Oklahoma Senator seeks to complicate tribal compact process

Legislation authored by State Senator Greg Treat would require compacts be approved by two thirds of Oklahoma Senate.

Tribal Chairman Barrett honored as one of Oklahoma’s most admired CEOs

The Embassy Suites in downtown Oklahoma City was filled with some of the state’s well-known public, private and non-profit leaders on Feb. 18 for the Journal Record newspaper’s “Most Admired CEOs” award banquet. Amongst those honored for their leadership was Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s John “Rocky” Barrett, who has led the Nation to incredible growth in more than three decades as tribal chairman.

“It’s humbling to be recognized along with so many capable and talented leaders,” said Chairman Barrett. “It was always vital that we put our Nation on the right track as a business, service provider and tribal government. To be honored along with such accomplished people, it shows we have taken the right path in these areas.”

Since his first election as leader of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in 1985, the tribe, its commercial enterprises and public service programs have grown exponentially. In the early 1970s, CPN had assets totaling just $550 and less than three acres of land. Today it is a vibrant tribe of more than 32,000 with an annual economic impact of more than $550 million.

Through deft leadership and business acumen sharpened by years in the private sector, Chairman Barrett has been at the forefront of making the tribe the largest employer in Pottawatomie County, with more than 2,200 Oklahomans working in its enterprises and programs.

First National Bank and Trust Co. President Larry Briggs endorsed the chairman’s nomination, writing “I have…had the opportunity to observe Mr. Barrett’s leadership of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Under his leadership, the Nation has prospered. Most people are in awe of the success that the nation has experienced.”

While the state’s energy-reliant economy has slowed, business in Indian Country remains steady. Chief Gary Batton of the Choctaw Nation was also recognized as one of the state’s most admired CEOs, further emphasizing the impact that Indian Country has on Oklahoma.

The tribe’s growth percentages under Chairman Barrett are impressive. From 1985-2014, CPN’s revenue growth increased by more than 700,000 percent. In that same amount of time, funds increased by nearly 4,000 percent.

During his tenure, the tribe has entered into more than 2,200 Oklahoma’s most admired CEOs, further emphasizing the impact that Indian Country has on Oklahoma.

Capps wins prestigious Gordon Richards, Sr. Service Award

Longtime Tribal Vice-Chairman Linda Capps was honored with one of Shawnee, Oklahoma’s most prestigious public service awards on Feb. 18 at the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. For her long service to the local community, Vice-Chairman Capps received the Gordon Richards, Sr. Service award.

The award is dedicated to longtime Shawnee resident and founder of Richards’ Drug Store, Gordon Richards, Sr. It is awarded to citizens who have more than ten years of service to the community and have demonstrated their ability to overcome adversity, contribute to the development of local youth and been active in local political and civic affairs.

On hand to present remarks was Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett, who spoke at length of his longtime vice-chairman’s dedication to the people of Shawnee.

“I could not think of a more deserving individual than my friend and colleague Linda Capps,” said Chairman Barrett. “I knew the man that this award is named for, and he was a pillar of this community. Linda is equally so, and it is a great honor for me to tell you of all the good she has done for all of us in our community.”

Born just down the road in the community of Harrah, Oklahoma, Capps began her professional career as a business teacher at Dover Public

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Top Photo: Castillejas, commonly called an Indian paintbrush, will begin to bloom in the spring. Photo taken in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Senator James Lankford proposes replacing President Andrew Jackson’s likeness on the $20 bill.

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Lankford seeks new face for $20 bill

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Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett

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“I am so honored to receive the Gordon Richard’s Sr. award,” said Capps. “Many of my friends and family were in attendance, plus several of my former students who I had not seen for years. It was, indeed, a very special evening for my family and me…one that we will always remember”.

Linda Capps is presented her award by L.D. Wortham.
HOWNIKAN

Potawatomi returns to Oklahoma for position with prestigious Indian law firm

Oklahoma City-based Crowe and Dunlevy has developed a reputation as one of the leading Indian law and gaming firms in the country. Its partners and associates are often found in courtrooms across the country, working for and with tribes on issues across the legal spectrum.

The firm recently added a Citizen Potawatomi Nation member, Jennifer N. Laminand, to its roster of attorneys. We spoke with Laminand about her background, experiences and some of the issues she’ll be working on in the coming years.

**Where are you from originally?**

“I was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma. When I was young, my father worked at Shawnee High School teaching carpentry and photography, and my mother worked for Head Start.

“When Francis Tuttle Technology Center offered my mother a position teaching early childhood development in Oklahoma City, we moved to Edmond to allow her to take that position. I started in Edmond schools after that move and graduated from Edmond North High School in 2000.”

**As an Oklahoma State University grad, what took you to the London School of Economics?**

“I see a lot of parallels between the issues tribal nations face when doing business with non-tribal companies and the issues international companies face when they conduct business abroad. From my previous study abroad experiences during my undergraduate and law studies, I knew about the LSE. I also knew about the LL.M. program, which specializes in international law practice and study.

“When I decided to pursue a Master of Laws degree, I knew that I wanted to go to London, if possible, in order to gain some more exposure to international law and to explore some of these parallels in more depth.”

Following on that, what took you into the legal field? Coming out of law school in the midst of the recession must have been somewhat daunting given there were so many grads out there looking for jobs.

“It may sound cliché, but I entered the legal profession because I wanted to use my English degree to somehow make a difference. One of my best friends from high school and beyond talked me in to joining a pre-law fraternity with her while we studied at OSU. I attended some of the fraternity programs, and the speakers sparked my interest in the law. I realized that legal work can bring about great change, and it still utilizes the skills I cultivated while studying literature.

“Yes, 2008 was a difficult time to start out in the profession. Thankfully, I received a job offer from a wonderful firm in Los Angeles right out of law school, and my work there provided me with a solid base of litigation skills. I’m eternally grateful for that opportunity and for getting the chance to live and work in California for a time.”

**You’ve got quite a diverse academic and professional background. What brought you back home to Oklahoma to work for Crowe and Dunlevy?**

“I initially returned to Oklahoma in order to set up a home base closer to my family. While here, I knew that I wanted to work in the area of Indian law if possible. It just so happened that an opportunity arose at Crowe and Dunlevy, and, of course, I jumped at it. I’m incredibly excited to work with such distinguished and knowledgeable attorneys, particularly in this field.”

In Dec. 2015 you commented to the newspaper The Oklahoman about New York’s Dec. 2016 ruling on fantasy sports betting. Do you see other states, including Oklahoma, trying to put a halt to this as well?

“Many states are using all of the press about fantasy sports leagues to develop their own legislation on the subject; however, not all of this legislation seeks to make fantasy sports illegal. Kansas already legalized most fantasy sports activity by taking leagues that meet certain conditions outside of their state definition of gambling.

“Some say that paying an entry fee to participate in a fantasy sports league is not the same as a bet. Others disagree. Legislators will confront this issue, and it’s a good idea for tribes to consider it too, so they can contribute to the development of the law.”

**What is it like working for a firm so heavily invested in Indian law as a member of a tribal nation? Is there a deeper personal investment in the issues you work on now compared to your previous work?**

“It’s wonderful to work for a firm that values tribal nations and supports their growth. I enjoy practicing law in general, but I do feel a different sort of connection to my Indian law work. It’s a dynamic area of the law, and many litigation matters that touch on Indian law issues hold the ability to transform the legal landscape for all tribal nations. This forces Indian law attorneys to think critically about the law and their advice.”

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Questions: Toll-free 800-880-9880

Address changes should be sent to: Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.
### State senator’s bill seeks to alter compacts

By Darin Greene, Coordinator, FireLodge Tribal Youth Program

Spring has hopefully sprung at the P.L.A.C.E. as we look for warmer weather to get the youth back outside.

The P.L.A.C.E. staff kicks off two new programs to start March for our youth; the Boys-to-Men Program and the Girls-to-Women Program. These 10-week programs focus on tribal life skills to our participants. The course will also feature CPN leaders and fellow community leaders who will discuss their professional and personal successes, giving our youth real life examples of what futures they have in front of them as Native American adults.

March is also Healthy Heart Month, and the CPN Diabetes Program will be conducting a four-week program showing our students the best ways to eat right and exercise.

The Get Native Program classes for March will turn towards warmer temperatures too, with the youth learning about the cultures and traditions of the southern Oklahoma tribes. This includes instruction on the history of lacrosse and how to play it. The youth will also start a series on the Potawatomi language with lessons by staff from the CPN Language Department.

The Get Fit Program will start off a new cycle titled ‘Get bigger, stronger, faster.’ This program is a series of speed and agility drills where each tribal youth will test themselves on motivation and determination while also getting in a bit of cardio.

Our card collecting club meetings continue, while Spring Break at the P.L.A.C.E. looks to be as active as ever. We’ll have activities going on throughout the week, including visits to HeyDay Entertainment Center, FireLake Bowling Center and roller skating.

As always, FireLodge Tribal Youth Program is looking for new program participants. If you or someone you know might be interested in attending or learning more about our activities, please email me at darinr@potawatomi.org.

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Business and tax agreements negotiated between Oklahoma tribes and state government will face a more complicated oversight procedure if a bill filed in the state legislature is signed into law by Governor Mary Fallin this year. Compacts – the tribal-state agreements on taxes and fees revenue generated by tribal enterprises – are currently negotiated between the Oklahoma governor’s office and each individual tribe.

Senator Greg Treat (R-Oklahoma City, Bethany) introduced legislation that will make all compacts negotiated between Oklahoma tribes and the state government require the approval of two thirds of the state senate. The lawmaker says that he believes the federal government’s process on nation-to-nation agreements is the best way to model Oklahoma’s inter-actions with its tribes. He explained that in order to best treat tribes as independent sovereign nations, the state should follow the federal government’s process.

“I’m just trying to model it on that,” Treat said. “It potentially impacts budget, it potentially impacts policy and I think it’s inconsistent with the will of the people of Oklahoma to have that power vested in one individual.”

Yet the people of Oklahoma have willfully elected this sitting governor twice; and she as the state’s supreme executive, has negotiated directly with tribal leaders representing their own sovereign nations. Power struggles between executives and legislature are nothing new, yet this one has the potential to harm one of the state’s only steady economic engines, its tribes.

Because it was filed in the 2016 session, if the bill pass both chambers of the statehouse and is signed into law by the governor, it could potentially impact the next round of compact negotiations for tribes across Oklahoma. Currently the effective date in the bill’s language is set for Nov. 2016.

The Republican senator says that he understands that tribes may see the change in a negative light. He concedes that as nations and businesses, it’s easier to reach an agreement with an individual rather than trying to seek passage through a body of 48 elected officials.

“I’m sure there will be some opposition to it,” the senator acknowledged. “From a tribal prospective it’s easier to deal with one person.”

For the senator, state-tribal compacts aren’t the only agreements that should be approved by the elected senate. Compacts negotiated between neighboring states like Texas should also be subject to the same process he is proposing.

In a narrow vote, the bill passed out of the Senate’s General Government Committee with an amendment that explicitly excludes road construction projects from senatorial approval. Voting in favor of the measure were senators Treat, Nathan Dahm (R-Tulsa), Stephanie Bice (R-OKC), Corey Brooks (R-Washington).

As state legislators scramble to fill the $1.2 billion budget shortfall created on their watch, complicating an already established, effective business agreement process with tribes is a confusing approach.

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### FireLodge Tribal Youth update: March 2016

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CPN Community Garden ready for spring

CPN’s first community garden was planted in 2014. Tending it has become an annual activity that many elders, tribal members, employees, volunteers, and children look forward to. In the spring of 2016, the garden will be ready once again.

With the winter season coming to an end, many of the regulars are planning and preparing this year’s spring garden.

As of right now we are working on two grants to fund infrastructure expansion for the spring 2016 garden,” said CPN Cultural Heritage Center Director Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D.

The community garden is located in the southwest corner of the CPN Eagle Aviary as it was last year.

“Our first garden was on a small plot behind the golf course, but we quickly realized that was not the best location for a long-term project. We knew we needed a place that was easier to access, closer to a source of water, more secure for all of the tools and equipment we needed to store,” said Mosteller. “We also wanted to put the garden in a place that would allow us to talk about cultural teachings beyond the garden and native food ways, so the aviary seemed the perfect fit.”

Along with the location, it was decided to plant traditional Potawatomi foods along with ones that would grow well in Oklahoma. Now that CPN has a greenhouse, many of those foods will be seeded inside and planted after the last frost, which is generally in March.

“Some items might not be considered traditional Potawatomi or Great Lakes foods, like peppers, lettuces, okra, and tomatoes,” said Mosteller. “However, there will be a Three Sisters portion of the garden where we will grow corn, beans, and squash. We are also planting several varieties of berries, including strawberries and blackberries.”

Although CPN employees manage the planning phase of the community garden, there will be a need for volunteers once the planting phase begins.

“We rely on tribal members, employees, elders and youth who are active in programs sponsored by the tribe to help with planting, harvesting, and general maintenance, like weeding, said Mosteller. “It really is a community garden, so all are invited to help.”

As soon as planting begins, there will be a set schedule for work and harvest days posted and made public. On those days anyone is free to come and gather what vegetables and fruits they would like to take home.

For more information please visit their Facebook page, Giegem: CPN Community Garden at cpnnews/garden.

If you’re interested in learning how to make your own, scan this QR code for the step by step process.

LEARN HOW TO MAKE PUCKER TOE MOCCASINS

SPECIAL THANKS TO TRIBAL MEMBER LYLE SIMMONS FOR INSPIRING THIS PROJECT
Wadase update: March 2016

By Bree Dunham, CPN Eagle Aviary

February’s article for the aviary didn’t contain a great deal of information about Wadasé Zhabwé other than a brief description of her recent telemetry location and movements. We knew that would often be the case as she visits the aviary less frequently. While we were happy to report that she was doing well according to that data, we couldn’t help but wish that we had more to share. The GPS data certainly is reassuring and is an incredibly valuable tool to monitor her progress but nothing compares to observing her with our own eyes.

The weather here has been relatively mild for this time of year and we hoped to do some field-work while it remained favorable. We still needed to check on the bald eagle nest we monitor in the northeastern portion of the state as well as scout an area to the northwest of the aviary near Horseshoe Lake in Harrah where Wadasé continues to spend most of her time. After checking the extended forecast, we worked out a schedule to go out on the warmer days when we didn’t have tours scheduled. Jan. 16 was the first date we scheduled. The evening before, we packed lunch and loaded everything in the truck. We were all set to leave the following morning but even the best laid plans don’t always work out the way you had hoped. Sometimes they work out better.

Just after we finished breakfast, the eagles all began to vocalize. We headed towards the aviary, to see what had everyone stirred up so early, just in time to see Wadasé flying just inches above the enclosure before she landed on her crook out front. The last time she was at the aviary was Nov. 10, 2015. So all of our plans for this particular Saturday would just have to wait. We weren’t going anywhere once she arrived and it isn’t polite to ignore your guest! We spent the better part of the morning watching her from the office window. As hard as it is, we try and give her space the first day she visits the aviary, limiting photographs from the office windows and keeping the grounds quiet as possible during the mornings. While we will never know how long she intends to stay or what makes her come back, we can only rely on what we have done in the past. So far that balance seems to work.

She spent the better part of the day in her favorite crook in the pecan tree out in front of the aviary, taking short flights around the pasture to the aviary and back to her perch. She even brought her own lunch back to her perch out front, to eat. After a short flight around the pasture and across the creek, Wadasé brought her own lunch back to the aviary.

After a short flight around the pasture and across the creek, Wadasé brought her own lunch back to the aviary.

Landing gear out, Wadase goes in for a landing in the pasture at the aviary.

The next morning we were in the office by 6:30 a.m. hoping she would spend another day at the aviary. When we finally decided to reload the truck, she came flying in at 7:40 a.m. just as the sunlight reached her perch. She sat there soaking up the warm morning sun for several hours. Sometime after 2 p.m. that day she left. She was perched out front and then she wasn’t.

After checking telemetry we know she returned to the area around Horseshoe Lake. We still have a visit scheduled to the area if Wadasé doesn’t change those plans first.

As always we encourage you to keep your eyes out for Wadasé if you are near the areas she frequents. To follow her movements with us you can visit www.arcgis.com/home and search for “Potawatomi eagle.” Send your encounters with Wadasé or any other eagles in Oklahoma or wherever you may to the CPN Aviary at aviary@potawatomi.org. For more information about Wadasé or the CPN Aviary visit www.potawatomiheritage.org/aviary
Health services provided by Citizen Potawatomi Nation continued to operate without missing a beat as the tribe’s clinics and wellness programs welcomed a new director. It wasn’t a completely unfamiliar face though, as well-known employee Chris Skillings re-entered the health services field.

“I know a lot of people are thinking, ‘Why is the guy running the bowling center in charge of the clinics?’” said Skillings. “The vast majority of my professional work has been in the healthcare and clinic industry though, so I’m excited to take the lead here with the great staff at CPN Health Services.”

Skillings is a native of Pottawatomie County, having graduated from Shawnee High School in 1982. He is a 1986 graduate of Rose State College’s Radiology Program and worked at Mission Hill Hospital before moving on to Seminole Municipal Hospital in 1988. Six months on the job at Seminole Hospital, Skillings became the director in the hospital’s radiology clinic, a position he stayed in until 1994 when he purchased a family practice in the town of Wewoka where he supervised three physicians and staff.

His ability to stay ahead in the highly complicated and competitive family medical practice sector led to an agreement with Holdenville General Hospital. Skillings’ clinic became a referral base for ancillary services for Holdenville General. The agreement worked so well that eventually the hospital offered him the position of radiology director.

His success with the small town clinic drew the interest of one of the region’s best known healthcare networks, St. Anthony of Oklahoma City, who purchased the Wewoka clinic and made Skillings the assistant director with Health First, the network’s practice and physician management wing.

“That position was very similar to my current one with CPN,” Skillings noted. “During my tenure with St. Anthony, I managed seven different clinics and 11 physicians.”

Outside of the office, Skillings is a well-known member of the local bowling community. He has been a member of the Professional Bowlers Association for almost twenty years, and since 1980 has bowled in the PBA’s Southwest Regional Tour events and other professional competitions.

It was little wonder that when the director’s position at FireLake Bowling Center opened up in 2011, Skillings was one of the first names on the list to take over.

“Businesses are businesses, whether it’s a clinic, a bowling center or any other enterprise. I worked in healthcare for a long time, but I’m extremely passionate about bowling. So when I was offered the position at FireLake, I thought it would be a nice change of pace.”

A change it was, but under Skillings, the pace has been anything but slow. Under his direction, FireLake Bowling Center has become one of the region’s premier destinations for high school, collegiate and professional bowling competitions. He has played an integral part in bringing three world-class tournaments to tribe’s enterprises, including the PBA Grand Casino Summer Swing tournaments in 2013 and 2014 as well as the recent FireLake-PBA Tournament of Champions.

“I loved working at the bowling center, but more so, I consider it a privilege to be employed with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. I took a day to decide if I wanted to go back to health, but as I told Chairman Barrett, I am looking forward to the new challenges and responsibilities as the director of health services,” said Skillings.

It’s another change of pace, but three months into his tenure, the Shawnee-born Skillings is happy to be where he’s at. He continues to meet with a range of CPN staff like the CPN Office of Self-Governance to better understand the nuances associated with Indian Health Services and other Indian Country healthcare minutiae. It’s a learning experience for sure, but given his track record and professional accomplishments, patients look to be in good hands.

To learn more about CPN Health Services, please visit www.potawatomi.org/services/health or call (405) 878-4693.
Tribal member and FireLake Arena employee Jeremy Gregson steps into the boxing ring

Jeremy Gregson steps into the boxing ring. I had some nerve damage in my right ankle so it rolls continuously. It makes conventional boxing training difficult because I’m limited in what I can do, so I have to find alternate exercises like jump roping and running. It’s not something that I let hold me back though.

How did you get into boxing?

“It was Aug. 2015 when I made the decision to try my hand at boxing. I weighed 204 pounds so I started to cut weight, train and do cardio to get to 185 pounds for my first fight. For the first month I didn’t even box and only started to spar with boxing gloves about two months into my training.

“I played baseball my whole life and then became a personal trainer for 18 years, which had a lot to do with my getting into boxing. I used to train with a professional boxer and was aware of what went into it. It’s something that I’ve always wanted to do, but I never actually stepped into the ring.”

Why boxing and not MMA?

“If you talk to people in both sports, the hype has died down quite a bit. There are some great local fighters making names for themselves.

“Some of my energy trying to break free so that I’ve learned into my next fight.”

From the fight footage it looks as if he would come in with several punches and then clinch. Do you think this is what his corner planned?

“He would come in with a right hook or straight jab and we’d lock up. I didn’t realize how bad it was until I saw the footage and the referee breaking us apart and telling us not to grab. Talking to him and his camp, they knew he was lot heavier than me and could throw his weight around.

With that, I didn’t want to spend all of my energy trying to break free so my game plan was to have the referee separate us.”

You were expecting to fight someone else. What happened?

“When I initially started this I knew I didn’t want to fight heavyweight because it’s 200 pounds and above. You can be fighting guys 30 to 40 pounds heavier than you. My trainer and I decided to fight at Cruiserweight at 185 pounds. Approximately 10 days before the fight I got the word that my opponent tore his rotator cuff. With this being my first fight, we didn’t want to get someone in there with a more substantial amount of experience than me so they gave me several options to choose who to fight.

“I ended up choosing Lucas Queen, but I didn’t know that he was 40 pounds heavier than me at the time. We were supposed to meet at 200 pounds and I felt strong at 190 so when I got to the weigh-in Queen had messed the promoter explaining that there wouldn’t be any way he could get down to 200. Queen was at 207 and asked if I would still take the fight. At weigh-ins he came in at 210 pounds. If I didn’t take it, my family and friends who bought tickets wouldn’t see the fight and no one would have been paid; so I took the fight. I took a lot away from it, but I’m not upset about it. It was my first time in the ring and there are quite a few positives I can take away from it.”

What’s your motivation to fight at such a late age?

“One of the main reasons why I did this was to inspire my wife and kids. I coach baseball and basketball, and quite a few of the kids I coach were there to see my fight. If I could inspire just one of them or even someone who thinks they’re too old to do this, then that is a victory for me. Once my wife or my body says ‘stop’, then I will. In the meantime, I’m looking forward to that feeling when I stepped into the ring for the first time.”

Those interested in watching Jeremy’s first fight can see it on HD Boxing’s YouTube page at cpn. news/fight.
Lankford calls for Jackson’s removal from $20 bill

As the president who signed the In- 
dian Removal Act, Andrew Jackson is not an idealized figure in Indian Country. First a frontier Indian fight- er against the Creeks, then as an American president who ignored a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in favor of the Cherokee Nation in Worcester v. Georgia, there is little endearment for the nation’s seventh president es- pecially amongst Oklahoma’s tribes.

In recent years, Jackson’s place on the U.S. $20 bill has become almost as controversial as his legacy. Now, one Oklahoma senator is calling on the Treasury Department to re- move the former president known as “Old Hickory” from the note perma- nently.

In response to the Obama Adminis- tration’s 2015 announcement that the treasury would consider in- replacing Alexander Hamilton’s likeness on the $10 bill, Oklahoma Senator James Lankford (R-OK) introduced a resolution suppor- ting Jackson’s removal from the nation’s currency.

“The administration has already an- nounced they will place a woman on the $10 bill in 2020,” said Lankford. “I support recognition of a historic American woman on the twenty-dol- lar bill and the removal of Andrew Jackson due to his being a removal policy that forced thou- sands of American Indians off their ancestral homelands.”

According to Lankford’s spokes- woman Aly Beley, the resolution has been referred to the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Commit- tee and is awaiting consideration.

Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, Jeff Merkley (D-OR), said in a June 2015 op-ed on www.polit- ico.com, Professor David Greenberg of Rutgers University said critics of the $20 bill removal is not without irony. The U.S. Federal Reserve Bank seems sardonic when considering his disso- nance, since the treasury’s announcement.

Lankford’s resolution is similar to the Senate measure introduced in February by Senator James Lankford (R-OK) introduced a resolution suppor- ting Jackson’s removal from the nation’s currency.

“The administration has already an- nounced they will place a woman on the $10 bill in 2020,” said Lankford. “I support recognition of a historic American woman on the twenty-dol- lar bill and the removal of Andrew Jackson due to his being a removal policy that forced thou- sands of American Indians off their ancestral homelands.”

According to Lankford’s spokes- woman Aly Beley, the resolution has been referred to the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Commit- tee and is awaiting consideration.

Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, Jeff Merkley (D-OR), said in a June 2015 op-ed on www.polit- ico.com, Professor David Greenberg of Rutgers University said critics of the $20 bill removal is not without irony. The U.S. Federal Reserve Bank seems sardonic when considering his disso- nance, since the treasury’s announcement.

Lankford’s resolution is similar to the Senate measure introduced in February by Senator James Lankford (R-OK).

Focus on healthy life decisions over debating merits of medicines

Amidst the constant debate over vac- cinations, one central point is often overlooked. The need to focus on healthy life choices, whether eat- ing better, exercising more or using preventative medical visits, is often left out of such discussions. While the focus on medical research has time and again proved the efficacy of vaccinations in preventing the spread of communicable diseases, the value of being in good health when flu sea- son strikes cannot be discounted.

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Bethel STEM Club tackles earthquake challenge

A small group of high school students who have already won $10,000 for solving an environmental challenge within the community is shaking things up by tackling Oklahoma's earthquake problem.

The STEM Club at Bethel High School incorporates science, technology, engineering and math in its weekly after-school meetings, and this semester the club is making a difference by increasing awareness of earthquake safety practices within schools. A seven-member group analyzed earthquake studies and created a free printable earthquake safety brochure for schools, available on its student-created website. In addition, the group, which calls itself The Earth Shakers, produced a short video illustrating correct earthquake drill procedures and presented safety lessons to children at Bethel’s middle school.

The STEM Club at Bethel High School began with a $500 contribution from Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

“We are hoping more schools will start doing earthquake drills just as much as they do fire and tornado drills because there’s much more of a chance of earthquakes happening during school than a fire or a tornado,” said Alicia Mathis, who initially joined STEM Club to help her in math class.

Annie Keehn, club adviser and a science teacher at Bethel High School, said earthquake awareness has become important in Oklahoma with the recent increase in seismic activity. The group’s involvement in safety procedures garnered the attention of the State Secretary of Energy and Environment Michael Teague, who visited the school in January to talk to students about their Earth Shaking Project.

The Earth Shakers entered their homemade earthquake resources in the second part of the national Lexus Eco Challenge competition, which calls for students nationwide to address air and climate issues. In October, the other eight students in the STEM Club, The Notable Recyclists, submitted an action plan for the first part of the Eco Challenge, addressing land and water conservation. They won one of the contest’s biggest prizes: $10,000.

Bethel lost its recycling program last year when its recycling provider started charging for services. With no money in the school budget to continue the program, the students sought ways to recycle internally, which led them to develop a method to create notepads from discarded copy paper. The students then created a website and produced a video demonstrating how to make the notepads with everyday classroom objects such as rulers and glue guns. As part of the $10,000 prize, each student received $875, which will help pay for college scholarships.

Bethel High School STEM Club.

“We learned a lot about STEM jobs in the real world to help us narrow down what we want to do. STEM jobs are going to be the most important jobs in the next couple of years. Now that we know our strengths and weaknesses, it’s easier to figure out what we want to go into after high school,” Sanchez said.

Russell McCreary II, a sophomore who wants to become an oncologist, said the camaraderie with like-minded students made the groups successful.

“Working in groups really brings out what you like to do and what your strengths and weaknesses are, so you can use that information in your career,” McCreary said.

Keygan Veeley, a STEM Club member who was also selected to serve on State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister’s Student Advisory Council, said the students learned a lot about solving real-life problems.

“The whole group came together and worked together on an idea, and we tried to find the best way that we could make notepads efficiently,” Veeley said.

In addition to sponsoring the STEM Club after school, Keehn has gained recognition in the state for her work in the classroom. Keehn is a 2016 recipient of the Rising Star award, given by the Oklahoma State Department of Education to teachers who demonstrate great skill and potential. She designs her lessons so that students see the relevance in their own lives, which keeps them engaged and helps them retain information.

As first-round winners of the Eco Challenge, The Notable Recyclists were encouraged to join in when the bins returned to the school.

“STEM isn’t just about science, technology, engineering and math. It’s about coming together and learning how we can make a difference in our area and how we can change the world,” said Carrie Mick, a junior.

“When we started doing this group project, I thought, ‘How is one little STEM club from Bethel going to change anything?’ But STEM really does make a difference everywhere around you.”

Mick said STEM Club has taught her a lot about finding solutions to problems and pursuing her goals.

“This really opened up a lot for me. I want to be a registered nurse. It was a dream at first, but now I know I can actually do it. It put a lot of drive in my heart for what I really wanted to do, and it proves we can do what we want if we really set our minds to it,” Mick said.

Ryan Sanchez, who is choosing between a future in epidemiology and microbiology, said she has learned about future careers through her involvement in the club.
One week of the world’s best bowling at FireLake Bowling Center culminated at the grand event inside FireLake Arena on Super Bowl Sunday, as 20-year-old Jesper Svensson of Sweden took home the title at the FireLake-PBA Tournament of Champions. Svensson, the 2015 PBA Rookie of the Year, was the youngest player ever to win the tournament.

“I try not to think about how young I am. I just try to compete against the best in the world,” said Svensson. “Everything has gone pretty quick for me. I just came out here (on Tour in the United States) to get experience. I probably haven’t even realized what I’ve done so far. Winning a major is one of the biggest achievements you can have in bowling, so I’m pretty much out of words.”

Svensson’s record win wasn’t the only impressive feat of the day, as the pre-Super Bowl timeslot saw nearly one million viewers tune in to the ESPN live broadcast. To date, the FireLake-PBA Tournament of Champions finale was the highest rated PBA telecast of the broadcast’s 2015-16 season, and was a 17 percent viewer increase over the previous year’s tournament.

Said FireLake Bowling Center Director Chris Skillings, “Going off the turnaround of a week of qualifying tournaments at FireLake Bowling Center and then the final at FireLake Arena, to hear of the viewership numbers is just icing on the cake. Citizen Potawatomi Nation has proved itself as a premier professional bowling destination, and this latest tournament is just more evidence of that.”

Skillings, FireLake Arena Director Tracy Peltier and Grand Casino Hotel Resort Marketing Director Chad Mathews were instrumental in bringing the tournament to the arena after successfully hosting of the PBA-Grand Casino Summer Swing series in 2013 and 2014.

“When we took the idea of moving a tournament to the arena, Tribal Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps were both enthusiastic and trusted us to get it done,” explained Skillings. “Our staff at the bowling center and Tracy’s staff at the arena did incredible work in getting everything done, which shows what a great operation we have here at the tribe.”

It wasn’t all bowling competition during the Tournament of Champions, with the PBA hosting its 2016 Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Grand Casino Hotel Resort early in the week of competition. PBA50 Tour standout Pete Couture of Cooca, Florida, former South Region Manager Harry O’Neal of Ravenel, South Carolina and former PBA Tour announcer Denny Schreiner of Akron, Ohio were inducted into the hall.

On Saturday, professional bowlers teamed up with local Shawnee bowlers of all skill levels in two pro-am tournaments.

“When the PBA comes to town, it’s a big show and a big event for Shawnee. We’re just happy to be able to provide the venue and entertainment,” said Skillings.

There seem to be number successful Citizen Potawatomi athletes in the Kansas-Missouri area. Tyler Bray of the Kansas City Chiefs, Ron Baker of the Wichita State men’s basketball team and Team USA and Lindenwood University’s Mary Killman are all tribal members who have excelled in their sports. One addition to that list comes from the CPN outpost of Rossville, Kansas. Tucker Horak, a three-time state champion for the Rossville High School football team, is a Kansas gridiron legend.

Horak, who scored all three touchdowns in his team’s most recent 20-19 state championship game victory, is the state’s career leader in touchdowns scored with 185. All of this was done under center as the team’s quarterback for the state title in his junior and senior seasons.

“It was very tough to win it my junior year, but to win it a second time the very next year was a whole new level of difficult,” said Horak. “When you win a championship the first time, you can expect to have a target on your back and get everyone’s best shot until you pick up your first loss. We were blessed to end on a high note and not have to experience that loss.”

Horak also shattered single season state records for a quarterback, finishing his career with 2,859 rushing yards and 2,072 passing yards.

The numbers he racked up also put him in national record books. His career total of 12,834 yards for Rossville puts him sixth all-time nationally for a high schooler. Forging in that, it wasn’t surprising that he was featured in Sports Illustrated’s ‘Scorecard’ section in Dec. 2015.

It was somewhat surprising that despite some conversations with Kansas State University, Horak didn’t generate a lot of interest from Division 1 programs come national signing day in February.

According to the Topeka-Capitol Journal, Horak was told by K-State that his 40-yard dash time wasn’t fast enough. Instead Horak intends to play for perennially ranked Division 2 Pittsburg State University.

“It’s going to be a great experience for me. I get the opportunity to continue playing the game I love at a high level for the next four to five years of my life. The program I’m going into is a top national contender which will make the ride all that much more fun,” he said.

Horak, who is a descendant of 1887 tribal roll signee Sophia Sioux, says that in the long term he intends to major in athletic training and minor in exercise science. In the interim, though, the Rossville-native’s goals are a little more familiar given his success on the gridiron.

“My long term goals are to do everything I can to help my team be successful and obviously win a national championship in the process.”

Given his track record, it doesn’t appear to be a goal too far outside the realm of possibility.
Citizen Potawatomi Nation is saddened to announce that longtime Supreme Court Justice William Rice has walked on. The Nation offers its sincere condolences to his family in this time, and wishes to express its utmost thanks to Justice Rice for his role in furthering law in Indian Country.

G. William “Bill” Rice, a longtime Attorney and Professor of Native Law at the University of Tulsa, passed away on Feb. 14, 2016 at Hillcrest Hospital in Tulsa with his family by his side at the age of 64. Funeral services were held on Feb. 17, 2016 at the Sac and Fox Community Center in Stroud, Oklahoma. Interment followed at Hunter Cemetery in Cushing, Oklahoma.

Bill was born on Aug. 3, 1951 in Anadarko, Oklahoma to the late Edgar William and Dorris Irene (Aldridge) Rice. He graduated from Madill High School in 1969. Bill attended Phillips University in Enid, graduating with a B.A. in Chemistry in 1973; Lowell Technological Institute in Lowell, Massachusetts, graduating with M.S. Program in Radiological Safety and Control in 1975; University of Oklahoma College of Law, Norman, Oklahoma, graduating with a J.D. 1978 Editor, American Indian Law Review.

Bill married the love of his life, Annette Hunter on Jan. 24, 1981 in Moore, Oklahoma. They lived in Norman and then moved to Cushing where they have lived for numerous years.

Bill had an extraordinary career in practice and as an academic focusing on issues and rights of American and indigenous people around the world. Rice, a member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma; served as Attorney General for the Sac and Fox Nation; Chief Justice for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation; Assistant Chief and Chief Judge for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma and Associate Justice for the Kickapoo Nation of Indians in Kansas. He was a tireless advocate for Indian tribes and Indian peoples, successfully arguing on behalf of the Sac and Fox Nation in the U.S. Supreme Court in Oklahoma Tax Commission v. Sac and Fox Nation, 508 U.S. 114 (1993). He played an active role in the United Nations Working Group on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which led to the U.N. General Assembly’s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. When he began this work, Rice would frequently say “indigenous people – that’s me!” with a twinkle in his eye.

Clearly, his impact reaches from central Oklahoma to Geneva, Switzerland, and his passing is a great loss to many.

Rice joined The University of Tulsa College of Law in 1995 teaching constitutional law, jurisprudence, international indigenous law, Native American and indigenous rights, tribal government and tribal gaming law. He treated his students with great compassion and kindness while challenging them to achieve at the highest levels. In addition to TU Law, Rice taught at Cornell Law School, University of North Dakota School of Law, University of Oklahoma, University of New Mexico and Antioch School of Law’s Indian Paralegal program.

Rice’s book, “Tribal Governmental Gaming Law,” is the first law school casebook for use in Indian gaming law classes. He contributed to the two latest revisions of Felix Cohen’s classic Indian law treatise, “The Handbook of Federal Indian Law,” and wrote extensively in the field of Indian law. Regularly called upon to speak at scholarly and government functions, his speaking engagements included presentations to the United Nations Workshop on Indigenous Children and Youth, University of Paris VII – Denis Diderot, The Federal Bar Association’s Indian Law Conference, the Oklahoma Supreme Court’s Sovereignty Symposium and numerous appearances at functions sponsored by government agencies, major university law schools and Indian tribes.

Rice’s great passions were the implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the revitalization of the legal and political systems of Indian tribes. He was the founding director of the L.L.M. degree in American Indian and Indigenous Law and served as co-director of the Native American Law Center at TU Law.

Rice was a teacher and mentor to generations of Indian lawyers. He had enormous influence on the field of Indian law.

John LaVelle, his colleague from the University of New Mexico, best expressed what Rice meant to those who knew him: “Bill was a champion for Indian people in heart, mind and soul. I am honored to have known and worked with him.”

Bill enjoyed gardening. His grandchildren were his pride and joy.

Survivors include his wife: Annette of the home; sons: Lloyd Hunter of Cushing, John Queton and wife Jennifer of Cushing, Brian Queton and wife Tracey of Jenks, Harrison Rice and David Rice of Oklahoma City; daughter: Karen Rice and Brandon One Feather of Falcon Heights, Minnesota; brother: James S. Rice and family of Cumberland, Oklahoma; sister: Laurie G. Rice and Nancy Damron of Sun Valley, California; grandchildren: Ivy Whitehead, Kevin Queton, Victoria Queton, Taylor Queton, Isabel Queton, Ryan Queton, Micha Pahsetopah, Mad- dox Pahsetopah, Kadence McDowell and Gabriel Queton.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his father-in-law: Harold and Gabriel Queton.

We are deeply saddened by the untimely passing of our colleague, Justice William Rice. He was a respected leader in Indian Country for decades. Among other things, he assisted in the establishment of the CPN Supreme Court and served on the Court for more than thirty years. We are in his debt for all he did for us and all other Indian nations. We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to his family, friends, students, and colleagues. He leaves behind a host of people whose lives he so powerfully touched.

“The Justices of the Supreme Court of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation”
Each year, college-age tribal members from around the country travel to Oklahoma to participate in the Potawatomi Leadership Program. The dates for participating in the program this year are from June 11 – Aug. 1, 2016. Applications can be submitted from Feb. 1 to April 15.

To qualify, an applicant must be a Potawatomi tribal member with a GPA of 3.0 or better, between the ages of 18-20 by the program’s start date, and have completed no more than one year of college. For more information about the program and attending, refer to the PLP website plp.potawatomi.org or contact CPN Education Director Tesia Zientek at 405-275-3121 or tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org.

The following are the final takes that alumni of the past three years’ programs have had upon their graduation from the PLP in previous years’ Hownikans.

### Bradley Archer

Bradley Archer is 20 years old and a member of the Ogee and Weld families from Milliken, Colorado. Bradley will begin his sophomore year at Western State Colorado University in the fall.

“I was interested in the PLP program because I have been wanting to learn about my culture since my grandpa Clarence Smith told me about the Potawatomi Nation. After he passed away I knew it was time for me to see what the Potawatomi Nation was all about.”

Bradley had been to Shawnee twice for festival before joining the PLP program.

“I have learned that I am an Ogee/Weld and figured out how my family is ordered. Before this trip I had no idea how we were Potawatomi, but we just knew someone down the line was. Learning about the different departments is fascinating because of the way the tribe puts together many different pieces of a puzzle to make a beautiful nation.”

Bradley studies film and photography at Western State Colorado University and is a certified Master Electrician, an accolade he picked up as part of his college preparation.

“After college my goal is to be able to come back and give back to the tribe for giving me this wonderful opportunity to be a part of the Potawatomi Leadership Program. I respect everything the tribe is doing; just looking around at all the things the tribe is doing for a member is awesome in terms of how we are giving back.”

Bradley was named during his time in the 2013 PLP program. Mnokwabaset, his Potawatomi name, means “He seeks to prepare for Spring”.

### Moniece Venegas

Thoughts of tornadoes and sudden thunderstorms couldn’t keep Moniece Venegas from applying. Oklahoma, unlike the Dust Bowl-era reputation that many of her fellow Californians still picture when hearing of the state, was even greener than she expected due to a wet summer.

Venegas had a unique guide in learning more about her tribe: her own mother, who had not known she was a tribal member until the age of 18. When in her twenties, she registered herself, her mother and brother, Moniece and her sibling.

“I feel as though she put a lot of effort into making sure her kids, myself included, were registered and knew that we are Native Americans,” said Venegas in her presentation on the PLP elder interview assignment.

Also like her mother, Venegas wishes to one day work for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in Palm Springs, a goal that was a driving factor in her participation in the 2014 PLP class. The Trombla-family descendent studies math at the University of San Bernardino in her home state, and like her classmate Isaac Morris, cites the game of stickball against the Chickasaw Nation team as her most memorable experience.

### Natalia Anglin

Echoing the sentiments of many, West Covina, California’s Natalia Anglin summarized what she’d have been doing in the summer of 2015 if not for the Potawatomi Leadership Program.

“If I didn’t come to Shawnee, I would have wasted my summer sitting on my couch at home watching Netflix and avoiding the outside world,” wrote Anglin.

Yet for Potawatomi wanting to know more about their cultural background, it’s a good thing she left the couch. Partnering with Ivory Hanson on a cultural workbook, Anglin noted the motivation behind their project that will sound familiar to many Tribal members around the country.

“Neither Ivory nor I have ever lived in Oklahoma, so we both knew how little information about the Tribe’s culture really reaches the outer districts,” she wrote. “For me personally, I never really felt connected to the Tribe and was a bit intimidated by the website to try and find information, and I felt I didn’t really have a place to vote on or contribute to the Tribe since I had never been to Shawnee, Oklahoma.”

The two have set forth a plan that will continue the workbook’s development in the coming months. Her experience in putting the project into motion also gave her an insight into the day-to-day work environment of the CPN Administration Building.

Penning by far the longest and most detailed personal reflection of the 2015 PLP class, Anglin summarized her summer experience succinctly.

“Trying to capture six weeks of cultural information, Tribal benefits, departments and enterprises, and all the amazing people we had the opportunity to meet is the hardest part of the whole experience. As cheesy as it is to say, I wouldn’t, in all honesty, give up this experience for anything.”
Alee Rogers competes in Miss Oklahoma pageant

There are times in life when an opportunity comes up that would otherwise pass one by. For many today, those opportunities can come from a variety of sources, including a social media post. Just one click for CPN member Alee Rogers was all it took to enjoy what she describes as one of her best experiences to date.

Rogers competed in the 2016 Miss Oklahoma pageant, representing her hometown of Hartshorne, Oklahoma, after reading about the contest online.

“I got involved through Facebook,” said Rogers. “I saw the link and did some research and it sounded like a great opportunity, so I applied and was accepted. And it was the best time of my life.”

First held in 1952, the Miss Oklahoma Scholarship Pageant is not just a pageant competition. It provides more than $2 million in scholarship funds through its state and local contests through the Miss Oklahoma Scholarship Foundation.

Pageants aren’t an uncommon phenomenon in the state of Oklahoma, which along with California, New York, and Ohio boasts a record six winners of the Miss America Pageant. Even so, while many in the Sooner State know of the contests, few understand the sacrifices that go into the event.

“This is a pageant that people may not know about,” said Rogers. “There is so much planning that goes into it. The people who put this pageant together truly are amazing and don’t get enough praise for their hard work. I feel so honored to have been a part of something so extraordinary.”

As for her own sacrifices, the LaFronboise–family descendent sums up her experience with an observation common to anyone who has attempted to wear women’s shoes for any length of time.

“We had long days filled with rehearsals and heels,” said Rogers. “We wore heels all day long on both days, and the weekend as a whole was pretty stressful and very tiring, but I wouldn’t change a thing.”

Despite not winning, the Hartshorne High School senior says that the positive experience she had with this year’s pageant will serve as a stepping stone to next year’s competition. She intends to enter the 2017 Miss Oklahoma pageant, heels and all.

“I can’t wait to see how many of the wonderful girls I made friends with compete again with me. When you become so close with the girls and truly get to know them, it isn’t much of a competition anymore. You want to succeed but, you are just as happy if they succeed too.”
Dealing with seasonal affective disorder

By Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton
Native Health News Alliance

April is not the cruelest month for Jason Tuesday.

December is.

A First Nations resident of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Tuesday was diagnosed with seasonal affective disorder (SAD) in 2013 after he and his doctor noticed a pattern of his emotional well-being nose diving around the same time each year.

“I was going through what seemed like another crisis at about the same time as every other year – in December,” he said. “We just came to this conclusion. It just seemed like I was in a cycle that these things were happening regularly at about the same time each year and where it was more... than what I could deal with.”

An estimated 3 million Americans and 2.1 million Canadians struggle with seasonal depression annually. According to a 2005 study by Kathleen Roecklein and Kelly Rohan, up to 20 percent of all recurring cases of depression are seasonal.

Although it is possible to experience SAD during the spring or summer, it is more prevalent in winter months due to less daylight. That prolonged darkness can set off a physiological chain reaction in the body, starting with a basic rhythm and eventually influencing brain chemistry.

“The circadian rhythm gets messed up due to lack of sunlight,” said Terri Goodwin, a behavioral therapist with Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Shawnee, Okla. “It gets you all out of whack and messes up your internal clock. When that happens, your serotonin and melatonin levels drop, which affects your sleep cycle and impacts mood.”

Among the populations more likely to develop SAD are women, people younger than 55 years old, those with a family history of SAD and those who live in northern locales, where there is not as much sunlight during the winter months.

The more common symptoms of seasonal affective disorder include:

- Irritability
- Difficulty concentrating
- Sleeping more than usual
- Increased hunger, especially for carbohydrates
- Weight gain
- More difficulty getting along with other people or withdrawing from social interactions
- A leaden, heavy feeling in the arms and legs

As Goodwin pointed out, a SAD diagnosis requires that the symptoms appear and disperse at approximately the same time each year for two or more years, in order to differentiate it from a major depressive episode.

“Most of the symptoms are pretty much the same,” she said. “It’s a matter of how long they last, when they show up and whether it’s present at just one time of year.”

To combat that lack of sunlight, some patients turn to light therapy. Used either alone or in tandem with other treatments, a light therapy session involves sitting or working close to a bright artificial light box for a set amount of time.

Depending on the intensity of the fixture involved, a single session can last from 30 minutes with a 10,000 lux light – the equivalent of spending two hours with a 2,500 lux light. In comparison, the lighting in an average bedroom ranges from 300-500 lux.

Patients often adopt light therapy sessions as part of their morning routine in order to maximize the treatment’s impact during the day. Although many patients are asked to face the box in order to increase its effectiveness, looking directly at it is strongly discouraged, due to its potential harm to the eyes.

Despite showing some success in as little as two weeks in research studies, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration does not regulate or test light therapy boxes. Potential side effects may include eyestrain, headaches and insomnia, if the session is conducted later in the day.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders classifies SAD as a subset of depression, and several pharmaceutical options used to treat major depressive episodes have also been shown to be effective in SAD patients.

On the medication side, the FDA has approved the use of extended release bupropion, marketed as Wellbutrin and Zyban, as an option for SAD patients since 2006.

Paxil, Prozac and other selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, which shift the brain’s serotonin balance, have also shown to be viable treatment methods, both alone or used in conjunction with counseling or light therapy.

For Tuesday, mindful meditation and stepping back from time to time have helped him cope when December rolls around. He has also found some peace through group sessions with other men who are struggling with depression, but the challenge is still there. Although he has opened up more to friends and family about his mental health status, he allowed his phone to be temporarily shut off earlier this winter simply because he did not want to deal with people.

“For me, January’s usually a little better,” he said. “It’s brighter. But getting through December without acting out is an achievement.”
Like many tribes, the members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation have a distinct advantage in researching their lineage. The forced requirements to be added to the tribal rolls in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries have, more than a hundred years later, become a vital piece of a puzzle in learning about ancestors and contemporary family connections alike.

Today, many looking into their past to see if they are of Indian descent, and requests for that information are growing. The first rule of pursuing those investigations is to not be discouraged.

Before reaching out to CPN, gather as much familial information as possible. The best place to start is close to home. Elders and relatives are a great way to get information about your extended family.

There is also enough information online to help point researchers in the right direction. Start by looking in the areas where your ancestors lived, checking old census forms and newspapers that contain obituaries and other information. Many local libraries have access to these kinds of records, or have a person on staff who is familiar with family research and can help. Utilize multiple sources such as ancestry databases and local historical museums to get the information you need.

The Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City has extensive resources of Citizen Potawatomi Nation history through microfilms and other archival resources. Tulsa’s Gilcrease Museum and the University of Tulsa also have Potawatomi historical documents as well. Outside of Oklahoma, the Kansas Historical Society has an extensive amount of information on ancestors of today’s Citizen Potawatomi.

Once you have gathered that information, try to draw out a family tree from you, to your parents, to your grandparents and so forth. Jot down names – including maiden names – and the years of birth and death if you can find them. Sometimes a person’s name on a tribal roll or census form will be spelled differently, so having as much reference information as possible is helpful. If in doubt, contact the tribal rolls department to see if they have information about the people you are researching.

CPN tribal members looking to research their Native ancestry can then fill out a request form supplied by the archival department at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center. The information for each family’s history are sent to tribal members electronically. The documents contain information individuals can research about their family or certain members of it. All of the family history at the CHC is an accumulation of tribal rolls information throughout the years. CHC Family History Specialist Czarina Thompson uses this information in her work on a daily basis. It is largely based off of the 1887 allotment process information.

“CPN tribal ID cards have a descendant’s name from the 1887 allotment information and another one from the 1937 tribal census,” said Thompson. “These two names are someone’s key to their CPN descendancy.”

While the work can be time-consuming and sometimes frustrating, the tribal rolls and cultural heritage center staff are a resource to be relied on when someone reaches a dead end. However, given the resources and time constraints on staff, the legwork must be undertaken by the tribal member.

“We do not do individual research for people because we’re not genealogists,” said CPN Curator and Archivist Blake Norton. “What we do is provide historical records, retention and preservation but also make this accessible to tribal members. Our main goal is to provide resources for people, not do the research for them.”

While the importance of understanding where one comes from is a motivating factor, another reason to know is that tracing one’s roots can be the difference between becoming an enrolled tribal member or not. While you may find yourself tired of reading old microfiche of census records or hand written tribal rolls from the late nineteenth century, your own descendants ability to call themselves Citizen Potawatomi hangs in the balance.

To learn more about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s history and culture, visit www.PotawatomiHeritage.com. To access contact information or forms from the CPN Tribal Rolls Office, visit www.potawatomi.org/services/citizenship.
Tribal Chairman - John “Rocky” Barrett

Here in Oklahoma we are seeing daily headlines in the state newspapers about the 2016 budget “shortfall” for the state government. Pundits are predicting the amount in numbers ranging from $600 million to $1 billion. The underlying, immediate cause is the fall in the price of crude oil from $100 per barrel to $30 per barrel. This resulted in a major decline in oilfield related employment when drilling stopped. Oil isn’t the only source of revenue in one industry, which is oil. The primary creators of rural jobs in Oklahoma are Indian tribes.

The Chickasaw Nation alone has more employees than the State of Oklahoma and has a larger budget than the City of Oklahoma. That is the true story in Oklahoma.

What little growth the state can claim has been in Oklahoma City or Tulsa. Out here in the country, Indian tribes are the only game in town.

CPN is the largest employer in Puttawatomie County. It is a factor of four, yet the state is struggling in every thing it can do to destroy our efforts.

Tell your friends and family to demand that the government of the State of Oklahoma wake up! Indian tribes are paving the way toward employment diversification and new job creation in this state. You can help us by supporting the Indian tribes. We need your help to build an economy that works for you!

Here is another tip for Governor Fallin and state agency managers: don’t spend more money than you have and blame the “shortfall” on others.

Here at home we are near completion of the new FireLake Express Grocety. This community needs this facility very badly because there is no grocery store in town. We look forward to the opening and have promised to contribute three percent of sales to the City of McLoud to help them operate their government, police and fire departments. In addition, we will see the new FireLake Golf Course club house, with its restaurants and meeting rooms, ready for use in the next 30 days or so. We are continuing our progress while meeting the challenge of a tight budget.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your tribal chairman. It is a great honor.

Migwetch,

John “Rocky” Barrett
Keweoge

“He Leads Them Home”

Tribal Chairman

Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

The most exciting part of working at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is almost everything! This week I am blessed to be a part of a focus group consisting of twelve diverse Native American employees of our tribe. Most of the members of the group are either directors or managers. The focus group endeavor was requested by the County Coordinator for Community Renewal, an initiative of the Avedis Foundation. The Avedis Foundation is a private nonprofit status established in Oklahoma in 2012. Their vision is to improve the health, wellness and quality of life for the people of Puttawatomie County and its surrounding communities.

Our particular group resides within the immediate area of the 74801, 74802 and 74803 zip codes. We will be working with the Oklahoma University Terrorism and Disaster Center to provide much needed input from the community. A survey was distributed in the community last summer, but there was an under-representation from Native Americans. With seven different tribes represented within our focus group, I hope we can rectify the under-representation during our focus groups and provide excellent feedback from our Native American community representatives.

It is not unusual for organizations from the surrounding area to reach out to our tribal employees to provide services, information, labor and other resources. I am not complaining...it makes me proud that we are such an integral part of the area. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is valued and respected by thousands of people in Puttawatomie County. What a great feeling it is to have that kind of respect.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the staff members who are taking time from their extremely busy day to participate in this worthy project. We will be sure to update you in the next Hownikan of the results of our contributions to this community renewal organization. Hopefully, we can help the tribe, our workplace and the community as a whole.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your vice-chairman. It is a great honor to work for such a great nation. It is my wholehearted hope that you have reason to look forward to a great spring time in the coming months!

Migwetch

Linda Capps
Vice-Chairman

GATHERING OF POTAWATOMI NATIONS
HOSTED BY CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION IN SHAWNEE, OK • JULY 28-30, 2016
THE LANGUAGE CONFERENCE WILL RUN FROM JULY 27-29, 2016

Get the Hownik via email!
If you would like your newspaper via email, please email your name and address to hownik@potawatomi.org and let us know:

District 1 - Roy Slavin

Missouri from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be served at noon. Gifts for the wisest, youngest and person who traveled the furthest will also be given out. For those of you not familiar with the area, this is south of I-70 on the east side of Kansas City, located off of 435. You will exit at East Side Drive and head west before turning north on Ararat Drive, arriving at the Ararat Shrine. This is a very large building and there will be staff to direct you to our CPN meeting.

Come and join us at this incredible location for an informative meeting and great lunch. We will have more information please mark your calendars for that date. Looking forward to seeing you there.

I am so looking forward to Feb. 21 as I will be hosting a group of Cub Scouts, (mostly 10 year olds) at my office. As Cub Scouts they are supposed to learn something about Native Americans. They are interested in our language and want to learn how to count to at least 10. They also want to know what boys their age did as they grew up and how they lived. I know this is going to be a fun day.

Looking forward to seeing you at our meeting in May and again at Festival in June. Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your representative.

Roy (Netagnee) rslavin@potawatomi.org

District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

Juneau namings: The blizzard did not get in the way of our travel to southwest Florida to a very meaningful, four-generation naming ceremony hosted by my cousin, Janet Barron Deile, and her husband Bill Deile, at their Pine Island home. It was my honor to name Dagen (Agnes Wood Barron, my aunt and grandmother), Mdamenkenwe (Agnes’ daughter Janet Barron Deile), Dabweet (Agnes’ daughter Josette Barron Adornetto), Gshipto (Agnes’ grandson and Debetw’s son, Thomas Adornetto) and Gshipto’s infant daughter Bsledot (Agnes’ great-grand-daughter Emma Victoria Rose Adornetto). Bill Deile was our firekeeper and my husband Alan Cohen took the photos included here. Louisianaan Lyle Simmons did a beautiful job wrapping the eagle feathers used in the ceremony (migwetch, Lyle), including the magnificent, naturally-molted feather that came from Flo, one of our aviary eagles rescued in Florida.

RSVP for Beading Class:

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Eva Marie Carney evamariecarney.com

District 3 - Bob Whister

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Roy (Netagnee) rslavin@potawatomi.org
Happy March everyone.

We are in the midst of planning our CPN district meeting and I am in awe of the fact that Arizona is confirmed and ready to go. We are doing better with the advance scheduling. We had a wonderful attendance last year and hard to top the Tribal Easter Bunny at the ‘Rockin’ R Ranch’. Our pictures from this event are available online at www.CPN05.com.

Next month I will have the Colorado meeting booked as I am working on it now. I have received letters to have earlier confirmations for upcoming events because invitations have been Tweeted not to make it in time for the required planning. So here we go.

Our District 5 meeting will take place April 10, 2016 at R Bar Bar Farms in Queen Creek, Arizona. The meeting will start at 11 a.m. for registration with lunch served at 1 p.m. and continue until 4 p.m.

Chairman Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps will be in attendance. We are so proud to have them available for this wonderful event.

We have so much going on and so many opportunities to participate, I wonder if we will have time for it all. It’s up to you.

There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, drawings, train rides, hay rides, a petting zoo, a playground and vegetable gardens that you can pick from in this working fifth generation farm at a $5 charge per bag.

I just know this will be the best ever meeting. We have all the ingredients with “you!”

Please RSVP to me 480-228- 6569 or Jamie Moucka at 1-800-880-9880 as soon as you know you will be available. We don’t want to run out of food. It has happened.

As Chairman says, “Where there is food, you will find the Potawatomi.”

Love you all and we’ll see you there.

Gene Lambert
glambert@potawatomi.org

District 5 - Gene Lambert
District 6 - Rande K. Payne

http://language.potawatomi.org. I would say overall I am most proud of making the language accessible to tribal members regardless of where they live or when they want to learn.”

Rande: What can you tell us about the history of our language?

Justin: Our language is an Algongian language. It’s related to Ojibwe/Chippewa, Odawa/Ottawa, Shawnee, Sac and Fox, Kickapoo and countless other Algongian languages. It is most closely related to Ojibwe or Odawa which helps confirm the belief that at one time we were one people perhaps 500 or 1000 years ago. Our language is very old and has been part of the landscape of North America for well over 10,000 years.

Rande: What would you say to people that may feel other languages may be more useful? For instance California’s population is over 50 percent Hispanic and some may see the investment of time to learn Spanish more beneficial.

Justin: “From a financial standpoint perhaps taking Spanish or Chinese over Potawatomi. You see what was important it means to be Potawatomi Potawatomi is part of who we are. Sometimes I think about how my parents speak Potawatomi, or even great-grandparents. Potawatomi is part of who we are. It is a wealth of knowledge and culture stored in our language. Learning it will change your perspective about the world around you. It’s a very fulfilling and rewarding is definitely there.”

Rande: I’ve heard that learning a foreign language is great exercise for your brain. Do you agree with that?

Justin: “I definitely agree that learning a language enhances your ability to unlock new knowledge. They say once you learn one or two languages your mind is more open to learning more languages. That’s why you often see people who can speak two languages along the way I have met. There are people from Europe. It’s very common to learn more than one language. In the United States and culture. There are people that learn to speak English. Potawatomi people had a different way of looking at the world.

Rande: What would be your top three reasons for learning to speak Potawatomi?

Justin: “One deep sense of cultural identity which is impossible to put a price tag on. When someone says to you, “You are Potawatomi. You don’t look Potawatomi.” [Then] the ability to speak Potawatomi erases all doubt. The deep connection one feels to your ancestors and all tribal members. After completing each chapter you are given a cultural test. For me the medicine wheel represents one link to your ancestors and at any time of day or week.”

Rande: What have you gained personally from learning to speak Potawatomi?

Justin: “When I wake up in the morning I’m Potawatomi. We are so proud to be the store Potawatomi. I have a deep sense of who I am. I have had a chance to learn more of the culture which is intertwined within the language. I have had the chance to sit and listen to different elders stories. For me the hardest is not measurable. Now I do my part to make sure that you also have that opportunity to learn our language and ways. I want to ensure that our way of life, which has certainly changed my life for the better, continues for the next several thousand years.”

District 7 - Mark Johnson

Leadership Program takes Potawatomi from all over the U.S. and kicks things off to Shawnee for a six week program to learn about the tribe’s businesses, government and culture. It’s not just a summer internship in an office, and there is a paid stipend at the end of the program. There are plenty of FAQs and other information, including the application, at lpj.potawatomi.org. Do not delay because the application closes on April 15.

A little closer to home are many of our state parks in California – many of which hold unique and historically significant items and places for a number of our Californian tribes. A full list is here: cpaparkCa.html. One of my favorites is the Sierra Mono Museum in the town of North Fork, California. I had the opportunity in the early 1970s to help my father in the construction of many of the museums display cases.

Another great resource is the Museum of the American Indian in Novato, California. As said in its mission statement, “The mission of the Museum of the American Indian is to provide the pub lic of Northern California with programs and exhibits that deepen understanding and appreciation of Native American cultures. The Museum promotes accuracy, sensitivity and respect for the heritage and history of our continent’s earliest in habitants.”

More on the museum’s offerings can be found by visiting their website at www.marin indian.com.

Sometimes those of us who live farther away from where our people came from feel isolated from the cultural aspects that those who live closer are able to experience. But visiting places like these, learning about the practices and history of fellow tribes and expanding our understanding of what it means to be Native American are very important, no matter where we live.

We can take that knowledge and understanding back home when we attend the annual Family Reunion Festival (June 24-26) and Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations (July 27-31) in Shawnee or wherever we go in our lives.

As always it is an honor to serve as your district representative, please contact me if you need any information on the services and benefits due to you as a tribal member.

Migwetch / Thank You, Mark Johnson

Wak Miel (Strong as a Tree) Representative, District 7

1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202
Clovis, CA 93611
(559) 999-3525 office
(559) 999-3411 cell
RandePayne@potawatomi.org

MARCH 2016 - 19
thought about how difficult a job some of our employees have – potentially taking calls from more than 100 unique souls. Some members interact with the Nation so seldom, that their entire impressions of the tribe’s services can be greatly impact- ed by one phone call. One department that specifically needs to be a ‘give boy” is Tribal Rolls. Accord- ing to the www.potawomi.org: “The Tribal Rolls depart- ment is responsible for maintaining eligibility for tribal enrollment, administering the Tribal Rolls Scholarship program and the Nishowmen Scholarship. Burial Insur- ance, Tribal ID cards and assisting with genealogical and historical research. “The department is also re- sponsible for maintaining and updating the computer membership list, utilizing tribal membership informa- tion for various types of census data, and creating the voter eligibility lists at the direction of the Secre- tary-Treasurer for the Elec- tion Commission.”

Charles Clark is the heart and soul of the operation. “Chuck is a great employee,” said the chairman, “he has a very tough job indeed. Along with the good news of telling new members that they are officially enrolled, sending out scholarship checks to deserving students and assisting mourning fam- ily members with the buri- al assistance funds. Chuck also gets to deliver some occasional bad news. I can think of a few times in recent memory (and in District 8), where applicants could not prove the lineal blood con- nection to become members and he had to hold the line.”

The flip side of enrollment is dis-enrollment and Chuck is a key player in that process as well. 99.9 percent of dis-enrollment actions for the Chase tribe are voluntary and generally take place when a member can lay claim to bloodlines of another Indian tribe in addition to ours. The person requesting relinquishment does so in order to access a benefits provided by the tribe they are enrolling in (and out of the CPF). These docu- ments are reviewed exten- sively by Mr. Clark and he is present in the legislative chamber to answer questions that the representatives may have (sometimes late into the evening).

In closing I’d like to thank Tribal Rolls and the depart- ment head for the job they do. Please take the time to visit with them in June while they are at a regional meeting in the future.

Dave Carney
dcarney@potawomi.org
360.259.4027

Bocho, Sacred plant: Tobacco

Tobacco (sema) is one of the four sacred plants. It comes from the east direction and represents Sun. The other three sacred plants are sage, sweetgrass and cedar. Anish-nabe use a form of tobacco known as kisimini, or a red willow mix. When tobacco is used to make smoke, it is one of the most sacred plants for Native people.

As I wrote in my last column

Bocho I know if I can be of service to you, please let me know.

This is my last year in the Oklahoma State Legislature because of term limits. These two years have been a wonderful experience for my family, and me; and I have been able to pass numerous bills which have made Oklaho- ma a greater state. Rep- resenting Moore and south Oklahoma City has been an honor and duty, and I thank those citizens for the confi- dence they invested in me.

Concerning my future af- ter the Oklahoma session, I have applied to several uni- versities in a desire to earn a Master of Fine Arts degree in Fiction and Creative Writing. I have been writing poetry since I was 15 years of age. I have written numerous man- uscripts of poetry, essays, short stories, and plays. It is my hope that someday I will obtain a publisher and turn some of these manuscripts into books. I hope to get to know more of you in the near future.

Migwetch.
I will leave you with one of my poems: The Sacred, The Profane

The sacred, the profane,
One in the same,
But not always.

In the beginning,
Glaciers receded, and land divided from the great deep.
Waters rushed river banks, carved canyons.

Settled into seas, lakes, and greater lakes.
Five of these great lakes pulled in one area of the world.
Waters flow from one lake to another until they explode over a great cliff.
Eagles fly high through the spray, peering down, diving, clawing.
In the day, the sun shines through the spray, arcs into a rainbow.
In the night, the moon lights the water’s path over great rocks.
And down the turbulent, sil- ver river.
Indians, native to this majest- ico site, revered, nurtured the land,
And from its waters were abundantly fed.
This was their life, sacred.
In the new world, helium bal- loons by day invade the sky,
And helicopters buzz where eagles once flew.
By nights, bright lights, arti- ficial, illuminate controlled flamed water.
Masks of millions fill tall hotels, gamble in casinos, shop stores,
And explore commercial car- nivals, museums and festi- vals. Tourists gask at tightrope walkers and daredevils in barrels, Risking their lives for the crowd’s amazement.
This is their life, profane.

Bocho, District 8 - Dave Carney

Thank you Oklahoma (Dis- trict 9) for allowing me to serve another term as your representative. We are the only American tribe with a national legislature, which we can take considerable pride in. It has been my hon- or and responsibility to rep- resent Oklahoma in this gov- ernmental body. I also thank all of those on Facebook who congratulated me and wished

Bocho Nikan,

MARCH 2016

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Bocho Nikan,
Rebecca Cook, 51, peacefully passed away on Nov. 30, 2015. She was born and raised in Poplar Bluff, Missouri before making her home in Somerville, Tennessee.

Becky had worked at Krogers in Oakland, Tennessee for many years and spoke many times of how she enjoyed her coworkers and her customers. She also loved arts and crafts, reading, singing and writing poems. She loved sharing Bible verses and helping all of those she could.

Becca collected Native American dolls and was proud to be a member of the Potawatomi Nation.

Surviving Becky are her parents Alex and Peggy Hutson, family Kaye (Kenny) Spencer, Ronnie (Cheryl) Williams, Loralee Hutson, Larry (Carolyn) Hutson, Teresa (Ross) Gilmore, Cyndi (Tim) Oliver, Lou (Walter) Willoughby, and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held on Dec. 12, 2015 at Browns Chapel in Broseley, Missouri. A candle light memorial gathering was held on Dec. 13, 2015 at Victory Life Church in Somerville, Tennessee in which many gathered to share Beccas’ favorite foods, share stories, laughter and tears.

Waiting for Becky in heaven were her grandparents, Hazel and Irven Williams and her Great Grandparents Oscar and Ozetta Sanders. Missing you Becky, we’ll see you when we get there.

Mary Katherine Skipton

Mary Katherine Skipton – whose Potawatomi name was Misko Mower Kwe (Red Wolf Woman) - 80 of Deerfield, Kansas died Nov. 11, 2015 at St. Catherine Hospital in Garden City.

She was born Oct. 12, 1935 in Deerfield, Kansas the daughter of Joe & Sybil (Jones) Anderson.

Mary lived most of her life in Deerfield where she attended Deerfield schools. On March 25, 1951 she married John Hoy Skipton in Deerfield. Mary began her career as a nurse’s aide at St. Catherine Hospital. She then worked as a nurse’s aide at the Kearney County Hospital where she also worked as an EMT/C. Mary later became the city clerk for the City of Deerfield and later retired as the deputy city clerk for Kearney County.

She was a member of the Deerfield United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, The Red Hat Society, Finney County Senior Center, EHU, Grange, Citizen Potawatomi and she was very involved with the start of Deerfield PRIDE.

Mary was an avid Kansas City Royals fan. She enjoyed word search puzzles and all of her family’s interests and attended her grandchildren’s events. She loved living in Deerfield.

Survivors include her four children: Sharen and husband Rod McMillan, Katherine and husband Don Tabor, Nancy and husband Monte Miller, and Steven and wife Sandy Skipton all of Garden City; a brother: James and wife Janet Anderson of Long Island; a sister: Judy and husband Chuck Gead of Kansas City, Missouri; 21 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren; and three step-sisters: Frances Skipton, Stilla McGinn, and Mary Sue Smith.

Mary is preceded in death by her husband, John, who died on Nov. 22, 2005; her parents; her step-mother: Ruth Anderson; two brothers: Charles Anderson and Frank Anderson; a sister: Laura Slattery; two step-brothers: Warren Rigdon and George Rigdon; and two step-sisters: Reva Welch and Georgie Carter.

Funeral services were held on Monday, Nov. 16, 2015 at the Deerfield United Methodist Church with Pastor Doug Olson officiating. Burial followed at the Deerfield Cemetery.

The family followed memorials given to the Mary Skipton Memorial Fund in care of Garman Funeral Home.

Condolences may be given at www.garnandfuneralhomes.com.

Anthony Paul Blackman

Anthony Paul Blackman passed from this world to God’s glorious world Dec. 22, 2015, surrounded by his family.

He was born Nov. 18, 1969, in Aiken, South Carolina.

He attended New Mexico Junior College, receiving an Associate in Applied Science Degree (Hobbs, New Mexico), University of New Mexico (Albuquerque) and Portland State University, (Portland, Oregon), where he studied Japanese language.

Anthony loved to sing. He was a member of the A Cappella choir at HHS and the NMJC Jazz Choir and loved Karaoke. Anthony was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Indian tribe.

He and his wife were married March 10, 1996 at the Go Shrine in Kyoto, Japan. Anthony lived and worked in Japan for over 20 years. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle throughout the countryside and mountains enjoying the majestic views. Anthony found his calling to be a teacher while living in Japan. He and his wife established the EIE!E!G! English Language School in Kyoto and it flourished under his direction. He made learning fun for children and adults alike.

Anthony was preceded in death by his mother: Marilyn (Peterson) Strange and Deidra Woods.

Anthony was survived by his wife: Atsumi; children: Ria (17) and Anna (15); parents: Thomas and Shirley Blackman; siblings: Mark (S-Sarah, Matthew, Katie) Guildford, England, Brian (S-Allison, Isabella, Cole) Vienna, Virginia, Nicole Bishop (S-Albert, Allyson, Emily, Kennan) Hobbs, New Mexico, Steven Bishop, Lubbock, Texas; aunt’s: Doris Mitchell, Richardson, Kay Blackman, Clinton; wife’s parents: Kenzo and Taeko Kimoto; sister: Yasue, Kyoto, Japan.

Patricia Louise Highsmith

Patricia Louise Highsmith of Miami, Oklahoma passed away Sept. 17, 2015 at the home she had shared with her husband Bob (Wood) Highsmith. She was 80.

Patricia was born Aug. 1, 1935 in Miami to Arthur and Jessie (Slavin) Wagner. She had lived in the Welch and Miami area most of her life. She worked in the payroll office for B.F. Goodrich for many years and later at Miami Veterinary Center, both in Miami. She married Bob Highsmith on Dec. 28, 1956.

Patricia is survived by her daughter: Bobbi Ritchey of Lee’s Summit; brother: Charles Wagner of Fort Worth, Texas; two sisters: Juanita Winton of Austin, Texas and Linda Klaus of Tulsa, Oklahoma and three grandchildren.

Mary Katherine Skipton – whose Potawatomi name was Misko Mower Kwe (Red Wolf Woman) - 80 of Deerfield, Kansas died Nov. 11, 2015 at St. Catherine Hospital in Garden City.

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.