State of Oklahoma files suit against Rural Water District 3

The State of Oklahoma continues to try to disable the operations of Pottawatomie County Rural Water District 3. A recent lawsuit filed by State Attorney General Scott Pruitt claims RWD3 no longer exists despite an order from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board that expressly found that it does exist. Rural Water District 3 was formed by the Pottawatomie County Commission in 1997, and the legal existence of RWD3 was re-confirmed in 2008.

In response to the state’s lawsuit, Rural Water District 3 has filed its own suit in U.S. District Court in Oklahoma City, to stop the State of Oklahoma and its highway department from interfering with the district’s waterlines without cause or legal basis.

The state’s lawsuit came after Rural Water District 3 workers installed a 300 yard long pipeline along a state right of way, which is under the supervision of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. The water line was essential to provide water service for businesses in the area. As a state-sanctioned agency, the water district does not need ODOT’s consent to use its rights of way. However, it is required to inform the state transportation department of planned work ahead of time, and comply with regulations regarding placement of the line. Despite Rural Water District 3 requesting ODOT to concur in the location of the water line, nearly 10 months later, the state agency refused to agree, as required by state law, claiming that it was “uncertain” whether RWD3 exists. This uncertainty could have been cleared up in minutes if the state had spoken with the Pottawatomie County Commissioners who created District 3. With no response by May 2016, and no objection to the proposed location of the water line, District 3 workers began work to extend service to new businesses in Pottawatomie County.

ODOT has been agreeing with District 3’s water line locations for over a decade. There is no explanation for ODOT’s sudden refusal to cooperate. Contrary to state and federal law, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is now jeopardizing the district’s operations, and threatening to cut off more than 1,000 people from water service, along with five schools, many churches, police departments, fire departments and elder care facilities.

The attorney general’s office has filed the lawsuit attempting to invalidate the water district. This appears to be part of a larger trend of state-sanctioned legal pressure on CPN assets and enterprises to force the tribe to act as the state’s tax collector, a tactic recently deemed unlawful by a federal court.

Despite the April 2016 decision of Arbitrator Daniel J. Boudreau, which ordered state officials to cease attempts to collect state sales taxes at CPN enterprises, and the confirmation of this decision by Federal District Court Judge Robin J. Caulfroth, the State of Oklahoma continues to ramp up expensive legal pressure on businesses and organizations affiliated with Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

In the past two years alone, representatives of the Oklahoma Tax Commission, Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission and Governor Mary Fallin’s former general counsel have used regulatory and legal actions as weapons against the CPN to try to force their unlawful sales tax scheme.

While the tribe currently oversees District 3’s operational and infrastructure costs at an annual financial loss, its service remains a priority for its more than 1,000 customers. Communities like Dale, Asher and Wanette are all served by District 3, while the City of Tecumseh receives a portion of its water needs from the rural water district.
Understanding the ABCs of Medicare

By Sheila Scott, CPNHS Benefits Coordinator

Medicare A, B, C, D, what does it mean?

Medicare A is given to you at no cost if you or your spouse paid sufficient Medicare payroll taxes while working, typically measured at 40 credits, or approximately 10 years work. It is recommended that even if you delay your Part B, you should still start your Medicare A if you are eligible. Medicare A helps pay for hospital inpatient care, skilled nursing facilities, home health services and hospice care as long as certain conditions are met.

Medicare B, also referred to as “Part B,” helps pay for doctors’ services both in and out of the hospital, including outpatient care like lab work and radiology services. It also covers some medical equipment and supplies, such as wheelchairs and oxygen. Medicare B has a limited period that is held from your Social Security income. Premiums for new enrollees in 2016 are $121.80. If you cancel your Medicare B or decide to enroll at a later date, you will have to pay a 10 percent premium penalty, per year, for every year you were eligible but did not take it.

You have a seven month initial enrollment period to sign up for Medicare, which includes the month you turn 65. Essentially, enrollees have three months to sign up as a Medicare New Enrollee, and two months around the start of your Medicare B enrollment period to enroll Part B. This starts the month employment ends or the month you are no longer covered by the employer or union health plan, whichever comes first. If you miss the eight month enrollment window, you will only be able to sign up from January through March.

It is recommended that even if you delay your Part B, you should start your Medicare A if you have paid in enough quarters.

Medicare C is a Medicare Advantage Plan, also known as an “MA Plan.” A Medicare Advantage Plan is a health plan option that is run by private companies. Most MA Plans have a network. The two main types of MA Plans are HMOs health maintenance organizations, or HMO’s, and preferred provider organizations, or PPOs. HMOs have a primary care physician. If you need specialty care, you may have to be referred by this physician before your insurance will pay. You pick a primary care physician from a list of providers or a network will be appointed for you.

Medicare D is a Medicare approved drug plan that help pay for your prescriptions. These are run by private companies, and their premiums will vary. Some have deductibles, but all have copays. Each company has a formulary of approved drugs. You need to review your plan every year during “open enrollment” as premiums and formularies can change. Open enrollment is from October 15 through December 7, with an effective date of January 1.

The last thing you need to know about is a Medicare Supplement, also called “Medigap Plan.” Supplement plans are designed to help fill the gaps that Medicare doesn’t pay and pay after Medicare. There are 10 standard Medicare Supplement Plans, but insurers may not sell every plan. Review what each plan covers and choose what best fits your needs. You have guaranteed coverage during your open enrollment period of six months, which starts the first day of your birth month. Supplement premium cost can vary by your age, where you live, the company selling the plan and a host of other variables.

Two things you need to know about supplements are the differences between “Issued Age” and “Attained Age.” Issued age premiums are based on the age when insurance was purchased, and doesn’t go up as you get older. Attained age premiums are based on users’ current age, but can go up as they get older. Attained age premium may cost less at age 65 but may cost more over a lifetime.

Customers should shop around, starting about three months before turning 65 and compare a minimum of three companies.

I advise you not to enroll in anything except Medicare through Social Security Administration until you are sure you are getting what best fits your needs. If you have more questions or need more help on any of these subjects check with your state’s “insurance department.” Ask for the Medicare Assistance Program and see if they have buying guides in your state. Go to www.medicare.gov. There is a lot of information available that may help you in your decision process. As a service of the CPN Health Services, I am also available for any questions you may have. You can call me 405-273-5236 or email me at sscltt@potawatomi.org.

Gordon Cooper Drive improved with help from tribal, state and local partners

Drivers heading down one of Potawatomi County’s major thoroughfares will no longer have to worry about pot-hole and construction slowdowns after a successful tribal-state-local partnership to widen South Gordon Cooper Drive on the northern side of Tecumseh.

Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett, Tecumseh Mayor Eddy Parker, Potawatomi County commissioners and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s Dan Overland joined with members of the Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce to cut the ribbon on the project’s official opening. The road is now four lanes through the CPN jurisdiction between the towns of Shwaynee and Tecumseh.

“This is a big day for us, we’ve been anticipating this for a long time and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is proud to be a part of it,” said Chairman Barrett.

The tribe donated $500,000 to the project, while the Pottawatomie County Commission donated $250,000. Federal highway funds covered 80 percent of the construction costs.

ODOT’s Dan Overland was effusive of the collaboration between the various governments that partnered on the project.

“The city, the county, the State of Oklahoma, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, it couldn’t have gotten done without it... the cooperation was wonderful. It has become a model for the State of Oklahoma for a partnership with all the municipalities, the state and the tribes to work together,” he said.

“This is not a project that we did on our own, it was with a lot of effort, and we very much appreciate CPN participating,” said Mayor Parker.

Looking over the completed four lane road, which has widened Gordon Cooper Drive between Bob Crouch Drive and Benson Park Road; Chairman Barrett expressed his enthusiasm for the project’s final product as well as its rapid completion. He noted that the construction and opening took place within a year. As noted in the newspaper, work on the project began on August 24, 2015, but the road remained open to traffic for the nearly nine months of work.

“It’s an extremely good looking proj- ect. We think it is going to be a tremen- dous boon to commerce and the expansion of the business corridor in the city of Tecumseh,” said Chairman Barrett.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation plays an integral role in Pottawatomie County’s road infrastructure. Since 2005, it has spent more than $7.6 million in road infrastructure improvements and new construction.
The Potawatomi at Council Oak

The long history of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation contains many points and historically significant places. One can find historical monuments scattered across the American Midwest along the Potawatomi Trail of Death in the states of Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. A lesser known site, now lost to the ages, was the Council Oak.

The Council Oak stood in South Bend, Indiana for centuries. Some estimates claim it was at least 100 years or older when Europeans first arrived in the area in the late 1600s. In 1681, the French trapper and trader René-Robert Cavelier Sieur de La Salle called for a council of the Great Lakes tribes in the area to discuss the encroachment of the Iroquois. The council included Potawatomi, the Miami, the Illinois and others. The Potawatomi had a standing relationship with La Salle dating back to the 1679 establishment of a fur trading partnership with Potawatomi Chief Onangises (Shimmering Light).

The meeting reportedly took place under the Council Oak because it was such a pronounced and recognizable landmark in the area.

The treaty granted La Salle freedom of exploration along the Kankakee River, a feeder into the Mississippi River, and the wider areas controlled by the tribes meeting at Council Oak. This right of exploration eventually led to the French claim to the territories known as Louisiana. A later arrival, married a Potawatomi and established the region’s first trading post at modern day South Bend, Indiana. In the authors from the Federal Writers’ Project note that his wife was represented in Potawatomi tradition “as having been exceptionally intelligent.”

Soon after the Great Lakes tribes put their issues with one another aside to form an alliance and key French fur traders in order to keep the Iroquois and their allies from encroaching on the fertile fur trapping lands around the lakes.

For the Potawatomi, the meeting at Council Oak was a significant turning point in the tribe’s history as well as early colonial American history. This shift in strategy set the stage for tensions and alliances that would lead to several wars in the 18th century between belligerent tribes and French and English colonial forces. The French usually sided with the Great Lakes tribes and the British often sided with the Iroquois, though it was not uncommon for the Europeans to play the region’s Indian nations against one another when it furthered their causes.

Despite surviving, the tree was finally felled by a tornado in 1990. Today, only a massive stump remains in South Bend’s Highland Cemetery. A plaque there commemorates the tree. The Navarre name is still featured in modern day South Bend, with Navarre Street named after the famous Frenchman, while the family name remains a common one amongst today’s Citizen Potawatomi.
Native graffiti artist incorporates CPN-inspired portraits into OKC mural

Although it ranks fourth highest in population of Native Americans, Native American cultures and art isn’t quite as noticeable in Oklahoma City as places like Albuquerque and Phoenix. Local artist Steven Grounds is hoping to change that and he’s starting with a mural in the heart of downtown Oklahoma City.

Steven Grounds, a Muscogee (Creek) tribal citizen from El Reno, Oklahoma, chose several portraits of CPN tribal members taken by Hownikan photographer Bo Apitz for the mural. “I saw the portraits of Native Americans on his Instagram and reached out to collaborate with Bo,” said Grounds. “I pull photos from his website and recreate them, which is how I chose four of the five portraits I’m incorporating to the mural in downtown Oklahoma City.”

The four portraits in the mural are of current tribal director of employment and training, Carol Clay-Levi, and former employee Stacy Coon. Two and training, Carol Clay-Levi, and Cassidy Grace Holland, were part of the mural.

Nicolle Hatfield collaborated with Grounds on the project and the duo titled their project “Strength of the Woman.” The title comes from the poem “See the Woman,” by Native American activist John Trudell.

The entire mural consists of Hatfield’s paintings of women from the past on one end and Ground’s artwork based on the portraits and a tribute to John Trudell at the other. The two combined their artistic styles in the middle, where the portrait of Clay-Levi is.

“In the background the portraits painted by Steven Grounds can be seen in between the pillars giving the mural a unique perspective.”

“The maternal aspects represent the idea that the foundation of every tribe and every person is within the women of our culture and the survival of the future generations,” said Grounds. “This is our way honoring and respecting the women of our culture.”

Since moving back to Oklahoma, Grounds has had the goal of bringing his art to the busy downtown Oklahoma City tourism center.

“‘It’s been one of my goals to do something like this since I got back from Phoenix and it being downtown gave me the opportunity to showcase my work to a large audience, said Grounds. ‘When I paint, I want it to be an experience for the viewer. I want them to take from me something on a spiritual level when I paint.’

The project is funded by the Chickasaw Nation and Downtown Oklahoma City Inc.

The mural will stay up for the next 10 years. To see the work in person, visit the underpass off of E. Sheridan Avenue near Chesapeake Energy Arena and N. E.K. Gaylord Boulevard in Oklahoma City.

HOWNIKAN

Language with Justin: July 2016

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Director

By the time this edition of the newspaper arrives, it should be August, and the Gone. - July. This literally means “halfway through summer months.” At the end of July the tribe will be hosting the annual Potawatomi Gathering. This is a gathering of the seven groups of Potawatomi in the U.S. and two from Canada. Here in the language department, it is our responsibility to host the annual Potawatomi Language Conference. The conference will run from Wednesday July 27 through Friday, July 29. We have a great agenda this year and will have presentations from several of our Potawatomi speakers. Some will be telling stories, playing games in the language, doing immersion teaching, instructing on Potawatomi life styles, explaining the common feasts of the Anishnabe and conducting many other fun and language filled activities. We hope you will join us for the language conferences and Gathering.

Also a reminder, if you want to learn Potawatomi, our ‘Beginner 1’ and ‘Beginner 2’ classes are available online with no cost to enroll. They are self-paced, meaning you can go as slow as or rapidly as you want to when learning. Go to language.potawatomi.org and click on the ‘Log In’ icon which will take you to a screen where you can create a new account. Give us a day to confirm your application and you’ll be good to go. Also, by the time this paper comes out we hope that our online children’s course will be placed online with a link from www.potawatomi.org. We hope you will make it a point this year to learn a little of our language so that we can pass it on into the future.

Shoniya - money (shown yah)
Ngı́t mekwi - one dollar (literally “one beaver hide”)
Ngı́t yasben - one quarter (literally “one beaver hide”)
Peyses - nickel (dan sus)
Zaw shonya is Potawatomi for gold.

Shake dabayan ngi-gişhpnedon. - I bought a new car. (shkuh dah bee yawn nuh gee shesh punay doen)

Njiso wiye boset? - How far did someone drive it? (Literally “how many miles does it have?”) (nee jet so weeyay bo sit)

Njosi wak Osok dheben. - 100,000 miles. (ngot walk osuck duh bugh gin)

Shonya ng e dele-ton? - Do you have money? (shown yah nay guh day tone)

Basyak meteno. - I only have change. (boss yack mino)

Nbohshka. - I’m broke. (nuh boke shukah)

Gda-dhebe ne? - Could you pay? (gudah dahbay gay nay)

Ni jëto shoonya nedwenden. - How much money do you want? 

(nee jet so shownyah ned win duh min)

Shonya ng e dele-ton? - Do you have money? (shown yah nay guh day tone)

Njiso wiye boset? - How far did someone drive it? (Literally “how many miles does it have?”) (nee jet so weeyay bo sit)

Gwałshka. - It’s green. (skew geeyah)

Skebgya. - It’s green. (skew geeyah)

Skebgya namommedagwenden. - Green is my favorite color. (nuh mah moe muh dog win dan)

Njiso ga ngedek? - How much did it cost? (nee jet so gah nung dahk)

Noñsek osig ngedé. - It cost $7,000. (no ak oh suck gee mugdayu)

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Pochedley accepted into award program recognizing tribal youth

Lakota Pochedley, a Slavin family descendnet, Potawatomi Leadership alumna and an employee of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center, has recently been recognized by UNITY Inc. in the organization’s ‘25 Under 25’ awards. The national organization aims to foster the spiritual, mental, physical and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth.

Pochedley is one of only 25 Native American youth to be recognized with this award. The honorees will receive hands-on experiences over nine months that are designed to build on their individual achievements. She said that she is most excited about meeting other Native youth making a difference in their respective fields and learning from them.

“I’ve been in school for 20 years now,” Pochedley said. “This year will provide me an opportunity to learn outside of a school environment and share what’s going on in Native America with the youth who live in the Pottawatomie County area.”

Although Pochedley only recently began working at the cultural heritage center, she is not new to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She participated in the Potawatomi Leadership Program in 2011 and was an intern in the language department in the summer of 2012. During the summer of 2013, she worked at the PLACE and the FireLodge Tribal Youth Program. In 2014 and 2015 she volunteered with CPN’s Cultural Mentorship Program. Pochedley recently began a new position as the cultural education specialist as she finished her master’s degrees at the University of Texas at Austin this spring.

“I have had the pleasure of working with Lakota in various capacities for almost five years,” Cultural Heritage Center Director Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., said. “I have seen her grow from a college student trying to figure out her thesis project and how it relates to the CPN community, to her current position as cultural education specialist working with local Native youth by teaching culturally-based education workshops. When I saw the criteria for what UNITY was looking for in their ‘25 Under 25’ candidates I knew she would be a perfect choice. She gives of her time and her talents freely and is a great example and mentor for so many of our local young people.”

In her role at CPN, Pochedley will help mentor tribal youth on the outskirts and rural areas of the CPN jurisdiction and train them to mentor others. Pochedley’s goal is to use culture as a method of prevention and an opportunity to provide balance in the lives of tribal youth.

“We are trying to build relationships to build a stronger community particularly among the youth throughout Pottawatomie County, allowing a lot of these kids to see past just their school, their block and their city and really get to know one another, from Shawnee to the southern part of the county. When these kids are grounded in their culture, it shows them they have an opportunity to succeed,” Pochedley said.

Pochedley earned bachelor’s degrees in Anthropology and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies with a specialization in Native American studies at Columbia University in New York City. After completing her undergraduate degrees, she moved to Austin and completed her Master of Arts in Cultural Studies in Education and Master of Education in Social Studies Education with a secondary teaching certification, while also completing a portfolio in Native American and Indigenous studies in May.

To learn more about the program, please visit cpnnews/25u25.
Microenterprise loans assist Native entrepreneurs

According to the from formal financial institutions. Roughly three quarters of those have no access due to poverty, costs and the burdensome requirements in opening an account or accessing capital.

One remedy to these obstacles came about in Bangladesh in the 1970s, where Mohammed Yunus began what became known as “microfinance” lending. Yunus, an economics professor seeking to find a way to break the cycle of poverty impacting his home country, believed that access to credit was a fundamental human right. In one of capitalism’s most poignant examples of putting one’s money where one’s mouth is, Yunus made a series of small, $27 personal loans to Bangladeshi basket weavers. Yunus coupled the loans distribution with financial instruction on principles on which the basket weavers would run their burgeoning enterprises. Yunus coupled the loans distribution with financial instruction on principles on which the basket weavers would run their burgeoning enterprises. A successful strategy that ultimately lead to the creation of an entirely new lending concept: microfinancing.

As a testament to his success, for his work in pioneering a way for those too financially challenged to access commercial lending credit at traditional financial institutions.

Generally, individuals in the United States do not face the same economic challenges found in 1970s Bangladesh. While the figures are not the same, areas across the nation face remarkably similar economic circumstances when it comes to accessing capital for small business ventures, including many Native American communities.

Following the example of early trailblazers like Yunus, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development distributes funds to lend providers serving these communities to promote Native American small businesses. Through the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Block Grant, a microenterprise loan development program is now available for small business owners in Oklahoma through the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation.

The CPCDC secured the funding for the microenterprise loan program to further its mission to promote, educate and inspire the entrepreneurial growth and financial wellbeing of tribal communities.

“This specific loan program meets a critical community need by providing economic opportunities for Native Americans with low and moderate incomes,” explained CPCDC Director Shane Jett. “We do this through financial education, access to capital, business development services and innovative capacity building.”

Specifically geared toward small businesses with fewer than five employees, the microloans aim to fund the development, expansion and stabilization of these firms while retaining or creating new employment opportunities for Native Americans.

The program’s success doesn’t only hinge on the ICDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The tribe has contributed $250,000 of its own capital to the federal government’s initial $800,000 grant.

“In providing these funding opportunities to entrepreneurs in our local communities, we’re able to directly address low- and moderate-income Native American business owners’ needs when it comes to finding capital to get their businesses going. Consequently this will lead to increased hiring and economic stimulation in our shared communities,” said Jett.

Loan funds are not exclusively for the use of CPN members, but rather are open to small businesses owned by all members of federally recognized tribal nations.

As Jett explained, “There are more than 35,000 Native Americans within the CPN jurisdiction alone, meaning we have a deep pool of current or future entrepreneurs able to access these commercial lending funds. If 10 of those loans help lay the foundation of a successful business in the jurisdiction, which encompasses most of Pottawatomie County as well as portions of Oklahoma and Cleveland counties, the entire region benefits.”

The microenterprise loans aren’t just a loan with little oversight. The CPCDC will help build up the capacity and capabilities of their clients’ businesses through business training and financial counseling services offered by CPCDC staff.

“Our staff has a wide array of small business and consumer counseling experience. We can look at a business plan, point out what will work and help improve what needs improving. Ultimately we don’t consider it a successful loan unless the business succeeds,” said Jett.

To learn more about the CPCDC’s microenterprise loan program, visit www.cpcdc.org or call 405-878-4697.
FireLodge tribal youth update: July 2016

By Darin Greene, Tribal Youth Coordinator

July is going to be a very busy month at the PLACE. Students who are participating in the GET Native Program will be attending several classes which teach them how to relate to early, modern and traditional Native American ways. Instructions will include on fire use and safety along with traditional native teachings on the cycle of life. Other topics will include Native American authors and heroes; sovereignty and tribal membership; the importance of the sun, moon and stars; the myths and truths about owls; and tribal tradition and honor.

Tribal youth will be visiting the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University for college preparation. While at the universities the youth will have the opportunity to talk with students from the Native American clubs.

Another important program the tribal youth take part in is GET Fit. This July we will be hosting the “Wacky youth take part in is GET Fit.” This program also allows tribal members and volunteers the opportunity to work with the tribe’s youth department and the University of Oklahoma Terrorism and Disaster Center. CART stands for Communities Advancing Resilience Toolkit and is a theory-based and evidence-informed community intervention program designed to build community resilience during disasters and other adversities.

We are preparing to teach the youth about the importance of wearing sunglasses and protecting skin from the sun for UV Safety Awareness Month.

The tribal youth will observe the following July holidays: National Junk Food Day, National Chocolate Milk Day and National Hot Dog Day with a cookout and hotdog eating contest.

Tribal youth are excited to do community service by working at the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations at the end of July.

If your child is interested in learning more about Native American culture or could benefit from our FireLodge Youth Program, please contact me at dgreene@potawatomi.org.

Tribal youth learned about traditional Native American vegetables during a volunteer day the CPN Community Garden.

Cultural Heritage Center seeks assistance in transcribing historic documents

The staff at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center is offering an opportunity for tribal members to volunteer and assist the archives staff while learning more about Potawatomi history by transcribing historic documents into digital text.

There are thousands of written and printed artifacts waiting to be processed by the CHC staff, but there aren’t enough hours in the day, so utilizing tribal members and others interested in Native American history creates a win-win for all involved.

Some of the documents are in book or manuscript formats, each of which can contain dozens or hundreds of pages; others are letters and handwritten notes. The CHC staff will continue to collect more as they visit various archives around the country and receive donations from tribal members.

“Volunteers have the opportunity to learn about the Nation, understand how the CHC serves the tribal membership and public at large and give back to the community by assisting with these critical processes,” said Tribal Archivist Blake Norton, who prompted the initiative. “The application has the opportunity to serve as an interactive digital exhibition on various tribal subjects that we are either unable to display in our galleries or those we would like to expand upon.”

The goal is to create a multi-faceted educational portal and provide the CHC with the opportunity to interact with the tribal membership. The program also allows tribal members and volunteers the opportunity to work with the Nation’s cultural and historical collections. Volunteers will assist staff in processing archival items and learn critical steps taken by CHC staff in managing and making these invaluable artifacts accessible. Vital information gleaned from the transcribed documents is applied to the online archive and manuscript collections database.

Volunteers will experience a portion of the work the CHC staff in the archive and research division does on a daily basis and will allow the cultural heritage center to make this information available to Potawatomi throughout the world.

“I think that volunteers will benefit from having the ability to be part of preserving their tribe’s history,” Cultural Heritage Center Director Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D., said. “I was once a tribal member living out of state and I remember how isolating it felt at times. This project is one avenue tribal members can take to engage with and learn a little more about the history of CPN tribal members, whether they are their own ancestors or not.”

Volunteers should refer to the instructions in the graphic to participate in the program. Please take advantage of this opportunity at cpn.news/DocumentTranscription.

Document Transcription Instructions

- To begin, access the Cultural Heritage Center’s main web page at www.potawatomiheritage.org.
- Choose the ‘Research’ tab and click on ‘Archives.’
- Here you have the opportunity to either access the archive and manuscript collections database or transcription application. Choose transcription.
- Once the application is accessed, select from various documents including treaties, governmental documents, manuscripts or correspondence.
- Click the document you’d like to transcribe to open it and copy the words into one of the acceptable file formats, like .txt, .pdf, .doc or .docx.
- Once you are done, save the file to your computer with the same title as the document you are transcribing and include your name. Upload the file under “Submit a transcription” and start on the next document.
- Follow this link for video instruction: cpn.news/transcriptionvideo
Eight ways to stay safe on campus this year

By Amanda Chapman, CPN House of Hope

Though only halfway through the summer, most college-bound Americans are already planning on the back-to-school months ahead. Amidst all the packing, preparing and anticipating though, students should take care to remain vigilant for their own safety, as well as that of their newfound friends, once they arrive on campus. Here are a few tips from our partners at RAINN for navigating the new school year in as safe a manner as possible.

Trust your gut and be true to yourself: If something doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t. If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, trust your instincts and leave. Lie and make up an excuse to leave rather than stay and be uncomfortable, scared or worse.

Take control of your online life: Think twice before you share personal information online. Constantly posting social media updates on your whereabouts, activities or even class schedules may allow someone to track your every move.

Remember this motto: “If you would not share the information with a stranger, then you shouldn’t share it online.”

Make others earn your trust: The college environment can foster a false sense of security. Don’t assume that your new friends will definitely have your back or be looking out for your best interests.

If you see something, say something: If a situation seems questionable, speak up and alert others around you to it. By intervening you can prevent a crime from being committed. Remember, you can always contact your resident assistant or campus police or call 911.

Be aware and stay alert this year on campus.

Earth Day volunteers Channing Seikel, Mindee Duffell, Kelley Francen and Tesia Zientek.

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By Amanda Chapman, CPN House of Hope

Though only halfway through the summer, most college-bound Americans are already planning on the back-to-school months ahead. Amidst all the packing, preparing and anticipating though, students should take care to remain vigilant for their own safety, as well as that of their newfound friends, once they arrive on campus. Here are a few tips from our partners at RAINN for navigating the new school year in as safe a manner as possible.

Trust your gut and be true to yourself: If something doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t. If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, trust your instincts and leave. Lie and make up an excuse to leave rather than stay and be uncomfortable, scared or worse.

Take control of your online life: Think twice before you share personal information online. Constantly posting social media updates on your whereabouts, activities or even class schedules may allow someone to track your every move.

Remember this motto: “If you would not share the information with a stranger, then you shouldn’t share it online.”

Make others earn your trust: The college environment can foster a false sense of security. Don’t assume that your new friends will definitely have your back or be looking out for your best interests.

If you see something, say something: If a situation seems questionable, speak up and alert others around you to it. By intervening you can prevent a crime from being committed. Remember, you can always contact your resident assistant or campus police or call 911.

Be aware and stay alert this year on campus.

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Be aware and stay alert this year on campus.
Tribe donates more than $27,000 to City of McLoud

Tribal leaders met with the City of McLoud to gift $27,000 of tribal sales taxes to the city from the operations at Quail Ridge Sporting Clays. Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps were on hand to donate the funds. The clay shooting operation sits on CPN tribal trust land and operates under the U.S. HEARTH Act.

“We appreciate how much the City of McLoud has done as a partner with the Nation,” said Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett. “The people of McLoud and the surrounding communities patronize this business while the city’s infrastructure and emergency responders are responsible for helping make it successful. These funds are a way to return that investment.”

“We’re going to put the money toward infrastructure that the city needs, including our sewer and water lines that are in need of updating,” said McLoud Mayor Stan Jackson.

The mayor said that CPN and city had been good neighbors in the past due to the proximity of tribal enterprises like the Grand Casino Hotel and Resort to McLoud. He said he looked forward to future collaboration as well.

“I really do hope so, because that’s my goal as mayor. We’re always open to hear what Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps have to say. They have been a big help to our city, especially with the upgrades to our park and the Wahpepah Walking Trail.”

City Manager Buck Day affirmed that the city government was working towards infrastructure improvements for the town of 4,500, noting that the long term goal is to grow utility services towards the busy I-40 corridor located inside the city limits. In fact, funds from the sporting clays tribal sales tax receipts gifted to the city have already paid literal dividends. On April 19, a city sewage line collapsed outside the Mable Bassett Correctional Facility, whose sewage service is supplied by the City of McLoud. Day said the city used emergency grant funds from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Central Oklahoma Economic Development District and $35,000 gifted from CPN’s tribal sales taxes to help fix the line serving 1,200 inmates and staff.

“The CPN money was great,” said Day. “Just looking at it from the city’s point of view, that money would have to come from somewhere else.”

Day is a familiar partner to CPN, having served as a Pottawatomie County commissioner during the tribe’s purchase of assets and infrastructure of Pottawatomie County Rural Water District 3 in 2005.

“I’ve known the Rocky and Linda for years, and to be honest with you I couldn’t ask for anybody to be any more helpful than they have been. Rocky’s ideas and our ideas for the City of McLoud pretty much run parallel to one another. The same thing that we want and think is good for us, he thinks is good for the tribe.”

CPN-McLoud collaboration has been a boost to both entities in recent months. FireLake Express Grocery McLoud, located just north of Interstate 40 on McLoud Road, opened in spring 2016.

“McLoud City Manager Buck Day, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett, Deputy City Clerk Jan Sotrie and Kelley Francen.

“City of McLoud pretty much run parallel to one another. The same thing that we want and think is good for us, he thinks is good for the tribe.”

The rolling Thunder members were invited by the CPN Veterans Office; Tiffany Ahgoon, Veterans Office; Russell Willey, director of Cheyenne-Arapaho Seminole Nation Princess Event coordinator.

Of interest to veterans is a special exhibit at the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art at St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee. A tribute to America’s combat artists and fighting forces, the exhibition titled “Art from the U.S. Navy, Marines and Coast Guard” runs through August 21, 2016. It should be well worth a visit.

Remember the CPN Veterans Organization normally meets every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.

Migwetch.
U.S. Surgeon General visits CPN to support fight against opioid abuse

In an effort to combat the rising tide of opioid abuse plaguing the nation, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy visited with tribal leaders and health-care professionals during a visit to Oklahoma. Sponsored by the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board based out of Oklahoma City, Surgeon General Murthy visited with tribal youth from across the state at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center for a town hall and discussed prevention programs they are developing in their communities.

“I was so impressed by the young adults we met here today,” said the surgeon general at a press conference following the town hall meeting at the CHC. The IAMNDN Program, which is now being developed in four different tribes...through it the students are using culture as a powerful tool for strengthening their communities and making people healthier. They’re essentially telling people to choose culture over substance abuse.”

The IAMNDN Program is a community and cultural based initiative aimed at bridging the gap between different generations of tribal youth and adults. The program’s focus on developing lines of communications between these generations has been especially important in the effort to curb the growing epidemic of opioid, prescription pill and heroin abuse.

Chairman Barrett explained the reasoning behind the shift by explaining that the entire purpose was to build up cultural practices like dancing and drumming for tribal members.

While this CPN-focused event takes place each June, Potawatomi from around the country typically meet later in the summer for the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations. This event, which rotates between each tribe every year, the 2016 Gathering will include language classes, cultural workshops, language classes and sporting events.

This year’s Gathering of Potawatomi Nations takes place at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, following on the heels of last year’s successful event hosting by the Forest County Potawatomi of Wisconsin. As with every year, the 2016 Gathering will include a language conference, cultural workshops, language classes, cultural classes and sporting events.

Chairman Barrett noted that overdose deaths had become an acute problem in the past fifteen years, with the national average nearly quadrupling. Oklahoma is particularly impacted by the issue, ranking fifth highest in the nation for drug overdose deaths according to the CDC. Oklahomans face a particularly difficult time getting help in getting treatment for addiction. In a year in which the state legislature struggled to close a $1.4 billion budget shortfall, The Oklahoman’s Jaclyn Cosgrove noted that the state-funded residential substance abuse treatment program had a waiting line 600 people long.

Before the meeting at the heritage center, Surgeon General Murthy visited the Absentee-Shawnee Health Center in Little Axe, Oklahoma and met with a number of tribal leaders from Oklahoma tribes about these issues. The occasion was a first in American history, with Surgeon General Murthy being the first official in his position to meet with Native American tribal leaders.

“I want people to know that the health of American Indians matters. It matters in a global sense, but it matters for America, because we as a country can’t be strong if our people are not healthy,” concluded Surgeon General Murthy.

Each year, tribal members from across the country travel to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s tribal home near Shawnee, Oklahoma to celebrate the Family Reunion Festival. The Festival, held annually during the last weekend in June, is a closed celebration, open only to CPN members and their immediate families. Its first incarnation occurred in 1999, when the old Citizen Potawatomi Inter-tribal Powwow was discontinued so only CPN members could take part in the cultural and sporting events. In a Hownikan column that same year,

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While this CPN-focused event takes place each June, Potawatomi from around the country typically meet later in the summer for the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations. This event, which rotates between each of the nine Potawatomi bands in the United States and Canada, is an opportunity for all Potawatomi to meet, share stories and traditions as well as practice their shared Nishnabek language.

This year’s Gathering of Potawatomi Nations takes place at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, following on the heels of last year’s successful event hosting by the Forest County Potawatomi of Wisconsin. As with every year, the 2016 Gathering will include a language conference, cultural workshops, language classes, cultural classes and sporting events. The 2016 Gathering will take place in Shawnee, Oklahoma from July 28-30, 2016. Most events will take place at the fully air conditioned FireLake Arena.

The tribal complex address is 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801 within a short walk of all activities during Gathering 2016. The closest major airport is Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City. Shawnee is located approximately 35 miles east of Oklahoma City along Interstate 40. More information can be found online at gon.potawatomi.org.
Meet the Potawatomi Leadership Program class of 2016

Ten tribal members have moved into the Sharp House near the CPN powwow grounds to begin the Potawatomi Leadership Program. PLP is a six-week leadership and education opportunity for a group of promising college students. PLP learn about CPN government, culture, economic development and more. This year, more than 30 students applied for the program and the selected participants are all beginning their sophomore year of college in the fall. Each of the students explained why they wanted to take part in the summer internship.

**Randy Bazhaw**
Hometown: Pleasant Garden, North Carolina
School: North Carolina State University
Family: Bergeron

“At NC State, I am currently pursuing a degree in civil engineering, and I believe that the PLP would not only give me the experience of real world problems, but it would also help me determine how I could use my degree that I am earning to give back to CPN. I believe that the PLP would be the perfect experience for me to help me find my place in our tribe, as well as in my life as a whole.”

**Thomas Brunt**
Hometown: Alexandria, Virginia.
School: University of Pittsburgh
Family: Tescier

“I want to follow in my brother’s footsteps and be a part of the PLP, something that he considered a life changing experience. I hope to gain a better insight into my tribe, leadership skills, better communication skills and gain professional skills to prepare me for the future. I want CPN to play a bigger role in my life and I hope to do that by being a part of the PLP.”

**Matthew Clift**
Hometown: Cushing, Oklahoma
School: East Central University
Family: Kennedy

“I hope to get more in tune with my Potawatomi heritage and the culture of the Potawatomi Nation itself. Along the way, I would love to learn how I can help myself and maybe others become better leaders. A true Potawatomi to me means to be noble and honest with people for the sake of self-sacrifice. These are both pillars of my personality traits that I can nurture and make me the man I hope to be. The PLP is the first step to a long and enduring journey.”

**Aden Ellers**
Hometown: Lake Oswego, Oregon
School: Oregon State University
Family: Anderson

“I intend to make the most of the PLP. I am going to absorb as much information as I can while I am in Oklahoma. There are a few specific things that I am hoping to learn more about. The first is the tribe itself. I am going to learn all about the tribe’s history; in addition, I want to finally get my Potawatomi name. My dad went through the ceremony a year ago and it will be great to finally get my name too.”

**Alyssa Frey**
Hometown: Manhattan, Kansas
School: Kansas State University
Family: Denton

“Through the PLP I hope to gain friends who share my Indian background. This would give me, and them, the opportunity to grow and learn with each other. I also hope to attain a greater knowledge and appreciation of our background. Since the students that attend the PLP come from all over, I would have a chance to learn and study leadership techniques from different perspectives.”

**Zoe Gustason**
Hometown: Tombstone, Arizona
School: Sierra Vista Cochise Community College
Family: Rhodd

“Being Native American is, in all honesty, an honor to me. I feel like I am a part of a bigger part of history when I tell someone that I am Native American. This program would give me that opportunity to not only learn and discover a part of myself that I feel is missing, but also be able to become a leader for others by providing answers and sharing with other people my culture when they ask me what it means to be Potawatomi.”

**Sage Hanson**
Hometown: Tempe, Arizona
School: Arizona State University
Family: Zeigler

“The PLP interested me for several reasons; it’s a chance to understand my tribe’s culture, step outside of my comfort zone and improve myself as a person. My time at the leadership program will also put me in closer contact with the tribe and help me to better understand how it works in my community to help people. Ultimately what I hope to learn is how to better connect with people and to better connect people to each other.”

**Susannah Howard**
Hometown: North Thetford, Vermont
School: Smith College
Family: Frigon

“I have found it difficult to live outside of Shawnee and be a Potawatomi because very few people in the northeast share this heritage with me. It is difficult for me to not feel out of place, because I am in a position to educate others about the tribe and be a voice outside of Oklahoma. I think bringing more of the Potawatomi traditions into family celebrations would encourage my family to be more active and interested in the way the tribe operates and might prompt them to follow in my footsteps and reach out to people and get to know more people who share our heritage.”

**Katherine Smith**
Hometown: Simi Valley, California
School: Moorpark College
Family: Anderson

“Ever since my older brother, Nick Smith, attended the PLP in 2014, I have been wanting to experience the program myself. He came home with such a different outlook on life, the tribe, and our Potawatomi culture; my brother’s experience is certainly part of why I have decided to apply for the program.”

**Aaron Stevenson**
Hometown: Albuquerque, New Mexico / Tahlequah, Oklahoma
School: Oklahoma State University
Family: Bumbaugh and Yott

“I have high hopes for my experience with the leadership program. I feel this program would aid my leadership capabilities immensely. Additionally, I would like to learn more about the culture and history of the Potawatomi people and tribe. I really enjoy studying history, and I feel this would be a great opportunity to learn more about the past and how the tribe operates. This program is clearly a fantastic opportunity to achieve this.”

Please welcome these students to the area when you come into contact with them this summer. Find out more about PLP at [http://plp.potawatomi.org](http://plp.potawatomi.org)
Wadase update: July 2016

By Bree Dunham, CPN Eagle Aviary

Spring in Oklahoma can certainly live up to the old saying that it comes in like a lion. However, we were fortunate that most major storms seemed to pass by the aviary or dissipate before they arrived. This spring rain, unlike last year's record breaking rainfall, was just barely above average and was spread out enough so that we did not flood here. Last spring we missed out on seeing so much of the beauty that is spring, but not this year. This has been a productive season for the wildlife that surrounds the aviary.

One thing we have yet to see this spring though is Wadasé Zhabwé. However, we are able to see her movements as we follow her telemetry because, against all odds, she is still wearing her GPS backpack. Since the second week in February she has stayed just 15 miles north-west of the Quapaw Creek Reservoirs. In total, 38 flood control dams were constructed in Lincoln County in the 98,000 acre watershed. Two large reservoirs were created for municipal water supplies and recreational areas while the rest are much smaller; together they create nearly 500 acre-feet of water.

One thing we know for sure is that wetland areas are full of wildlife and food for bald eagles. After her last visit to the aviary on February 9, Wadasé stopped at one of the reservoirs just north of HWY 62. She seems to have made several of those reservoirs in that area her ‘home base’ for the time being. She has made multiple trips back to her old familiar places along the North Canadian River near Harrah and McLoud, but after a two or three day fly about, she returns to the reservoirs.

We have also made several trips to the Quapaw Creek Reservoir area to look for her but all we have seen was several miles of Oklahoma back roads that we hadn’t traveled before. Once again Wadasé has chosen an area that has limited access from the public. Most of these reservoirs are on large tracts of land used for grazing cattle or farming. After talking with several landowners in the area, we learned that many are stocked with fish as well. This is the first time that she has spent an extended period of time off the river. The reservoirs she visited that we were able to access are small and were referred to as ponds by the landowners. Perhaps she has chosen the area because of the food source and there is very little human interaction or because it is central to some of her favorite hangouts.

It is hard to know for sure, but what we do know is that the area is lush and green this time of year and that ensures she has food and cover. The movement recorded by the telemetry is always reassuring though. Once again after this year’s young migration, bald eagles fledged and left for their summer territories, Wadasé stayed. I think we can safely say that she is going to continue to stay in Oklahoma.

When this summer comes to an end Wadasé should choose a mate and with some luck we will still have telemetry to find the site they choose for nesting. Of course, we hope that she would bring any potential suitors home to visit and survey the real estate here again before choosing a nest site. In any event, we are confident that she has mastered the skills she needs to thrive in the wild and will be able to pass that on to her future generations.

As always we encourage you to keep your eyes out for Wadasé if you are near the areas she frequents. If she sticks to her routine, she should come home to visit soon. For more information about the CPN Eagle Aviary or to read previous Wadasé updates visit www.potawatomiheritage.org. Send your encounters with Wadasé or any other eagles in Oklahoma or wherever you may be to us at aviary@potawatomi.org.
Potawatomi children in need of foster parents

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Indian Child Welfare Department knows first-hand that circumstances sometimes require a child be temporarily or permanently removed from a situation. When the unthinkable happens, the CPN ICW staff looks to find the most caring and safe solution for these children. Currently, 33 CPN children from the area are in the custody of CPN’s Indian Child Welfare department. To ensure these children are placed into caring environments, ICW is in need of full-time tribal foster families in Pottawatomie County and the surrounding areas to provide homes for children who are no longer in the care of their parent.

When a child is taken into the custody of the CPN Tribal Court, ICW must find a safe, loving and nurturing home for them. Staff members of the department try to avoid placing these children in an emergency shelter; however, they have had to resort to that option when no tribal foster homes were available.

“At the moment, all of our tribal custody children have foster home placements,” said Darla Courtney, ICW’s foster care and adoption specialist. “However, that situation can change at any moment. We have 15 homes that are approved as foster homes through CPN. At present, most of our foster homes are at full capacity and unable to take additional children.”

The need for local homes stems from the fact that the majority of the children in the custody of the court have frequent visitation with their parent or grandparent as well as other local appointments, including counseling and medical visits. Because the majority of services are local, it often presents a hardship for all involved when the children are placed in out-of-area foster homes.

“Our biggest need is additional foster homes in our local area. We need families willing to open their hearts and homes to provide full-time foster care, especially for older children and sibling groups,” Courtney said.

When siblings are taken into custody, the staff makes every effort to keep them together during such a difficult time. Without an adequate number of foster homes available, the siblings may have to be separated until another placement can be located.

The ultimate reason in recruiting additional foster homes is to ensure tribal children have a safe environment and stay connected to their tribal culture and heritage.

For those who would like to help these children but cannot commit to long-term care, ICW can utilize homes willing to provide short-term care. For example, foster homes may need someone to watch their foster children for short periods, such as for vacations or to tend to an illness in the family.

When a foster child is not able to return home, it is the responsibility of ICW to find a permanent home for the child. There is currently a waiting list of families wanting to adopt. Courtney explained that most families desiring to adopt understand the risk of becoming attached to a child while doing foster care and do not want to experience the heartbreak of a child leaving their home. However, many foster families often develop such a strong bond with the children in their home that if the child does become legally available for adoption, they may choose to adopt.

It is extremely rare for a child to come into ICW’s custody and be immediately available for adoption. The majority of children are in foster care for quite some time while their parents work through a treatment plan and toward reunification of their family. Should the parents fail to achieve reunification and have their rights terminated, then the children become available for adoption.

Individuals and families who are interested in fostering will receive a packet which includes the ICW Handbook for Placement Home, application and background check forms. A series of background checks for all adults living in the home will be performed and a visit will be scheduled.

Any individual or family wishing to become a foster home with CPN can contact the ICW department at (405) 878-4831.

To preserve the culture of our Native children, tribal foster homes are desperately needed in Oklahoma and throughout the United States.

Many of our tribal children are placed in non-native homes when taken into state custody due to the lack of foster families.

With the Indian Child Welfare Act under attack and scrutiny, it is vital, now more than ever, for tribal children to have initial placement in tribal foster homes.

If you are an Oklahoma Resident willing to open your heart and home to our children in out-of-home placements, please contact our office for an application packet.

For those living outside of Oklahoma, contact our office for further information on becoming a tribal home in your state of residence.

Hownikan
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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Today is a milestone in the history of the CPN. It is also one of the most joyful I have experienced as Tribal Chairman in the last 30 years. We finally won.

On June 17, 2016 Federal District Court Judge Rob- in Cauthron ruled in favor of CPN, which enforces the arbitration award issued by former Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Daniel J. Bou- dreau in the State of Oklaho- ma’s case against the tribe that has lasted for years. This award has the elements in it, now that Federal District Court Judge Cauthron has confirmed it, that can finally end 32 years of unlawful and racially biased harassment through state taxation, state agency litigation, regulatory manipulation, unlawful prose- cution, license suspension, extortion, personal persecu- tion and deliberate obstruc- tion.

In the last four years, this reign of terror has escalated to an unbearable level under Governor Mary Fallin, re- cently touted as a potential running mate for Donald Trump. We have been forced to spend nearly $1.5 million in outside attorney fees and some $500,000 on in-house costs for expert witnesses and our tribal attorneys sal- aries. While this is a terrible waste of money, it would have been worse. It could also have impacted ev- ery tribe in the state.

Judge Cauthron is consid- ered a conservative and ex- perienced federal judge with a reputation for fairness and scholarly legal adjudication. She sternly prompted the Oklahoma State Attorney General’s staffs at the be- ginning the hearing with the statement that she had “read all of the briefs, so there is no need to re-argue these points. Does either side of this issue have any new points to make under the law?” These two young men ex- changed long looks before one stood to address the judge.

There were four parts to the State’s case:

1) They wanted the arbitra- tion award vacated. In other words, they wanted to start the whole litigation process, three years old, completely anew.

2) The state argued for this new trial and vacation of the award by saying Judge Bou- dreau exceeded his powers by not limiting the award to issues only mentioned in the gaming compact. This was ironic, since it was the state that brought grocery store taxes into a dispute over the casino compact in the first place. The state was trying to hold our liquor licenses hos- tage to force us to pay taxes at the stores and other tribal businesses. This direct taxa- tion issue was heard in a case they had lost back in 1991.

3) The state said that the word “right” to sell alcohol was not in the compact but was mentioned in the arbitra- tion award. This was a fool- ish attempt to find fault since Judge Boudreaux’s reference was only to the “right” to sell alcohol under the compact rules and state law, not an in- herent right.

4) The state wanted a de novo (new) review of the award. In other words, they did not want to honor their agreement to arbitrate dis- putes under the Model Gam- ing Compact, now 11 years old. This is pure bad faith. The state winning this point could mean that every com- pact dispute between the state and any of the 39 tribes in the state that went through the lengthy arbitration pro- cess in the future could have that decision set aside if the state lost. The state would get a brand new trial in a federal court, after three years of delays in state court and mil- lions of dollars spent in legal fees paid out by the tribes. Worse, this would negate the mutual sovereignty waivers contained in the Oklahoma Model Gaming Compact. The state could violate the compact and claim immuni- ty from suit. So could a tribe. This would trigger chaos, the result of which would be a flood of litigation that would fill the federal courts.

Then, in an unusual action for a state vs. tribe lawsuit, Judge Cauthron verbally ruled from the bench in favor of the arbitration award. We have received the written ruling at CPN, and I am over-joyed. We have some legal work in front of us to extend this ruling to the other law- suits the state has in front of us, but it is a powerful tool.

This is wonderful news that will affect our tribe for gen- erations to come. I am grate- ful for the honor of serving as your Tribal Chairman.

Tribal Chairman
John “Rocky” Barrett
Kewego
“He leads them home.”
Tribal Chairman

Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

Overtime compliance review

“Overtime” has been a buzz word for the tribe in recent weeks. It is being discussed by our human resources de- partment, by administration and by the employees. This is because it has been on the television news, in the newspa- pers and on the Internet on a regular basis.

In May 2016, the U.S. De- partment of Labor, or DOL, from hereafter, announced the details of the final rule of the overtime expansion updat- ing the standard salary lev- el, also known as the salary threshold to $913 a week or $47,476 annually for work- ers. This action which falls under the Fair Labor Stan- dards Act of the DOL is ex- pected to extend overtime pay protections to an esti- mated 4.2 million workers throughout the United States who are currently exempt. Dec. 1, 2016 is the date for which employers must begin to comply.

What does this mean to CPN and other employers? In plain language it means that those workers who are now considered exempt from overtime may no longer be exempt. Any employee who makes less than $47,476 per year or $913 per week will be considered an hourly em- ployee. An hourly employee must be paid time and one- half for every hour worked over 40 hours per week.

The current threshold is $23,660 or $455 per week. Employees making this amount are presently exempt from their employer pay- ing overtime. This is a huge change! Our HR staff mem- bers have been busy calcu- lating how many employ- ees will be affected by the change. They have calculat- ed how many employees we have in certain salary ranges, how many overtime hours the average employee in that particular those salary rang- es make per week, per month and per year. They have cal- culated how many overtime hours that CPN presently pays and how many overtime hours would be paid in com- parison with the new salary threshold.

Both our HR employees and our accounting staff have attended conferences and webinars for several weeks. Employers of both small and large businesses all over the country are bracing for the new regulations. The CPN administration is closely tuned in because we must be in the planning phase regard- ing FLSA mandates. I even had District 3 Legislative Bob Whistler contact me about the new law. I appreciate Legislative Whistler’s con- cern because he, too, realizes the impact for CPN.

Our tribe will be looking at ways to offset potential overtime costs. One obvious solution is to increase the pay of those employees who are very close to the $47,476 new salary threshold. For those who are still classified as hourly wage employees, we must watch the overtime very closely. With nearly 2,300 employees, a prudent oversight is to scrutinize overtime. With departments and enterprises like the tribal police department, grocery stores, casinos, maintenance and housekeeping, holding down overtime is not an easy task.

One thing is for sure, when the government decides to draw a new line and tell us how much time we can work hard to straighten it out. In the long run, the new overtime rule has its good and bad points. The govern- ment calls this $47,476.00 threshold a “white collar” exemption. The salary guide- line will be looked at ev- ery three years for updates. Please know that your tribe will strive to be fair with the employees at every turn. We value your work ethic and diligence to a high degree.

Thank you for allowing me to be your vice chairman. We have a great summer to look forward to as we visit with our Potawatomi families from near and far at Gather- ing this July.

Vice-Chairman
Linda Capps

Tribal Chairman
John “Rocky” Barrett
Kewego
“His lead them home.”

Migwetch
John “Rocky” Barrett

Migwetch
Linda Capps

Vice Chairman
KCapps@potawatomi.org

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HOWNIKAN

District 1 - Roy Slavin

First a few words about our District 1 and 4 joint meeting. District 4’s Jon Boursaw represents the state of Kansas. My district is everything east of the Kansas-Missouri border and north of West Virginia. It seems like a mismatch but the districts are laid out by CPN member population, meaning all of our legislative districts have the same number of CPN members, basically.

As always, we honored our wisest, youngest and farthest traveled members. Our wisest member in attendance was Mary Pricket of Rossville, Kansas. I hesitate to mention a lady’s age but Mary is 91. Our newest member at the meeting was 13-month-old Abigail Ellery Jones, a Vieux family descendant. The member who traveled the farthest was Myron Williams of Rogers, Arkansas, brother of one of our guest speakers, Wanda Goodnow.

Guest speakers were Bill Thorn, director of health services for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and Wanda Goodnow, an author. Wanda’s book “Autobiographies and Biographies” is a collection of old photographs purchased over many years both online and at regional auctions. Speaking of her vivid imagination she wrote stories about the people depicted in the photographs. This is definitely a coffee table book.

While on the subject of our district meeting, I feel I need to talk about RSVPs. We always ask for an RSVP if you intend to attend. This is because we serve lunch at the meeting and have to order food. If you RSVP and then something comes up and you can’t attend, please, please, let us know if at all possible so we can change the food order.

This meeting was held at the ARARAT Shrine in Kansas City and all proceeds of the meeting went to neglected and abused children. For that reason I will be using them again for my Kansas City meetings. As an ex-court appointed special advocate for neglected and abused children, I know how much that means.

Your CPN color guard participated in the second annual massing of the colors ceremony in Topeka, Kansas. The ceremony is dedicated to the memory of military service members who have given their lives in the nation’s defense. It also honors those who have served and are currently serving in the armed forces. Our color guard consists of myself (Army) Jon Boursaw (Air Force) and Lyman Boursaw (Army).

I may be reached at 1-888-741-5767 (toll free) or by snail mail at 6730 Tower Drive, Kansas City, Missouri, 64151.

Migwetch Netageige (Roy)

District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

Mary Pricket and Roy.

I hope you are well and the summer season brings you time outside with loved ones, friends and our natural world. I, for one, am hoping to spot a soaring eagle or two this summer. You may know that the eagle is very special to the Bodewadmi people; it is said to be the bird that flies closest to the sun, continuing to carry word to the Creator that we Bodewadmi are putting down sema/tobacco, keeping the sacred fire, and maintaining our traditions. I’ve included a work from CPN artist Penny Coates capturing an eagle’s perspective on our people.

I hope each of you at some point will have the chance to visit the CPN Eagle Aviary, to spend time with the eagles who are entrusting us with their care. We opened the aviary in 2012. Our Nation has the authority to distribute these eagles’ feathers and in the future we will not have to rely on the U.S. government to furnish us feathers (and avoid an application process that rankles, as it inserts the U.S. government into our traditional practices). I write “in the future” because the pent-up demand for feathers means that currently (as of mid-2016) applications for avairy feathers far exceed the amount of available, molted feathers. But we will catch up with the birds’ help. In late 2015 Vice-Chairman Capps placed a note in the Hownikan explaining that there currently are delays in fulfilling avairy feather requests due to the demand. So please be patient!

For now, I suggest that you continue to request eagle feathers from the U.S. government if you are in need of feathers for ceremony (your wait will be six months for 10 eagle feathers). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s application forms and permitting process can be found at: http://www.es.anp.carenm.com/documents/eagle.feathers.pdf.

You also may find helpful the eagle-related information posted to www.potawatomi.org under the Culture tab. Included are a CPN Eagle Permit Application and a note from Chairman Barrett describing traditional use and care of eagle feathers. See potawatomi.org/culture/eagle-aviary.

It also may interest you to know that you no longer need to carry a permit when you travel with your feathers within the United States. As described in a DOJ summary of tribal consultation, government control over eagle feathers was called into question at a 2010 summit convened by the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. Harvey Spoonhunter, then the chairman of the Northern Arapaho Tribe, asked attendees to consider that even during the Prohibition Era, churches could use sacramental wine and “didn’t have to wait five years to get it like we do to get eagle feathers” and did not have to apply for permits to drink the wine as part of their religious ceremony. All of this notwithstanding, when I travel with my feathers to our Festivals and Gatherings, my personal practice continues to be to pack with the feathers the feather permit I was issued by the U.S. government, along with my CPN Eagle Feather Permit signed by Chairman Barrett, just in case I run into an unfamiliar TSA employee during my carry-on bag search. I do not want to risk losing the eagle wing fan and lady fan that are very important to me.

I’d also like to congratulate Bruno family member Zachary Olynik of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland on his recent graduation from Huntington High School. Congratulations to all the graduates this spring, and don’t forget to send your December graduate announcements to graduation@potawatomi.org before November!

Thank you for the honor of representing you. Please call or write me with any questions or requests, and, if you are not yet a participant, send me a note to join the District 2 private Facebook page and my email list, through which I send information and notes periodically during the month.

Bama pi/until later, Eva Marie Carney

Ojindiskwe (Bluebirdwoman)

Legislator, District 2

ecarney@potawatomi.org

NOTE NEW MAILING ADDRESS:
2200 North George Mason Dr., #7307
Arlington, VA 22207
1-866-961-6988
ecarney@potawatomi.com

Penny Coates’ drawing of the Potawatomi eagle.

Bozho nikanek (Hello friends)!

Wanda Goodnow, an author.

Bluebirdwoman services for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and Cultural Services for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

I may be reached at 1-888-741-5767 (toll free) or by snail mail at 6730 Tower Drive, Kansas City, Missouri, 64151.

Migwetch Netageige (Roy)

Bozho nikanek (Hello friends)!

Wanda Goodnow, an author.
HOWNIKAN

District 3 - Bob Whistlser

I recently gave at the annual meeting of the Wabaunsee County Historical Society. The meeting was held in a recently restored building that had been general store and ferry on the Kansas River and the Kansas state archeologist who considers the case for burials on the plot of land in question to be pretty weak. Therefore he is not going to pursue it any further unless new evidence comes to light. The contractor for the development will be instructed to cease construction immediately if his workers discover any artifacts and notify the proper authorities, which includes local law enforcement, the county coroner and the Kansas State Historical Society.

One to remember: I have enjoyed giving my CPN history presentations over the past five years, but one that I will remember was the one recently given at the annual meeting of the Wabaunsee County Historical Society.

District 4 - Jon Boursaw

For those who would like to be named and have already received a nomination from a member, you need to return it to me as soon as possible. For those who would like to be named but do not have the questionnaire, please contact me as soon as possible.

Senior support staff: Don’t forget the nurses in Rossville are continuing to offer a foot care clinic on the third Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They are not making appointments, so it is a first come, first served basis. I continue to hear nothing but positive comments about the services Tracy and Pam are providing. To our seniors. If you want more information regarding the array of services and programs they offer don’t hesitate to contact them at 785-584-6171.

Seniors’ potluck: The Senior Support Staff also sponsors a potluck luncheon on the second Friday of each month in the CPN Community Center. Contact Tracy or Pam for information or simply to RSVP for the next luncheon.

Suspected Native American burial site – update: I have been informed by the Kansas state archeologist that he considers the case for burials on the plot of land in question to be pretty weak. Therefore he is not going to pursue it any further unless new evidence comes to light. The contractor for the development will be instructed to cease construction immediately if his workers discover any artifacts and notify the proper authorities, which includes local law enforcement, the county coroner and the Kansas State Historical Society.

One to remember: I have enjoyed giving my CPN history presentations over the past five years, but one that I will remember was the one recently given at the annual meeting of the Wabaunsee County Historical Society.

Summer is here! Expect more high temperatures and humidity, but also plenty of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and stay active.

Young adults to college. You may be considering college for yourself. My mother started back to college at 82. She wanted to stay in touch with her grandchildren and grandchildren. Her motives didn’t have to reflect a new career or position. This is what I want to talk about today.

Education is the one thing you can do for yourself and your children that will determine the level of success you may experience in life. It wasn’t that way as I grew up. It was about experience. Now employers want both.

Technology is taking over and we have to decide are we going to go forward with it or is it going to leave us behind.

There are many opportunities waiting for Native American graduates. The various tribes have been forced to hire non-natives due to a lack of educated tribal members. Scholarships are running rampant though. You can Google Native American college scholarships and from there you can cut and paste your way to a free, or almost free, education.

There are so many places to look, including State-to-State, Workforce Investment Opportunity Act, Pell Grants, college Scholarships and Native American organizations in your state or community, military options, vocational training or retraining, it can go on and on.

So this summer, while on vacation, why not throw a little scholarship fishing in the mix? Don’t be afraid of it. You will not qualify for every single one, but there is opportunity around every corner.

The other option is get a great education and spend the rest of your life paying for it.

The world of education is “open” for the Native American student! Take advantage of this time. Be there. Be qualified.

Speaking of education, congratulations to D5’s Anna Gabriel Bearman (LeClaire) who graduated with a BA in Chemistry from Bowdoin College in May.

Personal regards, Emunie Imogene Lambert, (Gene)

eunieclambert@gmail.com

JULY 2016
**District 6 - Rande K. Payne**

Wednesday, July 27 and run through Friday, July 29. The Gathering of Potawatomi Nations runs from Thursday, July 28 through Saturday, July 30.

There will be a wide variety of cultural workshops to attend as well as sporting events. If you’ve never attended one of these events you might just want to head to Shawnee. You will be overwhelmed with activities and numerous opportunities to engage with our relatives from Kansas, Wisconsin, Michigan and Canada. If dancing is your thing, come get your feet wet. It is so very moving to be in the arena overlooking with Potawatomi from all over the country and Canada.

I’ve listed all the participating tribes and their location below. Whether you attend the Gathering or not, I would encourage you to take some time to get on your computer and spend some time researching each of the tribes. Most have websites with at least a brief history of the tribe. I find it fascinating that we were all from the same region roughly 300 years ago. Indian removal scattered us near and far. But through it all we are still Nishnabe and we remain.

- Citizen Potawatomi Nation Shawnee, Oklahoma
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation - Mayetta, Kansas
- Forest County Potawatomi Crandon, Wisconsin
- Hannahville Indian Community - Wilson, Michigan
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Dowagiac, Michigan
- Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe) Shelbyville, Michigan
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Fulton, Michigan
- Walpole Island First Nation Walpole Island, Ontario, Canada
- Wasauksing First Nation Perry Island, Ontario, Canada

**District 7 - Mark Johnson**

Bozho Nikanek
Hello Friends,

Another June has passed and so with it another successful Family Reunion Festival. As we gathered together to celebrate our shared heritage and love for our part of the world where our ancestors chose to settle, it was great to see those familiar faces of old friends while meeting new ones. Things around the Nation never stand still very long. A lot of new construction and improvements have happened in the last year. If you didn’t attend this year, find the time in the future and join us in Shawnee over the last weekend in June.

With the Family Festival in the rearview mirror, the Nation will now be hosting the Gathering of Nations, from July 28-3 at the CPN festival grounds with all of our relations from the other Potawatomi Nations. From the language conference to cultural events and govern-mental meetings, it will be a great time to celebrate our heritage and gather together as one.

For scholarship applications, see the CPN Department of Education update on page 5 of this paper. Another great educational opportunity that is available to District 7 members is the pre-paid tuition fund at St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Development Schol- arship Program is open to all tribal members and the program covers tuition, room-and-board and meal plans for both undergrad-uate and graduate residential programs at St. Gregory’s University. Student expenses are limited to some fees and textbooks costs. For further information contact the CPN Department of Education Director, Tesia Zientek, by email at tesia.zientek@potawa-tomi.org or by sending inquiries to college@potawa-tomi.org. It would be great to see some of our members from District 7 take full ad-vantage of this wonderful opportunity at a higher education.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 representative. As always give me a call and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have, or provide you with additional information you may need to access tribal benefits that you are entitled to. Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact informa-tion so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and dis-trict.

Migwech / Thank You,
Mark Johnson / Wisk Mtek
(Strong as a Tree)
Representative, District 7
1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Shawnee, OK 74804
(559) 351-0078 cell
Mark.Johnson@ potawatomi.org

**District 8 - Dave Carney**

Bozho, Nikanek

One of the activities that has become a “feature” at District 8 meetings is our Native American art show. This year’s gatherings will keep this new tradition going, so if you are planning on coming to the August 6 dinner in Spokane or the annual Fall Feast (this year in Portland) please start preparing your artwork now.

There are always three cate-gories, which upon occasion, is like putting a square peg in a round hole. Those are ‘Fine Art,’ ‘Craft’ and ‘12 by under.’ We’ve had all kinds of entries, from hand drums, to eagle feather fans, oil paintings, elk skin dresses and walking sticks.

The contest rules are simple: The artist must be a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the art must have a Native American theme, be brought to the event and be taken home that day. Past winners have been a piece of our Vice-Chairman Linda Capps (by Steve Lynch), a painting inspired by George Winter’s sketches of the removal from Indiana (by George Gragg) and a hand drum by Ginger Blackmon.

During the November 2015 Fall Feast, two founding families were represented by members who gave presenta-tions. The thought is that the stories of a few families are representative of most of us. I have put out a call for any-one who would like to do the same. I can offer help from some of the staff at the Nation’s genealo-gy aficionado. Please let me know if you are interested.

Dates and information are: Saturday Aug. 6 at 5 p.m. GFWC Woman’s Club of Spokane 1428 W Ninth Ave., Spokane, WA 99204

RSVP’s are in the mail and due by July 22 for our Au-gust 6 gathering in Spokane. Of course, you are welcome if you are traveling through the area and are not a District 8 member.

One of the reasons this ven-ue was selected is because they will make an area avail-able to us for a post-meeting naming ceremony. Several folks living eastern Wash-ington, the Idaho panhandle and Montana have expressed their desire to participate. If you are interested in learning more about receiving a Potawatomi name that eve-ning, please contact me as soon as possible.

Each May and December our tribal newspaper publishes the names of graduates from high school and college. I would like to congratulate two District 8 members on their graduation.

Charissa Dewitt

Charissa Dewitt of Lacey, Washington recently gradu-ated from Timberline High School with honors.

January Bourassa is Ore-gon’s newest doctor of Natu-ropathic Medicine from The National College of Natural Medicine.

As always it is an honor to serve you as your District 8 legislator, if there is ever any information or questions you may have, please do not hes-i-tate to reach out to me.

Best Regards,
Dave Carney/Kagagish
dcarney@potawatomi.org
360.259.4027

**District 7 • Mark Johnson**

Bama pi, Rande K. Payne Mnedo Gaho
Legislator District 6
31150 Road 180
Visalia, CA 93292-9585
(559) 999-3525 office
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Rande.Payne@potawatomi.org
District 10 - David Barrett

Do we really know what we have when we say “freedom”? How did we get it? How do we use it? Do we appreciate having it?

Let me start out talking about the members of the CPN Veterans Organization Color Guard who were honored with a POW/MIA flag by Rolling Thunder, Mississippi Chapter 1 President John McKendree on May 12, 2016. Rolling Thunder is an advocacy group that seeks to bring full accountability for Prisoners Of War and Missing in Action service members of all U.S. Wars. Their main event occurs on the Sunday before Memorial Day, in which members make a slow ride on a dedicated, closed off, pre-set route, called “Ride to the Wall” in Washington D.C., referring to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Rolling Thunder and CPN veteran Galen Greenwald invited the CPN vets to the Seminole Nation’s Mckuskey Mission Grounds for the Mississippian group’s “Empty Chair Ceremony”.

This was a very sobering time, where we remembered servicemen still missing – all 82,732 of them.

WWI - 3,347
WWII - 73,161 (estimates that over 41,000 of these rest at the bottom of the sea)
Cold War - 126 (5 from Oklahoma)
Korea - 7,818 (152 from Oklahoma)
Vietnam - 1,621
Operation El Dorado Canyon/Libya 1986 - 1
Operation Desert Storm 1991 - 2
Operation Iraqi Freedom 2003-2010 - 3

The empty chairs represent those Americans still missing from each of the five branches of service. The empty chair ceremony symbolizes that they are with us...they are here in spirit.

John F. Kennedy said, “A nation reveals itself not only by the citizens it produces, but also by the citizens it honors and the citizens it remembers.”

There was a time, long ago, that our forefathers fought to provide us with freedom, and then came wars fought to preserve those freedoms. The passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 by Congress made it an official holiday.

Veterans Day, which falls on November 11, is designated as a day to honor all who have served in the military. According to Military.com, Veterans Day began as Armistice Day to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918.

“In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress—at the urging of the veterans service organizations—amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “armistice” and inserting the word “veterans.” With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.”

How disgraceful is it to watch individuals burn our flag in protest. They say it is their right under “freedom of speech.” Who do they think paid in full for this “freedom”? Don’t spit on the honor of veterans who stepped up to the plate to grant this freedom for all (even the ones who disgrace the flag.) Thank a veteran anytime and our active service members when you see them.

Enduring peace has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice. We are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures and freedom, there are others who have endured and may still be enduring the agonies of pain, deprivation and imprisonment.

I’m looking forward seeing and talking to all our Potawatomi friends coming down for the Gatherings, especially when all the Potawatomi nations’ veterans brings their eagle staffs and flags into the arena at Grand Entry. This is a sight that will swell up your heart and then all the different regalia that the people are wearing comes into the arena.

It goes without saying, thank you for allowing me to represent you and our great Nation.

Migwetch,
David Barnett/Mtelo De (Sits with the Spirit)
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801
405-275-3121
District #10
DBarrett@potawatomi.org

District 13 - Bobbi Bowden

Bozho, Nihan,
This year seems to be flying by! With our Family Reunion Festival behind us we now are looking forward to hosting the Gathering of Nations.

The 2016 Gathering will take place in Shawnee, Oklahoma from July 28-30, 2016 and be hosted by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Most events will take place inside the fully air conditioned FireLake Arena! I know we will all appreciate the air conditioning!

The Gathering of Potawatomi Nations is hosted each year by one of the nine bands of Potawatomi, providing an opportunity for members of all bands to come together and celebrate their Potawatomi heritage. It includes a language conference, cultural workshops, language classes, cultural classes and sporting events.

Keep watching the web site www.potawatomi.org and the Hownikan for information on the Gathering. If you were unable to attend the Family Reunion Festival I hope you will try to join us for the Gathering. I am looking forward to meeting members of other bands and learning about their traditions and enterprises.

My deepest heartfelt thanks goes out to each and every tribal employee for your hard work each and every day and especially at this time of the year. Not only are they recovering from the Family Reunion Festival this year they are preparing for the Gathering. Each year they amaze me and make this one even better than the last!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as one of your Oklahoma legislative representatives.

Migwetch,
Bobbi Bowden
Peshknoke (District 13 Representative)
BobbiBowden@potawatomi.org
Fred Everett "Charlie" House II, age 57 of Henderson, Kentucky went to be with his Lord and Savior on April 12, 2016. He was born in Orlando, Florida on Feb. 10, 1959 to Mary Joann Foster Gilstrap and the late Charles E. House.

He is survived by his loving mother, devoted siblings: Cheryl Thurlow of Sidney, Montana; Deborah Thumm of Las Vegas, Nevada; Richard House of New Smyrna Beach, Florida; several nieces and nephews and a host of other family members, friends and loved ones.

Charlie was a proud member and former board member of the Henderson Moose Lodge No. 732. He was a good dad, an honest man, a veteran of the United States Military, a former alcoholic who had achieved nine years of sobriety prior to this passing, an avid supporter of the Florida Gators, a man of tremendous faith, courage and compassion who loved to cook, dance and laugh.

He is remembered for the many memories, contacts and contributions he made to his family, friends, community and Nation. Charlie will be profoundly missed by all those whose lives were touched by his remarkable presence.

Frederick Henry Hazelton

Frederick Henry Hazelton was born June 28, 1927 in Oklahoma City, a proud American and tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He passed away, in Schertz, Texas, Feb. 24, 2016 at the age of 88.

Fred enlisted in the Army Air Corps Aug. 1945 and was trained as a cook. He was stationed at Adak Island, Alaska with the 11th Air Force. In April 1947 Fred was honorably discharged and awarded the World War II Victory Medal. In Sept. 1950 Fred reenlisted in the Air Force and was sent to RAF Station Lakenheath, England with the 3710th AB Group.

It was while he was stationed in Lakenheath that he met and married his wife of 51 years, Joyce Hazelton, who preceded him Nov. 12, 2003.

Fred continued in his Air Force career serving overseas during the Korean and the Vietnam conflicts. He finally retired from the Air Force with the rank of Tech Sergeant on Aug. 1, 1969 from Randolph AFB.

Fred was a proud and active member of the Knights of Columbus for 61 years. He joined councils at each duty station he was assigned to while stateside.

Preceding Fred in death are his parents: Frederick K. Hazelton and Clara Agnes Hazelton; and his twin brother: Theodore Charles Hazelton of Oklahoma City.

Fred is survived by his younger brother: Wilber Clovis Hazelton; eldest son: Robert James Hazelton; daughter: Christine Joan Hazelton; youngest son: Paul Jeffery Hazelton; grandchildren: Christopher Charles Stewart, Miranda Lynn Hazelton, and Sarah Noel Hazelton.

Funeral mass was held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Schertz May 22, 2016 followed by a farewell at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetary with honor guard and three-volley salute.

Bobby G. Center

Bobby G. Center longtime Shidler resident went home to be with the Lord May 4, 2016 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He was born on July 22, 1928 to Alger Center and Elizabeth Bourassa Center.

Graveside Services were held Saturday, May 7, 2016 in the Grandview Cemetery of Kaw City, Oklahoma with Pastor Chester Ward of First Baptist Church officiating.

Bobby grew up in Webb City and Shidler and graduated from Shidler High School. He was a member of the Shidler First Baptist Church. Bobby served a tour of duty in the U.S. Army Air Corps and after his service returned to Shidler. He married Eva Mae Crain on Dec. 24, 1952. Bobby worked for Conoco as a lab tech for many years.

Survivors include his daughter and son in law: Jackie and Eddie Bruner of Chotowa; grandchildren: Katrina Fawn Bruner, Brandon Jo Bruner and Jacob Edward Bruner; great-grandchildren: Lee Bruner, Maddie and Eden Bruner, and Lyla Bruner; cousin: Betty Hancock of Kansas City, Missouri; and several nieces and nephews.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents, wife in 2013, son, Joe, in 2004 and brother, Bill Center.

Online condolences may be done at gracememorialchapel.net

Rufus Alexander Aker


Rufe was born on Aug. 29, 1927, in Trousdale, Oklahoma to C.T. "Bill" Aker and Lucille Aker. He was the oldest of five siblings and proud to be a descendant of the Potawatomi Indian tribe. The Dust Bowl brought the family to California where Bill was a cotton farmer and Rufe grew up excelling in sports in school.

In June of 1945, Rufe enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He proudly served on the U.S.S. Comfort in the Pacific. During his service, he met Robert Epperson who became a true friend when he introduced Rufe to his sister, Joyce, who became the love of Rufe’s life and his wife.

Married in 1948, the couple lived in Visalia where Rufe began a lifelong career in the cotton industry with A. D. Clayton, starting as a cotton gin bookkeeper.

Rufe and Joyce had three daughters, Susan, Gail and Carrie in Visalia and in 1965 moved the family to Phoenix, Arizona. Rufe quickly moved up the management ladder with Anderson Clayton to become President in 1983. He retired in 1992.

Rufe helped to create scholarships for agriculture students in California and worked with the Colorado River Indians to establish a cotton gin. He served on the National Cotton Council of America in various positions including director.

Rufe was an avid golfer and member of the Phoenix Country Club. He enjoyed many fishing trips with his buddies and playing poker in the evenings. Rufe loved teaching his daughters and grandchildren the fine art of card playing in his later years. Rufe loved playing gin rummy in the card room at the country club. The family spent many wonderful times vacationing in Laguna Beach and Flagstaff.

Rufe was always a gentleman, kind, generous and compassionate. His greatest love was his wife, Joyce for 68 years and his family. He delighted seeing his grandchildren and great-grandchildren playing in the backyard.

Rufe is survived by his wife: Joyce; daughters: Susan Kleckca, Gail Creasman (Chuck) and Carrie Adams (Kevin); grandchildren: Amy Hearns (Brad), Christopher Klecka (Kristin), Nate Adams (Alexandra), Kelly Jensen (Nate), Emily Creasman (Kevin); and great-grandchildren. Andy and Ava Hearns, Ashlyn, Reid and Beau Kleckca, A. Ideler and Micah Jensen, Connor and Kate Hogan and Ellie Adams; sister: Christine Divine of Visalia; brother: Jack Aker of Scottsdale; numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held May 21, 2016 at A.L. Moore Grimshaw Mortuary. In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation to a charity of your choice.

Howard "Frosty" Cavender

Howard "Frosty" Cavender a resident of Durant, Oklahoma passed from this life in Durant on May 16, 2016 at the age of 82. He was born on Aug. 21, 1933 in Konawa, Oklahoma to Claude and Viola (Wolfe) Cavender. Frosty married Carolyn White in Madill, Oklahoma on August 22, 1958.

Frosty served his country in the United States Army as a paratrooper. He was a truck driver for most of his adult life. His greatest joy in his life was his family and grandchildren. Frosty loved being outside working in his garden, raising cattle and later in life he liked to watch game shows.

He is survived by his wife: Carolyn of the home; sons: Michael Cavender and Sandra of Mead, Oklahoma; Steve Cavender of Durant; brothers: Joe Cavender and Vonda, Jimmy Cavender and Judy. Paul Cavender and Carla all of Durant; sister: Norm Pettit and Betty Clyde of Durant; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Claude and Viola Cavender; brothers: Claude Wayne, Mike, Robert, and Jerry Cavender; sister: Miriam Chandler; grandparents: Kelvin Sheffield.

A funeral service was held on Friday, May 20, 2016 at the Holmes Coffey Murray Chapel with Bro. Randy Lewis officiating. Internment followed at Highland Cemetery.

Family and friends may send online condolences and view tributes at www.holmescoffeymurray.com

Submitting obituaries

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

Leroy Smith was born on Dec. 19, 1927 and passed from this life on April 24, 2016. His life began in Rocky, Oklahoma where he was one of seven children born to DeWitt and Ruby Smith. Early on he learned to hunt and fish and enjoyed these sports his entire life.

In 1946, Leroy joined the United States Army where he served with the 5th Engineer Combat Platoon stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington. Leroy was a Demolition Specialist in the Army where he destroyed and made unserviceable bridges, roads, and buildings by means of explosives. Shortly after basic training, he was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington where he participated in Task Force Frigid.

Leroy came home from the Army and went to work at Tinker Air Force Base as a welder where he received many commendations for his skills. He met and married Alice Raines and raised two daughters, Nancy and Debra. He and Alice enjoyed 58 years of marriage together prior to Alice’s death in 2012.

Leroy loved to tink in the garage. He was a handyman and a fixer of all things. Nothing pleased him more than to help someone by repairing a lawn mower or welding a broken part. Leroy never met a stranger and was loved by all he met. Saying that he liked to talk is an understatement. No matter where he went he could find someone to talk with. He could talk about anything; politics, the stock market, current events or the Bible. Before the encounter ended he would know your life story, if you were needed something and he would be searching for a way to get what you needed. Because he talked so much, he always had a story to tell and knew people from all over Oklahoma City and Edmond. Leroy was adventurous and always willing to try something new. His senses remained sharp as he aged, permitting him to kill his first deer at the age of 77. He was really proud of that deer.

Leroy loved his family. He was a wonderful provider to his wife and children and was always there to give support and encouragement through the good times and the bad. He loved his brothers and sisters and enjoyed running around with them in his younger days and visiting with them as he aged. His favorite vacations were those where the entire Smith clan (dad, mom, brothers, sisters, wives, husbands, and all the kids) pulled out the tents and fishing poles and camped out at the lake for a week. He particularly enjoyed fishing with his dad and brothers.

Leroy was an optimistic and happy person who never had a bad day. Regardless of the circumstances, he could find something to lighten the mood, make us laugh, and encourage us to move forward. Leroy was steadfast in his faith and often spoke of his Savior, Jesus Christ. He was a member of Classen Boulevard Baptist Church for many years. Leroy taught us honesty, integrity and compassion. His life exemplified goodness in everything he did or said. The world is a sadder place today due to the loss of our precious father, grandfather, brother, uncle, neighbor and friend. He will forever remain in our hearts.

Leroy is preceded in death by his wife: Alice; sisters: Margaret Clark and Beverly Taylor; brothers: Bob Smith and John D. Smith. He is survived by his children: Nancy Atkinson and husband Jack, and Debra Shuffield; grandchildren: Kristina Morel and Matthew Morel; great-grandchild: Molly Morel; sister: Shirley Collins and husband Floyd; brother: Gary “Bud” Smith and wife Jeanne; and a host of nephews and nieces.

Betty McClothlin Armstrong

Betty McClothlin Armstrong was born Sept. 8, 1922. She passed away on March 30, 2016 at Rowntree Gardens Senior Living facility in Stanhope, Florida. Betty was a “card shark” specializing in Marty, South Dakota. He graduated from Hofstra University in New York City. He received his Master Degree and Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas. He was a dean of students at KU. He also worked for the CPN tribe of Oklahoma.

Francis was preceded in death by his parents: Joseph Paul Levier and Nova Candiff Ward; siblings: Charles Levier, Cletus Levier, Joan Lero, and Randy Thompson.

Survivors: Judy Levier Sebo of Los Lunas, New Mexico, Mike Levier and Family of Topeka, Atha Kerr and Family of Reno, Nevada, Susan Mire and Jeanette from Vivian, Louisiana, Tammy Meeker and Family of Sloan Springs, Arkansas.

Lapelalma Funeral home in Reno, Nevada was in charge of cremation. A memorial service was held in Kansas and interment at Shipshewa Cemetery on the Potawatomi Indian Reservation in Kansas.

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

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.