting and fishing license less than what we paid. For people 18-64, the state offers a combination (hunting and fishing) five year license for $148. Of course, all Oklahoma hunting and fishing regulations have to be followed as to limits and methods. An annual deer hunting license is $25 and required in Oklahoma, unless exempt. Each buck and doe tag is about $20 if you are over 18 and $10 if younger. Wild hogs and coyotes are open season on private land. Visit the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for more information at https://wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/.

In talking with fellow legislator David Barrett and our tribal attorney, Greg Quinn about our tribe issuing hunting and fishing permits here in Oklahoma, let me say enthusiasm is high. If we find ourselves in a better relationship with the state governor next year, I would propose legislation to formulate a CPN Parks and Recreation Department that can issue tribal members annual hunting and fishing permits, much like the Cherokee Nation does for its members.

We would have to sign a hunting and fishing compact with the State of Oklahoma to get this done. Timing is everything and because we are in litigation with Governor Fallin, chances of compacting may be slim.

The Menominee Tribe of Indians v. United States Supreme Court decision established that the hunting and fishing rights of federally recognized Indian tribes differ and must be weighed against treaty history and negotiated on a government-to-government basis. Therefore, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has the legal grounds to assert its hunting and fishing rights in Oklahoma and pursue a compact with the State of Oklahoma. We would need to adopt the necessary ordinances and internal capacity to administer a program of this nature, if our tribal legislature is in agreement.

As a sovereign government in Oklahoma, it is in our best interest to see the state’s natural resources effectively managed as the fish and animals are our shared resources. Many of us recognize the importance of wildlife conservation and protection. It is also important, to me, that our youth learn the skills to provide food for their families and build their self-worth and confidence. For my son, who is 13, he knows he has literally been putting food on our table for years. He enjoys hunting, but don’t ask him if he likes weeding the garden or feeding the chickens, cattle, or crops for canning. Other than eating them, he would probably choose to never snap another green bean in his lifetime.

What I propose is that our legislature consider research to formulate a bill that would result in a hunting and fishing compact with the State of Oklahoma. Create a parks and recreation department, adopt the appropriate ordinance, and be on the way to issuing our Oklahoma members annual hunting and fishing licenses beginning in 2017.

Our tribe would assume the administrative cost and responsibility of issuing tribal-state dual jurisdiction licenses on behalf of both governments through a state compact using the Oklahoma existing internet point of sale system. Our Nation would then receive a reduced annual amount owed to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, according to provisions of our compact, for each license it issues to our members.

Like the Cherokee Nation Compact, a cluster of annual combination license and tags would be purchased from the state at a reduced amount and then offered to our members on a first-come first-serve basis at no cost to them. The Cherokee is assessed $2 per license rather than the $25 fee for non-members. The Cherokee Nation also has a compact provision where each person under 16 is allowed one deer and one turkey tag without a fee paid to the state.

Our tribe would have to provide identifiable personal information for each license it issues such as date of birth, address and proof of hunter safety training or acknowledgment that hunting with an experience hunter such as a parent or grandparent if under 18. Tribal members who are gifted annual combination (hunting and fishing) licenses would have to follow state regulatory requirements on season, limits, and method. With an annual license, each member would also receive one deer and one free turkey tag at no cost.

In closing, I wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season. Oh, and one last thing, share that last piece of pumpkin pie with someone you love.

Disclaimer: I want to apologize to those of you who will be offended by the hunting images. Hunting is a way of life for my family. I must admit; I was a card-carrying PETA member for the 12 years I was a vegetarian. As in my youth, I continue to stand for the liberation of wild animals forced to perform in circuses and the rights to humane treatment of animals in factory farms. I also protest the wide scale slaughter of sharks and whales in International waters and puppy mills that churn out millions of unwanted dogs who end up dead, neglected and abused. What I can attest to here in Oklahoma, is that coyotes hunt in packs and eat our calves in the winter, the deer that is pictured was suffering from neck wounds that looked to be a run in with a pack of abandoned dogs (which are turned out in the country to fend for themselves — 4 of my 7 dogs came to my farm on death’s door), and the wild hogs tear up our crops, wheat fields and eat the fawn. They also eat countless quail and other birds that nest on the ground.
WALKING ON

Gwendolyn P. Bettig

Gwendolyn (Gwen) P. Bettig (née Lewis), age 78, of Bolingbrook, Illinois, passed away at MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn on Oct. 17, 2016.

Gwen was born on Aug. 3, 1938 in Chicago, Illinois.

Gwen married the love of her life, Donald H. Bettig in 1964. They settled down in Bolingbrook to raise their three children; Scott, Allen, and Teri. Gwen worked as a nurse for many years and began working at Operation Christmas in 1979.

Gwen was a devoted and kind mother, was proud of her family. She loved hosting holidays and having family get-togethers. She would spend hours, or even days, preparing for these events.

Gwen was the beloved wife of Donald H. Bettig; devoted mother of Scott D. Bettig and his wife Dee Bettig, Allen K. Bettig and his husband CJ Chen, and Teri K. Bettig and her husband Ken Thompson; the loving grandmother of Ashley Bettig, Jennifer Bettig, Jessica Thompson, Shawn Bettig, and Samantha Thompson; great-grandchildren of Jayden, MaKenzie, Mason, and Jackson. She is also survived by her four sisters and four brothers as well as many nieces and nephews.

Edward Gene Slippey

Edward (Ed) Gene Slippey, 68, died Sept. 20, 2016 at Advanced Care Hospital in Boise of cancer. He was born Nov. 1, 1948 to Fred and Stella (Paine) Roberson.

Edward was the beloved husband of Richard (Ann) Sitton and the loving son of Leon Admiral & Cleta Inez Roberson. He left this life on Friday, Oct. 14, 2016, in Harrah.

Ed graduated from Harrah High School and Oklahoma State University. He married Linda Carol Sitton on May, 30, 1970, in Harrah. He retired from OG&E, where he was an inspector.

Ed was a self-taught mechanic and enjoyed hunting, fishing, welding, gardening and spending time with his grandkids.

Bobby Warren Roberson, 69, of Harrah, Oklahoma, was born May 30, 1947, in Oklahoma City. He was the son of Leon Admiral & Cleta Inez (Paine) Roberson. He left this life on Friday, Oct. 14, 2016, in Harrah.

Bobby graduated from Harrah High School and Oklahoma State University. He married Linda Carol Sitton on May, 30, 1970, in Harrah. He retired from OG&E, where he was an inspector.

Bobby proudly served in the Oklahoma Army National Guard. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Harrah. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, welding, gardening and spending time with his grandkids.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents; brother: Ronnie Roberson.

Survivors include his parents; brother: Ronnie Roberson.

A Funeral Prayer

Hau ndenwénánek
Ho my relatives

Éhyé yásh sôták nqon
We have come here today

Éwi nesh nyé yásh yáde wdenwénma
To lay our brother to rest

Ngom she épam sêt ode
Today he walks

Ga wje nyé wat gi gambojek
Among those who have passed on

I yé i ébednovak oye ndenwén
That is why we offer this song

Énno shketot wa je
That his journey will go well where he goes above

Iw énuj moyan
That’s all I have to say

A Potawatomi prayer for a specific lovedone who has walked on.

By Don Perrot

The $2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.

Please note: Once a CPN Tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must be notified in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.

For more information please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email CClark@Potawatomi.org.